Gratitude, Renewal, Opportunity

This fall, in an address to faculty and staff, I shared a story that I believe provides the Gonzaga community – those on campus and those who engage with and support us from a distance – a helpful outlook for a season of strategic planning with a renewed understanding of our purpose.

In the early months of the COVID pandemic, after campus had resumed for in-person instruction, I had an encounter with a student I’ll call John. We crossed paths as he was moving back into his residence hall and he shared how grateful he was to be on campus again. John’s father, just before his death from COVID-induced organ failure, implored John to return to school and finish his degree.

The student had many reasons not to. He was worried about his mom and had his own depression to face, but he did come back. I will never forget what he said: “For some of us, Gonzaga is a light in the darkness.”

Amid his grief, John finished his degree and launched a career for which this university prepared him.

This is why we do what we do. This is our unique purpose as a Catholic, Jesuit, humanistic institution.

Despite criticisms of higher education – the suspicion about politically motivated indoctrination, the question of whether a college degree is really worth the expense – I believe with every fiber of my being that the perseverance of our students is all we need as testament that we are worth the investment.

As I consider the previous academic year and look ahead to the next, I am struck by overwhelming gratitude, a sense of renewal, and opportunities the likes of which we have not encountered in many years.

Gratitude

The recent U.S. News & World Report college rankings once again recognize Gonzaga’s excellent teaching and support services, which contribute to high retention and graduation rates. This is a testament to our talented, tireless faculty and staff. A recent story by Condé Nast Traveler also named Gonzaga one of the prettiest 56 college campuses in the U.S., among the thousands of postsecondary institutions in the nation. Hats off to Plant Services for this honor. Few institutions can claim having opened two major facilities during the pandemic, as Gonzaga did with the John and Joan Bollier Family Center for Integrated Science and Engineering and the University of Washington School of Medicine-Gonzaga University Health Partnership building, thanks to collaborative, innovative partners. Furthermore, GU received an incredible number of individual gifts of $1 million or more, from generous benefactors who want to ensure that more students like John can experience a light in the darkness.

Renewal

The years of COVID have been transformative. Alongside lessons and new opportunities, Gonzaga, like so many others, experienced a significant amount of change in its employee population. Students were anxious about what they missed and how that may impact what they are capable of doing. Our community – among the first places to bring back in-person college experiences – is now ready to move forward into a new era in the actualization of the mission.

New members of our Executive Leadership Team are up to the challenge. Provost Sacha Kopp has a curiosity fueled by his joy of learning, and is thoughtful in engaging complex issues. Acting Vice President of Mission Integration Ellen Maccarone has a genuine love for this university and expertise that will aid in discerning the path forward. Vice President of Human Resources Ray Kliewer brings depth of experience from large institutions and private industries to improve Gonzaga as an employer. These three – in addition to many long-serving leaders – will help Gonzaga find new ways to meet the high expectations of students, families and the community.
Opportunity

In my time at Gonzaga – more than three decades in various capacities – I have learned that resource growth almost always comes from new sources of revenue. And thus, our vision for the future requires increased philanthropic support and development of new non-tuition sources of funding. We must adapt to attract graduate and undergraduate students in an increasingly competitive environment, develop new academic programs, and refine existing programs to ensure they are relevant to students seeking to address the world’s greatest challenges.

This all sets the stage for updating our strategic plan, to ensure Gonzaga is competitive in areas where the demand is high. Under the guidance of Provost Kopp, we initiated this fall a process called The Grand Challenge to engage faculty and staff in identifying goals and initiatives for research and creative academic activities, student development and new programs of study. The resulting priorities will create exciting opportunities for funding support and partnerships.

Sustainability and stewardship are part of the evaluation, too, understanding that we must thoughtfully consider where resources will be deployed in fulfillment of our mission.

Moving Forward, Together

As a Jesuit institution, we are called to emulate the model set by St. Ignatius of Loyola – to be “contemplatives in action.” I believe this is the foundation for successful strategic planning, to consider how we best serve others, distinguish our university and most effectively work to facilitate care and stewardship of God’s creation.

Gonzaga University is woven into the fabric of so many lives, and we all play a critical role in its future. Thank you for the support that has made Gonzaga what it is, and for your care and engagement in what it will become.

Sincerely,

Thayne M. McCullough, D.Phil.
President
Thayne McCulloh, President
Ken Anderson, Interim Provost
Julia Bjordahl, Executive Assistant to the President
Deena González, Provost
Robin Kelley, Chief Diversity Officer
Julie McCulloh, Associate Provost, Enrollment

Maureen McGuire, General Counsel
Chuck Murphy, Chief Strategy Officer
Kent Porterfield, Vice Provost, Student Affairs
Joe Poss, Vice President, University Advancement
Ken Sammons, Associate VP, Plant & Construction

Charlita Shelton, Chief of Staff to the President
John Sklut, Senior Adviser to the President, External & Government Relations
Joe Smith, Chief Financial Officer
Dave Sonntag, Associate VP, Marketing & Communications
Dori Sonntag, Associate VP, Mission Integration

Chris Standiford, Athletic Director
Borre Ulriksen, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services
Jolanta Weber, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
Michelle Wheatley, VP, Mission Integration

Christy M. Larsen, Chair
D. Michael Reilly, J.D., Vice Chair
Paul W. Brajich
Greg Bui
Joseph Caravalho, Jr., M.D.
Rebecca (Becky) A. Cates
Timothy R. Clancy, S.J.
Teresa G. Dominguez
Theresa B. Gee
Michael Graham, S.J.
John J. Hemmington
Scott Hendrickson, S.J.
Mary Herche
Christine Johnson, Ph.D.
Steve Kuder, S.J.†
Thomas K. Lamanna, S.J.
Rita Illig Liebelt
Scott Maw
Thomas K. McCarthy, Jr.
Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil.
Kevin D. McQuilkin
Bryan Pham, S.J.
Renee Reuther, J.D.
Larry Simkins
Kristine Snow
William E. Stempsey, S.J.
Edward Taylor, Ph.D.
Thatcher S. Thompson
Diane Timberlake, M.D.
Irving Zakheim

J. Donald Curran, J.D.
Luino Dell’Osso, Ph.D.
Bobbie Huguenin
James R. Jundt
Duff Kennedy
John J. Lugger
Kathleen Magnuson Sheppard
Shannon McCambridge J.D.
Jack K. McCann
Philip G. McCarthy
Scott Morris
Angelo R. Mozilo
Don Nellies†
David A. Saby
Thomas B. Tilford
Patrick J. West
Alvin (Fritz) J. Wolff, Jr.

