President expects great conversations in year ahead

President Thayne McCulloh opened the Fall Faculty Conference by welcoming Academic Vice President Patricia O'Connell Killen and by outlining his priorities in the coming year. These include:

- supporting Dr. Killen in her transition to Gonzaga;
- engaging the administration in a search for efficiencies that will allow more resources to flow toward student needs;
- and preparing for the upcoming fundraising campaign which will be linked, Dr. McCulloh said, to the University’s 125th anniversary in 2012 and will center around not bricks and mortar but students and ideas.

Dr. McCulloh reminded his audience at the Martin Centre that “at the heart of our mission is, or should be, our students and our faculty…. We, as a Jesuit university, willingly accept the burden and challenge of seeking excellence in all aspects of our work. Our activities at Gonzaga cannot be seen, if we are to be successful, merely as jobs, but must be chosen as a vocation. We are called to the magis, the even greater good.”

He spoke of the need for ongoing conversation among faculty and across the University to determine how Gonzaga best can be a Jesuit and Catholic University.

Dr. McCulloh announced that, in the wake of the departure of Fr. Stephen Hess, S.J., from Gonzaga, he will convene a University mission advisory group this fall to be co-chaired by Sister Mary Garvin and Father Steve Kuder, S.J., and to include faculty, staff, the Jesuit community and University Ministry representatives. The group’s charge will be to create and foster opportunities for faculty and staff to understand how their work can be animated by the Jesuit intellectual tradition, and to understand the role of a Catholic university.

Drs. McCulloh and Killen each touched on the ongoing revision of the core curriculum. A workshop in July gave 30 faculty the chance to engage with important questions about the core and how Gonzaga prepares its students for the next stage of their journey. The workshop will be repeated this fall.

This year’s freshman enrollment is estimated at 1,121 students as the semester opens. The class brings to Gonzaga the strongest academic record of any class. Dr. McCulloh said that the administration “will continue to manage the undergraduate population downward slightly” even while looking for growth in the University’s graduate programs.

McCulloh also voiced his oft-mentioned emphasis on cooperation and collaboration with and among his faculty and administrative colleagues. “The most significant things we have done as a University, we have done together,” he said.

Dr. Killen emphasized the need for ongoing faculty conversation on several fronts: in articulating what it means to be a Jesuit Catholic institution in our own distinctive way; ongoing pedagogical and scholarly conversations, and finally conversations about the core curriculum, accreditation and assessment, and about preparation for the fundraising campaign.

“That’s who you are as a faculty,” she said, “A community of ongoing conversations.”
New roles evolving for president’s staff

Earl “Marty” Martin and Mike Herzog have taken on new administrative roles over the past year as Dr. Thayne McCullough has reorganized administration.

Martin is executive vice president, Herzog chief of staff. Spirit asked them to outline their duties to help the community understand their new roles.

The EVP oversees Information Technology Services, Plant Services, Human Resources, Campus Store, Financial Aid, Admission, DREAM, the EO officer, Faculty Services, and Mail Service and Delivery. This combines all of the functions that have traditionally reported to the VP for Administration and Planning, some functions that have reported to the vice president for finance, and Admissions (in the past it has reported to the President or the AVP).

“We must bring additional resources to bear on the principal project of educating our students by becoming both more efficient and more resourceful throughout the organization,” Martin said.

The chief of staff position evolved from Herzog’s role as Senior Faculty Advisor to the AVP when Dr. McCullough held that position. “It broadened to Chief of Staff as the president discovered specific challenges and tasks in which he could best be served by someone with institutional memory and a faculty perspective,” Herzog said.

His duties for the president include offering advice and counsel, assisting with the development of internal and external messages and communications, particularly in facilitating communications between the president and the faculty, as well as between the AVP and the faculty, and generally providing a faculty perspective to the work of the president and the AVP. He also represents the president in supporting positive relationships with Trustees and Regents, acts as his informal ombudsman, and functions as presidential liaison with various internal groups, while serving as the Accreditation Liaison Officer for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Enrollment projections show slight increase

While the University will not release official fall enrollment figures until the 30th day of the semester, Registrar and Assistant Academic Vice President Joanta Kozyra Weber estimates Gonzaga will enroll about 7,750 students when all registration activity for the Fall semester is finalized, similar to last fall’s count. Freshman enrollment appears to be slightly over 1,100, and transfers are about 150, Kozyra Weber said.

“While many institutions throughout higher education are struggling to achieve their optimal numbers, Gonzaga is holding strong,” Kozyra Weber said. “Part of that is because our retention of students has been so solid over the past several years (91-92 percent range).”

Undergraduate enrollment should be similar to last year’s 4,729. Biology, chemistry, and other pre-med disciplines, as well as communications, psychology, business, broadcasting and journalism continue to be very popular undergraduate classes. Gonzaga is seeing a significant increase in engineering majors; reaching an all-time high of approximately 640 students. Early enrollment reports indicate that graduate student enrollment will show an increase of about 50 students.

