Interim President Dr. Thayne McCulloh opened the semester at the Spring Faculty Conference by describing both the strengths and challenges facing Gonzaga in 2010.

On the upside, Dr. McCulloh has found that students, alumni and parents continually express their gratitude for the personal, community-oriented experience of learning and caring that is a Gonzaga hallmark. One alumna told Dr. McCulloh that in her view, "cura personalis" came not in dramatic flourishes...but rather as a series of small daily interventions in the lives of our students.

Dr. McCulloh said, "In a new and very different way than ever before, I hear and understand how what we do impacts so many individual lives and is considered unique and distinctive to our institution. And I am very grateful to you all."

Other strengths he mentioned were the ongoing core curriculum review and other efforts to create ever-stronger academic programs. He singled out collaborative efforts by faculty as being essential to such work. A 30-percent increase in applications this year over last shows how attractive Gonzaga remains to potential students.

Development of the 2010-11 budget was the next topic. Last fall, Dr. McCulloh asked faculty for comments about the health of their departments and for ideas on Gonzaga's optimal enrollment.

"Your response...sketches out a preliminary picture of an organization that is struggling under the strain of 'too much' -- including too many undergraduate students," he said. As a result, we need to scale back on the rate of growth. Dr. McCulloh also indicated that, given the current economic situation, annual tuition increases of 5-6 percent must be a thing of the past. "Guided always by our mission, it is time to approach these questions about resources in a different way."

Gonzaga began this academic year with 1,239 freshmen. Next fall's budget assumption is 1,050 freshmen. Dr. McCulloh made clear that specific enrollment targets are all but impossible to hit dead-on and should be considered as signifying a goal within a reasonable range. While Dr. McCulloh clearly referred to the need to stabilize undergraduate enrollment, he left open the potential for growth in graduate, online delivery and continuing education programs. This spring, he will announce a task force to examine how to proceed with online and continuing education.

With the assumption of level enrollment, the preliminary 2010-11 budget totals $218 million in expenses, exceeding revenue by $4 million. To balance that budget and to move additional resources into mission-critical areas, Dr. McCulloh has asked vice presidents and deans to identify 5 percent of their base for potential budget reduction or reallocation.

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"I pledge to make use of your responses in a balanced, thoughtful and transparent approach," he said. Finally, Dr. McCulloh spoke of the need to begin setting the stage for the next capital campaign and of his confidence that benefactors will agree to help fund student scholarships and to support truly excellent and distinctive academic programs.

A link to Dr. McCulloh's speech can be found at www.gonzaga.edu/springconference.
New Mission programs coming this spring

Father Steve Hess, S.J., interim vice president of Mission, attended a conference last fall for university ministry directors for the 28 Jesuit campuses across the country. Several spoke about programming offered on their campuses to help faculty and staff “get on board” with the Jesuit Mission.

“And I thought, gosh, we don’t have that problem. People at Gonzaga understand our Mission. They want to live our Mission,” said Fr. Hess. “So what we are doing instead is to help faculty and staff learn more about how they can incorporate the Mission in their work.”

To do so, Fr. Hess is offering several events and programs this spring for faculty and staff. Some are new, others have developed both a tradition and a following.

A new Lenten Reflection series will be scheduled from mid-February through March for faculty and staff. Each session will offer a brief spiritual reading, reflection time and time for conversation afterwards. Each session will be held in one of the campus chapels.

Ignatian Colleagues Dinners: Three events are held each year, usually at the Bozarth Mansion. Each event includes a speaker, a chance for reflection, small-group discussion on a Mission-related topic, as well as a delicious meal. The January event focused on topics related to this year’s freshman read, “Class Matters.” Discussion ranged from how to define ‘middle class’ to experiences and feelings expressed by working-class students.

In a new event, two speakers from other Jesuit campuses will visit Gonzaga later in the spring to discuss how best to work with today’s students and to understand student culture.

Also this spring, informal sessions will be held for faculty and staff, allowing each to discuss how the Mission plays out in their day-to-day work lives.

