

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

A student publication of Gonzaga University

MARCH 25, 2021

www.gonzagabulletin.com

VOL. 132 ISSUE 25



The Gonzaga men's basketball team advances to the Sweet 16 for the sixth straight year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NCAA

## Dancing into the Sweet 16

By COLE FORSMAN

The Gonzaga Bulldogs (28-0, 15-0 West Coast Conference) will be moving on to the Sweet 16 after an 87-71 victory over the 8-seeded Oklahoma Sooners (16-12, 9-8 Big 12) Monday afternoon in Indianapolis. Drew Timme powered the Zags throughout, notching a career-high 30 points on 9-for-12 shooting, including 12-

for-14 from the free-throw line.

"I'm just glad the work is paying off," Timme said. "Especially in a close game like that."

The Sooners came out the gate hot from the field as they gained an early advantage led by their star, Austin Reeves. The senior guard scored a quick seven points in the first five minutes while teammate Umoja Gibson knocked

down two 3-pointers. OU made four of its first five shot attempts, including three shots from deep, jumping to a 12-4 over the Zags before the first media timeout.

"[The Sooners] are a difficult guard," GU head coach Mark Few said. "We came out with our Plan A coverage

SEE ZAGS WIN PAGE 7

## Gun violence in America studied by GU professor

By KAYLA FRIEDRICH

Over the past decade, the amount of gun violence happening across the United States has increased at an alarming rate.

It has brought concern to the younger demographic that is now finding this type of violence to be some sort of norm.

Just this past Tuesday, there was a shooting at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado, in which 10 people were killed. This shooting is just one more on the growing list of mass shootings within the United States.

The police killing of George Floyd has created a morbid expectation of the world for young people to grow up with and there's a large push coming from government officials to see the ways young people in communities are affected by gun violence.

Youth and adolescents are known to experience long, subconscious negative effects due to exposure to gun violence at such young ages.

Angela Bruns, criminology and sociology professor at Gonzaga, is researching the types of lasting effects gun violence has on younger people. "In that research I have

sought to better understand the broad reach of the carceral system, or how the impact of incarceration and other forms of punishment extend far beyond those involved in the system to their families," Bruns said. "Although I am new to gun violence research, I approach this work from a similar perspective. This new project is grounded in the notion that in places impacted by violence, not just individuals but whole communities are traumatized."

Bruns hopes to use this research to create an opportunity for young GU students to emerge from this research and find ways to buffer the impact these events have on the surrounding communities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently approved a grant to last through September 2022 for over \$600,000 to go toward research meant to find the correlation between gun violence and the well-being of adolescents.

With an introduction that goes back to graduate school at the University of Washington, Bruns is working with a colleague from University of California Davis, Nicole

Kravitz-Wirtz.

Working with Kravitz-Wirtz to maximize their part of the CDC's grant to determine how adolescents are affected socially, physically and economically after witnessing this violence in their communities.

The divergence of specialties in their respective fields is going to allow the women to cover a wider range of content related to the research.

The controversy on guns and gun violence related issues isn't new by any means but Kravitz-Wirtz has other motivating factors inspiring her involvement in this research.

"Interpersonal community gun violence is a health equity issue," Kravitz-Wirtz said. "Historical and current policies and practices, including restrictive zoning, mandatory minimum sentencing and the racialized criminalization of mental illness and substance abuse, have shaped the underlying conditions that contribute to interpersonal community gun violence."

SEE GUN VIOLENCE PAGE 3



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: picstychiana

Cultural clubs on campus allow students to explore and learn about different heritages.

## Celebrate cultural heritage

By KATE SULLIVAN

Despite the many challenges this year has brought, spring is in the air in Spokane. Campus comes alive as the snow thaws and flowers sprout out of the ground. With a noticeable progression toward in-person interaction, university clubs are feeling the effects of this positive change, and are looking ahead to what the future may hold.

For cultural clubs on campus, spring brings new opportunities to host events and engage with the Gonzaga community. Many events will adopt a hybrid approach, encompassing both in-person and virtual elements.

One such event is the first online adaptation of Barrio Fiesta or Barrio for short. Barrio, which is normally hosted solely by the Filipino-American Student Union (FASU), will now be a livestream collaboration with the Asian-American Union (AAU).

This year's collaborative Barrio will include modern and traditional dance performances, as well as traditional dishes from each cultural club. The event has a working date of April 10 and students can expect more information in the coming weeks.

SEE CULTURAL PAGE 3

## There's an app for that: GU considers media platform

By HANNAH HISLOP

Gonzaga students have to jump through hoops to sign into their accounts with multiple login pages. But what if there was an app for that?

Colleen Vandenboom, assistant dean for student involvement and leadership, had GU students in mind when she

brought the idea of a single sign-on app for students to use that can give them access to all things GU in one location.

"A mobile platform brings all of the apps students are using to one spot," said Vandenboom. "The mobile platform is about bringing Gonzaga support services to the students' palm of their hand."

Vandenboom said she puts herself in

the shoes of new students to imagine what she thinks would help them. A media platform was one idea she came up with.

"So what is exciting for me is that I think about all the time and energy students have to take to know all the resources, and we have spent a lot of money and a lot of programming and planning to bring all these great things for students, but it's

just pretty overwhelming to know what's available," Vandenboom said.

GU student Anna Brown, a junior education major, thinks new students would benefit from the app for multiple reasons.

"I think it would definitely be beneficial

SEE APP PAGE 3

### INDEX

News.....1-3  
Opinion.....4  
Arts & Entertainment.....5-6  
Sports.....7-8

### OPINION

What does gender discrimination look like in the NCAA March Madness tournament?

PAGE 4

### A&E

Bulldog Alley sings: The history behind DJ DeSmet.

PAGE 5

### SPORTS

Tent City is still there to cheer on the Zags, but remix style.

PAGE 9



# Students work to Humanize Spokane

By SYDNEY FLUKER

There is a crisis surrounding homelessness in Spokane, and a group of students is doing something about it.

Humanizing Spokane is a student-led movement dedicated to humanizing those experiencing homelessness and pushing for policy change that would support long-term solutions to homelessness.

The movement was started by Michael Larson, a senior sociology major with minors in leadership studies and solidarity and social justice, when he asked himself what it would take to decrease homelessness in Spokane.

From there, he formed an initial core team that spent hours researching to truly understand what was going on. When asking themselves what they could do about it, ideas for a documentary and a march bloomed.

“The narratives that are told often involve drug use and mental health issues and people who make bad choices that get themselves on the streets,” Larson said. “But what is totally missing from the conversation is the housing crisis that oftentimes is actually the greatest driver in increases in homelessness, at least recently.”

As demand for housing increases in certain areas, rent becomes increasingly expensive which is then followed by evictions, a direct cause of homelessness, according to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. This pattern can be seen in Seattle and other metropolitan cities in past years.

Education about housing issues is one thing lacking from the conversation surrounding homelessness. Humanizing Spokane is advocating for tenant protections, the cancellation of single-family zoning and an increase in public facilities that would provide more clean water, trash disposal sites and restrooms to the homeless population.

Isabelle Picciotti, a senior international relations and religious studies major, is a part of Humanizing Spokane and is in charge of organizing the Humans for Housing March.

“Humanizing Spokane allows every person to do their own thing and really plays upon their strengths,” Picciotti said.

Humanizing Spokane features 19 team members performing different roles within the movement, including community outreach, marketing, organizing the march



CODY BUCKLEY IG: codypb

Michael Larson pioneered the movement in order to address the dehumanization of people experiencing homelessness.

and producing the documentary.

“We are full-time students who are organizing on the side, and we’re going to be able to do something that’s going to be big, and it’s going to be really powerful,” Larson said.

The movement allows students who want to make an impactful change to get organized with one another and put their ideas into actions.

While each team member had a different reason for wanting to join Humanizing Spokane, they share an important common value: a dedication to helping others.

“My most important call is to be a woman for others,” Picciotti said. “So whatever skills, traits and tricks that I have, I want to utilize those in the best way

to serve everyone in my community.”

Even though homelessness is evident throughout Spokane, many Gonzaga students are unaware about how bad the issue truly is. Around Mission Park and the Centennial Trail, only two blocks away from the university, there are about 30 to 40 people who consider it their home, according to Larson.

“For students here, it feels so far removed from us, but this is our own backyard,” Larson said.

Humanizing Spokane is pushing for legislation that will keep people in their homes and change some of the zoning codes in Spokane that will allow for more affordable housing to be built across the city. This will help to decrease rent over time and prevent more people from

becoming homeless.

Larson was the director of the documentary. The documentary tells the stories of a few individuals experiencing homelessness while also interviewing experts who can talk about the deeper systemic issues surrounding homelessness that are often missed in the media. In order to produce it in an ethical manner, they connected with nonprofits and shelters to find people who would be willing to tell their stories.

“You can’t love a group of people that you know little to nothing about,” Larson said. “There’s so many stereotypes and biases that make it really easy to criminalize homeless people, and to hate them, but it’s time for us to start breaking down the stereotypes because it’ll only get worse unless we do something about it.”

The approximately 30-minute documentary will be shown in the Cataldo Globe Room from 8-9 p.m. on March 31.

The Humans for Housing March is scheduled for April 24 in downtown Spokane. More details for both the march and the documentary premiere will be released on the Humanizing Spokane Instagram (@humanizingspokane) and its website, www.humanizingspokane.com.

“We need Gonzaga’s support,” Larson said. “We need students to show up, share the documentary and attend the march.”

In order for Humanizing Spokane to really be successful and be able to make a difference with homelessness in Spokane, they need more than just those on their team to advocate for change.

