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Philosophy class brings Plato to the stage

BY BEN VANDEHEY

At Gonzaga, the Philosophy program offers a unique opportunity to explore philosophy through the art of performance.

Co-taught by theater and dance professor Charles Van Pelt and philosophy professor Danielle Layne, Transforming the Erotics is designed to create a student-centered performance of Plato's Symposium. The course prompts students to transform their understanding of Plato’s Symposium and his philosophical devices. The collaboration that has subsequently ensued has brought the students to a more knowledgeable understanding of the nature of love, all in content relevant to contemporary society.

The students’ resulting performance was produced by the Ancient Williamsburg Society Conference last week at GU’s Magnuson Theatre. The class consists of 25 students, with a number of different majors represented. Peetson and the diverse investments of students allowed for the positions to be easily delegated.

“We have a student who has a dance background and so naturally she emerged as our choreographer. We have students who are interested in issues of women and gender studies so they’re helping to make sure that we have students who are interested in issues of women and students allowed for the positions to be easily delegated. Following the development of the course, students were put into groups to create modules for their performance. The students were able to take direction from the professors as authorities, “Layne said. “When you find students who have shared ownership of the production, you won’t be as hesitant to pursue these endeavors outside of campus doors.”

Layne hopes that the students throughout the course will realize the power they have, as sources of creativity, to influence the culture of their school. “It’s one thing to be aware of the climate crisis and have a desire to make a difference and another thing to actually have the skills that can create such a shift. So the longitudinal work that we are building here can actually be applied in different contexts.”

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The adaptation became a direct product of these student transformations, according to Peetson.

“What we have come to is something really unique and unprecedented in contemporary interpretation of how Plato’s Symposium is to each of the different people in the rooms,” Peetson said. “Because each student is part of a group, they all have a kind of shared ownership and are learning something.”

The result was an atmosphere of ingenuity typically not found in traditional lecture-style college courses, Layne said.

“So, rather something that I hope they’ll remember for the rest of their lives.” Layne said.

Throughout the semester, students have assumed various individual roles in relation to the grand project. The class consists of 25 students, with a number of different majors represented. Peetson and the diverse investments of students allowed for the positions to be easily delegated. "We have a student who has a dance background and so naturally she emerged as our choreographer. We have students who are interested in issues of women and gender studies so they’re helping to make sure that we have students who are interested in issues of women and students allowed for the positions to be easily delegated. Following the development of the course, students were put into groups to create modules for their performance. The students were able to take direction from the professors as authorities, “Layne said. “When you find students who have shared ownership of the production, you won’t be as hesitant to pursue these endeavors outside of campus doors.”

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GU students compete at DECA conference

DECA club members Maya Ortiz-Camacho and Mateo Cabrera-Gil finished top-five for their categories

By COURTNEY PEDERSON

Gonzaga University business administration students and GU DECA Division II chapter members competed in the Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida last week.

According to DECA’s website, the organization prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs at colleges and high schools across the globe for careers in a wide array of professional fields.

“DECA prepared me for university and for business,” said Maya Ortiz-Camacho. “It taught me how to be a leader and how to communicate.”

The students were led by professor and Monte Clair Business Administration, Danielle Xu.

“The achievement that students gained in their career competition is a testament to the strength of Gonzaga’s programs and the dedication of its faculty and staff to helping students achieve their full potential,” Xu said.

The four GU students received a ticket to the international conference after finding success at both state and regionals.

The international event took place over three days and highlighted the skills of business students from across the United States.

Participating in both state and national business competitions allowed students to showcase their skills, knowledge and creativity that they learned at Gonzaga in a competitive environment, while also providing opportunities to network with other students and gain valuable insights from business professionals.

From left: Jailen Patel, Maya Ortiz-Camacho, Danielle Xu, Jadon Sansgaard and Mateo Cabrera-Gil pose together at the DECA International Career Development Conference.

“Participating in both state and national DECA competitions provided an educational opportunity, giving students a better understanding of the skills needed in the career field,” Xu said.

“DECA achievements provide an opportunity for students to develop important life skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication and critical thinking,” Xu said. “These skills are essential for success in any field and the DECA experience can help students develop them in a practical and meaningful way.”

Courtney Pederson is a contributor

WASTE

Continued from Page 1

and Gonzaga’s Environmental Organization.

In the end, Welch was declared the winner with 34% of the total vote over the diversion rate for DeSmet. That means 44% of trash thrown away by DeSmet residents could have been recycled or composted.

“I felt like putting an emphasis on being aware of the amount of trash we generate, I felt like putting it in a trunk and just being conscious,” said Michael Montes, the resident advisor on the second floor of DeSmet. “In that sense, we still need to improve, and I feel like being more aware of the topic is important.”

