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The Regulars

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More than 200 participants hiked through northern Idaho this September to celebrate Gonzaga’s 40th Annual Pilgrimage. The retreat invites every member of the Gonzaga community to explore the Jesuit history and Native American roots of the University. Participants carry a cross adorned with medallions from each year. A hearty breakfast starts the Pilgrimage. The event culminates with Mass and tours of the historic Cataldo Mission.
President’s Perspective

Each represents the face of Christ

It has always struck me as appropriate that Thanksgiving ushers in the “Holiday Season,” for despite the culture’s fixation on the season as a commercial success (or failure), the Christmas season remains at its heart a season of love, joy and giving thanks. Our fundamental mission as a Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic university – dedicated as we are to the intellectual, social, moral, spiritual and physical development of women and men for others – calls our community daily to the task of helping students to distinguish for themselves between the superficial and authentic. As a community dedicated to the pursuit of truth, we find that each and every day, amid the many challenges and sometimes troubling issues, there exists so much for which to be thankful.

This academic year, as usual, has brought both challenges and many blessings to our campus community. The experience of supporting our campus population, given the larger-than-anticipated freshman class, has meant longer lines at the COG and greater challenges with undergraduate course registration; at the same time, this large new class is by all accounts one of the most enthusiastic and actively engaged we’ve seen in years. In the face of the H1N1 viral pandemic – which has affected hundreds of students as well as many of our staff and faculty – the University community has worked together with great patience and compassion. Indeed, the threat of widespread illness helped us to focus energy on bolstering our information technology so that we can continue the University’s work even in difficult circumstances. And, somewhat contrary to expectations, our enrollment at Gonzaga-in-Florence is the largest we’ve seen in some years – representing continued support for a program that this year celebrates its 45th anniversary.

At the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus (Rome, January-March 2008), the Jesuits issued a decree which spoke – among many other issues – to the need for Jesuit apostolates to meaningfully engage the world in a “. . . new context . . . marked by profound changes, acute conflict, and new possibilities.” Decree Three then proceeded to affirm five apostolic areas requiring “special or privileged attention.” We were pleased to see, among the five, the affirmation, strengthening and renewal of “the intellectual apostolate” as a priority. So too were we pleased to see the continent of Africa identified as a priority, where Jesuits have long labored in the service of faith and the promotion of justice.

In 2007 I had the privilege to journey with Oregon Provincial Fr. Pat Lee, S.J., to our sister province of Zambia-Malawi in southern Africa. Part of our trip involved a visit to the University of Zambia in Lusaka: a once strong institution whose buildings are quite literally crumbling away due to lack of government funding. Beyond badly needed financial resources, the University of Zambia suffers from a lack of qualified faculty. Where have they gone? Many have died or are dying; HIV-AIDS has taken them and left behind a nation of orphaned, uneducated young people. Never has a greater need – nor greater desire – for education existed in Southern Africa than exists today. This reality is informed, in many ways, by one no different than our own: The greatest hope for individual, societal and intellectual advancement, for meaningful development, for the chance to build a better and more peaceful world, lies in the possibilities that higher education brings to the world and its people.

It is for this reason that the Gonzaga community is actively engaged in projects in Zambia, Benin and Kenya, and in partnerships with colleagues working in Malawi and the Sudan. Our most recent endeavor, highlighted by Dean Jon Sunderland of our School of Education for our Boards of Regents and Trustees in October, is a collaborative project with the Jesuits at Charles Lwanga Teachers’ College in Monze, Zambia. In very important and educationally relevant ways, our students and faculty are engaging with those that the Society of Jesus has asked us to effectively engage with and support – people who truly need us, but whom we need as well, for each represents the face of Christ.

Advent – that expectant time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus’ birth – is fundamentally a time of hope. During the holiday season, we are reminded that at the heart of this season is love – a gift freely given through simple acts of kindness, friendship and support. May the peace and blessing of God’s Holy Spirit be with each of us as friends and colleagues, and with our families and loved ones also. During this season of Holy Days, may yours be a joyful Christmas indeed.

Dr. Thayne McCulloh
Gonzaga interim president
Walking for water

I read with great interest the “Be Hope to Her” article (in the fall Gonzaga Quarterly), having recently visited Kenya as part of a Rotary team from Newport, Wash., and La Jolla, Calif. We visited a dozen sites in six Maasai villages south of Nairobi. The Newport/Priest River Club has drilled or renovated 38 wells in Kenya and Nigeria in the last nine years.

The devastating effects of the four-year drought are everywhere. Rivers and streams are dry; rain catchment tanks and reservoirs are empty. The people have little food; the animals are dying. Families are separated as men take the livestock great distances searching for water and pasture. In one village we visited, women and girls are walking two days for water, mind-numbing labor that is never-ending.

The need for help in Kenya is acute. We are planning to return next year with funding and materials for multiple water projects. With support, there are many ways assistance could be provided now: food commodity shipments, micro-loan financing, medical supplies, textbooks for schools, seeds for gardens.

Bon Wakabayashi
Newport, Wash.

Lives changed

I recently spent several weeks outside Kitale, Kenya. An artist friend and I painted a mural in a children’s home that our church helps sponsor. Missionaries Jeff and Carla Piccici oversee the home. They originally went to Kenya to build spring water wells, which made an enormous difference to the community. The girls no longer have to trek miles for water, and the incidence of diphtheria has been wiped out for families who use these strategically placed wells.

