In the wake of its October visit to the University, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities expects Gonzaga to create a more formal and thorough plan for learning outcomes assessment. This is the second one-year request made on this issue. A return visit by the site team in October 2006 will focus on outcomes assessment and other areas of interest.

“We have not taken outcomes assessment as seriously as we needed to,” said English Professor Mike Herzog, who is the senior faculty advisor to the AVP’s Office. “Faculty generally seem to understand the importance of this work and we expect to accomplish what we need to accomplish by our fall deadline. Successful outcomes assessment needs to be faculty-driven.” Herzog added, “That’s one key element, and the other is administrative support.”

“The administration, and Father (Robert) Spitzer, in particular, is very supportive of the faculty effort and will provide the resources necessary to make it happen, once we understand what those needs are,” said Assistant Academic Vice President Jolanta Kozyra, adding that she will discuss specific requests with the appropriate faculty.

What is “learning outcomes assessment”? Perhaps the easiest way to understand it is to consider the way grading was done in “the good old days.” Teachers, or professors, graded a paper based on its correctness, completeness and style. An ‘A’ paper was an ‘A’ paper, and further distinctions weren’t necessary.

Fast forward to the late 1980s, when performance outcomes began to emerge. Both in K-12 education and higher education, simply saying “It’s an A paper” was no longer enough. In Washington state, K-12 education moved through a reform that created the controversial WASL testing. In higher education, the result was learning outcomes assessment, which refers to analysis of the learning skills, strategies and knowledge comprised by students’ work.

Creating rubrics and other tools that allow professors to separate out strands of student learning is a time-consuming process, but one that affords valuable results.

“We hope that faculty will come to see the benefits to outcomes assessment work,” Herzog said. “In arts and sciences generally – and this is both a plus and a minus – there is no one model for outcomes assessment; we have to invent the wheel, but it’s our wheel to invent. If we have data for five or 10 years, we can look and see that in this particular area, students don’t seem able to perform as strongly as we wish; and we can then look to see if we need to redesign curriculum or what solution we want to devise. It’s long range stuff, and it’s going to be valuable. It’s really about what matters to us.”

Gonzaga’s work on learning outcomes assessment has progressed since 2004, when this area was flagged after the accreditation team’s regular 10-year visit, Kozyra said.

“I’d like to thank all our faculty, especially department chairs and other deans’ designees for assessment purposes, as well as members of the Assessment Committee and Graduate Programs Committee of the Academic Council,” Kozyra said. “It’s truly because of their hard work that I feel optimistic about Gonzaga being deemed in-compliance in the area of educational outcomes assessment come October 2006.”
Catholicism for a New Millennium brings to campus Father Frank Brennan, S.J., to speak on "In the Sacristy & Senate: Catholics & U.S. Politics." Brennan is a Jesuit priest, lawyer, and founding director of Uniya, the Jesuit Social Justice Centre in Sydney, Australia. His talk will begin at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 28, in the Barbieri Courtroom.

This year’s Foley Center Christmas basket raffle earned $1,118, which was donated to Xavier University of Louisiana and Loyola University New Orleans. Both institutions either vacated or closed their campuses in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The second annual Blanket Brigade, headed up by Laurie Hanlon of ITS, brought in 57 homemade blankets and quilts, which are being donated to the Crisis Pregnancy Center and the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery. "Some folks made one, and some folks made several," Hanlon said. "We had staff, faculty, parents of faculty, a neighbor of one of those parents, and a former employee involved." Please call Laurie at ext. 6847 if you are interested in joining.

Gonzaga in Florence students raised more than $5,500 through their annual Christmas Raffle and auction. The sum will be donated to the Light in Africa, which helps care for abandoned, abused and disabled children from the region near Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Saudi Arabian students, once commonly seen on Gonzaga’s campus, are enrolling for ESL, regular undergraduate and graduate programs. Between 10 and 15 students will arrive for spring semester, in addition to seven Saudi students on campus this fall.

We will not see a return of the pre-9/11 levels of Saudi students, said Kristin Webster of International Student Programs. The Saudi Ministry of Higher Education has created a sponsorship program which sends only a certain number of Saudi students to any U.S. campus. Gonzaga should expect between 30 and 35 sponsored students at any one time.

Roughly half the Saudi students who come to Gonzaga will take ESL classes, and then move on. Others will stay for at least three years, depending on whether they are freshmen or transfer students. The Saudi government hopes this program will help decrease anti-American feelings among the Saudi people, according to a recent article in The New York Times.