If Wagner, a senior at GU and the president of OCD, said he thinks that the audits are a good way to educate the campus, especially among students.

“When food is not composted and it just put into the landfill, it releases a lot of harmful gases,” Wagner said. “Whereas if it’s composted, it can actually be really good for the environment.”

Composting has been a focus at GU in recent years. The school began purchasing personal compost bins to be distributed in Coughlin Hall and Kennedy Apartments in 2019.

The audit was planned for Earth Week, coming after the school began purchasing personal compost bins to be distributed in Coughlin Hall and Kennedy Apartments in 2019.

“This will not be the last waste audit GU ever holds, as they typically happen more frequently at the beginning of the school year and toward the end of the semester as the weather permits,” Aikin Cristley is a staff writer.

SPOKANE TELLER SERVICES

Our teachers asked — we answered.

Teller services have recently been added to our Spokane Division location. Our members are equipped to help you with things like balance inquiries, check cashing, BECU account transfers and more.

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Sustainability for students: Reduce the waste while reducing the cost

By SHEI MCLAUGHLIN

Living sustainably may seem like it isn’t financially sustainable, but every step toward caring for the planet counts. Even turning off the lights when leaving a room to using shampoo and conditioner bars, there are a multitude of simple sustainability practices.

According to Osbon, the waste reduction educator for the Office of Sustainability, it may be daunting to live more sustainably when there is so much pressure both internally and externally. “You would be interested in that you think you can live sustainably long term is something that I always say is a great place to start,” Osbon said.

Osbon used reusable Keurig pods as an example. She said using reusable Keurig pods can reduce waste and that buying coffee by the bag is cheaper. When it comes to sustainable beauty and wellness products, Osbon said that people will save money in the long term.

Osbon said she uses NAB’s brand shampoo and conditioner bars and that they are a great way to reduce waste while also saving money. She said that they may not smell as similar to regular products but that they last longer.

“A shampoo bar is like $3.51 but then it lasts me three to six months and I think about how many shampoo bottles that are like 8 oz that I would have to buy in that same time period,” Osbon said.

She said that sustainability involves being conscious of waste production by being conscious of plastic products and for a number of products she buys. In purchasing products, Osbon also said it is important to check the ingredients list to ensure it is safe for both people and the planet.

“You should look through the ingredients list and make sure there are no harmful minerals or phosphates,” Osbon said.

She said that an easy way to check the ingredients in beauty and food products is to look for the ingredients in a product. Explain while ingredients are harmful and then rates it on a scale of 1-100 given how safe the product is.

“It is a great way, I use it all the time. Osbon said. “And the best part is that it’s free.”

Anika Rosenshield, The sustainability engagement coordinator for the Office of Sustainability, said that the best way to live sustainably is to use what’s already available.

“It’s tempting to want to have a 12-step skin care routine but I would encourage you to critically consider if that is what they really need,” Rosenshield said.

Rosenshield acknowledged that there is a social pressure to follow the trends and to have the newest products. She said that the best way to counteract that pressure is to critically consider what products are necessary.

Anika from beauty products, there are lots of other ways to be more sustainable, such as using reusable bags and grocery bags, according to Rosenshield. She also said a great way to minimize waste is to purchase more sustainable cleaning products.

“Surely also a brand called 7th Generation that makes highly concentrated laundry detergent which uses less water and less plastic,” Rosenshield said. “They also do laundry sheets, which use minimal and recyclable packaging.”

Rosenshield said that taking up more sustainable habits will create a domino effect that can really make a difference.

Emmy Wagner, the president of the Gonzaga Environmental Organization, said that the most cost effective way to live sustainably is knowing how to dispose of waste correctly. She said that living sustainably can be as simple as knowing what is and not recyclable and composting whatever possible.

Wagner also said that sustainability doesn’t have to be expensive. She suggested reducing waste by turning off lights when they aren’t being used, using stainless steel instead of Ziploc bags and by being conscious of waste production.

“We’re college students, we don’t have a lot of money,” Wagner said. “Just pick one thing as a first step into being more sustainable.”

Wagner said that no matter the level of commitment to being more sustainable, every bit counts.

“It’s absolutely going to be living for the rest of your life,” Wagner said. “Make it the best place it can be because there is nowhere else to go.”

Shel Mclaughlin is a staff writer.

We’re college students, we don’t have a lot of money. Just pick one thing as a first step into being more sustainable.

Emmy Wagner, president of Gonzaga Environmental Organization.
Green energy: Plant decor creates wholesome aesthetic indoors

By SAM MCKIERNAN

Feasting to begin its behavioral adventures.

