

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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Board of Trustees votes on new major

Women, gender, & sexuality studies will be offered next year, concluding a yearlong approval process

By **MARISSA CONTER**

Women, gender, & sexuality studies announced that it will be offering a major for the 2024-2025 academic year at Gonzaga University.

The major will be 33 credits and require taking a course at the 100, 200 and 300 level, a theory course, the capstone and elective courses to supplement the rest of the credits.

"I'm looking forward to being able to help cultivate students more deeply in the interdisciplinary field of women, gender, & sexuality studies," said Associate Professor and Department Chair of WGST Sara P. Diaz. "I've been teaching here for my 12th year, and we've got great course offerings

under the minor, but it isn't really until you are offering major courses that you're really helping get into the depth of what the discipline has to offer. I'm really excited to be able to go on that journey with students to get a little bit deeper and to be thinking creatively."

The change will also be accompanied by revisions to the minor, including the elimination of the capstone requirement and the addition of the requirement for a series of courses taken at the 100, 200 and 300 level and a feminist theory course.

The announcement comes after a yearlong process, which was concluded by a vote from the Board of Trustees at its fall meeting.

According to Diaz, WGST submitted the proposal for the major in October of 2022 when it was reviewed by the College of Arts & Sciences curriculum committee at the end of the fall semester. The dean of CAS and the Academic Council voted to recommend that the major be approved by the provost in March. However, WGST did not hear anything about the major's progress for several months.

Diaz said she expected the approval by the provost and the Board of Trustees to be quick, after the proposal's approval by Academic Council, which includes elected faculty.

"In our case, we didn't hear back, and we started to get a little nervous because

we were expecting that it would go to the Board of Trustees sometime in the spring, so that starting this fall, students would be able to declare that major," Diaz said.

Diaz said WGST received feedback from the Provost's Office in late June, which the department hurried to address so that the major would make the July agenda for the Board of Trustees' meeting so students could declare this major for the 2023-2024 academic year. The provost chose not to present WGST's major proposal at July's meeting, citing other higher priorities, according to Diaz.

Diaz said the provost had questions

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The alumni group was launched at an event last Wednesday night in the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center.

Gonzaga's first LGBTQ+ Alumni Group launched

By **EMMALEE APPEL**

Gonzaga University launched a designated community for LGBTQ+ alumni to connect with each other and current students on last Wednesday's National Coming Out Day.

The Lavender Alumni Community is the fourth alumni chapter based on the Office of Alumni Relations' model for affinity groups.

Drew Rieder, the senior director of regional chapters and affinity communities, said that the development of this group has been in the works since before the pandemic, but went through a lot of trial and error.

Rieder said that working in tandem with the leadership of the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center, Jamie Bartlett and Matthew Barcus, made a huge difference in the ability to build a space that would cater to LGBTQ+ alumni as well as current students.

"We knew it was definitely a group that we want to provide a safe space and a place of belonging for," Rieder said. "It made total sense to start working together on building this community."

Rieder said that, from an institutional perspective, the alumni office has the resources to support a variety of collaborative events between alumni and students, which helps students feel more able to flow from one to the next.

He also said that he hopes this community will serve as a source of healing for GU alumni who may have had negative experiences in the years that they were a student by creating that sense of belonging even after they have left the campus.

SEE LGBTQ+ PAGE 3

ChatGPT: Cheating tool or learning resource?

By **ANDERS SVENNINGSEN**

ChatGPT and other AI tools have taken the world of higher education by storm. Gonzaga University students, faculty and administration are battenning the hatches, hoisting the sails and taking part in conversations to chart a course through difficult waters of emerging technologies.

These conversations have included the debate on if the use of AI in the classroom is a form of cheating or a helpful learning resource.

Nicole Barta, director of the Center of Teaching and Advising, said the university policy for plagiarism, which limits the use of internet sources, provides room for creativity and accountability.

"We have an academic integrity policy," Barta said. "Does it have AI directly in it? No, but it does concern the internet electronic sources. We have as a university an academic integrity policy, but each professor can make their own statement regarding how they will approach that in their class."

Barta said that classroom standards of plagiarism are set by the professor who interprets GU's academic integrity policy.

"Some [professors] could say, 'students can't use it at all,'" Barta said. "But how much control do you think professors have over this? If you put that in your syllabus, you can't control that they're not using it outside of your classroom. I'm just trying to encourage them; it's probably not going to be helpful to have that kind of language."

The internet brought new opportunities for plagiarism within higher education, according to Chase Bollig, an English professor. Students can take shortcuts and appropriate others work with greater access to material. But, Bollig said there is opportunity to learn from classroom adjustments to these internet technologies.

"As an emerging technology, we've got experiences with previous emerging technologies that can help orient us to this, more towards exploration and discovery — inviting people to play with generative AI to see what it's capable of," Bollig said. "Not to imagine that it is, strictly speaking, a cheating tool because that's one of the conversations that is highlighted."

SEE CHATGPT PAGE 3



FASU has the opportunity to attend other schools' key Filipino events in the collaboration with NWFASA.

FASU partners with regional group

By **CLARINNE KIRK**

Gonzaga University's Filipino American Student Union widened its community beyond GU, collaborating with the Northwest Filipino American Student Association, a coalition of student-led organizations.

NWFASA unites 19 student organizations from Oregon and Washington campuses over the goal of emphasizing Filipino culture and promoting educational, political, cultural and social advancement. NWFASA provides members with a community, especially for those experiencing marginalization within their campus communities. The mission of NWFASA is similar to FASU, which has worked to create community at GU.

"As a new freshman, [FASU] gave me a sense of belonging in a predominantly white institution," Angela Macabinguil, FASU's cultural officer, said.

While focusing on community building remains a main focus for FASU, the club is also working on expanding its educational and cultural programs, two of the pillars of NWFASA's mission. FASU has expanded its emphasis

on cultural programs by implementing a new position, the cultural officer, whose job is to increase education of Filipino culture, according to Macabinguil.

"My position deals a lot with implementing the Filipino culture, so understanding our values and traditions," Macabinguil said.

Through cultural education, Macabinguil said she hopes to better GU by increasing representation for students of historically marginalized racial identities.

"We're at Gonzaga, and we're here to stay and make a mark," Macabinguil said. "As people of color, we aren't represented enough. So, I hope we leave such a big mark, that we're actually finally seen instead of pushed to the side."

NWFASA provides solidarity and support in this mission to increase visibility for marginalized students, according to Anjelina Elguero-Mateo, a PR representative for FASU.

"NWFASA is trying to build ways to empower students

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UACC seeks to foster diversity

By EMILY FROMAN

The Unity Alliance of Cultural Clubs has existed at Gonzaga University since fall of 2017, according to Joan Iva C. Fawcett, dean for social justice leadership and community empowerment.

Fawcett is one of two original leaders of UACC, along with Matt Lamsma, dean of student development. Five staff facilitators rotate to facilitate meetings throughout the year.

The purpose of the group is to create a space for community and collaboration, Fawcett said.

"It's an umbrella network of cultural clubs that opt in to meet on a regular basis to increase communication, collaboration, mutual support and that kind of thing," Fawcett said.

UACC's mission is to affirm and advocate for social justice and underrepresented social identity groups, according to Fawcett.

"It's grown dramatically," Fawcett said. "We've continued to broaden culture and diversity to mean more than just race and ethnicity."

Each group shares an ethos of social justice, with community building being a critical component of UACC, according to Fawcett.

"There's got to be an underrepresented group that anchors the student organization and then it has to be not just about celebrating culture, but there has to be an advocacy social justice piece to their mission statement," Fawcett said.

Organizations that have been a part of UACC prior to this year include the Asian American Student Union, the Association of Latin American Students, the Black Student Union, the Filipino American Student Union, Hawai'i/Pacific Islander Club, the International Student Union, Japan Club, the Jewish Student



MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: @makoadealmeida

The Mid-Autumn Festival was a cultural club event put on by the three groups in UACC.

Union, the South Asian Student Union and the Queer Student Union.

Joining UACC this year are the Chinese Student Union, the Muslim Student Association and the Vietnamese Student Association.

The Gonzaga Student Body Association also plays a supporting role to UACC, according to Fawcett. Past activities include leadership development, community building and planning for signature events.

"We have a chance to share our plans, our events with everyone else and then maybe seek any support if needed," said Minh Nguyen, vice president of VSA.

Signature events require planning and resources, for which UACC provides logistical assistance, according to Fawcett. Cross-Cultural Olympics is another

event where all the cultural clubs come together, according to Jenna Serikaku, senior advisor of the Japan Club.

UACC also held a retreat, where topics like leadership development and conflict resolution were covered. The number of attendees is about three times the size compared to attendance from the first year of UACC, according to Fawcett.

"We see the value added toward this [growth]," Fawcett said. "The growth presents some challenges around resources."

The retreat was co-facilitated by Jamie Bartlett, director of the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Center, according to Fawcett.

"We learned so much from [the retreat]," Nguyen said.

The connections formed with other clubs such as the VSA are one of the

reasons Nguyen enjoys UACC.

"[UACC] is a chance to connect with more clubs, to help new clubs like us and to learn from older clubs," Nguyen said.

UACC's board also serves as a resource, according to Nguyen.

"We know that we can reach out to the UACC board whenever we need someone to listen to our ideas and give advice to us," Nguyen said.

