

ZAG TALK

Tips and Information for Prospective ZAG Parents



ZAG TALK is a newsletter created by the Office of Admission that offers helpful tips and information about navigating the college selection process, as well as news and notes regarding the many activities and events here on campus.



From the Dean of Admission... To Parents of Seniors

I hope this letter finds you well! My colleagues and I sincerely hope that Gonzaga remains a top college option for you. Over the next several months, as you contemplate which institution will be the best fit for you, many questions may arise. Please contact me or my colleagues with any questions you might have during your discernment process.

I'd like to bring your attention to several important events and dates that you and your family members should be aware of with regard to Gonzaga's college enrollment process.

***Financial Aid:** Our philosophy with regard to financial aid at Gonzaga University is to share our resources between merit scholarships and need-based (grant) aid. Most of our scholarships are based on the application for admission, although there are a few scholarships that require a separate application and are due by February 1. These scholarships can be accessed on our website at www.gonzaga.edu/scholarships. To access need-based aid, both from the University and from the government, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be filed by February 1. The most efficient way to file the FAFSA is via the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov, although paper copies of the FAFSA are available by calling 800-433-3243. We strongly encourage

families to file the FAFSA because "Gonzaga Funding," the name for our grant program, can only be accessed by filing the FAFSA. GU hopes to have financial aid packages mailed to FAFSA filers by the end of March. In the 2008-09 academic year, over 93.4% of our incoming freshmen received financial aid. The average financial aid package for FAFSA filers was \$22,643.

***Visiting Gonzaga:** Students who have previously visited Gonzaga often find a follow-up visit to the University helpful in finalizing decisions. We have several visit opportunities available ranging from daily tours, [Gonzaga Preview Days](#), and our GEL Weekend in April for accepted students. GEL stands for "Gonzaga Experience... Live" and is intended to give accepted seniors an opportunity to meet current Gonzaga students, faculty and staff. This year, GEL will be April 18 and 19, 2009. Please watch for GEL information to arrive in February if your student has already been admitted in the Early Action pool, or in March if your student is accepted in the Regular Pool.

***Applying for Housing:** GU has many different housing options available for students. In the acceptance packet, a brochure will be included describing the different options available. The Housing Application and Housing Deposit (\$200) are not due until May 1, but some theme houses fill up early, and an earlier application submission may help secure a place in a student's residence-of-choice.

***Committing to Gonzaga:** If Gonzaga is the school your student chooses to attend, a tuition deposit of \$400 must be

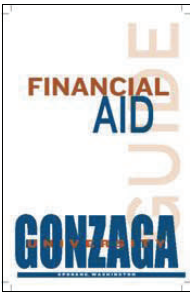
submitted (postmarked) by May 1, 2009. May 1 is the National Commitment Deadline for colleges and universities. This will also trigger the registration process and information from our Orientation Coordinators.

***Registration:** Email will be the primary method of communication for Gonzaga's registration process. The registration process will begin in late April and early May. While student's lives will be busy with AP exams, finals and high school graduations, please help them remember to complete registration as early as possible. Students are registered in the order information is returned.

***Orientation:** As your family transitions into the Gonzaga community, we want to make sure you feel comfortable and ready. Although our formal orientation begins on Friday, August 28, our Orientation Coordinators will be in contact throughout the summer. Prepare your student – there will be reading assignments!

Again, please let us know if we can assist you in any way. I hope 2009 will be a wonderful year for you and your family, and I hope Gonzaga will be part of that experience!

[Julie McCulloh](#)-Dean of Admission
(800) 322-2584



From the Office of Financial Aid...

The Financial Aid Office says “file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

now!” Gonzaga’s priority filing date for the 2009-2010 FAFSA is **February 1** (just around the corner)! Completing the FAFSA by **February 1** ensures that your student is considered for all types of aid offered at Gonzaga. Some funds are limited and may only be awarded to applicants who meet the FAFSA deadline.

Complete the FAFSA application online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Make sure you obtain a PIN for yourself and your student prior to beginning the application. The PIN serves as the electronic signature and greatly speeds up the processing time.

Some families delay filing the FAFSA because they do not have their IRS income tax return completed in January. The FAFSA does collect information from your tax return, however you should provide estimated figures in order to make the priority filing date.

Financial aid offers are generally mailed late March for those students who filed by **February 1**. Gonzaga’s financial aid packages are comprehensive awards, meaning that all forms of aid (University sponsored scholarships, grants, federal and state need-based aid) your student receives will be listed on the award notice.

