



fall family weekend

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Gonzaga art students brighten things up with community project

By KAYLA FRIEDRICH

Rolling hills, Inland Northwest wildflowers and blue skies make up the mural you'll find on the corner of Indiana and Lincoln. Two Gonzaga University art majors, Bri Covert and Hayley Nigrelle, spent the last three months turning nothing into something.

Both artists are familiar with independent work, commissions and other artistic modes but in June, a new type of opportunity fell into their laps.

"My really good friend Auden visited me in June," Covert said. "I was talking to his grandmother who lives in Spokane, her name is Ilene, and she said 'I have this attached garage and there's a lot of graffiti. If you do art, I would love to have you work on this.'"

Ilene has been living in Spokane for 16 years and was looking for a way to deter the mismatched graffiti that was being painted on the exterior wall.

After finishing up her summer courses, Covert began sketching ideas for the space and it took off from there.

Conceptually, the mural is meant to brighten up the area.

"She was pretty open about what she wanted," Covert said. "I narrowed that down, and by the time everything had gotten primed and ready, and we knew what we were doing, Hayley had come back into Spokane and just said 'Hey do you want to hop on this project with me?' And it was awesome to take this project on together."

Covert said Nigrelle and her had always been good friends but had never had the opportunity to collaborate on any artistic endeavors.

"It was really fun to see how our art styles meld together and not just our personalities," Covert said.

Covert said she was familiar with Nigrelle's floral work and thought it would be something right up her alley.

Then, it was just a matter of figuring out how to technically and stylistically approach the work as a team.

"This was a two person job, especially with how big the wall is," Nigrelle said. "This was kind of my first professional project and I had never done anything to this capacity. I have experience with flowers and stuff and this was the first time both of us have done something like this. We work really well together."

The mural is a blend of both artists' techniques and Ilene wasn't the only one to benefit from the new piece of art. During the process, Covert and Nigrelle said they were both slightly shocked by the positive responses they received from passersby.

During their painting, the duo said they received a number of comments from people who are experiencing houselessness in the close community that were expressing their gratitude to Cover and Nigrelle for creating something that was happy and lighthearted.

"[The mural] is a bright way to brighten up the city



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: picsbychiana

Art majors Bri Covert and Hayley Nigrelle have spent the past three months working on their mural.

and create public spaces and it's a nice way to represent the community," Nigrelle said. "As we were working on it, we had people walk by that would say 'Thank you so much for doing this. It really brightens up my day walking through this alley.'"

Nigrelle said she was grateful for the accolades as it added a new layer of meaning to the work that she and Covert were doing on the corner of Indiana and Lincoln.

"It was really nice to hear," Nigrelle said. "Even though the mural wasn't directly intended for them, they still enjoyed it and could interact with it. I think it's important that people know that outside of our campus there are opportunities to give back to the community that aren't just through GU."

The mural was completed at the end of September, leaving Ilene with a bright garage that will carry its light into Spokane's cold months ahead.

"Overall, it was such a great opportunity," Covert said. "Brightening up this area for herself [Ilene] and other people that live there and occupy that space became really apparent to Hayley and I while we were painting. It was transformative work that I didn't anticipate affecting the community as much as it did."

Kayla Friedrich is an A&E editor. Follow her on Twitter: @friedrich_kayla.

The unwritten rules of Gonzaga University; basketball and kindness are king



MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: makoa.dealmeida

Zag culture is made up of agreed upon social norms, including being considerate and holding the door open for fellow GU community members.

COMMENTARY
By SAILOR HAWES

Like all universities, there are trends, do's and don'ts and unspoken rules for students to follow. Some may be explicitly stated, some may be rules passed down from seniors to first-year students. Here, in no particular order, are my unspoken rules of Gonzaga University.

First things first, this one is more about being considerate than anything, but you must hold the door open for anyone and everyone who may venture behind you before going into a building. We, as students at GU, are trained to be as

nice as possible and as helpful as possible to those around us.

As someone who hates to open doors for herself, I take this rule very seriously and will look down upon anyone who does not hold the door open for me.

Second, you cannot be enrolled at this university if you aren't a fan of basketball – specifically GU basketball.

To some it may seem like just your average sports team. Well, it's not. Does any other West Coast Conference (WCC) team make it to the Final Four? No. Does any other WCC basketball team win and get put in a March Madness bracket as much as GU men's basketball (knock on

wood)? No. If you weren't a basketball fan before coming here, you better change your mind and learn to love it because that's what GU is about (aside from academics of course).

Third, when it comes to the lunch rush, dinner rush, or any kind of rush at the COG — do not cut the line.

Just do not.

Even if you really want the Texas toast grilled cheese and tomato soup for lunch on Monday or the citrus salmon for dinner on Wednesday. Wait your turn like a considerate human and wait with everyone else who is also moving through the line at a snail's pace.

Fourth, to those students who choose to venture out into the Logan Neighborhood on a Friday or Saturday night, please understand that there is a strict start and end time to weekend festivities. Music starts at 9 p.m., and midnight is when it stops, no exceptions.

First-years, this next part is for you, so listen carefully. I know we can be so excited about roaming the Logan and hopping from backyard to backyard or house to house, but please, stay in Catherine-Monica.

What ever happened to throwing dorm parties? Cramming as many people as possible into a tiny dorm room and hoping to not get caught by your RA sounds like the ultimate Friday night festivity — so let's keep it that way.

Fifth, this may seem like a stereotypical rule at many universities, but please study in the respected buildings dedicated to your major.

I do not want to see any business

majors studying in Bollier or Hughes, and I definitely do not want to see any biology or chemistry majors studying in Jepson.

What business professor is going to be able to answer a question about physics or chemistry? None. What biology professor is going to be able to answer a question about accounting? None. So please, study in your respected buildings.


Lastly, for the chatter-boxes on campus — stay away from Hemm Den and the third floor of Foley library.

No one wants to hear a recap of your weekend or your gossip with friends while they are trying to study. Hemm Den is notorious for being a silent area, as is the third floor of Foley.

If you want to have a gossip session while studying, stick to the first floor of the John J. Hemmingson Center; you can spill your tea and fill your cup with others all while studying for that math exam you have the next day.

Well, there you have it. These are the unspoken rules of GU in my book. Go ahead and follow them — or don't, it's up to you. Just know the next time you don't hold the door for someone I will be watching.

Sailor Hawes is a contributor.



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JANNA PRICE IG: janna.price

GU basketball fans and students' families can attend the men's basketball team's first appearance in the Kennel this year on Saturday during Fall Family Weekend.

Zags are back: Kraziness in the Kennel debuts upcoming season

By HENRY KRUEGER

The first opportunity for fans to catch a glimpse of the 2022-23 Gonzaga University men's basketball team is the Numerica Kraziness in the Kennel set for Saturday at 4 p.m.

The annual event will feature player and coaching staff introductions, several on-court competitions and an intrasquad scrimmage.

It takes place during GU's Fall Family Weekend as many students and their families are expected to attend. Student and family tickets have sold out, but the general public is able to claim two tickets per transaction, which began Wednesday at 10 a.m. All tickets are complimentary.

In the eyes of Gonzaga Kennel Club Vice President Emily Schwartz, Kraziness in the Kennel encapsulates GU's school

spirit.

"The pride students have for GU is undeniable and Kraziness is really one of the first big events in the year that shows just what it means to be a Zag," Schwartz said.

Those who come to the event will get a peak at the team's four newcomers — transfers Malachi Smith and Efton Reid III, along with incoming freshmen Braden Huff and Kellen Mitchell.

Fans in attendance can also gauge the progress of the returning players as they prepare for the upcoming season.

The sizable group of returners is headlined by senior forward Drew Timme, a two-time All-American and last year's West Coast Conference (WCC) Player of the Year.

Aside from Timme, the Zags bring back two other starters in junior guard Julian Strawther and senior guard Rasir Bolton. Strawther and Bolton were both named WCC honorable mentions after the 2021-22 season.

The complete men's basketball schedule was released on Tuesday, with the Zags opening in Frisco, Texas against Tennessee on Oct. 28 in a preseason game. The team returns home for an exhibition with Warner Pacific on Nov. 2 before its first official game on Nov. 7 versus North Florida.

The Zags are scheduled to play teams from 10 different conferences, most notably the Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC and possibly the ACC or Big East.

GU's 15-game nonconference schedule

consists of several big-time matchups, including Michigan State in San Diego on Nov. 11, Texas in Austin, Texas on Nov. 16, Kentucky at Spokane Arena on Nov. 20, Baylor in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on Dec. 2 and Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama on Dec. 17.

The Zags could also face several historic programs while participating in the Phil Knight Legacy tournament such as Duke, Purdue or West Virginia. The tournament commences on Nov. 24.

After the conference season, the Zags will look to win their fourth-straight conference title at the WCC tournament, which lasts from March 2-7.

Henry Krueger is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @henrykrueger.

Gonzaga storytellers cultivate community with their personal anecdotes at 'Blossom' Story Slam

By MARY SHERDEN

The lobby outside Jepson's Wolff Auditorium buzzed with anticipation while Gonzaga University students waited for the clock to strike 8 p.m. on Monday. Story Slam was about to begin.

The event welcomed student and staff speakers who shared personal anecdotes that all fall under a common theme.

"Story Slam is the best thing at Gonzaga," said audience member Ryan Bass. "This is the first one of the year, so everyone has anxious butterflies to hear everyone else speak."

When the doors opened, chattering attendees eagerly filled every seat the Wolff Auditorium had to offer. A hush fell over the room when three students introduced themselves as the student coordinators for this event.

After a brief welcome and introduction, five speakers each took their turn sharing true life stories from the front of the room, sitting on a wooden stool riddled with Sharpie signatures. The stories topics were all cohesive with the night's theme — 'Blossom.'

Each storyteller captivated the audience with their unique life experiences. While sitting on the designated stool, they spoke in a conversational tone without any written script. Some presenters would refer to a journal or device if they wished to punctuate their narrative with a poem or song lyrics, but ultimately, it was evident each one was speaking from the heart.

Storyteller and sophomore Eleanor Mangan explained afterward that feeling vulnerable was frightening at first, but rewarding in the end.

"I didn't have my story written out, it just kind of comes out the way it does," Mangan said. "But there were so many people that I know and love in that audience. The feedback and the laughing and the head nodding ... They're here to listen, they're here to learn. I'm here to learn with them, and it's just so beautiful."

The focus and respect afforded to the storytellers allowed them to deliver their stories in whatever style,



COURTESY OF @STORYSLAMGU'S INSTAGRAM

Storytellers that take part in the event have the opportunity to sign the stool and wear crazy socks the night of the event.

format or volume suited them best. Some of the most compelling moments of the night were recounted in a hushed, gentle tone that may have been drowned out in less accommodating crowds.

The relaxed and comfortable sense of community is something that the Gonzaga Story Slam program has actively sought to cultivate, according to student coordinator, Kellyn Pattee.

The colorful socks that each storyteller wears is one tradition meant to make the nerves on stage diminish.

"We want to ensure that it's a really comfortable space for people," Pattee said. "Expectations are out the door and you're just able to share your story."


After the five speakers finished sharing their tales, the audience swarmed the auditorium floor to share hugs and

messages of gratitude. Among the accolades were several audience members inquiring about how they could share a story at the next Story Slam on Nov. 7.

Story Slam encourages involvement from all facets of GU. Storyteller and GU staff member, Candace Williams, explained that GU's Story Slam offers a community that upholds GU's overall mission.

"It is a staple of the Gonzaga community that you get to see people as a whole people and not just their major or their job," Williams said. "It's like someone saying, 'I want to be known' and people saying, 'we want to know you.'"

Mary Sherden is a staff writer.



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GU graduate's documentary causing a stir at film festivals

Gonzaga alum Chris Schnabel created a documentary starring GU's head men's tennis coach DJ Gurule

By BAILEY WHITE

DJ Gurule is the head coach of the Gonzaga University men's tennis team, a former athlete himself and — as of last year — the star of a documentary.

