JOINING FORCES

Med school partnership creates multiple opportunities

The February announcement that University of Washington Medical School is partnering with Gonzaga in Spokane has been met with great anticipation of future opportunities by those here involved in the sciences.

"First, it provides a great opportunity for our undergraduate students to learn more about medicine as a career choice," says Mia Bertagnolli, chair and professor of Biology. "Second, I see it providing opportunities for our faculty to partner with UW faculty doing research, and our faculty using their sabbaticals to work both in Spokane and Seattle, with UW scientists and clinicians."

“We have yet to fully imagine many of the opportunities that will emerge,” Bertagnolli said.

Gonzaga has long had a presence in health sciences education with its programs in nursing, human physiology and nurse anesthesiology, which were formally combined into the School of Nursing and Human Physiology in 2013.

"I see this partnership allowing our students the opportunity to learn from and with medical students, and to practice in an interdisciplinary, collaborative environment," says Dean of Nursing and Human Physiology Brenda Stevenson Marshall. "To be a part of WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho, UW’s regional medical education program) is a great resource for all of our students and faculty."

The partnership also has a distinct recruitment value as well. "It will immediately expand our department’s profile in the northwest, and attract an increasing number of quality students and faculty to Gonzaga," says Human Physiology Professor Dan McCann. "Our department offers one of only four undergraduate BS degrees in human physiology in the United States. In fact, most human physiology departments in the U.S. are closely aligned with the United States. In fact, most human physiology undergraduate students are interested in the sciences, business, engineering and entrepreneurship as we prepare a professional workforce, expand economic prosperity and work with others to improve Spokane for everyone."

Scott Morris, Spokane business leader and chair of GU’s Board of Trustees, acknowledged the commitment of both college presidents to the Spokane community in making possible this partnership, which could have a $1.7 billion economic impact on the Inland Northwest.

"President McCulloh asked business leaders ‘What do you want?’ ‘What do you need?’ and ‘What is in it for Spokane?’” Morris said. "UW President Ana Mari Cauce met with Greater Spokane Incorporated leadership her first day on the job. She answered tough questions, was sincere, open and genuine. It was clear she is committed to this community. It was a remarkable show of leadership by both presidents that made this partnership a reality."

President Cauce has already seen a positive benefit of UW’s pairing with GU. "A couple years ago the number of students who chose Spokane as their first choice was few, but since word got out that we were talking about partnering with Gonzaga, the majority of Spokane students have chosen Spokane as their first choice for their medical education. They are coming here not because they didn’t get in somewhere else, but because this is where they want to be,” Cauce says.

Gonzaga’s participation is leading to an expansion of the medical school in Spokane, from 40 first-year students to 60 this fall, with additional future growth possible. President Cauce said 500 School of Medicine faculty and mentors reside in Eastern Washington, many of them practicing physicians. Students spend their first 18 months here, then are assigned to clinical work, which could continue in Spokane for those interested in working here.

Gonzaga will house the medical program in the Schoenberg Center, where classes will be taught and UW faculty will be headquartered. Qualified GU faculty also are invited to teach science courses in the Foundations Phase of the UW curriculum. McCulloh said future plans include studying the feasibility of building a facility on campus to house the medical curriculum and, other Gonzaga health sciences.
PLUGGING THE GAPS

“’We want this commitment to diversity to be part of our institutional DNA,’ says Chief Diversity Officer Raymond Reyes.

Council asked to strengthen potency of GU’s caring ethic

Northwest Jesuits began building relationships with interior plateau Salish Indians in the 1800s. From the start, Society of Jesus Founder Ignatius Loyola espoused intercultural work. Now, Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh, director of the Jesuit work here, is asking his GU colleagues to expand upon that mission; to assess the current “state of affairs” and propose institutional strategies to increase the level of intercultural awareness and sensitivity on campus, provide an educational experience supportive of all people, and decrease incidents of discrimination at Gonzaga.

“We’re not building from scratch,” says Raymond Reyes, who McCulloh appointed to co-chair with HR’s Chris Purviance the newly established Council on Equity, Inclusion and Intercultural Awareness, comprised of GU faculty, staff and students. “For more than 25 years we have been offering academic and student development programs to address these issues. But what we need now is to take it to the next level, to imbue it into the fabric of the university.”

To start the process, the committee will conduct a simple gap analysis. “What is the gap between rhetoric and reality, our intentions and the actual student experience? What is the GU experience if you are not European American, Christian, heterosexual, able bodied and male?” asks Reyes. “We must answer the question, ‘What can Gonzaga offer that no other institution in the area can offer?’ This gap analysis will give us strategic insight into how best to take GU to the next level of excellence.”

