Faculty Senate president recaps fall ’06

Halfway through the academic year, Faculty Senate President Scott Bozman sat down with Spirit to talk about how the academic year is progressing. A professor of marketing in the School of Business Administration, Bozman ticked off a series of projects and proposals, starting with a phased retirement proposal for faculty.

“I met with Father Spitzer this morning, and I think there is recognition that phased retirement has lots of merit for the University,” Bozman said. The Faculty Senate’s finance committee is in negotiations with the administration, working to finalize the proposal. The matter may go to a vote of the Trustees at their April meeting, he said.

Next, Bozman praised the broad opportunities made available for faculty and staff to participate in the formation of and response to the preliminary goals and strategies of the Strategic Plan. “This is extremely positive. I’ve been here for 17 years, and I’ve never seen anything quite like this. It’s a very good start.”

“Whether any of the input will be reflected in the final plan remains to be seen. I remain hopeful that it will be,” he said. “I helped moderate several of the comment sessions this fall and I heard a number of concerns voiced. I believe that if these concerns are taken into account, the end result will be more likely to be achieved. After all, it makes sense to ask those who have been doing the work for years what is important and how it might best be achieved.”

Many of those concerns, Bozman said, had to do with the prospect of undergraduate growth – and in particular a conviction that substantive discussion about where and how such growth might be desired ought to preface any decision.

Questions to be addressed, Bozman suggested, would include these: “Why is undergraduate growth desirable? To what purpose? What do we want to achieve? What planning is going to take place in order to accommodate the growth? In what specific areas of the University do we want growth? That discussion hasn’t taken place.”

(Academic Vice President Stephen Freedman has announced plans to hold four 90-minute ‘listening sessions’ in January to gather faculty comment on issues related to the Academic Strategic Plan and 2012 Strategic Plan.)

On the whole this fall, Bozman said he has seen more transparency from the administration. For example, he mentioned the search for the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“There has been a great deal of broad participation within the faculty in that search.” Past dean searches have not always been conducted early enough to ensure a good pool of candidates, Bozman said. “And sometimes few, if any, faculty from the school (or any school) have participated in the evaluation process.”

Another item mentioned by Bozman is an initiative to adjust contracts for fixed-term faculty. Currently Gonzaga’s fixed-term faculty work under single-year contracts. A proposal in the works would move to multi-year contracts, affording more stability for both the University and fixed-term faculty, Bozman said. The Faculty Senate is expected to vote on this, as well as several other faculty handbook amendments, in the spring, with any votes of approval moving the measures on to the Trustees.

Bozman also voiced support for increased annual recognition of faculty achievement through the office of the academic vice president. The AVP’s office has agreed to expand the number of financial awards for exemplary work. “This way, if a faculty member does something truly extraordinary, the University community will be informed and the faculty member will also receive a small monetary reward,” he said.

Goodbye to everyone-bounces e-mail; hello to new Gonzaga Today

Gonzaga-wide spam, also known as e-mail to the everyone-bounces list, is converting to a new format, Gonzaga Today.

Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., and the vice presidents will continue to have access to send e-mails to all faculty and staff. But other staff and faculty who want to reach the entire on-campus community will submit their material to Gonzaga Today via an online form.

Gonzaga Today will compile and publish all submitted material as a single e-mail daily, Monday through Friday. After testing, it will be launched the third week of January, about the time that students return to campus.

The deadline for submissions will be 10 a.m. (with no exceptions) the day before material is to run. Information may be submitted up to a week in advance.

Questions about Gonzaga Today should be addressed to Shelly Daugherty, public relations and marketing assistant, ext. 6398, or daugherty@gonzaga.edu.

Anyone trying to send an e-mail to everyone@gonzaga (aside from the exceptions above) will be prompted with a message and a link to the new web form.

Notices for any single event may be distributed to faculty and staff only once per week. Notices to students may appear more often, depending on guidelines set by Student Life.

Gonzaga Today also replaces Take Notice, which is no longer active.
‘Wing Ding for Bing’ played to packed house in new Crosby theater

By Stephanie Plowman
Special Collections Librarian

On Dec. 8, the former Metropolitan Performing Arts Center in downtown Spokane was renamed the Bing Crosby Theater. This was a historic event for Spokane, as the city finally recognized Bing Crosby and the fact that this theater was where Bing honed his act prior to leaving for stardom. Kathryn Crosby, Bing’s widow, performed her act, “My Life with Bing,” as a fundraiser to pay for the new marquee sign.

As arranged by the Davenport Hotel, I rode along to pick up Mrs. Crosby at the airport on the tarmac next to the plane. We whisked her away in a town car, along with her entourage. That evening at Mrs. Crosby’s suggestion, I chose the bright fuschia gown that she wore during the second half of her show.

The show was wonderful. With a multimedia presentation on the screen behind her, it felt as if Bing was also performing. Some in the audience were moved to tears. I accompanied her at her book signings in the lobby and at the Davenport. She invited me up to her room for champagne, French onion soup and apple cobbler to celebrate after the show.

