

"Effective listeners remember that "words have no meaning - people have meaning." The assignment of meaning to a term is an internal process; meaning comes from inside us. And although our experiences, knowledge and attitudes differ, we often misinterpret each other's messages while under the illusion that a common understanding has been achieved."—Larry Barker

NEWS

Gonzaga University welcomes new students, statistics for '06-'07

By: Janay Johnson

As each freshmen class for Gonzaga University brings in a significant increase in new students per year, the institution also welcomes an increase in change.

This year, Gonzaga University welcomes 980 new students on campus. This is the largest incoming freshman class that Gonzaga has ever had. Out of the 980 new undergraduate faces on campus 141 are transfer students. Gonzaga continues to grow each year.

Gonzaga University's Office of Admissions is proud to announce an increase in several other statistics regarding incoming students for the 2006-2007 academic school year. This year, the average entering grade point average has increased this from a 3.63 G.P.A to 3.72G. P. A. Following suit, the average SAT score has increased to 1195 from 1191, which was last year's average. In terms of selectivity overall, Gonzaga University has improved in

their selective process by nine percent, moving them down to 63 percent from 72 percent.

Although Gonzaga has remained consistent in its acceptance of out-of-state students, it has slightly improved on its scale of diversity. Gonzaga has

"Seeing the increase in this year's student population compared to last year's is so refreshing. I'm really excited to see what these new people will bring to the University,"
 -Matthew Dizon
 G.U. Sophomore

increased their population of diverse students. Last year there was only 13.5 percent of diversity on campus. This year there was a 2.3 percent increase to 15.2 percent. Forty-five percent of students accepted this year have come from different states around the country. 55 percent of the incoming freshmen are in-state students. This sta-

tistic has remained unchanged since last year.

In terms of freshmen who have stayed at Gonzaga from their freshmen year, Gonzaga calculates a retention percentage of 92 percent, followed by an 88 percent retention rate for accepted students of color.

Gonzaga's faculty shows signs of growth as well. Thirty-six new faculty members have been welcomed to the Gonzaga family this year. New tenure faculty positions have been put in place, in the past five years. Of this total, eight new positions were created for the school year. Gonzaga is trying to keep their numbers on a steady increase.

The total enrollment for all Gonzaga University students, including graduate students has been recorded at 6,400 students. This includes the acceptance of 1,550 Master's level students, 100 Doctoral students, and 565 law students.

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OIR Newsletter Mission Statement:

The Office of Intercultural Relations (OIR) newsletter strongly encourages involvement of students, faculty, and staff in contributing to our university community's critical reflections concerning the challenges and opportunities of human difference. GU students in collaboration with the OIR staff is producing this monthly newsletter to create an on-going mechanism for diverse voices to share multiple perspectives examining intercultural relations issues that are often unexplored or not addressed in our classrooms, resident halls or other publications. Knowledge speaks and Wisdom listens. We hope this newsletter invites all of us to find our voice and discover the transforming power of listening. —Dr. Raymond Reyes

Washington State Association for Multicultural Education hosts 12th annual fall conference

By Juan Garza, G.U. Sophomore

In the previous weekend of Friday, October 27 through Saturday, October 28, 2006, the 12th annual Washington State Association for Multicultural Education was hosted in Gaiser Hall, Clark College, in Vancouver, Washington.

The conference offered special guest, keynote speakers Dr. Charles Hirschman, and Dr. Donna Beegle who both presented professional insight into current situations revolving around issues concerning poverty and racial and ethnic achievement. In particular, Hirschman was the initial keynote speaker to call upon his professional expertise on Friday, October the 27. Hirschman touched base on issues dealing with the regularity of high school dropouts

in higher education in his workshop entitled, "Race and Ethnic Inequality in Educational Attainment." Beegle later proceeded as the second keynote speaker on Saturday, October 28, and drew upon her own personal experience to present her discussion entitled, "Overcoming Generational Poverty."

