New programs draw healthy responses – with one or two surprises

Those who are developing the new Transmission & Distribution Program in the School of Engineering and Applied Science know this is an unusual program. But they didn’t expect its latest claim to fame: More than half the students enrolled in the first T&D online course offered this fall are women.

“We were really surprised by the students,” said Jilliene McKinstry, marketing specialist for the program. The student profile anticipated by Peter McKenny, director of the T&D program, and McKinstry was of young engineering grads looking for a leg-up to impress future employers. What they got was a mix of mid-career employees, mostly from smaller utilities, including several women who began their careers with degrees outside of engineering.

“These women are fabulous and competent in every way, but they need more engineering. We’re tickled and surprised,” McKinstry said. This dynamic may repeat itself many times over, as the nation’s utilities, large and small, navigate a major wave of retirements. Utilities may hire, for instance, a young employee with a computer science degree. One or two promotions later, that individual may well enroll in Gonzaga’s T&D courses. The program, which is driven by industry interest, offers eight-week courses. Eventually the program is expected to develop offerings for a degree.

“The first three weeks of this course were the best that I’ve had in any of my masters courses. I’ve learned the most and the subject, topics and approach to teaching has been very relevant. I wish this program had been started two years ago,” wrote Amy Grice, a T&D student who works for Tacoma Public Utilities.

The enrollment this fall is 15 students. As the program continues to roll out courses, it’s expected that enrollment will grow to 20 per class, with four eight-week courses offered each semester.

Other new programs on campus are also reporting good numbers:
- Bachelor’s in Nursing – Thirty new students have enrolled in the BSN program this fall, bringing the program’s total to 81 students. This year’s class includes 20 Gonzaga students and 10 transfers. Six students are men and “a few are older students who are answering the call of the nursing shortage,” said Mardell Grayhek, nursing program assistant. “Schoenberg Center is very busy these days with students studying everywhere they can find a spot for a group to sit.”

- MBA in Healthcare – “We have nine students enrolled and five more accepted and set to start in spring or summer. We have had over 50 inquiries with hardly any advertising. This fall we will start doing more marketing and are excited to see the response,” said Ginny Piskel, director of Graduate Studies in Business.

- Environmental Student concentration – With 18 students enrolled (largely biology and political science majors), and increased interest among faculty and staff, director Jon Isacoff, assistant professor of political science, describes the program as being “already immersed in the culture and life of the University.” He anticipates steady enrollment increases in coming years.

The first session of ZagOps, state-of-the-art emergency training for utility operators, took place in September under the auspices of the T&D program. If there’s a four-state black-out coming at us, these fellows will know how to keep our lights on.
Tribal branch campus opens; renowned Indian educators to speak

The Spokane Tribal College is opening a branch campus in Spokane. Classes will be held at Gonzaga, primarily in Schoenberg Center. Martina Whelshula, Ph.D., president of the tribal college and a Gonzaga alumna from the counseling psychology program, said she expects very small enrollment this fall, with growth as news of the branch campus spreads. Classes start in October.

Also this month, two renowned Native American educators will visit Gonzaga on Oct. 5 and 6 to discuss how the concepts of applied indigenous knowledge and culturally responsive teaching might influence Gonzaga’s development of an Indian Studies program.

Visiting Gonzaga will be Professor Gregory Cajete of Northern Arizona University and Professor Leroy Little Bear, retired from the University of Lethbridge where he taught for many years and founder of Harvard University’s Native American Program. Cajete will speak Oct. 5, 3-4:30 p.m. in the Foley Center Teleconference Room; Cajete and Little Bear will facilitate a dialogue on Oct. 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center.

Raymond Reyes, assistant vice president for intercultural relations, said: “I want faculty to get an introduction to applied indigenous knowledge and also an introduction to a development model to create courses for an Indian studies program. I want them to explore what ‘culturally responsive teaching’ means in an Indian studies program, and lastly I want these two men, Cajete and Little Bear – who are going to be great by the way – to challenge the choir and seduce the critics of Indian studies programs.”

Biology Professor Robert Prusch, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has long advocated for a Native American studies concentration. “Gregory Cajete is one of the ranking authorities on Native American education in this country,” Prusch said. “I have heard him speak on two occasions and have been most impressed with his presence and wisdom.”

Graduates from the tribal college’s Liberal Arts degree program will be able to transfer into Gonzaga’s Bachelor of General Studies program. This ‘school within a school’ model has been used successfully in other locations, Reyes said. “It’s a win-win for tribal students and non-tribal students and faculty.”

Formation of the new branch campus grew out of work done in recent months between the Spokane Tribal College and Gonzaga.

