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### WELCOME WEEKEND SPECIAL EDITION



Gonzaga Student Body Association hosts club fairs at the beginning of each semester.

BULLETIN FILE PH

## **Club fair gives students space to explore**

### By SOPHIA MCKINSTRY

he club fair, which is put on by the Gonzaga Student Body Association every semester, will take place on Sept. 8 along Bulldog Alley.

The event is a way for students to learn more about the clubs and organizations on campus. Each group that participates has a table where they provide information about what they do and what the club may entail, in addition to answering any questions for students who are interested.

"Clubs are like the life blood of the student experience, because it's likeminded individuals who want to do the same thing as you," said GSBA President Griffin Reittinger. "It's important to have it every year because those incoming students need an avenue to join and get involved on campus."

Liam McKorkle, the director of clubs and organizations for GSBA, has been helping to plan the event since April.

His role as director includes supervising

as the primary liaison for student clubs, working with student committees and helping to get new clubs officialized.

In terms of overseeing club fair, McKorkle said the enthusiasm clubs have in wanting to participate and has been one of the rewarding aspects of the process.

"[Club fair] is essentially just a place where a lot of clubs and student departments, and in some cases organizations from across campus, can come together in one location for students to basically browse around and see what interests them and possibly join a variety of student clubs and organizations," McKorkle said. "It's a great way for clubs to be able to present what they can offer and then for students to match those interests."

McKorkle has served in various positions with GSBA since his second year at GU and said the reason he initially got involved was to help students find connection and community.

"I really love helping people find their place at Gonzaga," McKorkle said. staying involved and finding stuff they're passionate about."

At club fair, students are able to approach the tables of clubs, student groups and outside organizations that they may be interested in. They can then sign up to receive emails, ask questions to the club members and find out what the club does

Kennel Club President Jordan Atkins believes club fair is one of the most beneficial events in terms of reaching out to students and getting them involved.

"It's just an easy, accessible way for clubs to get their names out there [and] tell students who they are and what they're about," Atkins said.

According to Reittinger, club fair helps to give a holistic view of the university and becomes an avenue for students to find a place on campus.

Reittinger was a virtual student for his first semester and believes club fair is one of the most important events of the year. He said that going to club fair gives and form bonds with people who share similar interests.

"Clubs are like the life blood of the student experience, because it's like minded individuals who want to do the same thing as you," Reittinger said. "It's important to have it every year because those incoming students need an avenue to join and get involved on campus."

The fair will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 8, which allows students to go between classes, on the way to lunch or when they have free time.

"When students come in and they have something they're passionate about, club fair is really that opportunity for new students and returning students to find that passion or just some interest they have," McKorkle said. "I think club fair does a really great job of presenting all of the opportunities that are available ... in one time and location, in a fun event."

Sophia McKinstry is a diversity editor.

## Honors senior project brings attention to pollinators

### By MADELEINE REED

Summer on Gonzaga University's campus is adorned with lush nature as the flowers, the grass and the trees bring campus to life.

Oblivious to the passing faces lives a group, however, that makes this life flourish. GU senior Sophie O'Shei has dedicated her summer to observing this group of the many species of pollinators on campus. Pollinators are insects or animals that transfer pollen to plants, allowing for fertilization.

Though autumn weather lays just around the corner, the rising senior's observational project is not over rather, O'Shei will continue until Oct. 1 and is hoping that many will join her.

"Something I'm really passionate about is getting people who aren't scientists involved in science, and getting people to understand how science works and why using science to make decisions in urban planning and on-campus for student involvement is really important," O'Shei said.

O'Shei's observation is part of her senior thesis project for the honors college, for which she is collecting data on the different campus pollinators through an app called iNaturalist.

O'Shei got her start in environmentalism and sustainability in her first year at GU, when she got involved in Gonzaga Environmental Organization. Then, after taking Gary Chang's biology 206 class, she jumped at an opportunity to begin research with him.

"I learned so much and just really enjoyed it," O'Shei said. "[Chang] is just an amazing professor and I thought he could be a great mentor for me.

Doing summer research with Chang for the past two summers laid out the groundwork for O'Shei's project. Chang, her mentor and associate professor of biology at GU, said O'Shei's experience under his wing allowed for them to brainstorm the project.

"[The research] gave Sophie a great feel for the work we were doing and a good sense of the complexity of the system," Chang said.

According to Chang, Sophie was interested in combining the objectives of the honors thesis, which involves a public facing aspect, with her ecology lab, so the task became to find a way to include public participation in scientific research — the result being the use of the iNaturalist phone application.

iNaturalist is an online social network that allows biologists, environmentalists and participants to map and share observations in habitat webs. After downloading and setting up their app, users can log pollinator observations with the snap of a photo and the app will track their location and timing.

As a result of the app's networking ability, Chang said it has transformed public participation in the project.

"I think because it already has a system set up where people can upload observations and other people can look at them and contribute identifications of organisms, that sort of makes it a great place to bring together people who might not have," Chang said. "There are definitely people



The iNaturalist app allows users to share and gather data regarding pollinators, such as bees.

who have contributed this summer that I've never met in real life, and there are others from other parts of the world who happen to be experts on bee identification or butterfly identification, and they're helping out with identifying some of the species we've seen."

Earth Week 2023 in mid-April marked the beginnings of the project, and O'Shei said she looks forward to analyzing the data that accumulates.

'I've yet to get a picture of a hummingbird, so if someone can get one that'd be awesome," O'Shei said.

After the pollinator season ends and the observation window closes, O'Shei plans to share data with the grounds crew, with the hopes of creating an ecosystem that benefits native species.

"If we have native pollinators whose populations are declining, and they prefer one type of plant ... we would want to plant more of that specific species," O'Shei said. "So, the more data we can get about plants and the pollinators that frequent them, and quantifying those numbers, the better we can support those declining pollinator populations."

For Chang, the data collected will provide a new, insightful illustration of the natural ecosystem on campus.

In my biology 206 ecology class, I show images and figures of food webs from the literature or textbooks, but I've never really put one together in a complex system like what we have on campus," Chang said. "There's an overlook on diversity of insects and flowers that we haven't really tried to catalog in the past."

Until then, O'Shei said she hopes community members will participate by joining her on iNaturalist, noting how different she sees the world around her as a result of the

"Giving people the opportunity to go outside and to pay attention to the pollinators around us is exciting for me because that's something that's changed for me ... I see insects everywhere now and I hadn't prior to my experience," O'Shei said.

To get involved or for more information on the project contact, visit @pollinatorsofgu on Linktree.

Madeleine Reed is a digital editor.

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# **Police detained student in April incident**

### Changes in GU's door access policy were a result of a student who allegedly assaulted peers.

### By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

here were less than three weeks left in the semester last school year when Becky Wilkey, director of Campus Security & Public Safety, emailed the Gonzaga University community about changes to door access to College Hall and Crosby Center.

A behavioral incident had occurred involving police intervention, and concerned staff had requested that door access would be limited to individuals with valid GU IDs, instead of the unrestricted access during the working hours, which had been the policy throughout most of the school year.

A male student allegedly assaulted other students, had access to local firearms, sent threatening texts to fellow peers and made antisemitic and racist comments, according to a police report obtained by The Bulletin this summer. None of those details were sent to students.

In her April email, Wilkey wrote that the immediate response to the behavioral incident had been effective in reducing the threat of harm to the individual or others. In an email Monday in response to questions about the incident, Wilkey declined further comment regarding the student or the decision on what details to release at the time, citing student privacy laws.

"Gonzaga is also obligated, by law and out of respect

for community members, to protect individual privacy as well," Wilkey said in the recent statement to The Bulletin. "Many situations with which we deal are fraught with complexity, and social media adds an additional layer."

Âmid the absence of further information, rumors from some GU students of other theories for the recent door access changes spread across campus, and other students posted to YikYak, an anonymous community forum, their fears about the incident. However, Wilkey or other university departments did not release any further information on the behavioral incident.

