Walking a Spiritual Path with Practical Feet toward Inclusion, Equity, Intercultural Fluency

In another place, in another time, i.e., the Isle of Wright, August 1970, during a concert one month before his death, Jimi Hendrix remarked between songs that “we live in a room full of mirrors.” Perhaps the man with singing fingers was summoning an observation made by Fritz Perls, the father of Gestalt Therapy, when he noted that in cultural relationships we enter a matrix that invites the potential experience of “through the face of another, I am.” A Hawaiian elder once told me that Hendrix may have been referencing the notion that “you spot it, you got it.” Here is what I see reflecting back to me and what I hope I know as I begin my 30th year at Gonzaga.

In my rear-view mirror resides an image from May 5, 2017, when a group of students produced and disseminated a YouTube video entitled “Where Were You When.” It is a group of students giving voice to their GU experience that reflects back to all of us how they describe the gap between rhetoric and reality as it pertains to issues of inclusion, equity and intercultural awareness. In front of me I see the reflection of a new academic year bringing forth a constellation of new images with 1,440 new students coming part of a student body just south of 8,000 being served by a workforce of approximately 1,857 staff, faculty and administrators. Imagine this: Each student, staff, faculty and administrator embodies a multicultural community where we co-create the same space to learn, live and work. I see reflecting back to me and what I hope I know as I begin my 30th year at Gonzaga.

We are a predominately white institution that embodies a multicultural community where around 10,000 individual cultural worlds orbit in relationship with each other as we co-inhabit and co-create the same space to learn, live and work. I suspect that some of you have experienced what Vincent van Gogh’s colors may have felt when they were asked by his brush to mingle in “Starry Night.” However, please find comfort in knowing that together with our students, faculty, staff and administrators, you are contributing to a new stroke toward painting an intercultural portrait of our community that commits to walking the talk of our Jesuit mission.

I see the image of St. Ignatius of Loyola manifesting in the faces of our students... and I affirm the belief that God can be found in all things and all people because the world is saturated with divine presence.” – Raymond Reyes

For academic year 2017-18, I would like to see us experience the spiritual significance of human diversity by linking practices of inclusion, equity and intercultural awareness to our educational mission as a Jesuit social apostolate.

One of the hallmarks of Jesuit education, based upon Ignatian spirituality, is the belief that God can be found in all things because the world is saturated with divine presence. He describes a cultural reality wherein every moment of our life God is communicating to us through person, place and thing. The Composer of Grace and Keeper of Promises is constantly trying to draw us into an awareness of the reality of who we are through His eyes and our experience of “the other.” I would like to challenge all of us to raise our awareness of the “active presence of God” in all our intercultural relationships. Can you see the other through God’s eyes?

Where there is a will, there is a way. Will a heterosexual staff or faculty see a gay, lesbian, transgender or questioning staff or faculty through God’s eyes and vice versa? Will a Christian staff see a Muslim student through God’s eyes? Will an able bodied student, faculty or staff see a physically challenged student, faculty or staff through God’s eyes? These are questions with potential answers inviting us to close the gap between the promise and the practice of culturally inclusive teaching, or recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce, or creating a safe, supportive campus climate for everyone.

To walk this talk will require the acumen of a practical visionary but also institutional structures, policies and processes that hold us accountable for results. In January 2016, President Thayne McCulloh established the University Council on Equity, Inclusion and Intercultural Awareness. The Council is an advisory body to the president, Cabinet and the chief diversity officer. Co-chaired by Chris Purviance and myself, this Council is the primary institutional mechanism to manifest the intentions and desires articulated in the GU mission statement. At the heart of this desire is to create a campus climate that supports a deep appreciation for, and respect of, diverse social identities; a learning, living and working environment that is inclusive, equitable and interculturally fluent.

Continued on pg. 7
Admitted Students rate attention, campus high

Each year, the Office of Admission conducts a survey with admitted students known as the Admitted Student Questionnaire. The survey is designed by College Board to gather data from students that were admitted to Gonzaga for the fall and asks questions related to how they ultimately selected where they would go to school. Both students that matriculate to Gonzaga as well as those that chose other universities are surveyed. This survey is the Office of Admission’s best tool to measure how prospective, first-year students perceive Gonzaga.