“It is important to be definitive about what we are for; peace and justice, intercultural competence, and to see human potential in places we don’t expect it to be,” Reyes says.

The Council represents a diverse group of individuals, each with their own lived experience here. It will look at the Gonzaga experience in the classroom, residence halls, sacred places, and in social, emotional and faith formations. Cura personalis, or care for the whole person, is foremost in the vision for this group and its work. “In practical ways, we will determine how best to implement our core values as a Jesuit university,” Reyes says.

“We want this commitment to diversity to be part of our institutional DNA, our campus culture muscle memory. It is not an add-on. It is central to our enterprise as a Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic institution,” Reyes says.

ROTC celebrates 100 years

Gonzaga celebrates it more-than 100 years of military training at the Military Ball later this month, on the occasion of the Army ROTC’s centennial. Gonzaga’s ROTC program began in 1947. The first campus military training noted was in 1897 with an informal Army cadet attachment here. The Navy conducted V-5 and V-12 training programs on campus during WWII.

The Ball will honor ROTC alumni Col. Jeff Colliton, retired, for his longtime community service including a stint as Spokane city councilman, and Maj. Gen. Joseph Caravalho, deputy surgeon general stationed at the Pentagon, for his distinguished military career. The names of both gentlemen will be forwarded to the Army Hall of Fame at Fort Knox, Ky., for consideration in the 2016 class. Fall festivities will also pay tribute to retiring GU ROTC Commander Lt. Col. David Bingham. Maj. Timothy Culpepper will take command this summer.

In February, the ROTC Bulldog Battalion Raider Challenge team captured a berth in the international Sandhurst Military Skills Competition, April 8-9 at West Point, N.Y., by winning the regional competition in Tacoma.

AROUND CAMPUS

>> Within six months of graduation, 93 percent of Gonzaga undergraduates from the class of 2015 report that they are employed or continuing their education, based upon a national six-month standard.

>> For the fourth consecutive year, GU is the nation’s top-ranked (tie) Peace Corps volunteer-producing institution among “Small Colleges” with 18 undergraduate alumni serving in 15 countries worldwide, lifting Gonzaga’s historical total to 338 Peace Corps alumni.

>> Gonzaga is 12th nationally in accumulative women’s basketball attendance with 95,268 fans in 17 home games. The Zags’ 5,604 average fans per game ranks 12th in the country, and third at 93.4 percent of filling the 6,000-seat McCarthey Athletic Center.

>> Gonzaga’s pooled endowment achieved annualized returns ranking among the top 10 percent of higher education institutions nationwide for the past three- and five-year periods ending June 30, 2015. GU’s endowment ($233.8 million) earned a net return of 4 percent compared with a national average of 2.4 percent among 788 institutions participating in the study.

>> Zags Give Day is March 15. Help unlock $50,000 in matching gifts to GU by giving and sharing the message. Learn more at gonzaga.edu/ZagsGiveDay.

>> Robyn Schiff, a widely published poet and professor at the University of Iowa, will present March 29, 7:30 p.m. in Wolff Auditorium as part of English Professor Tod Marshall’s Visiting Writers Series.

>> Laura Kelley will present “Faith, Hope and Charity: Irish Communities in New Orleans.” The 2016 Arnold Lecture March 16, 7:30 p.m., Wolff Auditorium, examines when, why and under what circumstances the Irish came to New Orleans and stayed.

>> Sophomore Domantas Sabonis was named second-team Academic All-America for his 3.46 GPA in sport management and his 17 points and 12 rebounds a game.
New Hires

Margaret Martens, program assistant, School of Education; Brittany Ledall, biology lab assistant, Biology; Anne Handelman, counselor, Center for Professional Development, Law; Tara Hiller, counselor, Counseling Center; Teresa Warren, counselor, Health & Counseling Services; Roger Coston, enterprise applications administrator, ITS; Edgar Anzaldo, assistant women’s soccer coach; Jeff Bunch, web content & communications manager, Marcom; Frank Jruban, assistant general counsel; Danielle Parks, administrative assistant, Resource & Simulation Center, Nursing; Shannon Hill, web content writer, Marcom; Carlee Quilles, building coordinator, Hemmingson; Jaymal Jones Jr., custodian, Plant

