In just a few short years, the online Gonzaga Advent Calendar has become a Zags family tradition.

The award-winning project bridges the gap between the physical and the virtual in a way that connects Zags around the globe during the season of Advent in a spirit filled and environmentally conscious way. Many think of it as a virtual Christmas present, with a variety of daily features from prayers to printables, games to service opportunities, contests to recipes and so much more. It offers something for the entire family with activities for all ages.

“The Advent Calendar came about (in 2015) through the desire to bring an Advent and Christmas countdown message to our alumni and friends that aligned with Gonzaga’s mission and connect Zags during this most wonderful time of year,” says Stephanie Rockwell, director of Individual Giving. “We all thought sending some Christmas cheer through an interactive web platform would be a welcome addition to the Gonzaga experience, and it certainly has been.”

The calendar has won several marketing, public relations and higher education industry honors. It launches yearly on Advent Sunday and runs through Christmas. It has evolved over the years. Gonzaga community members have expressed their enjoyment of features such as computer wallpaper, games (such as “Snowball Spike” and “Battle in Seattle”), as well as prayer and spiritual video messages. Find the Advent Calendar at www.gonzaga.edu/Christmas

Happy 94th birthday

Father Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J.

The year was 1974 and Spokane was hosting a world’s fair less than a mile from campus. Back along Boone Street, Gonzaga was in search of a new president during very difficult times.

So let’s go back to the library where many good things happen at Gonzaga, and put together jigsaw puzzles on the library floor for study breaks.

For Father Coughlin, the bottom line has always been relationships, like the one he built with Harry Magnuson, the Trustee chair who invited Gonzaga’s long-time president to campus in 1974.

It was a happy place. Over the years, it has drawn a laugh from “Barney,” who had no intention of being a college president. “But it always drew a laugh from “Barney,” who had no intention of changing his name.

The man of great stature and abiding care for people had both barked and brawned in higher education leadership circles. But at home on campus, aura personalia, care for the individual, everything...good everything about the man who saved Gonzaga University, preserved Gonzaga’s Jesuit heritage and continued to share his love with so many colleagues, students, friends, alumni and associates.

Fr. Coughlin is the longest serving president in University history, 22 years, from 1974-1996. He's served as Gonzaga's West and only chair for the past 20 years. “I guess I have felt so involved that I never realized that I have been at Gonzaga for 47 years. That’s almost half of my life,” he says, a slight smile creeping over his face, which is etched by both trials and great accomplishments.

It is near impossible for people to visit Fr. Coughlin and not leave with a smile in their heart and on their face. His graciousness, and joy for life and the people around him, are almost contagious.

Turning 94 years old Dec. 7, he still gets out to walk the campus wherever he can. And it’s not uncommon to see him stop and strike up a conversation with a student.

Being active is something that has always made him feel good. “I appreciate the students coming up to me and engaging themselves and establishing those associations with me,” he says. “It’s good for the students to feel at home, and I enjoy seeing their smiling faces.”

Students are one primary cog that makes Gonzaga University such a fine place, Fr. Coughlin says. “I’m not trying to put my own shoulders for making it a fine place, but our students want to be good scholars, get a good education and succeed in life (not just in the job market); their values and the quality of what they are doing, the families that they’re raising, the things they are teaching, are in keeping with Gonzaga’s values as a Jesuit university. To me, that’s a very important thing.”

It’s all about love

The 2015 home page featured a beautiful, animated, interactive multimedia Gonzaga-themed snowman scene with gently falling snowflakes, done in the look-and-feel of stained glass, with an instrumental version of O Come, O come, Emmanuel playing in the background.

Visit Advent Calendar 2016 to see what’s new this year.

To send birthday wishes to Father Coughlin, go to www.gonzaga.edu/coughlinbirthday

continued page 2
Alumni Christmas Celebration
Dec. 4, 6:30-8:30 a.m. at Gonzaga Alumni Church, then alumni, faculty, staff, families and friends are invited to head to the Hemmingson Rotunda for pictures with Bing Crosby (6:30-8:30 p.m.), cookies and coffee. RSVPonline.gonzaga.edu/Alumnichristmascelebration
White Christmas Open House
Dec. 10, noon-3 p.m., Crosby House.
Cider and cookies hosted by Advocates for Bing Crosby. Christmas music.
 Foley Center Christmas Party
Dec. 14 – Rare Book Room, 2-4 p.m.
Featuring the actual upstairs and downstairs deserts available.

President’s Progressive Christmas Party
Dec. 16 – Hotel RL Spokane at the Park
9:30-11:00 p.m. “Cocktails and Cheer” in Hotel lobby and bar (reservations for both), Caroler appetizers and beverages. 7:30-9:00 “A Feast with Friends” in the main ballroom with a variety of food stations, including seafood, sushi, street tacos and a signature party drink.

NOTE: Only those GU employees who have RSVP’d by Dec. 1 will be included in the festivities. A formal invitation/RSPV card was distributed through Intercom campus mail. On this card is a place to request a song for the dance:
9:00-11:00 “Jingle and Mingle” – the dance party in the Skyline Ballroom with drinks and merriment.

NOTEWORTHY

New hires

Sean Joyce, case manager, Center for Curricular Personalization, Career Outcomes event operations specialist, GUEST; Kent Kallren, law school, 2011, cum laude; MacKen Friesen, program coordinator, Faith & Reason Community Advocates.

New Positions/Promotions

Audrey Minton, senior transfer admissions counselor, admissions; Thomas Mahony, director, Global Engagement program coordinator, Center for Global Engagement.