We know that in these uncertain economic times the financial demands of attending college, especially a private university, may seem daunting. If you have a financial circumstance that is not addressed by the FAFSA application, such as a recent decrease or loss in income, please contact our office. We have a team of experienced counselors ready to assist you with any questions

relating to your student’s financial aid package.

We are available Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM to answer your questions.

[Darlene Hendrickson](#)
Director, Financial Aid
(800) 793-1716

Transfer Corner:

Am I a Transfer or a Freshman?

By: Megan Ewens

We often get questions about how high school students are classified when taking courses at a community college or university.

The Office of Admission distinguishes between students who are still in high school taking courses at their local community college or university, and students who have graduated from high school and are taking courses at a community college or university.

Students who **have not yet graduated from high school**, must apply for admission as a “freshman.” All freshman application deadlines and requirements

are in effect. Such a student is also considered a freshman with respect to financial aid. Submitting an official transcript to us from the college or university attended will ensure the coursework is evaluated for transfer of credit. If college-level coursework is accepted for transfer, then the student will be considered a “freshman with credit.”

Students who **have graduated from high school** and have taken, or are taking, college-level courses must apply as a “transfer.” However, if the student has taken less than 45-quarter or 30-semester credits, we will also look at his or her high school coursework when making an admission decision.

Transfer students are encouraged to apply early in the semester preceding their intended registration date. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

If you have questions about transferring to Gonzaga, please call or email our transfer expert, [Joan Sarles](#), Assistant Dean of Admission.
(800) 322-2584, ext. 6571



**‘TIS THE SEASON...
GO ZAGS!**



**For game schedules and
all the highlights go to:
gozags.com**

Gonzaga is Committed to Excellence

Life moves so fast. Suddenly you have a senior in high school where there was once a preschooler! And, if your family is like most, journeying through senior year with your child is both exciting and stressful. It must only add anxiety to be thinking about this unique and serious economic crisis, and how it may affect the choices your son or daughter has for the future.

I hope Gonzaga will continue to be a serious college option for you. We are committed to excellence in education, as well as excellence in supporting our students.

Gonzaga has been listed as an institution of great value in several financial guides. **We boast an 80% ultimate graduation rate, and our time-to-graduation average is 4.25 years. Our tuition will remain under \$30,000 for the 2009-10 year. The average aid package of incoming freshmen this year is \$22,643. At GU, 93.4% of our undergrads are receiving financial aid.** We award both merit scholarships and need-based aid.

Gonzaga students are amazing men and women destined to contribute greatly to a world in need. We hope your son or daughter will join us!

Sincerely,

[Julie McCulloh](#)

Dean of Admission

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

**DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR
ADMISSION AND
FILING THE FAFSA**

Gonzaga Leads Nation in JVC Volunteers

Gonzaga News Release
October, 24 2008

A total of twenty-nine Gonzaga alumni have committed to serve in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the most volunteers produced by any college or university in the nation, the JVC reports. Ten Gonzaga alumni are serving in the JVC Northwest, while 19 more toil for the common good in other regions nationwide.

“Your alumni have dedicated themselves to a year or more of simple living and working for social justice in a spiritually supportive community as they walk with people living in poverty or on the margins of society,” said Maggie Conley, national project manager for the JVC.

This year 336 Jesuit Volunteers will minister by teaching students of all ages, providing legal services, working with refugees and immigrants, serving with social services and at community centers, organizing in low-income communities and caring for people with HIV/AIDS. Gonzaga University volunteers now comprise 7.5 percent of all Jesuit Volunteers currently serving.

Jesuit Volunteer Communities are located in large urban settings such as Detroit, Chicago, Boston, New York City, Houston, San Francisco and Los Angeles and in smaller cities such as El Paso, Texas; Portland, Maine; and Raleigh, N.C. The Northwest region of the JVC is the largest this year, commissioning 99 volunteers. The East region is the next largest, commissioning 80; 78 volunteers were commissioned by the Southwest; 49 in the South and 30 by the Midwest.

Worldwide, 43 Jesuit Volunteers are fulfilling their two-year commitment to Jesuit Volunteers International (JVI) in locations such as Belize, Nicaragua, Peru, Nepal, Micronesia, the

Marshall Islands and Tanzania. The JVI volunteers will aid the poor in these developing countries while they work in schools, with youth and in parishes.