New Positions/Promotions

Catherine Cronin, research & project manager, Chemistry; Jonna Jorgensen, senior marketing & content specialist, Virtual Campus; Kathy Gustafson, marketing specialist, Virtual Campus; Marzena Kosinski, senior director for strategic planning & operations, Virtual Campus; Jane Button, director, Budget & Financial Analysis; Natalie Hastings, assistant director, Rudolf Fitness Center; Heather Shiley, associate director, Budget & Financial Analysis; Scott Cable, interim vice president for mission; Paul Emigh, lecturer-AT, Physics; Shannon Strahl, senior associate athletic director compliance/senior women administrator, Athletics; Katrina Rambo, senior financial aid counselor; Sarah Everitt, director, Financial Aid operations; Katherine Galassi, senior administrative assistant, President’s Office; Debra Fiscetti, program coordinator, Individual Giving; Margaret Butterworth, wellness coordinator & special programs adviser, International Student & Scholar Services

Goodbyes

Susan Brown, women’s assistant soccer coach; Connie Hickman, assistant to chair/senior faculty assistant, Communication Studies; Norm Leatha, entrepreneur in residence, Hogan, Business; Janell Williams, communications officer, Switchboard; Morgan Church, assistant women’s soccer coach; Jana Wolff, program coordinator, Student Activities & Special Events, Law; Christina Geitner, professor, Human Physiology; Jaime Hollis, director of student connections, Student Development; Meredith Aranson, manager employer & alumni career relations, Career & Professional Development; David Benes, residence hall director, Housing; Taras Kravchuk, custodian, Plant; Mark Wilson, assistant professor/supervising attorney, Legal Foundation; Lora Langford, reporting analyst, University Advancement; Jeffrey Rockey, custodian, Plant

Rest in Peace

Paula Foster, academic technical application supply coordinator, Foley

Anniversaries

20 Jane Tiedt, associate processor, Nursing
15 Waunita Rambo, PA III, Law Registrar
10 Nesiba Besic, custodial leader, Plant
5 Kareena Byrd, program assistant III, Jesuit Commons; Ryan Forim, client services supervisor, Registrar; Jill Herbst, academic curriculum specialist, Registrar; Patricia Ley, head women’s cross country/track coach; Sean Meade, custodial leader, Plant; Judi Rabenstein, regional development officer, University Advancement

Cradle Call

Linda Jones, senior graphic & web designer, Marcom, and spouse Todd had a baby girl, Lilly. Claire Silva, associate director, Admissions, and spouse Russell had a baby girl, Coral.

Focus on...

Jeff Dodd

Dodd collects notes about his students, and learns more than most.

Intellectual wanderlust loves nontraditional teaching

In Jeff Dodd’s Composition 101 classes, students never know what to expect. Neither does he.

“You could say I have an intellectual wanderlust problem,” he says. “Probably out of fear of becoming satisfied, I continually evolve the course.”

Over the last several years of teaching, Dodd became increasingly suspicious of the transactional nature of writing – that students were “trading their own voice for a grade.” Most students were too concerned about what he was looking for in an assignment and how they should cite their resources in order to get high marks.

“I hate that,” he says. “It runs counter to intellectual tradition and the Ignatian way of learning, and to common sense.”

In response, he set out to design assignments that undercut that practice. He encouraged students to put this tradition aside to think about writing in terms of “their own agency and voice and ability affect change.”

In this class, Dodd wants students to excel more in understanding who they are than in reporting back facts. One semester, he asked students to suggest projects, or even design the whole syllabus themselves. What became clear was a desire to explore the topic of careers and developing a sense of vocation. He pushed them to start with why they were here in the first place. Then he led the class in exploring their future selves, describing their lives at 40.

To take that thinking a step further, Dodd asked the Career Center to connect students with mentors in their chosen career paths.

“I wanted them to write a preflection on where they’re going,” Dodd says. “I wanted them to write about what happens in a moment of crisis. What happens when a student says he’s ‘supposed’ to be an engineer but discovers that his mentor’s description of this career is like nails on the chalkboard?”

For one student, these assignments were the difference between accumulating student loan debts and securing a full scholarship, for her entire college experience. After reflecting on that and putting her thoughts to paper for Dodd’s assignments, she realized it aligned well with a scholarship application she was planning to submit. The Berner Scholarship was a “last-shot” scholarship, and she got it – a full ride, including study abroad options.

He says it was a lesson not only for students but faculty as well: “Never think about the coursework through the lens of a single course, but through the lens of your personal development.”

You can learn more about Dodd’s philosophy of teaching and learning in two ways:

• Watch his “Why I Teach” video interview at gonzagawill.com.
• Watch for a feature in the Spring issue of Gonzaga Magazine.

