The history of Gonzaga’s ROTC Christmas party is entwined with the Vietnam War.

The first party was thrown in 1968 by Col. Joe Boyle, who had arrived at Gonzaga that spring to head the ROTC program. “He wanted very much to be a part of the University, and he also wanted all at the University to feel welcomed and comfortable discussing all matters of the ROTC program with him,” wrote his son Frank (’76) recently. But the Christmas party quickly grew into another role. It became the ROTC’s way of thanking Gonzaga faculty and staff for their support during the tumultuous years of Vietnam and the anti-war protests.

Former Sgt. Maj. Tom Williams, whose meatballs and secret sauce still hold pride of place among the ROTC party hors d’oeuvres, visited the University recently to talk about those days. Williams arrived at Gonzaga in 1973. Given the anti-war sentiment of the day, ROTC was unpopular on many campuses.

Denny McMonigle of government relations and a former ROTC cadre leader, recalls visiting Stanford University after returning from a tour of duty in Vietnam. Almost every window in the ROTC building had been broken, he said. Anti-war protests on campuses left four students dead at Kent State in 1970 and succeeded in eliminating many ROTC programs. Even as close to home as the University of Idaho, McMonigle and Williams recall, the military science professors took care to park their vehicles out of sight and were under orders not to wear their uniforms on campus. Protesters at Idaho even set the Naval ROTC building afire.

At Gonzaga, the atmosphere was different, Williams said. The campus community supported its ROTC program. The ROTC officers were invited to attend campus lectures. They wore their Army green daily, Williams recalls, with only the rarest anti-war comment. “I wore my uniform everyday, walking up and down these halls,” he said, “and no one ever bothered me.”

Out of gratitude, the ROTC put on both a September party at Jack ‘n’ Dan’s and a Christmas party. The former ended for lack of funds, but the Christmas party has carried on all these years.

Depending on the era, different logistical approaches to the party have prevailed. One lieutenant colonel had his wife do all the preparation. “When I got here, he handed me a standard operating procedure (for the Christmas party),” McMonigle said, “and I thought, ‘Well, this isn’t going to work. There’s no way my wife is going to want to do this.’ That was, as McMonigle puts it “the start of the era of independent wives.”

Typically, dishes were assigned to different members of the ROTC cadre. Williams tells of the hopeless fellow assigned to bring ham sandwiches one year. The commanding officer had specified that these ham sandwiches were to be trimmed of their crusts. The would-be sandwich-maker, lacking the most basic food-preparation skills, arrived on the big day with a “big hunk of ham and a loaf of white bread. He and I sat in the supply room and made ham sandwiches all afternoon,” Williams said, still amused by the incident.

Some staff members say the ROTC party is the social event of the year. Several years ago, Linda Murphy, director of Student Accounts, scheduled her hysterectomy around the party. Inquiries have been rolling in this year, with particular concern about the site, given the recent remodeling of the University Lounge, where the party had been held for some years.

“It’s one of the bright spots of the year. I like shaking the hands of folks I pass in the hallway all year long,” said Maj. Eric Cusick, assistant professor of military science. His specialty for the party, after living for six years in Germany, is making gluvin, also called glog, or mulled wine.

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Administration studies opportunities from increased applications and contributions

With the years of red-hot growth easing, Gonzaga finds itself in an enrollment “sweet zone,” said Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., in November’s budget and planning session. Fr. Spitzer and Chuck Murphy, vice president for finance, outlined the following expected scenario for 2007-08:

- National interest in the University remains strong. Undergraduate early applications this year have risen 19 percent over 2006-07 (which climbed 17 percent over 2004-05).
- This interest should fuel a continued increase in incoming SATs and GPAs, to the benefit of Gonzaga’s rankings.
- Four new faculty positions are soon to be advertised for next year.
- Tuition for 2007-08 is expected to increase approximately 6 percent.
- The University’s budget managers are projecting 950 new freshmen in fall 2007, a conservative figure, Murphy said. The Admission Office will set a slightly higher goal.
- Total giving spiked in 2003-04, with donations reaching $17 million. Each of the last two years has seen total giving at $15 million, with numbers of alumni donors on the upswing.
- The University’s net assets have grown from $140 million to $238 million in the past five years, largely through the capital campaign.
- Fr. Spitzer discussed the University’s desire to admit Pell-eligible students, as well as so-called “gap students” who fall above Pell-eligibility but still lack resources. Without drawing any conclusions, Fr. Spitzer also discussed the pros and cons of undergraduate growth in the range of 2-4 percent per year, as outlined in the strategic plan’s preliminary goals.
- The University’s reliance on tuition for its revenue remains a challenge. Approximately 84 percent of Gonzaga’s unrestricted operating revenues come from tuition and fees. Fr. Spitzer’s goal is to lower that figure by building the University’s endowment. A major endowment campaign is in the planning stages.