Although the idea for the name change came from Eastern Washington University professor Bill Stimson, Gonzaga was very involved. I installed in the Davenport and the theater several display cases of loaned material from Gonzaga’s Crosby Collection. Bing’s Oscar and the White Christmas platinum record were loaned for the day Bing did so much for the city and Gonzaga while he was alive. I was thrilled to be a part of this grand and historic event.

Others from Gonzaga who were active in the event included Big Bing Theory, four students who volunteered as ushers, and Summer Berry, Gonzaga’s costumer, who volunteered to make usher costumes and spent several hours creating ‘40s hairstyles for the students. Make-up was done by GU makeup artist Patricia Mackin.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING ATTRACTS MORE STUDENTS

About 400 students, or roughly 40 percent of Gonzaga’s junior class, will have participated in study abroad programs during this academic year. Study Abroad enrollment has strengthened significantly in the 20 years that Study Abroad director Wanda Reynolds has overseen the program.

While Gonzaga-in-Florence remains the best known of the University’s study abroad programs, a growing number of international options are coming online. The University offers sponsored programs in London, Netherlands, China, Japan, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Zambia, Spain and Brazil. Several of the programs are quite small, accepting no more than two or three students at a time.

New this year is an exchange program initiated by Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, with an emphasis on political science. Erasmus teaches its classes in English and is seeking a more international student body, Reynolds said. Also new this summer are three programs in Zambia and Benin, West Africa. These will serve small groups of students from engineering, the Comprehensive Leadership Program, psychology, nursing, and TESL.

Through an affiliation with the School of Field Studies, based in Salem, Mass., biology students can travel to Australia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mexico and the Turks and Caicos islands in the Caribbean.

The University sponsors 10 semester- or yearlong programs, and seven summer programs. Students also regularly participate in independent programs. Travel and study abroad form a strong match with the University’s mission.

TRUSTEES RE-ELECT OFFICERS FOR ‘07

The Gonzaga University Board of Trustees, at its December meeting, re-elected the following officers to one-year terms in 2007: Mike Patterson, Seattle, chair, third term; Don Nelles, Bellevue, Wash., vice chair, third term; Harry Sladich, Spokane, secretary, 17th term; and Mike Casey, Spokane, assistant secretary, seventh term.

Father Paul A. Locatelli, S.J., the president of Santa Clara University since 1988, was elected to his first four-year term on the Board. The following individuals were elected to their third four-year term on the Board: Father Joseph Koterski, S.J., Bronx, N.Y.; Shannon McCambridge, Seattle; Philip McCarthy, Salt Lake City; and Patterson. Elected to a second four-year term were John Stone, Spokane, and Alvin J. Wolff, Scottsdale, Ariz. Thomas Tilford, Spokane, was named Trustee Emeritus.

Fathers Robert Lyons, S.J., Spokane, and William Hayes, S.J., Portland, Ore., completed their Board terms. The Board of Trustees is Gonzaga’s policy-making body.
Bill Carsrud is retiring after 35 years in Gonzaga’s math department.

Professor Bill Carsrud wriggles deeper in his office chair, with feet up and the book shelves behind him half-dismantled, as if raided by a math-minded burglar. Add a rocking chair for visitors and a much used blackboard. This is 229 Herak, the office where Carsrud spent much of his career. After 35 years and a career-long love affair with the University, its students and faculty, Carsrud is retiring from Gonzaga’s math department.

“What I treasured most is the collaboration I had with my colleagues,” Carsrud says. Early mornings, Bill’s colleagues would often fill his office to argue their questions, office hour or not... If he was there his door was open to students.”

Carsrud, who was part of what he calls the Sputnik generation, came to Gonzaga straight out of his door was open to students.”

“Many students are bothered by an 8 a.m. class, but these students showed up voluntarily. I’ve seen Bill on days when there was something that he needed to get done but when a student came to the door, he dropped whatever he was doing to answer their questions, office hour or not... If he was there his door was open to students.”

Carsrud was part of what he calls the Sputnik generation, came to Gonzaga straight out of graduate school at the University of Oregon, where he’d studied on a fellowship.

“I was very scared. I’d never been in front of a large group before.” He smiles at the memory.

That initial learning curve gave way to a series of new learning curves as Carsrud moved around the University. He taught under four different deans, in the School of Business Administration, the School of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering. Everyone needs statistics, after all. “I never took a business course, but I learned a lot about business,” he said.

Carsrud served for many years on the tenure committee, which involved observing younger teachers.

“And I’ve stolen liberally from them. It’s a great advantage to see – ‘hey, that’s another great way to present that material.’ ”

Cradle Call:
Dori Sontag, director of annual giving, University Relations, and husband Dave are the parents of Owen Rafael. Born Dec. 4, he was 8 lbs, 12 oz, and 20 inches.
For a Happy – and safe – New Year’s, crime prevention specialist Bob Cepeda compiled the following list, “the top 10 things that offenders do not want you to know.”

