A bby Grant was a typical 9-year-old, active in sports and school, when she was diagnosed with a form of bone cancer, Ewing’s sarcoma, last summer. That news rocked the household of Dale (‘85) and Joanie (Forsberg ’86) Grant, a pair of Gonzaga alumni who have made a nice home for their family in Rogers, Ark. The Grants also have a 13-year-old son Nick.

Abby has courageously endured months of chemotherapy by counting her own blessings and developing ways to help others. Helping others is nothing new to Abby, however. Her mother says she once suggested they offer their house to poor people who couldn’t afford one for themselves. She later set out to collect money for the poor – a one-girl relief effort. Now she has developed a blue rubber bracelet, similar to the yellow Live Strong bracelets, that she calls “Grant Me Strength” bracelets. They sell for $5 and already have raised more than $3,000 for charitable causes in the Rogers and Little Rock areas.

But the best thing that’s happened to her, she says, is the day she got to spend with the Gonzaga Bulldog men’s basketball team in Oklahoma City.

The Grants were there Dec. 28 to play Oklahoma State (Zags win 78-75). Checking into their hotel, the Grants ran into several members of the Bulldog team.

“Ronny Turiaf walks up to Dale and says ‘where’s our girl?’ and Dale pointed to the car,” Joanie Grant said. “Ronny walked over, opened the car door and gave Abby a big hug, and that’s how her day started! It only got better...”

“Assistant Coach Tommy Lloyd invited us to the shoot-around where Abby was able to give the coaching staff, trainers and players their ‘Grant Me Strength’ wristbands. Coach Few said some very kind words and invited the kids to sit on the bench during the game to help out with water, etc. Nick and Abby looked at each other with wide grins and said ‘thanks,’” Joanie said.

“During the shoot-around Coach Lloyd introduced us to Fran Fraschilla and Dave Pasch from ESPN. That led to an ESPN halftime story about Abby during the Zags’ game.

“When we arrived at the game Ronny saw Abby and said, ‘give me a hug.’ David Pendergraft asked Abby if she would wear his band for good luck: needless to say she was in 7th heaven,” Joanie said.

“What an experience for the kids to sit behind the team and hear the coaches and players in conference at every time-out. Our Zags played great, and went on to win in complete Zag style. You may think our evening ended there, but no, it still gets better...

“Coach Lloyd invited us to the locker room after the game and we got to ‘hang out’ with the guys. They are a FUN group to be around. Coach Lloyd invited us to the press conference. We walked in while Coach Few was commenting on his players and how they played. He amazes me with his ability to show so much respect to other players and coaches. He was complimenting everyone else on their ability to get the job done. What a gracious man. People often say that the Bulldogs are an unselfish team, and I can clearly see that it starts at the top,” Joanie said.

“Coach Few ended the press conference by introducing Abby and the rest of our family. He explained a little about her condition and said, ‘Abby, we won the game for you.’ Dale and I were holding back tears. This entire team, the trainer, manager and coaching staff went so far out of their way to make Abby feel special that it is unbelievable. They are true Champions. They walk the talk.

“As we left the Ford Center, Abby looked up at me and said this was better than any Make-A-Wish she could have asked for! Thank you Gonzaga.”

The GU basketball team also has been actively involved with several other cancer-stricken children in the local area, and welcomed a dozen of them to a home game in December. Coach Few and wife Marcy are co-chairs of the Coaches vs. Cancer drive, which in 2004 raised over $400,000 for cancer care and research.
Colorful kites give kids wings, worth

“I’m a butterfly. Aren’t I beautiful?” came the words from a homeless child enrolled in last summer’s YWCA Homeless School Program, delighted with the artwork she had created under the tutelage of Gonzaga education professors (and volunteers) Deborah McDonald and Jerri Shepard.

The pair developed an art program as a pilot for the Y’s summer school for homeless children. They received a grant from Gonzaga’s Academic Vice President, and an anonymous donation that allowed them to initiate a plan to give value and worth to these children through art.

Using “Imagination is the highest kite one can fly” as a focal point, the teachers helped these young students develop kite designs that were then turned into greeting cards and mass produced. The cards sold in packages of eight for $10 at the YWCA’s Women of Achievement Luncheon last November, and the project raised $800 that will help fund next summer’s art program in the homeless school.

“When you do service learning for another population, it fills you up so much,” said Shepard. “It’s wonderful to help others learn how to help themselves. We both love kids, and we’ve been involved in the Homeless School in the past. It was the perfect thing for us in our lives right now.”

“We hope that this will be a self-sustaining program, with at least one project that is created each summer that can be turned into an annual fund raiser at the Women of Achievement Luncheon,” said McDonald. “Next summer the kids will create calendars.

“So many of these kids have had such horrible experiences in their life, and art was comfortable for them,” McDonald said. She and Shepard can hardly wait to get started on next summer’s project. Both are involving their Gonzaga students in the planning. This project is an outgrowth of a request from families to the Homeless School in the past. It was wonderful to help others learn how to help themselves. We both love kids, and we’ve been involved in the Homeless School in the past. It was the perfect thing for us in our lives right now.”

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Focus On . . . Blanket Brigade covers needs

Gonzaga’s Blanket Brigade made 35 blankets of varying styles and uses, and donated them to the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery and Anna Ogden Hall prior to Christmas. Crocheted and knitted afghans, quilts, receiving blankets, fleece blankets, cross-stitched blankets, numerous baby blankets . . . all for the sake of others. Laurie Hanlon in Central Computing organized the effort. She already has received a blanket for next Christmas’s distribution. If you’d like to join the Blanket Brigade, call Hanlon at ext. 8847, or e-mail her at hanlon@its.gonzaga.edu. The Blanket Brigade also includes Myrna Carroll, Theresa Castillo, Lorrie Engle, Mardell Grayhek, Margaret Herzog, Theresa Ketchum, Linda Sue McClure, Susan Norwood, Kathleen O’Connor, Crystal Roberg, Julie Ullrich, Sharon Wade, and Lisa Whitcomb.

