

# Spirit

A newsletter for faculty and staff

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## 'Rich faculty talk' winning supporters for outcomes assessment

**G**onzaga is taking a series of concrete steps to help create a system of outcomes assessment that will not only satisfy the University's accrediting body but will give faculty the resources to improve their teaching. These measures include:

- bringing to campus proponents of different approaches to assessment work, including Professor **John Webster** of the University of Washington on Feb. 8, and Professor **John Bean** of Seattle University, who spoke last month at the Spring Faculty Conference.
- establishing a half-day each fall for faculty to increase their knowledge of assessment strategies.
- hiring **Daniel Bubb** as assessment coordinator.

Academic Vice President **Stephen Freedman** and others seek to support a faculty-wide conversation about these questions: What are we teaching our students? Are our students learning what we want them to learn and what we say we are teaching them?

Fuel for this conversation came from Bean's talk on the "discourse approach" to assessment. "Rich faculty talk" about ways to improve courses, syllabi, homework assignments, etc., figures heavily in his model. Bean starts with a hypothetical end result: the ideal senior student who is fluent in the thinking and writing that mark an insider in any given field. Then, he works backwards to identify the building blocks that a professor must teach.

Webster's visit will focus on how he uses assessment outcomes in his teaching.

"What do we have to gain from assessment?" asks Bubb. "It can cast a whole new light on the purpose of teaching and learning." Bubb, who arrived in January, is a doctoral candidate in United States History and Political Science at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, with an M.A. in U.S. History from University of

Nevada, Las Vegas, and a B.A. in Ancient History from California State University, Sonoma. Bubb also served as co-chair for the Missouri Valley College Assessment Committee and helped to create and oversee a comprehensive assessment program to meet the college's needs as well as the criteria for continued accreditation.

"We could probably produce the kinds of reports we need for accreditation purposes right now, especially with the help of someone like Daniel (Bubb)," said Professor **Mike Herzog**, senior faculty adviser to the AVP. "But I am convinced that there is real benefit to faculty and to our students in the work that John Bean describes and that I believe must underlie those reports.

"True outcomes assessment must start with the faculty's conversations about student learning outcomes and then proceed to the application and measurement of those outcomes, culminating in the kinds of reports that we need to generate to show what we are doing. But the real value lies in how this work improves our teaching and our students' learning. If we can come to the intersection of psychometric measures and 'rich faculty talk,' we will have met the needs of accreditation bodies but, more importantly, the needs of our students and of our faculty."

Associate Professor **Tina Geithner**, exercise science, describes her own changing views on assessment: "Initially, I felt like it was a lot of work for the department. But the more I've gotten to understand the process and what's involved, I'm starting to think about outcomes assessment in a different way. It goes deeper than the numbers, and is more of an inquiry into how well we're doing what we do." Geithner, who is head of the assessment outcomes committee of the Academic Council, said that she is starting to think about ways to assess broader, GU mission-related outcomes.

Gonzaga's accreditation team will visit campus on April 25, focusing on assessment out-



*Daniel Bubb emphasizes the value of developing an assessment process that will enhance the University's work and reputation, without costing undue amounts of faculty time and energy.*

comes.

To a certain extent, the current conversation about outcomes assessment is déjà vu for the School of Engineering and Applied Computer Science. The engineering school underwent an accreditation visit in 2000 that emphasized assessment work. Mechanical engineering Assistant Professor **Steven Zemke** and others are developing software to automate much of the process. This offers the prospect – perhaps one day for the broader Gonzaga faculty – of an efficient means to gather numerical data, while allowing time and energy for more of Bean's "rich faculty talk."

Send Spirit story ideas to [lombard@gonzaga.edu](mailto:lombard@gonzaga.edu)

## Environmental studies program up and rolling

Gonzaga students are now enrolled in a new environmental studies program, a concentration that got off the ground this fall with a good background of planning, but little if any fanfare.

The program is directed by **Jonathan Isacoff**, assistant professor of political science and a specialist in Middle Eastern affairs, who is in his third year at Gonzaga.

"Especially in the Northwest, environmental studies is no longer a 'boutique discipline.' It has become well established as a standard part of the liberal arts curriculum. I was lucky to arrive at Gonzaga rather late in the game," Isacoff says. "I inherited a well established foundation from **Robert Prusch, David Boose, Brian Steverson, and Fr. Michael Treleaven**, so getting the

program up and running went quite smoothly."

