Conference on hate studies draws the world to our door

Gonzaga’s Second International Conference on Hate Studies to be held April 6-9 promises to be truly a global event. Scholars, activists, professors and writers – more than 70 strong – are coming from Pakistan, Malaysia and Taiwan; from the Netherlands, Australia and South Korea, from Tehran and Berlin, Paris and Edinburgh, and all over the United States to address the conference, which will be held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino.

Two priorities stand out for conference organizer John Shuford, director of Gonzaga’s Institute for Hate Studies: “Advancing the field of hate studies, which is still in its early stages, and convening those – across disciplines, professions, time zones, and national boundaries – who are concerned with understanding and responding to hate.”

And second, “Informing a future hate studies curriculum, in hopes that such a curriculum can be created at the University; GU already offers classes in this area, and a hate studies degree program would be the world’s first,” Shuford said.

Overall about 400 attendees are expected at the April conference. Organizers are working with the schools and academic departments to develop 25 GU student scholarships to the conference.

“Seeing it all come together and working with my colleagues – here at GU, through the institute, and around the world, has been a huge thrill,” Shuford says. “It’s been a staggering amount of work for all of us, but it’s a labor of love too. It’s always exciting to go from idea to implementation, and much of the fun happens, and passion unfolds, on the way there.” Shuford has taught philosophy at Gonzaga since 2008.

Let’s put a human face on a few of the speakers: A Palestinian physician, professor and widower lost three daughters to violence in 2009 when Israeli tanks shelled the family’s home in Gaza. Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish now lives in Toronto with his five surviving children. He promotes peace in the name of his three deceased daughters, authored a memoir titled “I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor’s Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity,” and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Abuelaish is the conference keynote speaker.

Hannah Rosenthal’s father survived the Holocaust at the Buchenwald concentration camp and became a rabbi. She is the State Department’s special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism. She and Kenneth Stern, a national expert on militias and other hate groups, will speak on combating anti-Semitism.

Barbara Perry studies and writes about hate crimes at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. She offers this working definition of hate crime: “A mechanism of power intended to sustain somewhat precarious hierarchies, through violence and threats of violence (verbal or physical). It is generally directed toward those whom our society has traditionally stigmatized and marginalized.”

Michael Whine of Great Britain is government and international affairs director at the Community Security Trust, the defense agency of the United Kingdom Jewish community. Whine has researched anti-Semitism and extremism for more than 20 years.

Conference sessions will focus on religious perspectives on hate, racism, terrorism, hate and immigration and more. Jerri Shepard, a previous director of the institute, will devote a session to the late Eva Lassman as a Holocaust survivor and the influence she had on Spokane and the surrounding community.

Gonzaga’s Institute for Hate Studies works to promote the interdisciplinary study of hate. Two hate studies classes are taught at GU, a general hate studies class and hate studies in business. The institute’s first conference held in 2004 was “created as a more intimate conversation to help launch the field of hate studies,” Shuford said. “Seven years later, we’re at a point in the development of the field – and in regional, national and global events – that it’s time to take some next steps. Hate studies is meant to be a ‘big tent’ with a ‘big door’ to enter. We need the contributions of everyone who can help build understanding of hatred and effective responses to it. This conference is a big step in that direction.”

The GU community came together in a rally against hate in October.
Student aid focus of new fundraising effort

Gonzaga has launched a $2 million Scholarship Challenge to raise funds for students experiencing financial hardships. The project will increase scholarships for first-generation college students, replace state work-study funding for working students due to recent state budget cuts, and fund regional scholarships.

Four out of five students will complete their degrees at Gonzaga. Many who leave do so because of financial need. “For students who find GU really a stretch leave do so because of financial need. I believe we lose most of them in the sophomore year,” says Jim White, director of Financial Aid. “They simply feel they can’t keep borrowing at the levels they need.” For more information, please visit www.gonzaga.edu/theyneedyou.

AROUND CAMPUS

- Poet and English Professor Todd Marshall earned Gonzaga’s first grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a $10,000 award that will fund continuation of the wildly popular Gonzaga University Visiting Writers Series’ free public readings in fall 2011.
- Gonzaga’s annual musical festival, Madonnastock, is Friday, April 15, noon-midnight on the Foley Lawn. The schedule features all GU performing groups, including Big Bing Theory. The event is free.
- GEL Weekend organizers are calling on faculty to offer a class on April 16 geared to engage prospective students from high schools all across the country. Destination Gonzaga, this year’s GEL Weekend theme, April 16-17, will strive to draw the connection for the 500 student visitors between Gonzaga and the Greater Spokane area. A food court will mimic Pig Out in the Park as one example. Faculty are also encouraged to attend the GEL social, April 16, 5 p.m. at McCarthy Athletic Center. GEL Weekend is organized, in part, by GU’s 60 ambassadors. It is the University’s largest “yield” event with 74 percent of those students attending enrolling at Gonzaga in the fall. For more information, contact Katelyn Arnett at ext. 6635.