Fr. Hess credits the volunteer efforts of his Mission Advisory Board for making this array of programming a reality. “Gonzaga is such a Mission-centered university,” Fr. Hess said. “The Jesuits, faculty and staff who helped build Gonzaga years ago did an exceptional job of promoting this sense of Mission. Today we have a number of young faculty and staff who want to have that same sense and it’s our job to continue that tradition.”

American Indian studies concentration on the cusp

A concentration in American Indian studies will start this fall if approved by Trustees, say Robert Prusch, biology professor, and Wendy Thompson, director of tribal relations. They partnered with a regional Tribal Advisory Board that has helped to create the program.

It will be the only the second such program among the 28 Jesuit universities in the U.S., and will consist of 21 credits, with courses drawn from history, biology, English, political science and religious studies, as well as a capstone senior project.

The program has a home, the American Indian Studies Center at 414 E. Sharp.

“It’s not too often that you get the space and other resources before the program starts,” said Prusch, biology professor. He has worked toward this goal for 12 years. Thompson for five. Gonzaga’s “history-mission-location” (which is how Prusch says it) makes the program a natural outcome.

Even before the concentration starts, the center is expected to serve multiple needs. The Spokane Tribal College currently holds classes on GU’s campus for Spokane’s urban Indian population. Two classes meet in the center, which also offers support for Native students and any students who are curious to learn more about Native history.

The concentration will draw courses from history, biology, English, religious studies and political science, plus a senior capstone experience.

Patty keeps building student leaders

Allen Patty doesn’t wear camouflage anymore, but he’s as involved as ever in helping mold Gonzaga students into leaders. Since retiring two years ago from the Army and leading the Bulldog Battalion, Patty has been building Gonzaga’s Leadership Development Program.

The program is housed within Student Life and is designed to help all students improve their leadership skills. Patty works with GSBA and club or organization leaders in particular.

He has developed a Leaders Workshop Series, a year-long program with 17 workshops open to all students. To avoid class conflicts, he’s scheduled the workshops during Thursday’s mid-day no-class time.

Topics this semester include teambuilding, accountability and delegating. Students who attend at least 10 workshops during the year receive a certificate of leadership development.

Patty has pulled together a 500-volume library on leadership adjacent to his office in the Crosby Center.

He’s enthused about his latest project, developing a way to log students’ extracurricular experiences so as to create a transcript that goes far beyond academics. Service work, University Ministry involvement, club and organizations -- call it a way to digitize ‘cura personalis’ across campus.

“Right now, none of us sees the whole formation of each student,” Patty said. He sees such a database as helpful both to individual students as well as to faculty and administration.

Patty also is the staff backbone for Model United Nations, a program that culminates with five days in New York City, participating in sessions held at the U.N., giving students a first-hand chance to wrestle with major global issues. Stacy Taninchev, assistant professor in political science, also is helping Gonzaga students prepare for the late-March event.

“This is a conversation that we absolutely want to be involved with,” Patty said. Last year, Gonzaga’s first in the Model U.N., student delegates represented Denmark. This year, 13 GU students will represent Liberia. More than 300 universities and 5,600 students from 30 nations participate in Model U.N.

Gonzaga students are raising funds for their expenses.
NOTEWORTHY

New Hires
Crystal Clark, counselor, Counseling and Career Assessment; Erik Harrison, general maintenance, Plant Services.

Goodbyes
Raymond Fadeley, director, ISP/ESL; Anna Gonzales, intercultural relations specialist, Unity House; Gail Jennings, senior faculty assistant, Religious Studies; Brynn Murphy, assistant volleyball coach, Athletics; Danae Terhark, international student advisor, ISP.

Promotions/New Assignments
Lisa Corigliano, administrative secretary II, Student Life; Sheri Fitzhum, staff accountant, Athletics; Karen Franks-Harding, recruiting specialist, Career Center; Maribeth Frazier, senior payroll administrator, Payroll; Linda Grigsby, payroll director, Controller’s Office; Kristen Kavon, program specialist, Sport & Physical Education; Shannan Palomba, program assistant II, Special Education; David Rovick, assistant director, Student Activities; Robin Schuster, medical assistant, Health Center.

