

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

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## Season's Greetings, Zags

Lighting up the John J. Hemmingson during the Christmas season, the GU Christmas tree utilizes interactive LED bars to spread joy.

ISABELLA STOUT IG: @isabellacarlin.photography

## McKenzie elected faculty senate president

By CLARINNE KIRK

Walking back from Gonzaga University's Schoenberg Center after his first day of teaching, math professor Tom McKenzie looked across to the South Hill, where the St. John Cathedral's spires rise from the misty skyline and felt a sense of gratitude to be present in such a beautiful place and a desire to give back. Recently elected as faculty senate president in an election with historically large turnout, McKenzie will bring this gratitude and love for GU to his role.

McKenzie will also bring extensive experience to his role, as he previously served as senate president for one two-year term that ended in 2020. Additionally, McKenzie was the chairman of the math

department for six years and served on the university rank tenure promotion committee and the committee that revised the university core.

This election of faculty senate president had the largest levels of faculty voter turnout that Richard Cangelosi, an associate professor of mathematics and the chair of the election committee, said he had witnessed during the past nine years he has been on the committee. The election committee oversees the running of all faculty assembly elections.

"We decide the timing, the structure of an election," Cangelosi said. "Our main responsibility is to make sure that elections are publicly announced so that everyone knows an election is occurring and that a call for self-nominations goes out so that people know that there are vacancies that

need to be filled and if they qualify, to consider running."

This year saw a voter turnout of approximately 75%, according to Cangelosi, which tops the usual turnout which has ranged from low 50s to low 60s during his time on the election committee.

Instead of a union, GU utilizes a shared governance model. Unlike a union, which McKenzie said consists of the faculty on one side negotiating with the board of trustees and administration on the other, the shared governance model is a triad among these three groups, allowing them to collaborate and hold each other accountable.

"There's the board of trustees, the administration and then there's the faculty," McKenzie said. "And the idea is that the three of us work together to come

to policies and agreements in a shared way."

McKenzie said that the collaboration among these three groups is imperative as each group brings different perspectives and interests, often resulting in some compromise.

"The faculty have one view on things because we're sitting there in the classroom with the students, doing research, and the administration clearly has a different view — they're looking at budgets and enrollment numbers," McKenzie said. "And so, naturally, issues come up and people have different perspectives. There needs to be some way to sit down and hash out those different perspectives and come to some kind of agreement that maximizes

SEE PRESIDENT PAGE 3

## Barrio Fiesta celebrates Filipino culture for 18th year

By NATALIE KELLER

In a celebration of Filipino culture, Gonzaga University's Filipino American Student Union hosted its 18th annual Barrio Fiesta Saturday night in the John J. Hemmingson Center Ballroom. Featuring traditional dances and food as well as spoken word presentations, the event's purpose was for FASU students to share their heritage with the GU community.

"It's basically a celebration that we invite others to in order to hopefully take away something new," said Michelle Cheng, who serves as one of FASU's Barrio chairs. "It's a great opportunity to get a taste of what some of the values of our culture are."

FASU President Gabriela Rivera said one of the club's goals for Barrio was to represent as many regions of the Philippines as possible. This goal is what inspired this year's Barrio theme: "Dito, Doon, At Kahit Saan," which Rivera said loosely translates to "we are here, there and everywhere."

"We want to make sure that we include everyone in the sense that not everyone's Filipino story is the same," Rivera said. "So 'we are here, there and everywhere.'"

One of the ways the FASU students showcased a diverse range of Filipino cultures was by performing traditional dances. While the students gave some of the dances a modern twist, Cheng said that each dance had its own symbolism and meaning in Filipino culture.

Among the dances the students performed was Pandango Rinconada, an all-female dance that is typically done during the Christmas season. Cheng said this dance was new to Barrio this year.

"This one is very graceful," Cheng said. "It's a very fun



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedticks

SEE BARRIO PAGE 3 Students perform in one of the many cultural dances featured in FASU's Barrio Fiesta.

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# Foley Library: A deep dive into the academic treasure trove

By NATALIE KELLER

Hannah Engel, a user services specialist at Gonzaga University's Foley Library, said that each day at the library consists of "assorted chaos."

"It's really hard to describe a typical day," Engel said. "It's assorted chaos that looks really different day to day."

Laura Hutton, head of user services, said that the unpredictable nature of working at the library is not a bad thing.

"It's a fun job in that way," Hutton said. "It's kind of unexpected every day."

As part of their work in user services, Hutton and Engel oversee the day-to-day operations of the library, including handling the circulation of books, managing databases and providing assistance at the front desk.

However, Hutton and Engel said that one of their most important roles in the library is assisting students with research by helping them locate resources.

"A lot of time, I think the way that students know to approach research is to Google something and then they don't know what to do if that doesn't work very well for them," Engel said. "Research is really a skill that you have to build. And it takes time and it takes a lot of different pieces of knowledge."

As Foley Library staff members, Hutton and Engel said they are available to answer questions and help connect students with resources. While the two are not trained as librarians and may not always have all the answers, Hutton and Engel said they can refer students to librarians who can assist with specialized topics.

"We're here to try and help teach them and also connect them with librarians who can be really helpful for their research needs," Hutton said.

Caitlin Bagley, the chair of Foley Library faculty librarians, said that research is one of a library's fundamental purposes.

"I think of the library as a place where research happens," Bagley said. "If your work involves information, librarians know how to find it, they know how to retrieve it and they know how to manage it and make it great."

Bagley said that with the evolution of technology, the concept of research has changed over time. While research used to primarily entail poring over books, Bagley said, much more information can now be found online. As a result, libraries' roles in research have also changed.

"Now, libraries are much more focused on service," Bagley said. "So we're here to help with your research and all of your information needs, but it's not a physical-based thing."

In addition to assisting with research, Hutton and Engel also supervise Foley Library's student employees. The library employs about 50 students, making it one of the largest student employers on GU's campus.

"I think we have the best student employees on campus," Engel said. "I really love working with them, and that's always a big part of what I love about this."

Carolyn Bozin is one of those student employees.

Bozin, a senior, has been working in the library for three years and is now an undergraduate lead student employee. In that role, she fields questions at the front desk, helps with returned and on-hold books, corrects



MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

When tasked with research assignments, employees at the library like Caitlin Bagley can help students find what they need.

“

**I really just spread the gospel of everything we have. We offer more than what people think.**

*Carolyn Bozin, student employee*

errors in the library's computer system, assists students with research and helps students reserve study rooms.

"There's always something to work on," Bozin said. "This job doesn't really get super boring because there's always something unique and weird."

Bozin said that she tries to spread the word about the services available at the library that students may not be aware of.

"I really just spread the gospel of everything we have,"

Bozin said. "We offer much more than what people think."

Bozin said that one of Foley Library's more obscure offerings is the array of nonbook items students can check out. In addition to items such as computer chargers, a green screen, video cameras and microphones, students can also check out things such as games, puzzles, cookie cutters and a model skeleton christened "Indiana Bones."

"If you need it, we might have it," Hutton said.

She also encouraged students not to be afraid to reach out to Foley Library staff members for help.

"I feel like sometimes people are afraid of librarians or they're intimidated by librarians," Hutton said. "Our librarians are awesome and they're so knowledgeable."

A student herself, Bozin shared similar thoughts as Hutton.

"There's definitely library anxiety," Bozin said. "But the librarians are always more than willing to help."

Hutton said that helping students is the most enjoyable part of her job.