John Bollier
Mark Britton
Sharon Cade
Gerard Centioli
Walter Conn
Jeff Corbett
Jeff Dodd, Ph.D.
Whitney Franklin
Willy Geary
Dale Goodwin
Dan Harbaugh, J.D.
Steve Helmbrecht
Steve Hess S.J.
Kevin Holland
Greg Hoyt
Lisa Janicki
Eileen Johnston
Geraldine Lewis
Joe Lincoln
Mike Lucarelli
Kim Lynch
Bob McCambridge
Kyle McCoy
Ryan McNeice, J.D.
Kristine (Kristi) Meyer
Harold Mielke
Arnie Mondloch
John Parente, J.D.
Cindy Perry
Richard Powers
Marianne Poxleitner, Ph.D.
Jeff Reed
Steve Robinson, J.D.
Cindy Runger, J.D.
Karen Sayre, J.D.
Vicky Shanaman
Richard Shinder
Daniel Stoner

Matt Sullivan
Tim Thompson
Laura Stepovich Tramonte
Michael Tucci
Kurt Walsdorf
Kevin West

Nancy S. Burnett
Va Lena Curran, J.D.
Jim Day
Tom Driscoll
Al Falkner
Bart Gallant
Judy Gilmartin
Don Hackney, J.D.
Lorelei Herres
Stan Hooper
Greg Hubert
Greg Huckabee, J.D.
John Kelly
Wil Loeken
Bob McDonald
Colleen Meighan
Mary Jane Patterson
James Prince
Bill Quigg
Phil Raekes, J.D.
Gary Randall, J.D.
Phil Reinig
Trish Smith
Al Stadtmueller
Chuck Steilen
David Taylor
Richard Taylor
John Timm
Mike Tobin
Bill Wrigglesworth

Report of the President
Lighting the Way
By Kate Vanskike ('22 M.A.)

“Gonzaga is a light in the darkness,”
a student told President Thayne McCulloh.

It was a poignant encounter amid the complexities of returning to campus: The COVID-19 pandemic continued its disorienting progression, national conversations on higher education emphasized rising costs and student debt, and cultural shifts and demographic changes added to the questioning of higher ed as we know it.

How can higher ed remain relevant to a changing societal structure that no longer expects its entire workforce to show up in person to get the job done? Are universities actually helping to address real-world needs? Is a college education worth the expense?

McCulloh reflected on those questions with the student’s ”light in the darkness” comment echoing in the background. “I believe with every fiber of my being that the perseverance of our students is all we need as testament that we are worth the investment,” he told Gonzaga faculty and staff this fall. Through a message of gratitude, renewal and opportunity, he galvanized a hopeful future made possible by discernment and strategic planning. (Read an adaptation of that message on p. 12.)

The first step into the future is revitalizing the University’s strategic plan to clarify how Gonzaga will bolster its relevance and viability while remaining true to its mission as a Catholic, Jesuit, humanistic institution. In the pages ahead, learn how the University will continue providing academic excellence and preparing students for lives of leadership and service while also addressing the significant challenges in the higher ed space today.

Situational Analysis:
The Data

- Over the past decade, college enrollment in the U.S. has declined by 12.3%. (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center)

- Looking back to 2017 and ahead to 2027, enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions will level off or slightly decline in the traditional 18- to 24-year-old population while increasing among 25- to 29-year-olds. (Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics)

- Enrollment among white students will decrease, while enrollment among Black, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander students will increase, with the largest growth (14%) expected from the Hispanic community. (Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics)

- Inside Higher Education, in 2021, cited new realities that colleges and universities must embrace to remain relevant. Among them, “abandoning traditional practice, rejecting time- and place-based education, emphasizing digital, offering pioneering subject matters and certifications” and “generating revenue through things like continuing education and micro-credentials in place of degrees.”

AHEAD IN THIS FEATURE:
Sharpening the Vision
Strategic Planning
Housing Solutions
Inspiring Support
A New Direction for Admission
Lifelong Learning
Inclusive Excellence
Sharpening the Vision

Seven years ago Gonzaga University developed a community-driven strategic plan framed in the context of four commitments:

» Foster Responsibility for Shared Mission
» Animate Academic Excellence across the Institution
» Provide an Integrative Jesuit Educational Experience for Students
» Optimize Institutional Stewardship and Sustainability

President McCulloh began the 2022 academic year with a message to faculty and staff about the ways this plan has animated the University during a dynamic period in its history: “It affirms and defines our mission of Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic education, and articulates a vision as a premier liberal-arts based university, recognized nationally for providing an exemplary Jesuit education that empowers its graduates to lead, shape and serve their chosen fields and the communities to which they belong.”

Many of the actionable goals in the strategic plan have been accomplished, he noted: record-high graduation rates; launching compelling degree programs; continued progress in the diversity of our students; building the Della Strada Jesuit residence; completing the John and Joan Bollier Family Center for Integrated Science and Engineering; creating the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center; dedicating new space for the humanities; and ongoing strength in intercollegiate athletics.

“In light of our progress, but also given the social and economic disruption catalyzed by the pandemic, now it is time to ask ‘What’s next?’ It is time to update our plan for the next five to seven years. We will not deviate from the mission, commitments and strategic objectives laid out in the current plan, which have served as an effective north star,” McCulloh said.

Strategic Planning

Guiding the revision of the strategic plan was top of the priority list when Sacha Kopp joined GU as provost in summer 2022, bringing with him extensive experience in public higher education coupled with a passion for mission-based work. Launching a discovery process called The Grand Challenge, Kopp has asked faculty and staff to submit proposals for actionable items related to five areas: academic scholarship, research and creative work; holistic student development; faculty and staff development and retention; sustainability of environmental and operational resources; and new degrees, certificates and credentials.

“What aggressive goals will we seek and what will make us current in 2030 that we didn’t know in 2010?” he asked.

“Economic access will be key,” he said, along with “providing a different set of support services for transfer students, adult learners and professionals.”

Nearly every sector – from business and government to education, technology and health care – is looking at how to build and engage the workforce through professional development. “Certification programs are more needed now than ever,” Kopp said. “Companies are developing learning certificate programs for their employees. Why not us? A foundation for this is already in place through the School of Leadership Studies; we simply need to build more and provide the credentials professionals are seeking.”

And yet, as vital as economic access and program innovation are, Kopp believes Gonzaga’s biggest challenge and opportunity is its mission.

“We have to renew our commitment to mission every day,” he said. “Our mission includes a commitment to social justice, living and learning in community, development of the whole person, as well as how we attend to spiritual, health and social development within an academic institution. It also involves critical inquiry by those who ask hard questions of their community and society.”