Since 1956, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps has offered men and women an opportunity to work full-time for justice and peace, both locally and abroad. They are called to the mission of serving the poor directly, working for structural change in the United States, and accompanying people in developing countries. The challenge to Jesuit Volunteers is to integrate Christian faith by working and living among the poor and marginalized, by living simply and in community with other Jesuit Volunteers and by examining the causes of social injustice. To date, there are more than 12,000 former Jesuit Volunteers.



[Jesuit Volunteer Corps Logo](#)

New Martin Native American Scholarship

By: Megan Ewens

The Charlotte Y. Martin Native American Scholarship was established by the Charlotte Y. Martin Foundation at Gonzaga University to honor outstanding Native American students seeking to pursue their college degree at Gonzaga.

Charlotte Y. Martin was a native of Montana and a beloved benefactor of Gonzaga.

Freshman and transfer students from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming who are enrolled in a federal and/or state recognized tribe are welcome to apply for the \$5,000 per year scholarship.

To apply and learn more visit: [Martin Native American Scholarship](#)

Act Six Expands to Gonzaga with Full Scholarships

Gonzaga News Release
December 3, 2008

Launched by the Tacoma-based [Northwest Leadership Foundation](#) in partnership with Whitworth in 2002, Act Six seeks to develop urban leaders to be agents of change on campus and in their home communities. The program initially targeted first-generation, college-bound students from urban Tacoma but has since expanded to Seattle, Portland, Memphis, TN, and now Spokane. Gonzaga is the latest university affiliate, joining Crichton College, George Fox University, Northwest University, Pacific Lutheran University, Trinity Lutheran University and Whitworth.

Raymond Reyes, Gonzaga's Associate Mission Vice President for Intercultural Relations, says Act Six is an ideal fit for the University's mission.

"Through its collaborative association with the Act Six Program, Gonzaga University animates the currency of its Jesuit roots and creates a highly effective way to manifest its institutional mission," says Reyes. "For many years to come, all members of our learning community, such as the Act Six scholars, the entire GU student body, and our faculty and staff will benefit from this initiative that uniquely braids the promise and practice of cultural diversity, leadership development and academic rigor in service to the common good. St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, is smiling right now at this beautiful articulation of faith in the promotion of justice."

This fall, the sixth multicultural cadre of 10 Act Six scholars will enroll at Whitworth and, by December, 20 of the 21 scholars in the first two cadres will have graduated. Overall, 57 of 67 scholars originally selected for the program have graduated or are still enrolled at Whitworth - reflecting graduation and retention rates that far exceed national averages. Act Six scholars have been

elected student-body presidents two of the past three years at Whitworth and have been involved in numerous other leadership roles on and off campus.

"Our scholars are having a profound impact through their leadership on campus, and, as they begin to graduate, they are making a powerful and positive impact in the community," says Tim Herron, founder and national director of Act Six. "This is what we envisioned when we launched Act Six and what we hope can be replicated in Spokane."

Act Six in Spokane will be coordinated by Rodney McAuley, longtime civic leader and local director for the Northwest Leadership Foundation, a faith-based non-profit organization that seeks to encourage, strengthen and develop leadership for the spiritual and social renewal of the city.

McAuley sees Act Six as a natural reflection of his Christian faith commitment to love one's neighbor across racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic lines. But he also sees the program as a strategic investment in the economic and social well-being of the Spokane community.

"Even in this supposedly remote corner of the world, the demographics are shifting; 25 percent of the Spokane Public Schools' population are students of color compared with 8 percent in the overall population of the city," McAuley says. "Developing leaders who are practiced in the art of communicating across cultures and building bridges will strengthen Spokane's ability to compete in a world that is rapidly becoming more diverse and more globally connected."

Herron, formerly a math teacher at Tacoma's Lincoln High School, developed Act Six after seeing many of his most promising students fail to complete college. He modeled the program after a similar initiative developed nearly 20 years ago by the Posse

Foundation to train and send students in groups to elite colleges.

Act Six develops leaders through a simple, but powerful, four-step strategy:

- 1) Recruit and select diverse, multicultural cadres of Spokane's most promising emerging urban leaders.
- 2) Train and prepare these groups of students in the year prior to college, equipping them to support each other, succeed academically, and grow as service-minded leaders and agents of transformation.
- 3) Send and fund the teams together to select faith-based colleges on four-year, full-tuition, full-need scholarships.
- 4) Support and inspire by providing strong campus support and ongoing leadership development to nurture these young people as they find their vocation and grow into the next generation of community leaders.