AROUND CAMPUS

- Gonzaga’s Campus Kitchen is seeking staff and faculty volunteers during the Christmas holidays and ensuing winter break. "We have even more need for volunteers, with students out of town," said Campus Kitchen coordinator Rebecca Teichmann. Individuals from at least one department, Professional Studies, are planning to volunteer as a group. The Campus Kitchen schedule is as follows: Cooking on Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Deliveries on Mondays, 4-5:45 p.m., and Thursdays, 4:15-6 p.m. The University’s half-day service benefit allows staff to use a half-day annually to volunteer with pay.
- Beth Cooley, associate professor of English at Gonzaga and chair of the English department, has published “Shelter,” her second novel for young adult readers. Cooley will read from her work at Auntie’s Bookstore, 7-30 p.m., Dec. 7. A portion of the proceeds from books sold at the reading will benefit St. Margaret’s Shelter for Women and Children in Spokane.
- The Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 4, at The Met Performing Arts Center. The evening will include works by Strauss, Saint Saens and Schubert, along with an appearance by solo violinist JinJoo Cho.
- The Jundt Art Museum will feature a broad range of sports-themed photographs and prints in an Arcade Gallery exhibition titled “Sports of All Sorts,” Dec. 1 through March 10.

Dual dean searches are progressing well

Dean searches are under way in Gonzaga’s College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education, with hopes for two new deans to be named before spring break.

The search for a successor to College of Arts and Sciences Dean Robert Prusch is expected to conclude by the end of January, said Father Pat Lee, S.J., vice president for mission and head of that search committee. The search has attracted a pool of about 50 candidates. At least five other Jesuit universities also are conducting dean searches this year, Lee said. Prusch will step down in May, returning to teaching biology.

The dean search for the School of Education is proceeding on a slightly longer timeframe, said Paul Hastings, associate professor of education and search committee chair. Finalists will come to campus for interviews in early February, with an announcement foreseen by early March.

McCarrhey Center wins national award

The McCarrhey Athletic Center has been named one of 10 Facilities of Merit nationwide by Athletic Business’s annual Architectural Showcase. Winning sports facilities were chosen from a pool of 81 entries. A panel of seven leading sports and recreation facility architects made the selections.

The McCarrhey Center concourse came in for particular praise from judges. The expansive windows provide “wonderful visual connections with the campus,” wrote one judge. Other judges praised the scale of the entry, the degree to which the McCarrhey Center relates to surrounding buildings, and the intimacy provided by the sharply raked seating. The awards were presented on Nov. 16 in Las Vegas.

The third annual Get Connected Career Day on Nov. 22 brought nearly 300 youth of color to campus from Spokane-area schools. Participants learned how to prepare for college and a career. “It’s pretty exciting to me,” one student said.
**New Hires:**
Thomas Brown, turf manager, Athletics; Melissa Carstens, library tech III, Foley; Kerri Conger, assistant fitness center director, Athletics; Dennis Kalina, associate athletic director for development, Athletics; Autumn Kamalu-Nako, client services assistant, Registrar’s Office; Michael Roden, director of academic support services, Athletics; Vicki Tiffany, head cheerleading coach, Athletics.

**Goodbyes:**
Carol Hovan, program assistant III, Hogan Program; Phyllis Meseke, groundskeeper II, Plant Services; Kristine Reeves, administrative assistant, Office of Intercultural Relations.

**Promotions/New Assignments:**
Katie Burrow, to university scheduler/office assistant, Campus Services; Ryan Draper, to custodian in training, Plant Services; Edward Fitzgerald, to custodian lead in training, Plant Services; John Gure, to custodian II, Plant Services; Abe Henderson, to custodian II, Plant Services; Barbara Horde mann, to office clerk II, Plant Services; John King, to HVAC tech II, Plant Services; Vicki Olson, to assistant director/RN, Health Center.

**Anniversaries:**
Matthew Gerdes, parking coordinator, Security; Angela Merrit, assistant director, Disability Support Services; Nihad Sujic, custodian specialist II, Plant Services.

**Cradle Call:**
Sean Ahern, custodian, Plant Services, and Adrian Pauw, WIN Foley Program administrator, are the parents of Theodore Mannix O’Harra. Born Oct. 27, he was 8 lbs., 3 oz. and 20½ inches; Jason Gilman, technical support specialist, School of Education, and wife Mary are the parents of Houston Gilman. Born Sept. 9, he was 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 20¼ inches; Patrick Mulick, assistant professor, Psychology, and wife Frances are the parents of Ryan Ashley. Born Nov. 13, she was 5 lbs. 1 oz., and 19¼ inches.

