Volbrecht’s service reflects deep care for the University

As Rose Mary Volbrecht completes her four years as faculty president, she sat down to talk about the old Gonzaga and the new; about a missing generation of Gonzaga faculty; mentoring for new faculty, the hope for child care near campus; and full-throated faculty engagement in the public square of the University.

Volbrecht arrived in Spokane in 1981. The nation was struggling with a recession as tough as any we’ve seen since. Father Bernard Coughlin, S.J., led Gonzaga through the challenges of the time; he was in the midst of his 22-year tenure as president. Captain Zag rallied the fans at game time; Spike belonged to the future. Bozarth was known as the Waikiki Mansion; KZAG played music chosen by student deejays; and the freshman class ran to about 455 students.

Jobs for newly fledged philosophers were relatively rare, even for a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. “I felt very grateful to get a tenure-track position,” Volbrecht said. “There were way more people looking for jobs than there were jobs.”

The faculty lounge in the basement of College Hall drew her in with its circle of colleagues who happily reached across their disciplines to discuss the ups, downs and sideways of teaching. “People would come to lunch and they would start conversations like ‘in my history class today I tried this and this is what happened.’” Volbrecht said. “Then two or three others would jump in and tell their story, or they would say, ‘You know, you might try this.’ Or, ‘I had that problem and here’s what finally worked for me.’ It was a wonderful mentoring environment, and I just learned so much.”

As the new Faculty president in fall 2010, Volbrecht’s first speech was about hope and the courage to dream. Volbrecht has worked consistently to recreate the convivial and involved environment she enjoyed in her early years – even with today’s larger faculty.

“Last year I organized six or seven reading groups before Jane Goodall came to campus. We chose one of her books. There were about 60 faculty involved. Some people hated the book, some loved it, but it didn’t matter. We got to know a variety of people in different disciplines whom we wouldn’t otherwise get to know. This year, the Faculty Senate is sponsoring Soup and Conversations in the Greenan Board Room, and small grants for interdisciplinary discussion groups.” The idea is to spark fraternity and learning.

“Once, when we were smaller, those things happened by the natural rhythm of our lives. Now that we’re much bigger you have to be intentional about creating those opportunities.”

Faculty dialogue still has not risen to the level sought by Volbrecht. “Faculty for a number of reasons have been reluctant. Their experience for some time was that their voice wasn’t going to be heard.” She urges her colleagues to shift their perspective: “While Father Spitzer was here we had an extended period of a hiring freeze. We are missing a generation of faculty. My generation is getting to the end, I would think, of being in leadership roles.” Ordinarily that next generation would be in leadership already, but there are relatively few faculty in that interim generation, Volbrecht said. “Only now is the following generation moving into leadership – in positions like chairs or directors of programs.”

Volbrecht chose to run for office in 2010 because of the excitement with which she regarded the new leadership team. She praises President Thayne McCulloh and Academic Vice President Patricia Killen for their steady and full support of an active faculty voice in governance.

Other topics on which Volbrecht spoke: Child care: A faculty proposal for close-to-campus day care is in the hands of Human Resources and will next go to the Trustees.

Core curriculum: “I think we are in the seventh year of working on this core process.” Volbrecht acknowledged the bumpy process, which she attributed to an early leadership vacuum. She praised many faculty colleagues for their intensive, time-consuming work on the new core, particularly Patricia Terry and David Boose. “We are now in the homestretch and in the nitty gritty of how we translate all of the learning outcomes into concrete courses ... Let’s make it the best core we can make.”

Online student evaluations: “I think of this as a speed bump. Ninety eight percent of us agree that student evaluation is an important process. In order to bring student participation in online evaluations up to a satisfactory level, Foley Center will bring extra laptops into a classroom at the request of faculty. Each class can complete course evaluations in a single day and so sustainably.”
Longtime dean turns 100; Law School hosting party

Gonzaga Law will celebrate Smitty Myers, its former dean, faculty member and distinguished alumnus, on his 100th birthday, March 26, noon-1:30 p.m. in the law school lobby. Smitty will be unable to attend, but well-wishers are encouraged to sign a giant card, which will be delivered to him after the party. If you are unable to attend, you may send Smitty a card, c/o Sarah Guzman at Ad Box 90. Smitty served as dean from 1955-1965, and from 1975-1978. He also served as a U.S. attorney and U.S. magistrate.

