

# A SLICE OF SPIRIT

## NEWSLETTER

FOR GONZAGA UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF

Summer 2010 Volume 10 Issue 9

## Hession, Hernandez offer helping hands, earn spring mission in service awards

The word 'university' brings to mind many different images, typically those of classrooms, labs, dorms and athletics. The forgotten images, however, are of staff waiting on long lines of students; or those left to clean equipment and facilities after the game has long ended. Sometimes the most overlooked images are of staff that comfort stressed students with their simple smile, assuring words or compliments on a job well done.

These images are brought to life by the hard-working staff members who live Gonzaga's mission; people like **Jane Hession**, academic adviser in Gonzaga's School of Business, and **Jose Hernandez**, director of the Rudolf Fitness Center. Both are recipients of this spring's Gonzaga University Outstanding Service in Support of Mission Award. They have shown their outstanding service in the areas of faith, justice, service, leadership and ethics.

Each year, Staff Assembly members hand out a total of four awards, two in the fall and two in the spring to staff members nominated by their peers as an inspiration, community servant, exemplary leader, team player, and a caring and courageous person. Hession and Hernandez are exemplary.

Father **Stephen Hess, S.J.**, who announced the recipients, said Hession's nominator described her as "a mentor and advocate who has championed ideas and procedures to help students achieve their academic and personal



Father Stephen Hess, S.J., presents awards to José Hernandez (left) and Jane Hession.

goals." Accolades were given for her involvement in the School of Business "Mission Mongers" effort that strives to integrate Gonzaga's mission into the School's curriculum.

Hession has advised students for more than 25 years. "Their energy is so refreshing," Hession said. "I feel fortunate that I not only guide them on the best academic decisions to make, but also partner with them on a dedication of shared values." Outside of Gonzaga, Hession serves on various non-profit boards in Spokane.

Hernandez helps students and staff reach goals, maintain a good morale, and encourages

others to live healthy lives. Hernandez was described by his nominator as someone who "goes above and beyond to help people reach their goals...caring, thoughtful and helpful, following up to see if you are happy with your results... a wonderful person."

"It's very humbling and I'm honored to receive this award," said Hernandez. "I'd say it is a surprise also. For me, I don't feel like I do anything special or more than I have to. I just come to work and I do my job. It's simply the way I was raised. People are the most valuable resource and you should treat them the right way."

## Swain's videos serve to sharpen professional skills, cater to employee needs

**Jason Swain**, manager of employee and organizational development, offers a new series of videos called "Back to the Drawing Board" to all GU faculty and staff. The series provides practical and relevant tips employees can use in their professional and personal lives.

"The videos are somewhat similar to the professional development tips we offer in our Human Resources newsletter," Swain said. "We receive

a lot of interest with that section, so we thought we'd take it up a notch and offer them in video format."

With some help from students in assistant Professor **Mike Fitzsimmons'** class, Swain recorded five videos, each focused on a specific topic and varying in length from three to five minutes.

"They're quick watches and easy to apply to

your life," Swain said. The first video, titled "Group Development" will be available the first week of July on Gonzaga's Web site at [www.gonzaga.edu/humanresources](http://www.gonzaga.edu/humanresources). Swain plans to promote the videos on a monthly basis starting in July through Gonzaga's Morning Mail system.

To learn more about "Back to the Drawing Board," contact Swain at [swain@gonzaga.edu](mailto:swain@gonzaga.edu) or at ext. 6124.

## Murphy's quiet, effective leadership recognized

**C**huck Murphy has been Gonzaga's voice of reason, a steady force during years of tension and transition, rapid growth and tough economic times. He's a man who always presents himself with dignity and humility. He's a giver, a servant leader exemplified.

Gonzaga Prep recognized Gonzaga University's vice president for finance this spring with its highest honor, the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Award, for his long-standing service to the school, the community and his workplace.

"Chuck Murphy is an outstanding alumnus (1969) who has had an enormous impact on the financial health and well-being of our school," said Gonzaga Prep President Al Falkner. "Chuck is a man who is rarely in the spotlight, but whose impact on Gonzaga Prep and Gonzaga University has been truly significant."

"I have had the privilege of working with Chuck closely for most of my (20-year) tenure at Gonzaga," said Gonzaga University President Dr. **Thayne McCulloh**. "Gonzaga and Chuck are immutably tied. He has

worked for a number of different leaders, but his loyalty to Gonzaga is singular. He is committed to making Gonzaga a better place. He has seen a lot and knows a lot about things critical to making this place run well. The fact that he has been able to loan some of that to Gonzaga Prep is testament to that. He's a good guy."

Murphy has served two terms on the G-Prep board, was chairman of the finance committee for many years, founding chairman of the Foundation board, and perhaps most importantly, was one of the founders of the Fair Share tuition program.

"Gonzaga Prep was at a crossroads when we chose to start Fair Share in 1992 and Chuck Murphy has ably and quietly helped us navigate through some choppy waters," Falkner said. "What truly sets Chuck apart from all of the other wonderful people who support Gonzaga Prep is his selfless dedication to our school."

