A UNIVERSAL SONG
Lessons from travel

PARTIED OUT
When students struggle with alcohol

WOMEN OF WONDER
The legacies of Jane Rinehart
and Betsy Downey
Before packing up her College Hall office, Professor Betsy Downey’s bookshelves held Jill Lepore’s *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* next to *The Bible According to Mark Twain*, and five shelves of books on Yellowstone Park. Her office walls, covered with memorabilia, showcased awards for outstanding writing and for faculty excellence, as well as photos from a backpacking trip. Downey taught history at Gonzaga for 48 years.

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A song brought GU’s choir and Colombian singers together. Learn about a new partnership in Colombia, and ongoing work in Zambia, where Gonzaga helped open a community’s first library. BY RAJAH BOSE & JOSEPH KINSELLA

BATTLING THE BUZZ 24
Some of today’s students equate heading off to college with partying. When they struggle with alcohol abuse, Gonzaga is ready with resources and understanding. BY ELI FRANCOVICH (’15)

PIioneer women 30
Two longtime professors retired from Gonzaga this year. Betsy Downey is as much at home with wolves in Yellowstone as she is with students in the classroom, and Jane Rinehart reflects on the changing roles of women in higher education. BY ELI FRANCOVICH (’15) & DALE GOODWIN (’86)

ON THE COVER:
NO, THAT’S NOT A PLANET. IT’S THE INSIDE OF COLOMBIA’S SALT CATHEDRAL. ONCE A MINE 650 FEET UNDERGROUND, IT WAS AN INSPIRING SITE FOR A GU CHOIR CONCERT IN MAY. PHOTOGRAPH BY RAJAH BOSE.
ONE WOMAN’S MISSION
Connie Davis was a year ahead of me at Gonzaga; we were both pre-med (when there were VERY few women doing that). I was delighted to read about what terrific work she has done. Thanks for finding such an inspirational person for the magazine. I certainly remember her for her grace and determination.

Karen Ireland, M.D. (68)

DOUBLE EXPOSURE
When Steve Pfost visited Thailand with a Gonzaga team to explore one of the Opus Prize finalists, he captured this image of a boy named Beer, which made it onto the cover of the Fall 2014 magazine. When Beer and his classmates saw it, they beamed with pride. Beer and his brother are two among many benefiting from the inspiration and leadership of Fr. Joe Maier, whose mantra for those living in poverty is, “go to school, go to school, go to school.”

YOUR RESPONSE TO THE MYSTERY ZAG – JOHN SISK – WAS AMAZING. SO IMPRESSIVE, WE’VE HAD TO POST A GOOD MANY STORIES ONLINE, GONZAGA.EDU/MAGAZINE. BUT WHILE YOU’RE HERE, SNEAK A PREVIEW ON PAGE 46.

When Love speaks, the voice of all the gods makes heaven drowsy with the harmony.

We can only imagine the poetry you’ve shared since those days learning the Bard together. Congrats on 60 years!

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The Magazine of Gonzaga University

Dennis Shea (’65) is a testament to that. A resident of St. Louis, Dennis lives just 20 minutes from Ferguson, the site of a similar racially charged incident.

Responding to my previous letter regarding “Catching Zag Fever,” Dennis shared that for him, all the conflicts surrounding race and cries for justice brought his mind back to his experiences at Gonzaga. His encounters 50 years ago, as a white student who had high regard for black classmates when segregation was still hot, urged him to action.

He donned his old GU letter sweater and drove to Ferguson where he struck up an encouraging conversation with business owners who had just been featured in the New York Times. And—because he felt like he just had to do something—gave them a little cash to help the next few customers.

I’m inspired by Dennis and by our current students, who share a common commitment to viewing the world and all its problems through the lens of what we can do to make it better. In seeing problems, we identify solutions; in witnessing pain, we offer compassion; in viewing disheartening trends, we step out of our comfort zones to start a crucial conversation.

Kate Vanskike, Editor
editor@gonzaga.edu

A LIFE CUT SHORT

Bill Petrich was an English major in the 1970s who shared his writing talents broadly, including the Spires yearbook, where he detailed “the Gonzaga experience” in eloquent prose. His education and his life were cut short by leukemia, but his impact was lasting. The following letter is from a student who remembered and was so touched by Bill’s insightfulness, that 40 years later, she has given to the University in his memory.

When I attended the reunion (40th!) last fall, my friends had the yearbooks out and I re-read Bill’s piece in the Spires yearbook from 1972. If you have read that, then you know how he captured the essence of the college experience at its best.

Bill was one of the first people I met at Gonzaga. Bill would arrive in a room, or at the dinner table, hair blown back, shirt sleeves rolled up. We engaged in late and intense conversations about faith, philosophy, life and God.

Everyone I talked to at the reunion seemed to have a “Bill” story, how they were touched by his presence or even more by his death. For me, it was the letters he sent as his illness developed and that Bill chose to perceive his suffering as a spiritual journey, as a way to better understand God. It was consistent with the young man I knew.

I recall standing in the student chapel, shoulder to shoulder with everyone else, tears streaming down our faces. We shared grief, and unanswered questions: Why Bill? Why so young?

Years later, after witnessing way too many young deaths, I still experience the special tragedy of young lives cut short. What would they have accomplished? Who would they have become? The one truth I know is that their lives matter.

And so, I make my annual donation in Bill’s honor. Making something good out of something terrible seems to put some order in the world.

Mary Ann Laubacher (’74)
Waltham, Mass.

Crucial Conversations

Race, Gender, Religion. You don’t have to look far to find inflammatory comments when these topics land on news and social media sites. People unfriend one another over opposing opinions (or how they’re expressed), and wherever participants can post in anonymity, the comment feed becomes a war zone.

During the “Courageous Conversations” led by the Gonzaga Student Body Association, however, students, faculty and staff members gather for respectful dialogue. They learn about these heated topics, and hence about themselves, within the context of their own personal experience and in relation to events making headlines.

This spring, when the scheduled discussion was the Freddie Gray incident in Baltimore, there had also been an incident closer to home: the shooting of a Hispanic man by police in Pasco, Washington. One Gonzaga student from the Pasco area, relating to the unfolding chaos in Baltimore, said to a friend, “All I could think was, ‘Please don’t burn down my hometown.’”

Others expressed their anger and frustration that some classmates seemed oblivious to either event.

This kind of dialogue and its introspective purpose is inherently Jesuit, and the impact lasts a lifetime.

Dennis Shea (’65) with Editor Kate Vanskike

READ BILL’S SPIRES STORY AT
gonzaga.edu/magazine
KEATON LEANDER (’17)

Exploration

Those of us who call the Pacific Northwest home know what a great place it is. For students hailing from more barren lands, the prolific colors of trees and the clear waters of our streams and lakes is enough to have them enraptured by everyday sights.

Keaton Leander is so enamored, he’s already dreaming of raising a family and living a “happy life among the pine trees and snow and lakes and rivers that surround this beautiful part of the country.” (Seriously, we couldn’t make that up.) This area inspired him to conquer his fear of heights and summit Mount Snowy along the Pacific Crest Trail.

The landscape that is home to Gonzaga is what helped define his educational pursuits. Keaton is studying civil engineering and loves the environmental aspect of it, driven by his passion for the outdoors and protecting our planet for the future. He’s especially interested in alternative energy and hydraulic engineering.

When he’s not exploring the great Northwest, Keaton serves with his fellow Gonzaga Knights, plays a number of instruments (guitar is his favorite) or jumps off cliffs. (Yes, you read that right.) He’s also enjoying time on the Gonzaga campus where he says it takes longer to get from point A to point B just because he loves chatting with people he sees along the way. That sense of community has an impact. “There are so many people looking out for me and supporting me,” he says. “I never expected that from a college.”

Keaton is one of many grateful students attending Gonzaga on scholarship. “It’s given me the ability to discover myself,” he says.

THERE ARE MORE KEATONS OUT THERE,
WAITING TO DISCOVER THEMSELVES

gonzaga.edu/scholarshippromise
The Magazine of Gonzaga University

Hats off to Our

2015 Zag Grads!

This year’s graduates read Father Boyle’s book, Tattoos on the Heart, as freshmen at Gonzaga. To hear his moving message to them four years later, and check out photo galleries from all our commencement ceremonies, visit gonzaga.edu/magazine.
What Martin Luther King says about your time at church is the same as Gonzaga: It’s not the place you come to, it’s the place you go from, and you go from here hoping to make the world look different.

– Father Greg Boyle, S.J.
2015 Commencement speaker
As I write, students are beginning to return to campus, and the energy here is palpable with excitement and anticipation of great things.

Part of this excitement comes from the John J. Hemmingson Center – the “next-generation COG” – a space so focused on the student experience I hesitate to label it a “building.” With its three-story rotunda, providing visibility on activities from all vantage points; the many comfortable spaces for Zags to engage in conversation, study, reflection and service; and an international perspective brought by the occupant-departments, the Hemmingson is a unique, contemporary reflection of the Jesuit educational experience that is Gonzaga. We are so pleased and excited to welcome our students into their new center. The Hemmingson Center increases our ability to bring students, faculty and staff together and reinforces that key experience of “community” which is the hallmark of the GU experience. Our hope is that it’s a physical manifestation of the belief this institution has in its students and the work we each do every day in service to their education.

What’s even more exciting, and humbling, to me than the creation of this fantastic facility is the generosity of those who made it possible. Together with the Trustee for whom it is named, countless others have given new life to our student experiences at Gonzaga. Scott and Liz Morris, for example, chose to underwrite an area we’re calling the “Hearth Lounge” – the living room of this facility. Liz visited campus many times during construction, to look at blueprints, choose fabric, and walk through the space that would have a fireplace and cozy furnishings, where students could feel right at home.

How appropriate for the Morris Family to choose that specific setting for their contribution. “My husband and I met while attending Gonzaga and two of our kids are Zags,” Liz shared on a recent visit. “We love being here.”

The significance of alumni, parents and friends to the completion of projects such as the Hemmingson Center is critical to Gonzaga’s future. In recognition of this, we’re hosting our second-ever all-Zag reunion, “Zagapalooza,” October 15-18. Back in 2012, more than 2,000 graduates from many generations were here at one time, and what a grand experience that was. Zagapalooza this year is already on target to draw an even larger turnout to campus as alumni come to reconnect and celebrate Gonzaga: past, present and future.