### **SEE INCIDENT PAGE 2**



95 students will be able to live in the new sophomore housing, which is expected to open in January 2025.

COURTESY OF MATT LAMSMA

## Construction set to begin on new dorm **By MARISSA CONTER**

Construction will begin on a a new residence hall for sophomore students this fall semester.

The building is estimated to provide on-campus housing for approximately 95 students and is located near Twohy Hall at 802 E. Sharp Ave., according to Kent

Porterfield, vice provost for student affairs. Jon Wheeler, director of residence life, said the building will be a suite-style dorm with a similar exterior to Twohy. However, the design of the rooms will differ, and will contain different features, including a 35-person classroom, a faculty in residence apartment, a large ground floor kitchen, a deck for outdoor gathering and large community lounges on each floor.

The building is projected to be ready for students to occupy it in January 2025. The rest of the sophomore village will be finished around 2027-2030, according to Wheeler.

"We acknowledge that we have some aging residence halls, so there's a real difference in the type of housing and the quality," Porterfield said. "Students are going to be looking at housing as a part of their decision and for deciding what institutions to attend, and we need to be competitive."

There is a waitlist for upper division

**SEE DORM PAGE 2** 

GU reflects on

## Maui wildfires

### **By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL**

Gonzaga University sophomore Zion Kekua Ao Kalani Vaoifi has always associated the islands of Hawai'i with home.

The president of the Hawai'i/Pacific Islanders Club was raised in Oahu, an island near Maui, where the recent wildfires burned. He attended a Native Hawaiian high school and thinks of the power of its rich cultural history and island ancestors when his thoughts return home.

"Native Hawaiians altogether are very holistic and very connected with the Aina or with the land," Vaoifi said.

After two weeks of roaring wildfires throughout the islands, Hawai'i continues to face one of its most intense natural disasters with hundreds of buildings destroyed and over 114 people killed in the flames and smoke that residents and experts have said were made worse due to lacking care for the environment.

"To see even an island that we may not be on, all of us together, to see a part of our Aina, or land, struggle like that is something that always will break our hearts," Vaoifi said.

Vaoifi said his home of Hawai'i — the land and longstanding cultural heritage from which he finds power continues to be threatened by fires.

Andrea Brower, a sociology professor who worked against big agribusiness interests in Hawai'i that she said have "poisoned" the land, said she also felt this heartbreak over the wildfires but is also concerned about their cause.

"To see not only this single instance of a wildfire but multiple wildfires ignited across the islands all at once was just harrowing," Brower said. "I really continue to feel shocked grief, and to be quite honest, a lot of rage because this is a human-caused disaster that, in many ways, was unnecessary."

While the wildfires have garnered national attention as a symbol of a natural disaster, Vaoifi and Brower said they see the wildfires also as an example of climate change and the results of the exploitation of Native Hawaiian land.

Vaoifi said Hawai'i has had increased challenges with rising sea levels, flooding from record-breaking tides and strong hurricane and fire seasons on the island, and he said the wildfires are a clear example of a growing trend of environmental change that threatens all Pacific islands and their cultures.

Brower said the fires were a result of tinderbox conditions of the grasslands in Western Maui caused by poor land and water management in the area due to water diversion by the old sugar barons. She noted that the ignited plants were fire-prone invasive species brought during the colonization of Hawai'i.



The library will be bolstering its programs under one of the goals in the strategic plan.

## Strategic plan approved by Board

### By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Gonzaga University's Board of Trustees approved updates to the strategic plan during their quarterly board meeting this past July, setting long-term goals and initiatives for the school.

The approval by the board concluded a yearlong, crosscampus effort led by Provost Sacha Kopp of drafting a revised strategic plan, which included language updates to its strategic commitments and the proposal of 12 new university action objectives for the coming years.

The approved updates highlight a series of visions for the university, ranging from expanding the school's academic capacity to growing campus community spaces, and are framed by the school's Jesuit mission and its four commitments set by President Thayne McCulloh in the 2015 strategic plan.

"This is what we think we can do best in living up to the UAP (Universal Apostolic Preferences)," Kopp said. 'They're not a small undertaking to launch these programs or institutes, and I think they will be best measured by to what extent do we effect positive change for the world around us."

The process for updating the strategic plan was announced last summer and Kopp started reviewing

proposals submitted by campus partners in the fall. Selected working groups then combined several proposals and helped narrow the strategic plan to 12 comprehensive action items.

Kopp said the Board of Trustees has been a supportive force throughout the process and have been updated during each quarterly board meeting. He said they received a draft of the strategic plan in April and held a Zoom meeting in June, weeks before approval where they could provide additional feedback.

'It's a really talented and creative board and like any board, they're providing feedback," Kopp said. "A lot of these folks are alums of the university. They have a deep commitment to Jesuit higher education. They have a deep commitment in Gonzaga. My experience of watching their deliberations is that they're highly engaged."

The end goal of this facilitated process, according to Kopp, was the developing of a strategic plan that is both aspirational and achievable, with objectives that would challenge the university to grow comprehensively as an academic and Jesuit institution.

Kopp and Fr. Tim Clancy, S.J., a trustee and faculty member, both highlighted a couple of the 12 strategic

Former Zag tears up the pitch for

SPORTS

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NEWS

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## **Admissions commits to diversity work**

The office hopes to diversify student body despite the SCOTUS ruling against affirmative action.

### **By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL**

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onzaga University's Office of Admissions will be reexamining its recruitment and selections processes for the enrollment of students following a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court striking race-based admissions as unconstitutional.

The 6-3 ruling was released to the public in late June and made any use of race in the admission process at universities unlawful, leading many colleges across the country to change and update their admissions practices to align with the legal verdict.

Julie McCulloh, associate provost for enrollment management, and Stephen Keller, senior director of admissions, were both disappointed in the Supreme Court ruling because it made it difficult for GU to enroll students of color, which they said is embedded in the university's commitment to diversity.

Robin Kelley, chief diversity officer, said race-based admission has its roots in the historical push during the Civil Rights Movement to respond to educational inequalities in admissions, with a large disparity between white students and students who hold historically marginalized identities.

"I don't think we've told the story enough of how broken the system is," McCulloh said. "I think about affirmative action or race conscious admission decisions, it's actually just a Band-Aid in some ways at the very end of the process. We have an education system in the country, pre-K through 12 that favors wealthy communities, so the system itself is not equitable."

Keller said the university has previously considered race as one of its many variables for its selection of students during the admissions process. Admissions and other school departments have sponsored programs that have focused on recruitment, selection and retention of students of color. The BRIDGE preorientation program and the Unity Scholars were both initiatives supported by admission meant to help diversify the school.



Events like the International Day of Tolerance may be affected indirectly by these policies.

"The Gonzaga experience fosters a mature commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, competence, global intercultural engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable and care for the planet, so diversity is a very important part of what we do at Gonzaga University," Keller said. "This ruling in no way diminishes the Office of Admissions' commitment to diversity. In fact, that commitment to diversity is just as important now as it was before that ruling was released."

With the Supreme Court decision, GU admissions, which committed to increase the diversity of the student body last year, will have to focus on developing and sustaining strategies of recruitment and retention, according to McCulloh, who said the admissions department must research the limits of the ruling.

In 2021, GU admissions surpassed its

goal set in the 2015 university strategic plan for 30% of its student body to be students of color, and McCulloh said GU admissions had raised this goal last year to 35%.

Both McCulloh and Keller said the Supreme Court ruling will not change GU's commitment to diversity and inclusion work in admissions and student enrollment, and they said there are ways that align with the ruling which would still promote a diverse student body.

It is finding these strategies that McCulloh and Keller said would be the goals of an evolving research process, which would mean comparing GU's admission practices to those of other universities in addition to meeting with GU's legal counsel team.

