Amidst changing realities, Jesuits, president plan for future

Second of two-part series on future of Jesuits in the Inland Northwest

By 2020, the 10 Jesuit provinces in the United States will be pared to four. This is just one example of changes afoot among the Jesuits, necessitated both by mission and numbers. Readers learned about Oregon Provincial Father Scott Santarosa’s emphasis on coming together as Jesuit communities in Spokane to focus on needs of the most vulnerable in our society, as encouraged by Pope Francis and Father General Adolfo Nicolas of the Society of Jesus. That covers mission. But as the number of men choosing religious work in the Society is declining it’s time to look for efficiencies, Fr. Santarosa says.

As plans call for combining the California and Oregon provinces by 2017, the Jesuits in the Oregon Province infirmary at Gonzaga’s Jesuit House will be relocated to the California Province infirmary in Los Gatos, south of San Jose.

As of the end of March, the Jesuit House infirmary at GU will no longer accept new patients, and as of June 30, the 10-bed wing will be vacated completely. Fr. Santarosa says the reason for moving the men to Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos is cost and the formation of one new province, the USA Western Province.

“We will save approximately $50,000-$60,000 per man by having them live at the larger Sacred Heart infirmary,” says Fr. Santarosa. “We have to think as families think, to be mindful of resources and make decisions accordingly. We cannot in good conscience support two infirmaries between the two provinces when one is sufficient to support the men who need it.

“I have informed the men who will be moved to the south, and they accepted this new assignment with great freedom. They told me ‘This is why we joined the Jesuits— to be missioned.’ I was so moved by their response that I sent word of their acceptance to the whole province for their edification,” Fr. Santarosa shares.

Gonzaga Jesuit Rector Father Jim Voiss said the facility in Los Gatos can accommodate 90 Jesuits. “Locating in California, these guys can get out and take walks in the winter months. There is high-quality care and quality of life there.”

The facility in Los Gatos has outstanding programming to provide enrichment and community activities, and the men there have been very congenial to residents from Spokane who have already relocated there. Two who moved in October have been very positive. “Now we hear our men asking, ‘When can I go?’” says Fr. Voiss. “There are more peers down there in their similar state of health, and many of them went through formation together.”

Gonzaga Jesuits who have already relocated to Los Gatos are Fr. Armand Nigro, Fr. Don Cadden and Fr. Fredric Schlatter. Relocating soon to Los Gatos are Fr. Frank Costello and Fr. Bernard Tyrrell.

The Jesuit Regis retirement community in Bea House on Gonzaga’s campus will not be moved in the foreseeable future, Fr. Santarosa assures. “As long as these retired men are capable of independent living, they will continue to live here.” He also says there are no current plans to move the Oregon Province archives from Gonzaga, although there has been talk of relocating all the western U.S. Jesuit archives to St. Louis at some time in the distant future.

President Thayne Mcculloh said earlier this year that he is studying the feasibility of creating a new, more contemporary Jesuit Community residence, as well as a Center for Formation in Jesuit Higher Education. Fr. Voiss says he heartily endorses the president’s vision.

Fr. Voiss says the center has the potential to put Gonzaga on the Jesuit map in the United States and around the world since we’re in a time when Jesuits have lost the national recognition and need to build up international connections. The center would be for Jesuits, lay colleagues and anyone interested in Jesuit higher education. It would help those with interest in entering Jesuit higher education to better understand the Jesuit approach to education, inspired by the spiritual exercises and how they play out in the day-to-day work throughout the world.

“I can see it opening the imagination of Jesuits in formation to come here and study, to work here and perhaps stay here long-term,” Fr. Voiss says.
Around Campus

- Lisa Fortier is 2015 Women’s Basketball Coaches Association national Rookie Coach of the Year. Her team compiled a 26-8 record and won two NCAA tournament games. Fortier was a GU assistant for seven years before taking the head job last spring. She will speak to the Gonzaga Guild, April 28, 11:30 a.m., social, noon luncheon, in the Herak Club Room. Reservations to this public event may be made by contacting Mary Joan Hahn at ext. 6935, or hahn@gonzaga.edu.

- U.S. News & World Report ranked GU’s Master of Business Administration program the 81st (tie) best part-time MBA program in the nation. The School of Engineering and Applied Science ranked 29th among engineering schools without a Ph.D. program. The School of Nursing and Human Physiology ranked 102nd among nursing programs with a master’s degree.

The 2015 spring Academic Convocation, April 21, 3:30 p.m. in Cataldo Hall, will feature faculty speaker Kevin McCruden, Religious Studies, addressing the role of our mentors in the cultivation of the intellectual life. The procession will begin at 3:15 p.m.