As exciting as the Hemmingson Center and Zagapalooza are … dare I say there is yet another reason to join us in October? Indeed there is. Our future is unfolding before us this fall as we launch our next major fundraising campaign. This effort will be focused on what matters most – our students – and raising resources to ensure every young person who desires, and will benefit from, a Gonzaga education can receive it. We invite you to “Because You Believe,” Oct. 15 at the Grand Hotel in downtown Spokane to learn more.

As we begin a new academic year, I once again am reminded of how blessed we are to work in the service of the Society of Jesus, the Church and our world to further the education of women and men. Thank you for your constant prayers and support, and may God bless you and yours, always.

Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil.  
President

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR AT  
gonzaga.edu/hemmingsoncenter
THE NEW JOHN J. HEMMINGSON CENTER HOSTED ITS FIRST EVENT IN JULY TO THANK DONORS AND PARTNERS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE.
SEPT. 26 – DEC. 19  
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The Visionary and Landscape Images of Fr. William Vachon, S.J.

BEFRIENDING SACREDNESS:  
Works by Fr. Arturo Araujo, S.J.
Jundt Galleries & Arcade Gallery
www.gonzaga.edu/jesuitsarts

4  
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ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF  
President of Liberia  
2011 Nobel Peace Prize Winner
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9–18  
THEATRE

WEAVING OUR SISTERS’ VOICES  
Celebrating women in the Old Testament
Magnuson Theatre
www.gonzaga.edu/theatreanddance

15–18  
ALL CLASS REUNION

ZAGAPALOOZA & HEMMINGSON DEDICATION  
Grand Hotel Spokane / Gonzaga Campus
www.gonzaga.edu/Believe2015

11, 12 & 31  
MUSIC

JAZZ COMBOS  
October 11 & 31
Music Annex
www.gonzaga.edu/music

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
October 12
Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox
www.gonzaga.edu/music

19–21  
THEATRE

THE BIG MEAL  
Life plays out between courses as a family gathers around the dinner table.
Magnuson Theatre
www.gonzaga.edu/theatreanddance
Gonzaga University is among the best 321 U.S., Canadian and British colleges and universities featured in the Fiske Guide to Colleges 2016. Compiled by Edward Fiske, the former education editor for The New York Times, the publication has served as a top independent guide to the best schools for more than 30 years. The 2016 edition describes Gonzaga as a “solid regional liberal arts university committed to the Jesuit ideal of educating the whole person: mind, body, and spirit” and gives the University high marks for its palpable sense of community.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education has granted initial accreditation to Gonzaga University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice Program for five years – the longest possible accreditation for a new program. The program began in 2012 as an extension of Gonzaga’s mission to educate people for and with others. Brenda Stevenson Marshall, dean of Gonzaga’s School of Nursing and Human Physiology, says the accreditation advances Gonzaga’s objectives to prepare nursing professionals to become specialized leaders in a rapidly evolving field – driven by the challenges of our nation’s health care system.

Gonzaga University honored John and Donna Luger with its Ignatian Spirit Award at the eighth annual Ignatian Gala at the Convention Center in April. The Lugers were recognized for their strong connection to the Jesuits in the Northwest, commitment to Gonzaga, and their deep love of family and Spokane.

“The gifts, leadership and loyal service of the Luger family have had a remarkable effect on the University,” says Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh. “The Lugers are truly champions of Northwest Catholic education. It is an honor for the University to recognize John and Donna Luger for their longstanding support and commitment to Gonzaga students and Jesuit education.”

Gonzaga students captured first place in the second annual Ethics Bowl, sponsored by the Independent Colleges of Washington. The daylong judged competition included teams from the ICW’s 10 member colleges and universities. Adviser Erik Schmidt, associate professor of philosophy, traveled with senior biochemistry majors Ian Hammer and Helen Xun, and juniors Alyssa Bashor (sociology and international relations), Patrick Conway (alternate; philosophy and English), Mark Ornelas (psychology and philosophy), and Macklen Scribner (economics and philosophy).

“I continue to be impressed with the way our students integrate the specialties they are developing through their various majors with the broader focus on critical thinking and ethical concern, which shapes our Core curriculum,” Professor Schmidt.

“I was also very impressed with the way they engaged the other students. They really demonstrated, in my view, the best of what civil discourse on controversial issues can look like.”
MILESTONES | law school

law clinic: a helping hand

Over its 40-year life, Gonzaga’s law clinic has provided services to thousands. Notable numbers? More than 1,400 students earned nearly 12,000 academic credits as they handled 24,000 cases for clients who otherwise would have gone without representation in their legal battles.

During the last decade, the clinic provided 16 distinct specialties ranging from the long-running Elder Law and Low-Income Taxpayers clinics to new Environmental Law, Mortgage Mediation and Medical-Legal Partnership clinics.

It began in 1974 when the faculty unanimously approved the institutionalization of what had previously been a Student Bar Association-run operation.

Mark Wilson, a lawyer in Pennsylvania, was hired to develop a hands-on program, which he did with longtime colleague Jeff Hartje, intentionally modeling it after Harvard, Georgetown and Boston College programs.

“Our original idea of setting up a law clinic was modeled on medical clinics as adjunct to medical schools around the country,” Wilson says. “A law clinic would serve that same kind of purpose of teaching students not only what the law is but how one practices law in an effective, compassionate and community-useful way.”

The program was adopted in April 1975. Ted Goodwin, lawyer from the Lower Valley Legal Aid Society, joined the team. They established the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, which provided legal service to migrant farm workers. By October, the six student participants of that initial program had more than 100 cases.

The trio slowly solidified the program’s presence on campus. And that success has only continued. Over the last 40 years the program has given voice to numerous populations that otherwise would have been overlooked.

Now more than 60 students take part in the program each year and spend more than 18,000 hours annually providing legal assistance and advice to vulnerable populations.

Professor Gail Hammer is the clinic’s new director.

getting dirty

Law School students help with flood cleanup in Argentina

By Kate Vanskike

For months, the 10 students from the School of Law who committed to spending their spring break in Argentina built their plans around community development work.

Two short days before takeoff, they learned that their destination – Villa Allende – would need them to do a different kind of work: flood cleanup. It was the 12th year the Law School participated in a Mission: Possible trip, but the first time that students found themselves sloshing through mud to clear homes of debris left after six-foot water levels receded.

Each morning, the mayor and his wife escorted the team to the worksite, where they made countless trips with wheelbarrows, shovels and brooms until they could see the floors. During afternoon “siestas,” students took Spanish lessons, and at the end of the trip, they visited the law school in Cordoba where they met with a practicing attorney to learn about Argentinian law education.

Their greatest lessons, however, weren’t about law, or Spanish, or even about how to make a house look as if it’s never seen floodwaters.

Staci Dixon, second-year law student, remembers one community member gathering the group together and saying, “You have two missions in this world: one is to be happy and the other is to help people.” Dixon says, “That statement had a big impact on all of us.”

“I went to Argentina to help people, but they ended up helping me more,” says Alysha Chandra, first-year law student. “I was reminded that life’s greatest teachings come from struggling and being vulnerable with strangers, who you only communicate with through actions.”
zags football: undefeated since 1941

What started out on Thanksgiving Day 1892 as a primeval form of the football game we know today, developed into one of Gonzaga's more formidable athletic endeavors over the years, particularly in the 1920s and '30s. Its emergence unfolded under Coach Gus Dorais (1920–24), whose teams went 20-13-5 in five seasons. Gonzaga football became a well-known commodity, earning a national post-season appearance on Christmas Day 1922, a 21–13 loss to West Virginia in San Diego.

The 1924 team featuring triple-threat halfback Houston Stockton, John Stockton's grandfather, was believed to be Gonzaga's best ever. It included end Ray Flaherty, who would earn additional fame coaching the Washington Redskins to two professional football championships. Flaherty and halfback Tony Canadeo (1939–40), the grey ghost of Gonzaga, are members of Pro Football’s Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. They are two of 22 Gonzaga alumni to play professional football.

Gonzaga's last game was a 59-0 loss to Washington State in 1941. Due to the need for men to serve in World War II, Gonzaga discontinued football in 1942. When efforts by downtown business friends to reinstate football in 1947 failed, football was permanently put to rest.

– Dale Goodwin ('86) & Stephanie Plowman

who knew?

Coach Dorais completed college football’s first forward pass to Knute Rockne at Notre Dame in 1913.
hitting homers

Donn Thompson had never been to the Patterson Baseball Complex. When he played for the Zags in 1947, the makeshift field was near DeSmet Hall, after intercollegiate baseball had taken a hiatus for 15 years during the Depression and World War II. When he visited campus this spring, at age 92, he was amazed to see the grand baseball stadium, but even more impressed to meet Coach Mark Machtolf and his 2015 players.

“Coach focuses on the little things that make this a very good baseball team, like bunting and stealing,” says Thompson. “And these young men are as nice and courteous as anyone you’d want to meet. They make me so proud of my alma mater. To be able to meet them, and be on that field with them was better than Christmas.”

Thompson had played against many Major Leaguers during World War II when he served on the U.S. Marine Corps baseball team. His mettle was tested in five assault landings, two on Okinawa. His oldest grandson, Trevor Thompson, serves as a U.S. Navy Seal, and that just about busts Donn’s buttons. Thompson and his wife, Dude, live in Spokane.

eying a new crew

Recruiting is a little different for women’s crew Coach Glenn Putyrae than it might be for, say, men’s basketball Coach Mark Few. “We recruit about a half dozen high school athletes who have had rowing experience, and the rest of our recruits are students who pass the ‘eye’ test here on campus,” says Putyrae, who served as head coach here from 1999–2007, and returned in 2011 after a four-year stint as head coach at Georgetown.

“We find kids who look like athletes. We generally look for strength and height, although some of our better rowers are the ones who may not be as athletic but have a strong work ethic, mentality or pain tolerance – that’s what makes the difference,” Putyrae said.

On last spring’s NCAA Tournament qualifying team, seven of the rowers on the Varsity 1 boat did not have previous rowing experience when they came to Gonzaga. Yet they captured the school’s 14th West Coast Conference championship in 19 years, and their second NCAA tournament berth in the last three. Most schools in the nation’s top 20 are either Ivy League with tremendous rowing tradition, or schools from the power conferences, funded with football money.

Nice to be an anomaly.

art and sport, happily married

How one senior art major drew her creative inspiration from running

Kelly Williams (’15) loves running. And art. So, the senior art major combined her two passions. Her five-part screen-printed series explores different aspects of what it means to be a runner. “You know running isn’t for everyone,” she says. “I tried to bring out the fun in it with the colors.” The pieces highlight the parallels between the creative process and training for a race. They both take dedication and hard work, she says. Now Williams is living on the west side of Washington, looking for a graphic design job, ideally at a sporting agency.