Following are some highlights from the most current report (data from respondents who were admitted to Gonzaga in Fall of 2016):

Characteristics that were rated most important by students in their college decision:
1) Preparation for career
2) Availability of majors
3) Value for price
4) Academic Reputation

Characteristics that GU rated higher:
1) Personal attention
2) Attractiveness of campus
3) Environment of academic excellence
4) Extra-curricular activities

Characteristics that GU rated lower:
1) Cost of attendance
2) Surroundings
3) Access to off-campus activities
4) Quality of campus housing

Words or feelings that were most often associated with Gonzaga:
- Friendly, athletics, supportive, intellectual, highly respected, fun – these are attributes selected by at least 50% of students.

Other schools that students apply to (in addition to GU)
- Top 4 every year: UW*, University of Portland, Santa Clara, Seattle U
- Portland, Santa Clara, Seattle U
- Portland, Santa Clara, Seattle U
- Portland, Santa Clara, Seattle U
- Portland, Santa Clara, Seattle U

Words admitted students used to describe Gonzaga were friendly, supportive and fun also intellectual, highly respected and athletics.

What are the key takeaways?
This feedback helps the Office of Admission to determine where to focus the storytelling and marketing efforts. They have found that by telling a story in a different and more focused way, it is possible to shift student perceptions. What are two key areas to improve prospective students’ impressions? Gonzaga’s academic reputation and graduates’ preparation for careers. These two areas are the most important to students and the Office of Admissions feels they are areas where Gonzaga excels. The survey reveals that there is high value placed on campus visits and the face-to-face interactions between guests and those they meet is paramount.

Does your department have a great story to share that helps display the challenges of Gonzaga’s academics and successful career preparation efforts? Be sure to share that – not only on your pages on Gonzaga’s website, but also consider sharing it with colleagues in the Office of Admission and Marketing & Communications.

WEB REDESIGN INCLUDES BETTER ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

Of all the work being done to build Gonzaga’s new website and intranet, many users may never notice some of the most important changes. But for users with disabilities, those changes will make all the difference.

Gonzaga’s current website was created at a time when there wasn’t as much awareness for how technology could make web content accessible for people with disabilities. Therefore, unfortunately, a lot of content on the current site – text, images, video, documents and site navigation – can’t be interpreted by a keyboard, screen reader or speech recognition software. While the DREAM Office has worked individually with people to mitigate this issue, the new site will do so much more.

“We identified improving the accessibility of our site as a priority early in the redesign process,” says Kurt Heimbigner, senior director of integrated marketing and web communications. “Inclusivity is a core value of the Gonzaga community, so making sure our websites are accessible to all just seemed like the right thing to do.”

Then last spring additional motivation to make the sites accessible emerged in the form of an advocacy complaint filed with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), an agency under the Department of Education, citing accessibility issues with Gonzaga’s website and social media content.

The University reached an agreement with the OCR that outlines a series of steps to ensure our websites – and all online content – adhere to accessibility standards.

Chris Purviance, assistant director of equity and inclusion in Human Resources, is leading a group implementing the actions outlined in the agreement, such as providing mandatory training sessions for employees who post any type of online content for the University, such as classroom materials, information for prospective students, video or social media. To learn more about the Online Electronic Accessibility sessions go to www.gonzaga.edu/oea.
NEW RETIREMENT PLAN UNVEILED, TRANSITION OUTLINED

Regardless of one’s age or place on the work-life continuum, retirement planning is one of the most important things we do. Gonzaga’s Retirement Plan Committee has determined that consolidating all retirement plans into one vendor, TIAA, will provide employees with a greater array of investment options and provide a one-stop shop. By early December, all current Fidelity accounts will migrate to TIAA, and Fidelity will no longer provide management services. Those employees with TIAA accounts now will not need to do anything. However, more investment options will be available than ever before.

In late September, all participants will receive a transition guide outlining the new fund options, group seminar dates and locations, along with information participants will need for the transition. Starting mid-October, all participants will have access to the new investment menu. If you don’t already have a TIAA account, one will be established on your behalf in October. For future updates, visit TIAA.org/Gonzaga or www.benefits.gonzaga.edu.

