

Spirit

A newsletter for faculty and staff

Volume 9

Issue 3

Ducks in the Dumpster and a whole lot more for hard-working RDs

First-year residence director **Steve Mencarini** has seven years' experience in student activities, a master's in college student personnel and is making a career in the area of student life. "If I aspire to ever be, say, a dean of students, I have to have housing experience." Mencarini's wife is a first-year law school student; they "live in" at Catherine/Monica. Add the population of C/M to Madonna, and that's about 400 freshmen and 125 sophomores for whom Mencarini, aided by an assistant and 13 resident assistants, takes responsibility.

Jill Yashinsky is a third-year professional residence director because... "Insanity?" She shakes her head and laughs. Yashinsky started her path in residence life when she became a resident assistant during her sophomore year at St. Norbert College. She is in her second year as an RD at Gonzaga. Working with an assistant RD and eight resident assistants, Yashinsky is in charge of 425 juniors and seniors in Kennedy and Dussault apartments. She's also a full-time student in the master's of organizational leadership program.

First-year residence director **Jess Porras** said she thought about law school, but had so enjoyed her student experience as an RA, that she did her master's in educational policy and leadership. She oversees an assistant RD, nine RAs and about 310 students, mostly sophomores. Jess truly enjoys the chance "to have meaningful conversations with students in judicial conferences." There's a world of messy and often difficult

details behind those carefully chosen words, but that's part of Jess' charm – she cuts to the chase while remaining utterly approachable.

Nicole Sakraida got her first taste of residence life as an RA at Seattle University, then earned a master's in education and spent four years in Ecuador managing an exchange program that placed many North American students. Nicole is in a new RD position, riding herd on about 140 off-campus juniors and seniors who live in 34 houses and 27 apartments that are owned or managed by the University.

These four individuals exemplify the professionalism of all seven of Gonzaga's RDs whose duties cover the mundane – examining every piece of furniture in August so that students won't be charged for damage they did not inflict – and the essential – conferring with students who might be struggling academically or with problems at home.

"I do it for those ah-ha moments, the moments when you can see the learning come across a student's face," Mencarini says. The focus of any RD's job is shaped in part by what year students they are assigned. "Freshmen? They spend the first four or five weeks learning to live without their parents and think for themselves. Now they are starting to run into trouble," Mencarini says. Much of that trouble is small potatoes, nonetheless he does wellness checks on his freshmen, ensuring that they know he is a source of help.

Juniors? "They're just hitting the higher level courses in their majors and those courses are sometimes quite a bit tougher. Sometimes they're wondering if they can change their major and still graduate in four years," Yashinsky says. Students living off campus? "We deal with some first-stage alcoholism, assaults, neighborhood issues and landlord issues. Lots of landlord issues," says Sakraida.

An RD's day may start later than other staff. But meetings are scheduled at 8, 9, even 10 p.m. because that's when students are available. Cancelled dinner invitations? Hours spent waiting for a student to be released from the emergency room? Late-night crisis counseling and phone calls from parents who spill out their concerns but require complete confidentiality. All of this comes with the territory. As does comparing war stories. You've heard the one about ducks in the Dumpster? Suffice to say it involves a student hunting expedition.

"Students study hard in their academic life. They get a good education here at Gonzaga. But what they learn in class is only half their education. The other half they get outside the classroom in their residence halls," says Yashinsky.



From left at rear, residence directors Steve Mencarini, Jess Porras, Nicole Sakraida and Ben Cramer. In front, Jill Yashinsky at left, Shane McKee and Dave Houglum.

Federal work study: The very phrase sounds solid – but is it?

The dynamics of federal work study have done the unexpected this year, leaving many empty positions across campus. Approximately 70 fewer freshmen and sophomores have accepted work study jobs this year than last. It's not that the jobs aren't there. It's a lack of students taking available jobs.

