

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

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## Students hold walkout for Palestine

By CLARINNE KIRK

Students, faculty and community members gathered on Foley Lawn last Thursday for a Stop the Genocide Walkout, a demonstration that proclaimed support for Palestine. The walkout called for the end of the killing of Palestinians by the Israeli government and called for President Thayne McCulloh and the Gonzaga University administration to issue a statement recognizing the violence against Palestinians and showing support for both Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

The walkout was organized by Do Better Gonzaga, an independently organized student-led coalition with a precedent of calling out injustices and inaction within GU. The event began with speeches from event organizers and was followed by a march to the steps of College Hall, where organizers led demonstrators in chants to “stop the violence” and “free Palestine.” The event closed with the organizers giving an official statement signed by protesters to Provost Sacha Kopp, who accepted it on behalf of McCulloh.

A sophomore at GU and one of the organizers of the event, Kevin Pinkelman, said the event was organized due to the responsibility humans hold to speak up against the increasing violence toward Palestinians by the Israeli government.

“The situation in Palestine has been a multidecade-long occupation and apartheid, but in the past several months, the bombing of Gaza has increased so significantly,” Pinkelman said. “We have a duty as human beings to look out for other human beings.”

David Brookbank, a local Spokane resident and longtime activist in global liberation struggles, attended the event in solidarity with student activists. Brookbank said he has been active in raising awareness and calling for action



Those in the walkout marched from Foley Lawn to the front steps of College Hall.

JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedflicks

within the larger Spokane community.

“We’ve been working, organizing with other people in the community, some of whom are Palestinian, some of whom are Muslim or people of other nationalities, to make it clear that Palestinian people have a

right to their liberation, and to their rights and sovereignty,” Brookbank said.

One student, who asked to remain anonymous, said they attended the demonstration because they believe it is important that the GU administration

condemn the current killing of Palestinians, especially after its initial silence, which they found especially concerning given McCulloh’s power and influence within

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Gumbhir prepares snack bags for students to combat food insecurity.

MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

## Vik Gumbhir fills stomachs and minds during final run at GU

By NATALIE KELLER

Gonzaga University associate professor of sociology and criminology Vik Gumbhir’s office is full of things that illustrate who he is as a person.

Outside Gumbhir’s door, three brown paper bags full of snacks are clipped to the wall. A sign that reads “Hey you! Are you hungry? Would a snack help? Please take a bag!” hangs just above them. To the left of the door is a display case that houses a “Star Wars” Lego set. Inside Gumbhir’s office are shelves that hold books, more bags of snacks and a boxed DVD set of the crime show “The Wire.”

“My first impression really was like, ‘oh my gosh, this professor is so real,’” said GU student Alexis Corral, who has been in several of Gumbhir’s classes. “Overall, he has just this informal yet welcoming persona.”

Gumbhir, who is in his 19th year of teaching at GU, said he never

foresaw himself studying sociology and criminology nor becoming a professor. He said he was a “disconnected” student in high school and didn’t know what he wanted to study in college. Only when he took a sociology class and found inspiration from several professors did he become fascinated with the subject.

“I decided that I think the academic life is for me,” Gumbhir said. “As an undergrad, it was really being able to look at my own life and understand my own life better through the use of sociological theories and concepts.”

Corral said that Gumbhir teaches these concepts mainly through class discussions.

“Everyone is so comfortable speaking that they just say whatever they want. No one’s going to judge,” Corral said. “He makes this safe space in his classrooms for everyone to talk.”

Corral also said that, during these

discussions, Gumbhir helps students think about hot-button issues from various perspectives.

“I feel like the biggest thing I learned is just being open to challenging what you think your reality is,” Corral said. “He doesn’t really force his beliefs onto us, but he just challenges it in the nicest way possible.”

Another student, Cody Kucsak, said that Gumbhir learns his students’ names within the first day or two of class and puts an emphasis on getting to know students.

“Vik makes a point of learning who you are to know how to teach you,” Kucsak said. “It seemed like he had a lot of respect for us.”

One aspect of Gumbhir’s teaching career in which he said he takes great pride is his student research group. Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, Gumbhir founded The Research

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## Law School plans children, family justice program

By MARY CLAIRE PHELPS

On Oct. 27, Gonzaga University’s Law School announced it will be implementing a new program called the Children and Parents Rights Justice Initiative, or CPRJI. GU, the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid and the Washington State Office of Public Defense signed a memorandum to include the program at GU as the first of its kind in the state of Washington.

“It’s a commitment to build a pipeline of attorneys dedicated to and ready to enter practice in the children and family justice sphere, and particularly in the practice related to child welfare cases,” said Jim Bamberger, director of the Office of Civil Legal Aid.

CPRJI is tailored to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of both the rights of the parents as well as the children. It will focus on training students to be well-versed in these dependency proceedings with the hope that they will stay in the area where these attorneys are highly needed.

The concept of representing children is fairly new to the state of Washington. According to Bamberger, Washington state did not have an established right to counsel for children until 2014. This program, being the first of its kind in Washington, will finally give children the right to have a voice in these litigations.

OCLA and Office of Public Defense believed that GU was the perfect place for this program to be implemented because GU’s mission and location make it the ideal place for students to learn about this area of law that drastically needs dedicated and passionate attorneys.

“Gonzaga’s Jesuit and humanistic mission is foundational to every aspect of what they do,” Bamberger said. “This particular initiative [brings] justice for children and families and parents who have been harmed so terribly over the years by a dysfunctional child welfare system.”

Due to the fact that children did not have the right to counsel until 2014 in this state, the need for experienced lawyers in this area has grown significantly, Bamberger said. In Eastern Washington, this program is highly needed compared to other parts of the state that aren’t as rural and are struggling to find attorneys who are dedicated to this area.

“Historically, the child welfare system has been a tool of white supremacy and has served to subjugate and marginalize and destroy families, particularly Indigenous families and Black families and other families of color,”

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