

SPIRIT

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A MATT OF MANY TRADES

Matt Bahr was the eldest of six children in his household so perhaps that is where his desire or need to lead was formed, “although I didn’t know it at the time,” says GU’s College of Arts and Sciences interim dean, who will relinquish the reins to incoming Dean **Jacqueline Van Hoomissen** on June 10.

The man who came to Gonzaga fresh out of graduate school at Purdue in 2004 as an assistant professor in sociology has always been a servant leader. He rose to department chair, associate dean of the College, interim dean in Health Sciences and twice interim dean of Arts and Sciences.

Although academic leadership was not his aim.

“I’m fortunate enough to have ended up in an academic career at an institution that is mission-based, which resonates with me,” Bahr says. “If I can be of help to Gonzaga in any role, I’m happy to do so. Gonzaga means a lot to me and this is where I want to stay.”

“Gonzaga is a verb,” he continues. “We have a good thing going here. The quality of people committed to Gonzaga and our mission is second to none.”

Former Arts and Sciences Dean **Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak** tapped Bahr as an associate dean in 2014 and over the next six years placed him where he could expand his knowledge and skills.

“She was very intentional in encouraging me to seek opportunities and supporting my development as a leader,” Bahr says.

But he couldn’t have imagined what was next.



Matt Bahr has served three terms as interim dean, twice in the College and once in Nursing and Human Physiology.

His mentor announced her departure in 2019 and Bahr was named interim dean of the College, agreeing to serve for one year.

Then COVID-19 struck in March 2020 and the entire higher education framework was thrown into a whirlwind. He stayed on another year until he was asked to serve as interim dean in the School of Nursing and Human Physiology as the residing dean left unexpectedly right before the new academic year began.

Although a bit intimidated taking over a school he viewed as out of his wheelhouse, “I’m glad I took that position,” Bahr says. “It was my first exposure to the professional schools and I learned a lot about Gonzaga that I didn’t know. It was a smaller unit with different demands and a distinct culture. Very different from the College.”

He stayed there until **Julie Wolter** became dean in 2023 just as **Annamarie Caño** was stepping down as Arts and Sciences dean, and back into that role he rolled.

“A friend of mine asked me, ‘You know what DEAN stands for?’ I didn’t. He said, ‘Does Everything As Needed.’”

And so it was.

University officials see him as a person who will bring stability and continuity to the operation. He knows the culture and is committed to Jesuit education.

“I have had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Bahr for the past decade or so, especially during various academic leadership transitions,” says Vice Provost **Jolanta Weber**. “I had no doubt his extensive experience in the College would be of great value in leading the School of Nursing and Human Physiology at

Matt Bahr | *Continued on Page 2*

A Portland Associate Dean is GU’s New Arts & Sciences Dean

University of Portland Associate Dean of Scholarship and Creative Engagement **Jacqueline Van Hoomissen** was selected to serve as the next dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at



Gonzaga, announced President **Thayne McCulloh** in April. She will start June 10.

She served as Biology Department chair for six years before joining the dean’s office in 2019 and became director of Undergraduate Research and faculty research initiatives.

A faculty member at Portland since 2002, she has taught in an array of areas, including neuroscience, public

health, school-university partnerships, inclusive excellence and creative writing. An undergraduate biology major at Portland, Van Hoomissen earned a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in exercise science with concentrations in neuroscience and psychology. She was one of 130 applicants for this job, left open in 2022 when **Annamarie Caño** returned to teaching.

Matt Bahr

continued from page 1

the time we needed an experienced academic leader. I would be hard pressed to think of a situation where Matt has been anything other than willing to jump into a student or faculty situation that needed solving, or to take on new responsibilities when asked to do so. His calm and steady demeanor, even during challenging situations, amazes me. I have learned much from him."

Spirit asked Bahr how faculty are different today than 20 years ago when he first joined this campus community.

"The faculty we are hiring today look like they are getting more direct preparation in their teaching skills and aptitudes to be effective teachers," Bahr says. "This is a credit to our grad schools across the country."

But today's educators are not without challenges.