“We are all Spokanites, and we all have a sense of responsibility to other Spokanites, regardless of where we are in life,” Picciotti said. “If we are men and women for others but only when it best suits our needs, then we’re failing.”

Ways to get involved and help the movement are available on both its Instagram and website. Humanizing Spokane strives to inspire others to show up for the homeless community on a deeper level and see them as more than their situation.

“We are all humans, we all have a stake in this game,” Picciotti said. “Some of us have been dealt better cards than others, but that does not mean that we are any different than the other person.”

Sydney Fluker is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @sydneymluker.

# Parent and Family Relations join forces with First-Year Experience

By LILLIAN PIEL

Two departments on campus, Parent and Family Relations and First-Year Experience Programs, will become one new program called New Students and Family Programs, per Vice Provost for Student Affairs Kent Porterfield’s recent announcement.

The program will be directed by Nicola Mannetter, who was previously the interim director for Parent and Family Relations.

Mannetter said that the two programs were merged into one because the departments were already working closely together and using similar models, but merging them will create a more cohesive welcome to Gonzaga newcomers.

Over the course of the next year, the two areas will move from two offices in Crosby to one, transitioning into the new program and adjusting roles as well, she said.

“We created New Students and Family Programs to kind of bring together the work that folks were doing with parents and families of Gonzaga students and with our new student programs,” Mannetter said.

In her role as director, Mannetter said she will be bringing the two areas together and finding ways for them to work more closely together and have a shared mission and goal. Having one director will create more room for communication and collaboration, Mannetter said.

Mannetter decided to take on this role because it seemed like a good opportunity to be more engaging with families and proactive in her work, she said. She also said that it is an honor to be the person who welcomes new students and families to GU, and she enjoys working with the students who make up the two programs as well.

“One of the biggest draws for me was the students that I get to work with,” Mannetter said. “I think both GUide Core and parent and family core are just such a strong and talented group of students and it is so fun to work with them and it’s so fun to be around them day to day.”



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: picosbychiana

Nicola Mannetter will serve as the director for the New Students and Family Programs.

Matt Lamsma, the dean of student engagement, said via email that New Students and Family Programs was created to better integrate the services of Parent and Family Relations and First Year Experience Programs after the former directors of these areas moved on to other opportunities. Combining parent and family and new student orientation programs is common among other universities, and it seemed like a good fit for GU, Lamsma said.

New Student and Family Programs will be in charge of communication to new students and their families and will be responsible for the programs that the two offices oversaw previously. This includes new student orientation, parent and family orientation and Fall Family Weekend, Lamsma said.

“One of the things we have heard from families, especially around Orientation program content, is ‘does my student get the same information?’,” Lamsma said. “Bringing these areas together should help address this question more clearly.”

From the outside, merging the two offices will not look much different, but there will be more internal changes, said James Fawcett, the program coordinator of Parent and Family Relations.

“It’s really beneficial to have us together, it streamlines communication between the two and as you can imagine, the communication for parents and new students is really kind of one in the same,” Fawcett said.


Porterfield also said that there was already overlap between the two departments, and that merging them will allow them to pull resources together and have staff support both areas.

He said he is hopeful that the creation of New Students and Family Programs will strengthen the academic section of orientation, enhance diversity, equity and inclusion, and introduce students to the university’s mission and values.


The new program will also eventually develop new opportunities to support students in their success at GU, in addition to ensuring consistent communication between the two areas, Lamsma said.

“What we hope is that by bringing these two areas together, we will create more seamless and efficient communication and programming,” Lamsma said.

Lillian Piel is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @lillianpiel.



**Aloha Island Grill is wishing the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams the best of luck during March Madness!**



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**Questions?**

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# CULTURAL

Continued from Page 1

As for FASU’s involvement, it will serve as a “celebration of Filipino-American culture to bring the Filipino-American culture to the Inland Northwest,” said FASU President Miguel Galendez.

In addition to the April 10 festival, FASU has successfully hosted a virtual silent disco, a Halloween movie night, a Chipotle fundraiser and has plans to put on a social tie-dyeing event soon. The club has ambitions of combining both social events and fundraising efforts, as the treasurer has high hopes for fundraisers this academic year, said Galendez.

In regards to having clubs on campus dedicated to cultural identity, Galendez feels adamant about the benefits of having spaces to talk about this and build community as a result.

“It’s important to tap into and understand our heritage... It’s for getting a better understanding of our identity as Filipino-Americans,” Galendez said.

Additionally, FASU hopes to clarify that the club is not exclusively for Filipino-Americans.

“We have other students from different backgrounds. We also include these students in our discussions about identity and how to understand it and learn to appreciate more where we come from,” said Galendez.

Intersectionality is also on the minds of FASU and other clubs. It is a topic that comes up regularly at meetings, and members pose questions about not only how they are personally affected by issues surrounding the Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community, but also how they can help others who are affected.

Galendez encourages students with an interest in participating in FASU to attend a club meeting, regardless of their background.

AAU President Lani Tu Va Abrams is also enthusiastic about growing AAU. Abrams encourages any with interest, regardless of background, to attend meetings and events.

“Come to meetings! Go to our joint festival, [buy] food and tickets, attend fundraisers and have hard conversations,” said Abrams via email.

In addition to the collaborative festival between AAU and FASU, there are also talks of an end-of-year celebration hosted by AAU, La Raza Latina and the Black Student Union.

Attending AAU has specifically helped Abrams learn about her Asian heritage in a safe and accurate way, she said. Abrams adds that it is important for cultural clubs to provide a safe space for students of color to hold conversations they otherwise may not feel comfortable having elsewhere.

One issue AAU has been zeroing in on as a result of COVID-19 is the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes. Next month, AAU will be working alongside Diversity Inclusion Community and Equity, Office of Health Promotions and the Center for Cura Personalis to host an event on this topic, which will be held on April 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Abrams hopes this event will inspire not only concern, but action as well.

“[It is about] being open to listening and then taking away from that and standing in solidarity with us,” said Abrams.

Information about the collaborative festival between FASU and AAU can be



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: @picsbychiana

Spring is a busy time for most cultural clubs, but this year those events, like last year’s ISU festival pictured above, will take on new formats.

found on both club’s Instagram pages, which are @gu\_fasu and @gonzaga.aau, respectively.

For the Gonzaga International Student Union (ISU), a shared identity looks like vast cultural diversity. ISU, who would ordinarily be hosting their annual banquet, will now be creating care packages with international snacks popular in student’s home countries, t-shirts and other swag. The packages will be for sale in Hemmingson Center between March 25-26.

The club, which has about 30 active members, tackles topics such as homesickness and culture shock. After the Black Student Union Zoom bombing in November, ISU invited a Campus Security employee to speak at a meeting, said ISU President, Leire Corrales.

“We welcome everyone to join [and] have had many students in the past who are International Studies majors or have been abroad and want to meet people from the country they have been to,” said Corrales.

To become involved with ISU, students can connect with them on Zagtivities or via Instagram at @isu\_gonzaga.

Another club working to help students navigate culture shock and homesickness is the Hawaii Pacific Islanders Club (HPIC). Although not all members are from the South Pacific, many are, and HPIC President, Kaila Okubo said the transition to Spokane is a major adjustment.

“Having people who recognize what you’re going through and can support you is so important,” said Okubo.

This semester for HPIC will closely resemble fall, with virtual meetings and events, though they may be participating in a multicultural event later in the spring.

At the beginning of the academic year, HPIC hosted their annual “Welcome Back” barbecue, which is a primary way to involve incoming freshman and introduce them to current members.

Okubo credits food as a major function of culture, especially for Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.

“Food from home creates a ‘home away from home’ community,” said Okubo.

Sharing Spam musubis and catering events with cuisine from the Aloha Island Grill are some of the ways HPIC involves this aspect of culture, which Okubo says is distinct to Hawaii.

In addition to exploring Spokane’s Hawaiian food scene, HPIC also enjoys regularly making and sharing meals together.

“Cooking together is a bonding activity; the food we miss from home is not as readily available up here,” said Okubo.

Another way HPIC shares islander culture with each other and the greater Spokane community is through their annual luau.

“[At luaus] we can show a really small glimpse of what being from Hawaii and the Pacific Islands is,” said Okubo.

Though the HPIC luau is not taking place this spring, Zags can support the club in a number of ways. The best way to contribute to HPIC’s success is to show respect for the culture, educate oneself on cultural appropriation, be an ally and show up, Okubo said.

To keep up with all things HPIC, students can visit their Instagram page at @gonzaga\_hplic.

Several cultural clubs, such as Latino/a Law Student Association (LLSA) in the GU School of Law, are finding ways to support each other and couple this camaraderie with professional development.

Having a community on campus that shares one’s cultural identity is “one of the most important parts of being a successful law student,” said LLSA President, Dalia Pedro Trujillo. There are 20 active members who comprise LLSA.

A big event of theirs this spring will be a graduation celebration for third-year law students.

Graduating law school is a huge accomplishment and it is important to set

a precedent to celebrate it with the Latinx community, said Pedro Trujillo.

The details of the event are still in a workshopping phase, but Pedro Trujillo is collaborating with the rest of the LLSA’s board members, as well as helping third-year law students transition to graduation, and finding student speakers to share insight with club members.

“Our vice president, Hisrael Carranza has a podcast-style program called ‘A Convo with Izzy,’ which is all about bringing new perspectives in,” said Pedro Trujillo.

The interviewees featured in “A Convo with Izzy,” have included Immigration Attorney Alexandra Lozano, Antonio Reza, a law student and formerly incarcerated advocate and Leah Wilborn-Neese, the social justice chair for the Gonzaga Student Body Association.

Earlier this year, LLSA worked together to organize a Dia De Los Muertos ofrenda honoring victims of police brutality.