– Eli Francovich (15)
off the river

It’s a sight to see, a strapping 6-foot male rower crammed into an elementary school chair, knees in face, reading with second-graders at Cooper Elementary in Spokane. But this became a common sight last spring as several members of Coach Dan Gehn’s crew team volunteered on their days off.

They were inspired to do so after learning the school’s garden shed had been stolen. They raised money to help replace it, but someone else beat them to it. So Principal Rona Williams asked if they’d volunteer in her school, one of the poorest in the city. They agreed.

Ten to 15 Zag student athletes came every Thursday to assist in the classroom and the after-school homework center, and to assist with the basketball program and the sixth-grade dance.

“It was so cute to see these big guys walking down the halls hand-in-hand with our students on the way to recess,” Williams says. “Such a simple act of kindness has turned into a relationship that could be pretty lasting.”

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a memorable year for coach fortier

Lisa Fortier was seven months pregnant when she was named Gonzaga’s women’s basketball head coach in spring 2014. She had two other small children running around the house and a legend to follow in former coach Kelly Graves. Daunting? Perhaps a little. But you’d never know it watching her assemble a brand new coaching staff, hit the recruiting trail, and solidify a team that would win 26 games, capture the West Coast Conference title and earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

She and the Zags won two tournament games, including a decisive victory over Pac-12 champion Oregon State on the Beavers’ home court, and played in the program’s fourth Sweet Sixteen.

In the meantime, she delivered her daughter, four of her players graduated, and she was named the country’s Rookie Coach of the Year by her coaching peers. All in a day’s work for this amazing working mom.

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hitting the books, serving those in need

How do Zags measure up when they’re off the fields, tracks, courses and courts?

124 earned Dean’s or President’s List honors

3.31 is the average grade point average for the entire cadre of student athletes

11 student athletes earned a perfect 4.0

2,831 hours of community service benefited 22 agencies

They also donated $5,371 in cash, 947 books, 1,639 pounds of food, more than 2,000 items of clothing, 16,207 diapers and 3,834 toiletry items to help those in need.

that’s Zag spirit at its best.
We talk about immersion and cultural exchanges and studies abroad. These describe only a portion of all that is global engagement.

There are also the stories we find. The changes in ourselves, and the difficulty of describing how those took place.

The experience is not over when we unpack our bags. It continues in the work that we are about to do.
A year or so ago I heard the Gonzaga choir sing a Swahili song at the end of a concert. “Kanisa litajengwa” was written in Rwanda as a response to years of violence and despair. It is infectious, even to the most stoic listeners. Sitting quietly in our seats, we couldn’t help but move along as the drums began. It wasn’t the first time I’d enjoyed a choral concert, but it was the first time I left one humming a song in my head.

They emptied from the bus and spilled into the parking lot, a choral army. Not a parking lot as much as a vacant space between buildings, not an army as much as a gaggle of fresh-faced co-eds, blanched from the rapid temperature change between the womb of the air-conditioned bus and the concrete slab where they were standing.

They marched in matching black polo shirts, stitched with Gonzaga choir logos on the pocket. Eyes were straight as they followed the two local teachers through the dirt alley and past the gate topped with razor wire. Inside, a few hundred students gathered in matching blue and white uniforms, peeking from classroom doors around one another into the hallway to check out the visitors.

This was Desepaz, a neighborhood on the outskirts of Cali, Colombia. Desepaz stands for Desarrollo, Seguridad y Paz, or Development, Security, Peace – a neighborhood in rebirth. You could glimpse its history by driving down one of its streets – paved in a constantly settling dust. The community seemed to be living outside their homes – couples conversing on balconies, neighbors gathering around a colorful rolling cart of Raspados (Colombian shaved ice topped with cream), children chasing chickens into alleyways. The streets were alive with sound, and the Gonzaga choir hadn’t been as quiet all week.

In 1992, Cali had been named one of the most violent cities in the world, plagued by high rates of youth violence, domestic violence and child abuse. Desepaz was born of the idea that the only way to overcome these problems was to transform the culture by turning violence into music.
They had been warned about this neighborhood, not from parents or friends back home but from the guides – the locals who have called Cali their home since they were children. “Hold your bags close and look straight ahead. Don’t talk to anyone.”

The precautions appeared intense in what seemed like a friendly neighborhood where kids played in the middle of the street and mothers walked with their children. But it was a safeguard that those who lived through 30 years of government upheaval, guerrilla and paramilitary fighting and drug cartels are slow to let go of. A conditioned response that is still being reconditioned.

In the past decade, the government outlawed militia groups and significantly reduced drug operations, and with it came an opportunity. The Gonzaga choir, headed by Tim Westerhaus, had spent the last week singing across Colombia, on occasion teamed with the Javeriana University Choir from Bogotá or with the community college choir in the European-themed town of Buga. They listened to the local sounds and sang and danced with a group of folk musicians in an open-air home. They didn’t come with a mission to build houses or to feed people, they had come to share the music.

Who Will Build the Church?

Inside the school where the choirs had gathered, both groups were visually nervous and excited as they prepared to teach each other a song.

At first there was little more than a stolen smile between the groups, but after the choirs had warmed their voices together, the students began to talk. English and Spanish were spoken together in broken sentences, still able to hold wonder.
When the Rwandan community began to rebuild after the genocide they asked, “Kanisa litajengwa,” (“Who will build the Church?”). As the young Desepaz choir began to learn the words to the song, they started to dance as if it were their own. The Gonzaga students who came to teach were suddenly watching and learning. Neither group knew what was being said, but they seemed to understand that the words didn’t matter.

The drums began and set more than a hundred dancers swaying and laughing together. When the two choirs came in with the chorus, there was no space in the building to contain it. The song traveled out into the courtyard, over the razor wire and into the alley. People gathered at the homes on the other side of the fence and from porches, some searched for the source of the music.

When it was time to leave, the young choir gathered around the Gonzaga choir and asked for autographs and addresses so they could write to one another and friend them on Facebook. Together they sang a cappella renditions of American songs and made-up raps to one another in an entanglement of hugs. As the group made its way back through the alley the songs were still reverberating.

My mother is fond of saying that the church is not the building but the people. Without them there is no church. It is when we come together, wherever that may be, that the church forms. So Who will build the church may not be a question at all.

The church was there in the Desepaz neighborhood like it was in the Rwandan neighborhoods. It is here in the Logan neighborhood like it was on the bus ride home, quiet again. Our bodies were cooled as we watched the city and we could still hear the singing if we pressed our ears to the window and hummed along.
Imagine a day when Gonzaga students live for a semester in Zambia, learning about the local literature, music and history with Zambian colleagues, while they tutor children, intern in a Jesuit hospital, or work at a radio station promoting literacy or health education.

This is the kind of momentum building between Gonzaga and communities in this southern African nation.

Since 2007, Gonzaga faculty and administrators have been working in Zambia on the premise that immersion is the first step toward engagement and intercultural competence.

Gonzaga has embraced an approach to international education that engages strategic partners in mutually-enriching projects and programs. These collaborations have paved the way for long-term community engagement, institutional change and student learning that focuses on what it means to be men and women for others in our increasingly interconnected and interdependent world.

Just as our students will be transformed by studying abroad, we expect that our faculty, the ways we think about education, and our institutions themselves, will change through these engagements.

One example of a mutually transformative collaboration has been with the Charles Lwanga College of Education (CLCE) on the Chikuni Mission. In December 2014, 25 Zambian educators, including instructors from the Charles Lwanga College, graduated with master's degrees from Gonzaga.

Side by Side

Exploring the meanings of global engagement in Zambia

A student from the Charles Lwanga College of Education receives his master’s degree from Gonzaga.
master’s degrees in educational leadership from Gonzaga’s School of Education. This was achieved via a blend of online and face-to-face courses in Zambia and in Spokane. Now, these “Zambian Zags” plan to put their Gonzaga education to work to change the landscape of Zambian education, and advance multilingual leadership for the next generation of local educators.

During the graduation celebration, Gonzaga representatives toured the Chikuni Mission, which also includes elementary and high schools, a hospital, a radio station and other community resources. As they learned about the Mission – which the Jesuits established over 100 years ago – they recognized that there are ample opportunities for Gonzaga students to learn about the good work being done by Zambians.

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The possibilities are endless

When deans from Gonzaga visited the Chikuni Mission this summer, Dr. Brenda Stevenson Marshall, dean of the School of Nursing and Human Physiology, was enthusiastic that these connections could be built.

“Our students are taught the Jesuit principle of social justice that is so intrinsic to global health practice,” Marshall says. “Here, we see how institutions can come together for reciprocal enrichment and the opportunity to make an important contribution globally.”

It’s a belief shared by Peggy Chilema (’14), a principal education standards officer in the Zambian Ministry of Education. She says the partnership has fostered knowledge and skills that “will help enable us to enhance leadership skills necessary for fostering educational development in our country.”

The possibilities are endless: a hospital internship for nursing and human physiology students, radio station work for journalism broadcast students, education majors teaching literacy, business students working on a start-up project, sociology student experience at the cultural center, and teaching English as a second language.

If we engage the creativity of our faculty with the innovation and local knowledge of our partners at Chikuni Mission, we have enormous potential to build mutually-transforming programs, side by side.
FOR SOME, GOING TO COLLEGE IS AS MUCH ABOUT PARTYING AS IT IS ABOUT STUDYING. WE TAKE A LOOK AT CURRENT TRENDS IN ALCOHOL USE AMONG STUDENTS NATIONWIDE, AND WHAT GONZAGA IS DOING TO HELP.
MOLLY SMITH (BACK) PARTICIPATES IN A PARTY SCENE RE-ENACTMENT TO TELL HER STORY OF RECOVERY.
Molly Smith wasn’t having a good time.
The party in 2014 was like so many others she’d attended. Music blared; students danced, talked and drank. For most, it was just another night of fun, a break from the pressures of school and work.

But Smith wasn’t feeling it. She was too drunk and too high.

That night she ended up at home, alone, long before her friends, like so many times before. “While everyone else was out having fun I was back at home feeling sick,” says the 20-year-old sophomore. That was when she realized something wasn’t right.

“I had an illness that needed to be treated.”

SCHOOL DAY BLUES

Alcohol, like it or not, is part of our culture. For many, it’s not a problem. They drink socially and in moderation. For others, moderation is impossible.

