SR. TESA FITZGERALD ACCEPTS THE $1 MILLION OPUS PRIZE IN OCTOBER. GONZAGA HOSTED THE OPUS AWARDS AT THE MARTIN WOLDSON THEATRE AT THE FOX.
HOW SISTER TESA BECAME THE 2014 OPUS PRIZE WINNER

Her family and childhood gave her all the raw ingredients; her experience as a Catholic educator helped a great deal, and her faith in God gave her the rest.

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COMMUNITY BUILDING IN SO MANY FLAVORS

Urban garden; low-income law clinics; a café that serves love; Gonzaga alumni who sink roots in Spokane also build a more vibrant community.

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ATHLETIC GRACE

Transformations take place off court and off season for the big men and women who power Gonzaga’s basketball success.

PAGE 30
The cover of this magazine evokes many memories for me: my first visit to Gonzaga during which a huge snowfall blanketed the campus; being distracted from my reading by the silent snow falling outside my residence hall window; and warming by the fireplace on a retreat at Bozarth-Waikiki. Indeed, the inevitability of Spokane’s frosty winter arrives with full and sudden force each year, announcing the advent of Thanksgiving, final exams and Christmas.

As I write these words, I am travelling to our nation’s capital. Gonzaga is recognized both for its success and its importance as an independent, Catholic university, and part of my role is to connect with other university presidents regarding future federal support for institutions such as ours. Congress – currently enjoying no less frigid temperatures than Spokane – is engaged in the challenging work of moving legislation during the remaining days of the session. It is an important time to reinforce the critical role that universities like Gonzaga play in our nation’s future.

Many members of the Gonzaga family serve our nation at the local, state and federal levels. They are engaged in
civil service, working as staff members to senators, representatives and officers in the executive and judicial branches of government. When I meet with them and our elected officials, I come away amazed and thankful. While the public is at times disenchanted with the government, much important work is happening that better people’s lives.

What a significant time of year this is! Just as many families gather in holiday tradition, celebrating the gift of Christ’s birth and sharing love with one another, we share with you, in this issue of the magazine, many gifts representing Gonzaga.

The daily toil of hundreds of workers, for instance, is forming the next-generation “COG,” the Hemmingson Center. This facility will bring together our campus community, animating the Jesuit educational mission. Established offices such as University Ministry, the Center for Community Action and Service Learning, Unity Multicultural Education Center and Sodexo Dining will unite with new entities, such as the Center for Global Engagement, a next-generation Technology Center, and the support services for returning adult, transfer and veteran students. We hope that once the Hemmingson Center opens in August, you come and visit.

In recent years, the Society of Jesus has made “care for the planet” one of its top priorities. Throughout the world, Jesuit institutions are responding to this call, and the Spokane region has no shortage of candidate projects for our faculty and students. I am so grateful for the colleagues, some of whom are featured in this edition, who work with our students to introduce them to new ecosystems and help them to understand how knowledge of these systems impacts every aspect of human life.

Three members of this Gonzaga community come to mind as I reflect on these words. The first is Father Bill Ryan, S.J., longtime professor of philosophy and theology, who passed away in July. Our academic vice president, Patricia O’Connell Killen (B.A. ’74), gave moving testimony to the impact of Father Ryan’s work in her eulogy, which is reprinted in this magazine.

The second is our beloved Father Coughlin, S.J. I have heard from so many people how much they enjoyed the feature in the last issue on “Father Barney.” It has been a gift to me as president to have Fr. Coughlin to confide in and confer with. One of Gonzaga’s greatest leaders, Fr. Coughlin never fails to affirm the significance of others and their contributions to this mission. We are grateful for his ministry in the life of Gonzaga.

The third is Marny Lombard, editor of Gonzaga Magazine for these past five years. A courageous and creative individual, Marny has worked intensively to effectively connect you, our reader, with the stories of Gonzaga. Never afraid to experiment with new approaches, always challenging her colleagues to be creative, she and her teammates have my gratitude for moving the magazine from its previous life in newsprint to the work of art it has become.

The cycles of our seasons bring us experience, wisdom and the realization that life consists of beginnings and endings. Sometimes slowly, and at other times with no notice at all, circumstances change and, as individuals and institutions, we are compelled to respond, adjust and find our way forward again. What a gift it is to live as part of a university community that constantly seeks to support learning and community. In these pages we highlight a few of the remarkable Zags who have made an impact in our local community. They represent the spirit of Gonzaga alumni serving communities all around the world.

When I have quiet times at my desk in College Hall, the voices of students moving between classes are audible. Our students are, for me, our greatest gift: they represent our present reality and the greatest legacy of those many wonderful people who have chosen to support this important Jesuit mission. In them, the future rests; our present challenge is to prepare them well for the future they will encounter. Just around the corner, the cautious buds of spring await and quickly will follow the pomp and circumstance of another graduation ceremony.

On behalf of the entire Gonzaga community, I thank you for your prayers, your ongoing support and your generosity. May God’s abundant blessings be with you and yours always.
Imagine the John J. Hemmingson Center, an environment where students collaborate, building new connections. Where the Center for Global Engagement fosters intercultural fluency, the Gonzaga Student Body Association builds a vibrant student culture, and Gonzaga students world-round connect in real time. Dining inspired by all corners of the earth, spiritual guidance through University Ministry, and an iconic meeting area in the central hearth lounge – all these elements will nourish students’ minds, hearts and bodies.

THIS IS THE HEMMINGSON. DEDICATION SCHEDULED IN OCTOBER.
“IT IS BECOMING THE NEW PLACE ON CAMPUS. AS THE GIRDERS, CEMENT AND GLASS BEGIN TO SHAPE THE NEW HOME OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO REMEMBER THAT PLACES – LIKE SO MANY PLACES AROUND THE WORLD, AS WELL AS PLACES IN OUR DAILY LIVES – ARE PLACES ONLY BECAUSE WE HAVE PAUSED TO POUR MEANING AND VALUE INTO AN OTHERWISE MEANINGLESS SPACE.”

Joe Kinsella
Center for Global Engagement director

“IT IS DESTINED TO CAPTURE THE LOVE AND LIFE OF GONZAGA.”

Colleen Vandenboom
Student Involvement and Leadership director

“THE HEMMINGSON WILL DEVELOP THE WONDERFUL GONZAGA CULTURE ON A GRANDER AND MORE DYNAMIC SCALE.”

Conner House ('15)
Gonzaga Student Body Association president

“FOR UNIVERSITY MINISTRY, THE MOVE TO HEMMINGSON IS NOT JUST A CHANGE IN LOCATION, BUT A TRANSITION INTO A FRESH WAY OF APPROACHING OUR WORK.”

Michelle Wheatley ('07, '12 M.A.)
University Ministry director

“IN THE HEMMINGSON THERE WILL BE A MORE SEAMLESS EXPERIENCE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND STUDENT LEARNING.”

Todd Dunfield ('00)
Center for Community Action and Service-Learning director

“PROJECTS WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH, IDEAS WILL CONTINUE TO BE BORN, AND STUDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.”

Jessica Clement ('15)
Broadcast and electronic media

FOR MORE OF THE INSIDE SCOOP: gonzaga.edu/magazine.

See the Hemmingson trailer at gonzaga.edu/time-lapse
“UP”

It’s a hit Pixar movie (aren’t they all), both children and adults adore it and its main character goes to Gonzaga. OK, not quite. Still the beloved Russell in “Up” is based on a real-life boy, and current Gonzaga student, Russell Jang. Jang grew up next door to the director of “Up.” His boyish antics inspired the animated character.

Jim Mansfield, Gonzaga’s dean of admissions from 1969 to 1987, has driven more than 90,000 miles as a volunteer courier for the Inland Northwest Blood Bank. Leaders there recently honored Mansfield by placing his larger-than-life photo on one of their bloodmobiles. Mansfield says he loved his years at Gonzaga, where he shaped so many young people’s lives. Among the thousands of students he admitted are Julie and Thayne McCulloh.

WEVORCE, BASEBALL AND JAZZ

ONE: Transforming Divorce. So Kids Win.
TWO: Red Sox Foundation Employee of the Year.
THREE: Watch out, Dave Brubeck.

Living the Mission: Three alums talk about their unusual careers.

BING’S THINGS (AND THE DRAMA OF IT ALL)

Theatre arts professor Kathleen Jeffs took a drama class to the Crosby House, where much of the University’s Bing Crosby memorabilia is on display. The students’ task: Select a piece from the collection and write two dramatic scenes.
Writing is how senior Katherine Charters understands the world. That’s why this English major will do anything to attend Gonzaga’s Visiting Writers Series – which on Feb. 18 will bring to campus Marilynne Robinson, author and winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

A National Jesuit Student Leadership Conference last summer honored two Gonzaga students among its Best of the Best presenters: Aaron Danowski ’17 and Kassi Picchi ’15.

Conference theme was “First to Love.” Five students from Gonzaga’s Experiential Leadership Institute presented.

THE HEALING ART OF SKATEBOARDING

For Native American skateboard artist Todd Harder and student Will Stephan, president of the Bulldog Pack Skateboarding Society, skateboarding has become a tool of healing.

Two professors teach a new interdisciplinary course next semester, “Rats: The Plague in History and Religion.” Historian RaGena DeAragon and John Downey of Religious Studies have planned “Rats” for some time. While the course focuses on the Black Death of the 14th century, the Ebola epidemic makes the topic all too timely. “Plagues make us confront our lives and our humanity, including our God and our spirituality,” Downey says. “In short, we are not in charge.”
PARTICIPANTS IN "WELCOME WALK" cheered as the 1,048 freshmen of the Class of 2018 approached St. Al’s for the Academic Convocation. New this year, the walk demonstrates the Gonzaga community’s support for new students on their academic journey.

ZIG ZAGS

Gonzaga’s student chapter of Tau Beta Pi in October hosted the national Tau Beta Pi Annual Convention. Approximately 500 engineering students attended, along with recruiters from Pratt & Whitney, Sandia National Labs and more. GU

Through a Fulbright Specialist appointment, nursing Professor Susan Norwood has headed to Benin to help the internationally recognized Songhai Centre establish a medical clinic and teach staff first aid. GU

A $275,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to Associate Professor Andrew Goldman will fund archaeological and liberal arts field studies in Sinop, on the Black Sea in northern Turkey. GU

Also through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Professor Rebecca Marquis traveled this summer to Buenos Aires for a seminar on Jewish cultural texts and how they’ve affected Jewish immigration in Argentina. GU

Gonzaga is ranked No. 2 for best value and No. 3 best regional university in the West by U.S. News and World Report. Gonzaga also ranked No. 2 in the West for average freshman retention (tie) and average graduation (tie) rates. GU

Gonzaga has purchased the Knights of Columbus building at 302 E. Boone Ave. The building dates to 1957; its real value lies in its location. The Knights of Columbus Council 683 will lease a portion of the building until the University needs the site. GU

In 2013 and 2014 the new Safe Space Program trained 163 faculty and staff to be support persons for the LGBT community. GU

New to Gonzaga’s Department of Math last year, Assistant Professors Bonni Dichone and Kate Kearney were accepted into the NExT project. This national program offers professors new math expertise in teaching. GU

After a 31-year hiatus, Gonzaga now hosts a chapter of the honorary math society, Pi Mu Epsilon. Credit goes to Assistant Professors Logan Axon, Nate Burch and Bonni Dichone. GU

Who sings “The Star-Spangled Banner” at Gonzaga games? It turns out the capable crew in Athletics keeps a whole database of campus and community anthem soloists. A few have been as young as 12 or 14. When you have 80 athletic events a year, you need more than one able-throated singer. GU