Another benefit of UACC is the collaboration it promotes, according to Serikaku.

"Being in UACC, we do our best to collaborate with other clubs," Serikaku said. "It's a group effort to support everybody."

According to Serikaku, the Mid-Autumn Festival, which took place earlier this academic year, involved a collaboration between Japan Club, VSA and CSU.

For Serikaku, Japan Club provides a safe space.

"[Japan Club] is somewhere that I can really cherish my identity," Serikaku said.

The growth of UACC can result in co-alition building, as well as diversifying the classroom and curriculum, Fawcett said.

"The more that we can invest in underrepresented students and diversifying that, the more we can dismantle [white supremacy culture]," Fawcett said.

Each cultural club and GSBA sends one to two student representatives to each UACC meeting, according to Fawcett. Meetings are held 1-2 times a month.

"Providing students with structured opportunities to engage with others who are culturally diverse prepares them to become more effective leaders and global citizens," Fawcett said.

Emily Froman is a staff writer.

MAJOR

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about the curriculum pertaining to servicing core requirements. WGST made a counterproposal and heard back from the provost in September that the major had been accepted with the changes and would be presented to the Board of Trustees.

The Gonzaga Bulletin reached out to the Provost's Office for comment. Provost Kopp requested the reporter speak to Matt Bahr, the interim dean of CAS, since WGST is a department in CAS. Bahr said it is common for "back and forth" to take place when considering curriculum proposals.

"I think in the case of the women, gender, sexuality major, we had to clarify available resources," Bahr said. "You have to be very careful about how the crafting or the development of a program will impact other programs. Will

faculty in that department have new demands on them? What will it take away from? We had to clarify where all the resources were going to go and it just took longer."

Ben Gonzales, a GU student minoring in WGST, is graduating in May and will not be able to declare the major.

"I think it's unfortunate that the work that me and a couple other students have done here will not be able to be more accurately reflected on our transcripts and resumes moving forward," Gonzales said. "I think that it reflects just a trend at the university to value disciplines where it sees more money coming in. I ultimately think that it is just a question about money and not necessarily giving due weight to the intellectual community that we want to be."

Paloma Canales is a junior who is interested in declaring a WGST major next year.

"Offering WGST as a major is important for the furthering of Gonzaga's commitment to social justice, diversity and the dignity of human peoples," Canales said in an email. "Intersectionality, feminism and the critical

interrogation of gender relations in our society are necessary for the championing of social change, and students must have the opportunity to be a part of this."

Those interested in learning more about the major can attend an information session on Nov. 3 or check out the department's Instagram: @gonzaga_wgst.

"I don't think it's tremendously immoral that the university has made money-oriented decisions," Gonzales said. "The administrators do need to steward our finances and keep us open, but I do think that one way of doing that would be to be an intellectually robust and vibrant community, which has really been what's at the heart of this now approved application."

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



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* DAILY FRESH *

GU alumnus presents on clerical sex abuse

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Trigger Warning: This article contains mentions of sexual abuse.

Gonzaga University alumnus Steve Pope ('77) returned to campus for the semiannual Flannery Lecture where he presented on the challenge of forgiving the Catholic Church for the clerical sexual abuse crisis.

The Flannery Lecture series is a semiannual presentation where a scholar is invited by the religious studies department to lecture on relevant religious issues. This year's presentation on the clerical sex abuse crisis comes two years after a report was released linking 30 credibly accused priests to the university.

"My goal is to help us think more carefully about what it means to forgive or to refrain from forgiving for ethical reasons rather than forgiving because of social pressure, or emotional exhaustion, or personal insecurity, misplaced guilt," Pope said. "(To) look at the ethical reasons for forgiving or not forgiving, suggesting that forgiving can be either ethically justified or unjustified."

Pope's presentation focused on the meaning and purpose of forgiveness as a response to injustice, and he said that people need to reflect on the challenge of forgiving the Catholic Church for clerical abuse because the issue has led to widespread feelings of despair and mistrust in the church.

Pope said the issue of clerical sex abuse cannot be ignored by church leadership, the clergy or the laity and that there is a call to acknowledge its harm and ongoing impact.

"I think we should not get over the fact that despair is actually a temptation for churchgoers, rather than a coherent and sustainable attitude to the church," Pope said. "This can't last. You have to move from despair to hope or you leave."

Pope focused on the structural issues within the Catholic Church, including clericalism and the lack of women in church leadership, as being factors that have led to clerical sex abuse being a significant religious issue.

Pope said repentance by the Catholic Church means acknowledging culpability, not just from credibly accused individuals, but from church leadership. He also said the



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Pope's presentation centered around choosing forgiveness when dealing with injustice, such as the clerical sex abuse.

church should meet with and listen to victims of clerical sex abuse.

"Clericalism seems so baked into Catholic culture that it's extremely hard to reduce, let alone eliminate," Pope said. "We have to, of course, think in historical terms. The Catholic Church is very old and takes a long time to change. So we should not despair, but there's a lot of work to be done and no room for complacency."

The presentation concluded with Pope quoting the religious scholar and activist Dorothy Day, in which he said that there will always be a permanent dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church. Pope said the ability to forgive the Catholic Church for clerical sex abuse is based on the reflection of the individual.

Scott Starbuck, a religious studies professor, said the event was an important call to action to address the issue.

"I think it is a step forward giving us language and process to be able to, to begin to, bring this out of silence, because when victims feel betrayed, silence is even more deadening," Starbuck said. "I thought (it) was very helpful that the speaker is recognizing that forgiveness itself is not simple. It's not always immediately appropriate, but it requires justice."

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah_sokol03.

LGBTQ+

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"Everyone should feel like they have the Gonzaga network to fall back on," Rieder said. "So another important piece of building the Lavender Alumni Community is building a network specifically for mentorship and professional development."

From the student side, Bartlett said that giving LGBTQ+ students an opportunity to ask questions and see people like them who have been successful is an essential part of development.

"Sharing that experience of like 'yes, sometimes you have to navigate some things and it's tricky, so here's how I did it,'" Bartlett said.

Both Bartlett and Rieder said that helping alumni continue to give and feel involved with the GU community, in ways other than monetarily, is a top priority that continues a cycle of growth.

The group was launched officially during a short ceremony with three speakers: GU President Thayne McCulloh, alum Joe Lincoln (the namesake of the Lincoln Center) and alum Joe McDermott.

McCulloh and Lincoln spoke to the advancement of GU's support of the LGBTQ+ community on campus today and how this chapter functions as an extension of that support to those who were pushed aside at GU in years past.

McDermott spoke about his experience at GU and took the audience on his journey

of self-discovery and love at a time when being openly queer was not as accepted as today.

Following the speakers, everyone in attendance was welcomed into the Lincoln Center to celebrate.

The space was decorated with rainbow balloons, LED lights reflecting off mini disco balls and mini macarons lined up in rainbow order. Bartlett also turned her office into a makeshift Stonewall Inn, complete with a speakeasy, as a nod to the history that it holds for queer individuals.

Bartlett said she hopes the extension of community will also help the Lincoln Center bring people in to create an advisory board which would include alumni.

She said the Lincoln Center has created a strategic plan for the upcoming years and hopes to implement more voices that will help them better identify what events and programming can be done to support LGBTQ+ students.

"I think the big thing is like, 'what's next?'" Bartlett said. "I do think this particular alumni group can give a unique perspective on navigating the world from the community's vantage point ... My hope is that they can pass that down to students."

For more information about the Lavender Alumni Community, the group's page is available through GU's Office of Alumni Relations.

Emmalee Appel is a digital editor. Follow them on X: @em_appel

CHATGPT

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Bollig said AI can be a tool among students who already have a wide variety of options to tackle academic work.

"One of the conversations happening in faculty development circles is to encourage folks to treat AI as augmenting or amplifying people's abilities rather than attempting to replace humans," Bollig said. "Once we start seeing it in those terms, it becomes a little bit easier to see the possibility space, rather than to imagine, 'this isn't as good as what I would do.'"

For Bollig, this has broader implications for the discussion of AI literacy, similarly to how people became 'literate' with search engines like Google.

"There are emerging AI literacies that we don't quite know how to name right," Bollig said. "Depending on how the technology goes, we may need to develop skills that we don't recognize right now as fundamental to learning. When I taught my first-year writing class, we worked with GPT. I found the students who did best with it were ones who came in with a playful attitude."

For Barta, this does not mean ignoring policy. Rather, it ought not to be left entirely to a prohibitive blanket statement. Barta said the important uses could be brought into the 'ecology' of learning at GU and that the academic integrity policy must remain broad enough for flexibility and creativity

in addition to encouraging discretion at the individual level of the professor.

"AI literacy should be integrated so that we're not graduating students who don't really understand it," Barta said. "My hope is that faculty understand and teach their students the same way they learn anything else, to be inquisitive and think through ethical implications. If we are literate enough to explain to students 'here's how this works,' they have the option to make choices that are best for their learning."

Bollig and Barta have worked with others to lead AI focused workshops and talks with students and professors. Their AI pedagogy groups met in spring 2023 concerning changes in practices to make based upon concerns with students using AI inappropriately. According to Barta, more than 70 faculty members attended, and it was truly a display of how salient and potent the issue of AI is within higher education.

