

ZAG TALK

Tips and Information for Prospective ZAG Parents



ZAG TALK is a quarterly 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.

We hope you enjoy it and welcome your feedback.



From the Dean of Admission...

April...And you thought the stressful part was over! That said, I hope you are enjoying spring!

If your son or daughter is a senior in high school, this month may prove more stressful than any this academic year. With high school events and other obligations coming to a close, who would have thought you'd still be helping your son or daughter wrestle with where to attend college? Perhaps you are lucky; you have decided, sent in the tuition and housing deposits and bought school sweatshirts. If not, though, you are not alone!

Because students are applying to more schools and because of the complexity of the decision, many students are taking as much time as possible to finalize admission decisions. In order to secure a place at the college of choice, however, it is imperative that deposits be made by **May 1, 2009**. May 1 each year is considered the "National Commitment Deadline" for colleges and is as important to us as April 15 is to CPAs!

If you are wrestling with decisions, I would suggest you do an old-fashioned "pros and cons" list of each school and line up the lists with your child's expectations of a school. Certainly the "heart" quotient plays into the decision, but sometimes making a list allows those factors most important to you and your child to stand out more clearly.

Also, be bold. Call the admission offices at the schools and ask questions that will

help in the discernment process. On this side of the desk, we appreciate what an investment you are making, and we want to be of help.

Finally, if your son or daughter is not yet a senior, know that this process can be long! I encourage you to talk to your friends who have already gone through the college search process with their sons and daughters - they'll give great advice!

As this academic year winds down, I wish you all the best. Please feel free to email or call if my colleagues and I can be of help.

Sincerely,

Julie McCulloh, Dean of Admission
(800)322.2584, extension 6572



Financial Aid Offers for Entering Freshmen...

Financial aid packages have been mailed to all admitted freshmen who filed a FAFSA application by our priority filing date of February 1, 2009. If your student completed a FAFSA by the priority date and has **not** received a financial aid package from our office, please contact us immediately at (800)793.1716 or (509)313.6582.

If you have not already done so, please review the *Financial Aid Offer and Guide Booklet* that accompanied your student's financial aid award package. This booklet contains very helpful information such as cost break downs, alternative payment methods, part-time work op-

portunities, applying for parent loans and other facts that are important to financial aid applicants. Specific requirements for renewability of funded grants and scholarships beyond a student's freshman year are outlined on page two of the booklet.

Something unique to a Gonzaga financial aid offer is our [Gonzaga Guarantee](#) policy. The Guarantee has been positively received by our families as they plan for the four-year college experience.

Enclosed with your student's financial aid package may have been a "Request for Information." It is important that you respond and supply all requested documents in a timely manner in order to avoid processing delays.

We realize you may still have questions after thoroughly reviewing your financial aid package. Please don't hesitate to contact us at the provided numbers or by email at: finaid@gonzaga.edu.

Our experienced financial aid counselors are available Monday - Friday from 9AM to 5PM to answer your questions.

Gonzaga Trivia:

What famous rock group performed at Gonzaga's Kennedy Pavilion in 1968?

See page 5 for answer.

Making the Transition

By Kelly Krusee
Visit Office Coordinator

Now that your child has been accepted and is deciding which school to attend, there are a lot of decisions to make: what to study, what classes to take, what dorm to live in, and, most importantly, what cell phone plan – unlimited text, unlimited minutes, both?!

While it may not seem like it yet, this is a time of transition for households in which a *child* is getting ready to become a *student*. This transitional time is difficult for the student and, quite often, even more difficult for the parents. There are many decisions to be made and for the first time, the student (your child) is now responsible for making these decisions.

Up to this point in your child's life, one or both parents have been actively involved in each decision, from classes to appointments to extra-curricular activities. This has worked well and you may feel there's no reason to change it! However, in order for your child to transition into college smoothly and successfully, the roles must change.

Your child, now the student, is responsible for picking classes, making appointments, showing up for said appointments and returning paperwork - not to mention doing laundry, eating meals, studying, and going to class. While living at home, your student may have learned from you how to keep records, files and organize important items. If not, these are things your student needs to learn – fast! This will be crucial to her/his success in college and life!

