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At 97 years old, Harold Rusch continues to commemorate GU men's basketball seasons with

Memories to last a lifetime

By VINCENT SAGLIMBENI

he cliché "pictures are worth a thousand words," has been echoed in society for centuries. With those pictures come memories, whether it be good or bad, and keeping all of those memorable moments together in one can be difficult to do.

However, in the case of the Gonzaga men's basketball team, one man has been keeping those memories alive and well, and has been doing it for 21 years now.

Spokane native and resident Harold Rusch has been creating scrapbooks for members of the GU hoops team for the past two decades. The 97-year-old took this hobby he started in 2000 and has been running with it ever since, creating 228 books for different members of the team, from coaches to players to even

"These books, when you think about it, can go down 2-3 generations," Rusch said. "Those books are going to be in these families. There isn't anybody that puts these books out like this. Coach [Mark] Few said 'I don't think there's a college in the United States that does this. If you were in a bigger college, you'd really be getting a splash."

Rusch finds any article, photo or any other form of media and puts them together in a scrapbook. He also includes interesting graphics he finds, whether it be a cool design of a "Go Zags" sign or anything else of that nature. When things get tricky, such as a large photo, Rusch

will take the best part of that photo and put it on two separate pages to get the image he wants.

Rusch's first book was created for Few back in 2000. He took half a book that he put together that year and went over to GU and went upstairs to the office that was above the Charlotte Y. Martin Centre at the time. Rusch proceeded to meet Few, introduced himself and gave him the partial book on the games that had been played thus far.

The following season, Rusch put another book together for Few and put another partial book together for then GU men's basketball point guard Dan

Dickau's book was the first Rusch created for players, followed by another book for Blake Stepp and Cory Violette the following two years. He gave Violette three books because he originally saved a book for himself to later find out he didn't need it. Rusch ran into Stepp and Dickau in Boise, where they told Rusch that the three of them got together and looked through the old memories in the books.

For something as special as these books, Rusch makes sure to put the necessary time in to make it the best product possible, especially toward the end of the season.

For one of the books for Few, he spent almost 100 hours creating it, and in this past season, Rusch was working on six

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Lavender Graduation celebrates LGBTQ graduates

Created in 1995, this year's hybrid ceremony will take place on April 29 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

By LILLIAN PIEL

handmade scrapbooks.

Gonzaga's students encompass a wide range of identities and experiences, and graduation is a time to celebrate these in addition to students' achievements. Lavender Graduation, which will take place April 29 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Wolff Auditorium, is a celebration of graduating students who identify as LGBTQ or as an ally.

Matthew Barcus, the LGBTQ education and support program manager, said that the Lavender Graduation will be a hybrid ceremony, depending on COVID-19 guidelines and safety measures.

Students who are on campus and would like to participate as honorees in the ceremony will be able to attend in-person, masked and socially distanced. The event is open to graduating undergraduate and graduate students, including those who identify as allies, and the form to sign up does not ask students how they identify, Barcus said.

Faculty members who are speaking at the event will also be able to attend in-person, and attendees of the Lavender Graduation will be able to watch the ceremony via Zoom, where it will be livestreamed. While some faculty members who are speaking at the event will also be able to attend in person, there will be at least one speaker Zooming in, Barcus said.

Lavender Graduation consists of a welcome, a prayer, a few speakers and a keynote from a faculty member, Barcus said. The graduates involved will receive rainbow tassels and be awarded certificates, and an alumni speaker who is also LGBTQ or ally-identified will share some of their wisdom with the graduates

at the ceremony.

"It's just another way of celebrating people who brought their full selves to campus and how important that is that we have diversity of ideas and experiences on our campus and highlighting that," Barcus said about the event.

Pre-COVID-19, Lavender Graduation would conclude with a toast and refreshments, Barcus said. Due to COVID-19 and the event being livestreamed, students who are not on campus but would still like to be honored in the ceremony can Zoom in to the event and have their certificate and tassel mailed to them

Lavender Graduation was created in 1995 by Ronni Sanlo at the University of Michigan, and although it is not a ceremony that is unique to GU, Barcus said it is a chance to let graduates know their identity is an important piece of who they are. There are typically nine to 16 honorees at the ceremony each year.

Barcus said his role in the event is being the person who takes care of the behind-the-scenes logistics, promotes the event, makes sure people submit the forms to sign up and also serves as the emcee of the event.

"LGBTQ identity really can be a culture, and can be an opportunity for people to develop some cultural awareness and some connection to community through those similar identities but not identical," Barcus said.

Last year's ceremony had more than 25 attendees, said Deena González, the provost and senior vice president of GU, via email. González said that deans and senior leaders will attend this year's

SEE LAVENDER PAGE 2



Alisha Lombardi assists students with study abroad plans in her role.

Alisha Lombardi shines as new study abroad director

By NATALIE RIETH

After her studies abroad junior year of college, Alisha Lombardi was motivated to pursue a career in international education. A pivotal summer in Costa Rica was just the beginning for Lombardi, who has recently begun her new position as Gonzaga Center for Global Engagement's (CGE) director of study abroad.

"I journaled, I wrote a blog and just recorded all the experiences I was having," Lombardi said. "It was Alisha on her own doing what she loved without the pressures of my family, the pressures of church, my friends and living up to this expectation that I thought people had of me."

Originally from Texas, Lombardi completed her undergraduate studies in 2005 at Texas A&M University in international studies, a major she pursued primarily for its study abroad requirement.

"I ended up going to college in the town that I grew up in, but I always had this inkling to explore other places," Lombardi said. "The desire to explore other cultures was definitely there."

After consulting with a study abroad advisor and sorting out her remaining Spanish credits, Lombardi was directed to pursue a summer internship program in Costa Rica. While abroad, she volunteered at a children's hospital in San Jose, where she would volunteer on weekday mornings, independently explore the city in her afternoon free time and travel in the weekend.

Lombardi said that her experience living with a host family and volunteering

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GU launches new climate center on Earth Day

By AODHAN BROWN

As the looming threat of climate change continues to endanger communities across the globe, institutions like Gonzaga University have stepped up to the challenge by becoming leaders in environmental research and social justice. This Earth Day, GU launched The Gonzaga Climate Center for Climate, Society and the Environment.

The inaugural event, occurring today, Thursday, at 3:30 p.m. will be led by GU's Brian G. Henning who will serve as the founding director of the Climate Center. As the founding director, Henning will deliver the inaugural lecture that will be available to all GU students and

"As an academic initiative, the Climate Center focuses on education to foster greater understanding and to help form people prepared to face the challenge of a changing climate," Henning said. "The Climate Center fosters innovative education courses, educational experiences

and research opportunities for GU students, so they are prepared as leaders for a just and integral world."

Today's lecture has drawn the attention of leaders from across the nation and will feature appearances from Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee, founder of the climate action group 350.org Bill McKibben, and the executive director of the US Climate Action Network Keya

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Check Mate

New chess club on campus welcomes all abilities

By KAYLA FRIEDRICH

o plans on Thursday night? A group of four Gonzaga students have gotten together to create a judgement-free, social and competitive club for all students to be a part of.

GU's first official chess club made its debut last Thursday with a turn out of over 50 students at all different chess-playing levels.

GU freshman Andre Villalobos, the vice president of the chess club, said the main initiative for this club was to get people together to have a good time, make friends and even teach people with no knowledge of the board game.

"There was never a chess club at Gonzaga as far as we could find," Villalobos said. "We'd love to have people at this club that we can befriend."

Villalobos said he picked up chess a couple of months ago and at his arrival at GU for the spring semester and found himself to be playing with the other executive board members frequently.

"What led to the founding of the chess club was

that we thought it'd be a great way to meet new people and allow people to create a community to develop and promote chess players regardless of their skill levels," Villalobos said.

Villalobos and Christopher Wu, treasurer of the club, didn't return to campus during the fall semester and felt like they needed to create an opportunity for themselves to make friends and branch out in a time where students' social lives are so limited.

While still managing to follow all COVID-19 guidelines, the chess club meeting was laid back and casual with music playing in the background and small conversations floating throughout the room.

GU sophomore Connor Campbell was one of many students who went to the first meeting.

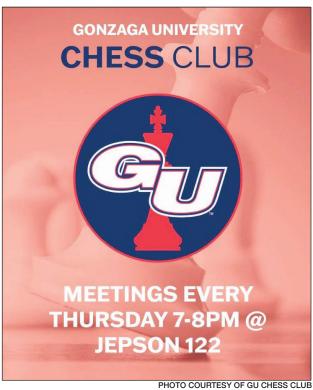
"I came to the first meeting a little bit late, so I didn't get the full first meeting experience, but I had a lot of fun playing with people and everyone was friendly," Campbell said. "It's super fun to play in person especially because I usually play online"

Campbell said he was impressed by the turn out that he saw at the first meeting and is looking forward to this new opportunity of playing chess and meeting new people.

If you find yourself bored on Thursday night with a craving for competition, go hang out in Jepson 122 from 7-8 p.m. with your new friends in the chess club.

Follow the GU chess club on Instagram @guchessclub.

Kayla Friedrich is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @friedrich_kayla.



In a time when social experiences are limited, the new GU chess club is working to bring people together.