"It's an opportunity for us to think more strategically and innovatively on how we're gonna proceed to do this work,"

"

Keller said. "It makes me feel like: How can we create that change? How can we create the change that we thought we had, but this time it being more sustainable? What are those things that we needed to be thinking about?"

McCulloh, who was aware of the potential ruling when the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in October, said she had her first meetings about it in January, meeting with a variety of campus partners, including members from GU's legal counsel, marketing team and Unity Multicultural Education Center.

Still, McCulloh said she was surprised when she first saw the ruling. Kelley and McCulloh said it was part of a growing attack on higher education throughout the country, with McCulloh citing bookbannings as another example of an obstacle for universities to navigate.

"There is a consistent attack on education, because if you have a more educated public, then that public tends to be more civically engaged, they're more politically engaged, they're more economically engaged," Kelley said. "And if the world is becoming more and more diverse, then there's going to be a move towards more rights for different people who may have been traditionally marginalized. There's a definite push back against that."

The Common Application will still include the race demographic question, but that information will be suppressed and not considered during the application evaluation process.

Because [our mission] mentions how much we value intercultural engagement and diversity and care for the planet and social justice and equity, we have grounds to say this is important to who we are," McCulloh said. "We understand that we can't read in the application if a student is of a certain ethnic or racial background, but we're going to find other ways to value equity, diversity, social justice, because it's who we say we are."

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.



### They're not a small undertaking to launch these programs or institutes ... Sacha Kopp, provost

A behavioral incident that occured in April resulted in restricted access to Crosby Center and College Hall.

## POLICE

### Continued from Page 1

Now, after months since the initial email, police records show the behavioral incident involved a first-year Reserves Officers' Training Corps cadet, who was detained and sent to Sacred Heart hospital after breaking a request by GU administration to not return to campus after some recorded behavioral issues.

The name of the student was withheld by the police department who cited a state law prohibiting the release of the name of an individual referred to mental health resources.

According to the police report, campus security, ROTC staff, conduct staff and other university employees made the decision to remove the student from all GU facilities and suspend him from ROTC based on his behavior at a meeting at GU on April 21.

However, the student returned to campus the following week and was subsequently detained by police.

The report said the student admitted to making inflammatory statements as well as sending inappropriate and threatening text messages. It also said the student understood that he was not allowed on GU property, nor to have contact with any students and is no longer a member of the ROTC program and military.

The Spokane Police Department continued to monitor the case in the following months, staying in contact with the student's family for updates. It suspended the case after the student moved to another state. The report said the family will call if there are any further incidents or concerns.

Jessie Mancilla, director of the Unity Multicultural Education Center, and Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein, moderator for the Jewish Student Union, were not

given any more information of the incident, despite it involving antisemitism and racism.

However, Wilkey said the university's highest priority is the security of the GU community and she is grateful for the GU staff who work to maintain university safety. She said the university has a Behavioral Intervention team that evaluates safety situations and provides case management.

"We acknowledge that addressing all of these obligations is complicated," Wilkey said. "It is one of our highest priorities to work in such a manner that community members have a sense of safety, comfort and belonging on campus."

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.

### PLAN *Continued from Page 1*

plan action items, including the creation of new majors and academic communities in the fields of health and technology.

Clancy and Kopp named the planned expansion of the School of Nursing and Human Physiology, which has been renamed as the School of Health Sciences, along with the creation of the Informatics and Technology Institute as being examples of hoped university growth in the strategic plan.

"We want people at the end to have a clearer sense of what their values are," Clancy said. "They have evaluated their values, they're committed to their values, and that's how they think they're gonna make a better world first, or at least raise a good family, which is part of the world. That's all what the Jesuits are about. That's all what Catholicism is about. It's about enabling people to reconnect with what they hold sacred, meaning to live lives of meaning and purpose. That's in our strategic plan."

With approval from the Board of Trustees, according to Kopp, the next stage of updating the strategic plan will be to decide on how best to prioritize and organize intentional efforts toward implementing the outlined strategic plan goals.

Kopp said some of the goals, including development of new majors, have already had a lot of work put into them, but he also said other strategic plan goals, such as building new residence halls, will require more time to plan and accumulate the needed resources and funds. He said he is in the process of determining which goals will be prioritized.

Still, Kopp said he is grateful for the energy and talent that has been put in by the GU community toward this project and believes the updates to the strategic plan will have a lasting effect.

"It's very energizing," Kopp said. "There's a lot of creativity across the campus, and the process was meant to really leverage all of that. There are a lot of great ideas that came out. It was really exciting to see a lot of faculty and staff participate in this and a lot of engagement in writing proposals or in town hall meetings or what have you. You really got to see the best of the campus and that was exciting."

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.

## DORM

### *Continued from Page 1*

on-campus housing because the university is unable to accommodate campus housing for all students who want to remain on campus. According to Porterfield, this is why Gonzaga University is focusing on constructing a 'sophomore village,' with the other buildings being constructed west of Twohy and the new building. Wheeler said Lincoln, Alliance and Roncalli will also be raised to clear ground for the sophomore village.

The first building for sophomores is actually going to just replace beds on campus," Wheeler said. "Once the sophomore village is built, it's going to take some time, but we're looking at a potential of you know, 600-700 beds that could be returned to upper division students who have to live off campus at this point."

The sophomore village will open up more spaces for juniors and seniors to live in apartment-style housing on-campus as well as for first-year students to move into dorms currently occupied by sophomores.

Porterfield said that student feedback has been a large factor in the new plans for housing, including focus groups and survey responses. There are two student members of the strategic housing planning committee, one from the Residence Hall Association and one from Gonzaga Student Body Association.

"As we move forward, we're going to be doing some showcasing of furniture and gathering student feedback so that we know exactly what it is that they're most interested in seeing in the space," Wheeler said. "We've done a lot of focus groups with students from student organizations and those who are unaffiliated to RHA and GSBA to gather feedback for the sophomore village."

Although the university's current focus is on the sophomore village, GU also plans to update older residence halls on campus.

We have some very aging buildings that are not really conducive to the kind of community that we want to have on campus," Wheeler said. "We want to be able to offer 21st century spaces for our students to be able to live in community with each other and to have the kinds of amenities that are expected by our students, but then also contribute to the health and well-being of our students on campus."

Porterfield said he is excited to explore how they can go beyond building residence halls to enhance the student experience.

"We're trying to think about what the first-year experience and the second year experience should be if you're just thinking more globally about what we want students to experience in their first two years, and really trying to think about how that is connected to their living experience," Porterfield said. "What's the role that faculty will have? How do we bring more well-being aspects into the residence halls knowing that's a big factor? Is that a place where we can do more diversity, equity and inclusion work? We won't be able to do everything but it's fun to think about this as more than beds and keys."

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NEWS

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AUGUST 24, 2023

# **Team teaching: A two-headed monster**

### **By MARISSA CONTER**

onzaga University's faculty are taking the saying "two heads are better than one" into the classroom by collaborating to teach courses.

Co-taught classes, also referred to as team teaching, is when two teachers, usually of differing backgrounds, teach a class together. Over the past few years, there has been an uptick in co-taught classes, especially within the honors curriculum.

According to Karen Petruska, an associate professor of communication studies, the honors curriculum was updated a few years ago with one of the goals being to incorporate more team teaching. She teaches HONS 100: Multi-Modal Communication with Jeff Dodd, an associate professor of English.

"I think it is reflecting honors' real commitment to and interest in interdisciplinarity, since most of the problems in the world are very complex," Petruska said. "And when you bring people together who have different methods and ways to think about it, you might generate more possibilities for working on those problems to use."

Another team-taught course at GU is ENVS 324/POLS 378 Climate Change Science and Policy, taught by Hugh Lefcort, a professor of biology, and Jon Isacoff, a professor of environmental studies and sciences. Although the class is an honors course, students who are environmental studies and political science majors often also take the course. In this class, students explore the issue and politics of climate change through a multitude of lenses.