"Our students today have been digital natives all their lives with their smart devices and social networking. As a result, they are arriving on our doorstep and being asked to do more all the time and do it better," Bahr says. "Our Student Affairs people are seeing this and working to prioritize mental health."

Gonzaga is constantly providing programs and connections to strengthen its faculty's ability to connect its students to the realities of our world today, Bahr explains. And many new programs, like the Provost's Complex Conversations dialogues, leverage student development professionals with Gonzaga's academic expertise to create both content and timely discussions for our students.

As for the future of higher education?

"If I had a crystal ball, I would see the College and the core curriculum providing a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in the Jesuit mission being as much a part of a Gonzaga education in 10 years, or 50 years, as it is today. It has stood the test of time."

Bahr has stepped into every interim role he has been assigned, most often on short notice, and has kept a school moving forward. The succession of new roles has taught him many things, from academic programming, handling student academic issues and scheduling and registration, to dealing with concerned parents, space and facilities planning and budget.

He's a jack of all dean trades.

Maybe not a born leader, if there is such a thing. But certainly, Bahr has acquired an aptitude for it.

EMERITUS Service, Accomplishments Honored

Six longtime and esteemed professors are granted faculty emeritus status after review of nominations submitted.

Professor Emeritus

Megan Ballard taught law at Gonzaga for more than 20 years with emphasis on Property, Immigration Law and Policy, and Forced Migration Law and Policy. Described as a team player, Ballard was an accomplished scholar and twice served as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar in Georgia and Jordan.



Ballard

Randy Bennett was one of the first doctorate-qualified professors Dean Bud Barnes hired in his effort to gain business school accreditation in the 1980s. During Bennett's 36 years here he taught many courses in economics, showed a passion for Jesuit education and made a unique contribution to his students, Barnes said.



Bennett

Patrick Ferro, described by Dean **Karlene Hoo** as a positively spirited mechanical engineering professor who often volunteered his services outside the classroom, pioneered several interdisciplinary courses, co-teaching with faculty in Human Physiology, Chemistry and Biochemistry. He advised 20-40 students per year and loved it.



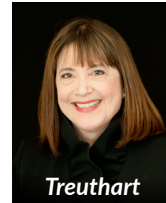
Ferro

Over 38 years **Steven Schennum** contributed extensively to the electrical and computer engineering curricula, teaching courses spanning circuits, electronics, electromagnetic fields and communications. His Smart Antennae and Radio Laboratory provides state-of-the-art research and advanced technology opportunities to nearly 100 undergraduates and industrial clients.



Schennum

Mary Pat Treuthart has taught law here for 35 years in various areas: Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, International Human Rights, Mental Disability Law and Women's Rights. She served as Fulbright senior lecturer in Poland in 2002. But she is so much more than a teacher. She has served on numerous boards dealing with human justice, as a volunteer and a radio show host.



Treuthart

Associate Professor Emeritus

Father **Robert Lyons**, S.J., served Gonzaga for 45 years as a teacher in communications studies and integrated media. He developed the broadcasting program and various radio and TV courses, and designed the Podcast Suite. He started, licensed and managed KAGU Radio. He chaired Communication Arts and served on the Board of Trustees for 11 years and the Board of Members since 1993.



Lyons

Faculty Annual Honor Awards

The following Gonzaga faculty members were honored for their outstanding contributions to teaching and/or scholarship this past year.

Open Category – Liz Addis, Biology

Open Category – Avery Dame-Griff, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Open Category – Brian Steverson, Business Ethics

Teaching Excellence/Tenured – Christy Andrade, Biology

Teaching Excellence/Tenure Track – Noralis Rodriguez-Coss, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Teaching Excellence/Non-Tenured – Matthew DeGarmo, Sociology and Criminology

Academic Citizenship – Faculty Handbook

Committee: **Heather Crandall**, Communications Studies; **Marianne Poxleitner**, Biology; **Kem Gambrell**, Leadership Studies; **Joe Gardner**, Political Science; **Ray Rast**, History; **Chris Stevens**, Entrepreneurship.