GU joins community forces to fight hate

In response to recent bigotry and hateful defacing of the Spokane King St. Outreach Center, Gonzaga graduate student and volunteer program coordinator for Hate Studies has joined forces with community organizations to develop the Good Neighbor Conference. 

Craig Meidl, Spokane Rising Panel Discussion: “What can we do to stand up to hate?”

Andrea Simmons, Spokane Rising Panel Discussion: “What can we do to stand up to hate?”

Macklen Scribner, Spokane Rising Panel Discussion: “What can we do to stand up to hate?”

Standing Together: Powerful stories of resilience in response to hate

Craig Meidl, Spokane Rising Panel Discussion: “What can we do to stand up to hate?”

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Happy 94th birthday

Father Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J.

The year was 1974 and Spokane was hosting a world’s fair less than a mile from campus. Back along Boone Street, Gonzaga was in search of a new president during very difficult times. Then chair of the Board of Trustees, Harry Magnuson, along with University President Father Richard Twombly, S.J., invited the dean of Social Welfare at St. Louis University, Father Bernard (burr-nerd) J. Coughlin, S.J., to campus and offered him the 23rd presidency of the University.

It wasn’t until Fr. Coughlin had moved his meager belongings to Spokane that Harry dropped the bomb: “By the way, Father, we’re broke.” Fr. Coughlin knew that the only way to dig out of debt was to meet, build relationships with, and engage business and civic leaders in promoting a vision and mission for a strong, morals-based university. With their business acumen and resources, they helped right the ship. One only needs to stroll across campus to see the names of Fr. Coughlin’s many friends on our buildings, rooms and scholarships. -Kennedy, Tilford, Jundt, Jepson, Burch, Herak, Magnuson, Foley, Cowles, Rosauer, Mccarthy, Clute, West, and soon-to-be Woldon – to name a few. “Finances were very problematic,” Fr. Coughlin recalls. “So I began doing what I thought was the right thing to do, and not everybody liked it. As time went on, a band of people came forward and helped me – many of them – for which I am very thankful. I was fortunate to establish wonderful relationships. I believed then, and still do, that the president’s job was to engage people who had thoughtfulness and generosity and wanted to see the University succeed, and in time, Gonzaga became very much a part of this community. It was a happy place. Over the years, it has developed into an extremely powerful University, with wonderful people, wonderful students, and a wonderful set of values that the people who worked there incorporated.”

**To send birthday wishes to Father Coughlin, go to www.gonzaga.edu/coughlinbirthday**

It would be impossible to count the people who call Barney Coughlin their best friend. It would be impossible to count the people who call Gonzaga their home.

**IT’S ALL IN A NIGHT’S WORK**

One night last year, the student worker on duty (Achy Breaky Heart, I Think We’re Alone Now). The student worker (by the way), is a former Gonzaga Trustee, now director S.J., invited the dean to the intercom after 2 a.m. to get students to leave the building. “Campus Security is helpful to library staff and students, and they give us all rides to our cars,” says Hutton. “There is a sense of late night community between library staff and students, campus security and the maintenance team, especially when we are all equally exhausted and delirious,” Fr. Coughlin says. “It is near impossible for people to visit Fr. Coughlin and not leave with a smile in their heart and on their face. His graciousness, and joy for life and the people around him, are contagious.”

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**Karen Zobell, Center for Student Involvement**

*Note: we have to spell Coughlin’s name as C-O-U-G-H-L-I-N, not C-O-U-G-H-L-A-N. This was the only way to get through the computer systems.*

*And know that Hemmingson staff are on duty well into the wee hours to keep the building running smoothly, especially on the weekends when the building doesn’t close until 2 a.m.,” says Director Chuck Faulkobinbery.*

**Laura Hutton helps students during late nights in the library, even waking them up so that they can go home.**

**The toughest nighttime assignment is when we have games in McCarthy back-to-back-to-back-to back, as we did in November. It’s a little tougher when we have the Kennel Club in place for a men’s game one night, then we have to make that seating area pristine for the next night with women’s basketball season ticket holders occupying those seats,” says Edin Jusic, custodial shift supervisor.**

**Overall, our custodial staff has shifts 24/7. The most important assignment is keeping the Hemmingson Center clean, it’s our flag duty,” Jusic says.**

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**IT’S ALL IN A NIGHT’S WORK**

A lot of work goes on here overnight, but Foley Library might be the best source of unusual stories. Foley stays open weekdays until 2 a.m., and sometimes it’s hard to get students to leave, especially during final week. Library staff have resorted to broadcasting annoying earworms over the intercom after 2 a.m., to get students to leave (Achy Breaky Heart, I Think We’re Alone Now). One night last year, the student worker on duty threatened to give out Game of Thrones spoilers over the intercom at 2 a.m. “I’ve never seen the library empty out so quickly,” says evening Reference Assistant Laura Hutton. Others work the swing and graydead shifts in a variety of capacities, cleaning McCarthy Athletic Center after a game, shoveling and de-icing sidewalks, receiving food shipments and baking for the Kennel Club after a game, shoveling and de-icing sidewalks, receiving food shipments and baking for the Kennel Club after a game, shoveling and de-icing sidewalks, receiving food shipments and baking for the Kennel Club after a game, shoveling and de-icing sidewalks, receiving food shipments and baking for the Kennel Club after a game, shoveling and de-icing sidewalks, receiving food shipments and baking for the Kennel Club after a game, shoveling and de-icing sidewalks, receiving food shipments and baking for the Kennel Club after a game, shoveling and de-icing sidewalks, receiving food shipments and baking for the Kennel Club after a game, shoveling and de-ic...