LOMBARDI

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at the hospital, significantly strengthened her Spanish proficiency. After lunching on volunteer days, her supervisors would send her and other volunteers to the hospital laundry room for their remaining hours.

"We would have these huge piles of children's hospital gowns to fold, and we just talked and folded clothes," Lombardi said. "My Spanish proficiency skyrocketed. I remember the first time I dreamt in Spanish and I thought: this is what I wanted to accomplish."

Lombardi said that facing the challenges and thrills of independence abroad convinced her that study abroad was an opportunity that all students should experience.

"It was such a transformational experience for me being able to be a part of a culture that was not my own and do things in ways that I would have never thought of," Lombardi said. "But it worked, and I learned that just because it wasn't the way I would typically do, it doesn't mean other ways were incorrect. That was what really ignited my interest in continuing with international education."

After applying to various study abroad positions and additional private companies post-graduation, Lombardi was offered a position as a study abroad advisor at Texas A&M University in 2008. She said that this opportunity with Texas A&M was her beginning.

Lombardi had previously networked and kept in touch with Richard Menard, past director of study abroad at GU and current director of operations and strategy at Bowling Green State University, before he worked for GU CGE. Shortly after starting his position at GU, Menard personally reached out to Lombardi about an open position with CGE.

"It was always his hope that I would become a director," Lombardi said.

"

It was such a transformational experience for me being able to be a part of a culture that was not my own and do things in ways that I would have never thought of.

Alisha Lombardi, director of study abroad

"Richard is an amazing mentor. He really did a phenomenal job of developing my skills and providing me with opportunities to grow, in grooming me for a director position."

For her first two years at GU, Lombardi worked as the assistant director of Gonzaga in Florence.

"It [Gonzaga in Florence] is our flagship crown jewel at GU," Lombardi said.

At the time, study abroad was rapidly growing, and many changes were implemented to create the highest quality study abroad program at GU. Lombardi and Menard sought a top-quality, nationally ranked program.

After about two years, Lombardi transitioned into advising students interested in semester long programs beyond Gonzaga in Florence. She strategized the tasks of adding new programs, eliminating programs with lower enrollment and networking new partnerships that would expand GU's portfolio of study abroad opportunities.

An integral part of her work was in curriculum integration, as she collaborated with different academic departments to match up course requirements with

similar courses offered by host institutions. This resource is available for GU students to view when visiting the 'Study Abroad' section of the CGE page on the GU website.

Menard said that this tool has significantly impacted the number of students who are willing and able to study abroad in their time at GU, as it allows them to see which classes, depending on their major, are available in all programs GU study abroad offers.

"It doesn't seem like a very big thing," Menard said. "But it's very time consuming to be able to do that correctly and personally, I attribute this to be one of the reasons why we've seen such great successes at GU."

Menard said that Lombardi has also influenced students training to become peer ambassadors, helping them to gain the confidence and experience to take a leap of faith and get a job anywhere beyond GU.

As GU study abroad continued its upward progress, the program eventually added a second advisor to the team, Katuska Kohut, who serves as the associate director of study abroad. When Menard moved from director of study abroad to director of CGE, Lombardi and Kohut co-

led the study abroad office as he worked higher-level administrative projects.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Alisha," Kohut said. "From the beginning, Alisha has been an integral part of our team."

When Menard left his position last November, Lombardi said both the Provost Office and Enrollment Management agreed to reorganize. It was apparent that having separate study abroad and International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) sectors was far too complicated, so they were combined and reverted back to the old director model. From December until now, Lombardi served as CGE interim director.

After Lombardi's interim period, Julie McCulloh, associate provost for enrollment management and supervisor to Lombardi, offered her the position of director of study abroad.

"I've just found myself in the right place in the right time, knowing the right people," Lombardi said. "I feel really lucky that I've been given this opportunity and very blessed to serve in this role. Just being able to take my work a step further is really exciting for me."

During her time at GU, Lombardi has transformed study abroad into one of the premier programs in the U.S. Menard said he is both thrilled to see the ways Lombardi will continue to enhance study abroad and impact student experience at GU.

"She has been nothing but amazing," Menard said. "I am thrilled that Alisha gets to be the next director and carry on the work that we have started together," Menard said. "She has more than earned this opportunity."

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LAVENDER

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Lavender Graduation, and she expects that attendance this year will be closer to 50 people.

González also said that Lavender Graduation recognizes the role that culture and community play in achieving milestones such as graduation, and that everyone is invited to honor LGBTQ graduates and recognize the unique challenges they might have faced and overcome.

Charlita Shelton, chief-of-staff to the president and COVID-19 compliance officer, was a speaker at last year's Lavender Graduation, and said the event is necessary because it is important to recognize these students. Shelton said that diversity, equity and inclusion doesn't just mean race and ethnicity, but all differences, including LGBTQ students.

"It's incredibly important for the student who's graduating, but also for their families and their parents to know that they are being recognized in

that way," Shelton said.

Shelton said that last year, the provost and the president of the school were involved in the Lavender Graduation and that faculty and administrative support for LGBTQ students is necessary.

Barcus also said that GU tries to celebrate the identities of its students and help them navigate their identities and learn to be a person for others, which is why recognition for students is so crucial.

"This year it's important to find opportunities for connection, to celebrate that there is a vibrant and inclusive community on campus,"Barcus said. "When we are all in our little digital boxes it can be difficult to kind of think about how connected we are and how important it is that we have a range of experiences and identities and goals for the future."

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



LGBTQ community to celebrate graduation.

BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

Lavender Graduation offers a safe space for allies and members of the

DID YOU FORGET
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Stepping into the spotlight

Ashley Davis takes new position as director of International Student & Scholar Services; she is using her position to spread integration and love across campus for international students at GU

By ALEXANDER PREVOST

onzaga University's International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) is under new management, and things are looking brighter than ever. Ashley Davis has stepped to the plate as the new Director of ISSS, hoping to bring an era of lasting integration.

Davis grew up in China. She comes from the small, rural village of Huang Ya Guan in the northern part of the country. However, the village was not totally isolated from the outside world, as it had a portion of the Great Wall of China in it. Huang Ya Guan had lots of tourism, and that is what ultimately spurred her love for

meeting different kinds of people.
"We still had that outsider influence, which kind of exposed my goals and plans for the future, which is to meet others that are different than myself," Davis said. "I grew up with people all around me who look the same. They speak the same language and all that."

Coming from a lower socio-economic background, much of her community relied on tourism to support themselves and their families. Davis was no exception.

"I supported my family by this taxi business, you can say, where we have to walk up to the tourists to ask them if they need a taxi, so at this time, I was very little," Davis said. "I wouldn't say I had a gift, but I had a strong interest in learning and speaking English. I was able to practice that way, and I was excited whenever I saw a foreigner. I wanted to run up and say hi, and I have some very fond memories with the tourists."

From a young age, she always knew she wanted an education. Using her love of other cultures as inspiration, she attended university at Tianjin Foreign Studies University. There, she majored in international business. After college, she came to the United States to work in Global Engagement and Study Abroad programs.

'I worked about five years at the University of Idaho, and then five years at the Community Colleges of Spokane," Davis said. "All these 10 years doing similar things, supporting international students."

Ashley had always admired GU. She points specifically to the university's mission and its alignment with her values as a major pull for her. Her husband has also worked in the Information Technology Services Department for about seven years as a business analyst.

"He definitely informed my decision to apply [for the position] because he has always spoken very well for the GU culture and people, which is a bigger part of the reasons why I've always wanted to be a part of it," Davis said.

As the director of ISSS in the Center for Global Engagement (CGE), she is responsible for a multitude of things. The

most notable are working in compliance with immigration regulations and helping students feel like a part of the community.

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"We do regular check-ins with the students," Davis said. "We do culturalization workshops and a lot of other things that might not be obvious needs for some domestic students, but they are for international students. For example, tax obligations. We help them know about taxes, helping ensure that they have health insurance. I would say the bedrock is immigration compliance, but then building off of that is to build the environment — whatever it takes to help them thrive.

Looking forward, she wants to leave a lasting impact on the community, both for international students and the GU community as a whole.

"The first word that comes into my mind is integration — not only at the interdepartmental level," Davis said. "I want to foster this strong cohesion among departments where we support each other by smoothly guiding the same goal in the mission, but also at the level of a student's engagement. I really want my students and scholars to eventually feel like they are clearly a part of this community. They aren't isolated. They don't feel very different, so I want them to feel freely and confidently that they can talk to anybody and just know that this is their community. This is their family."