“DJ Gurule: Rebuilding a Culture” was released by GU graduate Chris Schnabel in April and highlights his success as both a women's and a men's tennis coach.

“[Gurule] went from being extremely successful with the women's program, coaching Sophie Whittle who is one of, if not the best GU tennis player to ever step on that court,” Schnabel said. “To going over to the men's side and having the most successful year in men's tennis history; I wanted to tell that story.”

Schnabel graduated from GU in 2022 with his master's in sport and athletic administration, and he initially filmed the documentary for a class project. Once it was completed, though, he realized the film had potential to gain traction and bring Gurule's story to a wider audience.

The film opens with a shot of Gurule, sporting a GU baseball cap, describing how he developed a love for tennis in high school and college and began coaching after a short stint in the corporate world. This is followed by clips of news articles, action shots and athlete interviews and wraps up by highlighting the teams' recent, unprecedented success.

In 2019 the GU women's tennis team peaked at 39th in the nation under Gurule's leadership, and in the year after, the men's team peaked at 46th. These are the highest rankings in the programs' history.

In addition to team success, Gurule coached Sophie Whittle, a 2018 graduate and the winner of the 2018 International Tennis Association Fall National Championships. Whittle is the most accomplished GU tennis player to date.

“The family environment, and [Gurule] holding us all accountable [is] why I think I grew so much as a player,” Whittle said in the documentary. “He would push us each and every day, extra, and sometimes you didn't even know you needed that. You had so much trust in him that you just went to work.”

This team culture — the namesake of Schnabel's documentary — is central to Gurule's coaching philosophy.

“Even in the beginning, when our record wasn't great, we just kept working on the culture,” Gurule said.

The documentary also features senior Matthew Hollingworth. Along with partner junior Sasha Trkulja, their doubles team ranked 25th in the nation in 2022, the highest ranking in GU men's tennis history. That was during Gurule's first year as a men's tennis coach.

Schnabel said he believes this dual success, and the team culture that got them there, was notable.

“Moving from women's tennis to men's tennis is not easy,” Schnabel said. “They have two totally different strategies, and there are two totally different types of individuals that you're going to be leading.”

“DJ Gurule: Rebuilding a Culture,” has been accepted



DJ Gurule, GU men's tennis head coach, landed himself in the spotlight for a documentary feature film.

“

The family environment, and [Gurule] holding us all accountable [is] why I think I grew so much as a player.

Sophie Whittle, GU women's tennis player

including the Spokane International Film Festival, which is set to take place in February.

Since filming the documentary, Schnabel has relocated to Hartford, Connecticut to work as the video and social media manager for Hartford Athletic. He described the job as a dream and credits his time at GU for helping him get there. In the future, he hopes to continue doing work that combines creativity and sports.

Schnabel also isn't done with “DJ Gurule: Rebuilding a Culture.” He plans to film a second part retelling the rest of the 2022 tennis season and to show the film on campus once the second half is completed. But in the meantime, it is available on his YouTube channel, Schnabel Studios.

“I want people to see the story and understand the kind of guy DJ is,” Schnabel said. “It's about the program, it's about the school, but it's really about him and how great of a person he is. He's a tremendous guy.”

Bailey White is a staff writer.

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Meet GSBA President Miguel Acosta Loza

By SYDNEY FLUKER

Three buzzwords run Miguel Acosta Loza's life — authenticity, opportunity and belonging. Acosta Loza found his love for culture building through working in the Gonzaga Student Body Association (GSBA) throughout his time at Gonzaga University. Acosta Loza's journey begins in Quito, Ecuador, where he lived before moving to Guayaquil, Ecuador, for a few years for his father's job. "I've always been away from my extended family and then when I was in high school, I went to Jesuit High School, and I knew that my dream was to pursue my education here at a Jesuit university," Acosta Loza said.

His brother, Mateo Acosta Loza, attended a Jesuit university in West Virginia that had a partnership with their high school back home. When the university started cutting programs, Mateo decided to transfer to GU. "My brother is a huge part of my experience here," Acosta Loza said. "I can't imagine being alone through this long journey." Miguel Acosta Loza applied to GU because the name sounded familiar due to the heavy Jesuit presence in Latin America, especially in Ecuador. He wanted something different but familiar, craving the key Jesuit buzzwords like "cura personalis" and "magis." According to Acosta Loza, GU's application felt very humanistic to him and encouraged him to commit here.

"I think that my story is one of disruption, one of being in places where you're not necessarily expected to be as a foreign student ... where the option is not really put in front of you," Acosta Loza said. "Like you want to come to orientation, feel like the rest of us, like everybody else, so my brother and I signed up for the CCE pre-orientation called RISE. It was an amazing, life-changing experience."



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: picsoychiana

Miguel Acosta Loza has a long list of goals he hopes to accomplish as GSBA president.

RISE was a Center for Community Engagement (CCE) program that was discontinued during the pandemic. RISE is an acronym for Rooted In Solidarity and Engagement and is where Acosta Loza met Charlotte Lowe, a RISE volunteer and 2021-22 GSBA vice president. Lowe encouraged him to run for GSBA as

international senator because the position usually isn't filled. "She was very pivotal in my experience because she was the first person who made me believe that I could have an actual role in this institution besides just being here for the ride as a foreign kid," Acosta Loza said.

His first year in GSBA didn't feel like the environment he wanted, but he started making the international senator a more productive and engaged position. Moving into sophomore year, he knew he wanted to work in GSBA but wanted to try a new position.

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Unlikely path takes Dwonch from Balkans to Spokane

By SYDNEY FLUKER

Albana Dwonch never expected that being a journalist would translate into over a decade of international aid work. "It was an opportunity that I never would have dreamed about before," Dwonch said. "Coming from such a closed country to travel the Middle East, proposing projects and getting them funded and becoming one of their people that they would ask for help on youth development issues in the region at the time." Born in Elbasan, Albania, Dwonch entered high school the same year communism fell in Albania. She remembers being prideful in her identity as a child, learning poetry and reading about Albanian history growing up. "That [pride] changed after the collapse of the regime because then I saw for the first time how I was viewed by others, like by Western Europe, particularly countries that

had been living in democracy for a long time," Dwonch said. "And in their eyes, I was not what I thought I was in my eyes. Suddenly, we were poor or oppressed, or these people that had lived under a severe communist regime." Her life has always been marked by a love of languages and stories. As a child in a small country, she learned Italian and French through school and taught herself English through extracurricular clubs and dictionaries. In college at the University of Tirana, in the capital city of Albania, Dwonch worked as a translator, translating European languages into Albanian. "The irony of my life is that even though I loved languages, and I was really good at my own language native language, since I left I've never really been able to express myself the way that I would in my native language," Dwonch said. "So I learned to accept this imperfection of languages as a part of me." Her work as a translator gave her a look into the world of journalism, as it forced her to examine the way

stories were constructed to be able to accurately translate them into Albanian. Translation fed both of her passions, keeping her connected to her own language while using it as a tool for telling stories of other people, and she continues her translation efforts today. While she was in college, her family emigrated to northern Italy, a foundational change for her sense of belonging. She stayed behind to complete her studies, graduating in 1999. Dwonch's first job out of college was as a journalist at a daily newspaper, eventually getting a job at a weekly magazine. "Thinking back I noticed that those times in Albania were difficult, but also exciting, traumatic, but defining in some ways," Dwonch said. "I had chances to meet and interview so many people in Albania and tell their stories as well. And so I was always very, very optimistic

SEE DWONCH PAGE 3



ISABELLA STOUT IG: @ISABELLACARIN.PHOTOGRAPHY

The Americans and the Holocaust exhibit reflects the region's history of white nationalism.

Foley exhibit displays white nationalism close to home

By CATE WILSON

Gonzaga University was chosen to host the "Americans and the Holocaust" traveling exhibit in Foley Library from Aug. 23 to Oct. 7. The exhibit is a collection from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and resides on the third floor of the library. Amelia Skiles, a GU senior, is a history student and intern for the Foley Library. Through her internship, she was given the opportunity to curate the ending portion of the exhibit that expands on bigotry and themes of hatred similar to the mass genocide of the Holocaust. Skiles was given access to special collections and the rare materials of Foley in order to build the glass case of white nationalist articles. "I think that this is a specific part of our region's history that needs to be learned from, especially with the ways it persists to this day," Skiles said. The case is at the very end of the exhibit, reminding the public that hate is

prevalent in and in close proximity to their own community. There is a warning label on the top that reads, "Caution: this exhibit contains racist, antisemitic and other pro-hate propaganda." The cases' contents are from the 1970s, '80s and '90s, after the Holocaust's conclusion and not too far from modern day. Most of the images, clippings and articles are in response to Idaho's Christian Identity movement rooted in the beliefs of the Aryan Nations. Paul Bracke, dean of Foley Library and associate provost of the Institute for Research and Interdisciplinary Initiatives, was proud of GU for housing the exhibit and bringing in members of both the GU and Spokane community. "The exhibit invites this conversation of what the United States' attitude and action, or inaction, was at the time of both the Holocaust and the Christian Identity movement," Bracke said. "If you reflect on

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FASU values welcoming and close family

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

From food to fellowship, Gonzaga University's Filipino American Student Union (FASU) has created a tight-knit and loving family for the past 10 years, hosting a series of educational, cultural and social activities on campus that not only celebrate Filipino heritage but center around developing fellowship and community.

Dawson Oen, a senior advisor for FASU, has been a member of the cultural club since his first year but has been familiar with the club for even longer through his older brother, a former GU student and FASU member.

Oen said the club has been an important community and home for him at GU. He said while the mission of FASU has always been to promote cultural awareness within the GU community on Filipino heritage, it has been the fusing of this community and education together that has made his experience with the cultural club so meaningful.

"We foster this camaraderie between each other where everyone is comfortable with each other, and then it gives us like our home away from home," Oen said. "A lot of the people I've met have become some of my really close friends just because we have a lot in common."

Oen and junior Rayna Paguio, vice president of FASU, said the cultural club has merged community and education together through the hosting of various cultural events. Oen and Paguio both noted the club's community barbecues and the annual Barrio celebration, a public gathering showcasing a wide range of Filipino heritage and traditions, as events that have cultivated this family environment.

"Family to me is definitely quality time and growing with each other and learning how to just learn how everybody like all your members work and how you interact with them," Paguio said. "I think FASU is a good family experience for me, because I get to meet a lot of Filipino Americans on campus and see how their lives are similar but different from mine, even though all of us are Filipino American in some way."

Oen and Paguio, along with junior Aaliyah Lewis, Barrio chair, said the gatherings have been meaningful spaces because of how the events have celebrated culture and brought people together. They said the Barrio celebration last spring was a memorable experience for them because they appreciated how the event directly centered Filipino identity and presented it to a welcoming audience.

In addition to its role in the GU community, Paguio and



FASU hosts its annual Barrio celebration to promote awareness of Filipino culture.

Oen highlighted FASU's work connecting with the broader Spokane area, noting the importance of supporting local efforts to promote education around Filipino culture and disrupt stereotypes and false beliefs about Filipino Americans.

Oen said FASU has partnered with local Filipino organizations in the past to participate in some of Spokane's cultural events, while also inviting the non-GU community to some of the club's events, such as the Barrio celebration last spring. Oen said the actions taken by the cultural club reflect how FASU is not just an organization that is part of GU but also the Spokane community.

"It's important to share our culture, make our presence known," Oen said. "I feel like a lot of the time people tend to overlook Filipino Americans and our history in the United States. It's important that people are aware and learning about our presence here. We go here. We're members of Spokane and this community, so we think it's important to build a relationship with those outside of Gonzaga."

Lewis, Oen and Paguio said this work of engaging the

GU and Spokane community is important because they said it is difficult to identify as Filipino American at a university and city in which there is a lot of prejudice and misrepresentation around their cultural identities. Lewis and Paguio said this prejudice stems from many people's ignorance around Filipino American heritage and identity.

