Editor’s note:
To better align Gonzaga Quarterly’s publication with the seasons, editors have titled this issue not Fall, but Winter. Subsequent issues will appear at the beginning of each season.

Bulldog meets bulldog
The senior gift of the Class of 2006, titled “This is Our House,” guards the McCarthey Athletic Center.
The College and the Core as our academic center

By Father Robert Spitzer, S.J.
President

As I mentioned in the last issue of Gonzaga Quarterly, we are celebrating the 120th anniversary of the foundation of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences. Since the official celebration for the University will occur in its 125th year, we thought it would be appropriate to celebrate the College of Arts and Sciences this year. I described some of the new facilities, programs and development opportunities for the College of Arts and Sciences in the last issue, so I thought I would reflect on why the College of Arts and Sciences has been so integral to Jesuit education throughout the last four and one half centuries. My starting point will be the Core Curriculum which is a prime responsibility of the College of Arts and Sciences and has stood at the heart of Jesuit education since its inception.

As many of you know, the Society of Jesus formalized its educational system in what was termed the Ratio Studiorum (the rationale for education) in 1599. At that time, universities were associated with the faculties of philosophy, theology, law and medicine, but the Society’s “Rationale” brought a Core Curriculum distinctly into view. It included many aspects of the medieval university’s trivium (grammar, logic and rhetoric) and quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music), but soon expanded to include other aspects of the humanities and fine/performing arts. As the centuries passed, philosophical and theological courses were added, and in the 20th century social sciences and natural sciences (beyond astronomy and natural philosophy) were also added. The result was a comprehensive scheme of general education to help students learn the fundamentals of creative and rigorous thinking as well as address the great philosophical questions and the meaning of life.

In my introductory presentations to the students, I emphasize that Core courses probe the central questions of our lives – “What makes life worth living?” “How do I avoid wasting my time, talents, energy and life?” “How do I make optimal use of my freedom, creativity and time to have an optimally lived life?” These questions determine whether we will be fundamentally comparative or contributive in our identity, that is, whether we will want our lives to be better than others or rather, to do good for others. These courses will also determine how we interpret truth, ethics, success, love, suffering, freedom, personhood, rights, the common good, and, yes, God.

In my philosophy courses, I tell the students that the “isms” which surround these great categories of cultural discourse (e.g., empiricism, rationalism and realism with respect to “truth”; utilitarianism, deontology, natural law and virtue ethics with respect to “ethics”; Epicureanism, stoicism and Orphism with respect to “suffering”; etc.) provide the road maps for their future creativity, clarity of thought and ability to lead. Without knowing the maps, one does not know where one stands in the great framework of ideas, and, as a consequence, one does not know where to go or where to lead. One is bereft of real content.

There is an old Jesuit expression, “Never deny, seldom affirm, always distinguish!” When one is immersed in an argument with someone, it does little good to assert, “Spitzer, you’re wrong, I deny everything.” One achieves very little common purpose and as a result, there is little progress for either the intellectual life or the human community. Similarly, it does little good to blindly affirm everything one hears (in order to be nice, positive and agreeable). What good does it do to say, “Spitzer, I just want to affirm your statement, your overall position, you and everything about you,” and then walk away thinking to yourself, “That idiot.” Again, little is done to advance human community or the common good. Always distinguish. A good distinction enables one to see the common elements amid diverse positions, and to further understand why these positions are distinct within this unity. This truly leads to intellectual life and the common good. But these distinctions are based upon higher viewpoints – that is, the great ideas, systems, categories of cultural discourse and, shall I say, “isms” which constitute Jesuit education and its Core Curriculum.

For these reasons, I tell the students, “You are an undergraduate only once – load up on all the Core courses you can get. It will be the only time you will be able to study the meaning of life, the great questions and the great ideas simply for themselves.” That’s Gonzaga – or should I say, that’s what I received from Gonzaga.

In the next issue I will continue my reflection on the centrality of the Core Curriculum and the College of Arts and Sciences.
Non-Jesuit dean, but a profoundly Jesuit mission

By Peter Tormey

In July 2000, Robert Prusch accepted a one-year term as acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to replace Father Michael McFarland, S.J., who left to become president of a sister Jesuit school, College of the Holy Cross in New England.

Prusch, who has been at Gonzaga since 1981, and has chaired the biology department for 17 of those years, became full professor in 1983 and saw himself as a professor from head to toe with nary a thought of becoming an administrator.

“I never aspired to be dean. It was just the result of a series of unfortunate events,” quipped Prusch, who recalls a fateful 2000 phone call from Fr. McFarland.

“We were talking about one thing and he said he had one more issue to discuss. He said, ‘Robert, would you consider serving as acting dean for a year?’” Prusch reacted strongly against the idea at first. An hour later, then-Academic Vice President Father Patrick J. Ford, S.J., called Prusch, who soon agreed to the one-year post.

It became clear that Gonzaga’s next permanent dean of the College of Arts and Sciences would be a non-Jesuit. The search produced but one qualified Jesuit, who turned Gonzaga down. The Board of Members amended Gonzaga’s bylaws to allow non-Jesuits to serve in that position and as academic vice president. Worried that a non-Jesuit newcomer would not share his priority to preserve and strengthen the Core Curriculum, Prusch applied for the job.

Prusch believes the Core is the essence of Gonzaga’s Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic identity, and that the College of Arts and Sciences exists to preserve and transmit that essence. He said it was critical at that stage of the College’s history to rearticulate, reinforce and promote its mission as steward of the Core.

“I was assuming it would not be a

Place your bets: Will Gonzaga’s yin outweigh yang? By 1900-01, Gonzaga College had a yin and a yang: The yin was having the largest enrollment in the region, with a whopping 244 students; the yang was the lack of space to accommodate them. In 1903, ground was broken for a $250,000 eastward addition that included two million bricks and 600,000 board feet of lumber. By the time it was complete, the building had more classrooms, a chapel, dormitory, swimming pool and two-story gymnasium. Innumerable pennies and nickels were lost in the billiard room, which became a sort of “poker den,” despite the diligence of prefects.
Jesuit and would be someone who really didn’t have the commitment to Jesuit education,” Prusch said. “In the Jesuit sense, I made myself available.”

Prusch became Gonzaga’s first non-Jesuit dean of the College in March 2001. As dean, he developed mission and vision statements for the College, and asked each department to do so. Prusch maintained a steady drum beat, promoting the centrality of the Core Curriculum and empowering faculty as stewards of the Core, which he argues provides the central formative experience for all Gonzaga students.

“The vision for the College was the same as the University’s,” Prusch said. “The first tenet of the Mission Statement for the University is that we are humanistic, Catholic and Jesuit. That applies to the whole University but particularly the College of Arts and Sciences. Humanistic is really the arts and sciences. When we talk about Catholic that, too, has a major component in the College, particularly in philosophy and religious studies. The formative experience of Jesuit education takes place in University Ministry, Student Life and academics,” he said. “The College is critical to an institution that professes to be humanistic, Catholic and Jesuit.”

