Gonzaga-in-Zambia reaches five-year mark, starts School of Education program

Zambian parish priest Father Dominic Sandu arrived at the Spokane International Airport on a cold January evening, met by a crowd of students and staff wearing African apparel and singing a warm welcome – just as Gonzaga students are met when they arrive in Zambezi, Zambia.

Father Dominic spent much of February on campus in a working sabbatical. His official purpose was to help prepare students for traveling in Zambia this summer. He spoke to students, staff and faculty all over campus, sharing his experiences as a leader in a place with few resources.

At his home near Zambezi, Father Dominic is responsible for three parishes and 80 villages. In one parish, 300 people are bedridden from HIV/AIDS. Illiteracy and hunger are pressing needs. He is the first African priest many of his parishioners have known. In Zambia, the Catholic Church is in transition from being a missionary church to a local church, which is why “Father Self-Reliance” is one of Father Dominic’s nicknames. His primary message to Gonzaga students is that Zambians must learn the skills to be self-reliant in their changing world.

Gonzaga’s Zambia programs are entering their fifth year with the addition of a third program this summer. Professor Deborah Booth and six students from the School of Education will spend four weeks at the Charles Lwanga College of Education, in the southern Monze District of Zambia. Students will observe and teach at the college and in rural schools.

Raymond Reyes, chief diversity officer and associate academic vice president, will accompany the group to work with Charles Lwanga on deepening its Jesuit curriculum. English is the language of empowerment and hope in Zambia. So this summer Mary Jeannot, director of Teaching English as a Second Language, will be at Chimfunshi, a renowned chimpanzee refuge and a Gonzaga-in-Zambia site, exploring how the TESL program could teach basic English for the staff, their families and the local women’s center.

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“...We are going over as engineers to figure out what projects might come about in the future. The sky’s the limit,” said Jillian Cadwell.

Returning to Chimfunshi for a second year is Bill Ettinger, along with Ann-Scott Ettinger, to teach a course exploring the biodiversity of the area.

Visions of Zambia programs evolved at 35,000 feet, still flying high

Mark Bodamer, associate professor of psychology, first visited Chimfunshi in 2002, before he worked at Gonzaga. He returned each summer with students from Pacific University where he then taught. On one of his flights back to the U.S., Bodamer remembers thinking that Chimfunshi was an opportunity best suited to a Jesuit university. (He had taught previously at John Carroll University.)

Bodamer became a visiting professor for Gonzaga in 2005, and travelled to Zambia the next summer with students and Sima Thorpe, CCASL director and assistant dean of Student Life. The local priest was being transferred to Zambezi. He and a second priest came to Chimfunshi to ask if Gonzaga students could help serve the people of Zambezi – more than 300 miles to the west.

Bodamer and a few students took a road trip and saw potential. Zambezi had a convent, but its nuns had been reassigned, leaving insufficient help for a Catholic Youth Center. Josh Armstrong, then newly named director of the Comprehensive Leadership Program, and Thorpe led the Zambezi program in 2007. Armstrong has led the program since. The Zambezi program focuses on servant leadership and intercultural competence. Students have worked on literacy projects within a local elementary school. They also help support local health-care and a nearby women’s center.
Core curriculum committee sets goals for student learning

The adage, “Some things get better with age,” definitely holds true for Gonzaga’s Core Curriculum Committee. Formed nearly two years ago, these 15 committee members have dedicated themselves to identifying the characteristics and competencies all Gonzaga graduates should possess and how the Core contributes to that process.

After surveying faculty and staff across campus during the 2007-08 academic year, committee members developed a set of four overarching goals on which they hoped to obtain feedback from the Gonzaga community. To do that, members formed five subcommittees last fall that comprised nearly 90 staff, students, parents, alumni and administrators. “We wanted to ensure we had a good cross-section of people on our sub-committees to get a diverse perspective,” said Patricia Terry, associate dean of arts and sciences. “Our goal was to make this process as grass-roots as possible and develop tangible, attainable goals.”