"There's a whole umbrella term of being Asian American, and Filipinos fall underneath that umbrella," Paguio said. "What's been difficult for me is people don't recognize I'm Filipino. When they first meet me on this campus, I usually get asked if I'm Japanese or Chinese or a different Asian. But navigating my identity on this campus has empowered me to speak more in class when it comes to speaking about being a student of color on campus because I recognize that I have different experiences and those are just as valuable as anybody else in the classroom."

Lewis and Oen said FASU has combated this cultural ignorance through their education activities and by being an organized, collective voice that speaks out against misrepresentation. Lewis said she feels more connected and aware of Filipino heritage where her membership in the cultural club allows her to be proud of her Filipino American identity.

"I've never really thought about my Filipino identity until I came to Gonzaga because that's when I was [realized] I am different," Lewis said. "With FASU you're not different. We're all different personalities and everything, but you are accepted, your features are cherished. I felt more beautiful in my skin because of FASU, too."

Oen, Lewis and Paguio hope for FASU to continue to grow as a cultural club on campus and feature fun cultural and social events without forgetting their core values of family and community. They said FASU has contributed a lot to their personal growth at GU.

"We recognize that without each other, we wouldn't be where we're at," Lewis said. "The people that we're around and if we take care of one another, then we can move mountains. And I feel that this is something that we all value, and especially being at a PWI (predominately white institution), having this community that validates us and allows us to be just unapologetically who we are as Filipinos has been so important."

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FOLEY

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things that have happened in our region more recently, I think that there is plenty to think about and continue to be aware of."

Skiles said the exhibit is meant to be challenging and difficult. A paper posted at its start informs readers that this hate still lives within communities of the Pacific Northwest. Hate groups continue to operate, grow and adapt.

"I hope that people come away from these two exhibits discussing how they have learned something new, or how the contents of the exhibits can be linked to present day examples of hate or anti-hate

movements," Skiles said. "I hope that conversations start about the ways that history is taught and the importance of learning all sides of history. I also hope people come away from the exhibits talking about the ways they can contribute to the fight against hate."

The traveling exhibit was originally supposed to run for two months in March of 2020 but was postponed two years due to the pandemic.

"We were saddened that the exhibit had to be put on hold, but it may be even more relevant now," Bracke said.

Brad Matthies, associate dean for library services, was an instrumental part of the process of getting the exhibit to GU. The highly competitive application process only accepted 50 universities out of a pool of 250.

"In terms of why we applied for this, this sort of work, social justice, educating the public fits with the library and university's mission," Matthies said.

Skiles' work takes the message from the exhibit in D.C. and shows the correlation between causes that fit within frameworks of discussion that are still happening every day. Bracke and Matthies encourage students and the public to take a look at her work and make connections between the past and the present.

"I think it's important for all of Gonzaga to come and see this, but students in particular," Matthies said. "Almost everyone who has gone through, school kids to senior citizens, have made a mental jump to relating it to what is happening in the country today and why it is important to be aware of this history. These parallels

show why we need be able to educate ourselves and take a stand."

According to Bracke, although both exhibits can be difficult to view, GU housing the exhibit is meant to inspire tough conversations.

Bracke said the inaction of Americans through the Holocaust is a lesson for combatting present hate groups. GU's mission statement is devoted to helping students grow as people within a community that fosters change, he said.

Cate Wilson is a staff writer.

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Mae Cramer receives Voyager Scholarship

The award honored Cramer for her social justice work in activism and service to the community

By MIA GALLEGOS

This year, Gonzaga University’s Mae Cramer was one of the recipients of the Obama-Chesky Voyager Scholarship.

The scholarship is received yearly by 100 collegiate juniors from various universities across the country out of an applicant pool of nearly 1,800.

Cramer has always been passionate about social justice.

She knew she wanted to go to GU since she was in the fourth grade. However, her degree trajectory initially began differently from what it is now.

“I wanted to be an education major, and applied [to GU] as one,” Cramer said. “It wasn’t until August before my freshman year that I changed majors.”

The major that she switched into was political science. This degree is one that Anna Sturdivant, one of Cramer’s high school history teachers, believed was the perfect match for her.

“I think she is meant to impact people in so many other ways,” Sturdivant said.

Cramer had a unique student-teacher bond with Sturdivant during her years at Lynnwood High School in Lynnwood, Washington. They knew each other prior in a nonacademic setting with Sturdivant coaching Cramer’s sister in volleyball.

However, when Sturdivant had Cramer as a student in class, she discovered the type of student and person she was.

“She’s passionate about learning and using that knowledge to connect what happened in the past to current events today,” Sturdivant said. “She works her tail off and doesn’t accept anything less than total understanding.”

Amy Frost, another history teacher at LHS described similar traits that she saw in Cramer within the classroom.

“[She was] very hard working and incredibly serious but not because she needed an ‘A,’ but because she wanted to do better,” Frost said. “She wanted to grow.”

These traits along with the dedication to getting the word out in terms of social justice issues made Cramer a competitive applicant for the scholarship.

The Obama-Chesky Scholarship is administered by The Obama Foundation and Brian Chesky, the CEO of



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Mae Cramer will be heading to New York in the fall for the Voyager Fall Summit.

AirBnB.

The application process consisted of eight separate prompts in which the applicants pitched themselves to these household names.

“They had me talk about different social justice things I’ve been involved in, what my passions are, various public service projects that I’ve been involved in, and then what gave me hope for the future, as well as what I want to do with the scholarship,” Cramer said.

These questions are carefully examined to select the 100 students who will receive the scholarship. The scholarship includes a financial grant, as well as a significant opportunity for students.

“We’re creating what’s called the summer voyage for next summer,” Cramer said. “For the purpose of the scholarship, you get to create your own internship or what they’re calling a voyage.”

Not only do the recipients of the scholarship get to create whatever kind of internship they want, but they also have the ability to choose any place in the world for the opportunity to take place.

“So for next summer, they’re giving us a minimum of six weeks,” Cramer said. “You create your own plan and then the foundation looks at it and eventually will approve it. You have \$14,000 for the six weeks. \$4,200 of it is for housing through AirBnB.”

The scholars have the option to extend their stay longer than the allotted six weeks if they feel like their internship requires more time.

Cramer’s long-term interest in social justice is within a narrower scale, namely women’s rights and immigration. She hopes to use this passion of hers to drive the formation of her internship.

“I’ve been looking at various internships at the White House, the Supreme Court, and with different senators and representatives,” Cramer said. “It’d be amazing to work with AOC or Elizabeth Warren, people up there and in these issues.”

Sturdivant was the person who introduced Cramer to the scholarship.

“I saw the scholarship and couldn’t think of anyone better to apply,” Sturdivant said. “She wants to do so many things and financially this is going to help her do all the things she wants to do.”

This fall, Cramer is heading to New York City for the Voyager Fall Summit. This is an all-expenses-paid conference that gives the scholarship recipients the chance to meet one another and the members of the Obama Foundation team.

“The second day of the summit, we will spend the day with Barack Obama and Brian Chesky discussing empathetic leadership and ways to create community around our project ideas,” Cramer said.

The scholarship and the connections Cramer will make through her internship are going to be irreplaceable and advantageous to her future, Sturdivant said.

“She’s gonna take what this scholarship and the networking opportunities that were given to her and run with it,” Sturdivant said. “Tenfold is going to come out of this.”

Mia Gallegos is a staff writer.

DWONCH

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and I felt privileged to be at the time a journalist and reporting on these major changes that were happening to my country, to my family and to my fellow people in Albania.”

Dwonch covered a variety of topics as a journalist, meeting foreign media journalists and furthering her English skills as she began covering nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Albania.

“I was initially critical of the presence of NGOs, with this idea of these foreigners coming to developing or underdeveloped countries and telling us locals how to solve our problems,” Dwonch said.

At one meeting, she was asked for suggestions by an American NGO worker based on her prior critiques. Her response about the overwhelming focus on statistics and the NGO’s failure to see the stories of the people stuck with that man, and he called her back later asking if she’d be interested in working with them further.

Dwonch’s first official job at an NGO was as a media relations officer for Mercy Corps in Serbia. While she never envisioned herself leaving Albania, Serbia was close enough that she could come back easily and her magazine promised to hold her job for six months in case she didn’t like it there.

In Serbia, Dwonch worked as local staff, not as an international aid worker. She met her husband during her two years there, and finished her time there with many good friends and improved journalistic skills. While in Serbia, she created a media approach to the program, which ultimately got her a job offer stationed in Al Kut, Iraq.

Dwonch traveled to Iraq on behalf of

Mercy Corps as a community relations officer following the invasion in 2003. At the time, NGOs were seen as almost another wing of military intervention, making it hard to build connections and trust with the community.

“We were in south-central Iraq soon after the American invasion and the situation was very unsettled and trending toward hostility toward the ‘foreign’ presence ...,” said David Holdridge, her mission director for Mercy Corps Iraq, via email. “She did not blink; she was more steadfast than the American expats recently assigned there. Throughout the frequent security incidents and evacuations she stayed ‘the captain in the swirl.’”

Her first project in Iraq was a creative writing contest called “I love my town,” where middle and high schoolers wrote creative short stories about why they love their town. Around 500 people showed up in support of their kids and their stories, and the impact showed her the true power of storytelling as a means of community building.

“It was the Albanian in me that knew that these people wanted to feel rooted and to have that pride that I felt was initially taken from me when we moved on,” Dwonch said.

Following Iraq, Dwonch moved to Lebanon as a program manager with Mercy Corps, where her daughter was born. In Lebanon, she focused more on writing projects with youth, and worked closely with high schools and universities, spending a year and a half there.

Then, she moved to Jerusalem, Israel, where she spent four years working in Palestinian territories with Palestinian youth. Despite her love for her job and Mercy Corps, she began questioning whether some NGO projects did more harm than good.

She moved to the U.S. for the first time in 2010, beginning her doctorate program



RACHAEL HALEY IG: @RACHAEL-HALEY

International studies professor Albana Dwonch uses experience as pedagogy.

in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Washington (UW). At UW, Dwonch studied Arabic and Turkish, and focused on her spoken Palestinian Arabic when she returned to the Middle East.

She traveled back to Jerusalem with her family to finish her dissertation, using the connections she had built through Mercy Corps to analyze Palestinian youth activism in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Her dissertation was turned into a manuscript that was eventually published.

“For me, more than the book it was, I felt like I closed the chapter of telling the stories of those people that I had worked with for a long time in the Middle East,” Dwonch said. “It was both a way for me to reflect on that decade of life working as an aid worker, but also to kind of transition back to the states.”

While writing her dissertation, she

received an offer to complete a yearlong project in Jordan and Syria working with internally and externally displaced refugees from the conflict in Syria.

Dwonch remembers her time as an international aid worker fondly, forming connections with citizens from around the world and using her platform as a way to improve the lives of those affected by internal and external conflicts.

Now a professor in the international studies department at Gonzaga University, Dwonch uses her expertise from what she calls her “previous life” to teach students about life as an NGO worker.

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GSBA

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“It was the connections and meeting really, really amazing people that made me stay, even though the culture was not perfect,” Acosta Loza said.

After applying to an executive position and becoming campus inclusivity coordinator, Acosta Loza began looking for ways to enact his role. The job gave him freedom in creating events as long as they followed COVID-19 protocols, so Acosta Loza looked for ways to best achieve his goal of bringing more topics into discussion, citing language diversity as an example.

“I feel like everybody’s accent or the way they sound is not only very much of your DNA, but who you are, where you come from and of the people that you love,” Acosta Loza said. “So I wanted to do an event on that.”

According to Acosta Loza, that event was a milestone in his GSBA experience, proving that he did have the resources to make anything happen. Professors and linguistic professionals from around the country spoke as panelists on the Zoom panel and discussion.

As a junior, Acosta Loza led his team as the director of diversity and inclusion.