Here are the numbers: This same time in Fall 2006, 414 students were working in FWS jobs. This year the number is 344. **Robin Guevara**, manager of student employment, expects the number of students in FWS jobs to peak at 370, versus last year's high of 428. Last year's pool of eligible FWS students was larger than this year's, which contributed to the difference.

While no definitive study has rooted out causes for this shift, apparent reasons include a changing student demographic, busy schedules, insufficient earnings potential, and jobs that appear unrewarding at first glance.

Crosby Student Center has seven open FWS positions, said manager **Carol Magnuson**. She's getting by, but her crew is stretched and has no

backup for emergencies. "This is the first year this has happened. In years past we've turned away students left and right. Students say they're too busy to have a job," Magnuson said.

DREAM, the Disability Resources, Education and Access Management office, also experienced a lack of interest. "Usually, I have students walking in and calling for several weeks hoping to get a federal position," said **Angela Merritt**, DREAM assistant director. "This year, I went to the employment fair and only had one interested student. I also had no walk-ins or calls, even though student employment had me on their list of people who needed work studies." The impact? She'll use departmental funding – intended for another purpose – to create institutional jobs to get that work done. She can't convert the FWS funds to institutional monies, as the federal funds are awarded to eligible students through the financial aid process, not to departments.

On the other hand, **DaVina Hoyt**, intercultural relations specialist at Unity House, easily filled her FWS jobs. She focuses on the fun and experience

students will gain. "These students have all kinds of strengths; you just have to pull it out of them. What do you have to offer these students? Are you going to teach them something?"

Guevara deals with several moving targets related to FWS. Federal allocations have decreased for two years. Students who qualify may decide against working. When the state's minimum wage increases on Jan. 1, FWS wages must increase too, which uses up Gonzaga's FWS allocation more quickly. But the cost of attendance goes up, so students have to borrow more or work more. The current maximum a FWS student can earn is \$1,450 per semester. "How significant is that amount, set against the cost of attendance?" Guevara wonders.

Overall, Guevara said, "I think we may be at the end of an era where we can mostly fill departmental employment needs with FWS students. It's not that these kids haven't worked before. But either it's not urgent that they work, or their parents are saying they prefer them not to work. And students are busy."

AROUND CAMPUS

• **Margot Stanfield**, vice president for university relations, has been honored by the Jesuit Advancement Administrators with its highest award, the J. Barry McGannon, S.J., Award. This honor, which has only been awarded six times, is reserved for individuals who provide exemplary service in advancement to Jesuit higher education.



Margot Stanfield

• The annual Task Force Big Sky Ranger Challenge Championship in Boise was won once again by the Bulldog Battalion, to the intense pride of Lt. Col. **Alan Westfield**, among others.

• A reception will take place on Nov. 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m., in the President's Conference Room for three international scholars on campus. **Alexei Arbona Estrada**, professor of economics at Javeriana University Cali, is here for the fall semester and is working with faculty members from the School of Professional Studies, School of Business, English Language Center and Department of Psychology to develop joint projects for the Colombia Initiative as a part of the twinning agreement between Gonzaga University and Javeriana University. **Haidy Mohammed** is Gonzaga's Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant for the 2007-2008 academic year. **Gilbert Nalelia** is studying strategies for sustainable development of water infrastructure, incorporating the technical and economical realities that can be applied in his home village of Kitali, Kenya. While at Gonzaga, he is also an adjunct instructor for the School of Engineering and Applied Science's senior design classes.



Don't miss 'Limbus' at the Jundt

"Limbus" by artist Harriet Sanderson creates art out of the devices and machines that we more often associate with aging and illness. Canes and chairs prop each other up in surprising graceful poses. Bedsprings and pillows converse.

Early in life, Sanderson lost the use of her right arm to polio. The physical constraints of her life

have led her to create art with materials more often connected with institutional hallways and stale rooms.

Jundt Art Museum Assistant Curator **Karen Kaiser** said she has talked with many visitors who are touched by the power of Sanderson's work. "Limbus" will be on display at the Jundt through Dec. 12.

