Room for bicycles, studies and . . .

Actually, the real reason that sophomores Brooks Butterfield, left, and Seth Bulger built this L-shaped loft in their DeSmet Hall room was to make a cushy place for friends to gather. I mean, who has two couches? Butterfield and Bulger do. A business/pre-law major, Bulger was the design guru: “I wanted to have as much room as possible, so over the summer I thought about a way to maximize the floor space,” he said.

Butterfield, who is double majoring in journalism and public relations, credits Bulger with taking the lead on construction of the loft. They both like the results. “What I really appreciate with a loft is having lots of friends in my room,” Butterfield said. “That’s what college is all about.”
President’s Perspective

Gonzaga’s response to the economy

By Father Robert J. Spitzer
Gonzaga University president

Many in our community are concerned about the current state of our national and global economy, the discouraging forecasts for the immediate future and beyond, and the potential for negative impact on Gonzaga and its operation. While past experience suggests that higher education can actually thrive in times of general economic distress – that is, that people return to school for additional education when the economy gets tough – it is only prudent that we plan realistically for challenging circumstances, should they arise.

As of Dec. 1, no significant downturn has appeared in either undergraduate or graduate-enrollment and retention. Our applications are slightly higher than last year and our campus visits have increased by 15 percent. We have not noticed an increase in transcript requests (which would indicate an increase in transfer applications). And so, we believe that our retention will be quite good.

Central to our success as an institution is the quality of our educational activities and the commitment we show daily to our students. Our ability to continue to be economically successful is intimately connected with students’ satisfaction and their willingness to remain at Gonzaga. Thus, our first responsibility – as it ever has been – is to carry out with vigor and commitment our mission to mission and quality, while planning for challenges to come. In preparation for possible effects of the recession on enrollment and budget in the 2009-10 academic year, the administration has formed a financial risk-monitoring committee which has two functions:

1. Respond to enrollment and internal challenges
2. Respond to retention strategies, such as additional grant aid and a loan program for our neediest students who may have difficulty obtaining credit;
3. A financial aid program to help both our neediest and middle-income students; and
4. A marketing program that will explain why Gonzaga is a “good buy” in these current market conditions (as it has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review and other independent rating services).

The enrollment/internal subcommittee also is assigned to determine where cutbacks could be made if we should find ourselves facing a revenue shortfall. Though current data do not suggest that we will face such a shortfall, it would be imprudent not to prepare for any eventuality. As I always tell the students, “chance favors the prepared mind.”

The credit/liquidity sub committee is charged with monitoring Gonzaga’s debt financing and investments (particularly those investments affect liquidity necessary for ongoing operations). Currently our interest rates are favorable and our liquidity adequate for current operations. This subcommittee is charged with creating back-up plans to negotiate even greater challenges in the credit and liquidity market as well as to locate opportunities which may emerge for both credit and liquidity even in today’s challenging marketplace. Again, current data do not suggest that we are facing imminent problems, however, these measures of preparation should serve us well.

As we move into a somewhat uncertain future, we are confident that we can respond in a way that will protect our students, faculty, staff and academic quality. We also know that we can count on you, our alumni and friends, to help if conditions should become more challenging. I thank you for what you have already done, for the love and commitment you have shown, and for the ways you will undoubtedly help our students and community in the future. God bless you for your service and generosity.

Dedicated to Father Spitzer

This issue of Gonzaga Quarterly is dedicated to Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Gonzaga University’s 25th president, who will embark on new ventures in July.

1998-2009 Highlights

President Robert J. Spitzer, S.J.

He defined five pillars of Jesuit education to create a clear vision for Gonzaga’s future: faith, service, justice, ethics and leadership.
Father Spitzer developed a growth strategy that produced enrollment increases from 4,507 overall in fall 1998 to 7,319 in fall 2008, with undergraduate enrollment increases from 2,812 in 1998 to 4,518 in 2008. Also championed an increase in enrollment increases from 4,507 overall in fall 1998 to 7,319 in fall 2008, with undergraduate enrollment increases from 2,812 in 1998 to 4,518 in 2008. Also championed an increase in their research and learning. No timeline yet for making this a reality. Junior Brittany Burgin and sophomores Monica Marmalejo and Dominique Danaceny swept the Michael P. Anderson Scholarship Awards at the annual NAACP Freedom Fund dinner in Spokane in November. Gonzaga is going all-electronic for tuition billing and other processes. Hard-copy applications are still accepted, but upon arrival they’re all scanned. The School of Engineering and Applied Science enrolled 150 freshmen this year, wiping out its previous high of 134. The number of women, however, has dropped slightly, mirroring national trends. This year 16.3 percent of the engineering and computer science majors are female. Ten years ago the figure was 22.2 percent. Nineteen students won scholarships for the 2009-10 year thanks to a $100,000 grant received this fall from the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation of Modesto, Calif. This is the ninth year a grateful Gonzaga has received the foundation’s support. A rousing production of “The Jungle Book” occurred in December with 35 students and 30 Spokane residents with developmental disabilities. “I just like being around all the GU students,” said Gloria Havens, who played the role of an elephant. “They make us feel like we’re a part of Gonzaga.” Gonzaga University Specialized Recreation stages two dramas a year. Former GUSR director Megan Drobnicki (’05) started the program after applauding the stage debut of her sister, who has Down syndrome. She started the program after applauding the stage debut of her sister, who has Down syndrome. Last fall to Gonzaga and Seattle universities will allow both institutions to develop stronger tools for and a more thorough involvement with outcomes assessment. The grant will be spread over three years.

What is outcomes assessment? In its most basic form, it’s the concept of measuring learning. However, it also denotes a method of regarding teaching, not from the beginning (“What am I teaching?”), but from the end result (“What are students learning?”). Professor Mike Herzog, senior adviser to the academic vice president, and faculty throughout Gonzaga are working to enrich teaching and to systematically improve academic programs.

The crosses atop St. Al’s spires glow brightly every night, thanks to the installation last fall of low-cost LED lights. The old lights were too expensive to run except on special occasions, said parish bookkeeper Karen Oldmixon. Plus, changing the incandescent bulbs was not for the faint of heart. Now you can see the crosses all the way from the faint of heart. Now you can see the crosses all the way from the faint of heart. Now you can see the crosses all the way from the faint of heart. Now you can see the crosses all the way from the faint of heart.

Student actors competing for a national scholarship are junior Andrew Bell and seniors Laurel Clark and Oscar Oswald. Nominate on the basis of their work in “Curse of the Starving Class” on campus last fall, they performed in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s regional Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition in Moscow, Idaho.

Jundt Art Museum welcomes Warhol photos

The Jundt Art Museum last fall received more than 100 photographs by Andy Warhol as part of a national gesture by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. In all, 183 college and university art museums across the United States received both Polaroid photos and black-and-white gelatin silver prints. Donations to Gonzaga include photographs of Dorothy Hamill, 1977; Princess Caroline of Monaco, 1983; Sonia Rykiel, 1986; Tom Seaver, 1977; Sean Lennon, 1985; and undated photos of Liza Minnelli, Valentino and Yoko Ono.

Teagle grant fosters enriched teaching

A $300,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation awarded jointly last fall to Gonzaga and Seattle universities will allow both institutions to develop stronger tools for and a more thorough involvement with outcomes assessment. The grant will be spread over three years.

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Professor Mike Herzog, senior adviser to the academic vice president, and faculty throughout Gonzaga are working to enrich teaching and to systematically improve academic programs.

Themed houses a growing trend

More than ever, themed houses are allowing students to cultivate their individual interests. For those inclined toward Washington state Democrats, the Christine Gregoire House will open next fall in the name of Washington’s governor, a 1977 Law School alumna. Students with a culinary flair can find home and hearth at the Cooking House. ROTC, men’s and women’s crew, hockey and outdoor leadership – each will have its own house.

One current themed house, The Tree House, is home to five students who are involved with environmental awareness on campus. They buy organic foods and use eco-friendly cleaning supplies. The Tree House is connected with the outdoor-themed Marian Hall.

The most challenging part of living green? “Balancing the busy lifestyle of college with decisions that take time and money,” said Katie Mulcaire-Jones, a senior and Tree House resident. “Eco-friendly products or organic food can be expensive, and taking the time to slow down enough to share a meal, or take out the compost, or think about consumption isn’t always practical when there are papers to write and places to be.”