According to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, one in 12 adults in the United States suffers from alcoholism. While awareness has built over the years, the disease is still hidden and stigmatized. On college campuses, where roughly half the students can’t legally drink, the conversation is further complicated.

Gonzaga is no different. Alcohol consumption has for years been a part of student and alumni social life.

“I’ve had conversations with parents who say, ‘When I went to school, the priest used to bless the kegs before we all started drinking,’ ” says Jill Yashinski-Wortman, director for Gonzaga’s Center for Cura Personalis.

The image of alcohol and college being intimately linked is pernicious, if not exactly true, says Eric Baldwin, dean of student well-being and healthy living. Studies show that students vastly overestimate the percentage of their classmates who drink (see “False Norming”). That creates a false sense that the way to belong, in college, is to drink.

False Norming

Movies like “American Pie,” “Animal House” and “Old School” would have us believe that American universities are essentially four-year-long parties. The reality of course, is more nuanced. Sure, some students party, but they also study, work out, go to church, perform in theatre or music ensembles and volunteer.

Still, the images we’re exposed to have a powerful impact on our consciousness, whether they’re true or not. Jill Yashinski-Wortman, director for the Center for Cura Personalis, calls this false norming. According to recent surveys 98 to 99 percent of students think every other student has drunk alcohol in the last 30 days; the reality is that 60 to 70 percent of students have.

That false perception poses a particular problem for students in recovery, or for those who recognize they might have a problem. If they think the only way to fit in is to drink, then they will be tempted to drink.

“We need to give them alternatives,” Yashinski-Wortman says. “And recognize they’re doing amazing work. To be in recovery at that age – and to have gone through all that – what an incredible thing.”

“Educating about and preventing alcohol abuse at Gonzaga is among our highest priorities as an institution. We are dedicated to keeping our students safe and healthy.”

– JUDI BIGGS GARBUJO, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
THEY TELL US IT’S A PARTY

The idea that college and alcohol are perfectly suited for one another is fueled by a pop culture preoccupation with drinking. “There are a lot of songs about, you know, brushing my teeth with a fifth of Jack,” Baldwin says. “The messages and the cultural norms that students are being bombarded with say this is what’s expected.” College especially is portrayed as an alcohol- and drug-fueled romp, a four-year respite from the restrictions of living at home and the impending responsibility of true adulthood.

But that, says Baldwin, is simply not how it works. “You can’t work hard four days and throw it all away for three,” he says. Habits established in college don’t magically end at graduation. Plus, how and why students drink has changed. “Having a keg and a bunch of friends sharing a keg or sharing a six-pack – those days are over. It’s now shots, lots of shots,” Baldwin says.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Smith’s drinking started freshman year at parties on the weekends. During her sophomore year she bought a fake ID. She no longer drank only on weekends, instead partaking nearly every night. When this started to concern her, she limited herself to weekend drinking. That worked, for a time.

In January 2014, Smith started seeing a counselor through O.U.R. House at Gonzaga (see “Help & Hope”). “I went in not wanting to stop drinking completely,” Smith says.

But one evening in late January it became painfully clear that something had to change.

Molly had plans to go out with her best friend, Emily. Emily asked that she not drink too much. Smith agreed, but like so many other times, drank alone, before going out.

“They tell us it’s a party. You can’t work hard four days and throw it all away for three. Habits established in college don’t magically end at graduation.”

– ERIC BALDWIN, DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR WELL-BEING AND HEALTHY LIVING

ASK YOURSELF

Think you or a loved one may be on the brink of an alcohol addiction?

The “CAGE” quiz is a tool used by professionals to help assess the possibility.

- CUT DOWN. Have you ever felt you needed to cut down?
- ANNOYED. Are you annoyed by people who suggest you do so?
- GUILTY? Does your drinking bring you guilt?
- EYE-OPENER. Do you need a drink early in the morning?

For a more in-depth screening tool, try the online alcohol consumption calculator called AUDIT.
Smith ended up passed out on a couch, with Emily anxiously tending to her. For several minutes Smith was completely unresponsive. Emily was terrified, and angry.

“That night she told me she couldn’t take it anymore and that I needed to get help,” Smith says. “That was the moment I knew that I was an alcoholic and that I couldn’t drink anymore.” She started going to recovery meetings, and regularly attending O.U.R House sober events. These were places where she could let her guard down and feel safe.

“I really believe that our [sober] community isn’t small because of a lack of students in recovery. I think it’s small because students are intimidated,” Smith says.

The intimidation is twofold. Admitting you have a problem with alcohol is stigmatized. That’s compounded by the fact that, according to Smith, Gonzaga’s culture encourages perfection. “There is a lot of pressure on students to have it all together,” Smith says.

The various resources offered by Gonzaga’s Student Development and Center for Cura Personalis – O.U.R House, the Dream Office and the Student Wellness Center – have supported Smith tremendously. However, the fact that students hide their alcohol consumption shows that Gonzaga, like universities across the nation, still has work to do.
TO BUILD A COMMUNITY

Gonzaga is doing that work through Collegiate Recovery Communities. Although there is a host of programming and counseling services that Yashinski-Wortman hopes to implement, ultimately what students in recovery need is a social support system.

“They want to know that there are other people who are having the same struggles they’re having,” she says.

By creating a sense of community, Yashinski-Wortman and Baldwin hope to build a safe place where students can honestly address and face any alcohol issues they might have. Currently, Gonzaga partners with a local organization to provide professional substance abuse counseling to students, anonymous and free of charge. Additionally, Yashinski-Wortman and Baldwin are working to bring alcohol awareness education into orientation weekend, as well as providing more and better-publicized sober events.

As for Smith, she’s been sober since Feb. 1, 2014. She took spring semester off, but returned to Gonzaga in the fall. She notes, ironically, that if all goes well she’ll never have a legal drink. It’s a sobering thought, but she knows it’s her only option – an option made possible in large part by Gonzaga’s support.

HELP & HOPE

Gonzaga’s Collegiate Recovery Community offers resources for students at risk for substance abuse.

- O.U.R. (Our Unique Recovery) House
- Counseling
- Referral services
- Weekly 12-step meetings
- Peer-led discussion groups
- Friends/family support groups

If you or someone you know may be struggling or need some extra support, contact the Center for Cura Personalis:

509-313-2CCP (2227)
ccp@gonzaga.edu
www.gonzaga.edu/ccp

Life After Party

While college certainly does end, the habits established there don’t always slough away as you walk across the stage. For alcoholics the college environment may simply be hiding an ugly reality – one that stays long after the last beer pong game. Peaper (’64) experienced that firsthand.

He came to college already an experienced drinker. His first three years at Gonzaga were, as he shares in an unpublished memoir, “the best of my life, up to that point.” Alcohol helped him socialize. He was popular, had a “steady” girlfriend, lit up parties, went to class ... and could outdrink most anyone.

It didn’t last. His voracious capacity for alcohol started to scare his more moderate peers. When he graduated from Gonzaga, a year later than his class, he was single and friendless.

“To be alone is not being by yourself, it’s being alienated by those you love,” he says. “That’s exactly what happened to me when I left Gonzaga.” He doesn’t blame them, instead admitting that he was an obnoxious drunk. “I think my actions tended to be very selfish,” he says. “I wasn’t the life of the party. I was just in the way.”

His downward spiral only accelerated post-graduation. In the mornings he’d have a glass of vodka. Soon his boss caught on.

Getting fired precipitated a lifelong journey, one he’s still on. Peaper’s been sober for 40 continuous years. He retired from a successful career with Boeing and has repaired the relationships he damaged as an undergraduate. Still, he considers himself in recovery – even after all these years.

On a recent visit to campus for his 50th class reunion, he visited O.U.R. House. “I saw what they were doing, and I was very impressed,” he says. Wishing he’d had access to a support system, Peaper donated to advance the cause.

That kind of support is hugely important, not just because it helps to pay for services students need, but because they see hope in people like Jim Peaper.
First and foremost Jane Rinehart is a storyteller. She understands the intricacies of plot, pacing and diction. She can stand in front of a class and weave a verbal tapestry that’s both entertaining and enlightening.

Mostly she chooses not to. Instead the veteran professor listens. She listens to her students, to her peers, to University leaders. One hand crossed over the other wrist, head tilted to the side, she’s 100 percent focused on the discussion at hand.

That, more than anything else, sums up Rinehart’s 41-year career at Gonzaga. She’s a storyteller who’s chosen to listen first. She’s a professor who feels more comfortable sitting at the back of the classroom gently guiding the discussion. She’s an outspoken advocate for equality who never wanted the spotlight.

UNAPOLOGETICALLY HERSELF

"It’s kind of hard for me to think about my time at Gonzaga without thinking about her," says Sarah Prior (‘04), a sociology lecturer at Northern Arizona. "A lot of my academic and personal development I attribute to her."

That’s a common sentiment among Rinehart’s former students. While she is highly regarded as a professor, she’s also been a fearless champion for equality. She founded the Women’s and Gender Studies program, and has helped countless students navigate the often-tricky waters of race, gender and culture. Above all, Jane Rinehart is unapologetically herself.

"Another faculty member mentioned Jane’s fearlessness, in speaking truth to power, and I thought to myself ‘I can’t agree.’ ” said sociology professor Al Miranne at Rinehart’s retirement party. "It’s not fearlessness. It’s a sense of integrity. She feels she has no choice but to speak the truth as she sees it."

When Rinehart first came to Spokane and Gonzaga in 1974, she found a world strangely suspended in time. Faculty lunches, potlucks and a tight-knit community made Gonzaga a welcoming place, in some ways. "I experienced both a warm welcome and a sense of shock," Rinehart wrote in an unpublished memoir. "It seemed like I had traveled back in time while moving west, reaching a place that reminded me of the small town where I grew up during the 1950s."

That small-town vibe came with downsides. Gonzaga and Spokane at large weren’t telling women’s stories. Gonzaga operated, she says, as if it were still an all-boys club. As the wife of a faculty member, Rinehart was expected to act a certain way.

For her, the faculty wife role just didn’t fit. Rinehart wasn’t and isn’t critical of homemaking, or caring for children. In fact, she was in awe of the many talents the faculty wives had. However, what did strike her was an "absence of questioning both the strict association of these activities with women, and the lack of awareness of a decade of activism dedicated to creating other kinds of opportunities for women," she writes in her memoir.
"A Jesuit told me in the '70s, 'I've never met a radical feminist before.' I told him, 'Well, you still haven't.'"