"Dr. Isacoff and I are really good friends, but we don't agree on everything," Lefcort said. "Political scientists and scientists think different, we're trained differently. The students start to hear all that, and they hear the disagreement, and they hear the jokes, and they get a feel for how complex the issue is, and they stop believing in simple solutions."

In addition to honors co-taught classes, another cotaught course is Intergroup Dialogue. Based on a model from the University of Michigan, the Unity Multicultural Education Center brought the course to GU. Melissa Click, an associate professor of communication studies, said when she taught the course, it focused on race. Therefore, she would teach the class with someone who identifies as a person from a different racial and/or ethnic background.

"It's a really emotionally challenging class," Click said. "It makes you rethink your identification and your presentation in the world, the way that you've thought about your racial identity and the way you relate to other people."

According to Lefcort, it is beneficial for students to



Jeff Dodd teaches a co-taught class in the honors program.

hear multiple perspectives, and having two professors can overall enhance the learning environment.

"If a professor is saying something in a lecture, that doesn't quite make sense, most students are hesitant to put up their hand and say so," Lefcort said. "Whereas your friend, who's another professor, can say, 'wait a minute, are you saying this?' And the students love that since they may be thinking the same thing, but they're too polite to say it."

Petruska has also found collaborative teaching pushes her as an educator through the close exposure of a colleague's teaching style.

"It's a really complex thing for faculty, the way you organize your class is really personal," Petruska said. "How you think about your own education and your relationships with students is so individual, so team teaching can be really challenging. But when it works, you learn so much, not just about them, but about your own ways of teaching and habits, and it pushes you to take risks."

teaching is money. According to Petruska, usually when a faculty member team teaches, they would have to double their workload for the purposes of the university's economics. In the case of the honors classes, the honors department relies upon its own funds, so Petruska's Multi-Modal Communication course counts as a full class for her.

"It is expensive," Lefcort said. "The school has to pay twice as much, but I think the students get more than twice as much, because in a normal class a professor gives their idea, and their idea is usually pretty narrow. It's their field. But that's not how real life really works. If you're watching the Trump indictment, it's politics, it's law, it's governance and it's history. It mimics how things really happen all together."

Marissa Conter is a news editor. Follow her on X: @marissaconter.

Despite its benefits, the main obstacle against team

## FIRES

### *Continued from Page 1*

"My study of history and study of society tells us [these] are not inevitable," Brower said. "They are not something that is natural to humans. They are not some foregone conclusion of who we are. There have been choices made, especially choices by the powerful, to create certain systems that give them profit and power.

After the disaster, Vaoifi and Brower were encouraged by grassroot mutual aid efforts to rebuild. Vaoifi said he believes it can serve as a model for the future.

"Hawai'i doesn't need tourism," Vaoifi said. "It doesn't need capitalism. If anything, the world needs to watch Hawai'i and how it responds to certain things as an example."

Brower agreed.

'They're showing us how you just take care of people when there is need," Brower said. "They're showing us how you creatively respond even in moments of incredible tragedy, binding together as a community and being guided entirely by ethics of generosity, mutual aid, concern for one another, as well as resistance

to the onslaught forces of imperialism, colonialism (and) capitalism that are currently trying to take advantage of the situation."

Brower said she recommends donating organizations, including Hawai'i to People's Fund, 'AinaMomona and Hawai'i Community Foundation Maui Strong Disaster, which she said are doing the collective efforts needed to effectively rebuild.

Vaoifi said the Hawai'i/Pacific Islanders Club donated \$2,500, and the club will be organizing a donation drive on Friday to help raise more funds for relief efforts. He also said he has been in contact with different administrators, including President Thayne McCulloh, who are trying to offer support.

'My mindset is that Hawai'i really can be almost a nexus point for change," he said. "Because you see how our community is so badly devastated and you wonder, 'Well, how are they going to come back from this?' and yet we have outreach from all across the world just coming in."

Noah Appril-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.

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History

### Theatre Midterm

There are many fundamental theatrical techniques used in the book. Several of these methods are still used still used today in modern comedies. However, back in Ancient Greece, matters of comedies ran deeper than the mere fictional amusement of today; the stories had much reality in them. The author demonstrated that these people who believed so deeply in mythology were taken by the underlying theme, fate. It was all up to the gods as far as they were concerned, and there no way out of it.

No matter how hard our protagonist tried, he was never able to weave his own destiny. He realized the gods had a surprise up their sleeves when a man joked at a dinner party that our h

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AUGUST 24, 2023

## Fall for Spokane: The first semester triumphs

hile coming back to campus after an extensive summer break may be rough, there are many aspects of the fall semester that make it the superior term on campus. From the weather to the seasonal festivities, fall at Gonzaga University is the place to be.

The weather may seem to be a mundane topic of conversation, but it truly impacts how we go about our dayto-day lives. During the fall semester, we get a good mix of warm and cool weather. We experience the last heat wave of summer roughly during the first month. Around midterms, the weather cools and the trees change. Finally, we get that first taste of winter before we head home for winter break.

While the seasons do change during the spring term, this is usually when allergy season takes over. While it could be argued that we have a more severe flu season during fall, I feel there are more remedies to such illnesses than the damage pollen can do to a person. Also, you're very lucky if you haven't had to experience allergies while having the flu.

Not only is it refreshing to experience so many seasons in one term, but that means that students get to utilize the full extent of their wardrobe.

I personally appreciate layered



### By SHEI MCLAUGHLIN

clothing, but I want to wear skirts and dresses as well. During the fall there is more opportunity for diversity in our outfits. In the spring semester, we barely see any summer weather and have to wear puffers for most of the season.

My final talking point in regard to the weather is that there is significantly less looming seasonal depression during the fall term. Having the transitional

weather helps ease us into the reality that we will have to be inside and the Spokane sun will be gone for a while.

Post-winter break, it seems to be much more difficult to find the motivation to do work. The summer is a long enough break leading up to the fall term that we can take classes and the realities of being a student head-on. Winter break is much shorter and the weather is more mundane, so seasonal depression is at full capacity.

Coming back from summer break also romanticizes seeing friends again and being back at college. While it is always nice to see friends after being apart for a long time, something about a reunion post-summer break is extra special.

I also feel that there is a lot more to do in the fall both because of the weather, but also it simply being the start of a new school year. Spokane and the surrounding areas host events such as Pig Out in the Park and the Green Bluff pumpkin patch.

There is also a lot of special GU traditions that take place in the fall, such as Kraziness in the Kennel and the Christmas tree lighting in the John J. Hemmingson Center.

Another major perk to the fall

semester is the fact that many first-year students have yet to bring their cars to campus. It is often impossible to find parking on campus — especially near a specific building — but it is even more impossible to find parking even in the BARC after first-years drive their cars back to campus post-winter break.

5

Perhaps the best argument I could make in favor of fall's superiority is all of the seasonal festivities that happen at the end of the year.

Whether you are a pumpkin person or not, something about Starbucks' drinks are so much better from October to December. From the flavors to the ability to order hot drinks, the ambiance of a little treat is so much better.

While I can provide myriad reasons fall is the superior semester at GU, we ultimately are on a lovely campus in a great city. Both semesters can be great if you make them great.

Shei McLaughlin is an arts and entertainment editor. Follow her on X: @\_sheimclaughlin.

## 'Miss Americana' and scary 'Swifties' bring fandom into cult territory

From the 2.3 magnitude earthquake she caused in Seattle to the floods of fans competing for tickets to her live shows, there is no question Taylor Swift has taken the world by storm. Musically, she has covered practically every genre from country to folk to pop. Culturally, she has created one of the most loyal fan bases this generation has ever seen.

While scrolling through social media, it's not uncommon to hear fans lovingly refer to the music icon as "mother" or offer her a divine designation. Those outside this "Lavender Haze" may think this adoration is excessive.