Big Bang or by design?

A scientist first, Prusch described the College’s development in terms of evolutionary theory. “We became a university in 1912. With the addition of the Law School, we had two programs: the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Law. The curriculum at the time was classical 19th century.” By the mid-20th century, the College had seven departments and four degree programs.

“How did this develop from seven to 20 departments and four degree programs to 35? Did this happen by design or Big Bang? What you see is a reflection of changes in higher education in this country, particularly in the liberal arts colleges,” he said.

A movement toward specialization in higher education threatens the liberal arts tradition in this country, Prusch said, adding its drumbeat has gotten louder at Gonzaga.

“You begin to see an emphasis on content. We have to cover this, we have to cover that, as opposed to being more integrative and thinking across disciplines,” Prusch said. “This thinking continues, this fragmentation, at Gonzaga and elsewhere.”

More than a business

“At a Jesuit institution, I like to think we are more than a business,” Prusch said. “I don’t know how many times a parent has asked me, ‘What can my kid do with that degree?’ My pat response is, ‘I haven’t the foggiest idea, but I can tell you what graduates of Gonzaga have gone on to do.’ I think we have done a very good job with our students.” Alumni exemplify the Core’s power.

“Our students are competitive in the outside world,” he said, noting many alumni get into professional schools, find jobs in industry, government, teaching and more.

“We’ve had students go to Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Duke, the University of Chicago. We have them all over.” Gonzaga’s identity appears to be a hot commodity in the marketplace, given the near doubling of undergraduate enrollment the past decade.

“How does it mean to be a Jesuit institution?” Prusch asked. “We are not a Jesuit institution because of the number of Jesuits here. I think in the foreseeable future, increasingly you will see lay Jesuits. The Jesuit institution does not reside in having Jesuits in administrative roles. With the number of Jesuits declining, I’d rather have Jesuits in the classroom. That would have a bigger effect on our students.”

Prusch attended a conference in which Jesuit Father General Peter Hans Kolvenbach described what he felt the focus of Jesuit education should be.

Who they become . . .

“According to Fr. Kolvenbach, and really it goes all the way back to St. Ignatius, Jesuit education is the formation of our students in solidarity with the marginalized people of the world. His quote was, ‘It’s not what our students become, but who they become,’” Prusch said. “When I talk about formation, academic formation is the Core. I have preached the Core for seven years.” A key challenge for the College is making the Core more relevant to faculty and students, and more interdisciplinary, he said.

“If you train for a specific job or position, by the time you get there you have trained to fit into that little box,” he said. “Overspecialization, even from a logical perspective, is not what you want. You want to keep your options open.”

Prusch said much of his tenure was spent keeping up with enrollment growth. He hired more than one-third of the College’s current faculty and even maintained his office in the Hughes Science Building as a refuge.

“Occasionally, I’d go over and sit there and ask myself, ‘What have I done?’” he said. “We grew. It’s not here for seven years, and if you think back to the ‘90s we were going through a slump. Our entering freshman class was 550-575 students. This fall we brought in over 1,000 freshmen.”

Prusch is proud to have played roles in development of the environmental studies concentration, a renewed emphasis in the thought and expression block of the Core, a doubling of the size of Hughes Hall, and renovations to the top two floors of the Administration Building.

The fire of ’41: falling slate, falling timber

Gonzaga lit up the sky, literally, on Dec. 10, 1941. Flames poured out of the Administration Building’s third- and fourth-story windows. By the time the fire was extinguished, the law library annex, chemistry stockroom, darkroom and a biology laboratory were total losses. More than $15,000 in books were destroyed, as were highly valuable papers, including 14 original sketches by famous western artist C.M. Russell.
ROTC comes to Gonzaga

The year 1947 brought the beginnings of Gonzaga’s ROTC program and with it, hundreds of rifles, side arms and uniforms. The ROTC became as much an established feature of campus life as intercollegiate football had been in the pre-war years. An old wooden door on the east end of the third floor leads up to what was a shooting range. There ROTC cadets could be found firing away, looking down on the theatre below, their bullet casings landing safely in sand. When the range was closed in 1994, two-and-a-half tons of lead-contaminated sand – and likely thousands of casings – were removed. The plan for the space today? A state-of-the-art performance theater.

Garvin threatens to handcuff self to radiator

Little came easily, including reassigning faculty offices to accommodate those renovations.

“On the third floor (political science Professors) Bob Waterman and Blaine Garvin shared an office for 20 years. They were like the odd couple. Blaine told me he was going to handcuff himself to the radiator,” Prusch said. “I finally convinced him he’d be better off on the fourth floor. When I saw Blaine a few weeks ago at Jack and Dan’s, he said, ‘I do like it better.’”

Prusch sees Jesuit and lay collaboration as key to preserving and perpetuating the Core, the essence of Gonzaga’s identity.

“If lay faculty don’t learn what it means to be a Jesuit institution, then how is this going to be passed on to succeeding generations of the faculty here at Gonzaga? The identity gets diluted and we become another secularized institution,” he said. “We now have a vice president for Mission, Father Pat Lee, and that is his focus.”

A difference between Brown, Gonzaga students

Prusch came to Gonzaga from a teaching post at Brown University and is routinely asked about the differences between students at the two schools.

“The students at Gonzaga are much more naïve than those at a place like Brown,” Prusch said. “Often, I am looking at students in my biology class from Cutbank, Mont., who may have made it into Great Falls once. We can take this kid from Montana and form that individual more easily than a more sophisticated student.”

Teaching, Prusch said, only becomes more gratifying as time goes by.

“To watch that change and formation of development over that four-year period is most satisfying for me personally. To watch them develop and leave as young, functional, articulate adults, and to know that you played a small part in that development, to me is why I am a faculty person. I just love working with this age group,” he said.

In addition to returning to the biology classroom, Prusch also returns to his Native American outreach activities, which he joked “allows me to end my career on a positive note.” While his Native American programs are designed to help tribal students, Prusch believes they help Gonzaga students the most.

“Our students, by interacting with Indian kids and communities, learn more critically about themselves,” Prusch said. “The unique piece is not what our students become — doctors, lawyers, plumbers — but who they become. That is determined by how they engage and give back to their

A terrible trifecta: typhoid fever, World War I, influenza

There has only been one school year that Gonzaga was unable to successfully finish, 1905-06. Typhoid fever struck the campus, forcing President Father Herman Goller, S.J. to terminate the remaining school year. Several students died. By 1918, Gonzaga documented 100 influenza cases on campus and witnessed many empty classroom seats as more than 1,000 Gonzaga students served in World War I.