Growing up

Once the greenhouse behind the CCASL II house has its walls in place, it will become home to vegetable ‘starts’ for the new Ruellen-Day Garden. Together, the greenhouse and garden take up the entire backyard of CCASL II. Emily Paulson, Campus Kitchens coordinator (left), and Molly Ayers, CCASL assistant director, will oversee the garden, with plenty of help from students and from Campus Kids. The vegetables grown there will go into Campus Kitchens meals for the needy. A garden party to celebrate the Ruellen-Day Garden will be held April 21. The garden is named for Father Louis-Marie Ruellen, S.J., a peer of Father Peter DeSmet, S.J., and for Dorothy Day, a leader of the Catholic Worker movement.

Steverson switch paying Business dividends

Students would describe him as laid back, but very engaging. His colleagues would call him inventive in his teaching approach. He would say his classes are as far from lectures as one can get.

“The students get me started, and I like to start where they are,” said Brian Steverson, who converted from philosophy to business ethics three years ago. He’s the Aram Chair of Business Ethics, but you’d never know he has such a lofty title by speaking with him. Humility is one of his endearing qualities, and the students see it.

“The thing that stands out to me about Brian’s teaching is that he encourages his students to take the lead and yet they always end up at the intended destination. It’s truly amazing to watch,” said Peggy Sue Loroz, associate professor of marketing. “I suppose in academia it is somewhat rare to find truly humble people, and yet Brian is humble to a fault. He is always willing to defer to his students (and colleagues) in such a way that they feel like it’s their intelligence and insight that are exceptional, not his.”

Steverson said the switch from philosophy to business ethics, though a tough choice, has been great for him professionally.

“This job is great. I now have a travel budget, so I don’t have to grovel for money to attend conferences. This has helped my professional development tremendously. I get to put on an annual lecture series. I sponsor roundtables on business ethics, and I get to do educational seminars for accountants and certified fraud examiners,” Steverson said. “And I’m working with business faculty on ways to incorporate business ethics into their curriculum.”

“I even have business cards now!” Steverson is particularly appreciative of the help he’s received from colleagues over the years. “Jerry Kohls, who I called ‘coach,’ taught me how to involve my students. Erik Schmidt, the best teacher I have ever seen, has shown me the importance of making sure that there’s a narrative to class, not just a bunch of information.”
FOCUS ON . . . Kaiser: spotlight on mentoring

Katie Kaiser coordinates mentoring programs at CCASL, the Center for Community Action and Service Learning. She has an exciting trio of projects under way this spring.

Kaiser has applied for a grant from Spokane’s United Way. If funded, Kaiser will expand CCASL’s middle school mentoring work from Shaw Middle School to include Garry Middle School. It is highly unusual for United Way to work with non-member agencies. In mid-March the project was named a United Way finalist; she will learn in April if the project is funded.

Second, through Kaiser’s efforts, CCASL has received a $25,000 Raikes Foundation grant. That grant already is bringing valuable tools to gauge the quality and effectiveness of mentoring programs such as Campus Kids, Shaw Connections and others.

Third, Kaiser worked with Assistant Professor John Traynor of the School of Education on a $44,000 Priority Spokane grant last spring. Priority Spokane is a community initiative working to lower Spokane’s high school dropout rate. Traynor, assisted by Kaiser and Jonas Cox, assistant professor of education, did a national search of literature for evidence-based dropout prevention strategies focused at the middle school level and made three recommendations specific to the Spokane community. 1) Create a dropout early-warning system (DEWS), so that educators will know when middle schoolers are getting “off-track” for graduation 2) establish expectations of academic excellence for all students and 3) provide necessary social supports to help youth achieve these expectations.

Kaiser is excited about what may occur next through Priority Spokane – developing templates to share information between schools and other community organizations, including CCASL – about whether students’ are “on-track” or “off-track.” “The Priority Spokane project added momentum to this community’s efforts to combat its dropout crisis,” she said. “It encouraged people to look more broadly at things they saw in their own daily experience and started important conversations across the community. It has been a catalyst for change and creative partnerships. Hopefully, that environment of collaboration will continue.”