Many of her colleagues are already impressed with the work she has done so

"Ashely is now three weeks into her new position of director of international student and scholar services, and I have been so impressed with her enthusiasm and ability to jump right into the thick of things," said Alisha Lombardi, director of GU's study abroad programs. "Starting a new role at the end of an academic year is challenging for a variety of reasons, but she has shown eagerness, passion and patience

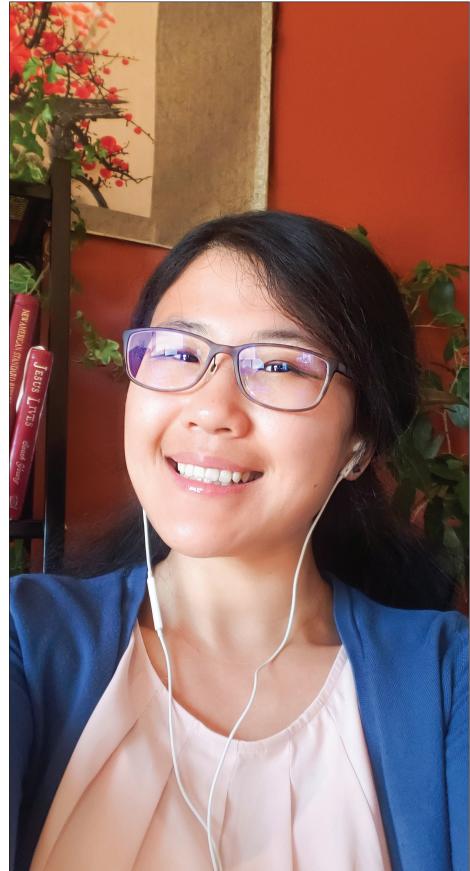
as she gets up to speed."

Outside of GU, she is very devoted to her faith. Davis also has a 3-year-old daughter, and she enjoys listening to audiobooks.

With a sense of purpose and a whole heart, Davis ushers a new era of integration to the broader community — one full of love and inclusion.

"I would like to invite the Gonzaga community to be a part of this welcoming force for international students and scholars, so be on the lookout for opportunities to make a difference, where vou can make an international student feel belonging," Lombardi said.

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



Davis is responsible for bridging cultures and working with immigration policies to make international students feel comfortable in the GU community.



The Climate Center is the first Jesuit academic institution to focus on climate change and its relationship to society.

CLIMATE

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Chatterjee.

Other key speakers at the event will include GU Provost and Senior Vice President Deena González.

Despite being situated on GU's campus and led by GU faculty, the Climate Center aims to be heavily involved in the regional community. Henning hopes that by building relationships with Inland Northwest business leaders and policy-makers, the Climate Center will initiate vital climate research and funding that will help communities understand, mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"The Center is distinguished by its singular focus on climate change, and its interdisciplinary approach to tackling the challenges," Henning said. "The Gonzaga Climate Center is the first academic center at a Jesuit institution to focus on the challenge of climate change and how it relates to society and the environment."

The idea first came to life in 2013 when a group of faculty first brought it to university administration. In the last two years this interdisciplinary group from across

the university brought the idea of this new leadership initiative to reality.

'The Climate Center proposal received strong support from nearly every academic dean, Provost González, and President [Thayne] McCulloh," Henning said. "It is gratifying to see this come into existence even amidst the challenges created by the pandemic."

As an extension of GU's mission statement to "care for the planet," the Climate Center outlines its goals as being, "informed by an abiding commitment to a just society and care for the planet."

Today's event is not only highly anticipated by GU's faculty and associates, but students as well are preparing for the major turning point in environmental studies at the university.

Soleil Rain is a senior and served on the Gonzaga Student Body Association as sustainability chair her sophomore year. As an avid environmentalist, she sees this center as a vital step in GU's vision to uphold its

mission statement and commitment to the environment. "GU has struggled for a long time with involving critical environmental work into our inner working of the school," Rain said. "But with this new center, hopefully actual progress can be made to follow our mission of

commitment to a just society and care for the planet.

Rain will graduate this May as the new center arrives but as the university plans to resume all in-person facilities this fall, current and future students will be able to be involved in this critical addition to GU's mission effort.

"I remember hearing the news we were going to have a center for climate, society and the environment and I got really excited," Rain said. "This is a great step to care for the planet in a time when we really need it the most."

The inaugural lecture will be livestreamed online and is available to all Thursday afternoon. According to the university there is no attendance limit and all who wish to attend the livestreamed event are encouraged to do so.

For more information on how to watch the livestream and to register for the lecture, visit gonzaga.edu/center-for-climate-society-environment.

Aodhan Brown is a contributor.

A post-COVID-19 light at the end of the tunnel

re-pandemic, I was the most outgoing person imaginable. I went to every concert I could, hung out with new people every weekend and hugged everyone goodbye. Needless to say, the pandemic has not been easy

But even with the excitement of moving back to normal, I know I will not be the person I once was. I still love hanging with new people and will continue to do so when things return to "normal," but the thought of a concert terrifies me. How I survived bi-monthly moshpits without getting sick every time remains a mystery to me.

With everything opening back up, I have been more anxious than ever. The invisible threat of contracting COVID-19, or (for me, what I fear more than getting COVID-19) exposing my friends and those I care about to it, remains even as mask mandates are lifted and people are vaccinated. While I would love to dive head-first into normalcy, I do not think I'll feel comfortable without my mask for a while.

When my Spotify showed that some of my favorite reggae bands would be performing a mini-festival at a theater near me in early August, I screamed out of excitement. I texted my parents immediately stating that I would go alone if I have to, but that I cannot miss any more concerts. The energy passed around at shows, even when you attend one alone, is unmatched and is my favorite feeling in the world.



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By SYDNEY FLUKER

But thinking about going to a concert is conflicting. While I will be vaccinated, will I be able to stand that physically close to strangers? Feeling people breathing down my neck, bumping into strangers left and right and so many germs? The thought of returning to that environment postpandemic feels impossible.

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At this point, seminormal is the most I'm willing to ask for. It feels like

every-time I get my hopes up thinking we're nearing the end, a new strain is introduced and cases rise again. I know the time will come where COVID-19 is a thing of the past and masks will disappear, but I don't think that will happen this summer.

According to President Joe Biden, the U.S. population could expect vaccinations available for all adults by April 19. With the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines taking a little over a month to become fully effective, we can hope that the majority of the population will be fully vaccinated by the end of June to beginning of July.

Living in a country obsessed with their freedom to choose and riddled with false media, I have low hopes that enough people will get vaccinated to where we will be able to have a normal summer. PEW Research reported on March 5 that 69% of Americans intend to get vaccinated, but the World Health Organization still does not know how many Americans need to be vaccinated for herd immunity to be effective.

This is worrisome for me. As we try to return to normalcy, the majority of our society intends to get vaccinated, but will that be enough? Even when I'm fully vaccinated, will the fear of getting my loved ones sick stay with me? How will I react when I feel symptomatic, even when it's just a cold or allergies, in the future? Will COVID-19 even be able to be a "thing of the past" for me?

I am so excited for things to be normal again, but my anxiety prevents me from imagining a world without COVID-19. The trauma we have faced throughout this pandemic has affected some of us more than others, meaning everyone's adjustment back to normal will be different. For me, I can only hope I won't have anxiety attacks when I step outside and see a maskless world.

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

The true meaning of a Jesuit education

At first glance, a literal first glance, from the glowing crosses atop St. Aloysius and the candles circling Mary in the Grotto, Gonzaga appears to be a very Catholic university. When I first toured the campus, I remember being wary of what appeared to be a very heavy religious influence over life at GU.

Being someone who was never raised in a religious household, let alone brought up in the Catholic church, it was somewhat daunting to me to embark on this new journey, one so intertwined with a faith so foreign to me.

This all changed as soon as I really began my time and journey here at GÚ, and any apprehensions I had about being pressured to conform to any certain religion or practice flew out the window. While it took me a while to become accustomed to walking past Nuns in College Hall, and Ash Wednesday threw me for a loop, I began to not only become acclimated to life at a Jesuit college, I began to truly appreciate the way that faith played a role in life at GU.

While I wasn't brought up in a religious household, both my parents were. They had the full Catholic childhood, so much It might as well have been a

so that my dad was an altar boy all throughout high school. Although neither would call themselves Catholic or religious today, they both saw the benefits that accompanied a Jesuit university.

While I was wandering around aimlessly trying to keep a tally of how many statues of Jesus I saw on our tour, they were discussing with the tour guide the benefits of requiring students to enroll in religion courses throughout our four years.

I still remember walking into my first religion class sophomore year, and although I had just gotten myself through the horrors of organic chemistry, this class had me sweating as I made my way to my seat. And not just from the painful College Hall

The lecture began and the professor casually referenced a Bible verse a few minutes in. I saw everyone around me nodding agreement, completely understanding everything that was being said, as I frantically searched for my notebook to write down as much as I could in order to try to later figure out what in the world was happening.



By AUDREY MEASER

foreign language class to me.

Low and behold, just like any other class at GU, it was tough, but I got through it. What I remember most from that class weren't the times I sat there wide-eyed and confused as the professor listed off a dozen names that I had never heard of. Nor the times where I spent hours trying to find a singular Bible verse.

What I do remember from that class is the camaraderie formed from the little bubble of desks around me, and the friendships that were started with a simple "do you have any idea what's happening right now?"

This to me is the true meaning of a Jesuit education. I may never

fully understand it in the context of a Bible verse, or a sermon given at mass, but I think the true value of what it means to attend a Catholic school is to make sure that everyone around you feels

included and supported. We're living through a time in history where this support is being tested and people's true colors are beginning to show. We've seen the ways that GU has let our students down in the past or stood to the side and let injustices slide. This is where I believe we cannot rely on teachings from a book, but rather on the actions of one another and actively practicing what a Jesuit education preaches.