- Zag Volunteer Corps, GSBA, RHA, Kennel Club and others will participate in Gonzaga Gives, an effort April 25 coinciding with Spokane Mayor David Condon’s Spokane Gives Day, to support the community. GU plans to help out at 11 sites, including Habitat for Humanity, Spokane Lands Council, Washington Trails Association, O’Malley Apartments, Second Harvest Food Bank and more. Cost to participate is $5, which includes a ZVC shirt, transportation and snacks. To register, contact CCASL at 313-6937.

Nursing receives acclaim, new programs coming

Brian Higginson, associate professor of human physiology (left), and Patrick Lindecker, a senior human physiology major, are conducting research to improve backpack and body armor system designs, allowing troops and SWAT team members to protect themselves better when under fire.

Brenda Stevenson Marshall is Gonzaga’s first and only dean of the School of Nursing and Human Physiology, and she has wasted little time helping Gonzaga become a brighter light in the Inland Northwest health science community.

The efforts are bearing fruit. SNHP is one of two schools in the University showing continued and steady growth over the past couple of years, with nearly 1,000 students. The national nursing board pass rates remain well above national average, a clear indication of the quality of a GU education, Stevenson Marshall says.

Established in July 2013, SNHP already is ranked as the nation’s 102nd best nursing school offering a master’s degree in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report.

The school is not standing on its laurels. The new Doctor of Nursing Practice program will be accredited this spring having met all standards without recommendations. The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program has received initial accreditation, and has admitted an inaugural class of 10 students. An interdisciplinary undergraduate public health degree program proposal will shortly be submitted.

In addition, several faculty members have been recognized for their excellence. Deb Smith was named Washington state’s Nurse Practitioner of the Year. Susan Norward received last fall a Fulbright appointment to provide education and training in the area of injury control and prevention health services in Benin. Jeff Ramirez was recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for his work in helping set competency standards for the psychiatric nurse practitioner board certification national exam. Stevenson Marshall is chair-elect of the American Public Health Association.

“Whatever recognition we receive for excellence will have imbedded the ethical and spiritual values of a Jesuit education,” the dean says. “That’s the unique perspective we bring to the conversation on health services in this community.”

Smieja, colleagues finding ways to keep women engaged in sciences

It’s not the kind of chemistry Joanne Smieja has specialized in for the past 27 years at Gonzaga. But the ability for women in the STEM disciplines to find mentors and network with others like them is the essence of the ‘chemistry’ research Smieja is leading under a $600,000 National Science Foundation grant.

The chemistry professor and four other principal investigators, coincidentally from four other Jesuit institutions, are working with a group of 70 women in STEM disciplines at 27 institutions across the country in an effort to learn how best to keep women supported and engaged in the sciences.

“We get highly trained women but lose them before they reach tenure and promotion,” says Smieja, author of this grant. “Our hypothesis is that one obstacle at the undergraduate institutions is isolation. We created a network to help eliminate isolation and allow women, many whom are the only women in their departments, to connect with other women in their disciplines, and in similar paths of advancement.”

NSF wants to find ways to make the STEM workforce more diverse so the culture of STEM is more open to students of diversity, and hence, more welcoming. Smieja explains. There is clear evidence that if women see someone in front of the classroom who looks like them they’ll be more tenacious, and inspired to pursue their career goals.

Six other Gonzaga professors are part of the study: Katherine Hoffman, Chemistry; Julie Beckstead, Biology; Gail Nord, Vesta Coufal and Shannon Overbay, Math; and Mara London, Civil Engineering. GU’s Catherine Cronin is the project coordinator. Chris Francovich, Doctoral Leadership Studies, helps design surveys and analyze results.

Begun in 2011, this five-year research program will conclude in August 2016. Three workshops are part of the project. The first brought the 70 participants together to learn about implicit bias and how it impacts student learning. The second focused on developing negotiation skills when working with chairs and deans. The final meeting scheduled in fall 2015 will address developing leadership skills.
**Noteworthy**

**New Hires:**

Gregory Pratt, electrician, Plant Services; Sheryl Redding-Humphrey, assistant director of event planning, Hemmingson Center; Cassandra Stelter, emergency and risk management specialist; Olivia Phillips, resident hall director, Housing and Residential Life; Shelby Ryan, alumni coordinator, Alumni Relations; Daniel Hurst, HVAC technician, Plant Services; Joshua Boche, technology coordinator, Arts and Sciences; Marnie Borholm, administrative secretary II, Military Science