Ever since Taylor reclaimed the center stage of pop culture, many consider her reception controversial. However, the controversy does not seem to be aimed at Taylor Swift, but at her blindly loyal fans, who call themselves "Swifties."

While I enjoy her music and support her message of love and acceptance, I hesitate to call myself a Swiftie for a few reasons.

First and foremost, I do not have the time to devote to this practically full-time profession.

Since the beginning of this year, Taylor Swift began a world-wide tour, broke off a six-year relationship, released a re-recording of an album, announced another re-recording and generally broke the internet. As a busy college student, I don't have the time to wait in eight-hour long ticket queues or keep up with her romantic entanglements - let alone listen to new recordings of songs that last up to ten minutes long. I enjoy belting out "You Belong with Me" in the car just as much as the next person, but the dedication it would take to keep up with the ins and outs of Ms.



### **By MARY SHERDEN**

Swift is above my paygrade.

Secondly, if I declared my Swiftie-hood, I would live every day in fear of being accused of jumping on the bandwagon.

Throughout Taylor's 18 years in the music industry, the public has been in and out of her favor. At times, the majority opinion thought her music was annoying or that she was too hard on her exes. However, some

Taylor Swift after her inescapable "Shake It Off" became the anthem of every public place I stepped into from 2014-2016. I don't think I will ever be able to confidently name a song on "Folklore" or "Evermore" and I probably couldn't tell you which one came out first ... and that's OK. Finally, the blind loyalty that a Swiftie embodies is

a culture that I can't quite get behind.

I don't think I could ever defend someone to the grave if I've never met them. Shocking allegations come out against countless celebrities almost every day that seem to go against the person they claim to be. It cannot be healthy to keep someone on that high of a pedestal.

At the end of the day, it's the music that unites people, and not the uncanny ability to recite every single lyric from her debut album to "Midnights." Finding your own significance within Taylor Swift's lyrics has the potential to be more meaningful than mechanically memorizing far-fetched fan theories that speculate which ex she's singing about.

You can call me a hater, but I'll just tell you to shake it off.

of the same people who swore away their inner-Swiftie in middle school were quick to change their tune when she came back into popularity.

I'll be the first to admit I stopped listening to

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## How to build your Gonzaga University survival kit

Skip the packing lists and target hauls – these six items will carry you through the school year.

### Winter Jacket

Spokane is known to get pretty cold and it is so important to make sure you have a good quality jacket. One that is big and able to put layers on under it is a great idea so you can adjust when you are walking to and from class. Especially when you are waiting outside in line for basketball games and tenting, you will want a good jacket that will you keep you warm for however many hours you are outside for.

Both Patagonia and North Face have highly rated winter jackets that are staples in any winter wardrobe.

### Hammock

After the cold and cloudy winter, the sun finally starts to shine and the weather feels amazing. You will find many students taking advantage of this beautiful weather by laying out on Foley Lawn or in a hammock.

Hammocks are very popular around campus and very easy to set up with the abundance of trees on campus. Whether you are doing homework, reading a book or just relaxing, a hammock is a great place to do it.

### Hoodies/Crewnecks

I can't express how much you will need and want hoodies or crewnecks. I have so many and wear them all the time. They are great for layering up in the winter or just for wearing something comfortable to class. I love my hoodies and crewnecks and practically live in them when it gets cold. Trust me, you will want a variety of these for all seasons.

### Speaker

You may not think this is a must-have, but I found that I was always using my speaker and probably would have gone and bought one if I hadn't brought one. When sitting in your room just chilling or doing homework, the speaker will come in handy. It's a great way to listen to music that will fill the room or if you are hanging out with friends and want some background music. Just make sure it is OK with your roommate before you start blasting it.



### **By MARY CLAIRE PHELPS**

### Moisturizer

Coming from Texas, which is an extremely humid climate, I found that my skin is always dry in Spokane. Investing in a good moisturizer will save your skin and is just good for it in general. I notice my skin is drier than usual in Spokane but especially in the winter. I always have to moisturize my face before I leave for class so my skin feels great all day.

My favorite affordable moisturizers are the Natural Moisturizing Factors + HA Daily Moisturizer from The Ordinary and the Daily Moisturizing Lotion from CeraVe.

### **Coffee Machine**

Having a coffee machine has saved me so much time and money. Don't get me wrong, I love a good iced coffee from Starbucks or Arctos, but it can get expensive. Having a small one in your room will allow you to save time before class and you won't have to spend \$5 every day. If you are a coffee person like me, it is a great idea to have one.

Mary Claire Phelps is a staff writer.

AUGUST 24, 2023

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# **'Barbenheimer' worth the craze**

REVIEW By MICHAEL BEIRNE

fter months of debate, memes and strange fan edits that only the internet can conjure up, Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" finally arrived in theaters on July 21. The box office numbers show that the wait was clearly worth it.

For my viewing, I followed the order suggested by the phenomenon's name itself — "Barbie" first, then "Oppenheimer." It seemed intimidating to face the sheer glamour of "Barbie World" after witnessing the desperate science of the atomic arms race, and considering the differences between these two films, this did seem like the right choice.

For those aiming to pull off the double-feature, this does mean a nearly five-hour trip to the movies. While "Barbie" does take the smaller share of that time — about two hours compared to the three for "Oppenheimer" you really don't feel its runtime pass at all.

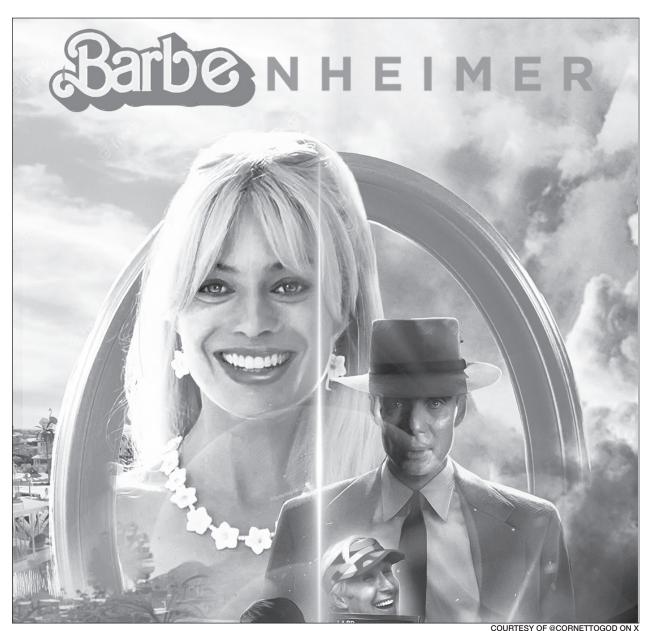
"Barbie" truly is, in no better terms and the most beautiful way possible, something else. Greta Gerwig took serious creative liberties with Mattel's flagship property and turned out some equally serious cinematic innovation. Aesthetically, "Barbie" feels most closely related to the uncomfortable live-action Dr. Seuss movies of the early 2000s with its lurid, almost blinding vibrance. It's a toy world brought to life, with tremendous help from a loaded cast.

Margot Robbie is the perfect Barbie — the movie even says so. As one of the brightest stars in this moment of Hollywood, Robbie deftly navigates the painful poise of Barbie World with a biting elegance and endearing dedication — a stark contrast from her "wild child" role in Damien Chazelle's "Babylon." Defined here by her role as "Stereotypical Barbie," Robbie is working under thick layers of not just performativity, but of limitation as well. This tighter role again proving the merit of her stardom by opening up equitable room for Ryan Gosling, America Ferrera, Simu Liu and many, many more — including Michael Cera as "Alan," who shows that he's still got it from "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World." These performances are only amplified by patient, witty writing that is unafraid to invoke the nuance and queerness to which Hollywood historically owes its glamor.