Being an active member of GU's Jesuit foundation isn't about how many times you attend church or how many religion courses you take. It's about being there for each other and speaking up when you see an injustice. It's about putting the pressure on those in charge to make the necessary changes so that all of us on campus can feel safe and supported, always.

Going to a Catholic university, much to my relief, has nothing to do with memorizing Bible verses or knowing the difference

between a priest, a pastor and a reverend (I still have no clue). It's about what you do with the Jesuit education given to you, and how you lift those around you up.

It's about making sure that from the moment we walked through the doors of St. Al's for our freshman academic convocation, to the final few moments we gather in that same space our senior year, and every moment in between, those around you are seen, heard and cared for.

While I'm quite confident that I'll never be able to pronounce most of the names in the Bible, nor will I ever be able to spell St. Aloysius without spell check. I do know that once my four years at GU are over, I will walk away knowing that I will keep and cherish the Jesuit values I learned here, and do my part to help make the world around me a little better.

Audrey Measer is the opinion editor. Follow her on Twitter: @audrey_measer.

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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West coast is the best coast

I have known I wanted to attend college on the West Coast since I was old enough to understand that I could keep learning after high school.

Even though I am technically West Coast native being born in Seattle, I have lived in Western Massachusetts for the last 20 years. I appreciated the proximity to my extended family growing up, but starting as early as middle school I began yearning to move out here.

The differences between coasts were noticeable even when I first started coming out here for weeklong vacations or long weekends of college visits.

I noticed right off the bat that whenever I went to a new West Coast city, I never felt overwhelmed. Places like Seattle and Portland seemed so much easier to live in, or even just visit, compared to New York City or Washington D.C.

Also, the stereotype that the East Coast is all about hustle and bustle and the West Coast is more laid back seemed to hold up pretty well when I started visiting places up and down the coast. I think it still does.

That's not to say that people do not get as much done out here than back east. It's just that people here are, for lack of a better term, a lot nicer about the way they go about doing what they need to do and interacting with the people around them.

I definitely feel more at home out here because of that mentality, even if some of it is imagined.

My biggest realization my freshman year, though, was that there are far more noticeable and differences necessary adjustments to make when living here long-term. Some of those differences between the East and West coasts seem small but really add up, especially when you are a new student on



By DAGNY ALBANO

your own for the first time.

When I first landed in Spokane, there were not a lot of restaurants or stores that I was terribly familiar with. The fall semester of my freshman year was my first four-month Dunkin' drought. I also had to replace the familiar Stop & Shop with Safeway and found myself making late-night runs to Shari's on weekends, which I had never heard of before.

Besides the demeanor and store differences, I think the biggest real 'culture shock' for me moving to the West Coast was the language that people use. I did, and still do, find these differences fascinating.

In Mass., we use the word "wicked" as a synonym for "very." As in, "you're wicked smart," or "that was wicked funny." It became overwhelmingly apparent that people here do not share our affinity for the word.

The word 'wicked' gave me a full-blown existential crisis during my first year. I was getting called out left and right for using the word in class or in social settings, and my self-consciousness led me to say it even more, which created some very funny situations.

But there was definitely a point when I felt the need to go back and correct myself even though the sentence made perfect grammatical sense. Those days are long gone, but it was an

adjustment period for sure.

Also, I once referred to a traffic circle as a rotary, and my friends reacted as if I had stolen candy from a small child.

The last big thing I noticed when switching coasts was the Spokane-area accent, and how apparently different that is from the way I talk. I once had a friend tell me that my Boston accent was thicker than Matt Damon's in "Good Will Hunting," even though I literally grew up as far as you can possibly be from Boston while still being from

Massachusetts. I also once had a professor whose Spokane accent was so noticeable, from my perspective, that I was genuinely convinced that she thought my name was

"Degg-ny." I am aware that none of these are super life-changing. But again, when I moved here at first it still felt like a lot to take in. Even though these are not objectively good or bad changes, they still caused me to adjust and do a bit of self-reflection. (Yes, the word 'wicked' is that important to me.)

With all of these changes that moving to the West Coast has brought, and possibly even because of these changes, I love the West Coast more than anything in this world. I love the vibes, the food, the nature and the people I have met here.

My move to the West Coast is a perfect example of the idea that change is good. In this case, change is great. Change is fantastic. Change is the best thing that ever happened to me.

Dagny Albano is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @dagny_albano.



Boo Radley's is located on 232 N. Howard St., directly down the street from Atticus Coffee & Gifts.

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The most mysterious man in Spokane

Atticus Coffee & Gifts and Boo Radley's have been showing Spokane a good time since 1993

By THEA SKOKAN

or almost 30 years, Andy Dinnison has been ranscending the bullshit.

The owner of Boo Radley's Gift Shop and Atticus Coffee & Gifts, Dinnison, is Spokane's own king of rarities, oddities and toys and has loved every minute of supporting unique and undiscovered gifts.

Boo Radley's opened on Post Street in 1993 after Dinnison decided to venture out on his own. Prior to opening he managed Auntie's Bookstore and Cafe and even tried his hand as a sales rep at a few gift companies. While he loved the products, he still craved a certain type of freedom that wouldn't necessarily take him away from

"I found I didn't like life on the road and finally thought about doing my own store," Dinnison said. "My wife Kris was working as a teacher, so we had a good steady job and no kids at that point so I took the leap and opened up Boo Radley's. And here we are, 28 years later and still going strong."

Somewhere along the way in 2009, Atticus came into being after the Dinnisons purchased what was formerly 4 Seasons Coffee.

"I never thought I was going to have a second store with a 'To Kill A Mockingbird' name," he said. "In fact, I was determined to find something different but everyone was like well, gee dummy, if Boo Radley's is the weirdo, fun quirky store down the block, this one has got to be Atticus.'

Dinnison and his wife are literature fanatics and after considering a few other names, it felt like the natural choice given the storyline of the widely known classic. In 'To Kill A Mockingbird," Boo Radley lives down the street from Jem and Scout, the two children of Atticus Finch. The kids are convinced Boo is the boogeyman living in a haunted house. At the same time, they receive little handmade gifts

in a knotted tree hole that they realize later are from the like. man they were so afraid of.

"As a 13-year-old you're convinced Boo is going to be the bad guy and then you realize, yeah he's weird, but that's not bad," he said. "It turns out there is a whole other kind of bad in the book and Boo saves the day in the end.'

Like Boo Radley, the toys they sell are meant to be like the gifts left for Jem and Scout — a message of friendship from the most mysterious man in Maycomb, or in this

After years of hardwork and success, the Dinnisons have begun to think seriously about stepping down, taking some time for themselves and handing the reins over to longtime manager Jen Menzer, an offer she has readily accepted.

"I always used to say they'd never get me to leave, they'd have to pry the keys out of my cold dead hands,"

She started working at Boo Radley's in 2001 and her love for the two shops has only grown over the last 20

"I love the atmosphere here," Menzer said. "It's such a fun store and it's kind of contagious."

The process of naming a co-owner is a long one, she said, but right now Menzer is writing up a business plan and trying to make sense of the financing. One thing she guarantees is nothing will change about the beloved stores under her new co-ownership. She just wants to continue the work of the people she's come to love.

"My coworkers kick ass," she said. "I love Andy and Kris. They started as acquaintances and have grown to be two of my very best friends in the whole world, as well as mentors. They're like family."

The space itself makes coming to work every day easy as well, Menzer said. She loves the aesthetic of Atticus. With corners adorned with fake plants and rustic brick walls, it's the kind of place she wishes her house looked

"It's like when you're flipping through a magazine thinking, 'Maybe someday my house will look this cool," Menzer said. "That's how I feel when I walk into Atticus."

One of her favorite parts of the job is hearing what people have to say when she's out on the floor and they don't realize who she is.

"They're walking around and talking about things in the store saying, 'Oh this is my favorite thing,' or, 'My mom bought this for me when I was a kid," Menzer said. "I just get this tingle every time I realize how much people

Out of all the crazy and unique products they sell there's one that's never gone out of style and Menzer still can't believe it.

"Socks fell into our lap 10 years ago," she said. "At first I was like, who is going to spend \$10 on socks? And now we have an entire sock wall and I feel like I'm ordering weird socks every week."

For Dinnison, the product that's transcended time is the "Transcend the Bullshit" logo. They continue to order everything from shirts to mugs adorned with the wise logo created by well-known local artist Harold Balazs.

That logo has been a special sense of pride," Dinnison said. "We've been carrying it for over 20 years at all stores. I just have a personal love for that sentiment and that it's unique to Spokane." For a lot of people Atticus is where they get their close

friend a quirky birthday gift, for other's it's a meeting spot. Regardless of the occasion, Menzer loves to be a part of "It's cute to see people on their first date in Atticus. You can totally tell when people are awkward and almost

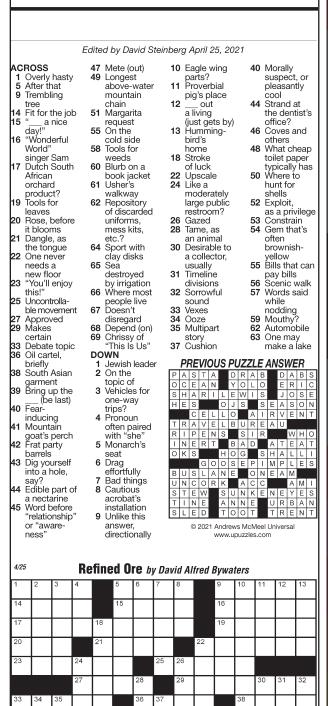
touching but not quite," she said. "It's just really cute, you

Thea Skokan is a news editor.

get to watch people have a good time."