"I love connecting students with resources and seeing them learn new things about how to interact with the library," Hutton said. "Libraries are the cornerstone of a student experience."

*Natalie Keller is a staff writer.*

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Lillian E. was caught reading **The Gonzaga Bulletin** last week and won a \$25 gift card and goodie bag to Huckleberry's. Read **The Bulletin** today and you could get caught too!

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BEST OF READERS POLL 2022 INLANDER 1ST PLACE

## PRESIDENT

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happiness.”

The faculty senate’s role within the shared governance model is to represent the interests of the faculty, utilizing a smaller group of representatives to vote on behalf of their constituents — faculty members within their department — making proceedings more feasible than if all faculty members were present. As senate president, McKenzie said his job is to lead the representatives and larger faculty through these processes.

One reason McKenzie decided to run for election was due to some concerns over the shared governance model, which he said needs to be bolstered.

While the shared governance model is not a union, McKenzie said that he believes this system can work just as well; however, it requires that every party within the triad is committed to its functioning and holds others accountable to that commitment, forming a system of checks and balances.

“Eternal vigilance is important here,” McKenzie said. “It’s easy for one of the three sides to take their eye off the shared governance ball. So, I think it’s important to have rules written down and to talk about it.”

According to McKenzie, some faculty members have been talking about unionizing. However, McKenzie said he has not been involved in those discussions.

“In the end, my job is to represent the faculty, not myself,” McKenzie said on the topic of unions.

Representing faculty interests and increasing the faculty senate’s involvement in campus decisions, specifically, in the salary evaluation process, were central issues to McKenzie’s campaign.

“There are talks going on about a salary evaluation process for our salary structure, and I believe that the senate should have an increased involvement,” McKenzie said.

He added that this faculty involvement needs to be diverse and cross-disciplinary.

“I believe in dance and theater, in the business school, in engineering, in science and psychology,” McKenzie said. “I think all those things are really important, and I think they all need to be heard and have a seat when discussing how we move forward in difficult financial time.”

Another issue McKenzie ran on is looking into the evaluation of administrators. McKenzie said that while there are faculty evaluations with involvement from students, there are no clear processes and procedures for evaluating administrators, specifically top-ranking administrators.

In his campaign, McKenzie also addressed some concerns with a new faculty handbook, which McKenzie said weakens tenure protections.

“The current version of the faculty handbook significantly weakens tenure protections and does so in a way inconsistent with the guidelines formulated by the AAUP, the American Association of University Professors,” McKenzie said.

According to Cangelosi, the concerns over the faculty handbook could be another reason for the unprecedented levels of voter turnout.

“Some of the things that have been proposed are, to some degree, controversial,” Cangelosi said. “Some of that has gone back to the handbook committee to be ironed out, but I think the fact that there is so much attention on the handbook has led to more awareness of the election.”

Cangelosi said he believes McKenzie will be a strong proponent for faculty, which he said is currently needed.

“He will be a strong advocate for the faculty assembly,” Cangelosi said. “I think that’s really the most important thing that a candidate can bring.”

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Kafentzis edits Bulletin articles Wednesday afternoon with his dog, Ida.

## Kafentzis ends 16 years as adviser with GU Bulletin

By BULLETIN STAFF

Since he started at Gonzaga University in 2007, journalism professor John Kafentzis has spent most of his Wednesday afternoons in *The Gonzaga Bulletin* office making edits to the newspaper.

A weekly tradition, the veteran journalist has been doing this work for 16 years, walking up the four floors on College Hall to the office each Wednesday — often joined by his black poodle, Ida — to mark up headlines and body text with his red pens.

Retiring after this fall semester as professor and adviser, Kafentzis concludes his term as one of the longest advisors in the history of *The Bulletin*.

“I’m going to miss [his] wholesome grandpa energy that [he] brings to student media,” said Marissa Conter, a news editor at the Bulletin.

Kafentzis capstones his time with *The Bulletin*, having worked with over 30 editor-in-chiefs. He has advised

countless more section editors and reporters, some of whom have graduated to become professional journalists and news producers.

He also has mentored many students in his role as a journalism professor and worked as a copy editor for *The Spokesman-Review*, where he is affectionately known as “Scuzz.” Many students and staff have said they appreciate his passion for journalism and willingness to form community in these spaces, even by sometimes bringing in homemade baklava.

Beyond the classroom and *The Bulletin*, Kafentzis is remembered for his love of tandem biking, frequently going on trips with his wife.

“Anytime somebody asks me about how I got into journalism, I always start with the first week of my freshman year, and getting swapped into one-year classes when I couldn’t decide what to do and just falling in love with journalism,” said GU alum Jared Brown.

The next adviser for *The Bulletin*

has yet to be announced.

Members of the current and previous Bulletin staff are especially grateful for Kafentzis and his 16-years of dedication to this role as advisor to the Bulletin. Kafentzis has been an anchor for GU’s newspaper and is one of the strongest supporters of student journalism, according to the staff.

“[Kafentzis] has been the best mentor any young journalist could ask for, and the amount of students both at the Bulletin and in the integrated media department have been so lucky to have been mentored by [him],” said Morgan Scheerer, program coordinator of student media.



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedticks

Members of FASU perform a traditional dance called Maglalatik.

## BARRIO

Continued from Page 1

dance, too. It kind of stops in the middle and then it gets faster and into a more lively section.”

Later in the evening, an all-male group of students performed Maglalatik, a mock battle dance that involves wearing and rhythmically tapping coconut halves.

“That one’s definitely a crowd favorite,” Cheng said.

In addition to the dance performances, the event also included a skit, a fundraiser to aid those impacted by the Maui wildfires, interactive games for the audience and recognition for senior FASU students. Five students also gave spoken word presentations that detailed their personal experiences as Filipino Americans.

Noelani Baliwag, a FASU member, spoke about the process of connecting with her heritage and the impact the club has had on her life.

“While this is only my first year in FASU, this is the first time that I have felt part of a community that understands me and my culture,” she said during her presentation. “And it’s helped me to connect with my roots.”

Cheng said that creating this sort of connection is one of the club’s main purposes.

“We try to educate and foster an

environment where we can talk about some things about our culture and learn something new,” Cheng said. “It definitely feels like a second home to me.”

Cheng also said that, for FASU members, Barrio is a meaningful event that gives them an opportunity to express themselves.

“It’s being able to share our culture freely to the community and being able to embrace ourselves,” Cheng said. “We’re really putting our hearts and essentially our whole background onto the stage for people to see.”

FASU Cultural Chair Angela Macabinguil said that Barrio also plays a critical role in educating the GU community on a culture with which they may not be familiar.

“Barrio is such a big thing that is very special to our whole club,” Macabinguil said. “But it’s also special to our whole Gonzaga community, as well.”

Cheng said that not only does GU learn from Barrio, but she also gains new knowledge of the culture.

“For those who are wanting to learn more, I’m on their journey with them,” Cheng said. “Being able to ride that wave of learning more every day and being open minded to new information is very important.”

Natalie Keller is a staff writer.

## GU supports students away from home during winter

By SOPHIA MCKINSTRY

When finals end in December, many students take that as their cue to return home, but where do those who are unable to do so spend their winter break?

For students who need a place to stay from December to January, Gonzaga University Housing and Residence Life offers on-campus housing. According to Ramona Tyler, the program assistant for Housing and Residence Life, all on-campus residence halls are available over break for students.