I had a chance to use a kanga to carry a bucket of potatoes on my head. I did not get very far, before the young woman who was teaching me took over. She glided away (no hands!) as if she were merely wearing a hat. My husband is an anesthetist, and he says some of his colleagues who have done anesthesia in Kenya find that they need to do epidurals differently because Kenyan women’s spinal columns are so compressed from years of merely wearing a hat. My husband is an anesthetist, and he says some of his colleagues who have done anesthesia in Kenya find that they need to do epidurals differently because Kenyan women’s spinal columns are so compressed from years of merely wearing a hat.

Kimberly Taverniti-Martyn
Walla Walla, Wash.
Cadet in motion
Summer was no vacation for senior ROTC cadet Brian Slamkowski.

Every soon-to-be senior in Army ROTC across the country, more than 5,000 in all, travels in June to Fort Lewis in Tacoma for Leader Development and Assessment Camp. There, we are tested, stressed and assessed on our leadership potential. The exercise is the “Super Bowl” of Army ROTC, and our results, combined with our GPA and performance at Gonzaga, decide our first duty location and future job in the Army.

At Fort Lewis, I doubted my ability to stand out in a group of some of the best leadership students in the nation, but the Jesuit servant leadership model and ROTC leadership training at Gonzaga provided the technical knowledge and leadership traits I needed. I served as company commander for 72 hours, a position usually held only 24 hours. I was responsible for 215 cadets, for all that was or was not accomplished, when or if they would eat, coordinating and scheduling a blood drive, and transportation logistics.

Nearly two weeks were spent in the field, sleeping in unheated tents with little running water and eating MREs (meals ready to eat). On our final day, dirty, sweaty and tired from two days of patrolling dense forest, we loaded onto buses and were dropped off at the starting point of our 10-kilometer “victory march” to warm showers and heated rooms. I will never forget the collective joy and relief of the regiment when we had just a few hundred meters left, all 400 of us singing marching cadences.

Gonzaga sent 20 cadets to this camp, many of whom came out on top in awards and rankings. (Editor’s note: Brian is too modest to say that he was ranked 22 in the nation.) By graduation day, we were ready to go home and relax, but I was not finished.

Two days later, I flew from Seattle to Frankfurt, Germany, then joined a platoon in a Bavarian Army post. That four-week program was called Cadet Troop Leadership Training. The afternoon I arrived, the executive officer of the Infantry Battalion, a major, said with a big smile, “Cadet Slamkowski, you are headed to the field tomorrow.” No break in sight.

From early Tuesday until late Friday night each week, we were on a field training cycle, living in the woods with the latest U.S. weapons systems and tactics, but minus the creature comforts of home. On the weekends, two other cadets and I traveled. Eating local food, communicating with locals and figuring out European mass transit were all adventures in themselves.

— Brian Slamkowski (’10)

Connecting with Colombia’s poor
When most people hear about Colombia, they think about a city or river with the name Columbia. Others think of drugs, weapons, paramilitaries or guerrillas. But when I hear about Colombia, a warm feeling comes to my heart and I think about home. We moved there from California in 2003. My parents had worked 20 years in Silicon Valley and wanted to serve others in need. Although not enthusiastic when we first arrived, I look back now and see how fortunate I was. I never thought I would call Colombia home, but the friendly people, good food and amazing culture changed my mind.

Last summer I went home to Cartagena and interned at a non-governmental organization that gives micro-loans to the city’s poor. A bakery, a sausage factory, a shirt-making shop – there are many kinds of businesses started through these loans. In a city of almost a million people, nearly 10,000 loans have been made. I helped in many areas of the program. I learned more about micro-finance, went out to the poor and vulnerable neighborhoods, taught children English and talked with the foundation’s board members about their ideas on serving and where life has taken them. I connected more than I ever had with the local people and got to see how most of the city truly lives on a daily basis: poor and desperate.

Even at Gonzaga my everyday life has a ton to do with Colombia. My experiences come up in daily conversations with friends and family. Although I am only a sophomore, I have learned that service is molding me into a more well-rounded person. This summer, I learned that a smile, hug and being friendly can be what someone needs the most. This year in school I hope to befriend new people and help more with those in need.

— Kristina Wick (’12)

Summer school not in
Happy in his own niche at Safeco Field
Sports management major and senior Daigo Eto spent last summer working in an unusual summer job. He was a translator and tour guide at Seattle’s Safeco Field, where Mariners’ outfilder Ichiro Suzuki has created his own tourism market. Eto said the number of Japanese visitors grew even higher when the Mariners played the Red Sox, another team with Japanese players.

Eto has been in the United States for six years. He likes Spokane because it is small and quiet compared to his hometown, Tokyo. Ironically, he chose to attend Gonzaga because of another famous athlete.

“I’m here because my hero is John Stockton,” said Eto. “I’ve watched him on TV since I was in fourth or fifth grade. He was a consistent player and worked hard. I want to be that kind of person.”

Eto dreams of meeting Stockton some day.

— Autumn Jones (’10)

Daigo Eto

A village elder tells Brian Slamkowski where the ‘enemy’ hid its arms cache.

Kristina Wick

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— Kristina Wick (’12)
Raising academic success

One student at a time

Gonzaga’s freshman retention rate – the number of freshmen who return as sophomores – is a robust 92 percent. Still, Gonzaga works for every student’s success. Early departure for any student provides an opportunity for the university to think innovatively about what students need to stay and be successful. Piloting this year is the Coaching for Academic Success program. Coaching is not tutoring. Instead, the focus is meaningful work, “said Susan Foster-Dow, director of academic services. Coaching is not tutoring. Instead, the focus is meaningful work, “said Susan Foster-Dow, director of academic services.