NOTEWORTHY

New Hires:

Brie Andrews, field officer, University Relations; **Lisa Corigliano**, administration secretary, Student Life; **Carrie Danielle**, receptionist, Jesuit House; **Whitney Franklin**, events & stewardship specialist, University Relations; **Debra Fischetti**, development support assistant, University Relations; **Eric Gunning**, assistant trainer, Athletics; **James Mount**, custodian in training, Plant Services; **Ryan Mowrey**, custodian-in-training, Plant Services; **Erika Olson**, assistant professor, Mathematics; **Nicole Rasor**, assistant woman's rowing coach, Athletics; **Melissa Rehm**, custodian-in-training, Plant Services; **Allison Riese**, assistant director of foundation relations, University Relations; **Melissa Tevlin**, medical assistant, Health Center; **Kenneth Wessling**, custodian-in-training, Plant Services; **Emily Wirth**, institutional loans counselor, Loans.

Goodbyes:

Brad Bachmeier, assistant trainer, Athletics; **William Jack**, A/V technology supervisor, Campus Services; **Benjamin Jackman**, custodian, Plant Services; **Daniel Moore**, custodian, Plant Services; **Kyle Pifer**, compliance officer, Athletics.

Promotions/New Assignments:

Anna Gonzales, to intercultural relations specialist, Unity House; **Robynn Hougham**, to secretary, Arts & Sciences; **Michael Mueller**, to custodian I, Plant Services; **Rosanne Whitney**, to custodial shift supervisor, Plant Services.

Anniversaries:

20 **Marti Abrahamson**, Senior Faculty Assistant, Modern Languages/Communication Arts.

10 **James A. Coombes**, Data Network Technician, CCNS.

5 **Vitaliy N. Kuzmenkov**, Groundskeeper II, Plant Services.

Cradle Call:

Gary Van Tol, assistant baseball coach, and wife **Christina** are the parents of **Gibson Van Tol**. Born Sept. 12, she was 9 lbs 2 oz and 22 inches. **Kara Hertz**, associate director of alumni relations, University Relations, and husband **Jared Hertz**, director of business operations, Athletics, are the parents of **Kyrie Elisabeth Hertz**. Born Oct. 12, she was 8 lbs 6 oz and 21 inches. **Katie Doree**, director of major gifts, University Relations, and husband **Gavin**, are the parents of **John Ryan Doree**. Born Sept. 12, he was 8 lbs 4 oz. and 21 inches.

Focus On ... Arabic 101 arrives at Gonzaga

Haidy Mohammed leads her Arabic 101 class – the first ever taught at Gonzaga – through drills of singular and plural with a steady purpose, liquid laughter and a single well-chosen word of praise for students who can enunciate the subtle differences. “Perfect!”

Haidy is from Egypt. She lives 90 minutes from Cairo, in Ismailia, located on Lake Timsah and on the coast of the Suez Canal. She is at Gonzaga through the one-year Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant program. At home, she teaches English to elementary students. And she has no trouble working with the 10 students in her class.

When one perplexed student confesses, “I don’t know,” Haidy responds with an animated, “But you have to know.”

She began her year overwhelmed by change. Every element of her environment – the food, women’s clothing, the media, the language, the trees – is different. After six weeks, though, she navigates the produce section at Safeway, ventures downtown with international students and looks forward to visiting her family in Ismailia during winter break.

During Fall Family Weekend, Haidy fell into conversation with parents whose daughter is in her Arabic class. They inquired about the possibility of their daughter traveling to Egypt next year. Haidy’s response was immediate: “You have to come and stay

with me. You would only have to pay for your air fare. That’s it. You would have a sister already there in Egypt.”

In addition to teaching, Haidy is taking an education class and an advanced ESL class. She enjoys her professors. But she clearly has the heart of a teacher.

“I am so pleased with my students.