Nine themed residential houses will be available next year. Students propose and support the various houses.

New doors opening at Bishop White Seminary

Construction of the new Bishop White Seminary building to the north of campus is nearly complete. The seminary currently serves 14 young men in the process of discerning their vocation. The new facility can accommodate 35-40 seminarians. The projected numbers for 2009-2010 will remain close to 20 due to staffing limitations. The former facility can accommodate 35-40 seminarians. The projected numbers for 2009-2010 will remain close to 20 due to staffing limitations. The former facility can accommodate 35-40 seminarians. The projected numbers for 2009-2010 will remain close to 20 due to staffing limitations. The former facility can accommodate 35-40 seminarians. The projected numbers for 2009-2010 will remain close to 20 due to staffing limitations.

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Cultures in translation

Natasha Ironwing talks with other Gonzaga students about how her world intersects – and often collides – with mainstream American culture

When Natasha Ironwing explains something of her life and beliefs to other Gonzaga students, it’s hard not to think of her as a cultural translator. With candor, curiosity and a belly laugh as her tools, she leads students into her territory: the culture of the Sicangu band of Lakota people on South Dakota’s Rosebud Reservation.

“I live in America, but I see very little of my people and their culture outside the reservation. At Gonzaga I am totally out of my element about 99 percent of the time,” Ironwing told about 75 students one November evening. Taking pains to connect with her audience, she asked that no one take offense at any of her comments and reminded her listeners how vast the differences are between her world and mainstream American culture.

Ironwing started by talking about Indian mascots. Overhead, she showed illustrations depicting the whole gamut of stereotypes, rascally Braves, cheerful Chiefs. Then came an image that caught the audience by surprise: three nun mascots marching, wimples flapping and their black skirts as brief as any drum majorette’s.

The Wolff Auditorium fell silent.

“That’s offensive to you, right?” Ironwing let the question hang in the air. “But to me, that’s the same as a mascot showing a man in a headdress, when in actuality those eagle feathers were given to him as a matter of honor, stature and respect.”

For the next hour, Ironwing talked of her culture. A senior and business major, she told of generations of Natives who, like her father, attended boarding schools where children were beaten for speaking their own language. To her surprise, she learned at community gatherings, book signings and University Ministry events.

“Collaborating with a university is the ideal relationship for the discernment process,” Rector Father Darrin Connall said. “On behalf of Bishop White and the Spokane Diocese, we are truly grateful to the University for all they have done.”

ZagAlert system creates safety net

The April 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech caused college administrators across the country to rethink what they would do if such a catastrophic event occurred on their campuses. Gonzaga was no exception.

After more than a year of fact-finding, the University has purchased an emergency notification system, which we call ZagAlert. The system is designed to send information immediately to everyone in the campus community via phone messages, text messages and e-mail announcements.

In addition, Gonzaga has two-way intercom systems in most classrooms, a carillon loud-speaker system, the audix phone-message system, a recorded emergency-message line and our Web site to use as additional emergency communication channels. ZagAlert is intended for use only upon the University’s confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation on campus.

“Unfortunately, the experiences of others have required that we implement technology and other capabilities not considered necessary only a few years ago,” said Chuck Murphy, Gonzaga’s vice president for finance. “It is our hope that we never need to use these channels for the purposes for which they are intended. However, this system ensures that we can contact most people within our community with a quick response to a serious situation, if ever needed.”

Practicing servant leadership with Zambian honey

Students in the Comprehensive Leadership Program who have lived and served for a month in the small city of Zambezi, Zambia, have created a nonprofit, fair-trade business selling Zambian honey.

Anna Casciari and A.J. Treleaven pledged that the business, Zambia Gold Honey, will give at least $5,000 to a Zambezi elementary school that is in dire need of assistance. Zambezi residents are so impressed with the students’ efforts, there is talk of renaming their school the Gonzaga Basic School.

“In order to adjust to the different food tastes in Zambia, we treated ourselves to the local honey. We had no idea how outrageously delicious it would be,” wrote Megan Crole, another participating student.

This summer, the Intercultural Servant Leadership Program will take 12 students to Zambezi in May. To order Zambian honey, go to www.zambiagold.org.
Hands-on learning in Ecuador

Biology major Brett Wagner has plenty of classroom know-how about eco-systems and biological diversity, genetics and cellular structures. But this senior also has traveled the Amazon River, assisted with rainforest research, learned about native culture – and in the process she crossed that magic line between spectator and participant.

Last summer Wagner enrolled in a field studies course in Ecuador. Faculty Sherry Wood and Joey Haydock accompanied students to Ecuador where they stayed at several locations, including diverse ecosystems such as the Galapagos Islands and high-, mid- and low-elevation rainforests. “We constantly had our field notebooks and binoculars with us,” Wagner said. Students hiked daily and logged notes of their sightings of flora and fauna.

The group traveled the Galapagos by yacht, hiking and snorkeling each day.

“I was able to incorporate my lecture studies in biology and chemistry with hands-on experiences and research in unique environments and ecosystems. It was one of the most exciting and applicable educational experiences I’ve ever had,” Wagner said.

At the end of the three-week course, Wagner faced one final adventure. Wood invited Wagner to accompany her to Peru. Their goal: to scout a possible site for future summer field studies. The two women flew to Lima, then to the river-locked city of Iquitos where they boated 50 miles up the Amazon River, encountering and swimming with the famous pink river dolphins. They stayed at the Tahuahu Research Center on a tributary of the Amazon. The region is rich in bio-diversity, with 500 species of birds. While birding was the one constant, they also fished for piranha, and rode a zip line through the jungle. Best of all, Wagner and two other guests traveled overnight with a young Peruvian guide, Orlando, up the Rio Blanco, visiting his family’s hut and then lashing together their own balsa wood raft for the return trip down-river.

“I felt like I became an insider to the culture. Rather than seeing a tourist village, we were invited into Orlando’s home. We made our own raft. I wasn’t just a spectator anymore.” She also discovered another culture’s relationship to the environment. “The American idea of wilderness refers to designated areas which don’t contain human inhabitants. In South America, many people still rely closely on the land even though it’s every bit of a wilderness.”

On Campus

He rallied benefactors to contribute to a basketball program that plays in a new 6,000-seat arena and has remained among the nation’s Top 25 basketball teams over the past 10 years.
I looked forward to many aspects of life at Gonzaga prior to my arrival here, but having to take religion courses was not one of them. My lack of enthusiasm for these courses was based in a groundless belief that each course would be conducted like a 15-week Bible camp. However, the religion courses that I have taken at Gonzaga have ended up being some of my favorites and have opened my eyes to looking at faith in many new ways.

Second semester of my freshman year, I trudged into the classroom of my first experience with religious education at Gonzaga. I was a self-proclaimed atheist and thought I knew everything about the world. The professor sent a syllabus my way and I flipped through the pages to find out what kind of torture I was about to be subjected to. I saw that the aims of this course were to analyze the history surrounding the text of the New Testament, the rhetoric used by the writers, and the messages conveyed by the text. This was the first eye-opening moment that religion is as academic as any other subject.

While the 100-level courses focus on Scripture, the 200- and 300-level courses have focused on the theory behind and application of religious practices. I have read many scholars discussing topics ranging from humanity’s quest to discover a higher power to the human experience. Religion can be a bond that draws groups of people closer or a barrier that divides. Conflicts, either global or personal, often rise out of religious pretenses. The core religion courses at Gonzaga work to help us understand not only what people believe, but also why people believe. An understanding of these two concepts can help us break down the barriers of religious difference and create a greater understanding of the other. An acknowledgement that our thirst for a higher power is commonplace in almost every society on this planet brings us one step closer to bridging divides.

These courses have led me to establish my own beliefs and to reach an understanding of faith, regardless of religiosity. I was wrong in my guess of how religious education would be conducted at Gonzaga, and I could not have been happier.

[This essay first appeared in the Gonzaga Bulletin.]
A boy who sat in Hawaiian shower trees reading encyclopedias.

A freshman who came to Gonzaga in 1970 thinking he was on the fast track to becoming a high-flying businessman.

