Vincent C. Alfonso, Dean, School of Education

One year has passed since Dr. Vincent C. Alfonso took the helm as the Dean and he is delighted to say he is very satisfied in his role serving the School of Education (SOE). The Dean’s priorities in his first year were building relationships and trust in the SOE and at the University; recognizing faculty as an integral contributor for decision making; finding opportunities to increase enrollment and develop degree programs; and strategizing to create opportunities for partnerships and collaborations within the State, nationally, and internationally.

It is his belief that each of these goals is essential to the success, growth, and continuous improvement in the School. Already, many of the goals have been addressed through personal meetings with faculty and staff, and individuals and organizations on and off-campus. The Dean and faculty have collaborated on significant projects that are either in place, new, or developing. The current work is focused on the public schools, Catholic schools, Native American Tribes, and military families.

In 2013-14, these collaborations resulted in: grant awards for Teacher Education to benefit faculty, students, and local schools; collaborations with outside agencies to create a formal partnership focused on the Special Education Spokane Autism Hockey Project; receptions held for Public School Superintendents and Catholic School Principals; sponsoring a Professional Development Day for Catholic School Teachers in October 2014; coordinating a School Psychology Assessment Conference, April 16-17, 2015; hosting the Young Child Expo and Conference (YCEC) scheduled for October 1-2, 2015; and developing program proposals for two future doctoral programs in the SOE.

Recent outreach to the Kalispel, Coeur d’Alene, and Spokane Tribes is creating meaningful discussions for future teacher institutes, workshops, and seminars on working with Native American students. Preliminary meetings have been held with Fairchild Air Force Base to find ways to support military families.

This is an exciting time for the SOE as Dr. Alfonso guides our future with his efforts to identify areas where we can provide programs, services, and academic scholarship to increase the visibility and support for faculty, students, and our community.

Dr. Vincent C. Alfonso spent 19 years at Fordham University in the Graduate School of Education as a professor and top administrator. Dr. Alfonso earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Brooklyn College of City University of New York and his master’s and doctorate in clinical/school psychology from Hofstra University. His scholarly work focuses on assessment and treatment of preschool children, psycho-educational assessment, life satisfaction and subjective well-being, professional training, stressful life events, social support, and health.

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New Faculty in the SOE

Dr. Boe Burrus, will join the faculty in the Department of Sport and Physical Education in Fall 2014. He graduated from Springfield College with a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology and his dissertation focused on improving cycling performance parameters via acute supplementation of L-carnitine coupled with carbohydrate. Dr. Burrus will be teaching scientific foundation and health-related courses to students pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Physical Education. Boe is a graduate of Western Oregon University, where he received a Bachelor’s in Physical Education, and Master’s of Science in Education. He and his wife Alyssa are excited to be back on the West Coast and to become part of the Gonzaga community. They enjoy outdoor activities including cycling, hiking with their dog Paislie, paddle boarding, and water skiing.

Dr. Heidi Nordstrom created a new enthusiasm for sports and education for students when she joined the faculty of Sport and Physical Education last fall. She received her Ph.D. in Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences, with a concentration in Sports Administration from the University of New Mexico (UNM). While at UNM she worked as a Teaching Assistant for the physical activity programs and served as academic support to the Department of Athletics, working with the men’s football and basketball teams. In addition, she worked for the University of Washington’s athletic department in Student-Athlete Development. Dr. Nordstrom received a Bachelor’s degree in Recreation Management from Central Washington University, and a Master’s of Education from the University of Washington.

Dr. Thomas Trotter, who has served as an Adjunct Professor since 2008, and recently as the Clinical Placement Coordinator in the Department of Counselor Education has accepted a position as a faculty member in the Fall semester. His previous teaching assignments have included Assessment in School Counseling, and Research and Statistics. Dr. Trotter is Professor Emeritus from the University of Idaho where he received a Ph.D. in Counseling and Human Services and an Education Specialist degree. He graduated from the University of Washington with a Master’s of Education in School Psychology and a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology. This year, in addition to teaching and clinical placement, Dr. Trotter will be preparing a program proposal for a doctorate in School Psychology.

Dr. Adriana (Addy) Wissel, Assistant Professor, was selected by the Department of Counselor Education last fall. She received a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from Idaho State University. Before joining the faculty at Gonzaga, Dr. Wissel worked in the public school system as both a school counselor and school psychologist. She is currently serving as the Director of the Master of Arts in School Counseling program, and as the Director for the School Counseling Professional Certification program. She was granted her Master’s of Education in Counseling and Human Services from the University of Idaho and a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice. Dr. Wissel, her husband Kris, and two sons moved to Spokane from Idaho last summer and have enjoyed cheering on the Zags.

Dr. Diane Tunnell, Associate Dean

In June 2014, Dr. Diane Tunnell accepted the position as the SOE Associate Dean. She started at Gonzaga in 1987, and served as Department Chair in Sport & Physical Education for the last 8 years. Her leadership in her department led to the development of an online Master's degree program in Sport & Athletic Administration that enrolled its first 25 candidates in Fall 2013.

The experience that Diane brings to this position is far-reaching as she has been a member and served as Chair on numerous committees at Gonzaga, including Academic Council, Faculty Senate/Academic Committee, University Rank and Tenure, Policy and Planning Subcommittee, and the Assessment Committee. She serves on the Assessment, Bylaws, Curriculum, and Rank, Reappointment, and Tenure committees. Her leadership and in-depth knowledge is a tremendous asset to the SOE as she focuses on academics, faculty, review of SOE policies, assessment practices, and supporting the Dean.

