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## Jesuit Superior Gilbert Sunghera, S.J.

# FINDING HIS WAY IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST

Father **Gilbert Sunghera, S.J.**, had only been to Gonzaga for three days many years ago before accepting the assignment as superior of the Della Strada Jesuit community earlier this year.

But he did so with some trepidation.

"I grew up in the post-suburban communities of Los Angeles and have worked primarily in urban areas," says Fr. Sunghera, who most recently served as superior and associate professor of architecture at Jesuit University of Detroit Mercy.

"I'm afraid of nature. My blood pressure goes up when I'm out in the countryside," he says, perhaps with a measure of authenticity blending with his broad smile. But an urban snob he certainly is not.

"This is a whole new environment for me to grow to love, which won't be hard given the natural beauty of the area" he says.

"I love the spirit of this place." He recites examples: In the Kennel at men's and women's basketball games, at ash distribution on Ash Wednesday, from parishioners at St. Al's and G-Prep, and engaging the Jesuits in Rocky Mountain Mission, who work with area tribes.

"Students seem joyous. They seemed to enjoy that we (Jesuits) were throwing candy to them from our second-floor balcony on Mardi Gras Tuesday (the day before Lent began), before the big faculty/staff open house."

He seems to be fitting in well, with two months on the job and some exposure to the outdoors.

The title for this role used to be rector but was switched to superior to make it easier for the leader of the province to name successors.

Fr. Sunghera supports 26 men who base themselves out of the multi-apostolic Della Strada community. Four work full time for Gonzaga University, two work at Gonzaga Prep, two at St. Aloysius Church and grade school, four live and work on tribal reservations, one lives and works in Boise, and another at the local diocesan seminary. Others do pastoral work in the area. Four Jesuit grad students live in the community, with another soon to join



*From fast-paced urban life to the Lilac City, Father Sunghera is adapting to his new lifestyle.*

the cadre. Two Jesuits, **Bryan Pham** and **Pat Conroy**, are chaplains in our residence halls.

"At times I feel like I'm a glorified house mother," Fr. Sunghera quips. "My role is to make sure our Jesuits have what they need to do their work and that their personal needs are taken care of. One of my immediate priorities is discerning how Jesuits continue their historic ministry to our Native American communities as the current Jesuits age out. I have developed a good ear for listening and I will be hearing from those we serve."

Part of his listening skills were honed during his years as director of the University of Detroit Mercy Liturgical Space Consulting Service, a nonprofit consulting and design firm serving as a "translator" between architects and religious communities on building plans for sacred spaces.

"I did a lot of work on sacred spaces and sustainability projects," Fr. Sunghera said. One example was serving as a consultant for the new Jesuit residence at Fairfield University.

"We chose an architectural firm that had a reverence for the sacred, especially the liturgical practice of the community in its academic pursuits. The university planning office reviewed the plans and said they must eliminate all sustainable elements in the building to make it cost-effective. But our architects challenged the Jesuit community" to

stand up for their aspirations and Jesuits, along with the architects, convinced the university to keep the geothermal heating and cooling systems, as well as other sustainable elements, in place. This was in line with Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* care for our common home. The Jesuit community came up with additional funds to help support this effort.

The New York Times ran a story about the university's commitment to green construction in reaction to the building design, "and now the university is championing green building projects across campus," Fr. Sunghera says.

The architects asked the proper questions and had a great respect for the religious sensibilities of the Jesuits, as the three sides were converging on a proper suitable compromise. "I learned a lot by listening."

Just a few of his dozens of design and consulting projects include the Jesuit residence at Brophy College Prep in Phoenix, chapels at Jesuit High in Sacramento, Loyola High in Detroit, Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Interfaith Chapel at UDM, hospital chapel in Livonia, Michigan, and a Jesuit retirement community in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He is currently working on renovations to the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, as well as updating its master plan for the next 100 years of service to the city.

# Tech Hub Proposal Progressing

By Dan Nailen

The Gonzaga and Lakeside Companies of Post Falls are leading a consortium of local enterprises to bring a regional technology and information hub to the Inland Northwest.

The successful Tech Hub designation would create myriad jobs in the aerospace and aviation fields as well as deliver educational opportunities, economic development and enhanced partnerships across higher education, regional governments, tribal communities and more.