Green Dot Initiative seeks to squelch inappropriate behavior

Gonzaga’s Green Dot Initiative, initiated this fall, is a comprehensive approach to violence prevention that capitalizes on the power of peer and cultural influence across all levels of the socio-ecological model. Green Dot is any attitude, behavior, choice or word that counteracts a red-dot of personal violence against someone by communicating intolerance for sexual violence, interpersonal violence, stalking and other similar activities as well as promoting a safer environment for everyone.

The program targets all campus community members as potential bystanders. It seeks to engage them through awareness, education and skills-practice in proactive behaviors that establish intolerance of violence as the norm, as well as reactive interventions in high-risk situations.

The attitudes and values that lead people to abusive and disrespectful behavior, such as that reflected in sexual assault, are unacceptable in our community and culture. The program will challenge every member of the Gonzaga community to actively work to counteract acts of sexual violence and make the prevention of further violence a personal priority.
New magazine shows its bright face this month

With the fall issue, Gonzaga Magazine replaces Gonzaga Quarterly as the University’s flagship publication. Editors hope you and other readers find stories that make you think, “Wow, I didn’t know that.” Dissemination is expected by Sept. 20, with a new issue every three months.

The magazine’s mission is to engage, educate and inspire members of the Gonzaga community. Editors are always interested in story ideas, particularly those that deal with academics, faith, service, student life and community.

All faculty and staff members are slated to receive a print version of Gonzaga Magazine. If you would prefer to receive Gonzaga Magazine online, please e-mail editors at Gonzaga@gonzaga.edu. You’ll be sent a link to the online version every issue. And the online version offers extra features not available in the print version.

New Hiress:
Vitaly Gulov, custodian, Plant; Yevgeniy Leksunkin, general maintenance, Plant; Jimmy Magnuson, groundskeeper, Plant; Rudy Mondragon, intercultural relations specialist, Unity Multicultural Education Center; Jason Schnagl, computer systems analyst, Systems Administration; Richard Thompson, general maintenance, Plant; Senada Durgutovic, housekeeper, Jesuit House; Amanda Oeser, program manager, University Relations; Katelyn Arnett, admissions counselor, Admission; Randi Cadena, accounting assistant I, Controller; Nermima Kelic, custodian, Plant; Mike Kelsey, financial aid counselor, Financial Aid; Patricia Killen, academic vice president, AVP’s Office; Scott Lartz, staff accountant, Controller; Corrina O’Brien, admissions counselor, Admission; Stephanie Heitner, administrative assistant, Plant; Ben Jackman, custodian, Plant.

Goodbyes:
Ben Cramer, residence hall director, Housing; Sharon Day, registrar, Law School; Ken Frybarger, groundskeeper IV, Plant; Michael Kelly, academic records evaluator/COT II, Admission; Steve Mencarini, residence hall director, Housing; William Randall, carpenter V, Plant; Melissa Rehm, custodian I, Plant-Arena; Susan Shinnick, secretary/receptionist, Financial Aid; Georgerina Ward, interim director of field experience, School of Education; Kathleen Casey, program assistant II, UMEC; Tana Dugan, program assistant III, Student Employment; Jennifer Ruadebaugh, photographer, Marketing & Communications; Kristen Churney, program assistant III, Registrar; Brooke Feehan, assistant, Campus Services; Whitney Lyons, financial aid counselor, Financial Aid; Matt Sumrak, custodian, Plant; Alex Vallandry, academic records evaluator, Admission.

New Positions/Promotions:
Kerrie Morrow, program assistant III, Academic Services; Dustin DuVanich, director of annual campaign, University Relations; Maira Perez, financial aid counselor, Financial Aid; Stephanie Rockwell, assistant director of development marketing, University Relations; Barbara Kolbet, assistant to the vice president, Mission; Ron Large, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Sara Updeke, secretary/receptionist, Financial Aid; Scott Charleboix, program assistant II, Financial Aid; Marty Martin, executive vice president; Thayne McCulloch, president; Jim White, dean, Student Financial Services; Cory Adams, program assistant III, Registrar; Raymond Reyes, assistant academic vice president/director, Center for Global Engagement.

Cradle Call:
Peggy Sue Loroz, Professor in Business and her husband Michael recently had a baby boy. Luke was born Aug. 6.

Anniversaries:
Johnny Coffey, locksmith V, Plant; Steve Hertz, associate athletic director, Athletics; Gary Nicolai, carpenter V, Plant; Larry Perkins, data networking manager, CCNSS
Lori Engle, buyer, Plant; Julie Jabinski, custodian V, Plant
Mac McCandless, architect, Plant; Janet Snowder, custodian shift supervisor IV, Plant; Einar Thorarinsson, head men’s soccer coach, Athletics
Maureen Ductos, budget officer/events coordinator, Business;
Tom Hale, warehouse, Plant; Richard Smith, HVAC tech III, Plant; Shannon Strahl, associate athletic director-compliance, Athletics
JoAnne Bruce, customer service assistant; Marny Lombard, senior editor/writer, Marketing & Communications; Marty Martin, executive vice president; Cindy Perry, program assistant II, University Ministry; Ron Prindle, assistant professor, Communication Arts; Jim Sutterman, locksmith II, Plant; Bob Finn, director of alumni relations, University Relations; Marzena Kosinski, budget enrollment specialist, Professional Studies; Karen Sandall, program coordinator, DREAM.