“[Students] would have to complete a winter break application that gets submitted to us, so that we know,” Tyler said.

The application to stay over winter break is available on ZagLiving under the Forms tab. Tyler said it was due on Dec. 3, but students can still complete and submit it.

After the application is submitted, it is reviewed by staff and returned either in or less than a week.

According to Tyler, most students who stay on campus are international students, as well as some upper-division students.

Jarvis Zhang is a sophomore from China who stayed in Coughlin Hall for a few weeks last year. This year, he plans on going to China for half of break and staying in Dooley House for the other half.

“I think it’s definitely a helpful option [to have],” Zhang said. “Like for first year, we definitely don’t have much planned for that. We don’t really have too ... much time making plans for winter break or any break. When we don’t have plans, we have to find a way to stay [on-campus].”

Zhang also placed an emphasis on the Resident Assistants, or RAs, and the support they provide for students, such as programs and events. He said his first-year RA provided him with support on the fifth floor of Coughlin.

“I think there is definitely lots of help from the housing staff, but ... I still will shout out to our RAs,” Zhang said. “It definitely helps and [there’s] lots of support from them.”

For many students, loneliness and boredom become common feelings to experience when being the only ones in the dorm. Zhang said he mostly played video games and talked to friends, but that the feeling of being one of the only people on campus was a little unnerving and strange for him.

“All the lights, all the heaters [are] still working but there’s no one, nobody you can see in school or in the floor or in the building,” Zhang said.

Xiwen Zhong, a junior who has also stayed on campus over the break before, said she lived in Welch Hall during her first year and the Sharp Apartments her second year.

“We just have one month for winter break and it’s hard to find an apartment to live [in] off-campus,” Zhong said.

This year, she lives off-campus so she doesn’t have to apply to stay on-campus.

Zhong said that having friends who stay on-campus as well can be helpful to not feel as lonely, and that events that take place in downtown Spokane throughout the winter are fun to attend. One example she gave was fireworks at Riverfront Park, which take place during New Year’s.

Tyler said that resources are available for students who stay on-campus over the break, including 24-hour security and the Cura Personalis office.

“I will say the ... supports that are currently in place now are the same supports that they would have later,” Tyler said.

In terms of year-round support, the Housing and Residence office is located on the second floor of the Crosby Center and is available around the clock.

“Housing is here literally 24/7,” Tyler said. “So if [students] need anything, it’s always a phone call away where they’re able to speak with someone to get their needs met. Or at least, we’ll try to meet their needs.”

Sophia McKinstry is a diversity editor.

# Letter to the editor: Fill the kennel

Gonzaga University is a basketball school and this weekend proved it. On Saturday evening, the GU men's basketball team extended its dominance on PAC-12 teams, defeating University of Southern California by over a 10-point margin. This was followed by an upset win over No. 3 Stanford by GU's women's basketball team on Sunday afternoon.

Both games boasted high fanbase turnouts, with the USC game leading to hundreds of fans traveling to the game in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Stanford game shattered the student attendance record of 372 students for a GU women's basketball game. According to Kennel Club, this was the first women's game that sold out the student section.

But, amid the success of both teams and the high turnout of fans, an ongoing question remains: How can GU's fanbase continue to grow in the wake of success from both its basketball teams?

As fans and students, we are proud of the deep commitment of GU students to both of our basketball teams. We hope that we continue to showcase the love this college community has for the sport and our teams, especially come tournament season.

But, there is also a stark difference in support of women's and men's basketball on this campus. Just look at attendance.

Over the years, a thousand GU students have consistently shown up to each men's basketball game all season, often maxing out the student section, but for women's basketball games, only hundreds of students come to the Kennel



By OLIVIA MEDAL

to support the team.

In fact, the record attendance of students for women's basketball was only 372 students up until this past Sunday, which is a number that is consistently surpassed at men's basketball games.

This disparity in the fanbase is a result of a variety of variables, most notably student fatigue. With the combined pressure of attending all basketball games for both the women's and men's teams, students can be exhausted by the sheer amount of games.

This, coupled with the success of the women's basketball team being relatively new when compared to that of men's basketball team, demonstrates the lack of attendance at women's basketball games as a routine for students ingrained into a basketball culture. Still, there is a responsibility on the fans to turn out to sporting events, especially when giveaways and pregame by Kennel Club and the Athletics Department act as incentives for broader attendance and a



By SILJE SQUIRES

more inclusive fanbase culture.

In fact, such disparities in attendance between women's and men's basketball games points to a deep problem in the character of the student body to show support to students.

With the record-breaking turnout for women's basketball game against Stanford, growing support for women's sports on GU's campus remains possible amid cultural challenges that seem to feel insurmountable given the current campus climate.

Efforts by the Kennel Club, the Athletics Department and even the women's basketball team demonstrate the marketability of the games, but the success of the attendance record on Sunday points to the further work needed to foster a fanbase that fully buys-in to all sports.

Across the country, support for women's sports are growing, especially in basketball, as streaming services have expanded their platform to be more

gender inclusive. Attendance records at women's sporting events are being broken by large numbers.

GU is joining the trend. But, we must continue to come up with unique ways to address the different barriers preventing students from turning out to games, including utilizing the growing visibility and energy around women's basketball as a whole.

To be the best, you have to beat the best — a saying that applies to both sports teams and fans. This school's basketball programs have proved themselves over the past decade as both being consistent, but GU's fanbase must continue to show up and show out if we really are a basketball school.

GU's basketball teams are this school's greatest pride, and the fanbase is a reflection of our values for this sport and culture. Being equally committed to the success of both basketball teams seems to be a call that we should pursue as a community that wants to take pride in our basketball culture.

Let's fill the Kennel and make it known that we are GU: a school of two teams, one devoted fanbase.

*Olivia Medal and Silje Squires are juniors at Gonzaga University.*

## The season for spending has high costs and few gifts

As the Black Friday and Cyber Monday mayhem draws to a close, the season for spending has only just begun. With deals at every glance, it's time we revisit the age-old question: Can money buy happiness?

If you're anything like me, you pride yourself on giving good gifts. There's nothing quite like letting people you love know how much you care about them. But as I have gotten older, I have realized that there are so many ways to do this without buying in excess.

If you were to ask my mom about her favorite gift that I ever gave her, she wouldn't say that it was the leather Pandora bracelet and silver charms that I spent hundreds of dollars on. She wouldn't say that it was the fancy perfume I saved up for.

If you asked my mom what her favorite gift from me was, it would be the one I spent a measly \$3 on in fifth grade. I bought a plain deck of cards from Target and wrote a different reason why I loved her on each one. She keeps that deck of cards on her desk in her office to this day.

So, take my little anecdote as proof that the best gifts are often the ones from the heart.

The endless capitalist-consumerist cycle places an emphasis on material goods in advertising to drive sales and boost the economy, but you don't have to fall victim to the commercials you see nor the billboards plastered down the street.

According to a study by Retail Dive, 5 billion pounds of gift returns end up in landfills, and Americans spend \$15.2 billion on those unwanted gifts. Meanwhile, the Center for Biological Diversity reports that the amount of household waste in the U.S. during December is 23%



By KAELYN NEW

higher than other months of the year. Each season brings new trends, and there will always be something new that is in style, but trends are only "in" for a very limited window of time.

This is a fundamental goal of advertisers. As soon as sales rake in enough green dollars, there is something else that is deemed even trendier. This allows for the continued proliferation of the buying cycle wherein consumers continue purchasing without realizing that their purchases will never fully satisfy the itch to fit in.