"I think plants are healing in a way: it kind of brings the outdoors inside," MacLellan said. "You know when you're stressed out it affects your plants. Do my best not to be stressed so that my plants thrive." MacLellan says plants have not improved the mower in her on-campus apartment, but they have also improved her ability to know what she needs to do for her self-care. She trust her plants the same way that she should be treating and taking care of herself.

"Taking care of plants has taught me routine and discipline," MacLellan said. "It showed me how to nurture something. Plants are like an allegory for the self. If I'm stressed out it affects your plants. I do my best not to be stressed so that my plants thrive." MacLellan compares plant owning and care to that of knowing what she needs to do for her self-care. She trust her plants the same way that she should be treating and taking care of herself.

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GU student to open boba and taiyaki shop next to campus

By MARISSA CONTER

For many students at Gonzaga University, Spokane has become a home away from home, but for some, it still misses certain aspects of hometown. Whether it’s a favorite cafe to study at or a go-to place to satisfy a sweet tooth, a GU student is hoping to open a place that Zags can call home.

Kellie Tran, an economics and philosophy major, is planning Uoni Bubble Tea & Coffee, a boba tea and taiyaki shop next to Ultimate Bagel.

“I am Vietnamese American, and I’ve lived in Spokane all my life,” Tran said. “I go to Gonzaga, and I’ve heard from a lot of students that there just isn’t a good boba shop and a place that has Asian desserts like taiyaki, especially compared to where they’re from, like San Francisco or California or Hawaii.”

One day, Tran saw there was a vacancy next to the bagel shop and thought it would be a convenient location for a boba shop since Zags frequently frequent the area. With the help of her father, Tran got to work making her idea a reality. Tran said that getting started was difficult at first, since she is still young and in school, but has enjoyed learning along the way.

“Kellie and I were coworkers at one point at Chaos [Arcade],” said Hunter La Marchè, manager at Uoni. “She always talked about opening up a boba shop, so when she told me the news, like half a year ago, I just had to because I love supporting her and I loved her ideas.”

When it came time to pick a name, Tran settled on “Uoni.” “The name in reference to the famous hometown, which written in the American alphabet would roughly look like “unni,” which translates to “older sister.”

“It felt fitting because I am an older Gonzaga student and some people would refer to me that way,” Tran said. “I think it makes even with the bubble tea concept.”

When selecting the drink and food options for her shop, Tran said she noticed that most bubble tea places in the area are more geared toward novice audiences, and she wanted to return to a more handcrafted boba that can be called home. Tran got to work making her idea a reality. Tran said that getting started was difficult at first, since she is still young and in school, but has enjoyed learning along the way.

When it came time to pick a name, Tran settled on “Uoni.” “The name in reference to the famous hometown, which written in the American alphabet would roughly look like “unni,” which translates to “older sister.”

“It felt fitting because I am an older Gonzaga student and some people would refer to me that way,” Tran said. “I think it makes (509)822-2282

The space itself is really large, and we’re going to have that ‘let’s hang out’ atmosphere, to create merch and stuff for the shop. I’ve been invested in getting cool ideas for that.”

In terms of the space itself, Tran said she wanted it to be a study and hangout spot for Zags, instead of just a “grab and go” situation. “The space itself is really large, and we’re going to have that ‘let’s hang out’ atmosphere, to create merch and stuff for the shop. I’ve been invested in getting cool ideas for that.”

The shop will also feature taiyaki as its food option. Taiyaki is a Japanese pastry that consists of what can be described as a cake or waffle with a filling. It is known for being shaped like a fish, which comes from the word “Tay” which means “sea beast.” Popular fillings include red bean, matcha and custard, but also savory variations that will all be made to order.

When Tran began her pre-opening research, she noticed a ton of group study tables and self-study tables, “This felt really important to me, mostly because I love hanging out there and sitting along with other students and talking,” Tran said. “It was stimulating, because for me, this is a person that finds it difficult to study and I got really bored of study spaces. So, the shop is designed in a way to have a variety of seating.”

“Tran said that she plans to accept Building Buds and also offer a student discount. The shop’s main goal is to provide a comfortable place to study before graduation, and in the event they do so, Tran is considering offering a promotion for recent graduates. “I’ve been in their shoes,” Tran said. “I think it’s really important to feel like you’ve accomplished something, but feel wary about doing so. Tran recommends being open for now. “It sounds scary, but you just have to believe in yourself and be strong, and you can accomplish anything,” Tran said. “It’s really scary to do things with people and talking to other entrepreneurs and dealing with other people, but if you learn to stand your ground, you can achieve anything.”