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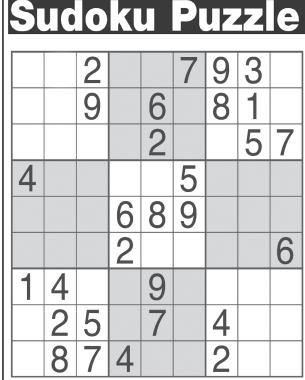
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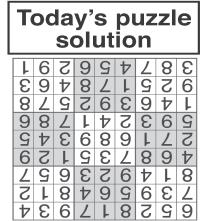
LGBTO+





DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

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



@GonzagaBulletin

A small business that is oat of this world

By DEVAN IYOMASA

ith a passion for porridge, senior Josh Butorac has his sights set on paving his way into the fast-casual breakfast sphere, one bowl of Oaties oatmeal at a time.

The entrepreneurship and innovation and project management major from Newberg, Oregon initially thought of the idea for a customizable oatmeal stand two and a half years ago after listening to one of his favorite podcasts, "How I Built This," on NPR.

"I've always kept this ongoing list since early in high school of anytime I think of an idea for a business or a better way to do something I just jot it down; I've got thousands of notes in my phone," Butorac said. "I got this really long one for all my creative ideas and this one was on there for an oatmeal stand."

Butorac explained the business idea for Oaties Oatmeal Stand as a Chipotle or Subway-like establishment for oatmeal where he would have menu items with complex flavor profiles as well as the option for customers to customize their own bowl.

With ingredients like white truffle oil, dragon fruit, toasted walnuts and caramelized pears, Oaties Oatmeal Stand sets itself apart as a one-of-a-kind high-end oatmeal joint.

As someone who enjoys being active, Butorac enjoys eating oatmeal as a healthy and versatile source of energy.

After hearing the passion behind his idea, Butorac's housemate, Nicole Bien encouraged him to have a trial run of his business out of their kitchen window.

On Friday, April 16 and Sunday, April 18, Butorac sold over 70 bowls of what he calls "bougie oatmeal" to friends and community "Seeing it come to life is really exciting, especially out of our

window at 1618 and seeing our friends support us," Bien said.

Butorac's love for oatmeal goes back to his childhood and connection with his family.

"When I was little one of my favorite memories was coming downstairs when I woke up at my grandparents' house and my grandpa making me oatmeal, so I've kind of always loved it," Butorac

One of Butorac's customers, senior Shannon Page enjoyed her "Espress-oats", which consists of maple syrup, mixed nuts, chocolate chips and a shot of espresso, when she visited Oaties Oatmeal Stand with a few friends on Sunday.

"I make oats all the time, I love oats, so it was kind of fun to have someone else make them in their own way and they were really good," Page said.

Page said Butorac's oats outshine oatmeal at other brunch spots



Butorac's business is inspired by a Chipotle or Subway-like

because of the personalization in his flavors and option to customize your bowl of oats.

"They had so many ingredients in the oats that it was just extremely flavorful, so Í definitely thought it was way better than any oatmeal I've ordered at restaurants," Page said.

Butorac's current favorite flavor is the "Woo-Tangy," which includes avocado, bacon, egg, cheddar, garlic, pepitas, honey and truffle oil or sriracha.

"That one is cool because it's savory and I think it excites a lot of people because not a lot of people have tried savory oatmeal," Butorac said.

As a senior, Butorac says the "puzzle pieces" of his business

education are beginning to come together and his experience with Oaties Oatmeal Stand has helped him actualize the concepts he's learned in the classroom. He pointed to his business ethics and social entrepreneurship classes specifically.

"Social entrepreneurship inspired me to use a business as a platform to do social good in the world and actually make a difference in people's lives because at the end of the day, people are what matter," Butorac said.

However, the idea for Oaties Oatmeal Stand was not always met with positive feedback when pitched in his business classes.

"It's kind of been in the back burner of my ideas because every time I pitch it in class it doesn't get a lot of attention unless you're into fitness and like oatmeal," Butorac said. "It's not going to come across as the greatest idea because what people like to hear when they get excited about ideas are ideas that are super high growth and the next Uber or Facebook."

Nevertheless, Butorac said his dream since middle school was to start his own business, leading him to pursue his passion.

"In general, when he has [a business idea] he likes to say it out loud just to make it more concrete and to get people's opinion," Bien said. "Oatmeal is something he's been thinking about for a long time though, I think this plan has been going on over the course of at least a few months."

At the end of the day, Butorac's business is about more than just oatmeal. Butorac says his family and passion for cooking are constant sources of inspiration for him.

"I'm really inspired by my grandpa, he immigrated here from the Philippines and worked in the fields of Salinas Valley harvesting vegetables for a long time," Butorac said. "His dream was to have his kids go to college, be educated and have a good family... I got to visit him recently and it was cool to see him so happy."

Butorac plans on keeping up with Oaties Oatmeal Stand after graduation by taking his oats on the road and applying to different farmers markets along the West Coast.

His goal is to engineer a business model designed to help people and give back to communities through what he calls "porridge for people".

Oaties Oatmeal Stand will open for orders again on Friday, April 30 and Sunday, May 2 from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. To stay up to date on Butorac's oatmeal journey, follow his Instagram

Devan Iyomasa is a news editor. Follow her on Twitter: @devaniyomasa.

Movie theaters make a reel comeback

By JULIETTE CAREY

Whiffs of fake butter, first dates, junior mints and big gulps fill the isles of empty movie theaters. It's clear the world has been missing the nostalgic experience of an outing to the movies.

When the world hit the pause button in 2020, movie theaters were included in the long list of businesses which had to shut down.

'We went into the weekend of March 13 planning on scaling it back, deciding to do 50% capacity on our own," said Joe Sheehan manager at the Magic Lantern Theatre. "Information was coming out every few hours on new things getting shut down, and within a few days we were told we had to close."

Like many other businesses, it thought its shutdown would only

Last Friday was the Magic Lantern's first day opening new films. It's currently showing "Nomadland" and "Minari" and have a couple other films lined up for the next few weeks.

We don't really know what to expect," Sheehan said. "We have a decent word of mouth and a lot of people have expressed excitement to come back now that we've announced that we're reopening."

Until recently, it was difficult for them to get all the moving parts of the theatre running again due to the limited content available and major equipment such as their projector needing to be replaced. The small theatre has two screens. One seats 100 and the other seats 33 so it will be limited to 50 in the large theater and 16 in the smaller one. Their COVID-19 precautions consist of limiting capacity to 50%, requiring masks, having accessible hand sanitizer and wiping down chairs and armrests between shows.

To adapt business to the restrictions of the pandemic, it turned to offering rentals where a small group could have an entire screening to themselves for \$99. It has always offered rentals, but put more energy toward this service when it saw that other theaters, even larger ones such as AMCs, around the state were offering similar deals.

The Magic Lantern Theatre opened in 1971 and has been in its current location since 2007 when the Saranac Commons building opened. It plays a unique variety of independent films, documentaries, foreign films and art house movies and is the only first run theater that sells beer and wine.

"For anybody interested in film and stuff outside of the mainstream, we're often going to be the only place you can see some of the movies that we're showing," Sheehan said.

A connecting business in the Spokane community, Magic Lantern Theatre also works with local production companies and does community events.

"We have a lot of partnerships with community organizations that have their own messaging, campaigning and fundraising ideas and we're sort of a tool for them in a lot of ways," Sheehan said. The question of if people will still go to the movies post

pandemic is the elephant in the room. The pandemic has accelerated the process of transitioning to in-home streaming services.
"I don't think people are going to stop going to the movies," Sheehan said. "I still think going to the movies is a communal

experience and there's a social element to it that people will crave." Theatres are also in a unique position where the audience doesn't have to sign up for an entirely new streaming service just to watch a specific movie they're interested in. Viewers can simply go watch it at the theatre without the monthly fee, slimy deals and pestering

emails of streaming services. "I think in a lot of ways it's the multiplexes that are going to change the most because I don't know that there's enough movies to sustain the 20 screen theaters," Sheehan said. "For us, we're a little boutique art house experience and we're not necessarily competing with or going to affect the Netflix's or the AMC's of the world."

Many Gonzaga students missed the option to casually take a trip

"Last weekend my friends and I went to the AMC in the mall and we were so happy to set foot inside a movie theater since we hadn't been to one in over a year," freshman Mary Kate Hoglund said. "I felt comfortable doing so because everyone was spaced out with COVID precautions and there were only two other people in the movie theater since we went later at night. It was such a nostalgic feeling to sit in the comfy recliner chair with the smell of popcorn and candy in the air."

GU's SpikeNites is working to bring back the experience of going to the movies for the student population. They ran one movie night at the beginning of last semester while the weather was still warm, and another was held on Saturday.

"We wanted to provide a safe space outside for students to come and hang out together socially distanced," said Program Coordinator for Center of Student Involvement, Michaela Johnson.