The program draws on offerings from political science, economics, history, sociology and biology. Due to the fact that this program is designated as a concentration, Isacoff said he's unable to pinpoint the number of students enrolled. However, he said he's had a great deal of interest from students and he hopes for enrollment of 50-60 students in two years.

Gonzaga's location, near what some environmentalists call the "inland temperate rainforest," will give this program its own particular stamp. The proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, west of the Cabinet Mountains and home to caribou and grizzly, give students prime territory for field trips.



Marc Manganaro

## AROUND CAMPUS

- Gonzaga is ranked No. 4 on the Peace Corps' top 25 list for small schools. Twenty-seven alumni currently serve as Peace Corps volunteers.

- Dean of Student Life **Beth Hellwig-Olson** is departing for three months with the Semester at Sea program. She will be director of student life on the MV Explorer, with 600 students, traveling from Florida to South America, Africa, Asia and home across the Pacific Ocean.

- **Matthew Kelly**, a bestselling author, will speak on "Lessons for Enduring Happiness," at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 8 at St. Aloysius Church.

- Foley Center Library's annual holiday basket raffle raised more than \$900 for Gonzaga's Specialized Recreation, April's Angels and Centerpoint.

- **Ron Large**, professor of religious studies who spent the fall semester in Florence, has been named to the city of Spokane's ethics committee.

- Seattle entrepreneur **David Sabey** will speak at 4 p.m., Feb. 5, in the Wolff Auditorium on "The Future of Health Care: an Entrepreneur's Perspective."

## 'Fires of Hate' expected to draw stream of visitors to campus

"Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings," a traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will be housed in the Special Collection's Reading Room of the Foley Center Library, March 10 through May 5. The exhibit is sponsored by the Foley Center and the Institute for Action Against Hate. Gonzaga is one of four locations scheduled to host this traveling exhibit in 2007.

A number of tours by public school students and other groups from across the Inland Northwest are anticipated. The last exhibition to draw the amount of attention that is expected to occur this spring for "Fires of Hate" was the Anne Frank exhibit in 2000, said **Stephanie Plowman**, Special Collections librarian.

A display of locally banned books and material on book burnings



A scene from a Nazi book burning during World War II.

in the United States is planned in Foley Center, as well. A white supremacist group in Minnesota held a book burning last month.

"Foley Center has procedures in place for dealing with challenged materials but as far as I know there has only been one informal challenge in the 17 years I have been here," said **Linda Pierce**, chair of the public services department at the library.

## Four finalists interview for dean's position

Four finalists for the position of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences have been announced by the search committee. Two of the candidates, **Marc Manganaro**, dean of academic affairs of Douglass College at Rutgers University and **Patricia Fleming**, senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Creighton University, interviewed on campus during the last week and a half of January.

Internal candidate **Mike Herzog**, professor of English and senior faculty adviser to the academic vice president, will interview on Feb. 5-6. The final candidate, **Thomas Mans**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, St. Vincent College, will be campus Feb. 8-9.

Father **Pat Lee**, S.J., vice president for Mission, has expressed hope that a recommendation from among the four finalists will be made by the search committee to Father **Robert Spitzer**, S.J., and the Trustees by the end of February.

In each round of interviews, two open faculty sessions are being held, one each day, to give faculty good opportunity to talk with the candidates. Fr. Lee encouraged faculty to participate in the interviewing process.

# NOTEWORTHY

## New Hires:

**Sundae Garner**, shipping and receiving clerk, Bookstore; **Debra Loudon**, accounting assistant I, Student Accounts.

## Goodbyes:

**Kieran Barton**, assistant women's soccer coach, Athletics; **Matthew Gray**, custodian I, Plant Services; **Edward Moore**, groundskeeper I, Plant Services; **Ray Perdue**, custodian lead II, Plant Services; **Debbie Stevenson**, internship specialist, Career Center.

## Promotions/New Assignments:

**Erik Blackerby**, to IT communication and education services manager, Tech Ed Services; **Krystal Burns**, to IT policy communication and software specialist, Tech Ed Services; **Teri Chlanda**, to assistant registrar, Law School; **Scott Ekstrom**, to classroom multimedia technician, Tech Ed Services; **Nancy Fike**, to director of development and alumni relations, Law School; **Leif Forrest**, to distance education multimedia technician; Tech Ed Services; **Ron Mahan**, to multimedia engineer, Tech Ed Services; **Anthony Martinez**, to custodian in training, Plant Services; **Gina McFarland**, to program assistant III, Law School; **Amber McKenzie**, to ELC coordinator, ISP; **Robbie McMillian**, to program coordinator, Law School; **Terry Mitchell**, to plumber I, Plant Services; **Suljic Nihad**, to custodian specialist III, Plant Services; **Jeremy Page**, to custodian I, Plant Services; **Rick Rasmussen**, to assistant director, Tech Ed Services; **Aaron Smith**, to general maintenance I, Plant Services; **Anne Thomas**, to associate dean, Admissions; **Don Thomas**, to info tech coordinator, Financial Aid; **Ann Price**, to administrative assistant, Intercultural Relations; **Sara Varela-Acevedo**, to program assistant III, ISP; **Marek Zaranski**, to language lab and multimedia technician, Tech Ed Services.