Anniversaries
Jean Coffey, senior faculty assistant, Math/Physics.

Foley open until 2 a.m.; students cheer (quietly, please)
Students who have requested longer hours at the Foley Center Library are finally getting their wish. Foley will be open until 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday this spring, news that so pleased one group of students they gave a standing ovation.

Onto the late-night shift walks David Morris, a former Gonzaga student and now library assistant. Morris clearly enjoys his work. “Where else can you conduct research that has worldwide impact, read the newest vampire novel, or get together with your classmates to study for the next big test?” Morris asks. His first week working until 2 a.m. started slowly – natural enough for the beginning of the semester. But late-night traffic nearly tripled during the first weekend in the Jesuit House kitchen. The process took most of his Saturday, and finally despite requests from the Jesuit community – Please! More cinnamon rolls! – Br. Steve decided that other things called him more – especially listening to and watching orchestral performances via his computer. He enjoys the music, certainly. But he also savors the enjoyment of seeing the reactions of those in the live audience.

Haiti Teach-in seeks participants
University Ministry Director Father Craig Hightower, S.J., will talk about “Spirituality Sustaining Us,” at the Feb. 22 Teach-In as a benefit for Haiti. Fr. Hightower spent two years there as headmaster at an orphanage school, often staying in the same building where his niece Molly died last month. After the talk several faculty will lead small-group discussions. The open event is to begin at 6:30 p.m. in Wolff Auditorium.

Brother Steve Souza, S.J., doesn’t believe in a pinch of this or that. If a recipe calls for an eighth of a teaspoon, that’s what he measures.

FOCUS ON . . .

Floury hands, a young heart: that’s Brother Steve
Brother Steve Souza, S.J., knows that the Jesuits in the Gonzaga Community for whom he bakes pies most Saturday evenings like a thin crust. A crust that allows the tangy sweet of blueberries to take center stage, flooding the mouth with bold flavor. So light it’s almost transparent, the crust plays a supporting role, on and off stage in a hurry.

Years of baking have taught Br. Steve several tricks. He adds red food coloring to make a brighter filling his cherry pie. For his apple pie, he swears by a brand of water-packed, canned apple that is every bit as good as fresh apples, with no peeling. Pumpkin pie? Substitute Half & Half and 2 percent milk for the condensed milk, and otherwise follow the recipe on the can of Libby’s pumpkin.

But there’s only so much leeway for the Jesuit brother. “I am very exact in what I do. The recipes I use are tested and proven,” says Br. Steve.

His day job is handling the accounting for the bookstore, an assignment that has grown with the addition of the Zag Store. Br. Steve enjoys working close to the students. “I like to think young,” he says. “And I have a lot of work to do, so I need to think young.”

How does an accountant come by baking experience? In his early years in the Society of Jesus, Br. Steve learned to cook and bake at the Jesuit Novitiate in Sheridan, Ore. When he came to Mount St. Michael’s, he cooked for 125 men. “I could prepare breakfast for 100 people in 50 minutes,” Br. Steve said. On Mondays, he prepared all three meals, cooking, baking and cleaning up after the meal.

Until a few years ago, Br. Steve still baked cinnamon rolls every weekend in the Jesuit House kitchen. The process took most of his Saturday, and finally despite
Kazuma began working with the test center while she was an undergraduate. A friend of hers was then the supervisor. “She recruited me to help,” Kazuma said. “After spending my junior year in Florence, I came back to campus and proctored again. When I graduated I was offered a job here as a counselor and my work with the test center continued on the weekend.”

Today, Kazuma continues her work as a counselor at Gonzaga but a mild stroke in 2005 forced her to scale back the hours she devoted to the test center. “We offered the tests almost every weekend,” she said. “I was responsible for training the staff, hiring people to proctor each test, organizing the paperwork, opening the buildings and classrooms, and ensuring that there were proper conditions for the test-takers. Between my counseling job and the test center, I worked about 80 hours a week. But I loved it because I saw it as a community service for not only our Gonzaga students but also for people who had to drive from as far away as Canada or California to take the tests.”