A priest who counseled leaders from both the Protestant and Catholic factions in Northern Ireland and helped them see a more amicable way.

A leader who drew Gonzaga out of financial strife in 1998 to the best institutional health the University has ever known.

The whirlwind that is Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., 25th president of Gonzaga University, blew onto campus in summer 1998. Spiritual adviser, noted international lecturer, author, collaborator, business genius and friend to many; he took on multiple roles over his 11 years as the primary advocate for the University. But at his core, he has remained a spiritual leader who connects profoundly with students in the classroom, in sacred spaces and on the grounds of the University. When he leaves Gonzaga on June 30, he will be arguably one of the most successful presidents in University history.

“He makes people think about new things and better ways of doing things…”

– Mark Alfilo

“Father Spitzer only understood basketball to a limited extent. But he saw Zag basketball as an opportunity…”

– Don Herak (’46)
JAKESPEARS, senior: “One of the most exciting and life-altering courses I’ve taken at Gonzaga was Faith and Reason, for which Father gave seven or eight lectures during the semester. The course attempts to reconcile human reason and science with faith, particularly the Christian faith. In class, we used Father’s soon-to-be-published book, ‘New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Late Twentieth Century Physics and Philosophy.’ In it, he explains that when we look at science and the universe, it is far more academically responsible to look at the existence of God than to reject it.

“The combination of the material and the classroom atmosphere seemed to contribute to Father’s excitement – and that’s what ‘spirit’ is, excitement. Father gets verbally excited, red in the face, pacing back and forth, writing on the board, making eye contact with everyone. He is excited to be sharing the existence of God with others who share his excitement in it. From start to finish of the lecture, it is all energy. No high or low. All full force. His body language is more animated, and you can tell his purpose is not to toot his own horn, but to make you believe what he believes to be truth. There’s a podium in the room, but I don’t think I’ve ever seen him use it. The white board is 30 feet long, and he has covered every inch of it by the end of a lecture. To experience him in this atmosphere is amazing.”

Matters outside the classroom, however, have demanded much of Fr. Spitzer’s attention. When he arrived, his alma mater was in financial trouble, with stagnant enrollment and rising costs. The University had adopted a Budget Review and Reallocation Process, which inevitably gained the nickname of ‘Burp.’ The new president, who had never before served in an academic administrative role, not even as a department chair, had a better idea.

CHUCKMURPHY, vice president for finance: “He felt that our efforts would be much better focused if we looked at increasing revenue rather than cutting expenses. He didn’t want our people to experience the anguish that goes with cutting. So he went about devising a much more strategic financial aid plan, recruited a national financial aid expert and put (then dean of financial aid) Thayne McCulloh in charge of the effort. Together, Father and these two men had an extremely good statistical IQ.”

The numbers began to turn around almost immediately. Of course, it was fortuitous that Gonzaga’s men’s basketball team was also experiencing growth. In March 1999, Coach Dan Monson took the Zags to the Elite Eight and captivated a nation with this unpretentious underdog. There are plenty of one-shot wonders, smaller schools that make it to the Big Stage one time, only to see their success wane in following years. But Fr. Spitzer saw great potential.

DONHERAK, Trustee: “Father Spitzer only understood basketball to a limited extent. But he saw Zag basketball as an opportunity to improve Gonzaga overall, and he was committed to that. When Monson left, Fr. Spitzer put Coach Mark Few in control, built the team a new facility, created the recruiting resources Few needed. It’s amazing the number of students who have come here, at least in part, because of the basketball team. Yet Father has been able to raise the level of scholastic aptitude while growing the enrollment. And he has been able to do things for students to make their experience here a very happy one, from building new residences and academic facilities, to creating the new Rudolf Fitness Center and keeping class sizes reasonable.”

Fr. Spitzer will be long credited with making nearly every aspect of the University better, even by some of his detractors.

MARKALFINO, philosophy professor: “He and I disagreed about a lot of things. But when I started to see how the University was moving forward in a wide range of areas, I knew it was his motivation that was spurring it. Everyone got a sense they had to do a little more to make it better. He makes people think about new things and better ways of doing things.”

Fr. Spitzer’s business acumen is well documented. But what people close to him see behind the scenes perhaps is just as extraordinary.

PHILMCCARTHEY, Trustee: “Father invited me to what I thought was lunch in his office. We chatted for a few minutes and I asked...”
him, ‘Father, just curious, are we staying here? I haven’t eaten and I’m kind of hungry.’ He brought in his assistant and asked her to order a couple of turkey sandwiches. While I was waiting, he asked me and the family for a new basketball arena. It was probably the most expensive sandwich in the history of lunches. But when all is said and done, Fr. Spitzer has given the McCarthey family far more than we have ever been able to give to Gonzaga.”

SHANNON MCCAMBRIDGE, Trustee: “I walked into the library for my first meeting as a Trustee shortly after Father took office. He had just uninvited Planned Parenthood to speak on campus. I could tell it was a very difficult and challenging decision for him to make as a new president. I have always believed that leadership takes courage. He got a lot of flack for this decision, but it was at that time that I knew he was a true and gifted leader for Gonzaga.”

GAIL HECK-SWEENEY, former classmate, recalls a road trip adventure to California one spring: “There were six of us in one car, with no plan other than to drive to California. Bob and I would sit in the back and argue over who would get the window seat. My best memory is of all of us singing as we drove down the highway. Bob loved to sing.”

MARGOT STANFIELD, University Relations vice president: “We travel together making calls on friends of the University and various foundations and corporations. We often sing as we’re driving. But he probably wouldn’t want me telling you that.”

It’s a human, endearing side of a man who is under the microscope much of the time. He loves to tell a joke or stories about his student days, to let his guard down when he spends time with his family.

LYNN MALONE, his sister: “When we are all together in Hawaii he loves to walk with the family on the beach in his flip flops and shorts, but he always takes his briefcase with him. He loves spending time with his family (two brothers, two sisters, 13 nieces and nephews), and really has kept us all together in recent years.”

Malone said the toughest time for her brother was when his eyes began to fail due to retinitis pigmentosa.

“It was a huge blow. He wasn’t able to drive anymore and became much more dependent upon others. But he was determined to get around it. He often travels on his own, reads and writes, and has never looked at it as an impediment. He continues to function at full-speed ahead. It’s probably made him more humble.”

TOM TILFORD, director of Gonzaga’s Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program: “His visual deficiencies have undoubtedly given him a sharper vision. I remember the first time he came up with a strategic plan, which included a drawing that was almost incom-
prehensible. It had boxes and arrows going everywhere. (Fellow Trustee Dave) Sabey picked it up, turned it every which way and it didn’t make any better sense one way than the other. Yet six years later we saw that he had implemented the plan to a tee, had done a remarkable job, and had completed it four years ahead of his own schedule.”

Early in those years of increased enrollment, the University struggled to keep pace. Makeshift housing, tight scheduling and a strain on advising were some side effects.

PAUL BULLER, Kinsey Robinson professor of business: “In late 1999, Fr. Spitzer asked me to lead the Hogan program. I developed a curriculum and a plan, but in March 2000 we only had three students interested in enrolling in the program that fall, and we had planned for 20. I told Father we should delay the start of it one year. He said ‘no, it’ll all work out.’ We ended up having 23 students in our first class. They were a great group. He had faith in the program concept and asked me to have faith, too.”

Naturally, word spread about the good things happening at Gonzaga.

DOUG KRIES, philosophy professor: “Several years back I took my son to visit another Catholic university. It was smaller than Gonzaga. The dean of admissions cornered me and said they used to lose students to Notre Dame, but now they were losing students to Gonzaga. ‘What’s going on there?’ he asked. The change began when Fr. Spitzer arrived.”

ANDREA WOODS, senior from Everett, Wash.: “I met Fr. Spitzer at the start of my freshman year. My parents had gone home and I was all by myself. I went to the President’s Reception and told him I was on my own for the first time. We talked, and he told me I have the poise to kill a horse. It was just what I needed to hear and really settled me down. I was just some kid who was scared, and he took a personal interest in me.”

So many stories. Yet they only scratch the surface of this talented, complex Jesuit leader. What’s that? One or two more? Okay.