Last year a student photographer bought a remotely controlled aerial vehicle – or drone. Using a GoPro camera, he captured bird’s-eye view photos of campus, some of which appeared in the Gonzaga Bulletin. While this student did no wrong, the University decided to ban the use of drones on campus until final regulations are determined by the Federal Aviation Administration. GU

Collaborating with the University of Washington, Gonzaga is developing a postdoctoral teaching program for underrepresented minorities. Academic departments at Gonzaga with strong teaching reputations will have the opportunity to apply to host a teaching postdoc. The postdocs will experience teaching and faculty life. Fall 2016 is the anticipated date for welcoming the first program participants. GU

Anniversaries on campus include the 20th anniversary of CCASL, the Center for Community Action and Service-Learning; the 40th anniversary of Gonzaga Law School’s clinic; and the 50th anniversary of the Gonzaga Law Review. GU

The Washington State Supreme Court, which includes three Gonzaga Law School alumnae, heard three cases on campus Oct. 1-2. After the arguments, the justices took questions from law students. This is the third time in four years the court has held hearings in the Barbieri Courtroom. GU

Gonzaga is hosting six international scholars for a portion or all of the academic year. They hail from Italy, Indonesia, China, Taiwan and Spain, and represent law, leadership studies,
communications, English, political science, accounting and information management. GU

Gonzaga hosted the annual conference of Western Conversations in Jesuit Higher Education. Faculty from five other Jesuit universities visited: Loyola Marymount, Regis, Santa Clara, Seattle and San Francisco. The conference theme was “Mission Integration: The Ongoing Tensions and Challenges.” GU

The 2014 GU World View Photo Contest reveals Gonzaga students’ globe-hopping tendencies. The final photos range from South Africa, South Korea and Scotland, to Botswana, Benin and Northern Ireland. GU

Sara Ramshaw, a senior majoring in international studies, is one determined student. Gonzaga is the 10th college or university this veteran has attended. Ramshaw has served 12 years so far in the Army and Army Reserves, with multiple deployments overseas. Often, each new posting meant a different college. GU

WE ALL HAVE THEM – MOMENTS OF CLARITY THAT, IN A FLASH, DEFINE OUR LIFE’S WORK.

As a college freshman, Jim Simon went on a weekend trip to northwestern Pennsylvania. The first morning, he climbed from his tent to discover red Xs on all the trees he could see. That section of the Allegheny National Forest was marked to be clear-cut. That’s clarity.

Thus began a 13-year journey that brought Simon to Spokane this summer as Gonzaga’s first director of sustainability. He comes from the University of Buffalo where he led the sustainability program for the last seven years.

“Sustainability is about making smart decisions and thinking for the future, not just the here and now,” he says.

In his role at Gonzaga, he is part spark plug, building student energy around issues of water, land use, transportation and more – and part connecting rod, helping to draw students into hands-on projects. One example: Simon is collaborating with a team of civil engineering students working on green building replacements for structures lost during last summer’s major fires in Washington’s Okanogan County. Simon envisions a comprehensive sustainability internship program, building upon the excellent work of environmental studies faculty and others, which serves as “a catalog of opportunities that allows students to go out to work and then to come back and reflect on their experiences,” he says. “You might have one student working with Avista, a public utility, another student doing water samples with the Spokane Riverkeeper and another in the Selkirk Mountains counting endangered species. Others might work on a campuswide transportation plan.”

“At first glance, these might seem disparate but there are deep relations that tie all this work together,” Simon says. “We are trying to create a better campus, a better university, a better world – one that is in balance before the dynamics of our changing world.”

Sustainability Director Jim Simon is passionate about protecting our natural resources.

THINKING FOR THE FUTURE NOT THE HERE AND NOW
If you approach Spokane from the south on U.S. Highway 195, on the final stretch before you reach I-90, you are likely to notice high sandy bluffs to the east. Someday erosion might claim the closest house. That erosion is caused by Latah Creek. A major waterway that drains a watershed of 431,000 acres, this stream slips just past the bottom of the bluffs and then meets the Spokane River, about a mile west of downtown Spokane.

Assistant professor Sue Niezgoda, civil engineering, assigned students in her stream restoration course this fall to investigate three sections of the stream, seeking to discover what processes cause the stream to keep shifting its channel, and what solutions might minimize future erosion. By the semester’s end, these seniors literally will have gotten their feet wet, measuring water flows, sediment levels, soil types and so on. They will have studied aerial photos and older research for a historical perspective – and a great deal more. They also have designed a plan to stabilize these sections of Latah Creek.

Human beings have changed the course of flowing water for eons: dams, weirs, channels and headgates. Sometimes the resulting changes are entirely benign; often they are not. Over the last several years, Niezgoda has led development of a nationally approved “body of knowledge” on stream restoration. That knowledge will allow an important next step: creation of certification for stream restoration professionals. The need is there: The National River Restoration Science Synthesis shows that more than 37,000 stream restoration projects occurred in the United States between 1990 and 2003. The field has grown into a billion-dollar-a-year industry, yet until now the field has lacked standards.

Niezgoda says, “Professionals don’t know what short courses to take for continuing ed, or what should be in those courses. Even for graduate students and undergraduates, there has been a lack of any sense of what you should be learning. And as engineers the liability falls on us, because we stamp the plans.”

FIELDWORK
STUDENTS IDENTIFIED PLANTS ON MOUNT SPOKANE IN JULY. THE SUMMER-ONLY BOTANY CLASS TAKES STUDENTS OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE FIELD.

gonzaga.edu/magazine
To Restore a Stream

Learning from a National Expert
COUGHLIN INSPIRING, FOREMOST A PRIEST

Editor:
Warm praise for the article on Father Bernard Coughlin, S.J., (fall issue Gonzaga Magazine). It would be impossible to discern where Gonzaga University would be today without the contributions of this man, who came upon the scene just in time to save the University from what looked to be certain closure. I had the privilege and much pleasure of serving under Fr. Coughlin 1977-92 as director for annual giving. Fr. Coughlin gathered a team of smart administrators, recruiting deans and faculty of the highest caliber. Using his Irish charm and wit, he upgraded the Board of Trustees, bringing on men and women whom he inspired to invest wholeheartedly in Gonzaga’s Jesuit mission. Coughlin also reached deep into the Spokane community, serving a term as president of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, a historic precedent for a Jesuit university president. Most impressive of all, Coughlin acted first and foremost as a priest of the Catholic faith. He always found time to fulfill his priestly obligations. I believe the article might also have mentioned Coughlin’s prominence as an author. His most recent book, “Soul of a Nation,” a series of essays on the transformations taking place in our society, has been called his very best. I recommend it to every alumnus.

Gene Cunneely Sr. (M.S. ’83)
Spokane

CHRISTIAN ASTRAN (’18), HONORS PROGRAM

“I’ve always been described as an old soul. A lot of the mentors I’ve had are older. With friends my age, I didn’t always fit in socially because I saw things in a different way. Part of it is the way my parents brought me up. I was instilled with ‘Have fun, but be responsible. Focus on setting goals and meeting your commitments.’ And my parents weren’t afraid to give me responsibilities.

“I’m interested in pursuing lobbying. I’ve gotten to meet and talk to lobbyists at formal dinners. If they’re advocating for causes like youth development, which is a topic I’m greatly interested in, lobbyists can be a tangible force for social justice.

“In my political science course, we’re studying the history of the Cold War. I’ve been sinking my teeth into a sphere of politics that I’ve never gotten to study before, international studies. It’s my favorite class. Also, I’m doing Cheer Squad and Campus Kids with two friends.”
[YOUR SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A GONZAGA EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR THIS FRESHMAN.]
When did you fall in love with medieval literature? 
Experiencing medieval material culture through the art and architecture of Florence during my G-I-F year (2004-05) helped me experience the medieval world in a new way. My most vivid memory of this occurred during a visit to the Brancacci Chapel, which contains frescoes by the 15th-century artist Masaccio depicting the life of St. Peter. Masaccio’s frescoes are among the first pieces of artwork which aim to capture visual depth as well as human emotions like grief, fear, pain, hope and expectation. I was totally drawn in – and probably had the chapel curators wondering why I was there for so long. It dawned on me then that the medieval period was not an alien time vastly different from our own. Instead, medieval thinkers and artists like Masaccio, whose works eventually inspired Michelangelo, herald and anticipate so much of what we find moving and engaging today.

Did your family debate your choice of field?
During my GU days and beyond! As a kid, I expressed interest in becoming an astronaut – studying engineering and going to flight school. My dad always encouraged this and other “practical fields” and was slightly alarmed when I announced that I wanted to study a period when astronomers and scientists were, well … not quite ready to put a man on the moon. Now, he is terribly proud that I have the opportunity to teach future pilots and astronauts at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Jill Fitzgerald ['06] majored in English and history at Gonzaga and is teaching aspiring naval officer candidates medieval literature to enhance their understanding of military courtesies and obligations. Early on, she was drawn to Chaucer and the Gawain Poet in undergraduate courses. Fitzgerald also treasures memories of the “medieval feast” to which Professor Mike Herzog invited his Chaucer students each year.

Close-up detail of the tapestry.
How do you mentally transition each day from the 10th and 11th centuries to contemporary life?
The field of medieval studies requires that one have a working knowledge of several “dead” languages. Every so often, either in writing or in conversation, I find myself fumbling for the right word in modern English, even though I can think of several perfectly good words in Old English, Old Norse or Latin, right off the top of my head.

If you could teach any course at all, what would it be?
“The Vikings and the Sea.” The Vikings were master navigators and seamen. Their cultural identity was in many ways defined by their intimate relationship with the sea, as recounted in texts such as “The Saga of the Greenlanders” and “Erik the Red’s Saga.” I’m currently developing a course called “Medieval Soldiers and Shield-maidens.”

How do you express the value of the humanities?
Courses in the humanities give us the space and opportunity to pause and seriously reflect on questions of social responsibility, love — whether for country or for others — loyalty, courage and what it means to be heroic. I want midshipmen in my classes to recognize that these issues are as complex and as active in today’s world as they were a millennium ago. The questions we consider and work through together in humanities courses should be on the minds of critically minded individuals and future leaders because of the role they will have in shaping and imagining the future.

If a student at the Naval Academy protested that medieval literature is an unsuitable topic of study for a young officer, how would you answer?
I haven’t encountered this protest yet but, if I did, I would respond this way: Perhaps no other period in human history reflected upon and wrote the intersection of daily life and military courtesies, duties and obligations more than the Middle Ages. Questions that medieval men and women wrestled with concerning valor, restraint and honor can help illuminate our understanding of these same issues in the modern world.

Fitzgerald is an assistant professor at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. She began her tenure-track position this fall after completing a doctorate in medieval literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Dr. Burke is nearing retirement from Gonzaga, but not from his lifelong love of motorcycles.
“I took my first serious math class from Dr. Burke. It was linear algebra, and I was a senior in high school. I sat in the back, feeling incredibly small. In my memory, on the first day of class, Professor Burke walked in, on time to the second – textbook in one hand and motorcycle helmet in the other – with an ease and command that I still am trying to replicate when I walk into a new classroom.”

JOHN VOIGHT ’99, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

BY MARNY LOMBARD

Professor John Burke is a number theorist who likes to talk about math. And let it be said that while some of his students take great pleasure in this, others find despair. It’s a lifelong habit for a mathematician who is drawn to the stories revealed by prime numbers, whole numbers, perfect numbers, Fibonacci numbers and so on. To John Burke, math is not about its applications. His least favorite question is, “What good will it do to know this?”

To Burke, math is about clarity of thought, about truths that are like diamonds. And life outside work is about riding his motorcycle along the back roads of the West, or fishing for brook trout on the St. Joe River.