My advice is to find something of importance within your own relationships and draw upon it for inspiration — crochet a hat for your friend, make a candle for your mother with her favorite essential oils, fill a jar with love letters for your partner.

The most important gift that we can receive is the time we have with one another. It sounds cliché and

sappy to say, but it's something I didn't realize until I left for college. I would love to have more summer days with my dogs. I would love to be able to have dinner with my family as final stress ramps up. But the distance has allowed me to cherish the time I spend at home more than any material gift.

So, before mashing together a list of clothes, accessories and gadgets that will collect dust on your shelves in a few months' time, consider what you really need. Do any of us need more clothes lining our shelves in the closet? Will new shoes really make you significantly more stylish?

And if you feel the absolute need to drop some dimes this holiday season, consider spending money on experiences. Ask to have dinner with some friends, go ice skating or have a snowball fight.

Experiences and heartfelt tokens of appreciation are guaranteed to last more than the material items that you will inevitably lose interest in. Money can't buy happiness, but, in my experience, time well spent can.

*Kaelyn New is the managing editor. Follow her on X: @kaelyn\_new*

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## Planes, trains and cars: Choosing the best way to travel

The Christmas holidays are growing closer, meaning many of us have begun to make plans to travel home to our families and friends. This means many of us will grapple with the pros and cons of the various transportation options available to us.

Distance, speed and comfort will always play a role, and in this way, most students at Gonzaga University must make a choice of whether to drive, ride or fly home for the holidays.

Probably the most common option that students choose to take, at least among those that live semi-close to home, is driving. Driving gives you total control over the route you take and the arrival or departure time. It is also often much cheaper than flying, since the only expense is usually gas. It is much easier to drive than to go through the whole rigmarole of parking, security and ticketing at the airport.

However, there are quite a few drawbacks with driving, mostly in terms of speed and safety. Spokane sits in the middle of nowhere; the next comparable cities in terms of size — Seattle and Boise — are between four and six hours away by car.

It is likely that someone who prefers to drive would lose the equivalent of their break in travel days. In addition, driving requires you to be constantly alert, and the winter road conditions are often treacherous and nerve-wracking.

If driving is neither possible nor practical, the other option that is available for students is flying. Flying is usually the fastest and safest option. As an



By JACKSON HUDGINS

example, flights from Spokane to Seattle usually last under an hour. The time saved from flying can be very valuable on short trips, and the likelihood of something going wrong is usually low. I personally fly over Thanksgiving to avoid snow at the pass and to get as much out of the short break as possible.

The biggest drawbacks to flying are definitely cost and comfort. For me, the seats are too small for my broad shoulders, and bags and beverage carts consistently bang my knee as they go up and down the aisle.

Flights from Spokane can also get expensive, especially over the holidays when demand spikes. Students from Eastern Washington University, Whitworth University and GU all crowd the airport on the way home, and flight costs can sometimes balloon to be on par with traditional transcontinental flights.

In my opinion, however, the best option for long-distance travel is unfortunately impractical for us at GU: that being train travel. As someone who used to live on the East Coast, the train is the perfect

marriage of the best parts of both plane and car travel.

On a train, the benefits of driving — like cell service, edible meals and comfortable seating — are all still present. However, the nature of train travel means that speeds between destinations approach that of a flight, and you also don't need to pay total attention to travel like you do when driving. While it still can be relatively expensive, train travel is definitely worth the added expense.

When traveling long distances, it is important to understand the factors that need to be considered. For short trips, the speed and safety of flying might be the better option, while longer trips might necessitate driving instead.

However, regardless of your choice, I would highly encourage everyone to consider riding the rails some time. You might just find a true love for train transportation.

*Jackson Hudgins is a staff writer.*

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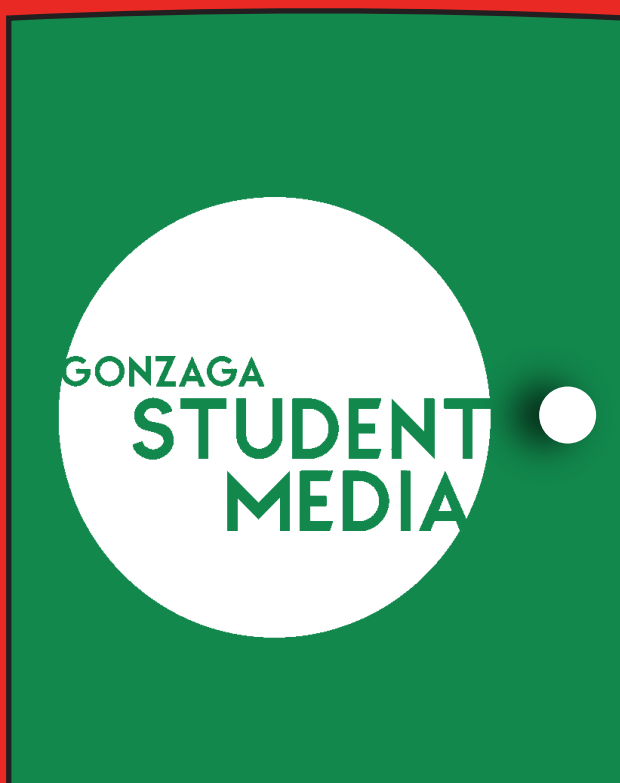
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EMMA LARSON IG: @3mmalanson

Winter Glow Spectacular is a walk-through and drive-through light show that is free to the public.

# 'Spectacular' Christmas show lights up the holiday season

Liberty Lake's Winter Glow Spectacular showcases Christmas light displays through Jan. 1

By EMMA OKUNIEWICZ

Jerry Schmidt had finished up a game of hockey in Spokane and couldn't help but notice the lack of Christmas spirit downtown. It was after this that he called Phil Robinson, and the beginning of Winter Glow Spectacular was created.

Located in Orchard Park in Liberty Lake at 20298 E. Indiana Ave., Winter Glow Spectacular is a Christmas light show that includes displays ranging from classic holiday reindeer and snowmen to elaborate 3D elephant models.

Robinson, one of the three original founders, said he has been focused on bringing holiday joy to the surrounding communities for 10 years.

After a few years of hopping between different locations, the show found its current home at Orchard Park, where displays fill up the entire park. This year's show features the more displays than any other year. The Orchard Park location also fulfilled a personal requirement for the project: free admission.

"Our mission has always been to try to provide this as free," Robinson said. "And it still is free to the public — we don't charge any admission."

The displays can be viewed when walked through, with trails maintained and shoveled by the park service, Robinson said.

Robinson's current personal favorite

display is a set of detailed 3-D animals, which he said have a unique backstory.

"We recovered these 3-D animals, a couple of elephants, a lion, leopards and gazelles," Robinson said.

When the display was located in Riverfront Park a few years prior, the ornate decorations had been left behind after a Chinese lantern festival.

"They were pretty ragged," Robinson said, regarding when they first found them.

A team member with Winter Glow worked to restore them.

"[She] resurfaced and put new fabric on all of them and made them even more spectacular than they ever were before," Robinson said.

The 3-D animals are one of the many displays visitors can admire on the walk, which can take upward of 30 minutes to complete.

Other light-up displays include Santa and his reindeer taking off from the ground, colorful light-tunnels visitors can walk through, an array of gingerbread men, snowmen and many more.

There's also what the team has dubbed "super-mega-trees" — five light-up trees towering over 25 feet tall that are scattered throughout the park.