According to David Boose, associate professor of biology, the process was a huge success. “Each subcommittee met four times last fall semester,” he said. “We synthesized information, discussed suggestions, made revisions and arrived at a consensus with the baccalaureate goals document.”

The focus of the committee has been to examine the Core Curriculum and determine what role it plays in supporting the four goals. “It’s important to note that our focus is on the 31 credits the University requires that each student take,” Terry said. “It’s been professionally rewarding work for all of us because we have genuine interest in how our courses contribute to the formation of our students.”

For Boose, being on the committee has been intellectually stimulating and an opportunity for collaboration among departments and schools. “This is a framework that prompts creative thinking about how to integrate the core and majors, academics and non-academics.”

Of course the committee’s work is far from done. “We hope to really drill into the four goals and answer the question, ‘How do we know when we’re achieving our goals?’” Terry said. “We will also have a review mechanism in place to make sure that these goals still apply as time marches on.”

Terry and Boose presented the baccalaureate goals to the Academic Council the last week of February to move forward with the goals as a framework for evaluating the current Core and any potential alternatives.

To read the baccalaureate goals in their entirety, as well as previous drafts of the goals, the process the committee has followed, meeting minutes or reference documents, go to www.gonzaga.edu/core.

Alumni Relations, Sponsored Research complete moves, more on the horizon

One thing we know for sure: Alumni Relations has moved out of the Crosby House and into the Huetter Mansion. Public Relations Photographer Jennifer Raudebaugh and Bud Shepherd, a contractor working for the President’s Office in developing a graduate scholarship office, have also moved to Huetter.

As the dominoes fall, Sponsored Research and Programs have moved from College Hall 137 to Crosby House, along with Dan Bubb, outcomes assessment coordinator.

The main floor of the Crosby House will be open for viewing of Crosby memorabilia. Huetter’s main floor will be used for internal and some external events. College Hall 137 will be converted back into a classroom.

Other moves being pondered include: Payroll, the Controller’s Office, and Accounts Payable to the first floor of the Human Resources building. Student Academic Support Services may then potentially move to the first floor of College Hall where the Controller’s office is now. Also, potentially, Admissions would then use the offices vacated by Payroll as a way to expand and co-locate some of its counselors. Moving Academic Support to the first floor could be a step in co-locating as many of the student service functions in a central location. This move would also free up space for additional Arts and Sciences offices.

“In this regard, the hope is to create enough space to be able to bring Modern Languages faculty back to College Hall so that they would also be more closely located. Part of the department is located on third floor of College Hall, with the rest located at 511 E. Sharp,” said Ken Sammons, who oversees space allocation.

AROUND CAMPUS

- Put on your dancing shoes for Gonzaga’s annual Faculty/Staff Dinner Dance on March 6 in the Globe Room of Cataldo Hall. The event runs from 6:30-midnight, features a live band, dance lessons, great food and drink, and of course, lots of friends. Pandini’s also is open that evening for you to take a dancing break. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Susie Prusch at pruschs@gonzaga.edu.
- Be sure to take a time-out before May 11 and visit the Hoop It Up exhibit in Foley Library’s Rare Book Reading Room. Thanks to the collaboration between Gonzaga University Archives and the Athletics department, more than 150 items are on display, including vintage videos, really big basketball shoes and even the championship surfboard from the 2009 Maui Invitational (see photo). Visit weekdays 9 a.m. to noon, 1-4 p.m. or on Saturdays from 1-4 p.m.
- While you’re at Foley Library check out the READ wall, with posters of familiar faces holding some of their favorite books. It’s the fourth annual READ poster exhibit, located on the main floor. According to Kelly Jenks, instruction coordinator librarian, “Students, faculty and staff are all invited to make their own READ posters or write responses on the wall. It’s always an interesting, fun and inspirational project.”
Training you want when you want it

Jason Swain, manager of employee and organizational development in Human Resources, wanted to make sure he was meeting the training and professional development needs of the Gonzaga community. Last fall, after Swain led focus groups with several departments across campus, he discovered a common theme. “People told me the classes were valuable and that they wished they could attend more,” he said. “The primary issue for them was finding a time that worked with their schedules.”

