The Department of Educational Leadership and Administration (DELA) along with seven Tribal Schools, that include Chemawa, Coeur d’Alene, Lummi, Paschal Sherman, Quileut, Wa He Lut, and Yakama, have been working together to develop a Native American Leadership Academy. The purpose of the Academy is to develop and support the professional learning communities focused on increasing student achievement. The two specific goals of the Academy are to provide professional development that improves student learning in Tribal Schools in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and to honor the cultural needs of each school community. The two-year program provides four workshops each year facilitated by Chuck Salina and Al Fein. The first Leadership Academy workshop occurred in September 2011 on the Gonzaga University campus. The second session of the academy was hosted by the Lummi tribe in November 2011. Department colleagues OJ Cotes and Elaine Radmer joined Chuck and Al for the third session, hosted by the Coeur d’Alene Tribal School in February, at this session a special gift of venison jerky was presented to all participants by the Tribal School hosts. The fourth session will be hosted by Paschal Sherman Indian School in April 2012. Continuation of the work that has occurred will be hosted by the remaining four tribes in the second year. Participant feedback indicates excitement about the quality of the work being done and assists in structuring the agenda for subsequent meetings. The process of shared leadership is truly evident. Sitting Bull's quote “Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children” truly represents the relationship and purposeful intention that exists among the Tribal Schools and Gonzaga University's Department of Educational Leadership and Administration.

**Announcements and Congratulations**

**Dr. Elaine Radmer** received her PhD in Educational Psychology from Washington State University December 2011.

**Stephen Epp**, current candidate of Nanaimo 6 and his wife Adrienne welcomed a healthy baby girl 9lbs. 2.5 oz. on January 20th 2012.

**Christine Peterson**, a nurse anesthetist at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and first graduate of the MAE program in 1979 was the 2011 recipient of the prestigious Sister Peter Claver Award.

**Dr. Cynthia Johnson** has been chosen to pilot the new *iwebfolio* system for Gonzaga. This e-portfolio system was selected to help support student learning and achievement. The administrator program is the first to create a specific series template and pilot the design. It is user friendly, designed for the individual needs of the program, reduces physical binders, and storage issues. The *iwebfolio* keeps all information safe, secure and is easy to access by both faculty and interns.
Meet Your Neighbor
Graduating Cohorts of 2012

Calgary 17 began classes eager to get down to the business of graduate school. With the guidance of their advisor, Al Fein, the group quickly developed a culture known affectionately as "the tribe". They have celebrated new job postings and milestone birthdays, supported one another through illness, grieved personal losses, hosted cohort parties, and collectively commiserated over the workload of teaching and studying. An abundance of learning and growing has taken place during their time together and they have been transformed beyond the curriculum. As the final courses and assignments are finally underway, they are thrilled to see the end in sight. Although weekends together have been much more than just work, each tribe member is looking forward to returning to "normal" life and spending Saturday mornings doing whatever is top on one's personal agenda.

Calgary 18 is a group of an amazing individuals with varied life experiences, belief systems and future goals. Through their two years together they came to be part of a whole, each one of them contributing unique and extraordinary qualities that encouraged invaluable learning, incredible discussion, and magnificent memories. They have worked hard to build relationships and trust and have grown as individuals as well as a group. They specifically recognize the contribution of their professors who have mentored their progress throughout the program. Without their encouragement and expertise many of them feel they would have lost their way. They express a special thanks to their professor Dr. Cynthia Johnson, their “fearless leader,” who sacrificed many of her waking and sleeping hours to ensure that each student maintained sanity even at the most challenging of times.

Hobbema 3 is a cohort comprised of 11 group members from and/or working in First Nations communities, including Montana, Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Samson, Paul First Nations, Dene, and Tall Cree First Nation near High Level, Alberta. Commutes of cohort members range from a few minutes to over ten hours! About half of the cohort hold careers related to education while the other half represents a variety of non-school careers including fields involving legal work, contracting, consulting, program development, and even writing. All involved in this cohort, both students and faculty, had the opportunity to experience differences in culture and worldviews. This experience, though challenging, was ultimately enriching for all.
Meet Your Neighbor

Graduating Cohorts of 2012

Penticton 3 has had more than their share of challenges over the past two years. The group has dealt with sickness, a change in advisors, a school burning down and even death. Though their time in the program was marked by trial and loss, their courage and perseverance allowed them to push through the dark hours. Much has changed since the early forming of this group. They came in eager and bright-eyed and leave us with an increase in life experience and worldly wisdom. Appropriately, they have adopted the motto “against all odds” as an overarching theme. This cohort of committed teachers personifies what it means to overcome and triumph in the face of life’s unexpected struggles.

Vancouver Archdiocese 2 is a close-knit group with rich cultural backgrounds who demonstrate concern for diversity, community, and social justice. Candidates include Catholic school teachers and administrators at the primary through secondary levels. They support their students through coaching and mentoring. Many of the candidates are outstanding athletes and community leaders who model enthusiasm and commitment to high standards.

Victoria 12 cohort have accomplished a great deal during the past two years. One member is engaged (congratulations, Stephanie!), one is married (congratulations, Scott!), and a third member has been appointed Vice Principal at Reynolds Secondary School (congratulations, Harold!) A fourth member of the cohort has coached her girls’ teams to victory (congratulations, Kim!). All of the seven members of this cohort have nearly completed their master’s projects and are ready to complete their professional seminar presentations and oral exams soon after the school year is over.
Looking Ahead

Commencement 2012

The Commencement Ceremony for Graduate students will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012, beginning with an academic procession at 4:45 pm in the McCarthey Athletic Center on Gonzaga University’s campus. Tickets are not required and students may invite as many guests as they wish.

New this year, our graduates will be wearing academic robes, hoods and hats made entirely from recycled material (each graduation gown is made from 23 recycled plastic bottles!) the gowns will be a matte-finish black material with two embroidered tabs which will show the Gonzaga Seal. For more information regarding graduate commencement visit gonzaga.edu/campus-resources/offices-and-services-a-z/university-events/commencement/Graduate/default.asp

Reserve your Gonzaga 125th Anniversary Books today

“Celebrating Gonzaga: The University and Its People” tells the stories of people and events that spawned an extraordinary collegiate experience, and brought Gonzaga to national prominence. For more information visit gonzaga.edu/anniversarybooks or to learn more about upcoming 125th anniversary events visit gonzaga.edu/125

Master of Anesthesiology Education

Class of 2012-2014

The Master of Anesthesiology Education program welcomes eight students this semester. These eight critical care nurses have just begun their 28-month course of study to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Nurse anesthesia is the nation's oldest nursing specialty. Sacred Heart Medical Center and Gonzaga's School of Education jointly own and operate the Master of Anesthesiology Education program, which has trained and educated CRNAs for 34 years. In addition to preparing highly skilled nurse anesthetists, the mission of this program is to develop innovative and creative leaders and educators for the advancement of the profession of nurse anesthesia. The program, which is nationally recognized for excellence, is now in the process of developing a doctoral program.”