Gerwig masterfully walks the line between hitting on crucial ideas of femininity and womanhood, while still providing good fun for kids and adults alike. Unafraid in allowing these ideas to be explicit, "Barbie" stretches the impressive distance between its source material's image and the intellectual discourse the film offers up.

While starkly different in tone, Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" similarly touts an impressive cast. With commanding performance from Florence Pugh, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, and Robert Downey Jr. especially, the screen would feel packed if the runtime were any shorter.

For a double-feature trip to the movies, three hours with no intermission is a lot to ask. Nolan seems almost aware of this, though, and holds the audience close at moments where his other films tend let them slip away. For me, this is usually in the score and the dialogue. Christopher Nolan is a great writer, yet sometimes lacks a little restraint. I think his 2020 movie "Tenet" is a clear example of this. There are moments the score drowns out



"Barbenheimer" is an Internet phenomenon regarding the release of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" on the same day.

key dialogue, and equally, there are moments where the dialogue's substance drowns in its own back-and-forth.

"Oppenheimer" almost completely avoids these issues, save one or two shy moments. After "Tenet," the intense, crucially active role of the score was an unexpected but much welcomed surprise. From the moment the theater darkens, Ludwig Göransson's lurking score grabs the audience's heartbeat and threateningly holds it across those three trembling hours to a flatline. I swear, the ceiling was shaking. Cillian Murphy portrays J. Robert Oppenheimer with

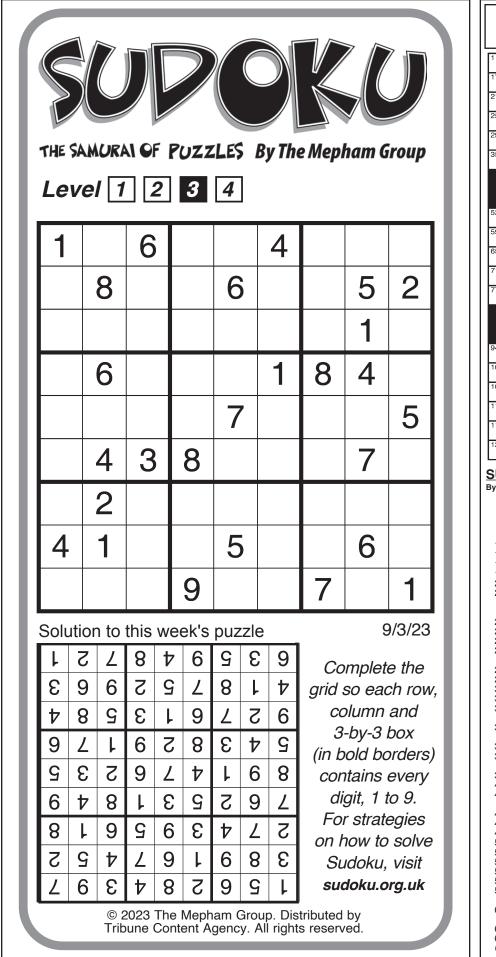
Cillian Murphy portrays J. Robert Oppenheimer with a light touch and remains unafraid to tamper with pride. He bounces across an impressive emotional spectrum without ever letting the image of the character overpower the tenor of his performance.

This double-feature made for an excellent trip to the movies.

Part of the madness of "Barbenheimer" comes from its sheer coincidence. While studios may have already started trying to relocate this phenomenon, a large share of the fun can never be replicated. By bringing wide audiences of two distinct styles all back into theaters at once, "Barbenheimer" seems to have revived the last of the movie-going habits that the COVID-19 pandemic took away. I do not know what other to call this than a success for cinema and the box office.

Each film is a 10/10.

*Michael Beirne is a staff writer. Follow him on X: @mtbeirne.* 



Los Angeles Times Crossword Puzzle

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AUGUST 24, 2023

## Zag's café making strides months after open

### **By CAE CABERTO**

oni Bubble Tea & Coffee officially opened its doors to the public on June 27 after a soft launch in the last two weeks of June.

With summer coming to an end, owner and Gonzaga University senior Kellie Tran reflected on the cafés opening week.

"Ever since opening for the first week, it was wild," Tran said. "I just didn't anticipate that it would be so busy during that week. I would say the first couple

of weeks it was pretty stressful." GU junior and "bobarista" Angelo Celletti said the stress he endured during the shop's first week has started to dissipate over time.

"I'll admit we were a little bit underprepared and unexperienced, so wait times got quite long and we were still figuring out how to make all the drinks," Celletti said. "But, as time has gone on, a little bit of that hype has died down, so things have become overall less busy. We've become much more experienced."

Although Tran said her and her staff were overwhelmed with the number of customers that showed up for their opening, the reactions to the business have been positive.

"I always get people from not only the Spokane local community, but students at Gonzaga just telling us how exciting it is that a boba shop opened at a great location," Tran said. "Since opening we've had a couple students every once in a while studying here, and I always feel really happy when I see



Tran said she hopes her business, located on Hamilton St., will be a hangout space for Zags.

people bringing in their work. I just wanted it to be a good place for people to do homework so that's been really nice."

Tran said that no one could have anticipated how much the community showed up for the business's open.

'We just didn't expect it to get so much support, but I've been managing a lot better recently, and I've learned a ton," Tran said. With the school year around

the corner, Tran said she

wants people to utilize the café during the year, with hopes that incoming first-year students will take advantage of her café and make it a new hangout space.

"I find the students really important for our customer base, especially young people that are like us, because I'm also a student," Tran said. "I hope that the reviews from that community are positive when everybody comes back.'

Tran said she hopes to expand

Uoni's role in the GU community by participating in many side projects she finds valuable and meaningful. She said that as a Vietnamese person, she wants Uoni to uplift and promote clubs like the Vietnamese Student Association. She hopes to work with several of the cultural clubs during the year, possibly fundraising many of these clubs events.

Tran also said she strives to become a more environmentally aware business.

'I would like to do something with students that are involved with the sustainability clubs on campus, maybe focus on how we as a café can do active things to participate in that type of work, because I think it's really important for businesses to keep their environmental footprint in mind," Tran said.

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Celletti said he hopes Uoni can help foster a sense of community and be an important part of student experience at GU.

"A good portion of our employees are students at Gonzaga and we want to do our best to connect with everyone who comes in and provide the best services and quality of products possible," Celletti said. We just want people to come in and enjoy themselves, so we'll do whatever we can to make that people are able to."

Tran said she is happy with the success of her business so far and hopes the community continues to support Uoni.

"Some days you make mistakes and send out some bad drinks," Tran said. "We're learning and growing, and I hope that I continue to see support, and the team continues to see support from not only the students, but from the Spokane area.'

Uoni Bubble Tea & Coffee is located on 1217 N. Hamilton St. To stay up to date on the boba shop and its opening hours, follow the business on Instagram at @uonibubble.

Cae Caberto is a diversity editor.

## Dorm cooking: Braving the communal kitchen

### **COMMENTARY** By HARPER HAMILTON

For the first-year college student, the dining hall - an underclassmen oasis most comparable to the wild animals' desert watering hole — is a thing of wonder.

But as the first months of school pass and reality begins to set in, the rose-colored glasses come off and quickly those dining hall cookies lose their allure. You miss your mother's cooking and your diet consists solely of pizza and Pibb Xtra, a substance you had never heard of before coming to college.

As your own person — you are in college now, after all — you decide to take matters into your own hands. It is time to roll up your sleeves and put on your apron.

While lacking in the comfort and cleanliness a rsonal kitchen may provide, communal kitchens dorm-dwellers the chance to both meet potential best friends and try their hand at playing chef. On days when the thought of one more pizza slice is simply too much to handle or the hoards of students lining up throughout the dining hall seem particularly overwhelming, a communal kitchen serves as a respite from the chaos that is the college dining experience. Now that the dorm chef has a kitchen, cooking can commence. However, there are levels to the college chef. There is the amateur chef, whose daily menu may consist

of top ramen, the classic microwavable meals and toaster waffles. The amateur chef most likely has one bowl and not a kitchen utensil to their name.