Window, window on the wall…

Any guess how many windows look out of College Hall – 100, 200, 400? Try 606 – including those great big round ones that adorn the east end of the building.
Girls at Gonzaga? “No, the women would be the smartest ones in the class.”

Although 1948 marks the first year women officially were allowed to attend Gonzaga University as undergraduates, the first woman to earn her degree was Helen Grigware, who graduated from the law school in 1935. The first woman officially accepted was Dorothy McGowan, in 1948. Along with her acceptance, GU administrators noted the need for “a powder room and lounge in the old man-scented building.”
Room 244: Bing Crosby leaves his mark

Kids love to leave their mark – and Bing Crosby was no exception. Walk into College Hall Room 244 and on the windowsill you’ll find an irreplaceable carving of Bing’s signature. Which is now sealed under plexiglass.
ing garage to be built at Hamilton and Boone. If the University continues to grow over the next five years as the Baby Boom echo nears the end of its cycle, additional freshmen housing will be required. Tentative plans have been created to build a new freshman residence hall south of St. Catherine/St. Monica Residence Hall on the site of the practice soccer field. That field would be relocated to where the tennis courts currently reside, north of the competitive soccer field, which will be rebuilt to allow for better drainage. A tennis facility is being planned three blocks east of Hamilton Street near the Centennial Trail.

The recently purchased 50,000-square-foot Fuller Building, west of campus, is being renovated to contain six classrooms by next fall, with eventual addition of offices. Kennedy Apartments phase II are due for completion in summer 2008, as is the PACCAR Center for Applied Science just south of the Herak Engineering Building. A $2 million renovation of Russell Theatre is in the planning stages. The field north of the Jundt Center will be developed for intramural and recreational use, and new campus signs will be installed at Sharp and Ruby. This spring will see completion of the West Mall from Astor to Pearl streets where Boone Avenue formerly ran. A three-tier reflecting pool with polished black granite will adorn the front entrance to College Hall, with a statue of St. Ignatius Loyola due for installation in March.

Nethercutt Room dedicated

The adage “politics makes strange bedfellows” rang true Nov. 6 when Gonzaga dedicated the George R. Nethercutt Jr. Reading Room, on the third floor of the Ralph E. and Helen Higgins Foley Center. President Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., recognized the former Republican congressman’s commitment to public service and his donation to Gonzaga of his political papers and memorabilia during his tenure in the House.

A 1971 GU Law School alumnus, Nethercutt served as a law clerk briefly for Ralph E. Foley, the father of former House Speaker and GU alumus Tom Foley. In his first run for Congress, Nethercutt defeated Foley. Nethercutt represented the state’s Fifth Congressional District from 1995-2005 and was twice a primary driver of his artistic career.

Hofland studied the work of revolutionary Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas, leader of modernist theater in the 1930s. Kurbas is not a name that most American play-goers know, but he was a seminal figure in Ukrainian and European theater. His innovations and techniques continue to affect cutting-edge theater throughout the world today, Hofland said.

Next up for Hofland is a plan to collaborate with Ukrainian theater groups in writing and producing a play that he hopes will eventually be put on at Gonzaga.

Hofland chuckles as he explains how his interest in Ukrainian theater took root. In 1993, he was invited to the Ukraine to teach about American culture and the Bible as literature. “An old party apparatchik had contacted a Christian college to instigate the project. But when I arrived, she confiscated all of the Bibles and sold them on the black market.”

“One day I said that while I was there I wanted to go to Prague to study with two internationally famous designers there. She looked at me and said, ‘So, what is wrong with the culture of Ukraine?’”

Lost and found: a wallet – and memories

Spokane-based Walker Construction has been renovating Gonzaga buildings since 2004. According to superintendent of projects Don Erks, quite a stash of memorabilia has been discovered in the Administration Building since then. “Earlier this year, one of our workers found a wallet in an old air vent,” he said. “Inside was a 1941 receipt for a $38 bicycle, social security card, driver’s license and, of course, no money. He went home that night, looked up ‘Condon’ in the Spokane phone book and started calling. Long story short, he found the owner of the wallet, an 81-year-old Patrick Condon, who came to the building to claim the wallet he forgot he lost.” In addition to the wallet, the crew found a Gonzaga letterman’s jacket, Gold Seal beer can from Ellensburg, a box of Kellogg’s Pep Whole Wheat Flakes, tax tokens, student notes and – proof that kids will be kids – a paper airplane.

The Foley Center received nearly 200 boxes of materials. When processed and catalogued, the papers will be made available to the public.
Forty-two Gonzaga students tucked their courage and passports into their duffel bags and flew halfway around the globe last summer to learn by serving in Africa. Three groups traveled to locations in western and central Zambia, and Benin, West Africa. Each group had different priorities, including teaching English, researching chimpanzee behavior, helping to build a school, and teaching villagers how to filter polluted water using locally available materials.

But students’ learning went on dawn to dusk, all around and in between their more formal labors. To hear their stories – of pit toilets and pythons, of bush walks and baby chimpanzees, of blisters from lugging cinderblocks and nerves at the prospect of killing a chicken for lunch, of discovering that African nights have a jillion stars, of encountering a stack of small wooden coffins or a mob of smiling, curious children – all of this to capture a fingernail’s edge of their collective experience.

Nearly a year ago, before students left for Zambia, Father Pat Lee, S.J., vice president for Mission, spoke to them, based on his own extensive African experience. Junior Megan Croley reflected on this in her journal:

“One of the things that Father Pat talked about was that while in Zambia we must be willing to break our hearts so they can be rebuilt with the renewing hope and beautiful humility that Zambians have. He told us that everyday in Zambia, one in three people will go to a funeral. They live with such hope and they live so simply and with such strength, he tells us. I have to bring that hope back with me to the states. If America had to go through this, we would be crippled. Men will be walking for two days just to come to see us and learn English from us. I have to ask myself, however, that if they are people with such great love and hope, why do they need us? What makes us so special?”

By Marny Lombard and Pete Tormey
Photos by Brad Stiebig, A.J. Trealeven and Sarah Tharp
Chapter One: Zambezi

Ten students from Gonzaga’s Comprehensive Leadership Program lived for almost three weeks of June in Zambezi, a small town in the bush of western Zambia. Guided by Josh Armstrong, CLP director; Sima Thorpe, director of the Center for Community Action and Service Learning; and Molly Ayers, service learning coordinator for CCASL, the group’s work centered on teaching English. Their pupils ranged from preschoolers to adults, with a matching range of abilities. English is the official language of Zambia, and this precious chance for intensive training brought some adults more than 40 miles on foot.