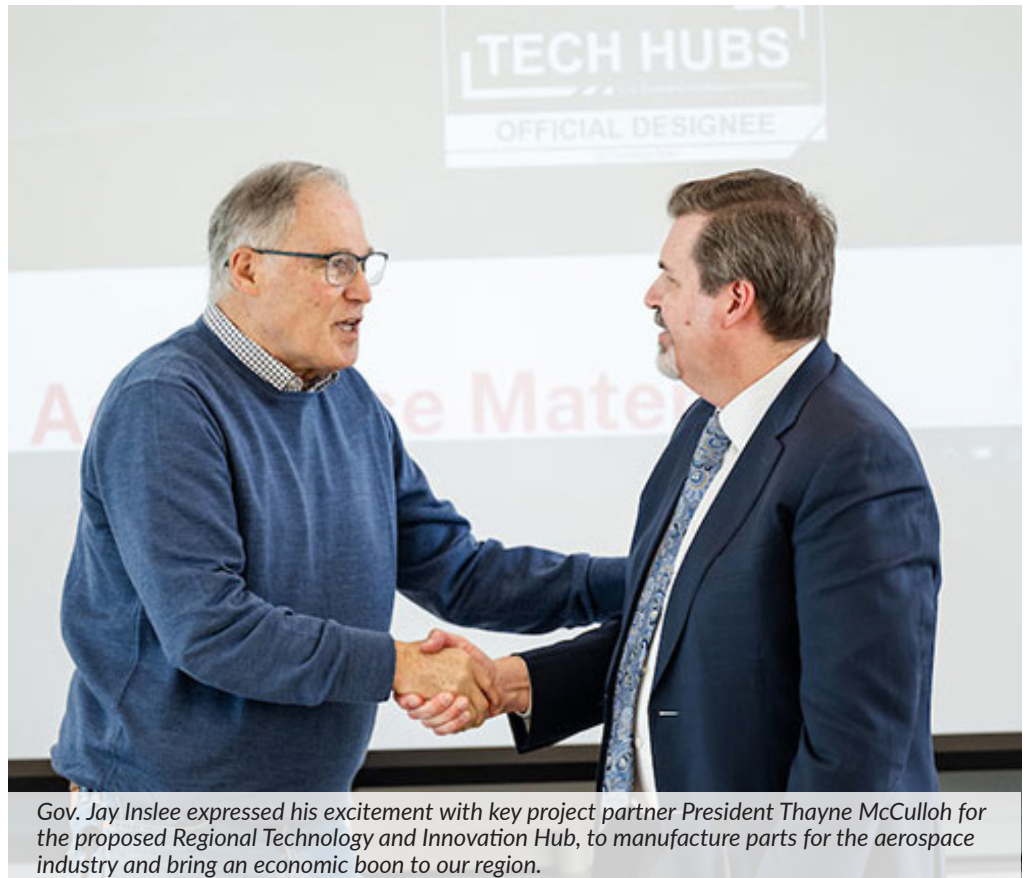
There are more than 50 organizations in the Inland Northwest Consortium that successfully navigated the first stage of the designation process last fall, becoming one of just 31 groups among 198 applications to reach the second round. The Inland Northwest Consortium is in contention for up to \$75 million in federal funding to launch the American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center near Spokane International Airport, which would produce light-weight composites for commercial aircraft. A final decision on the project from the (federal?) Economic Development Administration is expected in late summer.

President **Thayne McCulloh** moderated a Jan. 31 discussion with **Gov. Jay Inslee** to brief him on the work consortium members have been doing to pursue the unique opportunity to provide the Inland Northwest with its next generation of high-tech aerospace innovation.

“We are grateful for the support of so many different entities, ranging from government to education, the city of Spokane, our colleagues in North Idaho, our tribal nations and so many in the higher education space,” McCulloh said at the meeting’s outset.

“Central to this hub is the manufacturing of the next generation of aircraft aerospace in our region, which builds upon the industry that has long been extant in our region.”

Members of the consortium, McCulloh noted, are a powerful group coming together to focus on furthering aerospace and the manufacturing economy across the Inland



Gov. Jay Inslee expressed his excitement with key project partner President Thayne McCulloh for the proposed Regional Technology and Innovation Hub, to manufacture parts for the aerospace industry and bring an economic boon to our region.

Northwest that will enable “our state and our region to continue to be the best place in the world to build airplanes.”

Inslee was quick to point out the deep history Washington state has in aerospace and aviation manufacturing, while praising the Inland Northwest in particular for strides made in evolving along with technology to support important regional industries and educating much-needed workers in high-tech fields.

“There is something happening in eastern Washington. Spokane County, obviously, but the entire eastern section of our state is developing an advancement of the high-tech economy that’s going on, and this is one of the central pillars of that development,” Inslee said.

“Everywhere I turn in eastern Washington, there’s some high-tech work going on.”

As members of the consortium told Inslee about their contribution to the pursuit of the Tech Hub, the depth and breadth of this unprecedented collaboration truly came into focus. Lakeside Company’s Marketing Director **Nick Roach** talked about its building on the West Plains that is ready to house the center

for manufacturing, research and development. Spokane Mayor **Lisa Brown** spoke of the city prioritizing of the Tech Hub and efforts to streamline any regulatory hurdles.

McCulloh echoed the focus on workforce development, noting that it is a major component of the Tech Hub application and that the various partners involved are working together to “ensure we’re meeting the demands of industry with a workforce that’s been appropriately trained for the next generation of manufacturing.”

While advancing to the next round toward a Tech Hub designation is challenging, McCulloh noted the Inland Northwest Consortium’s effort fills a need that other applicants simply don’t.

