Professors successfully incorporating “Jesuit” in online classes

Ignatian is not sitting in the back of the class, watching the students debate the value of servant leadership. But professors and other course designers at Gonzaga seem to be successfully incorporating Jesuit ethos into online classes, nonetheless. Mike Carey, the first dean of Gonzaga’s Virtual Campus, and Anastasia Wendlinger, associate professor and co-director of graduate programs in Religious Studies, would offer that Gonzaga’s online programs are closely based upon Ignatian pedagogy’s five dimensions of mind: context, experience, reflection, action and assessment.

“Ignatian pedagogy provides the grounding for the entire program and ultimately permeates all the courses,” Wendlinger says.

Students concur.

“One of the best classes was our capstone course, the Ignatian insight on the Hemm Center: ‘Go forth and set the world on fire.’ I must first understand myself and work on my own development. ‘I saw the Jesuit ethos in my studies of servant leadership,’ says Sue Weitz, who holds bachelor and master’s degrees in counseling from Gonzaga University. “It’s what the Jesuits stand for. Unity of heart, leadership,” says Joe Moore, who earned an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Fresno State.

“I believe we are all capable and gifted, and we are all called to this mission. There is nothing more Jesuit.”

Justin Marquart is director of instructional design for Virtual Campus. “My job is to take the instructor and figure out how he or she can best adapt their class with new technology and pedagogies to accomplish their objectives; and how we can best design the course online to meet the learning expectations and incorporate Jesuit ideals.”

While on campus in November 2015, Spokane experienced one of the worst wind storms in the history of the community,” recollects Marc Anderson, M.A. ’12, who did most of this studies online. “Our class sessions were held at Foyle Center, under the dome in the back. Reading room with big glass windows all around. While the majority of the Spokane community lost power that evening, the Foyle Library and much of the Gonzaga campus did not, because our class continued amidst the howling winds just outside. “As we left campus that night in an attempt to find something to eat, we could not help but observe that the power was out just across the street to the north, east and south of the campus. Although difficult to prove, I am convinced that the on-campus presence of the Jesuits, as instruments of the will of God, protected the campus on that stormy night.

Waters ready for new challenges

Father Kevin Waters, S.J., says he is retiring, sort of. He’s actually moving to Santa Clara where he hopes to continue counseling and offering spiritual direction.

But he won’t be staying in an undergraduate residence hall anymore, he has done as chaplain in Delin for the past 35 years. “Lived there that whole time, and it did without its usual students,” Waters says. “My dorm experiences are enough to last me the rest of my life.”

The preparatory priest has spent nearly 60 years in the classroom. At GU, he taught composition, orchestration, music theory, opera, and upper-division philosophy. He was recruited to Gonzaga in 1983 to serve dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, which he did for 17 years, but he never stopped teaching.

And serving. He’s had stints on the Boards of Trustees at both Seattle U and Gonzaga, and served as president of the Boards of Members at both institutions. He also served as chair of the fine arts department at SU.

But he hasn’t been confined by state borders. He taught in Dublin, Ireland, and throughout the U.S., including summer stints in Creighton, Fordham, Santa Clara and San Francisco. He also served residencies in Guadalajara and Rome. He counts his success in his success his students have enjoyed, particularly his music composition students, many of whom have gone onto graduate school, some receiving doctorates. He has performed many weddings and baptisms for his former students.

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It continues to drive him.

Hemm Den a big hit with students

Hemmingson Center unveiled the Hemm Den on April 15, providing a comfortably outfitted basement-level lounge for students to enjoy before finals. Former basement for students to enjoy before finals. Former basement-level lounge for Hemmingson Center unveiled the Hemm Den a big hit with students.

“Thanks to good planning in anticipation of a Final Four appearance, we saw a big jump in the volume of gifts and pledges during the Final Four weekend, including a number of six- and seven-digit gifts that were accelerated or advanced in conversations with benefactors that week,” says Brian Ruaar, assistant vice president for development.

Back on the Homefront

Meanwhile, back at home, nearly every everyday reader board in I-75 was filled with Gonzaga mentions during the national championship. Our student-athletes were articulate, kind, humble and excellent representatives of their university. Gonzaga’s website was visited in record numbers, and because GU’s web and marketing teams made sure that visitors were directed to some of the University’s outstanding academic and service enterprises, the world gained a much broader view of this outstanding University in the upper left corner of the country.