From Croley’s journal: “The people of Zambezi have very little sense of time or tardiness. So, we have groups of students who want to join a class halfway through a lesson. This means (if you don’t want to deny anyone education...which we didn’t) you have to quickly establish their levels and place them so as not to disturb other classes. This happened as I was teaching with ‘Dr. Josh’ (Armstrong). There were four boys from 11th and 12th grade; Moses, Michael, Kerby and Godfrey. They were able to write dictated sentences and read newspapers so I mistakenly perceived them as more advanced than any other class. I took them on as a new class, but quickly realized that while they can read and pronounce the words, they have no idea what they are saying. Zero comprehension.”

And on her first Sunday in Zambezi: “After Communion we were invited up to the altar to be welcomed by the community. Every single person in that church (there must have been between 150-200) circled around and shook everyone’s hand. It was an incredible feeling. The love pouring out touched me so deeply that I got a little leaky-eyed. Little old women came hobbling up and greeted us with huge smiles. For one of the first times I felt accepted by the Zambezi people, rather than an object of curiosity. I could feel their love. It was palpable, I could feel the warmth on my skin and it was so thick around me it kept me standing strong. It was one of the most beautiful moments of my life.”

Chapter Two: Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage

Students who went in June and July to Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia are likely never to forget the experience. Fifteen students traveled with Associate Professor Molly Kretchmar-Hendricks, chair of the Psychology Department, to this remote and unusual refuge for abused and orphaned chimpanzees. Working with Mark Bodamer of Pacific University, who is a visiting professor at Gonzaga this year, the students helped with ongoing research, filming chimpanzees’ hand-clasping behaviors and the tools – orange rinds and so on – that they used to drink water. Even learning to identify each of the chimpanzees by name took concentration.

The students’ days brimmed with other projects, too. Chimfunshi’s staff and their children make up a community of about 300 people. Until this summer, no school was available at their compound. Gonzaga students helped to move the 1,400 cinderblocks needed for the school walls.

“Today was grueling! It began with two hours of moving cinderblocks up at the site for the new school for the..."
compound kids. My arms were on fire, and it felt like a lot longer, but the kids came out and were dancing and singing. That helped a lot. Even just being there so that I could look up and see the reason I was doing it, really gave me renewed energy,” wrote senior Kelly Ross in her journal.

Gonzaga students spent most of their afternoon hours teaching and playing with the children. Extravagant games of futbol (soccer) and the children's hunger for attention gave them a common language.

This passage is from the journal of senior Julia Marshall:

"After returning from the chimpanzees’ enclosures, I ate lunch, rested a bit and then headed over to the compound for the first time. Words cannot express the flood of emotions I felt that day. Let’s just say, I was in heaven. We were greeted by a mob of beautiful children the moment we came into sight. During the first couple of minutes the children were a bit shy. But it did not take them long to open up … I fell in love with a young girl, about 2 or 3 years old, named Grace. As soon as our eyes met she threw her arms open and jumped into mine."

The next morning, Julia went on dawn patrol, a group of three or four students who hiked with Bodamer to the chimpanzee enclosures, each of which extended hundreds of acres:

“Dawn patrol was incredible – walking up to the enclosures in the dark – getting there as the sun just began to rise. As soon as I arrived the chimps were just beginning to gather by the fence. That morning I was able to gradually match all the names to all the faces in Enclosure One. I was so proud of myself.”

Marshall and several other students on the Chimfunshi trip also traveled to the nearby village of Muchinshi to work at and learn about a women’s center that is struggling to improve the lives of families in their impoverished community. Marshall’s journal reflects her profound hope to return to Muchinshi.

**Small lessons learned in Zambia**

1. Hold your breath before you get into the shower (it helps take the edge off the cold water).
2. If you think you’re speaking slowly, slow down.
3. It is possible to catch a chicken and eat it two hours later.
4. It is socially acceptable to yell “white person” at us in your native language whenever we appear in public.
5. There’s no Lion King Tree in Africa.

The next morning, Julia went on dawn patrol, a group of three or four students who hiked with Bodamer to the chimpanzee enclosures, each of which extended hundreds of acres:

“Africa is a changing economy. For Benin to be able to grow and be a part of the international world, they need to have English as well as French-speaking skills. Thirty percent of the people who come to Songhai Center speak English, either Africans or Europeans. Those who work here need English speaking skills. Emilee, our limited English
speaker, said it best: ‘We need English because it is important for the center but it is also important for all of Benin.’ This is something that I will think more about tonight and will write about again.”

The next day, Longinotti’s class traveled to Ouidah, a port where slaves were sold and transported from Benin. She wrote the following in her blog that day, after viewing a monument of the slave trade:

“Once at the site, I felt sorrow for those whose lives were given over to slavery, and sadness that so many people lost homes and families. But really, I mostly was overwhelmed by the simplicity of the monument. It wasn’t all that lavish, which ended up speaking volumes. The monument is a carved stone archway that has reliefs depicting the African slaves on either side. Next to the archway are metal sculptures that are depictions of people in chains, I guess in a surreal style.”

These Gonzaga students now understand, from a personal perspective, the disturbing implications of the lack of access to clean and safe water. Community-focused projects like this directly address the United Nations’ goal to halve the number of people without access to clean water or sanitation by 2015.

Benin and its people actually are decades ahead of the United States in the areas of agricultural practices and sustainability, Professor Striebig said.

“Despite the poverty, lack of water and lack of health care, the people of Benin are delightful, and judging from our short experience, smile more easily than we do,” Striebig said.
lecting a new father general for the Society of Jesus is not quite like picking a pope, but it’s in the same neighborhood for the 270 Jesuits assigned the task at the 35th General Congregation of the Society, which convenes Jan. 7 in Rome, across the street from the Vatican.

“How on earth do we come up with a single name just by talking to each other?” wondered Gonzaga Vice President for Mission Father Pat Lee, S.J., one of the delegates worldwide selected to vote at the General Congregation. “We take an oath not to campaign for this job,” so we are going in without a list of possible candidates.

“We will spend our days and weeks praying, and talking about successors to Father General (Peter) Kolvenbach, and somehow come up with a person who may lead us for the next 20 years or more. I’m baffled by it. It’s a great mystery. But for over 400 years it has worked pretty well.”

Fr. Lee will be a part of history as this will be the first General Congregation to elect a father general (superior of all Jesuits) while his predecessor is in office. The position is a lifetime appointment. However, Father General Kolvenbach asked the pope to accept his resignation.

“He is 85 years old and he doesn’t have the energy he had when elected in 1983. He believes it’s time the Society has a new vision,” Fr. Lee said.

This Congregation also is the first such meeting in which Southern Hemisphere delegates will represent the majority. “The Jesuits from India, Latin America and Africa will have a great say,” Fr. Lee said. “So we’ll be hearing the voice of the developing world more than ever before.”

The delegates will work six days a week at the Jesuits’ General Curia, then take Sundays off. They will meet until a new leader has been chosen and all the business of the Society has been completed. Historically, three months would be a short Congregation.