Included in the rest of the conference was a wide variety of other activities and events that encompassed the progressive growth and recognition of multicultural education and awareness. The 12th annual conference featured a grand opening of a new clothing store called "Multi-Ethnic Clothes Closet," created for the purpose of not only promoting multi-ethnic culture through fashion-

ionable apparel, but also for the development of WSAME scholarships.

The conference also included a silent auction, where the proceeds from donated items including: multicultural artwork, CDs, DVDs, clothing, jewelry and other accessories were accumulated for the promotion of WSAME scholarships as well.

One of the biggest highlights of the conference was the 3rd Annual WSAME Multicultural Excellence Awards Ceremony which was hosted in honor of specific individuals and organizations who had made it a particular ambition of theirs to promote aspects of multiculturalism and diversity within their surrounding environment.

Get Connected: Career Day for H.S. Students of Color To Premier This Month

By Tsega Gaim

Gonzaga University will host the 3rd annual career fair, for high school students of color. "The Connection," as the program is titled, will take place November 22, 2006 in the Globe Room at Cataldo, with the expectation of at least 500 students, ninth through eleventh grade, attending.

These students will come together to explore the many different careers and educational opportunities available to them. The program developed specific, goal-oriented aspects for the project and came to a consensus understanding of five basic student expectations.

The five basic student expectations include: having participants connect with other students of color who share the same educational interests; introducing and

establishing connections with local professionals of color; connecting with local educational institutions for educational and career information; educating students on how to begin career planning; and initiating the completion of interactive career workshops concerning topics of: human resources, education, health, business, construction and a college panel.

The "Get Connected" High School Students of Color Career Day is a program that is sanctioned by the Spokane School districts and is not involved with any programs affiliated with Gonzaga recruitment or retention processes. Event organizers affirmed that this is an event to improve the rates of students of color who have chosen to continue their education. This

program will also provide a way for students to gain resources and contacts, outside of their high school environments.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Raphael Guillory, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Educational and Developmental Psychology at Eastern Washington University is expected to attend the event with a presentation that will assist in the centralization of the career fair's main goals. Students, who wish to attend the career fair or learn more about it, are encouraged to contact Cathy Calhoun at (509)-354-7279.



Acknowledgement of Hispanic Heritage Month, a legacy to remember

By: Jennifer Martinez, G.U. Sophomore

Hispanic Heritage Month was originally recognized in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week through declaration of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. At that time, the concept was a mere observation by the legislation, and had not yet become official. Then on September 4th, 1974, President Ford, under proclamation 4310 through Public Law 90-498, officially declared the dates of September 10, through September 16th as Hispanic Heritage Week.

The week was later transformed

by President Reagan under Proclamation 5859 through public law 100-402; where, on September 13, 1988, Reagan affirmed that the dates of September 15 through October 15 were to be known as Hispanic Heritage Month. However relevant this legislative history may be, there is more to the question of why Hispanic Heritage Month had been declared on these specific dates.

Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15, as a result of five Latin American countries sharing the same Independence

Day: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Coincidentally, Mexico and Chile also share their Independence days on the 16th of September. Such dates, although significant to the placement of Hispanic Heritage Month, are also important because of their relevance and continued celebration by a number of citizens both in America and in native Latin countries.

I'm sure that we've all heard how Hispanics have become the (See "Hispanic" on pg. 4)

La Raza Latina moving towards unified growth, increase in minority relations programming

By: Juan Garza, G.U. Sophomore

For the past three years, an on campus student organization, La Raza Latina has been involved in the increasing development and promotion of multicultural events and social activities on campus. However, unlike the past two years, where they have only worked through the participation of only a few student members, this year, the club has shown a definite increase in both numbers and new ideas for the upcoming year.

"We are currently still in the process of experiencing some lingering birthing effects from being a relatively new club," said La Raza Latina former president Katie Taylor, "I think that the future of this on-campus program has an immense amount of potential lying ahead and will hopefully continue to progress throughout years to come."