Collaborative Work – Jessica Maucione, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies; **Shalon Parker**, Art

Professional Contributions/Tenured – **Claudio Talarico**, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Community Engaged Learning – **Joe Johnston**, Sociology and Criminology



Front: Johnston, Rast, Steverson, Lyons, Maucione, Parker. Middle: Gardner, Andrade, Poxleitner, Díaz, Dame-Griff, Rodriguez-Coss, Gambrell. Back: Bennett, Deena González (retiree), Addis, Stevens, Crandall, DeGarmo, Talarico, Schennum, Treuthart

Serving People Well is Key to this Computer Man's Work Happiness

We certainly can't judge anyone by their looks, but in **Brett Hendricks** you might see a free-wheeling, positive-spirited soul who might not like bureaucracy but sure likes the feeling he gets when helping people with their needs.

The floppy-haired, highly educated computer labs manager for the College of Arts and Sciences with 30 years under his belt here is one of the University's most-sought friendly faces.

After he packed his bags and a U-Haul trailer to move from Chicago to Spokane in 1994 to pursue a Master's of Divinity at Gonzaga, he knew he'd need to find a way to pay for this fourth degree (bachelor's degrees in computer science and theater at Drew University in New Jersey, and a master's in philosophy from Loyola-Chicago). He approached **Peter Hanlon** in ITS and said, "I know something about computers. Need any help?"

He was hired. At first, he was unhappy. His job was to fix computer problems and it was "people" who kept "messing up the computers," he reasoned.

Then Hanlon explained to Hendricks, "Your job is to take care of people, and you do that by taking care of their computers. "Since I've flipped that around, my work has been grand."

For the past 27 of his 30 years he has gotten to know many people in every office in the College. He loves making their lives better with a tweak here or a reboot there.



Hendricks' joy in life is helping others, and who needs help more than computer users!

"Sometimes it is as easy as telling people where the on/off button is."

"When I first got here, I worked on Fr. **(Bernard) Coughlin's** computer in the president's office. Someone had put an arrow on the switch and a tag that said ON/OFF," Hendricks recalls. Giving Fr. Coughlin credit for this mystery, "On/Off buttons are in various places on different computers."

He tries to figure out the most direct steps to solve problems. And he's good at it.

"It's like solving a puzzle," he says. "There's a lot of little mysteries, figuring out what the computer is trying to do and why things don't work."

"Soon after I started here, we acquired our first server. It had a three-gigabyte hard drive and we thought that would last a very long time," Hendricks remembers. "One day I came in to work and all our storage was gone. Turns out a computer science student had a program that went to infinity of several billion copies of the letter H."

"When I started working in the College, we had 70 computers in four spaces and two servers. Now we have 500 computers in 70-plus spaces and seven or eight servers. Automation and the tools with which to work on computers have drastically improved and made my job much easier and more efficient. No more floppy disks."

Hendricks Space

Hendricks has occupied three office spaces in 30 years, the first 17 years in Herak, then two years in "the best office at the University, (History Professor Emerita) **Betsy Downey's** old office on the third floor of College Hall behind the University Chapel. My most prized possession is her drab colored wooden file. Inside one drawer is a notification from base security at Hanford with the names of two security officers," says Hendricks. "I posted a picture of it and someone tracked down the obit for one of the officers detailing her work at Hanford during and after the war."

Hendricks' current office below the east stairway to the "Garden Level" of College Hall has been his home for the last eight years.

"When I arrived here there was a doorway

between my office and a conference room next door. I had that doorway removed and a wall inserted there to cover the hole. I placed a time capsule in that wall with various memorabilia from my time here," Hendricks says.

Family Tie

The thing that kept Hendricks here after earning his second master's degree was a young lady named Molly.

"I applied for the job in the College mostly because I wanted to see where this relationship with her would go," says Hendricks about the new psychology professor. He and **Molly Kretchmar-Hendricks** were married in 2000 and have two children, Emma and Ian.