“That was one of my first experiences managing a team, creating a culture, setting traditions and creating rituals to make people feel seen and to make them believe that they can bring their whole authentic selves to work every day,” Acosta Loza said.

While he had never considered becoming GSBA president as a goal or even considered it a realistic possibility, Acosta Loza felt drawn to the position because he wanted to make the organization better. He asked around for a vice president and found overwhelming encouragement to pick Sydney Rains as his running

mate. When she excitedly said yes, Acosta Loza knew he had to do it.

“I think the job kind of chose me in a way, because I had already done senate and been in an executive position and been a director,” Acosta Loza said. “I fell in love with the culture-building and trying to make the organization better for everybody, so I decided to run.”

As GSBA president, Acosta Loza and his team keep two lists of goals — one list for goals dependent on them, and the other for goals dependent on others.

Goals dependent on the office include populations they reach out to, diversity and inclusion lenses they are using and passion projects.

“Regardless of how long you’ve been in the organization, we want everybody to take on passion projects and to really let their work be shaped by their own personal experiences and affinities,” Acosta Loza said.

Goals dependent on others feature more collaborative work done with administration, including fundraising for scholarships, continuing work with Tribal Relations, seeing through the renaming of the Taelman Gardens and being an active part of reconciliation committees and Revisiting Gonzaga’s Past.

GSBA also hopes to implement diversity, equity and inclusion training for faculty and has been in communication with the faculty senate. It hopes to expand the way bias reports are used to have them as a way to provide faculty with extra training if needed.

“We’re not asking them to be experts, but bare minimum we’re asking them to inform themselves before they’re gonna do things, even things done with good intentions,” Acosta Loza said.

After this year, Acosta Loza hopes to take a year to work before applying to law school. He plans to continue his education at a Jesuit university. Eventually, he’d like to start his own business.

“I know that’s pretty broad, but I don’t care what I’m gonna sell,” Acosta Loza said. “I just want it to be an excuse for me to do good in the world and be able to use the profits, being able to use the customers and the movement itself as a tool for common good for the environment and society at large.”

Mateo, who is two years older than Miguel, has watched his brother progress through his GSBA experience.

“I’m proud of Miguel ...” Mateo said. “He’s truly a leader and he just motivates people — that’s one of his best qualities. I’m not sure if he’s the first international student president, but it’s such an accomplishment for him to be there.”

Hannah Johanson, GSBA chief of staff, is confident in his abilities.

“Miguel is someone that cares so much in a way where you can tell the authenticity of where he’s coming from with his leadership,” Johanson said. “He definitely leads with heart, and I have never felt so cared for from [a leader].”

According to Johanson, Acosta Loza makes work fun and encourages everyone to bring their whole selves to work every day.

“It’s been one of the biggest honors of my life to be able to hold this position and to act as a symbol for people ...,” Acosta Loza said. “If I am able to be here and I’m able to advocate for everybody being who I am, then anybody can do that. I hope that sets a precedent for future international students, future marginalized students who are able to see GSBA as a platform to make change.”

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Italy's far-right election results might be surprising, but they are not new

Following months of political instability, the people of Italy voted for a new senate and Chamber of Deputies, as well as a new prime minister. In what is widely considered a watershed moment for Italy and Europe more broadly, the center-right coalition, led by Ja Meloni's right-wing Brothers of Italy party, won a majority of seats in both houses of government. As such, Meloni is on track to become Italy's first female prime minister, and the leader of the most right-wing government in decades.

However, while much of the media and political sphere have pontificated on the potential devastation wrought by the new government, the reality is far less severe. The election of Meloni is not new or unique in Europe and is not likely to last long.

The rise of populist parties across Europe has gained significant steam in 2022, following the devastation of COVID-19 and subsequent economic and political chaos. As many of these right-wing parties were not part of most government coalitions during this period, their outsider status and populist policies have resulted in a strong resurgence across the continent as voters are disappointed with the status quo.

Much of this resurgence began in France earlier this year, where both left- and right-wing populist firebrands dominated first round voting. Jean-Luc Mélenchon of the left-wing La France Insoumise and Marine Le Pen of the right-wing National Rally collectively received 45% of the vote in the first round, well ahead of incumbent Emmanuel Macron's 28%.

This phenomenon has been attributed to the fact that much of the populist rhetoric from both sides resonated heavily with the French public; the message regarding "French-first" policies and anti-EU sentiment galvanized many who have felt French sovereignty was lost before and during the pandemic.

Elsewhere in Europe, traditionally center-left Sweden



By JACKSON HUDGINS

ousted the incumbent coalition, led by Magdalena Andersson, and narrowly replaced it with a center-right coalition led by the right-wing Sweden Democrats. The results indicated a massive swing from left to right in the central districts of the country, which primarily working-class industrial areas.

This swing is very similar to the swings in unionized, working-class counties and states during the election of Donald Trump and is indicative of the resonance of populist policies among the working class around the world, and Italy, Sweden and France are no exception. Clearly, many of the establishment parties across Europe that are shocked by the rise of populism are not attuned to the needs of many of their citizens and must change to address these concerns if they are fearful of far-right rule.

However, while Meloni's coalition is the new wave of Italy, the history of Italian politics may prove fatal to the movement. Any coalition is bound to be made up of several competing interests, and the chronic corruption and dysfunction of the Italian government usually spells doom for most government formation within a few

short years. In addition, Meloni and her party have been connected to the neo-fascist movement in the past, and her Eurosceptic and anti-immigration views have led to accusations of bigotry and fears that her supporters seek to undermine democracy.

For her part, Meloni has said that "fascism is history" and has purged fascist members from her party. Which direction the government will be taken by this rhetoric remains to be seen, but history is not on the side of Meloni when it comes to maintaining a stable and long-term government.

The movement of Italy to the right has led to panic among those in the media and politics, but the results should not be surprising to those who have understood the trends that have taken hold in Europe recently. The binding of the continent through the European Union has led to economic and political unity but has also led many citizens to believe that the issues that they care about are being ignored. Populist parties have seemingly done a much better job at addressing these concerns, but rather than address the root causes of the rise of the far-right, many would rather pontificate on the how bad, evil and destructive these governments would be.

If there is an existential threat coming from this phenomenon, then more moderate parties should step in and attempt to address these issues better, regardless of where they stand on the political spectrum. Italy's election results are not something new, but rather a continuation of a constant trend across the continent; however, if history is any indication of how long the dangers of Meloni and her followers will last, she probably shouldn't get too comfortable.

*Jackson Hudgins is a staff writer.
Follow him on Twitter: @judge_hudge3.*

'Don't Stop the Music' at Rihanna's Super Bowl performance

On Feb. 12, Rihanna will grace the Super Bowl halftime show with her rich, powerful and commanding voice.

Speaking for myself, and Rihanna fans everywhere, this is extremely exciting. Coming off the tail of her 6-year hiatus from music we have to assume this is going to be a show to remember.

While many worthy artists weren't selected, Rihanna will prove to be the perfect choice. To those who are unsure of Rihanna's capabilities to deliver a stadium worthy performance, take three minutes to watch her 2016 Billboard Music Award performance of her gut-wrenching song, "Love on the Brain."

Her soulful voice never falls short of excellence, and she has a unique way of communicating emotion through song that many artists don't possess. While a big, fun and production-heavy performance is always sure to garner views and mass appeal, like Katy Perry's in 2015 or The Weeknd's in 2021, Rihanna is going to deliver something completely new.

While we don't know her track list quite yet, it is safe to assume that this performance will be just as broad and special as her discography itself.



By SOFIA BELTRAN

With songs like "S&M" and "Work", Rihanna is sure to bring a fun and interactive performance that compares and equates to those before her. However, she also has songs that everyone knows and loves like "Stay" or "Needed Me" that are full of emotion and soul that will bring a whole new layer to what we expect of a Super Bowl performance.

As one of the queens of the Y2K, she is sure to perform some of her best throwback hits like, "Pon de Replay", "Only Girl" and "Rude Boy" that will definitely get everyone in the crowd moving and very excited to hear every

minute of the showstopping performance that she's sure to deliver.

For anyone wanting to listen to her songs pre-performance, start listening to "Love on the Brain", "Desperado" and "Consideration" off her most recent album "ANTI." These few songs will introduce you to Rihanna's musical style and the way in which her voice captivates every listener within the first few seconds.

While the halftime show normally can feel overdone, tacky and lacking depth in the content of the music performed and the artist itself, I'm hopeful that Rihanna can and will change this narrative.

Rihanna was recently named a National Hero of Barbados, where she was born and raised. To receive this title is an extremely high honor that she takes very seriously. As a Black woman in the media, she is no stranger to adversity and has become a role model to young women everywhere.

She has always carried herself with power, spoken with grace and sang with emotion, and all these qualities we know and love about her are sure to shine through next year at the Super Bowl.

At her Savage X Fenty fashion shows, it is clear that she takes herself and her

ventures very seriously. Her work is never underdone or lackluster — she is creative and bold and always brings something new to her fashion shows.

During her show, Savage X Fenty Vol. 2, she selected performers like Rosalia, a young Spanish singer, to make her fashion shows much more entertaining and inclusive than your average New York Fashion Week bore-fest.

Rihanna has always prioritized diversity in her business ventures, fashion shows and music videos, making sure everyone can feel included in what she sells and advertises. She prioritizes her audience, and her Super Bowl performance will surely reflect this.

Rihanna has been one of the biggest artists in the media since around 2008, and she has maintained her position in this space because of her creative mind and undeniable talent. Similar to her song with Drake, this Super Bowl performance will be "Too Good."

Sofia Beltran is a staff writer.

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Banning books denies liberty

Books are a way for people to escape. It is easy to get lost in the pages of a good novel or find yourself taking notes in the margins while reading a good nonfiction. Everyone has the chance to find themselves in a book.

But that's not the case in one Pennsylvania school district.

According to news stories by The Guardian and Business Insider, a Pennsylvania school district has temporarily banned the "Girls Who Code" book series. In November of 2020, the same school district came under fire for banning other diverse resources.

"What we are attempting to do is balance legitimate academic freedom with what could be literature/materials that are too activist in nature, and may lean more toward indoctrination rather than age-appropriate academic content," said Central York School District's Board President at the time, Jane Johnson, in a statement.

This isn't an isolated incident, though.

A report by the free expression nonprofit PEN America found that 138 school districts across 32 states have banned books from their classrooms and libraries. Sometimes these bans are temporary — sometimes they are ongoing.

This trend is caused by a conservative push to censor books, according to an news story by The Guardian.

Many people use books to understand the world around them. They teach different perspectives, new topics, and often aid people in curating their own beliefs. If books are censored because of their stance on certain topics, school districts are directly



By GRACE SPIEGEL

cutting off the ability for children to grow their own thoughts.

According to the PEN America's report on banned books, many of the titles being banned along with "Girls Who Code" deal with LGBTQ+ themes or contain nonwhite main characters.

Banning books, then, is not based on violent or upsetting material that may disturb children, rather it is based on certain viewpoints the school districts don't care for. It is hiding the world from students and making it easier for teachers and parents to place their 'desired' beliefs onto kids.

If education is liberation, as Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire says, then banning books is denying liberty. It is denying students of minority (and majority) groups the chance to liberate themselves from the belief system that their school holds.

It is driving the country to be more Christian, more white.

What this country has seen in the last decade is a polarization of political and social ideals. This has affected school districts, politics, businesses and more. As extreme right-wing politicians infiltrate our schools, fewer and fewer secular or inclusive materials are available.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., told Christian nationalist Lance Wallnau that, "ever since

God and prayer was taken out of public school," the country has seen "a generation of children that are just being attacked by Satan."

When politicians like Greene preach freedom and the American dream, they are actually preaching the freedom to be Christian. The freedom to think like the majority.

Banning books is a special way to oppress a group of people. Taking away books does not simply take away an activity for a rainy day. It does not mean that one can go and find other books to read. It is taking away identity and the chance for someone to truly find themselves.

