Hope
Through Lived Experience

"Saint Manoj,
Area Street Improvements, 5
Reaching Out, Giving Back, 4
Linking with Future Zags, 3
“Saint Manoj,” 8

Times are tough. But there is hope.

Yolanda Gallardo, dean of Gonzaga’s School of Education, knows it as well as anyone. She was raised in a predominantly Latinx neighborhood 60 miles north of the Mexican border in Tucson, Arizona, where her family had little and the families of the children her father taught had even less. But she recalls her father always inviting his students and their families to dinner at their house for Thanksgiving and other occasions.

“There were six of us in our modest home with only one tiny bathroom,” Gallardo says. “But there was such a great deal of hope in the way my father and mother lived, in the things they would talk to us about, reminding us to always honor others and never put ourselves ahead of anyone else. In being there with others, we found hope.”

Despite the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic prevented her from seeing her father in his dying hours, Gallardo still recalls the lessons she learned from her father. “Hard things can hurt. But it doesn’t mean they define the lens through which you need to see life. We were pushed to ask tough questions and seek answers around topics that weren’t easy.

When it came to talking about differences or inequalities, there were no excuses. He pushed us to humanize others all of the time,” Gallardo says. For her, hope can also exist in times of despair.

That’s why talking about hope comes easy for her as an educator who spent 12 years in Arizona public schools teaching on the border of Mexico. Gallardo, joining with three other teachers to rally parents, their families and local community members, created a bilingual school for students when Arizona pushed to make English the only language spoken and taught in schools. After earning her doctorate at Kansas State University, she led education studies at both Georgetown College and most recently Berea College, which she calls “one of the most beautiful experiences of my life.”

It is a school where students with great promise from marginalized populations come together, tuition-free, to ask critical questions around systems of inequity and how to challenge those systems. “Students from Berea go on to do incredible things in the world, for others,” Gallardo says. And there is hope because Berea students understand its practice.

The dean spoke to Gonzaga audiences in April about hope at a time when optimism was in short supply. Hope comes in seeing how the lived experiences of others are inextricably linked with our own. “We need to understand how we share things, and how we are different,” she says.

Hope is strengthened when based in community with others. And we’re seeing that today as people around the world unite in responding to COVID-19: sharing responsibility to distance from one another, cheering together from apartment balconies as New York residents do for medical providers every night at 7 p.m.; performing music together virtually; and connecting in so many other creative ways.

These examples give us hope, she says.

“In this moment, we have seen health care workers, educators and many others engage in hope every minute of every day they are on the job. These individuals have to have hope beyond themselves. We’ve also seen how individual struggles are connected to others. Professional identities have been destabilized by layoffs, people wondering, ‘How am I going to reimagine myself professionally?’ Hope comes into play when we can see ourselves in one another – in our pain, our anxiety, our humanity,” Gallardo says.

But out of this plight, “we become aware of our collective weaknesses,” she says. “We’re reflecting about what we value, building solidarity, longing for community, re-examining what we care about in relationship with one another, and taking creative action.

“We’re seeing great collaboration between scientists to help resolve issues, acting in hopeful ways. Normal imperatives, like academic credit, have been set aside,” Gallardo says. “Online repositories make studies available months ahead of journals, as researchers put ego and personal gain aside.”

Out of this blossoms hope.

“Love for others is the ‘why’ behind the hope. We have to have the belief that everyone deserves that love.”

Dean Gallardo learned from her father, Ruben Gallardo, that hope goes much deeper than a simple wish; it must be an enduring practice with and for others. Her father lived hope in his community as an employment office worker, constantly fighting against racial discrimination facing his clients, and as a teacher serving children from low-income communities. His daughter has taken much inspiration from her father – her first teacher on hope as a practice.
President Thayne McCulloh shared memos with our community on April 21 and 27 providing information about Gonzaga’s plans moving forward through this pandemic, including work on re-opening the campus for fall 2020. The memos covered topics including:

- Budget update
- Faculty compensation, promotions and sabbaticals
- Staff/executive compensation and benefits
- Summer programs
- International programs
- Re-opening campus for fall 2020 classes
- Pandemic Management Task Force

To view President McCulloh's recent communications, click: my.gonzaga.edu/campus-resources/offices-services/emergency-preparedness/zagready/coronavirus/announcements-messages

Commencement plans to honor and celebrate Gonzaga’s 2020 graduates with all the deserving pomp and unusual circumstance, are set for Sept. 4-6, contingent upon the status of the pandemic, the safety of our community, as well as state and local restrictions.