Trojan Women’ propels discussion on war

“Trojan Women,” centerpiece of this year’s interdisciplinary project, the Other Side of War, will be performed Jan. 27-28 and Feb. 2-4 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 5, 2 p.m. in Russell Theatre. Spirit asked Janice Waley, adjunct instructor of theatre arts and director of the play, to share her thoughts on the production:

"I think one of most important things about this play is how dark it really is, and yet how filled it is with characters that have their own motives, own desires, their own things they need to do. These characters lived 3,000 years ago, but aren’t they just like us?” Waley said.

“We see few Greeks in the play. My bent is not to make them faceless heroes, but the grunts who survived the battle. Their side may have won, but that doesn’t mean they had a good time.

"Euripides wrote ‘Trojan Women’ within a few months after the Pelopponesian Wars, and you almost have to assume that he meant this as a pointed lesson. So, there is a story within the story: This was written as a piece of anti-war literature,” Waley said.

“War is in our culture, in our religion, our art and our politics; it may be within ourselves. You can almost count on one hand the peoples who have not waged war. Why is that? When the price is so great, the prospects so grim, and the victory so miniscule? The results of victory as we see with the Greeks in this play, are virtually valueless.”

“So, why do we do it?”

Search committee prepares for interviews

A search committee to find a permanent Florence dean is scheduling interviews this month. The administration hopes to have a new dean named by late March and in position for the start of the 2006-2007 academic year. Hiring will also take place for permanent staff positions.

Current staff members were hired for one year. The University filled those positions in a very short time-frame, hiring in July for a Florence startup in September. The one-year positions gave the administration the chance to determine the right mix and number of staff needed, said Gary Weber, associate academic vice president.

“Those who are currently in those positions will be encouraged to reapply, and we hope they do, because they have done a great job,” Weber said.

Faculty, staff leaders named to new terms

New leaders were named in December to both the Faculty Senate and Staff Assembly.

Business Professor Scott Bozman won an uncontested election to head the Faculty Senate. His two-year term will start in May 2006, at the end of Director of Distance Education Mike Carey’s term.

Bozman has been at Gonzaga for 15 years, almost entirely within the School of Business. He spent one year as associate academic vice president, working under former interim Academic Vice President Wayne Powel.

Public Relations and Marketing Assistant Shelly Daugherty has stepped in as president of the Staff Assembly due to the resignation of Trevor Werttemberger, assistant director of Alumni Relations.

Daugherty was vice president of the Staff Assembly and ordinarily would have assumed the role of president in May. She now faces an 18-month term as president of the seven-year-old body. Daugherty has worked in Gonzaga’s Public Relations Office for five years.
Focus On . . . Ad Building plans offer a window into early times at Gonzaga

Campus Architect Mac McCandless traced his fingertips along ink lines representing Gonzaga's heart, the architectural plans of the Administration Building. More than a century old, these lines win McCandless' admiration. “Computers can do as good a job,” McCandless said, “But they can’t do any better than these guys.” “These guys” were Henri Preusse and Julius Zittel, the Spokane architects who designed the Ad Building in 1897. McCandless launched into a talking tour of their work.

The main entrance, with its original parlors, is Mac’s starting point. The Jesuits spent $30,000 on the Ad Building, revealed McCandless, to accommodate the 127 living students. McCandless said, “But they can’t do any better than this.”

The Jesuits’ library, with separate doors for students and Jesuits, is now the Public Relations Office. McCandless is Mac McCandless’s starting point. The Jesuits spent a century ago on the Ad Building, revealing McCandless’s admiration.

Other Side of War prepares for spring

Tacoma chapter pops the cork

Standing-room only crowd of Tacoma alums turned out for the launch of the University’s first alumni chapter. The event, held Dec. 15 at the Tacoma Club, was a great success with Zags of all ages in attendance, and Jerry Krause, director of basketball operations, as the keynote speaker.

Already registered in Tacoma’s alumni chapter are 127 members. President Paul Rehberger (’77) and Vice President Mike Shields (’84), have planned their initial event, a Jan. 7 game-watch at the Varsity Grill in Tacoma.

Seattle’s chapter will hold its launch on Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Day. “We would love to have as many folks from the University attend as possible,” said Kara Hertz, assistant alumni director. Other events of interest are the GAMP Portland Trek on Jan. 5 and the Seattle Trek on Jan. 12 and 13.

The Other Side of War, an interdisciplinary initiative that is examining the effects of war, is drawing a strong response, said organizer Professor Mike Herzog.

“We have had very good response from all parts of the University — good attendance for our speakers and consistent support from the AVP,” said Herzog.