To alleviate the problem in 2010, Swain plans to simply turn things around: Instead of Human Resources scheduling the courses and inviting people to enroll, employees can now dictate when they are available to enroll in a course.

Focus on . . . Jim White (he met Carson)

Jim White grew up an East Coast boy, but it was a stint as a summer camp counselor in Carnation, Wash., that turned him into a Pacific Northwest man.

“After I graduated from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., a friend of mine asked if I wanted to work as a camp counselor in this small western Washington town,” he said. “I’d never been west of Pittsburgh, so I thought why not. I loved it, ended up working there two summers and even met my future wife there.”

White’s cross-country drive from one Washington to the other that second summer was full of adventure. He and his friend drove the infamous Route 66 to Los Angeles and had placed a phone call to Ed McMahon (yes, that Ed McMahon), who was also an alumnus of the Catholic University of America, in an attempt to get seats at a Tonight Show while they would be in L.A. “His office actually called us back and had some tickets held for us,” White said. “We met Johnny Carson and Ed backstage and had VIP seats for the show.”

White, who became Gonzaga’s director of financial aid Jan. 4, previously worked 22 years in Seattle University’s financial aid department, where he began as a counselor and was steadily promoted to assistant director, director and ultimately the associate provost for enrollment management.

Citrix and Blackboard undergo critical updates to ensure reliability, consistency

To many of us, the work undertaken by our Information Technology department is pretty much a mystery. There’s talk of “servers and drivers,” neither of which have anything to do with tennis or golf. No wonder so many of us just want Citrix and Blackboard to work when we need them.

And thanks to the recent update of Citrix and the upcoming revision to Blackboard, faculty and staff can breathe a sigh of relief that both systems will continue to meet their needs. “Citrix was originally developed 10 years ago to work with Banner,” said Greg Francis, director of Central Computing. “Over time it’s given employees the ability to work from home in a secure, encrypted environment and can also be used on-campus to use certain applications, like Novell Web.”

According to Francis, the impetus behind Citrix’s update was the threat of H1N1. “Our task was to make it possible for each employee to be able to work from home, so we needed to increase our licenses and our environment,” he said. “From an end-user standpoint, the changes may not seem very significant, but the architecture that our team created made it possible to build out the infrastructure. It was an immense undertaking from an infrastructure standpoint, like Novell Web.”

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On the Blackboard side of things, the plan is to move to Version 9 by the start of Summer Session I. According to Francis, there are currently two separate systems, one that is physically located on the main campus and one for the School of Professional Studies that has an off-campus location. “This update will merge the two systems into one and it will be hosted off-site,” Francis said. “To the user, there won’t be much difference whether it’s hosted on- or off-site, but for us it will help ensure reliable delivery. For example, when we lose power, Blackboard will still work, which is obviously critical for our online programs.”

The Blackboard update was also part of the planning response to H1N1, in order to allow faculty to teach through Blackboard should campus be shut down. “The plan is to train faculty on the new features beginning around the middle of March,” Francis said.

Noteworthy

New Hires
Allan Allen, assistant volleyball coach, Athletics; Whitney Brooks, program specialist, Student Activities; Lee Edstrom, groundskeeper, Plant Services; Geneva Finley, administrative secretary II, Stewardship; Jacqueline Fulton, senior faculty assistant, Religious Studies; Daniel Gilbert, assistant director, Athletic Facilities; Jason Pittman, associate head coach, Women’s Soccer; James White, director, Financial Aid; Cindy Arlt, PA III, Nursing; Michelle Sanders, fixed term medical assistant, Health Center.