Peter Tomaryre, who directs the Gonzaga News Service, worked with a third-party media tracking company to determine the advertising value equivalency of Gonzaga mentions during the NCAA Tournament. The $961.6 million reported represents the total value of online and broadcast media mentions, and includes the value of the online publications also represented in print – including the front-page coverage in the New York Times.

On Facebook, Gonzaga’s content reached nearly 5.8 million users who generated 502,000 likes, comments and shares, says Kristie Infante, social media specialist in the Marketing and Communications office. JeffBunch, web content manager, reports 32,400 people viewed Gonzaga’s content on JeffBunch, and I-75 was filled with Gonzaga mentions on field reports, newspapers and evening newscasts sometimes felt like Gonzaga rally calls. And for the student-athletes, some receiving even to those who still can’t properly pronounce it.

Total inquiries from prospective students for fall 2018 rose 10,000 over the same time last year. From March 15 to April 4 this spring, 1,089 employers posted 2,706 jobs.

“I am hoping this (Final Four phenomenon) has a long-term impact on the employers who want to recruit on campus, and these numbers give me hope that this will happen,” says Ray Angle, assistant vice president for CCPD.

Zag alumni across the globe also inspired to make a difference. Drew Rieder, director of GU’s Regional Programming, reported an astonishing increase in interest in GU graduates over the same “tournament” time last year. From March 21 to April 2, 2016, 133 employers posted 690 jobs with the Career Center. By comparison, from March 14 to April 3 this spring, 1,089 employers posted 2,706 jobs.

Among several million Tweets about the Zags was this one from WCC Ruid St. Mary’s College: “Can’t believe we’re saying this but...good luck to @ZagMBB today. We’ve got your back.”

Karen Franks-Harding, recruitment specialist for Career and Professional Development, reported an astonishing increase in interest in GU graduates over the same “tournament” time last year. From March 21 to April 2, 2016, 133 employers posted 690 jobs with the Career Center. By comparison, from March 14 to April 3 this spring, 1,089 employers posted 2,706 jobs.

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Faculty excellence was celebrated April 25 at the Academic Honors Convocation. Honored were, front row: Anny Case, open award; Joe Johnston, service learning; Shigehiro Dichter, professional contributions; Susanne Ostermiller, collaborative work/innovation; Catie Nieck, professor emerita; Shannon Dunn, teaching excellence. Back row: Taija Chen, open award; Linda Tredennick, teaching excellence; Andy Goldman, professional contributions; Kevin Hepmanpan, academic citizenship; Scott Barbuck, teaching excellence.

**NOTEWORTHY**

**New Hires**

Virginia Cooper, administrative assistant, Education; Aaron Faulks, custodian, Plant; Erica Williams, gift officer, University Advancement; Megan Demers, admissions counselor, Virtual Campus

**New Positions/Promotions**

Margaret Mariens, program specialist, graduate programs, Education; Shasha Kaisel, senior international enrollment specialist, Global Engagement; Katie Burrow, campus reservoir & project coordinator, Hemmingson; Allison Petersen, administrative assistant/Events coordinator, Provost's Office

Goodbye

Carol Pratt, senior director of strategic projects, University Advancement; Jon Webb, assistant director, Student Community Standards; Anthony Lee, groundskeeper, Plant Services; Barbara Kellet, assistant to the chancellor, Chancellor's Office; Veronica Ochoa, director, Cybersecurity Operations

**Anniversaries**

35 years at Gonzaga: Tim Hatcher, working groundskeeper, Plant; Laura Gatewood, senior director, Donor Relations; Kevin Hekmatpanah, finance and business assistant; Denise Ogorek, chief account manager, Controller's Office

**Cradle Call**

Robert Barnes, custodian, Plant, and spouse, Kristy Barnes, nursery assistant, Jon Billings, marketing & recruiting specialist, Athletics; John Bruck, webmaster, and spouse, Jessica had a baby girl, Blake.

