GONZAGA WILL
the power behind a $250 million campaign

For 75 years – from a South Hill home with a view of downtown Spokane and Gonzaga University off in the distance – a guardian angel watched over our community, and over our University. This was the perspective that President Thayne McCulloh shared when announcing Miss Myrtle Woldson’s belief that Gonzaga was worthy of her trust, because of who we are and where – with her support – we could go.

The result of this belief was a $55 million gift from Miss Woldson, an accomplished businesswoman, to fund a new performing arts center and an endowment to provide scholarships for students most in need of financial help.

The announcement came at the kickoff of the $250 million Gonzaga Will: The Campaign for Our Future, attended by more than 1,000 supporters and those curious about all that’s happening at “Spokane’s university.” This Grand Hotel event was part of Zagapalooza Weekend, which drew more than 1,700 visitors to campus for festivities ranging from the John J. Hemmingson Center dedication, and engaging presentations across campus, to a fun run, basketball Fan Fest in the Kennel, and many alumni reunion events around town.

The entire long weekend seemed to electrify and endear Zag Nation.

Steve Lee (’90), director of information services at Rosauers Supermarkets, says he ran into longtime Gonzaga friends Thayne and Julie McCulloh walking to mass, who “listened to me babble on about how wonderful the weekend was. Thayne didn’t get a chance to say much, but grinned with the wisdom of one who has heard it all before.”

Neal Fouts (’77) traveled to Zagapalooza from his California home, and stopped by Tri-Cities to pick up Aunt Audrey Simmelink, 88, who loves Zag basketball and wanted to visit campus. She successfully bid on a water color painting of Gonzaga’s College Hall, and although a longtime supporter of WSU athletics, is now a GU supporter, as well.

Erica (Heinz) Shea (’02) founded Big Bing Theory in 1998, and returned to sing with 30 BBT alumni and a few current members at the Zagapalooza Hemmingson Homecoming. Several alumni in the audience commented on the group’s power to inspire this Gonzaga community. Erica, the parent of three in Billings, Montana, with GU classmate and husband Brian Shea, was inspired by the warmth of the Zag gathering, admitting she aspires to return to Gonzaga “when the time is right.”

The Campaign

Gonzaga Will, which has already raised $183 million thanks to the benefaction of some 23,000 contributors, focuses on five major areas of need: access for all students (scholarships), academic innovation, global engagement, community building and learning environments (facilities). As he has done throughout his presidency, McCulloh focused on the students. “We are here for you, our students, for the leaders of our future. It is because we believe in you and your potential that we will – Zags will – join you as we move the institution forward.”

Senior Grace Nguyen is a sterling example of the transformation the Gonzaga experience has on our students.

“My freshman year was hard,” she told those who attended the Gonzaga Will kick-off celebration. “But my sophomore year changed all that. I challenged myself to get out there.” She worked an internship in Student Involvement and Leadership, worked the telefund desk for University Advancement, and became a leader in a Christian Life Community.

“I’m not afraid to stand up in front of you today and express my love for a place that has changed me as a person,” Nguyen said. “This place is transformational. It’s the relationships we experience here that push us to get outside of the walls we create for ourselves. This is the Gonzaga experience.”

Miss Myrtle Woldson

Miss Woldson died in April 2014 at 104. In addition to her keen business mind, she was an art enthusiast, musician and philanthropist, not to mention a huge Zags basketball fan.

Over several years Miss Woldson had made significant contributions to the Jundt Art Museum, Gonzaga athletics and student scholarships. Before her passing, she shared her intentions to leave Gonzaga the residual of her estate, including three Seattle waterfront properties. She designated $30 million for the creation of the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, which will seat 750 guests, and $25 million for student scholarships.
Eight years ago, Spokane’s business leaders approached Joe Albert, acting dean of the School of Professional Studies, and asked what Gonzaga could do for high-potential people within their companies.

Albert responded by developing the Emerging Leaders Program, giving up-and-comers an opportunity to learn and experience leadership tactics within a short time frame.

