Associate Professor Charles Salina presented “Transformational Partnership: Gonzaga and Sunnyside High School” on November 27, 2012, in the McCarthey Athletic Center’s Herak Room. The event was sponsored by the Greater Gonzaga Guild. Salina led the Gonzaga team turnaround effort in Sunnyside, Washington, which had a graduation rate of 64 percent when the initiative began in 2010. Salina took over as interim principal, and with a requirement of the $6 million federal School Improvement Grant supporting the effort, promised to focus on research-driven activities to improve attendance and graduation rates. By June of 2012, the school reported an attendance rate of 95 percent, with 78 percent of students passing all classes, and a graduation rate of 78.4 (and an extended graduation rate of 79.7 percent). “This work has been, at all times, a partnership,” Salina said. “It has been a partnership among colleagues at Gonzaga, a partnership among teachers, students, administrators, staff and students at Sunnyside High, and a partnership between K-12 and higher education that points the way to more results-generating alliances in the future.”

Joining Salina for the Guild presentation was Joshua Eidson, who teaches leadership at Sunnyside and Laurel Carpino who teaches math. Also joining Salina were Sunnyside students who were in the 10th grade when the effort began and will graduate in June of 2013. Salina highlighted the initiative’s five commitments: a collaborative culture focused on student learning and higher graduation rates; data-driven support for at-risk students; acceleration and enrichment programs extending beyond the school day; a safe and welcome environment to increase attendance; and enhanced parental and community involvement. In addition, Salina outlined specific steps taken to change the school’s culture to create an environment of academic achievement with the social support necessary to motivate students’ success.

Announcements and Congratulations

Laura Verhoeven current candidate of the Victoria 13 cohort is the recipient of this year’s Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal. Out of only three 2013 medal recipients for Education, Laura is the only teacher from Vancouver Island. Medal recipients have made a significant contribution to a province, territory, region or community within Canada, or an achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

Allison Lynn DELA Program Assistant welcomed baby girl Madison on March 23th 2013.

The School of Education has undertaken a one-time, special project – providing its masters of education in leadership administration degree to the faculty of the Charles Lwanga College of Education in Zambia. Once most of its faculty are masters’ credentialed, that Jesuit institution will be able to move from a three-year, certificate-granting to a four-year, degree-granting institution. Gonzaga faculty will provide the program in a hybrid format to 30 teachers. These participants will undertake residency courses at Gonzaga for a two-week session in August 2013.
Calgary 19 is a small, spirited, close-knit “family” of curious, conscientious, motivated, collaborative and collegial educators who demonstrate concern for educational issues, diversity, community, and social justice. Members include Catholic and Public school teachers, learning leaders, consultants, and administrators at the primary through secondary levels. Many are leaders in their respective schools and communities who model perseverance, enthusiasm and commitment to high standards and life-long learning. 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 dialogue, and cherished memories. As they are approaching the conclusion of the program, the candidates in this group want to recognize the contributions of the professors who have guided and mentored them.

Calgary 20 cohort brought together many unique personalities and a wealth of teaching knowledge. Our group includes members from private and public school, elementary and high school, behavioral work and administrative settings. We have shown a tremendous ability to share our unique skills and knowledge and learn from one another. Each of us brought our own strengths and areas of growth to the learning experience. Led by Dan Mahoney, our group quickly displayed a noteworthy amount of camaraderie and enthusiasm for the Gonzaga program and had a penchant for keeping class lively and exciting. As with all Gonzaga cohorts, everyone is happy to see the end in sight, but we are also grateful for the new friendships that are sure to continue both professionally and personally for years to come.

Dawson Creek 2/ Fort St. John cohort is strong, diverse, and up to the challenges facing educators of the 21st century. The strength of our cohort lies in the dynamic backgrounds of our graduate students - a wide breadth of experience from teachers new and seasoned, as well as administrators, a college dean, a homeschooling specialist, and teachers from two different school districts, to share a wealth of background knowledge and expertise. This invariably results in rich discussion and scalability to issues in education both great and small. The answer is certainly “in the room” when we put our minds together! Through hard work and exceptional collaboration, our cohort feels confident in taking on the issues to improve student learning. We are leaders, and we are proud to soon be Gonzaga graduates!
Nanaimo 6 was created by friends who encouraged one another to make the decision to embark on this journey. It was friends who we sat beside weekend after weekend and who we called when we were stuck, or just need some supportive words. As a group we accomplished so much over the past two years. We saw each other through becoming parents, getting married, moving into new homes, and many other important events. Dr. Jerri Shepard has been an incredible leader for our group, She has motivated and empowered all of us to move forward as a team towards a common goal. Although we will miss her presence in our lives we are all looking forward to the bright future we have created. As Yoda would say, "Great leaders understand the future is up to them."

Quesnel 3 may have started this journey as a cohort but we have become a family. We have shared dreams, fears, laughter, tears, excitement, exhaustion, pride, and relief as we wrestled through this program, and we feel blessed for the opportunity to take part in this powerful, life-changing experience. We would like to thank Gonzaga for their commitment to see us through even when the numbers began to dwindle. We would also like to thank our phenomenal instructors. Through their dedication, conviction and guidance, they have helped us to find our courage and our voice. Above all, we would like to thank one another. What, alone, might have seemed a perilous trek has become, together, a remarkable voyage, filled with powerful discoveries, wonderful friendships, fond memories (especially the Bruce-"isms") and mouth-watering feasts.

Sunnyside: It would be naïve to believe that powerful cohort relationships make us unique in comparison to other groups, but we feel there is little more important than those relationships. We have varying learning styles, attention spans, and interests, but there is a genuine appreciation of the group and sense of joy when we get together. Meeting at the end of long workweeks would be far less enjoyable without the smiles, compassion, caffeine, laughs and relentless sarcasm the group brings. While this program is supposed to challenge us, we applaud our professor for surviving with us. In a final statement, and in order to ensure job security going forward, our cohort keeps having kids. We have three new children under seven months old and another due any time now, who we are hoping grow up to be ZAGS.
Master of Anesthesiology Education

Class of 2013-2015

Beginning studies in the Master of Anesthesiology Education Program at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital and Gonzaga University on January 15, 2013