Missing our students, President Thayne McCulloh, on behalf of the Zag family, mailed all graduates a congratulatory letter and a care package to make them smile, including: a sticker to give their laptop or water bottle some Zag flair; a Hallett’s chocolate for a comforting taste of Spokane; and a prayer card to aid them now and provide hope for a bright future, among other special items.

Mission & Ministry created a Thank You Seniors video, with congratulatory messages from faculty, staff and fellow students, emailed to all members of the class of 2020. It can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPFjIH8Ize0&t=41s.


The University began honoring seniors with Religious Studies’ Theta Alpha Kappa induction March 25, and will conclude May with its 20th senior honors program, the All Native American Community Celebration...with more to come in September.

Many of Gonzaga’s 35 alumni chapters have pledged to honor Zag graduates in their regions with social posts congratulating seniors from their chapters, #KeepCalmZagOn.

The president established The Tassels Will Turn 2020 Task Force with representatives from across the University. It is charged with engaging graduates throughout the spring and summer, and encouraging employees to celebrate our grads with hashtag #TWT2020 in social media. Other engagement ideas may be sent to Academic Events Manager Angela Ruff at ruff@gonzaga.edu.

President’s View
Moving Forward

Work from Home
– The Lighter Side

People are finding interesting nuances while working from home.

One staff member seems delighted that her alarm goes off at 7:25 a.m. and she’s at her desk by 7:30. Right Carol Bradshaw? Stephanie Plowman found a forgotten six-pack of toilet paper behind a box in her closet and admitted to doing her happy dance.

Jim Simon reports a group of four or five Gonzaga faculty and staff members who are regular noon runners have discovered they can connect on noon outings via Zoom, sharing ‘their’ scenery along their various routes.

One GU employee reminded us that our students are in the same fix as we are. She told about a student who is choosing to stay in her off-campus apartment, rather than returning to her Portland home, as the best way to stay committed to her studies.

“So here she sits, alone, working to complete her junior year, while having no outside contact with others,” says Organizational Leadership’s Sherri Lynch. “She is following all the rules and visiting the grocery store once per week as suggested. For all the things we hear about the younger generation not caring and not practicing social distancing, I can tell you that there are students who are sacrificing so much to keep everyone safe.”

An isolation decree can’t stop GU’s noon runners from sharing their run, at least virtually via Zoom: clockwise from top left, Jim Simon, Luke Lavin, Borre Ulrichsen and Jackie Van Allen.
Finding New, Creative Ways to Connect with Future Zags

Director of Undergraduate Admission Erin Hays and her crew were likely the most creative problem-solvers on campus during April, in a mad dash to convert all personal visits with prospective students and their families to online encounters, including the coveted Gonzaga Experience Live. “But we believe people have been ‘sneaking’ onto campus and wandering around without an ‘official’ visit,” Hays surmises, with a chuckle. The April 18 Virtual GEL went off without a hitch, and drew more than 900 registrants.

“Our biggest concern was technology glitches or Zoom bombing, but we experienced neither,” says Hays, who couldn’t be prouder of her team.

GEL sessions included academic information presentations, programs on transitioning to college, and health and wellness. Prospective students and their families could pop into open houses, ask questions of current students or discuss their impressions with other admitted students. The student panel at the end of the day was resoundingly popular. “They answered a ton of questions from admitted students and their families,” Hays says.

“I’m sad that we couldn’t have seen them and introduced ourselves to everyone who attended online, but we received nice feedback from families, saying the day was fun, and several told us that our GEL was the most comprehensive of those preview days they’ve attended.”

While the Admission crew hustles to stay connected with admitted and other prospective students, the staff in Student Financial Services is doing everything they can to assist in the financial discussion.