The trail is also lined with festive lights to keep visitors on track during the dark winter nights.

Setup for the event begins annually on Nov. 1 and is completed with the help of volunteers, with an end goal of being finished the first Saturday before Thanksgiving.

The opening night is celebrated with appearances from Santa Claus, performances from a school chorus and a countdown to the lights illuminating the park.

"The work really goes on year-round," Robinson said. "There's a lot of repair work that has to be done — lights to replace, putting things away very carefully so they aren't damaged. It's something that's ongoing."

Robinson made sure to give credit to another member of the team, Richard Reilly.

"It's the camaraderie of the people," Robinson said. "I've really enjoyed working with Rich. [He's] a one-in-a-billion guy who's never afraid to get his hands dirty."

The Winter Glow Spectacular also isn't the first time the pair worked together.

"We make a good team," Robinson said. "We used to work together in Boy Scouts. I was a scoutmaster, and he was my assistant scoutmaster."

Reilly, the project director of Winter Glow Spectacular, joined the program in its second year.

Winter Glow Spectacular had

previously been located at Cowley Park, but settled in its current location of Orchard Park to be able to fit all of their displays.

If visitors are unable to make it to Orchard Park, there's also a display in Cowley Park off of downtown Spokane at 602 S. Division St.

Winter Glow Spectacular still works with Mark Peterson from Extreme Team at KXLY in setting up the light show at Cowley.

At the heart of Winter Glow Spectacular is a greater sense of community, according to Reilly.

"You need to give back to your community," Reilly said. "If you only take from your community, what do you have?"

The Winter Glow Spectacular at Orchard Park is open to the public until Jan. 1.

Emma Okuniewicz is a staff writer.



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# Steep before you sleep with local late-night café Lunarium

By RUBY GROSS

Lunarium is a locally owned café specializing in late night tea, coffee and treats.

Co-owners Dorian Karahalios and Aimee Clark have secured Lunarium its own space at 1925 N. Monroe St., Suite A, after spending a year as a pop-up inside Twenty-Seventh Heaven Scratch Bake Shop at 105 S. Madison St.

When entering the new location, which opened in May, guests are greeted by art. On the left wall is a floor-to-ceiling mural where cartoon cats and bumblebees smile from a funky landscape painted pink, purple, aqua and orange. The work was done by local artist Tiffany Patterson, whom Karahalios met through Spokane Print.

"Their style is really cool and quirky and captures the vibe pretty well for us," Karahalios said.

One tea offered at Lunarium is the "Huh?", an herbal blend featuring rose hips, rosemary and bilberry leaf. Meanwhile, the "Jasmine Pearls" is a black tea that employee Ashlyn Wicker calls her favorite.

"If you put a tiny bit of honey and cream, it tastes like nectar from a flower," Wicker said.

Lunarium is open 3 p.m. to midnight, Wednesday to Saturday and bills itself as an ideal nighttime study spot.

"We really wanted a late-night study-hangout spot that wasn't a bar," Karahalios said.

He said that to craft that perfect study space, Lunarium offers free Wi-Fi, has outlets next to several tables and plays only instrumental music.

Their menu lists over 30 loose-leaf teas tasted and selected by the owners.

"We don't have one supplier that we use," Karahalios said. "We kind of have the luxury of being able to find what we think is the best."

Two or three teas rotate seasonally, while the majority



RACHEL HALEY | IG: @rhalleyphoto

Open until midnight Wednesday through Saturday, Lunarium offers a space for nighttime tea.

are available year-round.

Along with drinks, Lunarium serves several baked goods, including Welsh style scones which Karahalios chooses over other types for their texture and consistency.

"They're not too dry, but they're not cakey either," Karahalios said. "They have just a touch of sweetness to pair with our jams which we make from scratch as well."

Though Lunarium does not yet have a savory menu, the store has a diverse selection of sweets.

"We've been expanding a lot with our vegan and gluten-friendly items," Karahalios said.

Staying close to the needs of its customers is a driving theme in Lunarium's practice. Regulars will stop in, sit at the tea bar and catch up with employees.

"People have really been opening up and coming here to feel better," Karahalios said. "We're happy to be able to do that for people."

Lunarium has personalized its new space to tap into another service: hosting. Their small stage inside the building



RACHEL HALEY | IG: @rhalleyphoto

Lunarium serves a variety of teas, as well as coffee and baked goods.

allows them to put on custom performances.

Lunarium has hosted "paint-and-sip," a live podcast/interactive tea-tasting session and multiple all-ages drag shows.

Events at Lunarium often directly support college students, the queer community or local artists, according to Karahalios.

Another all-ages drag show, "Snowed In: With Lunarium," is scheduled for Friday at 5 p.m.

Tickets are bought in cash at the door, and all proceeds go to the performers.

"The very first all ages drag show we did sold out in like 30 minutes," Karahalios said. "We had a bit of a line wrapping around the building before opening the doors."

Lunarium will also host Eastern Washington University's student reading voice-over in collaboration with their creative writing program. An alumni of

EWU himself, Karahalios said that he stays connected to the community and is always happy to share his space with them.

"That'll be the Saturday after the drag show, actually," Karahalios said. "And then we're trying to get a couple live music performances going, maybe even an open mic at some point. Trying to really make it a community space."

Lunarium's investment in community has already rung loud and clear for some folks.

Wicker said that she first connected with Lunarium through the Spokane Queer Artwalk, where her art was assigned to be displayed in the Lunarium gallery.

"I can tell that they're invested in the local artistic culture," Wicker said. "I would have told you six months ago that there isn't a place like that here in Spokane."

Wicker said that, as an employee, not only does she feel her creative pursuits are supported by the owners, but that being a trans person in the workforce is easier amidst Lunarium's largely queer staff.

"There's not that gap in understanding the way that there is in a lot of bigger jobs," Wicker said. "There's a lot less of that, like, putting on my corporate self when I come to work."

To learn more about their hours, events and monthly tea subscription club, visit their website or follow Lunarium on Instagram @lunarium.spokane.

Ruby Gross is a staff writer.

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Last Week's puzzle

12/17/23

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

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](http://sudoku.org.uk)

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## 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									
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93																							
98																							
114	115																						
119																							
123																							
127																							

