

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

A student publication of Gonzaga University

MAY 1, 2025

www.gonzagabulletin.com

VOL. 136 ISSUE 20

## Trump cuts funding to AmeriCorps

Nine AmeriCorp staff members at GU placed on administrative hold

By ALEX HERNANDEZ

Nine AmeriCorps members serving in Gonzaga University's Center for Community Engagement, the Office of Sustainability and the Institute for Water, Climate and Environment have been placed on administrative hold due to funding cuts from President Donald Trump's administration.

Molly Ayers, the assistant dean of GU's community engagement center, said the university was notified on Monday and that it has not determined a course of action for those placed on hold.

"This unforeseen action necessitates the immediate suspension of their service as AmeriCorps volunteers, detrimentally impacting crucial programs that support literacy in local schools, provide aid to families experiencing homelessness, address food insecurity and advance sustainability efforts in the Spokane community," said Jamie Aitken, GU's senior director of strategic communications, in a statement released earlier this week.

The changes to the AmeriCorps volunteers' hiring status are a result of the termination of a \$20.6 million federal grant to Washington state last week, according to

a statement from Nick Brown, the attorney general for the state. The grant termination has halted all AmeriCorps volunteer and service efforts throughout the state.

Brown signed on to a multi-state lawsuit on Tuesday in hopes to bring back AmeriCorps funding.

"AmeriCorps provides hope and belonging in American communities nationwide. It gives inspiration and purpose to the young people who join its ranks annually," Brown said in the statement. "But the president thinks public programs and public dollars are his to do

SEE AMERICORP PAGE 2

## GU reflects on pope's mercy

By ALEX HERNANDEZ AND NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Pope Francis' commitment to mercy stands out from his pontificate for Rev. Timothy Clancy, a Jesuit and Gonzaga University philosophy professor.

In his calls for just immigration policy and ecological justice and his welcoming spirit toward remarried and queer individuals, Francis prioritized the individual, Clancy said.

"But mercy, I think — and I think Francis thinks — is actually the optimization of justice in that it's justice for the individual given their own circumstances, whereas justice is universal [and] about rules," Clancy said. "Mercy is about how that rule applies in this case where there are mitigating factors."

After Francis' death at 88 years old last week, that value of mercy, along with his desire for simplicity and commitment to the environment, were named by members of the GU community as the impact of Francis' pontificate.

Francis became pope in 2013. He was the first Latin American and Jesuit priest to be at the helm of the Catholic church. In the 11 years of his pontificate, Francis preached the importance of caring for marginalized communities, traveling to meet those communities in places including Myanmar and the Middle East.

"I believe that Pope Francis' pontificate can be characterized by his desire to make known the merciful



ASH ELLIOT IG: @ashpotatphotos

SEE POPE PAGE 3 A Mass of Resurrection for Pope Francis was held on April 22 in the University Chapel.



GU President-elect Katia Passerini chats with students at a meet and greet event on April 14.

MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

## Meet the new face of Gonzaga

By NATALIE KELLER

Becoming Gonzaga University's 27th president isn't something Katia Passerini planned on. The current Seton Hall University provost and senior executive vice president was initially nominated for the position at GU by someone else, and Passerini said she was unsure if she would get the job.

Now, Passerini is slated to make history as the university's first female president, and the soon-to-be leader said she feels right at home with GU's mission.

"Everything kind of worked so beautifully that I really felt that this is the place I need to be now at this part of my life and in my career," Passerini said.

The future president's interest in education began with her parents. Growing up in Italy, Passerini watched both of her parents work their way up from elementary school teachers to school district superintendents.

"Fundamentally, I have absorbed and was socialized into being in education," Passerini said. "The reason why it started is those formative years with mom and dad in classrooms and looking at how students learned and how happy they were. And that stayed with me forever."

She went on to study political science at Luiss University in Rome. Passerini said that being exposed to a diverse student body as an undergraduate instilled in her the importance of bringing people together and considering different

perspectives.

"I fundamentally believe you can have many discussions or many different ideas," Passerini said. "You don't have to agree on all of them, as long as you know you can accept what the other point of view is."

She continued her education by earning an economics degree from the University of Rome II and MBA and Ph.D. degrees from The George Washington University.

Passerini then held positions at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and St. John's University. While serving a stint in leadership roles at Seton Hall, including interim president, Passerini said she was unexpectedly nominated for the

SEE PRESIDENT PAGE 2

## GSBA finishes a successful year

By EMMA KELLY

In a semester of record-breaking voter turnout, well-attended events and improved student club processes, Gonzaga Student Body Association has focused on keeping students engaged and has represented their needs.

To begin the spring semester, GSBA put out a "Be Heard" survey on student research. The survey received 1,100 responses — the largest turnout from any of GSBA's surveys to date, said GSBA President Maddie Ediger.

Ediger said the survey and response helped the university task force take a deeper look into departments and find which areas need more investment in research opportunities for students.

"It was a great way to bring student opinion to university administration," Ediger said.

The new process regarding student club approvals and providing leadership training was also implemented this semester.

Those changes came from the GU President's Council, which works to make sure resources are distributed equitably and effectively, especially when it comes to approving student clubs and their missions, Ediger said.

Ediger said the process helped ensure that student presidents are set up for success and are qualified to be in leadership positions, which helps improve clubs' organization.

"We actually rejected a lot more clubs this year than we have in the past," Ediger said. "Instead, we helped them work with departments to become departmental clubs."

Aside from record-breaking election turnout, in which 27.4% of the student body cast votes, the biggest event of the year was Battle of the Zag Bands on April 4, Ediger said.

An alternative to the usual GU Spring Concert, the event attracted over 1,600 students at a live performance that featured five student bands.

"This is GSBA done well," Ediger said. "Uplifting students, bringing people together and creating community ... I'm really proud of our team for the

SEE GSBA PAGE 2

### INDEX

News.....1-3  
Opinion.....4  
Arts & Entertainment.....5-6  
Sports.....7-8

### OPINION

Dear Katia: An outgoing student's letter to the university's new president.

PAGE 4

### A&E

Zag-made films break into the spotlight in regional film festival.

PAGE 5

### SPORTS

Gonzaga baseball falters against San Diego, loses control of WCC title race.

PAGE 8



**MORE SPACE  
SELF STORAGE**

**BUY 3 MONTHS  
GET THE 4TH MONTH FREE!**

107 S STATE ST, SPOKANE, WA  
WWW.MORESPACEWA.COM | (509)922-2282



**GO ZAGS!**



# Changes and challenges to GU's Florence program

## Gonzaga in Florence boasts record popularity for fall 2025

By HOLLY FIJOLEK

Students were denied acceptance or waitlisted from Gonzaga University's campus in Florence for the fall 2025 semester due to the program's record popularity.

Dean of GU in Florence Jason Houston said this year had the highest number of applicants after COVID-19, and this is the first semester post-pandemic in which qualified applicants had to be turned down.

"This was a little bit of a surprise — a positive surprise — but a surprise that we had so many applicants in the fall," Houston said.

Florence program adviser Julia Boyle said applicant numbers have steadily risen each year since the pandemic, particularly for the fall semester.

With over 18,000 American students studying in Florence every year, Houston said housing availability is the largest limiting factor for students applying to the program.

Additionally, Houston said that if the university increased the spots would be the university's standards for housing would decrease. The decision to not increase the number of spots was made out of a commitment to provide students a positive and memorable experience.

"We have a great reputation as a program because we take great care to house students in pensiones or home-stays where there really is going to be a family-like atmosphere," Houston said. "They're really going to get served home-cooked meals, they really are going to interact with Italians who live in those spaces. Those are really high standards that we adopt, but I'm not ready to change that for bed space."

The selection process for Gonzaga in Florence is based on factors including GPA, major, class standing, graduation date and conduct probation status. Boyle recommends interested students stay flexible and consult with an adviser to create a plan that aligns with their degree timeline.

"If you applied to GIF before but weren't admitted, there's good news — you'll get priority consideration for a future term," Boyle said. "As long as you meet the minimum GPA requirement and are cleared by the Resolution Center for Student Conduct and Conflict, you'll have a better chance of securing a spot."

To accommodate more majors and respond to increasing interest in studying in Florence, Houston said the program has added new spring semester opportunities and programs.

GIF Trento is a satellite program in Trento, Italy, that offers courses focused on sustainability. Houston said it is still run by the GIF program but offers a slightly different experience for students in Italy.

"We do our best to find other opportunities for students to come to Italy and participate in the program," Houston



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

**Florence had the highest number of applicants since COVID.**

said. "Even if the challenge of bed space in Florence is real."

The program will grow to include additional courses, some for science majors.

"GIF has been growing fast, and fall 2025 is set to have one of the largest number of students," Boyle said. "Starting spring 2026, we are launching a GIF computer science track, making study abroad possible for computer science majors who previously could not fit it into their schedule."