"Instead of telling you the answer to your chemistry problem, you ask a series of questions to dialog and try to get you to that answer," Bollig said. "I would imagine that that space is going to be pretty happening in the next few years. It'll be exciting to see where AI could work with the existing infrastructure, or where it might be right as in competition."

Anders Svenningsen is a news editor. Follow him on X: @torvald.

FASU

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and provide a resource throughout the Northwest that shows we're not alone in our activism and the struggles that we face in [predominantly white institutions]," Elguero-Mateo said.

After continuous involvement with NWFASA got disrupted during the pandemic, FASU hopes to become more involved with the organization this year, according to Macabinguil.

Part of this involvement includes attending an annual conference with the other 18 affiliated university groups. NWFASA also provides workshops and community-building events, such as the Filipino Olympics, where students from different universities compete in fun

activities representative of their Filipino culture.

"[The event] definitely reminded me of my childhood, because I used to visit the Philippines a lot," Macabinguil said. "It kind of brought a whole sense of home and familiarity, but also let me meet new people and connect with other clubs."

Another benefit of this alliance is the ability to visit each others' flagship events, which helps FASU members find inspiration and show support for other university groups.

NWFASA also offers a summer leadership retreat with workshops and discussions on the organization's goals for the year, which include increasing education and raising donations for a chosen cause, such as typhoon relief.

Elguero-Mateo said she hopes to increase involvement with NWFASA beyond just FASU executive members, as many FASU club members and the larger GU community

are unaware of their partnership and the resources available as a result.

Elguero-Mateo said she hopes to combat this lack of engagement by opening up meetings with NWFASA representatives to all FASU club members, allowing them to hear about NWFASA and become involved in the alliance. FASU is inviting members to the next alliance meeting on Oct. 21 and providing transportation to Ellensburg, Washington.

Macabinguil said she believes increased student involvement with NWFASA is important as the group provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with similarly identifying students from various universities and build a network of connections.

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

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Letter to the editor: Israel and Palestine

As momentous events continue to unfold in Israel, the rest of the world watches in horror at the violence and conflict. As the struggle worsens day after day, many U.S. leaders, both Democrats and Republicans, have called for peace and a return to the status quo.

But what really was the status quo, and where did this attack from Palestinian militants come from? To ignore these questions and to call these recent attacks “unprovoked” is disingenuous, ahistorical and amounts to outright denial of the rights of Palestinians for sovereignty, self-determination and human dignity.

Since Israel’s establishment as a nation in 1948, the state’s official policy has been one of violent settler-colonialism, pushing Palestinians out of their ancestral homes, driving them into neighboring countries as refugees and for those unable to leave, forcing them into open-air prisons, the most infamous of which is found in Gaza.

This phenomenon is well documented, and the far-right Israeli government will be the first to admit that its policy on Palestinians is colonial, as leaders like Benjamin Netanyahu promise to continue annexing

more and more Palestinian territory and converting that stolen land into Israeli settlements. The human rights organization Amnesty International labels Israel an “apartheid state,” where “Israel imposes a system of oppression and domination against Palestinians across all areas under its control.”

One of these areas where this oppression is most visible is Gaza. There, the Israeli military is actively dropping bombs on civilian populations in retaliation for the recent Hamas attacks, but what is life like in Gaza, and why would Gaza militants attack Israel in the first place?

With a population of 2 million people, Gaza is a clear example of the results of decades of Israeli apartheid and violence against Palestinians.

According to the United Nations, 80% of its people live in poverty, half of the population is under 18 years old and in Gaza, water, food and electricity are scarce, as an Israeli blockade prevents resources and humanitarian aid from entering the territory, confiscating it from a people who desperately need help. 97% of the freshwater in Gaza is unsafe for consumption, and water plants necessary for decontamination have been



By HAYDON RAMIREZ

almost entirely destroyed by Israeli air raids. Palestinians cannot leave Gaza without approval from the Israeli government, which they rarely receive, even in cases of medical emergencies.

On top of all this, Israel continues to act in “self-defense” against Gaza, dropping thousands of bombs on its civilians every single year, as well as shooting and killing hundreds of unarmed civilians near the border, according to the United Nations.

In response to the recent surprise attacks, Israel has already dropped over 6,000 tons of bombs on Gaza alone, according to the Israeli Defense Force.

In a post on the social media site X on Oct. 10, President Joe

Biden firmly stated that “If the United States experienced what Israel experienced, our response would be swift, decisive, and overwhelming.”

As U.S. leaders like Biden line up to renounce Palestinian “terrorism” and support Israeli bombing of Palestinian territories, remember half of Gaza’s inhabitants are children, completely unaffiliated with groups like Hamas.

As an American, I see people take to social media to condemn Palestinians for their violence against Israelis, without an acknowledgement of the systemic violence inflicted upon Palestinians for the last several decades.

I am reminded of a quote from the liberation scholar Walter Rodney, whose understanding of anti-colonial struggles can help illuminate the current situation in Israel and Palestine: “We were told that violence in itself is evil, and that, whatever the cause, it is unjustified morally. By what standard of morality can the violence used by a slave to break his chains be considered the same as the violence of a slave master?”

I want to be clear so that no one can misrepresent or misinterpret what I am saying:

any reasonable person ought to adamantly condemn violence against civilians, as well as acts or words of antisemitism. Respect for human life and dignity is of utmost importance as these events unravel.

However, any calls for peace that do not also take a firm stance in favor of the right of Palestinians to exist freely, without a violent and occupying apartheid state like Israel lingering over its head, are meaningless and work against the justice both Israelis and Palestinians desire.

Palestinians are not choosing to take up arms. Rather, the depraved conditions created by the far-right Israeli government have fostered a rise in militancy and led to the events we see today.

History does not exist in a vacuum, but is a culmination of the material reality of the people who experience it, and this conflict is no different. In order to reach justice and pursue peace, we cannot ignore the reality of the Palestinian people, and we must support their efforts for identity and human rights.

Haydon Ramirez in an alum.

Letter to the editor: Unspoken Kraziness in the Kennel

When I was an undergraduate at a large, public state university, I never participated in family weekend. To be fair, I didn’t even know it existed.

Now, as a fifth-year professor who not only teaches first-year students but also resides as a Faculty in Residence in a dorm, I couldn’t be more aware of its significance. Fall Family Weekend is a huge event at Gonzaga University, for the students and for the parents.

Not only is the weather optimal in Spokane this weekend, but it comes at a time when students are both emotionally and physically hungry for the sustenance that parents, siblings, friends and pets provide.

At this point in the semester, the shininess of being a first-year at GU is wearing out and is replaced by stress from taking exam after exam.

Students are tired of the weekly routine. Monday through Friday classes, Saturday trying to catch up on sleep and consider working on that project. Then Sunday consists of homework and finishing the project. Oh, and don’t forget the laundry. Hopefully, there is a machine open. Fall Family Weekend is a nice break



By HAYS WHITLATCH

in the routine.

It’s a time to recharge and enjoy some GU traditions: dinner with parents, research presentations in the John J. Hemmingson Center Ballroom, cornhole tournament, dance team and Bomb Squad performances, free soft drinks, hot dogs and lemonade.

In my first-year Calculus class, I have tried starting my own tradition. Each year, I remind students that when they go out to eat with their parents, they should order extra food to go and bring it to me

on Monday (five years running and still no takers). Of course, the biggest tradition is, at least in term of attendance and publicity, Kraziness in the Kennel. Talk about tradition. 6,000 boisterous fans pack into the McCarthy Center for a first glimpse at the new men’s basketball team.

New and returning players show off by dunking, shooting 3s and scrimmaging. The Bomb Squad performs again, ESPN analyzes the team and the women’s basketball players throw shirts into the crowd.

And here we have another tradition — while many students get to have dinner with their parents, the women’s team mostly does not. Fall Family Weekend has failed to find a time to highlight the women’s team.

Parents of these student-athletes aren’t expected to be on campus this week because they are expected to be here a week later. GU’s women’s basketball team has been relegated to play the following week. This is the team represented in the past three WCC championships — a team of student-athletes who have returned the entire starting squad and recruited extremely talented first-year players, a team

commanded by 10th-year head coach Lisa Fortier.

Not highlighting the women’s team on family weekend is “Kraziness.” Why can’t the women be represented on the same weekend as the men?

I, for one, would welcome a scrimmage on Friday by the women (perhaps the men can show up to throw some shirts). Parents deserve to support their children and see them celebrated.

OK, time to grade Fall Family Weekend. For this, I choose mastery-based grading — M: student has demonstrated mastery of the objectives, P: Student is progressing but still has work to do, X: not assessable.

Clearly, when we have not yet reached mastery, a grade of P is warranted. Put some work into it and try again next year.

Best wishes to all our student athletes. We are proud of you.

Hays Whitlatch is an assistant professor of mathematics.

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Contact Info:

Email: bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Office phone: 509-313-6826

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

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Boots are made for walking, and that's what they should do

Cars suck. Driving sucks. I see almost no bright side to the reliance on car infrastructure in the United States, and I’m here to tell you why walking (and other forms of transportation) will always reign supreme in my heart.

First, I understand and acknowledge that cars are essential for a lot of people — myself included — but that doesn’t change the fact that cars have destroyed urban life.

First issue: cars limit walkability and other forms of transportation.