“There is no other Tech Hub that is specifically focused on aerospace manufacturing,” McCulloh said. For many years aircraft components have been developed in this region, and there is an opportunity and a thirst for growth and development as a result.”

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/news-events/stories/2024/2/13/gu-led-tech-hub-discusses-progress-with-jay-inslee>



Gov. Inslee and McCulloh listen to partners.



# Spotlight on Faculty and Their Stories

## Faculty Featured in One-Minute Video Intros

Gonzaga's web content managers and social media specialists have collaborated with faculty members across campus to showcase them in short, fun videos that are shared on Gonzaga's social media channels. "With this project, we aim to not only showcase our immensely talented faculty members, but also provide a chance for current and prospective students to learn more about them," says **Erin de Silva**, social media specialist who worked with social media partner **Grace McElligott**.

To view these videos and other faculty print stories, navigate to [Faculty Voices](#) collections on Gonzaga's website.

"Here you will find the videos that we have created with "Faculty Feature" in the title. If you have a colleague that you would like to nominate to be featured for this project, please send an email with their name, email and department to [socialmedia@gonzaga.edu](mailto:socialmedia@gonzaga.edu)," de Silva says.

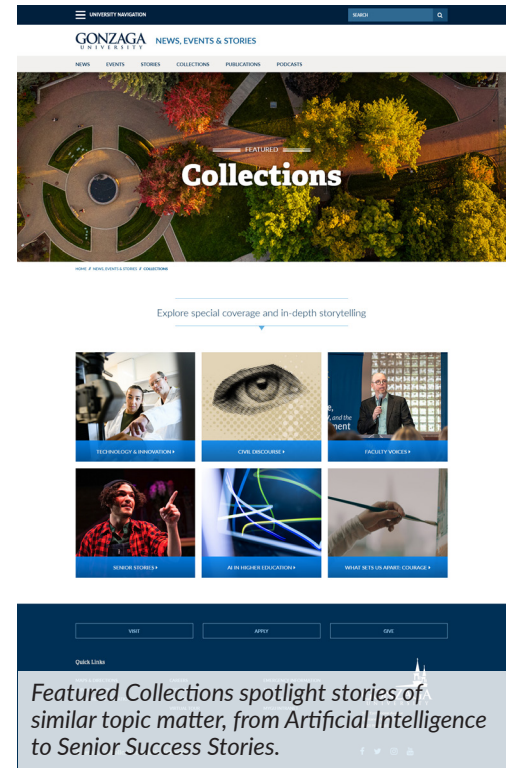
## "Featured Collections" Highlight Special Coverage by Topic and In-depth Storytelling

Some stories belong together, and now those stories have a dedicated home on Gonzaga's website.

The new "Featured Collections" webpage showcases stories on topics that speak to who we are and where we want to go. Current topics include: Technology & Innovation, Civil

Discourse, Faculty Voices, Senior Stories, Artificial Intelligence and Gonzaga's "Courage" video series.

These collections can be found under the "News, Events & Stories" section of the website and are available at [Gonzaga.edu/collections](http://Gonzaga.edu/collections).



## Frappier, Clark Creating Opportunities for Kids

Debate Coach **Glen Frappier** is partnering with 2019 Gonzaga graduate **Rick Clark** and his Giving Back nonprofit to create Giving Debate to raise funds to send students from homeless or low-income families to Gonzaga Summer Debate Camp.



Glen Frappier

The annual camp attracts hundreds of students from across the country to Gonzaga's campus every summer for a week of training in critical thinking, analytical skills and research.

"But most importantly," Frappier says, "is giving these campers a chance to see that they belong in these spaces."



Giving Back's Rick Clark (right) with Returning Favors host Mike Rowe.

Frappier says the statistics on graduation and college attendance rates of students participating in debate opportunities "are staggering. These students will get to live on our campus, eat at the dining facility, meet students from across the country and work closely with our faculty."

Frappier and Clark hope to raise enough money to host 20 children through their Giving

Debate program for this summer. The camp starts July 14.

"This is only the beginning as Rick and I have also discussed formation of a non-profit debate league in Spokane committed to serving those populations," Frappier says. Stay tuned.

To donate to the Giving Debate fund through the Giving Back nonprofit, click [here](#).

## Learning from a Dark Past

Remember the Aryan Nations compound in North Idaho, which garnered national news during its heyday and in its downfall?

Gonzaga's Foley Library now has a digital photo archive named after **Diana Gissel**, the official photographer of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (KCTFHR) for decades. Her work documents the demise of the Aryan Nations compound in Hayden, Idaho, in 2000, along with myriad activities organized by the KCTFHR to support human rights throughout the region. She and her husband, **Norm Gissell**, the Task Force attorney, were part of the team that bankrupted the Aryan Nations through a lawsuit with the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Diana's quiet and humble presence leaves a lasting contribution that inspires us all with

possibilities of how we each can find our own ways to help create more safe and welcoming communities for everyone," says **Kristine Hoover**, professor in Gonzaga's School of Leadership Studies.