“One of our biggest accomplishments going forward will be to develop a renewed mission focus as a team,” Kopp said. Ellen Maccarone, associate professor of philosophy and former faculty adviser to the president, is acting vice president of the Office of Mission Integration, which has continued to bolster faculty and staff mission formation programming.
Housing Solutions

It has been 13 years since new housing became available on Gonzaga's campus, with Coughlin Hall opening in 2009. In that time, enrollment has grown, retention rates have increased and some dormitory floors have been repurposed for other University uses. However, those are not the primary reasons Student Affairs Vice Provost Kent Porterfield believes it’s time to update campus housing.

“We desire to serve student needs better, offer a residential experience that enhances student learning and provides opportunities for more upper-division students to live on campus,” Porterfield says.

He and Chief Strategy Officer Chuck Murphy are leading the creation of a master facilities plan to improve the quality of existing housing and amplify the student experience through integrating learning and developmental opportunities with well-situated common spaces for socializing and studying.

A firm specializing in college housing needs conducted a physical assessment of Gonzaga’s campus and existing facilities, as well as a market analysis and review of practices among competitive universities. Recommended for long-term planning is the development of housing units specifically for first-year students, sophomores or upper-division students, with the individual facilities in the same vicinity sharing outdoor spaces. The priority in implementing “village” style environments is to address the biggest gap currently challenging existing resources: dedicated space for sophomores.

With a long-term plan likely to actualize over many years, Porterfield is hopeful the University can begin building sophomore housing in summer 2023.

Inspiring Support

The proposals faculty and staff members develop for The Grand Challenge also provide necessary direction for other critical work at the University, namely fundraising. Joe Poss, vice president of University Advancement, is eager to invite the broader GU community to help advance ideas that come from the process through philanthropic support.

Advancement’s goal is to engage alumni and benefactors in envisioning Gonzaga’s future and encouraging participation in fundraising efforts.
Proposals submitted to Provost Kopp for strategic planning consideration are being organized into four or five signature ideas to discuss with vital partners and benefactors.

“We’re committed to creating compelling cases for support and engaging with stakeholders to infuse momentum from those who are inspired by what a Jesuit education at Gonzaga can do for our students and our world,” Poss says.

A New Direction for Admission

Julie McCulloh, longtime leader of undergraduate admission, became associate provost for the Office of Enrollment Management in 2019, catalyzing necessary integration between undergraduate and graduate admission. This year, her team has launched a strategic enrollment plan with a mission to “intentionally diversify Gonzaga’s student body and strengthen its academic offerings, both influenced by the fostering of external partnerships and with a focus on experiential learning, always valuing and being informed by the tradition of Jesuit education.”

This vision is:

» mission-focused, with specific attention to the Spokane region and a more diverse student population;
» responsive to external market shifts, aligning Gonzaga’s academic portfolio with market demands to generate growth at the graduate level;
» dedicated to Gonzaga’s sustainability, with growth in graduate and non-degree-seeking populations to protect the financial stability of the University.

From those pedestals come priorities to refine strategies for recruitment, marketing and financial aid.

In addition, McCulloh says: “We need to strengthen our student success infrastructure, coordinating operations and analytic support to enhance the progression of at-risk populations, and respond to demands for certificates and accelerated professional programs. We also need to identify mechanisms that will incentivize program growth to drive revenue.”

Lifelong Learning

The launch of the Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) in 2022 puts some of the strategies within the strategic enrollment plan into action. While Gonzaga’s School of Leadership Studies has offered certificates and professional training and development programs for several years, continuing education offerings in other areas had been minimal or nonexistent.

Jolanta Weber, vice provost of academic affairs administration and Gonzaga leader since 1988, has guided the development of the CLL, recognizing the untapped potential among the College of Arts and Sciences, and schools of engineering, nursing and human physiology, business and education.

“Gonzaga has a significant opportunity to leverage its brand, excellent faculty, subject-matter experts and network to provide companies with professional development,” says Rachelle Strawther, CLL director. “Other institutions are providing courses that our instructors are well-qualified to teach, and we know the value the Gonzaga name would provide to many who want to improve or advance in their careers.”

The vision for the CLL, guided in part by Strawther’s prior experience as director of the training and development program in the School of Leadership Studies, is to “create pathways for people from all backgrounds and educational levels to learn and grow at Gonzaga University.”

Beyond continuing education and professional development, the CLL also will have personal enrichment offerings, available to people of high-school age and up, via workshops, retreats or academic camps.

The concept is not new, but it is expanding rapidly. Ample data shows this is the future, and most institutions are lagging. As Gonzaga increases its focus, it will be critical to differentiate from other programs.

“The Center for Lifelong Learning will design certificates with intentionality, based on the needs of the students and what will help them learn best,” Strawther says. “Certificates already offered (through Gonzaga’s School of Leadership Studies) boast a 95% completion rate, and that’s in large part due to the highly relational aspect of our courses. The students engage regularly with their instructors and peers, even outside of class for networking.”

Strawther seeks to increase certificate offerings and other non-degree professional development options quickly, with five new certificates by fall 2023.

Inclusive Excellence

Chief Diversity Officer Robin Kelley, who heads the Office of Inclusive Excellence (formerly the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) is rolling out a strategic plan that follows the framework of the University’s strategic plan and creates a roadmap to achieve aspirations to be more inclusive and equitable.

“We want to embody our educational mission authentically in an increasingly culturally diverse context,” Kelley says. “In keeping with our Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic identity, we want to foster the holistic development of our students, preparing them for social justice-driven citizenship and leadership.”
The six priorities in the Inclusive Excellence strategic plan are:

» Recruitment, retention and success
» Campus climate and intergroup relationships
» Teaching, scholarship and service
» Education, training and development
» Community relations and partnerships
» Assessment, reporting and accountability

Objectives include increasing the representation of culturally diverse populations among all components of the campus, from students to faculty, staff and administrative leadership. Also important is reducing the incidence of bias complaints, offering incentives to faculty and staff who pursue related training, and promoting engagement in multicultural activities by all campus communities.

Reflecting the continual concerns from groups who feel marginalized in predominantly white institutions, Gonzaga’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are branching out to focus on belonging.

“One of the most significant rewards in life is the sense of belonging. The need to feel that we belong is strong within each of us,” Kelley says. “With Gonzaga’s faith-inspired mission, we engage in more intentional actions to honor the human dignity of all members.”

Within the division of Student Affairs, Gonzaga created in 2022 two positions to improve service to students through Diversity, Inclusion, Community and Equity (DICE). Of note, 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of the Unity Multicultural Education Center, an opportunity to celebrate, educate and connect.