He taught several experimental courses designed for non-math majors to satisfy the university core. “One of my goals is to prove to you that there are two distinct infinities. And probably more,” he says. “Math is a complex language that tells complex stories.” Students in those experimental classes were learning a bit of the “language,” but without too much of the rigor, to see how some seemingly improbable things are in fact inevitable.

Burke looks at grades as a necessary evil. All through his own schooling, he cared about thinking and learning, but not grades. This afforded him great freedom in shaping his education. His father was a contractor, and there were two rules for the three Burke boys: “Learn how to build a house, so you always have a trade to fall back on. And go to college, so you don’t have to build houses for a living.”

Burke tells a story of his graduate days at Southern Illinois University. He and two other grad students, a statistician and a functional analyst, used to meet for a few beers and a ritual they called “Stump the Stars.” They took turns posing math questions to each other. If you didn’t know the answer to your own question, you had to say so – that was the only rule. “More math students started coming. Then more. Finally math faculty started coming, too. And you didn’t know the answer to your own question, you had to say so – that was the only rule. “More math students started coming. Then more. Finally math faculty started coming, too. And we eventually had about 30 people talking math.” They took turns posing math questions to each other. If you didn’t know the answer to your own question, you had to say so – that was the only rule. “More math students started coming. Then more. Finally math faculty started coming, too. 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Some courses, Burke teaches without textbooks. He wants his students to do “napkin problems,” individual exercises that can be balled up and thrown away. And he teaches them how to sketch their own 3-dimensional figures, to better understand the concepts. He does rely on one teaching prompt: a green sign that says “OK.” Its flip side is red and says “Not OK.” His habit is to ask his students: “Are we OK?” – meaning “Do you understand? Are you with me?” At times, blank stares are his only answer. Then, a few years ago a student in the back row brought the first OK/Not OK sign to class. Eventually everyone made a reversible sign, and that class rocked.

Burke began teaching at Gonzaga in 1982. In the late 1980s, there were four exceptional math students and at the request of the department chair he organized a team of these students to enter the national Putnam Mathematics Competition. The team came in 60th place out of 360 teams, including Harvard, M.I.T. and Berkeley.

“The context he gave to this was that we would have qualified for the mathematics analogue of the NCAA basketball tournament,” emailed Mike Nakamaye (’90), now professor of mathematics at the University of New Mexico. “He was always supportive of the mathematics majors at Gonzaga and we were all grateful for that.”
GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN GONZAGA GRADS STICK AROUND
Jim Sheehan (’73 J.D.) runs an incubator for community building in the appropriately named Community Building at 35 W. Main St., Spokane. The building houses an assembly of nonprofits, led by the Center for Justice, also founded by Sheehan.

When he was young, Sheehan’s father worked on the paint crew at the University of Washington, and his mother was a housewife. If anything from his childhood whispers of the unusual life he now leads, it was his mother’s embrace of the Catholic faith’s call to work for justice.

“I thought in my early 20s that the law was a place to go and do that,” he says. It was really my need to be working for justice and truth.” After graduating from Santa Clara University and two years in the military, Sheehan chose Gonzaga’s School of Law. He needed to support himself, and Gonzaga Law was then a night school – a perfect fit. Sheehan took a job as a study hall prefect at Lewis & Clark High School.

For more than 20 years, Sheehan practiced as a public defender. His final case was a high-profile death penalty case – so consuming that Sheehan’s boss cleared everything else from his desk. The jury convicted his client, who remains on death row. While new cases were being assigned, Sheehan did some thinking. “I really liked being a public defender. It is, in my opinion, incredibly important work, and it supports our rights and our weak. But it’s really hard work, and I thought, ‘Maybe I’m finished here.’

“And then I got a call.” His Aunt Verle had left him an inheritance that changed his life. “I knew right away that I wasn’t going to be buying a yacht. I wanted to use that money in a way that would work for justice.”

Sheehan and the people he brought aboard have created programs or entities targeting diverse issues: healthy families, healthy food, poverty law, government accountability, a clean Spokane River, environmental protection for the Northwest and community dialogue.

The Center for Justice even ran a low-income soccer camp for 5- to 10-year-old children. Sheehan coached soccer as his two children grew up. He knows the skills that evolve from a team sport and positive coaching.

“When I was a public defender,” Sheehan says, “I had all kinds of cases from reckless driving to death penalty cases, and I liked the clients a lot. I saw them, to some extent, as ‘There but for the grace of God, go I.’ They were almost destined to be where they were, in some ways. That’s not fair to them, and it’s not fair to a lot of things. But it is the reality of the way it is. I realized that being in the criminal justice system is an end of the continuum. We need to work with people before they get to the end. We need to catch them a little earlier and have care and concern and compassion for them.”

Catch them earlier with a nonprofit law firm. With a Community Advocacy program. With free legal clinics every Tuesday. Catch them really early with a soccer camp in East Central Spokane. A soccer camp that works for social justice.
Basketball is the anchor of Matt Santangelo’s life. It brought the former Gonzaga star to college, took him to the 1999 Elite Eight and then overseas for a professional basketball career. Now basketball is taking him into the heart of Spokane. In April, Santangelo (’00) became executive director of Hoopfest just in time for its 25th anniversary.

“One of the fascinating things for me in this role is how many people Hoopfest touches,” Santangelo said. This is particularly noticeable to Santangelo because of his prior work as an insurance agent. He never felt truly comfortable in the for-profit world. The youngest of nine children, Santangelo said his father was a consummate volunteer. So, coming to a mission-driven organization like Hoopfest felt like coming home.

The new boss wants to extend the “Hoopfest effect.” He imagines a weeklong event including music, art and basketball.

Celeste grew up in eastern Montana, raised by her grandparents. Celeste saw how hard her grandfather worked on the farm, and she helped her grandmother in the garden and the kitchen. Her grandmother lavished love on her but also sent the solitary girl on long walks or runs across the farm. This began her training as a long jumper, for which – no lie – she landed on the 1980 Olympic team.

Celeste went into nursing. To prepare for international medical work, she studied for a nurse practitioner degree at Gonzaga. She also did the most personal kind of nursing, caring for her grandmother, after her grandfather’s death.

Months later, while saying goodbye to the farm, she discovered a letter in Norwegian addressed to her grandfather. It was, in essence, a love letter from his mother. “Why would I let you leave Norway to go to America, where I’ll never see you again?”

Then his mother wrote: “I know this is your life. I want you to go and be a cowboy and have land of your own. I’m saying goodbye to you forever, but I’ll see you in heaven.”

The letter accompanied a pair of chaps.

Chaps. A mother’s gift to her son. A woman’s successful business – but also a gift to her community.
Mallene Herzog found herself floundering as a young mother with four children under the age of 5. Her husband, Hans, worked long days and when he came home, directed the children clearly. But Mallene was “nice-nice and then angry with them, and neither behavior seemed to work.”

Herzog ('80, '87 M.A.) learned, though. As a parent volunteer at Spokane’s Trinity Catholic School. As a kindergarten teacher and a principal. And then by earning two degrees in education at Gonzaga and following the work of psychologist Rudolf Dreikurs. She never stopped learning, in fact.

“While teaching kindergarten, I became aware of a situation that demanded the attention of our society. Parents needed help with parenting,” Mallene said. She saw that some teachers did, too.

Mallene dreamed of running her own school. When their first grandchild was on the way, Mallene and Hans jumped to action. That was 18 years ago. This fall, the Herzogs retired, turning over their business to a new owner. Still, the Herzog Family Center on Spokane’s South Hill has given Mallene and Hans close connections with hundreds of families, allowing her to teach not only preschoolers and their parents – but also the Gonzaga education students whom she regularly hires.

**MALLENE HERZOG**

TEACHING PRESCHOOLERS AND THEIR PARENTS

Because of Mallene’s passion for positive discipline, the center holds parent education evenings several times a year. Some parents attend, hoping to discover they are not alone in their parenting journey. Others come seeking help because they are at wits’ end.

On the first day each fall at the Herzog Family Center, there’s typically one child who refuses to get ready on time, and the exasperated parents usually ask for help. “I suggest that they put the choice to cooperate or not on the child. The car leaves at 7 a.m. sharp because Mom and Dad have to get to work. Your job is to dress either by yourself, or take clothes in a bag and dress at school. You can eat breakfast at the table, or take it in a bag and eat at school. You need to be in your car seat by 7 a.m. either by yourself, or be carried,” Mallene said.

Mallene and her staff cheerfully welcomed this year’s recalcitrant child, along with her bags of food and clothing. The mom said a cheerful goodbye and reminded her daughter that she would be free to make different choices the next day.

“On day two, the child did it all by herself and received the applause of both parents and teachers,” Mallene said. “That is one of my favorite stories because both child and parent won in a firm and friendly style.”
In May, a music festival named Volume welcomed 80-plus bands to Spokane. In June, local artists sold more than $30,000 of work at Bazaar, a first-year event. And in October, the seventh annual Terrain festival celebrated visual and performance artists in one effervescent Spokane night.

All three events were founded by Gonzaga alumni. None started with lofty goals. All had humble beginnings.

“We had all these really talented friends and people we knew from the scene who would move to Seattle or Portland where there was a better scene, or where they thought there was a better scene,” said Luke Baumgarten ('03), founder of Terrain and Bazaar. “Literally, the genesis of Terrain was simply just trying to get people in a room and put some art on the walls, throw a good party and have people enjoy each other.”

It worked. This year, Terrain’s jurors reviewed more than 1,000 submissions; and the festival has launched a campaign to fund a permanent site and ongoing presence. The popularity of Terrain convinced Baumgarten and his co-founders to organize Bazaar, which focuses on selling local art – and supporting up-and-coming artists.

“If we want people to sell work we need to find or help cultivate people that will buy work,” he said. Baumgarten, a former writer for Spokane’s weekly, the Pacific Northwest Inlander, believes the festivals also are building a sustainable creative community. “If people know and care about each other they’ll help each other,” he said. “It’s something I think we’ve gotten away from as a society.”

Volume developed in a similar manner, says founder Leah Sottile ('03). A self-described Portland music rat, Sottile grew up on live music. At the time, she worked as the Inlander’s music editor.

Neither Sottile nor Baumgarten began with the express purpose of creating a community event. Instead they saw a hole and decided to fill it. Both turned to networks they established through the Inlander, which sponsors Volume.

Like many, Baumgarten moved to Seattle as soon as he took off his cap and gown. He saw Spokane as a creative dead-end, especially for film review, his passion then. Creative competition and the high cost of living brought him back to Spokane.

“I think the biggest misconception about Spokane is that there aren’t the caliber of artists here,” said Sottile. Although she won’t manage Volume in the future, she said, “I think there are better artists here and better musicians because we don’t have a high cost of living. We don’t have all these constraints. It’s kind of this artistic playground.”
At Gonzaga, Brian Estes ('07) considered one core question: What affects the well-being of individuals and communities? He studied the issue in the Department of Psychology. Today, he uses a new learning lab: urban farming.

“Major values and ways of understanding are based upon the food we eat.”

After graduation, Estes spent seven months in Central America. “As I was traveling I got this idea to do something with food, something hands-on,” he said. “I knew there were budding community gardens back in Spokane.”

So Estes contacted the folks at Catholic Charities’ Vinegar Flats Community Farm. He asked them to create a Jesuit Volunteer Corps position. This move, he admits, “flew in the face of anything reasonable.” But it worked. He became a JVC assistant at the garden, which is overseen by St. Margaret’s Shelter.

Growing up in the Tri-Cities, Estes had little sense of history or place. But Gonzaga’s Jesuit traditions and Spokane’s cultural identity attracted him.