The Diana Gissel Digital Photo Archive is available online, with descriptions providing the appropriate context for each image.

Foley Library archivists say about 20% of the collection is open for viewing without restrictions. The remainder of the collection is restricted to Gonzaga campus accounts, and to off-campus scholars who provide a letter of reference from a sponsoring academic institution or organization.

View the collection at [www.gonzaga.edu/gissel-archive](http://www.gonzaga.edu/gissel-archive).

# TRAINING FROM A SAGE

Teaching sexual and gender equity is not one-size-fits-all. Consider the range in audiences in a college community, from those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community to students, staff and faculty at varying stages of understanding their own perceptions of what queer life and culture represents.

**Matthew Barcus** is a masterful educator. He is program manager of LGBTQ+ education and support in the Lincoln Center. He's as humble as anyone could be. But his range of expertise, warmth and care in presenting to myriad audiences, coupled with his own lived experiences, give his work a firm foundation for the subject matter.

His undergraduate studies focused on social psychology with emphases on sexuality and gender, aging, prejudice and bias. During grad school he worked in the library, residence life, campus diversity office and served as a teaching assistant. Before Gonzaga, Barcus was coordinator of sexual and gender diversity at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania.

At Gonzaga for almost eight years, Barcus is the lead educator of Sexual and Gender Equity (SAGE) through the Lincoln Center. He has presented to student groups, clubs, university office staffs and whole divisions. He draws rave reviews.

Here's one from **Kate Vanskike** in Marketing and Communications: "In a word, training with Matthew is 'real.' Not only does he provide authentic examples to learn from, he infuses the conversation with the Jesuit values we say we stand for, in ways that replace confusion with clarity. Matthew can take a challenging topic and remind us that our response is really simple: Treat people with respect and dignity."

Barcus has no pretense about what his next audience will know or want to know about his topic. He is kind, clear and authentic. He came out 25 years ago, and he didn't have the benefit of an LGBT center to help him deal with stigma some would put on him. "I read everything I could find," he says.

That's why it is so important for Barcus and his work to help develop and sustain a safe and welcoming community for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions by engaging in education, advocacy, outreach and programming.

The SAGE program was co-developed with **Joan Iva Fawcett** about five years ago, and Barcus wrote the curriculum with **Debbie Brown**, a graduate student from the Doctor of Leadership Studies program.

SAGE 1 training involves an introduction to the philosophy, terminology and best practices of sexual and gender equity. SAGE 2 deals with how to apply what you know to your work and lived experiences. Barcus uses



*Sexual and Gender Equity Trainer Matthew Barcus replaces confusion with clarity and meets people where they are.*

realistic scenarios and experiences grounded in an approach of accompaniment instead of saviorism.

"Having been someone who received a lot of questions at a young age, I have empathy for people who have had that experience," Barcus says. "I don't take lack of understanding as willful. Most people are trying to be the best they can. Without the experience or the education how are they going to learn? SAGE training provides an opportunity for people to ask questions and not worry about being judged or shamed for not knowing," he says.

Another program, SAGE Spotlight, takes a deeper dive into what it means to be gender diverse and how LGBTQ+ identity intersects with religion and spirituality. Barcus is masterful in taking his audience from antisocial to pro-social when talking about subjects that are sometimes hard for uniformed people to digest.

"Because Matthew is willing to be vulnerable and share the ways that he has encountered

new information, or made mistakes in terminology, or been corrected, he offers his own experiences as learning opportunities for others," says Associate Professor **Juliane Mora**. "He meets people where they are. He brings them into the material with his humor and anecdotes and provides resources and guidance for how to approach new terminology and concepts."

Among other things, Barcus has been instrumental in the University establishing gender equitable housing, gender inclusive bathrooms and signage in Hemmingson Center, created email signature templates and University name tags that allow individuals to display their pronouns, and expanded opportunities for continued education, SAGE being only one of them.

"He is a valuable resource in the Lincoln Center and across campus," Mora says.

To schedule SAGE training, contact Barcus at [barcus@gonzaga.edu](mailto:barcus@gonzaga.edu).



# Nobody Showcases Cultural Difference Better Than Our Students

By Grace McElligott ('23)

Student cultural clubs are growing as the diversity of Gonzaga's student body grows and the University makes a greater effort to provide safe space for underrepresented students.

Cultural clubs help students experience, promote and educate the members they represent. The Unity Alliance of Cultural Clubs (UACC) is an umbrella network of cultural clubs that meets regularly for cross-cultural communication, collaboration and community. UACC advocates for social justice and underrepresented social identity groups at Gonzaga and beyond.

"Providing students with structured opportunities to engage with others who are culturally diverse prepares them to become more effective leaders and global citizens," explains **Joan Iva Fawcett**, dean for Social Justice Leadership and Community Empowerment.

UACC has grown dramatically in the past two years. Fawcett says intercultural growth will continue to broaden our understanding of diversity and culture to mean more than just race and ethnicity. The increase in international students via Gonzaga Global certainly has contributed to recent expansion.