Taylor, a graduate of Gonzaga



Photo: La Raza Latina members gather around to take a group photo at 1st Annual Dia De La Raza Fiesta Dinner.

University's class of 2006, left the organization with mixed emotions of a heavy heart and refreshing reassurance, "I know that this club hasn't been very active in the past couple years that we've been trying to break through as a serious organization, but I truly believe that this new group of officers will change all of that."

Taylor's reference to the new club was made on the basis of the new ideas and activities that the club has already begun to set in motion. A new officer to the organization, Maira Perez has taken an optimistic attitude towards the devotion and efficiency that has recently emanated from recent club and officer meetings. "We are currently working on a small social event for a Mexican Holiday known as 'Dia De Los Muertos.'"

La Raza Latina appeared to have big plans for a "Dia De Los Muertos" student activity which will feature an open display on the history of the Latin holiday, combined with food being served to all students on campus. In addition, La Raza Latina plans on volunteering for Washington State University's annual CASHE conference in November, hosting their annual Spring Festival in April, and planning a new event,

(See "Latina" pg. 4)

Hispanic (Continued from pg. 3)

largest minority group in the United States, and how the population continues to increase. Yet even though this title is justified, and the Hispanic culture has continued to influence American culture in many aspects of our daily lives, people fail to recognize, appreciate and acknowledge the essence, structure and significance of the Latino culture.

A general failure to educate ourselves on the relevant components of Latino history in America is the possible cause for such a collective ignorance of Hispanic heritage. I myself, a Mexican-American, didn't know that National Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15, and ends on October 15. Now that I have this knowledge of my history, I feel it is necessary for me to share it with whoever is willing to listen.

Hispanic culture and heritage has added so much to our lives that it is a shame that this month goes by so unnoticed every year, especially here in Spokane. So I will end with a quote from George W. Bush on the importance of Hispanic Culture, which will also

detail a list of only a fraction of the accomplishments that our Latino ancestors have contributed to this nation.



La Raza Latina members, led by Kaleidoscope Project Leader Monica Quinones helped create flyers to promote Hispanic Heritage Month.

-Photo by Kayla De Los Reyes

“Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have enriched the American way of life, and we recognize the millions of Hispanic Americans whose love of family, hard work and community have helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a Nation. As entrepreneurs and public servants, scholars and artists, Hispanic

Americans have provided wisdom, energy, and leadership to our communities, and to our country. During the Civil War, David Glasgow Farragut, son of Revolutionary War hero Jorge Farragut of Spain, won fame as a Union hero by blocking Southern ports. The Congress rewarded his valor by naming him the Navy's first four-star Admiral. Today, a statue honoring his many accomplishments stands in Farragut Square, Washington, D.C. Nearly a century ago, Hispanic actresses Myrtle Gonzalez and Beatriz Michelena were popular stars in silent films. Many others followed as the industry expanded in the 20th Century, including Rita Hayworth, Fernando Lamas, and Anthony Quinn. In 1959, Dr. Severo Ochoa was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of RNA (ribonucleic acid), one of the chemical building blocks of life. In the world of sports, athletes such as Roberto Clemente earned the admiration of countless Americans for his athletic skill and commitment to humanitarian efforts...During National Hispanic Heritage Month, I join with all Americans in celebrating this rich and diverse culture and encourage all citizens to recognize the important role of Hispanics in creating and building this great Nation.”

Latina (Continued from pg.4)

focused on the educational awareness and recruitment of a larger Latino student population here at Gonzaga University called “Latino Youth Transitions Experience,” or “L.Y.T.E.”

