Reg Mortenson, international educator, humanitarian and author of the best-seller “Three Cups of Tea,” will visit Gonzaga on March 28 as the inaugural lecturer in the newly founded annual Presidential Speaker Series.

Mortenson will discuss “Promoting Peace Through Education” from 7-8:30 p.m., in the McCarthey Athletic Center. Tickets are $10 for the public, $7 for senior citizens and $5 for students and employees of any educational institution. Tickets are available online at gonzaga.edu/mortenson.

“His story of promoting peace through building schools, especially for women, in Afghanistan is amazing. Mortenson has become a valuable adviser to the U.S. military, given the esteem in which he is held by the Afghan people,” said President Thayne McCulloh. “The proceeds from this event will go to support his school-building efforts.”

Mortenson is sometimes called an accidental humanitarian. In 1993, he climbed K2 in Pakistan, to honor the memory of his sister, Christa. During his descent, Mortenson became fatigued, disoriented and lost. He recovered in the village of Korphe, where he was stunned to see children writing with sticks and sand. He vowed to build a school in Korphe.

Mortenson has established or significantly supports 171 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. These schools educate more than 68,000 children, including 54,000 girls, in places where few if any educational opportunities previously existed.

Mortenson is co-founder and director of the non-profit Central Asia Institute and founder of the education charity Pennies for Peace. In 2009 he published a second book “Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace Through Education in Afghanistan and Pakistan.”
Student engagement is on everyone’s mind with Shared Classroom Initiative

Lisa Miklush asks a question and tosses a small stuffed elephant to a member of her nursing class. If that student can answer the question, she tosses it to another student for the next question. The elephant, the symbol of memory, makes it rounds.

Assistant Professor Miklush and 16 other University professors opened their classrooms last month to visiting faculty members as part of Gonzaga’s Shared Classroom Initiative. Since 2007, each spring faculty have opened their classrooms for others to observe, and are enriched by the feedback they get.

The goal of many observers is how to better engage their students.

“Since visiting Tina Geithner’s and Nancy Staub’s classes, and observing both of them generate activities that were very engaging, in an egalitarian way, I’ve been better able to encourage participation by every student in my classes,” said Heather Easterling, former SCI coordinator and associate professor of English.

“Not only have I attended other classes because I was interested in the content, but I’ve observed others’ teaching styles to learn how to better solicit and receive student feedback,” said Gemma D’Ambrosio, current SCI coordinator and lecturer in organic chemistry.

“One of our major goals with this initiative is to spark conversation among faculty about teaching,” said David Boose, director of the Center for Teaching and Advising, and associate biology professor. “Since 2007, we’ve had between 22 and 28 classes faculty have opened for observation each year, and about 20 faculty members attend those classes annually.

“We see ourselves as a community here, yet we do what we do in relative isolation,” Boose said. “This initiative allows us to see others in action.”

SCI takes place early in each spring semester.

Bye bye paper

Papers aren’t flying anymore in Admission’s records management office on the Garden Level of College Hall. The fury of opening hundreds of application envelopes and sorting paper files is a thing of the past. Through the oversight of Anne Thomas, associate dean of Admission, all records have been converted to digital files, and indeed, most student applications are now filed electronically.

This has drastically streamlined the process, Thomas said. Gonzaga has received more than 6,800 freshman applications this year, each about 15 pages long, only about 50 are paper. Every application is reviewed at least once by an admission counselor and once by Dean Julie McCulloh or one of her associate deans. But a lot happens before that application reaches the review process.

Each application is either downloaded or input by hand into Banner, then transferred into a document image system. Each app goes through an evaluation process in which points are assigned for GPA, test scores and activities. After review, each app is placed in either Early Action file for acceptance consideration in December, or Regular file for consideration in March. Record Management creates a communications plan for every applicant that may include brochures, DVDs, phone calls, e-mails or a letter from the dean. An acceptance folder is created and mailed to all accepted students.