Until 2006, the test center was under the auspices of the Counseling Center, but now the duties are shared among various schools and departments. After Kazuma’s reign, marketing Professor Scott Bozman took the helm and consolidated many of the exams, most of which now are offered in Jepson and the Law School. “There has been discussion about offering undergraduate college entrance exams in the future when they go online, such as the SAT and ACT,” Bozman said. “This could bring thousands of prospective students to campus on weekends when many of our computer labs are underutilized, as well as generate unrestricted cash flow.”

History Professor Eric Cunningham is the current test center supervisor. “Most of my activities involve processing paperwork and mailing exams,” Cunningham said. “We have a team of proctors on the Gonzaga staff who help administer the exams, but there is no single location for the test center. I actually tell people it’s in a small black plastic file case in my office.”

Tests currently offered on the Gonzaga campus are the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test); LSAT (Law School Admission Test); GRE (Graduate Record Examination); and PRAXIS (Teacher Licensure and Certification).

Rudolf Center director, family work with Guatemala’s poor

José Hernandez, director of the Rudolf Fitness Center, spent much of January in Guatemala with his wife and twin sons, Isaiah and Ilan, 11, working and playing with children from poor indigenous families.

Kim Hernandez teaches Spanish at Whitworth College, and the Guatemala trip is a January term program for Whitworth students to improve their Spanish and learn about the Mayan culture. José, a native of Venezuela, offers both leadership and intercultural perspective.

They stayed in Quetzaltenango, or Xela, a city of 250,000. Hernandez describes Xela as being city, town, village and rural, all in one. Much of the housing is primitive, the streets narrow, and the people adapt to traditional handicrafts. One minute you walk past a McDonald’s; two doors later is a traditional bakery with the fragrance of pan dolce, or sweet bread. The food – the beans and rice and soups – reminded José of his childhood. He ate like a local, while the others ate carefully – like tourists.

This is the second winter that José and his family have traveled to Guatemala. Both times, when they packed for the journey, they did say that they would leave their clothes there for local people to use.

“The people are so beautiful. They don’t have much, but they’ll share with you what they have. The first time we went, we realized how fortunate we are to live in such an affluent society as this. There, the culture is that the mom works like crazy, the kids depend on the mom, and the dad comes and goes,” José said. Most children go to school and then work. They have little time to play, and precious little time spent with their parents.

Mornings were spent in Spanish classes. Afternoons were for activities, sightseeing and working with children, ages 4 to 16.

“Seeing how poor they are and how much attention the kids need, we created programs and activities that had to do with academics and recreation,” Jose said. They taught some basic English vocabulary during their three weeks. “But, the bottom line – what they need is love, and someone to go and pay attention to them with a loving approach,” Jose said. In addition, he talked with some of the mothers, urging them to think differently about education, particularly for their daughters.

“I am nobody to change your culture,” he would say, “But it’s OK to get an education.” They have such wonderful kids…You can’t help but to love them, even if just for a day.”

Help at hand for GU web content editors

Gonzaga faculty and staff who are also web content editors now have a new resource at their disposal for common questions related to the content management system: http://blogs.gonzaga.edu/web. There you’ll find articles on topics such as how to keep your content updated, adding images, creating assets, types of training available to you, and how to access the Web Style Guide. There are even videos that show you how to perform certain tasks, including how to navigate the dashboard, edit a new page, create a folder tree or insert a table. If you have any other specific questions related to web content, contact Kim Madsen at ext. 5569 or Sabrina Jones at ext. 6146.

Stockton to be honored during Portland game

Former Zag and Utah Jazz standout John Stockton (1980-84) and former West Valley High School and Michigan State University Coach Jud Heathcoate (GU season ticket holder) will be inducted into the State of Washington Sports Hall of Fame Feb. 4 during the Gonzaga-Portland men’s basketball game, which tips at 8 p.m. Kennel Club founder and Hall of Fame board member Mike Shields (‘84) will install Stockton.