"I was pursuing a doctorate and academic career, and lacked aptitude for domestic arts. I was the mother of a young daughter and an infant son, but my other pursuits were discordant with the housewife stereotype. People were very friendly, but I felt like an oddball."

So, when she started teaching part time in 1974, she was surprised by the students' reactions. "That course, Women and Society, people were banging on the door to get into that class," says Rinehart.

Rinehart was a scarce commodity, and students flocked to her. That attention gave her pause. "While I didn't want to be a role model, I eventually had to recognize this was important," she says. While attending an all-women's Catholic school on the East Coast, Rinehart says she had her own female role models. The nuns.

“They were scholars who prayed. And they were so encouraging to us," Rinehart says. “They were always in front of the class giving you permission to take yourself very seriously.”

While Gonzaga opened its doors to women in 1948, it was still a male-dominated institution in the '70s, with only a handful of female professors. This caused some confusion. Rinehart was thought to be longtime history professor Betsy Downey, or a Sister.

“They hadn't seen very many women," she says.

THE GROWING PRESENCE OF WOMEN

Rinehart had no big plans to be a crusader. But things that were commonplace at Gonzaga bothered her. So, she started to speak up for what she thought was right. Although never brash, Rinehart was persistent. Soon she'd developed a reputation as "Gonzaga's feminist."

"A Jesuit told me in the '70s, 'I've never met a radical feminist before,' " Rinehart says. "I told him, 'Well you still haven't.'"

Starting in the '80s, more female faculty members were hired. Gonzaga, urged in large part by Rinehart's vocal leadership, began to deal with gender equality issues openly. This gradual change led to the creation of the Women's Studies Program (now Women's and Gender Studies) in 1991. The program coalesced what Rinehart had taught for years. Our understanding of gender is intimately linked to culture.

While she’s unsure about the accuracy of the label, many have called her Gonzaga’s first feminist – a title that, while perhaps misleading, serves an important purpose. She writes in her memoir that she has helped to “create a collective story about women – as a subject for scholarly inquiry, as a missing presence in the canonical texts of the established curriculum, and as a neglected student voice in the University’s classrooms.”

She’s always been the one to stand up and speak her mind. English Professor Jessica Maucione is in awe of Rinehart's ability, and willingness, to defend what she believes is right. Maucione, who was in two of Rinehart's classes as an undergraduate, says she’s often uncomfortable or unwilling to express her sometimes-contentious views, especially about gender. Not so for Rinehart. “She has so much integrity she can't not do it,” Maucione says.

The Women's and Gender Studies program hopes to build on the energy and passion Rinehart has brought all these years. Patsy Fowler, the outgoing director, hopes that soon there will be a related major and a women’s center. Both those dreams have Rinehart’s fingerprints all over them.

Rinehart wouldn't tell the story this way. For her it's much simpler. Listen, and try to do the right thing.
ADVOCATE, ACTIVIST, AUTHOR

BY DALE GOODMAN ('86)

After nearly a half-century of teaching history at GU, Betsy Downey has retired from full-time coursework and received a new title: Professor Emerita. Gonzaga Magazine learns more about the passions that still fuel her research.

Combining wolf research with her observations, Downey has written several articles as well as backgrounds for two National Geographic documentaries. The credits list her as a wolf historian, a title she wears proudly.

PHOTO BY BILL WENGELER
WHAT FED YOUR LOVE OF HISTORY?

It came from many sources: an addiction to reading; events of the period in which I grew up, especially the Cold War and women’s and civil rights; and the accessibility of historic places in the U.S. I’ve canoed the fur traders’ upper Missouri, bicycled Lewis and Clark’s Lolo Pass, and skied the Shoshone Indians’ Bannock Trail in Yellowstone.

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR PRIMARY INTERESTS?

My early interests included John Adams, William Faulkner and George Kennan. Later, it was Nebraska author Mari Sandoz and domestic violence on the frontier. Now I’m writing a history of the Civilian Conservation Corps’ work in Yellowstone National Park.

HAS TEACHING HISTORY CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

I tell students the nifty part of history is that anything you are interested in has a history and is fair game. Our definition of history has expanded from wars, treaties and white male rulers, to include social, cultural, environmental, gender, race and ethnic studies. My own work and the courses I developed here reflect those changes as do Gonzaga’s current history offerings.

HOW DID YOU “FALL” FOR BISON?

Sandoz wrote extensively on the Great Plains. Her history of buffalo hunters sparked my interest in the near-extinction of bison and their successful protection in Yellowstone Park (which now has about 4,500 bison roaming around). Research on bison involved both scouring the archives and observation.

AND THEN YOU WERE “AMBUSHED” BY WOLVES?

The bison trips to Yellowstone occurred just as the idea of restoring wolves to the park became a hot topic. The park’s early policies had reflected historic Euro-American anti-wolf attitudes. By the early 1930s Yellowstone’s predator controls had exterminated park wolves. After decades of re-examination of those policies, wolves were restored to the park in 1995. I didn’t see my first wolves until 2003, but the minute I saw them I was hooked. I’m now part of a pack of ‘wolf groupies’ who spend whole days spotting wolves, reporting their activities to park naturalists and helping park visitors.

WHAT’S IT LIKE TO SHADOW WOLVES?

Most members of my pack are in the field before dawn. Not me. I’m the ‘night shift.’ A fellow night owl and I once had a black wolf walk by in the dark, stopping about 15 feet away to stare at us with those legendary wolf eyes. Were we scared? Heck no! We felt privileged beyond words. Wolves are beautiful animals with great personalities – some are so famous they’re called ‘rock star wolves.’ Watching them can be like watching an extended family at a picnic. They tease each other, discipline their pups, hassle their parents, play with toys – bones, pieces of hide and sometimes even traffic cones. And they can be very silly. I once saw a yearling wolf go for a pinecone dangling from a conifer branch. He jumped for that cone until he finally got it.

BUT NOT EVERYBODY LOVES WOLVES, RIGHT?

There are continuing controversies about their place in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and about legal wolf hunting outside the park. The park faces many other challenges involving humans and the environment. The issue is how do we preserve the park as a wilderness and yet honor its other purpose to benefit the people? My research and observations make me appreciate the park’s place in environmental history and the wolves’ importance in keeping Yellowstone’s modern ecosystem intact.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR YOU?

I’ll still be writing about wolves and the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Yellowstone. And as often as possible, I’ll be hiking, biking or kayaking, with a camera around my neck and an idea for a new project rattling around in my head.
Almost conspiratorially, the car sputters and runs out of gas. My mother puts her hands over her face, the back of her neck blushing red.

I find the fact of this: our car poised, almost leonine, at the tip of this highway off-ramp practically laughable and very distant. A dog chasing ptarmigans against the stretching snow or the tigers on TV.

My mother’s neck, however, is pink and very real. I sit still, and do not say “I told you so.”

Maria Mills was one of three first-place winners of the 2015 Michael & Gail Gurian Award.

Michael Gurian was a professor at Gonzaga who has authored 28 books on relationships, parenting and child development.
endowed chairs
Gonzaga University English Professor Tod Marshall has been named the Robert K. and Ann J. Powers Chair of the Humanities at Gonzaga for a two-year term. A renowned poet, Marshall has taught at Gonzaga for 16 years and directs the English department’s writing concentration. Andrew Goldman, associate professor of history and chair of the classical civilizations department, has received Gonzaga University’s Alphonse A. and Geraldine F. Arnold Distinguished Professorship. His work in classical studies has earned him broad recognition.

research grants
Congratulations to Carla Bonilla, assistant professor of biology, on receiving nearly $60,000 from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust in support of her research on “Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Oxidative Stress Response.” Joey Haydock received a National Science Foundation grant in the intensively competitive Animal Behavior Directorate for Biological Sciences. Dr. Haydock is collaborating with Cornell and Old Dominion on this project. The total award is for $410,387 with Gonzaga receiving $114,056. Brook Swanson received a National Science Foundation grant for $102,808 for a collaborative project titled “The Evolution of Extreme Traits,” which is part of a collaboration with WSU and Montana. Gonzaga received a $2,500 grant from the Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities to study “Mission-Related Outcomes Assessment at a Jesuit Catholic University.”
“Throughout my studies, the subjects that held my interest were ones that focused on individual and relational human systems, never the environment or conservation,” says Kaitlin Vadla (’08), who left Gonzaga University with a B.A. in international relations and entrepreneurship and a master’s in organizational leadership. “This is not to say that I didn’t find my deepest joys in nature,” she adds. “The places where I feel most alive are hanging from a rock face, skiing down a mountain, climbing through trees, jumping in the ocean.”

She studied for a year at Oxford and earned a postgraduate diploma of science in New Zealand before returning to her home state of Alaska. When she visited in summer 2013, she had no intentions of staying. However, word spread that Vadla was home and would be a good candidate for a new position with Cook Inletkeeper, a citizen-based nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the Cook Inlet watershed through science, advocacy and education.

In what she describes as “the best accident ever,” she took the job as the grass-roots organizer to train volunteers, prepare for public open-comment sessions, review permit processes and gather petitions. Her sights set on long-term community development, she loves empowering people to have a voice in resource decisions, giving citizens tools to protect water quality and salmon habitat, lobbying with government leaders, and raising awareness of all these efforts.

“I like to think about long-term trajectories, and how social systems change over time,” Vadla says. “I am coming to believe, more and more, that our well-being and prosperity depend on a healthy environment.”

**FISHERMEN AND FILMMAKERS AND A FIGHT FOR THE WATER**

Vadla believes that Gonzaga’s teaching of stewardship and social responsibility encourages students to be thoughtful, not greedy, and to be with those most in need. Those values are the heart of her work in Alaska, where fishermen are losing jobs due to dwindling fisheries and coastal villages are sinking into the ocean from erosion. “Because of the way climate change affects different parts of the globe disproportionately, Alaska is getting the short end of the stick,” she says.

“People live here because they love the fish or the hunting or the land,” Vadla says. “People from all walks come together over salmon. Everyone shares the value of our rivers, whether from the standpoint of wilderness and recreation or sport and commercial fishing. People don’t always agree on allocation, but when it comes to watching out for habitat, everybody comes together.”

“We want the fish to come back again and again forever, for everyone,” she adds.

That’s why a coal strip-mining operation through a salmon stream is considered a bad idea. A project backed by Texas billionaires proposes to dig up the headwaters of the Chuitna River to mine the coal underneath. As part of a larger coalition, Inletkeeper is working to save the Chuitna, which has all five species of wild Pacific salmon and flows into Cook Inlet. To illustrate the terrible precedent it would set to mine directly through a salmon stream, the coalition produced a film about Chuitna with the help of a National Geographic filmmaker and support from Patagonia.

