Spirit asked Interim President Dr. Thayne McCulloh for his observations and reflections on the year to come. "Each year brings its own unique set of challenges and opportunities," McCulloh said, "and this year is no different. While obvious issues, such as the large entering class, bring certain challenges that are very real, I am so grateful that we are not among those institutions that are really struggling this fall due to enrollment shortfalls."

At the same time, McCulloh is quick to point out that a larger-than-anticipated enrollment does not itself address the institution’s long-term challenges. "An issue which has loomed large, in my mind, for a number of years is the question of ‘optimal enrollment.’ We have traditionally defaulted to a ‘grow our way’ approach – whether it be to create additional revenue, or to escape financial hardship. We need, as a community, to approach the question differently: ‘What types of educational experiences do we want to intentionally structure for our students?’ It’s a complex and very challenging question to answer, but out of this fundamental question, the responses will shape our direction."

McCulloh also talked about what it means to be an ‘interim’ president. "It’s an important question, because in certain circumstances, to be ‘interim’ really means that you are simply trying to maintain the status quo until the ‘regular’ appointee takes office. In conference with the Board (of Trustees) leadership, it is my understanding that we are to proceed forward in attending to certain specific issues and continue to capitalize on the excellence we, as a community, have thus far achieved."

Over the summer, McCulloh was asked repeatedly to identify his priorities for the coming year. "Always, our first priority is to work actively to support the mission and identity of the university as a Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic institution. Indeed, I believe that the GU community is somewhat unique in the extent to which it, as a university community, is oriented around the support of this mission."

"Second, our reputation is built upon a solid record of educational excellence. At GU, ‘educational excellence’ recognizes both the academic endeavors of our faculty and the educational efforts of our colleagues in student life and athletics. We must – in service to our primary mission – continuously focus our energies on ensuring that the promotion of educational excellence is our principal goal."

"Third: in recognition of the challenging economic circumstances with which our institution, and indeed all of society, is faced – we must undertake a series of efforts that I place under the umbrella of ‘institutional sustainability.’ More about this initiative will be forthcoming."

And what is the status of the presidential search? "The Trustees have asked that I serve in this capacity while, and until, the Board decides how next to proceed. I expect that this will be the subject of considerable discussion at the next meeting (in October). Until that decision is made, it is my privilege to serve. It will be a good year!"
Beyond the numbers, with Julie McCulloh

This year’s incoming class brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and, yes, a wealth of numbers. Near 1,230, this class is the biggest to enter Gonzaga.

The challenges of such a large class? “I am empathetic with our partners in housing, academic services, and the College of Arts & Sciences,” said Julie McCulloh, dean of admission. “We didn’t believe it was possible to hit this number. The departments don’t have a say in the numbers, but they take what we give them and have strategies in place.”

In socio-economic perspective, the freshman profile represents diversity across the board. “The pieces of the pie are very close to even,” Julie said. “The financial aid office did a phenomenal job putting packages together for our students.”

By 2010, Gonzaga aimed to have 20 percent students of color in the incoming class. Reaching 19.5 percent this year surpassed any expectation. The percentage of males, 47 percent, also passes any previous year in recent history.

While the total number of enrolled freshmen is high for next year, the trend won’t necessarily continue. “We are in a unique situation. We won’t always be in a recession,” Julie said. “I doubt we’ll shoot for the same number next year, but it depends on the economy and, ultimately, will be the call of the current president.”

“It is impossible to judge the economy and how it would affect Gonzaga and employees in general,” Julie said. “But, there is a part of me that is relieved. We made it. No one will be laid off because of enrollment.”

When she introduces the class in the fall at Academic Convocation, Julie will emphasize the benefits of having such a large class. “The students are in this new era of hope. It’s a call for people to do their best. The incoming class is smart, interesting and engaged, and most importantly they want to be here,” she said. “They have passionately chosen this place.”

Volunteering in the Big Easy: A practical application

Dave Rovick (’97, ’06), student activities coordinator here at Gonzaga, spent a week of his summer vacation volunteering at a youth summer camp in New Orleans with about 55 other volunteers from his parents’ church youth group.

“We thought we were going there to help build a house, but we ended up helping a woman everyone called Rev. Josie coordinate her first-ever summer camp for local low-income kids,” Rovick said. “Rev. Josie is a well-known pastor in the area, saw the need for a youth summer camp and did something about it.”

“The first day we were there it was what I would call controlled chaos,” Rovick said. “There were around 30 kids from 4 to 14 years old running all over the place without a whole lot of structure, in 95-degree humid weather. We just saw raw humanity playing out.”

Rovick remembered seeing playing areas and fields scattered with debris, from boards sprouting rusty nails to metal straps that served as jump ropes.