With applications on the rise, Houston said he continues to look for opportunities for new contracts with pensiones to allow more of GU the opportunity to visit Italy.

"We do know and recognize and regret that for some students who want to come to Florence in the fall, there's not spots," Houston said. "That's something I'm concerned about daily, thinking about how we can accommodate more students here."

Holly Fijolek is a staff writer.

## Italy's new visa requirements complicate study abroad

By SEAN COUGHLIN

While Gonzaga in Florence is not going anywhere, the Center for Global Engagement is having to adapt quickly to preserve students' study abroad experience due to changes to Italy's visa system.

"We had to pivot very quickly," said Katuska Kohut, the study abroad associate director.

Italy's new law added a requirement that students provide biometric data, such as fingerprints, and deposit these in-person at an Italian consulate. The study abroad office previously sent students' visa applications in batches to the closest Italian consulate where the visas would be processed, approved and mailed back to the university.

According to Jason Houston, the dean of GU's Florence campus, all EU countries will likely add new visa requirements similar to Italy's in the next few years.

The Association of American College and University Programs in Italy, which represents about 150 American universities, is working with the Italian government to find solutions and succeeded in passing an amendment that would allow the minister of foreign affairs to create exceptions to the new requirements, which may allow the universities to return to using batch processing.

"Our intention is that they will carve out exceptions for students, but they haven't yet," Houston said. "We hope that it's going to get better, and we've been told by sources in the government that it will get better."

For students who cannot visit a consulate, the program will offer a shortened 89-day version, just shy of the number of days someone can stay in Italy without a visa. This version gives students a deduction on their program fees, and professors will be obligated to allow these students to take their final exams online.

The study abroad office is also setting up a way for students to request financial support for the additional travel-related costs to obtain a visa.

It has also been working closely with the Italian consulate in San Francisco, which is short-staffed and is having difficulty dealing with the influx of appointments caused by the new law. Appointments are limited, but the GU office was able to get the consulate to set aside time for students from May 12 – May 27.

"I'm really proud of the team. We've all stepped up," Kohut said.

While the future visa requirements for the Florence program remain undetermined, Kohut said the office is doing its best to keep everyone on the same page.

"Our goal in the Center for Global Engagement, particularly in study abroad, has always been to be as transparent as possible," Kohut said.

Sean Coughlin is a staff writer.

## KATIA

Continued from Page 1

position at GU — a university with which she was unfamiliar. That soon changed as Passerini began researching GU.

"Everything spoke to me," Passerini said. "[GU's] mission statement, which is beyond beautiful, really encompasses everything that one can aspire to be, and it's very concrete in declaring what the university is."

For Passerini, GU's mission also ties in with her faith as a lifelong Catholic.

"Faith is not just something that you do — your prayer that you do in church one day of the week — faith is faith in action," Passerini said. "And I think the Jesuits go to the next level because it's contemplation in action."

Michael Reilly, chair of GU's Board of Trustees, said Passerini's connection to GU's mission stood out during the hiring process. He also said she came across as a

careful, thoughtful listener.

"She was the best candidate, and she had the best experience — and we had some outstanding candidates," Reilly said. "She really shines."

Gonzaga University Student Body Association President Maddie Ediger, who served on the Presidential Search Committee, said there was one key word that came to mind when she met Passerini: normal. Ediger said that, despite Passerini's extensive accomplishments in higher education and academia, the future president comes across as grounded, personable and humble.

"She'll talk to you human-to-human on the same level," Ediger said. "That ability to connect and build relationships and immediately put you at ease when you're talking to her is just going to be incredible."

Ediger also said she is inspired by the fact that Passerini will be GU's first female leader.

"It's like, 'Oh, I can see myself in you' as a female leader who's trying to carve

her own path and find her strengths as a woman in a primarily male field of university presidents," Ediger said.

As Passerini prepares to step into her new role at GU, she will take the first year to get to know the university and its community. She said some of her goals are to strengthen GU's Tech Hub aerospace manufacturing partnership and grow international brand recognition.

"When I looked at the vision statement, it talked about 'a premier national university,' and my thought was, 'No, this is a premier global university,'" Passerini said.

In light of funding reductions and increased political influence from the federal government, Passerini said it will be important to support international students, but that the university must first understand evolving situations before it can properly respond.

"We will be able to adjust and make sure that the core mission of the university is safeguarded," Passerini said. "We're

strongly anchored in values such as the common good and protecting the vulnerable."

Passerini, her husband and high school-aged son are poised to move to Spokane, and Passerini said she is excited to call the city home. In her free time, Passerini said she enjoys rollerblading and riding motorcycles — her Kawasaki will be easier to ride in Spokane than the busy streets of Brooklyn.

More importantly, Passerini said, she looks forward to learning more about GU and helping bring the university into the future.

"The students are really aspiring to do more and better," Passerini said. "My message is to continue to seek that and ask us — me and the leadership team and the professors, the faculty — to be a model of that for you. I don't want us to be happy with what we have. I want us to always do more."

Natalie Keller is the managing editor.

## GSBA

Continued from Page 1

creativity and the ways that they've done that."

Reina Geforos, GSBA's Spring Concert coordinator, spearheaded the planning for the Battle of the Zag Bands.

In past years, the concert featured one artist who was brought to campus to perform for students. GSBA changed its structure this year, allowing for a biennial artist performance with intermittent festivals.

"I was essentially starting with a totally clean slate," Geforos said. "And had to think of what type of festival I wanted, where I wanted it, what this festival entailed."

She considered student or community bands and figured out vendors, games, pricing and attendance.

"There were a lot of moving parts for just one person to keep track of," Geforos said. "I think it was mostly just getting an idea, and sticking with it confidently, was the hardest part for me."

In March, GSBA held "Women's Week," a series of events which featured women in the community. Recurring events like "Den After Dark" also contributed to the engagement and community-building among student artists.

Ediger said she is proud of all that she and the GSBA team have accomplished this year, especially making GSBA a welcoming and supportive place for new members.

"We spent a lot of time trying to build community and relationships here," Ediger said. "I hope that for next year they can continue that, so that they can do more out there."

Emma Kelly is a staff writer.



EMMA LARSON IG: @3mmal Larson

**"Topless" was crowned the winner of GSBA's Battle of the Zag Bands.**

## FUNDING

Continued from Page 1

with what he will, snatching them up through the same scheming that federal courts have already said is likely illegal."

AmeriCorps VISTA was created in 1965 for domestic volunteer efforts and revamped during the Clinton Administration. The organization offers college stipends and benefits for its workers in exchange for service to their community.

GU's AmeriCorps positions have existed for 25 years and have served in numerous capacities including in GU's community engagement center. The funding for the positions is received through state grants managed by the Washington Service Corps, a sub-grantee agency.

"AmeriCorps members serve as mentors and leaders of our student volunteers. There is a lasting impact on the lives of our students, as well as the lives of the youth or senior citizens that they've established deep relationships with," Ayers said. "Additionally, many of our AmeriCorps volunteers are recent grads, so they're stepping into the role of living out that mission in the world and are a model for our students and volunteers as well."

For more information about the AmeriCorps organization and its recent cuts, Ayers said to visit the official AmeriCorps website.

Alex Hernandez is the opinion editor



# POPE

Continued from Page 1

love of the Father, as evident by his institution of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015 and his continual outreach to the poor and marginalized 'til his death,” said Matthew Wong, a seminarian at Bishop White Seminary, in an email. “Especially as one in formation to become a Catholic priest, I have been particularly inspired by his pastoral heart.”

Francis also published four encyclicals, including *Laudato Si'*, which focused on the environment and is considered his most famous.

Jacob Dee, a GU first-year student and Catholic, said Francis’ authority as pope gave an increased sense of urgency for environmental issues and that his encyclical integrated faith within the environmental movement.

“I think that *Laudato Si'* basically solidified it as something that is rooted in our faith,” Dee said. “It is not just something that we should just listen to as humans, listening to our sciences. It’s something that is rooted in our nature, that if we care for the environment, we care for ourselves.”

Francis’ pontificate was also notable for its simplicity, as he lived outside of the papal palace in a shared living space.

Clancy said he remembers the story of one of Francis’ first phone call after becoming pope, which was to a newspaper stand he used to pass by everyday in Buenos Aires.

“[This story is] in such contrast to a papal monarch model,” Clancy said. “It’s just such a stark contrast to how the papacy has presented itself up until now.”

Francis also met with many marginalized communities, including those in hospitals and prisons. The pope visited a prison on the Thursday before he died.

“I was struck by a picture of the late Pope Francis bending over to wash the feet of several women prisoners on Holy Thursday,” Wong said in an email. “This ritual of the washing of the feet dates back to early church and is inspired by John’s account of the last supper where Christ is master yet servant of all. It is an expression of profound humility.”