While your child is learning to be responsible in college, she/he needs your support to be successful. Your help and guidance from home will be the safety net, stability and assurance your child needs to succeed. If your child is struggling in college, the best help you can provide is support and encouragement. Talk your child through the problems and dilemmas and offer suggestions on ways to handle and react to situations. You've been doing this with your child for her/his whole life - and now your

child may need and want this more than ever!

To help your family transition into these new roles, consider these key tips:

For Students:

1. Get to know your university by calling or emailing for information. Have a question? Call or email on your own. The more you do this now, the easier it will become when you are on campus in the fall and have to do it yourself.
2. Call to schedule a visit or meeting at a college in which you are interested.
3. Call your college and ask how first-semester course registration will work.
4. Complete paperwork for your college on your own by the deadline, and ask your parents to review it before sending.
5. Mail materials to the university yourself.
6. Keep all important documents for school organized in an appropriate place accessible to you and your parents. This should follow you to college.

For Parents:

1. While you have been keeping records and organizing for years, your student probably has not. Show your student how you do these things, so your student can do this in college for her/himself.
2. Pick a date to visit a college, go over the dates with your student, and have your student call to make the reservation.
3. Talk to your student about her/his intended major. Have your student call the college to find out how registration will work first semester, and see if an advisor is available for consultation.
4. If you have paperwork that is due to the college, let your student complete it. Review it together once it is complete.

5. Let your student mail the paperwork!

6. Help your student organize all paperwork for college – come up with a system that works for everyone.

Starting these habits now will be most helpful for you and your student when classes start in the fall. Your student will know how to advocate for her/himself and keep things organized, leaving time for discussions with you about the important things like classes, new friends, old friends, being homesick, and when to come home for a visit!

To schedule a Gonzaga visit please contact our [Visit Office](#) at visit@gonzaga.edu or call (800)322.2584, extension 6531.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

MAY 1, 2009

**NATIONAL
COMMITMENT
DEADLINE
FOR
MAKING
YOUR
COLLEGE
TUITION
DEPOSIT**

Safety Tips for Students

Private Colleges & Universities
Transfer Edition 2007

Here is a list of safety tips compiled from student safety experts and campus websites around the country:

1. Prepare yourself physically and mentally for any type of emergency - be a resource, not a victim.
2. If you have been personally threatened or if you have heard anyone at school mention the idea of shooting people, blowing up the school, or committing other acts of violence, take it seriously. Tell a parent, professor, or other campus official what you know and what you feel.
3. If you are using a key to enter a secure building, make sure that you don't allow an intruder to follow you into that building.
4. Keep all exit doors properly locked, not propped open.
5. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Walk confidently and avoid secluded areas.
6. Never jog alone at night.
7. Travel with another person whenever possible. Many campuses offer escort services.
8. Notify Public Safety of burnt-out lights, debris, defective gate mechanisms, damaged fencing, or other problems in parking areas.
9. If you must walk alone at night, stay away from wooded areas or locations where shrubs or buildings might provide cover for assailants.
10. If you feel you are being followed, yell or scream and move toward a public, well-lit area.

Visit the [Gonzaga Campus Security website](#) for more information, helpful tips and frequently asked questions.



GEL Registration is now closed

If you did not register by the deadline, you are welcome to attend GEL as a **Walk-In** student. As a **Walk-In** student, you are able to participate in all the Saturday and Sunday activities, including: Club Fair, Opening Ceremonies, Ultimate Residence Hall Tours, Interactive Faculty Sessions, S'mores by the Shore...and much more!

You will be responsible for your accommodations; **we will provide shuttles in the evening to take you back to your hotel. On Sunday, if you need a ride to the airport, we have a shuttle service that can pick you up at your hotel.**

Feel free to get in touch with our [GEL Coordinators](#) if have questions.

See you soon!

What is GEL?

GEL stands for Gonzaga Experience Live! This weekend is a chance for accepted high school students to get a taste of Gonzaga life. Staying overnight in residence halls with student hosts and participating in numerous campus activities helps students to solidify their college decision.

When is GEL Weekend?

