

The Gonzaga Bulletin

A student publication of Gonzaga University

JANUARY 16, 2025

www.gonzagabulletin.com

VOL. 136 ISSUE 12

GU names presidential replacement

The Board of Trustees appoints Katia Passerini to replace current leader Thayne McCulloh

By EMILY NIEMANN

The Gonzaga University Board of Trustees announced its selection for the university's 27th president on Wednesday morning. Current president Thayne McCulloh will be succeeded by Katia Passerini, the first

woman president in the university's history. Passerini will assume her position on July 15.

GU's Presidential Search Committee conducted a national search led by Trustee Christy Larsen for McCulloh's replacement after he announced his retirement last April.

Combining input from student, staff and faculty representatives, as well as the Board of Trustees, Board of Regents and university administrators, the search committee considered perspectives from

SEE LEADER PAGE 2



Courtesy of KEVIN KEY

LA County fires prompt response

Los Angeles County's wildfires have burned entire communities and neighborhoods, with fire departments from all over the country coming to the county's aid.

Spokane, GU aid with fire response

By MIA GALLEGOS

On Jan. 7, multiple fires erupted in and around Los Angeles County. Several areas in the city were engulfed by flames that firefighters worked for days to put at bay.

The fires have led to many people being displaced or feeling harmed by the fires, including a significant portion of Gonzaga University's student and alumni population who are California residents — coming from LA County or close by — and there has been prompt response from several entities on campus and from the Spokane region to aid those experiencing pain and emotions due to the fires.

There were five fires burning as of the morning of Jan. 9, the largest of these being in Palisades. Reports issued by the LA Fire Department detailed that the Palisades Fire burned nearly 20,000 acres only two days following the initial spark, which would become the most destructive fire in the county's history.

The rapid spread of the fires was due to the high speed Santa Ana winds. The dry terrain coupled with up to 70 mph winds was the recipe for these flames to catch and spiral out of control. In a press conference held the morning of Jan. 9, LA County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said the cause of the fire remains unknown and is under investigation.

With 153,000 LA County residents under evacuation orders as Friday morning, there are many people staring at the ashes of their former lives, having to consider where



Courtesy of AEROFILITE

Aeroflite's Q400-AT retardant airplane at their hangar.

to turn and begin to rebuild.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has begun working with aerial firefighting companies from states along the West Coast, including Aeroflite, a contracted aerial firefighting company located in Spokane.

SEE FIRE PAGE 2

Fires force WCC to reschedule

By HENRY KRUEGER

Several large wildfires continue to spread through Los Angeles County, forcing the postponement of many collegiate and professional sporting events as authorities focus on containment efforts and evacuation plans.

The Gonzaga University women's basketball team will soon witness the devastation firsthand with two upcoming West Coast Conference road games against Southern California schools.

Following a home game against Portland, the Zags will travel to LA on Saturday to face Loyola Marymount, where campus staff recently cleared significant debris caused by windstorms. However, LA County officials have confirmed that the wildfires do not currently pose a threat to LMU.

GU's next opponent, Pepperdine, faces a more severe situation. The Zags are scheduled to play the Waves on Jan. 25 in Malibu, where the Palisades Fire is approximately 2.5 miles from campus and has burned more than 23,000 acres. This comes just weeks after the Franklin Fire burned more than 4,000 acres, threatening the school and seaside homes.

It remains uncertain whether the Zags will attempt to

SEE WCC PAGE 8



LUCY BOOTH IG: Photo.b00th

Coughlin Hall will house some of the new affinity communities.

Affinity housing to create neighborly connections

By QUINN TEUBERT

Housing and Residence Life will offer a new set of living communities for first and second year students in fall 2025. These affinity living communities are intended to offer students with shared identities new community spaces in on-campus housing.

Andrew Corse, the assistant director for residence life, has been navigating the functionality of affinity housing to empower marginalized students across campus.

"Affinity housing is really a chance for students with shared identities to create shared lived experiences and exist in community together," Corse said.

Incoming first-year students and rising

second-year students can opt into this housing option. Additionally, leadership positions within the affinity spaces will be given to students who share the identity of those in their living communities.

Partnering with the Center for Global Engagement, the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center, the Unity Multicultural Education Center and the United Alliance of Cultural Clubs, Corse has collaborated with student and staff leaders to gauge the interest and need for affinity communities throughout their development.

"We recognize that this might not be for everybody, and that's why we're hoping to engage people, because there's real value [in that]," Corse said. "We're looking

SEE HOUSING PAGE 3

Student health prioritized

The Office of Health Promotion provides information about wellness to fellow Zags through peer educators

By LAURA ERICKSON

One of three offices that make up Gonzaga University's Wellbeing and Flourishing pillar, the Office of Health Promotion focuses specifically on prioritizing student health and wellness.

Whether it's by putting on informative events, offering other resources in its Crosby Student Center office or connecting students to other offices within the pillar, the office's main priority is to make sure the needs of students are met, said Emily Albert, the office's mental and emotional wellbeing health educator.

Beginning their new positions in August, Albert and the director, Kylie Pybus, are relatively new to their roles.

Due to a staffing shortage in 2024, the office was left nearly empty in the spring semester except for one staff member, Charmayne Adams, who was also working for Student Health and Counseling Services. Additionally, the six students who were hired before the shortage to help plan OHP's events — the peer health educators — were unable to work.

"There was reduced capacity within the programming that the Office of Health Promotion was able to provide," Pybus said. "We're brand new and kind of learning the Gonzaga community and culture."

Since returning back to full staffing capacity in fall 2024, the peer health educators have been able to get their feet back in the door.

"We were really lucky that [the peer

health educators] stayed on with our office and were excited to work with us and provide that health education," Pybus said.

Peer Health Educator Anna Pittman said her work this past semester has been fun and rewarding.

"I love engaging with students, especially around health and wellbeing," Pittman said. "It's nice to see your hard work kind of pay off and everyone enjoy it on campus, even though we're still coming back from picking everything back up again, we're still making a difference."

Pittman said that the educators' main responsibility has been coordinating three types of events throughout the semester targeting health and wellbeing: Health Huts, Wellness Wednesdays and Self-care Sundays.

Pittman also said that she and her student coworkers have a lot of freedom over which topics are presented at these events, including body image and sleep. Pittman said that the educators have a goal of hosting one Health Hut and Wellness Wednesday per month, where the Self-Care Sundays are set to happen weekly. The weekly events are held in the John J. Hemmingson Center, but the educators hope to host outside during the warmer months.

Health Huts are one of the biggest events the educators put on, which are educational tabling events to provide information and resources on many health and wellness topics.

SEE HEALTH PAGE 2

INDEX

News.....1-3
Opinion.....4
Arts & Entertainment.....5-7
Sports.....8-10

OPINION

We may not be able to see the future, but we can try!

PAGE 4

A&E

New year. New me. 2025 brings resolutions of gratitude and a new perspective on 2024.

PAGE 5

SPORTS

The indoor track season is in full swing. Take a look at upcoming meets.

PAGE 8



GONZAGA BULLETIN FILE

Dance performances are a highlight of AAU's annual night market event.

Lunar New Year to be celebrated

By HENRY KRUEGER

In the spirit of Lunar New Year, Gonzaga University's Asian American Union is hosting its sixth annual Night Market event in the Cataldo Globe Room on Feb. 8.

The club's night market is the AAU's premier spring event, promising a vibrant evening filled with food, performances and traditions that highlight the rich diversity of Asian cultures, according to club president Stefanie Marlow.

"Lunar New Year is celebrated throughout Asia by many different countries and holds great significance for many cultures, even more so than the regular New Year that is celebrated on the first of January," Marlow said.

The club's Night Market draws on the essence of traditional Lunar New Year events, which often feature artisan crafts, delicious eats and a lively social atmosphere.

The theme of this year's market is "Ethereal Legends that Transcend Us: The Essence of our Tigers, Nagas and Dragons." Marlow said the tigers, nagas and dragons represent the different regions of Asia and the legends surrounding those symbols.

"We try our best as an organization to include as many cultures as possible, while recognizing that Asia is a very expansive continent with many unique cultures," Marlow said.

A highlight of the event will be the performances, which include dances, musical acts, spoken word poetry

and a fashion show. Each offers a glimpse into the diversity of Asian culture.

"I'm extremely excited for the performances," Marlow said. "The dancers all work so hard to make sure each dance is perfect, and I love seeing all the ways that people participate in each other's cultures."

As attendees watch the performances, they can enjoy the food options that can be purchased using Bulldog Bucks, cash or card.

The dishes will be prepared by student volunteers using Sodexo's kitchen. Those interested in volunteering can earn a free ticket to the event, Marlow said.

The AAU has also collaborated with Sodexo in the past, including in 2022 when the club worked with the COG to serve fried rice at 360 in an effort to promote the Night Market.

"Our plan is to have every single dish be representative of as many different regions of Asia as possible," Marlow said.

Tickets for the event are \$16 per person or \$120 for a table of 8 seats. Food is included in the total cost of a ticket.

For more details, visit the Asian American Union's Instagram page @gonzaga.aau or email gonzagaaa@gmail.com.

Henry Krueger is an online editor.

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1

One of the most popular Health Huts, Albert said, tackled substance use on the weekend of Halloween, encouraging students to be safe with the consumption of substances and providing alternatives to drinking.

"All six of us work together to design each Health Hut and make them unique," Pittman said. "That way students are still interested and will still keep engaging."

Another successful event, Pittman said, was a Wellness Wednesday after the November election.