“By the end of the week, we had put in an air conditioner, basketball hoop, cleaned the fields, trimmed weeds, bought classroom supplies and helped Rev. Josie develop curriculum for her program,” Rovick said. “Most of all, we really got to know the kids and earned their trust. It was a week I won’t soon forget.”

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Another opportunity to serve in New Orleans is available to all Gonzaga faculty, staff, family and friends Sept. 20-26 as part of GU’s Alumni Service partnership with Rebuilding Together.

Foley Fling: Help yourself to a tour with some fizz

The Foley Fling started in 2000 as a way to introduce freshmen to the Foley Center. The basic idea is a quick, self-guided tour of the building. This year’s ninth annual fling will be held Sept. 23, 3-5 p.m.

“We wanted to let the new students know that even though Foley is a big building it should not be intimidating,” said Brenda Warrington, library Web manager. “After the first Fling it was obvious we should include all of campus and not just freshmen, so now we invite all students, staff and faculty to join the fun.”

Here’s how the Foley Fling works: When you enter the main doors of the library, you receive a bingo card. At each service area you get a stamp on your card and receive handouts. When you have seven stamps you turn the card in for an Italian soda.

“It is amazing how many people every year say they have never been to the third floor of the building, or have ever even been in Foley,” Warrington said. “This is a fast and fun event every year. We love meeting new people, showing off our building and everyone loves the Italian sodas.”

‘Clog’ presents diversity-related news, events

A campus climate log, dubbed the Clog, now provides diversity-related news about the GU community on the University’s Web site. The log informs students, faculty and staff of educational events, intercultural news, bias-related incidents and their responses, and other related programs. The Clog was created by the Campus Climate Committee.

Molly Pepper, assistant professor of business and co-chair of the campus climate committee with Linda Tredennick, assistant professor of English, explained their efforts:

“The log will help us live up to cura personalis and create a campus climate that is inviting and safe for all people,” Pepper said. “Our university is no different from any other college campus: Things happen here which threaten the dignity, rights and safety of its members. We are strongly committed to the truth that the only moral response to these incidents is to honestly acknowledge their existence so that all members of the community can understand the causes, reflect on the implications, and strive to limit these unacceptable incidents and turn those that do occur into opportunities for learning and growth for us all.”
Anniversaries
To recognize the years of service and dedication of our staff and faculty, we are highlighting those who have reached significant milestones:

15 years: Bernard Coughlin, S.J., chancellor, President's Office; Margaret Hanratty, librarian, Gonzaga in Florence.
20 years: Marye Bradley, assistant professor, Law; Nancy Chase, assistant professor, Business; John DaQuisto, senior lecturer/CEO director, Engineering; Allen Garza, assistant professor, Philosophy; Al Fein, associate professor, Education; Sarah Ganzertl, associate professor, Engineering; Robert Gray, head golf coach, Athletics; John Hofland, associate professor, Theatre Arts; Todd Marshall, associate professor, English; Anita Martello, program coordinator, Jundt Museum; Richard McClelland, associate professor, Philosophy; Jennifer Nyland, assistant trainer, Athletics; Ann Price, administrative assistant, Associate VP for Diversity; Michael Pringle, associate professor, English; Chris Rehwald, secretary, Student Life; Leon Rice, assistant basketball coach, Athletics; Leanne Stockton, trainer, Athletics; Carie Weeks, assistant dean, Admissions.
25 years: Joanne Albert, assistant professor, Sociology; Joe Albert, assistant director, Rudolf Fitness Center; Mary Bradly, associate professor, Business; Anne Hedger, associate professor, Nursing; Stephanie Hess, associate professor, Physics; Kelly Krusee, assistant professor, Political Science.
30 years: Paul Hastings, associate professor, Education; Amy Kelley-Peacock, professor Law; Jon Sunderland, dean, Education; Randy Williams, professor, Education.
35 years: Michael Herzog, employer and alumni career relations, Career Center; Maria Bertagnolli, development communication specialist, CCNSS; Donna Schaeffer, assistant professor, Modern Languages; Tereza Lesnard, coordinator, student life; Ramon Ortiz, assistant director, Counseling and Career Assessment; Maira Perez, program assistant II, Financial Aid; Erin Sather, program assistant II, CCASL; Samantha Scott, accounting assistant/receptionist, Student Accounts; Shea Swoboda, assistant women's soccer coach, Athletics.
40 years: Christine Cline, director of access, School of Law; Karen Davis, director of diversity, School of Business; Steve Hess, director of technology, Athletics; Dale de Viveiros, director of master's, College of Arts and Sciences.