### SQUAD GOALS

By Matthew Stock & Miranda Carson

ACROSS	52 Fender bender	104 "The Secret History" writer Donna
1 Flub	55 Itty-bitty kitties	106 Smallish batteries
7 Tell (on)	56 "Oscar-winning role for Rami Malek	107 Degrees for corp. execs
10 Barbershop service	58 Cup holder spot, perhaps	110 Cake layer
15 Santa ____, home of the Charles M. Schulz Museum	59 Demeanor	114 "Lorraine Hansberry play whose title comes from a Langston Hughes poem
19 Without principles	61 Prov. that borders all but one of the Great Lakes	118 Food processor's output
20 Word with devil or dog	62 Scrutinize	119 Burgles
21 Patio stone	63 No longer consequential	120 Papa
22 Extremely bad	65 Yearbook gp.	121 Championship series where fans hope to find the ends of the answers to the starred clues?
23 "Symptom of isolation, perhaps	68 Busch Gardens city	123 Fit
25 Oahu's __ Stadium	71 Brief quarrel	124 Fireplace hazard
26 Actress Rowlands	75 "Let's __"	125 Flow back
27 French novelist Zola	77 Gomez's hairy cousin	126 Early online forum
28 "Leave the nest	79 Soothing YouTube genre, for short	127 Brewed beverage
31 Cash collector	81 "You think I did that?!"	128 Prophets
32 Yearbook superlative	82 "One of Sheriff Woody's catchphrases in "Toy Story"	129 Early broadcasting co.
33 Distillery tub	88 Accompanist?	130 Low points
34 "What was I __ to do?"	90 Mark on a garage floor	DOWN
35 Looking for, in ads	91 "Concurrence of many negative possibilities	1 Diamond side
37 Jackal cousin	93 Rd. with a no.	2 Parmesan quality
39 Bring up	94 __, in Biarritz	3 Gas giant?
42 Contrast makeup	96 __, "hoo!"	4 Diamond cut
44 Shape of the three-point line	97 Try to swat	5 Track assignment
45 Illustrator's tools	98 Supports on Kickstarter, say	6 Beauty brand whose name stands for three body parts
47 Recipient of a classic shout-out	101 Taco truck dips	7 Sends regrets, perhaps
48 "No. 1 Katy Perry album featuring the No. 1 song "Firework"	103 "Gangnam Style" rapper	
		8 Heads-up
		9 Spare in a boot
		10 "Me time" option
		11 Low-calorie ice cream brand
		12 Maker of Skin So Soft products
		13 Fervor
		14 Delete
		15 "Fidelity" pop artist Spektr
		16 Kitchen beeper
		17 Snitch
		18 Woeful sigh
		24 Spanish "that"
		29 Green smoothie ingredient, perhaps
		30 Simple card game
		32 Synthesizer pioneer
		36 Involuntary jerk
		37 Rep
		38 Group seen seven times in this puzzle
		40 JumboTron maker
		41 First responder, briefly
		42 Cash app
		43 Send to a specialist
		44 "Blessed __, __"
		46 Say "aaahh!"
		48 Disneyland ride
		49 Malta money
		50 James Bond's first movie foe
		51 Pristine, as a baseball card
		53 Like some roads in January
		54 Pair's performance "on ur way?"
		57 "Or perhaps less"
		64 Brewed beverages
		66 Chivalrous title
		67 URL starter
		68 Fashion
		70 "Kidding!"
		72 "Turn on the AC!"
		73 Author Jonathan Safran
		74 Like some mattresses
		76 Fake it
		78 Dirty laundry destination
		80 Oxidizes
		82 Pop singer Ora
		83 Fit for a seat?
		84 Birth certificate entry
		85 Top classification
		86 Bow-wielding god
		87 Hub near Marin Co.
		89 "Don't touch that dial!"
		90 Round figure?
		92 Gratuities
		95 Dirt, so to speak
		99 Crusty roll
		100 Yearbook gp.
		102 Mythical forest flutists
		105 Musical concerns
		107 "Murning Joe" network
		108 NASCAR racer Wallace
		109 107-Down anchor Cabrera
		110 Alghani neighbor
		111 Conger hunter
		112 Musical breaks
		114 Like many North Africans
		115 Judicial garb
		116 "___happy to!"
		117 Spout sporter
		118 City with an iconic tower
		122 Lots of laughs

# Skyway Café soaring high at Felts Field for over 100 years

By MADELEINE REED

Sandy Melter is met with smiles from each customer as she walks around the tables of her café. Nestled between river and railroad tracks, Melter said she has nurtured a community that holds family and community at its core — with an aviation twist.

Melter is one of two co-owners of the Skyway Café, a breakfast and lunch spot located on Felts Field, a roughly 10-minute drive from Gonzaga University. Outside, vintage aircrafts take off and touch down from the public, general aviation airport, providing some entertainment for customers' meals.

Standing as a testament to the history and scope of aviation for the Spokane community, the airstrip itself has withstood decades of change. The land was initially used as a golf course until 1920, when the city of Spokane declared it an official airstrip under the Parkwater Field name. The runway then came in 1924. The café's construction followed, with the Zoom Inn established in its place in 1932.

Since 2006, it has been under the ownership of Melter and her ex-husband, John Melter. John, with an Air Force background, and Sandy, who served in the Navy, bring a blend of experiences to the establishment and personal ties to the café, having flown in and out of Felts Field themselves. The two have worked to preserve the integrity of the café.

Sandy purchased the title to the café from her sister, Theresa Maxwell, though her tie to the café goes back to her youth. Melter said her mother, a former employee of the café, used to bring her there as a child to play and to eat. She said the welcome sign that greets people as they enter the café is the same one that was there when she was young.

"My mom used to bring us here on the grass ... She would feed us ice cream," Melter said.

Melter emphasized the familial atmosphere that sets the café apart. For her, the café's charm lies in its ability to evoke a sense of home, making it a truly special place rooted in family values.

"It's just so homey," Melter said. "Everyone brings a trinket, and then their grandkids come to see it, and their kids come to see it ... It's just really special."



RACHAEL HALEY IG: @rhaleyphoto

Skyway Café is a breakfast and lunch spot located at 6105 E. Rutter Ave.

Photographs, plaques, model airplanes and other various memorabilia line the walls of the café. According to Melter, most pieces are donated from customers and friends who are looking for a permanent home for family and personal memories.

"Family passes on," Melter said. "They don't know what to do with the stuff that their grandfather had ... It's a nice place for it to retire here."

Additionally featured on the walls are memorabilia from Melter's family — a leather briefcase, a photograph of her father-in-law and more. Melter's favorite piece hangs toward the front of the café: a photograph from World War II. In it, the Eiffel Tower is pictured with B-17s underneath it, taking a break from the war on Christmas.

The café offers both breakfast and lunch menus with classics like biscuits and gravy and café cult classics like their "garbage scramble." Recipes used at the café have been passed from generation to generation, many brought to Skyway by Melter's mother.

Stopping by on a weekend, customers may find their meal



RACHAEL HALEY IG: @rhaleyphoto

The café has been standing at Felts Field since 1921.

cooked by Melter herself.

"Usually I'm in the kitchen; that's where I prefer to be," Melter said. "I'm a hands-on owner."

She said that she enjoys working side by side with the employees.

Melter said the staff is "really close," noting how many employees have been there as long as Melter herself.

Waitress Brandy Miller has

been with Skyway for two years and shares the close sentiment with Melter.

"We're like a family," Miller said. "We're well staffed, too."

Miller said that after working elsewhere, she values the café's environment more.

"I should have come here a long time ago," Miller said.

Amid the lively banter and clatter of dishes, the familial

environment lends itself to café legends and history. Miller noted the charm and character of many frequent flyers, as well as some of the more famous passersby.

"Apparently we made the president clam chowder once," Miller said.

Throughout her time as owner, Melter has navigated through stressors while keeping this family near to her heart.

"Keeping employees with a paycheck is a big deal for me; I worry about that," Melter said. "There's 18 families. That's a lot of responsibility."

The café has become a part of the community. Melter said Skyway has become a hub for various communities and service members, with a gun range, fire and police departments and military members nearby, making for a strong base of repeat customers.

"When you come here and it's really busy — it's really loud, but if you look around everybody's talking as well," Melter said. "They're not on their phones ... They're looking out the window, they're talking about the helicopters that just landed, or about their grandfathers, telling stories."

This December, Melter will host a Christmas party for local Air Force members, where she will be cooking for around 100 members. The event will be one of several that the café lends itself to in conjunction with local groups. Melter looks to engage with her community and customers in a way that honors their memories — from their lives and the café itself.