While the selection of a new pope will begin on May 6, Francis’ legacy as “the people’s pope,” will be one of humility and firsts.

“It gives me a lot of hope because a lot of the new people that are going into the church are people that believe in Pope Francis’ teachings, and by following that man, the ability to be humble, the ability to care for the environment — that leads to a really positive impact,” Dee said.

Alex Hernandez is an opinion editor and Noah Apprill-Sokol is the editor-in-chief.



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo\_b00th

Shiosaki is retiring after 30 years with GU's Student Media program.

## Shiosaki's farewell to Student Media

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

One of the most impressive aspects of Joanne Shiosaki, assistant director of Student Media, is that her cat became a viral meme garnering attention of over 48 million viewers.

The second most impressive aspect of Shiosaki is that she has been at Gonzaga University for 30 years and has grown the Student Media program.

Shiosaki will retire at the end of May. “This is my baby, and my baby has grown up,” Shiosaki said. “I was a little worried at first, had anxiety about leaving something that I kind of created, and then I realized that there’s just a lot of really wonderful people here at Gonzaga before me. I see really wonderful, caring people here, and I know there’s going to be wonderful caring people afterwards.”

Shiosaki has lived in Spokane for most of her life, grew up in the Hillyard neighborhood.

Her first glimpse of GU was in her first year of college, but she transferred to Eastern Washington University. She returned to GU in 1994 after working at a series of marketing jobs.

“I remember walking up the staircase right there in College Hall, and I remember the real plushy carpet, and I walked all the way up here,” Shiosaki said. “We interviewed in [The Bulletin office]

little more than 30 years ago, and then I got that job.”

Shiosaki said that she was hired because the university was looking for a part-time worker to oversee the budget. At the time, students were managing the finances of Student Media.

Shiosaki became a full-time employee a few years later, as GU’s Student Media expanded.

That expansion continued as Shiosaki watched Student Media evolve from a small student-run group to one of the organization that hires the most students.

Some of these changes include Student Media transitioning to be under the Student Affairs division and the addition of two new journals: *Our Voices* and *One World*, the latter of which is no longer published.

Advertisement sales also grew from a one-person team that sold about \$20,000 to a full staff that has raised an estimated \$190,000 in sales.

Shiosaki also said the publications have become better each year.

“The paper keeps getting better every year, the yearbooks, the journals, all of those get better every year — that’s student work, that’s not me,” Shiosaki said. “But I am just really proud of the development I see in students and what we do for students.”

Shiosaki has been instrumental in that

growth, not only bringing her expertise, but her willingness to mentor students.

Morgan Scheerer, the program manager for Student Media and former *Bulletin* editor-in-chief, said she has learned a lot from Shiosaki and has appreciated her mentorship.

“She loves *The Bulletin*, and she loves *Spires* yearbook, and she loves the journals, but it’s not really about the publications, it’s about the students, and she loves the students,” Scheerer said.

Shiosaki has also brought a sense of humor to the office, including decorating the entire office with memes. She also includes them in her presentations and even in emails.

“There would be people who are just absolutely kind, and I was sending a note to say thank you. And then I just started adding memes like ‘You are as great as a puppy winking’ and stuff like that. Because who doesn’t like a cute puppy or cute cat?” Shiosaki said. “So I would find these cute memes to say thank you to people, just brighten their day or say congratulations.”

Scheerer said her humor goes beyond just memes.

“Well, she loves a meme, but also I think she just really loves to laugh,” Scheerer said. “And I think one thing she’s so good at is making things funny not at the expense of other people.”

Shiosaki said her proudest moments at GU will be the relationships that she has formed in Student Media.

In her 30 years, Shiosaki has worked with hundreds of editors, writers, graphic designers and sales representatives — all students whom she considers friends, and many of those relationships she still keeps in contact with via social media.

“There’s really nice people here, really great people here,” Shiosaki said. “I guess really, when you look at the length of longevity that I’ve been here, it’s really this combination of all the people that have come to this campus, whether it’s student, faculty or staff, that really adds to this life of the university. It’s a really beautiful thing.”

Shiosaki said that saying goodbye to Student Media is difficult but trusts that it will continue to grow and be a welcoming environment for students.

“The mission of Gonzaga is what is the driving focus that unites us all, and being one of the pieces of Gonzaga for the last 30 years in a little office called Student Media, I did my part for that, and Morgan and others will do their part,” Shiosaki said. “I see that the mission focus has something that will keep Gonzaga going for perpetuity.”

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

# BULLETIN BOARD

GONZAGA CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

New postings go online daily. <http://www.gonzagabulletin.com/classifieds/>  
Questions email: [classifieds@gonzaga.edu](mailto:classifieds@gonzaga.edu)



### Jimmy Johns Hiring!!

\*\*Hiring at 6515 N. Division St.\*\*

- Drivers able to work weekends and weekday closing shifts.

- In shops able to work weekday and weekends.

Stop by the store to apply or contact Courtney at [SpokaneJimmyJohns@gmail.com](mailto:SpokaneJimmyJohns@gmail.com)



## MILKSHAKE & BURGER OF THE MONTH

### COLD BREW MILKSHAKE



\$4.99

## TERIYAKI PINEAPPLE BURGER

\$8



**AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE**  
SPOKANE'S LITERARY LANDMARK  
**YOUR PERSONAL BOOKSTORE**  
402 MAIN AVE SPOKANE WA 99201  
(509) 438-9298  
<https://auntiesbooks.com/>

SOMETIMES THE DRAGON WINS

Cards, D&D, Books, Games, Comics, Figures, and more!  
**MERLYN'S**  
W 15 Main 509-624-0957  
[WWW.MERLYNS.BIZ](http://WWW.MERLYNS.BIZ)

**Uncle's Games**  
Puzzles & More!  
**GAMES, JIGSAWS, TOYS, AND MORE!**  
404 W. Main Ave, Spokane, WA 99201  
(509) 456-4607  
[unclesgames.com](http://unclesgames.com)



# What does the college group project say about our political landscape?

Ah, the dreaded college group project. This time of year, nearly every professor assigns numerous group projects to help determine your final grade. Group projects are notoriously frustrating and unfulfilling —just one notable similarity between group projects and the U.S. government.

The first time your teacher introduces a group project, the misery in store is not yet obvious. The project is still filled with possibilities and the hope that you will not end up doing all the work. That feeling of possibility is similar to how I felt as a small child in American history classes when my teacher explained the American democratic system. As an adult, that feeling has dimmed, becoming more like the stage of the group project when you are the only one texting in the group chat.

As in the American government, politics is a tricky business in group projects, too. If you forget to ask for everyone's phone number in class, you'll have to send an awkward email asking everyone to meet. Once you do finally get everyone on the same

chat, you have to figure out some way to get everyone together amid their busy schedules. God forbid you text the wrong group chat or add someone you are not supposed to — then you have to deal with more awkward interactions on what feels like the smallest college campus in the world.

After you have managed to get the group together to form the project, most of the work seems to fall to one dependable group member. In the government, there are only a few politicians we can depend on to get things done, and all the other politicians simply ride on

the coattails of their success.

A significant criticism against the Democratic Party after Kamala Harris' loss last November was that the Democrats failed to present a unified front to the American people. Because Democrats seemed all over the place, moderates were unwilling to vote blue. Group projects make it incredibly obvious who is not on the same page. When you have a few group mates who are not on the same wavelength, the presentation is not nearly as strong. It is especially noticeable with the members who did not do any of the work.

Democracy and government only operate well when we all decide to compromise. Sometimes you have to compromise on the quality of your project for your own sanity. You cannot spend all of your studying time completing the project because you inevitably have four other group projects you have to complete this week, too. Thus, the cycle continues.

On the other hand, sometimes you strike gold and have other group members who are interested in getting the project done. The project works exactly as it should, the presentation goes smoothly and your final grade reflects the ease. Every blue moon, the U.S. government strikes gold, too. It has not happened in my memory, but I hope democracy will work as it should and the right people will be in public office. For now, we just hope we get by in class with a hard-earned "C."

Emily Niemann is a news editor.

## Pope Francis modeled servant leadership, contrasting selfish political climate

Maybe JD Vance didn't kill Pope Francis. However, the faux-machismo political movement that Vance represented as one of the last people to shake Francis' hand is an offense to the years of humble leadership that the Pope brought to the Vatican. We should all mourn his death.

Francis taught us that love and empathy are non-negotiable tenets of the Catholic faith. He stood up for migrants, the poor and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. He was one of western Europe's most vocal proponents for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East. He taught us that religious differences are not an inevitable point of conflict. He brought environmental stewardship to the center of the Catholic mission. Most importantly, he didn't just profess these ideals — he lived them. Material simplicity, unassisted living in an unglamorous apartment, public transportation and an ambivalence to personal security are all rare traits

to find in the life of one of the world's most powerful figures.