“ELP covers every dimension of how leaders develop,” says Albert. The nine-month program includes an overnight retreat in October, a thorough 360-degree assessment, a seasoned mentor, and monthly classes on topics ranging from organizational change, to managing conflict, self-leadership and effective communication.

Keva Sonderen and her brother Matt (’03) were in the midst of succession planning of Sonderen Packaging from their dad, Mark Sonderen (’74). While both knew the business, Keva found ELP to be an ideal way to learn more about leadership. “To be an effective leader, you have to know the psychology of how to effectively deal with people in a meaningful and productive way. That’s more important than the technical skills,” she says. “The ELP program forces emerging leaders to take an honest look at their strengths and weaknesses in the social regard and receive valuable feedback from their peers.”

ELP provides a safe environment in which to give and receive such feedback, explains Keva’s ELP mentor, Jeff Adams, CEO of Horizon Credit Union. “And you receive feedback from people from other companies in similar places in their professional journeys where you are safe to explore your own philosophies.”

“Fewer people are taking master’s programs today, but businesses are looking for specific programs to beef up their training in specific leadership skills,” says ELP Program Coordinator Rachelle Strawther.

Companies involved in ELP include Hecla Mining, Avista, Integrus Architectures, Horizon Credit Union, Spokane Airports, Kaiser Aluminum, Northwest Farm Credit Services and others.

SAME OFFICE, 20-PLUS YEARS: Memories abound

After 23 years in the same place, Archivist Stephanie Plowman finally learned her office number as a result of this survey about who’s occupied the same physical space for 20 or more years. “I work in Foley 310C,” she says. “Never knew that before.”

Nancy Masingale (39 years) and Sandy Hank (33 years) still occasionally use the IBM Selectric II typewriter in their Campus Printing office, which they have occupied since they began work at Gonzaga.

The things that haven’t changed in Accounting Professor Eddy Birrer’s Jepson 231 office in 30-plus years are his puns, he admits.

Vice President for Finance Chuck Murphy’s most unusual office item in College Hall 2.21 is his crystal ball. “But I have never been able to make it work.”

Lots of memories are tied up in these hallowed office spaces. The fondest ones involve service to others…that’s the common denominator with these longtime employees.

“The one thing that hasn’t changed is our smiling service, loyalty and dedication to our customers,” Hank says. “My best memories are meeting and helping many people with their research needs,” Plowman says. “The best things that happen here are problem solving and creating opportunities for our people and the university,” Murphy says.

One of Birrer’s favorite memories was a visit to his office by a fine young man/former student, who stopped by to say hello less than a year before he died of cancer. “I was deeply honored that he took the time to stop despite his terminal illness.”

As one might expect of the University’s resident Bingkeeper, Plowman values the most her 4-inch Bing Crosby record cleaner with his face and signature imprinted on it.

These offices are in various stages of organizational practice. Perhaps Murphy’s organization is the most clever: “I have a ‘piling system,’ instead of a filing system.”

Masingale takes the cake for best office prize: “My employees are my most prized items.” Campus Printing has six employees, the shortest term being 11 years, with the combined service at 152 years.

Around Campus

>> English Professor Tod Marshall has published a book, “Bugle” (Canarium Books), which is a collection of his poems centered on nature, music and the ups and downs of being human.

>> CCASL received two AmeriCorps grants for the academic year, providing four full-time AmeriCorps volunteers supporting public school mentors and Campus Kitchens nutrition education programs.

>> The Jundt Art Museum received a $4,000 grant from the Washington State Arts Commission to support its 2016 spring semester exhibition, “Fifty Masterworks from the Print Collection of the Jundt Art Museum.”

>> Education Dean Vincent Alfonso is one of 80 delegates invited to attend the World Congress on Catholic Education in Rome, Nov. 18-21. The theme is “Educating Today and Tomorrow. A renewing passion.” Alfonso will attend a session specifically designed for universities.