This change will eliminate separate accounts that participants need to access for investment and contribution changes. TIAA offers a team of local wealth managers and TIAA financial consultants who are available to meet one-on-one with employees to assist them with their retirement needs. The TIAA of today is certainly more diversified in its offerings than what long-term employees might remember.

“The new investment menu was selected after reviewing several metrics (both quantitative and qualitative), including: performance, risk and returns, overall expense metrics, management structure, and investment strategy,” says Lisa Schwartzenburg, assistant director for benefits, wellness and safety.

“In addition, the Committee’s goal is to provide participants with a mix of low-cost active and passively managed investment options and a broad array of asset classes that allow each individual to create a portfolio that is suited to his/her particular needs and risk tolerance,” Schwartzenburg adds. “We anticipate some of the new investment options to be Vanguard, American Funds, MFS, JP Morgan and selected CREF annuities and TIAA funds,” Schwartzenburg said.

‘ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES FOR JUSTICE’ COUNTERS HATE

Communities for Justice is a series of events challenging us to achieve a more just world. The schedule includes:

- Sept. 16 – Imagine Spokane Forum and Resource Fair, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Hemmingson Center (HC)
- Sept. 21 – World Peace Flag Day, 7 p.m., HC Rotunda
- Oct. 5 – Stories Behind the Stats, HC Auditorium
- Oct. 9 – Exploring Privilege, 2-4 p.m., HC 312
- Oct. 12 – Documentary Screening: Free Angela and All Political Prisoners, 6-9 p.m., Jundt Auditorium

Oct. 19 – “13th” Film Screening, 6 p.m., HC Auditorium
Oct. 19-21 – “Engaging with Communities for Justice,” international conference on hate studies, HC (co-sponsored by the Kootenai County Task Force on Race Relations, Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, and the GU Center for Global Engagement and Institute for Hate Studies).
Oct. 20 – “With Liberty and Justice for All,” dinner with keynote speaker Idaho Sen. Cherie Buckner-Webb, 5-7 p.m., HC
Oct. 21 – “Responding to Hate & Cyber-Terrorism: Lessons from Whitefish, Montana” with Rabbi Francine Roston, 7-8:30 p.m., HC

Nov. 13-17 – Gonzaga International Education Week
Nov. 20-21 – Pledge to Take a Stand, HC

These events are co-sponsored by the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies, the Center for Global Engagement, the Center for Community Engagement, GSBA and the Center for Student Involvement.

Also coming October 25, sponsored by the Center for Public Humanities, is American political activist Angela Davis.

LONGTIME EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE

In May, President Thayne McCulloh honored longtime employees reaching milestones in their years of service to Gonzaga.

Front row, from left to right: Gabriella Brook, Modern Languages, 30 years; John Caputo, Communication and Leadership, 25; Dale Goodwin, Marketing & Communications, 35; Molly Spilker, Career & Professional Development, 25; Linda McDonald, English, 25; Blaine Garvin, Political Science, 45; Susan Boysen, Nursing, 25; Rose Mary Volbrecht, Philosophy, 35. Second row: John Wagner, Philosophy, 35; Tim Hatcher, Plant and Ground Services, 35; Mike Roth, Athletics, 30; Cate Siejk, Religious Studies, Professor Emerita; Ken Anderson, Business, 30; Julie Ulrich, Plant & Construction, 25; Nancy Masingale, Campus Printing & Mail Services, 40; Annette Davis, Planned Giving, 25; Laura Gatewood, Donor Relations, 25; Kathy Morrison, Business, 35; Myrna Carroll, Controller’s Office, 30. Not pictured: Steve Sepinuck, Law, 25; Lynn Daggett, Law, 25; Mark Few, Athletics, 25; Michael Tkacz, Philosophy, 25; Tom Jeannot, Philosophy, 30; Marguerite Marin, Sociology/Criminal Justice, 30; Colleen McMahon, Integrated Media, 30; Brian Clayton, Philosophy, 30; Gayle Clayton, Athletics, 30; Bob Waterman, Political Science, 30.
NEW HIRES