10. Personal safety is your responsibility. Currently, Washington is 50th in the nation for number of officers per capita, and 50th for least funded state court systems. Remember people are not suspicious; behavior is. If you notice something suspicious happening on campus, call security at ext. 3222.

9. Spokane is ranked No. 24 for auto theft in the nation for like size municipalities, so crime deterrent strategies like the “Club” and variable audible alarms are not a waste of time. Look at the National Insurance Crime Bureau at www.nicb.org/cpsrde/xchg/nicb/hst.xsl/index.htm

8. Methamphetamine use is like a ripple effect and is hurting many lives. Washington is currently ranked eighth highest state in the nation for methamphetamine use. Methamphetamine production often occurs in Washington homes, posing a direct threat to the safety of children and adults. Report suspicious activity or chemical smells to law enforcement. For insight and strategies see the Washington Attorney General’s website at www.atg.wa.gov/oaam.

7. Identity Theft takes our state to the No. 7 spot in the nation. For other ideas see Federal Trade Commission website at http://www.ftc.gov.

6. It takes usually under 4 minutes to enter and burglarize a home. Unsecured windows and doors account for roughly 57 percent of entry points in a home or apartment. For every 100,000 people there were 907.3 burglaries, which ranks Washington as having the 9th highest standing among the states. For safety tips visit the Crime Doctor website at http://www.crimedoctor.com/home.htm.

5. Parking Lots are areas of victimization. A respected litigation analysis firm estimates that 38 percent of robberies and 17 percent of sexual assaults on American workers occur while walking to or from their parked cars. If you are worried about becoming a target, vary your routine.

4. Vehicle prowling (someone inside your vehicle trying to steal tangible items) account for 80 to 150 incidents per week in the city. Most crimes are crimes of opportunity.

3. Crimes against persons ranked Washington as having the 26th highest occurrence for violent crime among the states. Be alert! Being alert to what and who is around you is the best defense. Walk with a self-assured stride, with your head up, and look around. Those who look strong and in control are less attractive targets. More tips at National Crime Prevention Council http://ncpc.org/Topics/Personal_Safety/index.php

2. Crimes against property brings Washington up to the No. 2 position in the nation. We have become an isolated society. However, a nosy neighbor is a burglar’s worst enemy. Get to know your neighbors and work out an arrangement to watch each other’s houses. Property crime makes up slightly more than three-quarters of all crime in the United States.

1. Theft is our No. 1 offense on campus. Engrave personal property with your driver’s license number so law enforcement can return it to you more quickly if recovered. Engravers are loaned out free at the Campus Public Safety & Security Office at the lower level of Welch Hall.

Treasures unearthed in Admin work

The basement of the Administration Building gave up a couple of historic treasures last month, including a wallet lost in 1942, and an early version of a letterman’s jacket complete with a bulldog logo. Other items found were a box of Kellogg’s cereal and a beer can so old that it has a screw-on top. The week before Christmas, Walker Construction workers discovered this cache of goods in a defunct air vent that ran from the Russell Theatre to the basement.

The wallet attracted quite a bit of attention – and amazingly was returned to its original owner, Patrick Condon, who is now 81 and still a Spokane resident. No cash was found in the wallet, but Condon’s original Social Security card was there, along with his Gonzaga High School student ID card, a red ticket from the Principal’s Office, a streetcar pass, and a receipt for a bicycle Condon had purchased for $38.

Condon attended the University, as well as the high school (now Gonzaga Prep). He said he had no recollection of losing his wallet, but he did recall the bicycle.

Athletics’ Joel Morgan is doing research to learn more about the navy blue, hooded, wool coat. It appears to date to Gonzaga’s football era. The University’s final football team played in 1941.

Foley Center stocks popular titles, DVDs

Students study and write papers. Faculty research and grade papers. Staff hold the workings of the university together. Foley Center Library is a resource for all that stuff, but what about the rest of the “whole person”? Where’s the fun? The library has that, too, notes Konny Thompson, acquisitions librarian.

This past summer, the library added a small collection of audiobooks to its “popular” materials. The books on CD are unabridged, recent releases, chosen for recreational value. That is, they’re fun, not work. They are located next to the Popular Books section, near the Reference desk. Search the catalog using the subject “Audiobooks” for the full list.

Other “popular” materials have also been enhanced, with about 100 new titles added. If they were all together at once, the section would have about 300 current, leisure-reading titles for perusal. This will never happen, Thompson point out, because too many people want to read them. These books are leased so older ones cycle out as new ones cycle in. The library also has DVDs located near the books and audiobooks. A variety of feature films has been available for some time. Early in the summer this section was augmented by the purchase of a large collection of Warner Brothers movies from the 1930s-1970s. The 203 titles in the collection run the entertainment gamut, from Buster Keaton movies to Bette Davis to “Taste the Blood of Dracula” to “An American in Paris.”