"[My goal is] just to keep the place — keep aviation alive," Melter said. "Keeping it the same ... keeping it simple: the way it was."

The café is located at 6105 E. Rutter Ave. and is open Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Madeleine Reed is a digital editor. Follow her on X: @madeleinesreed.

## 'Tis the season to support local small businesses

COMMENTARY  
By EMILY NIEMANN

With the holiday season fast approaching, it always proves to be difficult to find gifts for everyone in your life. Luckily, Spokane has numerous small businesses that are perfect for holiday shopping.

When you don't know what to get, sometimes a thoughtful book can be a lifesaver. Whether you read the book in your literature class or pretended to read it, gifting someone a book that reminded you of them can be really meaningful.

Located in a bright, lilac house in the heart of the iconic Perry District is *Wishing Tree Books*, a bookstore that specializes in creating a well-curated selection. The owner, Janelle Smith, has tried to create a space that is welcoming to the youth, and the store hosts events like live readings and school book fairs. When shoppers choose to buy from *Wishing Tree*, they can be sure they are supporting a local business that is committed to giving back to the community.

Another great bookstore option is *Auntie's Bookstore*, located downtown in the Liberty Building. It also offers an extensive library of books to choose from. My personal favorites are the hardcover Penguin classics, which will be perfect for any bookworm in your life.

Established as an indie bookstore in 1978, *Auntie's Bookstore* is the perfect store to poke around in, even if you don't have a specific book in mind. With big glass windows, high ceilings and easy-to-navigate shelves, the store has a welcoming atmosphere.

Also conveniently located downtown is *Atticus Coffee & Gifts*, where you can shop for gifts and get a coffee all in the same establishment. *Atticus* has an impressive array of miscellaneous goods, perfect for that one family member who appreciates interesting gifts and happens to be the most difficult to shop for.

For your friends and family members who like more quirky goods, *Boo Radley's* is right next door to *Atticus* and specializes in the less-mainstream gifts. You are sure to find something cool and



LUCY BOOTH IG: @lucybooth.photo

Atticus Coffee & Gifts is a local giftshop that sells an array of goods with a café tucked into the back of the store.

engaging.

*Kizuri* is a fair trade small business owned by Jillian Joseph. By supporting *Kizuri*, shoppers are also supporting local artisans. They sell a plethora of goods for your kitchen, accessories like scarves and bags, decor and kids items. The store has a collected, worldly vibe to it that embraces the individuality of all the artisans that sell their products there.

If you're local and you have a plant lover in your family, *Fern Plant Shop* is a wonderful option. Established in Spokane in 2019, it now has three locations in Spokane, Liberty Lake and Coeur D'Alene.

As a boutique plant shop, the interior is cute and botanically inspired. They have lots of options for live houseplants and unique pots and plant accessories. The shop offers terrariums and gift cards, as well.

There are also plenty of secondhand consignment and thrift shops that will help maximize your sustainability during the most consumer-friendly season of the year. *Second Look Books* is located on the South Hill and has a large library of secondhand books to choose from. I like shopping here because you may stumble upon earlier publications of certain books with covers you may not have seen before.

For clothing, the *Garland Resale Boutique* specializes in upscale, secondhand women's clothing, accessories and gifts. This boutique specifically curates their inventory to create a unique shopping experience that is sustainable and fashionable.

When you support local businesses, you can be sure that the money you spend lands in the pockets of people within our community instead of large corporations. Plus, your gifts will be unique and thoughtful.

Emily Niemann is a staff writer.

# Gonzaga women's basketball earns historic upset victory over Stanford

By CAM MCCANN

The Gonzaga University women's basketball team earned a historic win for its program, defeating then-No. 3 Stanford Cardinal 96-78 on Sunday at McCarthy Athletic Center.

The Zags (8-1) were led by graduate student guard Brynna Maxwell, who had 27 points off 62% shooting.

Senior forward Yvonne Ejim added 25 points and 12 rebounds. Three other Bulldogs scored in double digits, with junior forward Maud Huijbens coming off the bench to go 7-for-7 from the field and put up 15 points in 16 minutes of play.

"Coming in, we had a big focus on staying together and staying connected, and having confidence in each other kind of came through and showed out on the court," said forward Eliza Hollingsworth, who had 10 points and went 2-for-3 from the 3-point range.

The game began in back-and-forth fashion, with Stanford taking a quick 5-2 lead via Cameron Brink.

Maxwell provided a response with two 3s, as she and Ejim got going early, scoring 16 of GU's 23 points in the first quarter.

"She focuses all on basketball," said GU head coach Lisa Fortier about Maxwell. "I think the work she's put in has paid off."

The second quarter saw GU maintain the lead it had built, and responding to every run the Cardinal made. The Bulldogs kept their lead in single digits for the entirety of the quarter, going into half up 45-41.

The third quarter provided a monumental scoring run for the Bulldogs, as GU put up 32 points, including five 3s, while shooting an efficient 59% from the field.

The Kennel erupted during a 26-10 run over the last five minutes of the quarter. The scoring outburst featured a string of 3s from GU, with four different Bulldogs finding the bottom of the net from beyond the arc.

"It was pretty electric; it was so fun," Hollingsworth said on her two 3s during the third quarter run. "The crowd makes it such a fun atmosphere, with the students there as well. It was so fun to play here [today]."

The third quarter ended with GU increasing its advantage up to 20 points, breaking the game wide open in their favor.

The final quarter saw GU maintain its lead, as Huijbens and Ejim shot 7-for-7 from the floor, combining for 15 points in the period.

As the game neared its conclusion, GU fans rose to



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Brynna Maxwell led the Zags with 27 points as they defeated Stanford 96-78.

their feet and commemorated the team for achieving a historic win.

The Bulldogs kept the glass-dominant Cardinal in check, as their won the rebounding battle 31-29.

The Cardinal similarly average 5.5 blocks per game, but could only get its hands on one of GU's shots.

After an 8-2 start to their season, GU now eyes a return to the AP Poll, emboldened by its win over the third best team in women's college basketball.

"If people are paying attention, if they really know the team they're voting for, then I don't know how they would not vote for us, to be honest," Fortier said on GU returning to the AP poll.

The Bulldogs will continue their busy nonconference

schedule for the remainder of the month, with the veteran team looking ahead to five more games before WCC play begins.

"Having that experience on your belt against those high end teams is super valuable," Hollingsworth said. "We know we can do it, especially at this part of the season."

GU will face its next two opponents away from home, traveling to UC Berkeley on Thursday, then to Rice on Saturday.

The Bulldogs will return to the Kennel for a Dec. 17 matchup against South Dakota State.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

## GU track teams begin season in Boston, set new program records

By CLARINNE KIRK

Gonzaga University's men's and women's track teams hit the ground running this season, setting two program records at the Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener in Boston.

The program records were set by sophomore Rosina Machu in the women's indoor 5k and senior Alicia Anderson in the women's indoor 3k.

The track season opener comes just weeks after the conclusion of the cross country season, where the men competed at the NCAA Nationals, placing 28th, alongside Machu, who earned an automatic bid, ultimately placing 16th at nationals.

At the West Coast Conference Championships, the men took their first title and the women placed second.

In Boston, Machu finished 14th among a competitive crowd with a time of 15:37.05, shattering the previous program record set in February 2023 by Caramina Mestler by over 45 seconds.

Machu's accomplishment follows her decorated cross country season, where she earned All-American and WCC Women's Runner of the Year honors.