» Join Us in the Journey

Find your place within this dynamic moment in Gonzaga’s history.

» For links to programs and plans mentioned: gonzaga.edu/ReadersCare
» Share feedback: gonzaga.edu/editor
» Talk with a gift officer about ways to offer support with a donation: Jeff Geldien, geldien@gonzaga.edu or (509) 313-6213.
UWSOM-GU Health Partnership Building Opens

In September, the navy blue of Gonzaga University and the purple of the University of Washington paired perfectly at the long-awaited grand opening of the new UW School of Medicine-Gonzaga University Health Partnership building.

Hundreds of school representatives, dignitaries, supporters and community members gathered outside the impressive four-story facility, which also is home to GU’s Department of Human Physiology.

Initial conversations about the two universities joining in a new physical space began nearly a decade ago (2014) as rural communities of Washington state sat in dire need of medical providers. The unique partnership “between two great universities, one public and one independent, ushers in a new chapter of medical education in Spokane,” said Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh.

Dean Allen, managing partner of Emerald Initiative and CEO of McKinstry, the company behind the design and construction of the innovative new facility, praised the building’s unique aspects, from the heating and cooling system that takes advantage of the natural aquifer below the building to the complete absence of carbon-based fuels in its functionality.

“Important buildings come via great partnerships,” Allen said. “And great partnerships benefit from shared values and aspirations.”

Human Physiology Moves In

Gonzaga’s human physiology department started the 2022-23 academic year in the new facility, with eight sophisticated labs for teaching and research, plus expanded classrooms and networking areas to allow GU students to connect with and work alongside medical students from the University of Washington School of Medicine.

“This new space is world class,” said David Thorp, department chair during the planning stages. “We’ve targeted teaching and research space that makes best use of the faculty’s expertise.”

“Our entire department is thrilled about our incredible new capability to improve student learning and student research,” said Ryan McCulloch, the new chair of human physiology. “We’ve already begun to host students in our lab spaces, and they are amazed by our new spaces and capabilities.”

» Explore online: gonzaga.edu/HealthPartnership
Enriching STEM Exploration

During the spring, faculty and students moved into new spaces in the building they helped design – the John and Joan Bollier Family Center for Integrated Science and Engineering (pictured below).

Among the 18 labs is a math learning center that supports students across programs, as well as providing outreach and tutoring to local K-12 students. Chemistry and biochemistry labs will investigate parasitic, viral and bacterial diseases, along with cancer-cell growth. The two-story structural lab will help expand the construction and structural industry’s understanding of recycled and natural materials.

“With student project labs, natural science labs, engineering labs and meeting spaces galore, this will be the new heart of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) on campus,” said Mechanical Engineering Associate Professor Tim Fitzgerald. He was particularly excited about conducting large-scale vibration studies and fatigue testing on parts designed and built by undergraduate research students and senior design teams.

“I feel energized to have such state-of-the-art teaching, lab and project space to help us better inspire our students in both the classroom and through research projects,” said Civil Engineering Professor Sue Niezgoda.

Computer Science Assistant Professor Gina Sprint marveled that all computer science professors are housed along one corridor in the Bollier Center. Previously, their offices and labs were in two other facilities.

“I love that Bollier has been filled with students from so many different STEM majors since the first day it opened,” said Jennifer Shepherd, professor of chemistry and biochemistry. “I am most impressed by the open design of Bollier that connects offices, study spaces, research labs and teaching labs; the architecture naturally facilitates collaboration between students and faculty in the STEM disciplines. We are incredibly fortunate to have this state-of-the-art facility on the Gonzaga campus.”

The Bollier Center, alongside the PACCAR building, Herak Center and Hughes Hall, increases Gonzaga’s space for STEM education to 270,000 square feet.

» Explore online: gonzaga.edu/BollierCenter

Fuel the future

Find ways to support Gonzaga and its students with scholarships, facilities, resources and more. Give now:
» gonzaga.edu/GiveOnline

Report of the President
New Leadership

**Sacha Kopp**
Provost

Provost Kopp succeeded Deena González as provost, following a stint as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. There, he led the academic enterprise and launched numerous strategic planning and campus engagement endeavors in collaboration with student affairs, finance, enrollment management, advancement, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Kopp also held administrative and faculty positions at Syracuse University, the University of Texas at Austin and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Educated in Catholic elementary and secondary schools – and inspired by his father, who served on the faculty of a Catholic college for 40 years – Kopp is excited to serve an institution committed to education of the whole person in the context of a Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic tradition.

**Ellen Maccarone**
Acting Vice President for Mission Integration

Following the departure of Michelle Wheatley (’07, ’12 M.A.), the first woman and layperson to fill the highest role in mission at the University, Gonzaga named Ellen Maccarone as acting vice president for Mission Integration. Maccarone, associate professor of philosophy and faculty adviser to the president, worked diligently to incorporate Ignatian pedagogy and practices from the Jesuit intellectual tradition into her teaching. She has participated in many Jesuit mission formation projects since joining the University, and helped to lead many related endeavors, including the faculty Scholars for Mission program, the Mission Fellowship Evaluation Committee, Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life and Core Curriculum Fellows for Mission.
Deeper Learning

The newly established Institute for Research and Interdisciplinary Initiatives, under the direction of Associate Provost Paul Bracke, enables the University to leverage opportunities for both faculty and student research, and provides a catalyst for interdisciplinary projects.

Gonzaga’s three libraries (Foley, main campus; Chastek, Law; and Gonzaga in Florence) were accepted as members of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, whose mission pushes the boundaries of what is possible in library services through strategic collaboration in the Pacific Northwest.

Rob McCann (’06 Ph.D.), president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, spoke on “Lifeguards, Hikers and Mathematicians,” about the sobering realities and consequences of intergenerational poverty. The presentation launched the School of Education’s Hope Dialogues, a lecture series presented by the School’s Office of a Pedagogy of Hope through Research and Practice.

Gonzaga completed a yearlong celebration of the School of Business Administration’s centennial. Founded in 1921 to help stock the fledgling city with business leaders, bankers, accountants, economists, financial and trade experts, the school (shown below) has become one of the most prestigious business schools in the western U.S.

Ray Kliwer
Vice President of Human Resources

Filling Gonzaga’s first chief of Human Resources role, Kliwer was previously the HR lead for the School of Medicine at Indiana University. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, he holds degrees from the University of Louisville, along with a number of professional certificates in areas such as employee benefits law, executive coaching and leadership training. Kliwer brings nearly 30 years of experience in human resource management and a passion for building HR competencies and outcomes across the organization.
In All Things: Justice

Addressing many forms of justice – social, environmental, political – is a common thread in opportunities presented by Gonzaga’s academic departments.

