

Bringing you news and updates from the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

*Raymond Reyes, Charlita Shelton, Naghmana Sherazi & Dale Goodwin, editor*

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## Is COVID-19 a Master Teacher?

Upon completing his time at the University of Paris, Ignatius of Loyola asked his colleagues to travel the four winds to share the gospel's good news as well as learn how God works in diverse cultural communities. Jesuits such as Roberto de Nobili in India, Matteo Ricco in China and the "Black Robe" implementers of the Paraguayan Reductions have long been recognized for their intercultural acumen and creative success at effectively communicating across cultural, language and religious differences.

Over my time at Gonzaga, several elder Jesuits have told me stories about their traveling "Black Robe" ancestors and how a new cultural encounter would stir an immediate interest in plants and dictionaries. They wanted to learn about a culture's way of healing and nourishing themselves. Plants are a medicinal as well as dietary resource. The early Jesuits wanted to learn how people communicated to harvest insight into a community's cultural values.

Being life-long learners of language and plants deepened and expanded their intercultural literacy. These encounters resulted in a realization that every culture holds a unique set of principles and practices related to health and wellness. In nearly five centuries of navigating diverse

worlds, the Jesuits saw first-hand how cultures respond to and/or adapt to plagues, viruses, and infectious diseases. In doing so, they began to appreciate how a community cares for itself, heal the suffering, grieve death or repair the disruption of "normal routines." How is COVID-19 a Master Teacher? What are we learning about ourselves and "the other" within the context of a forced pause inspired by the shelter-in order?

This issue devotes itself to exploring how we are dealing with the Corona Virus and lessons learned from this master spiritual teacher. We are excited to introduce Fr. Paul Dass, S.J., a visiting Jesuit from Malaysia, who teaches in the School of Leadership Studies and share his reflections on how COVID-19 is giving us the lesson in "despite our isolation, we are all connected." Someone once told me that experience is what you get when you don't get what you wanted. Perhaps such creative tension is a midwife for raising the consciousness of gratitude for what we have and reconciling the paradox of knowing what you have when you don't have it. Let's find out.

Raymond F. Reyes, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost & Chief Diversity Officer (CDO)

## We Can All Stay Connected Despite Separation, Fr. Paul Gass, S.J., Reminds

Teaching in the School of Leadership Studies at GU, he writes a blog for Bridging Borders. In a reflection on the current COVID-19 pandemic, he infers that despite our isolation, we are all connected: 'No matter how invariably the islands be separated at sea level, one from the other, no matter how far apart or distant they be located, one from the other, and no matter the thousands of sea-miles that divide even the continents, one from the other, they all remain rooted, grounded and connected by a common geologic underwater land mass that holds them securely firm and fast despite their disparate configurations. The earth remains round, remains one, and remains connected, deep down.'

Here is the link to his full blog: <https://www.bridgingacrossborders.com/post/home-isolation-by-paul-dass-s-j>

Paul Dass, S.J.  
Previous Director, Gonzaga Institute of Higher Studies,  
Taunggyi, Shan State (Myanmar)



## A DISPATCH FROM SEATTLE: LET US NOT UNDERREACT

A reproduction of Sherman Alexie's poem *A DISPATCH FROM SEATTLE* starts:

*Yes, we're scared but we also make  
zombie apocalypse jokes  
By texts. I don't know when I'll see  
my friends in person again.  
We don't want to panic and overreact  
but we don't want  
To underreact. Some of my friends  
are still hosting parties.*

Here is the link to the full poem: <https://www.rattle.com/a-dispatch-from-seattle-by-sherman-alexie/>



## Evolution of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Positions the 7 Biggest Diversity Issues in the Workplace in Higher Education Institutions

<https://www.higheredjobs.com/Articles/ArticleDisplay.cfm?ID=2039>

The Evolution of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Positions in Higher Education Institutions: An Interview with Gwendolyn VanSant, CEO and Director of Multicultural BRIDGE

[www.higheredjobs.com](http://www.higheredjobs.com)



## Workplace Diversity is More Than Required Quotas

<http://www.thiswayglobal.com/blog/top-diversity-issues-in-the-workplace/>

Talent Acquisition and Sourcing Workforce recruitment companies always battle diversity issues every day. While some believe that diversity in the workplace is as simple as meeting the required quotas for employee race and gender, it's much, much more than that.

[www.thiswayglobal.com](http://www.thiswayglobal.com).

## 7 Biggest Diversity Issues in the Workplace





## Class of 2020

In honor of Class of 2020 - your resilience is phenomenal; wishing each and every one of you the best always.

<https://diverseeducation.com/article/173135/>

# Class of 2020

## IMPACT Returns Via Zoom

On May 21st, please join us in welcoming Dean Rosey Hunter as she discusses, “When our shared humanity is embraced, deep connections can be created across differences in ways that values and respects the rich expressions of human experience and response. This IMPACT conversation will use the medium of storytelling to explore the spaces of shared humanity in our lives and how we cultivate these sacred spaces for bringing wholeness, effecting change and addressing complex social issues.”

Watch for further communication from the office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. View flier: <https://www.gonzaga.edu/about/diversity-equity-inclusion/resources-and-publications/diversity-digest>



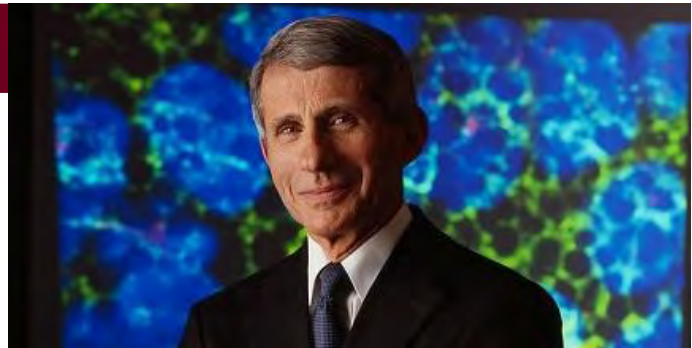
## Center for Disease Control “stigmas”

An article written by the Center for Disease Control concerning “stigmas” as it relates to COVID-19.

Read more at: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/reducing-stigma.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-cov%2Fsymptoms-testing%2Freducing-stigma.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/reducing-stigma.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-cov%2Fsymptoms-testing%2Freducing-stigma.html)

## The Man with Jesuit Education

The man with Jesuit education is the force behind the CDC, advising the country on how we can control this pandemic; he has worked closely with six presidents. Do you want to know more about Dr. Fauci? Here is his bio: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/about/director>



## Celebrate Ramadan

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion would like to wish you a Happy and fulfilling Ramadan; may the blessings of the season bring joy, health, peace, and happiness – ameen.

Naghmana Sherazi