"[We invited] students to come in with coffee and pastries to have a welcoming place to be," Pittman said.

Pittman mentioned that some of the office's upcoming events are set to cover topics such as meal prepping and nutrition, yoga and meditation and substance use around March Madness.

Students interested in the office's events as well

as other events and information regarding offices within GU's wellbeing and flourishing pillar can follow @gonzagawellness on Instagram. Upcoming events will also be posted on flyers around campus and in GU Morning Mail.

For students interested in joining the team of educators, the office will be hiring four new peer health educators this coming spring. Any students who are in at least their second year are welcome to apply for the position, Albert said.

"We have some [majors] in sports performance, kinesiology, we have communications majors, we have French majors currently working as peer health educators — so there's really a wide variety," Albert said. "As long as there's an interest in improving the overall wellness on campus [and] an interest in delivering health information and things like that."

Laura Erickson is a news editor.

LEADER

Continued from Page 1

diversity of representatives," according to a press release from the university.

The news was also announced in an introductory video from Micheal Reilly, the chair of the Board of Trustees. Reilly said the Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of Passerini's appointment.

"We look forward to welcoming her to the Gonzaga community," Reilly said.

Passerini currently serves as the provost and senior executive vice president at Seton Hall University and is a native of Italy and lifelong Catholic. She also held leadership positions at St. John's University, where she was simultaneously a professor in the Division of Computer Science, Mathematics and Science.

Passerini holds degrees in political science and economics, as well as MBA and doctorate degrees from George Washington University and a Certificate in Business Project Management from New York

University.

"Dr. Passerini displayed her capability and desire to be a leader who will navigate the challenges, concerns and joys of the changing landscape of higher education by placing Gonzaga's mission at the center of her work," Larsen said. "Dr. Passerini is uniquely positioned to build on Gonzaga's legacy of excellence."

Passerini said she is grateful for the Board of Trustees' confidence in her.

"I am very excited to join the Gonzaga University family this coming summer," Passerini said. "Gonzaga is clearly a very special place: a dynamic university with a national reputation for quality, dedicated to the holistic education of students."

Passerini will be at GU's helm after a 16-year tenure from McCulloh. According to the press release, her family will relocate to Spokane this summer and inauguration ceremonies are slated for the fall.

Emily Niemann is a news editor.



Courtesy of Gonzaga University

Passerini comes from Seton Hall University, where she was the interim president.

FIRES

Continued from Page 1

Kelly Anthony, the company's director of safety, said the outpouring of support from organizations like Aeroflite is the only way that these fires may be mitigated and eventually stopped.

"It's a team effort," Anthony said. "There are multiple assets on that fire. It's been declared a statewide emergency, so everyone's work[ing] together to make sure people are getting out of there safely and to protect as much property as we can."

Anthony said that when an unexpected fire erupts, there isn't time for emotion or fear to kick in. The focus turns immediately to formulating a creative strategy as to how the company is going to send planes to the site, as many of the aircraft are still undergoing winter maintenance.

"When this happens, you just put your focus on making sure we have well rested and well trained pilots and support personnel," Anthony said. "Safety comes first."

On Friday, Aeroflite sent one of its Q400-8 planes to Fox Airfield in Lancaster, California, to be ready to step in and help with the fires when needed. Aeroflite is one of several companies that has become a part of the group effort that is mandatory for a fire of this scale.

The LA Chapter of the Zag Alumni network has also been finding ways to support members of its community who were directly affected by the fire. A GoFundMe was started on behalf of Ross Wiggins '17, who lost his home to the Eaton Fire. The GoFundMe was shared via the LA chapter's Instagram page.

Danielle Cendejas, the president of the organization, said the chapter worked to compile and promote social media posts that detail resources available to those affected by the fire. She said she sees how evident the Jesuit spirit of the GU community has been through this time.

"One of the most inspiring things about this tragedy has been how LA has come together as a grander community," Cendejas said. "But also how these smaller communities have been banding together and exemplifying 'Zags help Zags' and that Jesuit mission to help communities in need."

As students return to GU for the spring semester, it is notable that some may be returning from homes that were destroyed by the fires or who have the uncertainty of whether or not their residences were spared from the destruction.

Adrian Reyes, the director of case management in the Center for Cura Personalis, said there are ways to help members of the GU community experiencing a type of loss who many haven't experienced themselves.

Reyes said some of the affected students returning from LA County may feel very open and obligated to share what they went through during the final days of the break, while other students may be much more reserved.

"I think it might be important for those individuals to know that they can talk to us here in CCP rather than their friends or roommates," Reyes said. "We have the aspect of friends helping each other, but making sure those who might not want to speak with those people close to them still have someone to turn to is what we're there for."

Additionally, students wishing to connect with a professional can call anytime with StudentLinc, which operates beyond the business hours of GU's counseling center. Students can call, text, video chat and email professionals who are available to listen at all hours of the day, Reyes said.

"As students come back and they're talking to their friends about having to leave or evacuate, dealing with [that] loss can be difficult and something that many of us aren't equipped to deal with," Reyes said. "Getting them connected to resources or our StudentLinc option that we have is going to be helpful."

Entities like CCP and the Zag Alumni network are working to provide aid in a variety of ways to those being affected from the damage caused by the LA County Fires.

The Center for Cura Personalis can be reached at ccp@gonzaga.edu or by calling 509-313-2227.

Mia Gallegos is a news editor.

AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE
 SPOKANE'S LITERARY LANDMARK
YOUR PERSONAL BOOKSTORE
 402 MAIN AVE SPOKANE WA 99201
 (509) 338-0200
 HTTP://MERLYNS.BIZ

SOMETIMES THE DRAGON WINS

Cards, D&D, Books, Games, Comics, Figures, and more!
MERLYN'S
 W 15 Main 509-624-0957
 WWW.MERLYNS.BIZ

Uncle's Games
 Puzzles & More!
GAMES, JIGSAWS, TOYS, AND MORE!
 404 W. Main Ave. Spokane, WA 99201
 (509) 456-4801
 unclesgames.com

FOLLOW THE BULLETIN ON SOCIAL MEDIA
 the gonzaga bulletin

@thegonzagabulletin
 @gonzagabulletin
 @gonzagabulletin

Northwest Passages highlights new author

By LAURA ERICKSON

Restoring a cabin in the middle of the Pacific Northwest with virtually no woodworking experience certainly presents its challenges.

For copywriter-turned-carpenter Patrick Hutchison, beyond getting confused by Home Depot's complicated selections of screws and metal cylinders, the process also reaped some life-changing benefits — one of which was publishing his first book, a memoir detailing the process.

Published in December, Hutchison's "Cabin: Off the Grid Adventures with a Clueless Craftsman" was the topic of discussion at a Northwest Passages event on Jan. 9 hosted by the Spokesman-Review at the Bing Crosby Theater. Hutchison sat down with the newspaper's "Off the Grid" columnist, Ammi Midstoke, who asked him a series of questions.

According to Hutchison, the book is all nonfiction aside from the neighbors he met, whose names he changed for their privacy.

Before embarking on his cabin makeover, Hutchison's carpentry experience was limited to adolescent treehouse building.

"They were the building skills of a 9-year-old," Hutchison said. "Our method would literally be going to the garage and finding whatever tools my dad had, just one toolbox, and they were all rusty."

All while working as a copywriter for Expedia, Hutchison completed the renovation in roughly three years, with help from his friends. During that time, his Sunday nights after working on the cabin were spent writing a few thousand words on the related happenings of that week.

"I would say a lot of that made it into the book," Hutchison said.

From the very first nights he spent at the cabin, Hutchison said he felt he was experiencing something special and meaningful.

"We're tucked into sleeping bags and passing Cheez-Its and a bottle of whiskey around and taking turns running out into the woods with a shovel to take shifts," Hutchison said. "It was like, 'Now we're talking. This is living.'"

Despite his growing excitement, Hutchison's career switch from copywriting to carpentry was not instantaneous.

"It took me a while to get to the point where I was starting to learn some things that I thought, 'Oh, I could actually kind of maybe jump over into this and make



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: racheltrussellphotography

The Spokesman-Review's Ammi Midstoke sits down with newly published author Patrick Hutchison at the Bing Crosby Theater.

“

I would love to write another book — what it is, I have no clue. I have to find another adventure.

Patrick Hutchison, author of "Cabin: Off the Grid Adventures with a Clueless Craftsman"

something of it immediately," Hutchison said.

Still, once the cabin was complete, Hutchison wanted to continue along his path of carpentry.

"[The cabin] being sh**ty was the thing that I loved about it, but I was so excited to continue using these skills," Hutchison said.

But with no money to start a new project, his only option was to sell it. Around the start of the pandemic, the cabin sold in under a day.

"I sort of [had] to sacrifice it in a way," Hutchison said. "I cried for a lot of days [after]."

One of the hardest parts of selling the cabin, Hutchison said, wasn't only the loss of the physical space but the meaningful atmosphere that came along with it.

"It was like this weird time in my life — in the lives of friends — when we all kind of had nothing to do," Hutchison said. "I'm lucky enough to live close to all those friends still, but I feel like those moments are harder to come by now."

The cabin renovation was transformational in other ways. One example, Hutchison said, was strengthening his sense of identity.

"Working on the cabin was the first thing I feel like that I had truly done in

my life that had no bearing on, 'Oh, this is probably what I should be doing by someone else's standards,'" Hutchison said.

Since selling the original cabin, Hutchison has built two new ones from scratch with help from his friends. He said that he hopes these new spaces will foster a similar sense of newfound identity.

