ZAGAPALOOZA WEEKEND

Chance to celebrate everything good about Gonzaga

It will be the biggest weekend in Gonzaga history. A celebration expected to exceed 1,000 Zags and friends at the glamourous new Davenport Grand Hotel, the official dedication of the John J. Hemmingson Center, and the Zagapalooza all-Zag reunion should make for a wonderfully engaging weekend.

The Campaign for Gonzaga

On Oct. 15, Gonzaga is announcing its largest-ever capital campaign at an event named Because You Believe. The campaign has been in the quiet phase for several years. The public announcement will invite the entire Gonzaga community to join the effort in making our vision a reality.

At Because You Believe, this vision will be vividly painted through art, music and storytelling. While you will need to attend for all details, central to the vision is:

- Make a Gonzaga education accessible to future generations of students
- Provide faculty and staff learning environments and resources necessary for fulfilling careers and delivering on our promise to students
- Position Gonzaga as a university of the future
- Provide a relevant and challenging education that prepares our students to enter and contribute to an increasingly complex world

“Raising funds through this campaign is only part of this endeavor,” says Joe Poss, vice president for University Advancement. “It is about building a community that advances a lifelong attachment for the mission and vision of Gonzaga University.”

Faculty, staff, students, Spokane community members, and the Zag Nation are invited to this free event at the Grand Hotel Ballroom, from 5-7 p.m., where Gonzaga’s fine artists, thespians, dancers, musicians and singers will perform. President Thayne McCulloh will announce the largest gift in GU history.

Hemmingson Dedication

On Oct. 16, the extended weekend continues with the 4 p.m. formal dedication of the John J. Hemmingson Center, which is proving to be a magnet for students, staff and faculty, alike. Taking place on the north plaza, the event will be emceed by AVP Patricia Killen and Vice President for Student Development Judi Biggs Garbua. It will feature remarks by GSBA president Taylor Kratochvil and President McCulloh about the Hemmingson Center’s vision, and a blessing by Vice President for Mission Fr. Frank Case, S.J. The GU community is encouraged to attend. The family-friendly event offers self-guided tours, food and drinks, and kids’ activities.

Zagapalooza Reunion Weekend

Zagapalooza Hemmingson Homecoming tips off the three-day, all-class reunion immediately following the dedication, 5 p.m., Oct. 16. All employees are invited, but register at www.gonzaga.edu/zagapalooza. The free event includes drinks and appetizers, live bands and a toast by alumnus President McCulloh (’89).

This marks the second time Gonzaga will host an all-Zag reunion. Here are other reunion highlights:

The weekend of Oct. 15-18 will provide insight into Gonzaga’s future and chances to reunite with, and celebrate alumni and friends at a variety of events, all open to faculty and staff.

Hemmingson Dedication

Saturday, Oct. 17

9:10 a.m.  5K Fun Run on campus and Centennial Trail, Bronze Bulldog start
9:30-11 a.m.  Finding God in Everything; A 90-Minute Jesuit Retreat, Jesuit House Chapel
10:30 a.m.  “Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Global Engagement: Why at Gonzaga and Why Now?” Hemmingson Auditorium
11:45 a.m.  Alumni lunch ($25), Rosauer Plaza
4 p.m.  Women’s Basketball Fan Fest, McCarthey Athletic Center
6:30 p.m.  Arbor Crest Wine Social for all alumni, regardless of class year, faculty and staff, $20

For a complete list of events, who’s coming and to RSVP for all events, go to www.gonzaga.edu/Believe2015.

BIG QUESTION

Who has occupied the same physical office for 20 or more years? Send notes about it to goodwin@gonzaga.edu, or send notes about your colleague who fits this description but is too shy to self-report. Submission deadline Oct. 12.
> Kraziness in the Kennel, Oct. 10, 4 p.m., includes a men’s basketball skills competition, dunk contest and scrimmage. Women’s basketball Fan Fest, Oct. 17, 4 p.m., includes a three-point shooting contest and scrimmage. Both McCarthey Athletic Center events include player and coach introductions.

> Music abounds in October with the following concerts: Men’s and Women’s Chorus, Oct. 10, 3 p.m., University Chapel, free; Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra featuring violin soloist Elmira Darvarova, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., Woldson Theater at the Fox, free with GU ID card.

> Former Starbucks’ CEO Howard Behar will present “It’s Not About the Coffee,” Oct. 6, 4:30 p.m. in the Hemmingson Ballroom. Admission is $25, co-sponsored by GU, Whitworth and Leadership Spokane.