“What I’m doing right now isn’t just happening because this is a great place to live,” he said. “Instead, the work I’m doing is responding to the community. The production of food is so based on place and the realities driving the community.”

Estes is program coordinator for the farm in Vinegar Flats, an area in southwest Spokane. Part of his work is to grow ways to promote sane eating. His program, Fresh Bucks, ensures that anyone spending $5 in food stamps at an Eastern Washington farmers’ market receives another $2 for fresh fruit and vegetables. Catholic Charities pays 70 percent of the $2, and the markets cover the rest.

“We’re really trying to make farmers’ markets a grocery opportunity,” Estes said, “and not just a novelty or something to do once or twice a year.”

Out of America

Sometimes a new environment is the linchpin to change. At least Ryan Oelrich ('04) thinks so. As the executive director for the Ambassadors Scholarship Foundation, he’s dedicated to helping youth learn on the road, via scholarship money.

“I’ve never seen something that so effectively turns a life around,” he said. “Taking a student out of their environment; putting them in a different country; showing them other people that are in tougher circumstances. It just helps to enhance their view.”

Last year his organization sent a group of high school students to China to attend a leadership summit. A couple of them had never left Spokane. “The idea of getting on a plane and just going to Seattle was a big deal, let alone China,” Oelrich said.

Service is in Oelrich’s blood. The son of a pastor, he founded his first nonprofit at 14. Since then he’s learned a lot and expanded his networks. He believes Spokane is experiencing a cultural shift.

“I think we have a new breed of young people that want to get involved and want to help,” he said. “I think service unites people in a way that other things seldom do.”
Two years after moving into his South Hill home, Spokane City Council President Ben Stuckart ('01, M.O.L. '06) didn’t know his neighbors. Why? Because he didn’t walk.

“We didn’t walk around our neighborhood that much until we got a dog,” Stuckart said. “Then we got the dog and started walking her a couple times a day. Now I know everyone in a three- or four-block radius.”

That simple activity is an integral part of Stuckart’s views on community development. “If you’re walking all the time, you’re getting to know your neighbors, which creates safety,” Stuckart said. The idea is simple. All the basic needs of a community should be within a 20-minute walk. In a self-perpetuating cycle, an enjoyable neighborhood attracts talented young people, which in turn attracts business and investment, which attracts more talent.

Stuckart believes city government should provide the infrastructure necessary for communities to thrive. Spokane’s bustling Perry Street District is a prime example. “If you go back 20 years, Perry Street was unsafe and economically depressed,” Stuckart said. That changed after the city invested in the neighborhood.

In 2013, Stuckart introduced an investment plan to re-create such success on East Sprague Avenue, by spending $10 million to build streets, sewer, water and housing developments.

“It’s very circular,” he said. “In order to create the community you want, you have to have a sense of community to get companies to come here and get people to stay here.”

Stuckart saw the effects of decentralized community firsthand when he graduated from Gonzaga. The majority of his friends fled Spokane, as did he. The exodus of talented graduates is disturbing to Stuckart. The best way to keep the talent? Make neighborhoods where people want to live.

Stuckart fully realized what he wanted to do with his life when he graduated from Gonzaga’s Master’s in Organizational Leadership program. Professors Joe Albert and Mike Carey told him that the goal of the program was to rearrange and realign the lives of the graduates. That happened. He realized he no longer wanted to work in the for-profit world.

“There were quite a few classes that just told me I didn’t want to be out there working for profit for some shareholder I didn’t know,” he said. He went into nonprofit leadership, running Communities in Schools in Spokane, but even that didn’t satisfy his desire for social change.

In 2011, he ran for City Council. The most important thing that municipal government can do? Make a city conducive to a young, creative community.

“Young people don’t want to stay somewhere that is cold and disconnected,” he said.
TODAY’S INTERNSHIP IS THE NEW JOB INTERVIEW

NEW EMPHASIS

Students learn more when they take Jesuit values, such as reflection and discernment, into an internship. So, Gonzaga is moving to a framework for both academic and co-curricular internships that will ask questions such as:

“What do you want to learn?”

INTERNSHIP TO → JOB:

Senior and Kennel Club President Sara Wendland turned a Nike summer internship into a full-time job – before she’s even graduated. Her advice to other interns? “Do the extra. Be creative, observant and relational. And deliver extra results. People remember when an intern does the extra. But, more importantly, when you commit to doing the extra, I believe your character improves, both inside and outside the office.”

HIRING IN ANCIENT ROME:

Students in Associate Professor Andrew Goldman’s Classical Civilizations classes created resumes and polished elevator pitches for the Roman generals they had studied. Gonzaga’s Career Center and Alumni Mentoring Program recognized Goldman as a Faculty Fellow for this and other projects.

BIG DATA

Miranda Myers (’15), a computer science major, landed a summer internship in software development at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif. Her project? She developed software that generates map images of scientific data and created a Web service with multiple features for accessing and displaying the data. This was Myers’ second summer internship with NASA.

NBA CENTER RONNY TURIAF, [05], Gonzaga standout and communications major now with the Minnesota Timberwolves, grabbed a marketing internship this summer. His clients included the Chicago In-Water Boat Show, Boston Scientific and the Belize Tourism Board. Turiaf donated his summer pay – $13 an hour – to a high-school mentoring program.
AN INTERNSHIP STARTS WITH THESE QUESTIONS

→ What do I want to learn?
→ How is my internship linked to my career?
→ What skills do I offer as an intern?
→ How can I practice what I’ve learned in my classes?
→ Who am I becoming?

ALONG THE WAY STUDENTS DISCOVER:

→ Enduring understanding of their potential role in a job
→ Who they really are
→ What their capabilities are
→ How to practice what they’ve learned in their academic life
→ How to build a professional relationship

WHAT IS AN INTERNSHIP, REALLY?

→ A structured learning opportunity
→ A chance to learn knowledge and skills
→ A chance to contribute in a professional setting
→ It can be paid or unpaid
→ Part time or full time
→ With guidance from a professional
→ Or a professor
→ With academic credit or no credit

WHAT MAKES IT A GONZAGA EXPERIENCE?

Blending these qualities:

→ Ignatian values
→ Career discernment
→ Knowledge
→ Experience
→ Reflection
→ Fulfilling discussions

MANY OPTIONS, INCLUDING...

→ Intern on campus
→ Intern with the Smithsonian
→ Intern with an L.A. film company
→ Intern with Children’s Hospital in Seattle
→ Academic internships
→ Co-curricular internships
→ Internships in the humanities

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

→ Career Center guidance
→ Faculty, Regents, Trustees collaboration with Career Center
→ Gonzaga Alumni Mentoring Program
→ Career and job fairs

→ Speed Mock interviews
→ Networking events
→ Treks to NYC, Spokane, Portland, Seattle, Silicon Valley, San Francisco
→ Survey of skills and personality traits

THIS PROCESS OF LEARNING AND GROWING CREATES MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS, WHICH IS THE HALLMARK OF GONZAGA.
Sister Tesa Fitzgerald works with addicts, murderers and thieves – who are mothers, sisters and daughters. Where many of us might see and fear the former, she sees and loves the latter. This is the simple secret of her work at Hour Children in Long Island City, New York.

In 1986, Sr. Tesa and her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph received an open letter from their colleague Sister Elaine Roulet, a pioneer in women’s prison reform. “She asked if we would consider visioning a home for children whose mothers were in prison. I remember, it was on the Feast of St. Aloysius,” Fitzgerald says. “I remember thinking that I can’t imagine what happens to a child when its mother is taken from it. So I went, out of curiosity. I went to the first meeting and the second, third and fourth meetings. And then Sr. Elaine said, ‘Only come back if you’re really committed to opening a home.’

“I prayed over it, and I decided to go. We had 10-12 children, and we became licensed foster mothers. To ensure that these children kept a bond with their mothers, we took them two or three times a week to prison, to visit their mothers. That took me inside the prison walls. It changed my life. I thought the children were going to be the avenue of change, but the women, their words, their hopes and dreams – that changed my life.”

In the prisons of New York state, Sr. Tesa found women who had grown up without family structure or value placed on education. “Listening to their stories …” she breaks off. “When they were 12, their mother had died, and their father never bothered to send them to school.” As they leave prison, these women and their children come to Hour Children to build new lives through programs and housing, through love and patience. And second chances.

Her Family and Ireland
If you ask Sr. Tesa to explain the depth of her faith, she may do so through the lens of her own childhood:

“I do juggle a lot of things. I go through a lot of hurtful things. There are people you go out on a limb for and they don’t all make good decisions. But my inner core is very calm. I can hear tragedy, I can cry, I can have heartache, but I bring it really to God. You have got to keep looking for the humanity of people. I got that from my mother and father.”

Sr. Tesa’s parents were Irish immigrants who raised four children in the largely Jewish area of Five Towns on Long Island – a scant 20 miles southeast of where Sr. Tesa lives and works today.

“My mother and father both came over in 1929. A great year to come, right? They were so full of faith, my mother in particular. They were not preachy at all, but they were very spiritual. They were, basically uneducated, but they had hopes and dreams for their children. I always knew the security of that.”

Sr. Tesa’s mother was one of 10 children. The family lived in a thatched hut in County Donegal. As a teen, her mother came to America with the responsibility of making enough money to send for the next child. One older sister was here already, working in a rectory; she snuck the newcomer into her room and shared her bed in the early days. Eventually Sr. Tesa’s mother found work as a maid. “Growing up,” Sr. Tesa says, “I didn’t know what a maid was, but I knew she put on her black and white uniform every day.”

Sr. Tesa’s parents worked hard. Catholic school was very important to her mother – and costly. The family never owned a car – just the gardener’s truck that her father eventually bought. He put two benches in the bed of the truck to take the family to church. On the way, they gave a ride to anyone they knew. “He was a very
simple man. I remember vividly, early in the morning he would be kneeling, saying his prayers. Family, life and church were all one big thing.”

Family in Ireland remained a vital part of their lives, with packages and letters often in the mail and newcomers visiting. “We always had people at the kitchen table. People who had just arrived from Ireland – they would show up for Sunday dinner. People who needed a connection.”

The whole family worked – her brothers cleaning airplanes at nearby Idlewild Airport (now JFK International Airport), at a local golf club or mowing grass for their father. Sr. Tesa and her sister began baby-sitting in seventh grade. Sr. Tesa was youngest, and when it came her time to go to high school, a neighbor stopped her one day. “I can’t believe your parents, sending all of you to Catholic school. Do they think they’re rich?” Sr. Tesa felt terrible and went home to tell her mother that she would be fine going to the public high school. But her mother stood her ground.

A SIGN OF HOLINESS
At 17, Sr. Tesa traveled to Ireland with her father – her first visit and his first trip back. They went to County Donegal. Her mother’s relatives there had never met her father before. Amid the family stories, Sr. Tesa learned about her grandmother – a woman renowned for her holiness, who always said her prayers on her knees in the one-room hut, transfixed before her picture of the Sacred Heart. A recent death in the family had given cause to open the grandmother’s grave. The church graveyard was full, and the plan was to bury young cousin Mike atop his grandmother’s coffin. The gravedigger, however, saw something unusual in the 20-year-old casket – all the color of a fresh burial. “Even the little veil on her – everything was as it had been.

This was taken as a sign of holiness, a sign that there would be peace, that young Mike would really be with God,” Sr. Tesa said. “This was the richness of my faith heritage.”

Surprising everyone, Sr. Tesa joined the Sisters of St. Joseph right out of high school. After college, she began work in Catholic schools, passing on her gifts of love and faith. “I got a call this weekend from a student from 40 years ago, a voice message saying that she just wanted me to know the impact I had had on her.” Delight warms her voice.