In November, LLSA co-hosted a Zoom event titled “DACA; What Lies Ahead.” The DACA event (which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), featured Luis Cortes-Romero, a member of the legal team who took this year’s DACA case to the Supreme Court.

In terms of professional development, Pedro Trujillo notes that it’s important to provide avenues of support for Latinx law students.

“Often we don’t know what we don’t know. I didn’t know about networking when I got here,” said Pedro Trujillo.

Having a place that is dedicated to answering such questions in a compassionate environment is especially important for Latinx law students, many of whom are also first-generation law students, Pedro Trujillo said.

The organization also emphasizes giving back and encouraging leadership.

“It’s an amazing place to be a leader. We have titles and whatnot, but it’s all about us working together. We all had to believe in something and I think we all believe in LLSA,” said Pedro Trujillo.

Not only is it important to open doors for minority students, but it is equally important to keep them open. LLSA wants to ensure that graduated students who are now working in law sustain relationships with current law students, and vice versa.

“We want to build community and stay connected... If someone else has done it, it’s so much easier for you to do it too,” said Pedro Trujillo.

There are many ways to support what LLSA is doing at GU, but Pedro Trujillo highlights just a few, including, “following social media channels, spreading the word about events, being engaged in the issues we bring up, [engaging] with us in conversations; that’s how we all grow and get better as people. Don’t be afraid to ask questions.”

COVID-19 has changed many day-to-day aspects of life, but not the ability to learn and ask questions. This semester provides many opportunities to learn about cultures in a constructive and respectful way. For more information regarding specific events, visit Zagtivities or the Upcoming Events page at gonzaga.edu.

Kate Sullivan is a staff writer.

# APP

Continued from Page 1



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: picsbychiana

Thus far, the proposal for the app has been presented to the Project Review Committee and awaits approval.

for future GU students because it would be a tool to help new students learn how to navigate all the GU academic portals,” Brown said. “It could also provide information to help students navigate their way through extracurriculars and campus activities.”

The idea came after Vandenboom did research and found that many universities have apps to help streamline the process for their students to access their accounts, events, employee information and resources on campus.

“Most universities have an app,” Vandenboom said.

She pulled inspiration from the other university apps to create an idea of what the GU app would look like.

“For example, Zagtivities has an app, IMLeagues has an external app, banners, Zagweb, Sodexo has an app and in theory we could have a Gonzaga student who has 30 apps on their phone or going to the GU website, but instead of people spread out everywhere, a mobile platform brings all of those together, so you click your student app and then you would be able to

log on with single sign on and it would pull up all your information,” Vandenboom said.

Smartphones have become a necessity of day-to-day life, as college students have access to the internet within a matter of seconds. This was part of the research that Vandenboom needed to help develop the GU app.

“We know, and research is telling us, that students are checking their emails about every six and a half hours and they are checking their push notifications about every 15 minutes,” she said. “So what is exciting about a mobile app is the push notification ability and the geolocation.”

Geolocation is a tracking system that would let the media platform know when a student is passing certain buildings on campus.

For example, when passing the Health and Counseling Services building, the app would alert students of programs available to them. Or when a GU student walks into the Hemmingson Center, they could be alerted of events happening on campus.

“I think this [geolocation within the app] could be cool for things like the COG, the gym or games. Such as what food is available and capacity,” said Matthew Loutsis, a sophomore accounting major. “Sort of like a snap map type of thing, or the capacity meter that Planet Fitness has to see how many people are there which is nice to know how busy it is before you get there.”

Isabell Simpson, a freshman accounting major, echoed a similar sentiment.

“It would be nice if the app could include RFC reservations and updates on certain classes and events going on in the fitness center.”

The process for the app to be developed has to go through different steps. Vandenboom said they have received the initial go ahead and presented it to the cabinet called the Project Review Committee (PRC), the PRC is made up of faculty and staff. If the cabinet approves then they start looking at vendors, app engineers and what students want in the app.

Vandenboom hopes to have the app approved by May so she can start to find a company to build the media platform for students.

The app initially will be available for students and eventually be a hub for faculty and staff. GU alumni have their own app already.

If students want to give their input on features for the app, suggestions or concerns, they can connect with Vandenboom via email: vandenboom@gonzaga.edu.

Hannah Hislop is a news editor. Follow her on Twitter: @hannahhislop.

# GUN VIOLENCE

Continued from Page 1

The experience of any kind of violence, whether it be first hand or knowing that a violent event occurred in a young person’s hometown is the instigator for the creation of a disruptive environment which can lead children to other trials and tribulations further down the road.

Wirtz said that this leads to the segregation of many people and communities excluding them from the opportunity to experience their full potential for health, safety and well-being.

This research is going to cover a variety of statistics to allow Bruns and Kravitz-Wirtz to reach their goal in trying to combat the effects of gun violence.

“Our data will allow for the first detailed, nationally representative estimates of young people’s exposure to community gun violence and a more definitive assessment of the impacts of community gun violence exposure on a wide range of social-emotional health and behavioral outcomes that have been associated in past research with subsequent social and health problems,” Kravitz-Wirtz said.

Kayla Friedrich is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @friedrich\_kayla.

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This new project is grounded in the notion that in places impacted by violence, not just individuals but whole communities are traumatized.

Angela Brun, GU criminology and sociology professor



# Letter to the editor: GU must support LGBTQ community

On Monday, Pope Francis issued a statement on LGBTQ marriage in the Catholic Church. The Church had the opportunity to unify its lay-people on a stance of acceptance and love, but instead chose a position of division.

The Pope stated that gay marriage is a sin, and that gay marriage will not be blessed or recognized within the Church.

As a Catholic Institution, Gonzaga has traditionally been more conservative on certain areas than other schools and will likely follow the church's decree on this stance.

While I understand that the administration of this university cannot directly oppose the Vatican, I do believe that GU has the obligation to protect each and every one of its students, regardless of sexual orientation. Likely, the LGBTQ members of this campus community are feeling marginalized and discouraged by Pope Francis' announcement right now.

Traditionally, GU as an institution has been largely hypocritical in its support of LGBTQ students and staff.



By **ABBY WALKER**

Pope Francis' statement which has undoubtedly left the LGBTQ population on campus feeling distressed and unsupported.

Cura Personalis and the Jesuit Mission that GU loves to tout does not have an asterisk at the end that says "unless

While it has made steps forward with the Lincoln Center and by requiring sensitivity training for certain positions, it has also made the Queer Student Union jump through hoops that other clubs have not.

It has been reluctant in exploring gender-inclusive housing in residence halls. And, as of the day that I write this, the administration has yet to issue a response to

they are queer."

As an institution committed to social justice, GU must do more now than ever to support all of its students and staff. The administration must make a statement in support of the LGBTQ community on campus, but more than that, they must make a commitment to rise above the performative activism that the administration so loves to display and make actual, concrete efforts to promote the well-being of the queer community.

This means better funding for QSU and the Lincoln Center. This means efforts to connect LGBTQ students to resources. This means providing queer therapists at Health and Counseling Services. This means showing the LGBTQ community that, while GU can't oppose the Pope, the school is still committed to protecting and uplifting them.

Please, GU, do not fail these people yet again.

*Abby Walker is a senior nursing student at Gonzaga University.*

## NCAA fouled over men's vs women's March Madness facilities

March Madness is the prime time of year to witness the best of the best in college basketball. It is also, apparently, when we get to see the most blatant sexist inequities that exist between men's and women's college basketball, especially within their 'bubble' environments that are unique to this year's tournaments.

On March 18, University of Oregon redshirt sophomore forward Sedona Prince shared a video on TikTok that showed just how different the amenities are for the men's tournament in Indianapolis versus the women's tournament in San Antonio.

To say the video made me frustrated would be the definition of an understatement. The tiny weights arranged in their minuscule stack in San Antonio versus the fully-stocked giant weight room in Indianapolis is clear evidence that the NCAA is not nearly as invested in the women's tournament facilities than the men's.

The video went viral on plenty of social media platforms, prompting the NCAA to try and come up with an excuse for their inappropriate behavior. The best they could muster at first was that the discrepancies stemmed from an issue with inadequate space in San Antonio.

Price's video shows clearly, though, that the San Antonio training area had the available space but just not an organization willing to put in the effort to fill it.

Since then, other coaches

and athletes have chimed in, bringing to light the differences in COVID-19 testing protocols and the quality of food provided in the respective tournament bubbles. The weight room is just one bullet on a list of aspects in which female athletes are being mistreated, and that's only at the collegiate level.

Buckling under pressure, the NCAA issued another response. The organization set up a new and improved weight room and addressed the issues of food quality with a shockingly quick turnaround.

The NCAA's response is adorable at best, and an obvious show of ignorance and planned harm at worst. The fact that it was able to pull together a weight room so quickly and get things all squared away very early on in the tournament is telling of just how little the organization prioritized the female athletes' well-being.

There would have been nothing to fix if the NCAA had just provided the same resources in the women's bubble as they did for the men's. They obviously had these resources from the get-go.

We absolutely should be outraged at the NCAA and use the momentum to keep demanding more for women's sports across the board. We cannot forget about the blatant sexism simply because there is a new weight room now.

I know we get tired of this analogy, but the organization's response is the classic band-aid



By **DAGNY ALBANO**

solution to the severely problematic issue of sexism in athletics. The new weight room is by no means a solution to the problem of the chronic discrepancies between men's and women's sports.

Testing, exercise equipment and food are all critical aspects of physical and mental well-being, and the NCAA has proven that they do not value those for women as much as they do for men.

I have to say that I admire Price's response to the new weight room, which was overwhelmingly positive. She praised the NCAA for listening and is excited to get on with the tournament.