Training and certified, these student coaches gain skills that add to their resumes and are themselves apt to graduate. “Overwhelmingly, we know that students stay at Gonzaga when they are engaged in meaningful work,” said Susan Foster-Dow, director of academic services.

Undergrad research celebrated at GU

Gonzaga hosted nearly 450 student researchers and their faculty advisors from 23 private colleges and universities across the Pacific Northwest at the 18th Regional Conference on Undergraduate Research at the end of October. Scientist Clyde A. Hutchison III, known worldwide for his genome synthesis work, gave the conference keynote speech, “Building a Synthetic Cell,” in the Martin Centre Fieldhouse South. Students from Gonzaga and 11 other schools gave oral presentations. More than 200 hundred poster presentations were exhibited.

One Jesuit’s travels: Anaconda to Boston – to Spokane

Father Stephen Hess, S.J., (’87) grew up in Anaconda, Mont., where his father worked as a blacksmith at the smelter. The fifth of six children, Stephen studied hard (“sometimes to the detriment of my social life”) and after high school headed west to Missoula. There he met Father Gary Uhlenkott, S.J., and discovered that a Jesuit priest could be young and cool. At age 19, Fr. Hess left the University of Montana and joined the Society of Jesus.

His formation as a Jesuit brought him, among other places, to Gonzaga, where he studied religious studies, and Seattle University, where he worked in residence life. He saw that faculty didn’t always account for the needs of blue-collar students, whose college experience sometimes was stunted by the need to hold more than one job. At Boston College, Father Hess learned that Catholic students also can come from very wealthy families. Not all did, of course.

A few Boston students came from working-class families, but they were and were treated as – a distinct minority. For his dissertation in educational administration, Fr. Hess researched the cultural barriers faced by working-class students in their pursuit of a Jesuit education.

“That’s where I began truly to ‘own’ my own experience as a child of the working class,” he said. Fr. Hess still travels to conferences sharing insights on how best to engage working-class students in the tapestry of Jesuit education.

His previous position as Gonzaga’s dean of student formation provided day-to-day contact with students. “I will miss that,” he said. “Building relationships and the opportunity to work with students was great. I was able to journey with them in their lives and learn a lot in the process.”

This fall, Fr. Hess was appointed Gonzaga’s interim vice president for Mission. His charge: to bring the Jesuit Mission more fully into the daily lives of Gonzaga’s faculty and staff. One of his priorities is to help faculty and staff better understand the contemporary priorities of the Jesuits.

“I’m interested in who we are and the possibilities to fulfill our Mission in creative and new ways,” he said.
based on entrance exam scores, grade point average and demonstrated leadership, creativity and service.

“This is an opportunity for students to move through their Gonzaga education with a cohort,” said Tilford. “They love it. With the variety of majors within the program, the students appreciate the differences in approach, but have a common vision in the core of the program.

Growing in faith via friendship

Small, prayerful groups are growing both on and off campus through the development of Christian Life Communities. Currently 12 groups meet regularly, finding their roots in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

“This is a great way for students to grow in faith by forming trusting friendships that share and value spirituality, community and service,” said Corinna O’Brien, CLC student coordinator.

Returning ‘Sisters’ Voices’ to stage

“Weaving Our Sisters’ Voices” is a performance of dance, music and poetry that explores how women from Scripture relate to our contemporary lives. A new adaptation to the play written and performed four years ago at Gonzaga will appear at the end of January and early February. One performance will benefit Spokane’s needy through the non-profit Our Place Community Ministries.

“‘Weaving Our Sisters’ Voices’ was hugely successful as a touring show in 2005-06 and we are really excited to be reworking it into a full production for our main stage season,” said Director Suzanne Ostersmith.

Linda Schearing, professor and chair of religious studies, wrote the play; Robert Spittal, associate professor of music, composed the music. Ostersmith, dance program director, choreographs the show. For dates and times: www.gonzaga.edu.

Standing together for tolerance

Gonzaga students, faculty and staff joined arms for the International Day of Tolerance one chilly afternoon in November. The chain of people reached from Unity House to the Crosby Student Center.

“This is the first year that we have observed this day on campus. I hope that in the future more and more people will be part of this and hopefully next year there will be triple the number of participants,” said Tracy Ellis-Ward, director of the Unity Multicultural Education Center.

Fall Family Weekend/Reunion 2009

Families and alumni came back to Gonzaga in droves this October. Organizers tallied 1,186 families, which totaled 3,022 guests. Nearly 800 alumni and family members, including 300 for the Gonzaga-in-Florence reunion alone, made this one of the largest reunions ever.

“My husband and I are alums and it brought back such amazing memories to be on campus in the fall. We could not have asked for a better time, from the beauty of the campus, to Mass with Fr. Kuder – who taught the class we met in on the first day of freshman year and married us five years later. Seeing our daughter making her own GU memories was priceless.”