Once the new class is in, attention turns to posting advanced placement and Running Start credits, following up with high school seniors-to-be, and reviewing the process before starting it all over again come September.

AROUND CAMPUS

- Sports Information Director Oliver Pierce has been named recipient of the Katha Quinn Award by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association, which recognized his exceptional service to the media.
- Associate Director of Residence Life Matt Lamsma was bestowed two regional awards for his professional association work in Northwest college and university residence life activities.
- Gonzaga moved up four spots to rank No. 3 nationally among small colleges and universities providing graduate programs who to the Peace Corps. Gonzaga has 23 undergraduate alumni currently serving in the federal agency established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy.
- Tennessee Williams’ classic drama A Streetcar Named Desire, directed by Brian Russo, costumes by Summer Berry, runs March 23-26 at 7:30 p.m., and March 27 at 2 p.m.
- David Pillsbury, president of PGA Tour Golf Course Properties, will discuss “PGA Tour: The Business Model and Social Investment of Professional Golf,” March 18, 7:30 a.m. in the Wolff Auditorium as part of the Dean’s Business Forum breakfast.
- The Law School’s Luvera Lecture features Major General William K. Suter with “Some Observations about the New U.S. Supreme Court,” March 14, 5 p.m., Barbieri Courtroom at the Law School.
- Diversity Monologues, a nationally recognized program that celebrates the personal journeys and perspectives of young adults, comes to Gonzaga March 31. It will feature personal monologues by members of the GU community. If you’d like to create a monologue addressing how you’ve come to know beauty, submit it to unityhouse@gonzaga.edu.
- Authors Larry Spears and Professor of Leadership Shann Ferch will engage the audience in dialogue around servant leadership, as part of the Spokane Leadership Connection Breakfast, March 31, Red Lion River Inn, 7:30 a.m. Register at http://www.leadershipspokane.org/Programs/LC.htm.
**NOTEWORTHY**

**New Hires:**
- Jill Socotch, program assistant III, Registrar; Matt Harrison, warehouse worker, Plant; Justin Lange, video services specialist, Athletics; Casey Pettitt, buyer, Plant; LeAnn Blair, elder law paralegal, Law Clinic; Alessandro Catenaazzi, lecturer-Biology; Aaron Collins, custodian, Plant; Scott Davis, custodian, Plant; Katie Fitzpatrick, administrative assistant, University Relations; Anne Hedger, lecturer, Nursing; Brian Kenny, associate director, Security; Vincent Kurz, custodian, Plant; Sarah Mandel, director, Library; Laurie Powers, assistant director, CLIPS; John Shuford, lecturer-AT; Philosophy; Shawn Washington, Act Six/Ulilab coordinator, Multicultural Center

**Change of Status:**
- Grant Lenarduzzi, lecturer-AT, Education; Dana Mannino, library tech II, Law Library; Ben Jackman, custodian, Plant.

**Goodbyes:**
- Krystal Burns, software specialist, ITS; Bambi Feehan, housekeeper, Ministry Institute; Cory Adams, program assistant III, Registrar; Richard Almanza, warehouse worker V, Plant; Sharon Bressler, paralegal, Law Clinic; Jacob Forster, lecturer-IR, Chemistry; Susan Foster-Dow, director, Academic Services; Susan Franklin, administrative secretary, Law Development; Theresa Ketchum, computer operator, Central Computing.

**Anniversaries:**
- 30 Jeannie Coffey, senior faculty assistant, Mathematics and Physics; George Critchlow, interim dean, Law School
- 20 Vicki Yount, legal secretary, Law Clinic
- 15 Marcia Berthoff, administrative assistant, ITS; Pat Reese, associate director, Development
- 10 Roselyn Kissinger, head custodian, Plant
- 5 Howard Glass, director, Inland Northwest Natural Resources Research Center; Katherine Kohut, marketing specialist, Study Abroad; Cassandra Marrs, technology coordinator, Career Center; Mark Stickelmyer, general maintenance II, Plant

**Cradle Call:**
- Matt Gollnick, senior interactive Web designer, MarCom, and wife Jeanine, had a baby girl, Patrick, born Feb. 5.
- Joe Smith, associate vice president for Finance, and his wife Ann, recently had a baby girl, Emily, born Feb. 12.