La Raza Latina's newfound spirit is attributed to the collaborative efforts of not only new student officers, but also new student members who have taken a passionate interest in things to come. “I'm really excited to see what this coming year will bring for La Raza Latina and more importantly what we as a club will be able to bring to the Gonzaga Community, in its entirety,” said Gonzaga Freshman and La Raza



The Dia De La Raza Fiesta Dinner featured a two-option menu, which offered either a choice of Carne Asada or Two Enchiladas. Both options came with a side of rice and beans, along with complimentary chips, salsa, avocado and fresh corn tortillas.

-Photo by Kayla De Los Reyes

Latina member Marco Porrás.

The organization has recently created a Facebook group online for the entire Gonzaga Network. “Our essential hope and foundational ambition is to promote the educational awareness and cultural sensitivity that is needed for all communities of a diverse nature, collegiate or otherwise,” said Perez, “We want to be successful for our students and for our cause, both of which will inevitably take us successfully forward into the future.”

Welcome to New Beginnings



By Bob Bartlett
Director of Multicultural Education

Welcome! Welcome to the school year. Whether this is your first year or your last, you must admit that there is something special, almost magical, about new beginnings. For those of you who are experiencing Gonzaga for the first time, the newness and the excitement of the semester should have settled in and the unfamiliar become more familiar. For example, you know your way from one place on campus to the next. The distance across campus seems shorter than it once did and what first appeared impossible manage on your own became routine. You are even beginning to call your parents less and less each week as this place more and more like home. You have made new friends or reconnected with old ones. Like summer leaves that are changing colors all around us, this new place is inviting us to change.

The weather reminds us of yet another new beginning. The morning and evenings are cooler and the mid day sun feels hot on our skin. As we have grown comfortable with our new beginnings another one looms on the horizon. Fall will soon lead us into winter.

So, what point am I trying to make here? Simply, life is about new beginning. Life is about living with the anticipation and excitement that comes with new things and new places. Unlike the weather that slowly changes over time, we are faced with challenges and the possibility of new beginnings everyday. What better place and what better time to recognize and embrace new ideas, new issues and new challenges. What better time an place to challenge our familiar with the unfamiliar—to challenge out preconceived ideas and notions about people

about social justice; about campus climate; or, our views on diversity. What better time and place to ask ourselves such deep profound question like, who do I say I am? Who is missing from my lived experience and my relationships? Who do I aspire to become? Who do

“Like summer leaves that are changing colors all around us, this new place is inviting us to change...”

I need in my life to be the best I can be? Who do I need in my life to challenge me in new ways?

It has been said that during our years in college, during these years, we have the potential to change or to be changed in more profound ways than during any other period in our development. However change, begins with awareness, an excitement and in willingness to be changed—to make new in some ways the old self. Welcome new beginnings.

And, welcome to Unity House, Office of Intercultural Relations, and to the Unity House News Quarterly! Our goal is to be that home away from home and to bring to your attention news, people, programs, literature, and events that do not make it in to the general everyday campus media. We hope that every visit to the Unity House or our offices, and every issue of our news letter have the potential to be a new beginning for you.

OIR EDITORIAL POLICY

The staff here at the Office of Intercultural Relations, along with extending a warm welcome to our newsletter, would like to also elaborate on our openness towards the expression of individual opinions by means of the written word. We are adamant in providing every available opportunity for interested students to relay their perspectives on current political, economical, and social issues facing the world and the Gonzaga Community. If you would like to submit an article or offer a response to another piece displayed in the newsletter, please do so using the contact information.

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Looking in the Mirror: Student Images of a Practical Visionary

By Raymond Reyes, Ph.D.

In another place, in another time, i.e., on the Isle of Wright (Great Britain) in 1970 at a concert shortly before his death, Jimi Hendrix remarked in passing between songs that “we live in a room full of mirror.” I wonder what a sociologist would say about such an observation. What would the esteemed scholars of social behavior, Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann, in their classic text the Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge say about the meaning or significance of what Hendrix may have been suggesting? Perhaps the man with electric fingers was summoning the wisdom of Fritz Perls, the father of Gestalt Therapy, when he claimed, “through the face of another, I am.” All I know is that a Hawaiian elder once told me that Hendrix could have been referencing the notion that “you spot it, you got it.” Here is what I see and here is what I hope I have.