But the fight for equality in women's sports is so far from over. Although the women's teams will be better served throughout the 2021 tournament, the NCAA's damage has been done and I am really hopeful that it will make long-term changes to better support women's sports.

What will it take so that female athletes don't have to resort to exposing and embarrassing the NCAA before they get the amenities we all know they deserve? What can we do to change how the world views women's sports?

As outraged as I am about this year's tournament bubbles, I am equally unsurprised. It is a well-established fact that plenty of disparities exist between women's and men's sports, not only at the collegiate level, but at a professional level as well.

It is just disappointing that while time progresses, organizations like the NCAA do not.

Additionally, the irony is not lost on me that this was the season many teams on both the men's and women's side decided to play for equality this season. Social justice movements have fueled this season for many teams across the country, which I think makes this situation even more disappointing.

I know plenty of Zags are upset about this scenario, but there are so many ways in which we don't give women's sports the respect that they deserve on our own campus. We can use our anger and disappointment toward how the NCAA handled this year's tournament and advocate more for women's sports here in Spokane.

For example, how many consecutive years does our women's basketball team have

to be nationally ranked before we build up a consistently full student section at every home game?

How long before we have a tent city for a women's game?

Lastly, while I am angry and believe we should continue to push for eradicating the huge discrepancies between men's and women's sports, as the tournament keeps going we are doing more harm than good by continuing to have our focus be about the weight room. At least for now.

This fight is far from over, but for now let's focus on actually watching the games that are happening in San Antonio. Let's truly support women's athletics and bring that same energy that we bring when we watch the men's tournament.

So, read this and get mad. Stay mad. I know I will. But still direct your focus to the phenomenal level that so many women's college basketball teams are playing at right now.

We have a lifetime to roast the NCAA, but only a few more weeks of watching high-quality basketball this year.

*Dagny Albano is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @dagny\_albano.*

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## ZIP over to off-campus housing

Moving off campus is one of the biggest upgrades from being an underclassman to an upperclassman here at Gonzaga. More freedom, more personal space and more opportunities all come with living off campus.

However, it is important to note that with more freedom comes more responsibility and, as an undergraduate GU student, finding off-campus housing may seem like a nightmare.

In some cases, it is even necessary to sign a lease for a house well in advance of living in it.

For example, I signed a lease for my house in May of my freshman year, over a year before our lease started.

The entire system of stress and anticipation that usually involves finally moving off campus is problematic.

When leases begin to be signed, it seems almost like a popularity contest on who found a house, who is living with whom, and who will be forced to stay on campus.

Finding somewhere to live a year in advance should not feel like a race against the clock with landlords who do not answer phones, and trying to sign the lease before another group slides into the vacancy.

On top of that, there is no guarantee that the groups that sign the lease will even be friends in another year.

While there are a few options to live in apartments, many off-campus residences are houses in the Logan Neighborhood. Most of the student leases for these houses start on June 1 and last around a year.

As the leases start on June 1, there is the awkward period between the end of spring semester until the start of the lease.

Although, once these



By **GEORGIA COSOLA**

leases do start, students must make the difficult decision about whether to find a subletter for the summer or stay in Spokane to partake in the famous "SpoSum."

While the argument for a SpoSum is an entirely different matter, I still think there is an added benefit of moving into off-campus housing early and getting adjusted weeks or months before classes start.

Since these off-campus houses are independent from the university, it is often the duty of the student to find furniture for their new room.

While ideally the previous resident of the room would sell the furniture to the next resident, there is no promise of even having a bed the first night in the house.

In my experience, I arrived to my house with no furniture and only my meager dorm room belongings that were being held in a storage unit. As a result of this, it took many thrift store and Target trips to finally have enough furniture to feel at home.

I recommend that new off-campus residents bring any extra furniture they have from their parents' house or ask around if any newly graduated students are selling their furniture. Facebook Marketplace is always a reliable option.

On the other hand, if a student chooses not to live in Spokane

at the start of their lease in the summer, the best bet would be to get a subletter for the newly empty room.

However, not being in the house always runs the risk of paying for an empty room if a subletter cannot be found.

Even though this extra payment may seem like a burden, off-campus housing is relatively less expensive than living on campus when considering the amount of time in the residence.

For example, the price of living on campus for one semester is slightly more expensive than living off campus for six-months so there is more bang for your buck time-wise.

While in a perfect world those extra three months of rent payment would be covered by a subletter, I still think it is worth moving off-campus and potentially saving money.

As a tip, subletters can often be found in off-campus housing Facebook groups or through friends.

Also, even though it is usually more expensive, some apartments around campus are available for rent for the academic year.

Considering all the different factors, I would recommend that rising juniors spend the summer in their new residence if they are able to find a job or other summer activities.

Summer in Spokane is well worth the extra few months of rent and if you have the chance to experience it, there is no reason not to.

*Georgia Cosola is a staff writer.*



# Pulling back the curtain: The mysterious history of DJ DeSmet

By JULIETTE CAREY

DJ DeSmet's music first boomed from old radios perched on the windowsills of DeSmet Hall. The old radios transitioned into a mashup of old speakers from Value Village, which morphed into speakers with names like Audioengine A5 Plus. Regardless of the device or the year, volume was always full blast.

To the passersby on Bulldog Alley, the tradition of DJ DeSmet appears to be a well established role that is competitive to get. But in reality, it's a laid back tradition which floated into popularity from guys who loved blasting music for the masses.

Its history is a best kept secret on campus, unknown even to those who've held the position. Although the tradition of blasting music from DeSmet Hall has always existed in some capacity since speakers were accessible, the origin of the term DJ DeSmet remains a mystery.

Andrew Shields, who attended Gonzaga from 1991-1996, lived on the third floor of DeSmet in the classic DJ DeSmet room, number 316, which he recognized from The Gonzaga Bulletin's latest DJ feature.

"Music always played but was democratized and pretty ubiquitous," Shields said in a text.

Although there wasn't an established DJ DeSmet tradition when Shields attended GU, he recalled the closest comparison to the tradition.

"During the week of finals, daylong recordings of Bing's 'White Christmas' either played from the roof of the COG or Crosby," Shields said.

Before the John J. Hemmingson Center was built, Crosby was the student center and social hub. With most foot traffic leading to Crosby, DeSmet was positioned as a prominent building on campus.

Similar to Shield's recollection, the title "DJ DeSmet" wasn't in use when Chaplain of DeSmet Hall, Fr. Bryan Pham, class of 1999, attended GU in the 1990s. Blasting music for campus to hear was impromptu.

"There wasn't a designated room in DeSmet Hall where DJ DeSmet resided," Pham said in an email. "Usually, it was a resident or two on either the third or fourth floor. Sometimes, it would be someone blasting music on the side of College Hall (formerly known as the Admin Building); other times, the music would come from the side of Welch Hall."

Pham recalls times where student groups were painting the iconic wall and wanted some tunes to accompany them. It was common for someone in DeSmet to volunteer to turn on his radio full blast facing outward to keep them entertained.

"The radio stations in Spokane weren't all



The view from DeSmet room 316, the annual home of DJ DeSmet.

“I think the work of DJ DeSmet is really a form of music ministry that benefits campus a great deal.”

Fr. Bryan Pham, GU Class of 1999

that reliable to play hit music that students liked so that meant the person playing the music from DeSmet would have to burn his own CDs," Pham said. "He would have to regularly replace his playlists or turn the cassette tapes over and it was arduous work."

Former DeSmet resident Connor Flanagan graduated in 2013. He lived in room 306 and noticed individuals were playing music all over, especially in the dorm's corner rooms.

"My roommate Robbie had a nice sound system set up and we'd kind of seen people do it before but we made it out to be a ritual where whoever got home from class first would open up the windows and start playing music," Flanagan said.

The term "DJ DeSmet" didn't arrive due to specific DeSmet residents claiming and

creating the title for themselves, rather it was a campus nickname that snowballed into a universally recognized term on campus. The words DJ DeSmet were a campus consensus that stuck. Chatter in Bulldog Alley about the dudes behind the speakers morphed into a powerful label.

"I think it's one of those things that just naturally developed into an unwritten rule," said Reilly Roach, class of 2017 and the third in his immediate family to live in DeSmet. "The dynamic has definitely changed since I was there because of how the dynamic at Crosby has changed."

The history of the tradition remains muddled and not well documented.

"Basically, everything I heard was just kind of urban legend type stuff but nothing substantial," said Jeff Varness, class of 2019 and DJ DeSmet from 2016-17.

The recent selection process has been a mixture of luck and group consensus.

"There wasn't a formal selection process, but we all talked as a freshman group to decide who we really wanted to be DJ DeSmet," said Peter Larson, DJ DeSmet from 2018-2019, class of 2021. "It's an informal thing, but my roommate also got the best room selection time, which really helped."

To secure the role of DJ DeSmet, room location is key. Formerly, the room shuffled between various locations on the third floor. In recent years, the classic "DJ DeSmet" room has been 316.

"The specific room for DJ DeSmet remains empty, pending a process of selection for two DeSmet students to occupy that particular room," said Dennis Colestock,

senior director in the Department of Housing and Residence Life, over email.

The informal recruitment and selection process came about as the notoriety of DJ DeSmet grew.

"Within DeSmet, DJ DeSmet is really an informal leadership role and part of the culture of the building, so we encourage the men of DeSmet to pass along the responsibility very intentionally," said Jimmy Beh, East-Central Block residence director, in an email.

The set list of DJ DeSmet consists of a careful balance between what the DJs want to play and what they think people would like to hear. Griffin Koerner, class of 2020 and DJ DeSmet from 2017-2018, even put out a survey for people to request songs when he was DJ. You can listen to the master playlist from his time as DJ DeSmet on Spotify on his playlist called "dj desmet"

In addition to the admiration and opportunity this role provides students, camaraderie between DJs is another bonus.