Now working as a full-time carpenter with his first book published, regularly scheduled writing has not been at the forefront of Hutchison's priorities, but he said he doesn't plan on stopping altogether.

"I would love to write another book — what it is, I have no clue," Hutchison said. "I have to find another adventure."

Sallye Prenger, a local fan of Midstoke's work and an attendee at the event, acknowledged Hutchison's accomplished work-life balance.

"You have to make a living, but you could always have fun doing something else, and you can learn from that, too," Prenger said.

Prenger's daughter, Molly Prenger, attended the event with her mother and said she also found Hutchison's work inspiring.

"I think it's just to take a risk — if you have an inkling of doing something fun or creative, then you should just go for it," Molly Prenger said.

Laura Erickson is a news editor.

HOUSING

Continued from Page 1

to intelligently design these communities with the maximum respect and safety that these communities deserve."

The affinity communities underline an ongoing goal for Housing and Residence Life in the advancement of equity work.

Corse recognizes the intersectionality of affinity communities and is actively working to develop core communities that support the engagement of the various identities students hold. The end goal is to connect students across communities and to meaningfully engage them, Corse said.

Carissa Kanae, a junior who serves as the residence hall association director of National Residence Hall Honorary, the vice president of the Korean Student Association and the secretary of the Japan Club, deals with intersection between housing and identity in her various positions.

"[RHA] does events that cater towards the identities that we have, or that we present ourselves as," Kanae said. "I think a lot of our ideas stem from things that we've

already experienced."

These events that are developed with the campus community in mind often mirror the identities and passions of the students organizing them.

Kanae, however, said she has a few reservations about affinity housing. Specifically, she said she has concerns about whether this structure for housing would be appropriately supporting students, whether they're in these diverse groups or outside of them.

"We always quote the mission statement of growing the whole person, but if you hide everyone away from different identities and perspectives, especially the people that have never engaged with diversity before, then you're doing a disservice to them because they're not learning different world views and not reaching outside of their bubble or comfort zone," Kanae said.

Corse addressed this concern and said the office's commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students will remain. Recognizing how shared experiences and identities can cultivate mutual empowerment and allyship will be fundamental to affinity communities.

"With a [community] of labeled

identities, there can sometimes be targeted behavior," Corse said. "We never want our communities to experience harm, but we acknowledge that there are still systems and attitudes out there that exist that could potentially harm these communities."

Corse also said that the GU community's excitement regarding its ability to see and celebrate spaces for marginalized students will be incredibly helpful.

Corse and the housing office are continually looking for student feedback as the affinity communities develop.

A town hall will be hosted by the housing office in collaboration with UMEC and the Lincoln Center in the UMEC lounge on Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for students to share their feedback on affinity communities.

Quinn Teubert is a staff writer.



GONZAGA BULLETIN FILE

Affinity housing is aimed at creating more spaces of belonging among students.

palm beach tan.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT YOUR SPOKANE SALON!

\$14.95 per month Membership

Free bed tan for new customers only!

GRAPHIC DESIGNER WANTED!

Student Media is seeking a semi-experienced graphic designer to join our team! Our designers create ads, Bulletin artwork, and more. Experience with Adobe Suite required. Email scheerer@gonzaga.edu to apply.

2025 through the crystal ball

As the year begins, I have dusted off my crystal ball (totally real, definitely accurate) to aid in casting my 2025 predictions. Whether you're here for world peace, trend predictions or the future of pop music, I've got you covered.

If there's one thing America is consistent with, it's drama. This year will see Donald Trump's second inauguration. While I'd like to hold out hope for peace and acceptance in our nation, the glowing orb in front of me seems to be projecting an alternate reality.

I'm seeing heated debates, "Twitter wars" (or "X" wars) and a gridlock that could rival the COG line at noon. Maybe the crystal ball is just fuzzy, but inclusivity and unity seem more like a distant dream than an actual goal. Perhaps we'll get bipartisan cooperation, or maybe pigs will sprout wings and join the Air Force — you never know!

When it comes to social issues, I believe it will be a year of mixed progress. Advocacy groups will continue to gain momentum in conversations around healthcare and reproductive rights, but they will also face fierce resistance. If nothing else, I'm betting that progress will feel a whole lot like running in place.

Meanwhile, Hollywood will continue to serve us a mediocre mixture of chaos, inflated egos and questionable remarks. With celebrity feuds and lawsuits starting the year off, I'm predicting that headline drama will only increase.

Add in at least two ill-advised reality star "comebacks" and a handful of TV show reboots that



By ELLE PRATT

no one is asking for ("Friends," I'm looking at you) and I think I've got it all covered. Our only hope lies in Beyoncé finally blessing us with the last chapter of her "Renaissance" trilogy or Taylor Swift dropping her final two "Taylor's Version" albums.

Sadly, I can't say this for certain as not even my crystal ball can predict the whims of musical royalty — because if anyone is above the universe's algorithms, it's them.

Trends in 2025, you ask? My crystal ball is glowing with visions of individuality dominating Pinterest boards and TikTok (if it doesn't get banned) algorithms. Whether this means committing to the "clean girl" aesthetic or embracing maximalist chaos, Gen Z will persist in championing individuality.

On the spiritual front, astrology, tarot cards

and manifesting will hold strong — because if the government cannot provide stability, maybe the stars can.

While some of these landscapes feel unpredictable, I can rely on Gonzaga University to stay inclusive in every corner of campus life. No matter where I am, I can count on feeling like I belong — especially if I'm in the Kennel.

Oh, and speaking of basketball, the men's team is currently 3-0 in 2025. Here's to hoping we can keep the latter number at zero.

On a personal note, when looking to make my vision board for the year, my crystal ball revealed the word "discipline" to me. Clearly inspired by my dad, who preaches "discipline over motivation," I'm focusing on consistency this year — showing up for myself, even when it's hard.

Forget grand resolutions; 2025 is all about small, steady progress and cutting myself some slack along the way.

As the crystal ball dims, I'm left with an undeniable truth: 2025 will be what we make it. Gone are the days of letting the fates take charge — it's time to fight for what we want and deserve. From pop culture spectacles to social shifts and personal growth, the year ahead is a blank slate waiting to be filled. Whether we rise to the occasion or stumble through it, one thing is certain: it will be a year worth living.

Elle Pratt is a staff writer.

The lessons to be learned from Jimmy Carter's legacy

Jimmy Carter will be remembered as a man from humble beginnings who led and lived by his values. Though his term as president was lackluster, Carter's post-presidency accomplishments and character cemented him as a beloved figure in American history.

Before his rise to the presidency, Carter graduated from the Naval Academy to follow in his father's footsteps, both in the peanut farming business and running for local government positions. While Georgia grappled with civil rights issues and desegregation, Carter was elected state governor and argued that "no poor, rural, weak or Black person should ever again have to bear the additional burden of being deprived of the opportunity for an education, a job or simple justice," as stated in his inauguration speech as governor in 1971. While he did not always believe in desegregation, influences of his time, including Bob Dylan, as well as theologians and philosophers, influenced his change of attitude.

Carter was an unlikely candidate for the presidency, having little name recognition on a national scale when running against 16 other candidates for the Democratic nomination. His campaign reflected his values, demonstrating a strong work ethic, honesty and respecting others. He defeated Gerald Ford in 1976.

The 39th president's term had a rough start, with Carter cutting funding to water projects without collaborating with Congress which created a lack of trust between the executive and legislative branches of government. Even with this distrust, Carter passed bills expanding the National Park system and creating the Department of Education and the Department of Energy. He also negotiated the Camp David Accords and the sale of the Panama Canal.

These achievements were overshadowed by issues of



By KAYA CRAWFORD

inflation, high interest and the energy crisis. On the international scale, the failure to rescue U.S. personnel being held hostage in Iran led to his election defeat and the victory of Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Despite his lack of success in the Oval Office, Carter's post-presidency period is what distinguished him. He turned away from electoral politics, opting for advocacy and philanthropy through service.

In 1986, Carter launched the Carter Center, a non-governmental organization that aims to improve lives by resolving conflicts, advancing democracy and preventing diseases. At the helm of his new operation, he worked with the World Health Organization to eradicate Guinea worm disease and has since decreased the illness globally. Carter also oversaw elections in emerging democracies, building a reputation as a respected international diplomat. This was reflected in his role in helping Bill Clinton negotiate a nuclear deal with North Korea in 1994.

Carter worked closely with Habitat for Humanity, including building homes in Queens Village in New

York City. The Carter family have served as advocates for affordable housing and volunteered with the organization since 1984. In this role, the Carters have led an annual home-building event called the Carter Work Project that alternates between occurring in the United States and internationally.

As a man whose actions reflected his character, Carter loved his country and worked toward a better tomorrow. He transformed the expectations Americans had for their leaders and his actions and words hold lessons that we all can heed.

Firstly, Carter admitted when he was wrong, often at great cost to his reputation. He was constantly learning from reading, meeting new people and simply observing. Carter's ability to remain open-minded and continue to grow reflects how even now, in a time of such discourse, we cannot allow ourselves to become entrenched in a single mindset and must remain willing to grow in wisdom and hope for a brighter future.

Secondly, we can learn from Carter's traits of consistency and humility. Raised on a peanut farm in rural Georgia, Carter grew up with modest beginnings. Guided by that modesty, Carter remained consistent with his values and faith. A teacher at Sunday school, Carter viewed his time in the White House as just one chapter of impact throughout his life. His dedication to his principles model for us the best way to serve, finding success not in our accomplishments, but in the actions we take consistently each day. Carter spent his life advocating for human rights and once said "our greatest blessings come when we can improve the lives of others." For Carter, service did not require the ability to pass legislation but only a desire to listen, learn and grow.