Because we have structured our city planning around the assumption that everyone will have cars to get around, we fail to create holistic spaces.

The term “walkability” refers to the total features in an area, either natural or built, that support life. Places like college campuses and “downtown” areas of cities are relatively walkable because the community that is valued in those spaces is reflective of the need to have everything within walking distance.

However, even within downtown metro areas, especially Spokane, we can see the clear effects of car reliance. Several lanes worth of traffic and massive parking lots or garages essentially function to cut off how walkable a place really is.

Now, you may have started to think “but Emmalee, what about accessibility?” Valid point. In some ways, cars extend the accessibility of some places, but they are certainly not a solution to an overall system that denies access to those with physical disabilities.

And guess what? People wouldn’t need to travel so far if



By EMMALEE APPEL

we had spaces throughout cities, where everything that a person needs to survive was within a reasonable distance from their home.

And, if we took massive car lanes out of the equation and invested in reliable public transportation and/or clean, safe walking space, it would be much easier for those with disabilities to travel. I know I’ve been talking about walking and walkability, but public transportation is not to be dismissed. Effective public transportation methods are essential, especially in a country as big as the U.S.

Next issue: Cars are not financially accessible items.

Cars are crazy expensive. If you’ve ever had to buy a car or even look into buying one, you know how massive of a commitment it is. You also know that it’s a god-awful “investment.”

We cannot, realistically, expect everyone who needs a car to have one. Cars are a luxury, and gas prices are, evidently, in a perpetual state of “going up.”

So essentially, we’ve created deserts that one needs a mode of transportation to escape from to find food and water, but also failed to provide that

transportation. We assume that everyone will be able to purchase one at some point, or inherit one, even though some cannot guarantee food on their table every day.

If I’m not careful I’ll start ranting about cyclical poverty, so I’ll move on.

Final issue: Cars are destroying the planet.

You’ve all heard this argument before, but it’s true. Tons of metal, massive batteries and gallons upon gallons of gasoline create likely the least sustainable mode of transportation (aside from private jets).

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the average passenger vehicle emits roughly 4.6 metric tons of CO2 per year. The MIT Climate Portal gives us an easy way to visualize this: imagine a cube about as tall, wide and long as a telephone pole. One of these cubes equals one metric ton. So, almost five of these massive cubes, each weighing an actual ton, is how much CO2 one single car puts out in a year.

Of course, this is miniscule in comparison to the emissions of car and gasoline manufacturers, but none of those companies would have nearly as much business if we downsized our reliance on these machines.

In conclusion, go for a walk when you can.

The time you spend walking can help you think, calm down or even just listen to that new album you haven’t had time to sit down with. Spokane has some lovely scenery waiting just beyond the six-lane highway.

Emmalee Appel is a digital editor.



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SPOKANE B

HIKE BOWL AND PITCHER

SING KARAOKE AT STAR

GET A

DRINK A FISHBOWL AT RICON TAPPATIO

NIGHT SKI

RIDE THE PARTY TROLLE

SIT ON THE ROOF OF HERAK

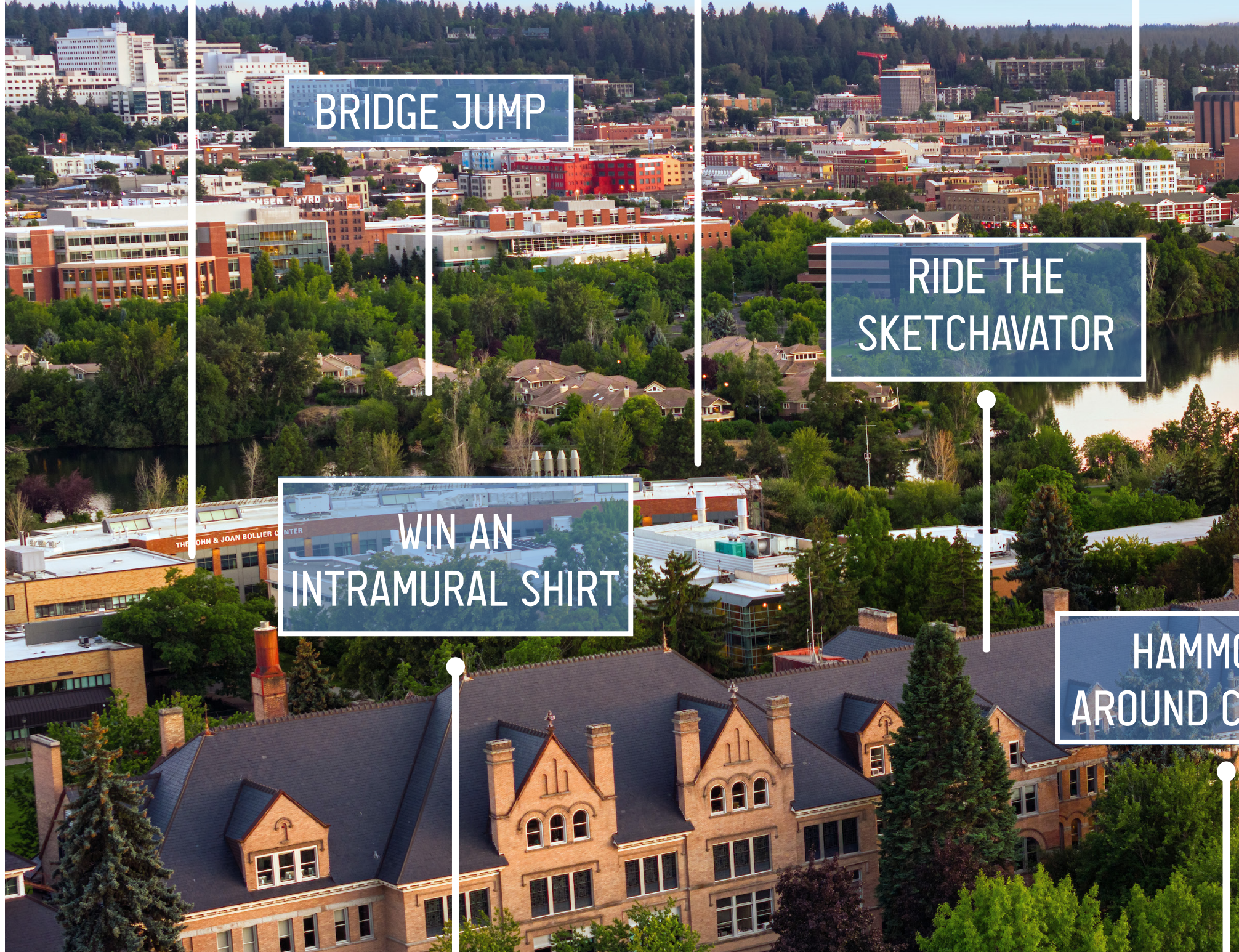
GET A HIGH TENT NUMBER

BRIDGE JUMP

RIDE THE SKETCHAVATOR

WIN AN INTRAMURAL SHIRT

HAMMO AROUND C



BUCKET LIST

PUMPKIN DONUTS
AT GREENBLUFF

GO TO
THE COVE

SENIOR YEAR
TRIP TO VEGAS

EY

RUN BLOOMSDAY

ATTEND A CONCERT
AT THE PAVILION

SPIN THE BIRTHDAY
WHEEL AT FAST EDDIE'S

PLAY AT
HOOPFEST

SLED ON
CAMPUS

SIT FRONT ROW AT A
BASKETBALL GAME

TAKE A SELFIE
WITH THAYNE

OCK
CAMPUS

GONZAGA
STUDENT
MEDIA

Minecraft unveiled: A 3D journey through pixels and creativity

REVIEW
By EMMALEE APPEL

The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture's newest exhibit is drawing in audiences of all ages to experience Minecraft in 3D. The exhibit is organized into five categories that walk audiences through everything from the development of the game to how it has impacted pop culture.

Minecraft, if you're somehow unfamiliar, is an open world, crafting-based game that allows players to explore the blocky world around them and create, essentially, whatever they want.

The exhibit celebrates the success of the video game and shows us how Minecraft managed to take the world on a journey of creativity and inspiration.

Created through a collaboration between Mojang Studios and the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle, the exhibit is interactive and immersive.

As you walk through the rooms, life-size models of Minecraft creatures (everything from zombies to cows) greet you with their characteristic noises. The lighting also changes in the main rooms, cycling through day and night — although the "Nether" stays dark — and the subtle soundtrack hums in the background.