"You know who the DJ was before and after you," Varness said. "It's not like texting each other every day, but you say what's up. That's kind of how the DeSmet vibe is where you know almost everyone in the building."

Past and present DJ DeSmets share the bond of wanting to improve the GU community's day and mood through music.

"All we really wanted people to do was have some fun background music while they were walking to class or for the people hanging out on that field by Herak and Crosby," said Chase Wiper, class of 2017 and 2014 DJ DeSmet. "Our goal was to put people in a good mood as they were heading toward the weekend. Honestly, I had no idea DJ DeSmet is still a thing, and that makes me so happy."

Some DJs had specific songs they would routinely play for certain events.

"I would be in the room during the running for tent city and I would play Sabotage by the Beastie Boys right before they announced the tweet," Koerner said.

The impact and energy DJ DeSmet brings to campus is unparalleled.

"I think the work of DJ DeSmet is really a form of music ministry that benefits campus a great deal," Pham said. "Imagine walking across campus to your own sound track and just when you thought you had bad day, by chance, your favorite tune comes on courtesy of DJ DeSmet. Your day just got a little brighter and more manageable. You feel the spring in your steps, and you once again feel like you can face the cruel world with courage and finesse."

Juliette Carey is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @jujcray.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 28, 2021

ACROSS

1 Scout's award

6 Nimble

11 "But is it \_\_\_?"

14 Filled with farmland

15 Polite denial

16 Baby's stereotypical first syllable

17 "The Dolomites and others

19 Do some sums

20 May honoree

21 Ballot caster

22 Org. concerned with workplace injuries

23 "Do styled with a pick

26 Bothers big-time

28 "Baseball, in the U.S.

33 Dior dress style

34 Heart-pumping workout, slangily

35 You may pick it up when you're in a hurry

36 Crest holders?

37 Minute "Tropical Punch"

41 Not mono, maybe

43 Lake on the California-Nevada border

44 "They, for example

48 "Murder on the Express"

49 Where to buy a Spider-Man costume on the web

50 Falls behind

51 Malia's sister

55 Wrestling surface

58 Volcanic output

59 "Just in case"

60 "The Dolomites and others

61 Do some sums

62 Ballot caster

63 Org. concerned with workplace injuries

64 "Do styled with a pick

66 Bothers big-time

68 "Baseball, in the U.S.

73 Dior dress style

74 Heart-pumping workout, slangily

75 You may pick it up when you're in a hurry

76 Crest holders?

77 Minute "Tropical Punch"

81 Not mono, maybe

83 Lake on the California-Nevada border

84 "They, for example

88 "Murder on the Express"

11 Tennis gold medalist

12 Hillary \_\_\_

13 Clinton

18 Up till now

18 Stratford's river

22 They help people get a leg up

24 Handles skillfully

25 Fish eggs

27 "\_\_\_ see it \_\_\_"

28 Catch some z's

29 \_\_\_ carte

30 Luxury

31 Honda brand

32 Record company

32 Before surgery, for short

36 Large outdoor event for shoppers

38 Greeting called from the deck

39 Debtor's letters

40 Cozy retreat

42 About 907 kilograms

43 Rug rat

44 Where zlotys are spent

45 What a crossword solver may need

46 Southpaw's opposite

47 Collect the crops

52 Beneficial berry

53 Body covering

54 Do damage to

56 Feed the kitty, in poker

57 Anastasia

59 Romanov's father, for one

59 Texter's closest pal

60 Bed clothes

61 Venus' do-over

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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3/28

Changes of Strategy by Debbie Ellerin

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

		3			8			9
	1				4		8	
	8			7		5		
		4	7					6
9				5				1
7					2	4		
		5		3			2	
	3		2				6	
6			1			3		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Today's puzzle solution

9	4	8	7	8	1	2	6	9
8	9	6	9	4	2	7	8	1
7	2	1	9	3	6	9	4	8
3	6	4	2	9	8	1	9	7
1	7	2	8	9	4	7	8	9
9	9	8	6	1	7	4	2	3
4	8	9	1	7	9	6	8	2
2	8	7	4	6	8	9	1	9
6	1	9	8	2	9	3	7	4



# Anything but ordinary: GU Chamber Chorus gives powerful performance

By ALEXANDER PREVOST

After two years of preparation, the Gonzaga University Chamber Chorus held a live streamed concert performing “Considering Matthew Shepard” on Sunday, March 22 in the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center.

Originally, this production was scheduled for spring 2020, however, due to the start of the coronavirus pandemic, it was pushed back to this year.

“It was, you know, our spring break and we’re just about ready to perform, we would have come back from spring break and then we would have had our production week and then we would have performed it but obviously with COVID [that didn’t happen],” said Karlee Ludwig, a junior soprano in the ensemble.

“Considering Matthew Shepard” is an oratorio — a musical composition that utilizes solo voices, orchestration, a vocal ensemble and narration to tell a story. In this case, it tells the story of the hate crime against Matthew Shepard, an openly gay college student who was murdered in Wyoming in October 1998. It was composed by Craig Hella Johnson, originally performed by his vocal ensemble Conspire in 2016.

The original studio recording was nominated for a Grammy.

GU’s Chamber Chorus partnered with Spokane Kantorei to perform the vocal pieces. Spokane-based, all-inclusive choir Spectrum Singers, also collaborated with the two ensembles performing spoken, virtual narrations.

Sunday’s performance began with an opening welcome message from conductor and choral director Timothy Westerhaus, calling viewers to empathy and action.

“We ask you to be open to hearing this story,” Westerhaus said. “All of us who are watching and performing come from a wide variety of beliefs. We invite you to embody a spirit of openness, of deep listening, of setting aside any external discord, and to consider the humanity of each person involved in this story.”

The performance opened with three pieces in “The Prologue” movement. Each one set the scene for the story ahead. “Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass,” grounded listeners in the vivid fields of Wyoming, Shepard’s home. Its following piece, “Ordinary Boy,” chronicled the thoughts and life of Shepard before his death, showing his profound relatability to all.

“Considering Matthew Shepard’s” second movement, titled “The Passion,” details his murder and different perspectives during the fallout. Such perspectives included his murderers, Shepard himself, protesters at his funeral and the fence where Shepard was tied to and tortured on before his death. Many of the perspectives were given as solo performances.

“That part is very challenging to sing because there are some moments where we assume, or we as singers, have to take a role and sing words that we would never want to sing,” Ludwig said. “We tell a part of the story [about] the Westboro Baptist Church, protesters who protested outside of Matthew’s funeral, and some of those really

hateful and horrific things that they said, but that still is a very essential part of the story.”

The final movement, “The Epilogue,” closed on a hopeful note, calling listeners to action.

“My favorite moment in the performance is the final movement, ‘All of Us,’” said sophomore alto Natalie Massadorf via email. “I think it’s a beautiful call for unity and compassion amongst us all. The message of hope is the perfect way to close out the piece, and calls listeners to reflect upon the impact and importance of Matt’s story.”

GU Chamber Chorus and Spokane Kantorei’s concert delivered a powerful, emotional story about an ordinary boy. Individuals can rewatch the performance on the Chamber Chorus’ YouTube page. The program is linked in the video description. Viewers can check it out for lyrics, credits and recommendations on LGBTQ organizations to get involved with.

“I’ll speak for myself and say that I was moved to tears many times feeling the outpouring of love, warmth and heart-felt story telling from all of those on stage,” said Ludwig. “It was surreal for this performance to finally come together after nearly two years, and to feel the many moving parts and community connections meet together so beautifully. I feel so honored to have been part of this project, and it is a work that I will remember for the rest of my life.”

Alexander Prevost is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @alexanderprvst.

## GU Dance team brings back Dance Day

By ANDERS SVENNINGSEN

As the realities of a new and limited pandemic lifestyle have sunk in for people of all ages, creeds and colors, it has become increasingly difficult to find the joy of physical activity and self-expression.

Gonzaga Dance Team’s Dance Day event on March 20 lit a beacon of hope that there still exists the opportunity for learning and dynamic engagement even when we’re separated.

As COVID-19 protocols required a shift in nearly every aspect of group activity, GU Dance Team had to modify the marketing strategies, in addition to the offerings of this year’s Dance Day.

“Under normal circumstances we hold our Kid’s Clinic in January,” GU Dance Team President Meghan Horn said. “This Dance Day was a little bit different... It’s [a] free, all-day clinic with team members teaching classes to kids in the community from the convenience of their own home.”

As last year has brought forth the advent of a new virtual realm of activities, GU Dance Team embraced that opportunity wholeheartedly. Classes containing jazz and pom dance routines for young dancers from 6-9 years old were held in the morning, with more intermediate and advanced classes geared toward high school dancers taking place in the afternoon.

Each class was constructed in an hourly format as a group of GU Dance Team members took participants through each move step-by-step, until putting the final routine together for a mini performance at the conclusion of the hour. Despite the limited virtual format, positive



Alexis Villanueva (left), Meghan Horn (middle), and Maya Gutierrez (right) are the captains of the GU Dance Team.

energy became tangible as the lighthearted nature of dance provided participants with a dynamic hour of engaged learning.

Similar to the format of Dance Day, GU Dance Team was provided the opportunity to seek creative marketing strategies to spread the word about the event.

“We do have a crowd of kids that return each year for the Kid’s Clinic that really enjoy it,” Horn said. “We’ve had to market online, and find new ways to reach new people while engaging with our existing contacts of past participants.”