Students were required to wear masks for the entire duration of the event, and were sat in pods of five, socially distanced. The event was able to host 400 students safely on Herak Lawn. "In the fall we had a large turnout due to students craving the

opportunity to do some sort of activity with their friends in a safe environment," Johnson said. "We were happy to provide an event like this that many were grateful to be able to attend." Fifty-eight students attended the most recent movie night on

Saturday which was not as big of a turnout as the previous movie Even with the transforming movie landscape, the post movie

theatre feeling of a blinding reentrance into the real world after the credits roll by and popcorn rolls out of every fold of your clothing, is unmatchable.

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

Here's a novel idea: Support local bookstores

Commentary by RILEY UTLEY

Much like books, local bookstores each have a unique and compelling story to tell. Nestled in nearby neighborhoods all around Spokane there are many one-of-a-kind shops with a unique selection of used and new books.

All these stores are community driven and community supported. They put on events and sales that not only help their business but help find forever homes for all their books.

Page 42

2174 N. Hamilton St.

Page 42 is located right up Hamilton Street from Gonzaga and is owned by a current GU student Emily Peterson, along with coowners Alicia and Jacob McCann.

"Our mission is to maximize our community impact," Peterson said. "That's visible in everything we do. We give away more books than we sell. If you need something from us and you need a book set or are looking for one and can't afford it we are always willing to make deals with our customers and help people out. We're community oriented."

Peterson said their store is the low-price leader in Spokane, with about 80% of their inventory being \$3 or less.

"Our goal is to make reading really accessible," Peterson said. "So, every four to six weeks in the summer we do 25 cent sales where we have 5 to 10 thousand books and whatever doesn't sell gets funneled back into the community. We donate to the jail and the prisons, we fill little free libraries, things like that."

Peterson and the other employees set up the books all the way around the perimeter of their shop so people can purse the stacks at a safe distance. These sales make books more accessible to the community and also helps the store turnover their inventory quicker so they can make room for new books.

"Our books, if they weren't on our shelves would probably be in a landfill," Peterson said. "With the way that people tend to get rid of books, if you donate to some thrift stores a lot of what you're donating ends up in the trash and you don't even know it. Our goal is to stop that from happening as much as possible which is why we find different funnels back into the community to make sure every book has a chance to find a permanent home."

Giant Nerd Books

607 W. Garland Ave.

Giant Nerd Books is currently in the process of moving from Monroe Street up to the Garland District because they were in need of a bigger space to store their collection of books.

"Largely, I just try to run a kind of bookshop I've always enjoyed spending time in," said Nathan Huston, owner of Giant Nerd Books, in an email. "If I'm not bored, great. If other people aren't bored as well, even better! I emphasize lesser-seen authors, titles and genres: in my place, you'll find very few of last year's bestsellers. Best compliment I ever got was from an old friend who said 'it's just like a real bookstore but there's no crap filling the shelves!"

He said that his store's inventory is about 80% used books and 20% new. The term "donation" makes Huston uncomfortable because he would rather buy or trade books. He continued saying people can come in during the store's buying hours to trade in or sell their books. This not only helps the shop but it stimulates the local economy.

"[There are] so many reasons to shop local... first and foremost, it keeps money in your local community, providing wages for employees with mouths to feed and bills to pay," Huston said. "Shopping local encourages diversity of thought and opinion, by supporting smaller businesses who might have more to say and thus making a greater impact on local communities."

As Giant Nerd Books moves into its new location Huston hopes to have "fresh art shows" and a grand re-opening in the store's parking lot in the near future.

Book Traders

907 W. Garland Ave.

When you walk into Book Traders you don't realize just how large it is until you begin to meander among the shelves and realize that you just keep walking and it never seems to stop. This store specializes specifically in book trading, as the name

implies. What this means is they buy books for 50% of the original cover price in exchange for store credit. With that credit you get a discount and pay between \$1 and \$2 for books. You can shop without store credit but the books just cost a bit

more, ranging from \$2.50 to \$10.

"[What makes us unique] is probably our large selection," said Karin Degner, owner of Book Traders. "We have a wide variety of things. We're one of the largest in Spokane and then our trade policy is we give you the most amount. We don't sell at the cheapest but we do give you the most credit."

This store also has a long history. It has been in its current location since 1992 and first opened in 1982. They have been trading and donating for many, many years.

to gather, many people do author readings and signings, so you're

"It adds to the community because it's a place to learn, a place

can't afford a book or they can't get out, we're supporting those businesses as well." **Auntie's Bookstore** 402 W. Main Ave.

getting a chance to meet those people," Degner said. "Honestly for

us what we do is we donate to the VA, nursing homes, free little

libraries, all these resources that people are looking for when they

Auntie's is probably the best known local bookstore in Spokane because of its long history and location in the heart of Downtown Spokane in the Liberty Building. This shop sells a little bit of everything and both new and used

books, with a lot of local inventory. "Auntie's is a Spokane institution," said Kerry Mayer, the assistant manager of Auntie's Bookstore in an email. "It's the largest

independent bookstore in Spokane, and it has been around in some form for over 40 years." They also host many events highlighting local and national

authors throughout the year. This year they've been doing quite a few virtual events. Recently they sold books for the Get Lit! festival and participated in the launch of Kate Lebo's book "The Book of

Soon they will be participating in a multi-bookstore release of "Sorrowland" by Rivers Solomon on May 8.

They sell just about any book you need and if they don't have it they can order it in for you.

We carry most hot new books, and sometimes we might even get a few signed copies," Mayer said. "In addition, we can usually special order most books that are currently in print and available

from our distributor." Overall, all these stores want to support their community as much as they can. They all also mentioned that students can benefit from these stores by selling their textbooks to them, coming to their

events and spreading the word about what's going on at the stores. "Shopping for books is an experience," Peterson said. "It's something different than shopping online. There's something magical about going into the bookstore and searching through the aisles until you find what you're looking for."

Riley Utley is a copy editor. Follow her on Twitter:

RUSCH

Continued from Page 1

books at once during the Zags' NCAA Tournament run. Rusch's family members and neighbors would buy Rusch five extra copies of each respective media outlet's newspaper after every game, and had a difficult time getting the materials needed before the next tournament game. Nevertheless, Rusch works around those obstacles and finishes the job, impressing those who help him in any way

they can. "We have been very impressed that he has taken the time year after year, and every game and every newspaper he has kept," Rusch's daughter-inlaw Annette said. "His table would be covered, and we're like, 'How does he keep that organized?' But in his mind, he knows exactly who goes where

and what album."

Rusch doesn't receive any direct help for his scrapbooks. The only help he will receive is getting the materials necessary to put the book together. Other than that, much like a quarterback for an NFL team, Rusch orchestrates what goes where for who, filling out his blueprint for the players to enjoy, making sure no negative article or anything bad about GU is displayed.

Rusch always makes it clear that he wants to be the one presenting the books directly to the players. Few doesn't tell him who to make books for and Rusch doesn't let the players know that he's making these books, keeping it a surprise to see the genuine look of happiness they have on their faces when they see these

In a normal non-pandemic environment, Few lets Rusch into practice to give the books, which is something exclusive to only a select few. Once



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Former GU men's basketball player Corey Kispert (left) receives a set of books from Harold Rusch and poses for a photo.

Rusch is at practice, he gets there a bit early and gets a hold of the players' books in exchange for some autographs.

One thing that's always repeated to Rusch from the players is these books are great for their mothers. Coming from all backgrounds and being such dominating figures in everyday life, Rusch admires the appreciation these players have for their mothers, and Rusch in response receives phone calls from the players' mothers saying thank you for the work he has put in.

As previously mentioned, Rusch has made over 228 books, 210 of which have been delivered to these members across the United States and across the globe. Rusch still has 18 books to deliver to players like Corey Kispert, Drew Timme, Jalen Suggs and Joel Ayayi. Rusch made it a goal of his to deliver the books to these players by hand in any way he can.

During a time that has been so difficult for so many, Rusch has used this time as a way to take his mind off things. His wife died in October, and it has been tough on him. To add on, Rusch contracted COVID-19 through Christmas and New Year's for four weeks and also had an operation to get rid of a lump he had on his cheek, where he will finish his treatment by the end of the month.

Prior to all of his recent obstacles, Rusch had a battle with bladder cancer in which he came out victorious, and despite it all, he takes opportunity of creating scrapbooks as a way to keep his mind off those struggles.

with everything Even Rusch has been through; surviving cancer, losing his wife, beating COVID-19 and undergoing a face procedure, he lives on and continues what he loves to do. Whether it be spending time with his family, taking care of his house or his yard or exercising by working out with his 18-pound weights, biking and rolling out four times a week, Rusch continues to shine a light in a world that needs it now more than ever.

And by no means does he have any intentions on ending that soon. The 97-year-old from Spokane wants to reach 100 years old so he can walk around and tell people that he's 100 years old whenever GU men's basketball team continues to create more memories on the court, you can bet Rusch will continue to be the one documenting these special moments for these >> Women's golf vs. WCC special players.