— Ann Waltier (’85)
Philosopher" and “war college” almost never appear in the same sentence. If they did, it would be one of the rarest sentences in the English language. But it was not always so. Philosophers were once mentors of people the world needed most: Xenophon, Alexander, Cicero, Augustine, Galileo, Pascal and many of history’s leaders. Historically speaking, philosophy is the source of all the disciplines and near the heart of Gonzaga University’s Jesuit tradition, as explained in *Ratio Studiorum* (or “The Plan of Studies”) of 1599, the foundational manifesto of Jesuit education. No wonder this story begins with Gonzaga.
In fall 2007, I applied to teach in Gonzaga’s philosophy department. For one of my letters of recommendation, I turned to a friend who taught leadership and military strategy at the Joint Forces Staff College, in Norfolk, Va. That fall, I was editing my doctoral dissertation in philosophy, working on the problem of modeling complex systems. My project drew together separate research in philosophy of language, phenomenology, cognitive science and neurosciences into that sweet interdisciplinary fellowship embraced by Jesuit education. My friend asked for an outline and sample chapters of the first draft, which I reluctantly sent. It was three or four revisions from anything worth reading. Unbeknownst to me, my friend circulated the outline of my dissertation at his war college.

As it turned out, the problem of modeling complex systems was one of the challenges confronting the post-Rumsfeld military. Under Rumsfeld, military operational art had been transformed into operational science, and an ineffectual science at that. Failure after failure in Iraq had proved that war could not be managed by spreadsheets from state-side analysts. Decision-makers were hungry for something new.

In spring 2008, my friend’s war college experienced a small crisis. Gen. Paul Van Riper came to lecture at the Joint Forces Staff College, and he repudiated the college’s way of teaching war planning. This would not be a big deal, except that Van Riper had commanded the Red Team in Millennium Challenge 2002, likely the most expensive U.S. war game ever. He has long criticized the Rumsfeld paradigm, known as Effects Based Operations, or EBO. Under EBO, campaigns are won in three steps: (1) identify the desired outcomes, (2) analyze an enemy as a number of measurable interconnected targets, (3) target them in some assessable way. In Millennium Challenge, Van Riper turned EBO on its head by swarming large naval vessels with more maneuverable boats. In 20 minutes he had “killed” over 20,000 men. The game was halted, Blue Team’s ships “refloated,” and the rules changed to prevent him from doing this again. The incident angered Van Riper.

Van Riper’s criticism that spring created a problem for Col. Craig Bollenberg, dean of a warfighting school within the Joint Forces Staff College. EBO had been part of military doctrine for several years, and had been taught at the college for some time. But because of an apparent military consensus on EBO, Col. Bollenberg had ordered his war college to develop and launch a new effects-based curriculum. Bollenberg knew that Van Riper’s concerns resonated with his faculty. As fate would have it, someone who had read my dissertation outline thought I could “work the problem” and answer Van Riper. Bollenberg, I am told, replied, “Let’s get him over here!”

Quickly I was contacted. Copies of Army and Joint U.S. military doctrine were sent to me, along with intelligence reports, books and the latest combat modeling material. All of this came at a terrible time, since I was only months from the final submission date for my dissertation. In fact, I was still cramping on the plane to Norfolk.

My military research partner and I entered our own detective story. Why had EBO failed? Due to the immense complexity of the Iraq War, we made our real-world example of EBO’s failure the Israel/Lebanon Summer War of 2006. This proved important in addressing Van Riper’s concerns because Israel fought it using U.S. joint military doctrine and lost. It functioned as our “crime scene.” Israel’s failure provoked deep soul-searching in certain branches of the military.

My work in Norfolk coincided with the International NATO Generals Summit, which was hosted by the Staff College. For a week during my sojourn among America’s gods of war, I mingled among crisp Japanese standards of military sweat. I met Col. Matthew Bogdanos who rescued the Iraqi antiquities, including the treasure of Nimrud, which had been stolen from the museum in Bagdad. I also had the privilege of attending a briefing by Gen. John Craddock, the supreme allied commander for NATO. About 800 of us attended, with a few of us analysts in the back. Col. Bollenberg entered the hall with Craddock in swift procession behind him. Without notice, the entire room stood. These officers knew how to show up.

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In the clearest economy of language, the general explained the situation in Afghanistan. He reviewed each conflict: who currently was responsible for each under United Nations oversight, and why the situation was not going well. Though he put it tactfully, clearly other nations had failed to hold their ground, leading to most of the problems in the Afghanistin campaign. He gave this briefing in the presence of assistant generals, some from the same nations that failed to hold their ground.

I love the classical world and have devoted seasons of my life to its study. For a moment, sitting in the back of this august assembly, I was present before Rome and Rome’s army. I felt the grandeur of Caesar’s dominion. America is most certainly an empire.

While these experiences were interesting, one was life changing. I attended a briefing by the head of the Department of Defense’s future research division. This man had the government resources at his disposal to study the future. I’m not permitted to talk about the contents of the briefing, but it changed what I place value on and where I invest my time. In 20 years the world will be a very different place. Some of today’s majors will be obsolete. Reflecting on our detective work, we found that the military had made a critical mistake. Complex systems, like ecosystems, economies and battlefields, change in time and are never completely knowable. Mathematical modeling, modeling that relies on computation and quantities, assumes all variables are known. However, on a battlefield, this kind of practical omniscience is impossible. The great military strategist Carl von Clausewitz called this problem “battle fog.” Throughout military history, commanders have had to overcome battle fog.

What are commanders and their staffs to use if not scientifically precise metrics? My research partner and I hit upon the answer, which turned out, in part, to be a modern application of the core insights of Jesuit education: Knowledge ought not to be compartmentalized. Rhetoric, logic, natural science, history, literature are linked, unified within the study of philosophy. Ratio Studiorum, “The Plan of Studies,” shows how to create this kind of interdisciplinary mind in students. The next generation of military leaders will need to understand the world’s wisdom of Jesuit education. Military planning requires that discourse, science and military philosophy not be sliced and diced into separate categories. They must be used together.