Eventually she became the new principal of a struggling school in Brooklyn. Its enrollment was just 100 children when she arrived, but 300 when she left. At every successive school, she made sure to open a kindergarten, believing strongly in early education.

“I’m still an educator,” Sr. Tesa says. At Hour Children, she strives to create a love of learning. “It’s never too late to do this work. To teach the mothers to enjoy life, to enjoy their children. One of the hardest things for me is negativity. It’s so onerous and so burdensome. You acknowledge the hard things, but you don’t have to dwell on it. It does not have to overshadow or overpower you.

“People say that I’m so optimistic. But what is life all about? It’s about promise.”
– By Marny Lombard

Hour Children founder Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald won the 2014 Opus Prize Award in October at Gonzaga. She announced that the $1 million prize will help the nonprofit agency expand housing for formerly incarcerated mothers and children.
What’s left when the Kennel goes quiet? Weeks after March Madness ends, Kyle Wiltjer’s breathing cuts the early morning silence. He’s doing lunges, a black strap wrapped around his left thigh. Every time he steps forward, bending his right knee, the band tightens, pulling him back. He’s sweating and it’s not even 7 a.m. on a Tuesday in April. Nearby, Przemek Karnowski is finagling his 7-foot-1, 290-pound body underneath a 4-foot hurdle. There isn’t a basketball in sight.

Wiltjer, a redshirt junior, has been doing these hourlong workouts for the past four months. Five days a week, often twice a day. Afterward he’ll grab breakfast and head to his 8 o’clock class. Karnowski is newer to the routine. After losing to Arizona in the third round of the NCAA tournament, he took two weeks off. This is his first day back.

Their strength and conditioning coach, Travis Knight, 5-foot-8, holds court over these towering men. He doesn’t yell, and he doesn’t pace. But when he speaks, they listen. They listen because Knight has something they need. Knight has grace.

“On the basketball court, control is such a big deal. To execute offensively you have to be balanced,” Knight said. “Karnowski is a perfect example. If you watch film of him his freshman year, he was out of control and falling down all the time. The same way Kelly Olynyk was.”

Olynyk’s story is entrenched in Gonzaga basketball lore: a dominant junior campaign prefaced by an improbable midcareer redshirt season. All made possible by personalized training methods.

Olynyk’s story is special, but, it’s not unique. Every year, Gonzaga’s training staff works tirelessly with “bigs” like Olynyk to help develop the flexibility, agility and strength necessary to compete on the Division I stage.
A Workout for the Brain

A “big” for women usually ranges between 6-foot-1 and 6-5, and between 6-9 and 7-1 for men (although Will Foster was 7-4), said head women’s strength coach Mike Nilson (‘00). “Bigs” generally play close to the basket. That size, while a huge asset, can also be a weakness. Also known as post players, “bigs” are often less coordinated and their aerobic conditioning is usually not on par with their smaller teammates.

“I think the first challenge when coaching post players, especially young ones, is understanding that it’s a process,” said men’s assistant coach Tommy Lloyd. “They might not be as advanced as some of the guards because they probably haven’t worked as much on their game, or their body wasn’t ready to do the things it needs to do.”

That’s a fact of life, said Knight. Post players often have a late growth spurt. “Every time you have that change you have to reacclimatize to the neurological communication between your body and your mind,” he said. That was the case for Olynyk, who grew 7 inches during one year of high school.

To build their athletic control, Gonzaga’s post players work on coordination, flexibility, speed and strength. They do yoga, stretching, agility drills and traditional strength-building exercises with medicine balls and weights. There is no single formula. Some players are big and slow; others are tall and skinny. Some are natural athletes lacking discipline, while others aren’t as athletic. Knight has different approaches for each type.

Post player Sam Dower came to Gonzaga with a fairly polished set of offensive skills, Knight said. However, his defense, much of which comes down to balance, was lacking.

“Balance is a big key to being an efficient post,” Dower said. “The more balanced you are the more you’re able to make a move to the basket.”

Olynyk focused on speeding up his reaction time, while maintaining control. To accomplish that, Knight threw numbered tennis balls at Olynyk. Each number represented a move Kelly needed to make. As he caught the balls he’d execute the move, thus remapping his neurological pathways.

Karnowski is similar in his needs, but he works more on endurance, flexibility and balance. Wiltjer, on the other hand, is rehabilitating. Knight said the university that Wiltjer transferred from emphasized endurance and mental toughness. In essence Wiltjer’s body was in constant pain, which inhibited him from peak performance.
“A lot of Kyle’s improved athleticism can be attributed to more freedom of movement and not being limited by that cycle of pain and injury,” Knight said. When Wiltjer came to Gonzaga he had tendinitis and sore knees. That’s cleared up, thanks in large part to Knight’s and Nilson’s unusual training techniques.

“(My former coach) is old school,” Wiltjer said. “Here at Gonzaga it’s very innovative. Stuff you wouldn’t think of on your own. It’s not like a traditional lift. A lot of times we don’t even use weights.”

Stronger, Not (Necessarily) Bigger
A conversation Nilson once overheard cemented for him the importance of smart training. As he tells it, John Stockton heard some of the strength coaches talking about a player needing to put on weight. Stockton stopped them and said, “Why do they have to put on weight? I understand that they need to get stronger, but why do they need to put on weight?”

That message stuck with Nilson. “I really believe as much as we’re training the body, we’re training the mind,” he said. “You can be really strong in the weight room, but weak on the court if your mind isn’t right.”

When Nilson started training the women’s team eight years ago, he saw lots of mental blocks. Women were afraid of “getting big.” Over the years, Nilson has worked to get the women more comfortable with gaining muscle, as added strength is essential.

Concurrent with his efforts, there’s been a cultural shift around women’s basketball, Nilson said. When he was in college, and first working at Gonzaga, the end-goal for most women was playing in college. There was no future beyond that. Now, more often than not, the aspiration is playing professionally. With more ambitious goals comes more ambitious training.

Head women’s coach Lisa Fortier agrees. She said that for women, strength is the biggest issue transitioning from high school to college. Center Shelby Cheslek knows this well. “In high school people just lobbed the ball to me all the time,” said the 6-5 Cheslek. “I would just score easily. It wasn’t like I had to fight to get position.” Since graduating from high school in 2011 she has put on 20 pounds of muscle and increased her vertical jump by more than an inch. Dunking is her goal.

Going the Extra Minutes
The success stories are inspiring, but they gloss over the reality: Early morning workouts are tough.

“They have to be driven for themselves,” Knight said. “I don’t make them do these things. They come asking for my help.” That’s why Olynyk’s story is powerful – both for the athlete and for Knight. Olynyk worked harder than any player Knight ever coached. During his redshirt season he worked out twice a day with Knight, one or two times daily with the coaches plus regular team practice and evening shoot-around.

“I think Kelly was really that turning point. He showed me what was possible. I’d never had anybody that driven,” Knight said. “It helps me encourage other players not to be limited by people’s expectations.”

Over the years Knight says his understanding of what’s possible for “bigs” has developed, as have his skills as a trainer. Perhaps more could have been done for players like Foster and Josh Heytvelt. “If I was doing with them what I’m doing now it could have been a different story,” Knight said. “Those were definitely guys who had a lot of potential that we didn’t fully achieve.”

Like Olynyk, Wiltjer’s been putting in the time, and he’s noticing changes. After more than a year of focused training, he’s more flexible, balanced and stronger. The months of early mornings are paying off.

“Obviously there were tough times,” Wiltjer said. “But when you’re doing new workouts every day you get lost in the process. And when you see results you start to get hungry.”
After the pressures of studying for the bar exam, this felt like his dream. In the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains, 15,000 feet above sea level, the views dazzled. The snow lay untouched, sugary and pristine. Nick Pontarolo (’02) could hardly believe he was skiing in Afghanistan.

This trip had been long in the making, though, and there he certainly was. Joining his childhood buddy Casey Johnson, Pontarolo flew to Kabul in March after completing a four-year apprenticeship to practice law in Washington. Johnson and Pontarolo explored Italy together as undergraduates in the Gonzaga-in-Florence program, and they were ready for a new adventure. The two spent a week in Bamiyan Province, staying at a United Nations fortress-turned-guesthouse and spending all day, every day, on their skis.

“The experience is phenomenal,” Pontarolo says. “Afghanistan has tremendous skiing. It’s hard to sit in an office these days.”

An avid skier and Spokane native, Pontarolo set his sights on Afghanistan after stumbling upon a guidebook and researching Bamiyan’s little-known but jaw-droppingly impressive skiing terrain. Johnson, living in Kabul as a contract worker with the U.S. Institute of Peace, helped piece together the details, and soon they were realizing an incredible dream.

The only tourism organization in the region outfitted the travelers with lodging, guides and food. Chairlifts don’t exist in the Bamiyan Himalayas, so skiers in Afghanistan have to enjoy traveling uphill by their own power, Pontarolo says. He and Johnson ate kebabs for lunch, made that morning, wrapped in newspaper and eaten on the slopes.

“Everywhere I went, people were awesome,” Pontarolo says. “I didn’t blend in at all. I always had a camera, and people knew I was some sort of tourist. They were outgoing and really nice. I don’t think I’ve ever been invited off the street in the States to join someone for a cup of coffee or tea.”

Despite the language barrier, Pontarolo learned a lot from the locals in Bamiyan and Kabul. “It was right before their first democratic elections, and everyone was incredibly informed about politics. I tried to do the same, and it was amazing to go into these people’s homes and learn what they believed and why,” he says.

Now back in Spokane practicing law, Pontarolo anticipates he’ll head back to Afghanistan before long. “It was the best money I’ve ever spent in my entire life,” he says. “This experience set the bar high for me to be inspired to continue to adventure.”

He’d love to take others with him, too, to introduce them to the rich culture of the Afghan people. “There’s a lot of fear-mongering about Afghanistan, but I didn’t feel unsafe at all in my travels. I think in future years, I’ll be going back with a group of people. It was a mind-blowing experience.”
1970

'71 Randy DeVoto attended his third Gonzaga-in-Florence reunion this summer and notes that the people make each visit to Florence just as captivating as the first time. He credits Professor Carolyn Valone and local tour guide Maria Laura Prestia with opening his class’s eyes to the beauty of art history. DeVoto writes, "Gifted teachers and friends such as Carolyn and Maria have provided substance and support. The reward is being together with classmates once again and, if just for a few hours, experiencing the sheer joy of being a student in Florence." DeVoto’s introduction to art history as a college undergraduate made a definite impact: He is a principal architect at CSDA Design Group in San Francisco.

1980

'84 Bruce Blackmer (M.B.A.) has been named chairman of the board of NAC Architecture, which serves clients from offices in Seattle, Spokane, Los Angeles and Denver.

1990

'91 Lt. Col. Mark Ulvin graduated from the National War College in June with a master’s degree in National Security Strategy. Ulvin is a member of the Oregon National Guard stationed in Salem, Ore., where he serves as the state Army aviation officer.

Lisa Loos is the newest marketing specialist at Novinium, based in Seattle. Loos previously worked in marketing and sales for SafeWorks and Microsoft.

'94 Megan L. Isenhower (J.D.) married Brian Frampton in April. David Pendergraft ('08) officiated at the ceremony. Megan is an officer with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Brian and Megan recently welcomed their daughter, Keylee.

'95 Lt. Col. Jason A. Evers received command of the Yakima Training Center in July at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. His most recent assignment was with the Army District Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, Mo. ▶

'87 Mark Lally found Zag fans on the road during the Central Oregon 500 bicycle ride, a fundraiser for the Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation. During five days in June, he gained more than 20,000 feet of elevation around the Bend area – and a new friend. Wearing his Gonzaga jersey on the fourth day, Lally met fellow alumnus and the foundation director, John Schiemer. They bonded over cycling and Gonzaga hoops. “The Gonzaga jersey gets noticed, so I am always on my best behavior on the days I wear the GU red, white and blue,” Lally wrote.