“We’re accustomed to having conversations with families about financial hardship, but those conversations have increased significantly in the last two months,” says Sarah Everitt, director of Financial Aid operations. “The longer the uncertainty of our current pandemic continues, the harder those questions get about funding a college education.”

Financial Aid has simplified the process to submit a financial aid appeal, for both prospective, as well as current students. Families can call, email or schedule a virtual appointment with Financial Aid counselors online. The number of online monthly appointments increased from 11 in February to nearly 150 in April. “We’re now averaging 12 appointments a day,” Everitt said on April 21.

The office coordinates aid from federal, state, institutional and outside resources, “to maximize everyone’s award in a fair, compliant way,” Everitt says.

**Reaching Prospective Students Where They Are**

Alumni Relations and the Center for Career and Professional Development have partnered with Admission to introduce ZagsConnect, a database of profiles of student ambassadors and selected alumni for prospective students seeking answers to their questions. For example, a prospective student wishing to major in computer science might message a current student with that major to find out about classes, or an alum working for Microsoft to learn about career possibilities.

A student panel is available daily to talk with prospective students, who can also take a virtual campus tour or connect with other admitted students via ZeeMee to ask such questions as “Who’s doing the Honors Program?” or “Anyone else planning to study pre-med?” Faculty are recorded are online, talking about their classes and areas of interest, allowing prospective students to get to know them.

The University admitted 200 students from the wait list in mid-April so that these individuals could get a financial aid package to compare with other schools. Also, the confirmation deadline was extended from May 1 to June 1, allowing families facing hardships more time to gather information about schools.

“We need to assure families that we are planning to be on campus in the fall, and if directives mandate we continue to educate online, we have contingency plans to do so effectively,” Hays says.

Any handyman, or admission counselor, will tell you:

**“You’ve got to have the right tools”**

All the shuffling, pivoting and heroics performed by the Admission staff in the past two months would have been far more complex had it not been for just the right tool: ZRM, Gonzaga’s new constituent relationship management system.

One aspect of ZRM, Slate, was a particular help when campus visits were discontinued this spring. “Within only a few days we had a twice-daily Virtual Information session built, emailed those whose visits were canceled inviting them to those virtual events, and within the week, we had a fully integrated virtual visit schedule,” says Associate Director Nathan Mannetter. “This would have taken much longer without Slate.”

The ease with which GU can communicate to an exact population has been vastly improved. Registration and communication for Virtual GEL was created within a day; formerly it would have taken a week, Mannetter approximates.

“Without Slate, setting up Virtual GEL would have been much harder, taken much longer, and wouldn’t have been as smooth,” he says, with a deserved sigh.

Here are the folks who made Slate implementation possible: from Undergraduate Admission, Mannetter, Rachelle Hose, Sandra Vance, Anne Thomas; from ITS, Peggy Noble, Vipul Saxena, Lyle Spencer, Darren Owlesley, Kai Uahinui, Kristi Duenas, Colleen Butcher; from Student Financial Services, Sarah Everitt; from Law School Admissions, Sierra Greene, Susan Lee; from Finance, Linda Wilson, Samantha Scott, Joan Perkins.
Zags Reaching Out, Giving Back in Numerous Ways

Not surprising, Gonzaga is reaching out in big and poignant ways, on campus and to the greater community, to assist those most in need. Here are just a few examples:

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Emily Banick with Campus Kitchen and Sodexo’s Pat Clelland and his crew are providing nearly 1,000 meals and over 100 pounds of Gonzaga greenhouse lettuce each week to adults in Northeast Spokane, at John R. Rogers High School and Logan Elementary School. These are meals available to any adult and are distributed alongside the Spokane Public Schools free meals for children and youth. In addition, Clelland sees students receiving take-out meals at the COG using their discretionary swipes for collegemates who might be suffering from food insecurity.

Cura Personalis Case Manager Sean Joy sees this as one of this pandemic’s real issues for some Gonzaga students. CCP and GUEST collaborate to identify solutions related to access to food for students with the highest needs. CCP, in a joint venture with Student Financial Services, sustains an emergency fund that a Gonzaga student can use once during their time at GU, for a $250 gift card to SafeWay.