In addition to email chains and social media posts, GU Dance Team utilized digital flyers to spread the word of Dance Day opportunities to possible dancers.

“The opportunities we typically offer versus the workshop format that we’re offering now is definitely a different experience,” said Alexis Villanueva, a junior on GU Dance Team. “But we decided to treat this as more of a community service event, by making it free to those who wished to sign up, with donations being optional.”

Despite the reconstruction of Dance Day, and difficulties surrounding the virtual gap the Day of Dance proved to be an enjoyable, energetic event that GU Dance Team members had fun providing to the young dancers of the Spokane community.

“At the end of the day, it was just something really fun that we wanted to do,” Villanueva said. “We wanted it to be a way that we could outreach to the community, and make this available to everyone who wanted to participate.”

Anders Svenningsen is a staff writer.

## Disney introduces its first portrayal of Southeast Asian culture in ‘Raya and the Last Dragon’

Commentary by EMMALEE APPEL

Disney’s newest release “Raya and the Last Dragon” is yet another magical and visually astounding film that draws in the audience with smooth animation, inspiration from a variety of Southeast Asian cultures and a wealth of emotions portrayed in a style that seems to deviate significantly from the classic princess movie experience.

The film stars Kelly Marie Tran as the lead role of Raya, a young warrior whose confidence and skill is evident, but deals with major trust issues, making her a genuine and flawed heroine. In opposition, we have Gemma Chan as Namaari, a character with antagonistic qualities, but proves to be far more complex than your classic villain. Awkwafina also joins the cast as the playful and awkwardly humored dragon, Sisu.

We are first introduced to a young Raya along with her father, the wise and loving chief, and the beautiful land they live in. We are also provided with the history of dragons and how the once-unified nation called Kumandra was split into five warring regions named after the body parts of a dragon: Talon, Fang, Spine, Tail and Heart.

The conflict becomes clear quite quickly when the magic gem protecting the world from the evil Druun, who consumes human life by turning them to stone, is broken into pieces and Raya must start her quest to bring peace to

the world she lives in.

The film takes on the topics of trust, family and vulnerability in a truly artistic yet real way. The fantasy world is magical and beautiful, but showcases real problems like division among nations and the effects of distrust and greed that seem to come with human nature.

The complex themes and topics are intertwined with the diversity of both the setting and the characters. We are shown five specific regions with distinct populations, each drawn from a combination of Southeast Asian countries and cultures. These regions, and the characters that come with them, each provide a new perspective on the themes and create a sense of wholeness.

These regions play an important role, as Raya has to visit all five in her quest and maneuver through the challenges each region presents. This gave the studio an easy way to show the audience a diverse representation of cultures never seen before in Disney films, and while the representation may be quite broad, I felt that it was a great start to the much-needed inclusion of Asian culture and allowed for a lot of vivid cultural details that bring in an important narrative.

Speaking of representation, Raya is the first Southeast Asian Disney princess, and the film’s cast is made up of almost entirely Asian American actors and actresses.

Additionally, Raya is quite the unconventional

princess. She is a warrior with intense trust issues and we see that her past has hardened her into a careful person, giving her an obvious flaw that we get to see developed throughout the film. Raya does not sing, wears realistic clothing that does not sexualize her and shows genuine anger and despair that fuels her journey. All these things make Raya an amazingly whole, realistic character and present a positive shift away from the timid princess that we so often see from Disney.

That being said, I also felt that the movie fell short in a few places. The lack of time spent in each region, the number of characters left stagnant and ignored and the extremely fast-paced plot made the movie feel thin, leaving me mildly disappointed.

While I still recommend watching the movie, I would suggest waiting until it becomes available to the regular Disney+ subscription, rather than paying the \$30 premium access fee.

Overall, “Raya and the Last Dragon” is a beautiful, enjoyable film that takes on the complex topics of human nature and trust, while also widening the diversity seen within mainstream media and I would absolutely recommend it to people of all ages.

Emmalee Appel is a staff writer.

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# Nembhard balling out for Gonzaga

## From Florida to Spokane, GU's new addition put the Zags over the top this season

By TOMMY CONMY

Just two days before the season-opener against the then No. 6 Kansas Jayhawks guard Andrew Nembhard was granted a transfer waiver that made him immediately eligible to play for the Zags.

Prior to suiting up against the defending Big 12 champs and reigning national defensive player of the year Marcus Garrett, Nembhard was practicing with the walk-ons as a member of the scout team. Nembhard proved his mettle in his debut to the Zag faithful, scoring 11 points and dishing out three assists in 32 minutes of play.

As the season rolls along for the Bulldogs, Nembhard is a key contributor for a squad that averages over 93 points per game, the best in the nation.

Nembhard started all 67 games he played as a University of Florida Gator, which was last accomplished by three-time NBA All-Star Bradley Beal the 2011-12 season.

Upon transferring to GU, Nembhard found himself competing for minutes in a crowded backcourt including Jalen Suggs, Joel Ayayi and fellow transfer Aaron Cook from Southern Illinois.

"It's really not a big difference, I'm playing a similar amount of minutes. I feel like I contribute to this team as much as anybody else," Nembhard said. "With the way we play and how versatile we are I can come in and do a few different things whether it's scoring or passing. I think the role is different but it is something that I can excel in, honestly."

Nembhard was at one point leading in assists for the Zags while chipping in the fifth most points and minutes despite coming off the bench in a majority of contests early in the season. Since starting against BYU, Nembhard has become a mainstay in the starting lineup after trading spots with new sixth-man Anton Watson following a late season adjustment from head coach Mark Few.

Highly touted coming out of high school powerhouse Monteverde Academy in Orlando, Florida, Nembhard was rated as a five-star recruit and one of the best passers in his recruiting class after winning a national championship as a senior.

Although GU draws talent from across the globe, Monteverde Academy is the well the Bulldogs continue to draw from. Former Zag Filip Petrusev played with Nembhard at Monteverde and played a small part in making him feel comfortable transferring.

"I definitely was in contact with [Petrusev] when I was in the transfer portal and talked about how he liked it over here," Nembhard said. "We're really cool from my years at my Montverde."

An aspect that was more instrumental in luring the former SEC assist/turnover ratio leader was assistant coach Tommy Lloyd. Lloyd's reputation as an international man of mystery grows in direct relation to the ascension of the GU program. Lloyd is credited with recruiting



Gonzaga junior guard transfer Andrew Nembhard (right) makes a play in a game versus LMU.

“

The way we play so fast and get the ball moving with a lot of different decision-makers on the floor plays to my advantage.

Andrew Nembhard, Gonzaga men's basketball junior guard

foreign stars like Przemek Karnowski and Kelly Olynyk that graced the floor of The Kennel over the years.

Like Olynyk, Nembhard is originally from Canada, specifically Aurora, Ontario. He grew up playing basketball and soccer under the watchful eye of his coach and father Claude Nembhard.

"My dad was a basketball coach before I was even born," Nembhard said. "He coached me my whole career, basically until the 10th grade. He kind of introduced me to basketball. I started when I was 3 years old and ever since then I've been hooping."

Lloyd originally recruited and formed a relationship with Nembhard as a high school prospect before he chose the University of Florida.

"As soon as I went to the [transfer] portal I called him and stopped and asked him if there was a spot on the team," Nembhard said. "He's been really cool and

he's been instrumental in getting me to come to Gonzaga. I have a lot of confidence in his ability to make guys better."

Nembhard transferred despite a successful sophomore campaign with the Gators in which he averaged 11.2 points, 5.6 assists and 3.0 rebounds per game while leading the team in minutes and making the NCAA tournament each year.

"I just needed a change for myself and the fit wasn't right for me at Florida," Nembhard said.

From afar, the 6-foot-5-inch guard viewed the Zags up-tempo offensive scheme as the perfect match to his play style.

"The way we play so fast and get the ball moving with a lot of different decision-makers on the floor plays to my advantage," Nembhard said.

Illustrating how difficult it is to defend the Zags potent offensive barrage is a motion offense instituted by Few that

empowers his players to read the defense and react.

"It's more of us reading the game and less of a play. I think that's the most fun I have playing basketball," Nembhard said.

Although Nembhard enjoys the family-feel of his teammates, coaches and campus, he didn't just come to Spokane to run fun offensive sets. He didn't sugarcoat the goals for himself and his team.

"As a team our main goal is definitely to win a national championship," Nembhard said. "For myself, it is to help impact winning the most and keep bringing what I have to the table and see how much I can help this team."

Lofty expectations for this year's iteration of the Bulldogs run rampant in college basketball media as the landscape is largely viewed as GU and Baylor versus the field. The Zags have earned the respect of the nation by beating four teams ranked in the AP top 25 and debuting as the overall No. 1 seed in the first release of the NCAA NET rankings, edging Baylor.

How'd they get here? Although the Zags have an average margin of victory of 23.8 points per game they have faced some stiff, if not intermittent, competition.

"I guess you could say West Virginia was our toughest game this year," Nembhard said. "We had a little bit of trouble with them at the beginning of the game but I think it was more about us than them."

That game featured an injury to Jalen Suggs that forced him to miss a large part of the first half before returning later in the contest. Nembhard stepped up big for the Bulldogs, stuffing the stat sheet to the tune of 19 points, six assists, and five boards as the Zags won a nail-biter by five.

Although he has an additional year of eligibility remaining thanks to the redshirt year granted by the NCAA due to COVID-19, Nembhard has tested the waters of the NBA Draft twice before at Florida, declaring twice before returning to school. Playing with fellow Canadian superstars like R.J. Barrett as well as numerous other pro prospects has primed the 21-year-old sociology major for a future on the hardwood.

"The main goal is to go to the league. That's where I see myself in the near future," Nembhard said.