Natural human language is a complex system, like other complex systems in nature. This amazing quality of human discourse, its rich complexity, gives discourse the power to model complex systems in near real time by a command staff knowledgeable of the various aspects of the battlefield. However, this requires a staff engaged in reason and moral character, informed by a unified core competence in certain critical fields of study. This staff will be able to set appropriate metrics based on the ever-changing situation, and adapt them to the needs of the mission. The success of Alexander and his staff of generals depended on the power personified by Aristotle, with a pedagogy somewhat analogous to Ratio Studiorum.

Logical thinking, discussion. Moral character. Knowledge of resources. Knowledge of international culture. Once again, this begins to sound a lot like a Jesuit education.

I presented our research to the faculty of the college in a briefing titled “Scoping Complex Systems for Application of the Joint Operational Planning Process.” Several staff college colleagues had warned that the faculty would bring it strong” to any presenter. It’s true. The faculty’s questions aimed at dismantling my approach. These officers wanted something that would work in the real world. I was honored that the college published our research in the Joint and Combined Warfighting College’s Journal Campaigning.

In an age of increasing complexity, an age when Google puts any information at the end of a few keystrokes, Jesuit education becomes all the more valuable. The modern university has been split into a “multiversity” of separate subjects, but this is a grave philosophical mistake. One that may cost America her ability to adapt and succeed in the century ahead. The core insights of Ratio Studiorum are the core of the Jesuit university. In my classes, I aim to re-fit the university for this philosophy department, or artificial life for computer science, or leadership for our cutting edge graduate programs in leadership studies, I want to give my students something close to what Alexander’s generals received, but even better. A Jesuit education.

Michael Collender teaches at Gonzaga University and consults on understanding and modeling complex systems. He can be reached at collender@gonzaga.edu.
A year apart

Parents are asked to support, not hover. To pay endless bills. To send care packages. But some nights, freshman parents find themselves spilling love, worry and proud memories all over the kitchen table. This is, after all, the first time they’ve been apart from their child for most of a year.

Three families agreed to journal about their freshmen’s experience in 2008-09. From Portland, Ore., Fred and Tina Auerbach wrote about Peter, the youngest of their three sons. Christina Gussie’s grandmother Kathy wrote from Chicago with particular pride. Christina is first in her family to attend college. Nicolas Contreras’ family is from Colombia but also has lived in Oregon. Maria Amalia Contreras shared her love and hope for her younger son. By now, all three students are successfully navigating their sophomore year. These stories are excerpted from their parents’ writings:

Peter is one who excels in concrete reasoning. He also is quiet and reserved, yet with strong opinions about certain issues. We appreciate his sensitivity to those who are underrepresented, oppressed or subject to injustice. He shares a suite with a student who “coughs a lot.” The young man explained that he has cystic fibrosis. Peter Googled this and when he read how serious the disease is,
he was devastated. Our hope is that at Gonzaga he might gain what it takes to be more expressive. In 2006 Peter and I visited his older brothers and father on the Thai-Burma border where they were working with internally displaced persons. Peter saw children who were dying from maladies and diseases we prevent or treat in our country. While he may not easily choose to articulate the meaningfulness of his experiences, his sensitivity to and engagement in the world is awakening.

At the start of the year, Peter ordered his books online and expected them to be ready when classes started. For some reason, his order was not processed. He called to tell us the problem and we said, “Take care of it – do whatever is necessary!” A week later in our next phone call, it was a non-issue.

Christina, who is an avid Bears fan, met a Packers fan in the cafeteria. The conversation escalated, and she was invited to watch the game. The first invite was turned down because she did not know this young man, but when she and her friends were invited for the next game, she quickly accepted. The rivalry is fun for her.

We communicate daily, but I hear her voice less and less often. We quickly learned that 200 extra text messages per month would never be enough. She texts us often, mostly needing this or that. Out go the care packages filled with boots, books and goodies. She sends the occasional “I love you,” and those we cherish. I found this texting thing to be a challenge, but I knew it might become the only way of hearing how her day was going. So I learned this new-fangled form of communicating. I even learned how to add a cartoon kiss. I still get in my “Goodnight, Princess. I love you. Say your prayers,” every night, and I do get a “goodnight” back.

Gonzaga will be a challenge for Nicolas. Already he has spent many hours in the library and is telling me that he thinks he’s taken too many subjects and that sometimes he’s overwhelmed with the amount of work he has to do. And then there is his soccer, which he won’t give up, no matter what. He’ll do the work, no matter if he has to stay in the library for 10 hours. This is Nick! I am glad he’s in a place that will challenge him. He is taking a new advanced chemistry class at all. I asked him, “Nicolas, how did you end up being in this class?” He came to Gonzaga with a very good GPA, and I think maybe he thought he was going to be the best and just do this class with no trouble. So, he’s making a few mistakes, but this is all fine. It’s wonderful to see our children grow.

Home for Thanksgiving and Christmas

We had a wonderful visit with Peter over Thanksgiving. Our two older sons were home, too, making it the first time the five of us have been together since June (Peter’s graduation from Jesuit High School and our oldest son Joshua’s graduation from medical school). All of us remarked how comfortable Peter was. He had a lot of fun with his brothers and went out with his friends. His brothers remarked that he had more friends to attend than they had – quite a role reversal. Peter shared stories about school and seemed confident that he is doing well in his studies – even with a load of 18 credits. He pitched right in with chores, as usual, but seemed to enjoy theordinariness of family life in a new way. He remarked how comfortable home is, how good the garden looked, how good home cooking is – almost as though he was seeing or experiencing it for the first time. I think that he has begun to appreciate what family means, how at home we are free to be fully ourselves and we are loved for being who we are – and one is not being measured for one’s doings or accomplishments.