**Focus On . . . ‘Already my perceptions have changed’**

Gonzaga University is hosting a Nigerian scholar, Mohammed Umar, as a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant. Umar, 29, has a degree in linguistics from the University of Maiduguri and will be on campus through May. His role in the Fulbright program is as an ambassador of African culture. He is studying American history and culture, and English. During spring semester, he will teach workshops on Hausa, a West African language spoken by more than 17 million people, and other topics related to Africa.

Umar arrived in October, “but already my perceptions of the United States have changed. As a Muslim, I expected difficulties due to the U.S. war on terrorism, but when I came I discovered that the Americans are nice people, unlike what I was told at home,” Umar said. In Nigeria, he teaches English and Hausa to elementary and secondary students.

“The family system in Africa differs from the American system. We have extended families. I am from a family of fifteen, four boys and eleven girls,” Umar said. Much of life at Gonzaga is new to him, from the abundance of technology, to the fact that women compete wholeheartedly against men – and sometimes win.

The Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant program fits well with the University’s desire to offer students more international exposure and experience, said Mark Alfino, professor of philosophy, who is working on international development for the academic vice president’s office. The Fulbright program brings to the United States young English teachers from countries with Muslim populations for a cultural exchange.

Soon after his arrival, Umar asked how he could become involved in the community. He began volunteering for SNAP, Spokane Neighborhood Action Program. “The first week, he was working with a woman from the Greek Orthodox Church,” Alfino said. He became a friend of hers and a fast friend of the program.”

**Summer event? Campus facilities are open**

When the Kennedy Apartments were set ablaze last spring, Rodolfo Pagsanjan, an area coordinator in Residence Life, was among those watching. Along with the University’s newest residence hall, his job was going up in flames, too, for he had been assigned to supervise housing staff in the new building.

Instead, Pagsanjan took on a new challenge and became manager of conference services for Gonzaga. His goal is to increase the number of conferences, camps and events on campus during the summer months. He’s interested in working with faculty who might want to create summer camps, as well as recruiting Spokane-area businesses and programs to rent campus facilities.

“A lot of inquiries come to us and to Whitworth,” Pagsanjan said. “NIC is too small. Eastern is in Cheney and WSU is in Pullman.”

Currently, Gonzaga’s basketball camps are the largest non-academic summer program on campus, with more than 2,400 players. The summer debate institute is another high profile program. (See below). The Marian Conference, held each June, brings up to a thousand individuals to campus.

Cheerleaders, faith-based youth programming and other sports camps also make annual appearances.

But that leaves untapped summer facilities. Boxing camp, anyone? Or how about a creative writing camp?

“I would like to get the word out to faculty and staff. There are plenty of opportunities to put on camps or other events, and hopefully raise some extra revenue for the University,” Pagsanjan said.

**Prime example of summer success on campus: Let’s debate**

Gonzaga’s Debate Institute has grown into the best summer debate program in the West. “And our reputation is growing each year,” said director Glen Frappier, debate coach.

Last summer, approximately 150 students from 36 states attended the June-July program. Compare that to 45 students in 1999, Frappier’s first year. “I saw the potential back then and realized that with some hard work we could create something really special at Gonzaga,” he said.

To anyone considering a new summer event, he offers this advice: “You can’t approach it as a ‘part time’ kind of thing. We begin advertising nationwide and talking to prospective students/faculty in September. I literally couldn’t calculate how much time I spend promoting and preparing for the GDI each year between October and July, simply because it’s something I’m always working on.”

Also, growth and profit don’t necessarily go hand in hand in summer programming.

“We really don’t make a lot of profit. It costs a lot to run the program, especially considering the quality of our summer faculty. The institute ‘game’ has gotten more competitive each summer and to hire the best faculty in the nation we need to be able to offer them competitive compensation.” Any profit after summer operating costs goes directly into the program’s budget for travel, scholarships or other needs the team has the following year.

The true value of the debate institute, Frappier said, is reflected by the quality of Gonzaga’s debaters.
Staff Assembly open meeting set for Dec. 6

T he upcoming fall Staff Assembly open meeting will give all present the chance to comment on compensation models, to provide feedback on the strategic plan and to learn more about a new staff award.

“We are asking for your voices. It’s vital we hear from staff,” said Shelly Daugherty, Staff Assembly president and assistant in marketing and communications. “Join us for good food and thought-provoking conversation.” The meeting will be held 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 6, in the Cataldo Globe Room. Lunch will be provided; RSVP to staff-assembly@gonzaga.edu.