Kaya Crawford is an arts & entertainment editor.

The Gonzaga Bulletin

Editor-in-Chief

Noah Apprill-Sokol

Managing Editor

Natalie Keller

News Editors	Laura Erickson Mia Gallegos Emily Niemann
Arts & Entertainment Editors	Kaya Crawford Shei McLaughlin
Sports Editors	Cam McCann Zach White
Opinion Editor	Alex Hernandez
Photo Editor	Lucy Booth
Digital Editors	Henry Krueger Lily Pearse Mary Claire Phelps
Copy Editors	Brooks Coleman Olivia Mowad
Adviser	Kip Hill
Technical Adviser	Brett Hendricks
Assistant Director	Joanne Shiosaki
Program Coordinator	Morgan Scheerer

LETTERS POLICY

The Gonzaga Bulletin welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and no more than 800 words. The Gonzaga Bulletin reserves all rights to edit letters. Please include your name and a telephone number for confirmation purposes only. All written correspondence will be considered fit for printing unless otherwise requested. Email letters to bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu with "OPINION" in the subject header. The deadline for letter submission is 4 p.m., Tuesday.

The Gonzaga Bulletin is a weekly student publication serving the Gonzaga community. Weekly circulation is 3,000. Opinions expressed in the pages of The Gonzaga Bulletin represent the views of their respective authors and not necessarily those of the faculty, student body or administration of Gonzaga University. Please direct all queries to bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu or 509-313-6826.

Contact Info:

Email: bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Office phone: 509-313-6826

Advertising: 509-313-6839 or adoffice@gonzaga.edu

www.gonzagabulletin.com

Biden's Medal of Freedom awards offer message of hope

Changemaker and Crooked Hillary — these are two titles that 2016 Democratic presidential nominee and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been called in the past decade of partisan politics.

Last week, President Joe Biden added one more, charging through these same partisan politics to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Clinton, along with other establishment notables including Democratic National Committee donor George Soros and DNC organizer Fannie Lou Hamer.

Although the choices of Biden were not all partisan, he definitely made his mark on the award by nominating established notables to the lengthy list awardees.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the country's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the United States, world peace or other significant societal endeavors.

Previous award winners have included many politicians, including Joe Biden himself, Colin Powell and Ellsworth Bunker, who both won the award twice, and long-time Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

It has also included many popular artists, athletes and film and television producers, including Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan and Lorne Michaels.

The award can be given out any time during a president's stay in the White House, and Biden chose last week for his final time to hand out the award — an unmistakable final message from the president who will be out of office next week.



BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Biden's selections featured awardees of similar caliber to previous lists, including iconic popular artists and athletes such as soccer player Lionel Messi and U2 musician Bono. In fact, one might call Biden's selection more of a list of the most popular social icons than winners of one of the most prestigious awards in the country.

However, it is the political candidates that Biden selected that make a statement about change and the future of this country.

Specifically, as the U.S. plunges into another dark time of political conservatism, with the inauguration of Donald Trump, it was Biden's selection of freedom fighters and changemakers that make this list of Presidential Medal of Freedom awardees stand out.

Instead of dwelling in the dark times, Biden offers hope that these award winners will be sources of light during a future that might feel dark for so many.

Selecting people like Robert F. Kennedy and Fanny Lou Hammer, both civil rights activists, highlight heroes that resisted oppression in the Jim Crow era, suggesting that even

in some of the most challenging moments of our history there will be heroes among us.

Meanwhile, the celebration of contemporary heroes, such as Soros and Clinton, remind us of the great political leaders still alive who continue to advocate for social change.

While these award winners might be chalked up to just some political partisanship by some, I believe these awards construct a powerful narrative of both our past, present and future moments.

This contemporary moment is plagued by a war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and fires that have displaced thousands. Meanwhile, we are set to have a president that has been sentenced with felonies and has embraced his social capital to use racist and sexist vitriol.

However, it is important to feel optimistic and envision a better future than dwell on the negativity of this moment. The Presidential Medal of Freedom list is a stark juxtaposition to the evils of this world.

And if anything, this list is a testament of an important message: we must know that we will have heroes among us that we will be able to look to for hope and inspiration. Keep the faith and have hope for the future.

Noah Apprill-Sokol is the editor-in-chief.



Setting goals in the new year

Best practices for making resolutions last past January

COMMENTARY
By THEODORE FERRO

With a new year comes new beginnings, and that is the theory behind New Year's resolutions. What better way to start the year than to work on yourself? With these resolutions, here are some best practices to follow to hold yourself accountable when adopting new habits in your life.

Rule No. 1: If you don't want to do it, don't do it. Change has to come from within, so be honest with yourself when choosing what you want to add to your routine. What do you care about? What do you want to change? If you can't answer these questions, you probably don't care that much about changing. And that's fine too. We've all been there. Just don't deceive yourself with something that you will not follow through with.

Rule No. 2: Focus your goals solely on the task, not on the time. A lot of people's goals will list out a time over which they believe the goal can be accomplished, like avoiding bad habits in the new year. But once the novelty of the new year wears off, people get bored. The year is just a distraction keeping you focused on the wrong things.

Time-based goals also provide a reason to quit when you slip up. If your goal is to drink no soda in 2025, then why not give in when your 2025 has been corrupted? The goal is impossible to complete now.

In the tradition of Lent, another time-based resolution system, you are only asked to give something up for 40 days. In my opinion, this encourages short-lived progress.

So avoid references to time in your New Year's resolution. If you truly want to better yourself, then it won't matter if it's January or July — 2024 or 2025. All that matters is the task at hand. You can stop whenever you want to stop and start whatever you want to start.

Rule No. 3: You can't set unrealistic goals, and you can't make excuses for yourself either. Find the middle ground with a realistic plan — something that challenges you, but can be done.

If you aren't sure what to work on, reading more would be my suggestion. College students were once voracious readers and writers. I know from my own experience that is no longer the case. The ease and speed of mediums like video has made text much harder to engage with. We've all sat in a class, staring at the



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: flamedmedia

New Year's resolutions can bring improvements to daily routines but can be difficult to maintain.

assigned reading while a frustrated professor struggles to get any meaningful responses from the class.

So start taking the time to fully engage with your readings. Get the most out of the classes that you're paying for because you won't always have the privilege of going to them. As a senior, it's started to dawn on me just how little time I have left here. I didn't realize it at first, but I enjoyed every moment here.

And if you're really not that into reading, physical health is always a go-to option for people to self-improve. Exercise more and knock out a credit with a P.E. class. I just took my first one in the fall and had a great time. If your schedule is already full, Gonzaga University has a very active intramural sports community. Or if you prefer solo activities, just grind on your own at the Rudolph Fitness Center. It's open until 11 p.m. on

weekdays.

New Year's resolutions aren't as fun or as memorable as other holiday traditions, but everyone can get something out of them. Take the new year as a chance for cura personalis, or care for the whole person. We hear these words all the time, but I know I don't always think much about it or take it seriously. It's just a day off class. It's up to us to put those words into action and take control of ourselves. Whether it's your mind, body or spirit, we all have something we could work on.

Theodore Ferro is a staff writer.



LUCY BOOTH IG: photo_b00th

Practicing gratitude can improve how we build and maintain social relationships in the new year.

Adopting an attitude of gratitude

A guide on how to add the thankful practice to your daily routine

By NATALIE KELLER

With the start of the new year, some are looking to form new habits and mindsets, including an attitude of gratitude.

In her 25 years of studying gratitude and its effects on people, Gonzaga University psychology professor Monica Bartlett has made a key finding: when people feel grateful, they are more likely to help others and experience mental health benefits.

Bartlett said there are steps people can take to increase their gratitude and strive for those benefits.

"Humans probably evolved to pay a lot of attention to that which is negative — failure, setbacks, information about things that aren't going well," Bartlett said. "What

we're doing is trying to be more present and recognize the good that others are doing, no matter how small."

Bartlett, who heads and conducts her research in GU's Positive Emotion and Social Behavior Lab, defines gratitude as the positive emotion people feel when they recognize that someone has helped them. These feelings, she said, have been shown to decrease depression and loneliness and increase people's overall well-being.

Bartlett said emotions serve a purpose, and gratitude is no exception. When people experience gratitude, Bartlett said they are also more likely to pay it forward by helping or spending time with the person who has helped them.

"It's almost like this really cool cycle that's happening," Bartlett said.

"[These behaviors] are all really useful in helping to build and maintain our social relationships."

Bartlett said gratitude doesn't always come naturally and that there are strategies people can implement to make gratitude a part of their everyday lives.

The first strategy Bartlett suggests is a daily practice of identifying three things to be grateful for. Bartlett said people can write these things down in a journal or simply think about it.

"The idea is that, with time, this will be cultivating a habit so that you begin to scan your day naturally for that which is going well," Bartlett said.

Bartlett also said she recommends people write a letter to someone they are grateful for.

"This can sometimes be an incredibly powerful thing to do because not only are you reliving a moment of gratitude, but now you're passing it on to this other person and letting them know that you recognize this good that they've brought into your life," Bartlett said.

Aaliyah Lewis, a GU student who serves as a peer health educator in the Office of Health Promotion, said she practices gratitude by naming three things she is thankful for each morning. However, rather than making it a solo exercise, Lewis said she has found it helpful to practice reflection with her partner.