Accreditation determines if we are who we say we are; Northwest Commission seeks faculty, staff input in April site visit

Evaluators representing the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities will come to Gonzaga April 14-16 for our Year-Seven accreditation site visit. The University demonstrates the quality of its programs and services by meeting the Commission’s expectations for compliance with its accreditation standards. “The NWCCU’s addresses our mission and core themes, our resources and capacity, how well we plan for what we do, our efforts at assessment and improvement, and whether we have met our goals and are we capable of adapting to a changing educational landscape. In other words, are we who we say we are, do we do what we say we do, and how do we know this?” said Associate AVP Ron Largo. The accreditation team will meet with faculty, staff and students, and want to listen to what they say. The accreditation visit concludes a period of self-evaluation in which the University reflects on its past and plans its next steps.

Virtual Campus expanding online offerings, recruiting the right students

Graduate programs throughout the country are experiencing drops in enrollments, and there is more competition than ever from reputable universities offering graduate programs online. “Our research indicates that the academic programs that will be successful online in the future are those from ‘bricks-and-mortar’ universities that include opportunities for hybrid (i.e., some online and some face-to-face learning) and campus-based experiences,” said Virtual Campus Dean Mike Carey. “Because of our academic reputation and Jesuit tradition, because of our national name recognition (thank you Zags!), because we offer fully online, hybrid and fully campus-based courses, and because we offer learning experiences in South America, Africa, Europe, as well as unique locations like mountain-tops and monasteries, Gonzaga is in a great position to compete in the online graduate learning marketplace. Our intention is to make Gonzaga one of the top schools in the country for transformative, graduate education of the highest quality, available to students wherever they live,” Carey said.

Since its inception in June 2012, the Virtual Campus has grown significantly. It has expanded into the Foley Center where the admissions and student services personnel reside. The administration and marketing arm of the Virtual Campus remain on Tilford fourth floor. The VC just assumed responsibility for marketing the master’s in organizational leadership and the master’s in communications and leadership online programs. Last year the VC began marketing all graduate nursing programs, and added a master’s in sport and athletic administration online program this fall.

“Part of our role is to serve schools at Gonzaga who may want to bring programs online,” said VC Marketing Director Leslie Hebert. “Competition is steep in the online marketplace, and we research program viability, help establish budget, develop admission processes/structure, create a marketing strategy, and create student service offerings that will bring the right students and the desired enrollments to our University.”

AROUND CAMPUS

• Gonzaga wants your opinion to help us assess views about academic quality, overall value and adherence to mission. Check your inbox or go to Gonzaga.edu/ImageQuestionnaire. Those who complete the survey could win a Kindle Fire HD and other prizes. Complete by March 7.

• Assistant Nursing Professor Lisa Miklush has been chosen by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, Khan Academy and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing as one of 14 individuals who are working to transform how health education is delivered across disciplines worldwide. Miklush is sharpening her technical skills by participating in a training camp with Khan Academy educators on March 2-9.

• M. Shawn Copeland, professor of Catholic systematic theology at Boston College, will deliver the 38th annual Flannery Lecture at 7:30 p.m., March 20 in Cataldo Hall. The lecture, titled “Toward A Mystical-Political Theology of Solidarity,” is free and open to the public.

• Gonzaga ranked No. 1 nationally in Peace Corps volunteers among small schools with 22 volunteers serving worldwide. Gonzaga has been ranked in the top five among smaller schools for each of the past three years. Western Washington ranks No. 1 among medium-sized universities, and Washington ranks second among large universities.

• The inaugural Spokane Youth and Justice Forum is scheduled from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., March 14, at the School of Law. About 200 high school students from the surrounding areas will join with volunteer justice system professionals to learn about and gain insight into career opportunities in the law.

