When Sue Weitz retires after this semester as vice president for student life, she will have lifted up thousands of Gonzaga students over more than three decades.

“I have watched her deal with every imaginable student issue,” said Margot Stanfield, senior vice president for principal gifts, “from celebrating their successes to dealing with their crises and tragedies. I have watched her agonize over difficult decisions that could have lifelong impacts on student lives. Her love of students is always present in every situation. Anyone can discipline, but it takes a special individual to carefully listen, gather all the facts and then apply a solid dose of common sense to a decision. This is Sue Weitz – and she’s a master at it.”

Just about everyone who knows Weitz has a favorite story. Here is one she tells on herself:

“What are you proudest of?” As she takes in the question, her eyes brim with tears. “It’s when I can really help a student. I mean really help them if they’re struggling. I had kicked him out of school. But security called me and said, ‘What do you want us to do with this student?’ He can’t go back in the residence hall.’ It was December, cold and snowing. I said, ‘Just bring him up to the house.’ There were lots of students like that. Those little things that you don’t think much of at the time – they make such a difference to a student.”

Another story: “I remember this clearly,” Weitz said. “As the new dean of students, I came in and rewrote the alcohol policy in my first two months on campus. I said ‘You can’t have kegs out there in the quad for orientation. That’s not legal.’ But a very wise person in the office came to me and said, ‘You know what? This probably isn’t the best thing for you to start out your life at Gonzaga with.’ She was right.”

Eventually that policy was rewritten. Today, Gonzaga’s BASICS alcohol program, which has won national recognition, is just one of many innovations that Sue has overseen.

Associate Professor Jeremy Stringer of Seattle University sailed with Weitz on the fall 2010 voyage of the Semester at Sea. “The leadership team, headed by Sue, was asked to pose for an official picture. Instead of the usual picture, we all put on funny hats. A picture of the deans in shower caps and animal heads was not really what the Semester at Sea had in mind, but it was vintage Sue Weitz,” Stringer said. He added, “Her extraordinary leadership of our eclectic and sometimes challenging group was amazing to behold. I know of no one who can infuse vision, professionalism, humanity and joy into a group like Sue Weitz.”

Student Activities Director David Lindsay said, “She possesses one the strongest level of care for others of anyone I have known. I honestly don’t know how she has the time to take care of herself. She has been available to students on nearly a 24/7 basis for over 30 years. She has the pleasure of working with students at their brightest times and the burden of assisting them at their darkest hours. She has always done this with a smile, a tear and a compassionate heart.”

Many stories involve more than one generation: Before Weitz came to Gonzaga, she had worked at the College of Idaho. There, she introduced two students to each other. They married and had children. Their daughter Nikki Robison (’09) picks up the story: “Years later, I decided to attend Gonzaga and my parents received an email welcoming them to the Gonzaga community as parents of a new student. The letter was signed by Sue Weitz. We sought her out when I came to campus in 2005 and there was a wonderful reunion. Two weeks later, I was sitting in Sue’s office telling her that I wanted to get involved in campus. She asked about my interests and without hesitation invited me to join the WCC Tournament Planning Council, as that year’s tournament was to be hosted at Gonzaga. Not knowing what that really meant, I excitedly accepted and was launched into my life as a Zag.” Today, Robison works in student development at Seattle University.

Despite Sue’s legendary love and laughter, some occasions are daunting. “I’m amazed at how Sue works (Continued on page 3)
Changes ahead in schools, degrees

As nursing enrolls students into its new doctor of nursing practice degree program, and along with human physiology, continues to see rapid growth in demand, Gonzaga will formally establish its School of Nursing and Human Physiology this summer. A search for the new school's inaugural dean is underway, as are searches for deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education. Education Dean Jon Sunderland and College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Blaine Garvin will return to teaching. The master's of anesthesiology education program is being revised into a doctor of nursing anesthesia practice degree and moving to the new School of Nursing and Human Physiology; Education faculty will continue to collaborate in delivering the program. The School of Education has undertaken a one-time, special project — providing its masters of education in leadership and administration to the faculty of the Charles Lwanga College of Education in Zambia. Once most of its faculty are masters' credentialed, that Jesuit institution will be able to move from a three-year, certificate-granting to a four-year, degree-granting institution. Gonzaga faculty will provide the program in a hybrid format to 30 teachers. These participants will undertake residency courses at Gonzaga for a two-week session in August.

During the 2013-14 academic year the leadership programs in the School of Professional Studies — organizational leadership, communication and leadership, doctoral leadership studies, comprehensive leadership program — will continue to engage in program review and to explore structural and programmatic options for their future strength and development.