Additionally, Lewis suggested people write things they are thankful for on mirrors, sticky notes or their phone wallpaper as a reminder to be grateful. All these practices, Lewis said, can be particularly beneficial for students.

"I think we can get so caught up in all the busyness of life — especially at Gonzaga, where Zags just overcommit — and we can get so wrapped up in all the different caps that we're wearing," Lewis said. "Practicing gratitude allows us to recenter ourselves and recognize the opportunities that we have."

Lewis also said practicing gratitude can serve as a form of self care.

"Gratitude goes right into cura personalis," Lewis said. "I would just encourage an individual or student to recognize that they are so valuable that they should take the time to just take a step back and recognize all the good that's going on."

While Bartlett said she finds practicing gratitude beneficial in her own life, she recognizes that it may not be appealing to everyone. However, for those who want to be more intentional about gratitude, Bartlett said they should view it as an additional tool for well-being and personal resiliency.

"It doesn't cost any money, and it takes very little time," Bartlett said. "So if it sounds like something that's interesting or appealing to a person, why not try it?"

Natalie Keller is the managing editor.

SZA shines again with "SOS DELUXE"

REVIEW
By LILY PEARSE

Just before 2024 came to a close, SZA blessed us all with another hit album. "SOS," released in 2022, topped charts with near-immediate success and wide acclaim. "SOS DELUXE: LANA" is an extension of "SOS" with an additional 15 tracks, including "Saturn," which was released as a single earlier last year.

A significant factor in SZA's popularity is her ability to be raw and vulnerable in her songs. This sets her apart from other artists and distinguishes her voice. Her first album, "Ctrl," tapped into the experiences of many, giving voice to insecurity, toxic relationships and the pressure of societal expectations.

"SOS" expanded her range with songs like "F2F," which offers a vibrant pop sound. In a surprising collaboration, SZA teamed up with Phoebe Bridgers in "Ghost in the Machine." SZA showed flexibility and adaptation in "SOS," which credits and differentiates her as an artist.

In "SOS DELUXE: LANA," SZA demonstrated her ability to yet again produce fantastic songs, staying true to her older sound and yet not remaining confined in her initial style. The newer songs blend in with "SOS," but don't feel redundant.

Songs on the deluxe album such as "30 For 30," featuring Kendrick Lamar, "Scorsese Baby Daddy" and "BMF" have already gained popularity on social media. "Scorsese Baby Daddy" has been compared to "F2F" as a sister song with similar pop attributes.

SZA opens the new album with "No More Hiding," which is a confessional song. She talks about being real, even if that means exposing parts of herself she doesn't like. SZA is relentless with her lyrical ability to explore self worth. She positions the album as vulnerable within her first verse.

SZA has received criticism for seeming "whiny" and "self-deprecating." Looking beyond the lyrics about her going back to her ex and feeling insecure and crazy, I see the value not only of her discussing these topics but additionally in her expressing healing and finding self-love.

Not only does she have an incredible voice, impressive beats and great taste in collaborations, her music contains depth. SZA brings us on her journey of personal development. I have no doubt that we will see her relationship with herself change as more music is released.



COURTESY OF @SZA ON INSTAGRAM

With the drop of SZA's new album, she also announced her new tour with Kendrick Lamar.

In the age of fake everything — Facetune, plastic surgery, social media — SZA astounds with her relatability, despite her prominence in the music industry. "Love Me 4 Me" is an especially vulnerable track where she evolves within the span of a song, reflecting on a toxic relationship. She sings about her past willingness to change herself for a man and ends with her acceptance of finding love within herself.

SZA's musical ability is nearly untouchable, but what truly makes her stand out is that she speaks to the broader culture of self-esteem issues many people face — especially modern women and girls.

In the new album, there is something for everyone. With upbeat songs about

having a crush, devastating breakup songs and reflective tracks, SZA celebrates the entire process of growth, making her one of the best artists of our generation.

"SOS" is one of my favorite albums of all time. If you enjoyed "SOS," you will be sure to love the additional songs. If you somehow haven't already, I thoroughly recommend listening to this album with an open mind.

Lily Pearse is a digital editor.

NEW SONGS RANKED

1. Scorsese Baby Daddy
2. Love Me 4 Me
3. My Turn
4. Another Life
5. BMF
6. 30 For 30
7. Saturn
8. Crybaby
9. Kitchen
10. What Do I Do
11. No More Hiding
12. Drive
13. Diamond Boy (DTM)
14. Chill Baby
15. Get Behind Me



Sudoku By The Mephram Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to last Sunday's puzzle 1/12/25

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

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18				19		20					21							
22					23						24							
25					26				27		28							
			29	30			31	32			33			34	35	36		
37	38	39		40			41			42	43			44				
45			46			47				48				49				
50						51			52			53	54					
55					56	57			58	59			60					
61					62			63			64			65				
	66		67					68			69			70		71		
72	73			74			75			76			77		78	79	80	
81			82						83			84			85			
86						87				88	89			90				
91					92					93			94		95			
96					97					98			99			100		
101					102					103			104			105		
			106				107	108			109	110			111	112	113	114
115	116	117					118			119				120				
121							122						123					
124							125							126				

- PR STUNT**
By Zhoujin Burnikel
- ACROSS**
- 1 "Alright, Still" singer Lily
 - 6 Split asunder
 - 12 Sought a dog treat
 - 18 Computer in a messenger bag
 - 20 Throws in the trash
 - 21 Real
 - 22 Ultrathin bicycle chain holder?
 - 24 "Hold your horses!"
 - 25 Purple palm berry
 - 26 High-pitched bark
 - 27 Modern art?
 - 28 Weighty burden
 - 29 Poultry farm sight
 - 31 Meat in a Cuban sandwich
 - 33 Comics dog with a long tongue
 - 34 Drain pipe material
 - 37 Stay-at-home worker?
 - 40 Divinely inspired binge session?
 - 44 Cookie with a churro flavor
 - 45 Trunk
 - 47 Peddle
 - 48 Seats for the faithful
 - 49 Delany of "China Beach"
 - 50 Sherlock adversary
 - 51 "I know kung fu" character
 - 52 Land in the Seine
 - 53 "Get a hold of yourself!"
 - 55 Batter's practice area
 - 56 Plot progression
 - 58 Number important to bakers?
 - 61 Succulent harvested for its gel
 - 62 Judged to be
 - 64 Bracelet closure
 - 65 Nancy Drew's beau
 - 66 "Nicely done!"
 - 68 Scent
 - 70 Yonder things
 - 72 "Hamilton" actress Philippa
 - 74 The "L" of Samuel L. Jackson
 - 76 Thrill-seeker's activity
 - 78 Quiet attention-getter
 - 81 Guaranteed ball catchers?
 - 84 Doctor's orders, for short
 - 85 Middling
 - 86 Refuse to give in
 - 87 Jaden's role in "The Karate Kid"
 - 88 Spanish uncle
 - 90 Résumé highlight
 - 91 Fancy party
 - 92 Som tam cuisine
 - 93 Small earring
 - 95 Intrinsicly
 - 96 Flintstones
 - 97 Vitamins shape
 - 100 Asphalt alternative
 - 101 Turk. neighbor
 - 102 Dude from Dundee
 - 103 Pocket-sized "What ___ have you got?"
 - 106 "The Alienist" author Caleb Carr
 - 107 Find work for
 - 109 Drink with cardamom
 - 111 Cast down?
 - 115 Pack of camels
 - 118 Fairyland queen?
 - 121 One with a cordial rivalry
 - 122 Exactly right
 - 123 Fancy party
 - 124 Auction bids
 - 125 Pitching battles?
 - 126 Word between God and you
 - 1 Gnocchi
 - 2 Nonclerical
 - 3 Org. for women who are great drivers
 - 4 Set of principles
 - 5 "Ha, fooled ya!"
 - 6 Lower left PC key
 - 7 Contract flaw
 - 8 Upper left PC key
 - 9 Dickinson's advice column
 - 10 Turn suddenly
 - 11 Haim sister mentioned in Taylor Swift's "No Body, No Crime"
 - 12 Fitted cap
 - 13 Succeed
 - 14 Fellas
 - 15 Liquor in a Negroni
 - 16 Capital One's virtual assistant
 - 17 Drops on the lawn
 - 19 "Ha, fooled ya!"
 - 21 Crystal hunter's finds
 - 23 Some toy doggies
 - 30 ___-Missouria Tribe
 - 32 Everywhere
 - 33 "1984" author
 - 34 Garment for a gingerbread seal
 - 35 Marco Polo's hometown
 - 36 Like many candies
 - 37 City east of Syracuse
 - 38 Principled
 - 39 Avid fan of Chunky Garden pasta sauce?
 - 41 Consequently
 - 42 Go around in circles
 - 43 Diver on Louisiana's state seal
 - 44 Scent
 - 46 Mocking smile
 - 53 Redeems, as a check
 - 54 Info on a political rival
 - 56 Pre-Christmas season
 - 57 Corp. shake-up
 - 59 Brick made of soil and straw
 - 60 Balloon material
 - 63 Like some city races
 - 67 Happy hour picks
 - 69 Not-to-be-missed
 - 71 Gave an address
 - 72 Gussies (up)
 - 73 Cantankerous
 - 75 Overly familiar
 - 77 Category
 - 79 Pico de gallo, e.g.
 - 80 "The Accidental Tourist" novelist Anne
 - 82 Fought (for) cookie?
 - 83 Face concealer
 - 89 AI field
 - 90 1974 espionage spoof
 - 92 Tough to solve
 - 94 Night vision?
 - 97 Leaves in a hurry
 - 98 Sister show of "SmackDown"
 - 99 Smith or Jones, sometimes
 - 102 Piggy bank filler
 - 105 Spam, e.g.
 - 107 Food safety org.
 - 108 Ignored the limit
 - 110 Chick tenders
 - 112 EverQuest monster
 - 113 Some bell-bottoms
 - 114 Number before cuatro
 - 115 Exec. who holds the purse strings
 - 116 "I want my bone!"
 - 117 B-ball official
 - 119 State next to Ore.
 - 120 San Francisco's ___ Hill

Gals Need Pals fosters female friendships

By OLIVIA MOWAD

Flowers, alcohol and pink power suits dominate local businesses in Spokane and Seattle when Gals Need Pals hosts events for local women to find friends. These female-only, 21 and over social events aim to solve the issues of making friends as an adult and “cementing” those friendships.