AROUND CAMPUS

• Western Conversations, an annual conference of the six western Jesuit universities will take place on campus Oct. 12-14 with 70 delegates attending. This year’s conference is going to examine the legacy left by Father Pedro Arrupe, the 28th father general of the Society of Jesus. Arrupe would have been 100 years old this year. The keynote address will be given by Father Kevin Burke, S.J., dean of the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

• The 38th Annual Pilgrimage to the Old Mission at Cataldo drew a healthy contingent of 195 participants last month. In the last three years, participation has risen by about 20 people each year. This year’s event was done in one day due to a combination of factors, including ownership change of the campground where the pilgrims usually spend the night.

• Lt. Col. Alan Westfield has found a powerful way to connect Bulldog Battalion’s cadets with active-duty servicemen and women. After putting out the call to alumni and other friends of Gonzaga’s ROTC program, he has received more than 25 embroidered division patches with accompanying letters – more than half from soldiers in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. GU cadets will wear the patches with pride when competing in the annual Ranger Challenge Oct. 13-14 in Boise. “It’s truly amazing the connections that develop between these cadets and the alumni, the inspiring and mentoring that develops,” Westfield said. This is the second year that Westfield has collected patches for the Ranger Challenge. The tradition, based on a longtime similar practice in the Army-Navy football game, symbolizes the connection between the cadets and troops in the field.

Calling all Gonzaga cyber-heroes

During October, which is Cyber-Security Awareness Month, the folks in Informational Technology Services are asking the GU community to become cyber-security heroes. “We have cyber-villains who are intent on attacking our university in any way they can,” said Jim Jones, IT security manager.

The first week will focus on thwarting those nefarious hackers. Week two is all about data protection. In weeks three and four, you’ll learn the problems with social networking sites and the patterns and behaviors of cyberstalkers and bullies. Week five will target identity theft. On Oct. 24, don’t miss the second annual GU Technology Fair in the Crosby Student Center.

For each event you attend, you will be entered in a raffle. This year’s prizes include two Dell printers, a Windows Vista computer system donated by Dale Furnish and Equus, plus other items. Attend as many Cyber Security events in October to learn how you can be a hero. For a full schedule see http://cybersecurity.gonzaga.edu.

A “Celebration of the GU Africa Programs” will take place Oct. 4 in the Globe Room of Cataldo, 6-7:30 p.m. Faculty and students who traveled this summer for programs in Zambia and Benin will share their experiences and talk about future program possibilities. Faculty from psychology, engineering, the comprehensive leadership program, nursing, International Service Learning, and Teaching English as a Second Language were all involved. Above, Professor Mary Jeannot shares digital photos with children in Benin. Further sessions on the individual Africa trips will occur at the Unitarian Universalist Church later in the month.
**NEW HIREs:**
Montie Arnold, shipping and receiving clerk, Mail Services; Deona Behrens, director of field experience, SOE; Mark Bodamer, associate professor, Psychology; Patrick Charles, assistant professor/associate director, Law School; Curt Eldredge, shipping and receiving clerk, Mail Services; Carrie Elley, program assistant 1, Faculty Services; Gemma D’Ambrooso, lecturer, Chemistry; David Gilbert, Bozarth Retreat Center manager, Campus Services; Ginger Grey, instructor, English; Brian Higginson, assistant professor, Exercise Science; DaVina Hoyt, intercultural relations specialist, Unity House; Vicki Jeffries, registered nurse, Health Center; Yanquing Ji, assistant professor, Electrical Engineering; Fr. Thomas Kraft, coordinator of Search Retreat & Catholic Group, University Ministry; Alisha Kirk, academic records evaluator/computer operations technician II, Admissions; Daniel Koh, instructor, Music; Megan McCormick, Freshman Retreat coordinator, University Ministry; Jalal Nawash, assistant professor, Physics; Erika Olson, assistant professor, Foley Library; Sung-Bae Park, assistant professor, Physical Education; Brad Rickel, head women’s golf coach, Athletics; Gary Rombach, coordinator of Cardoner Retreats, University Ministry; David Rovick, student life coordinator, GIF; Sean Stanelun, a/v tech support, Campus Services; Rebecca Stephanis, instructor, Modern Languages; Sandra Simpson, visiting assistant professor, Law School; Robert Stiger, associate professor, Mechanical Engineering; Verana Theile, associate professor, Political Science; Colin Thomas, assistant professor, Chemistry; David Thorp, assistant professor, Exercise Science; Andrew Truhler, instructor, MIS Business; Anastasia Wendlinder, assistant professor, Religious Studies; Christopher Wheatley, assistant student publications manager, Student Life; Michael Woods, instructor, Religious Studies.

**GOODBYES:**
Jesse Etter, custodian, Plant Services; Marjorie Luce, library technician III, Library Services; Richard Mullen, custodian, Plant Services; Theresa Timms, field officer, University Relations; Todd Wood, painter, Plant Services.