**Research**

Research shows websites are the No. 1 source for prospective students learning about a university. "Our website was becoming a competitive disadvantage," says President Mark Sandy. As part of its strategic plan to improve student engagement, Gonzaga began a website redesign project several years ago. As Gonzaga's website became more accessible and easy to navigate, the university began to see an increase in visitor engagement. "We have more traffic and conversions, and we are able to engage with our visitors more effectively," says Sandy.

A comprehensive website redesign project is underway to improve the user experience and move the university closer to its goal of being one of the top 25

**FOCUS ON... SUZIE MIZE'S MAGNETIC ENERGY**

Early in her tenure here, Suzie Mize dressed up as a stormtrooper for Halloween. The only thing that was as long as her uniform—she is rather diminutive. Her solution: rack the bottom of her trousers into white go-go boots, and haunt her big, recognizable smile.

"She is so much fun to be around," says her boss, Chuck Faulkinnbury, director of GUEENST AND THE Hemmingson. "She works in the cafeteria, but helps us understand the work we do within the fabric of the university. (As an assistant director for finance and budgeting, she knows key aspects of our fiscal management and finance.) She’s a business woman without seeming like one. She has helped our team build important relationships around campus, and she loves being a Zag."

Her office walls on the second floor of Hemmingson are filled with "noise," as Faulkinnbury refers to it. "That’s just the way her brain is, isn’t it."

So she’s living life to the fullest, which is easier to understand knowing she is a two-time cancer survivor. She’s been cancer-free for the past eight years.

Mize sharpened her pencil writing all years in the hotel management industry, most of it with Hilton Worldwide and Red Lion Hotels. But she was ready for a change when she answered an ad for an assistant director's position at Hemmingson, on the last day. She interviewed on a Tuesday, was offered the job on a Thursday and started on the next Monday. She sensed this was the right fit for her.

“I’m not a Gonzaga alum nor a Catholic, but I appreciated the acceptance I’ve felt here. I truly feel at home here.”

And as a member of this family, Mize is fulfilling protecting the University and its assets - physical and human – reviewing contracts, gauging risk, strategizing revenue generation.

Summer offers no break for Mize and her crew, who shift into high gear, scheduling meals, housing, meals and facilities for sports camps, debate workshops, Business Week and other summer programs. "We manage all reservations, do all the billing. Revenues from many of these summer events help support the Hemmingson Center and its year-round operations," Mize says.

But what she enjoys most is the "community" part of her job, working and sharing with others. "It treats around the holidays, helping colleagues with new-fangled technology and offering an endless supply of hugs."

Suzie Mize, a masterful multitasker...
Faculty Award Winners Honored

Shannon Dunn, teaching excellence. Back row: Talia Chen, open award; Linda Tredenwick, teaching excellence; Andy Goldman, professional contributions; Kevin Hekmatpanah, academic citizenship; Scott Starbuck, reaching excellence.

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Robert Barnes, custodian, Plant, and spouse, Michelle, have a baby daughter, Kailey. Jobi Billings, marketing & recruiting, was promoted to the role of assistant director, marketing & recruiting, Plant, and spouse, Anthony, have a baby daughter, Lilah. Jessi Gadd, administrative assistant, University Advancement; husband, Richard, have a baby daughter, Rachel.

FOCUS ON . . . MIZE’S MAGNETIC ENERGY

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“I saw the Jesuit ethos in my studies of servant leadership,” says Julie Pastor, who holds bachelor and doctorate degrees in Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M. “It’s what the Jesuits stand for: Unity of heart, mind and soul in synergy. In order to lead and serve others, I must first understand myself and work on my own development.”

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Hemm Den big hit with students

Hemmingson Center unveiled the Hemm Den in April, providing a comfortably outfitted basement-level lounge for students to enjoy before finals. Former Vice President for Student Life Caleb Dawson provided his support of the center and this new space, lauded Hemmingson Center unveiled the Hemm Den a big hit with students.

Caleb Dawson, the first dean of Gonzaga’s Virtual Campus production studio, has been instrumental in encouraging incorporation of the Jesuit ethos throughout GU’s online class offerings.

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“More on already.” We get it. But viewed from an external lens, what the University experienced this April is like nothing in its 129-year history.

Student stream into the Hemm Den on opening day, April 19.

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