After the amateur chef develops more skills, they become what one might consider to be a basic chef. This budding chef usually starts their day with avocado toast and an egg, including in their daily cuisine a diet of cheese quesadillas and simple red sauce pasta, along with the occasional box-mix brownies. While more adventurous in their daily cuisine than the amateur chef, this college student wants no risks in the communal kitchen.

While the majority of college students fall into the category of basic chef, there are the adventurous students who one might refer to as master chefs. These master chefs do not mind spending extra time in the kitchen, whether it is baking bread from scratch or p preparing a meal where a sharp knife and cutting board are used. Whether you consider yourself an amateur chef or a true master of cooking, every college chef must have the basic utensils and appliances to aid them in their craft, regardless of skill level. Objects such as a small frying pan, spatula, cutting board, Bullet Blender, microwavesafe containers for reheating food and a kettle for boiling water are all essentials any new chef may want to invest in as they prepare for dorm room living.

college student attempting to avoid the dining hall may seem basic, when it comes to dorm cuisine the same does not have to be true.

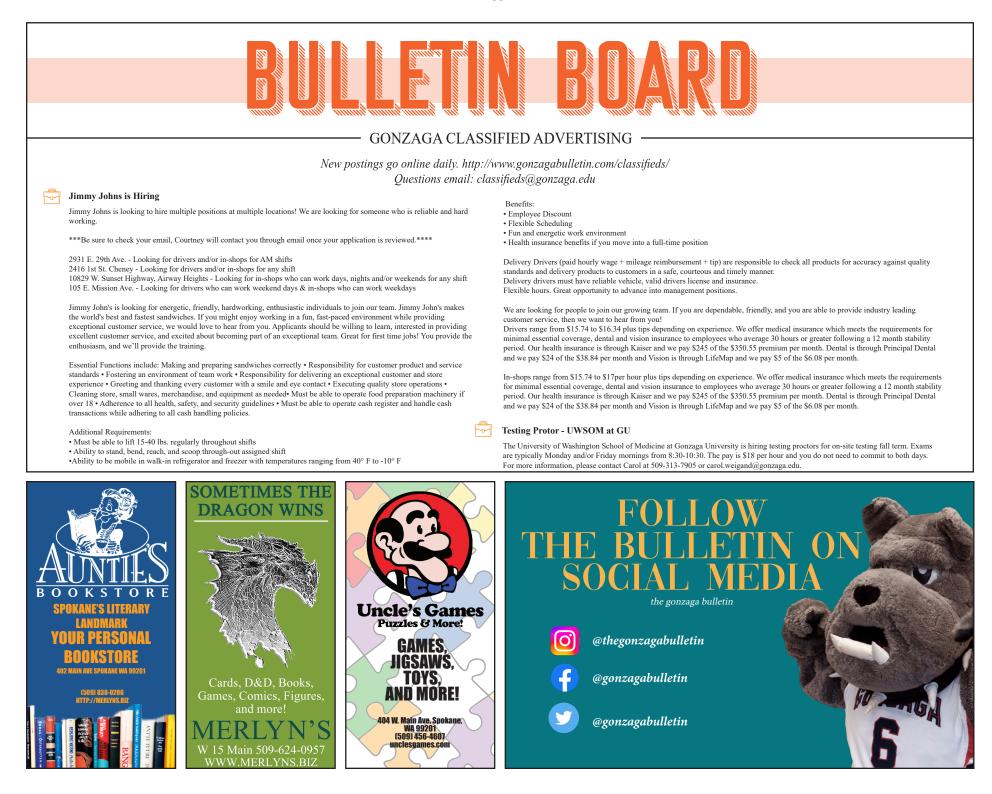
Small details, such as using a variety of cheap seasonings, spices and dressings can drastically alter and improve an otherwise bland meal. Buying in bulk should also not be overlooked as a college student. Time is valuable, and the fewer trips one can make to the grocery store during the busy school season, the better.

As a college student adapting to their new environment, focus on what you have rather than what you do not. For those looking to meal prep, buying items such as pre-cut vegetables, microwavable rice and freezable foods can save you time, as well as ensure that food is being used — the easier the food is to make, the more likely you are to make it.

While the utensils and appliances needed for the

On the days when the dining hall does not cut it and you must finally venture into the communal kitchen, remember that we all have a little chef in us — even if it is an amateur one only capable of boiling water and burning toast.

Harper Hamilton is a staff writer.





Braun (center) scored in the 74th minute of Argentina's 2-2 comeback draw against South Africa on July 27.

# **Former Zag Sophia Braun shines for Argentina in World Cup**

### **By HENRY KRUEGER**

he Gonzaga University women's soccer team has established its reputation within the West Coast Conference, but its presence reached a global scale during summer's FIFA World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Former Bulldogs midfielder Sophia Braun became the first player in program history to compete on soccer's biggest stage, where she represented Argentina.

The competition opened in group play, with Argentina placed in Group G, alongside Sweden, Italy and South Africa. Braun and her team posted a 0-2-1 record in the opening round, which was not enough to advance to the knockout section of the bracket.

"I think we were hoping for more," Braun said. "We had never won a game in the World Cup, so that was kind of our mission. We really wanted to get out of the group stage, which obviously didn't happen, so I think there was a little bit of disappointment."

Despite Argentina's early exit from the tournament, Braun remains grateful for the experience.

"It was crazy. I don't even know if I have the words to describe it," Braun said. "There were a lot of Argentina fans and seeing how much support we had from around the world was really fun."

Among the nearly two million fans who attended the World Cup was Braun's mother, Karina, who is from Argentina. Braun, who grew up in Beaverton, Oregon, felt like the competition allowed her to develop a stronger connection with her mother's home country.

"Since I've lived in the U.S. my whole life and I mostly grew up around my dad's family, I didn't really get to connect to a lot of my mom's family and her culture," Braun said. "So I think having this experience really opened those doors for me which I'm super thankful for."

Karina, in an interview with KPTV Oregon, echoed that sentiment.

It's not only about soccer but she has had the opportunity to bond with my family, so soccer has given her so many chances, you know?" Karina said. "It's not just what you do on the game but off the field, incredible opportunity for her."

When reflecting on her most memorable moments from the World Cup, Braun did not hesitate to mention the goal she scored in the 74th minute in Argentina's 2-2 comeback draw against South Africa on July 27.

Braun intercepted an attempt from an opposing defender to clear the ball, before drilling a goal from outside the box to give Argentina its first score of the game.

"I was not expecting to score a goal in a World Cup game whatsoever and I was definitely in shock after it happened," Braun said. "I wanted to run around and celebrate, but we had to stay focused because we were losing at the time."

Braun, who started in 64 of the 82 games she appeared in for GU, received First-Team All-WCC recognition twice and second-team recognition once. She helped the Bulldogs reach historic heights, including winning a program-record 15 games in 2021 and matching their bestever finish in the WCC in 2022.

'I grew an insane amount both on and off the field at Gonzaga and I think our program has grown so much too," Braun said. "There's going to be a lot of really good players that come from our program in the future, so I'm happy to be a part of it."

Braun currently plays for Liga MX Femenil side Club León, a Mexican professional women's football club based in León, Guanajuato, Mexico.

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

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# New additions bring excitement to **Gonzaga women's soccer team**

### COMMENTARY **By ZACH WHITE**

he Zags are back. Bolstered by new players, new assistant coaches and a drive to compete, the Gonzaga University women's soccer team looks to carry over last year's success into the 2023 season.

Last season, the Zags finished third in the West Coast Conference standings, narrowly missing out on a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

GU opened the regular season by defeating Houston Christian 3-0 last Thursday and Hawai'i 7-5 on Sunday at the Outrigger Soccer Kickoff in Waipahu, Hawai'i.