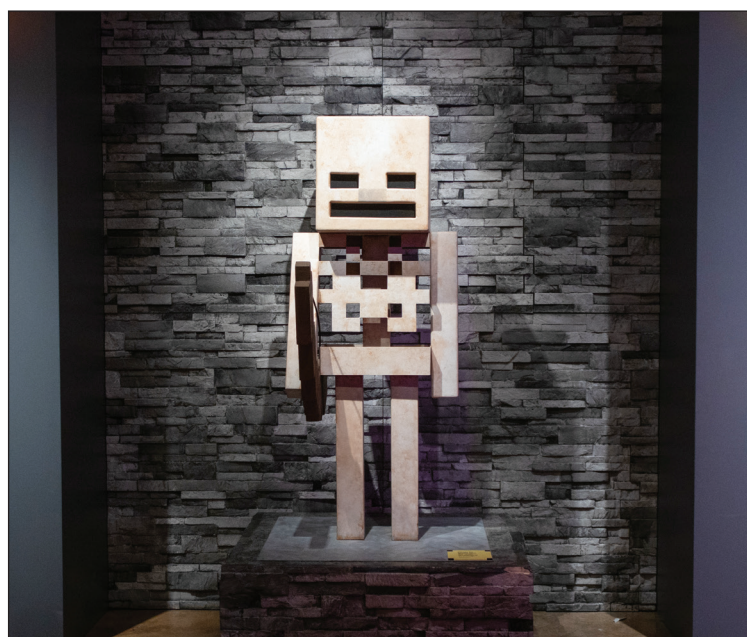
There are large screens throughout the rooms, each playing interviews with creative directors and game designers or with everyday gamers. There's a unique one with three screens that surround you, mimicking VR, that reminisces on what the first night in "survival mode" is like.

For those familiar with Minecraft, the exhibit is a fun walk down memory lane, bringing childhood (or even recent) fun to life. And for those unfamiliar with the game, it explains the concepts and overall feel of the game concisely.

Alison Curtin, along with her son Jaxon, found the exhibit



The Northwest Museum of Art is hosting an immersive Minecraft exhibit through the end of 2023.



Rooms in the Minecraft exhibit feature life-size figures of characters.

enjoyable and informative. "It's cool to see how it has progressed," Curtin said. "[Jaxon] tells me about all the things they add or new things you can do, so it's interesting to see that."

Curtin claimed she was mostly unfamiliar with the game,

other than the knowledge Jaxon provides, but said it was fun to watch him get excited about the exhibit.

"I think my favorite thing here is the Enderman," Jaxon said. "And I didn't think that blocks were this big."

Jaxon was referring to the

very large, to-scale blocks that made up the displays. At the beginning of the exhibit there is a life-size block where the respective plaque claims that one stone block in-game would be equivalent to a roughly 2.5-ton block of solid stone in our reality.

The Curtins both expressed their excitement to share the exhibit with their friends. Alison said Jaxon has several friends he likes to play Minecraft with, so she is confident they will be going back with extra people before the end of the year.

Aside from the life-size displays and video interviews, the exhibit also features a few interactive displays. The first of these is a working crafting table. In Minecraft, crafting is an essential skill, so the table walks audiences through gathering some simple materials and creating tools.

Using little tiles that represent materials, the motion-detection table teaches you the formula for basic things like sticks and pickaxes.

The second interactive display is a looped, slightly sped-up video that audiences can

control the speed of and rewind to watch veteran builders create structures that defy gravity and prove that creativity can get you anywhere in the game.

The final interactive section, as well as the final section in the exhibit itself, is a big room with about 20 computers and five iPads set up to play Minecraft on.

People can choose between Xbox controllers, the iPad touchscreen or a keyboard and mouse and are given free rein to explore the worlds of Minecraft and build to their heart's desire—or, rather, for 15 minutes, just to respect everyone's desire to play the game.

This room is also equipped with a single projector set up for a two-player game and displays people who have utilized the design of Minecraft to better the world around them.

One of these displays describes the "Block by Block" program that Mojang started in 2012 which aims to get young people involved with urban planning.

The plaque depicts a group of school-age girls in Hanoi, Vietnam, who used the game to recreate the commute they walked to get to school, redesign them with small changes to increase safety, and present them to local government.

And the highlight of the exhibit: a punch-able tree that makes the same sound effects as in-game trees when you "chop" them down.

As you leave the main showrooms, there is a small side room with coloring pages, Legos and origami instructions that is dedicated to the role that Minecraft assumes in education through play.

The Minecraft exhibit will be at the MAC through the end of the year. Ticket information and museum hours can be found on the MAC website.

Emmalee Appel is a digital editor. Follow them on X: @emm_appel.

Travel through time at Spokane's Renaissance Faire

Medieval celebration features elaborate costumes and entertainment from 16th-century Europe

By SHEI MCLAUGHLIN

What is usually an empty, dusty field in Colbert, Washington, donned faux cobblestone battlements on Saturday as a crowd dressed in petticoats, corsets and cloaks invaded for the Spokane Renaissance Faire.

Past the entrance, the crowd of onlookers is met with myriad vendors, games and other forms of entertainment. Deanna Cree, an attendee dressed as a regal fairy, complete with a parasol covered in an assortment of pink flowers and moss, said that she is happy to be back at what the regulars call the Ren Faire.

"This is only my second time going to a Ren Faire," Cree said. "I really enjoy seeing the ways that people build their costumes and what kind of character comes with that."

According to Cree, costumes play an important role at Ren Faires. She said that the way people decide to dress often determines what experience they want to have at the Faire.

"The best part of Ren Faire is to dress up and to be a part of it. You can be a fairy, a mushroom, a knight or even Shrek and Fiona apparently," Cree said, gesturing to a nearby family cosplaying as characters from the Shrek franchise.

The Ren Faire offers more than just a costume contest. There are jousting tournaments, trinket trading, mermaid shows, story times and other attractions. Cree said that the lemonade deserves an honorable mention as well.

One of many attractions that the Ren Faire offers is called Cup 'N Coin. For a

dollar, you receive a realistic replica of a 16th-century Spanish doubloon that you will toss and try to make into an array of tankards. If you make it into a tankard, you get to take it home.

Anira Harrison, one of the Cup 'N Coin vendors, has been working at Ren Faires across the Pacific Northwest for 11 years. She believes that the faire is a fun way to build community while being educated about the Renaissance period.

This year's Ren Faire follows the history of Queen Katherine of Aragon, the first wife to King Henry VIII in 16th century England. According to Harrison, members of the Ren Faire staff dress as either royalty or courtiers and roam the Faire, educating the public on royal politics from that time.

"Being a vendor contributes to this bigger picture that is teaching history in a fun and engaging way," Harrison said.

Dressed in what she described as "merchant class," she said that Cup 'N Coin is supposed to be a way to bring people into the history of the medieval period.

"The point of our booth isn't for profit or anything like that, the point is to bring ambiance and knowledge," Harrison said.

Harrison said that there are a lot of attractions that mimic what life was like during that period. She said that trinket trading is a new part of the Faire this year and that it adds to the ambiance.

"People who wear an orange ribbon are trinket traders," Harrison said. "So most vendors have a trinket box where trinket traders can take something from the box in return for one of their own trinkets."

Modern Ren Faires are typically set in 16th century Europe but also



LUCY BOOTH IG: @lucybooth.photo

Attractions such as jousting, sword fights and dances are found at the Renaissance Faire.

take inspiration from Celtic fairy tales, according to Harrison. She believes that the Ren Faires are supposed to be a portal in time where people can learn and experience history.

"That's what the Renaissance was, it was supposed to be this new age of learning where even the lowest of serfs could learn something," Harrison said.

She said that, while the vendors at Ren Faires use their booths to entertain the public, they also use them to educate about the time period.

"We try to educate as much as possible by doing things such as using replica

Spanish doubloons and teach things such as the rules of jousting," Harrison said. "We even have royalty that mimic the true royalty and their history from the 1500s."

Harrison said that no matter the reason people have for coming to the Faire, there is something for everyone.

"Ren Faire is a place where you get to fall into history and fall in love too," Harrison said.

Shei McLaughlin is an A&E editor. Follow her on X: @_sheimclaughlin.

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Jim Simon and Kelsey Solberg created the "Inbalance" podcast to connect Gonzaga University's students and faculty to topics on sustainability.

Talking sustainability and a greener Gonzaga with 'Inbalance' Podcast

By ZACH WHITE

In a complex, ever changing world, "Inbalance," Gonzaga University's Sustainability Podcast, gives listeners eco-conscious inspiration one episode at a time.

According to Kelsey Solberg, one of the hosts of the podcast, "Inbalance" began in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. With people cooped up inside pondering social change, Solberg and her co-host Jim Simon, director of GU's Office of Sustainability, said they saw a chance to spread education surrounding sustainability.

"Jim reached out to me three years ago, and asked if I was interested in co-hosting," Solberg said. "I jumped at the opportunity, and it's been super fun. I feel super lucky that Jim asked me to do it with him."

Simon and Solberg's aim for the podcast is to increase awareness of GU's CREATE model of sustainability. The duo carries out the goal not through an overbearing online presence, but through a light, conversation-based podcast.

"People have pretty different ideas and definitions about sustainability," Solberg said. "It'd be pretty easy to put the podcast

in that category. What we're doing is trying to have conversations with people and gain new perspectives. To me it's interesting, it's fun. It's a good way to see what people in Gonzaga think about sustainability topics."

Carbon neutrality is at the forefront of the CREATE sustainability model, with "Inbalance" being mostly focused on achieving the goal of having a balance between carbon emitted and carbon absorbed.

"We have a plan to achieve [carbon neutrality] that was created in 2013," Simon said. "We're actually in the process of replacing that plan with one that ... will ideally be robust enough. The type of scope that will be able to measure how much carbon, or reduce the estimated costs and fit the mission and be able to map out the next three to five years of action around this work."

Simon is at the forefront of a host of other sustainability initiatives taking place at GU.

"I've been involved in a bunch of different projects and initiatives," Simon said. "All of them, in unique ways, work with [specific] populations, to equip them with knowledge and awareness around the impacts of climate change

and overconsumption. They also equip them with solutions on how to take steps in their own lives or in their jobs to live more sustainable lives and be sustainable contributors to our community."