>> Communications and Leadership Studies Professor John Caputo will serve as visiting research professor at Sapienza University in Rome, Italy, this spring. He will give a series of lectures, meet with students and look at possible future collaboration between Gonzaga and Sapienza.

>> Laurie Arnold, director of American Indian Studies, will present “From Assimilation to Cultural Reclamation: Native American Education, 1880-2015,” at the next Gonzaga Guild Lecture, Nov. 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Herak Club Room at McCarthy. No charge, public is invited.

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES FILLING AREA NEEDS

“Mentoring rising professionals in other industries gives me a chance to cement my own philosophies,” says Jeff Adams, CEO at Horizon Credit Union. Emerging Leaders Program founder Joe Albert looks on.
Don Hackney is a deep thinker, perhaps one of few lay persons on campus who’s read and re-read the Church’s social encyclicals and a variety of related commentaries. Oh, and he’s taught business law at Gonzaga since Expo 74.

“I’ve always had an interest in ideas,” says Hackney, who was raised in Kennewick, transferred to GU as a sophomore to earn a degree in economics, and never left, except for a two-year Army stint. On return, he earned a law degree and MBA from GU, and, by the way, was Bob Spitzer’s RA in CM. Hackney opened his own law practice and began teaching as an adjunct. In 2006, he hung up his shingle, and began teaching fulltime. During this time, Don married a Gonzaga sweetheart, Sherie, and together raised and educated three Gonzaga alums, Catherine, Elizabeth and John.

During the recent Fall Family Weekend, he presented a lecture entitled, Great Ideas of Western Civilization Meets Catholic Social Doctrine. He received an email that colleague Eddy Birrer shared with Spirit.

“You presented your topic with the kind of informal efficiency that is very appealing and kept everyone interested as you developed a reasonable tie between the need for a business to be profitable and the responsibility for it to recognize the intrinsic dignity of each of its employees,” wrote parent Bill Chambers.

Don speaks of big ideas

“Genesis tells us we are created in the image and likeness of God, endowed with intellect and volition. We are moral creatures: we think and we choose. It is the basis of our dignity.” We choose, but not always wisely, as

Hackney notes a weakness for donuts.

The flow of great ideas through history fascinates Don. “Thomas Jefferson didn’t generate the soaring prose of the Declaration of Independence out of thin air in a Philadelphia tavern. It was a distillation of the great ideas of three millennia of Western thought.”

Don speaks of Fr. John Navonne, retired Vatican theologian at GU. Fr. Navonne says Rome’s paving stones speak, if you listen, of Rome’s history.

Gonzaga’s stones speak to Don. The campus is alive with memories for him. He walks by the bust of Fr. Art Dussault, and remembers the man: a big, broad-shouldered, fearless Jesuit who gave his all for the school. For Don, “this ground is sacred ground. I love this place. I love to teach. It’s been a great ride.”

Birrer gets the final word, “Don embodies all that is good – no great – about Gonzaga.”

SEASON OF LIGHT

Huge tree center of celebration

The lighting of a 22-foot Christmas tree in the Hemmingson Center rotunda will kick off Christmas season at Gonzaga. Communications professors Dan Garrity and Colleen McMahon will emcee the Season of Light event, Dec. 1, 5:30-7 p.m. that includes brass and vocal music, a sing-a-long, words from President Thayne McCulloh and GSBA President Taylor Kratochvil, a brief reflection by Michelle Wheatley and Fr. Brad Reynolds, and refreshments for all.

“Over the following two weeks before Christmas break we’ll focus on religions of the world, create community, and in so doing launch what we hope will be an annual event,” says Chuck Faulkinberry, director of the Hemmingson Center and auxiliary services. “We hope the entire GU community will join us for this ceremony and stick around for cookies, hot chocolate and cider in the center or around the fire pit outside. Of course, The Bulldog and the COG will be open for dinner for those who want to make an evening of it.”
Hemmingson draws rave reviews . . . and a few laughs

The John J. Hemmingson Center has been a huge magnet, drawing in students, staff, faculty and the surrounding community. It is receiving rave reviews – from those working within, and by those visiting for a meal, a meeting or simply for a break. Parents and alumni have been dazzled. However, as with anything new, the bugs of opening a new building have to be worked out over time.