Thirteen student organizations are part of the UACC: Asian American Union (AAU), Association of Latin American Students (ALAS), Black Student Union (BSU), Filipino American Student Union (FASU), Hawaii/Pacific Islander Club (HPIC), International Student Union (ISU) and Queer Student Union (QSU). Added last year were Japan Club, Jewish Student Union (JSU) and South Asian Student Union (SASU). New additions this year are Chinese Student Union (CSU), Muslim Student Association (MSA) and Vietnamese Student Association (VSA). Five staff members rotate in facilitating the UACC meetings: Fawcett; **Dave Gilbert**, director, Center for Student Involvement; **Matt Lamsma**, dean for Student Development; **Jessie Mancilla**, director, Unity Multicultural Education Center; and **Shawn Washington**, assistant chief diversity officer.

Fawcett encourages faculty and staff to introduce themselves to club officers, especially if they share an identity: "They would love to know you exist – make yourself known." Other ways faculty and staff can get involved is by supporting fundraisers and attending the cultural club signature events.

Two such February events, attended by faculty, staff as well as fellow students,



*Two of GU's 13 culture clubs presented fabulous dinners, exhibitions and programs in February events in the COG, Tet Lunar New Year and Black Student Union's "A Cultural Explosion."*

featured ethnic dinners and programming in the COG.

A Taste of Tet (festival) showcased Vietnamese cuisine, culture and crafts, including a fashion show, a dance performance and an authentic Vietnamese dinner complete with phở bò, a classic beef pho soup, bún thịt nướng, grilled pork served over vermicelli noodles, and chè chuối, a sweet banana dessert.

Gonzaga's web content strategist **Peter Dunau**, who attended with his wife, Kathryn, says, "It was a great night out, providing a very cool window into Vietnamese culture. Kathryn remarked that the enthusiasm of the students was contagious. I couldn't agree more."

The Black Student Union's "A Cultural Explosion: Exploring the Black Diaspora," provided a celebration of song, dance and the spoken word. The evening explored Black identities from around the globe, hence diaspora, or the spread of people from their homelands. The dinner event also

showcased the diversity of culture within Black communities.

"In solidarity with student clubs and organizations, we are on a journey of discovery to create events that celebrate food and cultural education," says **Pat Clelland**, Sodexo's regional district manager. He was particularly impressed by GU students working closely with his culinary professionals to craft meals of cultural authenticity.

"Events like these are critical for all of us, especially for our students, who, in this ever-changing robust global environment, thrive in the opportunity to celebrate other lives and cultures that have been shaped by different beliefs, experiences and values," Clelland says.

Stay tuned for more information on upcoming signature events: the ALAS Festival on March 23 and the HPIC Lu'au on April 20.

# GU Honors Memory of Expo '74

**Matt Santangelo** ('00) and Gonzaga University have been married for nearly 27 years, in one way or another. Now he is manager of the Inland Northwest's Expo+50, the celebration scheduled May 4-July 4 to honor the memories of the 1974 World's Fair in Spokane.

Gonzaga is a one of a dozen Spokane businesses and organizations that helped kick off this 50th-anniversary celebration planning.

The event will open with ceremonies and entertainment on May 4, 3-9 p.m. in Riverfront Park, site of the World's Fair. Spotlight events include Riverfront Lilac Bowl stage performances every Saturday, and a closing event July 4 featuring community performances, a Spokane Symphony concert and traditional fireworks.

Six GU projects under the Expo+50 umbrella are:

- The Gonzaga Climate Institute – in collaboration with the US Attorney's Office for Eastern Washington, the state Attorney General's Office, and Gonzaga Law School's Center for Law, Ethics & Commerce – is hosting a daylong conference April 12 on EXPO '74: 50 Years of Environmental Justice in the Inland Northwest. The keynote speaker is Environmental Protection Agency deputy assistant administrator Cliff Villa.
- History Professors **Ray Rast** and **Veta Schlimgen** and their students are researching the history of the World's Fair, from conception to implementation to the

lasting positive impact on the region. **Leslie Stamoilis**' theater students will stage an Expo '74 Readers Theater later in the spring. They also plan to turn the script into a written document to distribute to schools and other enterprises in the area.

- In another multidisciplinary effort, students in Business Administration's Multidisciplinary Action Projects Class researched and created a report addressing the opportunity to focus attention on Spokane's younger generations unaware of the significance of Expo '74. The team gathered information through interviews and research on the Expo's five pillars – environmental stewardship, legacy of the fair, tribal culture, arts and culture, and recreation and sport.
- The Business team shared their report with students in Education, who completed additional research, to create a grade school curriculum for Spokane Public School teachers to use before an organized field trip for all students in grades four through seven to the Expo site, outlining the history and purpose of Expo '74, connecting its past, present and future environmental considerations. The tour dates are April 23, 25, 30 and May 2, two sessions each day. **John Traynor** and his Community and Place-Based Education class are planning, coordinating and leading this tour/field trip, which Traynor coordinated with SPS. Expo+50 is recruiting community volunteers



**expo'74**  
**50th Celebration**

to help staff each stop on the tour/field trip.