Christopher Mellott, asst. director, Student Conduct; Anthony Medina, asst. director, Center for Community Engagement; Jared Uhlenkott, custodian, Plant Serv.; Mary Grimes, constituent relations asst., University Advancement; Diana Aguilar Amaya, program asst. II, Visit Office Admissions; Katherine Brackmann, recruiting and research specialist, Center for Career & Professional Development; Joao Iva Fawcett, asst. dean, Diversity, Inclusion, & Cultural Engagement; Kristina Li, accommodation specialist, Disability Access; Sam Bass, residence hall director, Housing & Residence Life; Stephany Schnelle, building coord., Hemminger Center; Gunner Bailey, custodian, Plant Serv.; Michelle Ghrist, asst. professor, Mathematics; Jeremy Gordon, asst. professor, Communication Studies; Stephanie Groce, lecture-AT, Chemistry; Joseph Jozwiak, Jr., professor, Environmental Studies & International Studies; Juliana Morae, asst. professor, Communication Studies; Casey Schmitt, asst. professor, Communication Studies; Laura Truitt, asst. professor, Art; Michael Deland, asst. professor, Sociology; Gina Sprint, asst. professor, Computer Science; Meirong Zhang, asst. professor, Electrical Engineering; Alec Schumacher, asst. professor, Modern Languages; Donald Clayton III, lecturer-IR, Chemistry; Nicholas Kaufman, lecturer-AT, Classical Civilizations; Ana Roncero-Bellido, asst. professor, English; Michael Solontoi, lecturer-AT, Physics; I-Ling Chien, asst. professor, Religious Studies; Megan McCabe, instructor, Religious Studies; Christina Isabelli, professor, Modern Languages; James Rainbolt, lecturer-AT, Chemistry; Ricardo Ortega, program manager for underrepresented student-scholar success and engagement, Unity Multicultural Education Center; Kelly Needs, asst. athletic trainer, Athletics; Carole Mclure, housekeeper, Jesuit House; Erin Tovey, health educator, Student Development; Jacob Stern, custodian, Plant Serv.; Caroline Senn, registrar services coord., Registrar; Erin Schultheis, study abroad adviser, Study Abroad; Amy Shellenberger, marketing & event coord., Arts & Sciences; Katherine Moog, gift accounting asst., University Advancement; Skip Bonuccelli, lecturer-IR, Integrated Media; Stephanie Vigil, lecturer-IR, Integrated Media; Cynthia Messier, lecturer-IR, Counselor Education