DAVE LUCKE, classmate and friend: “Ten of us, we call it the Boys Club, flew to Rome in summer 2004 after our 30-year-reunion. Fr. Tony Via arranged for a 16-passengar van and a driver for two weeks. It was the best trip of my lifetime. Fr. Spitzer arranged for a special tour underneath the Vatican, of the Vatican and St. Peter’s Basilica. Bob is a wealth of knowledge. His only rules were we don’t start before 8 a.m., and we finish by 6 p.m. We have a quick Mass afterward. Ed Logue starts his stop watch and cuts Father’s homily at seven minutes. It was a wonderful trip, thanks in large part to Bob.”

TOM TILFORD: “Mike Patterson, Father and I were having dinner at the Cedars on the river in Coeur d’Alene. We left the restaurant in Mike’s boat. The sheriff stopped us for not having the proper stern light. Of course, we had had a couple of wines. Father pulled his coat up around his collar and it was the first time I ever saw Father speechless.”

That doesn’t happen often. This man of ferocious intellect, stimulating ideas and vision well beyond most of his peers can deliver a 30-minute speech or a 75-minute lecture with great attention to detail, involving complex material in a way that thoroughly engages his audiences, and he does it without a note.

“He truly is one of the most gifted individuals I have ever dealt with, the kind of a person you only bounce off of once or twice in a lifetime,” said Tilford.

“I feel very, very lucky that he’s been my president,” Woods said.
Shining the light

Bringing the classroom to life by living outside of it. That’s service learning.

A Place to Call Home

The lesson was based on the children’s story, “Stone Soup.” The kids dressed, acted and even ate their parts. “Stone Soup” is about what happens when people share. Deborah Booth, chair and associate professor of teacher education, finds the story perfect for her Master’s of Initial Teaching Program students.

Booth and Jerri Shepard, associate professor of education, co-founded the service-learning program for Gonzaga University and Spokane’s YWCA and called it Heart to Heart Art. The after-school and summer program serves homeless and at-risk students ages 5-18.

“Our focus is to reach the at-risk child through story and art,” Booth said. “It’s a win-win situation. It gives them all a sense of self-worth and belonging.”

Booth’s students develop and present the lessons; they also make a meal at each session. A recent lesson included the concepts of giving and geometry. “We read poems and discovered word patterns,” Booth said. “We worked with the kids to create messages for their own cards and drew geometric patterns on the front. We painted and planted flower pots, then donated them to a senior citizen center. Each child creates two of everything: one to keep and one to give away.”

Often, the art is made into calendars, bags and greeting cards to sell to the public, with proceeds going into the program.

“I don’t know if it’s Gonzaga’s mission or my passion, but my students leave here ready to teach with both their heart and their heads,” Booth said.

Open Minds, Hungry Hearts

Some of the best ideas come from the least expected places. David Whitehead found his idea during his academic service-learning work in the Freshman Honors Colloquium. “I was volunteering at the House of Charity when a couple of the homeless people had a great idea,” he said. “They called it Food for Thought.”

Food for Thought brings together people from all walks of life to share a meal. “Our aim is to remove boundaries, share genuine conversation and listen to other perspectives,” Whitehead said.

Now a junior, Whitehead worked with Whitworth University to solidify the philosophy behind the idea. “This is not an education – it’s more of a conversation with the issue,” he said.

Whitehead spearheaded two gatherings in 2008. The inaugural event was held last spring on the Gonzaga campus and drew more than 200 people. “We planned for 100,” he said. “It completely exceeded our expectations.” In December, the next event occurred at a local church and drew more than 300 people. Meals are provided courtesy of Sodexo, the dining program for Gonzaga and Whitworth.

Whitehead sets no program for the gathering. It is simply a chance for people from all walks of life to eat a meal and converse with one another. No speakers. No agenda.

“Throughout my volunteering, I’ve noticed that people gravitate toward one-on-one conversation,” Whitehead said. “It isn’t necessarily gathering information or walking by educational booths. It’s experiencing who others are through conversation and food. It’s an intense experience.”

All the Right Moves

When Gonzaga theater arts instructor Suzanne Ostersmith created the University’s dance minor, she made sure that real-world experiences were integral to the program.

“We wanted a course that allowed students to assimilate what they learned in the classroom into real-life situations,” Ostersmith said. “Working with the staff at the Center for Community Action and Service Learning, we created an academic service-learning component for the dance minor that joins our students with local elementary kids in an after-school program.”

Strategies for Dance Instruction is a required course for students earning a dance minor. Twice a week, local fourth- through sixth-graders bound off buses, trot up to the dance loft in College Hall, soak in the concepts of dance from their Gonzaga student-teachers and hop, skip and be-bop before full-length mirrors.

“The impetus for creating this aspect of the minor came from my own volunteering in Nicaragua many years ago,” said Ostersmith. “One
of my students asked if the class would continue after I left. I never thought of it that way. Who was going to sustain it? This class allows us to create a sustainable program here at Gonzaga, where it meshes so perfectly with the mission of the University.”

And the course is working. “It’s heartwarming to see the kids come together at our end-of-the-year spring dance concert,” Ostersmith said. “Several of my students have gone on to teach summer dance programs because they have the experience and confidence of working with young people. To me, that’s success.”

The Heart of the Issue

Think of a divisive, unworthy-dinner-table topic. Race? Gender? Sexual orientation? Chances are, philosophy Professor Tim Clancy, S.J., has broached them all with his freshmen honors students.

His students learn through reading and discussion, but they also learn from speakers who know firsthand about living with the issues. The Freshman Honors Colloquium also requires students to serve 20 hours with a local nonprofit program for the low-income population, criminal justice system, or women, teens and children in crisis.

“As a priest, I find this course to be especially pastoral,” said Fr. Clancy. “I’m not just entrusted to teach people in an academic sense, but I’m also interested in developing character and helping to form people for others. That’s the Jesuit motto.”

Each year, several honors graduates choose service work before proceeding to career or graduate school.

“Twenty years from now, when one of my students is a successful entrepreneur, lawyer, engineer or professor, I want them to have personally known a street person who has fallen too far to ever get back on their feet, or a schizophrenic who cannot afford medication, a battered woman trying to put her life back together or a troubled gay teenager who has been thrown out of his home,” said Fr. Clancy. “I have faith that such experiences and relationships help shape a desire to give something back and to make a difference not just in their professional world, but in their community and especially in the lives of those who have fallen through the cracks in our society.”

Green? So Much More than Just a Color

To some, Brett Boissevain may seem like an overachiever. To Boissevain, who will graduate in May with a degree in mechanical engineering, he’s simply trying to make Gonzaga better.

“I want Gonzaga to be a beacon for other universities,” Boissevain said. “And this would be a great way to start shining the light.”

Boissevain is referring to his brainchild: the Green Bike Program. To Boissevain, the program could be the answer to affordable transportation, less traffic and a more sustainable community.

“At the end of every school year, a handful of bikes remain unclaimed at our Campus Security office,” Boissevain said. “We asked about using the bikes to kick-start our program, and they agreed.”

To get the program off the ground, Boissevain and his crew of 15 fellow students researched, wrote and submitted a proposal to their adviser, Phil Appel, associate professor of mechanical engineering. The proposal goes into bike maintenance, storage, inspection, check-out and check-in procedures.

“Right now our focus is to get the program approved, start building our bike inventory and designing a logo,” Boissevain said.
The Monastery of Montserrat receives throngs of pilgrims each year. Last summer, three travelers from Gonzaga made the pilgrimage, too, high into the mountains of Catalonia, Spain.

By Autumn Jones (’10)

One Saturday in June, three pilgrims from Gonzaga, seniors Andrew Carrell and Joe Di Re, and Father Gary Uhlenkott, S.J., knelt and prayed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat. They were in the self-same spot where St. Ignatius of Loyola once stood vigil, found his calling and laid down his sword. Other visitors waited behind the threesome, for the shrine is a popular pilgrimage site in Catalonia, Spain. So the men moved to a small chapel in the basilica. Sensitive to the history, faith and grace accumulated around the statue over the centuries, they shed tears in prayer.

“It was very moving to share the experience with Father Gary, who made the decision to give his life to serve Christ just as St. Ignatius had,” said Carrell. “It was just incredible.”