1970

'78 Tim Hennessy has a new job as president of De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland, Ore. De La Salle is in the most underserved area of the city and is one of the few schools in the country operating in the Cristo Rey model, in which students are employed by local corporations, companies and organizations to offset nearly half their tuition. Hennessy previously worked for De La Salle as vice president for development, and he rejoins the staff after jobs with the University of Portland and Court Appointed Special Advocates. "It is great to be back at this incredible place among our dedicated staff and educators," he writes.

'87 Mark Lally

'91 Lt. Col. Mark Ulvin

Lisa Loos

'94 Megan L. Isenhower (J.D.)

'95 Lt. Col. Jason A. Evers

GU ALUMS Share your news at gonzaga@gonzaga.edu.
'96 Elisha Joyce turned up the heat on NBC’s “Food Fighters” in July, facing off against top celebrity chefs to demonstrate her kitchen prowess. A home cook, blogger and mother of three, Joyce felt confident she could out-cook the pros. The judges agreed – she won four of five rounds, taking home $60,000. Joyce grew up in Guam; she cites her grandmother’s cooking as a major culinary influence. She lives with her family in Lake Oswego, Ore.

'97 Molly Murphy has been appointed senior vice president, sales and marketing at Eaton, a power management company. Murphy joined Eaton in 1997 and has held positions throughout the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. She lives in Cleveland.

Rachel (Rief) and Tyler Suhm celebrated their 10th anniversary by renewing their vows at their home. Fr. Chuck Schmitz, S.J., joyfully helped the couple recognize 10 years of love, family and friendships. Gonzaga classmates in attendance included Ryan Anderson, Megan Anderson-Reilly, Sarah (Sweet) Hill and Carli Schiffner. Rachel is an at-home mom to three redheads, and a part-time photographer. Tyler teaches history and coaches soccer in Yakima, Wash.

'98 Brian Jorgenson was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Army. He also serves as the North Carolina Alumni Chapter president.

Brian Kealoha (M.B.A. '99) has been chosen for the third cohort of the Omidyar Fellows program, created by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar in 2012. The leadership development program brings together young Hawaii business leaders for professional and personal development. Kealoha is a regional manager for Chevron Energy Solutions.

'99 Matthew and Jessica (Hochstein) Colley ('00) welcomed the arrival of their third child in August. Lucius joins Maximillian, 3, and Margaret, 5. Matt recently joined the Portland, Ore., law firm Black Helterline. Jessica is a pharmacist for Fred Meyer Pharmacy.

Dia Maurer serves as part-time executive director of Partnering for Progress, a Spokane-based nonprofit that sends biannual medical, health and education missions to Kenya. Annie Luu ('08) and Patti Krafft ('12) sit on the organization’s board of directors.

2000

'00 Mike Nilson, (M.A. ’08) co-owner U-District Physical Therapy, received a Greater Spokane Incorporated AGORA Award for Best Small Business of the Year. U-District PT provides training for Gonzaga’s Athletic Department as well as contracting with the club and intramural programs.

'03 Triana Allen is the new head coach for the girls basketball program at Bishop Amat Memorial High School outside Los Angeles. Allen, who coached as an assistant in Gonzaga women’s program from 2004-07, also recently earned her J.D. at Western State College of Law.

Lea Fortmann graduated this past summer from Ohio State University with a Ph.D. from the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics. “My research was primarily focused on assessing the effectiveness of various community forest groups in the Maya Biosphere in Guatemala in reducing deforestation,” she writes. At the end of July, she moved back to the Pacific Northwest for a position as an assistant professor at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash.

Richard and Tammy Koelsch live in Houston, where Richard serves as a lead engineer for Lockheed Martin, working on NASA’s Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle. This winter, Richard will co-lead a support console during the Exploration
Flight Test-1 Mission. Tammy is an acute care nurse practitioner at Clear Lake Medical Center. The Koelsch family includes Carson, 6, and Owen, 2.

Theresa (Bauman) Miller and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their second son, Cameron, in March. His big brother, Declan, loves finding ways to make him laugh. The family lives in Seattle; Theresa works with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Jeff is a physical therapist.

'04 Chris Harris is principal of St. Agatha Catholic School in Portland, Ore. Chris majored in theatre arts and elementary education. He has taught elementary school at St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Los Angeles and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in Seattle.

Chad and Stephanie (Dickinson) Warneke welcomed daughter Stella Grace in June. The Warneke family lives in Portland, Ore.

'05 Skip Chambers and Amy Christel ('06) married at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in October 2013. They began dating after a Gonzaga basketball game at Madison Square Garden in 2009. The wedding party included Kelly (Frey) Fletcher, Joel Reed, Adam Stewart and Seth Urruty. The couple live in Seattle.


Lt. Col. Jeremiah ‘Scot’ Heathman (M.A. ’06) serves as the commander of the 64th Air Refueling Squadron located at Pease Air National Guard Base in New Hampshire. Heathman received the New Hampshire National Guard Distinguished Service Medal during a change of command ceremony in June.

He is married to Mary (Russell) and has a son, Joshua.

'06 John Rupp and Marcy Kallmann ('04) married in June at St. Anne’s Church in Seattle. The ceremony was officiated by Fr. Anthony Bawyn ('78), and the wedding party included Kristen (Doyle) Flemer and Steve Erwin. John works as a structural engineer at PND Engineers in Seattle, and Marcy is a digital communications manager at T-Mobile corporate headquarters in Bellevue. The couple met at the 2011 Battle in Seattle and live in Renton, Wash., with their dog, Oscar.

Jessica Turpin and Kristian Patterson ('05) were married Dec. 21 at St. James Cathedral in Seattle. “We were so lucky to have Archbishop J. Peter Sartain and former Gonzaga President Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., preside over our ceremony,” Jessica wrote. Zags in the wedding party included Kevin Sherman, Scott Hitchcock, Sean Farrell, Sean Shoemaker, Ariana Sarar, Rebecca Sanford, Nicole Beck and Chelsea Nacorda. Both Jessica and Kristian work in Catholic education, he as director of admissions at O’Dea High School in Seattle, and she as a teacher at St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic School in Bellevue.

'07 Brent Tercero is mayor of Pico Rivera, Calif. An alumnus of Teach for America, Tercero holds a master’s in education from Loyola.
Marymount University and a master’s in public policy from the University of Southern California.

‘08 Bailee Neyland (‘14 M.B.A.) is marketing director for Spokane Hoopfest, joining Matt Santangelo (‘00), who took over the organization’s leadership role in April.

Ayuko Momono (M.A. ’09) and Christina Mitma (M.A. ’11) married in August at Manito Park in Spokane. Their wedding party included Katie Nollenberger, Sarah Alami and Melissa Heid. Ayuko and Christina both work as adjunct ESL professors in Gonzaga’s English Language Center.

‘09 Matthew Peck joined Hanson Bridgett as a litigation associate. Peck received his J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of the Law in 2012.

2010
‘10 Jacob Brennan (J.D.) and Janelle Umek Brennan (‘05, J.D. ’09) welcomed their daughter Madeleine Umek Brennan on April 2, 2014. The family of three lives in Spokane, WA, where Jacob is an Associate at Etter, McMahon, Lamberson, Clary & Oreskovich, P.C. and Janelle is In House Counsel at Garco & Oreskovich, Inc.

Ashley Girard and Michael Hansen (‘09) married at St. James Cathedral in Seattle last summer. Their wedding party included Martine Romero, Kelly Brauch, Bowdy Ehler, Ryan Pearman, Matthew Coleman and Troy Cosentino. The couple honeymooned in Greece and now live in Seattle; Ashley works for Nordstrom and Michael for Graybar Electric.

Victoria Solenberger is studying choral conducting as a graduate student at the University of Washington. She also is the director of music at Visitation Catholic Church in Tacoma, Wash.

‘11 Roger Casey (M.S.) was inducted into the Academy of Emergency Nursing this October. Casey is Tri-Cities base chief for Northwest MedStar. He previously worked as a trauma and stroke coordinator at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Wash.

‘12 Ted Blow is lead experimental mechanical engineer at Westland Joaus, a research and development firm specializing in sustainable energy. He also is attending Texas A&M, working toward a master’s in mechanical engineering.

Meredith Noble joined the architecture and engineering firm Stantec this summer as a funding specialist. She works with municipalities and other clients in Washington and Alaska, seeking funding sources for infrastructure and community facilities. “It’s beyond just getting grants. A lot of time it involves looking at past funding sources,” she said.

Olajumoke “Jummy” Joyce Olabanji (M.A.) has been named to the National Kidney Foundation board of directors. Jummy is an anchor and reporter for ABC News in Washington, D.C. “Some of my family members and I have a genetic kidney disease and I am passionate about the fight against this disease,” says Olabanji.

‘13 Kate Catlin created a crowd-funding campaign this summer to launch Assemble, an online platform to connect small businesses in Detroit, where she is a Venture for America fellow. Catlin’s campaign ended in August, and she achieved her goal by more than 150 percent, raising $4,544.

Lauren Kuhn competed in the Miss America pageant this fall as Miss Massachusetts, coming in as fourth runner-up in the national contest and winning $15,000 in scholarship aid. Kuhn is in her second year at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and at the pageant she told the judges that she is the soon-to-be “Dr. Massachusetts.”

‘14 Ronald Beyer and Chasina Olis married in June at St. Louis Catholic Church in Victor, Ore. Zags in their wedding party included Kelsie Jackson, Nicole Kissinger, Nicole Lewandowski, Andrew Beyer and Matt May. Ron works at Western Metrology in Wilsonville, Ore., and the couple live in Keizer, Ore.

Brenna Greene is working as a sports anchor and reporter at KRTV in Great Falls, Mont.
which his soul would be set at ease. He would also dislike being told that there is a thing whose knowledge requires many premises and a long time for investigation” (Guide I.34).

I read this passage for the first time in a class on medieval political philosophy, hosted this summer by Professor Douglas Kries of Gonzaga’s philosophy department, and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. I was particularly struck by this passage, because it articulates a problem that has been darting just beyond my peripheral vision through many years of studying and teaching philosophy.

Aristotle, a Greek thinker who lived and wrote between 384 and 322 BC (and yes, time did move backward in ancient Greece), opens his “Metaphysics” with the claim that “all people, by nature, desire to know.” I witness the truth of this claim every day as a teacher, a student, a sister and a cousin. People are genuinely interested by and engaged in understanding this fascinating world of ours. They want to know. They take real joy in knowing.

On the other hand, I regularly encounter people on airplanes, in new student tours, in casual conversation at university events who ask me to tell them my “philosophy of life” in one sentence, or who express conviction that philosophy must not be real knowledge because every time they ask different philosophy teachers for “the answers,” they give different ones. I regularly have students who are convinced that there are no “right” answers in philosophy, and who offer as evidence of that claim that I can’t simply tell them the answers in five minutes in a way that seems incontestably right to them. And almost every semester, I get students in my classes who struggle through the semester bored and disengaged, despite possessing primary texts written by immensely insightful people. They have written off philosophy.

Prior to reading this passage from Maimonides, I either thought of these separately or felt a vague frustration at people’s inconsistency. How could people genuinely want to understand, but regularly refuse the opportunities before them to acquire this understanding?