"You cannot be what you cannot see," said "Girls Who Code" founder Reshma Saujani in an interview with Business Insider. "They don't want girls to learn how to code because that's a way to be economically secure."

Especially in school districts that don't have access to technology or Wi-Fi, books are a great source for learning and for finding identity. When a young student can only read books centered around a nuclear family and white characters, that is all they will know. That is all they will think they can be.

Banning books is a form of control. And it should be fought against with all the strength this country can muster.

"This is an opportunity to realize how big this movement is against our kids and how much we need to fight," Saujani told Insider. "This is an opportunity to start more clubs, get more girls to code, and get more girls to become economically free."

Grace Spiegel is a staff writer.

NTAS celebrates its 10th year at Gonzaga with thanks to our friends. Limlmtx!!

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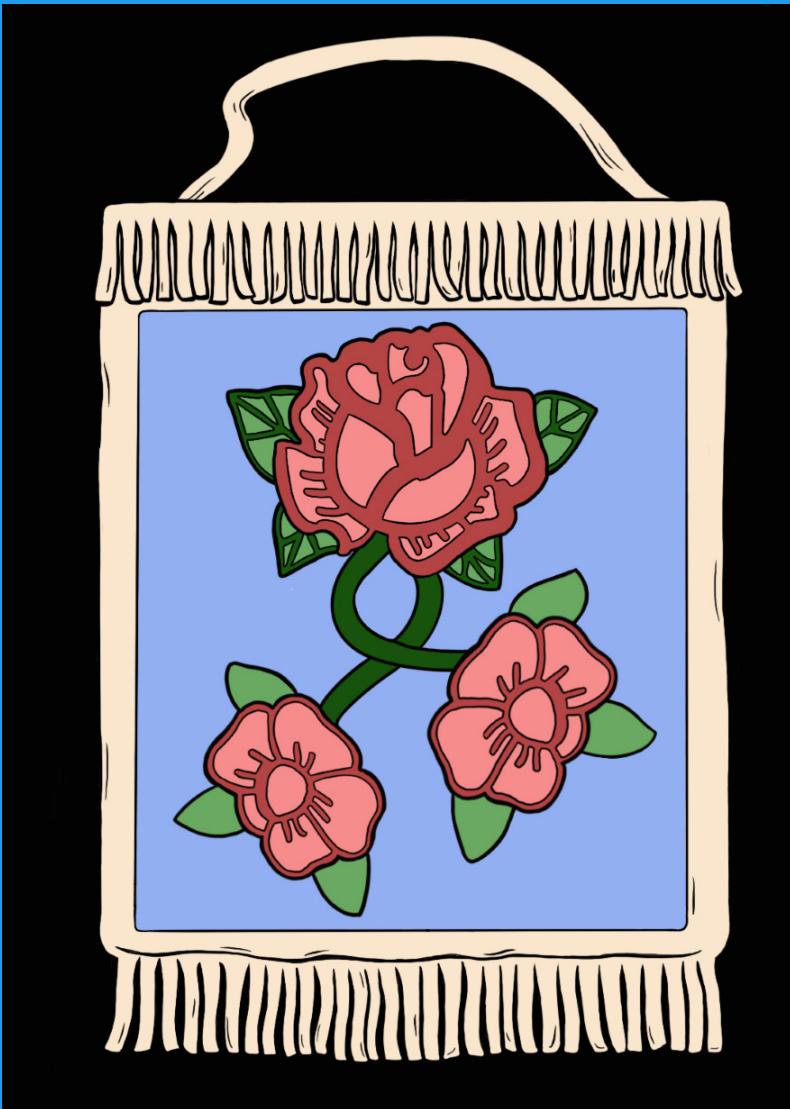
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Limlmt x to our NTAS alumnae and our current NTAS minors. kʷu kʷultxʷm̐ (we built a home)

More than 1500 students have taken NTAS courses and more than 3000 people have attended NTAS events—we thank you all!

Many of the friends and colleagues celebrated here have earned professional titles and credentials. NTAS values the knowledge and insight each person has shared with the program, and because we know credentials are only one indicator of expertise, we chose not to differentiate among our friends.

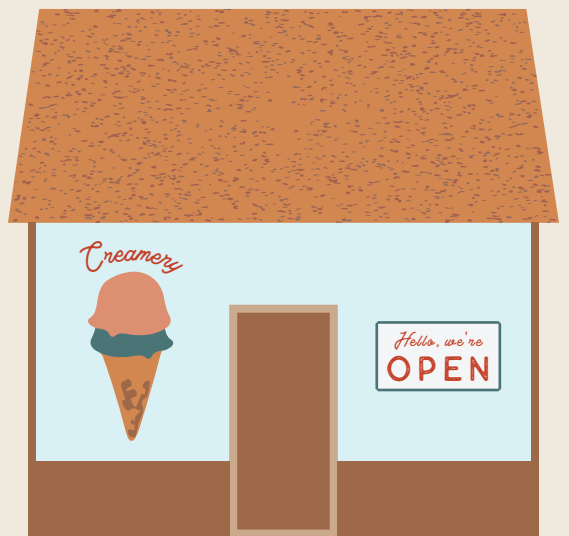
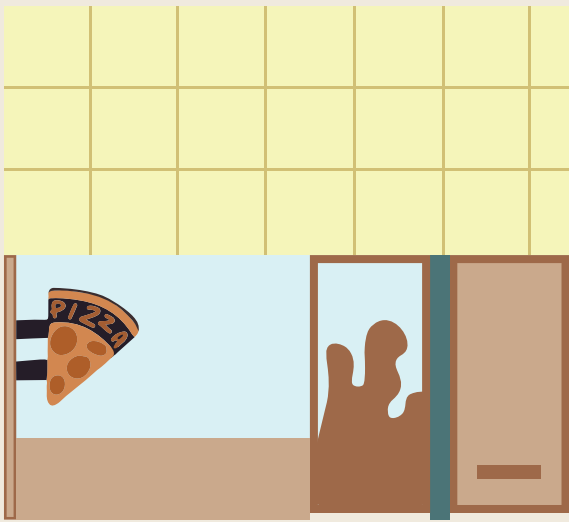
The Native American Studies minor is open to all Gonzaga undergraduate students. We offer 16 courses taught by faculty in seven departments. NTAS practices reciprocity with and respect for tribal knowledge holders. We understand that working in this field means we have responsibilities to tribal communities and Native/Indigenous people. We each find our own ways of fulfilling those responsibilities and we encourage our campus communities to consider ways they might also serve Native communities of the Indigenous Columbia Plateau and the homelands where this university currently resides.

For more information, visit our website or contact Laurie Arnold, Director of Native American Studies.
<https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/native-american-studies>

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Singer-songwriter finds a musical home in Spokane

By SYDNEY FLUKER

Shawn Stratte never expected a family band to kick-start a lifetime of music, but it did.

Starting his musical journey at age 5 with the piano, Stratte learned from combined efforts and mini lessons from different family members. With his dad leading the band efforts and his older brother having dibs on the guitar, Stratte found his way with the keyboard.

Focusing on keyboard kept him from giving singing a chance until he tried out for and got into advanced choir in ninth grade at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Washington.

“I had never really sang, I was even nervous to sing in front of my dad,” Stratte said.

Joining choir allowed him to focus on vocals, helping him find an even greater love for music than before.

Pressure from the people around him kept him from pursuing music out of high school, so he went to college and studied mathematics at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC). While at WWCC, Stratte joined a music group and a vocal jazz choir at Walla Walla University, forcing him to branch out musically.

“Out of high school I don’t think I had the confidence to even try for music,” Stratte said. “I never thought I could do [music] for a living.”

After two years at WWCC, Stratte transferred to Eastern Washington University and continued his degree in mathematics, keeping music in the back of his mind. When the summer between junior and senior year rolled around and he didn’t have an internship, Stratte decided to apply to Carnival Cruise Line as a singer.

His decision to pursue a summer gig at Carnival led him into Spokane’s music scene, allowing him to land a job at The Riddler Piano Bar in downtown Spokane before heading to Baltimore, Maryland for the port.

At Carnival, Stratte was the “piano bar guy,” playing classic piano bar songs like “Don’t Stop Believing” by Journey and “Piano Man” by Billy Joel.

“They’re great songs, but they’re kind of like cheat codes,” Stratte said. “If you can carry a tune, then you can probably kill it on that song.”

The cruise ship put Stratte out of his comfort zone, forcing him to perform solo, which he had never really done before — six nights a week for four hours a night. Stratte said he learned very quickly what not to do and what tricks kept people engaged in the show. After a couple of beginner mistakes, Stratte got the hang of crowd management, bringing people in and getting them singing along with him.

Stratte played the summers of 2018 and 2019, returning to Carnival this past May after isolation restrictions had been lifted.

When he returned from Carnival the first time around, Stratte began his job at The Riddler. The owner, Steve Riddler, took him under his wing and nudged Stratte out of his shell. From Riddler, Stratte learned new piano riffs and ways to fill out songs to include bass lines and string instrumentals and how to solo within the songs.

It was at Carnival in 2018 that Stratte found the secret



COURTESY OF SHAWN STRATTE

Shawn Stratte's band with fellow musician Lucas Brown, "The Night Mayors," performs at Zola on Tuesday nights.

to song-writing perfection, courtesy of a musician on the ship named Johnny.

“I think he just said, ‘say what’s on your mind,’ or just ‘say what you feel’ and it was a breakthrough for me,” Stratte said. “Ever since I heard that, I was like ‘yeah, that’s all you need.’ I would complicate it too much ... With each song I write, I like to think about what has been on my mind lately, even if it isn’t that interesting. I don’t care if it’s relatable, as long as it’s true and on my mind, and it sounds good of course.”

Since then, Stratte has been focusing on his lyricism, setting up shop with his guitar in a quiet area with his phone on airplane mode to craft his lyrics. He fiddles with the melody and lyrics at the same time before focusing on each aspect individually. Then, he heads into production.

Since professionally pursuing music, Stratte has learned a lot about the importance of music production and making his music interesting to keep listeners intrigued. One of the biggest lessons he has learned is being picky with vocals and paying special attention to inflection.

On Tuesdays, Stratte shares a band at Zola with fellow musician Lucas Brown called “The Night Mayors,” for which Stratte plays keyboard and sings backup vocals. Stratte has been playing with them since Brown invited him to join a year and a half ago, and recently the two have been switching off lead roles.

“It was so incredible the first time I heard other musicians playing my song,” Stratte said. “It’s just such a cool feeling.”

Stratte played keyboard and sang backup vocals on Brown’s first full band release, “Everything Means

Something Out Here.” According to Brown, the two have collaborated together on a variety of different projects, helping each other grow their respective music careers.

“I love working with Shawn ...” Brown said. “We have collaborated in a lot of different ways, and I worked with him on his original music. He’s a really talented, creative guy and I’ve never heard him play the wrong note.”

On Sept. 7, Stratte had his first solo concert at Lucky You Lounge for the release of his new extended play (EP), “Forgive You,” complete with a full band. He described his style as pop with a lot of jazz, funk and soul influences. His music varies from synth beats to piano ballads, but his heart is in every song.

“It was so fun, and it was my music,” Stratte said. “It wasn’t a piano bar sing along, which is also fun, but my music. What I see in the future is more of that. I want to be seen as more of an artist.”

Stratte performs at Zola on Tuesday nights and The Riddler on Fridays and Saturdays.

Sydney Fluker is a news editor. Follow them on Twitter: @sydneymfluker.



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Balance and rhythm: Peek into the lives of three GU music majors

By QUINN TEUBERT

From jamming to new beats to practicing in three-hour rehearsals, the daily schedule of Gonzaga University students pursuing music in college can be difficult to navigate.

For these students, living out this passion — no matter the difficulties — is all about balance and rhythm.