During a short visit to Gonzaga in February to share the Chuitna film, Vadla talked with School of Law students on writing rebuttals, and with Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program seniors on economic development and exploitation – which she has come to understand in a whole new way. Her studies in international relations allow her to deal with government leaders and processes; her organizational leadership coursework helps her communicate comfortably with a variety of audiences.

“Even though I’m not doing something that seems like a typical fit for someone with my major, I have been served really well,” she says. “Giving people a say in resource decisions is quite meaningful.”

What she initially thought would be a short-term experience with Inletkeeper looks to be a long-term opportunity.

“The more time I spend here, the more I have a vision for the Alaska I want to see,” she says. “Other people have that vision, too: for their kids to pick blueberries in the mountains, to fish and hunt, and to protect the land that provides so much for us.”
Based in Spokane, Melissa travels the world over (and under the sea) with her marine photographer husband. Her art often features wildlife native to the Pacific Northwest, and can be seen in public spaces throughout the region. The inspiration for “On a Mission” came from swimming with red sockeye salmon as they made their way up the Adams River in British Columbia.

The Cook Inlet region includes 47,000 square miles; seven national parks and wildlife refuges and four state parks; and 400,000 people who depend on the watershed’s healthy waters and wild habitats. Chief concerns for Cook Inlet are clean water and healthy salmon, two topics that require constant attention to pollution, climate change, coal mining, oil drilling, boating practices, harbor activity and habitat.
'04 Meredith Virant married David Hutchison in November 2014 in Seattle. The bridal party included fellow GU alumni Mallory Virant, Erin Fong (Easley), Kelly D’Ambrosio (Shaw), Shelby Reed (Ratto) and Sarah Schwering (Taylor). Meredith is a partner at Guadagno Virant PLLC, a criminal defense law firm in downtown Seattle. She and David have three dogs, Tate, Ford and Macey.

'08 Sean Killeen and '11 Katherine Billock were married in August 2014. Fellow Zags in the wedding party included Michael and Dana (Anderson) Lubovich, Danny Magana, Mason Talkington, Kayla Morrison, Melissa Dean and Caitlin Miller. Sean and Katherine live in Seattle.

'10 Kristen Tordillos and '10 Keith Mowell were married in Poulsbo, Washington, last October. Kristen says, “I first started falling for him when he helped me with my physics homework the summer of 2009.” But … there was a catch. She wouldn’t date him until he finished reading the Harry Potter series. When they tied the knot, they did so in a magical Potter-inspired ceremony. Zags who participated in the bridal witchcraft were Nicole Raisch, Erin O’Loughlin, Rob Gonia, John Wenstrand, Nick Vaudreuil and Gerard Finnegan, all fellow 2010 grads. Today, Keith and Kristin enjoy careers as a mechanical engineer and biology teacher, respectively.

**wedding bells**

left-right
top-bottom:
Meredith Virant & David Hutchison, Katherine Billock & Sean Killeen, Keith Mowell & Kristen Tordillos, Alex Miller & Stephanie Homestead Miller, Rachel Cox & Max Helling, Jon Visintainer & Karin Wright
’12 Stephanie Homestead Miller and ’12 Alex Miller married in September 2014. Their bridal party included Christopher LaRocco, Cameron Mitchell, David Soto, Brice Ely and Katie LaRocco, all 2012 classmates.

’11 Max Helling and ’12 Rachel Cox celebrated their vows in March in Portland, Oregon. They were friends in college and reconnected a few years later while watching a Zags game together in Portland. “We realized we had both liked each other in college but were too afraid to say it,” shares Rachel. They began dating and married a year and a half later.

Professional studies grad ’12 Jon Visintainer married Karin Wright in August 2014, after a relationship that budded during a Zags game in 2010. Jon proposed to Karin in the old Kennel, and to keep the GU basketball theme alive in their wedding, the groomsmen entered to the AC/DC song “Thunderstruck” as the processional. While honeymooning in Kauai, they learned that they had received season tickets for the coming men’s basketball games. “What an amazing year!” Jon says. (You can read more of their Zag romance on our Gonzaga Giving blog.)

one alum’s winding road to success
Sometimes you gotta serve hot wings

By Matt Friedman (’16)
Another class has graduated, and many Zags landed jobs before the ink dried on their diplomas. Others, however, are asking themselves, “What am I going to do now?”

The sudden loss of identity as a student can be difficult, as can the pressure to find a career right after graduating. The perceived road to success is not as simple as it may seem, as Patrice Sutton (’12) shares.

After graduating from Gonzaga, Patrice received various job offers, but none felt right. She moved home to Montana, but struggled to find a job. Eventually, she was hired as a teacher’s assistant at a Montessori preschool. “What originally felt like a compromising job, I ended up loving,” says Patrice. Though she “learned a ton and had so much fun,” she moved back to Spokane in fall 2013. After several dead-end job applications, Patrice started working at Buffalo Wild Wings to make ends meet.

“I knew that I had to support myself, and would have to give my very best to the situation,” she says. “So I sucked it up and worked hard.”

Eventually, Patrice landed a job with the Johnson Service Group. After only a year, she was promoted to management, organizing social media for more than 30 offices across the country. Soon, she hired another Gonzaga graduate, Melissa Culbert (’13), and together they are working to build a marketing department from the ground up. They recently invited Schanayde Bigony (’15) to join them.

“Take every opportunity in stride and do your best,” Patrice now advises future graduates. “Take the lessons you learn with gratitude and move on.”

recent grad? still looking for the right job?
Gonzaga’s career experts are here to help you make connections and find opportunities, translating your Gonzaga experience to meaningful life work. Through the Gonzaga Alumni Mentor Program (GAMP), you can network with mentors (fellow Zags) who share your career goal, geographic location or other interests.

Search for “Career Center” at gonzaga.edu or call 800-986-9585 to connect with an adviser.

share your news
of wedding bliss, babies or career changes online at gonzaga.edu/alumninews or email gonzaga@gonzaga.edu
A year after graduating from Gonzaga, Ernst Ophuls (’59) applied to become a Catholic missionary with Lay Mission-Helpers Association, which trained and sent volunteers to the far corners of the Earth. Ophuls, who had degrees in art, physics and philosophy, was an expert aviation mechanic and small-craft pilot.

When asked why he wanted to be a lay missionary, he wrote, “Helping the Church in her mission work is a most worthy end in itself and a means of drawing nearer to Christ.”

Ophuls’ assignment in Ecuador was to bridge the forbidding mountains and backcountry, transporting missionaries and freight by aircraft to and from the mission sites. Only six months into his three-year term, Ernst succumbed to food poisoning. His chaplain wrote, “Ernie died praying, with a smile on his lips.”

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of Lay Mission-Helpers, the organization is honoring the late Ernst Ophuls with a missionary award bearing his name. Its first recipient is Betty Risley, who sees her work as a chance to “experience a different culture, deepen my faith life, share my God-given gifts, and to live a much simpler, less hurried, more spiritual and focused life.”

positive pursuits

1950s–’60s
empowering women afar
’59, ’61 Professor Donald Sharpes. Emeritus College at Arizona State University, is senior visiting fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge University. He recently completed a month-long State Department assignment under the auspices of the Fulbright Commission to Pakistan. In this role, he gave a lecture series and consultancy services to Pakistan’s Higher Education Commission and college instructors at Fatima Jinnah Women’s University. “Women’s economic empowerment is vital to the development of Pakistan, and the United States is working to expand women’s participation in the economy through entrepreneurship, employment opportunities and education,” he says. This was Don’s fifth Fulbright award; others were in Malaysia (’76), Cyprus (’85), Denmark (’07) and Indonesia (’12).

1990s
empowering women near
’93 Nicole (Hillman) Stewart was named president of the YWCA of Spokane board of directors for 2015. She and other volunteer members help further the organization’s mission to eliminate racism and empower women. Nicole, who also serves as director of marketing and communications for Inland Northwest Health Services, says “It’s great for me to take what I learned at Gonzaga and the Jesuit tradition and give back to an organization that gives so much to women and children in our community.”

2000s
batting a thousand
’00 Jason Everhart is an eighth-grade history teacher in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but his claim to fame is being named the 2014 employee of the year for the Red Sox Foundation, the official team charity of the Boston Red Sox and the largest charity in sports. In 2010, he was also volunteer of the year for the same organization, which honored him at a Yankees-Red Sox game.

taking home an oscar
Karen Krantz, sixth-grade teacher at Adams Elementary in Spokane, received the Milken Educator Award, conceived by the Milken Family Foundation to attract, retain and motivate outstanding talent to the teaching profession. Dubbed the “Oscars of Teaching,” honorees receive professional development opportunities and networking with leading education stakeholders … plus $25,000 to spend however they wish.

all scientific
’03 Matthew Pendleton published a paper in the June 2015 issue of Nature Methods on “Assembly and diploid architecture of an individual human genome via single-molecule technologies.” He is a doctoral candidate at the Icahn School of Mount Sinai in the labs of Ali Bashir and Thomas Moran.

scaling new heights
’06 Brenda Velasco is teaching at St. Elizabeth Seton School in Rapid City, South Dakota. She and her fiance, Jeff, lead a hiking and climbing club at their parish, where they help middle-school students gain wilderness skills and rock-climbing experience while enjoying God’s creation in the Black Hills.
Bryant and LaDonna Beyeler were serious about experiencing the ambience of a Zag basketball game. Even if it meant driving seven hours from their southern Idaho home and simply hanging out near the McCarthey Athletic Center while action roared inside The Kennel. They’d never been to a game, but they and their four small children made the journey to hear what it might be like. Fortunately, they ran into Terry Luce (’93), who introduced them to Coach Donny Daniels, found a copy of Sports Illustrated – signed by Kyle Wiltjer – for them to keep, and made it her personal mission to equip this fanatic family with all sorts of “necessities” for the upcoming March Madness celebration.

Thanks to the quick response of a faithful alum and several folks at the University, the Beyeler family’s journey was worth every minute.

My favorite spot at Gonzaga is the first landing of the main staircase in the Administration Building. One weekend, a group of us spent the weekend on the landing for the fun of it. I think it was in 1973. I loved the beauty of the staircase with the engraved posts.