The rigorous selection process seeks to identify student leaders who are passionate about learning, eager to foster intercultural relationships, willing to step out of their comfort zones, committed to serving those around them, and ready to make a difference on campus and at home. The selection process also places high value on applicant's teamwork, critical thinking, communication skills, and academic potential.

Act Six, which is open to students from any Spokane-area high school, will provide five scholarships to attend Whitworth and four to attend Gonzaga. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to graduate in 2009 or must have previously graduated from high school in 2007 or 2008. While ethnicity and family income are factors in selecting an intentionally diverse group of scholars, there are no income restrictions, and students from all ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

For more information regarding Act Six, please call or email Assistant Dean of Admission, [Brian Spraggins](#). (800) 322-2584, ext. 6575.

Annual NYC Trek Brings Students to Wall Street

Gonzaga News Release
October 13, 2008

The Gonzaga Alumni Mentor Program (GAMP) recently sponsored its second annual New York City Trek, which brought a select group of Gonzaga business students to the Big Apple to explore career opportunities on Wall Street.

“The idea of the Trek is to give students exposure to key employers who they might otherwise not have access to,” said Erin Shields, assistant director of GAMP. “The New York Trek gives Gonzaga students the opportunity to connect with Gonzaga alumni working on Wall Street while gaining an educational ‘real-world’ look inside this competitive and dynamic market.”

Students on the Trek participated in “Corporate Excursions” to companies such as Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), Goldman Sachs, The Capital Group Companies, Deutsche Bank and other financial institutions. The students were led by various Gonzaga alumni and Regents. The excursions were designed to provide students with additional knowledge of the corporate world through firsthand experience.

“The New York City Trek focused on the financial services industry, and gave students access to high profile opportunities on and around Wall Street,” Shields said.

Following a selection process, eight students were invited by a committee of Gonzaga alumni, students and staff to take part in the Trek. The students chosen to participate in the second annual New York Trek - held September 25-26 - were: seniors **Ashley Prince**, from Martinez, CA, and **Doug Greiner**, Diablo, CA; juniors **Adam Novak**, Boise, ID; **Andy Leroy**, Jefferson City, MO, and **Kelli Murphy**, University

Place, WA; and sophomores **Jacqueline Artis**, Boise, ID; **Phil Chowaniec**, Sammamish, WA, and **Tyler Cantarano**, Mukilteo, WA.

The students were hosted by Gonzaga alumni including **Mike Berl** and **Joe Dziwura**, Regents **Richard Shinder** and **Thatcher Thompson**, and Trustee **Kevin McQuilkin**. A New York Alumni Chapter Networking Social at O’Lunney’s Times Square Pub was hosted by Gonzaga’s New York City Alumni Chapter co-presidents **Karen Kowalski** and **Ben Bianco**, a husband-wife team.

For questions about GAMP or the New York City Trek, contact [Erin Shields](#) at (509) 313-4048

Zags’ Debaters Crack Nation’s Top 10

Gonzaga News Release
December 15, 2008

While the Gonzaga men’s basketball team moved up one spot to No. 4 in the nation in both major polls, the Gonzaga debate team also cracked the Top 10 in the final 2008 national rankings for college debate teams, coming in at No. 9 in the country.

Glen Frappier, the Gonzaga debate coach, said the Bulldog debaters just keep on doing what has made them one of the top programs in the country.

“Talent combined with a strong work ethic has always been, and will always be, a strong recipe for success,” Frappier said. “We’re a deep team this

year that has a lot of veteran leadership among our juniors and seniors. But there’s still room for improvement and we still haven’t seen the upper limit of what this team is capable of achieving.” The Bulldog debaters will be back into action on January 3 at the University of Southern California with a Top 5 ranking in their sights, Frappier said.

We will try to raise our ranking and perhaps break the Top 5,” he said.

For more information, contact Gonzaga Debate Coach, [Glen Frappier](#) at (509) 313-6663.

2008 Top 25 Final National Debate Tournament Rankings:

1. University of Kansas
2. University of California, Berkeley
3. University of Oklahoma
4. Emory University
5. Baylor University
6. Northwestern University
7. Towson University
8. Kansas State University
9. **Gonzaga University**
10. Missouri State University
11. Liberty University
12. Whitman University
13. Wichita State University
14. Wake Forest University
15. University of Central Oklahoma
16. University of Georgia
17. University of Wyoming
18. Michigan State University
19. Idaho State University
20. Binghamton University
21. University of Missouri
22. University of Texas
23. University of Southern California
24. University of Richmond
25. Harvard University



2008 GU
Debate Team