In addition to the Russell Theatre performance of “Trojan Women,” plans for the remainder of the year call for presentations on terror in classical and medieval times, Middle Eastern issues, the war on terror and ethical questions and environmental concerns.
WCC Tournament planners cut to the chase: It’s all about March

Your calendar may be turned to January 2006, but plenty of folks across campus are zeroing in on March, specifically March 3-6. A blizzard of planning is under way for the West Coast Conference 2006 Basketball Tournament to be held at Gonzaga for the first time. Here are a few of the highlights:

Alumni parties – On Sunday, March 5, the alumni social and clam bake will start on Mulligan Field during the women’s 1 p.m. championship game and before the men’s 6 p.m. semifinal game. The Warehouse on Hamilton will house socials during and after the men’s game, as well as for the men’s championship game on Monday, March 6. These plans are subject to change, warns Alumni Director Bob Finn. Details – From equal and fair practice times for 16 teams to accommodating extra media presence and NBA scouts, and working with the WCC office. That’s a taste of what Chris Standiford, associate athletic director, and others in the athletics department are handling. Standiford said he’s impressed with how willing the WCC staff has been to listen to Gonzaga’s ideas. “It is, after all, their tournament. We’re just moderating it.”

Tickets – All tickets for the men’s games are sold. Tickets for the women’s games remain available.

“We came out with a new, aggressive ticketing plan, and made a number of institutions commit to purchasing tickets early. Participation has been a little greater than we expected,” Standiford said. In at least a few cases, creative Zags fans snagged tournament tickets by purchasing season tickets from other WCC institutions. Savvy schools, in turn, created programs for those home-game tickets to be donated back.

TV spots capture Gonzaga’s spirit, bit by bit

How does one capture all that Gonzaga is in a 30-second television spot? Impossible.

But the hope is that when taken as a body of work, Gonzaga’s 30-second TV spots over the past four years add up to something pretty special.

“Every time you see a new 30-second slice of Gonzaga, you remember the many others that came before it and they build to tell one bigger story that captures your attention and leaves you feeling good about this place,” said Frank Swoboda (’94), whose company, Corner Booth Productions, produces the spots for his alma mater.

When Gonzaga first was offered free advertising on basketball broadcasts as part of a TV deal, the Public Relations staff conducted focus groups with students, staff, faculty and alumni, asking “What makes Gonzaga the institution that it is?” The results were clear: academic rigor, family atmosphere and fun.

Over the years Gonzaga’s ads have tried to reflect these three distinguishing characteristics, said Public Relations Director Dale Goodwin, who oversees this project for the University.

The first ad in this series, which showed Kennel Club members cheering on fellow students in various academic and co-curricular settings, won a National Addy Award, the first ever won by a Spokane entry.

“The spots are smart and clever, because Gonzaga is both,” Swoboda said. “And they show off Gonzaga’s students.

“This year we sent e-mails looking for students to be in the new campaign we just completed. One of the students responded saying, ‘I should be a part of this year’s TV commercials because seeing them was one of the reasons I came to Gonzaga.’ He found out about GU from the spots and he’s a senior this year. Building on a consistent theme and style over the long haul is beginning to stick,” Swoboda said.

Eight spots will be revealed over the course of this season. They range from “100,000 Hours” which portrayed student service efforts in the community, to “Jurassic JP” in which each scene of campus life is punctuated by a boom, from JP Batista dribbling the ball, to “Thank You Spokane” with Gonzaga students thanking members of the community for their support.

Turf approved for Mulligan

An artificial playing surface will be installed on Mulligan Field this summer. Trustees approved plans for the $1.2 million project at their December meeting. Funding for the project will come from various sources including an increase from $75 to $95 per semester in the student recreation and fitness fee which was proposed to administration by the GSBA leadership.

Mulligan Field also will be fenced, ending the decades-long practice of walking across the field to and from class. Heavy use of Mulligan, combined with spring and fall rains, has taken a toll on the field. Completion of the work is expected by the start of classes in September 2006.

CCASL earns Habitat title as Partner of the Year

Out of 95 volunteer groups that work with Spokane’s Habitat for Humanity chapter, Gonzaga’s CCASL was recently named Community Partner of the Year. CCASL provides volunteers for Habitat projects at least two weekends per month, said Kelly Lynch, volunteer coordinator for Habitat.

On Nov. 19, some 50 students volunteered on three duplexes in the West Central neighborhood.

“When volunteer groups work on a Habitat project, you build so much more than a house. You build hope, healing and unity,” Lynch said, adding that every Gonzaga volunteer shows commitment, dedication, reliability, enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

CCASL has worked with Habitat for about six years, said CCASL’s Mike Renes.