— Maureen Gallagher/Williams (’76)

clockwise: Don Sharpes, Nicole Stewart, Karen Krantz and Brenda Velasco
As director of Bonney Lake, Washington’s Sentimental Journey program, Teresa McCallion (’81) witnesses great joy watching her residents enjoy live music, dine out with family and friends, and even get married on a mountaintop, thanks to a unique partnership between East Pierce Fire and Rescue, its foundation, and MultiCare/Good Samaritan Home Health and Hospice.

McCallion, also president of the foundation and an EMT, is passionate about offering dignity to those on their final days of this life’s journey. East Pierce firefighters and paramedics donate their time to Sentimental Journey so that hospice patients can be safely transported away from their bed and their pain one last time. “You learn to sit with patients and be a compassionate presence. You learn that you can’t hide behind your equipment. You learn that you have to deal with people as human beings. We all get burned out – this program helps remind us why we got into this job,” says McCallion.

“I consider it a privilege to have this opportunity,” McCallion says. “When people have a choice and it’s the end of their life and they want to do one last thing before they die, it’s the small things that mean so much to them. It’s really interesting, and it helps me regain my perspective in life.”

By Brittany Wilmes, ’09
**positive pursuits**

**2000s**

**joining the brotherhood**

’08 Kyle Mangloña is ordained as a transitional deacon for the Archdiocese of Seattle, in Tacoma. He is pursuing a licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and will be ordained a priest in June 2016 in Seattle.

**appealing to the court**

’12 Katelin Eastman enjoyed a recent victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She graduated from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2015 with a J.D. and a master’s in Dispute Resolution.

During her second and third years of law school, she served as pro bono counsel in a Title VII case before the Ninth Circuit. While supervised by counsel, she and a partner were solely responsible for briefing and arguing the entire case. “Very few lawyers, no less law students, get the opportunity to argue before such a prestigious court,” Katelin says. After several long months, the Ninth Circuit granted her client total victory, a very difficult standard to meet. She says, “It has been an incredible year of success, and I would be remiss if I did not thank the Gonzaga community for its contributions to my education.”

**workin’ on the railroad**

’09 Tristan Rickett, a railroad engineer at Hanson Professional Services Inc.’s Seattle regional office, recently earned his professional engineer license in Washington. Rickett joined Hanson in 2011 and provides civil design services for railway projects. He earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Gonzaga and a master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**2010s**

**coming home**

’10 Sarah Arpin completed her Ph.D. in applied social psychology at Portland State University, in May 2015. She is returning to Gonzaga as an assistant professor of psychology, fall 2015.

**we’re on in 3, 2, 1**

’11 Molly Garrity recently became anchor/executive producer of the Fox affiliates in San Angelo and Abilene, Texas. During her time covering news in the Lone Star State, Molly also got to cover the Zags’ Elite Eight run in Houston during March Madness.

**moving on up**

’13 Anne Montgomery (M.B.A.) accepted a promotion to program director of the Family Medicine Residency at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California. The new program just welcomed its third class of new first-year residents (new physicians).

**oh, baby!**

CONGRATS TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES WHO HAVE BROUGHT FUTURE ZAGS INTO THE WORLD.

’08 John Peters and ’09 Amanda Parsons Peters married in 2011 and welcomed Brookelyn Lena in April 2015. Brookelyn was born five weeks early, but is making up for lost time. Proud dad is an environmental engineer for GEO Engineers in Redmond, Washington, and mom is a diabetes educator at Seattle Children’s Hospital.

’04 Cara and ’03 Matt Hoag welcomed their second child, Crosby. He joins brother Luca, 2. Cara is senior marketing and communications specialist in Gonzaga’s marketing and communications office, while Matt is assistant professor of accounting at GU.

’07 Bonnie Leko-Shapiro and her husband, Allen, welcomed their first child, Isabelle, in January. They live in Silver Spring, Maryland; Bonnie works at a tourism development firm in Washington, D.C. Baby Isabelle enjoyed cheering the Zags through March Madness.

’07 Michelle and ’07 Chris Wheatley, another pair of Gonzaga employees, welcomed their first child, Evan. Michelle is director of University Ministry and Chris is associate director of the Center for Community Action and Service Learning.

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He was described as Gonzaga’s guiding conscience, and the richest man in town without a penny to his name. He had a thousand devoted sons, and a pocketful of cigars. This stern Dutch brother demanded proper behavior from his “poys,” but everyone saw his tender side. He was a character builder, athletic moderator and property room manager, and keeper of the keys to the gym where ne’er a neighborhood child was turned away.
Father Larry Gooley, S.J., refers to his 1950s college-era singing buddies as The Brotherhood – a band of Gonzaga alumni with a bond formed under the leadership of choral director Lyle Moore. Moore demanded excellence and got it, for nearly 50 years.

Spring 1958 saw the formal end of the Gonzaga University Men’s Glee Club, a national championship group with countless fans, including Bing Crosby. Clubs had averaged 35–40 men a year representing most GU schools of study. The program ended abruptly, but in its place the seeds of The Brotherhood began to grow, continuing even stronger 57 years later among the men, their spouses and friends. Age has decimated their ranks and their vocal chords, but they can still sing a few tunes well enough when they gather once or twice a year from their homes throughout the West.

Singing, love, friendship, generosity and celebration bring them together and they are leaving their mark on Gonzaga in highly unique and rewarding ways, chiefly through a strongly endowed scholarship program and through a reseeding of The Brotherhood with today’s choral students.

The alums’ generosity is exemplified through their Lyle W. Moore Endowed Scholarship program, which has reached $2.1 million, providing 129 annual scholarships since its inception in 1998.

During September campus reunions, Glee Club members augment their voices with fresh, young male talent in the choral programs of Timothy Westerhaus, director of choirs and vocal studies. They also have a dynamic exchange of songs with 80 of Westerhaus’ women and men singers.

The current students love it, says Westerhaus, because they “experience something greater than themselves: They witness the Glee Club’s bonds of friendship through music that have endured decades and thousands of miles.” They admire it and feel a responsibility to continue the choral tradition. “The Glee Club’s annual reunion is a gift not just to the alumni: It inspires Gonzaga’s students,” he says.

For Father Larry, the legacy of his fellow singers, now between 77 and 87 years of age, “continues to impact me in my work as a Jesuit. We learned to work and celebrate as family, whether it was making music, making friends, or making a difference in the lives of the people we met.”

Father Larry especially makes a difference in the lives of the Glee Club family and it celebrated him at his parish at Rockaway Beach, Oregon, last spring to note his 60th year as a Jesuit and his 50th year as a priest. They treated his parishioners with song and Father Larry described for them the Glee Club’s rich enduring legacy, now being passed to an expanding Gonzaga Brotherhood.

IN THE BROTHERHOOD
Who is in this half-century club?
Read about the enduring (and endearing) members at gonzaga.edu/magazine
‘42 Robert Casey, March 18, Great Falls, Mont. After earning a medical degree, Casey served in the Army. He married and settled in Great Falls. Over his 45-year career, he delivered more than 8,000 babies.

‘47 Lester Rosaire Sauvage Sr., M.D., Seattle, June 5. Dr. Sauvage founded The Hope Heart Institute in Seattle, a leading institute for heart research. His innovative work in the early 1960s paved the way for the cardiac bypass graft surgery that is used to save many lives every day.

‘49 Rev. David Clarke, S.J., April 4, Spokane. He was a man of voracious intellectual appetites and aptitudes. A lifelong educator and administrator, he also published a book of photography. He served Gonzaga in a variety of administrative and teaching roles. He later served as president of Regis University in Denver for 20 years, then chancellor.

‘49 Coral Cotterell (Ph.D.), March 21, Portland. Over the course of his medical career, Cotterell delivered more than 4,000 babies.

‘50 James Thomas Brennan, March 9, Graeagle, Calif. He served as a Jesuit priest for more than 30 years, then left the order to marry Cheryl. They were married 20 years.

‘50 John Hebert, Feb. 6, Seattle. He founded and ran Manhattan Drug until he retired in 2004. Manhattan Drug was a community gathering spot. Heber always had a pot of coffee and smile ready for visitors. He also started Hebert Hose Clamp, a firefighter equipment manufacturing company.

‘52 James Patrick Diestel Jr. (Ph.D.), Feb. 22, San Francisco. Diestel was a prominent physician in the Bay Area, and former chief of staff for St. Mary’s Hospital. Diestel made many pilgrimages to Lourdes, France.

‘53 Robert Lawrence, March 10, St. Burien, Wash. Lawrence taught in Yakima and Spokane before serving 25 years as education professor at Gonzaga.

‘56 Col. Peter Walker, Jan. 10, Sun City, Fla. Walker served the Army in the U.S., Europe and Vietnam. He received numerous decorations, including the Legion of Merit.

‘56 Frank Elliott, Feb. 11, Spokane. Elliott loved the outdoors, pets and his family. He worked for Avista for 33 years.

‘57 Fr. William Wood, June 29, Los Gatos, Calif. Wood served as a Jesuit for 62 years. He advocated for the poor, marginalized and the environment. He was executive director of the California Catholic Conference.

‘58 Ronald Smith, March 6, Sandpoint, Idaho. Smith worked as an engineer for Kaiser Aluminum for 40 years.

‘59 Melvin Kays, March 1, Lake Havasu City, Ariz. A senior accountant for Consolidated Freightways in Portland, Kays purchased so many tires from Goodyear that when he retired, he was given a ride on the Goodyear Blimp.

‘61 David Kuttner, Feb. 28, Spokane. Kuttner’s lifelong dream was fulfilled when his son was ordained a deacon at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Kuttner and his wife helped fund the construction of an elementary school in Tanzania, and sponsored numerous east African high school students’ education.

‘61 Edward Francis McRory, March 13, Calgary, Alberta. McRory worked in international law in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), Australia, Egypt, England and more. He worked 32 years for Howard Mackie and McCarthy Tetrault law firms.

‘62 Mary “Bibi” Holden, Feb. 16, Olympia, Wash. Holden’s love for travel was fueled by her Peace Corps experience in Ethiopia. She loved kayaking.

‘65 Kristine (Marie) Kononen, Dec. 8, Fairfax, Va. Two years in Corum, Turkey, with the Peace Corps defined Kononen’s life. In 1974, she served on the Impeachment and Inquiry staff of the House Judiciary Committee. She served as Congresswoman Bella Abzug’s personal secretary for six years.

‘69 Samuel Delaney, Jan. 7, Spokane. Delaney’s early training as a Jesuit scholastic infused his entire life, becoming a compassionate psychologist and professor.