They have come such a long way,” she said. She will teach Arabic 101

again in spring semester and plans call for Arabic 102 to be offered next year. Associate Professor **Ben Semple**, chair of modern languages, said that hosting future Fulbright language teaching assistants will help build a strong foundation for Gonzaga students who are interested in learning Arabic.



Haidy Mohammed urges anyone who gets the chance to travel to Egypt. The experience will be life-changing and truly amazing, she says.

Jesuit-lay liturgy is held last Wednesday of month

Every Wednesday at 5:10 p.m., the Jesuit community congregates in the Jesuit House Chapel to celebrate the liturgy as part of their Community Night. During the Jesuit Community’s discussion about the University’s strategic goals last year, a number of Jesuits reflected on ways that the Jesuit community could share some of its spiritual treasures with their apostolic partners.

“St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, gave shape to a spirituality that combined action and prayer. Since the Jesuits already share their ‘work’ or ‘action’ with their apostolic partners, they thought it would be good to find occasions on which they could come together not simply to work but to pray together for the needs of the University community and the world. And so, the last Wednesday of each month, the Jesuit community invites their apostolic partners, of whatever faith or denomination, to join them in the University Chapel at 5:10 p.m. to pray together for the needs of our students, our staff, our faculty and our community,” said Father **Michael Moynahan**, S.J., rector of Gonzaga’s Jesuit community.

Snow tires to houses: Try G-BAY

What’s the most unusual item ever posted on G-BAY, Gonzaga faculty/staff’s answer to ebay and Craigslist?

While you’re thinking, here’s a reminder about how G-BAY works. If you have an ad to post, just send it to **Anne Thomas** at thomas@gu.gonzaga.edu. Submissions are due the last day of the month, and each new G-BAY is published through Morning Mail during the first week of the month. There’s no charge for ads.

Still thinking about that unusual item? It was crickets. “I’ve also had guinea pigs, puppies and tons of free cats,” Thomas said. And the most often repeated submission to G-BAY? Snow tires.

I have had a lot of people tell me they bought and sold items. I know one man sold his house through G-BAY,” Thomas said.

A reminder to submit items is posted in Morning Mail about the third week of each month. There are no restrictions with regard to font type, font color or font size. You can view current or past G-BAY editions at: www.gonzaga.edu/About/gbay.

Men's Basketball Schedule (HOME Games in Bold)

Nov. 7	Emporia State	5 p.m.	Jan. 12	Loyola M.	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	Montana	1 p.m.	Jan. 14	Pepperdine	9:00 p.m.
Nov. 13	Idaho	5 p.m.	Jan. 19	San Diego	1 p.m.
Nov. 17	UC Riverside	5 p.m.	Jan. 21	San Francisco	9 p.m.
Nov. 22-24	Great Alaska Shootout		Jan. 26	Memphis	9 a.m.
Nov. 22	W. Kentucky	8:30 p.m.	Jan. 28	Portland	5 p.m.
Nov. 23, 24	TBD	TBA	Feb. 2	Santa Clara	4 p.m.
Nov. 29	St. Joseph's	5 p.m.	Feb. 4	St. Mary's	8 p.m.
Dec. 1	Connecticut	12:30	Feb. 9	Pepperdine	5 p.m.
Dec. 5	Washington St.	8 p.m.	Feb. 11	Loyola M.	5 p.m.
Dec. 8	Cal Northridge	5 p.m.	Feb. 16	San Francisco	5 p.m.
Dec. 17	N. Colorado	5 p.m.	Feb. 18	San Diego	8 p.m.
Dec. 20	Oklahoma	6 p.m.	Feb. 25	Portland	8 p.m.
Dec. 29	Tennessee	1 p.m.	March 1	St. Mary's	5 p.m.
Dec. 31	Utah	5 p.m.	March 3	Santa Clara	8:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Georgia	5 p.m.	March 7-10	WCC Tournament	TBA

Women's Basketball HOME Schedule

Nov. 5	Corban	7 p.m.	Jan. 10	Pepperdine	8 p.m.
Nov. 12	Washington	7 p.m.	Jan. 12	Loyola M.	2 p.m.
Nov. 17	Nevada	noon	Jan. 26	Portland	2 p.m.
Nov. 19	Montana	7 p.m.	Jan. 31	St. Mary's	7 p.m.
Nov. 23	Marquette	7 p.m.	Feb. 2	Santa Clara	2 p.m.
Dec. 19	Purdue	7 p.m.	Feb. 14	San Francisco	7 p.m.
Dec. 29	Eastern Wash.	5 p.m.	Feb. 16	San Diego	2 p.m.