The General Congregation, which has met just 34 times in the 465-year history of the Jesuit order, is the ultimate authority for the Society. It is the Society’s legislative body and will set its direction until the next Congregation convenes, most likely when the new father general dies.

While selecting a new superior is the most important work that Fr. Lee and the delegates will accomplish, they also are expected to address globalization, ecology, lay partnership in mission and internal governance issues. The decrees they set will give direction to the apostolates, and the Congregation will mandate how the new father general will carry out their vision.

“This is an important position, and it is unlike the superiors of the other orders,” Fr. Lee explained. “St. Ignatius (founder of the Jesuit order) modeled our father general after the pope where they are elected for life. We are the only order of Catholic priests that has this model. Superiors of other orders are elected for set terms. Generally, the father general is in office for so long that he often becomes the voice of wisdom in his dealings with the pope and others.

“The father general has to be one of the best informed people in the world on world affairs,” Fr. Lee continued. “Every morning he meets with four counselors who bring him up to speed on all that is happening. St. Ignatius’ vision was to be close to the pope, and he bought land all around the Vatican to help maintain that closeness. It is hoped that the new father general can become a trusted counselor to the pope.”

Fr. Lee looks forward to the process and is honored to have been selected, yet he wonders out loud how long the lines will be trying to get a washing machine to do his laundry, competing with 269 other out-of-towners. There is nothing pretentious about Fr. Lee, nor the job ahead of him. As always, he is taking this task in stride.
By Marny Lombard

This year’s freshman class has jumped into life at Gonzaga with several ribbons already fluttering from its chest. “This is an amazing class with some remarkable stories. And this is the largest entering freshman class in our history,” said Dean of Admission Julie McCulloh.

The Class of 2011 contains 1,036 freshmen. While the largest numbers are from Washington, Oregon and California, the class also draws from 34 states overall—Alabama to Arizona—and several nations.

“This class has taken solid, college preparatory curricula but they’ve also been active and engaged students. No slackers. They are unique, with varied interests and family histories that really create a diversity of life experience. I am confident that each individual can be a great blessing to the community,” McCulloh said.

Producing this class took enormous work from McCulloh and her team of admission counselors. “The number of applications—almost 800 more than last year, and 1,400 more than in 2005, was very difficult to get through. Our team in the Office of Admission worked tirelessly, reading, reviewing and making decisions. By the time May finally arrived, my colleagues were exhausted.”

One of the lenses through which the Office of Admission learns about prospective freshmen is the college essay. “I’ve always loved the idea of the essay the most because it brings the greatest perspective on a student when done well,” McCulloh said. Even in the midst of a “reading day”—when each admissions counselor works through 50 applications—Gonzaga’s admission counselors will stop to exclaim, laugh or sometimes cry over those few extraordinary essays. They also set aside copies of the best of the best.

Rachel Bakamus, a freshman from Longview, Wash., was amazed to learn that her essay landed in that special handful. Here is the opening of her essay:

My dad drove me to the Mark Morris High School swimming pool and stopped short of the locker room door. “Good luck! Remember, when in doubt, hold your breath!” he said as I exited the car.

“This is it,” I thought to myself, the first day of high school swimming try-outs. My heart beat rapidly as I stepped out onto the swim deck to join the rest of the girls. Most of the veteran swimmers were already in the pool, completing laps with the grace of ballerinas. They swim with ease, placing hand after hand in the water without so much as a splash. Rookies... well, we stood together paralyzed by intimidation. However, sooner than I was prepared for, my huddle of fellow freshmen began to dwindle in size, as each girl left the comfort of dry land and awkwardly found a lane to swim in for the day. Time was up. I had to get in the water.

I sat down in the pool’s gutter and removed both of my prosthetic legs. My handicap exposed, I mustered my courage and sank softly into the water.”

Bakamus, who became captain of the swim team in her senior year, goes on to describe the challenge of learning to swim competitively. She concluded her essay this way:

I learned that it is how one deals with the obstacles that are presented in life, and not the setbacks themselves, that is a true testament of character. Though my disability will forever provide challenges for me throughout my life, I realized through swimming that all it takes to find success is flexibility to make modifications, dedication, and sometimes the courage to jump in feet first, prepared to hold your breath.

Bakamus, who has participated in several sports and calls herself a big basketball fan, chose her topic after careful deliberation. She wrote and rewrote until she, her English teacher and her mother all were happy.

Other essay topics from the admission team’s favorites include advice from a student’s father; the misadventures of childhood; love of flying small planes; and one student’s admiration for Michelangelo.

“What some of the best essays really do is to help us get to know some aspect of the student really well,” said counselor Carie Schwede, a Gonzaga alumna who majored in English. “We’re not looking for Pulitzer Prize-winning prose. We know that they’re still young. But the essay really is important, especially because we know how important writing is at this school.”

Rachel Bakamus, a former swimmer, adds her own brand of courage to a strong and diverse freshman class.
Who’s 13th?
It’s anyone’s guess—Zags’ talent runs deep
By Dale Goodwin

Biggest, strongest, tallest and deepest team Gonzaga has ever put on the court. That’s what the experts are saying about the Bulldogs’ men’s basketball team this season.

“We have 13 guys, and it would be impossible to tell you who our 13th guy is,” said Associate Head Coach Leon Rice. “We’ve never had a team this deep. And we’ve got all types of players – long and lanky, guys who elevate and guys with tremendous strength. Our biggest task will be trying to determine which combinations work the best within our system.”

Gonzaga looks to improve upon its 23-11 record last season, when the Zags won the West Coast Conference regular-season and post-season tournament titles, before losing 70-57 to Indiana in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The schedule will give the Bulldogs a slight break this year. Last year Gonzaga traveled more than 16,000 miles, back and forth across the country. This year’s schedule has Gonzaga on the East Coast just once against St. Joseph’s and UConn, and back to Memphis for a single game. Unlike last year, the Zags have home games scattered amongst their trips abroad, which will give them time to make adjustments along the way, Rice said.

In addition to eight returning players from last year, and redshirt freshman Theo Davis, the Zags have four new recruits, who are all seeing action this season. Austin Daye has seen the most significant minutes in the early going. The 6-10 freshman from Irvine, Calif., comes from a basketball family (father Darrin played in the NBA). “He has a natural ability to score, and has size and skills to go with it. He’s versatile; he could play any position,” Rice said. Other newcomers include 7-foot freshman center Robert Sacre from Vancouver, B.C., 6-4 freshman guard Steven Gray from Bainbridge, Wash., and 6-4 junior forward Ira Brown from Conroe, Texas.

Following are four potential Zag game-breakers with Coach Rice’s assessment.

#15 Matt Bouldin
6-5, 220 pounds, sophomore
Rice Report: Expecting huge jump in performance after tremendous first year, one of the best guards in the country, so versatile. He can post up. One of the best passers we’ve coached, makes teammates run harder, team quicker.