Francis' death, though not unexpected, leaves an unfortunate vacancy in the world. He gave us a sense of moral clarity, a sense of what it means to act according to principle and not private interest. This is in short supply among our political leaders in the United States.

Roughly 100 days into the second Trump administration, we've seen

illegal deportations, support for authoritarian leadership, crackdowns in all areas related to diversity, attacks on higher education and scientific institutions, global and domestic economic instability and worst of all, leaders who will never actually have to live in the reality they are constructing.

Better than anyone in recent memory, Francis showed us that a true leader exists in the same spaces, rides the same bus and owns the same things as the people they are elected to lead. As soon as these connections are severed, so too is the legitimacy of their power.

As we move forward in an era where politicians are effectively an isolated class who happen to get along quite well with billionaires and global corporations, I hope that our memory of Francis stands the test of time. He leaves us with an inspiring and timeless model for how personal power must always be checked by humility.

Francis' legacy as a leader will

transcend the papacy. He did not just act for the Catholic church and its constituents but also for interests far beyond. This is a rare quality not found in global politics, where ideology and sectarianism threaten all manner of empathy and basic humanity in our political institutions.

We also have a lot to think about at home, at a university that shares the Jesuit ideals that Francis brought to the papacy. We should continue to use his legacy as a model for our institutional values. This means renewing our commitments to global peace, the environment and our community as we foster our diverse student body. Regardless of what the world says, Francis showed that doing so is not a political statement.

Maddox Reimer is a staff writer.

### The Gonzaga Bulletin

Editor-in-Chief

Noah Apprill-Sokol

Managing Editor

Natalie Keller

News Editors	Laura Erickson Henry Krueger Emily Niemann
Arts & Entertainment Editors	Kaya Crawford Shel McLaughlin
Sports Editors	Cam McCann Zach White
Opinion Editor	Alex Hernandez
Photo Editor	Lucy Booth
Digital Editors	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

## An open letter to GU's new prez

Dear Dr. Passerini, I hope this letter finds you well. Ahead of your transition to the Gonzaga University presidency, I am writing to share some of my experiences in this place and some things you should know about the community you are stepping into.

When I was a freshman heading to GU, I asked my parents to pull over on the side of the road because I was so nervous I thought I was going to throw up. I was sick to my stomach with the what-ifs ahead of me; after two years of an isolating pandemic, college felt overwhelming. But soon after dropping off my bags in front of Catherine-Monica Hall and saying goodbye to my parents — sooner than I would have thought possible — GU became my home. I met my best friends and current roommates by week's end and started building a life here.

Nearly four years later, I am once again on the precipice of a major new chapter, but now the thought of leaving is what has my stomach in knots. I have truly come to see GU as a magical place — something about this 150-acre plot of land brings out the best in people and inspires transformation.

While I have loved my journey here, it's time for one last victory lap and for me to give up my place for a new generation of Zags. I am not alone in this; in addition to the thousands of other seniors graduating this spring, President Thayne McCulloh is completing his very own victory lap as he says goodbye to being the president at GU.

After 16 years of leading our school and 30 consecutive years on our campus, McCulloh has left some very large shoes for you to fill. While I'm sure McCulloh has



By LILI CATHERSAL

provided you with exceptional advice, there are some things you should know about the wonderful GU community before next year.

#### Building a legacy

Part of what made McCulloh a respected and beloved leader was his emphasis on making GU's name mean something great. He consistently applied to national grants and programs on behalf of our university, built up the school's relationship with the greater Spokane region, sought a Tech Hub designation and recently brought the nation's oldest honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, to campus.

As you are aware, the president is this university's face and voice, and we will rely on your passionate advocacy for our school to move us forward.

#### Engagement

GU's magic comes from its students' inclusion and engagement. Whether it be Kennel Campout, Den After Dark or one of GU's countless clubs, our students find and create community, and we want to see that in our leader. If you make an effort to attend student events on campus, you'll do more than earn brownie points, you'll be telling the student body that you care about what matters to them. So

far, you've shown great promise on this front; just last month we welcomed your attendance at this year's final Story Slam event.

#### Spirit

GU is loud and proud. While there is much more to our school than just basketball, our love for our team is infectious and a force to be reckoned with. We can't wait to make you a Zag and hope you will unboundedly participate in our school spirit. No student wants to feel like our president is just here for a job; it should be clear that she wants to be here. We want to see our love and pride in our school mirrored and validated by your leadership.

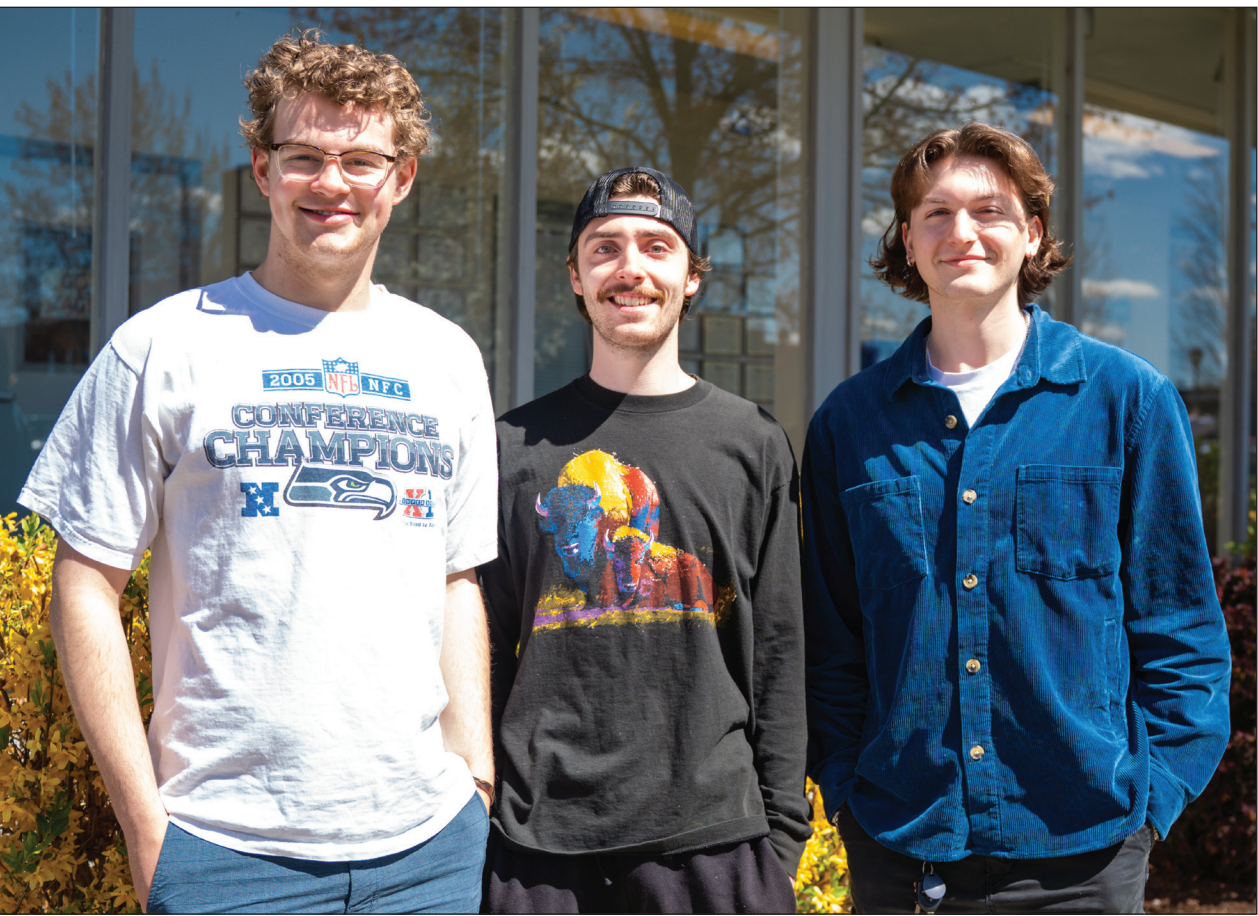
#### See our faults

Lastly, we hope you see our faults. I love this place — GU is my home, and some of my life's happiest memories have taken place on these grounds. But in the same vein, I must recognize that we have growing to do. You come to us unblinded by the comforts of old traditions, and you are uniquely positioned by your experiences to see all that GU can be. The line between tradition and progress is a difficult one to walk, but you must walk it all the same. When students protest or demand changes, you should not only listen and continuously maintain that space for open speech but concurrently help GU grow and improve.

Despite leaving this school in May, I will be a Zag for life and will eagerly follow your first year as president in this magical place.

Lili Cathersal is a contributor.





Luca Gillis, Joe Ierardi and Carson Scallen, left to right, are the Gonzaga University students whose work was recognized.