I think a lot of people have come to expect that a university education is supposed to either get them a great job or, at the very least, give them answers they can use. One of the things for which I am most grateful to the teachers who provided my Catholic liberal arts education at Gonzaga is that I learned to more clearly articulate the problems, without which clarity, the “answers” are largely meaningless and the “solutions” ineffective.

I am grateful in this case to Maimonides for clarifying a problem that has inchoately haunted me for many years. Of course we desire to know. Knowing is essential to being rational creatures made in the image and likeness of God. Our world constantly beckons us to ask “why?” and to discover “how.” But most knowledge worth our having requires hard, disciplined work. It requires memorizing hundreds of chemical reaction pathways. It requires reading sophisticated, unfamiliar prose. It requires analyzing complicated arguments. It requires sustained concentration. It requires, in a word, patience.

We all want to know the deepest truths of reality, but most of us are busy, caught up in the crazy logistics that seem to run our lives. One of the real treasures of university life is the leisure that is available to students and faculty that allows them to do this hard work and to develop this necessary discipline.

Of course, it’s easy for students to squander this leisure by packing their schedules so full that they don’t have time to carefully read, much less learn, what their teachers assign. Or for faculty to squander it in excessive meetings, grading, appointments or email. Certainly there is value in most of the things with which we fill our time, but at least we should know what our decisions to invest in these activities cost in terms of how much of reality we will be able to understand. Our native desire to know is constantly countered by a cultural fascination with what is immediate and easy.

I encourage each of you to take seriously this insight of Maimonides, echoing through nine subsequent centuries of scholarship, and the earlier insight of Aristotle, echoing through more than two millennia. Pay attention to your innate desire to know. Pay attention to the joy you feel when you suddenly figure something out. Consider how much your joy increases with the complexity of the problem solved. Try to hold on to these consolations as you struggle through the hard work necessary to cultivate your habit of disciplined inquiry. I offer you my (and their) assurance that this will allow you to gradually grow into increasingly satisfying knowledge of our world.

This summer, Gonzaga philosophy professor Douglas Kries hosted a summer institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Erin Stackle ’98 was one of 30 scholars who attended from around the world. Stackle teaches philosophy at Loyola Marymount University.
SOCIAL MEDIA MAVEN: MAGGIE (FLAHERTY) O’MARA, ’95

Maggie O’Mara knows how to use Facebook. As the anchor of “Today’s Morning News” at KTVB in Boise, Idaho, she’s been gathering followers for years. Lately, she also has gathered a national audience for one heartwarming story that went viral.

O’Mara often scours her Facebook news feed to find story ideas. In July, she came across a photo of two smiling brothers that captivated her. Noah Aldrich, 8, is his brother Lucas’ best friend. Lucas, 6, has a rare neurological condition called lissencephaly. He will never walk, talk or eat on his own.

The boys’ mother, Alissa Aldrich, started a foundation this year called Lucas House to support other families of special-needs kids. The Aldrich family loves keeping active, and Noah decided he wanted to compete in a local kids triathlon, along with his brother, to raise awareness of Lucas House. In July, Noah and Lucas entered the YMCA Kids Club Triathlon. Noah pulled his brother in a raft and then behind his bike, and pushed Lucas in a stroller over the finish line.

Their supporters went wild, at the event and online. O’Mara’s team reported on the race in Boise, and the “Today” show immediately showed interest. Soon, the Aldrich brothers were on national news. The “Today” show traveled to Idaho to cover their second triathlon, and they’ve since been featured in outlets from the New York Daily News to the UK’s Daily Mail.

“It’s just wild,” O’Mara says. “Social media has completely changed the way stories are picked up and reported. It’s a great way to feature good news, and I’m so grateful to have the opportunity.”

Build our Zag kingdom proud ... share your career news at gonzaga@gonzaga.edu.
MEMORIES OF THE MYSTERY ZAG FROM OUR FALL ISSUE

'Sr. Kathleen Ross, S.N.J.M., Toppenish, Wash.: I was absolutely delighted to see the smiling face of my violin teacher and lifelong friend, Sister Xavier Mary Courvoisier, in the Fall 2014 issue of the Gonzaga Magazine. Sr. Xavier Mary taught me for eight years at Holy Names Academy in Seattle, from my fifth-grade beginnings on “the fiddle,” as she liked to call it, through my senior year there. She coached me in playing solo, in small chamber groups and in being the concertmaster (or as we said in those days, the “concertmistress”) of the orchestra. In later years, after I joined the order she belonged to, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, I played in the joint Gonzaga University-Whitworth College Orchestra which she conducted. She taught me how to truly enter into the spirit of the music we played, to thank God always for the gift of music and our own abilities, and to set our sights always higher. I believe she is a wonderful world of knowledge was experiential rather than academic. I was thrown into Sr. Xavier’s music history undergraduate courses with some of the brightest young people I’ve ever known, who achieved great musical success: accomplished pianist in Japan, organist in Paris, composer in Seattle, choir directors from Havre, Mont., to Arizona, performers in fine symphonies, and university professors. With the excellent instruction of Sr. Xavier, Ed Schaefer and Fr. Kevin Waters, S.J., I completed the music requirements and, under the guidance of the late Sr. Mary Garvin, I did finally complete a master’s in Pastoral Ministry.

Sr. Xavier set high standards for all of us, although she understood about challenging family and financial situations. She made the material interesting and engaged us in teaching each other as well as learning from her vast store of knowledge. She was as likely to go on a tangent about infectious disease as to teach about neumatic notation during our classes.

I had the privilege of visiting with Sr. Xavier a few weeks before her death, and she asked me to help her fill out an alumni survey from her college about what she had done with her life. She knew she was very ill, and I think she was concerned that someone hear the story of her many accomplishments. She was a true “mensch,” giving lectures on bacteriology to her third-grade class and finishing high school at age 16, already having been recognized for her musical and intellectual talents. After dealing with illness as a young adult, she followed a calling to religious life, although this was not an easy choice for her family to accept. I believe her undergraduate degree was in chemistry, but her community urged her to go to Juilliard, where she graduated with a master’s degree in violin performance.

I took a string technique course from her, and I was awful. At the end of my last, far-less-than-stellar performance, she looked at me with exasperation and said, “Shonna, I’m giving you a B- in this class – and if I weren’t so worried about your grade point average, your grade would be much lower!”

If you know who our mystery Zag is, please share your thoughts and a favorite memory by emailing gonzaga@gonzaga.edu or writing to Editor, Gonzaga Magazine, Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99258-0070.
It all started with Dominic Chambers (’02). After graduating from Meridian High School in Bellingham, Wash., Dominic headed across the state to enroll at Gonzaga and play baseball. He quickly fell in love with the campus and the community, and his sister Maggie (’03) joined him the following year. From there, a nearly constant stream of Chambers siblings flowed through Gonzaga: seven in all.

Will (’05), Elizabeth (’07, M.A. ’11), Jack (’11) and Clare (’12) followed. This fall, Sam (’18) started classes. “The community there was really, really important. That’s what kept us all going back,” says Elizabeth. “I went back to drop Sam off this fall, and I might have been more excited than he was.”

The Chambers family found community in their classes, but also at Gonzaga-in-Florence and on Mission: Possible trips. They have been active in CCASL programs, Knights and Setons, and intramural sports. “Pretty much anything we could get our hands on, we did,” says Elizabeth. “It was the right fit for all of us. As weird as that might seem, it was.”
IN PRINT
Selected books by alumni and faculty

DAVID CROUSE

MICHAEL PACHECO
[’75] “Of Angels, Demons and Chopped Chorizo,” Lancaster Publishing. This collection includes 17 stories that take readers from the glittering lights of Las Vegas, to the copper mines of Chile, and the gritty confines of a high-security prison where men dream of what they will do when they are released.

PROFESSOR D.S. BUTTERWORTH
“The Clouds of Lucca,” Lost Horse Press. In this collection of poetry, encounters with diverse cultures and the unknown lay bare the tension and beauty of human experience by mapping out the range of feeling and understanding of which we are capable. Driven by lyrical voice and attention to the kaleidoscopic particulars, these poems trace the imagination’s imprinting of meaning on the world. This book explores the interplay of mind and world, of self and society, and of past and present through the lenses of travel, cultural artifact and the crises forged by our achievement of understanding and our persistent blindness. Butterworth crafts an appreciation for the beauty of culture’s broken wonders within an awareness that it is futile to resist change within the weather of time.

PROFESSOR PATRICK BURKE
“The Barbarian Principle: Merleau-Ponty, Schelling and the Question of Nature,” SUNY Press, co-edited by Jason M. Wirth and Burke. This collection of essays explores the difference in thinking by the French phenomenologist Maurice Merleau-Ponty and F. W. J. Schelling on the philosophy of nature, opening up a dialogue with contemporary philosophical and ecological significance. The book will be of special interest to philosophers working in phenomenology and German idealism. Wirth is a professor of philosophy at Seattle University.

JASON KNIRCK
[’92] “Afterimage of the Revolution; Cumann na nGaedheal and Irish Politics, 1922-1932,” University of Wisconsin Press. Ascending to power after the Anglo-Irish Treaty and a violent revolution against the United Kingdom, the political party Cumann na nGaedheal governed during the first 10 years of the Irish Free State (1922-32). Knirck argues that the 1920s must be understood as part of a continuing Irish revolution that led to an eventual independent republic. Drawing on state documents, newspapers and private papers – including the recently released O’Higgins papers – he offers a fresh view of Irish politics in the 1920s.
'33 Allan Fackenthall, Sept. 17, Deer Park, Wash. He and wife Frances co-owned and operated OK Rubber Welders Tire Store and Flower Haven Florist Greenhouse for 57 years.

'41 Angelo Frank “Angie” Petrettee, Sept. 30, Spokane. After serving in World War II Petrettee ran Hillyard Dental Clinic. For 40 years – never turning away a single patient.

'43 Walter Owens, Sept. 8, Spokane. Owens worked in auto sales. He was a founding member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and a Knights of Columbus member.

'47 C.E. Gerstenberger, Sept. 5, Danville, Calif. He was a dentist in the Korean War and served on the founding board of directors for the California Dental Service.

'47 Frank Walker, Aug. 7, Mariposa, Calif. Walker worked as a commercial swordfisherman and boat builder in Peru, then as a tennis coach, newspaper columnist, building contractor and a volunteer jail chaplain. He wrote three books filled with life experiences.

'50 Donald Herbert, Aug. 10, Othello, Wash. A lifelong learner, Herbert practiced optometry in Othello.

'51 Thomas Kreutz, Aug. 4, Spokane. Kreutz worked in sales; his true passions were family, friends, classical music and model railroads.

'52 Frank Barich, March 28, Canby, Ore. He served as public affairs manager for Chevron. He loved writing, painting and philosophical discussions.

'52 Robert Speck (J.D.), Aug. 8, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Speck was an FBI special agent, deputy county prosecutor and Idaho state representative. He loved gold mining, fishing and huckleberry picking.

'53 Timothy Rochlitzer, Sept. 15, Buellton, Calif. Rochlitzer loved speed. In 1963 the mechanical engineer reached a speed of 246 mph in a car he built. He operated a race car fabrication business.

'53 Richard Hyneman, Aug. 7, Olympia, Wash. He taught at Coeur d’Alene High School and North Idaho Community College. He coached the NIC debate team, leading it to many championships. He served on numerous political campaigns, and with Rotary Club and Hayden Lake Library Board.

'53 Father Robert Rekofke, S.J., Aug. 11, Spokane. Rekofke’s greatest joy was helping his parish. Through many assignments in the Northwest, he provided joy and consolation to his parishioners.

'54 Dr. Robert Goodwin, Sept. 25, Spokane. As a social worker and a volunteer for several charities, Goodwin always helped those less fortunate.