We were anxious about Christina getting out of Spokane for Christmas after 22 inches of snow, but her travels went fine. She had plenty of time for visiting friends and even becoming a little bored. Signs of her growing into a responsible self-sufficient person were all around us; she was caught several times doing dishes while we were at work, and her laundry was never an issue. She also made sure she was ready, four days ahead, when it came time to leave.

Living on your own and in a cool place like GU seems to have changed the sign over her door. I think she no longer thinks that GU is now her home and we are just a place to visit. Sure we can still be her family and friends and city, but home is where the heart is and hers has, for now, gone off to a new locale in Colorado.

The day before she left to go ‘home’ it snowed six inches and we took a walk, with some slipping and sliding. We saw nine deer and a couple of squirrels while we forged through the nature center. We needed a good memory, for she was leaving in a few short hours. Fun in the snow, animals and lots of laughter: God really does listen, and he makes things perfect.

Nicolas is a spiritually oriented boy. Since he was very little, he always had a wish to grow inwardly, toward God. He was the kind of child who would always give you astonishing answers to things – an old soul, you might say. When he was five or six years old, he was always looking for the stars, especially at Christmas time. Finally I asked why he needed the stars. He said, “Mom, they give me the light I need so that I can find the way to Jesus.”

Traveling over Christmas was hard for everyone, but Nicolas was trying to join our family for a vacation in the Andes Mountains outside Bogota. Because of all the snow, he spent four days in the Seattle airport. But once he got to South America, he was so in tune with the whole situation. Maybe he was shocked to realize how beautiful these mountains are. He hadn’t seen the Andes for many years. There were 15 cousins on this holiday, all about the same age. We stayed in a little village, with such beautiful flowers and fruit and the people so joyful. We were very lucky to be able to do this, and Nicolas told me, “I feel so hungry for knowing where I come from.”

One thing I always admire about Nicolas: He knows where his goals are and really works hard for them. He is trying to see in Gonzaga how he can be more in contact with the community, how he can do service for others. He has met wonderful young men who are very smart, but at the same time they have wonderful hearts and take steps toward the community. This interest in helping others is so important to me.

Spring semester

Peter had a good year at GU. He made fast friends and loved living in the dorm making his own decisions. He initiates more conversations and jokes a lot more. He’s a critically observant personality who sees irony and points it out, in fun. He reads a lot online (New York Times and other things) and brings these things to conversation more. When I raise a question or issue, he may go in and Google it and then fill me in. He spent a goodly amount of time studying and some of his grades reflect how hard his classes were. His second semester grades were a significant improvement, approaching his “usual” grades, which I think helps his confidence. Most importantly, as far as I am concerned, is that he enjoyed the year, looked forward to returning, misses his friends already, and retains the energy and enthusiasm to continue on the engineering track.

WINTER 2010 – 11

Peter Auerbach, left, with his parents Tina and Fred Auerbach of Portland, Ore.
Seven newcomers came aboard Gonzaga's men's basketball team this year and in the process created a more international team — and the chance of a wilder ride than ever — for the Zags. By Division I standards, these six freshmen and one sophomore offer untested potential. Years ago, though, each one caught someone's attention. A seventh-grade coach, a family friend.

In most cases, the early glimmers of talent were actually more like full-stage light shows. We tracked down several early observers and asked what memories stuck, what made them shake their head and wonder just how much talent filled those size 12 gym shoes. Height is a common theme, of course. But ball sense, passion for the game and sheer athleticism all trump tall.

Bol Kong and his family moved to Canada from Sudan when he was 7. He started playing basketball relatively late, not until eighth grade. His talent emerged, big time, when the family moved to Vancouver, B.C. St. George's School coach Guy da Silva recalls his first impression of Kong: “Bol came and scrimmaged with the guys at the end of the summer (before his junior year). Some of our graduated players were playing as well and he clearly was the most dominant player on the floor. I just remember watching him shoot so effortlessly over anyone who tried to guard him.

One play from a semi-final game in Kong's senior year stands out in da Silva's mind. "Bol caught the ball on the right side of the floor and blew past his man going middle. Rob (Sacre, Gonzaga’s sophomore starting center, playing for the opposing team) was already in helpside position, and it looked like Bol would have to kick the ball back out. Instead he went up and around the big man finishing the play with a right-handed reverse lay-up over and right around Rob's outstretched arm," da Silva said. "We ended up losing the game in a nail biter, but if it wasn't for Bol carrying us with his scoring we would have lost by 20."

Sam Dower, 6-foot-11, grew up near Minneapolis. His AAU coach recalls a great talent, a great kid and someone who never talked back to a coach or official in his life. Coach Marquise Watts first saw Sam Dower play at 14 years old. Like many who grow so fast, Dower was trying to catch up with his body. He could always shoot, Watts said, but at that age, he was otherwise unremarkable.

Two years later, things had changed. Watts sensed this player was bound for Division I. Here is Watts describing Dower's effort in a Dallas tournament in April 2008: "Our best player had torn his meniscus, and we had another injury, too. I went to Sam – he had never had to be the top guy on our team – and I said, 'Big fella, I think you are the best big man at this tournament and I need you to go out and show everybody that you are. And he did. He averaged 25 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks per game. The whole tournament was his national coming-out party."
Mangisto Arop (man-GEES-toe eh-ROP), his mom and four brothers left Sudan to make a new life in Canada. Arop was 9 when he arrived in North America, with no English and no formal school.