**Goodbyes:**

Megan Ferney, data entry support/receptionist, Financial Aid; Sarah Rooney, Library Tech III/Wildin collection assistant, Foley; Jane Archer, account assistant II, Campus Services; Scott Murray, director, Campus Services; Alex Wilbur, client support services technician, CCNSS; Vera Francisco Neves Pinto, program assistant, Nursing, Gail Marrs, chapter coordinator, Alumni Relations; Janice Huston, program specialist, Graduate Admissions Education

**Position Changes/Promotions:**

Cheryl Johnston, assistant director conference and event services, Hemmingson Center; Becky O’Connell, senior event manager of conference and events, Hemmingson Center; Kathleen O’Connor, interim dean, Foley

**Anniversaries:**

35 Robert Aitken, project coordinator, Plant Services
10 Ed Fitzgerald, custodial shift supervisor, Plant Services
5 Kurt Heimbigner, senior director of integrated marketing and web communications, Marcom; Kathy Hill, programs process manager, Sponsored Research; Linda Jones, senior web and print designer, Marcom

**Cradle Call:**

Meredith Aronson, employer and alumni relations manager, Career Center, and spouse Kevin had a baby boy Jack. Dylan Morton, custodian, Plant Services, and partner Amy Creal had a baby girl Rose. Brandi Praytor-Martens, mentoring coordinator, CCASL, and spouse Clinton had a baby girl Charlotte. Emily Crawford, instructor, Psychology, and spouse Rajiv had a baby boy Mihayel. Megan Taylor program and faculty support coordinator, Professional Studies, and spouse Timothy had a baby boy Ethan. Mark Muszynski, assistant professor, Engineering, and spouse Wendy had a baby boy Wally.

**FOCUS ON . . . Campaign Central**

Perhaps it’s not such a stretch to compare Nordstrom and Gonzaga. Pat Reese has worked for both, Gonzaga for the past 20 years. Both have multi-million budgets and both define their purpose by providing a high-quality experience and focus on a meaningful relationship with those they serve.

Nordstrom depends on attracting shoppers, Gonzaga prospective students. Both need investors.

That’s where Reese comes in. She is campaign director in Gonzaga’s effort to raise funds necessary to position Gonzaga to meet the needs of a vital 21st century university. The priorities include the John J. Hemmingson Center, a new performing arts center, and the Stevens tennis and Powers golf center which is already online and was 100 percent funded by benefactors. “To remain truly competitive and sustain our mission, growing the endowment for student financial aid and experiential learning is a primary focus of this effort, as well,” Reese said. Emerging initiatives organize under the themes of global engagement, social entrepreneurship, Jesuit teaching in the 21st century, thriving and healthy community, STEM, and sustaining athletic excellence. Other initiatives are apt to develop as the campaign progresses.

GU is in the quiet phase of the campaign now, with a public launch scheduled in October. Reese can’t say what the goal will be, but you can believe it will be considerably larger than the $149 million raised in the last campaign, which ended in 2005. Reese said she has seen an intense passion among alumni and friends who give back to Gonzaga. “They speak of the personal transformation they experienced and that they feel this deep sense of gratitude to ensure others have similar experiences.”

Global engagement is woven through academic and student development areas, with huge recognition that global engagement has to be more than study abroad, including students and faculty coming here from other parts of the world, and developing partnerships with other institutions, Reese said.

With social entrepreneurship, we are looking at what we are doing, what we are learning, and how to use those skills to better our community and our world, Reese says. Making a GU education accessible for more quality students through scholarships and expanded opportunities for internships, research and other experiential learning is important. “Our endowment is just over $200 million, but it should be three times that to help families access Gonzaga,” Reese says. Athletics and Law School will have a distinct part in this campaign.

The public campaign launch is Oct. 15 with a community event downtown. The Hemmingson Center dedication is Oct. 16, followed by Zagapalooza, the all-class reunion that weekend.

**Faculty, staff presidents ask all to come together in common enterprise**

Brian Stevenson and Jeff Geldien, presidents of the Faculty and Staff Assemblies, are doing everything they can to bridge what is left of the diminishing gap between faculty and staff, building a community where it is no longer about “us and them, but about we.”

Stevenson told staff at its open meeting last fall that “faculty” and “staff” are simply names on an organization, “but we are all part of the same project. We contribute in different ways—certainly without faculty we can’t have a university, and without staff the important work would never get done,” Stevenson says.

“But it takes all of us supporting each other and the work in different ways to make the mission possible,” Geldien says. They cited as an example the strong faculty and staff support for maintaining our staff colleagues in faculty and mail services.

The presidents are building a formal mechanism to support collaborative work. In his spring Faculty Conference address, President Thayne McCulloh urged faculty to welcome students and staff into their work in the Hemmingson Center.