> “Weaving Our Sisters’ Voices,” a sacred tapestry blended into dance, music and poetry about women from Scripture, is composed and directed by Music Studies Professor Suzanne Ostersmith, and the music is composed and directed by Music Professor Robert Spittal.

> The School of Business is bringing two noted speakers to campus: San Francisco’s Federal Reserve Bank CEO John Williams, Oct. 7, 10 a.m., Wolff Auditorium, free; and Nike Vice President Greg Bui (‘88), Oct. 14, 7:30 a.m., Wolff Auditorium, $15 as part of the Dean’s Business Forum. For more information, go to www.gonzaga.edu/news.

> Kaaren Goeller-Bloom, Student Development, received Spokane County’s Most Valuable Commuter Award for August 2015, due to her commitment to riding her bike instead of driving alone. See her story and photo at www.MyCommute.org.


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AROUND CAMPUS

AN UNCOMPROMISING WOMAN

President Sirleaf comes to campus

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has fought her share of battles. But in so doing, she has found common ground that has served to reconcile differences within her country and foster economic growth. In 2011, she received the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts, and on Oct. 4 she will be Gonzaga’s sixth Presidential Speaker hosted by President Thayne McCulloh. The Sunday-evening program begins at 7 p.m. in the McCarthey Athletic Center.

Free tickets for faculty and staff members are available at the Welcome Desk at Hemmingson Center, McCarthey Athletic Center and Campus Printing. Additional discounted tickets may be purchased for $10 at McCarthey.

Parent-faculty social, Kraziness rank as FFW highlights

Get ready for 1,000 visitors in the form of moms and dads, sisters and brothers, grandparents galore as Fall Family Weekend comes to campus Oct. 9-11.

Faculty have made more than 100 Friday class open to visitors, and 35 academic lectures and information sessions are planned specifically for our guests. A complete listing of FFW activities is found at www.gonzaga.edu/ffw.

One of two highlights of the weekend is always the Parent-Faculty Social, which occurs on Friday, Oct. 9, 4-6 p.m. in the Hemmingson Center, third floor. “This provides a chance for parents to get to know faculty, share community and enjoy appetizers and beverages,” says Angela Ruff, event coordinator. “And wear your GU name tag.”

The other highlight? Kraziness in the Kennel. Inflatables and other games will be staged on the South Lawn of McCarthey Athletic Center on Saturday at noon. Doors open at 3 p.m. The festivities at 4 p.m. will include introductions, a slam dunk competition and a blue-white scrimmage.

MISSION AWARD

HONORS SELFLESS SPIRIT

Barbara Warner has distinguished herself as a selfless ray of sunshine in her 30-year Gonzaga career that includes stints in the bookstore and as a custodian. Jackie Van Allen, grant accountant in the Controller’s office and GU’s Bloomsday Corporate Cup organizer, also is described as selfless with a generous and grateful heart, a leader by example. Both were honored Sept. 22 with Gonzaga’s Outstanding Service in Support of Mission Awards.
New Hires

New Positions/Promotions
Ryan Herzog, assoc. prof., Economics; Matthew McPherson, prof., Finance; Daniel Stewart, prof., Entrepreneurship; Annie Voy, assoc. prof., Economics; Bob Finn, Alumni Outreach & Engagement Officer; Elizabeth Skiles, asst. dean of students, Health & Well Being; Suzanne Ostrowsmith, asst. prof., Theatre/Dance; JoAnn Barbour, prof., Leadership Studies; Mary Watkins, periodical/interlibrary loan asst.; Folely; Adriane Leithauser, lecturer-IR, Ethics; Kirk Anders, prof., Biology; Dan Bradley, asst. prof., Phil.; Eric Cunningham, prof., History; Suzann Girtz, asst. prof., Teacher Education; Andrew Goldman, prof., History [Arnold Chair]; Ginger Grey, senior lecturer-AT, English; Kristine Hoover, assoc. prof., Organized Leadership; John Kafentzis, senior lecturer-AT, Integrative Studies; Kevin McCrudden, asst. prof., Religious Studies; Leslie Stamoolis, asst. prof., Theatre/Dance; Rebecca Stephanis, asst. prof., Modern Languages; Brooke Swanson, prof., Biology; Stacy Tanichev, asst. prof., Political Science; Marcozov, asst. prof., Organizational Leadership; Linda Tredennick, prof., English; Stephen Warren, assoc. prof., Chem.; Jeffrey Watson, assoc. prof., Chem.; Torunn Haaland, assoc. prof., Modern Languages; Marianne Poxleitner, assoc. prof., Biology; Cynthia Stavrianos, assoc. prof., Pol. Sci.; Katherine Slater, lecturer-IR, Nursing