There will be plenty to shakeout before Nembhard needs to think about playing basketball professionally, namely the WCC and NCAA tournaments that the Zags very much intend to win.

For now, fans can rejoice in the sweet passes, silky swishes and crafty pull-ups offered to you by Nembhard night in and night out. Nembhard is not the first guard to don the navy and white nor will he be the last; but the abrupt cancellation of last year's season should serve as a reminder to the Zag faithful that one can never be sure when they'll see the last display from basketball from one of their beloved Bulldogs.

Tommy Conmy is a staff writer.

## ZAGS WIN

Continued from Page 1

and it didn't work."

In order to keep up with the blazing Sooners, GU relied on sophomore Drew Timme's ability to dominate around the rim. Following a made shot from OU's Brady Manek to start the game, the forward from Texas immediately got the score right back with his patent post hook move. Timme led all scorers with 14 first-half points on 5-for-6 shooting from the floor. The Bulldogs gained their first lead of the game following a fast-break layup from Corey Kispert, pulling ahead 23-21.

From there, the momentum stayed with the nation's No. 1 team. With the Sooners going cold on offense, it allowed for the Zags' offense to gain a groove and punish the paint relentlessly. Jalen Suggs and Joel Ayayi drew multiple fouls driving to the rim from the perimeter, while Anton Watson also got involved as a facilitator.

By finding cutting guards and his frontcourt teammate Timme, the sophomore from Spokane proved himself a more than capable passer. As a result, the Sooners racked up nine first-half fouls, putting GU in the bonus early on.

A late 18-6 run extended the lead to 12 points before the break, as the Bulldogs led 46-34 at halftime. Even after OU's hot start, it was GU that finished the first half with the better shooting performance, going 17-for-30 compared with the Sooners 14-for-31 outing.

"There's a comfort in knowing that we'll get going, at least that's how I feel," Few said. "We needed to adjust to what they were doing to us."

It was more of the same coming out of the locker room for both teams. Excessive ball movement on offense led to more open layups while OU defenders were caught out of position. Guards continued to drive and kick out to shooters, who passed up good looks for great shots. Four of five GU starters had reached double-digits in scoring by the midway mark in the second half.

Meanwhile, the Sooners continued to go ice cold on offense. A 4-for-5 start from deep was followed by 10 consecutive misses. GU's defense began swarming shooters on the wing, forcing guards to settle for unnecessary midrange jump shots or off-balance layup attempts. OU's Gibson and Manek, who were both catalysts in a win over Missouri, were nonfactors in this matchup. Both went a combined 3-for-13 from the field and scored nine points to show for it.

Reeves, however, continued to give his Sooners life down the stretch despite early foul trouble in the first half. The guard torched GU defenders on the wing with his ball handling creating separation easily, knocking down multiple jumpers to keep the game within striking distance. Reeves would finish the game with 27 points on 11-for-17 shooting.

But in the closing minutes, it was Timme time.

The Sooners never found an answer to slowing down



Gonzaga redshirt junior guard Joel Ayayi celebrates as the Zags defeated the Oklahoma Sooners this past Sunday.

the second team All-American; double teams were not enough to prevent a career night. Free throws and post hooks carried the offensive load to ice the game, capped off with an assist to Kispert for a 3-pointer that extended the lead beyond reach for OU.

Few attributed the balanced play and sound victory to the fondness his players have developed for one another over the course of the season.

"They genuinely love each other, and that's not corny

stuff, it's real," Few said. "There's a ton of fun-loving dudes that are ferocious competitors."

The Bulldogs will take on the Creighton Bluejays in the Sweet 16 Sunday at 11:10 a.m.

Cole Forsman is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter @CGForsman.





Gonzaga redshirt senior Matthew Ruel looks at his shot in a golf tournament.



Junior Kaysa Panke practices her chipping at an early morning practice.

# GU golf program swings away

An update on what the Gonzaga golf program has been up to over the past few weeks

By TOMMY CONNOLLY

The Gonzaga University men's and women's golf teams are out to a strong start to the season, with both teams having already competed in three tournaments this spring.

"It's hard to put into words how good it feels to get out on the course again," junior on the GU Men's team and Spokane native Zach Stocker said. "Playing again for the school is awesome and getting to do it while playing a sport we love, it's amazing."

As for tournaments, the GU men's and women's teams have both competed in three so far this year. The women competed this weekend in Arizona, and the men played their most recent tournament Monday and Tuesday in Oregon.

The GU women tied for first and placed second after a tiebreaker this weekend at the Red Rocks Invitational in Sedona, AZ. GU lost the tiebreaker involving the fifth golfer's score for each school. GU was led at the tournament by Junior Quynn Duong who placed second overall at two-under (214).

"We played really well this weekend,"

Alyssa Nguyen, a sophomore on the women's team, said. "It was fun to be able to be really competitive with other good schools, and Quynn played great which helped the team."

Prior to the tournament, the GU women's team had a student have to go into quarantine due to contact tracing policies taking place on campus in Spokane. This quarantine opened up a spot for Nguyen to represent GU as an individual in the tournament.

"I wasn't expecting to play in the tournament, but luckily I was ready, and I played as well as I could," Nguyen said.

The GU men's team placed third in their last tournament, The Colin Montgomerie-HBU Invitational, which took place in Spring, Texas.

"Our team had high expectations going in, and we had some struggles early," Stocker said. "The team hung in there and managed to finish third, which was good."

This third-place finish is the men's team's highest finish of the year so far, a good sign as the team continues to build confidence for the back half of the season.

Both teams are looking forward to

their upcoming tournaments with the men competing in Seattle, WA and Provo, UT and the women competing twice more in Arizona in Goodyear and Maricopa. The WCC Tournament takes place in Henderson, NV for both teams.

The WCC Tournament is on the minds of both teams, as the tournament is right around the corner, being played in the last two weeks of April for each team respectively.

"One of our goals is to win the conference tournament in Las Vegas," Nguyen said. "We as a team felt we could have been close last year, and I think we may even have a better chance this year."

The GU men are looking to build off their strong finishes and qualifying scores at the past two tournaments, in hopes of a strong finish at the WCC tournament.

"One of our goals as a team was to win a tournament this year," Stocker said. "But we also want to be peaking going into the conference tournament that is coming up soon."

Besides being teammates on the golf course, the GU men's and women's teams both have strong relationships that reach

past the course. This sense of community ripples throughout the program, which sets it apart from other schools.

"Our team is so close, we are friends on the course, off the course, at practice, at meals, all the time we are hanging out," Nguyen said. "Talking with friends that golf at other schools, they always talk about how they wish they had the relationship we have with our team, with theirs."

This sense of community has been a staple in both programs and both players credit this as one of the reasons why their respective programs are special.

As all student athletes were, both teams were very excited to be able to get the season up and running again after having the season abruptly ended in 2020.

"Getting the competitive edge back has been a little tough but working through it and getting back to competition has been absolutely exhilarating, I love that feeling," Stocker said.

Tommy Connolly is a staff writer.

## Keeping up with the Gonzaga club sports programs

By ALLIE NOLAND

For athletes headed to college, it's a tough transition between always being on a sports team and having built in workouts to leaving it all behind to be a full-time student. Club sports have given students the opportunity to pursue their passion for sport and team spirit without being D1 level.

Club sports at Gonzaga range from classic sports like basketball and soccer to more unique sports like ultimate frisbee and rock-climbing. GU's commitment to athletics and supporting its athletes' opportunities is strong.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, club sports have been put on hold. Trying to maintain safe guidelines while engaging in practices is not only hard, but it is frustrating. Recently, some teams have been finding ways to make it work, and it is offering students a taste of what life was like before the pandemic.

### Tennis

Club tennis started practicing for the first time on March 3.

"We cannot compete with other teams or travel outside of Spokane county, but are happy to be back out playing with each other and getting exercise on MW evenings," said Laura Stewart, women's club tennis president via email.

Tennis practices are Monday and Wednesday evenings from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Wellness Center at North Park. They were unable to practice at the Steven's Center, right next to campus due to COVID-19 restrictions.

GSBA's funding was the savior for club tennis. It allowed the team to rent four courts for 20 people, twice a week.

### Rugby

Men's club rugby has been able to host practices this semester. The club practices on Mulligan Field with about 12-15 attendees. Contact is such an important part of the game in rugby, but the club has opted to do socially distanced practices rather than no practice at all.

"Our practices mainly consist of skills work, because that's what we are able to do while staying distanced, so we try to keep that fun and try not to be too repetitive with what we're doing," said Will Dodds, men's club rugby president.

Dodds said that it has been great to see members coming to practice consistently and creating a positive team spirit in times of struggle.



The Gonzaga club baseball team is one of the many teams itching to play again in the near future.

Women's club rugby has not been practicing, but they are working on ways to find COVID-19 safe alternatives to practice in the near future.

**Baseball and Softball**

GU club baseball has been practicing on Mulligan Field on Mondays and Wednesdays. Just like rugby, they have around 12-15 members show up, in compliance with Phase 2 regulations. Not only has club baseball been practicing on the field, they have also been practicing in the batting cages at the Warehouse Athletic Facility.

With big news about clearance for games in April, the baseball team is excited to get out there.

"The biggest challenge has been funding and booking everything because we have had to do it in such a short time," said Emilio Vargas, club baseball president.

The team had to move home fields, because the Gonzaga Preparatory School field was unavailable. Vargas said the team is excited for the surprising news of clearance for games, but they are scrambling a bit to make reservations as restrictions are lifted.

Contact in the game of baseball isn't as important as other sports, so it has made it easier for this club to organize, practice and play. Be on the look out for game information.

Club softball practices haven't started up yet, but they have just been approved to be in the batting cages.