By all reports, the GUEST staff has exceeded expectations for serving those who utilize this sterling new 167,000-square-foot building, Gonzaga's largest. But its task has not been without a few challenges, which staff have resolved and can laugh about in hindsight:

- Ghost-flushing toilet in women's first-floor bathroom
- Lots of glass means lots of fingerprints, hence, lots of Windex
- First round of door stops not ample to hold open the beautiful, but heavy doors; so entire GUEST staff spent two weeks holding doors open, making friends and providing a new level of service
- Furniture disappearing and ending up in other portions of the building. Musical furniture. Has anyone seen a striped couch?
- Morris Hearth Lounge fireplace glass shattering; working fine now, thanks!

Overall, the transition to this new space has been smooth. The larger-than-expected freshman class created need for more outdoor terrace chairs at the COG. The Zag Wall drew so many drawers’ hands that it was over-stimulated and shut down on a few occasions. The building provided excellent backup to many orientation activities, planned for outside but moved inside due to smoky air. Turns out the volume of service at Starbucks on Main Street makes it the largest-grossing location in the Inland Northwest. And students are enjoying the auditorium movies; interestingly, the animated “Inside Out” provided the two sell-outs so far.

“The best thing about this building is standing at the front and watching someone come in for the first time, look up in awe at the rotunda and say ‘wow,’” says Assistant Director Suzie Mize. “It happens all the time.”

“There is the same amount of energy here at night as there is during the day,” says Assistant Director Sheryl Humphrey. “This place transforms itself at night, the music is louder, students get their second wind; it's a great place to gather after dinner and continue their conversations.”

Zags sneak peak

Find schedules at www.gonzaga.edu/spirit

Men’s Basketball

Returning starters: Przemek Karnowski, 7-1, Sr.; Kyle Wiltjer, 6-10, Sr.
Other key returners: Domantas Sabonis, 6-11, Soph.; Kyle Dranginis, 6-5, Sr.; Josh Perkins, 6-3, Fr.; Silas Melson, 6-4, Soph.; Eric McClellan, 6-4, Sr.
Returning redshirts: Ryan Edwards, 7-1, Soph.; Bryan Alberts, 6-5, Fr.
Key freshman: Jack Beach, 6-2, San Diego, Calif.
Last year’s overall record: 35-3

Post-season: Elite Eight last year; 17 straight NCAA tournament appearances
League titles: 15 in last 16 years
TV: All 32 games broadcast
Radio: 1510 AM
Staff/faculty tickets: Available 7 a.m. Monday for games that week (except on Monday holidays), two per employee. See GoZags.com/tickets/faculty-and-staff-tickets.html.

Women’s Basketball

Returning Starters: Shelby Cheslek, 6-5, Sr.; Georgia Stirton, 5-8, Sr.; Elle Tinkle, 6-2, Sr.
Other key returners: Shaniqua Nilles, 6-0, Sr.; Emma Stach, 5-9, Soph.; Emma Wolfram, 6-5, Soph.
Returning redshirts: Kiara Kudron, 6-2, Jr.; Jill Barta, 6-3, Fr.
Key transfers: Makenlee Williams, 5-8, Jr., Utah State
Key freshmen: Laura Stockton, 5-8, Jr., Spokane; Zykera Rice, 6-1, Lakewood, Wash.; Zhané Templeton, 5-11, Grand Prairie, Texas
Last year’s overall record: 26-8
Post-season: Sweet 16 last year; 7 straight NCAA tournament appearances
League titles: 11 straight
TV: All 32 games broadcast
Radio: 790 AM
Staff/faculty tickets: Available 10 a.m.-5 p.m. week of the game(s) for immediate family.