They walked the grounds of the monastery, regaining their composure. Then they turned to their task: to ensure the safe passage home of an original copy of the statue so that Gonzaga students will have their own link to that turning point in St. Ignatius’ life.

The gift shop brimmed over with variations of the statue — key chains, statuettes, books and postcards — all in reverence of Our Lady of Montserrat. An employee ushered them into the back room where the statue waited, already swathed in bubble wrap. Aware of their responsibility, they carefully helped prepare the statue in its crate for shipping.

The travelers carried the 5-foot long crate onto the gondola, down the mountain, back to their rental van and into the shipping office in Barcelona. It would be months before they would see her again.

“I wanted to rip off the wrapping they used to protect her,” Carrell said. “Father Gary told us that she wouldn’t be exactly the same as the original. There are many different styles and ways that she’s painted.”

The three pilgrims would not see the statue until they returned to campus. “Joe and I went to Father Gary’s apartment,” Carrell said. “And there she was sitting on the floor. She was so beautiful, so perfect, sitting there with the baby Jesus on her lap and the globe in her hand. In that moment, we were back in Spain again before Our Lady.”

Earliest Jesuit history

Father Rick Ganz, S.J., Gonzaga’s former directory of University Ministry, first championed this project. Ganz related the significance of Our Lady of Montserrat in the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola this way:

“Ignatius had grown up thinking that he was to become a noble soldier and courtier. But that became impossible after the military disaster at Pamplona. His severe injuries and the permanent crippling of his body threw him into first a despairing place, then a lost place. It was at this moment — with the tearing open of his soul through sorrow and loss — that God gained access to his soul. Slowly, Ignatius began to understand. He resolved to make a pilgrimage to the Benedictines at the Monastery of Montserrat and there to stand in a nightlong vigil before the famous statue of Our Lady of Montserrat.

“He confessed his sins in the afternoon and prayed throughout that long night, and a fundamental shift in his life was accomplished. He became not lost, but a pilgrim. In the morning, he knelt before the statue, stripped off his knightly clothes — and thereby his old life — put on the garments of a pilgrim and began his 20-mile walk to Manresa. There, over the next nine months, he would experience continued change so profound that the history of the world would become the beneficiary, through the holiness and fruitfulness of his life and the work of the Jesuits.”

The statue’s origins

Legend holds that the statue of Our Lady of Montserrat was carved by St. Luke and taken to Catalonia by St. Peter. It was hidden in a cave in the mountain of Montserrat during the Saracens’ invasion, not to be rediscovered until nearly 200 years later. While tending their flocks, shepherds were surprised by lights and the sound of singing coming from the mountain. Alerting the priest and the bishop, the shepherds found the statue in its cave. The statue of Our Lady was placed in a small church built for her reverence. The little chapel developed into the present church, completed in 1592. In 1844, Our Lady of Montserrat was named the patron saint of Catalonia, where she is now visited by more than a million tourists and pilgrims annually.

The donors

When benefactors Joe (’74) and Gena Columbus traveled to Spain a few years ago, they spent much of their time in Barcelona with their son Cullen McAlpine. But all three made a side trip to the Monastery of Montserrat. Seeing the statue was a profound experience. “We have a great devotion to the Blessed Mother,” said Gena Columbus.

The Columbuses wanted to make a contribution to Gonzaga, and when Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., offered them three potential projects that needed funding, including Our Lady of Montserrat, their decision was a simple one. “It was the natural choice for us,” said Joe Columbus. Added Gena, “There was no question that that would be our choice. We just couldn’t help ourselves.”

The Columbus family also made possible the Oratory of Our Lady of Montserrat, which was completed in Marian Hall earlier this year. The new oratory is part of a University plan to create an interfaith network of sacred spaces on campus. The University Chapel always will be the heart of the campus spiritual life, but it is a goal of the University that such outlying chapels will offer other places of spiritual peace for students. Dedication of the oratory and statue will take place in April.

Our Lady of Montserrat is a statue of the Virgin Mary and Christ child. The tone of their skin has given rise to the name the Black Madonna.
Ogden Park is 60 acres of oasis on Chicago’s Southside, not entirely a safe haven but maybe as close as you’ll find in the risky streets of Englewood. This is Jeremy Pargo’s neighborhood. This is where he made the six-block walk from his home to Ogden Park nearly every day, where he played football and basketball and any game that could be made up on the spot, where he began to imagine what he could be, where he saw for himself everything he didn’t want.

See, that’s the thing about influences and role models. You need good ones, sure, but really they have to come at you from all sides.

“There were a thousand guys there I didn’t want to be,” Pargo says now. “I didn’t want to be the has-been who plays at the park every day and who everybody talks about what he could have been. I didn’t want to be the drug dealer. I didn’t want to be the high school guy who has three kids.”

He had other ideas. But he had no idea that he might have to pursue what he did want in Spokane, Wash., of all places. Even now he is amused by the recollection of the notion first being put to him.

“My reaction,” he laughs, “was, ‘What the hell is Gonzaga?’”

Notice that it wasn’t a “where” question, but a “what” question.

Four years later, he has his answer – and in the matter of Jeremy Pargo so, too, does Gonzaga. Their union, joined by the game of basketball and born of a mutual need, has been cemented in other ways – but the basketball has been pretty good, too.

Pargo will leave Gonzaga having been part of 100 victories, or thereabouts including memorable ones over North Carolina, Connecticut, Michigan State and Indiana – all part of college basketball’s royalty. Player of the Year in the West Coast Conference in 2008, he declared himself eligible for the National Basketball Association draft before opting to return for his senior year, and so he’ll leave with something else: a college degree.
Jennifer Raudebaugh photo-illustration

the Lakers and they cut him, Phil Jackson wrote a few paragraphs in his
how high, “Pargo says.
always that sense that I’m the little brother. He tells me to jump and I ask
“I’m 22 years old and a grown man, but I get around him and there’s
But, of course, it’s more than that.
“He’s done everything I want to do,” Pargo says simply.
And yet Pargo still describes his trips back home as “like a sigh of
all around you.”
“Last summer, there were something like 38 people shot within a
matter of maybe 50 hours from Friday to Sunday,” he says. “Six were
killed. (In December) a kid was gunned down a block from my house. It’s
all around you.”

And yet Pargo still describes his trips back home as “like a sigh of
relief.” He revels in the company of his young cousins, spoils his nieces,
revisits his boyhood park and gets “to be who you were four years ago.”
Which was a young man with strong influences around him. Charlie
Ma Pargo – named after his mother – is a hard-working woman with a
bedrock sense of right and wrong that she instilled in her three children.
And no one reinforced it quite like Pargo’s older brother, Jannero.
It hardly hurt that Jannero found his own way out of Englewood –
first to junior college, then to the University of Arkansas and a six-year
stay in the National Basketball Association.
“He’s done everything I want to do,” Pargo says simply.
But, of course, it’s more than that.
“I’m 22 years old and a grown man, but I get around him and there’s
always that sense that I’m the little brother. He tells me to jump and I ask
how high?” Pargo says.
“He’s always carried himself in a great manner. When he played for
the Lakers and they cut him, Phil Jackson wrote a few paragraphs in his
book about how hard that was to do because he was such a great guy
and everyone in the organization liked him and respected him. You always
want to model yourself after someone like that – somebody who has ac-
complished something.”

For the longest time, however, following his brother’s path was too
much of a single-minded pursuit. Pargo’s recruitment has been well-
chronicled – how a suspect high school transcript chased off virtually
every school but Gonzaga, which had to hang tough with him while he
tried to grind his way through night classes and summer school. In the
meantime, Pargo had to rebuff friends and advisers who thought he’d be
better off spending a year in prep school and finding a more prominent
basketball program to polish his NBA aspirations.
“I was happy with my decision,” he says. “I still am. What’s best about
this place is the support you have throughout the campus and the city.
People here never hang their heads on me. They stuck with me, believed
in me.”