Goodbyes
Kevin Mann, controller; Crisco Moua, custodian, Plant; David Garcia, asst. dir., UMEC; Luisa Gallagher, service immersion coord., CCASL; Carol Magnuson, manager, Crosby Student Center; Sally Deiger, on-call, Health Center; Amy Corey, asst. prof., Comm. Studies; John Correa, telecom. tech., Plant; Tracey Holman, on-call fitness center asst.; Austen Case, on-call social host, Athletics; Monica Henderson, on-call social host, Athletics; Brian Dunn, HHMI Research Mentor; Anna Goodale, asst. woman’s crew coach, Athletics; Joseph Diaz, custodian, Plant; Joel Schroeder, custodian, Plant; Kerrie Miles, PAII, Career Center

Cradle Call
Sara Alami, intn’l student & scholar coord., Intn’l Student & Scholar Svcs., and spouse, Xiang Jing, had a baby boy, Marwan; Jennifer Klein, career data/research specialist, Career Center & GAMP, and spouse, Tim, had baby boy, Easton.

Anniversaries
35 Michael Herzog, adviser to the president
30 Chou-Hong Chen, prof.; Business MIS; David Elloy, prof.; Management; Tom Miller, asst. prof., Integrated Media
25 Scott Bozeman, prof., Marketing; John Caputo, prof., Communication & Leadership; Paul De Palma, prof., Computer Sci.; Jerri Shepard, asst. prof., DELA; Robert Toshack, manager/computer operator, Business Services
20 Mary Farrell, prof., Art; Colleen Goodwin, senior lecturer-AT, Math; Patrick Hartin, prof., Religious Studies; Quanhuia Liu, asst. prof., History; Stefania Nedderman, assoc. prof., Modern Languages; Gary Weber, asst. prof., Accounting; Nancy Yamura, custodial shift supervisor, Plant
15 Kevin Chambers, assoc. prof., History; Joseph Haydock, assoc. prof., Biology; Theodore Nitz, assoc. prof., History/Intn’l Studies; Kelly O’Brien-Jenks, assoc. prof., Foley; Michele Pajer, senior lecturer-AT, English; Jean Pugh, asst. to chair/senior faculty asst., Social Sciences; Ross Windhorst, working maintenance supervisor, Plant
10 Shonna Bartlett, program dir., Ministry institute

FOCUS ON... SMILES
Sajt Alijagic arrives to work every day at the Hemmingson Center with a smile, and readily shares it.

The Bosnian-born immigrant from Germany speaks five languages, makes his own cheeses, loves discussing religion and politics in positive ways, and is a bit of a mad scientist. He’s also building coordinator in Gonzaga’s landmark John J. Hemmingson Center.

After coming to Spokane in 1998, he attended Ferris High, took classes at Spokane Community College and enrolled here as a non-matriculating student, still unsure whether he was going to pursue his life as an architect. On May 11, 2005, he said: “I gave my life changed when Gonzaga hired Sajt (pronounced Cy) Alijagic as a custodian.

“I worked my way through college, starting as an engineering major, then moving into operations management in the School of Business. I graduated in 2014 with my Gonzaga degree,” Alijagic says quite proudly.

He applied for a number of Gonzaga jobs while working as custodian-lead, but found his niche when the Hemmingson Center opened and he was named building coordinator.

“I used to work in the COG, and we had a vacuum named PIG that would suck up any food left on the Montana Room floor,” Sajt laughs. “I could tell the COG had given everything it had, but was used up.”

The essence of Sajt’s work is flexibility. “I submit work orders to Plant Services, help provide conference services, and address student needs such as approving posters or cutting up movies. I work as manager-on-duty when no manager is scheduled – Thursday evenings, Saturday and Sunday mornings. We have to be pliable,” Sajt says, and he’s thankful for an understanding wife, Aida, and an adorable daughter Azra.”

But he enjoys most working with students in this glorious student center. “We have a certain crowd here that you don’t have at other places – polite, kind, caring students. Being in service to that student body gives me great pleasure.”