Pierce Thompson, a junior at GU, has been in Bulldog Band since his sophomore year and understands the importance of balancing school with his love for music. Thompson plays piano, baritone horn and electric bass, while also studying mechanical engineering and physics in the honors program. He described music as a break away from stress during the day.

"Having time each day for band or for combo or for Bulldog Band, it's sort of a mental break," Thompson said. "I call it my scheduled fun time because all the band stuff's right in the middle of the day."

According to Thompson, the Bulldog Band is a low-stakes environment where he can have fun and a lot of energy. The band performs at GU basketball games and Thompson said it is a fun way of engaging with music without the significant amount of rehearsal time.

"When you play it with other people, something just sort of clicks," Thompson said. "When you and a group are all playing well together, it's one of the best feelings in the world."

Senior Sarah Clark has been in Bulldog Band for the past four years as well as the Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble. Clark is a music education major and appreciates playing in the Bulldog Band because of its energy and fun.

"In Bulldog Band, we pride ourselves on our energy," Clark said. "We love being at games, and we like to have a lot of fun. I would say that the energy is definitely highest during the games, and we love to dance and be loud, even when we aren't allowed to play."

Senior Ashton Blair has been involved in GU music since his first year and has played trumpet for over a decade. Like Thompson and Clark, Blair has played at basketball games in Bulldog Band. Blair echoed Thompson's and Clark's sentiments that Bulldog Band is a fun environment.

In addition to playing in Bulldog Band, Blair, a music major with a minor in music education, has participated in GU's Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Jazz Combo I and Jazz Ensemble. Blair said he averages about 22 credits per semester, which includes his music ensembles and lessons and said this is normal for music majors.

Blair acknowledged the burnout of these commitments, reflecting on the difficulties that come with the long hours of practicing and preparing for concerts and events. He said his love for music makes the practice and rehearsal sessions worth the time and energy.

"Being tired is a big part of it," Blair said. "Honestly, I think [being tired] can be a huge motivator too... when I play an instrument that I enjoy playing, I don't feel tired, I'm there; I'm energized; I'm in the moment playing."

Both Blair and Thompson highlighted the



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: picosbychiana

GU music majors don't let busy schedules dissuade them from pursuing their passion of music.

“

Having time each day for band or for combo or for Bulldog Band, it's sort of a mental break.

Pierce Thompson, junior at GU

supportive and inclusive environment the music department facilitates, recognizing the community that music builds. Blair and Thompson said they feel supported not just in the music department but by the whole GU community.

"There's a huge music making and music enjoyment scene at Gonzaga," Blair said. "It's fantastic; even though there's not a lot of music majors, the involvement is huge, and that's something I can always appreciate."

For music majors, Blair described how being involved

in the music environment on campus has allowed him and other students to travel beyond GU practice rooms and playing halls to perform at events in the broader Spokane community. Blair noted performances at the Logan Block Party as an off-campus event where GU students have performed.

"I have a couple of gigs coming up this week, where I'm playing outside of campus and serving the community," Blair said. "I really enjoy doing that."

Blair and Clark are also student-teaching this year as part of their education majors, where they teach band classes to students in the Spokane public schools.

Clark, who started teaching this semester, said she really enjoys the experience, even if it comes with more responsibilities and time obligations.

"The best part of my major is getting to be in the classroom in Spokane public schools," Clark said. "I love interacting with students and it gives you a window into what your career will look like after graduation."

While the schedule for students pursuing music can be busy, the three band members acknowledged they have developed time management skills throughout their time at GU to navigate the time commitments. This has allowed them to embrace their music passions without being overwhelmed by stress.

"I live and die by my Google calendar and my to-do list," Clark said. "Without these tools, I would barely be able to make it to class; over the weekend I like to sit down and plan out my week and try and get as much homework done as possible to prepare for the week."

Quinn Teubert is a staff writer.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

	3				4			2
	2						1	
	1		9					8
3		2		6				9
9	4			3		5		6
			7		5		2	
	9						5	
8			4				3	

Solution to Last Week's puzzle 10/30/22

4	1	6	3	2	7	8	5	9
7	5	9	6	4	8	1	3	2
2	3	8	5	9	1	7	4	6
9	2	3	4	7	5	6	8	1
1	7	4	9	8	6	5	2	3
6	8	5	1	3	2	9	7	4
3	6	7	2	5	9	4	1	8
8	4	1	7	6	3	2	9	5
5	9	2	8	1	4	3	6	7

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk

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THIS OR THAT, FOR TWO

By Christina Iverson

ACROSS

1 PowerShot camera-maker

6 Arches National Park state

10 Middle of a Latin boast

14 Threw in

19 Skybox setting

20 Herb with grayish leaves

21 Novelist Kingsley

22 "Get Out" writer/director Jordan

23 "An Introduction to Calculus" or "The Art of Public Speaking"?

26 Trattoria fare

27 Vow

28 Went quickly

29 Picnic container

31 Sphinx, in part

32 Relieves

34 Make a point

35 Straightens up

37 Christian Louboutin shoes or a Fendi bag?

42 Hunter near the Pleiades

43 Poke fun at

44 King or queen, but not prince

45 Yo lead-in

48 Chemistry lab substances

51 "C'est la ___!"

52 Crossword diagram

54 Snow remover

55 Fifth Avenue retailer

56 Entrance

58 Gibson Flying V or Fender Stratocaster?

60 Gaelic tongue

61 Big Band

62 Little round vegetables

63 Dam that created Lake Nasser

64 Emmy statue or the Stanley Cup?

69 TV grouch

73 Apple tablet component

74 Scot's refusal

75 Speak (up)

79 Richter or Mohs?

82 Indie pop duo ___ and Sara

84 Spoken

85 Behind schedule

86 Haitian friend

87 "Sold out" sign

88 "Heavens!"

90 Scepter top

91 109-Across maker's need

92 Philly Ivy

94 "Please let me?"

95 Wedding or merger?

101 Life's work

103 Opposition group

104 Fitness portmanteau

105 Fleecy boots

106 Suppresses, as bad news

108 French infinitive

109 Dove bar

113 Is inclined

115 Marble top or butcher block?

118 Amalfi Coast country

119 Capital of 118-Across

120 Old Dodge

121 Ghana's capital

122 Accounted for a bag, say

123 Meal in a bowl

124 Ongoing drama

125 Trapshooting

DOWN

1 ___ the Elder; Roman historian

2 Geometry calculation

3 Ariana Grande's "Thank U, ___"

4 Free

5 Snatch

6 Grand Slam

7 Doesn't put up a fight

8 Like whiskey and wine

9 Bewitch

10 "Scoot!"

11 Bring in

12 Comedian Phyllis

13 "Makes sense"

14 Google Play download

15 "What's the ___?": slangy "What gives?"

16 Cause of a product recall, perhaps

17 Pop star John

18 Campus officials

24 ___ buco

25 Point the finger at

30 Like reasonably strong bonds

33 "If it ___ broke ..."

34 Defeated, as a dragon

36 Tupperware top

37 "Chicago" choreographer

38 Cheering loudly

39 Fabric store section

40 "Shazam!" actor

41 Somewhat

46 First name in civil rights history

47 Clive of "Gosford Park"

49 Fancy jug

50 Jaipur attire

52 Avocado dip, for short

53 Going up

54 IT dept. array

57 Member of an Iraqi religious minority

58 "___ whizz!"

59 Fled

62 Scoreboard abbr. for a rainout

64 Ante-

65 Fencing blade

66 Actor Mineo

67 Shortened title

68 Really small

69 Norwegian banking hub

70 C-section souvenir

71 Stealthy thief

72 Bass beer

75 Field day equipment

76 Tehran resident

77 Final installment, perhaps

78 "Eighth Grade" actress Fisher

80 Local leaders

81 Bad sign

82 Orchard units

83 Ages

87 Verizon Wireless

89 Wound cover

91 Tell a story

92 Thus far

93 Mesh

96 Snuggle (in)

97 Tattle on

98 Guarantee

99 Literary realm by the River Shribble

100 Light shirts

101 Measure up

102 Anxious feeling

107 Helps reduce swelling

108 Writer Bombeck

110 Formerly

111 Good-sized yard

112 ___ moss

114 "Sammy the Seal" writer Hoff

116 SLR camera by 1-Across

117 Many grad students, for short

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

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DJ DeSmet fulfills tradition, fills Bulldog Alley with tunes

By TOMMY CONMY

The halls of DeSmet are abuzz on a sunny autumn afternoon. With Friday rounding out the school week, campus is populated by only stragglers and the studious. Up the granite stairs and over the blue carpeted hallways, dorm sounds infiltrate every inch of surface area in the inner ear. Water from the communal showers is overlaid with expletives shouted over video games won and lost.

In the halls of this century-old building, one sound rises above the rest to rule the all-male dorm near the center of Gonzaga University's campus.

Take a left on the third floor and take 20 paces down the hallway and you'll arrive at the threshold of the chief noisemaker — room 316, the home of DJ DeSmet. Out of the wooden door walks a first-year student donning a Houston Texans' Mario Williams jersey with white Air Max 270s and glasses. Hailing from San Antonio, Texas, Elijah Solis fell into the role thanks to pure happenstance.

Solis chose room 316 the spring before he enrolled at GU because his birthday is March 16 and the corner rooms are larger. Typically, DJ DeSmet is entrusted to a second-year student who lived in DeSmet as a first-year. In Solis' case, it wasn't until he arrived at the first floor meeting of the year that he realized his responsibility.

"I love it," Solis said. "I've loved every given opportunity. I actually just got a noise complaint today which was cool. I came back to my dorm and campus security had left me a little note, so it's not on full volume right now."

In the past, DJ DeSmet has been a dual role held by the roommates of 316. However, when Solis and roommate Seamus Macaluso were informed of their duty, Macaluso wanted nothing to do with it.

"The thing is, he just doesn't care for DJ DeSmet," Solis said. "Not in a way that's demeaning, he's not going to turn it off. But he's like, 'It's all you.'"

Macaluso will still assist Solis by making sure his laptop is plugged in so music is playing, but besides that, Solis is on his own.

Each DJ DeSmet has the opportunity to put their own unique touch on the position. Solis chose to democratize the role by asking for input from his fellow third floor residents. They collectively came up with an initial playlist and whittled it down from there before landing on the foundations of a set list he felt good about.

"We definitely let everybody have a say," Solis said. "And from there, we picked the bangers and we let them roll."

Solis claims a diverse taste in music. His most listened to genres include contemporary and classic country, early 2000s rap and LoFi rap. Although he has no issue playing 30 minutes of country to soothe his own soul, Solis said.

To best gauge his performance, Solis took to YikYak, an anonymous form of social media that connects users within a 5-mile radius. One of his floormates told him people on the app were liking his music choices. He debated for days whether or not to reveal himself on the app, eventually cracking and occasionally asking for suggestions and feedback.

"Some people are very constructive like, 'honestly just a little more rock,' and some were like, 'your music is ass,'" Solis said. "I think just learning the lesson of like, it's just people. They're literally hearing it for five seconds and they're leaving. What they're saying may be a little vulgar right now, but they're off to do a lab. It's not that important to them, so don't tweak about it."

In addition to leveraging his floor-mates in the creation of the playlist, Solis strives to match his music to current events. When Queen Elizabeth II passed away, he played strictly sad music. When rapper Coolio passed away on Sept. 28, he played hits like "Gangstas in Paradise," "C U When U Get There" and "Fantastic Voyage." On the 21st of every month, he ensures "September" by Earth, Wind & Fire is heard far and wide.

"The Gonzaga purpose is the development of the whole person and DJ DeSmet really is a part of that because he's able to kind of set the tone of the day," third floor DeSmet resident assistant Stephen Lapham said. "Whether it's cloudy and not too great a vibe, he's able to play



Elijah Solis is ready and willing to fill GU's campus with tunes during his time in DeSmet 316.