Coach Derek Christensen recalled, “In grade eight, Mangisto played at a Catholic junior high just across the field from the public school where I taught.” The next year, Arop walked across the field and onto Christensen’s team at Hillcrest Junior High. He was 6-foot-4, with an easy slam dunk.

“But his best skill was the ability to make those around him better. He was an unbelievable passer and could find the open man. Players who had no experience in the game looked good when Manny played with them because he could get them the ball at the perfect time for an easy score. One time our team didn’t play so well, but he scored 53 of our 65 points, and we won by 6. He was so down after the game. When I asked him why he said that he felt like a ball hog and he didn’t like it. I told him, ‘Tonight we needed you to be.’ ”

David Stockton, 5-foot-10, was always a quiet boy with an incredible enthusiasm for basketball, said coach and family friend Kerry Pickett. Pickett remembers watching Utah Jazz games with legendary GU alumnus John Stockton playing, and John’s 8-year-old son at his side. “David didn’t say too much about most things. But he would sit there and mutter to himself about the play. If you weren’t looking at him, you might think you were conversing with a veteran coach. I knew then that David had remarkable ability to understand the game.

“Even when David was young, he could play in traffic with a sense of calm. That’s not very common, but that particular ability is critical to being a very good player. It allows him to slow the game down in his mind,” Pickett said. “As he became an upperclassman at Gonzaga Prep, it became obvious that he was going to be pretty good player in his own right, a pleasant surprise for Gonzaga.”

G.J. Vilarino was born in Spokane. His dad was stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base, and his mom is from Spokane. The family moved a year after he was born. Texan Travis Edwards first saw Vilarino play in fifth grade. The two worked together in AAU ball for four years. “Even back then he was an exceptional player. He was a small guy. But he could shoot the three, he shot fast and smart, and he had a great work ethic.

“One time we were playing in Memphis at the AAU nationals,” Edwards said. This was Vilarino’s seventh-grade year. They were playing a strong team from Chicago, and the first half didn’t go well. “At halftime in locker room, I chastised the whole team. That was the first time I really challenged him to be as dominant as he could be. I’ll never forget how he came out after that talk, just pounding his chest, he was so emotional. Afterwards his dad said, ‘I don’t know what you told those kids at halftime, but you should put it in a bottle.’ G.J. was just a great kid. And he always worked hard.”

Kelly Olynyk (o-LINN-ick), 6-foot-11, benefits from good genes. His dad, Ken Olynyk, who coached at University of Alberta, was named Canadian basketball coach of the year in 1995. As a 6-foot-3 10th grader, Olynyk played point guard. The plan wasn’t to keep him there, but South Kamloops Coach Del Komarniski thought the experience would be a good investment in Olynyk’s future. Turned out the investment was good for the team, too. He was a natural. “Even then, he had the ability to see the game unfold on the floor.”

A broken arm kept Olynyk out his junior year, but he made every practice and game, wanting to stay involved. “Then in grade 12 we saw this guy rise from out of nowhere,” Komarniski said.

Elias Harris (eh-LEE-us), 6-foot-6, grew up in Germany. His first coach Reiner Chromik shared these memories: “When Elias was 10 years old, he stood in a small gym at an elementary school and wanted to play basketball with his best friend. He was tall and moved amazingly well for a beginner and the game fascinated him, because he continued although his best friend lost interest.”

“Gigantic raw diamond!” is how Coach Konstantin Zalonis recalls his first impression of Harris. At 12, his physical abilities and his intelligence helped him to stand out, said Zalonis. “Sometimes I told Elias: ‘I don’t want to hear any thanks from you. But if you get to play in the NBA, I would like a ticket to your first game.’ I wish him everything good in the U.S.A.”
This fall, the handsome new facility of the Bishop White Seminary is humming with prayer, joy and the work of 20 seminarians discerning God’s call. That makes the new building full to capacity and represents more young men exploring their faith at Bishop White than any time in the last 10 or 20 years, said Father Darvin Connall, rector of the seminary.

The abundance of vocations extends to the Diocese of Spokane, which recently placed newly ordained priests in positions that have gone unfilled for years. “We really have no openings in the diocese right now,” said Bishop William Skylstad, who recently talked and collaborated with Fr. Connall. “He really hoped we would have a prominent feature of the new complex be the chapel on the corner of Addison and Sharp, anchoring the main entrance of Gonzaga. From the outside, what the chapel says to the community is ‘This is what we value as a community.’”

Funds for the $5.1 million construction were raised through donors within the diocese. And indeed, the seminary’s chapel does rise from the former site of the Huetter Mansion (previous home to Bishop White and now located east of Addison). Fr. Connall helped design the chapel so that hearts and prayers might rise toward the Holy Father. Natural light filters in through clerestory windows; traffic noise from Sharp Avenue does not penetrate the walls. It is a prayerful place, powerful in its simplicity.

“Watching the building go up coincided with a sudden increase in my spirituality,” said Collin Pickett, who took a great class on the liturgy with Fr. Michael Woods, reading several books on mental prayer, attending daily Mass. And

There is a great deal of pride in the local church, and we are in many ways quite diverse in the diocese – with parishes on three Indian reservations, in small, rural communities and Spokane; and of course with Gonzaga University and the strong Catholic health-care presence in the region.”