In addition, Joy tracks free services available in Gonzaga’s major feeder areas, like Portland and the Bay Area, to share with students in need.

Meanwhile, Student Financial Services/Student Accounts’ Nodia Rogers partnered with Cura Personalis’ Nicola Mannetter to send a mailing to 600 Gonzaga students on federal work study who may qualify for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, i.e. food stamps) based on their work-study status. The letter outlined steps for students to see if they qualify for food assistance.

One of Molly Ayers’ Community Engagement’s AmeriCorps volunteers is working at Second Harvest Food Bank to support mobile food banks providing food to families throughout the county. She has been a part of an effort to distribute 5 million pounds of food over the past month. A second AmeriCorps member is supporting meal distribution and delivery to Rogers and Shaw.

Charlie Pepiton and costume designer Kim Heide just finished making 200 facemasks that will be distributed to organizations such as the Arc of Spokane. In addition to supporting food distribution across Northeast Spokane, the Center for Community Engagement is working with campus partners to acquire hygiene items and needed supplies for school and non-profit partners.

While Sodexo donates everything it grows in the Hemmingson greenhouse to the adult meal distribution effort, Banick is readying her Campus Kitchen garden to plant and donate produce to the community, as is Jim Simon with the Sustainability Garden, Ayers says.

Housing and Residence Life Director Jon Wheeler has tirelessly crisscrossed campus in protective gear, packing up essential belongings for students who couldn’t make it back to their residence halls. “He has done this with grace and humility, and never grumbles,” reports his assistant, Jared Payton. “I appreciate his servant’s heart.”

Alumni Relations Regional Chapters Director Drew Rieder has had to pivot on all spring alumni events, including retreats, yoga, happy hours, movie watches and more, making many of these events possible in virtual mode, says Crissy Byers, associate director of alumni events. He has encouraged chapter leaders to connect with the class of 2020 in their regions and keep them connected, and rounded up care package items and information for those students, “while always reminding us that every day is one day closer to the end,” of this calamity, Byers says.

Lending a Green Thumb
Annie Wissmiller, who graduated in December, spent a year-and-a-half working for Sodexo in the hydroponic greenhouse at Hemmingson Center. She recently got a full-time job working for the Spokane Indians Baseball Club, which encourages its employees to volunteer in the community. Her love of gardening without soil drew her back. When the pandemic hit, she asked Sodexo Resident District Manager Pat Clelland if he could use some volunteer help. Never one to turn down a virtually outstretched hand, Clelland welcomed Wissmiller into the ranks of the greenhouse operation. Today she is growing in excess of 100 pounds of lettuce per week with a limited Zag Dining crew, which is being donated to families in Northeast Spokane. She’s also growing 700 tomato plants, which are being given to Logan neighbors so that they can continue to grow their own food. She couldn’t be happier returning to her roots at Gonzaga, with a Sodexo staff that bonds together doing a good service for others. Boss Pat Clelland notes, “Annie is paying it forward and living Gonzaga’s mission for sure.” It’s the Zag Way.
Expect some disruptions from street and bridge work on the east end and south part of campus this summer, pending pandemic limitations.

Hamilton Street from DeSmet to North Foothills Drive will undergo a safety improvement project, including turn signals in all four directions at Mission, Indiana and North Foothills. (Can we say 'hallelujah'?) Hamilton intersections at Sharp and Illinois will have protected left-turn signals for north and southbound traffic. The Hamilton and DeSmet intersection, which currently has a pedestrian-activated rapid flashing beacon, will be upgraded to allow pedestrians to cross on both the north and south sides of the intersection.

Only one Hamilton intersection will be under construction at a time, and completion of the entire project is slated for sometime this fall. During construction at Mission and Hamilton, traffic will reroute to Indiana. At least one lane of traffic in both directions will remain open during most of this construction period.

In the meantime, Spokane Transit’s Central City Line project will build a roundabout at Cincinnati and Sharp to allow better flow of traffic in all directions. This work should begin soon and complete by the time students return in the fall, again, pending pandemic limitations. Cincinnati will close from DeSmet to Sinto, and Sharp from Dakota to Cincinnati.