- Engineering's Senior Design Expo May 1 will showcase six student-designed projects pertaining to Expo '74's environmental and ecological mantra: Drinking Water System Resilience to Wildfire; Bringing Netherland's Sustainable Practices to Gonzaga's Campus; Spokane Stormwater Quality Improvement Study; Sustainable Seat Cushion; Aircraft Interior Parts Recycling; and Electric Wing Deicing.
- The Jundt Art Museum will feature selected works and award winners for the 2nd Inland Northwest Juried Landscape Art Exhibition focused on themes of creativity, community and environmental stewardship as part of the anniversary of Expo '74, with an opening reception May 31, 4-7 p.m. The exhibit runs through Aug. 24.

Learn more about the city's plans at [visitspokane.com/expo-50/](https://visitspokane.com/expo-50/).

## Sunghera *continued from page 1*

### In the Beginning

Growing up near the coast in Southern California, Fr. Sunghera had water as his playground. But it was not until he was a student at University of California, Irvine that he became entranced by the contemporary architecture that was springing up all over campus. He studied environmental psychology at Irvine, learning how people are affected by their environments.

He received his Master of Architecture from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and volunteered at a homeless shelter near Marquette. "That's where I first heard of the Jesuits. I had grown up in a Franciscan parish near L.A.," Fr. Sunghera says. His master's thesis focused on an architectural response to the homeless.

He returned to California to work for an L.A. non-profit architecture firm that designed clinics, shelters and low-cost housing. He was also discerning a call to the priesthood.

"There were a lot of protests over what was happening to the Church in Central and South America," Fr. Sunghera remembers. "I had

just dropped in the mail my application to the Jesuit novitiate when I heard on the radio that six Jesuits had been killed in El Salvador. I immediately wondered if I could get back to the mailbox in time to retrieve my application."

He entered the Jesuits in 1991 at age 31. More education followed – with Philosophy studies at St. Louis University, his Master of Divinity degree at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, and a post-professional Master of Sacred Theology from Yale focused on sacred architecture.

"I entered the Jesuits (like most Jesuits ready to surrender past passions) with thus giving up my life in architecture," Fr. Sunghera said. But after helping the province by assessing the design proposal for the new headquarters of the Jesuits in Los Gatos, Fr. Sunghera's superior told him about a university in Detroit with a school of architecture.

In addition to teaching, Fr. Sunghera enjoyed his work with the Liturgical Space Consulting Service with an emphasis on contemporary design. He will continue to consult part-time for the service as he serves this new role as superior.

### Taking a Renewed Look at Life

Now, he's assessing his new life in the great Northwest, learning about space outside the city and getting to know the campus and its community.

He is the son of Indian immigrants. His father was Sikh, his mother "very" Catholic, he says. "It is wonderful to see that we even have Sikh students here on campus, and it's nice to have such religious diversity here," the new superior says.

He also thinks it is important to encourage more diversity on campus "so that our students learn not just to tolerate diversity, but to become engaged in it. If we don't attract students engaged in the larger world our students will struggle engaging in a world different from their world here. Socioeconomic diversity is part of this. It's important to bolster our efforts to attract students who might show academic promise but have not had the opportunities or access to traditional college-prep institutions.

"The University is spot-on in its efforts to develop more diversity here," he says.

And Fr. Sunghera is learning his new spot on campus quite well, but freely admits – with a smile – it is a work in progress.



# A NEW CHAPTER

## Unveiling New Brand Platform, Fonts and Color Palette

In December 2023, the Marketing and Communications department introduced a new brand strategy and guide that thoughtfully reflects our unique identity as Zags and will help position Gonzaga within a competitive landscape.

The new [brand messaging platform](#) (see page 11) serves as a vital resource for all marketers on campus, providing in-depth perspective and guidance to steward a consistent voice in all internal and external communications.

Additionally, a new visual design approach has been developed to present Gonzaga in unique and memorable ways, including multiple fonts, a robust color palette and a “supergraphic” design element that draws inspiration from the Spokane River.

The brand guide will continually be revisited and refined to reflect our evolving identity

**Proxima Nova**  
**Proxima Sera**



*The new brand rollout includes these sample creative assets – new fonts, color palette, a super graphic depicting the river and the way pictures can be presented in new and captivating ways.*

and aspirations. To learn more, go to [my.gonzaga.edu/branddownloads](https://my.gonzaga.edu/branddownloads) or for

questions, please email [brand@gonzaga.edu](mailto:brand@gonzaga.edu).  
–Ashley Martin ('05), senior marketing director

# COMPLEX CONVERSATIONS

By Dan Nailen

The relationship between Israel and the Palestinian community in Gaza was volatile prior to the Hamas attacks on Israel Oct. 7, and Israel's ongoing military response has turned a hotter-than-ever global spotlight on the Middle East conflict.