Simon's work with various facets of the greater Spokane community informed the sort of guests that "Inbalance" welcomes to their show.

"We look at connecting with students and faculty," Solberg said. "But we have broadened and talked with people who are farmers or doing community development work, people who work for the city. 'Inbalance' welcomes a broad range of guests."

The range of guests is not only limited to those in the Spokane community, as "Inbalance" recently brought its show to Santa Clara University, to an event that discussed the role that film has in combating the climate crisis.

"In 2022, we traveled to Santa Clara University," Solberg said. "There was an event called 'Turn' that a SCU arts faculty started after becoming aware of the climate crisis. The event involved a marathon reading of 'Laudato si' and a conversation about the movie 'Don't Look Up.'"

The aforementioned episode takes

place in the third season of "Inbalance" and is titled "Looking Up or Looking Down: Considering Climate Films."

The podcast's most recent episode was the fourth episode of its fourth season, with the episode titled "Building a Strong Foundation for Safe and Simple Mobility." The episode featured a discussion with Colin Quinn-Hurst, a planner with the city of Spokane. The trio discussed civil issues regarding the movement of people throughout public spaces in the city of Spokane and beyond.

Episode four continues the podcast's trend of speaking to a wide range of community voices, while appealing to listeners who have an interest in sustainability on a local and worldwide level.

"Take a listen if you'd like," Simon said. "Most importantly, check out the people that we're talking to. In many cases they are part of great organizations that are doing awesome work nearby. I think if we can get folks listening to an episode and then getting involved in one of those groups, then we've achieved our goal."

Zach White is a sports editor.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

11/12/23

Solution to Last Week's puzzle

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

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

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Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

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

WARDROBE MAKEOVER

By Lynn K. Watson & Will Nediger

ACROSS

- 1 Happens again
- 7 Stares in wonder
- 12 Promising player in the minors
- 20 Asimov classic
- 21 Catherine of "Schitt's Creek"
- 22 Sci-fi vehicle
- 23 1977 Top 10 hit for Styx
- 25 Even, as odds
- 26 Sixth sense letters
- 27 "Belfast" Oscar nominee
- 28 Pickle serving
- 30 Secrecy contract, for short
- 31 Impressionist Édouard
- 32 Problem-solve
- 36 Elite squad
- 39 Comics dog
- 41 Adjust an entry on a time sheet, say
- 42 Topiary target
- 43 Deceptive estimate
- 45 Root vegetable
- 49 Investigators
- 51 Tax agcy.
- 53 NYC home of 31-Across's "Two Roses"
- 54 Secret language
- 55 Theater worker
- 56 Comment made while dusting off one's hands, perhaps
- 58 Industry giant
- 59 Wow
- 60 "Blast from the past" hashtag
- 61 Fluffy scarf
- 63 "Let's do this!"
- 65 Switching outfits, and
- 68 "Big Five" film festival held in Germany
- 71 Granola morsel
- 72 Lip balm brand
- 73 "The Bachelorette" network
- 76 "Didn't we just have this?"
- 77 Gloom
- 79 Nobel-winning Swedish poet Tranströmer
- 81 Sportswear brand founded in Italy
- 82 Wet weather
- 83 Wooden pin
- 84 "Have our plans changed?"
- 87 Purplish blue
- 89 With a firm tone
- 90 Ad infinitum
- 91 Big name in convertibles
- 94 Spanish kiss
- 95 Build-A-Bear creation
- 96 Act like a chicken?
- 100 Art forms?
- 103 Corruption, metaphorically
- 104 Indiana NBA player
- 105 Baseball flub
- 106 Domino dot
- 109 Solo
- 112 Collectibles with baseball stars, e.g.
- 116 Places for Penguins and Ducks
- 117 Cut off from escape
- 118 Early Ford
- 119 Lacking intelligence, in British English
- 120 Made a choice
- 121 Wows

DOWN

- 1 Basmati
- 2 Mythical matchmaker
- 3 Provide for free
- 4 Purple yarn
- 5 Rock, Paper, Scissors
- 6 OxiClean target
- 7 Shiny dental prosthesis
- 8 Cries of epiphany
- 9 Bear foot
- 10 Phase of an artist's career
- 11 Authority
- 12 "Fleabag" star Waller-Bridge
- 13 President after Jimmy
- 14 Ignores feelings of fullness, perhaps
- 15 Gel
- 16 Big-leaguer
- 17 Word in budget-friendly brands
- 18 ___ attitude
- 19 Pay for everyone
- 24 Having four sharps
- 29 Knitting stitch
- 31 Violet kin
- 32 Bay Area town whose name means "shark" in Spanish
- 33 Bring up
- 34 Pro wrestling patriarch
- 35 Company boycotters?
- 36 Pet rescue org.
- 37 Lose on purpose
- 38 Gradually wear away
- 40 More of a nerd
- 43 Application entry
- 44 Acid rock's acid
- 46 "Moi? Never!"
- 47 Islamic leader
- 48 Glazier's unit
- 50 Caribbean native
- 51 Gaga over
- 52 "Relax, it's under control"
- 57 Crudely built places?
- 58 Ten below?
- 60 Svelte
- 62 Past
- 64 Secondary image
- 65 Treatment centers
- 66 Guzzling sound
- 67 Like most wedding receptions
- 68 Italian port on the Adriatic
- 69 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
- 70 Midnight trip to the fridge
- 73 Wasn't feeling 100%
- 74 Light-haired
- 75 Sweet stuff
- 78 Actress Dennings
- 80 Fruit discard in a compost bin
- 81 Ocean sheets
- 83 Table
- 85 "Not That Fancy" singer McEntire
- 86 Office buzzer
- 88 Argon or xenon
- 89 Really ticked
- 92 "I owe you one!"
- 93 Intermission
- 96 Bond player Daniel
- 97 Cookbook author DiSpirito
- 98 Mudbank troicker
- 99 Weed B-Gon maker
- 101 Large planter
- 102 Matter taken on faith
- 105 Actress Falco
- 107 Chief exec
- 106 Inactive
- 108 Awareness-raising ads
- 110 Shirt part
- 111 Wee, for short
- 113 Wear the merch of, say
- 114 Qty.
- 115 "___ Twist, Scientist": animated series based on a bestselling picture book

Gonzaga, Big 12 face logistical hurdles in realignment negotiations

COMMENTARY
BY DAVID SNYDER

Without a football program, Gonzaga University stands apart from most of the programs searching for a new conference.

Football is by far the most profitable sport in collegiate athletics, which has complicated GU's negotiations to leave the West Coast Conference.

However, Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yorkmark's plan to create a basketball super-league could include GU as an all-sports member.

After previous negotiations ended in August, the Big 12 and GU have resumed "high-level" talks about expanding the conference to add the Zags, sources told The Messenger.

"Yorkmark would like to see Gonzaga join the Big 12 for the 2024-2025 season, but that timetable would be a best-case scenario," said a report from The Messenger.

Before reaching an agreement with GU, the Big 12 has to sort out a number of issues, including the financial ramifications of adding the schools that agreed to join the league over the summer. The Big 12 would also have to adjust its scheduling and conference tournament format to account for 17 schools with GU on board.

Despite these potential problems, Yorkmark has gained approval from other Big 12 presidents to continue negotiations with GU.

Yorkmark has frequently expressed his belief that basketball is undervalued in comparison to football and hopes to make the Big 12 the undisputed top basketball conference. But what does this mean for



Head coach Mark Few's squad went 1-2 against Big 12 programs last season.

GU? First off, figuring out GU's travel schedule to accommodate all of its sports in the Big 12 would be a challenge.

With the WCC located primarily on the West Coast, most of the trips GU's

teams are making are fairly convenient. The farthest conference trip for the Zags is San Diego at just over 1,300 miles away.

If GU were to join the Big 12, student athletes would be visiting Central Florida, West Virginia and Oklahoma State

potentially at least once per year.

However, while traveling in the Big 12 seems like a logistical nightmare for GU, student-athletes would have more opportunities to profit from their names, images and likenesses.

Playing in a more competitive conference could also help athletes trying to reach the professional ranks by exposing them to the highest possible level of collegiate play. GU would also be featured in more nationally-televised games, gaining more attention for the program and its players.

These benefits would likely boost GU's recruiting success, with the university able to offer prospects a chance to play in a power conference and receive national attention.

The ultimate winner of GU's potential move to the Big 12 are the fans, who would get to watch the Zags play a loaded conference slate, especially in basketball.

GU's supporters have always shown up for high-profile matchups at home, most recently when the Zags hosted Kentucky at Spokane Arena last season.

The likelihood of GU securing a spot in the Big 12 is unclear, but a decision or an update on the negotiations should be arriving shortly.

"If GU is going to join the Big 12 by next year, a deal would have to be reached by the end of this year, if not much earlier," sources told The Messenger.

If time runs out to add the Zags by 2024-25, Yorkmark can still continue to push for GU to join the Big 12 at a later date.

David Snyder is a staff writer.

NIL proposals from NCAA may not survive battles against state law

COMMENTARY
BY SYDNEY FLUKER

Last week, the NCAA Division I Council introduced several proposals aimed at bringing transparency to the transactions and oversight of those who want to work with student athletes.