Finally, construction to replace the Trent Avenue Bridge just east of Hamilton is scheduled to begin soon, with completion expected in November 2022. Traffic is rerouted along Martin Luther King Jr. Way, but the Iron Bridge just north of the Trent Bridge is accessible for walkers and bicyclists.
It didn’t take Manoj Thirupal long to become one of the fellas in the Della Strada Jesuit Community. In fact, Father Max Olivia already is calling him Saint Manoj.

When the pandemic hit, the Jesuits invited the Leadership Studies doctoral student from Chennai, India, to live in a guest room in exchange for technical assistance. Gonzaga was transitioning to distance delivery, and many of the men at Della Strada felt out of their league with Zoom, Blackboard, video creation and editing, and other technology. Father Ken Krall said Manoj saved him, and many of his brother priests in the house.

“My computer skills are very low, and now I have to teach online,” he says. “I teach four days a week. Manoj shows up at my room at 7:45 every morning, helps me navigate Zoom, makes sure my class is launched, then returns about 8:45 and helps me get the recorded version of my class emailed to those students who didn’t make the class.”

“I’m making slow, but positive steps. One morning he didn’t come because he didn’t know I had class, but somehow we got it started,” Fr. Krall says, with a guarded sense of joy in his voice. “We’re making the best of it, but I couldn’t even make the worst of it without Manoj there to help.”

Father Tom Colgan serves a Native American parish on a reservation, and can no longer present Sunday services in person. “I’m teaching him how to set up a Zoom meeting, create video and engage with the Native American community via his YouTube channel,” Manoj says.

“It’s small acts of kindness that make these men happy, and I’m blessed and grateful to have this opportunity to assist the Jesuits,” he says.

Considering his beginnings, it’s a wonder he could find such gratitude in his heart.

He grew up at the bottom of the social ladder in India. The “untouchables,” as they were called, spent their days cleaning up human waste and other sewage from the streets and sewers of Chennai. His mother was steadfast in her determination to see that Manoj was properly educated and helpful to others.

Despite tremendous hardships and devastating family incidents, Manoj earned both business and social work degrees from Jesuit-run Loyola College in Chennai and dreamed of pursuing higher studies in the U.S. In 2014, the Janodayam Social Education Centre, a non-profit organization that helps uplift the Dalits or lowest class people in India, was chosen a finalist for the international humanitarian Opus Award, which Gonzaga hosted. Aaron Danowski, a student of then-Honors Program Director Father Tim Clancy, served on the Opus vetting team and became a friend with Manoj, who was serving Janodayam as a student wing secretary. Danowski, inspired by Manoj’s story and dreams, and with support from Gonzaga, his family and Fr. Clancy’s parish, helped Manoj to begin studies at Gonzaga in 2016.

Fr. Clancy was one of the first to meet Manoj in America. “I still remember Fr. Clancy teaching me how to use a knife and fork. I am learning a lot from him, specifically how to help and love others without conditions.”

Continued on page 7
Manoj earned his master’s degree in Organizational Leadership in 2019 and is pursuing his doctorate in Leadership Studies. To finance his studies, Manoj works as a graduate assistant for both the School of Leadership Studies and the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies, and serves as an assistant to Fr. Clancy, maintaining his program website, “Jesuit Seminar for the Study of Religion and Technology.”

“When he came to live here for a month or two, I recommended to him to make himself indispensable,” Fr. Clancy says. No doubt, mission accomplished.

Yet Manoj is convinced the blessing is his.

“Although all my education is in Jesuit schools, my current living with the Della Strada Jesuit community is unique given this global pandemic and its necessary transitions. I am engaging and learning a lot from Jesuits and reflecting on it every day,” Manoj says.

“I would not have reflected this much if I had not been here and lived with them. Unconditional love, helping mindset, kindness and wisdom – these higher insights are ‘Jesuit.’ I’m just trying to give back for all they have given me. For now, it’s my time and tech assistance; I will do more as I grow. I hope they can be proud in how Jesuit education is molding me as a man; always grateful and willing to help others and give back to the community, country and the world at large.”