#2 Jeremy Pargo
6-2, 225 pounds, junior
Rice Report: Glimpses of greatness will be more consistent and frequent, great self-confidence, good leader, great taking ball to the rack.

#25 David Pendergraft
6-6, 230 pounds, senior
Rice Report: He epitomizes what Gonzaga is all about and his play reflects it. Always plays hard, never takes a play off. A tremendous leader. Nothing fake about Pendo.

#22 Micah Downs
6-8, 190 pounds, junior
Rice Report: Oozes with athletic and basketball ability. Big guard can rise up over anyone and hit the jumper.

Newcomers

Robert Sacre
7-0, 285 pounds, freshman, North Vancouver, B.C.

Austin Daye
6-10, 190 pounds, freshman, Irvine, Calif.

Ira Brown
6-4, 230 pounds, junior, Conroe, Texas/Phoenix (Arizona) Community College

Steven Gray
6-4, 210 pounds, freshman, Bainbridge, Wash.
Safe with Shelley Hicks on our side

By Bob Finn
Director of Alumni Relations

A great part of my job is the opportunities I have to talk with such unique and wonderful alumni. Shelley (Gordon) Hicks ('85) definitely falls into that category. As an assistant U.S. attorney in Texas, she works in the Terrorism and National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Her focus is working with other agencies to identify individuals who pose a threat to homeland security.

Because much of what she does is classified, this part of our interview was rather short. However, I do feel quite safe knowing that Hicks is on our side. Here are a couple of past cases that she felt free to discuss:

In 2006, Hicks prosecuted a case involving a group of men planning to travel overseas to engage in battlefield jihad against American and coalition forces in the Middle East. One of these individuals has pled guilty of conspiring to provide financial support to the Taliban and other weapons offenses. Two other defendants await sentencing, and the fourth will stand trial late this fall.

In 2003 and 2004, she prosecuted one of the largest methamphetamine conspiracies operating in the United States. The case ultimately touched not only Mexico and Canada, but also had ties to Asia. More than 50 large-scale traffickers were prosecuted and convicted. “In relation to this case, I won the United States Attorney’s Award for Professionalism, which was a real honor,” Hicks said.

Earlier in her career, Hicks spent 10 years fighting narcotics and money laundering as an assistant U.S. attorney in Montana. “My husband Scott and I met through work,” she said. “I was prosecuting a large-scale methamphetamine trafficking organization and he was the lead investigator. We got married shortly after the last defendants were convicted at trial,” Shelley said.

In September, Shelley and her family moved from their Texas home to Switzerland for three years in connection with Scott’s job as a drug enforcement agent. Shelley is taking a sabbatical and spending time with their daughters Dannie, 13, and Alex, 11.

“My goal in Switzerland is to not stay in the same place for any two weeks in a row; it will be a great opportunity for our kids to travel all over Europe. I want our kids to see and experience as much of the world as they can. They will be required to study two foreign languages at their school and we will be stressing how important it is for them to speak not only English, but other languages, too.” Hicks attended Gonzaga based on the recommendation of her parish priest in Billings, Mont., and never regretted her decision. Many of the skills she uses today were acquired while she was an English major at Gonzaga.

“Most of what I do is writing, so I really appreciate what Gonzaga has done for my professional life,” she said. “The liberal arts were a real blessing. Through my job, I have had the opportunity to travel and see many of the places I studied while at Gonzaga. I am looking forward to what lies ahead.”

Alumna Shelly Hicks ('85) with her husband Scott and daughters, Dannie (left) and Alex.

Photo courtesy of Shelly Hicks
Arthur Dugoni, Palo Alto, Calif., dean emeritus, professor of orthodontics and senior executive for development for the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry received the first-ever honorary doctorate of dental surgery degree from Louisiana State University. In addition, Dugoni received the 2007 Shils Award from the Edward B. Shils Entrepreneurial Education Fund for his outstanding leadership and exemplary service to the dental community, dental education and public oral health.

William E. Cleaver, Sr. and wife Carroll (Mingo) '58 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 3. They live in Anaheim Calif.

Rev. Patrick Howell, S.J., Seattle, was appointed vice president for mission and ministry at Seattle University.

Robert Roberg, S.J.
Gainesville, Fl., has written a book titled “Jihad, According to Abraham and the Prophets,” which was published by Peacemakers’ Press.

Fr. Bruce Wellemes, Cicero, Ill., recently returned to Spokane and gave a retreat for the ladies of St. Mary’s Presentation Church of Deer Park.

Marc Hillestad ('93 M.B.A.) and wife Christine are the parents of Natalie Ann. Born Dec. 6, 2006, she joins sister Olivia Jane, 3. They live in Carnation, Wash., where both Marc and Christine work at Cedarcrest High School. Marc teaches marketing/DECA and coaches basketball. Christine coaches volleyball.

Julio Morales is assistant soccer coach at Eastern Washington University in Cheney. He works with the women’s varsity and junior varsity teams.

Heather (James) Miciak ('03 M.Ed.) and husband Ryan are the parents of Declan Ryan. Born March 1, he joins brother Keagan William, 2. They live in Spokane where Heather works for Spokane Public Schools and Ryan works for the Mead School District. Trevor Werttemberger ('03 M.A.), Spokane, is corporate marketing manager for Red Lion Hotels Corporation. E-mail Trevor, werttemberger@redlion.com.

Matt Kolbet and his wife Sara are the parents of Oliver Perry, born Feb. 13. They live in Newberg, Ore. Sean McLaughlin, Groton, Conn., was appointed assistant U.S. attorney, Department of Justice. He has published a review of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer’s book “Active Liberty” for the Washington State Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division. Karen Teel and husband Matt Watkins ('99) are the parents of Madeline Watkins Teel, born March 3. They live in San Diego where Karen is an assistant professor of theology and religious studies at the University of San Diego and Matt contracts for Measurement Computing Corporation in Norton, Mass.

Matt and Oliver Kolbet

Heather

Karen, Matt and Madeline Watkins

Jaime Hawk ('04 J.D.), Spokane, was nominated as the 2007-2008 president-elect of the Washington State Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division. Jennifer (Weber) Henderson and husband Steve are the parents of Fiona Christine. They live in Seattle where Jennifer teaches at Bellarmine Prep and Steve is a senior buyer for Puget Sound Energy. Gina (Wylie) Paluch and Jennifer (Wylie) Michelson, both of Phoenix, have created a web-based business called Two Sisters Jewelry Boutique, LLC. William A. Buckholdt (J.D.), Spokane, is a partner at Paine, Hamblen, Coffin, Brooke & Miller LLP. His practice focuses on the tax implications of business transactions for both for-profit and non-profit entities, as well as estate planning and retirement/deferred compensation. Sherry Murray (M.A.), Spokane, opened Counseling Center of Spokane, LLC, providing support to counselors in private practice. Michelle M. Tacke, 2003, graduated from Gonzaga Law School and worked in the Spokane and Portland offices of the law firm Jedlicka, Duddles, Tacke & McPherson, PLLC. She now lives in Portland, Ore. where she is an attorney with the law firm Wise, Williams & Williams, PLLC. Chris Tacke, 2003, graduated from Gonzaga University and is working for the law firm Buckholdt, Paine, Hamblen, Coffin, Brooke, & Miller, PLLP. He is now a litigation attorney in the firm's Spokane office.