**Ultimate Frisbee**

Both women's and men's ultimate frisbee is practicing at the moment.

Ultimate frisbee club teams were able to practice with five people in a pod last semester, in Phase 1, and after Phase 2, they are more than excited to be playing with 15 people.

"Now that we have enough people, we have started teaching new players our offensive plays and reviewing them for our returners," said Amy Fraizer, women's club ultimate frisbee president.

Defending has been difficult for both teams because of contact and social distancing rules, but other aspects of the game have been easy to push through, according to Fraizer.

**Soccer**

Men's club soccer is starting to practice with regulations. Since club sports are starting to move into Phase 3, practicing is looking more and more realistic.

Women's soccer decided to not hold practices this year. With the ability to only practice in pods of five, it made practice extremely difficult because contact is such

a huge part of the sport.

"If we could play contact in masks, we would likely decide to have practices again," said Kara Eikermann, women's club soccer president.

Some of the members from the women's club soccer team are practicing with the men's team to keep numbers up.

**Volleyball**

Since women's club volleyball is an indoor sport, it had made it difficult to get practices going. Right now, the club is working on reserving courts and coming up with COVID-19 safe skills, but it is tough.

"It has been very challenging to cultivate a safe and comfortable space for our girls to gather and practice together due to the nature of the sport," said Tori Conlon, women's club volleyball president. "It is not a contact sport, but we are constantly touching the same volleyball and standing near each other on the court during practices."

Men's club volleyball is also not practicing at the moment.

Log onto Zagtivities to further look into what club sports are up to and to get involved.

Allie Noland is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @allie\_noland.



# Kennel Club remixes Tent City

By KARLIE MURPHY

On March 20 Gonzaga men's basketball took on Norfolk State in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Traditionally, Zags games call for big crowds, overflowing stands and watch parties all over campus. Fans will make the trip to see the Zags play live every year.

This year things looked different with COVID-19 and the Kennel Club hosting a new take on old traditions at GU with Tent City: The Remix.

"We are trying to offer way for students to gather [at GU] in support of our basketball team [during] COVID-19, because this was something that was not able to happen this year," said Crissy Lubke, brand representative for Kennel Club.

Lubke said only 35 groups could register for the event, which took place on Foley Lawn. Each group was 8 to 10 feet apart, and unlike previous years, tents were not a part of the event.

Kennel Board worked with the Spokane Regional Health District since January to plan Ten City: The Remix.

GU cheer team performed before tipoff, and Bomb Squad and Dance Team were able to perform at half time.

"It's just so exciting that we have been able to come in and experience this, it's been a daylong event, the students checked in between 2 and 3:30 p.m.," Lubke said. "If there was a way to have every student in this tent city we would."

The event had giveaways, prizes, free food and opportunities for alcoholic



JANNA PRICE IG: jannapricephotography

The event allowed for 35 groups who were eight to 10 feet apart.

beverages for students over the age of 21 as a part of the GU Social Club.

Alumni were present to serve the traditional breakfast burritos that are normally served the morning of game day after tent groups slept in their tents.

"We have been coming out and supporting students at Tent City for about 10 years now, and it's a way for us to connect with students as they go through their student experience and eventually become alumni," said Drew Rieder, director of regional chapters in the alumni office at GU.

Rieder graduated from GU in 1996 and is glad to see GU students gathering again

to watch the Zags play and participate in Tent City: The Remix!

Sophomore Emily Schroeder said being a Zags fan this year is different from her first year.

"It's just different compared to the Kennel," Schroeder said.

Despite the differences, Schroeder decided to come out with her friends for the new version of Tent City.

"We just love the community, I personally love the spirit, and everybody coming together and just seeing the faces of the students because we haven't gotten to see many people this year," Schroeder said.

Bomb Squad was also able

to perform for the first time live since the start of COVID-19.

"It just feels really good to be back in the Gonzaga spirit face to face with other Zags and get to share what we've been working really hard on," said Bomb Squad co-captain and senior Jenna Matthews.

Matthews said Bomb Squad has helped her find her family on campus and has made GU feel like home.

"We (Kennel Club) were inspired because we honestly felt like we were in a Zags fandom drought...so we were working since December and January trying to think of some ideas of what we could do that would be COVID safe while giving students an opportunity to celebrate being a Zag," said Clare Martin, senior and president of the Kennel Club.

Martin said the groups are more spread out than the traditional Tent City, less groups and instead of having students run to compete for tent numbers, there was an online registration which had over 200 GU students on the waitlist.

"For seniors, I would say thank you so much, I know it's been a hard year for all of us," Martin said. "For all of you that showed up to the beer garden and to tent city I hope you had a great time and hopefully [it's] not your last time celebrating being a Zag on campus."

Karlle Murphy is a copy editor.

## GU SPORTS CALENDAR

- Thursday, March 25**
- ➡ Track at Whitworth Invitational, Spokane, WA
- Friday, March 26**
- ➡ Track at Whitworth Invitational, Spokane, WA
  - ➡ Baseball at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 27**
- ➡ Women's tennis at University of Portland, Portland, OR, 11 a.m.
  - ➡ Women's soccer at BYU, Provo, UT, noon
  - ➡ Volleyball at University of Portland, Portland, OR, noon
  - ➡ Men's tennis vs. University of Portland, 2 p.m.
  - ➡ Baseball at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 6 p.m.
- Sunday, March 28**
- ➡ Men's tennis vs. University of Montana, 11 a.m.
  - ➡ Men's basketball vs. #5 Creighton, NCAA Sweet Sixteen, Indianapolis, IN, 11:10 a.m.
  - ➡ Volleyball at University Portland, OR, noon
  - ➡ Men's soccer at Santa Clara, Santa Clara, CA, 1 p.m.
  - ➡ Baseball at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 1 p.m.
- Monday, March 29**
- ➡ Men's golf at SeattleU Redhawk Invitational - Day One, University Place, WA

\*All home games in bold\*

# The Gillian Barfield effect

Barfield learned from the Zags before her to help the younger players up next

By ALEXANDER PREVOST

Gillian Barfield is going places.

The women's basketball senior grew up in Phoenix. As a child, she played nearly every sport under the sun, from tennis to volleyball. Her parents were also triathletes, so she also participated in that as well.

When it came down to it, though, basketball became her passion. She cites her high school basketball coach as a huge influence on her future career.

"He was so awesome throughout my four years of high school," Barfield said. "He'd come in at 6 in the morning to lift weights with me before school every single day. He would bribe freshmen boys to play basketball with me after school. He was definitely a huge part of that."

Additionally, Barfield cites the physicality and contact aspect of basketball as a draw when comparing it to the other sports she played.

Coming to Gonzaga, the small, tightknit community feel spoke to her. She recalls walking around campus during her tour and remembering how friendly everyone was. Her first exposure to the team also pulled her in.

"First I met with all the coaches and really clicked, and I remember sitting in McCarthy with Assistant Coach Jordan Green, talking to him on my visit and felt a bond with him immediately," Barfield said.

She is studying human physiology. During her time here, she's had numerous mentors to help her grow.

GU Assistant Coach Craig Fortier, who's been coaching the women's basketball team for over seven years, highlighted her natural intelligence as a player, saying she's excellent at coming up with smart plays.

"Over the last couple years, the most exciting thing is just seeing her growth and her progression as a woman, as a leader, as a teammate," said Craig Fortier, one of Barfield's mentors.

Barfield also cites former teammates that have since graduated as influences on her; namely: Zykeria



CHIANA MCINNELLY IG: picbychiana

Barfield is studying human physiology with plans to earn two accelerated bachelor's.

Rice, who boosted her confidence, Laura Stockton, who really pushed her and Katie Campbell, who she cites as a huge inspiration for her.

"It's been a really fun evolution," Fortier said. "I think one of the cool parts of coaching, in general, you get to see this evolution of players from freshman, to sophomore, junior, senior and I think she's had an amazing transformation."

Looking back on her career, Barfield fondly remembers her team's victory against Stanford University — her favorite memory playing at home.

"None of us had even doubted we were going to lose," Barfield said. "We were so confident, and when we finally did it, it was such an amazing win."

She also said her team's trip to Europe last summer, where they played against European teams and traveled to different countries like Spain, was a life changing experience.

Barfield's journey on the team hasn't been an easy one. She says it wasn't the career one would imagine as a little girl, but that didn't stop her from becoming the best she could be.

"It just led me to become a leader and develop my basketball game in different ways. I learned how to communicate with people in the locker room and

I developed so many relationships," said Barfield.

Playing in her final season as a senior during the pandemic has had its challenges.

"We aren't supposed to see each other as much because of the contact tracing," Barfield said. "I get to hang out with them at practice and a little bit in the locker room, but we don't have the same movie nights we used to, or we used to do potlucks and all hang out all the time. That aspect is definitely different — trying to find ways to see each other safely so that we don't get contact traced out has also been really weird navigating."

Both her and her teammates have put in a lot of effort to stay safe and stay sane during these trying times.

Despite the difficulties, however, she says that watching people's growth has been a highlight for her this season.

"It is crazy," Barfield said. "Nothing is guaranteed. We've been so lucky — I mean, I think we only missed two games, one of them got rescheduled, so we've only missed out on two games which I think is really rare in this college environment, and I'm just really thankful that everyone on our team is following protocols and that we have super great

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## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS OUTSIDE THE BOX

Join student leader, alumni, and staff to explore how Gonzaga University integrates learning differences into its academic community. Hear leaders speak on the role of equity, accommodation, and self-advocacy in and outside the classroom.

On Zoom  
March 30th  
6:00-7:30 P.M.

RSVP on Zagactivities!  
<https://gonzaga.zoom.us/j/99804208075>

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