New hires: Robin Anderson, accounting assistant I, Controller's Office; Hilary Case, coordinator of student engagement, CCASL; Hanna Davis, custodian, Plant Services; Charles Lathrum, officer, Security; Tera Lesnard, associate director, DREAM; Fernando Ortiz, assistant director, Counseling and Career Assessment; Michael Herzog, employer and alumni career relations, Career Center; Maria Bertagnolli, development communication specialist, CCNSS; Donna Schaeffer, assistant professor, Modern Languages; Tereza Lesnard, coordinator, student life; Ramon Ortiz, assistant director, Counseling and Career Assessment; Maira Perez, program assistant II, Financial Aid; Erin Sather, program assistant II, CCASL; Samantha Scott, accounting assistant/receptionist, Student Accounts; Shea Swoboda, assistant women's soccer coach, Athletics.

Goodbyes: Phil Appel, associate professor, Engineering; Robert Bialozor, associate professor, Education; Bob Cepeda, associate director, Security; Debbie Cerenzi, associate director for benefits and environmental health and safety, Human Resources; Anne Hedger, assistant professor, Nursing; Stephanie Hess, accounting assistant I, Student Accounts; James Hoffmaster, professor, Physics; Ken Johnson, director of employer outreach, Career Center; Kelly Krusee, visit office specialist, Admissions; Francois Kueser, associate professor, Modern Languages; Shane McKe, residence hall director, Housing; Norma Norton, secretary, Continuing Education; Adrian Pauw, evening/weekend assistant, Library Services; Jessica Porras, residence hall director, Housing; Leah Preston, program assistant II, CCASL; Sarah Reijonen, development communication specialist, Athletics; Jessica Russo, director of ticket operations, Athletics; Donna Schaeffer, associate professor, Organizational Leadership; Theresa Schinzel, wellness center manager, Student Life; Robert Spitzer, S.J., president, President's Office; Lisa Whitcomb, programmer/analyst, CCNSS; Joseph Yi, assistant professor, Political Science; Judy Zweifel, senior faculty assistant, Biology and Chemistry.

Promotions/New Assignments: Edwina Almanovic, to custodial specialist, Plant Services; Maria Bertagnolli, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Belinda Bobko, manager, employer and alumni career relations, Career Center; Michael Herzog, to senior faculty advisor to the president, President’s Office; Steve Hess, to interim Misson vice president; Janice Huston, to interim special assistant for graduate admissions, Education; Christopher Johnson, to director of ticket operations, Athletics; Earl Martin, to acting academic vice president, AVP Office; Thayne McCulloch, to president, President’s Office; Nicole Sakraida, to resident hall director, Housing; Shannon Sanders, to custodial lead, Plant Services; Jill Yashinsky, to case manager, Student Life.

Anniversaries: Bernard Coughlin, S.J., chancellor, President's Office; Margaret Hanratty, librarian, Gonzaga in Florence.

Noteworthy
10 Mary Bradley, assistant professor, Law; Nancy Chase, assistant professor, Business; John DaQuisto, senior lecturer/CEO director, Engineering; Allen Garza, assistant professor, Philosophy; Al Fein, associate professor, Education; Sarah Ganzertl, associate professor, Engineering; Robert Gray, head golf coach, Athletics; John Hofland, associate professor, Theatre Arts; Todd Marshall, associate professor, English; Anita Martello, program coordinator, Jundt Museum; Richard McClelland, associate professor, Philosophy; Jennifer Nyland, assistant trainer, Athletics; Ann Price, administrative assistant, Associate VP for Diversity; Michael Pringle, associate professor, English; Chris Rehwald, secretary, Student Life; Leon Rice, assistant basketball coach, Athletics; Leanne Stockton, trainer, Athletics; Carie Weeks, assistant dean, Admissions.
5 Molly Ayers, assistant director, CCASL; Matt Bahr, assistant professor, Sociology; Megan Ballard, associate professor, Law; Nancy Beckman, assistant professor, Nursing; Nita Brockie, legal receptionist/bystip, Law Clinic; Paul Brown, director of major gifts, Athletics; Enes Dautovic, custodial lead, Plant Services; Sally Delger, registered nurse, Health Center; Robert Donnelly, assistant professor, History; Daniel Evans, assistant baseball coach, Athletics; David Fague, lecturer, Music; Leif Forrest, media maintenance tech III, Technical Education Services; David Gurule, head women’s tennis coach, Athletics; Mike Hazel, assistant professor, Communication & Leadership Studies; Jon Isaccoff, associate professor, Political Science; Jim Jones, director of client support services, CCNSS; Kassia Kain, dean of students/judicial affairs, Student Life; Lada Kupris, assistant professor, Business; Melissa Lowdon, director of Bachelor of General Studies; Melaine Marcell, counselor, Career Center; Matthew McPerson, assistant professor, Business; Amy Merrill Willis, assistant, Religious Studies; Joel Morgan, assistant athletic director for facilities, Athletics; Lin Murphy, assistant professor, Nursing; Kevin O’Connor, associate professor, History; Shelly Radtke, associate director, Rudolf Fitness Center; Jill Royston, program coordinator, Student Development; Erick Stubbs, general maintenance II, Plant Services; Wendy Thompson, director of tribal relations, Intercultural Relations; John Traynor, assistant professor, Education; Matthew Walton, counselor, Admissions; Stephen Warren, assistant professor, Chemistry.