Pictures are truly worth a thousand words, but not single scrapbook can summarize the impact and passion Rusch has for his town's team, the Gonzaga

Bulldogs. "I enjoy doing it," Rusch said. "Every year it comes up on these books, I keep telling my family, I'm kind of crazy for putting these books together, but I said when the basketball season starts, bang, I'm right now for 21 years. This is just the way it happens. You don't give it up. It's just something that's instilled in you, and you gotta start those books going [again]."

Vincent Saglimbeni is a sports editor. Follow him on →Men's golf at Cougar Twitter: @vinnysaglimbeni.

GU SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, April 22

- → Women's golf vs. WCC Championships Day One, WCC Championships (Reflection Bay GC), Henderson, NV
- ➤ Baseball vs. BYU, 6 p.m.

Friday, April 23

- someone asks. And while the Men's golf at Cougar Classic - Day One, Cougar Classic (Riverside CC), Provo, Utah
 - Championships Day Two, WCC Championships (Reflection Bay GC), Henderson, NV
 - **>→ Women's tennis vs. Saint** Mary's, 11 a.m.
 - → Men's tennis at Saint Mary's, Moraga, California, 2 p.m.
- into it again. I've been into it >>> Baseball vs. BYU, 6 p.m.
 - → Track at Oregon relays, Eugene, OR, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 24 Baseball vs. BYU, 6 p.m.

- Classic Day Two, Cougar Classic (Riverside CC), Provo, Utah
- **>>** Women's golf vs. WCC Championships Day Three, WCC Championships (Reflection Bay GC,) Henderson, NV
- → Women's rowing at Oregon State University, Southern California, University of Washington, Oregon State Invitational, Corvallis, OR
- Men's rowing at San Diego & UCSD, Chula Vista, California, 8 a.m.
- →Women's tennis at the **University of Pacific, 11** a.m.

Tuesday, April 26 ➤ Baseball vs. Washington

State University, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27

→ Women's tennis at USD, San Diego, California, noon

'All home games in bold*

An update on Zag MBB recruits and moves

By ASHER ALI

The final buzzer of the NCAA men's basketball season may have sounded on April 5, but the action hasn't ceased for Gonzaga. In the weeks following the national championship game, the Zags have seen a lot of people go, while getting other key pieces on board to help GU return as a national title contender again next season.

The most exciting news of the team's recent updates came on Monday, when Minnehaha Academy big man and the nation's No. 1 high school recruit Chet Holmgren announced that he will be taking his talents to GU for his freshman

year next season. Holmgren is a unique 7-foot-1inch, 190 lb. center with a 7-foot-6inch wingspan that ESPN says has elite ball-handling, midrange shooting, lob catching and shot-blocking skills with above average footwork. The 2021 high school class's No. 1 player according to ESPN and 247Sports put up an impressive statline of 20.8 points, 12.6 rebounds, 4.7 blocks and 4.5 assists a game on 80% field goal shooting this year in Minnesota, making him the most coveted high school prospect to pick GU as their premiere destination.

"It was [Gonzaga's] consistent approach, how versatile they are on the court and their offensive style," Holmgren told ESPN after he committed. "They take their talent and tweak their system based on their personnel. They know how to put it all together."

The addition of Holmgren is only part of what is shaping up to be head coach Mark Few's best recruiting class ever secured at GU. On March 26, it was fellow five-star recruit and ESPN's No. 13 player in the 2021 class Hunter Sallis who declared as a Zag. Sallis is a 6-foot-5-inch point guard out of Millard North High School in Nebraska who averaged 22.3 points, 5.6 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game this season, and he chose GU over seven other schools including Creighton University from his hometown.

The pair of GU five-stars are now a part of an incoming freshman class that includes four-star forward Kaden Perry, international talent Fanbo Zeng and Ben Gregg, who was No. 56 in ESPN's 2021 class rankings before graduating high school early and joining GU for the latter half of the 2020-21 season.

Sallis is already projected to be a first round pick in next year's NBA draft, while Holmgren is considered a shoe-in top-five selection. He could be following in the footsteps of former Minnehaha Academy teammate Jalen Suggs, as Suggs announced on ESPN's 'The Jump' later on Monday that he'll be leaving GU for

"I will be entering my name into the NBA Draft and signing with an agency," Suggs said on-air Monday. "I'm super excited and I can't wait to take this next step in my journey; it's something I've dreamed about since I've been a little kid, to be here now is surreal and I'm ready to

Suggs established himself as one of the premier players on a GU squad teeming with talent this past season. He averaged 14.4 points, 5.3 rebounds and 4.3 assists as a true freshman while demonstrating strong leadership qualities and adding clutch performances to make him especially appealing to NBA franchises.

With the move, Suggs will be joining senior Corey Kispert and redshirt junior Joel Ayayi on NBA draft boards after Ayayi declared on April 9 and Kispert on

The trio that made up the Zags' core backcourt this past season aren't the only ones who have departed from GU in recent weeks. On the coaching side of things, longtime GU assistant coach Tommy Lloyd — the man credited with finding the program its swath of foreign talent over GU's 20 year run - has taken the head coaching position at the University of Arizona.

A well respected program in the illustrious PAC-12, U of A had come under hard times in recent seasons after the university was found to be illegally paying players following a 2017 investigation by the NCAA. The Wildcat's former head coach Sean Miller was never directly implicated in the charges handed down by the NCAA which included five Level I rule violations; but after failing to win an NCAA tournament game since the allegations came to light, Miller was fired by the school on April 7.

Lloyd will have to overcome sanctions d penalties accrued by U of A over the next few seasons, but he said that he'll overcome those obstacles to reconstruct the Wildcats thanks to his years under

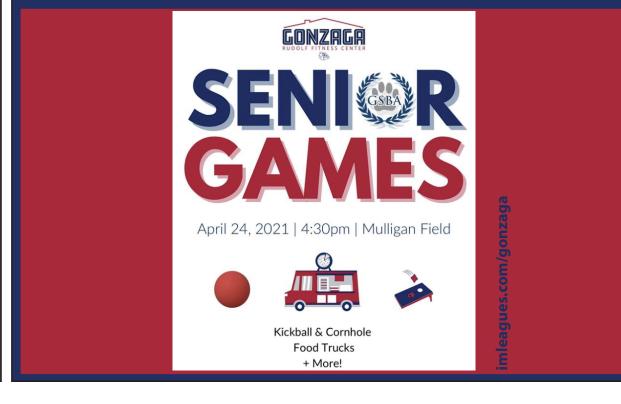
"I want to thank [Mark] for giving me the opportunity to work at Gonzaga and preparing me for this opportunity," Lloyd said at his Arizona news conference. 'The way he treated me and the freedom he gave me has prepared me to be a head coach — no doubt about it." Joining Lloyd in Tucson will be Oumar Ballo, GU's former 7-foot center

and the top international recruit from his year's recruiting class who announced his decision to transfer on Monday. After sitting out the 2019-20 season on an academic redshirt, Ballo looked to become GU's go-to big man off the bench last season. However, he saw limited time on the court, averaging 6.2 minutes per game, and those minutes dwindled down the stretch as Ben Gregg began to assert himself in the rotation.

Another GU big man Pavel Zakharov entered his name in the transfer portal on April 9 and went on to sign with California Baptist University late last week. Zakharov, originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, but a graduate of the esteemed Montverde Academy in Florida, went from averaging 4.5 minutes of floor time his freshman year with GU to 2.8 minutes last season.

Asher Ali is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @asher_ali3.





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A leg injury has sidelined the GU catcher for the rest of 2021, but his impact behind the dish will stay with the Zags all season

By TOMMY CONMY

he Gonzaga Bulldogs baseball program will be without standout catcher and designated hitter Stephen Lund following a leg injury sustained against Washington State University last Tuesday.

Lund, a redshirt sophomore, suffered the injury to his leg after sliding into second base in the top half of the sixth inning. After meeting, the two head coaches came to the mutual decision to call off the rest of the contest with the Zags leading 9-0. Since five innings were completed, the game counted as a win for the Bulldogs.

In the week following the injury, Lund received surgery on the leg and, "is in excellent spirits and in very good hands" according to his father Eric Lund's Twitter account.

The day after the injury, Stephen tweeted, "Truly blessed to be a part of this program. The amount of support I've gotten from everyone at all levels has been amazing. I couldn't get through this without having the best coaches and teammates out there! Also thank you to everyone who helped out at WSU last night."

Although it is easy to point to the offensive production that Lund provided for his team this spring, it's more difficult to quantify the impact his leadership and knowledge have had on the entire Zags pitching staff this

"Stephen has been one of our most consistent players the last couple of years. He has emerged as a team leader and works hard on and off the field," Coach Mark Machtolf said. "[The pitchers] have confidence in him to block and receive."

Since coming to GU, Lund has developed as a leader and key contributor for the Bulldogs. Lund played no small part in helping guide the Zags to sole possession of first place in the WCC standings with a record of 22-13 (11-4).

Without Lund, the Zags would have at least one less "W" to their name. In a tight game against TCU, Lund smacked a threerun homerun that gave the Zags the lead.

We kept that lead until the 9th [inning], and they eventually scored one more and then we went to extras. But we won that game in extras," Lund said. "Coming around the bases and coming back into the dugout knowing I put my team up against a top 15 team in the country was one of the best feelings. Everybody was going crazy and it was awesome?

Lund is the epitome of "we" and "team" within the Zags baseball program.