Still, it came with challenges and adjustments. Charismatic and en-
gaging, Pargo is also an African-American from a tough urban core on a
campus that’s primarily white and relatively affluent. Common ground
can be rare.
“It’s difficult when you get to a place and see no one who’s like you
or who can relate to what you’ve been through growing up,” he said. “A
lot of people here grew up in small towns, in families with both parents,
without a worry in the world other than school. It’s difficult to have no one
to hang out with who understands what you’re saying – and vice versa.
I couldn’t understand everything they’d feel or want to talk about. I’d see
people bummed because they got a B-plus on a test and not an A and I
thought that was funny – and I know people might think that’s bad of me.
But coming from a place where you’re got to worry about not putting
yourself in harm’s way, a B is the least of my worries.
“But I think this school matured me. It made me see the world as a
place of opportunity, that it’s possible to take advantage of every situa-
tion.”
Share your ALUMNEWS

We’re interested not only in the major milestones of your lives, but in the rest of your lives: volunteer work, vacation news and sightings of long-lost Zags. Please send word of adventures and accomplishments to gonzaga@gonzaga.edu, or by snail mail to Editor, Gonzaga Quarterly, Gonzaga University Marketing & Communications, 502 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99258-0070. Quality photos are appreciated, will be used if space permits, and returned to you upon request.

Don Sharpe's (61 M.S.) has published "The Evolution of the Social Sciences." This, his 17th book, profiles key individuals in each of the major social sciences: religion, history, philosophy, psychology, law and economics. Don is a professor emeritus at Arizona State University in Scottsdale. His son, Michael ('87) and daughter-in-law, Natalie Sharpe ('86), are GU graduates, as well.

Nancy Scott Battilega has recently published a book describing her journey using holistic methods to treat breast cancer. Diagnosed in 2006, she faced a probable mastectomy, but Nancy, who is a mind/body/energy psychotherapist, chose to treat the cancer using diet, emotional release, energy work and contemplative prayer. Her book, "A Story of Grace," is available on Amazon.com. She encourages women to focus on early detection and prevention. Nancy and husband John ('63), both graduates of the Honors Program, live in Centennial, Colo. They have returned for all their class reunions and look forward to attending their 50th in a few years.

John Driscoll ran unsuccessfully for Montana's sole congressional seat last fall. He became known as the no-money candidate, running without soliciting or accepting contributions or spending his own money. Driscoll ran as a Democrat. Previously he served in the Montana Legislature and on the state's Public Service Commission. From 1999 to 2002, he worked in the Pentagon.

Marianne Taylor wed Michael Taylor Aug. 16 in St. Maries, Idaho. Marianne is a breast cancer survivor of two years and lives in Coeur d'Alene.

Jim Solan ('78 J.D.) placed eighth in the Washington State Golf Association Senior Championship at Oakbrook Country Club in Lakewood, Wash. He finished just five strokes shy of the leader.

Lt. Col. Donald Bell (J.D.) and his wife, Debi, have been appointed as leaders of The Salvation Army in New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga.

Dan Sullivan has accepted the position of commercial relationship manager with SunTrust Bank in Gaithersburg, Md. He lives with his wife, Julie, and son, Brendan, in Olney, Md.

Gold Club

The Gold Club will induct the Class of 1959 this spring. The Gold Club reunion will take place on campus May 8-11 for all classes prior to 1959. For more info, see www.gonzaga.edu/goldclub.

Joseph Caravalho, right

Joseph Caravalho was promoted to brigadier general in Baghdad, Iraq, in July. He is the senior military medical officer in Iraq, assigned to both Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Jackie Purcell is the chief meteorologist for Channel 2 News in Alaska, the same station where Gov. Sarah Palin was once a sports anchor. Jackie has been with the station for 22 years. She and her husband, Dannie Pearson, live in Anchorage with their three cats.

Mary Klubben ('99 M.B.A.) has been named vice president portfolio manager for Puget Sound Bank. She is a trainer/mentor for Washington Community Alliance for Self Help and a community volunteer. Mary lives in Seattle. Brian Kealoha ('99 M.B.A.) has joined Chevron Energy Solutions in its new Honolulu office as regional manager and will lead the company's Hawaii operations. Kealoha has more than 14 years of experience working in the energy industry.

Patrick Parson, (99 M.B.A.) has formed a general practice law firm with his brother-in-law, Parson & Drum is located in Damariscotta, Maine. Prior to this, Patrick served six years as an attorney in the Army Judge Advocate General Corps. He received his law degree from the University of Maine in 2002. Patrick and his wife, Elsa, live in Damariscotta with their two boys, Connor and Gavin.

Save the Date

Are you a member of the classes of 1964, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1999, or Gonzaga-in-Florence all years? Save these dates for your class reunion: Oct. 23-25. For more information, visit www.gonzaga.edu and click on alumni.

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Ginger Langley teaches third grade in San Rafael, Calif. Her students adopted Gonzaga this year as part of a program that promotes college attendance. “Recently, one of my students told me that he saw a man in downtown San Rafael wearing a GU shirt,” she wrote. “He approached the man, an alum, and explained our classroom adoption to him. The alum was very excited, as was Efren.”

Lorna Donne (Sebers) Brewer (’03 M.O.L.) and business partner Tamara Berry are the founders of the Berry-Brewer Freelance Agency, combining their love for writing with their passion for social justice, not to mention capitalizing on an opportunity to work from home while raising a family. The partners focus their intentions on writing for nonprofit organizations. They are also the authors of the blog Freelance Parent, ranked as one of the top 10 blogs for writers for two years in a row. Lorna lives in Spokane with her husband, Rob, and their daughter Dorothy Maeja Brewer, born January 2008.

Ian Kellogg has joined the Denver law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Faber Schreck. He is a member of the firm’s litigation group where he focuses on commercial litigation. Previously, Ian served as a law clerk to the Honorable Neil Gorsuch of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. He received his law degree with distinction from Stanford University in 2007.

Robin Pfefer married Ron McDannald on Sept. 20 in Las Vegas. Robin is a staff analyst at the Boeing Company and Ron is an area manager at Northwest Cascade. They live in Bothell, Wash.

Richard Davey (J.D.) has been named general manager of the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad. The M.B.C.R., the fifth largest commuter rail network in the U.S., provides transportation for more than 140,000 people each day in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Richard supervises day-to-day operations and sets strategic direction for the company. He and his wife, Jane, live in Boston.

Adam Crawford has been named project engineering team leader for hydraulic integrated circuit cartridges in the North America valve division of Sauer-Danfoss. Adam, his wife, Rachel, and their daughter, Sophia, live in Greenville, S.C.

Sean and Teresa (Specth) Mulholland are the parents of Anna Margaret, born March 31, 2008. They live in Colorado Springs where Sean is a project manager for Penrose/St. Francis Health Services and Teresa is a teacher in Academy School District 20. Jess Cornaglia (’04 M.B.A.) is a doctoral student at the University of Texas at Dallas. His study, “Does Access to Finance Improve Productivity? Evidence from a Natural Experiment” was chosen as one of the best papers presented at the Western Finance Association’s international meeting in Waikoloa, Hawaii. The second part of Jess’ dissertation will deal with the relationship between the productivity of firms and the way they manage risk. After completing his Ph.D., Jess hopes to become a tenure-track professor of finance.

Ginger Langley with her third grade class

Care for the fallen soldiers

Robert E. Cassidy, Gonzaga student 1948-50, was recently featured in “On Point: The Journal of Army History,” for his work with the 8204th Army Unit, the American Graves Registration Service Group stationed in Japan. During the Korean War, Cassidy was among 200 men assigned to identify the American war dead and return their remains stateside.

This was a first-time procedure for the Army. In earlier wars, the dead were left in the country where they passed. The task of correctly identifying the dead was all-important.

Cassidy, handpicked for his experience in his family’s funeral home in Everett, Wash., had the responsibility of identifying beyond a doubt the remains of a fallen soldier. The remains were then embalmed, always treated with the honor due to any fallen hero who gave his life to save someone else. Weekly memorial services were held at Camp Kokura in Japan and again dockside when the caskets were to depart for the United States.

The Army went to great lengths to ensure that no mistakes in identity were made, Cassidy said. “It showed how much the Army cared; how important it was to them that the folks at home knew for sure that the body in the casket was really their son,” Cassidy said. The 8204th was honored on Feb. 24, 1955, by then President Dwight D. Eisenhower with a Distinguished Unit Citation. The American death count from the Korean War was more than 54,000. All those identified now rest on U.S. soil, largely a result of the work of the 8204th.