Goodbyes
Stephen Carrozzi, assistant budget manager, Finance; Janet Hacker-Brumley, special collections assistant, Library Services; Shawn McGavran, custodian, Plant Services; Sharon Tyrell, associate director, Sponsored Research & Programs.

Promotions/New Assignments
Kathy Simmons, development assistant II, University Relations/DRIS; Amber McKenzie, interim associate director, International Student Programs.

Anniversaries
30 Robert Aitken, project coordinator, Plant Services
15 Del Skillingstad, S.J., executive assistant, Academic Vice President’s Office
5 Edward Fitzgerald, custodial shift supervisor, Plant Services; Joel Guzman, custodian II, Plant Services; Rozalyn Sippel, custodian II, Plant Services.

Training you want when you want it

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To alleviate the problem in 2010, Swain plans to simply turn things around: Instead of Human Resources scheduling the courses and inviting people to enroll, employees can now dictate when they are available to enroll in a course.

“It makes a lot of sense,” Swain said. “People can go to the website (www.gonzaga.edu/eod), find the course they are interested in and let us know. Following each course description, there is a link which says, ‘Please click here to notify us of your interest in this course.’ Clicking on this link will automatically open an e-mail to Human Resources. Once a minimum number of participants have expressed interest in a given course, we’ll contact each of them to set up a day and time that works for everyone.”

Swain emphasizes that Human Resources workshops are available to any benefits-eligible employee, including faculty, staff and administrators. He also wanted to remind the community that he is available to provide customized consulting services for intact teams and departments.

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Gonzaga cracks, maintains Top 25 ranking; captures 6th straight WCC title

Top 25 is no longer a domain reserved just for the Gonzaga men’s basketball team. Gonzaga’s women’s basketball team cracked the Associated Press Top 25 on Feb. 1, and has remained there throughout the month of February. The Zags are currently ranked 19, riding a 16-game win streak heading into the WCC tournament March 6-9 in Las Vegas. They completed league play 14-0 and captured their sixth straight WCC league title.

Only one other time in school history have the women been ranked in the Top 25, coming in at 25 on Feb. 25, 2005 en route to a 28-4 overall record.

Young Zags have 20 home baseball games

Coming off its first West Coast Conference baseball championship last spring, Gonzaga enters the new season picked fourth in the preseason coaches poll. Center fielder Drew Heid was named to the preseason all-conference team. He returns along with last year’s team-leader in home runs (9)outfielder Mark Castellitto, and reliever Cody Martin, who tied for second in the league with six saves. Martin was named to the Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. The Zags are young this season, returning only three position starters and three pitchers. San Diego is picked to win the league.

The Zags opened the season with February weekend tournaments in Tucson and Peoria, Ariz., and are off to Shreveport, La., Lubbock and San Antonio, Texas, for games through mid-March. Gonzaga opens the first of 20 home games at the Patterson Baseball complex, March 15-16 against Brigham Young.

Other home stands include:

Friday, March 5 – First Round
Women No. 5 vs. No. 8 – Noon
Women No. 6 vs. No. 7 – 30 mins after Game 1
Men No. 5 vs. No. 8 – 6 p.m.
Men No. 6 vs. No. 7 – 30 mins after Game 1

Saturday, March 6 – Quarterfinals
Women Winner 5/8 vs. No. 4 – Noon
Women Winner 6/7 vs. No. 3 – 30 mins after Game 1
Men Winner 5/8 vs. No. 4 – 6 p.m.
Men Winner 6/7 vs. No. 3 – 30 mins after Game 1

Sunday, March 7 -- Semifinals
Women Winner 5/8/4 vs. No. 1- 11:30 a.m.
Women Winner 6/7/3 vs. No. 2 – 30 mins after Game 1
Men Winner 5/8/4 vs. No. 1 - 5:30 p.m. (ESPNU)
Men Winner 6/7/3 vs. No. 2 - 7:30 PM (ESPN 2)

Monday, March 8
Women’s Championship - Noon (ESPNU)
Men’s Championship - 6 p.m. (ESPN)