**PROMOTIONS/NEW ASSIGNMENTS:**
Joan Allbery, to interim VP, Administration & Planning; Richard Almanza, warehouse V, Plant Services; Monica Bartlett, to assistant professor, Psychology; Julie Beckstead, to associate professor, Biology; Andrea Bertotti-Metoyer, to assistant professor, Sociology & Criminal Justice; Kevin Chambers, to associate professor, History; Carlyn Cofer, custodian lead I, Plant Services; Dennis Conners, to associate professor, Off-Campus Education; Jeff Cronk, to associate professor, Chemistry; Diana Farrell, to administration secretary II, SRP; Mary Farrell, to professor, Art; Edward Fitzgerald, to custodian shift supervisor I, Plant Services; Melissa Flint, to head women’s rowing coach, Athletics; Patsy Fowler, to associate professor, English; Daniel Friesner, associate professor, School of Business; Christina Geitner, to professor, Exercise Science; Connie Harding, to registered nurse, Health Center; Douglas Kries, to professor, Religious Studies; NHi Lee, to custodian specialist V, Plant Services; Kendall Mahlman, to groundskeeper I, Plant Services; Daniel Mahoney, to professor, Leadership Administration; Todd Marshall, to associate professor, English; Denny McMonigle, to associate director of Sponsored Research and Programs, SRP; Daniel Moore, to custodian II, Plant Services; Karen Norum, to associate professor, Doctoral Leadership Studies; Kevin O’Connor, to professor, History; Shannon Overbay, to associate professor, Math; Michael Pringle, to associate professor, English; Jill Royston, to program coordinator, Student Life; Mary Savage, to assistant professor, English Language Center, Jason Williams, to associate professor, Psychology; Nancy Worsham, to professor, Psychology.

**ANNIVERSARIES:**
25 Peter Black, scientific materials specialist, Chemistry.
15 Peter Tomney, associate director of public relations, University Relations.
10 David Gurr, painter III, Plant Services; Timothy Powers, program-meranalyst, CONSS.
5 Elvedin Alimanovic, custodian II, Plant Services; Norman Leath, assistant director of Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership, School of Business; Mark Ruhe, shipping and receiving clerk, Library Services.

**CRADLE CALL:**
Peggy Sue Loroz, associate professor, School of Business, and husband Mike are the parents of Beth Elaine, born on Aug. 24, weighing 8 lbs 7 oz and 20 inches; Marc Manganaro, dean, College of Arts & Sciences, and wife Nicole are the parents of Michael Ross (3 lb 5 oz) and John Marc (3 lb 10 oz), born Sept. 13; Melissa Thompson, program specialist, Student Employment, and husband Nate are the parents of Melody Ann. Born Sept. 19 she was 8 lbs 1 oz.

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**Focus On ... Overbay stands up for math**

Associate Professor Shannon Overbay is the go-to person in Gonzaga’s math department for today’s rendition of the math wars. She is sought-after by Spokane parents — including faculty — who are concerned about the new-style ‘reform’ math their children are learning in public schools. Overbay talks long-distance with school teachers who worry they’ll be fired if they criticize what’s sometimes called ‘fuzzy math,’ and she is consulted by lawmakers under pressure to make the state’s WASL math nightmare go away.

Reform math is based on the concept that students who grapple with a challenging problem until they discover a way to solve it will retain that knowledge better due to their own experience in discovering a solution. This contrasts with traditional math instruction in which concepts, formulas and equations are explained, then practiced individually.

Overbay said she can’t quantify how much of an effect reform math may be having on prospective Gonzaga students. Who knows, she points out, how many students aren’t admitted to the University because of difficulties with math? But she tells of one irate student who was named valedictorian of her high school class, yet as a freshman had to take college algebra, the closest thing to remedial math at Gonzaga. “Several students in every class that I teach have disturbing gaps in their understanding that are hard to fill in. … I talk with a lot of students who feel deceived by their high schools.”

These students often lack the common language of mathematics, she finds.

“But we’re in a world market. We’re not competing against the city of Spokane or the state of Washington, we’re competing in the world. We can’t redefine math just because our kids don’t want to learn it. Math has been established over centuries of work. It is not our call to say what’s math.”
Dedication of College Hall

In honor of the 120th anniversary of Gonzaga and the College of Arts and Sciences, Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., will rename the Administration Building as College Hall in a dedication later this month. The ceremony will take place on the steps of the Ad Building at 4 p.m., Oct. 20, during Fall Family Weekend. The change will give the College of Arts and Sciences its own home on campus.

Still in progress is transformation of the University’s main entrance, to be graced by a reflecting pool and a nine-foot bronze sculpture of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus.

Also to be unveiled this month is the bulldog statue that will ‘guard’ McCarthy Athletic Center. This gift of the Class of ‘06 will be dedicated on Oct. 6, in conjunction with Reunion Weekend. The weekend, shifted for the first time from June to October, is expected to draw 200-300 alumni. “I am hoping that there will be many high points of the weekend,” said Bob Finn, director of the Alumni Office.