GOODBYES

Jaime Shinn, lecturer-IR, Mathematics; Nathanial Burch, asst. professor, Mathematics; Kathryn Johnson, asst. athletic trainer, Athletics; Falesha Johnson, regional development officer, University Advancement; Amanda Brown, director of basketball operations, Women’s Basketball; Anna Muhich, research technician, Great Basin Grant; Katherine Fairburn, custodian, Plant Serv.; Erica Williamson, gift entry officer, University Advancement; Younghee Choe, accounting asst. II, Accounts Payable; Anthony Payne, marketing & event coord., Arts & Sciences; Rebeka Hott, study abroad advisor, Study Abroad; Esther Wilson, academic adviser, Graduate School of Business; Stephen Allen, custodian, Plant Serv.; Linda Jones, senior web & print designer, University Advancement; Clarice Moser, office asst., Housing & Residence Life; Robert Carriker, special project research asst., Academic Vice President’s Office; Carroll Deason, director of corporate & foundation giving, University Advancement; Kathleen Morrison, secretary, Business; Yachana Bhakta, program asst., Visit Office Admissions; Michael Santora, lecturer-AT, Electrical Engineering; Bruce Worobec, lecturer-IR, Computer Science; Jennifer Hamilton, lecturer-AT, Sport & Physical Education; Jennifer Miller, lecturer-AT, Nursing; Michelle Ghrist, asst. professor, Counselor Education; Austin Stiegemeier, lecturer-AT, Art; Donald Stringle, lecturer-AT, Chemistry; Devika Gates, lecturer-AT, Chemistry; Luanna Fields, lecturer-IR, Chemistry/Biochemistry; Daniel Bloomingdale, lecturer-AT, Communication Studies; David Summers, lecturer-AT, English; Thomas Miller, assoc. professor, Integrated Media; Ronald Prindle, assoc. professor, Integrated Media; Jeffrey Wand, lecturer-AT, Mathematics; David Nelson, lecturer-AT, Modern Languages; Alyssa Holan, lecturer-AT, Modern Languages; Zaya Rustamova, lecturer-AT, Modern Languages; Kevin Waters, S.J., professor, Music; Mohammed Farooqi, lecturer-AT, Physics; Cate Siejk, professor, Religious Studies; Karin Heller, lecturer-AT, Religious Studies; Theresa McKenzie, lecturer-AT, Religious Studies; Ardyth Bass, lecturer-AT, Religious Studies; Elizabeth Thompson Tollefsbol, lecturer-IR, Sociology; Sarah Blake, lecturer-AT, Sociology; Kathy Gustafson, marketing specialist, Virtual Campus; Bruce Beerman, lecturer-IR, Philosophy; Brent Diebel, lecturer-IR, Philosophy; Benjamin Cartwright, lecturer-AT, English; Richard Mullen, custodian, Plant Serv.; Heidi Wohl, stewardship specialist, University Advancement; Lazarina Topuzova, assoc. professor, Organizational Leadership; Hoang Le, program asst. III, Registrar; Leah Moczulska, asst. debate coach, Debate; Heidi Holland, asst. professor, Law; Yu Jen Wang, budget & administrative asst., Education; Josephine Owens, accounting asst. I, Student Accounts; Shannon Clark, program asst., healthy relationships, Center for Curia Personalis; Karen McWilliams, registered dietitian, Health and Counseling Center; Nicole Bernabe, case manager, Center for Curia Personalis; Annette Barta, academic affairs officer, Academic Vice President; Darin Watkins, marketing manager, Law; Heather Johnson, program asst. II, Financial Aid; Carolyn Cartwright, program coord., Leadership Resource Center; Megan Taylor, program & faculty support coord., Professional Studies

CHANGES/PROMOTIONS


NOTEWORTHY

*Due to the size of this Noteworthy, abbreviations have been used extensively.*
Sandy Hank, senior desktop publishing specialist, Campus Printing Services

30 Michael Carey, assoc. professor, Organizational Leadership; Joy Milos, CSJ, professor, Religious Studies

25 Brenda Roske, payroll specialist, Payroll; Nhi Van Le, custodial specialist, Plant Services

20 Barb Goehner, mailroom and library asst. III, Law Library; Brett Hendricks, computer lab manager, Arts and Sciences; Diana Lartz, desktop publishing specialist II, Campus Printing; Mark Machtolf, head baseball coach, Athletics; Brenda Warrington, academic tech. applications coordinator, Foley Center Library ATAS

15 Janice Carruthers, academic credentials evaluator, Register’s Office; Ann-Scott Ettinger, biology lab specialist, Science; Dan Garrity, senior lecturer, Integrated Media; Elizabeth Kennedy, program coordinator, Planned Giving; Anjaela Mertens, IT and web manager, Library Services; Joan Sarles, professional adviser, Engineering; Megan Self, buyer, Plant Services; Sonja Steele, administrative assistant, Athletics; Sharon Straub, director of professional development programs, Education Administration

10 Beata Arciszewska-Russo, senior lecturer, AC, ISP/ESL; Patrick Charles, asst. professor, Law Library; Heather Crandall, assoc. professor, Communication Leadership Studies; Theresa Crane, asst. to the dean, Professional Studies; Gemma D’Ambrusso, lecturer-AT, Chemistry; Jeffrey Dodd, asst. professor, English; Curtis Eldredge, mail services clerk, Mail Services; Lisa Fortier, women’s head basketball coach, Athletics; David Gilbert, asst. director of outdoor programs, Student Development; Brian Higginson, assoc. professor, Human Physiology; Yanqing Ji, assoc. professor, Electrical Engineering; Michael Joy, lecturer-IR, Business MIS; John Kafentzis, senior lecturer-AT, Integrated Media; Michael Lavioie, system administrator, ITS; Barry Loe, security officer, Security; Kristina Morehouse, senior lecturer-AT, Communications Studies; Robert Ray, asst. professor, Math; Brad Rickell, head women’s golf coach, Athletics; Sandra Simpson, assoc. professor, Law Administration; Jason Varnado, assoc. director, Disability Access; Rebecca Stephanis, assoc. professor, Modern Languages; David Thorp, assoc. professor, Human Physiology; Anastasia Wendlinger, assoc. professor, Religious Studies; Michelle Wheatley, asst. vice president, University Ministry