Trevor Werttemberger, Cicero, Ill., recently returned to Spokane and gave a talk on the topic of ”Women in Medicine” at Gonzaga University.

Gonzaga University Marketing and Communications, 502 E. Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA 99258-0070. Or send us a note via e-mail to: gonzaga@ Gonzaga.edu. Quality photos are appreciated, will be used if space permits and returned to you upon request.

WINTER 2008 – 19
Daniel Koh in Gonzaga's new director of choral activities at Gonzaga. One of his groups, the Gregorian Schola, performs a Gregorian Chant Mass every Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Jesuit House Chapel. It's open to the public. The group is pictured above performing this fall at St. Aloysius church.

Mary Ann Burke, (friend), Spokane, died May 24 at age 84. She was a secretary at West Valley High School for nearly 20 years. She traveled extensively and enjoyed her volunteer work at Ronald McDonald House and Sacred Heart Medical Center.

Douglas Finrud, (’97), Spokane, has died at age 57. She served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and enjoyed the outdoors.

Darryl Gellert, (’68), Bainbridge Island, Wash., died April 4 at age 61. Gellert served in the U.S. Army as a military policeman for three years. He taught business classes at Olympic High School and served as football coach and golf coach.

Margaret Gose, (friend), College Place, Wash., died July 2 at age 89. She was the first director of Whitman's Olin Gallery and served at GU as a regent for seven years and a trustee for 19 years. She also served on the Charlotte Y. Martin Committee that was instrumental in allocating funds to build the Jundt Art Museum.

Kathleen Gustafson, (’80), Spokane, died May 21 at age 58. She owned a hair salon, Second Generation Hair Design.

James Hoban, (’56), Spokane Valley, died Aug. 1 at age 79. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany. He enjoyed skiing, baseball and jazz.

Clyde Houston, (’53 JD), Spokane, died June 18 at age 82. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II before moving to Warden, Wash., and beginning his law practice and a newspaper, the Warden News Bulletin.

Kathryn Jacklin, (’66), Coeur d'Alene, died June 5 at age 64. She worked for Pathology Associates where she specialized as a phlebotomist and bacterial analysis technician.

Fr. Mike McHugh, S.J., (’14), Spokane, died May 1 at age 86. He was ordained to the priesthood in June 1961. He served as a pastor in Portland, Ore., Seattle, Havre, Mont., and Browning, Mont.

Janet Moffitt, (’80 MA), Spokane, died Aug. 3 at age 63. She was a junior high counselor in the Central Valley School District and president of the Hutton Settlement Board of Trustees.

George Morrison, Jr., (’54), Spokane, died Aug. 2 at age 81. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean conflict. He served as state compostter for the Alaska Judiciary System before becoming an investment banker.

Mose Joseph “M.J.” Moses (’44), Waidorf, Md., died June 2 at age 88. He was an intelligence analyst with the A.S.A., the forerunner of the National Security Agency. He enjoyed farming and gardening and was a Senior Olympic competitor and Latin tutor.

Howard Nichols, (’78 JD), Spokane, died July 22. He practiced law in Spokane for several years and was part owner and president of Fast Way Transport. He loved golf, skiing and mowing his lawn.

Kenneth Norrie, Jr., (’60), Goodyear, Ariz., died May 14 at age 68. He worked 25 years at Boise Cascade Corp. and was president of Parma Laboratories at the time of his death.

Mary Beth (O'Reilly) Etter, (friend), Spokane, died June 11 at age 55. She was a volunteer for numerous organizations and enjoyed running, reading, quilting and cross-stitch.

Nathan J. Schultheiss (’02), died Nov. 1. He was 27. He was a civilian agent for the Office of Special Investigations in the U.S. Air Force, serving in Iraq, where the vehicle he and three others were riding in struck an improvised explosive device, killing all four. He received his law degree from Roger Williams University.

Gary T. Smith, (’56), Seattle, died July 4 at age 74. He was a U.S. Army veteran and avid outdoorsman who loved fly-fishing and volunteering with many charitable organizations.

Fred Stanton, Ph.D. (’49), Spokane, died June 28 at age 91. He served as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II, worked as an announcer at KNEW radio (now KJRB) and was a former chair of the speech, drama and communications department at GU for more than 30 years.

Tatsui “Tom” Tsuchiya, (’63 JD), Spokane, died June 3 at age 74. He was an avid reader and gardener.

Gordon Windle, (’47), Spokane, died May 31 at age 94. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a family physician in private practice for more than 30 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping.

Alvin J. Wolff, founder of The Wolff Company, a prominent real estate investment and development firm with operations throughout the western United States, and friend of Gonzaga University, died Nov. 18 at age 89. Today the company is operated by his son and Gonzaga Trustee Alvin “Fritz” Wolff Jr. and his grandsons Tim, Peter, Jesse and Fritz. Wolff held numerous leadership positions throughout his career, and gave liberally to his community. In 2005, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Gonzaga University Law School.
Bay Area’s Gala II
an Italian extravaganza
Over 250 alumni gathered at the Italian Athletic Club in San Francisco on Sept. 28 to celebrate the Gonzaga in Florence tradition. Highlights were a four-course Tuscan dinner, premium vintages and an Italian art auction. “This event is a wonderful reunion for the GIF crowd and provides a taste of Florence for alumni who didn’t have the opportunity to study there,” said Chapter President Mike Tobin ('66).

Alumni enjoy summer golf tournaments
The Denver chapter teed up for its first golf tournament hosted by parents Ed and Marlene Blesch. The San Francisco Bay Area alumni lent support to the Erik Hanson Memorial Golf tournament, and the Moses Lake alumni came out swinging for their second annual Alumni Association Tournament.

GAMP TREK brings students to New York
GAMP teamed up with the School of Business and New York alumni to give 10 deserving students a real-world taste of working on Wall Street. Students toured financial businesses and networked with alums in those fields. The New York Chapter hosted an informal social. “We felt this first year was a great success and look forward to the East Coast excursion being an annual event,” reported Kevin Pratt, GAMP director.