Hendricks is thankful he has a reason to know people around the university and feels connected. "People here make this a special place," he says. "And the fact that we are guided by a mission for educating people in a way that they grow into who they really are, into people who can make the world a just place, is evidence of our good work."

Thirty Years with a Corner View

It is a pleasure for a storyteller to interview someone who understands the craft of storytelling. The detail in their anecdotes is amplified, much to the joy of the notetaker.

Joanne Shiosaki arrived in 1994 to oversee student media, and while the students have become intricately more sophisticated in their work over her 30 years in the same job, the expectations have not changed: Give students an opportunity to expand their marketable skills by producing quality, uncensored publications, all student produced, and cover their expenses.

“Back in the day” all budgeting was done on paper and it took the University a month to reconcile the ledger and get a report back to each office.

“Our students were wise to that, and spent money, especially near the end of spring semester and the fiscal year, knowing they’d be gone by the time we had accounted for their expenditures,” Shiosaki says.

She can recite issue after issue she and her student editors have faced over her tenure and their mostly positive resolution.

She was blessed with excellent faculty advisers. Former Journalism professor and adviser **Tom Miller** is one of those, and he reinforced with the student writers and editors on *The Bulletin* that “You can’t make mistakes with sensitive issues and information that could damage people’s reputations if the information is not correct,” Shiosaki says.

Shiosaki recalls one column about BYU joining the West Coast Conference that made jest of the Mormon faith.

“We received a lot of calls and emails from folks who were offended by it,” Shiosaki says.

“We were called to the president’s office. To **President McCulloh**’s credit he didn’t punish the students but used it as an educational moment. He shared with our student editor a four-inch binder with letters and emails he had received in response to the column. It helped us realize that what we say in *The Bulletin* has a far reach.”

Paying the Piper

Producing publications requires paying for paper, production and student salaries.

When Shiosaki arrived in 1994, annual ad sales amounted to \$20,000. This year students are on record pace to reach \$190,000 in ad sales, an important number when publication costs continue to rise. In addition to paper and press costs, Shiosaki’s payroll has grown to include 80 student salaries.

She does her work from a tiny eight-by-eight-foot office inside a meeting room on the northeast corner of fourth floor in College Hall. She has always enjoyed her autonomy in that tiny, windowless office with brightly decorated posters and pinups of events, festivities and causes of every color and shape.



An advocate for social justice and freedom of speech, Joanne Shiosaki’s office door and walls are brightly decorated with some of her causes.

“I joke that one of the secrets to my longevity here is that my supervisors always left me alone to do my work . . . no one wanted to climb four flights of stairs to see me,” Shiosaki cracks.

Emphasis on Diversity

The affable behind-the-scenes mentor to hundreds of students treasures the University’s efforts to make Gonzaga a welcoming place for people of diverse backgrounds. She has seen significant changes since 2012.

“It was part of our Strategic Plan introduced in 2012. Then, one person, **Bob Bartlett**, ran the Unity House across from the COG. Now UMEC has a spacious spot in the Hemmingson Center, at least five employees and a dean of DEI in **Joan Iva Fawcett**. The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion had one person running the shop in **Raymond Reyes**. Now the Office of Inclusive Excellence has five people with two more expected by fall,” she says.

“And we would not see the changes we’ve experienced in the last dozen years if not for the voices of our students and allies who have spoken out for social justice. I am proud to be

part of an organization that puts people first and lives its mission.”

As part of her work in Student Affairs, Shiosaki has administered the Intercultural Development Index to colleagues and students and has provided group presentations on Intercultural Competency Assessment.

“It makes me feel so good working with people in my division,” says Shiosaki, one of the most senior people in Student Affairs. “I’ve been very lucky.”

She is particularly grateful for her Student Affairs VPs: **Sue Weitz**, **Judi Biggs-Garbuio** and **Kent Porterfield**. “People here have always had the mission and the welfare of our students at the forefront.”

Shiosaki will retire in spring 2025, leaving more time to spend with her video artist husband, **Charlie Schmidt**, creator of Keyboard Cat and Dancing Nose, and daughter **Sydney** (‘20), an aerospace engineer for Blue Origin in Seattle.