Angela Ruff, a member of the Performance Management Work Group and director of continuing education, will ask for comments on performance review and compensation system models, so that she can better represent staff perceptions and beliefs.

“We want to ask people to step back and look at the bigger picture of compensation. What motivates you? What do you think motivates other Gonzaga employees? What compensation system would be best for Gonzaga?” Ruff said. She will ask about other performance review systems that individuals may have experienced, as well as what they like about Gonzaga’s current compensation system.

Dan Berryman, assistant vice president of human resources and chair of the Performance Management Work Group, and Jason Swain, manager of employee and organizational development, are also participating and will hold similar sessions for other groups in coming weeks.

The Staff Assembly meeting also will include information on nominations for the new award for Outstanding Service in Support of Mission.

Copies of the Strategic Plan Draft Document are available at the Switchboard, Foley Center Library, Faculty Services and Chastek Library.

Reflections on Western Conversations

W estern Conversations is an annual conference that brings together delegations from the six West Coast Jesuit universities. Linda Tredennick, assistant professor of English, shared these thoughts after the conference, held this fall at Loyola Marymount University:

“Before attending the conference, my understanding of Jesuit pedagogy was that it was roughly parallel with other humanist, liberal arts educations: rigorous scholarship as part of the formation of the entire person, mind, body and spirit,” Tredennick said. “I was not sure what to expect from the conference other than a vague sense that it would be, as a delegate from another school called it, ‘Jesuit boot camp.’”

“The title of this year’s conference was ‘Ignatian Pedagogy: Bridging Faith and Culture in the Postmodern Era.’ The keynote address, by Fr. Stephen Schloesser, S.J., traced the history of Jesuit engagement with other cultures and with what we now call popular culture, arguing that Jesuit history has been one of engagement with and accommodation for others. He illustrated that the Jesuit tradition has always been one of seeing Christ working with culture, not against or above culture, and he further asserted that this tradition has given the Jesuits a position within the Catholic church from which it can – and should continue to – critique the policies and messages of the mainstream Catholic hierarchy.

“I found this picture of the Jesuit position of critique and challenge both empowering and inspiring,” Tredennick added, “and I would like to see Gonzaga live more fully up to this Jesuit ideal.”

Directing class offers evening of one-acts

A n evening of theatrical scenes will be performed in Russell Theatre at 7 p.m., Dec. 8. Students from the theater department’s directing class, taught by Brian Russo, associate professor of theatre arts, have prepared these as “workshop scenes,” with minimal set, lights, and costumes. Included are scenes from “Trifles,” Susan Glaspell’s early feminist, murder mystery, and William Inge’s “Glory in the Flower,” a poignant drama of a lovers’ encounter after 10 years apart. These scenes are the students’ “final exam, in which they demonstrate all they have learned about script analysis, auditioning, and rehearsing their actors,” Russo said. The evening is free and open to all, and should last about one hour.

Seminary celebrates 50-year anniversary

B ishop White Seminary celebrated its 50th anniversary this fall, with an open house and an anniversary Mass celebrated by Seattle Archbishop Alexander Brunett and attended by 60 priests. Over the years, Bishop White and Gonzaga have made a significant contribution to the Catholic Church in Eastern Washington. More than 40 priests now serving in the diocese received at least some of their formation at Bishop White and Gonzaga. The seminary is currently educating 15 seminarians.

“Within two years we expect to have collected enough pledges to begin the process of constructing a completely new seminary facility on the present site,” said Rector Father Darrin Connall. “The new building will house 25 seminarians and three priests, and will serve as a concrete commitment to ongoing priestly formation at the college level for many years to come.”

Yuletide Events & Celebrations

– 120th Annual Christmas Candlelight Concert, 8 p.m., Dec. 1 and 2, St. Aloysius Church.
– Stop for Pots! The Ceramic Department Sale, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 1, in the Jundt Art Center, Design Room 108. Emphasis is on well-crafted, functional vessels complemented by decorative fine-art forms.
– The Gonzaga University 2006 Holiday Craft Bazaar, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 1, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 2, Crosby Student Center. Arts and crafts are created by members of the Gonzaga community.
– 25th Annual Alumni Christmas Mass, 9 a.m., Dec. 3, University Chapel, Admin Building. Following Mass, coffee, juice and donuts will be provided in the Cataldo Globe Room. To celebrate the 25th year, Santa Claus will make a special appearance. Pictures will be taken with Santa!
– The Wellness Committee Christmas Party Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 13, in the Cataldo Globe Room. Light lunch and refreshments will be provided. At noon, Dr. Lee Smith will speak about managing stress. Smith was the 2003 speaker for this event, and is back by popular demand.
– 2006 President’s Christmas Party, 7-9 p.m., Dec. 14, Cataldo Globe Room.

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