“

I love it. I've loved every given opportunity. I actually just got a noise complaint today which was cool.
Elijah Solis, DJ DeSmet

music for that. If it's a bright day out, he'll play different types of music. It's really just students creating their own college experience here at Gonzaga."

Although he doesn't have a traditional background in music through high school band or choir, Solis honed his sonic abilities by managing the auxillary chord at his older sister's house parties.

"I didn't go to any parties besides hers, so my position at parties was aux," Solis said. "So that's what I would do. And then lo and behold, I get this and I'm like, 'you gotta be kidding me.' When the stars are aligned, it's crazy."

The position may have its perks, but life isn't perfect behind the speakers. Because the window must be open for passerbys to hear the tunes, Solis and Macaluso are subject to the elements, good or bad. For students outside DeSmet, the music may come across at an appropriate volume to be heard anywhere from the John J. Hemmingson Center to Foley Lawn. In room 316, the bass boost is crystal clear and makes studying during playing hours nearly impossible.

Former DJ DeSmet Rafa Polanco shared Solis'

struggles, from creating one's own melodic mood to fighting the weather.

"We were doing it during quarantine when the mood seemed to be down so being able to play music that hopefully made people smile was a super cool experience," Polanco said. "But wintertime gets really, really cold and you've got to keep your windows open. We were under blankets quite a bit."

Solis delights in seeing positive reactions to his curated playlist that has eclipsed 25 hours in length. Two dudes dancing to "Hurricane" by Bridget Mender made him laugh. Two girls calling "Ultimate" by Denzel Curry old made him question his existence. More than anything, he's baffled when "Plug Walk" by Rich The Kid doesn't elicit a dance.

"I put Plug Walk on and expect people to go like loose arm, shoulders up," Solis said. "If I was walking down the street and I heard Plug Walk, like, it's over, you know what I mean? I'll see people on YikYak say they love Plug Walk, I'm like, show me you love it."

The native Texan has brought his own twang to the center of GU's campus, transporting Waylon Jennings and Morgan Wallen from the Alamo to the Pacific Northwest. He welcomes critique, whether he's at a party or scrolling through YikYak. Just don't send him a strongly worded email — he's notified in no uncertain terms what will happen to his DJ residency by the GU administration whenever he plays music that's too explicit.

"Sometimes when I'm out with friends and we meet other people, they'll introduce myself for me, like 'this is DJ DeSmet,'" Solis said. "I'm glad I have this hype around me, but I'm Elijah from San Antonio. I'm a big Texas fan, I love the Astros, I'm a Spurs fan. There's a lot more elements to me than DJ DeSmet, but I proudly wear that armor."

You can listen to Solis' curated playlist between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. most weekdays. His newest additions include "90 Proof" by J Cole and "Sick of U" by BoyWithUke and Oliver Tree.

Tommy Conmy is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @tommyconmy.

Morsel by Rind and Wheat: East central gem channels owner's Portuguese roots

By AMELIA TRONCONE

Ricky Webster is dedicated to providing the Spokane community with a fun and unique food experience through his bakery, Morsel by Rind and Wheat.

Located in east-central Spokane at 421 S. Cowley St., Morsel specializes in seasonal and cultural breads, pastries and specialty sandwiches. The bakery made its debut in April 2021 as the second location of Webster's first bakery, Rind and Wheat, which is located in Browne's Addition neighborhood in Spokane.

Webster, head chef and owner of Morsel, grew up baking and was constantly surrounded by food. He credits this upbringing for being the reason he became a chef.

"Food was always around, and food always brought the family together," Webster said. "I think taking care of people, feeding people is very much just what I gravitated towards."

Morsel and Rind and Wheat sell signature artisan breads but are distinct in their other offerings. Rind and Wheat specialize in wine and artisan cheeses, while Morsel boasts more robust takeout breakfast and lunch options. Pastry options are also split up among the two bakeries.

Webster finds that he channels his Portuguese heritage into the food he prepares at Morsel by creating recipes that are based off traditional Portuguese dishes he grew up eating. An example of this is "The Riverfront Parq" sandwich sold at Morsel, which is a traditional Portuguese bifana (sandwich) made on a traditional Portuguese papo seco (roll).

"The food here is more representative of



Morsel by Rind and Wheat was established with a long passion for quality tastes.

my Portuguese heritage and background," Webster said. "There's definitely a few things on the menu that are Portuguese inspired [that] my grandma used to make me."

Megan Gaines is the bakery operations manager for Morsel and co-creates recipes with Webster. They have over 40 years worth of experience in the cooking industry between the two of them, but Gaines finds that they are constantly learning as they go. A key part of Morsel's operations, according to Gaines, is

listening to their customers' feedback and seeing what sells well in the shop.

Morsel strives to provide food that can only be found at their store, according to Gaines.

"What makes [Morsel] unique is that we try and offer pastries as well as savory items that you cannot find anywhere else in Spokane," Gaines said.

An important focus for Webster is that he, and his business, give back to the Spokane community. He does this through food donations and participation

in charity events. He also ensures that he supports the local agricultural community by purchasing locally sourced produce.

Webster wants Morsel's customers to know that he cares about where his ingredients are coming from and the people growing those ingredients. With the pumpkin season approaching, Webster anticipates purchasing about 150 lbs. of pumpkins from an orchard in Green Bluff.

It is this attention to detail, Gaines believes, that separates Morsel from other bakeries.

"[Customers] can taste the quality of the ingredients that we use and the passion that we put into all of our products," Gaines said.

Webster does not expect to further expand the Rind and Wheat brand anytime soon, and instead wants to focus on improving their current locations.

"[I hope] to keep pushing the envelope, continuing to push the culinary scene forward," Webster said. "[It] has always been the goal to make high end pasty that feels like something new and interesting."

Morsel is open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. They offer delivery through GrubHub as well as catering. For more information, visit their website at <http://rindandwheat.com>.

Amelia Troncone is a staff writer.

Men's rowing looks to cruise to success in upcoming season



COURTESY OF GONZAGA ATHLETICS

The Gonzaga men's rowing team reached the Western Sprints last season, with the Varsity 8 boat taking third place and the JV boat placing second.

By SAM FEDOR

Gonzaga University men’s rowing is looking to cruise to victory this season. Featuring a mixed roster of seasoned veterans and several new recruits, the program seems poised to make waves. And with a number of races coming up, the team is keeping their expectations are high. “This is definitely going to be a special season,” said senior captain Jeremiah Guest. “Our first and second varsity boats each only graduated one guy, giving us more depth and a chance to be much faster. Everyone is in better shape than they were before, so the team is fired up and ready to go.” The season opener is around the corner as the team faces Washington State University at the Head of Spokane on Oct. 15. The Zags will then travel to Colton, Washington for a road competition with the Cougars on Oct. 22. “WSU has been on the water for a few weeks longer than us and usually has a large group of novices, but the home course advantage will likely play a major role in the

race,” said team manager Cooper Morin. “The Head Of The Snake on WSU’s home waters the following weekend will also be a great race to watch.” As the season draws near, excitement is building on the team according to sophomore coxswain Alex Baum. “The team as a whole is pretty pumped, our scores so far this year look better compared to this time last year,” Baum said. The Zags retained most of their talent and outdoing last year’s performances is on everybody’s mind. “Overall, we’re all ready to get out there and show everyone what Gonzaga can do,” Baum said. “We didn’t make it as far as we wanted to last year so this year we plan on finishing what we started.” While the team appears confident, it anticipates several difficult meets, including Princeton Chase in Princeton, New Jersey on Nov. 5. “I think the Princeton Chase will be a big challenge for us this fall,” said junior rower Nick Kittleman. “We’ll be racing teams ranked top 10 in the country which will

push us to a higher standard of racing than in the WCC.” Still, the team believes they’re up for the challenge. “I’m looking forward to having multiple fast, competitive boats that can push each other in practice and help the team get even faster this year,” said sophomore rower Tyler Smith. Morin agreed with Smith’s sentiment, emphasizing that the team is coming together well. “I’d say the team morale is in a great place right now,” Morin said. “This group of walk-ons has made the team bigger than it’s been in a long time and the guys are excited to see how fast we can be this season.” With the season less than two weeks away, Guest spoke about what the team is hoping to achieve. “The team’s goal is to win the WCC title and go back to IRAs this spring,” Guest said. “It’s also a goal of ours to be ranked like we were last year.”

Sam Fedor is a staff writer.

Men's cross country earns program-best No. 12 rank in national coaches' poll on Sept. 27 , slotted No. 14 in latest poll

By TOMMY CONMY

The Gonzaga University men’s cross country team reached a program best No. 12 national ranking in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association (USTFCCA) Coaches’ Poll after a strong showing at the Cowboy Jamboree hosted by Oklahoma State. At the site of this year’s NCAA National Championship meet in Stillwater, Oklahoma, redshirt senior Yacine Guermali led the Zags with a 15th place finish in the 8K with a time of 23:42.6. Senior Cullen McEachern finished 44th in a time of 24:08.3 followed by sophomore Wil Smith in 50th at 24:09.3 The Bulldogs finished 10th overall as a team, finishing behind West Coast Conference rival BYU, that finished first in the men’s division. The Cougars placed three runners in the top 11 and four in the top 20. The Zags dropped to No. 14 in the most recent USTFCCA poll despite not running a meet this week. “Mission accomplished,” GU head coach Pat Tyson said to GU athletics. “Our goal was to get a feel for this course and understand it. Not a perfectly executed race, but we were able to get in the top 10 and beat some ranked teams. It was a good day. We’re gonna go back to Spokane, get back to work and get

ready for the next one.” GU defeated No. 8 Washington, No. 15 Harvard, No. 21 Princeton, No. 23 Furman, No. 24 Ole Miss and No. 29 Texas, ultimately beating 17 squads in the 27-team field. Thanks to their strong showing, they rose to a program best No. 2 in the West Region rankings behind preseason No. 1 Stanford, that finished second in Stillwater. The Cardinal placed two runners in the top four and three in the top 16. Notably, standout senior James Mwaura has not competed for GU in any of the team’s three meets this season. Tyson employed this same tactic in prior cross country seasons to rest Mwaura for later, more crucial competitions. Mwaura is the program record holder in the 8K and 10K. The GU women’s cross country fell in the USTFCCA rankings after a fifth place finish at The Battle of Beantown in Boston. Senior Kristen Garcia crossed the finish line first for the Zags, placing 14th in 17:41 over 6K. Ranked No. 21 and No. 4 in the national and West Region rankings, respectively, before the race, they dropped to No. 30 and No. 6.

Tommy Conmy is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @tommyconmy.



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: plosbychiana

Sophomore Ansel Tucker finished ninth at the Idaho and Eastern Washington Duals on Sept. 9.

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Our media-based non-profit organization, Sit and Be Fit, is looking for an energetic administrative assistant to join our team. Duties include customer service, product fulfillment, inventory management, and a wide array of administrative support tasks. Must have a dependable car, excellent computer and writing skills, along with an adaptive personality and the ability to work independently. Starting wage: \$25/hr. Hours: Tuesday-Friday afternoons. Location: Spokane South Hill. Please send resumes to sitandbefit@sitandbefit.org



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Seeking Babysitter for 5-year-old twin boys. Need occasional weekend/ weeknight childcare. We have a cat and dog, a large yard, and a quiet neighborhood. Must have reliable transportation and experience with kiddos. Email Katie at ktnm31@gmail.com or text 509-999-9043.



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Gonzaga Sport Consulting Group opens doors, builds for the future

By BRADLEY SAUVÉ

Necessity spurs innovation, and in the case of the Gonzaga Sport Consulting Group (GSCG), that is completely true. The group operates as a committee within the Sport Management Club while serving a unique function and affording students the chance to gain valuable experience in the field of sports consulting. “There was a lack of opportunity within Gonzaga ... in both the sport industry and consulting,” said Mateo Valdez, executive chair member and founder of the GSCG.

With the rise of GU’s reputation within the world of athletics, more students at GU are interested in the sports industry.