**GOOD NEWS**

**LOCATIONS**

**Biology Lab Coordinator Sherry Wood has a word with iguana Gus.**

**FOCUS ON... Sherry & Iguana Gus**

As Sherry Wood remembers it, when she arrived at Gonzaga 16 years ago, the only creature living in Hughes Hall was Professor Nancy Staub’s goldfish.

“But in the labs I’m associated with we teach diversity of life. And while you can tell students a lot of things about living creatures, if you can show them, they learn more,” Wood said. Today Hughes’ population of living things is far broader. Wood is responsible for the well-being of mice and rats, several species of toads and frogs, and sea urchins and sea stars that live in their own marine tank. Invertebrates and amphibians are easy to take care of, and helpful to students.

One class is working with several species of beetles, so Wood assigned a volunteer student worker to be a “beetle wrangler” and care for the beetles.

But the stars of Hughes Hall are Gus and Galadriel.

Gus, the green iguana, was acquired several years ago by Wood when he was a tiny thing, maybe eight inches long. Today, Gus reaches nearly four feet long and lives in a spacious cage. He has plenty of friends, including a freshman on the pre-veterinary track who has volunteered to take care of him. But Gus wishes quite ardently for a girlfriend. How can you tell? “He jumps at the glass. He is quite perturbed about this,” Wood said.

Galadriel is not a candidate for Gus. She is a gila monster, a rare acquisition for Gonzaga. She became available to the University thanks to a student whose father is a New Mexico Fish and Game officer.

“I gave her a pretty name because she is rather scary looking and I don’t want students to be afraid of her,” Wood said.

Galadriel is kept under lock and key, and comes out for science outreach presentations.

**Trustees approve faculty salaries, T&D master’s in engineering**

Faculty salary survey adjustments were approved by the Board of Trustees at its Feb. 6 meeting so that contracts may be issued soon. The President asked that the Board defer approval of the University’s operating budget until the April meeting to allow for further analysis of critical needs requests and reallocation of resources to meet those needs, said Finance Vice President Chuck Murphy.

Trustees also approved the granting of a new master’s degree in transmission and distribution engineering, an outgrowth of a program which formerly offered a certificate.

**Becoming street-wise key to safety**

Pedestrian safety in the Gonzaga neighborhood was an important issue to the University long before four pedestrian accidents this year brought it under a brighter spotlight. To make Sharp Avenue safer for walkers and riders the speed limit was dropped to 25 m.p.h., radar detection monitors were placed at both ends of Sharp near campus, and a median was built down the middle of Sharp. On Hamilton, one of the city’s major north-south thoroughfares, a crosswalk was placed at DeSmert, the southbound left-turn lane was eliminated, and a pedestrian island was built.

Plant Services Director Ken Sammons, Safety Programs Manager Dennis Hansen and President Thayne McCulloh have all emphasized the importance of every walker, long boarder and bicyclist taking responsibility for checking both ways, gaining eye contact with drivers and acknowledging them before entering the crosswalks.

In the meantime, Gonzaga continues to work with the city to consider proposals to reduce Sharp Avenue to one lane each direction, and add bike lanes in both directions. Part of the city’s concern is how this will impact traffic flow patterns throughout the city. The University also is working with the city and a transportation solutions design firm from Portland, DKS Associates, to review options for increased pedestrian safety on Hamilton.

The University has tried other safety options, including passing out reflectors for backpacks, and using flags for crossing on Hamilton. But the reflectors were little used and the flags often disappeared, Hansen said.