» The School of Education teaches future educators to see the ways many students are overlooked. An event with Spokane Odyssey Youth Movement offered data on the impacts of homophobia and transphobia on students. A Teacher Education Talk (T.Ed. Talk) explored examples of white nationalist recruitment efforts occurring in local schools, and specific targeting of members of the autistic community to join racist endeavors.

» The School of Law sponsored a talk on criminal justice, mental health and the media; a daylong symposium on children’s human rights; a summer symposium in Florence on artificial intelligence, government, corporations and human rights; and a webinar with Michelle Alexander, renowned author of “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.” Notably, the school began a partnership with Heritage University in Toppenish to increase access for Indigenous and Latinx students in Central Washington to explore law school.

» In the School of Business Administration, special lectures covered topics such as housing affordability and immigration. Two entrepreneurial business students won funding for their individual projects aimed at serving people with disabilities.

» The College of Arts and Sciences created a minor in health equity – a multidisciplinary approach to exploring the social determinants of health, health care inequities and structural impacts on the health of communities. Courses include sociology, biology, Spanish, women’s and gender studies, solidarity and social justice, and economics, with potential for opportunities with the UW-GU Health Partnership.

» More than 450 people from 30 states and 15 countries engaged in the Center for the Study of Hate’s sixth International Conference on Hate Studies, “Justice and Equity: Challenging Hate and Inspiring Hope.” Gonzaga’s Journal of Hate Studies published a special edition titled “Hate Amid the Pandemic.” The Eva Lassman Award honored the Asian Pacific Island Coalition of Spokane and Limerick University’s European Centre for the Study of Hate.

» Analyzing the documentary “Picture a Scientist,” a panel of female scientists and students raised an important question: “How do we engage more women in STEM at Gonzaga?”

» Gonzaga students Shyh Saenz (’23) and Anasofia Gutierrez (’22) were among 100 students from Catholic and secular universities across the Americas helping to launch “The Building Bridges Initiative” in a videoconference with Pope Francis.
Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Funded

**Humanities**

**Katey Roden**, English professor and director of digital humanities, and **Greg Gordon**, chair and professor of environmental studies, received a $29,329 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to develop a digital platform that will allow neighborhoods in northeast Spokane impacted by the North Spokane Corridor to celebrate their histories.

**Biology**

**David Boose**, chair of the biology department, landed a $25,400 start-up research grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, which, matched by Gonzaga funds, supplied equipment and summer research stipends to a new field ecologist, **Jens Hegg**, whose research addresses conservation and resource management.

**John Orcutt**, biology, also received funds from the Murdock Trust. His research in mammalian evolution received international attention following his discovery of a giant saber-tooth cat that lived 5 to 9 million years ago in North America.

Appointed

**Carol Kottwitz**, associate professor and director of Gonzaga’s psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program, was elected a member of the Class of 2022 Fellows by the National Academies of Practice.

**Kevin McQuilkin (’83)** joined the School of Business Administration as its first Executive in Residence. He brings experience as managing director of mergers and acquisitions for Wells Fargo Securities after serving in similar positions at both Deutsche Bank Securities and JP Morgan Securities.

**Jeffery Ramirez**, psychiatric nurse practitioner and professor in the School of Nursing and Human Physiology, is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Recognized

**Molly Ayers**, senior director of the Center for Community Engagement, received the 2021 Ignatian Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Jesuit Student Affairs from the Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators, representing all 27 Jesuit institutions of higher education in the U.S.

› Find many more: news.gonzaga.edu

In the Community

› Gonzaga University partnered with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Gonzaga Prep and St. Aloysius Parish to open **Gonzaga Family Haven** (at right) for 73 disadvantaged families, offering housing, support and education.

› In partnership with the city of Spokane, the School of Leadership Studies introduced the **Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy** to offer education and training to neighborhood leaders, aiming to provide the skills that neighborhood council volunteers need to be effective.

› Sixteen rising ninth- and 10th-graders from John R. Rogers High School participated in **Catalyst**, a three-day program on the Gonzaga campus. Part of the University’s Opportunity Northeast initiative, Catalyst engaged students in a personal narrative course, dance movement class, and provided other opportunities to experience a glimpse of college life.
Student Accomplishments

Entrepreneurship
Siena Merrin (’24), Hayley Mosby (’24) and Kate Sprague (’24) won first place at the Sparks Weekend entrepreneurship competition, making them eligible for $50,000 in seed money for their business, Zaps. Anna Deschane (’24), joined a team that won second place for its venture, Gameleon Boards.

Debate
After victory in the prestigious Lafayette Debates in Washington, D.C., debaters Molly Martin (’22) and Avalyn Renee (’23) presented their research on the United Nations’ New Urban Agenda to the top U.N. official overseeing its implementation.

Science
Cassidy Sebastian (’22) won the poster prize in biochemistry at the Murdock College Science Research Conference.

Leadership
Ten doctoral, graduate and undergraduate students from Gonzaga’s School of Leadership Studies participated in the Brussels European Forum, a weeklong intensive global leadership experience including simulations of the North Atlantic Council, Foreign Affairs Council and G-20.

Business
The Master of Business Administration program placed No. 29 in the Corporate Knights 2021 Better World MBA ranking, maintaining its top 30 position and again recognizing its emphasis on sustainability in course content and faculty research. Only seven U.S. programs are ranked higher than Gonzaga’s.

For the third time in six years, students in a Gonzaga finance class won the top award among 21 schools participating in the Student Investment Program sponsored by D.A. Davidson & Co.

Athletic Success
Gonzaga’s nearly 350 student-athletes earned an all-time high grade point average of 3.45, with women’s tennis leading with a 3.73 GPA. GU’s graduation rate for student-athletes who complete their eligibility at Gonzaga is 98%, best in the West Coast Conference and tied for second in the nation. Zags also contributed 2,429 hours of service to the Spokane community.

» Men’s basketball earned its seventh straight Sweet Sixteen® appearance, the longest stretch of any college in the country, and ranked No. 1 for nine weeks

» Women’s basketball enjoyed its 13th NCAA tournament appearance and 10th West Coast Conference tournament title

» Baseball reached a national ranking of No. 10, and its 12th trip to the NCAA Tournament

» Women’s rowing captured its 20th WCC championship and placed 18th at the NCAA championships

» 3 runners advanced to the NCAA regionals in women’s track, and women’s cross country climbed to No. 29 in national rankings

» 4 men’s track runners advanced to the NCAA Regionals; men’s cross country ranked 13th

» Women’s soccer earned its most wins in program history at 15 and ranked No. 16 nationally
Alumni Energy

With a slight ease in pandemic precautions, Alumni Relations staff were thrilled to get back to what they do best – gather with alumni on campus and around the country. They welcomed the return of many in-person events after a two-year hiatus, including alumni socials at the WCC and NCAA tournaments; the Alumni Scholarship Benefit; not one, but two summer reunions; and Zagapalooza, an all-class reunion this fall.