Grants focus on graduating engineers with entrepreneurial mindset

Gonzaga’s School of Engineering and Applied Science is one of 18 recipients of Kern Family Foundation’s KEEN (Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network) grants so far totaling $125,000. Another $250,000 grant is pending. The Foundation’s mission is to graduate engineers equipped with an entrepreneurial mindset who will contribute to business success and in so doing transform the U.S. workforce.

Through KEEN-funded activities, students will learn concepts and analytical tools for entrepreneurship and apply those through experiential activities outside the classroom. Students will gain a better understanding of new product design, develop efficiency improvements in productivity, creatively address safety and environmental issues, and contribute to societal needs.

“Ultimately, our students would develop a strong entrepreneurial mindset that prepares them to readily contribute to new ventures and established companies,” said engineering Dean Dennis Horn. Electrical engineering Professor Vladimir Labay leads this GU initiative.

Service blitz, Bulldog style

Gonzaga neighbors won’t know what hit ’em, and we’re not talking Friday night parties. Three GU service projects are planned the first two weeks of April as faculty, staff and students, joined by Trustees and Regents, create a University-wide volunteer blitz to rehabilitate, renovate and aid low-income elderly, veteran home owners and non-profit organizations in the area surrounding campus.

On April 8 Gonzaga staff and faculty are invited to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project. On April 13 Trustees and Regents, along with faculty and staff, are invited to volunteer in a neighborhood cleanup project, Live Together. Rebuild Together, including scraping, painting, minor repairs, yard work, trash clean-up, and more. Finally, the students take over April 16 for their annual April’s Angels project. Trustees, Regents, alumni and friends are invited to participate, as well.

For the April 8 event, staff are encouraged to use their half-day community service hours. The first shift runs 8:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m., the second shift from 11:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Lunch, compliments of Sodexo, will be served to both groups from noon-12:30 p.m. For more info contact Molly Ayers at ext. 6487. For the April 13 event, shifts run from 9-noon, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For info contact Teresa Hudak at ext. 5920.
Collegium Gonzagaeum: Celebrating the Classics at Gonzaga

The Rare Book Reading Room in the Foley Center is hosting an exhibition on the history of the classics at Gonzaga. Current classics students and faculty worked with Special Collection staff members to install this exhibition. Included are photographs, programs, editorials and even classic textbooks used by Gonzaga students in the early 1900s. In addition to tracing the evolution of this department from 1887-2011, the exhibition also displays rare classic books such as Plutarch’s Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans (1579) and several unique editions of Virgil. Exhibition hours are weekdays from 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Exhibition is open through May 31.

April baseball home schedule

| April 5 | WSU   | 6 p.m. |
| April 8 | San Diego | 6 p.m. |
| April 9 | San Diego | 1 p.m. |
| April 10 | San Diego | 1 p.m. |
| April 21 | Saint Mary’s | 6 p.m. |
| April 22 | Saint Mary’s | 1 p.m. |
| April 23 | Saint Mary’s | 1 p.m. |
| April 25 | Washington | 6 p.m. |
| April 26 | Washington | 1 p.m. |

New high-speed pop with GigaPOP

Gonzaga University has connected with a high-speed fiber optic network called the Pacific Northwest GigaPOP, which gives Gonzaga faculty, staff, and students high-speed interface with most major research institutions in the country, said Chris Gill, chief information officer.

“Many Northwest universities are connected, and this also provides us direct connection to the California higher education high-speed network. We also have high-speed access to National Lambda Rail, a major national research network that links us to most major universities in this country,” Gill said. “And we’re connected to a new broadband network, called the Northern Tier, that runs from Spokane through Montana, North Dakota, and on to Minneapolis and Chicago.”

This connection also provides Gonzaga with a more reliable high-speed connection to sister Jesuit schools in Colombia, where the University and Oregon Province share a twinning agreement.

“Our connection to the GigaPOP opens up a range of new opportunities to the University to collaborate with research and education partners across the country or around the world,” said Gill. Connection to the GigaPOP is automatic and does not require any new technology or configuration.

Online software training free and easy

“Software training is as easy as a couple of clicks,” said CIO Chris Gill, now that Gonzaga has adopted Atomic Learning, an online service to individualize software learning. Atomic Learning enables Gonzaga employees and students to learn on their own, at their own pace, how to use software such as Windows 7, Blackboard 9, Microsoft Office 2007/2010, Adobe programs, or any of more than 200 software applications.

Login at www.atomiclearning.com/login/gonzaga with your Gonzaga username and password. “Atomic Learning breaks down the training into small units called atoms. You can focus on just what you need to know when you need to know it,” said Gill, who emphasized that this training mode is efficient, effective and reduces cost. “New training materials are constantly being added to keep up with changes in software. And, it frees up staff to support core applications such as Banner, Blackboard and the University web site.”