Harvard Fellow Kara speaks on sex trafficking at Presidential Speaker Series April 1

Siddharth Kara, author of “Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery,” will share his research on modern slavery, including documentation of 1,300 cases in 30 countries, when he delivers Gonzaga’s Presidential Speaker Series lecture at 7 p.m., April 1 in the McCarthey Athletic Center. Limited complimentary general admission tickets are available for employees at the McCarthey Athletic Center ticket office with Gonzaga ID. Additional general admission tickets may be purchased at the $7 educator rate.

Mr. Kara pulls back the drapes that covers the misery and horror experienced by millions on the earth, highlighting real problems associated with how goods and services are produced and consumed,” said President Thayne McCulloh. Globalization and technology have had a dramatic impact on the phenomena of human trafficking. Mr. Kara works to help us see and understand those living at the margins, and demonstrates how we can begin to tackle even entrenched, complex problems through research and engagement.”

Public Crosby collection moving to Bing’s home

Resident Bing Crosby historian Stephanie Plowman and adjunct history Lecturer Ray Rast are teaming up to revitalize Gonzaga’s public display of Bing Crosby memorabilia as it makes way to the childhood home of Bing’s family on the corner of Sharp and Addison. The collection will occupy the main floor while Sponsored Research and Programs remains on the second floor of the Crosby House.

“We are working with campus architects and carpenters to remove the old donor bricks throughout the Crosby House, and replace them with cases for display of Crosby’s gold and platinum records,” Plowman said. “Security and lighting will be improved.”

Rast and three of his public history students are working to make the displays more interpretive, and tell more about Crosby’s life and legend, giving opportunities for visitors to watch, listen and learn about Crosby’s influence on American music and film history. They intend to change out the displays more often to make them more engaging for guests.

“Crosby died in 1977, so Americans under 40 only know him through his films and music,” Rast noted. “We want visitors of all ages to understand Crosby’s historical significance but also appreciate who he was as a Catholic, family man and friend.”

Sponsored Research and Programs student workers will continue to provide tours of Bing’s home and serve as hosts for the new displays.
Sustainability report indicates paper users can be more prudent

I n 2013, Gonzaga faculty, staff and students consumed approximately 9.5 million sheets of paper or roughly 779 trees, reports Brian Henning, co-chair of the Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability. These numbers are up from 2012, but down from 2011 when the ACSS began auditing paper use. This many sheets placed end to end would span from Spokane to Memphis.

“With some changes to the ways in which we think about and use paper, more improvements can be achieved,” said Henning, a philosophy professor. “The vast majority of the paper used in 2013 was made from 30-percent recycled material, and 2.5-percent was made from 100-percent recycled material. This shift to the 30- to 100-percent recycled paper saved 362 trees last year.

Here are some ways to lessen paper use and the impact on the environment: Pause before you print. Is a hard copy needed or would a digital version do? Use print preview before printing to avoid errors. Provide a tray to collect and reuse one-sided paper. If you have a printer with two trays for paper, designate one for re-used paper. Print back-to-back (duplex) whenever possible. When appropriate, print 2 pages per sheet (combined with duplexing), this uses 75 percent less paper than a normal single-side print job. Set default page margins in MS Word to 1 inch or even .75 inches. Use Blackboard to distribute syllabi and schedules and to assign and accept assignments digitally.
Expansive Stevens Center tennis and golf facility opens

Two and a half Martin Centre Field Houses would fit inside the tennis facility alone. Add the golf practice facility, which includes a putting and chipping area with four golf simulators that evaluate players’ swings, and Gonzaga’s new Stevens Center stretches across one-and-a-half football fields.

The tennis facility includes six courts and a balcony for viewing. The golf facility’s putting green is 4,775 square feet, and the chipping surface is 2,550 square feet.

This spring Athletic Department officials are creating a plan to allow for limited intramural and recreational use of the tennis facility by faculty, staff and students. The plan is expected to be unveiled later this spring or summer, said Rob Kavon, assistant athletic director and director of athletic facilities.