Groundskeeper Supervisor Tye McGee

DIGGING IN

Tye McGee got his hands dirty working for Nelson Landscaping, then co-founded AM Landshaping and ran it for 29 years until he sold his interest a couple of years ago. He thought he had retired.

Then he ran into Gonzaga Plant Services Director **Ken Sammons**. The two had partnered on a lot of Gonzaga projects over the years.

“He told me **Tim Hatcher** was retiring as groundskeeping supervisor in the near future. Months later (Maintenance and Grounds Director) **Tomson Spink** contacted me and let me know the position was open, and Tim was sticking around to help the new supervisor with the transition.”

McGee applied and was hired. Retirement had to wait.

The new groundskeeper supervisor is a hands-on boss. He still likes to get his hands dirty. You might see him on campus planting a new tree or trimming bushes. But he is still learning from his longtime crew members some of the nuances of this campus and finds Gonzaga “a place with really good people. I am happy to work with humble hearts.”

“Obviously, this is a beautiful campus,” McGee says. “We have visitors all the time who just stop by to walk our campus. I’m convinced the Jesuits, who had seen more advanced development in other parts of the world, saw this site 150 years ago and knew this space was something special.”

McGee and his previous company have helped shape the modern version of the GU campus, building athletic fields, the Johnston Family Mall, and its east and west extensions, the Grotto and Bulldog Alley among other projects.

Now he is charged with all groundskeeping responsibilities on this 150-acre, riverfront property. He is examining how lawns meet beds, where overgrown beds need to be thinned, and is about to experiment with replacing some lawn in less traveled, shady areas with micro clover, which only needs watering once a week, only needs mowing twice a year and blooms to a brilliant green which looks like lawn from a distance.



McGee with crew member.



Tye McGee had worked on GU campus projects for nearly 30 years before signing on as a groundskeeper supervisor in November 2022.

McGee says diverting budget and human resources to higher visibility spots on campus makes this a suitable change.

Grounds crew numbers 11 individuals, plus McGee, and is responsible for collecting campus garbage and maintaining campus pathways and roads during winter snowstorms, as well.

They have 12 Kubota RTVs, all with plow blades, pickup trucks with plows and deicing units, a skid steer loader and backhoe loader. “This equipment is used all day, every day, all year long,” McGee says.

“This takes a lot of work; it never stops and we never catch up.”

But for now, “This beats retirement,” says McGee.

Heating, Eating and Bathing Priorities for Summer Construction Plans

Plant and Construction Services knows this campus community needs to stay warm, eat well and be adequately groomed. These are priorities in its summer construction and renovation planning.

Ken Sammons, associate vice president for the department, lists the following projects high on the “important” list.

- Convert Crosby Center from a steam-heating source to a high efficiency hot water source.
- Finish the conversion of College Hall from a steam-heating source to a high efficiency hot water source. This is the last phase in a multi-year project.
- Replace \$100,000 worth of kitchen equipment at Hemmingson Center.
- Replace \$400,000 worth of flooring across

campus, with an emphasis on bath and shower rooms in three residence halls.

- Upgrade the fire alarm system at the Music Building.
- Reroof all or parts of six campus buildings, including parts of Herak Center, Lamplighter Apartments, the north wing of Catherine-Monica and the Peerless Building.
- Add three offices in the 840 Health Partnership Building to house faculty for the Public Health Initiative.
- Replace pavers from Fr. Art Dussault’s statue on Bulldog Alley west to the newly paved surface south of St. Al’s.
- Install additional electric vehicle charging stations in cooperation with Avista Utilities (summer and fall).

New Employee Onboarding will Begin Day One

Human Resources is partnering with stakeholders across campus to revamp its new-hire onboarding process.

The onboarding redesign, expected in June, was influenced by feedback from individuals and departments across the organization. New employees will now attend an orientation session on their first day of employment, providing more information and better tools as they begin to navigate their new roles, higher education and Gonzaga.

Additionally, the New Employee Experience (NEE) sessions, which previously were spread over parts of three days in an employee's first six months on the job, will now be a one-day session that focuses on Gonzaga culture, community and how new employees can get more involved within the organization.