Uoni Bubble Tea & Coffee will be located at 1217 N. Washington St. To stay up to date on the boba shop, Zags can follow the business on Instagram at @uonibubble.

Marissa Conter is an arts & entertainment editor. Follow her on Twitter: @marissaconter.
T hroughout his time at Gonzaga University, Zach White has contributed valuable insight and analysis to the university's athletics program. White's passion for the sport and his dedication to the community have earned him recognition as a key figure in the university's athletics department. His commitment to excellence and his ability to engage and inspire the community have made him a valuable asset to the university. Under the leadership of White, the Gonzaga University athletics program has continued to grow and thrive. White's leadership has been instrumental in the success of the program, and his contributions have not gone unnoticed. As the Gonzaga University continues to move forward, White's leadership and dedication will continue to be a cornerstone of the university's success. Under White's leadership, the Gonzaga University athletics program will continue to be a source of pride for the university and its community. White's commitment to excellence and his dedication to the sport will continue to inspire and motivate the community as the university moves forward.
By SYDNEY FLUKER

Emma Shogren, her favorite place to be, is on court at her comfort zone. According to Shogren, the best motto that taught her was volleyball.

"Volleyball is my comfort zone. It’s a safe space for me," Shogren said. "I’ve just never tried anything else. I’ve just been meeting new people and playing the sport, and I wanted to find my passion.

Shogren started playing volleyball her first year of high school, was the team out and made the cut in Edmonds-Woodway High School’s volleyball program in Edmonds, Washington. She had moved two hours east from Sequim, Washington, for high school and was hoping to make friends on the team. What she didn’t expect was a newfound passion for a sport she had never tried.

Shogren, who attended Edmonds-Woodway high school, marked the junior varsity team her sophomore year and senior her junior year while trying out with an tipped ankle. She joined Washington Volleyball Academy as a sophomore and heard the relationships she had built with her coaches and teammates from other schools.

"They were near an amazing club with a really nice facility and just made me feel included," Shogren said.

Shogren said that when she started at Washington Volleyball Academy as a sophomore club volleyball player, she was injured with one-on-one attention. Nursing major Kylie Corcoran, said "Her passion is always cheering the loudest and motivating others."

"I want the best for my teammates. As an athlete, I just love to motivate. "I want them to be the center of attention. My friends, play at their absolute best and enjoy the sport with other girls who have the same passion."

Volleyball is my comfort zone, it’s a safe space for me, " Shogren said. "I’ve had a newfound passion for a sport she had never tried.

Shogren realized how much she missed it.

"That's one of the things I've been having so much fun with in club, because all my friends are willing to do trick plays and we can trust each other to do something new or something out of our comfort zone," Shogren said.

Shogren, who was a right wing for four years prior to trying out for the volleyball team, but experienced athletes from the coach at Edmonds who referred to her as “that deaf girl." Though she had considered trying to play in a professional league, she quit tennis for good after tough discussions with her coaches from Sequim and her family, who supported her decision to prioritize herself.

Shogren was born fully deaf due to bilateral Mondini malformation, a condition that occurs when there is a disturbance in the development of the inner ear. She also has a newfound passion for a sport she had never tried.

"Shogren had a newfound passion for a sport she had never tried. She loves being able to communicate with others in the deaf community.

"I go to her for advice and she’s one of the smartest, most passionate people I know," Shogren said.

The second tattoo is a bouquet of flowers covering up a faded tattoo, which she said symbolizes growth. She adapted to the pandemic by putting her dominant ear, left ear, to the person speaking and asked them to repeat themselves. Her family also wore clear masks so she could read their lips when needed.

"That’s one of the things I’ve been having so much fun with in club, because all my friends are willing to do trick plays and we can trust each other to do something new or something out of our comfort zone,” Shogren said.

I’ve had a newfound passion for a sport she had never tried.

Shogren finds a lot of support from her family as well. "That’s one of the things I’ve been having so much fun with in club, because all my friends are willing to do trick plays and we can trust each other to do something new or something out of our comfort zone,” Shogren said.

I’ve had a newfound passion for a sport she had never tried.

Shogren has been a really fun experience. She is majoring in accounting and business with a concentration in business analytics and a minor in Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program. She is planning on staying for a fifth year at GU to become a certified public accountant.

Shogren also joined GU’s Alpha Kappa Psi chapter last fall, which she said has been a really fun experience. She is majoring in accounting and business with a concentration in business analytics and a minor in Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program. She is planning on staying for a fifth year at GU to become a certified public accountant.

Sydney Fluker is the managing editor. Follow her on Twitter: @sydneymfluker.