Alumni leaders planned a special belated commencement celebration with the Class of 2020, which never had an in-person graduation ceremony during the pandemic. Highlights included a graduation ceremony at the Spokane Arena, a special Mass, reception and champagne toast on campus. The energy and enthusiasm were truly contagious.

For all those in attendance at the Class of 2020 celebration and the Class of 2022 commencement, a new tradition began: All graduates received their diplomas and a commemorative license plate frame as a reminder that they will always be part of the GU family.

Other engagement activities over the past year:

» Alumni Relations hosted seven career Treks in cities across the U.S. for current students and alumni to explore employment opportunities.


» The inaugural Gonzaga alumni affinity community – the Alumni of Color Community – held its first virtual event in June.

» Chapter programming, including game watches, professional networking, family events and lifelong learning, resumed across the country and around the world.

» The Distinguished Alumni Awards, celebrating the School of Business centennial, recognized the impactful work of five Gonzaga alumni and friends during the Ignatian Gala. (See p. 28.)

» Zags Night at the Mariners returned with more than 1,800 Zags in attendance and included a special celebration honoring the life of assistant baseball coach Danny Evans (’03), who passed away after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Looking Ahead

Another Alumni affinity group, the Military Service Community, will launch in spring 2023.

» Stay Involved: gonzaga.edu/alumni

» Watch a special Zagapalooza recap video: gonzaga.edu/ReadersCare
Noteworthy

Abundant Support
The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust issued Gonzaga a $1.6 million grant, Murdock’s largest commitment to the University, for Gonzaga’s transformational John and Joan Bollier Family Center for Integrated Science and Engineering.

During the past year, the University received six gifts in excess of $1 million, including the lead gift by John and Joan Bollier for the Integrated Science and Engineering facility; a gift to match more than $2 million in gifts to the building and its operation by Jeff and Margaret Reed; $5 million from Terry and Patt Payne to support scholarships for high-achieving, low-income students; two significant contributions by McKinstry CEO Dean and Vicki Allen to the Health Partnership Building construction and student research opportunities; $2 million from Dan and Cecelia Regis to establish the Jud Regis Chair in Accounting; and $1 million from Thomas Woodley to support political science, among other generous gifts.

Worthy Recognition
At the May 2022 Commencement ceremonies, Gonzaga bestowed honorary degrees on West Coast Conference Commissioner Gloria Nevarez, businessman and philanthropist Terry Payne, entrepreneurs and hoteliers Walt and Karen Worthy, difference-maker in education Angela Jones (’16 J.D.), and Holocaust survivor Carla Peperzak. Former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire (’77 J.D.) received the Law Medal.

Climate Health & Sustainability
Gonzaga became the first U.S. university to commit to the Laudato Si Action Platform inspired by Pope Francis’ 2015 ecological encyclical, “Laudato Si’: On Care for our Common Home.”

The newly launched Center for Climate, Society and the Environment received a $100,000 ClimeTime grant from the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to support climate literacy. Faculty in teacher education offered professional development workshops for K-12 teachers, with a focus on climate change and climate science as a local issue with hope for local community solutions.

The center also was one of 30 semifinalists for the 2022 American Climate Leadership Awards, and hosted Washington Gov. Jay Inslee for discussion on the need for developing viable solutions. These are but a few of many activities the Climate Center has supported since its inception.

Two student-centered projects addressed energy costs and carbon footprints. The Gonzaga Sustainable Energy Club helped secure solar panels for Transitions, a Spokane nonprofit, to save an estimated $116,000 over the course of 20 years. Through the Climate Center, a window-weatherization program assisted students residing in the Logan Neighborhood.

The League of American Bicyclists named Gonzaga University a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly University campus for promoting and enabling safe, accessible bicycling.

Centennial Honors
The School of Business Administration honored five individuals at the Ignatian Gala, culminating the School’s centennial. Shown here, left to right: Ken Anderson, dean (’81); Kevin McQuilkin (’83), Service to Gonzaga Award; Terry Coombes, Faculty-Staff Award; Callie Johnson (’15), Recent Alumni Award; Xochitl Velazquez (’12), Service to the Community Award; Kevin Daniels (’79), Professional Achievement Award; and Molly Pepper, associate dean.
Mission Formation for Faculty & Staff

Within the Office of Mission Integration, mission formation for employees has become a greater focus and is supported more robustly now through staffing, budget and programming. As an institution of higher education, the professional and personal development of Gonzaga employees is a priority. Additionally, for students to be formed in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition, the faculty and staff who engage with them in and out of the classroom must also be formed in that tradition and embody it in their work. Mission Integration now offers multiyear cohort-based programs as well as standalone offerings that are intellectual, spiritual and experiential in nature, to facilitate personal appropriation and application in one's role and field.

Formation Opportunities

» 18 faculty completed the level one Ignatian Mission Formation Program
» 6 faculty members completed level two, the Arrupe Seminar
» 15 staff members from across the University participated in the pilot cohort of the Cardoner Staff Formation Program – a two-year commitment
» 21 employees gathered for Conversations on Conversations to discuss articles in the Jesuit higher education magazine

Spirituality Offerings

» 12 employees participated in the First Spiritual Exercises, a 4-week mini-retreat in daily life
» 9 employees participated in a summer mission book club
» 50 people shared in a prayer experience called Visio Divina, using Scripture passages and illuminated images from the University’s edition of the St. John’s Bible, during Lent and Advent
» Employees who are alumni of SEEL (9-month Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life) gathered for prayer, conversation and shared discernment about support for their spiritual growth at the University
» 39 faculty and staff members engaged in the Synod on Synodality, with 13 as facilitators and 26 as participants

Mission staff members also provided team retreats; engagement in New Employee Experience and New Faculty Orientation; support for Organizational Development; consultation for learning assessment and Ignatian pedagogy; care for those on the periphery; and collaboration, partnership and fun with Staff Assembly.