5 Elizabeth Addis, asst. professor, Biology; Pam Ames, communication officer, Student Development; Erik Aver, asst. professor, Physics; Caitlin Bagley, asst. professor, Foley Center; JoAnn Barbour, professor, Leadership Studies; Bruce Beerman, lecturer-IR, Philosophy; Kelley Bishop, lecturer-IR, Modern Languages; Carla Bonilla, asst. professor, Biology; Amanda Coulter, director of certification, Education; Rick Cox, lecturer-IR, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Catherine DeHart, lecturer-IR, Accounting; Julie Derzay, lecturer-IR, Nursing; Sara Diaz, asst. professor, Women’s Studies; Shannon Dunn, asst. professor, Religious Studies; Nelda Drackley, custodian, Plant Services; Gene Duenas, budget & personal officer, Arts and Sciences; Michelle Ghoston, asst. professor, Counselor Education; Kari Grambo, asst. women’s rowing coach, Athletics; Bonnie Harper, asst. to the chair/senior faculty assistant, Math; Connie Hayden, custodian, Plant Services; Allysen Hawk, marketing and special events manager, Business; Karin Heller, lecturer-at, Religious Studies; Cara Hoag, senior marketing and communication specialist, University Advancement; Matthew Hoag, asst. professor, Accounting; Kathleen Jeffs, asst. professor, Theater and Dance; Jessica Kiser, asst. professor, Law; Carol Kottwitz, asst. professor, Nursing; Olga Kozubenko, lecturer-IR, Math; Brittany Leland, asst. director, Career Education & Experiential Engagement; Kathleen Manion, Lecturer-IR, Nursing; John Maxwell, asst. professor, Civil Engineering; Kara McGinn, Sharepoint administrator, ITS; Theresa McKenzie, lecturer-AT, Religious Studies; Mark Meszynski, asst. professor, Civil Engineering; Laura Miller, administration secretary II, Law Library; Dylan Morton, custodian, Plant Services; Vinai Norasakkunkit, assoc. professor, Psychology; Stephanie Olsamp, immersion services, Nursing; Phoebe Oosterhuis, business manager, Center for Community Engagement; Cody Reeves, groundskeeper, Athletics; Fr. Brad Reynolds, S.J., asst. director, University Ministry; Katey Roden, lecturer-AT, English; Kevin Rounsley, senior academic adviser. Academic Advising and Assistance; Veta Schlimeng, asst. professor, History; Jennifer Sharp, IT support center manager, ITS; Pavel Shlossberg, asst. professor, Communication and Leadership Studies; Stephen Silliman, dean, Engineering; Lea Smith, program coordinator, Plant Services; John Spracklen, interlibrary loan supervisor, Foley Center; Scott Starbuck, lecturer-AT, Religious Studies; Claudio Talarico, professor, Electrical Engineering; Yanping Zhang, asst. professor, Computer Science
Professor Vesta Coufal’s extraordinary success and effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics with influential impact beyond her classrooms, garnered her the annual Pacific Northwest Mathematical Association of America’s Teaching Award.

Professor Joanne Smieja earned the Scholl Distinguished Professor of Chemistry (2017-2020) title for her contributions to teaching chemistry and biochemistry. She recently completed work on a five-year, $600,000 National Science Foundation grant related to mentoring and supporting women in STEM disciplines.

Women and Gender Studies Chair Ann Ciasullo, associate professor of English, is the Robert K. and Ann J. Powers Professor Chair of the Humanities at Gonzaga for a two-year term. She succeeds English Professor Tod Marshall. She teaches a variety of classes, from a first-year seminar titled Freaks, Geeks, and Outsiders to upper-division classes.