Aamodt to Zweifel – and everyone in between

By now, everyone has their crisp new Faculty/Staff Directory tucked into an easy-to-reach spot. Production of this essential publication — Aamodt to Zweifel — starts in early August each year and eats up most of September for Faculty Services' **Diana Lartz**.



Diana Lartz

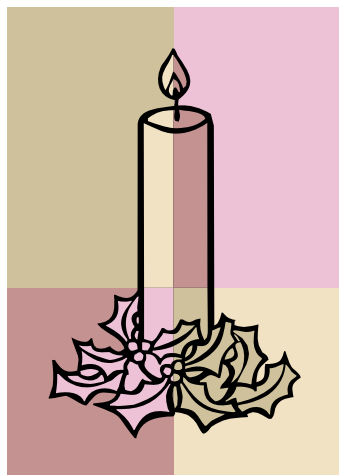
It's a time-consuming job, updating information for nearly 1,300 employees. Once all the new information is in and formatted, as well as the inevitable last-minute corrections, then the directory is in line to be printed on the most capable – and busiest – copier in Faculty Services.

Punching and binding is done by hand, also in Faculty Services. By mid-October when 1,300 copies of the directory are ready to go out, Lartz is glad.

"Some people say, 'Oh good, the directories are here at last' – like it's Christmas or something," Lartz says. "I'm just happy to have it gone."

You're invited

The 2007 President's Christmas Party will be held from 7 - 9 pm Friday, Dec. 14 in the Globe Room of Cataldo Hall.



Turf manager Tommy Brown

King of the turf

Tommy Brown, turf manager for Athletics, had a couple of reasons for putting this sign up along the east boundary of the soccer game field. First, some of the work he's done on the field isn't helped by extra foot traffic. But more than that, he wanted people to change their thinking. "You don't want people thinking 'Oh, that's the grass to the west of Martin Centre' when you're trying to make it into a soccer field."

Ask Brown what steps he's gone through to improve the field, and he runs through a standard three-step process that reduces compaction of the soil: Aeration, top dressing and fertilizing. To folks in Athletics there's nothing standard about the results.

"Tommy has done a truly outstanding job with his work on the game field considering the limitations that the present field has. Through his expertise and effort he has transformed the present field into a playable surface," said Mike Roth, athletic director. "All anyone really needs to do is to see what he has done at Patterson Baseball Complex Washington Trust Field to realize how talented Tommy really is."

What Brown can't address on the soccer field, of course, is what's underneath it. McGoldrick Lumber Mill was built in 1905 south of campus. The mill ran until 1952 and was for many years the largest employer in Spokane. The soccer field is located in the general area occupied by the mill yard. Now, that would be a thoroughly compacted parcel of ground.

As plans move forward to develop a new soccer stadium, it will be necessary to rebuild the base of the field and to level it. "We all are very excited about what Tommy will be able to do with a state-of-the-art field that will come with the new soccer stadium," Roth said. There's a lot to be done before work starts on the stadium, including a complex permitting process that's due to the proximity of the Spokane River. Brown looks forward to the project, though. He began his career doing landscaping, then moved to golf course maintenance. He completed a two-year program in turf management through Rutgers University, and before being hired by Athletics, he worked for Whitworth College.

This winter, Brown will do equipment repair and maintenance. Come spring he'll pamper the Patterson turf. So long as he's working outside, he's happy.