Debate and discussion on topics ranging from terrorism to genocide, religion to realpolitik, have reverberated through the halls of power around the world, and across college campuses in the United States, including Gonzaga. Incidents of antisemitism and anti-Muslim and anti-Arab bigotry are on the rise as students from across the political and religious spectrums grapple with the horrific images filling television airwaves and their social media feeds.

To help the GU community navigate this complex time, the Provost's Office, the Office of Mission Integration, the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and faculty/staff partners recently launched the “Conversations on Israel and Gaza Series.”

The plan is to facilitate a string of campus discussions and learning opportunities that lean into interfaith dialogue with some historical and political context.

“Before such a global crisis can be addressed, it must be processed in how it came to be,” said GU Provost **Sacha Kopp**.

“What we hope to bring is a series of opportunities to learn about, better understand, and talk about these events in the Middle East. We must learn the history, the culture, the religious beliefs, the politics and more that all come together in this complex space.”

The first event, “Bridging Divides Through Interfaith Leadership,” co-hosted with GU's religious studies department, featured Todd Green from Interfaith America, an organization dedicated to building relationships across diverse religious communities.

“With this global conflict we have seen an increase in incidents of discrimination against Jews, Muslims and persons of Arab descent here in the U.S.,” said religious studies department chair **Shannon Dunn**. “One aim of these discussions is to inform and to encourage understanding and compassion during this difficult time. At Gonzaga, with its Jesuit mission of care for the whole person, care and compassion must be the starting place.”

Gonzaga's [Strategic Plan](#) update puts a focus on civil discourse and plans imminent to create a Center for Ignatian Dialogue and Discernment to help model public civil discourse on our time's most pressing issues.

“Jesuit education has always grappled with tensions,” said **Ellen Maccarone**, GU's acting vice president for mission integration. “In preparing people for leadership, we have to engage in critical thinking, listening, asking questions, and understanding. These are all skills necessary for engaging in complex topics like this one, and these are at the heart of Jesuit education.”

[Upcoming Conversations](#): March 6, 4:30 p.m., Zoom, Omar H. Rahman on “How did we get here?; March 20, noon, Hemmingson Ballroom, “Recognizing and Responding to Antisemitic and Islamophobic Bias” panel with campus colleagues and students; April 4, 10:50 a.m., Zoom with Israel and Gaza families sharing grief due to human loss in the conflict; April 15, 5 p.m., Wolff Auditorium, GU colleagues examine the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Read more about this series at [Complex Conversations](#).

## NOTEWORTHY

### NEW HIRES

**Annika Rose-Person**, post-doctoral researcher, Arts & Sciences; **Beth Moore**, marketing manager, Arts & Sciences; **Brandi Foster**, director, Integrated Academic Advising/Student Academic Success; **Christopher Almgren**, facilities coordinator I, Auxiliary Services; **Eric Miller**, IT support tech, Law; **Haile Watson**, case manager, Cura Personalis; **Greg Collinge**, lecturer, Chemistry; **Jacqueline Swanson**, graphic designer, Marketing & Communications; **Joshua True**, HVAC tech, Plant; **Katie Brandi**, lecturer, Sociology; **Miguel Guante**, asst women's soccer coach, Athletics; **Richard Keroack**, budget/personnel officers, Engineering; **Ryan Townsend**, lecturer, Nursing; **Sandra Vargas**, career development facilitator, Career & Professional Development; **Sarah Matousek**, lecturer, Public Health; **Savannah Champion**, program asst III, Arts & Sciences; **Ron Prindle**, lecturer, Integrated Media; **Ryan McWilliams**, lecturer, English; **Sarah Kersey**, lecturer, English; **Zachary McMahon**, lecturer Communications Studies

### POSITION CHANGES/ PROMOTIONS

**Courtney Simmons**, program asst III, Arts & Sciences; **Ellen Dame-Griff**, instructional technologist, Instructional Design & Delivery; **Emily Turner**, sr specialist/academic budget & personnel, Provost; **Kathryn Benz**, women's soccer coach, Athletics; **Madison Cooley**, asst women's soccer coach, Athletics; **Rosa Velasco Quevedo**, mentoring program manager, UMEC

### GOODBYES

**Christina Thomas**, Title IX coordinator, Inclusive Excellence; **Fredrick Lueder**, HVAC control tech, Plant; **Hannah Green**, admissions specialist, Graduate Enrollment Mgt; **Hayden Caraway**, program coordinator, Student Involvement; **LeAnn Bjerken**, communications specialist, ITS; **Max Sharp**, HVAC tech, Plant; **Megan Ballard**, professor, Law; **Melissa McNair-Davis**, budget & research specialist, Career & Professional Development; **Michael Grabowski**, asst compliance operations specialist, Registrar

### ANNIVERSARIES:

**55 Ken Sammons**, asst vice president, Plant & Construction Services

**40 Allen Albano**, locksmith, Plant

**10 Audrey Minton**, sr operations specialist, Admission Operations; **Darci Bierman**, program asst III, Arts & Sciences; **Michael Thompson**, payroll director, Controller; **Amy Smith**, CRM business analyst, ITS; **Emily Turner**, sr specialist academic budget, Provost

**5 Tori Lawlor**, events manager, GUEST

## TRACKING POST-SEASON ZAG BASKETBALL

So that you can track the future games of Gonzaga women's and men's basketball teams through the WCC and NCAA tournaments, following is an outline of both tournaments.