Spokane Chapter is up with a bang
Spokane Chapter President Matt Santangelo ('00) welcomed more than 500 alumni to the chapter launch at the McCarthey Athletic Center on Sept. 8. Father Spitzer gave a campus update, basketball highlights played on the big screen, and children enjoyed games galore. “It was great to see so many families at the event. I am excited for all the chapter will bring to Spokane,” Santangelo said.
Incoming Zags mix with alumni at summer sendoffs

Boston Chapter newest to launch
The Boston Chapter became the newest Gonzaga alumni chapter with its official celebration Dec. 1 at Boston Beerworks. The party also served as a pre-game social to the Gonzaga men’s basketball game against the University of Connecticut in the Basketball Hall of Fame Challenge at the Fleet Center.

NBA alumni nights planned nationwide
Alumni nights with discounted tickets to watch former Zags at the next level are being organized. Ronny Turiaf will take on the NBA team in your region. Contact the alumni office for more information.

Coach Jerry Krause draws a crowd in Tacoma
For the third year in a row, Coach Jerry Krause, men’s basketball director of operations, wowed the Tacoma alumni with his insights into the men’s basketball season. Bill Baker, Tacoma, won the grand prize, a 2008 men’s autographed basketball.

Yakima alumni social a success
On Aug. 16, over 60 Yakima area alums and parents met at the Apple Tree Resort for a reception. Father Spitzer gave a campus update.

Gonzaga reunions move to October
About 250 alumni representing classes of 1967, 1977, 1982, 1987 and 1997 gathered on campus Oct. 3-5. This is a new time of year for Gonzaga reunions, and this year’s theme was “Fall Back to Gonzaga.” Baseball alumni reunions were also held at this time.

GU apparel makes a great Christmas gift
Support the Alumni Scholarship fund when you purchase alumni apparel and gifts. Gonzaga afghans, jackets, sweatshirts, baby Zag gear and much more is available at www.gonzaga.edu/alumni.

Got plates?
Gonzaga pride hits the road when you buy a Gonzaga license plate from the Washington State Department of Motor Vehicles. Purchase yours today by going to any DMV in Washington or check it out online at www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/specialdesign.html#collegiate. A portion of every plate sold benefits the Alumni Scholarship fund.

Alumni Association Web page gets a facelift
The Alumni Association Web site will undergo many changes this winter. Noticeable improvements will include the “look” of the site as well as the ease of navigation. Notification of these changes and directions for joining the online community will be sent via e-mail. Please update your e-mail by calling the Alumni Office at 509.323.5999 or by e-mailing alumni@gonzaga.edu.

Information?
For alumni and chapter information, call or e-mail Nancy Marcus at marcus@gonzaga.edu or 509.323.5999. Contact Erin Shields, shieldse@gonzaga.edu, 509.323.4048, for GAMP information. Contact Mike Baisch, baisch@gonzaga.edu, 509.323.4232, for reunion information.
My mother grew up in Cohagen, Mont., a town of eight people. My father grew up in Circle, Mont., a town of 300. They remain in Montana, in Bozeman now, having moved first from Billings (where Dad coached the Crow players at Plenty Coups) to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation at St. Labre, from there to Livingston during my high school years, then on to Bozeman when my brother and I attended college. Some time back, on a visit to see them in Bozeman, I sat on the couch with my mother. Arch ceilings and oak beams led to high, wide windows that look out on the Bridger Mountains and the Spanish Peaks, the view itself a reminder of the vast wilderness that is Montana and how thankful I am to have a good mother, a good father. We had grown up in trailers, three of them in three different towns. My parents had struggled with each other and through some profound decisions reconciled with one another after time apart, and from there they went on to make deep sacrifices toward my brother’s and my college education. I was happy for them, the life they had given us and the life they had built for themselves since then.

My mother asked about the research I was doing on forgiveness and touch, and I told her stories of people – how they had hurt one another deeply, how they sought forgiveness and tried to return to the hope of an enduring and loving connection. South Africa, the Philippines, Northern Ireland, so many places of human atrocity, and even in the face of such desolation, forgiveness would rise sometimes and heal the heart of humanity. I thanked my mother for the forgiveness she gave my father and for how graceful she had been. Even my choice of vocation was in large part due to the integrity she and my father brought to our family. Not surprisingly, that day as we sat on the couch, the natural, true way she carried herself shone through again.

After a pause in our conversation, she looked at me and said, “You know, I’d like to get together with you and ask your forgiveness for any of the harms I caused you growing up.” She said the words with a pleasant look, a look of confidence and assurance. I have always loved that look, the way she carries herself with such strength even when dealing with things that are daunting, or cumbersome. She is a gracious person.

“That would be good!” I said, “but I’ve harmed you as well. I’d like to ask your forgiveness, too.”

On my next visit to Montana we ate dinner together and had an evening of forgiveness-asking.

**From losses, new gifts emerge**

At Gonzaga, the opportunities for meaningful experience of the world abound. I’m grateful for the Jesuit ethos that has given so many gifts to humanity through a deep sense of intellectual curiosity, a rich understanding of the power of love, and the unique and enduring notion of cura personalis – educating the whole person: mind, body and spirit. I’ve had the honor of serving at Gonzaga for the past 12 years. I am a professor with the doctoral program in Leadership Studies, and due to the excellence and gracefulfulness of the Jesuit tradition I’ve been given a greater understanding and experience not only of faith and reason, but of some of the revolutionary notions that seem to surround the mystery and power of Christ. To me, the image of Christ is a subtle and powerfully resonating one that we experience in the context of sacrificial love, a life of discerning servanthood, and the humility that evokes enduring courage in ourselves and others. I encounter this loving aspect so often here at Gonzaga. In the context of love, even the great losses of life take on new meaning. A central leadership theory that espouses this notion is servant-leadership, a concept made accessible in the modern day by former AT&T executive Robert Greenleaf. He felt the true leader was one in whose presence others became more wise, more free, more healthy, more autonomous and better able to serve, especially regarding the least privileged of society. Listen to his insight:

To be on with the journey one must have an attitude toward loss and being lost, a view of oneself in which powerful symbols like burned, dissolved, broken off – however painful their impact is seen to be – do not appear as senseless or destructive. Rather, the losses they suggest are seen as opening the way for new creative acts, for receiving priceless gifts. Loss, every loss one’s mind can conceive of, creates a vacuum into which will come (if allowed) something new and fresh and beautiful, something unforeseen – the greatest of these is love.
Pride in nursing

The first-ever graduates in Gonzaga’s new Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing program posed for class photos the day before their pinning ceremony last August. These graduates praised the program’s holistic teaching, caring faculty and the close relationships fostered among students. One student’s dream is to work in a neonatal intensive care unit. Another is off to serve in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for a year. “I can’t think of many other professions that get to help heal the soul along with the body. I can’t think of another way to spend my career,” said graduate Katie Birdsall.

Photos by Marny Lombard and Dale Goodwin