‘69 Sister Rose Marie Nigro, March 3, Bellevue, Wash. She directed adult education in the Seattle Archdiocese and the Diocese of Nelson, B.C. She was the director of Gonzaga’s FOCUS program.

‘69 Richard Weiland Jr. (Ph.D.), Feb. 20, Lewiston, Idaho. He worked in Lewiston for years as a primary care doctor. He was an active community and church member.

‘75 Catherine Willis, Jan. 31, Spokane. A dedicated community activist, Willis served on nearly two dozen neighborhood, corporate and community boards and committees. Willis loved the art of storytelling.

‘78 Paul Lomio (J.D.), March 6, Stanford, Calif. When Lomio took over the directorship of the Stanford Law Library, he inherited an indebted institution. Over the course of 10 years he remade the library and brought it firmly into the modern era.

‘79 John Kratofo, March 3, Libby, Mont. For 40 years Kratofo battled multiple sclerosis. He never allowed his disease to drag him down. He was Montana’s Outstanding Young Educator in 1971, and retired in 2007 after 41 years in education.

‘79 Allen Howard Lundgren (J.D.), Sept. 4, 2014, Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a lawyer at Utah Legal Services, and a shareholder at Durham, Jones and Pinegar.

‘80 Cheryl Groth, Feb. 6, Spokane. Groth was a civil engineer, and most recently director of capital projects for Community Colleges of Spokane.

‘81 Reif Ray Charles Erickson, March 26, Auburn, Calif. He was a respected pastel artist in his area, and always willing to share his wisdom with young artists.

‘83 Jerry Sullivan, Jan. 23, Portland, Ore. He is remembered as “the ultimate family man, husband, father and Zag fan,” writes fellow classmate Tony Lucarelli (‘83).

‘83 Edward Neunherz, Jan. 27, Veradale, Wash. He served in the Air Force for 27 years. After retiring he became executive director of the Spokane Lilac Festival, then a senior vice president at Global Credit Union.

‘86 Katie Ottinger Smith, Feb. 6, Portland. Smith used her master’s degrees in health administration and social work to aid the homeless until ALS slowed her.

‘04 Kevin McKenna, Jan. 14, Spokane. He was energetic, engaged and volunteered in his spare time. He studied broadcasting at GU.

‘48 Ferdinand “Ferd” Swenson, March 5, Walla Walla, Wash.

‘50 Elizabeth “Betty” Gallagher, Jan. 23, Concord, Calif.

‘50 Rev. Gerard Steckler, S.J., March 5, Los Gatos, Calif.

‘52 John Perko, March 11, El Paso, Texas.

‘63 Edward Stergar, April 9, Butte, Mont.

‘64 Sharon O’Neal, Feb. 27, Everett, Wash.

‘74 Donald Koback, April 10, Woonsocket, R.I.

‘76 Robert Lee Henry (J.D.), March 14, Spokane.

‘79 Timothy Dolata (J.D.), March 7, Porterfield, Wis.

‘81 George Cook, Jan. 17, Crawford Bay, B.C.

‘90 Carlos Pietro, March 16, St. Orange, Calif.
ONE NAME said it all

He was one of those people well-known by just one name: Smitty. He garnered the love and support of a Gonzaga Law community that is unsurpassed over the past 83 years, dating back to the day he enrolled as an undergraduate in 1932.

Smithmoore P. Myers will go down in Gonzaga Law School history as the modern-day patriarch. “There is no greater boon than to leave this world with the imperishable crown of a good name,” said Don Curran (’60), who knew Myers since his own law school days back in 1957.

Growing up in Spokane with his single mom, Myers was a member of the Gonzaga debate team and served as student body president while earning his bachelor’s degree in 1936. He completed his law degree in 1939, serving as Student Bar Association president.

After law school, Myers taught naval law during World War II. After the war, he worked at the Washington State Attorney General’s office, then in 1948 entered private practice with a Seattle-area law firm. In 1955 Gonzaga President Francis Coughlin, S.J., named Myers the law school’s sixth dean. Dean Myers served in that position until 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson named him the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington. After four years he returned to private practice in Spokane as a partner at Lukins, Myers, Annis, Seeyle, Bastine and Randall.

In 1975, President Bernard Coughlin, S.J., once again asked Myers to serve his alma mater as dean to oversee the direction and growth of the law school – a position he held until 1978. After a successful second term as dean, Myers was appointed United States Magistrate for the Eastern District of Washington, serving until 1987. Smitty remained close to the law school and often taught classes until his retirement in 1995. He continued to serve in advisory roles to the administration. The Spokane County Bar Association created its highest award for professionalism, named it for Smithmoore P. Myers, and selected him as its first recipient. “He was immensely pleased with this acknowledgement to his character,” said former law partner and dear friend Judge Paul Bastine.

Over the years, Myers received numerous other awards, including Gonzaga’s Law Medal and Distinguished Alumni Merit Award.

Described by his friends and associates as honest, analytical, imaginative, trustworthy, courteous and the embodiment of the Golden Rule, Smitty would credit much of his success to his lifetime partner and wife, Sandy, whose wit, wisdom and loyalty helped make these two inseparable, Curran said. “They never had children, but I was one of their dozens of kids,” Bastine said affectionately.

Colleen Magnuson was the inimitable pioneer woman in the modern 20th century. Her to-do list was always longer than there were hours in the day. Yet she saved her most precious time for her large and loving family. She was a beloved and peerless wife and mother, and a fun, attentive and loving grandmother. She is remembered for the extraordinary tenacity, grace and dignity with which she faced, and overcame, health challenges over the course of many years. She lived with equanimity and good cheer.

In the early 1970s, when Gonzaga was threatened with closure by local banks, Harry and Colleen Magnuson personally guaranteed the University’s debt. This enabled Gonzaga to survive and paved the way to its current success. Harry served as Gonzaga’s first lay trustee, and their daughter Kathleen Magnuson Shppard serves on the board. They established the Harry F. and Colleen B. Magnuson Family Scholarship, which has helped 77 North Idaho students to attend Gonzaga, and funded renovation of the University’s theater, renamed the Harry F. and Colleen B. Magnuson Theatre. In 2009, in recognition of these and numerous other contributions throughout the West over the past 50 years, the Magnusons received Gonzaga’s Ignatian Spirit Award.

Married for more than 60 years, they came to Wallace, Idaho, and built a successful business career that would include interests in mining, real estate, banking and newspapers. Colleen had an indispensable presence in helping Harry to operate their enterprise.

Meanwhile, the Magnusons together engaged in the unstinting pursuit of community service and philanthropy, often anonymously. A passionate advocate for the arts, Colleen was appointed twice to the Idaho Commission on the Arts by Gov. Cecil Andrus. She helped develop the Spirit of the West: A Celebration of the Arts, an exhibit that traveled throughout Idaho during the Centennial in 1990. In 1994, Colleen received the Governor’s Award for Support of the Arts in the State of Idaho.

Colleen was an avid gardener and landscape designer. Her dahlia gardens were among the largest in the Northwest and her hosta collection was visited by the American Hosta Society. Colleen designed and, along with Harry, donated the Harry and Colleen Magnuson Park to the city of Wallace. Colleen and Harry were committed advocates for and benefactors of higher education. They were longtime, generous supporters of the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Washington State University and Gonzaga University.

The Magnusons were deeply involved in the decades-long efforts toward preservation and restoration of the Jesuit Mission of the Sacred Heart in Cataldo, the oldest standing building in Idaho. Their generosity for the arts, higher education and their hometown, Wallace, will last through many generations.
TO BE CONTINUED | time for reflection

MINDFUL LISTENING

By Eli Francovich ('15) Gonzaga Magazine contributor and Spokesman-Review reporter
On a hot day in north Spokane, I interviewed a woman addicted to drugs. I could see the track marks; they ran up and down her arms, each one a harsh line to oblivion. Self-consciously I rolled down my sleeves in an effort to hide my baby-soft forearms.

I stood on the threshold of her home, a home her neighbors claim she has no right to. I stood there in the heat, in my slacks and button-down, and asked her questions.

She was suspicious and almost closed the door in my face. But we talked, and she loosened up. She started to smile, and she was pretty when she smiled, like a wild and unwanted dandelion. She used words I arrogantly assumed she wouldn't know. She was high on something, and spoke loudly and intensely, but she spoke well. She needed to be heard; she was insistent that I listen to her story.

My story has always been heard. From the very beginning I’ve been wrapped in a blanket of affirmation. Gonzaga University continued that experience.

Affirmation can occur in small ways. I remember printing my class schedule on the second day of school. Sitting at a computer in Foley Library I logged on using my student account for the first time.

The little window popped up, “Welcome, Francovich, Elijah.” It acknowledged that I was now in the system, that I had a place at Gonzaga. I was somebody to someone. I knew then, instinctive, that I was being rooted into a powerful institution, one with clear and meaningful benefits, one that would empower me.

Now, four years later, I’ve been established as a voice in a community that spans the globe – a tree with roots in all areas of human interaction. It’s a good spot to be. The world is open to me. I’m standing on the brink of possibility with education and affirmation at my back.

The woman on the porch took my business card, saying she’d call me. We both knew she wouldn’t. She closed the door and I walked back to my car.

She’s living on the brink of eviction, jail, or worse.

As Gonzaga graduates, we inhabit a unique and powerful position. We have a place, and a voice. We’ve been empowered by our education.

The world we’re going into can be unfair and unpredictable. Working at a newspaper I see behind the headlines and interview the casualties. Run-down homes, hopeless addicts, abandoned infants, homeless humans desperate for a touch of warmth.

The world we’re stepping into can be a harsh place. Rot and decay is hidden under a thin veneer – one that is easy to see, but even easier to ignore.

Standing on that collapsing stoop, on the edge of this woman’s desperation, I realized all my education, all my connections and dreams and hopes meant nothing in that moment. All I could do was listen to her story as she told it. Judging her actions, her experience, would only be an exercise in arrogance.

Leaving Gonzaga, we must remember to listen. Listen to the voiceless, empower their stories and fight for their place. Give them a chance to have the warmth, knowledge and respect that we’ve been so privileged to live with for four years.

They need to be heard.

FIND MORE REFLECTIONS AT gonzaga.edu/tobecontinued
Join us!

ZAGAPALOOZA
ALL-OUT ALL-ZAG CELEBRATION

October 15-18, 2015
gonzaga.edu/Believe2015

BELIEVE IT:
THIS IS THE BIGGEST WEEKEND IN GU HISTORY

Never before has Zag Nation had so much to celebrate. Over four days, we’ll reconnect and reveal plans for our exciting future.