GEL is a two-day event that begins on Saturday, April 18th, 2009 and ends on Sunday, April 19th, 2009. Students start arriving on campus at 10:00am and are asked to be here no later than 1:00pm on Saturday.

This year, the GEL theme is ZaG-a-PaLoOza...think music and great times!

Hope to see you there!

Who attends GEL?

All high school students who have been accepted for fall enrollment at Gonzaga University for the 2009-2010 school year are welcome to sign up for the weekend event. GEL is designed to give students one last chance to see if GU is what they are looking for in a university. GEL is particularly helpful for students who have not yet visited Gonzaga.

Parents of admitted students are welcome to attend GEL Weekend to take advantage of the informative parent program. Approximately 50% of GEL participants' parents also attend the weekend.

Marching Through Bloomsday with a Bulldog Bounce

Spirit Newsletter April 2009

It's hard enough running the 7.46 miles of Bloomsday. Imagine marching - and singing - in unison with about 94 other people for the entire course.

That's what members of Gonzaga's Bulldog Battalion have done for the past several Bloomsdays and plan on doing again at this year's May 3 race, according to Sergeant First Class Joy Hudson. "It's hard to miss us, being in formation and decked out in our red ROTC T-shirts," she said. "We usually get a good spot towards the front of the pack and finish in less than 75 minutes."

Junior class members serve as leaders for the Bloomsday formation, motivating and helping the 90-plus cadets get into the "left-right-left-right" cadence. Throughout the course, bystanders can hear the cadets belt out cadences such as "When the left foot hits the ground, I want to hear a clapping sound; I used to date a beauty queen, now I date my M-16..."

The Bulldog Battalion also enters Bloomsday with a competitive running team of 8 to 10 members - composed of both students and faculty. "It's all about competing, no matter what your age," said LTC (R) Alan Westfield. "We take our fastest runners and make an ROTC elite team. Our finish times are always less than 55 minutes."

The cadets' regular exercise schedule is strenuous enough to get them ready to run Bloomsday. Their physical training, known as "PT" by the cadets, consists of calisthenics and competitive running. "We meet in the Rudolf Fitness Center three days a week from 6-7 AM and then hit the road for some running," said Travis Park ('09). "Anyone's welcome to join us." Is that an order?

For more information on Gonzaga's ROTC program contact (509)323.6519.

Gonzaga Alumni Mentoring Program - Helping Undergrads Transition to Career Professionals

GAMP Website 2009

The Gonzaga Alumni Mentoring Program ([GAMP](#)) is a career development and networking program designed for Gonzaga University students, alumni and friends. It works by matching students and graduates, including law students, with mentors who share similar career fields, geographic locations, or other criteria of interest.

The program's primary goal is to establish a relationship between the mentee and mentor that facilitates better career decision-making and the development of a network that can result in increased job opportunities. The GAMP program works collaboratively with the Career Center to provide a number of programs.

In addition to our individual mentoring, GAMP sponsors monthly events on campus that allow students to interact with alumni professionals in a variety of career fields. The Seattle and Portland Treks are organized each year for the purpose of helping students develop professional relationships with alumni and employers in these two key cities. The Treks involve corporate excursions, networking socials, and career fairs with some of the top employers in the nation.



The [GAMP](#) office is located on the second floor of Crosby Student Center, room 213. Contact GAMP by calling (800)986.9585, extension 4048 or email gamp@gonzaga.edu.

Gonzaga's Response to the Economy

By Father Robert J. Spitzer
Gonzaga University President

Many in our community are concerned about the current state of our national and global economy, the discouraging forecasts for the immediate future and beyond, and the potential for negative impact on Gonzaga and its operation. While past experience suggests that higher education can actually thrive in times of general economic distress – that is, that people return to school for additional education when the economy gets tough – it is only prudent that we plan realistically for challenging circumstances, should they arise.

As of Dec. 1, no significant downturn has appeared in either undergraduate or graduate enrollment and retention. Our applications are slightly higher than last year and our campus visits have increased by 15 percent. We have not noticed an increase in transcript requests (which would indicate an increase in transfer applications). And so, we believe that our retention will be quite good.