Deborah Smith is hitting her stroke, thanks to a little help from her Portuguese water dog Pip, who swims at her side and nudges her when her pace slows.

“It’s nice to have a swim companion without having to make a date with someone,” Smith said. “Pip is always ready to go.”

Smith, who is a senior lecturer in nursing and a nurse practitioner, also sees Gonzaga’s nursing program hitting its stride.

“Our first-time pass rate for national boards is outstanding, and its known nationally; just one indicator of the success we’ve enjoyed,” Smith said. “All but one graduate in the last five years have passed on first attempt.”

Meanwhile, work is ongoing to develop a doctor of nurse practice program. “We know that by 2015 that a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) will be required to work as a nurse practitioner,” said Mary Sue Gorski, who served through last spring as nursing chair.

“The Gonzaga Academic Council, in fall 2010, will consider the Department of Nursing’s proposal to implement and start admitting students into a DNP program by fall 2011.”

Smith is excited, a common state of being for this multi-talented woman who holds a doctorate in nurse practice from Case Western University’s flagship publication. Editors hope you will enjoy, find stories that make you think, “Wow, I didn’t know that.” Dissemination is expected by Sept. 20, with a new issue every three months.

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Debbie Smith competes in the swim portion of triathlons with the Law School’s Lisa Bradley (run) and nurse practitioner graduate Joan Zimmer (bike), when she’s not just swimming for fun with companion Pip (above).
Safe travels

Gonzaga Locksmith Johnny Coffey was on the spot when movers loaded up the 5,000-pound safe from the old controller’s office for its move via boom arm to its new home in the Plan Center Building, where the controller’s office now resides.

Coffey is a safe expert. He has collected 32 of them, in various sizes and shapes. He has traveled the country researching safes. Gonzaga’s appears to have been built in 1898, and has Gonzaga College emblazoned on the door. Since its purchase at the turn of last century, it had never left the first floor of College Hall . . . until now. It had occupied its spot in College Hall 110 for a long time. It originally was placed there because that was the personal quarters of the Jesuit superior, campus architect and GU historian Mac McCandless said.

Coffey said the safe itself would probably “go for around $32,000” on the traders market today. But rest assured it’s not going anywhere soon. It’s a piece of Gonzaga history.

September home games

Men’s soccer
9/29 Portland, 3 p.m.
10/1 Santa Clara, 2 p.m.

Women’s soccer
9/3 Irvine, 4 p.m.
9/10 Colorado, 4 p.m.
9/12 Denver, 1 p.m.
9/24 USC, 4 p.m.
9/26 Portland State, 1 p.m.

Women’s volleyball
9/17 Wyoming, 7 p.m.
9/18 Seattle U, Noon
9/18 Idaho, 7 p.m.

Two truly loyal Zags earn Sladich Awards

Dale deViveiros, recently retired director of Technological Education Services, and Rick Jones, longtime controller and associate vice president for finance, were honored in July as Harry H. Sladich Loyalty and Service Award winners. deViveiros worked 41 years in theater, broadcasting and instructional technology. His willingness to change roles, stay positive and grateful for his resources, and mentor others were impressive, said Chuck Murphy, vice president for finance who presented the awards. Jones has spent 32 years at Gonzaga, and will retire this month. He became controller in 1985 and ushered in an integrated, online accounting system that is the financial and administrative backbone of the University today. He was always the first one to work in the morning, and spent whatever hours necessary to get the job done right, Murphy said. The awards were presented at the annual Trustees and Regents meeting.

Spiffing up facilities keep Plant crews hopping, buildings updated

For those of you who lived in Catherine-Monica when you were students here, you’ll be happy to know all the beds and curtains were replaced this summer, along with several other improvements to CM. Madonna was repainted, new windows and kitchenettes were installed in Madonna and Welch halls. Roncalli and Crimont got new beds.

Other summer improvements included new Martin Centre fieldhouse, pavilion and pool lighting. A new physics lab was built in Herak. Two new offices were added in Hughes with small lab renovation on the lower level.

Plans are in place to convert the former Controller’s Office into space for Academic Support Services. Modern Languages will replace ASS on the third floor of College Hall. Admissions will inherit the former Payroll Office. Plant is creating a technologically enhanced Learning Environment for University-wide use in a portion of the fourth floor of Tilford. It will introduce new concepts in both technology and flexible seating designed to facilitate teaching/learning styles.