At its core, these proposals aim to provide more structure to a system running largely without detailed rules. Since the name, image and likeness interim policy was initially implemented in June 2021, college athletes can use their personal brand to make profit through commercial promotion.

According to the NCAA, the proposals include the creation of a voluntary registry for NIL service providers, such as agents and financial advisors; requirements for disclosure of NIL deals worth more than \$600 by athletes to their universities; development of a standardized NIL contract and education programs for both high school prospects and college athletes.

In terms of infractions, the proposal also includes penalties and stricter punishments for individual rule breakers. The council also OK'd the creation of a public database of coaches with a history of Level I and II infractions to publicly identify individuals involved in major violations.

These proposals come at a good time and will hopefully support student-athletes seeking NIL deals as federal legislation is paused in the committee.

The NCAA was criticized for years before NILs passing for taking advantage of student-athletes by using their name, image and likeness for profit but not allowing the athletes themselves that right.

As of now, NIL is largely dictated by state laws, but universities in states without NIL laws are governed by university guidelines.

According to the NCAA, the patchwork of state laws has created inconsistencies and a lack of transparency that has made it almost impossible for the NCAA to enforce rules prohibiting NIL being used as an improper recruiting inducement or pay for play.

According to Forbes, states have even began passing laws that prohibit the NCAA from enforcing its NIL rules. The association's legal ability to enforce its rules is still up for grabs as NCAA guidelines directly conflict with some state laws already in effect.

A uniform approach to the system is what's in order to ensure corruption remains at bay. If states are allowed



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

The proposals stem from meetings held by the Division I Council's NIL Working Group, which hosted a summit in July with student-athletes, service providers and campus administrators.

to continue with their own NIL legislation, it could encourage an increase of athletes to a specific state with looser NIL regulations, thus serving as an improper recruiting inducement of sorts.

Several states, including Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, have passed laws that conflict with NCAA rules, largely relating to booster and business-driven organizations that have formed to pool resources and NIL opportunities for athletes at various schools.

In Texas, schools such as University of Texas, Austin, and Texas A&M said they are planning to provide priority points to fans who donate to NIL funds — such points will help the fans get better tickets at home games or have preferred access to tickets to bowl games or postseason events. The NCAA said Tuesday that this kind of incentive to donate to an NIL fund is a violation of its rules. These provisions, among others, have sent the NCAA and its

member schools and conferences to Washington, D.C., to lobby Congress to pass federal legislation.

What we're at risk for here is a lawsuit. NIL expert attorney Kennyhertz Perry said that should the NCAA actually penalize a school for its rules, the school would likely sue the NCAA, thus triggering a ruling that would cement the state laws vs. NCAA regulations squabble.

It will be interesting to see how the NCAA's proposal will converse with the aggressive state laws when they go into effect as soon as January. How this plays out will determine who gets to decide NIL legislation, potentially triggering an increase in movement toward schools, like Texas, with increased NIL programming.

Sydney Fluker is the editor-in-chief. Follow them on X: @sydneyfluker.

Men's basketball awaiting decisions from recruiting targets

COMMENTARY
BY KAEALYN NEW

With a collection of former Bulldogs in the NBA and overseas, the Gonzaga University men's basketball program has a reputation for producing professional talent.

GU's success in player development can be partially attributed to head coach Mark Few's ability to land nationally-ranked prospects like Chet Holmgren and Jalen Suggs, who joined the NBA after one year with the Zags.

While GU has yet to net a commitment from a player in the classes of 2024 and 2025, the program is awaiting decisions from several of its top recruiting targets.

Hailing from Athens, Georgia, Asa Newell is a 5-star recruit ranked No. 11 on ESPN's Top 100 in the 2024 class. The power forward is attending Montverde Academy and received an offer from GU in July.

If he commits to GU, Newell will become the third-highest-ranked recruit in the program's history behind Holmgren and Suggs. Despite listing GU in his final four schools, Newell is projected to follow his brother's footsteps and commit to the Georgia Bulldogs, according to On3.com and Rivals.com.

Another one of GU's most coveted recruits is Zoom Diallo, the top-ranked point guard and SBLive's Washington State Player of the Year for 2022-23. While

On3 reported over the summer that GU was the current leader to land the 6-foot-4 guard, the report has since changed to favor Arizona as Diallo's top choice. No decision has been made yet, but GU does still stand a chance, falling within Diallo's top five picks among Arizona, USC, Washington and Kansas.

Isiah Harwell was the first recruit from the class of 2025 to receive an offer from the Zags. The 6-foot-5 shooting guard is ranked No. 7 overall in his class and second-best for shooting guards, according to 247Sports. From Pocatello, Idaho, the junior is attending Wasatch Academy in Mount Pleasant, Utah.

One of the first offers from Few went to Jalen Haralson in June. Haralson ranks No. 11 for the 2025 class in ESPN's Top 100.

The 6-foot-6 combo guard is from Indiana and plays for La Lumiere School, which has produced a large roster of athletes now in the NBA including Memphis Grizzlies' Daren Jackson Jr. and Detroit Pistons' Isaiah Stewart.

Averaging 23.4 points per game in the 2022-23 season, according to 247Sports, Haralson is among the top recruits and has offers from several other universities including Purdue and Indiana.

Ranked 22nd on ESPN's Top 100 for the 2025 class, Jeremiah Fears is another acclaimed combo guard that received an offer from GU. Fears transferred to Compass Prep in Chandler, Arizona, over the summer after a high-

aiming career at Joliet West in Illinois.

The 6-foot-2 guard has the potential to become a formidable scoring force in the program, having been named the 2022-23 Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

GU was the seventh program to give an offer to power forward Nikolas Khamenia. This comes after the junior led Harvard-Westlake to a CIF State Open Division title last season. The 6-foot-7 player is ranked 60th nationally and 14th in his position, according to 247Sports. Khamenia visited GU on Oct. 6 and attended Kraziness in the Kennel but has yet to visit the other programs where he received offers.

It's still too early to know for sure whether the Zags will land these sought-after players. MGM recently released its betting odds for the 2024 NCAA Tournament, giving the Zags a tie for the 10th-best odds in the country with Kansas favored to win.

After the disappointing elimination from the tournament last season in the Elite Eight, there is no doubt that Few and his staff are looking to establish an impressive roster for the years to come, and with hope, secure the national title.

Kaelyn New is the managing editor. Follow her on X: @kaelyn_new.

Faith along the fairway: Grace Lee's faith drives her success on the course

By ZACH WHITE

When sophomore golfer Grace Lee takes to the course, she plays through the support of her teammates, coaches and her strong love of Christ.

"Something that really helps me mentally and helps me with my mental game is my faith and my relationship that I have with Jesus," Lee said. "Knowing his love and knowing how much that means to me, it's super helpful. That's such a big part for me."

The second-year computer science student and reigning WCC Freshman of the Year attributes her faith to guiding her own skill set, one which was apparent from a young age.

"My dad plays a lot of golf, and one day I asked him to go to the range," Lee said. "I was hitting golf balls and my dad said that I had a natural swing. I just kept practicing and got into the sport. I played my first tournament, and I placed second. That was [when I realized] this could be my sport ... and then [it] went off from there. It's something I love doing, and I enjoy competing."

From her first tournament, Lee said that her ability has continued to grow, as she won a host of accolades during her time at Bellevue High School in Bellevue, Washington.

Lee was the KingCo 3A League Champion in 2019 and 2021. In her first year, she led Bellevue to the 2019 WIAA 3A State Championship title. On a national stage, Lee had a fourth-place finish at the 2021 WSGA Women's Amateur. Additionally, Lee earned medalist honors at the PNW Junior PGA, earning her a berth to the 45th Girls Junior PGA Championship in Kentucky.

While these accolades attracted the attention of women's golf assistant coach Victoria Fallgren and other GU coaches, it's the simple and methodical nature of Lee's game that Fallgren finds to be Lee's best attribute.

"Grace is a very polished and poised golfer," Fallgren said. "She's as accomplished as any golfer we've ever had ... She has as strong of a resume as any player we've ever had on our team. And if you just watch her on the course, it just looks really easy. She doesn't take too much time with things. She doesn't overcomplicate things, she just gets up to her ball. She sees her target and she hits the target. [Lee's] golf game is very simple ... Not a lot of frills, just hits the target every time."

Lee's effective, no-frills golf game was on full display in her first year as a Zag. She was named WCC Freshman of the Year, also receiving All-WCC Women's Golf Team honors.



Reigning WCC Freshman of the Year Grace Lee won the 2023 Coeur d'Alene Resort Collegiate Invitational.

"[Golf] is a sport that I want to play all my life. When I get older, I feel like it's something that I could do. After college, I do have dreams of trying to see how far I can go with it."

Grace Lee, GU women's golfer

Highlights from her debut season include placing eighth at the Rainbow Wahine Invitational in Kapolei, Hawaii, at +2. Lee's score of 67 in the first round was her best finish of the regular season. In the WCC Championships, she placed fifth at +1, where she had a 71 in the final round.

In her second season, Fallgren said that Lee continues to show her strengths on the golf course.

"I think she really grew from her freshman year," Fallgren said. "We had some great seniors on the team last year, they really led by example and showed her an effective way to go about her business. She just [goes] about her business like any other day."