'55 Milton Fujita, July 1, St. Louis. Fujita was profoundly shaped by his early childhood experience in a Japanese-American internment camp. The powerlessness he felt there pushed him toward child psychiatry.

'57 Father William Wood, S.J., June 29, Los Gatos, Calif. A spiritual director and retreat master, Wood worked in spiritual and other roles across California. He also served as executive director of the California Catholic Conference.

'58 Richard McWilliams (J.D.), Aug. 8, Spokane. A longtime Spokane resident, McWilliams was involved in everything. He spent 50 years with the law firm of Paine, Lowe, Coffin, Herman and O’Kelly. He served on Gonzaga’s Board of Regents and the University Law Council. He and his son started the local Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation fundraiser.

'58 Margaret “Peggy” (Bradley) Calvin, July 15, Calexico, Calif. A lifelong love of children, combined with a refined sense of social justice, convinced Calvin to help found the Imperial County Child Abuse Prevention Council. The council’s annual Children’s Fair has grown from a few hundred attendees to nearly 30,000.

'60 Robert Kohl, Aug. 8, Vancouver, Wash. Working for the Army Corps of Engineers, Kohl worked on multiple dam projects across the Northwest. He was chief engineer for the cleanup of the Cowlitz River after Mount St. Helens erupted.

'62 Dr. Dan Marriott, Nov. 10, 2013. He practiced internal medicine at Seattle’s Polyclinic for 25 years. His widow, Marguerite, said Dan attributed his success to the Holy Spirit. He lived with Type I diabetes and its side effects – including heart attacks, strokes and blindness – for 57 years, but never once complained.

'64 Sister Mary Catherine Manderfeld, July 22, Cottonwood, Idaho. A dedicated and influential teacher, Sr. Manderfeld took her first teaching job at age 16. She joined religious life one year later, spending 80 years as a Benedictine sister. After retiring she ran the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude.

'65 William Doherty, Sept. 1, Salem, Ore. Doherty served in numerous community organizations. Most often his service was associated with the Freemasons.

'67 Jorge A. Lawton, Sept. 21, Atlanta. As a young man Lawton was a Fulbright scholar in Santiago, Chile. He spent his life studying the languages, politics and cultures of Latin America. He was a certified interpreter in Spanish and Portuguese, interpreting for Jimmy Carter and five Nobel laureates. He also spoke Haitian Creole and French. He taught at several universities and wrote for a number of publications, including the Financial Times.

'70 Dick “Mac” McIntyre, Sept. 21, Helena, Mont. McIntyre practiced civil engineering with the Montana Department of Transportation for 31 years. He was a simple and private man with a voracious intellect. He studied numerous philosophies of life and meaning.

'74 Sister Donna Fread, O.S.F., Sept. 6, Tacoma, Wash. Since 2000 Sr. Fread served as a court-appointed special advocate for children and as an immigration court observer in Tacoma. She had deep interest in social justice.

'78 David Jon Erickson, Sept. 22, Spokane. Erickson served as a broadcast journalist in the Army during Vietnam, and later led a career with General Telephone and Electronics. He loved Gonzaga basketball and fishing at his family’s lake cabin in Minnesota.

'81 DeeAnn Dugan (J.D.), July 3, Freemont, Calif. Dugan practiced law for 35 years. She worked independently and as a patent attorney, as well as for the U.S. Department of Justice.

'83 Robert Higby, Aug. 13, Plano, Texas. Higby worked as a financial analyst for various technology companies. He loved participating in historical re-enactments, even restoring a Model A Ford for use in bank robbery simulations.

'85 Lynn E. McKinney (J.D.), Aug. 20, Spokane. After playing seven seasons of minor league baseball, including a stint with the Spokane Indians, McKinney worked in Spokane as a public defender helping parents earn custody of their children.
‘92 Robert S. Kehrer, Aug. 9, Wasilla, Alaska. He was a counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center and a 10-year veteran of the 100-mile Alaska Wilderness Classic. During last year’s race Kehrer helped a competitor recover from a flipped raft, and that race won the event.

‘92 Eric Fox, July 14, Spokane. A co-owner of Applied Solutions, he worked as a control engineer. He loved sharing the outdoors with his family and friends. Fox officiated high school basketball for 20 years and was active in his son’s sports.

‘05 Adam Miller (M.B.A. ’06), July 11, Portland, Ore. After being diagnosed with stage four brain cancer, Miller immersed himself in sports and physical training to strengthen his body and mind. His dedication to positive thinking inspired everyone around him.


‘83 Edwin Brent Small (J.D.), Sept. 10, Pocatello, Idaho.

‘84 Carol Lee (Feltz) Bluhm, Sept. 25, Portland, Ore.

‘86 Lawrence “Lorenzo” Silva, June 28, Spokane.

‘96 William J. Shupe, July 30, Helena, Mont.

‘99 Theresa (Grossklaus) Bingham, July 21, Lewiston, Idaho.

FATHER RYAN, S.J., 81, DIED JULY 13; HE TAUGHT AT GONZAGA NEARLY 40 YEARS.

Powerful teachers and mentors are gifts. They come into our lives through no accomplishment or merit on our part. With wisdom and insight, they build a bridge from our deepest aspirations – aspirations we may not even be able to put into words – to the questions and conversations of their fields, the world of expertise. Through art, skill and capaciousness of heart, teachers awaken, inspire and challenge. And, as anyone who has had the privilege of experiencing a powerful teacher knows, it takes a lifetime to comprehend and fully appreciate what they have made possible, within us and for us. Fr. Bill Ryan, S.J., was one of those teachers for me, and I know for many other students at Gonzaga over his four decades teaching philosophy and theology.

Three things stand out to me about Fr. Ryan as a teacher. First, he took my classmates and me seriously as thinkers and treated us as such. And that made all the difference. We became what we were addressed and in the process came to know that the quality of our thinking mattered, that it had consequences, not simply for each of us individually but for the world.

Secondly, Bill created a hospitable space for our questions and conversation. He honored our desire to know and to understand. He gave us permission to embrace the realization that our thirst for meaning was, at its core, the desire for God.

And third, Bill showed us how to play. There was magic in the way he employed his incisive intellect, well-crafted questions and disarming wit to draw us into the self-transcending delight of intellectual work. He wanted us to know what he knew – the self-renewing delight and sheer pleasure of thinking as part of God’s ongoing act of creation of us.

When I returned to Gonzaga as academic vice president in 2010, Bill greeted me warmly, and shared that he had vouched to his Jesuit brothers that, as an Oregon farm girl, I was tough enough to do the job. Later, it was a particular privilege and honor for me to read the citation naming Fr. Ryan emeritus professor of philosophy at the Academic Convocation. After the ceremony, as had been the case so many times when I sat in his classroom, his eyes began to sparkle and his mouth formed into ever so slight a wry grin, and he said something ironically funny, and I laughed. Bill’s humor was such that I am confident that he has raised the laughter quotient in heaven.

Fr. Bill Ryan, S.J., embodied the best of the Jesuit commitment to higher education. He gave his life to the patient process of teaching and mentoring through which students’ dispositions and intellects are shaped and they become more fully themselves, more fully human beings, more fully alive. I, and so many others, celebrate with deep gratitude this man who extended himself with such generosity on our behalf, and who lives on with God, and in us, his students.

– Patricia O’Connell Killen, Ph.D. (‘74) Academic Vice President
TO BE CONTINUED...

UNHITCHING FROM PRESENT TIME: THE ART OF AN EDITOR

BY MARNY LOMBARD
You are reading my last issue of Gonzaga Magazine. I am bounding off on a new project, a leap of faith. Before I go, my thanks to you for engaging in this wide-ranging conversation about Gonzaga. About the gifts you found here as students, alumni and parents. About the visionary work that Gonzaga’s leaders and faculty are bent on, interpreting through Jesuit education the future of human beings in this 21st century.

This morning, I turned to a piece of antiquity: the Gonzaga Register of Alumni and Former Students, September 1887 – June 1917. I just love this resource. You can find it online, listing roughly 5,000 students from Gonzaga’s first 40 years. Included are the years these men attended GU, their degrees, professions and hometowns. The professions alone open a window into the economy of 100 years ago. Students emerged from Gonzaga as farmers, stenographers and – cutting edge – automobile salesmen. Or as Jesuits, doctors and engineers.

It amazes me how a single year of a Gonzaga education could shape a life then. Alphonse Hanggi attended in 1891-92, taking high school classes only, as did many of his peers. A Hanggi family history found online shows that Alphonse, his parents and nine siblings emigrated from Switzerland in 1885. After his year at Gonzaga, he went home to North Dakota and taught in a one-room schoolhouse, eventually becoming a respected and beloved teacher.

Souls we know, and souls we know through story. As chief storyteller for Gonzaga, I’ve developed the knack of unhitching from present time. It’s almost a form of time travel. I watch the people of Gonzaga, past, present and future, flowing through the University. No matter the era, students come here to better their lives. For many this happens only because hardship parts like a curtain, momentarily offering an opportunity.

I believe Gonzaga Magazine helps to educate an older generation about the younger generations, and vice versa. I have come to see that Gonzaga itself runs on the hopes of the young and the love of those who have matured enough to see some of their hopes come true. They are two currents in the same river.

After we printed the first issue of the magazine, an attorney chewed me out for forgetting to mention basketball. Point well taken, even if I didn’t buy his assertion that basketball is the only thing alumni want to read about. To be a magazine editor is to take those calls, finding a compliment in the fact that readers care enough to offer their thoughts.

To be Gonzaga’s editor is to learn constantly: Ignatian pedagogy, Amearias, mass spectrometers. The illuminated beauty of the St. John’s Bible. How dance movements can help Parkinson’s patients. As editor, I find inspiration in certain corners – in the students’ blog each summer from Zambezi, with their parents riffing contrapuntal rhythms of concern, respect and admiration. In our international students’ reflections on American culture. In a benefactor’s desire to reach out specifically to those students who haven’t yet found their niche at Gonzaga. To be Gonzaga’s editor is to agree – or was this actually my idea? – to a photo shoot in which we repeatedly threw buckets of water at a student, camera clicking. It was November.

To be Gonzaga’s editor is to pitch cover photos that the president doesn’t always like. Just sayin.’ To be Gonzaga’s editor is to understand that the names of buildings and facilities on campus – Coughlin, Herak, Hemmingson and Hughes; Desmet and Dillon; Jepson, Jundt and Kennedy; Luger, McCarthy, Patterson and Stevens – represent people who have loved and admired Gonzaga deeply.

Do you remember Father Al Carroll, S.J., who brought nearly 250 Amerasians to Gonzaga? In 2011, the magazine ran a feature about him and his students. Fr. Carroll told me about watching the TV news on the day Saigon fell, tolling the end of the Vietnam War. The next morning, called by God, Fr. Carroll began the work of bringing 30 Vietnamese students to Gonzaga.

Such highwater marks of courage and faith do not come to us all. But so many people of Gonzaga have been and are called by the Jesuit mission. The stories keep unfolding; the river flows on. Somewhere a future editor or astronomer or social entrepreneur is out on a playground, almost ready to come inside and bedazzle his teacher. He’ll be ready some year soon to attend Gonzaga – if the curtain of hardship swings aside at the right moment.

It’s been quite a privilege. I thank you all.

Marny Lombard’s goal was to “hug” readers with Gonzaga Magazine, not simply shake their hands. Longtime colleague Dale Goodwin pays tribute to our outgoing editor at gonzaga.edu/magazine.
A LEGACY OF PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

“I worked with my financial adviser and decided to leave part of my retirement account with GU as a beneficiary. No matter what you give, the students are going to benefit. And I am all about the students.”

– Sue Weitz, retired vice president for Student Life