# Student films honored at KINO festival

By CHARLIE OLTMAN

For the first time, two Gonzaga University students films have been accepted into the KINO Short Film Festival, which took place in Moscow, Idaho, in late April. Created by broadcast majors, the two films were “Stuck in Silence,” by senior Carson Scallen, and “The TikTok Ban,” by sophomore Luca Gillis and senior Joe Ierardi. Matt McCormick, an associate professor of art and integrated media at GU, said the KINO Short Film Festival selects films through a panel of filmmakers and industry professionals, so having a film accepted by the festival is a big deal. “Anytime a filmmaker has work that’s accepted to a film festival, that’s an honor,” McCormick said. “A student who’s very early in their career, even pre-graduation, who is making work that is passing that bar, that is getting into film festivals, is a true honor.” McCormick teaches classes including Intro to Filmmaking and Documentary Filmmaking, where these

students created their short films. “With all these courses, it’s a combination of the technical first,” McCormick said. “Teaching the foundations of camera operation, video editing — all the things you need to be able to know how to do. As we progress through the courses, we also start spending more time talking about the content.” During the classes, students dive into what good and ethical storytelling is. They learn how to incorporate their creativity and artistic ideas into filmmaking, McCormick said. “I love it when the students get excited about their projects and work on them beyond just trying to meet the demands of the assignment,” McCormick said. McCormick said that both of the films met and exceeded the requirements for their class assignments. “It’s so cool to be able to be part of a young filmmaker’s journey as they’re learning the ropes and finding their voice,” McCormick said. Filmmakers can experience many challenges, including

technical problems, and can get caught in the weeds of their project and experience blind spots. McCormick said it is important for filmmakers to have people they trust in the industry who can give critical feedback on their projects. Scallen said his film “Stuck In Silence” focuses on a scientist and a regular person who end up stuck in a silent film. The film follows the pair as they try to build a device to escape. “I started with a few ideas,” Scallen said. “I found some silent film overlay assets that I wanted to use and experiment with. From there, I just somehow jumbled together the whole story and wrote it out.” Scallen said that within a few hours, he shot the short film and started the edits. Once completing the film, Scallen presented it to his class and the Gonzaga Film Festival. “My favorite part is I made it entirely on my own,” Scallen said. “All the characters that are seen in it are me. There’s two of me talking to each other, and there’s a few more of me sitting in the room. I thought that it was pretty fun to lean into and have fun with.” Scallen said he faced challenges in creating a film solely on his own. Framing the shots and making sure he was visible was the major challenge in a project like this, Scallen said. Ierardi and Gillis made their film “The TikTok Ban” about the social media platform’s controversial ownership and status. It is an archival asset documentary, so they were unable to film anything new, Gillis said. The entire documentary was created from scratch with fair use assets on the internet such as news sources and press releases. “We weren’t able to film anything,” Gillis said. “We had tons of ideas for how we could enhance our film, but we couldn’t based on the binds of the rubric for class. I think that was the biggest challenge.” This was the first project the pair worked on together, Ierardi said. “Some people might find it hard trying to edit on the same timeline as someone else, but I think Luca and I worked really well together on this,” Ierardi said. Gillis said that the film was created in February and finalized in March. The pair then submitted to the film festival and learned of its acceptance later that month. After the students created the films for a class project, McCormick encouraged them to revise and edit their work. McCormick later supported Ierardi and Gillis in submitting the documentary to the KINO Short Film Festival, Gillis said. Creating a film, submitting it and having it accepted into the festival was an incredible experience, Ierardi said. The student also said that the encouragement toward student filmmakers and the input from professors on how to create better films is important for the program. “It reflects a lot on our Integrated Media Department and how we’ve grown and how we have a reach outside of the Spokane area,” Ierardi said.

Charlie Oltman is a staff writer.

# Being part of an improv group takes a lot of GUTS

By LAURA ERICKSON

Established in 1987 with the intention of providing students with a fun, late-night alternative to drugs and alcohol, Gonzaga University Theater Sports has been amusing the GU community with monthly improv shows for nearly four decades. Third-year math and theater major Lizzie Hall is one of three students on GUTS’ council this year, filling the role of unofficial president. Despite being involved in theater since the third grade, Hall said her passion for improv didn’t begin until college. After watching GUTS’ freshman orientation show during her first year at GU, Hall joined a friend in attending one of the group’s practices. “I was notoriously a big hater of [improv],” Hall said. “Then I started going [to GUTS], and I never stopped ... it’s wonderful, I love it.” GUTS is made up of roughly 40 student members, all coming from a variety of majors, Hall said. Practices consist mostly of interactive improv games and run from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and shows are typically held on the first Saturday of the month anywhere between 9 and 10 p.m. in the Magnuson Theater. To both maintain the original foundations of GUTS and avoid scheduling conflicts between members, Hall said practices and shows run later in the evening than most club events. Unlike theater, improv doesn’t require the memorization of lines or scene-blocking. “There really aren’t any rules, so you can kind of just do it,” Hall said. “Sometimes it’s funny and sometimes it’s not. That’s the beautiful thing.” The main difference between GUTS shows and practices is the presence of an audience, Hall said. Both are equally unpredictable, given the nature of improv, and involve playing improv games and acting out scenes. Shows, on the other hand, rely on topic suggestions from the audience. “It’s like three minutes on stage and trying to come up with a scene,” Hall said. “After that, it’s gone, it doesn’t matter anymore, it’s very rarely referenced again.” Describing GUTS’ improv format as both competitive and friendly, Hall said the improv games involve separating members into two teams that compete against each other in hopes of scoring points from the audience, which can rank performances on a scale from two to four, and occasionally a five for exceptional performances. “It’s humor — it’s subjective,” Hall said. “Everyone’s gonna find different things that



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Established in 1987, Gonzaga University Theatre Sports is a student improv comedy group at GU focused on community and fun.

are funny. We do that friendly competitive thing because it’s fun.” Standard student tickets for GUTS shows are \$1, and the funds raised go toward supporting the club and occasionally toward a charity partner, Hall said. One show that collected donations was the annual double-feature show between GUTS and GU’s comedy sketch group, Boone Street Hooligans. On April 4, GUTS performed for a different crowd at the Blue Door Theater Group’s weekend-long Northwest Improv Fest, which featured improv groups from Spokane and other cities including Seattle and Los Angeles. Located in downtown Spokane, The Blue Door specializes in improv comedy and is home to many GUTS alumni, Hall said. “It was unlike anything we’d ever done before,” Hall said. “It’s just so cool to bring all of these improvisers from all around and have them come to one place ... we were the only college group there.” Hall’s involvement in GUTS has not only given her another hobby, but a significant network of friends. Hall said she met nearly all of her friends on campus through GUTS and that she is still in contact with former GUTS members who have graduated. “It’s just so awesome to have this wide range of friends from all different ages and majors that I probably wouldn’t have talked to otherwise,” Hall said. “Two of my roommates are in GUTS. So many people I love are in GUTS.” GUTS’ unofficial social media manager, Gus Ricard, is a third-year student majoring in electrical engineering at GU and has been involved with the club since his first semester. Given the high stress of his major, Ricard said he wasn’t planning on engaging in performing arts in college, but GUTS made him change his mind. “It was both really enjoyable and super low-commitment and didn’t conflict with any of my classes,” Ricard said. “It sounds cliché, but it really is the people that keep me there ... I’ve met some people who have made a huge impact on my college experience through GUTS and through the greater community of the Gonzaga theater department.” Ricard said his third year as an engineering student has been tough and that he wouldn’t have been able to get through it without the friends he’s made

through GUTS. Both Hall and Ricard said that while improv is still a skill that can be developed and improved with practice and effort, it’s not as demanding. “It’s mostly, like, how fast you can think on your feet,” Ricard said. “I think it’s just really fun to go onstage in front of a bunch of people and not know what it’s gonna look like for the next two hours.” Hall said GUTS gives students a light-hearted, fun distraction from school and harder, heavy aspects of life. “I love that GUTS is open to literally anyone, whether they want to do improv or not,” Hall said. “We love to have people just come and watch and give us suggestions, even at practices.” GUTS’ last show of the semester is its senior show, which will feature and celebrate GUTS’ senior members on Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

Laura Erickson is a news editor.



# Wanderlust serves wine, cheese and Spokane

By EMILY NIEMANN

Amber Park describes herself as the owner, general manager, cheesemonger, janitor and administrator of Wanderlust Delicato. She spends her days pouring wine and pouring her time into her business.

Wanderlust is a locally owned business in downtown Spokane that offers cooking classes, catering, cheese and charcuterie plates, wine tastings, platters and wine club memberships. In June, Wanderlust celebrates its six-year anniversary.

“I’ve been in food and beverage for over 25 years in Spokane,” Parks said. “A large portion of that was managing, bartending, serving, and [that’s] really where I fell into fine wine. Then I took a job selling fine wine to local stores and restaurants, and I couldn’t find good cheese to go with my good wine at any of these places ... So I decided Spokane needed a cheese and wine shop of our own.”