“While we can work on the physical aspects of the streets, the pedestrians need to take responsibility for their awareness of their surroundings,” Sammons said. “Not a day goes by but someone comments about bikes, skateboards and scooters that are ridden in unsafe manners; about pedestrians with their heads down, earphones plugged in, busy texting, talking on the phone. Let’s remember, pedestrian safety is a group effort.”
More of the same; it never gets old heading into WCC tourney

Gonzaga’s women’s basketball team swept through the West Coast Conference without a blemish, and enter the WCC tournament as the top seed. They are league champs for the seventh straight year. The men captured their 11th straight WCC conference title, tying with Saint Mary’s. SMC enters the WCC Tourney as the top seed by virtue of its sweep of third-place San Francisco, and Gonzaga as No. 2 seed. The end result is the same, however, as 1st and 2nd seeds draw first- and second-round byes and automatic berths into the league semifinals.

Friday, March 4 -- First Round
Women No. 5 vs. No. 8 – Noon
Women No. 6 vs. No. 7 - 30 mins following Game 1
Men No. 5 vs. No. 8 - 6 p.m.
Men No. 6 vs. No. 7 - 30 mins following Game 1

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

Sunday, March 6 -- Semifinals
Women Winner 5/8/4 vs. No. 1 – 11 a.m.
Women Winner 6/7/3 vs. No. 2 - 30 mins following Game 1

Monday, March 7
Women’s Championship - Noon (ESPNU)
Men’s Championship - 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Virtual computers

Gonzaga CIO Chris Gill is working with chief information officers from Loyola Marymount, San Francisco and Santa Clara to evaluate the potential for sharing a new virtual computer platform that potentially could be hosted at one site, but be able to support clients (faculty, staff and student users) at all four universities.

The results would be better and faster IT service to the end users (faculty, staff and students), shared technological knowledge, and decreased cost.

“If each of our institutions want to add a new server today we have to do it four times,” said Gill, and at four times the expense. “Shared services, such as virtual desktops, could reduce costs significantly and benefit all of our schools simultaneously. We’ve been asked to work smarter, not harder, and this is one way that ITS is contributing to that effort.”

Women’s NCAA Tourney coming to campus

For the first time in Gonzaga history, the University will host the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament at McCarthey Athletic Center. If Gonzaga wins the WCC Tourney, or gets an at-large berth, the Zags will play at home. If they were to win two home games, they’d advance to the Sweet 16, and the Spokane Arena is one of four possible sites. The women played in the Sweet 16 last year in Seattle, losing to Xavier after wins over North Carolina and Texas A&M.

Anniversary books celebrate Gonzaga lore

Gonzaga will capture the life and lore of the University and its Law School when it publishes two commemorative, hardbound, highly illustrated full-color books, in fall 2012.

In 2012 Gonzaga School of Law celebrates its 100th anniversary. The law commemorative book will capture the school’s history by telling many of the stories passed down through the decades, but with major emphasis on the last 50 years.

At the same time, Gonzaga celebrates 125 years as an institution. The University book will capture the life and lore of the University and its Law School when it publishes two commemorative, hardbound, highly illustrated full-color books, in fall 2012.

NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament sites
First/Second Rd Regional Final Four
March 19-21 March 26-28 April 3-5
Albuquerque Dayton Spokane (Arena)
Columbus Durham Spokane (McCarthey)
Durham Knoxville Stanford
Knoxville Salt Lake City
Salt Lake City Spokane (McCarthey)

NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament sites
First/Second Rd Regional Final Four
March 17-19 March 24-26 April 2-4
Denver New Orleans Houston
Tampa Anaheim
Tulsa Charlotte Newark
Tucson Chicago
Washington, D.C. Cleveland
March 18-20 March 25-27
Salt Lake City

NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament sites
First/Second Rd Regional Final Four
March 19-21 March 26-28 April 3-5
Albuquerque Dayton Spokane (Arena)
Columbus Durham Spokane (McCarthey)
Durham Knoxville Stanford
Knoxville Salt Lake City
Salt Lake City Spokane (McCarthey)

NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament sites
First/Second Rd Regional Final Four
March 19-21 March 26-28 April 3-5
Albuquerque Dayton Spokane (Arena)