Law School Centennial exhibition unveiled at Foley

For the fifth straight year Gonzaga's modern languages department secured a grant that will allow up to 60 Spokane-area K-12 students to receive free beginning Chinese language instruction. The $95,610 grant from federally-funded Startalk was written by modern languages Professor Ben Semple. The K-6 session runs June 25-July 5, the middle school and high school sessions run July 1-25. The program is designed to foster interest in less commonly taught languages. Instruction in such languages is vital to ensure U.S. security, maintain economic competitiveness, and foster intercultural understanding, Semple said. For more information, go to Gonzaga.edu/startalk.

Barc due for completion May 1

Construction on the Boone Avenue Retail Center is projected to be completed by May 1, said Ken Sammons, director of Plant Services. The bookstore and Sodexo Dining Services will move in after graduation and are expected to be functioning by June 1, and the parking garage will be available for use. The BARC is at full height now. Brick work is being applied and architects have selected sculpted panels by local artist Harold Balaz to adorn the building. The panels originally appeared on Hughes Hall.

Final approval on construction of the University Center has yet to be granted by Trustees. However, crews are proceeding with construction of a full temporary dining facility and its kitchen area in the BARC that will serve as student dining and event space, and should be ready for summer camps and conferences.

FFW, Reunion planned for separate weekends

All Family Weekend (Oct. 25-27) and Reunion Weekend (Oct. 18-20) will be staged on separate weekends next fall. FFW generally runs the week after midterm exams, and reunions run the same week as the Trustees and Regents meet, to coincide with the Distinguished Alumni Merit Awards dinner on Oct. 17. "This change is brought about entirely by calendars," said Alumni Director Bob Finn. The two events have co-existed harmoniously over the past several years. "The biggest advantage to separate weekends is space availability for both events. We won't be competing for the same spaces now," Finn said.

Reunion weekend also will include a special reunion for Gonzaga-in-Florence alumni on this, the 50th anniversary of the noted Study Abroad program.

Grant assures free Chinese instruction for Spokane youth through Gonzaga

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Focus On … Bodamer’s passion

Mark Bodamer has distinguished himself as a scholar and a teacher, but he’s also part actor and part storyteller. Recounting stories about his chimpanzee research with eminent researchers, he uses the accents and body language to characterize the Brit, the Irishman, and the colleague from New Jersey.

Behavioral psychology is Bodamer’s life’s study — particularly the behavior of chimpanzees. He and his colleagues have taught chimps to communicate with American Sign Language. Not only do the chimps communicate, but Bodamer and his crew have watched younger chimps learn sign language from their elders — a passing down of a culture.

An only child, Bodamer grew up loving animals. He was Jesuit-educated and earned a bachelor’s in psychology at Marquette. He pursued a doctorate working with autistic children, until learning of the Washoe Project — young chimpanzees being raised by humans. He joined the program and worked with Washoe herself at Central Washington University, earning his master’s and spending an extra year on a signing project funded by National Geographic. Bodamer’s Ph.D. is from Nevada-Reno documenting the initiation and maintenance of conversations between chimps and humans.

Working with chimps at one of the largest biomedical research labs in the country (New York University), he created a video that showed learning, cultural and socialization skills among the lab chimps. Their behavior was so similar to humans that “people could hardly believe what they saw,” he said. Although he made the video for the director, that 10-minute clip has been shown around the world and helped illuminate how animals develop culture. His sponsor was Jane Goodall, world-renowned primatologist who rocked the scientific world with her own groundbreaking chimpanzee behavioral study. “Her compassion is equally matched by her tenacity. Our daughter is named for her,” Bodamer said.

For the past 12 years Bodamer has taken students, faculty and staff to the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage, teaching students how to conduct research with the chimps and working with colleagues from afar. “International school groups come to learn what we’ve found,” Bodamer said. “The next layer is sharing our information with the local community. Service is the third component of our work there, whether it is painting, constructing school buildings, or moving bricks.”

“When I first came here, Fr. (Mike) Moynahan read a poem by Meister Eckhart,” Bodamer recalled. “He said, ‘Even in a caterpillar you could see the beauty and grace of God.’ I firmly believe in God in all things and this poem embodied it. I really felt that I had made the right decision to come here.”

Sue Weitz continued from page 1 …

with families who have experienced a tragedy that impacts their student attending school here,” said Sima Thorpe, assistant dean of students. “She is so supportive — she helps the whole family get through the crisis and they trust her. Anyone who works with her in times of crisis is grateful to have her support.”