### West Coast Conference Tournament

Women		Men	
<b>March 7</b> Noon	First Round #9 Pepperdine vs. #8 San Diego	2:30 p.m.	#9 Pacific vs. #8 Pepperdine
<b>March 8</b> Noon 2:30	Second Round #5 Pacific vs. Pepp-USD winner #6 St. Mary's vs. #7 LMU	6 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	#5 San Diego vs. Pac-Pepp winner #6 Portland vs. #7 LMU
<b>March 9</b> 1 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	Quarterfinals #4 USF vs. Game 2 winner #3 Portland vs. SMC-LMU winner	7 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	#4 Santa Clara vs. Game 2 winner #3 USF vs. Port-LMU winner
<b>March 11</b> Noon 2:30 p.m.	Semifinals #1 Gonzaga vs. Game 4 winner #2 Santa Clara vs. Game 5 winner	6 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	#1 St. Mary's vs. Game 4 winner #2 Gonzaga vs. Game 5 winner
<b>March 12</b> 1 p.m.	Finals Women's Championship	6 p.m.	Men's Championship

### NCAA Tournaments

The First Four and the first and second rounds of the women's tournaments are hosted by the top 16 seeded teams. Gonzaga is in the hunt for one of those host spots. The First Four is March 20-21. The first and second rounds are March 22-25. Regional tournaments at Albany, New York, and Portland, Oregon, feature the Sweet 16 games on March 29 and 30, and the Elite Eight games on March 31 and April 1. The Final Four is April 5 and 7 in Cleveland.

The Men's Tournament Schedule includes Spokane Arena hosting the first and second rounds.

March 19 & 20 ..... The First Four ..... Dayton, Ohio

March 21 & 23 ..... First and Second Rounds ..... Salt Lake City, Charlotte, Omaha, Pittsburgh

March 22 & 24 ..... First and Second Rounds ..... Brooklyn, Memphis, Spokane, Indianapolis

March 28 & 30 ..... Regionals ..... Boston

March 29 & 31 ..... Regionals ..... Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles

April 6 & 8 ..... Final Four ..... Glendale, Arizona

## Around Campus

» GU's Institute for Climate, Water and the Environment, partnering with the City of Spokane, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency and the University of Washington, received a \$1.1 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to support the Smoke Ready Spokane project.

» Accounting Professor **Andrew Brajcich's** G-Suite podcast has recorded 12 episodes on topics ranging from accounting to entrepreneurship, tax and all things "Zag business," available with other GU podcasts on the Gonzaga Podcast Network at [gonzaga.edu/podcasts](http://gonzaga.edu/podcasts).

» Gonzaga ranks 11th for best undergraduate study abroad participation (43.3%) in the 2023 edition of the Institute of International Education Open Doors annual report. More information [here](#).

» U.S. News & World Report's 2024 Best Online Programs rank GU's online master's program in nursing for veteran students No. 19, and the online master's in nursing program No. 54, both jumps from last year.

» **Daniel Vimont** ('96), professor of climate sciences at the University of Wisconsin, will discuss "A Community-Building Approach to Understanding and Addressing Climate Change Impacts," March 4, 6 p.m., Hemmingson Auditorium, in a free and public presentation.

» UC-Berkeley law school Dean Erwin Chemerinsky presents "Reforming the Supreme Court," March 7, 6 p.m., Barbieri Courtroom.

» Zags Give Day is March 7, a day to celebrate and encourage support for students and the scholarships that make a GU education possible. Additional funds will be donated once each academic area has at least one donor, once a donation from every state has been received, once 250 faculty/staff have given, and for every 100 first-time donors. Go to: [www.gonzaga.edu/zgd](http://www.gonzaga.edu/zgd) to learn more and to give.

» Gonzaga Spring Break runs March 9-17.

» The Visitors Writing Series brings former Spokane poet laureate, educator and author **Laura Read** ('92), along with the student winners of the 2023-24 Gurian Writing Awards, to College Commons in the Humanities Building, March 21, 4 p.m.

» In the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center: Pianist **Yerin Kim** and cellist **Kevin Hekmatpanah** perform a recital, March 23, 2 p.m.; DakhaBrakha, a Kyiv quartet featuring pop-punk to traditional Ukrainian sounds, is March 26, 7:30 p.m. [Purchase tickets](#)

» The print works of artist and Art Assistant Professor **Reinaldo Gil Zambrano** are on display at the Museum of Arts and Culture through April 20.