Enter Valdez. In the fall of 2021, he worked on developing the group and launched it the following semester with 13 members. After contacting teams all along the West Coast, Valdez and the group settled on two — the Seattle Sounders and the Portland Trailblazers.

The GSCG was divided among these teams, with each section of the group working independently with their chosen team. The work depended on what the team organizations needed done, providing GSCG members with the opportunity to do real work in a number of fields, from business research to social media strategy.

“Every project is unique, but the points of overlap [are] giving students exposure to how sports marketing works and how a front office for a team functions,” Valdez said. “We wanted to make sure we bridged [the gap] between students and bigger companies outside of Spokane.”

For this semester, the GSCG hoped to add representation from Californian teams. They achieved just that, working with the Los Angeles Clippers and San Diego Padres while retaining the Seattle Sounders as a client.

The growth in membership for this semester has contributed to the GSCG’s ability to field more clients. There are currently 21 members divided between the three teams, which meet weekly. In addition to their internal meetings, GSCG teams typically meet with representatives of their respective team organizations every other week.

“We have pretty good communication with them,” Valdez said.

The GSCG’s relationships with their client teams have been positive thus far.

“We had really good reception, really good feedback for our projects to the point where both the Sounders and the Blazers wanted to partner with us again,” Valdez said.

He attributed the success of the group to its passion and competitive students who have higher ambitions each year.

Experience with sports consulting is nothing new to Valdez, who has interned for a sports technology start-up. His inspiration for the GSCG is also tied to a trip he took to the Michigan Sport Business Conference, where he learned about a similar program at the University of Michigan, even meeting with its founder. With more research, Valdez found that many state schools, such as the University of Washington, had similar programs.

“Without that inspiration, we wouldn’t be where we are today,” Valdez said.

The work that Valdez and the GSCG have done has allowed them to forge professional connections with both team organizations and individuals within the sports consulting field.

“Being able to work in the sports world is a really tough task,” said Anthony Boragno, the GSCG’s vice chair of membership. “Once [members] meet their contacts with these teams, they can reach out to them in the future to get more advice and to possibly get a job with these teams.”

These relationships are supported by offers from client teams to present at their offices. Both the



COURTESY OF GONZAGA SPORT CONSULTING GROUP

In the fall of 2021, Valdez worked on developing GSCG and launched it the following semester with 13 members.

Sounders and Trail Blazers offered to host GSCG team presentations. One member took the Sounders up on their offer, attending a Sounders game last May.

Valdez and his leadership team are exploring avenues for funding these trips so that they are more accessible.

“We’re hoping ... to be able to provide that opportunity for students to give their final presentations of the projects in person to the teams,” Valdez said.

The GSCG is open to any GU students who are interested in the sports industry, regardless of major. Recent applicants included students majoring in business, sports management, applied mathematics and more.

“Anyone who is willing to work hard and is passionate about the industry [is welcome],” Valdez said.

Valdez, a junior, and Boragno, a senior, hope that the group will be able to continue on after they have graduated. Valdez in particular is inspired by the hard work and dedication of the underclassmen within the group.

“These are people that really want to drive the organization forward,” Valdez said of the GSCG’s younger members. “A great resume line ... is not the only reason why our members are here.”

For Boragno, part of his main goal is to keep the group alive even after he graduates.

“Once we leave here, we would love for this group to continue growing and improving for years to come,” Boragno said.

As for this year, projects for the Clippers, Padres and Sounders are in full swing. Applications will be accepted

“

Anyone who is willing to work hard and is passionate about the industry [is welcome].

Mateo Valdez, executive chair member and founder of the GSCG.

for next semester, and Boragno encourage anyone who may be interested to look the group up on LinkedIn.

“If [applicants] want to find an opportunity to work with very bright and ambitious people interested in sports business or consulting ... and build connections ... in the competitive sport industry, they should apply,” Valdez said.

Bradley Sauve is a staff writer.

Zags look to replace graduated starters and maintain winning tradition

By HENRY KRUEGER

For the second consecutive year, Lisa Fortier is tasked with replacing the majority of last season’s starting lineup.

After graduating starters Cierra Walker, Melody Kempton, Abby O’Connor and Anamaria Virjoghe departed, the eight-year Gonzaga women’s basketball head coach has spent the early days of practice trying to identify players who can step up and fill the holes left by the departing Zags.

Fortier emphasized that nothing is set in place for now, but there are a few student-athletes who are expected to handle a higher workload based on their performances last season.

Kaylynne Truong and Yvonne Ejim played significant minutes off the bench for last year’s squad, and Fortier said she can’t envision the two Zags struggling to become regular starters.

“Lynne and Vonnice were essentially our sixth and seventh starters,” Fortier said at media availability on Monday. “They both started some games and it was a seamless transition to put them in when we needed to. Some people even thought they had more positive attributes than some of the people who started the games.”

For Ejim, the added responsibility is something to look forward to as she’s now an upperclassman on the team.

“I’m just excited for the new role that I have on this team,” Ejim said. “I’m definitely just coming up as an upperclassman now. I guess it’s a little exciting for me — being in this position, and honestly for me, I’m still testing out the waters, seeing where I fit in my role, but I’m just excited to be in this new role with this new team.”

Joining the pair will likely be the team’s only remaining starter in Kayleigh Truong, the twin sister of Kaylynne. Besides that



JANNA PRICE IG: @janna.price

Gonzaga junior forward Yvonne Ejim won WCC Sixth Woman of the Year last season.

trio, Fortier admits the fans will have to get used to seeing new faces.

“[Fans are] going to get to know quickly who McKayla Williams is,” Fortier said. “They’re going to love Calli (Stokes), Brynna Maxwell is going to be a name that people don’t take long to understand and Eliza (Hollingsworth) has been in the program for a while now and will have an opportunity.”

However, while the role changes could give the Zags a different look than last season, Fortier is preaching the same core values as last year.

“We’re still going to be fast, we’re still going to get up and down, we still have people who are going to knock down threes, we still have people who are going to dominate around the basket,” Fortier said.

Regardless of what the team looks like, the Zags are favored to win the West Coast Conference (WCC) as GU was voted No. 1 in the league’s preseason poll that was released Wednesday.

Voted on by the conference’s 10 head coaches, the poll saw GU receive nine first-place votes with No. 2 Portland getting the other top vote. The Truong twins and Ejim were also named to the preseason All-WCC team.

The announcement came after the Zags went 27-7 last season before winning the WCC Championship and reaching the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The first opportunity for the public to gauge the talent of this year’s team will be during the Numerica FanFest on Oct. 15.

The event typically features player and coaching staff introductions, several on-court competitions and an intrasquad scrimmage.

Henry Krueger is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @henrykrveger.



Fans watch the CM quarterback attempt a pass in the Bulldog Bowl Saturday night at Mulligan Field. CM won 26-18.

CM crowned Bulldog Bowl victors after last-minute TD

By JACK TALBOTT

For one night each year, Gonzaga University forgets basketball and shifts focus to flag football. Students gather to watch their peers face off in the highly competitive Bulldog Bowl.

The game thrives off the rivalry between students living in the East Central and Southeast blocks of campus. DeSmet Hall in East Central and Catherine-Monica (CM) Hall in Southeast have faced off in the Bulldog Bowl for decades. DeSmet has controlled the series comprehensively.

But it was CM that came out on top this year in dramatic fashion. A 26-18 victory was won on the final play of the game. Needing a stop on its own goal line, CM forced an interception in its own end zone and returned the ball to score a pick six within the final minute.

“I was ecstatic, [CM] played very, very well,” said Calvin Fisk, a coach for CM. “We coached them, but they brought the energy, they brought the joy, and they came out tonight and won. I’m very happy for them and very proud.”

Around 400 spectators were in attendance with most rooting for their neighbors, friends or former residence hall. Tension was in the air as the teams were preparing to enter the field. Pride, bragging rights and a golden trophy were on the line.

“I’m still as invested as I’ve ever been,” said Campbell Bastian, assistant residence director of DeSmet. “Really proud of what the DeSmet people have been doing this year, a lot of practices going on, a lot of students giving their time up to make something happen tonight.”

Both teams had intensive warm-ups and rousing speeches from their

respective coaching staff. After a stare-down, both teams prepped to get ready. CM dressed in its traditional white and DeSmet in black.

The game started at a fast pace, as CM forced an interception on DeSmet’s opening drive. Making quick work down the lines, CM completed a 9-yard pass into the hands of a wide receiver who found the left corner of the end zone. Just like that, it was 6-0 CM. The two-point conversion was snuffed out by the DeSmet defense.

It was DeSmet’s turn to formulate a fast response — through a mix of running and throwing the ball, DeSmet found itself at CM’s goal line. A crafty play dragged almost every player to the right side of the end zone, as one DeSmet player snuck to the left without coverage. He waltzed into the endzone for the second touchdown of the game.

DeSmet could not complete its two-point conversion.

After back-to-back interceptions, both teams ignored their rising turnover count and continued with gutsy play calling. For CM, the risk paid off. A 60-yard play saw the CM quarterback find a streaking receiver. CM was not done. The boys in white completed the only two-point conversion of the game to take a solid 8-point lead.

The first half finished with one more successful drive for each team. The first half ended with CM leading 20-12.

The second half saw things calm down. More defense slowed play down, and the referees began throwing more flags. It got chipper as the half wore on and the stakes rose. The fans used these flags to get into the game. A few chants of “you can’t do that” could be heard from both sets of supporters.

DeSmet was able to craft a good drive to take the game to 20-18 but was unable to convert the extra points. CM breathed a sigh of relief, but not for long. CM had the game in its hands but threw an interception with about three minutes left. A 40-yard return saw DeSmet possess the ball at the edge of CM’s end zone. The receiver had his flags ripped off right at the goal line, but the refs deemed the player down at the 1-yard line.

With a minute remaining, DeSmet had to score and CM needed a stop. With one final push, DeSmet searched for a receiver and opted for a risky throw into double coverage. The crowd held its breath as hands went up. It was CM that intercepted the ball and took it all the way to the house. CM’s bench went berserk. Players and coaches rushed onto the field to celebrate. A fantastic stand at the goal line reaped the ultimate reward.

“It was electric, we needed that stand, and we got it,” Fisk said. “It was just a good play on our part that just really sealed the deal.”

The winners claimed the trophy and hoisted it at the spot of their vital interception. Onlookers cheered or booed as organizers began the cleanup process after another eventful Bulldog Bowl.

“It just emphasizes the spirit that students have around Gonzaga and the pride they have in their school but also the pride they have in where they live as well,” said Dorey Veron, assistant director for Housing and Residence Life.

This year’s Bulldog Bowl consisted of three games held back-to-back. A coed game and a women’s game were played before the men’s game. The Southeast block took the spoils in every contest, the first sweep of all three games in the

GU SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, Oct. 5
➔ Men's tennis at ITA North Regionals, Spokane, WA, all day

Friday, Oct. 7
➔ Women's tennis at USC Hidden Duel, Los Angeles, CA, all day
➔ Women's tennis at Long Beach State, Long Beach, CA, all day
➔ Baseball vs. Okotoks Baseball Club, Spokane, WA, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8
➔ Men's rowing vs. Head of Spokane, Spokane, WA, all day
➔ Men's and women's XC at Inland Empire Classic, Lewiston, ID, 10 a.m.
➔ Volleyball vs. Portland, Spokane, WA, 12 p.m.
➔ Men's basketball vs. Numerica Kraziness in the Kennel, 4 p.m.
➔ Women's soccer at San Diego, 7 p.m.
➔ Men's soccer at Santa Clara, CA, 7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 10
➔ Men's golf at Oregon State Invitational, Corvallis, OR, all day

Home games in bold

event’s history.

“There were some good moments, we had our downs, but we had a great time, and that’s all that really matters,” said Isabelle Kennedy, an East Central player and supporter. “It brings everyone together, it still turns out to be a good time.”

Jack Talbott is staff writer.

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