» Explore more: gonzaga.edu/mission
**GROSS OPERATING REVENUES**

$395.0M
2022

- Tuition & Fees: 76.8%
- Return on Investments: 3.0%
- Grants & Contracts: 2.6%
- Contributions: 4.9%
- Other Sources: 4.8%
- Auxiliary Enterprises: 7.9%

**GROSS OPERATING EXPENSES**

$388.8M
2022

- Institutional Financial Aid: 34.4%
- Salaries, Wages and Benefits: 41.0%
- Depreciation & Amortization: 4.8%
- Professional Fees & Contracted Services: 6.4%
- Materials, Supplies, Printing & Postage: 2.9%
- Meeting, Travel & Memberships: 2.8%
- Interest: 2.3%
- Other Expenses: 1.1%

(Amounts derived from audited financial statements)
The endowment is designed to generate at least a 7% average annual return over a longer term, recognizing that performance can vary significantly from year to year. The 10-year annualized return through May 31, 2022 was 11.1%.
The Spires Society honors and celebrates the incredible generosity and leadership of those who have made lifetime gifts, pledges or estate provisions of $1 million and above to help support Gonzaga University.

† = Deceased

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Valerie Anderson
Alphonse and Geraldine Arnold Estate
Avista Corp.
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Tim and Mary Barnard
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The following donors are part of Gonzaga's Leadership Circle and have made gifts of $50,000 or more to the 2022 Annual Campaign (June 1, 2021-May 31, 2022). These contributions help various programs, initiatives and infrastructures at the University run efficiently. † = Deceased

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Coeur d'Alene Tribe
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Bob Ferguson
Jonathan Ferraiuolo
The Ferraiuolo Foundation
Garco Construction
Ryan M. and Jennifer Gee
Mary and Tom Herche
Tom and Liz Hoover
Johnson Scholarship Foundation
Kasco of Idaho, LLC
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Jim and Anita Magnuson
Marin Community Foundation
Christopher Marshall and Cynthia Carroll
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Kip and Danee McGillivray
McGillivray Environmental
Gene and Marti Monaco
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Vernon Neland
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John and June Rogers
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$50,000-$99,999
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James S. and Margaret K. Randall Charitable Fund
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Lowell and Kathleen Ruen
Gregory P. Ruff Estate
Nancy and Penn Siegel
State Bank Northwest
Richard and Barbara Taylor
Jesse and Sara Wolff
Peter and Tracee Wolff
Tim Wolff
Chris and Lisa Wrolstad
50 or More Years of Giving

These individuals have given to Gonzaga University for a total of 50 or more years, through May 31, 2022. Their generosity has helped create the special place that Gonzaga University has been and will continue to be far into the future. † = Deceased

| GRAD YEAR | YEARS OF GIVING | 1949 | Charlie O’Connor ................. | 54 |
| 1950 | 56 |
| Bill Eng ......................................... | 61 |
| 1951 | 56 |
| Gladys (Cerenzia) Peretti .................. | 56 |
| 1953 | 54 |
| Joan M. (Treibel) Killian ................ | 54 |
| Wil Loeken .................................... | 56 |
| Raymond W. Murphy .......................... | 56 |
| 1954 | 60 |
| Patrick Riley ............................... | 60 |
| Lester Schwaegler, Jr. .................... | 57 |
| 1955 | 56 |
| Jerry Monks ................................. | 56 |
| Dr. Willard J. Wyman .................... | 59 |
| 1956 | 54 |
| Gayle (Neumann) Dever .................. | 54 |
| George Fish ................................... | 60 |
| Bethine J. (Hess) Kenworthy ........... | 58 |
| Helen Ferry McDuffe ...................... | 53 |
| Shirley A. (Duffner) Morphy .......... | 56 |
| Marty Weber ................................... | 60 |
| 1957 | 55 |
| Ernie Becker † and Anita Morphy ....... | 55 |
| The Honorable Robert J. Doran ....... | 56 |
| Joe J. Schaulbe ............................. | 63 |
| Gerald Shaw ................................. | 56 |
| Al Stadtmueller ......................... | 50 |
| 1958 | 53 |
| Va Lena (Scarpelli) Curran ........... | 53 |
| Mr. John H. Hanson ...................... | 56 |
| Colleen (Kane) Meighan ............... | 61 |
| Jacob W. Meighan ....................... | 61 |
| Jim Ringwood ............................... | 55 |
| Roger J. Roman ............................ | 58 |
| Ernie Vollmer .............................. | 60 |
| Leo Finnegan ............................... | 62 |
| Jim Garvey .................................. | 53 |
| Mary Lou Lane .............................. | 53 |
| Paul N. Luvera ............................. | 60 |
| Donald P. Nelles † ..................... | 54 |
| Emmett Quinn ................................ | 52 |
| The Honorable Philip M. Raikes .......... | 52 |
| Bernadette (Suva) Renouard ........ | 52 |
| Edward J. Renouard ........................ | 52 |
| Sharon K. (Rusing) Roman ............ | 58 |
| Dr. Richard S. Rosler .................. | 55 |
| Carolyn (Magee) Schauble .................... | 63 |
| 1960 | 53 |
| Don Curran ................................. | 53 |
| Sylvia Friede ............................... | 52 |
| Alex Herzog ................................. | 57 |
| Joan (Enders) Morgenstern ............ | 57 |
| 1961 | 60 |
| John Quinlan † .......................... | 58 |
| Rojean Siljeg ................................ | 60 |
| Michael Seubert ......................... | 51 |
| Ted Sivalon .................................. | 57 |
| 1962 | 54 |
| Peter G. Banulis ......................... | 54 |
| Ann M. (Allen) Porter .................. | 52 |
| H. Eugene Quinn .......................... | 52 |
| Donald Bodeau ............................. | 51 |
| The Honorable Richard Schroeder .... | 53 |
| 1963 | 56 |
| Merrillu (Silva) Sloboda ................ | 56 |
| Rosemary (Dellwo) Toft † ............. | 54 |
| 1964 | 55 |
| Norman R. Agostino ..................... | 55 |
| Stephen T. Cavit ......................... | 51 |
| K. Nozaki Ewing .......................... | 51 |
| David R. Shea ............................... | 50 |
| Eugene D. Sloboda ........................ | 56 |
| 1965 | 56 |
| The Honorable Robert J. Doran ....... | 56 |
| Joe J. Schaulbe ............................. | 63 |
| Gerald Shaw ................................. | 56 |
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| Carolyn (Magee) Schauble .................... | 63 |
| 1960 | 53 |
| Don Curran ................................. | 53 |
| Sylvia Friede ............................... | 52 |
| Alex Herzog ................................. | 57 |
| Joan (Enders) Morgenstern ............ | 57 |
Heritage Society

Gonzaga is honored and grateful to have received estate gifts between June 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022 from the following alumni and friends whose legacies have an impact on the following areas:

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Melanie A. Homan ('67) provided a gift from her trust for the Gonzaga in Florence Discretionary Fund/Legacy Fund in honor of her Florence experience.