A new school year brings new images of reality in the mingling of approximately 980 new student faces with the thousands of GU students from previous years. First of all, I want to welcome our new relatives, the freshman class of 2006-2007, to our courageous circle of being called the Gonzaga University community! I am sure that some of you are experiencing what van Gogh’s colors must have felt when they were asked by his brush to mingle in “Starry Night.” However, together with other students, our faculty, staff and administrators you are contributing a new stroke to the living portrait of our community and a new articulation to its master narrative. Let me explain.

I chose to see Saint Ignatius of Loyola manifesting in the faces of our students. In a meeting last month, Father Pat Lee, S.J., Vice President for Mission, pointed out

to me that Saint Ignatius of Loyola has often been characterized as a “practical visionary.” I see the impeccable ability to fly kites (the idealism of youth) dancing with the compelling need to drive nails (the realism of adult initiation) sitting in our classrooms. Let me give you my dose of idealism and challenge you this school year to manifest it into reality. For Academic Year (AY) 2006-2007 I would like to see us emphasize the spiritual significance of human diversity by linking intercultural relations and intercultural competence to the GU mission of a Jesuit Education.

One of the hallmarks of Jesuit Education, based upon Ignatian spirituality, is the belief that God can be found in all things. Saint Ignatius believed that we encounter God at every moment of our existence and the world is saturated with the divine presence. Saint Ignatius described a social reality where in every moment of our life God is communicating to us through person, place and thing. The Composer of Grace and Keeper of Promises called God is constantly trying to draw us into an awareness and consciousness of the reality of who we are in God’s sight.

I strongly believe that human diversity, its nature and our reaction to that nature, is the living curriculum by which we are invited to spiritualize our consciousness. I would like to challenge all of us to raise our awareness of the “active presence of God” in all our intercultural relationships to master the lessons of agape love and justice making service. Can we see “the other” through God’s eyes? For example, can a College Democrat see a College Republican through God’s eyes? Can a heterosexual student see a gay or lesbian student through God’s eyes? Can a Christian student see a Muslim student

through God’s eyes? Questions with answers designed for us to close the gap between rhetoric and reality, between promise and practice.

To walk this talk will require the acumen of a practical visionary. What makes diversity work distinctive at GU compared to other regional institutions of higher learning such as Washington State University (WSU), Eastern Washington University (EWU), Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC), or the University of Idaho? Here is the image I see in the room full of mirrors called Gonzaga University. Unlike our regional sister public institutions, the spirit of a Zag, the soul of a Bulldog is nurtured by the invitation to become a **contemplative in action**. At Gonzaga University, in every moment of our community life as students, faculty, staff and administrators, we are invited to be alert and vigilant to God’s presence in all our intercultural relationships. We are blessed with the choice to use this awareness of our intercultural relations for a greater good by actively addressing issues of social justice as it pertains to exclusion, oppression or marginalization.

In his book The Active Life: Wisdom for Work, Creativity, and Caring, Parker Palmer describes how “action, like a sacrament, is the visible form of an invisible spirit, an outward manifestation of an inward power.” To be fully alive is to act! For AY 2006-2007, I sincerely hope that all of us will look in the mirror, see a practical visionary reflecting back, and act upon the image of this likeness. Let us act and form collaborative partnerships in solidarity toward creating a sustainable campus climate characterized by empathetic caring and respect for the dignity of all our intercultural relatives. In the Spirit of Our Ancestors, May the Blessings Be!

Cardinal Newman Society's opposition of homosexuality in Catholic colleges is disquieting

Stevie Smyth, G.U. Sophomore

On any given day, as I walk across campus, I can see the towers of St. Aloysius, statues of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, and an extremely large cross positioned above the entrance of Welch Hall; not to mention the placement of crucifixes in nearly every classroom. There are reminders everywhere that Gonzaga University is a Catholic institution.