-Kate Vanskike

Commuters Asked to Help

As Gonzaga continues to help reduce congestion and improve air quality in our region, the state asks all employees to confirm how they commute to work April 11-15 by completing a survey the following week. Morning Mail will include additional details. Address questions to Sustainability Director Jim Simon at simonj@gonzaga.edu or x5571.
Hardest job they ever loved

Gonzaga ranked No. 1 in producing Peace Corps volunteers for the fourth straight year underscores the service ethos of its faculty and staff. Those who served in the Peace Corps reflect on how their volunteer experience helped shape their lives.

With a two-year Peace Corps stint in the Central African Republic, and almost 20 years here, Associate Professor Mary Jeannot dedicated her life to teaching. At GU since 1997, she founded the University’s Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language program (1998) and its Peace Corps Master’s International program (2009).

“We really look for a student who can embrace ambiguity, someone who is flexible and collaborative, and loves languages,” says Jeannot. “You know the (Peace Corps) motto is: ‘It’s the hardest job you’ll ever love.’”

She credits her Peace Corps experience with helping to inspire her personally and professionally. “It taught me how to think, act, learn and teach like an ethnographer. Never underestimate the power of local knowledge and never dismiss the sublime power of quiet observation.”

Tyler Wasson (’13 MBA), program coordinator for Gonzaga’s Center for Global Engagement and an adjunct instructor in the School of Business Administration, served as a community and organization development volunteer in Isperih, Bulgaria from 2007-09.

“When you’re there in another culture you learn about it but you also learn how to participate in it in a positive way,” Wasson said. “The Jesuit values of Gonzaga and the roles Peace Corps volunteers play in their host communities are very much in alignment.”

Mary Kelly (’89), office assistant at CCASL, entered the Peace Corps in 1989. She served small villages in the African Republic of Niger, working to improve health and lifestyles. With the closest volunteer some 50 miles away, Kelly learned all about self-reliance. She worked with women to build clay stoves, taught families to make nutrient-rich porridge, and grew close to the children.

“Peace Corps doesn’t just enrich the lives of the people in the villages that we go into, it enriches the lives of the volunteers,” says Kelly. “They then can bring that back and share it with their families and communities.”

Andrew Brajcich, assistant professor of accounting, spent 11 months in Georgia (a former Soviet republic) putting his law degree to good use. He worked closely with local government officials to create policies to help the government become more democratic and transparent, and eliminate the underlying causes of corruption.

Although Brajcich’s Peace Corps service was cut short due to political turmoil, the experience impacted him significantly. “I learned how to approach problems in more helpful ways. Also, I came to realize at the end of the day, when you really get down to the core of it, people are the same everywhere.”

Gonzaga Day unites fans, pushes GU closer to campaign goal

Zag alumni and supporters around the globe celebrated Gonzaga in a variety of ways on Gonzaga Day 2016:

- Nearly 100 fans, alumni and friends gathered in Seattle for the first-ever ZAGTalk. Education Professor Deborah Nieding and 1999 alumnus John Naekel shared their stories on “The Power of Risk.” Nieding focused on the impact that comes from transitioning from “What If?” into “What Next?”, and Naekel shared his story of leaving a stable corporate career to pursue his lifelong dream of opening a bar. A video of this program will be available in mid-March.
- More than 400 alumni and campus community members gathered in the Hemmingson ballroom to watch the men’s basketball team take on SMU on the road. More than 300 alumni “returned to the COG” to eat dinner with their families.
- Celebrations at more than 25 alumni chapters took place all over the world.
- Dance Program Director Suzanne Ostersmith emceed a halftime show at the women’s game vs. Portland. Two fans won prizes, one taking home an expense-paid trip to the WCC men’s and women’s basketball tournaments in Las Vegas. Ostersmith was eloquent in presenting the value of academic innovation taking place on our campus.
- The big announcement was a transformational gift from the Alvin (Fritz) J. and Jeannie Wolff family as a significant part of the Gonzaga Will capital campaign. This gift, along with others, propelled Gonzaga to $207 million raised in the campaign. This gift is primarily unrestricted funds allowing the University to use them as needed. “It is difficult to look at the trajectory we find ourselves on as a university without acknowledging the incredible leadership of, and hard work given by, the Wolffs,” said President Thayne McCulloh.

At the ZAGTalk, Fritz Wolff shared his thoughts on why he and his family believe in this place. “Each fall, thousands of families drop off their kids, entrusting Gonzaga to transform them, to live up to its mission. And Gonzaga does that. I’ve been on the inside, I’ve watched it happen. And it’s our complete pleasure to be able to support this, to watch it happen, to invest in it. It feels good.”