“Another idea is creating a committee or body populated by members of staff and faculty assemblies, to work on issues that are common to us all,” Stevenson says.

“Some of those topics might include benefits and compensation, as well as career development and advancement opportunities for staff,” Geldien says.

“We ask all our colleagues to work on ways to collaborate and build a positive culture,” Stevenson says. “And we need to start with our hearts, to trust each other and our administration more, as we’re all in this together,” Geldien says.
Commencement 2015

Law Ceremony – Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m., McCarthey
Invited Speaker: Washington Supreme Court Justice Mary Fairhurst (’79, ’84 J.D.)

Graduate Ceremony – Saturday, May 9, Noon, McCarthey
*Invited Speaker: Blaine Harden (’74), former Washington Post and New York Times writer/foreign correspondent

Commencement Mass – Saturday, May 9, 4 p.m., McCarthey
(all faiths welcome)

Undergraduate Ceremony – Sunday, May 10, 9:30 a.m., Spokane Arena
*Trustees confirmation pending

A complete schedule of Commencement weekend events is available at Gonzaga.edu/Commencement.

If you have questions or a family member participating in a commencement ceremony this year, please contact Angela Ruff at ruff@gonzaga.edu for answers and VIP seating.

Gonzaga expects to confer 2,152 degrees this year – 1,207 undergrad, 791 master’s, 33 doctoral and 121 law.

Faculty, staff, students building Logan asset map

A team of faculty and students is creating an asset map of Logan and adjacent neighborhoods this semester as part of the Mapping Assets and Promoting Strengths Project. The project is being developed in cooperation with local residents, businesses, non-profit agencies and others.

Asset maps identify strengths and resources, as well as the priorities of local residents, presenting a very different view of a defined area than other assessment tools, which often look only at needs, problems, gaps or issues. The map identifies the physical environment, associations and groups, institutions and economic assets, and interests and priorities of individuals who live and work in the neighborhood.

The MAPS Project was created as a way to work collaboratively with residents to understand their vision for the neighborhood and to inform Gonzaga’s neighborhood-based work.

Vincent Alfonso and Sima Thorpe are the co-principal investigators for the project funded by the Raskob Foundation, City of Spokane and Gonzaga University. Faculty involved are: John Traynor, Ann Case and Addy Wissel, Education; Matt McPherson, Vivek Patil, Business; Susan Norwood, Jane Tiedt, Nursing; Cindy Stavrianos, Political Science; Greg Gordon, Environmental Studies; and Lazarina Topuzova, Organizational Leadership.

Student groups from these disciplines, as well as GSBA and CCASL, are involved and staff members include Todd Dunfield, CCASL; Jim Simon, Sustainability; and Mary Joan Hahn, Community and Public Relations.

Other partners are Spokane Public Schools, Logan Neighborhood Council, United Way, City of Spokane, Northeast Community Center, Communities in Schools, and Spokane Regional Health District. The project is scheduled for conclusion, including Town Halls to disseminate the findings, this summer.

Help to GUide new students through transition

Kelly Alvarado likes to think of First Year Experience Programs as new students’ concierge to Gonzaga because “Orientation is a process, not an event.”

Alvarado has hired five students for GUide Core who help plan New Student Orientation and assist students find their place throughout the first year.

GUide Maps, a first-six-weeks program, starting after Orientation Weekend, will cover more transitional areas, like class registration, study habits and involvement, which are not extensively covered during New Student Orientation.

“GU does a great job of supplying us with all kinds of programs, but new students sometimes have a hard time seeing a vision for how they will integrate in our community,” said GUide Core member Morgan Marum, a junior from Phoenix. “The five GUides will walk this journey with them.”

Last fall’s National Orientation Benchmarking Survey, conducted six weeks after orientation, showed 60 percent of new students had connected with a staff or faculty person they could turn to with questions or concerns, eight points above the national average. “We must continue increasing that number,” Alvarado said.

Orientation Weekend is Aug. 28-31, and GUide Maps runs through early October. First Year Experience Programs and GUide Core are available all year long to support new students’ transition.

Seasons to savor

With the great success enjoyed by both the Zag men’s and women’s basketball teams, find the NCAA tournaments captured in pictures at www.gonzaga.edu/NCAAPhotos. View the men’s Senior Tribute video at www.gonzaga.edu/MensVideoTribute. A women’s Senior Tribute video will be available online April 20 at www.gonzaga.edu/WomensVideoTribute, just after debuting at the women’s post-season basketball banquet April 19.

Have an idea for a Spirit feature? Send us an email: spirit@gonzaga.edu

View online at gonzaga.edu/spirit