He also has distinguished himself as a great Zags fan. He loved watching the games in McGarthy as a custodian. He has known a lot of the players by name. “Elias Harris and I spoke German to each other every chance I had,” Sajt said. “I’d take out the trash, and when Mark Few was heading to his car at end of a day, he always made an effort to say ‘have a good night.’”

“Sajt was always very kind and supportive to me when I was battling cancer,” said former supervisor Linda Leonard.

“Sajt has always been the first to volunteer to help,” says Hemmingson Assistant Director Sheryl Humphrey. For example, when staff toyed with ideas to market student programs within the building, it was Sajt who sketched out an idea, found a local vendor and had prototype created and presented to leadership. “His idea ended up being the right one, and now we have an area to support our advertising needs in the Hemmingson Center. Without Sajt’s persistence, I’m confident we would still be looking for a solution.”
PRIORITIES AND INSPIRATION

President addresses his to-do list

“I have a genuine sense of excitement and enthusiasm about the ever-increasing role Gonzaga is playing in the life of our region,” remarked President Thayne McCulloh at the Fall Faculty Conference and Fall Open Meeting of the Staff Assembly. “This is sparked in part by the support we are receiving from alumni, board, benefactors, students and families, but also from community leaders and legislators who see Gonzaga as very relevant to Spokane and to the future of our region.”

This is evidenced in the proposition from the University of Washington for Gonzaga to partner with it in delivering medical education in Spokane. A request like this, coming from the number one school of medicine in the nation, says something about us, McCulloh noted. He is collaborating with faculty, Trustees and others to evaluate this proposal.

President McCulloh shared other top priorities on his to-do list for this season:

- to support faculty in shared governance;
- to support Staff Assembly and Human Resources in evaluating our work culture to make improvements to staff work environment;
- to initiate community conversations about our Jesuit identity; and
- to establish a multi-year system of budgeting.

Another major priority is to conduct key administrative searches for the following:

- a VP for Administration and Planning (replacing the position of Executive VP);
- a VP for Mission following Father Case’s impending retirement; and
- a chief technology officer.

McCulloh also announced John Sklut as his new chief of staff, succeeding Mike Herzog, and Skip Meyers as interim vice president for Administration and Planning.

Also of great importance this fall is the launch of Gonzaga’s capital campaign, which seeks to raise funds, first and foremost, for scholarships, in addition to academic innovation, global engagement, learning environments and community building. Included in the campaign goals are new facilities such as the Jesuit House (construction to begin next summer) and the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center (to open in fall 2018). The public launch of the campaign kicks off Zagapalooza weekend on Oct. 15. Visit www.gonzaga.edu/Believe2015 for details.

McCulloh wrapped up with a reminder that how we as people of Gonzaga treat each other impacts our work and shapes who we are. “The work you do is fundamental, but how we do it is the Jesuit difference. “There is never too much kindness, too much respect, empathy or compassion,” he said. “In a society of name calling, racism and divisiveness, we must set an example, and in the well-known Jesuit manner of proceeding, assume the best in our colleagues, students and community.”

HEMMINGSON IS GOLD

The John J. Hemmingson Center earned LEED Gold status last month after 18 months of work to insure the building met stringent environmental and sustainability standards.

“We relied heavily on several departments, as well as architects, contractor and subcontractors,” says Hemmingson Center Director Chuck Faulkinberry.

Gonzaga earned points in the evaluation process in the following categories:

- sustainable location
- water efficiency
- energy and atmosphere
- materials and resources
- indoor environmental quality
- innovation and design, and
- regional priorities

“This is really good news for the University as we can now officially state we are a LEED Gold certified building,” Faulkinberry says.

TAKING HEED

GU service week planned in April

Taking heed of Pope Francis' recent encyclical, On Care for Our Common Home, the University is making a concerted effort to engage the entire GU community in service work by establishing a Community Service Week in April. Staff are encouraged to use their four University-provided community service hours for this endeavor if they don’t have a service interest of their own, says Shanea Giroux, administrative assistant in Mission.

Gonzaga students alone contribute more than 100,000 hours to community service each year. Now, the University is asking faculty and staff to become more involved in this work.

In the months ahead, look for Spirit stories about Gonzaga employees and the ways they are reaching out to their communities. You can review the Pope’s encyclical at www.gonzaga.edu/encyclical. For more information or to contribute staff service stories, contact Giroux at giroux@gonzaga.edu.