Communications Studies Assistant Professor Lisa Silvestri’s effort engaging military veterans and civilians in meaningful dialogue about war through visual arts and writing, garnered her a two-year, $100,000 grant for her humanities-based research initiative “Telling War,” from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
ALUMS SAY THEY LOVE THEIR ALMA MATER, WANT GREATER CONNECTEDNESS

Before the No. 1 ranking and the Final Four, before results were shared about Gonzaga’s outstanding success rate in the annual First Destination Survey, before Sherman Alexie reminded us how important we are to each other at commencement ceremonies, our alumni spoke, and we listened.

We received almost 2,400 survey responses from Gonzaga alumni last fall. We asked them to give us everything they’ve got, from feelings about their own Gonzaga experiences and how we could improve our service to them to how we could improve our service to them and engage them more thoroughly in the University.

Here is a smattering of alumni feedback and responses from Gonzaga’s alumni office.

- Their favorite memories involved Dan Bracicich, Bud Hazel and Sue Weitz; study abroad, intramural sports and Search retreats
- Alumni see the value of their GU degree increasing as they mature, and enhancing their career achievement goals
- They want more alumni job networking opportunities
- Alumni want to help students achieve similar success, and are willing to assist through mentoring and financial aid
- Alumni want improved communications from the University, about campus events and issues/opportunities facing GU
- They’d like more opportunities to engage with other alumni

Gonzaga’s alumni office is responding

- Offering greater opportunity to connect with other alums through an online directory at www.zagsonline.org/directory
- Expanding networking events across the country

Reports indicate that 16 percent of GU alumni give back philanthropically. “We are grateful for every gift – of leadership and volunteerism, hiring our Zags, and of course, philanthropy. To ensure every qualified student who wants to be a Zag, CAN be a Zag, we still have some work to do. Almost every alum we know has that Jesuit ideal to give back. By better connecting and informing our alumni, in the ways they requested, we hope they are inspired to further support this great institution.”

Walking a Spiritual Path Continued from Pg 1

environment free from discrimination; and an educational experience that prepares its graduates to serve and thrive in a culturally diverse world.

What makes diversity work distinctive at GU compared to other regional institutions of higher learning? Here is the image I see in the room full of mirrors called Gonzaga University. The spirit of a Zag, the soul of a Bulldog is nurtured by the invitation to become a contemplative in action. At Gonzaga, in every moment of our community life as students, faculty, staff and administrators, we are invited to be alert and vigilant to God’s presence in all our relationships. We are blessed with the choice to use this awareness of our intercultural relationships for a greater good by actively addressing issues of social justice as it pertains to exclusion, oppression or marginalization.

In reflecting upon my time at GU through a Platonic mirror, I see that I am pregnant in soul with great hope and gratitude. Hope comes from the awesome work that our Diversity Inclusion Cultural Engagement (DICE) colleagues, through UMEC and LGBTQ+, have been doing and continue to do for the greater good. I offer a heartfelt welcome to Joan Iva Fawcett as assistant dean and Ricardo Ortega, as program manager, new colleagues with DICE. You gift me with hope. Gratitude comes from how truly grateful I am to our student activists who remind me that a Jesuit university is a catalyst and container for creative tension and loyal opposition, where truth is achieved through dialogue and the miracle of listening. You teach me that listening is the midwife of action.

In his book “The Active Life: Wisdom for Work, Creativity, and Caring,” Parker Palmer describes how “action, like a sacrament, is the visible form of an invisible spirit, an outward manifestation of an inward power.” To be fully alive is to act! I sincerely hope that all of us will look in the mirror, see a practical visionary reflecting back, and act upon the image of this likeness. So what’s next toward transforming words into action? Here is what resides on our community’s immediate horizon:

- Faculty & Staff Social Justice Learning Circles based upon the Intergroup Dialogue (IGD) principles and practices for developing intercultural communication skills
- Intergroup Dialogue Program for students
- On Oct. 18, Sue Rankin & Associates will disseminate the Spring 2017 GU campus climate assessment results in two community forums and recommend actions to address our inclusion and equity challenges and opportunities.
- The Center for Teaching & Advising (CTA) will provide professional development programs for faculty on culturally inclusive teaching, productive discomfort and using universal design pedagogies aligned with equity education practices.
- We have four diversity post-doctoral fellows teaching in four disciplines in the College of Art & Sciences. This is an initiative designed to develop a more culturally diverse faculty. In addition, we will continue to assist faculty search committees in their desire to create more diverse candidacy pools.
- We are implementing a Bias Incident Assessment and Support (B.I.A.S.) team. This is a partnership between the student development and academic divisions to improve the reporting of, and response to critical incidents.
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in co-curricular and/or extra-curricular programs such as the International Conference on Hate Studies, Oct. 19-21.