## Anniversaries:

**30** **Linda Sue McClure**, accounting assistant II, Controller's Office.

**10** **Roxy Kasman**, associate controller, Controller's Office.

**5** **Heather Broom**, accounting assistant III, Student Accounts; **Sherri Peterson**, program administrator, Financial Aid; **Alex Wilbur**, user services tech, CCNSS.

## Cradle Call:

**Robert Donnelly**, assistant professor, History, and wife **Annamarie** are the parents of **Finnegan Patrick Dorn-Donnelly**. Born Dec. 11 he was 7 lbs 9 oz and 20 inches; **Shannon Main**, program assistant, Faculty Services is the mother of **Lilly Kathleen**. Born Dec. 12 she was 8 lbs, 5 oz and 20 inches;

**Dori Sonntag**, director of annual giving, University Relations, and husband **Dave** are the parents of **Owen Rafael**. Born Dec. 4 he was 8 lb 12 oz and 20 inches.

## Where's Q?

A stute observers will have noticed that **Q**, the English bulldog, is missing from basketball games at the McCarthy Athletic Center.

**Q** retired from Gonzaga when **Mike Ho-**

**gan**, former athletic development director, resigned last fall. **Q** is a middle-aged 8-years-old, so the transition from campus to family life has gone smoothly, **Hogan** reports. Besides, the dog who once basked in the attention of student-athletes and fans alike now has one main squeeze: **Hogan's** 11-month-

old daughter, **Autumn**. "He lets her do anything with him," **Hogan** says. "She even sticks her hands in his mouth."

*Q is happy in retirement.*



## Focus On ... The professor with no computer

**F**ather **Michael Cook**, S.J., professor of religious studies, has no computer, no e-mail, no cell phone, and no temptation to become electronically encumbered. His office in Robinson Hall is populated by books, photographs and a great deal of graceful, life-giving space. His desk is uncluttered by any standard – except his.

Fr. Cook says it best: "I like to concentrate on one thing at a time," and even as a boy growing up in Seattle he felt no interest in mechanical things.

Once, Fr. Cook bought a computer. But that was at Berkeley in 1993 and, eventually, after learning that he didn't like looking at the screen or scrolling text or having such bulky machinery imposed on his desk he gave it away. "I gave it to Father **Scott Coble**. It's probably long gone, by now."

The lack of a computer does not indicate a dearth of scholarship. Fr. Cook, 71, has written five books and next year will go on sabbatical in Nairobi, where he will write about Christ in Africa. He composes his first drafts by long-hand on yellow pads, and revises while he types his second and final draft.

While he takes some ribbing about his views, the silver-haired Jesuit believes that over-dependence on electronic media can breed an unhealthy passivity. He speaks of those students who hang back in the corners and are reluctant to engage in discus-



Fr. Michael Cook

sion. Or those who walk across campus, together, but on their cell phones.

E-mail, in particular, is no friend of his. Fr. Cook wants no part in what he calls the "e-mail wars," and while **Gail Jennings**, senior faculty assistant in religious studies, does receive e-mail in Fr. Cook's stead, he tries to minimize even that.

"If something bad happens, I'll hear about it immediately," he says. "If something good happens, I'll hear about it eventually. And anything in between, I don't care about."

## International offerings snapped up by faculty, staff

**A** spring-semester mini-course in Hausa language and Nigerian culture has attracted healthy interest. Thirteen people have signed up for the class being taught by **Mohammed Umar**, a young Nigerian English teacher. Hausa is spoken in regions of West Africa.

**Umar** is at Gonzaga this year through the Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant Program. The program has gotten off to such a strong start that **Mark Alfino**, professor of philosophy, is putting out feelers about possibly expanding Gonzaga's participation next year. **Alfino** is working on international program development for the academic vice president's office.

The no-cost, no-credit Hausa class starts Feb. 7. Late-comers, including members of the public, may sign up by contacting **Alfino**. Participants include two teachers from the Central Valley School District, one of whom is traveling to Nigeria.