Central to our success as an institution is the quality of our educational activities and the commitment we show daily to our students. Our ability to continue to be economically successful is intimately connected with students' satisfaction and their willingness to remain at Gonzaga. Thus, our first responsibility – as it ever has been – is to carry out with vigor and commitment our Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic mission of rigorous, challenging and transformational education to our students.

As students return home briefly for the spring break, they and their families will talk about the cost of college and, perhaps, recalculate the value of this experience. For some, the financial situation may already be dire; for others, the question of whether Gon-

zaga remains an affordable option awaits further information. Given our institutional dependency upon tuition-based revenue, adequate enrollment is a paramount concern.

Therefore, the administration has been actively formulating contingency plans to respond to additional challenges which may befall our students and their families. These contingency plans have been carefully thought out to respond first and foremost to the potential needs of our students, our current faculty and staff, the revenue needs of the University, and the continuous improvement of our educational quality.

In our very competitive market, the prime determinant of success is perceived value: that is, the perception of quality, given price. Gonzaga has effectively increased its perceived quality through a variety of actions over the past 10 years, including:

- Hiring excellent faculty committed to teaching and research
- Dramatic improvement in academic, residential and athletic facilities
- Dramatic improvements in technology, particularly networking
- Development of superior marketing materials
- Support for faculty-sponsored student research, internship and distinctive program opportunities (e.g., Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program, Comprehensive Leadership Program)
- Relatively modest tuition increases, which in combination with robust financial aid packages, have yielded higher graduation rates (81 percent).

We intend to continue these improvements through the Strategic Plan addressed in the last issue of *Gonzaga Quarterly*.

Notwithstanding these achievements and the success that has accompanied them, it is appropriate to maintain simultaneously our commitment to mission and quality, while planning for chal-

lenges to come. In preparation for possible effects of the recession on enrollment and budget in the 2009-10 academic year, the administration has formed a financial risk-monitoring committee which has two functions:

- Respond to enrollment and internal challenges
- Respond to credit and liquidity challenges.

The enrollment/internal subcommittee has been working on a plan that includes: (a) retention strategies, such as additional grant aid and a loan program for our neediest students who may have difficulty obtaining credit; (b) a financial aid program to help both our neediest and middle-income students; and (c) a marketing program that will explain why Gonzaga is a “good buy” in these current market conditions (as it has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review and other independent rating services).

The enrollment/internal subcommittee also is charged with determining where cutbacks could be made if we should find ourselves facing a revenue shortfall. Though current data do not suggest that we will face such a shortfall, it would be imprudent not to prepare for any eventuality. As I always tell the students, “chance favors the prepared mind.”

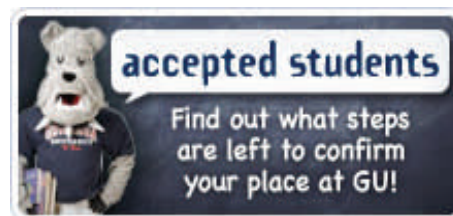
The credit/liquidity subcommittee is charged with monitoring Gonzaga’s debt financing and investments (particularly as those investments affect liquidity necessary for ongoing operations). Currently our interest rates are favorable and our liquidity adequate for current operations. This subcommittee is charged with creating back-up plans to negotiate even greater challenges in the credit and liquidity market as well as to locate opportunities which may emerge for both credit and liquidity even in today’s challenging marketplace. Again, current data do not suggest that we are facing imminent problems, however, these measures of preparation should serve us well.

As we move into a somewhat uncertain future, we are confident that we can re-

spond in a way that will protect our students, faculty, staff and academic quality. We also know that we can count on you, our alumni and friends, to help if conditions should become more challenging. I thank you for what you have already done, for the love and commitment you have shown, and for the ways you will undoubtedly help our students and community in the future. God bless you for your service and generosity.



This article was published in the Gonzaga Quarterly spring 2009 edition. Click [here](#) to read the Gonzaga Quarterly in full.



Accepted? Visit our [accepted student website](#) to make sure you do everything necessary to ensure your spot in the class of 2013!

Gonzaga Trivia Answer:

Led Zepplin, though advertisements in both local papers listed the group as “Len Zefflin.”