Weitz came to Gonzaga in 1981 as dean of students. Two years later, Father Bernard Coughlin promoted her to vice president of Student Life. He recalls that “anything I asked her to take on, she did without question. She was always very positive.” She was Gonzaga’s first female vice president — and she leaves a personal imprint on Gonzaga. She also managed the Student Life division all through the era of Gonzaga’s tremendous growth. More stories there, at least 30 years’ worth.

Here’s a quote that sums up this extraordinarily generous woman. It is part Anthony DeMello, S.J., and part Sue: “At Gonzaga, you never judge a student. Once you start to judge, you cease to understand.”

Weitz will serve the next year as a senior consultant to President Thayne McCulloh to assist with the leadership transition and other projects.
Transforming the world, one cup of coffee at a time

Sit down, relax, enjoy a cup of coffee and a scone with some of Gonzaga’s faculty members at one of GU’s Transformation Cafés. This is a series of interactive chats that take the University into the community. Philosophy Associate Professor Ellen Maccarone led off the first of six scheduled Cafés Feb. 23 at the Road House Coffee Warehouse with a discussion of food and its representation of our values.

The Transformation Café series is part of Gonzaga’s 125th Anniversary celebration. The events are free and open to the public. Five other discussions are scheduled:

- Walking the Talk of Leadership, leadership Professor JoAnn Barbour, March 1, 6 p.m., E.J. Roberts Mansion, 1923 W. First.
- Humans as Cultural Animals: Implications for Psychological Diversity Between East and West, by psychology Assistant Professor Vinai Norasakkunkit, March 3 at 10 a.m., Forza Coffee, 2829 E. 29th.
- Does Student Testing Improve Education in America? by School of Education Lecturer Elaine Radmer, March 23, 10 a.m., Indaba Coffee, 1425 W. Broadway Ave.
- Shakespeare (and Others) in the Material World by English Associate Professor Heather Easterling, April 21, 4 p.m., The Shop, 924 S. Perry.
- International and Intercultural Communication, by Communication Arts Visiting Professor Claudia Bucciferro, April 27, 11 a.m., The Little Garden Café, 2901 W. Northwest Blvd.

Indoor tennis-golf center coming

Groundbreaking is expected this spring on a $7 million indoor tennis-golf center that will elevate the four related varsity programs, and provide some recreational and intramural use through the Rudolf Fitness Center program.

Construction and outfitting costs have been received in cash and pledges, but fundraising continues to create an endowed fund for operational costs.

With six tennis courts and a chipping and putting green, the center will be located at Legacy Field, behind the Academy apartments south of Mission Park and west of the Spokane River. The University purchased the site several years ago. Construction should be complete in time for the spring 2014 season.

“With this facility, we will be able to apply to host national events,” said men’s tennis Coach Peter MacDonald. “And recruiting student athletes will become a whole different game.”

The facility will include locker rooms, restrooms and a viewing area on the second level surrounding the tennis courts. Webcams on every court will allow live online viewing of matches; a golf simulator will help golfers prepare year round.

Men’s NCAA Hoops Tournament sites
Selection Sunday – March 17

First Round
March 19-20
Dayton, Ohio

Second/Third Rounds
March 21, 23
Auburn Hills, Mich.
Lexington, Ky.
Salt Lake City
San Jose

March 22, 24
Austin, Texas
Dayton, Ohio
Kansas City, Mo.
Philadelphia

March 29, 31
Indianapolis
Arlington, Texas

Final Four
April 6-8
Atlanta

Women’s NCAA Hoops Tournament sites
Selection Monday – March 18

First/Second Rounds
March 23-25 or 24-26
Baton Rouge, La.
Boulder, Colo.
College Park, Md.
College Station, Texas
Columbus, Ohio
Durham, N.C.
Iowa City, Iowa
Knoxville

Louisville
Lubbock, Texas
Newark, Del.
Queens, N.Y.
Spokane
Stanford, Calif.
Storrs, Conn.
Waco, Texas

Regionals
March 30-April 1 or
March 31-April 2
Norfolk, Va.
Oklahoma City
Spokane
Trenton, N.J.

Final Four
April 7 and April 9
New Orleans

Mark Few’s 80.2 career winning percentage is tops in the country.

Kelly Graves earned his 350th coaching victory Feb. 23.

Baseball Home March Games

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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>15</td>
<td>vs. USF</td>
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<td>vs. USF</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>vs. Brown (DH)</td>
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All games at Patterson Baseball Complex/Washington Trust Field