GIF celebrates 50 years in birthplace of Renaissance

It was 1963 when Gonzaga established its study-abroad program in Florence, steeped in the richness of European culture. “You learn about Michelangelo in the classroom, and then on the weekend you can see David or go see the Sistine Chapel,” said longtime Dean Fr. Tony Via, S.J.

Gonzaga celebrates 50 years of this amazing international experience with a reunion April 24-27, in Florence. Organizers expect 250 Florence alumni to participate, including more than 30 from the last 10 years and many multi-generational families. Visitors will have a chance to explore Gonzaga’s new campus, dedicated in 2003. Two longtime Florence faculty members, Henry Batterman and Mercedes Carrara, will guide tours around the city, while six other faculty members will give lectures. A reception at Florence’s city hall, the Palazzo Vecchio, another at Gonzaga’s former home, Palazzo Antinori, and a gala celebration at Palazzo Corsini will highlight the festivities.

NCAA Tournament sites

Gonzaga’s men’s and women’s basketball teams captured their regular-season West Coast Conference championships and are gearing up for the WCC Tournament in Las Vegas, March 6-11. Both teams are legitimate contenders for spots in the NCAA Tournament. The men have made 15 straight appearances, the women five straight. GU men have won 20 or more games in 16 straight seasons, and the women in eight straight.

Here are the sites for the NCAA men’s and women’s tournaments:

MEN’S BASKETBALL

First Round
Dayton (March 18-19)

Second and Third Round
Buffalo, Milwaukee, Orlando, Spokane (March 20, 22)
Raleigh, San Antonio, San Diego, St. Louis (March 21, 23)

Regionals
South: Memphis, West: Anaheim (March 27, 29)
East: New York, Midwest: Indianapolis (March 28, 30)
Final Four in Dallas
Semifinals (April 5)
Championship (April 7)

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

First and Second Round (March 22-25)
Ames, Iowa, Baton Rouge, La., Chapel Hill, N.C., College Park, Md., College Station, Texas, Durham, N.C., Iowa City, Iowa, Knoxville, Lexington, Los Angeles, Seattle, Storrs, Conn., Toledo, Ohio, University Park, Pa.

Regionals (March 29-April 1)
Lincoln, Neb., Louisville, Ky., Notre Dame, Ind., Stanford, Calif.

Final Four in Nashville
Semifinals (April 6)
Championship (April 8)

Students, faculty, staff prepare for Opus trips

Seven GU students and four faculty and staff members will accompany Opus Foundation Board members and its executive director on site visits to the work places of the three Opus finalists. They will provide perspective to the board as its members determine which of those three finalists will receive the $1 million first prize in a Spokane ceremony in mid-October, hosted by Gonzaga. The other two finalists will receive $100,000 awards.

The three finalists, from Asia, Southeast Asia and North America, were selected in January from an initial list of two dozen nominees. The Opus Prize recognizes individuals and enterprises, all engaged in faith-based, entrepreneurial and sustainable humanitarian work. Each year a Catholic college or university is selected to host the 18-month Opus Prize nomination, selection and celebration process.

During the next three months organizational leadership Assistant Professor Lazaarina Topuzova will accompany students Meaghan Driscoll, Hayley Medeiros and Carson Schneider on one of the visits; marketing Professor Peggy Sue Loroz and CCASL Immersion Director Luisa Gallagher will travel with students Aaron Danowski and Jaleine Herron to a second site; and environmental studies Lecturer Greg Gordon and students Allison Chra and Francis Chau will visit the remaining site.

The identities of the finalists will be revealed in late summer, and the Gonzaga observers are not allowed to discuss their travels and experiences until that time, said Mike Herzog, who leads the Opus work on campus.

March home baseball schedule

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<td>Fri., March 28</td>
<td>Loyola Marymount</td>
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<td>Sat., March 29</td>
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<td>Sun., March 30</td>
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<td>Tue., April 1</td>
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