Cassidy, one of the men who served in this position for current conflicts deserve recognition,” Cassidy said. The highest priority of the unit was that the work be done competently, thoroughly and with deep reverence for the lives and deaths of the American soldiers.

After the war, Cassidy completed his education at the California College of Mortuary Science and became a licensed funeral director in the state of Washington. His brother, fellow Gonzaga alumnus James Cassidy (’54), followed suit, and the two worked at their father’s funeral home business in Everett, Wash.

By Autumn Jones (’10)
Tyson von Guenthner and his wife, Shannon, welcomed their first child, Dane Christopher, on July 17. They live in San Diego where Tyson is a firefighter and Shannon teaches at a community college.

Lori Hunt wed Jason Appleby June 6 in Newport, Wash. Lori is the Gear Up director at WSU and Jason is an engineer for Parsons. They live in Richland, Wash., with their sons, Ashton, 5, and Payton, 3. Angela Horwath (J.D.) recently opened a private practice in Tacoma. Horwath Law is devoted to criminal defense. She has trial expertise in the area of domestic violence. Horwath Law will work on cases primarily in Pierce County, but will serve King, Kitsap and Thurston counties, as well. Angela lives with her husband, Jon, and their daughter, Ella (born July 19), in Tacoma. Meagan Flynn married Aaron Mesmer on May 3 in Florence, Italy. After a Paris honeymoon, the couple returned to Overland Park, Kan., where Meagan is employed as an actress and Aaron is a principal in Block Funds.

Jennifer Marx received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Loyola College in Maryland. She wed Joseph Vacovsky Jr. on Aug. 9. They live in Provo, Utah, where Jennifer is a psychologist and Joseph works in the computer industry and attends school full-time. Tony Fantozzi and wife Megan welcomed their first child, Jaxon Owen, on July 5. They live in Coeur d’Alene where Tony is a self-employed management consultant in financial analytics and sales operations processes for Fortune 500 companies. Mike Eriksen graduated this past spring with a Ph.D. in economics from Syracuse University. He is an assistant professor of real estate in the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia.

Leah Dahlin and John Nusse (’04) married on Oct. 4. They live in Portland where Leah is the recruitment and alumni coordinator for Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest and John is director of revenue for the Kimpton Hotels Portland.

Jennifer Garnett graduated from Yale University with a master’s degree in public health and is attending the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in New York. Kelsey Wallace graduated from the University of Oregon with a master’s degree in communication and society. Bryce Hughes graduated from Seattle University with a master’s degree in student development administration.

Joshua Kurz graduated in May from Miami University (Ohio) with a master of science in college student personnel. He is working on a Ph.D. in cultural foundations of education at Ohio State University. Kristi (Aamodt) and Aaron Theisen (’02) were married Sept. 23, 2007, at Bozarth Mansion in Spokane. Kristi and Aaron live in Spokane where Kristi is a marketing manager for Sodexo at Gonzaga and Aaron is the senior scientific editor at Signature Genomic Laboratories.

In Memoriam

Carl R. Pohlad, longtime owner of the Minnesota Twins, passed away on Jan. 5 in Edina, Minn. He was 93. Carl attended Gonzaga on a football scholarship as a member of the Class of ’39. But he left college after his senior football season to join the Federal Discount Corporation, which operated loan offices in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. In World War II, Carl fought in France, Germany and Austria and was awarded two Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts. In 1947, he married Eloise O’Rourke. The couple moved to Minneapolis where, in 1956, Carl was named president of Marquette National Bank. For the next 50 years, while the couple raised three sons, Carl built a business empire that encompassed banking, bottling, baseball and much more. In addition, the Pohlad Family Foundation has given more than $100 million to community charities. Carl was a highly skilled entrepreneur and master dealmaker who loved business and maintained his love of simple pleasures – fresh garden produce, baseball, or a good book before bedtime. Carl is survived by sons Jim (’75), Bob and Bill (’78), and several grandchildren.

Student James Ryan McGann of Highlands Ranch, Colo., passed away on Jan. 13 from cancer. “Jimmy” attended Gonzaga for his freshman year in 2007-08. A Mass of remembrance was held in the University Chapel on Jan. 14.

Fr. Thomas Kraft died in Seattle on Jan. 22 after more than a year battling esophageal cancer. He was a beloved member of the University Ministry team in 2007.

Col. Carl E. Chandler (’56), Spokane, Nov. 1.
John Paul Decker (’46), Philadelphia, Nov. 21.
V. Robert “Bob” Garcia (’74), Bakersfield, Calif., June 14.
Mary McBride Hubbard, longtime COG employee, Spokane, Aug. 2.
Glennavon Loosmore (’33), Spokane, Nov. 16.
Robert V. Lyons (’36), Spokane, Nov. 14.
Dr. John P. Madden (’63), Spokane, Oct. 30.
Harry Magnuson (honorary degree ’84), Spokane, Jan. 24.
(See Page 22 for more information).
William S. Morin (’47), Spokane, Oct. 11.
Thomas D. O’Loughlin (’50), Phoenix, Dec. 15.
Gerald “Jerry” O’Melveny Jr. (’70), Spokane, Sept. 8.
Stephen Bradley Shinn (’68), Moses Lake, Wash., Oct. 16.
(See Page 23 for more information.)
Michael J. Sweeney (’74 J.D.), Milwaukee, Ore., Sept. 20.
Henry “Hank” Swoboda (’52), Spokane, Oct. 3.
Don Zemek (’56), Tacoma, Aug. 2.
Danielle Redfield (M.S.N.), family nurse practitioner, joined the Boulder Medical Clinic in Boulder, Mont., this past fall, providing care for pediatric, adult and geriatric patients. She and husband Jason live in Clancy, Mont. Katherine Leger has become a sister of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara. She professed her first vows on Oct. 11 at a Mass in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. and received the religious name Sr. Maria Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. 11 at a Mass in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Jacobson also led the charge to tip it over. It took the police and dressing room so we got on our helmets were thrown, names were called, Coach decided he better not chance having us go to the dressing room so we got on our bus. Then a crowd of people tried to tip it over. It took the police and the National Guard to get us out. Jacobson also led the charge in his professional aspirations. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College, completed a general practice internship in New York, joined the Navy and served two years on destroyers. For more than 25 years, he ran a solo family medical practice in Spokane.

Fourth and long

Gonzaga quarterback Bert Jacobson (‘40), above, launches a pass. Today, in his Spokane home he treasures his GU blanket.

The Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck was published. Glenn Miller belted out “In the Mood.” And Bert Jacobson graduated from Gonzaga University.

The year was 1940, a mere 69 years ago. Today, at 91, Jacobson recalls his school days at near the same speed as women were snapping up nylon stockings back then – quickly.

“The years I spent at GU were the happiest of my life,” Jacobson said. “And the person I have to thank for steering me in the right direction both athletically and academically is Billy Frazier.”

Frazier was Jacobson’s high school football coach at Mead and a coaching legend in the Inland Northwest, who encouraged him to attend Gonzaga on a football scholarship.

“Football at Gonzaga? Yes, Gonzaga did have a football program – and a thriving one at that – from the 1920s until World War II. In Jacobson’s senior year, they lost the first two games, but won the next six with only one touchdown scored against them.

“It was a happy time,” Jacobson said. “The uniforms and protection weren’t all that bad back then, either. Our helmets were made of leather that had a sling inside as a shock absorber!”

Getting to the games was almost as much as an adventure as the game itself. Mode of transportation? The train. “Taking the train got us behind in our schoolwork, but it sure was fun,” Jacobson said. “I’ll never forget, playing Texas Tech at their place. There was a gale blowing so hard it picked up the football they just punted and rolled it inside the 20-yard line. It went out of bounds, but the official didn’t see it and the crowd went crazy. Fistsfights broke out, helmets were thrown, names were called. Coach decided he better not chance having us go to the dressing room so we got on our bus. Then a crowd of people tried to tip it over. It took the police and the National Guard to get us out.”

Jacobson also led the charge in his professional aspirations. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College, completed a general practice internship in New York, joined the Navy and served two years on destroyers. For more than 25 years, he ran a solo family medical practice in Spokane.

“Gonzaga prepared me well for medical school,” he said. “I chose the sure thing by choosing Gonzaga.”