Devout Zags named Mission Award winners
Dale de Viveiros
Dwight “Smitty” Smith

Staff Assembly presented its semi-annual Mission Awards to longtime Gonzaga employees Dale de Viveiros and Dwight “Smitty” Smith in June. Both have shown undying devotion to GU and its community over their 30-plus years of service. De Viveiros has shepherded the technological age here as director of Technology Education Services, and Smith has worked the graveyard shift as security officer, both taking care of GU’s students and faculty with care and compassion.
Take a glimpse at improvements across campus

Coughlin Hall welcomed 324 sophomore and freshman students Aug. 28 when its doors opened. The hall includes a bistro, classroom, big-screen TV lounge, baby grand piano, library and fireplaces.

While that may have been the most visible construction project this summer, here’s a glimpse at what else was going on:

- Huetter Mansion will welcome faculty in new office spaces on the upper floors later this fall.
- New fire alarm systems have been installed in the Ritter and Lamplighter Apartments, and Rosauer Center.
- Installed 300 additional mailboxes at Crosby and replaced some kitchen equipment at the COG.
- The Magnuson Theatre received an updated electrical service and limited work on the stage area’s power system.
- The exterior of the Theater/Dance Studio got a new coat of paint, as did the balconies at Dussault.
- Two new houses were acquired, irrigation added, and landscaping renewed at several houses.
- Work is nearly complete on creation of an Advising Center at the School of Business. This frees up office space for additional faculty.
- Eight more classrooms are being equipped with full instructional media equipment by TES.

FOCUS ON . . . Sacred gardening, Woods’ way

“...I think I’ll quit teaching and become a farmer,” Father Michael Woods, S.J., said with a smile. Woods, assistant professor, religious studies, has only been at Gonzaga for two years, but his work with food and sustainability suggest that he’s here to see progress.

“On Sundays, we gather and share a meal in the Eucharist,” he said. “Eating should be a holy act. It is a holy act. When we do so unreffectively, it becomes a desecration to our bodies, to the community and to the poor.” Noting that food is actually one of the most complex issues for the planet, Woods hopes to educate the GU community.

“Most of the food we eat is unhealthy in the way it is prepared or raised. There’s no such thing as ‘cheap food,’” said Fr. Woods. “We live on the principle that we can get anything cheaper. We brag about the bargains. What we don’t realize, though, is that there is always a cost: labor, wages and destruction of the land. We rarely pay the real price for something.”

Woods started a garden at Jesuit House and has helped bring awareness events to campus. He hopes to see a proliferation of student gardens both on and off campus. “One student even received permission to have a chicken coop in his backyard,” he said.

Fr. Woods also serves on the board of directors for the Main Market Co-op, opening in downtown Spokane this fall.

He attributes support for his mission to co-workers, Ellen Maccarone, assistant professor, philosophy, Pat McCormick, professor, religious studies, and Mark Beattie, director of distributive learning, professional studies, along with the people at CCASL, to name a few. He continues to look for support and venues to promote his ideas.

“Join the co-op, learn more about where your food comes from, support local farming and ranching, look into community supported agriculture and get yourself to a farmer’s market.”

Pull your boots on for GU’s 40th Pilgrimage

The 40th anniversary of the Pilgrimage on Sept. 19 will be celebrated by 200-300 members of the Gonzaga community with a one-day hike to the Cataldo Mission. In a departure from usual practice, alumni, faculty and staff are welcome to join the event at any point during the day.

The Pilgrimage is the first retreat of the academic year, and its primary focus is the founding of the University. “It is also the only retreat to bring together every member of the Gonzaga community: students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, family and friends,” said Megan McCormick, Pilgrimage coordinator. “Together, we explore Gonzaga’s history and learn more about our founding Jesuit Fathers and Native American roots.”

The day begins with breakfast at the Snake Pit, owned by University friends, the Peak family. With bellies full, the pilgrims begin a nine-mile hike to the historic Mission. Students carry a wooden cross each year.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, learn about Gonzaga’s history, and reflect on the beginning of the school year,” said McCormick.

The hikers are scheduled to arrive at the Mission at 1 p.m. for tours. Mass will be held at 2:30 p.m. All are invited to participate. For more information or to register, visit www.gonzaga.edu/um.