"Here, we get appreciated by our pitching staff. [Our pitchers] do a really good job, even the bench, if we make a good block or make a good catch, they'll not only say 'good pitch' to the pitcher, but 'nice block' as well," Lund said with a laugh. "It wasn't like that in a lot of places I've been previously. Here, it's really nice when you make a good play and everybody is really rallying around you and recognizing that you're doing something that impacts the team positively.

Crucial to the success of any baseball club is the relationship between pitcher and catcher. Lund recognizes the outsize impact he and the pitcher can have on the outcome of a contest as the ball is in truly in their

"I really pride myself on defense because I'm in every pitch and we've got to work hard behind the plate to make sure that the pitchers have confidence in us," Lund said. If the pitchers not going it's really hard to win a game so that's my first focus.

For starting pitcher Alek Jacob, the impact Lund's knowledge and wherewithal



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SOPHIE CROSBY IG: sophie_crosb

Lund had a .300 batting average, a .491 slugging percentage and six homeruns in 16 games.

has on a game is palpable.

"He makes [pitching] a lot easier for many reasons," Jacob said. "When I am pitching to Steve it opens the strike zone a lot and I know I can throw a pitch in the dirt without worrying about the runner advancing. He gives a lot of positive feedback to his pitchers, so you know when you throw a good pitch, and it helps your confidence on the mound."

Although baseball requires physicality for players to hit 400-foot homeruns and pitchers to hurl a ball 90 miles an hour at their opponent, the mental part of the game can often go unnoticed. Just like a golfer going through a mental checklist before every shot, Lund must perform mental calculus each pitch to get the best out of his teammates.

'We like to give each other feedback on what we see that is working well or what to improve on," Jacob said. "We know each other very well which has built up our confidence and chemistry together which can help a lot when trying to get hitters out."

Although the redshirt sophomore prides himself on defense, Lund compiled a gaudy offensive stat line this season, batting .300 with 22 RBI and six homeruns, doubling the totals of teammates Tyler Rando and Brett

In the series prior to the contest against WSU, Lund had the Gael's number all series long, amassing six hits, four RBI, and one homerun to secure the first two consecutive wins over their WCC foe since 2017.

"As I've gotten stronger and worked on my swing throughout my career at GU, the hitting has kind of come on its own," Lund said. "Even if I have a bad at-bat I know I can still impact the game behind the plate. That is what I like about catching the most."

To say the hitting has come on its own is a modest assessment. Lund was tied for second in the WCC in home runs with six and was eighth in the entire 10-team conference in

Lund hails from Verona, Wisconsin where he was rated as the 13th best player and the third best catcher in the state. Lund entered college with a Perfect Game rating of 9 according to Perfect Game - a national baseball scouting service. Perfect Game lists a rating of 9 as signifying Lund as a "Potential top 10 round pick and/or highest-

level college prospect."

With 20 games remaining on the schedule, Lund will continue to support his teammates as they work toward their collective goal of a WCC championship. Make no mistake, the Zags would not be sitting atop the WCC without their two-way contributor and leader.

Tommy Conmy is a staff writer.

Sustaining in the game

GU athletics is continually making efforts to increase and promote environmentally-friendly practices

By COLE FORSMAN

The notion of sustainability has come a long way over the last few decades, especially in the Gonzaga University Athletic Department. Recycling and using compostable materials were a known idea, however pushing for these practices was not a priority like it is today. Now, along with the goals set by the university, the department places an emphasis on being eco-friendly; whether it's renovating a facility or performing simple day-to-day cleaning tasks.

"It's completely changed," said Rob Kavon, associate director of athletic facilities. "The fact that we've come so far with that has been great, and the initiatives the university has come up with have been awesome."

Kavon recalled a time where even recycling bins were hard to come by in the offices, along with using certain packaging and other average materials that were not the most environmentally friendly.

And it wasn't just the simple practices that needed adjusting; overall infrastructure had to be updated as well. Older plumbing and heating technology made for an inefficient use of resources as well as uncomfortable working environments. The department began an overhaul, including automatic flush toilets to save more water while also favoring eco-friendly paper towels in restrooms. Major ventilation systems have also been updated to become more automated, such as the boilers, HVAC system and air conditioning.

Even managing the amount of food waste at athletic events has become a top priority for the department. Through Sodexo catering, efforts to be more environmentally sustainable include redistribution of any non-prepared meals through on-campus dining or sent to local shelters and organizations that help out those who are less fortunate. Reusable silverware and compostable food trays have also been a point of focus, as students have most likely taken notice when eating at the COG or

"We're trying to be as sustainable as we possibly can be," Kavon said. "In all of our athletic facilities on campus."

Making sustainability a mainstream idea has also been influenced by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a rating system used by the U.S. Green Building Council to assess a facility's construction. This takes into account various design aspects, from the energy and water efficiency to the overall location of the building and determines a level of certification based on these factors. The assessment is broken down by four tiers: certified, silver, gold and platinum, the latter being the highest rank and a sign of high sustainability.

To earn a certain level of certification, LEED has a point-based scale for each of the major design factors, with a heavy emphasis on the overall atmosphere and energy performance of the building. This includes a facility's ability to optimize refrigeration, use renewable power sources and install green and carbon offsets. Air quality is also of significant importance; low-emitting materials, thermal comfort and sunlight availability are all coveted by the assessment.

All of these elements were taken into consideration during the construction of the most recent athletic facility on campus, the Volkar Center. Built in 2018, the 51,240 square foot space comprises both local and recyclable goods, such as certain wood and tile materials. The rubber flooring in the weight room is also environmentally sustainable, as is a majority of the facility overall aside from certain aspects such as paint. Nevertheless, Kavon stressed that the architects perform their due diligence during the construction process.

The Volkar Center is just a piece in the university's overall mission of achieving at least a "silver" LEED rating for all buildings on campus. This includes Patterson Baseball Complex, Luger Field and McCarthey Athletic Center, as well as smaller venues such as the Stevens Center and the Martin Center.

Maintaining outdoor areas that require grass and turf care present a different array of obstacles that involve direct impact on the nearby environment itself. An understanding of safe fertilizers to use and in the correct dosage is crucial to balancing lawn care with sustainability, as alternative pesticides contain harmful chemicals. This is

especially true in the case of Luger Field, which is located not far from the Spokane River.

"Our grounds crew has to be very cognizant of that when choosing their fertilizers," Kavon said. "They can't use certain chemicals because it will affect the river."

This duty falls on the shoulders of Tommy Brown, the athletic turf manager at GU who is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of Luger Field and Coach Steve Hertz Field. A veteran in the business, Brown has 35 years of experience and a keen sense of what it takes to not

"The amount of pesticide I put down is so minimal, it would have no impact on [the river]," Brown said. "I just don't add it in that capacity."

Brown takes great pride in knowing what exactly each field needs to thrive in this environment. Through soil testing, he's able to identify how much fertilizer is needed without overdoing it, something that he felt was a problem in the turf industry. Reckless practices occur frequently according to Brown, resulting in poorly kept fields and overexposing the ecosystem to unnecessary chemicals. Instead, he favors organic materials and even recycles the grass clippings leftover from mowing the lawns.

Insecticides and other harmful practices are avoided all together, with the exception being certain pesticides for plant growth. But because of their designed use, they actually pose more of a threat to humans than the environment itself.

"If you do know what's in the soil and what the requirements of the grass are, it's a much more responsible way of doing it," Brown said. "We try to be fully aware of that and create a healthy environment."

From the bowels of McCarthey Athletic Center to the pitch on Luger Field, the GU athletic department continues to meet university expectations year after year. The Volkar Center was just one of many buildings on campus to earn recognition for its efficient design, a sign that sustainability is a shared responsibility on campus.

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

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Gonzaga Student Media is looking for business-minded Gonzaga students who want a challenging and rewarding campus job that provides professional - real world experience for future employment. Applicants must have a comfort and ease talking to people of all ages and be comfortable calling clients on the phone. This position provides training and builds professional skills that are valuable for future employment in sales, marketing, finance promotion, public relations and more. Must be a registered Gonzaga student. Information session are being held: Thursday April 22 at 5:10pm or Friday April 23 at 12:15pm. Email shiosaki@gonzaga.edu for Zoom link or for more information



Student Graphic Designer Institutional Student Position

Gonzaga Student Media is looking for students who are proficient with one or more of the following Adobe software products for desktop publishing: Photoshop, InDesign, or Illustrator. Candidate must have a portfolio of work that demonstrates use and skill with the Adobe software. Ideal candidates will have some work or classroom experience. Work experience is optional. Applicants should be hard-working, enthusiastic and most importantly creative. Must be a registered Gonzaga student with a GPA of 2.5

For a detailed job description and an application email shiosaki@gonzaga.edu



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Gonzaga Student Media is looking for a qualified student to lead its Marketing and Promotions area for 2021-2022. The purpose of the position is to create, implement, oversee, and evaluate marketing and promotion strategies for three student journals, Spires Yearbook and Bulletin Newspaper. This position may also be used in part to complete PRLS 487 Internship in Public Relations, or for eligible juniors and seniors completing a student internship with the School of

The ideal candidate must be a registered Gonzaga student and have a minimum of GPA 2.5



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