GENERAL SUPPORT

- Through a provision in his trust, Kevin J. Kenneally ('72) made his ultimate gift in support of the Fr. Donald Davis, S.J., Endowed Scholarship, the Dr. James G. McGivern Engineering Endowed Scholarship and the California Endowed Scholarship.

- An unrestricted gift was made from the late Henry L. Day’s donor-advised fund in support of the Fund for Gonzaga.

- A bequest in support of Gonzaga’s mission was received from Cathy Elting (’58) on behalf of her late husband, Jim, by way of the Elting Family Trust.

- R. Bruce Hankins (’62) made a gift in support of the University’s greatest needs by listing Gonzaga as a beneficiary of his life insurance policy.

- Dolly M. Ito (’51) made an unrestricted gift from her will, which was added to the Fund for Gonzaga.

- Gregory P. Ruff (’81) made his ultimate gift for the benefit of Gonzaga University as a residual beneficiary of his estate.

SCHOLARSHIPS – ENDOWED

- Hilario (Larry) J. Arguinchona made Gonzaga the beneficiary of his IRA for the benefit of the Tony Arguinchona Memorial Endowed Scholarship fund.

- The remainder of a charitable gift annuity established by Robert W. Bratton was added to the Lawrence F. (’27 and ’29), Kathleen Connolly and Aileen Connolly Bratton Scholarship for students with financial need.

- By listing Gonzaga as a beneficiary of his retirement account and life insurance policy, Richard J. DeBlieck made a gift in support of the Richard J. DeBlieck Endowed Scholarship for students majoring in biology and biochemistry.

You are our Heritage. Your Legacy is our future.

For a complete listing of our Heritage Society Honor Roll 2021-22 visit gonzaga.edu/HonorRoll.

We greatly value the accuracy of these lists. Please contact Laura Gatewood, AVP, Donor Relations, with changes: (800) 463-6925 or gatewood@gonzaga.edu.

A Personal Note of Thanks

“I am the youngest child and the first in my family to go to college. I was adopted when I was a baby from Vietnam and have grown up in Montana. Thank you so much for helping me along this journey and showing your support and belief in my future. This means so much, especially since I am the first to go to college and the first of my name to be in the United States. I have worked hard to get where I am, and I am forever grateful for you and your generosity!”

DeLaney Heppner (’23)
Accounting major from Helena, Montana
While traditional college students were away for the season, others made the Gonzaga campus their home for inspiring and challenging weeks of learning this summer. Both the Summer Language Program and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Summer Immersion Program featured Gonzaga faculty and students working with Spokane-area partners to provide attendees increased confidence in their abilities, plus connections to last a lifetime.

Opening Doors with Language

Directed by Associate Professor James Hunter, the language program teaches English to K-12 children and refugees recently displaced from their native countries. Since 1998, GU’s School of Education and Spokane Public Schools have offered this chance for language learners to improve their skills and learn more about American culture. This year, nearly 120 English learners enrolled, representing 15 language/culture groups.

The camp is divided into two parts: morning sessions for undergraduate and graduate Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) students, and afternoon sessions for refugees, often taught by TESL participants. Along with language development, students are able to form connections with one another and staffers through games and activities designed to forge community.

Peya and Nikuze, siblings who have attended for three years, have found confidence and friendships.

“The language program is really good because when you first come here, you don’t know anyone and you feel like you’re the only one who doesn’t know how to speak English,” Nikuze said. “When you come here, you meet new people and make new friends who are on the same level as you, so you are learning together, taking classes, doing fun activities and games you didn’t know existed.”

Peya and Nikuze speak French, Ngala, and now, English. Entering their senior year of high school, they have been learning about college options, application processes and other career-oriented skills to help them succeed after graduation. They both want to attend a local college, and attending the summer program also afforded them the chance to attend a job and college fair, with booths from Gonzaga, Eastern Washington University, Whitworth University and Community Colleges of Spokane.

On the younger levels, STEM-based curricula like Rogue Rodent Mystery and Oceanic Exploration create a fun and engaging environment for students to learn comfortably. Teachers follow the local school curriculum plan so that material is congruent with what students will be learning in school that following year.

September Htoo has been in this program since she first arrived in fifth grade. She stopped coming three years later, once she felt confident enough with her English to focus on other areas. A current student at Eastern Washington University, she applied to be an assistant with the Summer Language Camp, wanting to give back to the program that helped her learn English.

“It connects you with other people in the same situations but with different languages, so you get to see a lot of people that you’ve seen at school before or have never seen before,” Htoo said.

Connections for Life

By Sydney Fluker (’23)

Ally Schmidt (’24) Master in Teaching program, engages with elementary students.
talked to, but you get to curate a bond and community here, which is so awesome,” Htoo said.

From the other side of the program, Htoo helped prepare the classrooms, picked up students from bus stops, helped with random tasks, and interacted with them in a variety of ways.

“It’s building a community that people can rely on and helping them prepare for the school year so they won’t be completely lost in their education,” Htoo said.

Especially for Women in STEM

The School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) held its inaugural SEAS Summer Immersion Program in July, hosting a group of high school women interested in the engineering field. Directed by first-year engineering course coordinator and instructor Kirk Reinkens and created by SEAS Dean Karlene Hoo, the program arranged a variety of activities to expose high school juniors and seniors to engineering and computer science career options.

“We place participants into teams because the world needs teams of different thinkers to solve its complex problems,” Hoo said. “Then they hear from successful female engineers and computer scientists and learn about their career journeys.”

Faculty provided a brief overview of mechanical, electrical, computer and civil engineering; computer science; and engineering management. With the help of SEAS student mentors, who were available to answer questions and provide advice, the young women completed a variety of activities to gain a greater exposure to the field’s possibilities. They also toured local industrial facilities each day, from waste plants to private companies, seeing firsthand use of multiple technologies. During each meal, a professional engineer shared her personal career journey and answered questions.

Emrie Langfeldt (‘24), a mechanical engineering major, was a mentor for participants. She found the experience equally valuable for her own exposure to options in engineering. The tours, she said, were “really helpful for me to see that it’s more than just the calculations and hard sciences.”

Participating as a mentor, Langfeldt says, “helped me engage more with what I actually want to do and what my path down the line may involve.”

Both programs ended with showcasing new skills acquired by the students with their families, leaving the summer with new connections and skills. Learn more:

• Watch a video about the Language Program experience and hear more from high-school participants of SSIP.
• Find out how you can support next year’s summer programs.

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