All this to say: Let us act and form collaborative partnerships in solidarity toward creating a sustainable campus climate characterized by empathetic caring and respect for the dignity of all our intercultural relatives. In the Spirit of Our Ancestors, May the Blessings Be!

-Raymond Reyes, Associate Academic Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer
A NEW ERA IN THE ARTS UNFOLDING HERE

The site blessed, a gigantic hole dug. The Miss Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center is coming, due for occupation in January 2019.

The facility launches a new era for Gonzaga’s leadership in the performing arts and humanities, and provides a magnificent venue for arts in the community. The center and the Jundt Art Center and Museum will form the keystones of an arts village on the west side of campus.

Gonzaga announced Miss Woldson’s gift, the largest in Gonzaga history, when it launched the Gonzaga Will campaign in 2015. The gift fully funds the facility’s construction and also established a transformational scholarship fund to help ensure talented, high-financial-need students can realize their dream of attending Gonzaga.

“The building is going to be a magnet for students to develop and grow their talents in music, theatre and dance, and it will make the arts more visible across the Inland Northwest,” said Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak, interim academic vice president.

Leaders from Gonzaga, the city, the arts community, and many Spokane alumni gathered July 13 for a blessing ceremony formally marking the start of construction of the transformative two-story, 58,543-square-foot center.

“New performing arts center includes 750-seat auditorium and 150-seat recital hall.”

“Interim AVP impressed with GU’s conviction to our mission”

Getting to know Gonzaga’s students over the past four years gives Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak great hope for the next generation.

“The academic caliber of our students, coupled with their social consciousness, inspires me,” says the German-born teacher-at-heart–recently-turned-interim academic vice president, who has been instrumental in helping Gonzaga expand its experiential learning opportunities through research initiatives, internships and other work experiences that are crucial for students who go on to graduate school or into the workplace.

“The Jesuits articulated a pedagogy centuries ago that has translated into today’s buzz words like ‘integrated learning,’ as if it had just been invented,” Mermann-Jozwiak says. “But the Jesuits have been doing this for a very long time.”

She also is enamored with Gonzaga’s mission and how faithfully faculty and staff carry it out.

“Every university has a mission and a vision, but here at Gonzaga it is obvious to me that people don’t just talk it, they mean it, they live it in everything they do. I recall my first summer here when I first met with department chairs, and they all talked about their great desire to do right by the students. They take this Jesuit mission very seriously.”

Mermann-Jozwiak was promoted from dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to interim AVP when Patricia Killen retired in July. Patricia Terry is filling in as interim dean.

Killen is a big influence on her successor. “She has been a wonderful role model because of her wisdom, her learning, and her hard work. She masterfully uses metaphors to make her points. She helped me understand the mission of this place, especially with her background in religious studies. She wants our students to enjoy their experiences at Gonzaga, but more than anything, she wants them to get a solid education. She continuously reflected on best practices on how we deliver education,” Mermann-Jozwiak says.

“The Jesuits articulate a pedagogy centuries ago that has translated into today’s buzz words like ‘integrated learning,’ as if it had just been invented,” Mermann-Jozwiak says. “But the Jesuits have been doing this for a very long time.”

“With the challenges facing the world right now – health care, energy, food and water supply – it’s clear our job is to prepare our students to be ready to meet those challenges in creative and innovative ways. We owe it to them,” Mermann-Jozwiak says.

When she’s not working, Mermann-Jozwiak enjoys supporting faculty by attending plays, lectures and concerts, reading, and hiking with her family. She’s a regular at Rudolf Fitness Center, “but only because my husband makes me!” she says with a chuckle. She and her husband have two boys, one seeking a Ph.D. and one a law degree.