Carey sees faculty voice, justice, leadership as top priorities

Mike Carey takes over as president of the Faculty Assembly with three primary focuses: strengthening the voice of faculty in the governance of the University; justice; and developing leadership among faculty.

Carey, associate professor of organizational leadership, takes over for Father Tim Clancy, S.J., who stepped down after a year-and-a-half. Carey said he has developed good working relationships with President Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., and with Academic Vice President Stephen Freedman. “Fr. Spitzer is an amazing fund-raiser for Gonzaga, and we have never been in such a good place financially. I can’t say enough about how well I think Dr. Freedman has done in both protecting the integrity of our academic work and supporting the faculty’s voice in the decision-making process.”

Carey also praised Fr. Clancy for his work in “setting faculty on the right track” during his leadership stint. “Faculty are not just one more stakeholder among many at Gonzaga; if the Trustees are the legal guardians, the faculty are the moral guarantors of the academic mission of the University,” Carey said. “Equitable compensation, reasonable teaching loads, and realistic benefits,” are among Carey’s justice issues. “Beyond those things, justice has to do with how decisions are made, how all members of the Gonzaga community are treated, and how the University operationalizes its mission value of serving others,” he said.

Carey believes that strengthening the voice of faculty and deepening the reality of justice at Gonzaga requires that more faculty become involved as servant-leaders, and he hopes to foster a positive environment for developing such leaders.

Schola hits big time this week

Gonzaga’s Gregorian Schola (choir) will perform at the National Choral Directors Association convention, Feb. 4 in Los Angeles at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels. Choir Director Edward Scafeuer describes this invitation to sing before his peers as “The Final Four” for collegiate choirs.

The Schola toured Europe last summer as part of a Gonzaga choir tour. The Schola performs weekly chant programs for the Gregorian Mass Sundays at 5 p.m. in the Jesuit House Chapel.
Three months into their new gig, Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Operations Joel Morgan and Director of Athletic Facilities Rob Kavon are still smiling.

Operation of the 6,000-seat McCarthey Athletic Center is strikingly more complicated than running events in the old Kennel, but the transition has been fairly smooth.

For example, a typical crew to run a men’s basketball game at the McCarthey Center includes 20 work study students for set up and take down, 75 people to run concessions, 45 ticket takers/ushers/security personnel, five people to run the video boards and ad banners, six people to conduct game promotions, two nurses, and a handful of staff to run guest services and the ticket operation. That doesn’t include the score table personnel, media services, training staff, custodial personnel and Spokane Police for traffic control and building safety.

The ticket operation is wireless. Every ticket is scanned upon entry, which all but eliminates counterfeiting. An outdoor audio system serenades students waiting for hours in line before games to get the best student seats, and welcomes other visitors to the Center with the pre-game show.

Faculty/staff ticket distribution for the last two home weeks of the men’s basketball season will be as follows: Monday, Feb. 14 for San Diego and San Francisco; and Tuesday, Feb. 22 for Northern Colorado. In the meantime, faculty, staff and their family members are admitted free to all home women’s basketball games by simply showing a valid GU ID at the northeast and southeast doors. The Bill Cosby show drew a full house of around 5,500 fans. Morgan expects to draw other sources of entertainment, as well as high school graduations and other community events.

GUTV airing it out this spring

GUTV will produce and air the following programs on Comcast channel 15:
Interview Show: 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 3/2, 3/14, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20; 5-5:30 p.m.
Comedy Show: 1/24, 2/7, 2/23, 3/16, 4/4, 4/18; 5-5:30 p.m.
News Magazine: 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/21, 4/11, 4/25; 5-5:30 p.m.

WCC Basketball Tournaments
At Leavey Center, Santa Clara University

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<td><strong>Saturday, March 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday, March 7</strong></td>
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War reflections from GU soldiers

“Wish I Were There: The Letters Project,” conceived by theater arts Assistant Professor Kevin Bradshaw, will bring to life the emotions of Gonzaga alumni serving the U.S. Military in Iraq and Afghanistan in an hour-long readers theater presentation, Feb. 11-12, 7:30 p.m., in the Globe Room at Cataldo Hall. Admission is free.

Juniors Luke Barats and Monica Bierman will read actual letters to and from service men and women, from and to their families. Costumer Summer Berry will serve as narrator.

“This will be a combination of reading, and PowerPoint presentation of pictures from GU alumni serving overseas,” said Bradshaw, who worked with Lt. Col. Alan Westfield from Gonzaga ROTC to develop this presentation.

“This will be emotional and uplifting, and be cause for reflection,” Bradshaw said. “The letters will reflect some of the troubles, but mostly they are about relationships and how important they are to these men and women. It’s frank and truthful.”

Ad Building renovations moving up; 4th floor offices taking shape

Construction of 46 new offices on the fourth floor, east end of the Administration Building is progressing, said Ken Sammons, director of Plant Services. Student Publications has been moved from the north to the south side of the hallway as new offices are being built on the north side. Once construction on the north side is completed, most of the southeast side of the hallway will be vacated and new offices built there, as well, Sammons said. Next fall new office construction will begin on the west end of the fourth floor. Included in the renovation is new heating, air conditioning and ventilation.