Why then, has the university been accused of losing its identity, and who would make such accusations?

Gonzaga University, which has prided itself on its Catholic, Jesuit ideals, is one of the targets of a campaign by the Cardinal Newman Society to weed out and remove the teaching of "dissident Catholic college professors who are planting the seeds of deviance on their campuses." In a letter recently sent out to Catholic deacons (and possibly other vocations), Father John Harvey, a participant in the society, gave a passionate account of how the Catholic universities in the United States are losing their Catholic identities through the corruption of their students by way of "promoting" homosexuality.

Father Harvey began his letter by first accusing Catholic universities of validating homosexuality in the classroom. He then proceeded to explain, using a hodge-podge of examples, how homosexuality is also validated by the Catholic college campus environment. Some of these examples included: the production of the "Vagina Monologues" at over 10% of Catholic universities, clubs validating homosexuality on at least 46 Catholic campuses, an opinion

article in *The Georgetown Voice*, and an educational awareness conference called "Out There," a program for faculty and students that is based on the study of homosexuality at Catholic universities.

While this data may be true, I do not believe that it is enough of an argument to wage war against the "dissident" and "deviant" modern Catholic college. In my view, clubs such as GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Trans-sexual) on campuses are crucial when it comes to fostering concepts of community and understanding, instead of hate and confusion.

"I personally took this article as an insult towards Gonzaga University, which was specifically mentioned in the letter, and towards myself as a young Catholic,"
-Stevie Smyth

While I understand the Catholic Church does not advocate homosexual acts, the Cardinal Newman Society's article reminded me of the rhetoric of the Crusades than of the Reformation. The society, "works day and night to expose dissent, deviant teaching and inroads of the 'Culture of Death.'" They are like a vigilante group, out to squash any acceptance of homosexuality. If they are, they are going about it entirely the wrong way.

Instead of deciding to work with college faculty and students on a mature level to resolve their issues, they have chosen to take a combative stance against Catholic colleges as a whole. I personally took this article as an insult towards Gonzaga University, which was specifically mentioned in the letter and towards myself as a young Catholic. Instead of sending out propaganda to enrage Catho-

lics to the point of hasty action, I recommend that the Cardinal Newman Society sponsor special lectures on the Catholic teachings of homosexuality, or find other constructive ways of spreading the Catholic perspective of homosexual activity. I think that letters such as this will do nothing but infuriate university students and shut down any attempts for healthy discussion on such issues. I hope that the Cardinal Newman Society can find it in their hearts to be more compassionate toward Catholic schools instead of using rhetoric of aversion.

Saying Goodbye..



The Office of Intercultural Relations would like to extend our deepest gratitude and utmost appreciation for the hard work and dedication

that helped give life to diversity here at Gonzaga.

Kristine Reeves, graduate student, administrative assistant and student leader has now moved to a new corner office at Spokane Community College and is currently doing well.

Thank you so much Kristine for everything you did for us here at Gonzaga's Office of Intercultural Relations! We wish you the best of luck in all your endeavors and hope to see you sitting in the governor's seat in the near future.

Always,

Your Friends and Fan Club
Office of Intercultural Relations
Gonzaga University

Calendar Of Upcoming Events...

November 2006

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p>1</p> <p>WSFSC Conference, Vancouver, WA (Nov. 1-3)_____</p>	<p>2</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>3</p> <p>What: NAACP Annual Banquet Where: Northern Quest Casino When: 5:30pm--></p>	<p>4</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>_____></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>CA SHE Conf erence--> Washington State University</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>What: High School Students of Color Career Day Where: Globe Rm., Cataldo When: 9am-11am</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Happy Enjoy</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Thanksgiving Your</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Holidays!!! Break!!!</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		

Help us CELEBRATE American Indian Heritage Month in November!!! Be on the LOOKOUT for campus events and activities coming up soon!