Quite simply, Manoj is a high-achieving, multi-tasking, self-made social entrepreneur, who has started a non-profit in Chennai with a friend to provide housing and education for orphans from the Dalit class. He’s receiving support from Fr. Clancy’s parish, among others.

Says Jesuit Chaplain Father Dan Mai: “We thought we were doing him a service by inviting him in, but in fact, he is doing a great service for us.”

It’s a Stitch in Time

Gonzaga’s customer service and custodial staff would never have guessed that “other duties as assigned” would include mask making. “We have sewing machines, borrowed from the Theatre department, set up in our offices, with iron and cutting stations to create masks for the Plant staff to use as they return to campus,” says Plant Manager Julie Ullrich. Their goal is to make two masks for every one of Plant Services’ 144 staff.

Meanwhile, other custodial crew are helping pack personal items for students who are unable to return and collect their things from residence halls. Custodians have packed/stored content for 66 students (420 boxes as of April 28) and shipped 53 boxes for 15 students to locations across the country and to Canada.
Again this spring, Gonzaga’s First Destination Report revealed a success rate nearly 10% higher than the national average for students in the class of 2019, 95.5% of which had secured full- or part-time employment, continued their education, volunteered their service, served in the military or 0.5% who said they were not seeking employment or continuing education. Only 4.5% were still seeking employment or graduate school admission on Dec. 31, 2019.

Spirit asked a few GU experts, “What makes Gonzaga graduates so successful, year after year?”

In the Admitted Student Questionnaire, students that pick Gonzaga tend to list “Career Placement” as a more important factor to their college decision. That says something about the job done by GU’s Center for Career and Professional Development, and the network of Gonzaga alumni who hire Zag grads, says Assistant Admission Director Nathan Mannetter, who administers the ASQ.

CCPD Assistant Vice President Ray Angle thinks “part of the secret sauce” is CCPD’s engagement with students throughout their undergraduate and graduate careers, not just during that final term. “We help students figure out who they are, then to understand the world of work, what’s out there,” he says.

Then the CCPD helps students find the right kind of out-of-class experience to enhance their academic experience, and then ask, “Does this experience validate that this is the right choice for me?”

Gonzaga now has an individual who assists students in making choices and getting info about grad schools, in addition to career counseling.

The Gonzaga Alumni Mentor Program, which is 25 years old, has morphed into Zags Connect, and continues to provide a network of Zags who are happy to talk with other Zags about professions, job particulars and help make industry connections. “Our alums take this seriously and want to help, whether it is participating in Zags Connect, hosting Treks or inviting another Zag to their business,” Angle says.

“People who have left here and done well, help develop that success in other students and alumni,” Angle says.

Max Kwenda, director of institutional research, thinks what makes Gonzaga grads so successful is a cornucopia of things: the high caliber of students we admit (based on entry characteristics), the maturity of our students, and their devotion to service. GU graduates 75% of its students in four years, which is way above the norm. “They are motivated. A vast majority are majoring in professions in high demand – nursing, engineering, business administration, sciences,” Kwenda says.

But the one thing Kwenda cites as perhaps the most distinguishing factor in their success is the influence of Gonzaga’s mission on them. “More than 90 percent of our senior students say they would do Gonzaga again,” he says.

Perhaps mission is a key ingredient in the “special sauce.”

### Around Campus

**Kent Porterfield**, vice president for student development at St. Louis University from 2006-2019 and a senior fellow with the American College Personnel Association, has been named vice provost of Student Affairs, effective July 1.

**Leadership Studies** is launching two new certification programs, a Certificate in Design Thinking (fall 2020) and a Certificate in Servant Leadership (spring 2021). Visit the website [www.gonzaga.edu/school-of-leadership-studies/departments/leadership-training-development](http://www.gonzaga.edu/school-of-leadership-studies/departments/leadership-training-development).

**Corey Kispert** is men’s basketball NCAA Division I-AAA Scholar Athlete of the Year, and **Jenn Wirth** and **Katie Campbell** are members of the women’s NCAA Division I-AAA Scholar Athlete Team.