According to the Gals Need Pals Instagram, the business allows women to foster friendships in a safe space that appeals to a variety of interests as the venue changes every month. In the past, it has curated brunches, workout classes, wine tastings, holiday parties and even an adult prom. All of these events serve as ways for women to connect in a time when it is hard to make friends, said founder and president Kinley Schmidt.

“There were those girls that come up to you and they’re like, ‘I have been really struggling to make friends, and this was exactly what I needed,’ and then it all kind of makes it worth it all over again,” Schmidt said. “And I think that it’s hard to pinpoint an exact [favorite] moment because we have that moment every single event.”

The idea for this company comes from the “drunken bathroom friendships” that people may not have had the chance to follow up on. The website explains that Gals Need Pals are “just a couple of girlies trying to move the drunken bathroom banter to the real world.”

The idea for the company was formed when Schmidt moved to Spokane from Utah and struggled to meet friends during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working as a third-grade teacher in Spokane, she was unable to connect with colleagues of different ages, leading to her joining a Catholic women’s group. It was there that she met a friend who helped her start Gals Need Pals as a means to help women who had the same struggles as her.

In the summer of 2022, Schmidt and her friend founded Gals Need Pals, which Schmidt said has since grown

exponentially with expectations of continuing expansion of their company. Schmidt quit teaching in 2024 to work on the business full time as Gals Need Pals hosts events in Spokane and Seattle and will launch a new branch at the end of January.

“We’ve kind of gotten questions all over the country and even internationally about Gals Need Pals and getting chapters as far as the UK,” Vice President Lauren Trivison said. “And so that’s going to be many years down the road. We need to kind of establish ourselves in our little Washington state to kick things off.”

The business’s monthly events attract 20 to 40 people at times, Schmidt said, and once had up to 125 attendees. Schmidt also said that Gals Need Pals switches up the type of event monthly. The businesses that host the women rotate to appeal to all interests as well as allow local businesses in Spokane and Seattle to branch out to new customers.

Trivison is a Gonzaga University alum who studied communications studies and minored in marketing. As a local influencer, she manages Gals Need Pals’ social media and works out partnerships with local businesses. The company’s Instagram has over 17,000 followers and allows for many of the girls to interact and have input on events. Trivison said her GU education helped her start her career early and understand her craft.

“I studied abroad in Florence, and I got to dabble in social media that way and document my experience, take those different marketing classes and apply this to influencing marketing, which was a brand new thing,” Trivison said.

The successful business did not come without risks. Schmidt and Trivison both said it’s important to take risks on yourself, to dream and to celebrate small victories. By taking it step by step, the two of them have created a business that has confronted the issue of finding friends post-graduation.

Gals Need Pals is also starting a podcast



COURTESY OF GALS NEED PALS

Gals Need Pals’ events can be anything from a meet up at a restaurant to a fitness class.

this year to “bring the bar bathroom banter to the podcast world,” as displayed on its website. Schmidt and Trivison are focusing on topics such as event planning and running a business. Their first episode is about why the organization was started and is currently available on Apple Podcasts as well as Spotify for any interested listeners.

“This is our time to relax, kind of take off all of the professionalism and just be two girls talking, because at the end of the day, we were two women that were experiencing loneliness in our 20s and didn’t know how to make friends,” Trivison said about the podcast. “As much as I love social media and being a content creator, I’m really just sitting in my apartment all day talking to my phone and my window.

So it’s been nice to have a community, and I’ve made so many friends personally from just attending Gals Need Pals.”

Gals Need Pals’ next event will be a workout class plus mingling with snacks and drinks on Jan. 25 at SoulBarre in Spokane and is open to all women over the age of 21 to join in friendship.

Olivia Mowad is a staff writer.



JANUARY SPECIAL SALTED CARAMEL MILKSHAKE

\$4.99



GONZAGA UNIVERSITY | Zag Dining

The Gonzaga Bulletin is hiring staff writers!

All positions are paid.
No journalism experience is required!

To request an application, email
bulletin@gonzagau.onmicrosoft.com



GU track tackles indoor season

By KAYA CRAWFORD

Following a month off from competition, Gonzaga University track athletes are geared up to return to the indoor oval. This time of the year allows runners to prepare for their outdoor season and compare themselves with other athletes over the winter months.

"Our goals are to use indoors to prepare us to run fast outdoors," men's head coach Pat Tyson said. "And yes, it's nice to get personal bests and school records and all that sort of thing, but we really want to peak for the outdoor season."

GU kicked off its indoor season by sending five athletes to Boston for the

Danville City Opener on Dec. 7. For the women, Ireland Robertson won her 3000-meter heat with a time of 9:28.36 (58th overall). Willow Collins placed 44th overall in the 3000-meter race with a time of 9:19.86 in the second-fastest heat. In one of the biggest events at the meet, Rosina Machu ran in the second-fastest 5000 heat with a time of 15:44.14, which placed her 26th overall.

On the men's side, Wil Smith and Drew Kolodge competed in the 5000-meter race and both made program history. Smith placed 11th in heat three with the third-fastest indoor 5000-meter time in program history at 13:24.09 and was 44th overall. Kolodge recorded the fourth-fastest time

in program history and placed second in heat eight with a 13:57.21.

"Boston is always a great venue," Kolodge said. "It's always great to run against people you don't usually run against because we're out on the West Coast. So it's great."

The Zags also opened the indoor season with the first of six meets at The Podium this season for the Spokane Invitational on Dec. 14. Gréta Dani made her collegiate debut in the women's 60-meter prelims and ran the fourth-fastest time in GU history to win her heat with an 8.35. She notched the fifth-fastest time in the women's 200-meter race later that day with a 27.71. Presley Smith also made her debut and recorded the second-fastest 300-meter time in GU history with a 44.88. Ellie Armbruster placed second overall in the 600-meter with a 1:33.89.

Jacob Alfonso and Cooper Laird finished first and second overall in the men's mile. Eighteen Zags competed in the 3000-meter race and swept the individual wins. Anna Grabowski set a 9:41.15 personal best to take first with seven other runners in the top 10. Logan Law took first for the men with a time of 8:14.21 with four of his teammates finishing in the top 10.

GU will also send athletes to Seattle to run at the University of Washington. The men will send athletes to compete in both the UW Mile City (Saturday) and UW Invitational (Jan. 31- Feb. 1) and both the men and women will send athletes to compete at the Husky Classic (Feb. 14-15) in hopes of recording qualifying times for the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships in March.

"It's almost like having a Christmas break every time you go to an indoor

meet, because the atmosphere is just so amazing," Tyson said. "I mean, there's a crowd, there's music, it's 70 degrees. It's like playing hoops in The Kennel, there's just good juice in there. You see it at Dempsey, you see it at Boston and you see it at The Podium."

Armbruster said that for sprinters, it is the first time they can compete and see where they are in comparison to others.

"Everyone kind of has their individual running goals," Armbruster said. "It's really more of an individual sport than, say, cross country. Just starting to race, at least for [sprinters], since we don't run cross country, at least I don't, it's just a really good building period to get back into racing."

Beyond those who have set personal records already this season, GU has many athletes to watch as the indoor season progresses and transitions into the outdoor season. While people may know to look for names like Smith and Machu, both coaches said that there are many athletes who have the chance to make their mark.

"We really try to celebrate everyone and make sure we don't take for granted everyone's trying to do something special," Stewart said of the women's team. "It's not just a few ladies, it's everybody."

The GU women's team return to The Podium on Friday for the Spokane Sports Showcase and both the men and women will compete at The Podium on Saturday in the Spokane Indoor Challenge.

Kaya Crawford is an arts and entertainment editor.



LUCY BOOTH IG: photo_b00th

A pack of Bulldogs race at the Podium, Spokane's premiere indoor track.

WCC

Continued from Page 1

make those road trips. Pepperdine had been set to host the Loyola Marymount men's and women's basketball teams on Saturday, but the universities' athletic departments postponed the games until Feb. 11 due to the fires' impact.

Meanwhile, the GU men's basketball team narrowly avoided the wildfires during a recent trip to Southern California. The team visited LMU and Pepperdine in late December and early January, shortly before the fires ignited.

Despite avoiding direct disruption, head coach Mark Few and his players expressed concern for those affected, having traveled through areas now ravaged by flames, particularly along the Pacific Coast Highway.

"On the drive up on the PCH, those landmark restaurants and houses and everything you see all the way up there, I can't even fathom so close to the ocean they could burn like that," Few said to the Spokesman-Review. "It's just awful, awful. Prayers go out to everybody that got out of it safe and just got to start building it back. But yeah, awful deal."

Redshirt senior forward Ben Gregg said he was shocked to see images and videos of the wildfires destroying areas the team had just visited.