She tied for 27th at the Leadership and Golf Invitational, the team's season-opening tournament. Lee was four-over (220) in the 54-hole event at Chambers Bay Golf Course.

Weeks later, Lee won the 2023 Coeur d'Alene Resort Collegiate Invitational. Her opening round score of 62 was one stroke off the program record set in 2017. Lee's total score of 200 (-13) set a new tournament and program 54-hole record.

"These past couple of weeks have been really cool," Lee said. "It's been pretty solid, and at Coeur d'Alene I was really in it mentally. I was just hitting a lot of really good shots, sticking them close, and my putting was really good. I'd move on to the next hole and just keep doing that. I wasn't really thinking about my score or ... caught up in that."

Fallgren said Lee's calm and collected presence on the course manifests in her relationships with coaches and teammates.

"She's been very coachable," Fallgren said. "She asks lots of questions on the course and is always willing to learn. She's quick to laugh, and so our group loves having her as a teammate and not just as a golfer. I think she's a great teammate. There are players that aren't able to handle the pressure of playing in a team environment, and I think Grace has really thrived in that. I think that's just a testament to her mental and emotional capacity as a golfer."

With a strong mentality toward the game as a student-athlete, Lee said she views golf as a sport that will be with her in both the immediate and long-term future.

"[Golf] is a sport that I want to play all my life," Lee said. "When I get older, I feel like it's something that I could do. After college, I do have dreams of trying to see how far I can go with it."

Lee will feature in a few more events this fall before taking to the course once again in the spring.

Zach White is a sports editor.



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The Gonzaga women's rowing team won its eighth-straight WCC title in 2023.

Gonzaga women's rowing opens fall slate at Head of Spokane

By CLARINNE KIRK

The Gonzaga University women's rowing team is gearing up for what it hopes is the program's most successful season yet, bolstered by strong senior leadership and experienced recruits.

"The freshman class has come in strong, and we have a lot of veteran girls for how young they are," said co-captain Molly Monson. "We also have a bigger senior class than in the past, with a lot of leadership."

This freshman class has an increased depth of talent, which Monson identified as the team's biggest strength.

"We've always had a pretty excited freshman class, but we've never had speed go this deep into our team," Monson said.

According to head coach Andrew Derrick, this depth is key in guarding against injuries, which allows athletes to raise their training to a higher level.

“

We're doing all the little things, making sure that we're not skipping steps and really building a great foundation instead of worrying about ... trying to be as good as we can be on Nov. 5.

Andrew Derrick, women's rowing head coach

"The nature of competitive college athletics is there are going to be injuries, and we've got a very deep roster, so the next woman is ready to step up and into that seat," Derrick said. "The depth is going to allow us to train really hard."

One characteristic of this year's season that Derrick hopes will enable increased success is continuity among coaching staff due to decreased staff turnover.

"We kept our entire staff intact over the summer, which I think is huge and allowed us to hit the ground running this fall at a much higher clip than last year," Derrick said.

Another key difference this year is a shorter fall competition season, with only one fall meet instead of two. While this shorter season means less time to gauge their levels before competition season in the spring, it also allows the team to put more focus on internal building rather than competition.

"We usually have two [fall races], cutting back on a race usually wouldn't be a super big deal, but with rowing, racing is so limited," said Quinn Elsenbast, the other co-captain. "Because we just have one [race], we are more focused on internal athletics in our team."

Derrick said he sees this change in the racing schedule as an opportunity to develop the team's foundation in a more long-term approach.

"We're doing all the little things, making sure that we're not skipping steps and really building a great foundation instead of worrying about ... trying to be as good as we can be on Nov. 5," Derrick said.

While this long-term approach gives the team a unique opportunity to build a stronger foundation, it can also be challenging to maintain that motivation for such a long preseason, according to Monson.

"Keeping energy and the excitement, continuing a trajectory of progress, that can be challenging when you start off really strong in October, but you're not in your competitive season until March," Monson said.

Elsenbast said that one way to prevent complacency and motivate the team is by having the correct perspective and focusing on the bigger picture beyond competition.

"It sounds kind of counterintuitive that you would zoom out on your goals in order to better accomplish them, but I think our team does best when we're having fun and excited about being together," Elsenbast said. "Taking that attitude into every practice and bringing the excitement really does allow us to succeed."

Part of this perspective, according to Monson, involves understanding that

GU SPORTS

Thursday, Oct. 20

➔ Men's tennis at ITA Super Regionals, Palo Alto, California, all day

Saturday, Oct. 21

➔ Men's rowing at Head of Spokane, all day
 ➔ Women's rowing at Head of Spokane, all day
 ➔ Volleyball vs. Portland, Portland, Oregon, 1 p.m.
 ➔ Men's soccer vs. Saint Mary's, 6 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 23

➔ Women's golf at Rainbow Wahine Invitational, Kapolei, Hawai'i, all day

Wednesday, Oct. 25

➔ Cross Country at Sasquatch Open, 3 p.m. (Women), 4 p.m. (Men)
 ➔ Men's soccer at Portland, Portland, Oregon, 7 p.m.

Home games in bold

rowing offers more to gain than wins or titles.

To Monson, rowing allows her to develop resilience and use it in her daily life. Similarly, Elsenbast said rowing has taught her to believe in herself and her ability to accomplish her goals.

Last season, the GU women's rowing team won the WCC and placed 19th in the NCAA D1 Championships. Elsenbast said they hope to continue bringing this momentum into the season and build upon their success, reaching higher levels at the national level.

"Last year was exciting, but also, we hope to place a little higher at NCAA, so there's definitely some energy to keep that momentum going," Elsenbast said.

Monson added that placing higher at the NCAA Championships this year would mean moving beyond the plateau the team has been trapped in for the past few years when it comes to placing on the national level.

"Statistically, we've been stuck in a rut the past four or five years of placing 18th or 19th [at nationals]," Monson said. "Placing 17th or higher is a different final at NCAAs, so that's definitely something we're striving for this year."

Derrick said he is looking forward to the caliber of talent facing off at the Head of Spokane meet on Oct. 21 at 9 a.m., as the Zags face off with Pac-12 teams and conference rival LMU.

"Ultimately, I think [Head of Spokane] will be a chance for our team to see some of the fruits of their labor and just see some payoff from how hard they're working," Derrick said.

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.

Gonzaga men's and women's basketball teams headline WCC Media Day

By KAYA CRAWFORD

The West Coast Conference and Mountain West Conference hosted a joint media day in Las Vegas on Oct. 12 with athletes and coaches from the Gonzaga University men's and women's basketball teams in attendance.

Media day for the women's program was on the 11th. WCC coaches voted in the annual preseason poll, with GU voted as favorites to win the conference. Four Zags (Yvonne Ejim, Brynna Maxwell, Kaylynne and Kayleigh Truong) were named to the Preseason All-WCC Team.

Much of the discussion surrounded the Zags' competitive nonconference schedule. The nonconference schedule has the Zags playing 10 teams that were in the top 100 in the NET last season. Head coach Lisa Fortier said she is ready for the challenge.

"We're going to be tested mightily throughout the season, but right from the beginning we have a really tough nonconference schedule," Fortier said. "I don't know if we've had this tough of a nonconference schedule since I've been on the staff — not just since I've been a head coach. It's very, very challenging."

The Zags will face Stanford and New Mexico at home, have neutral-site matchups vs. Alabama, Louisville and Arizona and will meet Washington State and Cal on the road.

"I love it," said GU forward Eliza Hollingsworth. "I'm super excited to play those. I think we need those games, especially going to postseason. It's great experience playing against the highest level. It's something we can rise to."

Fortier believes that this year's team can be special. "I think we have very talented players and I think we might have the right pieces that can fit together well," Fortier said.

The Zags will play an exhibition game against Warner Pacific University on Thursday at the McCarthey Center.

On the 12th, the men's program had its media day. Preseason polls selected Saint Mary's over GU for the first time in six years and three Zags were named to the All-WCC Team. Those players were Ryan Nembhard, Anton Watson and Graham Ike.

Nembhard, who transferred to GU from Creighton this year, is ready for when the Zags will face Saint Mary's. "They've got a bunch of great players. It's always a good battle," Nembhard said. "I love big games, so I'm ready."

GU's ongoing conversations with the Big 12 conference was a big topic of discussion at media day. BYU left the WCC for the Big-12 this year and there have been multiple conversations for other teams to follow.



COURTESY OF THE GONZAGA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM'S X ACCOUNT

The Gonzaga men's basketball team was represented by Anton Watson, left of center, Ryan Nembhard, right of center, and head coach Mark Few, far right.

"This is the WCC Media Day (and) we're playing in the WCC this year, so I mean that's kind of all I'm focused in on right now is this coming year," Few said. "This stuff has been going on for a while. If it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

According to a report from The Messenger, the Zags could potentially move conferences either next season or in two years with a decision that could come as soon as next year.

"In all seriousness, we all know we're in a fluid landscape," said Stu Jackson, the new WCC commissioner. "It's incumbent upon all of us that you have information

so you understand what the landscape is."

A decision surrounding where the Zags will see themselves in future seasons could be available as soon as next week, but for now, the team is focused on their season.

The Zags will play an exhibition game at the McCarthey Center on Nov. 3 against Lewis-Clark State.

Kaya Crawford is a staff writer.