**Alfino** also reports that 30 faculty and staff have signed on to an international development study

group which he coordinates. Four students will participate. The group will meet three times this spring, exploring different models for international service and development work and seeking to frame advice on how Gonzaga can best approach such projects. This effort stems from Gonzaga's increasing interest in international service learning, as evidenced by summer projects in Zambia and Benin.

"The focus of the group is to learn about challenges of international development and to ask how Gonzaga can be a responsible global citizen," **Alfino** said. The group may take an ongoing role in advising the University on future international development activity.

Gonzaga is not the only American Jesuit university with an interest in such international opportunities, and **Alfino** has expressed hope that the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities will establish a committee that would give international mission work a higher profile.

## Nearly time for start of Herak expansion construction

The start of construction of the 25,000-square-foot Herak expansion is due this spring, with a groundbreaking to be scheduled in April. ALSC Architects have designed the \$7.5 million building, which will face to the south and will connect to Herak by means of a skywalk.



*This preliminary design sketch shows the Herak expansion. Plans call for eventual additions on the east and west ends of the structure for a total 70,000 square feet.*

The expansion will house new programs under development by the School of Engineering and Applied Science, as well as power labs for the new Transmission & Distribution program.

Current parking south of Herak will be eliminated the start of construction.

In other construction-related news, design work is progressing on the extension of the Johnston Family Mall in front of the Administration Building. Ken Sammons, director of Plant Services,

said he hopes that work on the project will start in May, 2007, once students are out of school. The new entrance to the Admin. Building will include a fountain, a reflecting pool and a statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The artwork has been commissioned and is expected to be completed in February 2008.

The new sign for the campus entry at Cincinnati and Spokane Falls Boulevard is nearly complete, Sammons said, awaiting only the polished granite.

## Health care augmented with new services

Gonzaga's health benefits continue to evolve as the University seeks to control double-digit, health-care cost increases in pursuit of healthy life styles for its employees.

Gonzaga is taking a comprehensive approach, which means a combination of education, incentives, cost-free preventive care and other programs to support employees.

Studies show that up to 60 percent of health care costs are due to lifestyle choices, said Debbie Cerenzia, associate director of human resources in benefits, environmental health and safety.

One recent change to Gonzaga's health benefits program that stands out, Cerenzia said, was the advent last June of disease man-

agement, with free coaching available to Gonzaga employees. This affects those with chronic diseases such as diabetes or chronic heart failure. The coaching is done by Healthways, Inc., a firm that helps individuals to learn how best to manage their conditions. Individuals who have been contacted by Healthways can opt out of the service if they do not desire coaching.

In March, the personal health assessment (formerly the health risk assessment or HRA) will be available for employees with a direct \$50 cash benefit for those who take the on-line evaluation. A coaching component will be added, as well. More information on the personal health assessment and related programming will be out in March.

## 'Seussical' offers riches for all ages

"Seussical" is a compilation of the stories of Dr. Seuss, but it is a great deal more, according to director Suzanne Ostersmith, adjunct instructor in theater arts.

"I was committed to direct in the 'children-friendly' slot during this season. While I love doing children-friendly shows, I am well aware that our primary audience are the students and employees of Gonzaga, certainly with a good number of community members as well. I wanted a production that spoke to our audience, somehow connected to the Gonzaga mission, excited the students and certainly I wanted to enjoy directing it. 'Seussical' was the perfect show," Ostersmith said.

"Seussical" will be performed in Russell Theatre Feb. 2, 3, 9 and 10 at 7 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees on Feb. 4 and 11.

## Father-Daughter Dance coming Feb. 3

Gonzaga's Engineers Without Borders will hold its first Father-Daughter Dance on Feb. 3, for girls three years old and up, escorted by their father, grandfather or father figure. The dance will run 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the Spokane Room of the COG.

Fresh corsages, a hot-fudge sundae buffet and a magic show will complete the evening. Tickets are \$30 per couple, and \$12 for each additional daughter. To reserve tickets, call Maleena at 324-5086.

Volunteers are needed to help make corsages and in other positions. Please contact Paul Krupski at 329-3083. Proceeds will help fund an August trip to Benin, West Africa, for Engineers Without Borders.



*More than 200 faculty, staff members and significant others got their groove on at the Faculty/Staff Dance Jan. 20 in Cataldo Hall. Here Stacey Chatman and Johnny Coffey trip the light fantastic, as Marcia Bertholf and Gale Snyder look on.*