The name, “Wanderlust,” is exemplified through the maps on the tables that Parks decoupage herself.

“I just love maps,” Parks said. “I grew up in the country. I didn’t have TVs and such growing up, so I had an atlas. That was my best friend. I loved to read about the different cultures and the foods and the languages.”

The business is specifically known for its cheese and wine pairings and offers numerous opportunities for customers to enjoy Parks’ expertise. Parks said she specializes in matching fine wines to expensive cheeses to offer a thoughtful experience to each customer.

“That’s part of my specialty, of just knowing the cheese inside and out, knowing all the details and the facts about them and how they’re gonna pair with things, how they’re gonna age or not age,” Parks said.

Parks said that she tries to cater to each customer’s preferences and dietary needs.

“We keep a pretty healthy inventory of a big range of products,” Parks said.

Chloe Kulmann, a Wanderlust server who has worked closely with Parks for about a year, said she has learned a lot about wines and cheeses from the owner.



ETHAN PHAM IG: @ethan\_pham\_photography

Chloe Kulmann, one of Wanderlust's servers, helps sell the company's wine, cheese and charcuterie.

“I had never really been in the wine world before, so I’ve gotten most of my education through [Amber] and trying lots of different wines here, which has been so helpful and very cool,” Kulmann said.

Wanderlust also offers public and private cooking and wine classes that customers can sign up for and attend. Parks said she hires local chefs from around the community who specialize in cuisines from all over the world. She said she looks for chefs who are knowledgeable about food and can manage the class.

“Finding someone who’s skilled in the kitchen that has a calming but commanding presence and that can teach and hold court in the kitchen, that is definitely a challenge,” Parks said.

Kulmann said the diversity of culinary expertise among the visiting chefs allows Wanderlust to offer cuisines that are not as prevalent throughout Spokane.

“It’s not like just regular cuisines we can get on the daily. It’s quite a range,” Kulmann said. “It’s not stuff you see every day, and that’s what’s really neat about it.”

Those who book private classes typically select their menu and can invite their friends and family to join the cooking class with them. Parks said the private classes tend to be more focused on cooking together and socializing through

food and wine, whereas the public classes are more focused on the knowledge behind the cooking.

“We want everyone, regardless, to have a good experience, just some people are looking for a different experience than others,” Parks said.

Kulmann said the cooking classes are integral to Wanderlust’s identity as a business as they help customers create friendships that last outside the class experience.

“I think one of the coolest things I’ve observed is people meeting each other and having a blast and making friends that they would have never met without a class,” Kulmann said. “We do a lot of team-building stuff as well. It’s a good hands-on experience for people to learn together.”

Kulmann said one of the most interesting classes is the cause-and-effect food and wine pairing. At this class, each attendee is given a set of seemingly “odd” foods that are intended to change the wine’s taste, teaching the class about the effects of different flavors.

“It’s just so educational,” Kulmann said. “A lot of people that are even very into wine learn a lot about wines, and I think that’s really neat.”

With local maps lining the tables and the names of Wanderlust’s wine club

members painted on the crates shelved on the wall, Wanderlust is an ingrained feature of the Spokane community.

“I’ve always made community part of Wanderlust,” Parks said. “I don’t have a lot of print advertising. I do a lot of donating to different fundraisers, and then that way I’m giving back, but also getting the exposure at those [places].”

As graduation nears, Parks said that Wanderlust is family-friendly and the perfect place to catch up with loved ones.

“We don’t care if you wanna sit here and hang out for hours, we’re not trying to turn and burn our tables,” Parks said. “Especially over the parents weekends and graduations, a lot of people come in, and they just hang out and they catch up with their kid.”

Parks and Kulmann both said that Wanderlust is intended to create an experience that is unlike anything else in Spokane.

“[Parks] needs more locations everywhere,” Kulmann said. “Every town needs a Wanderlust.”

Wanderlust Delicato is located at 421 W. Main Ave. Suite 103.

Emily Niemann is a news editor.

## Sudoku By The Mephram Group

Level 

1

2

3

4

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

Solution to last Sunday’s puzzle

3/9/25

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

© 2025 The Mephram Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

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](https://www.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					127					128					129			

COIN A PHRASE

By Zhouqin Burnikel ACROSS

1 Lethal African reptile

6 Go the distance

10 Without

14 Urban honors, for short

18 Once more

19 Brand fit for a queen?

20 Painter with a “Magic Square” series

21 Speech therapy focus

22 Church official who can’t walk in a straight line?

24 Other, in Oaxaca

25 Opposed to

26 Tavern quaff

27 Genre for FKA Twigs

28 Bottom part of a San Diego Chicken costume, e.g.?

30 Private dinner?

32 Fifth of August?

33 Movement sparked by Stonewall, for short

35 “Finally done!”

36 Reiwa, \_

40 Tried a bit of

42 Dupes with a Florida twist?

47 String along

49 Praise highly

50 Sign of approval

51 Shrub in the olive family

53 Help out

55 “Invisibilia” network

56 Humana rival

58 Get better

60 Rough drawing

62 Covers with

64 Quick clip

65 Experts in core conditioning?

67 Meh poker hand

69 Damages

70 Hit Ctrl+Z

71 Snake with a healing bite?

75 Bart’s grandpa

76 Clownfish with a lucky fin

80 “On the double!”

81 Crafty retailer

82 Move effortlessly

84 Writer’s block?

85 Dallas sch.

86 Plentiful

88 “White Girls” author Hilton

89 Pancakes sometimes topped with caviar

91 One who’s gone fishing

93 Jackpot for a pork lover?

98 Sources of aerial shots

100 Hami or honeydew

101 Drug taken on some trips

102 Judge who swings for the fences

104 Capital with a namesake 101-floor skyscraper

106 Bozo

108 Foot part

112 Near misses in regime changes?

114 Welsh dogs

117 Pizza choice

118 Bones in a cage

119 Seal hunter

120 Quiet type with unexpected punchlines?

122 “The Lost Bookshop” novelist Woods

123 Ran out of juice

124 Knight’s mount

125 In the know

126 Ship out

127 Listening devices?

128 U.N. member until 1991

129 On edge

DOWN

1 Respectful address

2 Like parkour athletes

3 Cornfield challenges

4 Industry, casually

5 “The Menu” star

6 Tiny tweak to an atomic clock

7 With the bow, musically

8 Temporary fix

9 Sandy shade

10 Danish toast

11 Fiction genre that may use chat logs and social media posts

12 Squishy indoor toy

13 A-line line

14 Locked horns

15 “Jiminy Cricket,” e.g.

16 Tycoon on the Titanic

17 Ill will

19 Match

23 Bedtime story?

28 Mr. with a dark side

29 Negative spot

31 Put on

34 “The Mole” host

37 Stage and screen legend

39 Marlee Matlin

41 Experienced

42 Salad dressing choice

43 Trade show

44 Mower’s target

45 Complete

46 Poetry showdowns

48 “Good going”

52 Letters of affection

54 Some MLB batters

57 Sign of trouble

58 “Get a move on!”

59 “Cruella” star

61 Class for a future exec

63 Bridge measure

65 Pop-tops

66 “Guernica” style

68 Have no help

69 Place with key cards

71 Can. lawmakers

72 “It’s Raining” singer Thomas

73 Tournament format

74 Animated frame

75 Shipshape

77 Totally amazing

78 Burrito holder?

79 Norse god who drinks from Mimir’s well

82 Purring pet, in Peru

83 Dwindles

87 South Africa’s “Jacaranda City”

90 Young fellas

92 Brought in

94 Little rascals

95 Price to pay

96 Draws out

97 Pixielike

99 Dish at a tea party

102 Land parcels

110 Still in the game

105 Tablets with passcodes

107 Like sharp cheddar

109 “Bummer”

110 Wildlife refuges

111 Host of a roast

113 Honor system

115 Sonnets’ more adorning kin

116 “Get lost!”

120 Stephanie of “Joy Ride”

121 Get behind





90+ Project seeks to mitigate the "pricing out" of youth in soccer.

# Spokane youth soccer gets GU help

By JENNA JOHNSTON

When Russ Davis co-founded 90+ Project in Spokane, he had a vision: to break down the barriers that prevented youth from playing soccer. In the decade since his project officially became a nonprofit, 90+'s mission has remained true to the community.

90+ seeks to grant access to soccer for every child regardless of financial situations and hopes to teach character, leadership and mental wellness. Davis said soccer isn't just about kicking a ball, but also building life skills that will serve kids long after leaving the field.

"[I] love what [soccer] taught me about life, about who I am as a person, about the importance of camaraderie," Davis said.

That vision has expanded and continues to evolve. Last year, former Gonzaga University men's soccer head coach Aaron Lewis joined a new role at the project.