The Zags will begin a stretch of four home games, with the team set to take on Weber State on Aug. 24 and Nebraska on Aug. 27. Days later, GU will host a women's soccer tournament, competing against Montana, Oklahoma and Utah State.

The remaining nonconference games will see the Zags take on Cal Poly, Texas, Arizona and South Florida.

Following this loaded nonconference schedule, GŬ will begin their WCC league play at home against San Diego on Sep. 30.

Last season, the Zags went 5-1-3 in conference play. The returning members from that team will be instrumental as the program looks to improve on last season's successes.

Sophomore forward Giana Riley was the team's joint-second highest goal scorer last season, scoring five goals and assisting four. The prolific forward will be instrumental in the upcoming season, and for the remainder of her GU career.

Junior forward Marissa Garcia is a clinical striker who also finished with five goals last season. Garcia added two assists to her tally. Garcia and Riley will make up part of a formidable front line this season for the Zags.

Junior defender Willow Collins is a reliable defensive option, having started 17 of 18 games last season. Collins had five goal involvements as a defender last season, demonstrating her crossing and passing ability. To bolster the talented returning

roster, the Zags signed a host of star recruits and hired additional members on the coaching staff.

The women's soccer program has welcomed 11 new players since last

season, with the Zags reloading in several key positions.

Junior forward Marissa Garcia (pictured above) finished with five goals last season.

In goal, the Zags signed Faith Fenwick, a disciplined shot-stopper who represented the Canadian U-17 National Team at the Revelations Cup in Mexico, earning player of the game honors versus Colombia.

We are really excited to get Faith to campus," said head coach Chris Watkins in a school press release. "Her experience with the Canadian youth teams has prepared her extremely well. Our goalkeeper group will be fantastic." Other freshman recruits include

Olivia Lester, from Las Vegas, Nevada, a stalwart who can play in the center of midfield and defense. Finley Heslam is

another standout recruit who can play a multitude of positions, hailing from Portland, Oregon.

In addition to the highly talented freshmen recruiting class, the program has welcomed two new members to the coaching staff.

GU hired Whitney Pitalo as assistant coach and Maddie Cooley as assistant coach director of operations.

Pitalo previously served as head coach of Corban University, while Cooley returns to GU after having worked for the program from 2016-21.

I'm excited to join the Zag family and contribute to the continued success of the women's soccer program," Pitalo said. "It's an honor to work for this prestigious

institution and under the leadership of Chris Watkins and Katie Benz. I'm looking forward to my first season as a Zag and for the opportunity to work with the talented and dedicated studentathletes of the women's soccer team."

**BULLETIN FILE PHOTO** 

With a motivated staff and a mixture of star recruits and experienced players, the GU women's soccer team has all the necessary requirements for success in the 2023 season.

*Zach White is a sports editor.* 

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In Wilson's first season as head coach, GU broke its single-season aces record after recording 179 aces across 29 games.

# Volleyball players trust Katie Wilson's plan for 2023

Among the recruits Wilson brought in

"Being the only setter is really hard,"

is Nia Damuni, who's tasked with being the

team's only setter. While it's rare to see a

freshman orchestrating an offense, Damuni

Thiros said of Damuni. "It's like being the

only quarterback on the team. She gets the

most contact with the coach and stays extra

late for reps, but she is a workhorse and is

Ridgeline High School in Millville, Utah,

to back-to-back Utah 4A State titles. She is

the program's all-time assist leader and was

named 4A Player of the Year by Deseret

Aside from adding new talent on the court, Wilson has bolstered her coaching

staff by adding Michele Maxwell and Adrian

Leiser as assistants. Maxwell, whose role

includes the title of recruiting coordinator,

joins the program with seven years of

coaching experience at Texas Tech, Texas

Before arriving in Spokane, Damuni led

has embraced the responsibility.

doing great."

News in 2021.

### By HENRY KRUEGER

Which the season right around the corner, the Gonzaga University women's volleyball team has recently been powering through grueling and extensive practice sessions to get ready.

"There is a level of determination in the gym that's been different from any other season I've played here," said outside hitter Zoe Thiros. "I think the growth that we've had in just about two weeks is insurmountable."

Thiros, a graduate student, attributes much of the positive change to head coach Katie Wilson. Entering her second season at the helm, Wilson is charged with turning around a program that hasn't achieved a winning record since 2016.

"Coach Wilson has done a great job getting us all to buy in," Thiros said. "And I think a huge part of that are the freshmen and sophomores that she recruited to be here, so we're kind of having a trickle-up effect."

### "

### "Coach Wilson has done a great job getting us all to buy in. And I think a huge part of that

State and most recently Mercer University.

Leiser has been at GU since the fall of 2022, where he served as the director of volleyball operations prior to adding the position of assistant coach.

"I think our staff is very balanced at this point, and it's been a blessing to have so many people willing to help us get better," Thiros said. "The amount of work they're putting in is honestly more than or equal to the amount of physical work that we're putting in on the court as well. So everyone's in it together."

The Bulldogs open the regular season at the Ball State Invitational in Muncie, Indiana, where they will take on Oklahoma and Ball State on Friday, before playing Purdue Fort Wayne on Saturday.

GU is well-acquainted with its first opponent, having battled Oklahoma in each of the last two seasons. The Sooners, who finished 2022 with a 15-13 overall record, won both meetings against the Zags in straight sets.

"I would say we're just as scrappy and talented, but we aren't as physical," Thiros said of Oklahoma. "I'm 5-11 and the average height in their front row is probably 6-3 or 6-4. They're going to bring some firepower, but if we're disciplined, then I think we can beat big, tall and hard hitters any day."

Later that day, going up against Ball State provides GU with another challenge.

### **GU Sports**

Thursday, Aug. 24

- ➤ Women's soccer vs. Weber State, 7 p.m.
- Men's soccer at UC Riverside, Riverside, California, 7:30 p.m.

### Friday, Aug. 25

- Volleyball vs. Oklahoma at Ball State Invitational, Muncie, Indiana, 8 a.m.
- Volleyball vs. Ball State at Ball State Invitational, Muncie, Indiana, 4 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 26

Volleyball vs. Purdue Fort Wayne at Ball State Invitational, Muncie, Indiana, 4 p.m.

- Sunday, Aug. 27 ➤ Women's soccer vs.
- Nebraska, 1 p.m.
- ➤ Men's soccer vs.
- Sacramento State, 7 p.m.

### \*Home games in bold\*

The Zags return home to host their own tournament, beginning with a match against Air Force on Sept. 1 and concluding with games against Idaho and UC San Diego the next day.

GU will then travel to Pocatello, Idaho, for the Idaho State Tournament, which runs from Sept. 8-9. The Bulldogs are slated to face Idaho State and Utah Valley over that weekend.

To wrap up the nonconference schedule, GU will put on its second tournament at the Charlotte Y. Martin Centre from Sept. 14-16. The competition will commence and close with the Zags playing Eastern Washington, with a contest against San Diego State sandwiched in between.

GU will embark on its 16-game WCC slate on Sept. 16, when it travels to take on San Francisco. The conference portion of the schedule has proved challenging in recent years for the Zags, who went 2-16 against league opponents in 2022.

Among the biggest contenders in the WCC is defending champion San Diego, which finished 18-0 in conference play and reached the Final Four of the NCAA

are the freshmen and sophomores that she recruited to be here, so we're kind of having a trickle-up effect."

Zoe Thiros, graduate student outside hitter

The Cardinals have won 26 of their last 28 home matches and are fresh off their second consecutive appearance in the NCAA women's volleyball tournament.

"They are historically a really solid program," Wilson said of Ball State. "They are always first or second in their conference, so it's not just going to be Oklahoma that's tough, but Ball State too." tournament last season.

"There's a lot of talent in the league and I think San Diego proved that last year," Wilson said. "Pepperdine and Saint Mary's are also solid teams, but I think the middle chunk of the WCC could go any way."

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