"We're looking to elevate the new employee experience at Gonzaga by fostering a

vibrant and inclusive organizational culture while creating a positive and empowering environment that integrates new employees in Gonzaga and instills a strong sense of belonging and purpose within the organizational community," says **Sarah Zalutko**, HR employment specialist, who with Assistant Vice President for Employee Experience **Jamie Jamieson Tancrell**, has orchestrated these orientation changes.

"We want the onboarding experience to be informative with a greater level of engagement and learning, including more about how new employees can really get involved and feel like they are a part of campus and the culture and adding presenters to discuss more about the history of GU."

New employees starting within the same month will be included in the same NEE session, creating a cohort from which to

engage and build relationships. Along with these changes, HR will be implementing supervisor training for any new hires in supervisory roles, as well as any internal employees transferring into supervisory positions, Tancrell says. However, any current employees with interest in learning more about being/becoming a supervisor can also join; all are welcome.

"One of our primary goals is to create a better and more consistent onboarding experience that helps employees feel valued and well-equipped to contribute meaningfully to the goals and mission of the University," says Zalutko. "These efforts can help increase employee retention while better supporting the needs and well-being of both our new employees and supervisors.

"Onboarding sets the tone for our time here at GU so let's make it great," says Tancrell.

April Work Value Champions Saluted

The last group of Work Value Champions upholds a number of institutional values.

While **Ivette Godwin** is part of both the schools of Education and Leadership Studies, her reporting and peer structure is in the provost's office. She has many colleagues seeking her assistance daily. "She delivers with grace, humility and an ever-present calm that is soothing to those around her while taking personal accountability for her roles," one nominator said. (Cultivating individual and community accountability)

Brian Henning, Philosophy and Environmental Science, **Aubree Silva**, Sustainability, and **Larry Perkins**, ITS, live out their care for the Earth while stewarding our University resources. "Henning works tirelessly to support Gonzaga and Spokane in understanding and responding to the challenge of the climate crisis," a nominator says. "He grounds his work in a firm orientation toward justice and the interconnectedness of life." Silva leads several sustainability initiatives and important conversations about what we can all do to become more environmentally conscious folks. Perkins' nominator says during a wireless upgrade last year, the new Wi-Fi access points did not fit on the existing bracket. "Buying new brackets would be expensive and cause delays. Larry modified the 400 metal brackets at home to fit the access points, saving the University



April Work Value Champions are **Aubree Silva**, Sustainability; **Ivette Godwin**, Provost's office; **Larry Perkins**, ITS; **Brian Henning**, Philosophy and Environmental Science; and **Kristin Plouffe**, Lifelong Learning.

considerable time and money." By the way, Perkins made the original metal brackets as well.

After **Kristin Plouffe** transferred from Leadership Studies to Lifelong Learning, she graciously continued to help with various key

processes, coach and mentor new staff and support Leadership Studies with her historical knowledge. "She sees beyond her own work corner and connects with others so we can all do and be better," her nominator says.

Celebrating Inspiring Seniors

Throughout the school year, the MarCom team has been sharing stories of outstanding students from across campus in its “Senior Spotlight” series. Some were chosen for their academic prowess, others for their remarkable personal journeys. Some came to our attention for their dedication to serving their fellow Zags, or because of their sheer passion for being active in campus life. As members of the “Covid class” that entered GU under pandemic protocols, their resilience in making the most of their time on campus is inspiring to all of us.

As we prepare to bid adieu to these memorable seniors and their fellow graduates at their May 12 Commencement, we wanted to share some highlights from our Senior Spotlights. There are more stories to come, and you can find all our Spotlight profiles — and those from past years — in the gonzaga.edu/seniorstories on gonzaga.edu.

Meet a few of our featured students:

Sam Morehouse (English, with minors in theater and film studies) is a writer, director and performer who’s been involved with several theater productions, performed in the GUTS improv troupe and filled several roles in sketch-comedy crew the Boone Street Hooligans. Oh, and he’s putting the finishing touches on the second feature-length film he’s made during his four years at GU.