Running alongside Machu in her indoor 5k debut, junior Sadie Tuckwood finished in 16:55.0, the program's sixth-best time.

Anderson led the Zags in the 3k race with a 42nd-place finish, breaking her teammate senior Kristen Garcia's program record with a time of 9:29.80. She was narrowly followed by freshman Jessica Frydenlund, with a 9:33.72 3k finish, the third-best finish in program history after Anderson and Garcia.

Closing out the women's roster, Garcia placed 16th in the women's indoor mile with a time of 4:48.57, one-tenth of a second shy from beating her PR. The race was Garcia's first competitive race since the 2022-23 track season.

"[The meet] was definitely a rust-buster as I'm not completely used to the mile, but it was fun to compete and be back in it," Garcia said. "I had a pretty big fall of cross

country training, so to drop down to a mile and hit my PR time felt pretty good. I'm excited to build from here into track season."

The men's finishing times were also among the fastest in GU program history. The first GU runner to compete, redshirt sophomore Bryce Cerkowniak, set a 17-second PR with a fourth-place finish in the men's 5k (unseeded) with a time of 14:11.21, the seventh-best finish in program history.

GU men's track and cross country head coach Pat Tyson said that the race was a testament to Cerkowniak, made even more impressive considering the quick turnaround after he and the rest of the men's cross country team competed at the NCAA Cross Country Nationals in Virginia on Nov. 18.

"Bryce showed his stuff, running a 17-second PR in his first race of the indoor season," Tyson said. "I tried to get him in the seeded race, but there wasn't much flexibility. It was a tough road trip to Boston after a tough road trip to Virginia."

According to Cerkowniak, the endurance he developed through cross country helped contribute to his success on Saturday.

"I thought the race went very well and that I was able to move up and adapt to what was happening very well," Cerkowniak said. "The whole point in going was to take advantage of the fitness I had developed over the cross country season, which I believe we accomplished."

Racing in the men's 5k (seeded), Drew Kolodge, a junior transfer from Michigan Tech, ran his 5k in 14:03.7, the fourth-best time in program history.

The Zags will continue their season at home at the Spokane Invite at The Podium on Dec. 9. The Spokane Invite will be their last competition of 2023, before they begin the new year with another competition at The Podium on Jan. 12.

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

## Zags move up to No. 7 in AP Poll, sweep weekly WCC awards

By ZACH WHITE

Gonzaga University men's basketball moved up to seventh place in Monday's Associated Press Top 25 poll, with Ryan Nembhard and Braden Huff securing a Zag sweep of the weekly WCC awards.

The Zags moved up four rankings following an impressive 89-76 win over USC in Las Vegas.

GU never trailed during the matchup, and led by as many as 22 points on the night.

Advanced analytics site Kenpom currently has the Zags ranked ninth, with the team holding the site's

eighth-best offense in the nation.

NCAA Men's Basketball NET rankings announced their first rankings of the 23-24 season, listing GU as the 32nd best team.

Against USC on Saturday, the Zags were led in scoring by Nembhard and freshman guard Dusty Stromer, with both players scoring 15 points.

Nembhard shot 6-11 from the field, adding seven assists and two rebounds to his tally. The junior guard averaged 18.5 points per game in the GU's two wins last week over Cal State Bakersfield and USC.

His performances last week earned him WCC Player

of the Week, the second straight week that a GU player has won the award.

Huff earned WCC Freshman of the Week honors after scoring 12 points against both CSU Bakersfield and USC. In Las Vegas, the freshman forward chipped in with two important three-pointers, going 2-3 from beyond the arc.

GU will look ahead to two primetime matchups in Seattle against Washington and No. 5 UConn.

Zach White is a sports editor.

Gonzaga University Choirs presents

# A Light Through the Darkness

## Candlelight Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 9th, 7:30 PM  
Sunday, December 10th, 2:00 PM

Featuring The Gonzaga Concert Choir, Glee Club, Discantus Treble Choir, Jazz Choir, Big Bing Theory, Spokane Brassworks, and St. Aloysius Catholic School Choir

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Students participate in this semester's Zag Poker Series, hosted by the GU Poker Club.

**GU SPORTS**

**Thursday, Dec. 7**  
 ➤ Women's basketball at Cal, Berkeley, CA, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 9**  
 ➤ **Track at Spokane Invite, All Day**  
 ➤ Women's basketball at Rice, Dallas, TX, noon  
 ➤ Men's basketball at Washington, Seattle, WA, 8 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 11**  
 ➤ **Men's basketball vs. Mississippi Valley State, 6 p.m.**

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

# GU Poker Club draws large field for fall tournament

By RUBY GROSS

A field of more than 50 eager poker players competed in this semester's Zag Poker Series, ensuring a successful event for the Gonzaga University Poker Club.

With 17 rounds lasting around 20 minutes each and three breaks, the GU Poker Tournament was an all-day affair.

The tournament was hosted by the club, taking place in the Joann Jundt Lounge on Dec. 2.

GU Poker Club was founded in 2021 by current senior and Club President Toru Fujie. Raised in Japan, Fujie said he sought to make a safe space for international students to get involved with the GU community.

Fujie said that through the game of poker, which is largely nonverbal, Zags facing a language barrier could find community.

The GU Poker Club meets weekly from 6-8 p.m. in Paccar Center, where members play rounds of Texas Hold 'Em poker.

"There are over 100 players in the club, but we usually have 50 or 60 at each meeting," said first-year Poker Club member and Zag Poker Series participant Simon Obery.

This fall's series played with a small blind, a big blind and a big blind ante. Participants paid a small fee to enter, but no real money was attached to the value

of their chips.

"Players are not allowed to win cash-value prizes, as that would be considered gambling," Fujie said.

To avoid cheating, only English was spoken at the table and players were asked to put away electronic devices. The round of play, time remaining, number of players and blind amounts were shared on a large screen in the room's corner, which Fujie controlled remotely.

Through 17 levels of either 20- or 25-minute rounds, the small blind, big blind and antes increased.

The first-round blinds were \$100 (small, big and ante). When a player busted, they were eliminated from the competition. By the 17th round of play, the small blind was \$35,000, with the big blind and big blind ante at \$70,000.

"I would say that the tournament was definitely a bit more serious than the average poker club meeting," Obery said.

One player wore sunglasses to hide their tells, but most approached the game without any special gear.

"Sunglasses can be a tell themselves," Obery said. "If you have really good cards, you know, and adjust your glasses ... They say any sort of prop is a liability."

As the levels progressed toward Final Table, excitement built around any competitor who seemed capable of dethroning Brandon Schuler, last spring's tournament victor.

For the Final Table, the Poker Club moved to

an auditorium space in the basement of the John J. Hemmingson Center, where the last nine players competed on a stage. A GoPro atop the table captured the action, as play was projected live on the screen behind them.

Heading into the final table, Schuler had amassed a chip count of 321,000 — more than any other player. He then earned his spot in the final two where would face Ethan Moussa.

Moussa entered the final nine boasting a chip count of 157,000, fewer than Schuler's chip count.

Despite Schuler's initial advantage, when the two faced off, Moussa came out on top.

Moussa was not allowed to take home a pot of millions, but instead received a trophy to memorialize the victory. He was also awarded the title of Zag Poker Series Champion.

Follow @zagpoker on Instagram or visit GU Poker Club's profile on Zagtivities to learn more about upcoming meetings and events.

Ruby Gross is a staff writer.

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