Events will include a Friday evening social in the Globe Room, faculty discussions, dinner at the MacCarthey Center, a family picnic and an alumni mass on Sunday.

Did you know... about Add-a-Kid?

Fall Family Weekend began as a springtime event, Parents Weekend, in 1964. Come 1997, the event changed its name and its spot on the calendar. But do you know where Add-a-Kid – the option that let’s families adopt a student for the weekend – came from? Here’s the story, as related by Susie Prusch, czarina of University events:

“It started because of Cheech, who was a student from Guam and was president of the Setons.” During orientation 2000, Susie and Teresa Victoria Gumataotao (‘03), known by all as ‘Cheech,’ were chatting about the coming year, including Fall Family Weekend. Cheech said, “Oh, I hated Fall Family Weekend. I knew my parents wouldn’t be coming and I was so homesick.”

Susie swung into action.

“I went home and told my husband ‘You are going to adopt all the Guam kids for Fall Family Weekend’ and he did.” Then-dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Robert Prusch took seven or eight students under his wing. They went to the play and on Saturday they rode the school bus up to Greenbluff to pick apples and pumpkins. During the fun, though, an abrupt weather change came along.

“It started to hail and one student was out there running around the pumpkin patch at Siemers Farm, his arms open wide, his head thrown back, his tongue stuck out. We yelled at him, ‘Julian, get back in here. It’s hailing.’ But he wouldn’t stop. He said, ‘It’s snowing. It has to be snow! I’m so excited!’ Because, to him, it was snowing.”

And that was the start of Add-a-Kid. Any faculty or staff who would like to adopt a student for this year’s Fall Family Weekend, please call Susie Prusch at ext. 5571.

Facebook: Who uses it and why?

Spend 10 minutes online on Facebook, and you can learn about landing-gear problems experienced by Gonzaga students on the first-ever GAMP trek to New York City. Or the first meeting of Gonzaga’s new Red Cross Club.

Estimates are that college students spend an average two hours a day on Facebook. It can be a super-sized distraction, or a handy means of communication. Some Gonzaga faculty use Facebook to learn about students’ interests and concerns.

Assistant Professor Molly Pepper, business management, estimated that 20 percent of professors in the School of Business have registered on Facebook. She commends that minority, on that grounds that what is important to students should be important to faculty, too.

Is it fair for faculty or staff to anonymously peek in on students? Opinions differ. But where the discussion really gets interesting is in seeking positive ways to use Facebook.

“Could we create a Cardoner Retreat group on Facebook? Or a Search Retreat group?” asked Father Rick Ganz, S.J., director of University Ministry. “I’m thinking of a place where students could communicate with others in a positive way, where Cardoner alumni could share their experiences and where students could reflect,” Ganz said.

Spend more than 10 minutes on Facebook, and one might discover groups of Gonzaga students who are fans of Assistant Professor Linda Tredennick, English, and Assistant Professor Matthew Raffety, history. Or a group titled “The I Would Marry Father Ganz If He Were not so Old and a Priest Club.” Tredennick said that she doubts her fan club has inspired any students to take a course on Shakespeare. And Father Ganz said he’s aware of the group he inspired. “I have not seen it, but I was told that it is affectionate, playful, and honorable. So I have no difficulty with it.”

(No: Any faculty who are using Facebook for teaching or academic work, please contact Spirit editor Marny Lombard, ext 6128.)

Drum roll, please, for GU’s brand

Gonzaga’s integrated marketing campaign is to be unveiled within the next month.

Chuck Leonhardt, assistant vice president for marketing and communications, has led development of a comprehensive brand strategy working with the Gonzaga Marketing Advisory Board. First, they learned how students, alumni, faculty, staff, benefactors and other stakeholders regard the University. More than 2,000 individuals were surveyed between September 2006 and May 2007. Information was distilled into key words, of which 16 became the ‘Gonzaga promise.’ A new tagline was created together with a ‘tool kit’ of brochures, templates, font styles, color palette and campus signs. The entire platform will be released and ready for use within the next month.

“This process will enable us to tell the Gonzaga story consistently and powerfully each time we connect with our constituents,” Leonhardt said.

Russell Theatre’s 2007-2008 Season

“Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury Oct. 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 20 and 28 at 2 p.m.

“The Crane Wife” by Ena Keo and adapted by Barbara Carlisle Feb. 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 3 and 10 at 2 p.m.

“Don Juan” by Moliere April 2-5 at 7:30 pm, and April 5 and 6 at 2 p.m.

Dance Concert 2008 April 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and April 26 at 2 p.m.

For reservations, contact the Russell Theatre box office at ext. 6553.