Murphy graduated from Gonzaga University in 1973, worked as a certified public accountant, and began his long tenure at GU in 1978 as controller, and since 1985 has served as vice president. He is Gonzaga's longest standing executive.



*Murphy has served as vice president since 1985.*

Said Murphy, "The award is something I never expected, but it is great to be recognized by your alma mater."

A true Zag.

## AROUND CAMPUS

- The Department of Nursing hosts the 4th Annual Nursing in the Age of Complexity conference July 18-20 here on campus. Designed for nurses, educators and health care professionals, the conference focuses on complex science-inspired processes that foster learning, creativity and engagement. For more information, visit [www.plexusinstitute.org/ontheedge](http://www.plexusinstitute.org/ontheedge) or contact **Dale Abendroth** at ext. 6647.
- Gonzaga's MBA program ranked No. 58 in the nation for part-time programs by U.S. News & World Report, 2011 edition. This marks the first year the program has

been included in the rankings and Gonzaga was one of only four programs in the state and the only program in Eastern Washington to be included.

- The brickwork on the Johnston Family Mall from the St. Al's Plaza east to the DeSmet Circle (at Standard) is being replaced, and a gray edge is being added for decorative appeal. Many of the original red bricks were installed when the Mall was created in 1984, and had deteriorated from the bottom up.
- Gonzaga's Marketing & Communications and Development staffs recently earned the Spokane MarCom

Association's highest award, The Dussault Award, for its 2009 "Share Inspiration" fundraising campaign. GU MarCom also was honored with the association's annual Spark Awards for excellence for Report of the President and At A Glance brochure, and merit for Gonzaga Quarterly.

- Security Dispatcher **Mike Hamblin** was honored in May as the 2010 Bloomsday Volunteer of the Year. Hamblin has served on the organizing committee for the past 26 years, setting up the reunion area in the Clock Tower Meadow at Riverfront Park.

## NOTEWORTHY

### New Hires:

**Heidi Carlson**, administrative assistant, Office of the President; **Robin Parks**, registrar, Law School; **Kay Bachman**, project manager, ITS; **Christopher Becker**, user services technician, CCNSS; **Patricia Leahy-Charles**, legal secretary, Law Clinic; **Matthew Sumrak**, custodian, Plant Services; **Jane Button**, assistant budget director, Finance; **Donnie Daniels**, assistant men's basketball coach, Athletics.

### Goodbyes:

**Leon Rice**, assistant basketball coach, Athletics; **Robin Anderson**, accounting assistant, Controller's Office; **Kenneth Bubb**, lecturer, Classical Languages; **Helen Donigan**, professor, Law; **Carrie Elley**, program assistant, Faculty Services; **Lawana Embrey**, lecturer, Education-Leadership & Administration; **Michael Leiserson**, professor, Political Science; **Anthony Martinez**, custodian, Plant Services; **Todd McAlpine**, assistant professor, Physics; **Amy Merrill Willis**, assistant professor, Religious Studies; **Irene Messoloras**, assistant professor, Music; **Kelsey Off**, financial aid counselor, Financial Aid; **Joseph**

**Pozsgai**, custodian, Plant Services; **James Schlaich**, HVAC tech, Plant Services; **Fr. Michael Woods**, assistant professor, Religious Studies; **Peter Zani**, lecturer, Biology; **Elizabeth Fleming**, government and regional development officer, University Relations; **Heidi Mitchell**, program assistant, Communication and Leadership Studies; **Sandra Wilson**, associate dean, Professional Studies; **Dale de Viveiros**, director, ITSS.

### Promotions/New Assignments:

**Shane Hatcher**, director of regional development, University Relations; **Dori Sonntag**, director of development operations, University Relations; **Steve Hertz**, associate athletic director, Major Gifts; **Astrid Kingsford**, assistant to the associate vice president, University Relations; **Joan Cassano**, strategy coordinator, University Relations; **Lada Kurpis**, associate professor, School of Business.

### Anniversaries:

**30 Gary Nicolai**, carpenter V, Plant Services; **Laurence Perkins**, data networking manager, CCNSS.

**25 Susan Shinnick**, secretary/receptionist, Financial Aid.

**20 Julie Zabinski**, custodian V, Plant Services.

**15 Janet Snowden**, custodian shift supervisor IV, Plant Services; **Einar Thorarinsson**, head men's soccer coach, Athletics.

**10 Richard Smith**, HVAC technician III, Plant Services; **Shannon Strahl**, associate athletic director compliance, Athletics.

**5 Robert Finn**, director of alumni association, University Relations; **Marzena Kosinski**, budget enrollment specialist, Professional Studies; **Karen Sandall**, program coordinator, DREAM.

### Cradle Call:

**Melissa Wessman**, periodicals/microforms/computer lab assistant, Foley Library, and her husband Daniel are the parents of Sarah, born May 30.