A primary focus for 90+ is mitigating the increasing cost of soccer, which Davis said is a main problem for youth. 90+ developed a sliding scale model that offers financial assistance to families.

"Soccer was becoming a sport that many kids were priced out of," Davis said.

Transportation is another barrier the program addresses, with 90+ starting an after-school program and ensuring that all students can participate without missing out on transportation to soccer facilities.

As the program grows, so do its offerings. This past year, 90+ began a pilot program for middle school girls, with plans to expand to middle school boys in the fall. This expansion comes after 90+ reached its goal of serving 40 elementary schools in Spokane.

90+ also offers advanced camps and teams for more experienced players who are ready to take their game to the next level. The advanced programs aim to prepare them for competition at the same tournaments that club teams play in — at a fraction of the cost.

The commitment to character building extends to the program's coaching staff as well. As part of its mentorship approach, 90+ works to address the lack of female soccer referees. The project provides opportunities for women to be certified and to inspire younger girls that there is a place for them within the soccer community.

Lewis is now the 90+ Project's director of programming. The project sends members to Zag soccer games, with the program helping set a record for men's attendance at Luger Field

during the 90+ Project night.

While soccer remains the focus, 90+ is committed to growth and innovation. While expanding the project to other sports isn't part of the plan, 90+ is branching out with creative new offerings such as the soccer chess camp and the female referee licensing program.

With an indoor facility and a growing list of programs for multiple age levels, the future of 90+ looks bright.

"Ultimately, we're building a community through soccer," said Director of 90+ League and Programming Coordinator Stefan Andersson. "As long as we're doing that, we'll continue to expand."

The end-of-season bash on May 24 is set to celebrate the players' growth.

For Andersson, Davis and the entire 90+ team, the future holds great opportunities to continue making a difference through soccer.

The 90+ Project is always looking for new volunteers to help with a variety of roles including summer camps, tutoring programs and coaching roles. 90+ invited GU students and the greater Spokane community to join in making a positive impact — one child at a time.

Jenna Johnston is a contributor.



Lichtie played for Cal Poly for three seasons.

# WBB lands Lichtie

Senior forward brings scoring potential as team rebuilds

By ZACH WHITE

Gonzaga University women's basketball gained its third transfer recruit of the offseason, with former Cal Poly Mustang Sierra Lichtie announcing her move to the Zags on her Instagram page on Saturday.

Lichtie, a 6-foot redshirt junior forward, spent three seasons at Cal Poly before leaving the program for GU. Last season, the Riverton, Utah, native averaged 10.6 points while shooting 42.6% from the field and had 6.7 rebounds per game.

Lichtie recorded her season-high total of 17 points in four different games last season. A double-double performance in the first round of the Big West Championship saw Lichtie score 17 points and grab 13 rebounds in Cal Poly's win over UC Santa Barbara en route to a Big West All-Tournament Team selection.

Lichtie was a four-year varsity player at Bingham High School, where she helped the school win two 6A state championships in 2019 and 2020.

In the 2020 state championship game, Lichtie led Bingham with 18 points before being named 2020 State Tournament Most Valuable Player. She finished her career at Bingham with over 1,000 total points, three All-Region nominations and 2022 Region MVP honors.

GU head coach Lisa Fortier has continued to revamp her roster following Yvonne Ejim's WNBA Draft selection, the losses of Claire O'Connor and Bree Salenbien to the transfer portal and the graduation of Tayla Dalton, Maud Huijbens and Esther Little. Lichtie join a 2025-26 transfer class that includes former Saint Mary's guard Zeryhia Aokuso and former Boise State guard Teryn Gardner.

With their sights set on returning to the NCAA Tournament, the Zags will likely continue to add to their roster ahead of Fortier's 12th season at the helm of the program.

Zach White is a sports editor.



Graham Ike's return to GU marks him as a top candidate to benefit from NIL rulings.

# NCAA proposes direct deposit

Newest chapter of the NCAA's NIL campaign seeks to allow universities to pay athletes directly

By KYLE SWEENEY

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors met on April 21 and proposed new rules that would grant schools the power to pay their student-athletes directly, a revolutionary proposal that has implications with roster spots, including increasing the number of scholarships in women's sports and fostering a new era of amateurism in collegiate athletics.

The proposal included the deletion of 153 rules from the handbook, which will allow schools to dole out financial benefits directly to athletes, according to a report written by ESPN's Heather Dinich. As part of the changes, schools will have until June 15 to opt in to providing the benefits described by the proposal. The changes will take effect by July 1, according to ESPN.

The proposal awaits the approval of the settlement in House vs. NCAA, a case decided in May 2024 that awarded \$2.8 billion in damages to current and past athletes dating back to 2016. The approval of the proposal relies on Judge Claudia Wilken, who presides over the House case along with two other antitrust cases relating to the NCAA.

Two days after the announcement of the new proposal regarding paying student-athletes, Wilken announced that she would delay the approval of the House settlement because of the proposal's inclusion of new roster limits, as reported by ESPN's Dan Murphy.

As part of the proposal, roster spots will be limited based on each sport, which will allow full scholarships to every student-athlete on each declared roster, a move that would also double the number of scholarships in women's sports. However, Wilken delayed approval because some college athletes could lose their spot on their current teams.

"Those class members will be harmed because their roster spot will be or has been taken away as a result of the immediate implementation of the settlement agreement," Wilken wrote in an order obtained by ESPN.

Limited roster spots is the only obstacle in the way of the approval from Wilken, and once approval is reached, schools can begin to directly pay college athletes.

"I think it's a great compromise to allow the athletes that are currently in sports to finish their eligibility without being hurt by the settlement," said Gannon Flynn, a freshman swimmer at Utah, in an interview with ESPN. "I'm very glad the judge recognized that in its current form, athletes will get hurt."

Upon approval of the case, student-athletes will finally get a slice of the revenue pie generated by schools, a pool that includes money from media rights, ticket sales and sponsorships. In year one, each school can share up to \$20.5 million with their athletes, representing around 22% of the revenue headed back to the athletes.

To prevent illegal measures surrounding the sharing of the \$20.5 million cap, the NCAA will add rules to help "add stability and accountability." Every player that earns greater or equal to \$600 will be required to disclose their NIL agreements, and agreements between players and a third party outside of the schools will also be reviewed.

An enforcement group will be created to "provide oversight for rules relating to the terms of the settlement, including third-party NIL and the annual benefits cap," according to the NCAA.

With direct payments from schools to athletes, the NCAA still wants to "distinguish Division I athletics from professional sports," according to the document summarizing the legislative changes obtained by ESPN. In order for athletes to be financially rewarded, they must be enrolled full time and meet standards toward degree requirements.

Kyle Sweeney is a staff writer.





Gonzaga's efforts against San Diego resulted in a 2-1 series loss and a tie at the top of the conference.

DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

# GU falls amid home run hysteria

COMMENTARY  
By HENRY KRUEGER

By Sunday afternoon, it wasn't just about maintaining the top spot in the West Coast Conference title race. It was about how the Gonzaga University baseball team would respond when a weekend — and maybe its season — hung in the balance.

The Bulldogs fought back, but in the end, San Diego had the final say.

After a late collapse Friday and a resilient win Saturday, GU looked poised to finish strong in the rubber match at Patterson Baseball Complex. Max Coupe hit three home runs and Mikey Bell put the Bulldogs in front with a blast of his own, yet bullpen struggles resurfaced late on Sunday. San Diego scored nine runs over the final three innings to flip an 8-6 GU lead into a 15-9 Toreros win.

Now tied atop the league standings, GU has little margin for error. The Toreros (17-26, 11-4 WCC) hold the head-to-head tiebreaker, and the Bulldogs (20-21, 11-4 WCC) still face tough trips to Loyola Marymount (23-22, 10-8) and Portland (18-23, 9-6) before the WCC Tournament in Las Vegas.

Here are three takeaways from this

past weekend's series.

## Home runs galore

For better or worse, the long ball parade defined the series. Across three games, GU and San Diego combined for 15 home runs — 10 of them coming on Sunday alone.

While the Toreros held a 9-6 edge in home runs, nearly all of GU's power came from two players. Jacob Wrubleski hit a pair of home runs in Saturday's 11-4 win. Coupe's three-homer outing on Sunday marked the first by a Bulldog since Brian Kalmer did it at Tennessee in 2023.

The other GU home run during the series came in the third inning of the finale from Bell, highlighting a 2-for-4 afternoon for the redshirt sophomore right fielder.

"Honestly, I've never seen that," Bell said of Sunday's power display. "When it's hot out, I think the park plays a little smaller, but I don't know. I think guys are just finding barrels. It's unfortunate for us that [San Diego] got more than we did."

Bell knows a thing or two about power, though. He homered in five straight games earlier this month and leads the team with eight total long balls.

## Freshman standout

In a weekend where the Bulldogs' pitching staff struggled to keep San Diego's bats at bay, one of the few bright spots on the mound was freshman Karsten Sweum.