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Congratulations to our Student Teachers!

A celebration was held on May 8th, 2014 to congratulate students who completed their student teaching in the spring semester. Twenty-one student teachers from the Departments of Special Education, Sport and Physical Education, and Teacher Education were recognized. University Supervisors, Cooperating Teachers, and SOE administration and faculty were also in attendance at the dinner.

**Special Education:** Mika Aoyama, Hailey Babin, Megan Baker, Sarah Brasch, Haylee Carnes, Katherine Hoot, Isabelle Klee, Danielle Lamphere, Caitlin LeBrun, Lauren Mullaney, Katie Rutherford, Emalia Steele, Catherine Theobald, and Sydney Volkier

**Teacher Education:** Kelly Alderman, Rene Alvarez Jr., Luca Bacci, Paul Caballero, Christine Clenin, Brittny Craig, Tom D’Aboy, Anna Demarinis, Lauren Donaldson, Brittney Fugos, Alexandra Henry, Mike Herbers, Hilary Johnson, Skylar Jones, Molly Kernan, Morgan McCarthy, Lyndsey Mehlert, Gianna Merlino, Shelby Osborn, Tina Rich, Emily Schober, Melissa Smith, and Karly Thompson

**Masters of Initial Teaching:** Andrew Baldassarre, Christopher Boyle, Charles Coffin, Stephanie Cummins, Kari Dobler, Meg Gardner, Marlin Hatcher, Kathy Hutcheson, Katie Kine, Nicole Lewandowski, Matt Lieder, Erinn Lindsay, Kelly Lipsker, Abraham Luna, Jennifer Motoyoshi, Alexis Padgham, Katherine Potter, Emily Thomas, Bri Thorpe, Leah Tormey, Andrew Walker, and Allison Wrightson.

We are sincerely grateful to the 70 cooperating teachers from the public and private schools that contribute to our candidate’s success and the dedicated Supervisors who represent the School of Education.

SOE Welcomes School Superintendents

The School of Education hosted a reception for Public School Superintendents in December. President, Thayne McCulloh, Academic Vice President, Patricia O’Connell Killen, and our department chairs engaged in conversations regarding expectations, needs, and our commitment to future partnerships.

10th Annual Bishop’s Breakfast

The School of Education celebrated the 10th Annual Bishop’s Breakfast in February. Bishop Blase Cupich, principals, teachers and students were invited to Gonzaga to continue the SOE’s tradition of celebrating our Diocese’s Catholic schools.

Martin Powers, 8th grader from St. Patrick’s Catholic School, and Bailey Plumlee, alumna of All Saints Catholic School, spoke on this year’s theme: “Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.” Assumption Catholic School prepared the prayer service. Each School was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation honoring their strong partnership with the Diocese and Gonzaga University’s School of Education.

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SOE Hosts Catholic School Principals

Principals from the Catholic Diocese of Spokane and SOE department chairpersons were welcomed by President McCulloh, Bishop Blase Cupich from the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, and Academic Vice President, Patricia O’Connell Killen, to a special reception in the spring. Bishop Cupich spoke, expressing his appreciation for the close partnership between Gonzaga University and the Spokane Catholic Diocese.

President McCulloh announced that Gonzaga and the SOE will sponsor a Professional Development Day for Catholic School teachers on October 10, 2014. Plans for this event are well underway and more than 150 teachers are expected to participate. SOE faculty and members of the Gonzaga community will present at multiple seminars and workshops centered around the theme of “Understanding the Whole Child: Spiritually, Academically, Physically, Emotionally, and Socially.” In addition, a day of reflection is being planned for Catholic School teachers and principals focusing on the theme, “What does it mean to be a Catholic school today?”

Gamma Chi Epsilon

Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), the Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International granted a charter of chapter membership to Gonzaga University. The Gonzaga chapter has been named Gamma Chi Epsilon. Dr. Paul Hastings, Associate Professor in the Department of Counselor Education, and nine graduate students were inducted in Spring 2014. CSI is an international honor society that values academic and professional excellence in counseling. CSI promotes scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, advocacy, and excellence in counseling through professional counselors, counselor educators, and students who contribute to the realization of a healthy society by fostering wellness and human dignity.

Jeanne Foster Wardian Leadership Award

The Jeanne Foster-Wardian Leadership in Education Award is given in honor of the leadership and innovative spirit of the late, former Dean of the School of Education. The awards are presented to students who demonstrate evidence of excellent scholastic achievement, disciplined competence, commitment to education through service, and integrity of character.

The 2013-14 recipients were: Counselor Education: Hannah Reidy, M.A Clinical Mental Health; Cara Seely, M.A. Marriage & Family Counseling; and the 2013-14 cohort for the M.A. School Counseling; Leadership & Administration: Christopher Franklin, Martina Scheerer, and Bonnie Smith, Principal Certification; Special Education: Tana Watson, M.Ed. in Special Education, Functional Analysis; and Tina Rich, B.Ed. in Special Education Sport & Physical Education: Kelly Vane, B.Ed. in Sports Management; Karl Myers, B.Ed. in Physical Education; and Natalie Janes, M.A. in Sport & Athletic Administration; Teacher Education: Emily Schober, Elementary Education; and Katherine Potter, M.I.T.