"I just saw a video of driving to Pepperdine from Santa Monica and all those houses were on fire," Gregg said to the Spokesman-Review. "We were just there last week making the same drive. I don't know the highway, but it's just kind of crazy to think about. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people involved in that, the houses and everybody involved."

With the possibility of more postponements across the WCC, the league has stated that its highest concern is on the well-being of those affected by the wildfires.

"First and foremost, our thoughts are with those impacted by the devastating wildfires in Southern California," the league said in a recent article published to its website. "Three scheduled women's games and one men's contest ... were postponed due to the fires in and around Los Angeles. Those games will be rescheduled at some point, but the focus now is on the safety of everyone in the area."

Henry Krueger is an online editor. Follow him on X @henrykrueger

BRING YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY & FUNDRAISERS TO

CARUSO'S
SANDWICHES & ARTISAN PIZZA
* DAILY FRESH *

BRICK FIRED PIZZA • PASTAS • SANDWICHES • CALZONES • SALADS • WRAPS



DINE-IN • TAKE-OUT • ONLINE ORDER • CATERING • UBER EATS DELIVERY

15% OFF WITH YOUR ZAGCARD

LOCATED NEXT TO THE GU CAMPUS

1120 N DIVISION ST

(509)-868-0585

CARUSOSUDISTRICT@outlook.com

ONLINE ORDER AT: ILOVECARUSOS.COM



REDEEMABLE AT U-DISTRICT LOCATION, (DOES NOT APPLY TO PURCHASES MADE WITH BULLDOG BUCKS, FOR BEER AND WINE, OR WITH 3RD PARTY DELIVERY)

Unrivaled potential

Vandersloot spearheads new women's hoops league

By KAYA CRAWFORD

A new opportunity for women's professional basketball tips off soon, and Gonzaga University women's basketball alum Courtney Vandersloot is one of the first 36 athletes to bring Unrivaled to life later this month.

Founded by WNBA stars Napheesa Collier and Breanna Stewart, Unrivaled is a professional 3-on-3 women's basketball league featuring some of the sport's biggest names, including Sabrina Ionescu and Aliyah Boston. The league will feature six clubs with six players on each roster and tips off in Miami on Friday.

Following a historic WNBA season that saw record-breaking attendance and viewership, Unrivaled has the ability to provide athletes with financial support and viewership that was previously unattainable.

The creation of this league represents an increased interest in female sports and disrupts the current state of women's sports by offering the highest average salary in a women's professional sports league history. It is backed financially by sports superstars including Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe, Carmelo Anthony, Steve Nash and David Levy.

"For years, women have relied heavily on off-court sponsorships for a majority of their income," Stewart said when the league was unveiled. "With Unrivaled, we're revolutionizing the game by prioritizing investments in our stars and ensuring their on-court performance is reflected in their pay."

Not only is Unrivaled supporting



COURTESY OF @SLOOT22 ON IG

Fresh off a WNBA championship last season, Vandersloot will join the Unrivaled league.

current athletes, but it is inspiring the next generation of women's basketball stars. UConn guard Paige Bueckers and LSU guard Flau'jae Johnson were signed to NIL marketing deals with the league as heads of "The Future is Unrivaled" campaign. The two guards will partner with the league on content, marketing campaigns and merchandise activations to inspire future basketball players.

Beyond its investors and investment into the future, Unrivaled has secured partnerships with major brands including Samsung Galaxy, Sephora, Under Armour, Wilson and State Farm. TNT Sports and Unrivaled reached a multi-year partnership in late 2024.

Vandersloot is on the Mist Basketball

Club alongside her New York Liberty teammate Stewart and Seattle Storm guard Jewell Loyd. Rounding out the Mist's roster is Aaliyah Edwards, Rickea Jackson and Dijonai Carrington. The club is coached by Phil Handy.

In October, Vandersloot won her second WNBA title, and her accolades in both her college and professional career speak for themselves.

Vandersloot was a standout athlete in her college career at GU and broke records both in the conference and at a national scale. She was the only women's player in West Coast Conference history to be named conference player of the year three times and the only player to be named MVP of the WCC women's tournament

three times. The guard was also the first Division I player to have 2,000 points and 1,000 assists in a career.

Drafted third in the 2011 WNBA draft by the Chicago Sky, Vandersloot was selected as an All-Star and named to the All-Rookie Team her rookie year. From there, her resume only grew. She holds the all-time WNBA records for highest assists-per-game in a season at 9.1 and highest career assists-per-game at 6.7. In her 14 seasons in the WNBA, she has led the league in assists seven times, was named All-WNBA four times, led Chicago to its first WNBA title in 2021 and helped the Liberty to its first title in franchise history this past season.

As a trailblazer in the sport, it makes sense that Vandersloot would be a part of the inaugural season of a historical league. As she enters free agency ahead of the 2025 season, she looks to continue to make an impact both in Unrivaled and wherever she ends up. Vandersloot believes that she is right where she needs to be currently.

"Free agency is around the corner, and I've been thinking about that for a few weeks now," Vandersloot said at Unrivaled media day. "It's just about balancing – what a great opportunity for everyone to be right here. I'm sure there will be a lot of people in town we can meet with. I see free agents in the hallways. I think it's a great place to be if you're a free agent."

As Vandersloot and the other 35 athletes prepare for the Unrivaled season to tip off later this month, the world is waiting to see this historical league in action. Unrivaled has the opportunity to change the ways in which women's sports are viewed and how female athletes are treated. Vandersloot's role puts a GU alum at the forefront of a historic moment for women's sports.

Kaya Crawford is an arts & entertainment editor.

Gonzaga athletics sees a pair of coaching changes

Aaron Lewis resigns from position as men's soccer head coach

By KYLE SWEENEY

Gonzaga University men's soccer head coach Aaron Lewis announced he was stepping down from his position in December, ending a four-year run at the helm of the program.

Chris McGaughey has been named interim head coach for next season by GU Athletic Director Chris Standiford. Assistant coach Christo Michaelson will remain on the staff as well.

"Gonzaga truly is a special place and the men's soccer program was an honor to lead over the last five years," Lewis said in a statement released by GU. "I remain extremely grateful for the opportunity they provided me and wish the team and the department the best moving forward."

Shortly before GU's announcement, Spokane youth soccer nonprofit "90+ Project" revealed via Instagram that Lewis would become its new director of programming. The program focuses on developing players aged 5-12.

"This is such an exciting opportunity for me, as I truly feel 90+ has created the vision and platform to make a mighty impact on our region through soccer," Lewis said in a press release from the program.

Lewis first joined GU as an assistant coach in 2019 and took over as acting head coach for the 2020-21 season. Following his official promotion to head coach in April 2021, Lewis compiled a record of 20-

11 across his four years at the helm.

This year, GU finished with a 6-10-2 overall record and a 0-8 mark against West Coast Conference opponents, placing last in the league after opening the season with five straight nonconference wins. On Sept. 12, GU defeated then-No. 9 Seattle to secure the program's first ranked win since 2019 and first top 10 win since 2007.

"We are incredibly grateful for Aaron and all that he has done for Gonzaga men's soccer on and off the field," said GU Deputy Athletic Director and Chief Operating Officer Shannon Strahl. "He is a great Zag, and we fully support him in his future endeavors."

Chris McGaughey joined the coaching staff prior to the 2023 season after spending time at CSU Bakersfield. The Northern Ireland native has also played soccer professionally, representing Portadown FC in the Irish Premiership for four years.

"I am incredibly grateful to Coach Aaron for the opportunity to join a top institution and program like Gonzaga," McGaughey said. "I know the ambition that this staff, team and athletic department share, and I am fully committed to adding to this in any way that I can. My family and I are very excited to be joining the Gonzaga and Spokane community and I am looking forward to getting started."

Kyle Sweeney is a staff writer.

JT Wenger appointed head coach of GU volleyball program

By KYLE SWEENEY

Former UT Arlington head coach J.T. Wenger has been named Gonzaga University's new head volleyball coach, Athletic Director Chris Standiford announced.

Wenger leaves UT Arlington after eight seasons, where he led the Mavericks to 141 wins. This past season, Wenger guided the team to a 29-3 record, including a perfect 16-0 mark in the Western Athletic Conference. UT Arlington claimed both the regular season and tournament conference championships for the first time since 2002, and Wenger was named the WAC Coach of the Year.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead Gonzaga volleyball into the next chapter of success," Wenger said in a news release. "I want to thank Athletic Director Chris Standiford and Associate AD Heather Gores for entrusting me with the well-being of the student-athletes in the program, and I can't wait to get in the gym."

Wenger has previously served as an assistant coach at Michigan State, Colorado and UCLA. He played collegiate volleyball at UCLA from 2000 to 2004, winning a national championship in 2000.

Wenger replaces former head coach Katie Wilson, who stepped down after three seasons at the helm of the program. Wilson concluded her tenure with a 10-74

record, including 2-50 in conference play.

GU is set to join the Pac-12 Conference following the 2025-26 season across all sports. Wenger has already made moves toward securing a competitive future for the Zag volleyball program. The newly appointed head coach successfully recruited Sjakkie Donkers from his previous school, UT Arlington. The Brabant, Netherlands native was the named as the WAC Co-Freshman of the Year last season, with the sophomore outside hitter averaging 2.98 kills on a .262 hitting percentage.

Wenger's accolades and winning culture will hopefully translate to a GU program that has struggled in previous seasons. The new head coach will look to wipe the slate clean for GU volleyball and restore the program to national contender status.