— By Sabrina Jones
For years, Harry and Colleen Magnuson hosted a party for Gonzaga’s Trustees at their lakeside home. Here, Father Spitzer chats with the Magnusons.

Harry Magnuson hired Matt Bafus to work at Glen Eyrie on Lake Coeur d’Alene. The year was 1980.

Harry E. Magnuson, 85, whose philanthropy in the early 1970s saved Gonzaga from closing its doors, died Jan. 24 in Spokane.

A native of Wallace, Idaho, Magnuson was a founding member of Gonzaga University’s first Jesuit-lay Board of Trustees, and served for 40 years until his death. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Gonzaga in 1984 and the DeSmet Medal in 2008. In December, Gonzaga dedicated the Harry and Colleen Magnuson Theatre in gratitude for the couple’s gift to renovate the theater. Magnuson’s investments in North Idaho mining operations placed him among Idaho’s titans of philanthropy and business. Yet he was widely known as a man who never lost touch with the every-day world of ordinary people.

Gonzaga groundskeeper Matt Bafus worked four seasons for the Magnusons, doing yardwork and other chores at Glen Eyrie, their summer home on Lake Coeur d’Alene. From his first hour on the job, Bafus had hustled to get his work done and make a good impression. He recalls many memories from those days:

The day I got my first paycheck Harry came over to me and said, “Matthew, there’s been a problem with your paycheck. You’re only supposed to be paid $5.25 an hour, and your paycheck was made out for $5.75. I’m not going to pay you that much.”

There was a lo-o-ng silence. We stood there, toe to toe, eyeball to eyeball. And I said, “Mr. Magnuson, I can’t work for $5.25. I need that extra money.” He’s just staring me down – reading my character, you know? Finally, he says, “OK. I’ll pay you $5.75.” I think he gave it to me because I stood up to him. I think he really liked that.

My job was to take care of the boats and the boathouse. I polished the boats every day, cleaned the beach every day and raked it in a scallop pattern, and helped with other chores around the place. We kept the lawn cut real short so the grass wouldn’t get Harry’s Hush Puppies wet.

Mr. and Mrs. Magnuson never lost sight of their roots and the value of work. Nearly every day they would go on several strolls around the grounds at the lake. Harry would pull weeds, and they dead-headed flowers. His idea of taking it easy and relaxing was going down to the dock and surrounding himself with briefcase, telephone and dictaphone. There he’d sit for hours – doing business. He was the ultimate workaholic. His brain never stopped thinking of a dozen things at once, so he constantly wrote memos or dictated them and everyone who knew him got them. His organizational and multi-tasking skills were phenomenal. About the only thing he struggled with was getting the boat straight in the boat house. It’s hard to do when you are busy dictating memos.

Harry loved dahlias. The Magnusons had quite a dahlia collection, and every year Mrs. M and I would split the tubers and tag them. The extras were given away. I remember bringing the extras here to Jesuit House, not knowing I would spend 25 years of my life here at Gonzaga.

Harry’s eldest daughter Kathy held her beautiful and formal wedding at the lake. The day of the wedding came a monsoon of Biblical proportions. Mr. Magnuson stood in the middle of the yard and prayed for it to stop. It did finally, toward the end of the evening. Well, even God has his problems with Mother Nature.

Harry was having business problems one time and I remember I took him across the lake one day, and he said, “Matthew, this is just one hell of a mess. And there’s only one thing you can do in a situation like this. You get your army of lawyers and you go to war.”

Harry was a giant for this area, but he never forgot about the ordinary people. He gave me a hand up and I took it and made full advantage of it.
To be continued . . .

Nothing Harry couldn’t handle

Longtime Gonzaga Vice President Harry H. Sladich, 70, died on Jan. 7. He fought a long battle with prostate cancer. During 46 years with the University, Sladich served Gonzaga in more than a dozen positions. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University in 1959 and an M.B.A. in 1967.

Sladich’s many roles at Gonzaga included that of acting president. He is the only non-Jesuit to serve as Gonzaga’s president, twice: in 1991 and from 1997-98 – some of the University’s most difficult years. In 2001, he stepped down as vice president of administration and planning, but continued to serve Gonzaga part time as vice president, corporate secretary and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Sladich received the DeSmet Medal – Gonzaga’s highest honor – in May 2007 and received the Top Dog award, the highest award given by the Gonzaga University Board of Trustees, in November 2008.

Don Nelles, chairman of the Board of Trustees and a classmate of Sladich’s, remembers Harry’s earliest days at Gonzaga:

Harry Sladich entered Gonzaga University in the fall of 1955. He joined the freshman class along with 15 or so other new students who were from Butte and Anaconda. Almost from day one this group was known as The Butte Rats, although additional students from Montana eventually made their way into the circle. Harry was clearly the acknowledged leader and the headquarters for the Rats was Harry’s room 108 in DeSmet Hall. There were several reasons for Harry’s status with the group, the most important of which was that he was mature far beyond his years. There weren’t any occasions when he was pounding on walls, drinking to excess, or generally going through the maturation process that the rest of us were dealing with. In addition, his high school girlfriend, the love of his life, Marguerite, was going to school in Montana so he didn’t have to subject himself to the sometimes awkward, frustrating and unsuccessful dating scene.

Third, he and the Jesuits had a mutual friendship and respect. The rest of us certainly respected them, but we gave them a wide berth and tried to avoid contact, for fear they would find out how immature we were. We actually were suspicious that Harry might be spying on us and giving certain information to the Jesuits that might be detrimental to our standing at the University. The reality is that Harry was a buffer between us and the Jesuits and he kept us from getting harsher punishment from the Jesuit administrators for our occasional misdeeds. But we also found out later on that Mr. Perfect, as we sometimes called him behind his back, was so confident of his relationship with the Jesuits and, in particular, the DeSmet resident Jesuit Father Harrington, that Harry and his roommate stored their beer under their beds without fear of discovery.

Harry was always friendly, but cautious. Classmate Ed Renouard tells the story about our sophomore year when Harry came back to campus with a car. One time in the fall Ed had an important date and asked Harry to loan him the car. Harry refused, but offered to drive Ed and his date wherever they wanted to go, hardly the thing Ed had in mind. Ed declined what must have been one of the first recorded offers to be a designated driver, a concept foreign to Montana drivers.

In our early years in DeSmet Hall, the electricity was turned off at 11:15 p.m. and we were forbidden to leave the dorm. Naturally that posed some problems and opportunities. Most of us spent the afternoons and evenings in athletic endeavors or socializing, so our study time had to take place after 11:15 p.m., which we accomplished by either sneaking out or finding a way to turn on some power in the boiler room. We asked Harry where he studied late at night and he responded that he didn’t have to because he got it done during normal hours while still participating in all the usual activities. Unfortunately, we usually didn’t follow his example.

Throughout all the succeeding years, Harry continued to be the leader of our group, organizing reunions, trips to Italy and other places around the world, and generally was the glue that kept all of us together through constant communication with his beloved Rats. He was a remarkable individual, a great friend, and we will never forget him.
On GameDay in February I talked to lots of students, young alumni and ESPN broadcasters Jay Bilas and Digger Phelps. In every conversation about Gonzaga, the word "community" came up. When I applied here, I was looking for that sense of community.

I came with a semester’s worth of credits, and with a session of summer school I could graduate in May. I even laid out a three-year plan with my adviser. But the more time passes, the less I see myself leaving early. I love this place and all it’s done for me. One more year here means more debt, but the growth I’ll experience is priceless.

Financially, it’s been a group effort for my parents, grandparents and me. Last fall, my sister headed to school on the East Coast and my dad’s business was affected by the economy. Gonzaga’s financial aid came to my rescue. “How can we help?” they said. The resulting scholarships and funding were amazing.

One Sunday, Father Spitzer talked of recognizing opportunities God places in our lives. He used three points (of course!): opportunity, desire and trust. God gives us amazing opportunities, many of which we have a desire to follow, and we must trust that desire. Attending Gonzaga was an opportunity I wanted to pursue. I trusted it would all work out, and it has.

Experience an animated message from Father Spitzer and see how other students, like Autumn, are transforming our world at www.SHARE-INSPIRATION.ORG