After relieving Justin Feld in the second inning on Sunday, Sweum delivered 4.2 innings, allowing just two hits and three earned runs while striking out six.

Sweum, a lefty from Snohomish, Washington, has been a reliable arm for the Bulldogs. In his previous outing, he started against No. 7 Oregon State, lasted five innings and struck out four, allowing just two runs.

Through 16 innings this season, Sweum has a 4.50 earned run average with 22 strikeouts and 12 walks. Five of his eight outings have been scoreless.

"I trust coach [Brandon Harmon] and [Mark Machtolf] and all the coaches with all my heart," Sweum said. "To be able to compete for a team like this, it's special. I've never had that experience before."

## Road to the NCAA Tournament

With three weekends left in the regular season, the pressure is on. Capturing

### GU SPORTS CALENDAR

**Friday, May 2**

- Track and field at OSU High Performance, Corvallis, Oregon, (women's team only)
- Baseball at Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, California, (three-game series)

**Saturday, May 3**

- Men's rowing at Opening Day Regatta, Seattle, Washington
- Women's rowing at Windermere Cup, Seattle, Washington, 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 7**

- Track and field at Whitworth Last Chance, Spokane, Washington (women's team only)

**\*Home games in bold\***

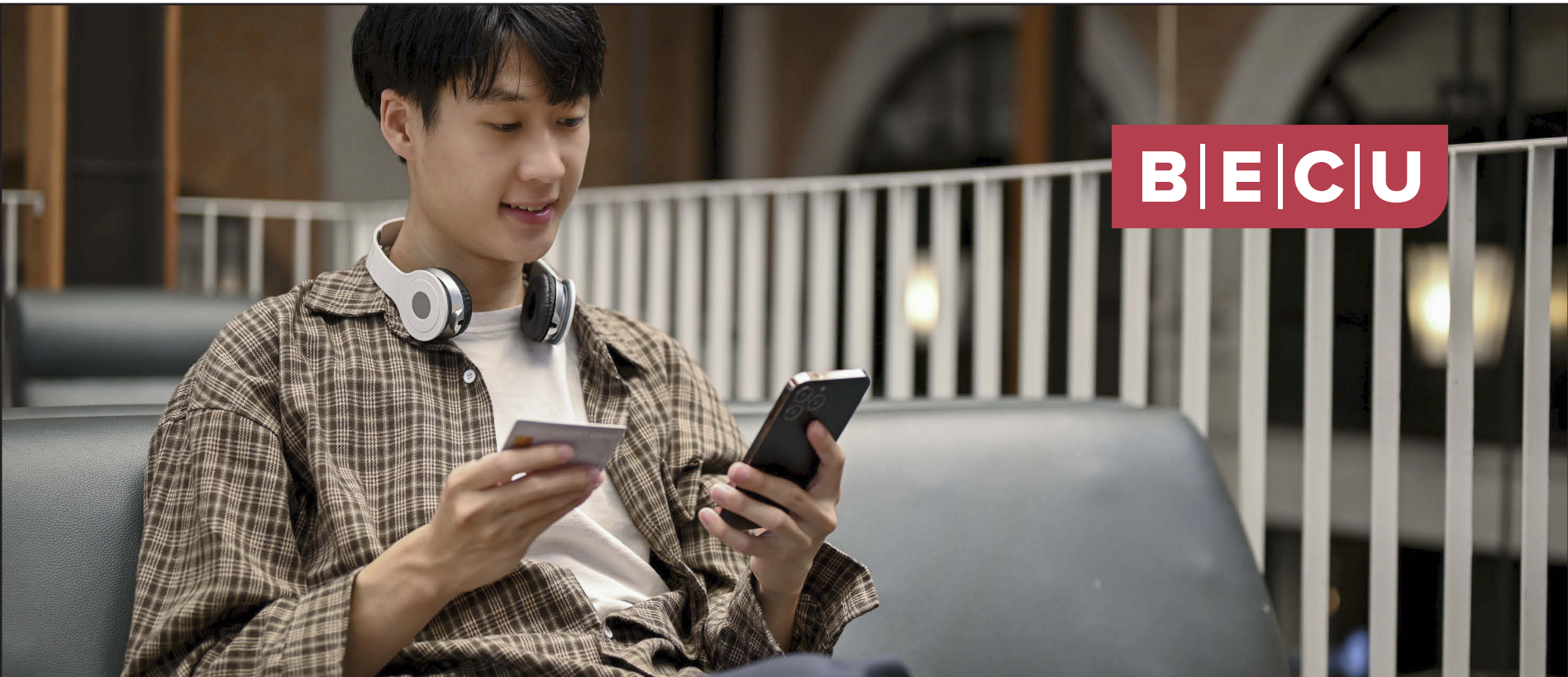
the WCC Tournament appears to be the Bulldogs' most realistic path to an NCAA Tournament bid, and finishing in the top two of the standings would earn them a crucial bye to the second round in Las Vegas.

That urgency was reflected in last Thursday's D1Baseball Field of 64 projections, where GU was listed as a precarious No. 4 seed — with an asterisk noting the team's postseason hopes likely hinge on winning the conference tournament.

Still, Bell isn't too worried.

"We're at the top with San Diego right now, so we kind of control our own destiny," Bell said. "Coach Mac says that a lot. This is what we're playing for. This is what we worked hard for all fall. We're in a good spot — we just have to keep rolling."

Henry Krueger is a news editor.



## INTERESTED IN SAVING?

As a BECU member, you might qualify for a lower rate on your loan with our Loan Reprice Program.

BECU periodically evaluates the credit rating of members with loans at BECU. If your credit score has improved sufficiently and your account is in good standing, we will look at reducing your rate.\*

Learn more at [becu.org/landing/loan-reprice](https://becu.org/landing/loan-reprice)

### Go Zags!

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

\*With a reprice, your rate cannot drop below the lowest current published rate. Loan products available for this benefit may change at any time, the reprice program may end at any time, and we may not be able to lower your rate with each evaluation.



# InfoGRADphic

Class of 2025

What is one word to describe college?

Q All Images Videos News More...

- Growth
- Fun!
- Transformative
- Unforgettable
- Life-changing

Leaving College

What best describes your feeling on leaving college?

RE:Leaving College

I'll miss it, but I'm ready to leave. 49%

RE:Leaving College

I wish I had another year. 31%

What will you miss most?

Check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> friends	96%
<input type="checkbox"/> staff and professors	53%
<input type="checkbox"/> basketball games	52%
<input type="checkbox"/> jack and dan's	51%
<input type="checkbox"/> sed's delicious hot dogs	45%
<input type="checkbox"/> classes	43%
<input type="checkbox"/> intramurals	34%
<input type="checkbox"/> house parties	32%
<input type="checkbox"/> school clubs	24%
<input type="checkbox"/> spokane	30%
<input type="checkbox"/> thayne mcculloh	21%

RE:Leaving College

Finally, it's about time! 7%

RE:Leaving College

Heartbroken, I never want to leave! 13%

38%

Pacific Northwest

17%

Spokane

13%

California

5%

Midwest

9%

East Coast

15%

Other

4%

Abroad

Where are you going after graduation?

What was your favorite campus activity or event?

Basketball Games	60%
Cultural Club Events	8%
Intramurals	9%
Spike Nites	8%
Theater/Dance Performances	4%
Various Speakers	4%
Other	7%

How prepared are you for post-grad life?

I have no idea how to be an adult. My diet is mainly cold pizza and ramen noodles. 18%	Sort of prepared... I got a job, but haven't been up before 10am in years. 16%
Pretty good- I have a job, a car, and a place to live, but how do I do taxes? 43%	I am ready for the real world! I've already started my retirement account! 23%

How many times did you change your major?

Never! 58% Once 29% Twice 10% Three+ 4%

Are you still friends with your freshman roommate?

47% Yes!	14% Kind of, we say hi
23% Not really	16% I avoid them at all costs.

After college, I will be...

- working 40%
- job hunting 14%
- traveling 5%
- no idea! 6%
- attending more school 31%
- maybe moving into my parents' basement? 3%

Will you come back to Gonzaga in the next year?

No, not likely 16%

Probably, if it works out. 34%

Yes, how could I not! 28%

If I get a free ride to Spokane. 22%



# Commencement Weekend Schedule

## Commencement Mass

Saturday, May 10  
2:45-3:45 PM  
St Aloysius Church

## Law Commencement

Saturday, May 10  
9:00-10:30 AM  
McCarthy Athletic Center  
Champagne reception to follow, Law School

## Graduate Commencement

Saturday, May 10  
12:00-2:00 PM  
McCarthy Athletic Center  
Champagne reception to follow, Herak Quad

## Undergraduate Commencement

Sunday, May 11  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena  
Champagne reception to follow, Herak Quad