"Gonzaga's vibrant athletic culture is world renowned, and I am fortunate for the opportunity to represent the institution," Wenger said. "I look forward to developing relationships across Spokane and integrating my family into the community. I am excited for the potential of Gonzaga Volleyball in the WCC and beyond."

Kyle Sweeney is a staff writer.

Zags rise to No. 16 in AP Poll

By CAM MCCANN

Following its second five-game win streak of the season, Gonzaga University men's basketball has moved up to No. 16 in the latest Associated Press Top 25 Poll.

GU won both of its matchups last week by double-digits, including a 93-80 win over San Diego and an 88-75 victory against in-state rivals Washington State.

USD's offense set a season-high for 3-pointers made and equalled its highest point total. Despite this unprecedented effort from the Toreros, GU head coach Mark Few and his team had an even stronger offensive outing.

Ben Gregg scored a season-high 23 points, while Khalif Battle contributed 20 points of his own. Ryan Nembhard dished out 11 assists, with the senior guard currently ranking second in the nation in assist total. Graham Ike's performance was a statistical "head-scratcher" as he grabbed a career-high 19 rebounds and dropped 15 points despite only making one field goal the entire game.

"We had some stretches where we did some really nice things and some stretches that would kind of make you scratch your head a little bit," Few said of GU's performance against San Diego.

In the latest edition of a renewed rivalry matchup, Washington State gave GU fans a scare by keeping the Zags close in the first half. Despite losing four players due to injuries throughout the season, WSU head coach David Riley had his team leading for a majority of the first half, propelled by an early 10-0 scoring run.

Even though Riley's squad shot the ball at a 55.6% clip and went 45.5% from beyond the arc, GU led at halftime

due to extra possessions. WSU and GU made the same amount of shots from the field, but the Zags forced 12 turnovers and grabbed seven offensive rebounds to give them more cracks at the basket.

The second half saw Battle come out and nail an opening 3-pointer, which started a 24-5 run to begin the half. After breaking the game wide open in the opening moments of the second half, the Zags cruised the rest of the way to victory.

As for the rest of the AP Poll, three GU opponents remain ranked: No. 8 Kentucky, No. 14 UConn and No. 25 Baylor. Kentucky dropped two spots after a road loss to No. 23 Georgia, but the Wildcats followed the 17-point loss by beating No. 15 Mississippi State on the road to cushion their fall on the poll.

UConn dropped five spots after a loss on the road to Villanova, with the home team winning the turnover battle 13-6 and getting to the free throw line nine more times than the Huskies to pull off the upset.

Baylor remains at No. 25 after taking down both Cincinnati and Arizona State. The Bears held the former to 48 in a defensive slugfest before holding the latter to 36.7% from the field.

Three future or current Zag opponents received votes in the poll. West Virginia remains on the cusp of the top-25 list, receiving 61 votes, while San Diego State and Saint Mary's received fewer than five votes each.

With just six more AP Polls left in the regular season, GU will likely need to either go undefeated through conference play or lose a road game to a top-end West Coast Conference team to remain in the top 25 for the remainder of the season.

Cam McCann is a sports editor. Follow him on X: @CamMcCann253



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: @racheltrussellphotography

Battle kicked off a 24-5 run for the Zags in the second half to give them the win over Washington State University.

Gonzaga winter break sports recap

By KYLE SWEENEY

With the end winter break and the 2025 spring semester upon us, students are finally back on campus and ready to roll for the rest of the school year. However, winter athletes have still been traveling and competing during the nearly four-week break.

Milestones were reached, teams found their groove and new coaches have made their way to Spokane. So, here is everything that you may have missed while enjoying the break.

Women's Basketball:

After a back and forth start to the year, the Gonzaga University women's basketball team has found its groove and is on a four-game winning streak. GU started conference play during break after a 79-50 throttling of Eastern Washington in the Kennel. After losing a thriller in overtime to Oregon State, GU has defeated Pepperdine, Portland, Santa Clara and Washington State to improve its record to 10-8 (5-2 West Coast Conference).

This four-game winning streak is due to a mixture of fantastic performances along with returned depth. Both Tayla Dalton and Bree Salenbien have recovered from injuries and have returned to the lineup, allowing for a fresh roster to have greater depth as they enter the heart of conference play.

In the Saturday victory over Washington State, Dalton also secured her 1,000th point of her career, a huge milestone for the graduate senior.

Maud Huijbens won WCC Player of the Week on Jan. 6 after two dominating performances, averaging a blistering 21 points and 11 rebounds on 73% from the field against Portland and Santa Clara. Last season's WCC Sixth Woman of the Year has been heating up though the early conference slate, bringing her season averages to 9.4 points and 7.8 rebounds, both career-highs.

Yvonne Ejim has etched herself into GU history. On Jan. 4, Ejim became the third Zag in women's basketball history to reach the 2,000 point milestone, joining Heather Bowman and Courtney Vandersloot. With 2,020 career points, Ejim needs just 145 more points in 13 more regular season games to pass Bowman and become the team's top scorer. Ejim was also named to the Women's Wooden Award Midseason Top 25 Watchlist on Jan. 7.

Finally, Allie Turner was named WCC Freshman of the Week on Monday for the fourth time this season. Turner scored a team-high 20 points in Pullman to help defeat Washington State, hitting four threes in the contest.

Men's Basketball:

No. 16 GU men's basketball has boosted its record to 14-4 and a perfect 5-0 in WCC play following a win against Washington State on Saturday.

Just before conference play began, GU lost in a 65-62 thriller against UCLA in Los Angeles. Since then, the Zags have breezed through conference play, winning the first five contests with an average

margin of victory of 18.4 points. GU is one of just two schools in the nation with six different players averaging double-digits in scoring (Graham Ike, Khalif Battle, Ryan Nembhard, Braden Huff, Ben Gregg and Nolan Hickman).

Nembhard, the point guard, was named to the Men's Wooden Award Watchlist. Nembhard is averaging 11.4 points and 9.4 assists on the season, with the 9.4 assists being one decimal point shy of the best in the country (Louisiana Tech's Sean Newman Jr. averages 9.5).

Additionally, two GU basketball legends were honored during the break. Former GU center Domantas Sabonis will have his No. 11 jersey honored on Saturday against Santa Clara. Sabonis joins Frank Burgess, John Stockton, Adam Morrison, Kelly Olynyk and Dan Dickau to become the sixth GU player to have his number retired.

And on Dec. 19, head coach Mark Few was named a first-time nominee to the Basketball Hall of Fame. Few joined nine other first-time nominees, including Carmelo Anthony, Maya Moore and Lisa Bluder.

Women's Volleyball:

After a disastrous 1-27 campaign during the 2024 season, GU women's volleyball hired J.T. Wenger to replace former coach Katie Wilson. Wenger, who coached at UT Arlington, is the reigning Western Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Wenger coached UT Arlington to a 29-3 record last season, earning an NCAA Tournament berth. Wenger departs from the Mavericks after eight seasons in Arlington.

Wenger announced the signing of incoming sophomore Sjakkie Donkers, who played with Wenger at UT Arlington as a freshman. The Brabant, Netherlands, native was named Co-Freshman of the Year in the WAC last season after posting 289 kills and finishing top-10 in the conference in kills per set. Donkers also competed in the U20 European Volleyball Championships for the Netherlands in early 2024.

Women's Soccer:

GU women's soccer became active in the transfer portal, adding Clemson transfer defender Anna Rydin to the roster. In her lone season as a Tiger, Rydin only played in two games after earning all-state honors at Chapel Hill HS in North Carolina. Second-year coach Katie Benz looks to Rydin as someone who will make an immediate impact on next year's roster.

Men's Soccer:

GU men's soccer player Ben Augee

GU SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, Jan. 16

- ➔ **Women's basketball vs. Portland, 6 p.m.**
- ➔ Men's basketball at Oregon State, Corvallis, Oregon, 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17

- ➔ **Indoor Track and Field at Spokane Sports Showcase, Spokane, Washington, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**
- ➔ **Women's tennis vs. Michigan State, 4 p.m.**

Saturday, Jan. 18

- ➔ **Indoor Track and Field at Spokane Indoor Challenge, Spokane, Washington, all day**
- ➔ Indoor track at UW Mile City, Seattle, Washington, all day
- ➔ **Men's tennis vs. Eastern Washington, 10 a.m.**
- ➔ **Women's basketball at LMU, Los Angeles, 2 p.m.**
- ➔ **Men's basketball vs. Santa Clara, 6 p.m.**

Wednesday, Jan. 19

- ➔ **Women's tennis vs. Eastern Washington, 3 p.m.**

Home games in bold



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: rachelkrussellphotography

Bree Salenbien is back on the court after her third ACL tear in early 2024.

was drafted to Cincinnati FC in the third round of the MLS Draft. Augee played in 17 games for GU this season, leading the team with five goals and three assists. Augee's most notable goal was a game-winner against No. 9 Seattle, GU's first win over a top-10 team since 2007.

Kyle Sweeney is a staff writer.



TELLER SERVICES AT SPOKANE DIVISION LOCATION

Hey Zags! BECU is all in for Spokane.

As your local credit union, we're proud to serve Gonzaga and the local community. Stop by for help from our skilled service tellers with everyday banking, loans, transfers and more. We're here to help you achieve your financial goals.

Learn more at becu.org

Visit us to learn more about BECU membership:

Spokane Division Neighborhood Financial Center
916 N Division St., Spokane, WA 99202
becu.org | 800-233-2328

Go Zags!

Insured by NCUA. Membership required. Restrictions apply. All Pacific NW residents are eligible to join.