Kellie Tran (philosophy and economics) has a voracious academic curiosity, and explored



Senior Kellie Tran used her GU experience to open a boba tea shop, Uoni Bubble Tea & Coffee, in the Logan neighborhood.

several potential majors before landing on philosophy and economics. Entrepreneurship wasn’t one of them, but she’s living it every day. Tran opened a boba tea shop, Uoni Bubble Tea & Coffee, in the Logan neighborhood when she found herself longing for the fun flavors of the trendy treat. From designing the menu to creating blueprints for city approval, Tran did it all, and did it between her classes.

Grant Hagen (psychology and entrepreneurship) found himself suffering from debilitating anxiety during his first year, often

feeling alone and isolated. Through therapy, he discovered strength in a simple mantra: Keep Going. And he did just that, sharing his mental health journey first with friends and family, then with the wider GU community and his California hometown through the Keep Going Campaign. He’s now the vice president of Active Minds, a national organization promoting mental health awareness on college campuses.

Read these and several more inspiring stories of graduating seniors at gonzaga.edu/seniorstories.

Staff Assembly’s New Leaders

New officers, chairpersons and area representatives have been elected to the Staff Assembly for a two-year term. They will be introduced at the May 30 Open Meeting of the Staff Assembly, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Hemmingson Ballroom. Snacks are available at 1:15 p.m.

Officers:

- President: **Matt Eastman**
- Vice President: **Tara McAloon**
- Secretary: **Alexia Thiede**
- Treasurer: **Pat Bech**

Chairpersons:

- Staff Appreciation: **Kori Baker**
- Staff Recognition: **Alex Giffin**
- Bylaws, Recruitment & Elections: **Kara McGinn**
- Marketing & Communications: **Colleen McLean**

Area Representatives:

- College/Schools: **Tammy Everts**
- Enrollment Management: **Kerri Danowski**
- Mission Integration: **Daniel Dangca**
- Student Affairs: **Rudy Morrow** and **Victoria Bjordahl**
- Finance: **Addison Cavanaugh**
- UA/Marcom: **Marie Romano**
- Plant Services: **Ryan Mowrey** and **Riley McCoy**
- ITS: **Larissa Robinson**
- Athletics: **Devon Thomas**
- Operational Administration: **Nick Wood**
- Academic Administration: **Vicki Hucke**



Staff Assembly officers Alexia Thiede, Tara McAloon, Matt Eastman, Pat Bech.

NOTEWORTHY

NEW HIRES

Claire Fitzgerald, admin asst, University Advancement; **Darby Smith**, receptionist, Health & Counseling Services; **JoAnn Bridges**, custodian, Plant; **Kara Moraski**, program coordinator, Civil & Human Rights, Law; **Katelyn Carroll**, program asst III, Research and Interdisciplinary Initiatives; **Kyle Hoob**, asst athletic director/marketing & creative services, Athletics; **Mindy Ratcliffe**, program asst III, Engineering; **Ted Zhang**, academic director, Engineering Design & Entrepreneurship

POSITION CHANGES/PROMOTIONS

Alyssa Gorman, director, New Student & Family Programs; **Brittany Harmon**, course design assoc director, Instructional Design & Delivery; **Joe Petek**, editor/Critical Mention of Whitehead, Arts & Sciences; **Luke Cairney**, asst dean of Admission, Law; **Tiffany Picotte**, campus engagement asst director, Community Engagement

GOODBYES

Deborah Ortega, program asst III, Law; **Dorothy Greenamy**, program asst III, Business; **Michelle Maxwell**, asst volleyball coach, Athletics; **Pamela Alvarado**, director, Payne Leadership Center; **Rhi-Ennen Dewey**, custodian, Plant; **Samantha Rich**, communications & marketing coordinator, Community Engagement; **Sheri Allenwykes**, staff accountant, Athletics

ANNIVERSARIES:

35 **Gina Thomas**, asst director/academic budget & personnel, Provost

10 **Shanna Dunne**, major gifts officer, University Advancement; **Russell Wood**, HVAC technician, Plant; **Scott Economu**, instrument maintenance/building resource specialist, Chemistry; **Stacy Clinesmith**, asst women's basketball coach, Athletics; **Craig Fortier**, asst women's basketball coach, Athletics

5 **Larissa Robinson**, assoc director digital campus, ITS; **Peggy Noble**, enterprise application developer II, ITS; **Luis Delgado**, benefits specialist I, Human Resources; **Jaron Fugile**, IT tech II, ITS

Around Campus

- » Biology Professor **Nancy Staub** was named an American Association for Advancement of Science Fellow for her distinguished contributions to the field of organismal biology, particularly for advances in the knowledge of salamander evolutionary biology.
- » Outgoing presidents of the Faculty and Staff assemblies, **Marianne Poxleitner** and **Whitney Franklin**, will receive the President's Award of Distinction, Poxleitner at the undergraduate commencement ceremony and Franklin at the graduate ceremony.
- » Gonzaga was recognized with the Military Friendly® Schools silver designation award for its efforts in creating sustainable and meaningful education paths for active duty and veteran students, and their families on their academic journeys.

- » As a result of the recent 2024 retirement project, the Benefits office reports a reduction in missing beneficiaries by 81%.
- » "The Heart of a Grand Old Town," a readers' theatre presentation created by GU history and theatre students based on their original research, will honor the memories of Expo '74, with performances May 11 at 1 and 3 p.m. in Riverpark Square, and May 16 at 7 p.m. and May 18 at 1 p.m., in the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture. History professors **Ray Rast** and **Veta Schlimgen** oversaw the students' research, and Theatre Arts Associate Professor **Leslie Stamooolis** orchestrated the students' scriptwriting and performance.
- » Northwest Passages presents author **Craig Johnson** talking about his latest book in the Longmire Series, "First Frost," May 28, 7 p.m. in the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center. Cost is \$7. Spokesman Review Editor **Rob Curley** moderates.

TRUST

Is the Theme for 2024-25

While the Gonzaga Humanities Institute, an outgrowth of GU's Strategic Plan, is ready to launch as soon as a director is selected, advisory board members from various departments have met and decided upon a theme for the 2024-25 academic year, trust.

"Trust is vital for social, political and economic progress and thus requires interdisciplinary work," says **Charlie Lassiter**, associate professor of Philosophy and interim director of the Humanities Institute. "Understanding the many iterations of trust requires conceptual work and reflection. It likewise requires practical work to build the infrastructure and relationships for cultivating trust.

"Lots of people around Gonzaga are doing excellent work, but it doesn't always overlap," Lassiter says. "The goal of the theme is to find a topic or concept that people from across the university can connect their research to. Next year, we will have workshops exploring our theme of trust to help encourage faculty to explore the notion of trust in their own research."

Lassiter says the vision for the Institute is to support interdisciplinary humanities research, especially as it's relevant to Spokane, the Inland Northwest and beyond. "Our goal is to bring insights from the humanities to bear on pressing problems, especially as they intersect with other disciplines. We find examples of this in the ethics of AI, the relevance of critical thinking and reflection in development, and the importance of narratives and storytelling for treating mental illness."

Humanities include Philosophy, English, Communication Studies, History, Modern



Philosophy Associate Professor Charlie Lassiter is interim director of the Gonzaga Humanities Institute.

Languages, Classics, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Women Gender & Sexuality Studies, Native American Studies, Political Science, Religious Studies, Art, Theatre and Dance.

Gonzaga's 131st Commencement Ceremonies will honor 1,932 students with their degrees: 1,148 undergraduates, 564 master's candidates, 53 doctoral students and 167 law graduates. The law commencement event is May 11, 9 a.m., the graduate event is May 11, noon, both at the McCarthy Athletic Center. Commencement Mass is May 11, 2:45 p.m., at St. Aloysius Church. Undergraduate commencement is May 12, 9:30 a.m. at the Spokane Memorial Veterans Arena. More information at gonzaga.edu/commencement.