Is this abundance a momentary blip, set against a national trend of decreasing vocations in the Church? Or a wave built upon the strength of Gonzaga University and Bishop White Seminary? Time and God will tell.

Fr. Connall believes that it is God’s wish to provide sufficient vocations for the diocese. Experience suggests that these numbers wax and wane due to a combination of factors. A strong partnership developed over half a century between the seminary and the University is one factor that remains unchanged.

“When Father Spitzer was president, we talked and collaborated with him,” Fr. Connall said. “He really hoped we would have a prominent feature of the new complex be the chapel on the corner of Addison and Sharp, anchoring the main entrance of Gonzaga. From the outside, what the chapel says to the community is ‘This is what we value as a community.’”

On the Web: a slide show and thoughts from two Bishop White seminarians — www.gonzaga.edu/GQlinks.
I was in a group called the Discernment Companions. My feeling of being called to the priesthood was cemented during that time. I realized that, like the new seminary, the kingdom of God needs to be built up, and the priesthood was an excellent way of doing just that.

Bishop White is one of two Catholic seminaries in the five Northwest states, and the only one that operates in collaboration with a university. One reason for the increase in seminarians may be Gonzaga’s strong philosophy faculty, Fr. Connall suggests. Bishop White’s seminarians are here to receive an undergraduate degree in philosophy before going on to study theology at the graduate level. “What Gonzaga provides in terms of classical philosophical education is somewhat rare today in universities,” Fr. Connall said. “We have a very solid philosophy faculty. That was affirmed in our Vatican visitation in December 2006.”

The modern conveniences of the new building simplify life for seminarians and priests alike. No more snores rumbling through the walls – or floors. No more jousting over limited laundry facilities. Technology is easier, prayer is easier. The headache of constant repair work is gone, and the new facility allows all three priests on staff to live in the seminary, rather than in neighboring apartments.

“I think what the new construction says symbolically to people is that priestly formation on the college level is as relevant as any other endeavor today. We have new residence halls, new research labs, new athletic facilities and it is as relevant as any of these. I would argue in some ways it’s more connected to the University’s primary purpose. Our primary purpose is to help young men discern what God wants them to do with their lives. Not to prepare for the priesthood – that comes later. But I think there is greater openness toward the priesthood on the part of young people today, particularly in view of the economy and war and abuse scandals. There is something in all of this that asks young people to go deeper and to think about what God wants.”

Fr. Connall actively seeks out potential seminarians, regularly asking students if they’ve thought about life in the priesthood. It’s a conversation he’s had with many young men, followed sometimes by an invitation to visit the seminary – usually at lunchtime.

“The seminarians themselves build credibility. They are of a quality that attracts new seminarians. If you have a young guy who is nervous about his vocation and he sees other guys who are serious about their faith that helps him to deepen his faith.”

While Bishop White is a diocesan seminary and enrolls some students as freshmen, it is more common for young men to start at GU and to transfer to Bishop White. “They come over for prayer or Mass, to see their friends, and they get to know me, and that softens the whole experience,” Fr. Connall said.

“A priest’s entire life is devoted towards the glory of God and the salvation of souls,” Pickett said. “What other job is like that? In today’s world, driven by the gratification of the ego and the desolation of relativism, there’s a crucial need for priests who can challenge, motivate, encourage, console, inspire, suffer with and rejoice with people. A good priest is a visible realization of the presence of Christ in His Church. I feel that, especially today, the world needs to realize Christ’s presence and love, and, therefore, it needs good priests.”

There are three ways to leave Bishop White. “You can graduate and move on to theology school. You leave because you discern that God has not called you. And third, you can be asked to leave.” In a typical year, Fr. Connall will ask one seminarian to leave, usually for failure to work honestly at a deeper relationship with God.

“I have preached at the wedding of more than one seminarian who felt that God had not called him to the priesthood, and this is not a failure. If we can help a man know himself better, I am convinced he leaves a better man because of what he learned at Bishop White.”

“I wish every college man had a Bishop White experience,” Fr. Connall said. It’s a thought that he expresses with conviction. One guesses that he has expressed it before – to those who visit Bishop White and to those who choose to stay.
In the fall issue of Gonzaga Quarterly, editors asked readers to identify our mystery Zag. Responses poured in — with almost everyone correctly guessing Father Pat Carroll, S.J., as “the guy with the socks.” We’re sharing about half the poignant and often hilarious tales we received about this deeply loved friend, pastor and mentor.
Each other for a long time. I was a bit taken aback and asked one of the staff members what was going on. She said, “Oh that’s just (Professor) Mike Herzog; he and Pat are great friends. That is just how they show how much they like each other!” – Mary Jo Commerford (’82), The Dalles, Ore.

Fr. Pat taught me Speech 101 in fall 1968. Any student who ever had him will recall his extraordinary love, compassion and friendship. – Gregory M. Hucklebee (’72), Vermillion, S.D.

It took my breath away to open the fall issue and see the picture of Pat. The winter of 1970, we skied Mt. Spokane nearly every afternoon when he was teaching and I was a grad student and residence director of Catherine for SIS. And later (for 14 years) Fr. Pat was our pastor at St. Joseph Church in Yakima and continuing weekly ski buddy. I believe our children have strong faith today as adults and parents because he made their childhood faith real – fun, present, pragmatic and pervasive in their lives. – Mary Doherty (’68), Omak, Wash.

Pat led Campus Ministry in the early 1970s when I was a student. He was not your typical priest with his long red beard, beard and desert boots, no Roman collar. Years later, I attended Mass at St. Joseph’s parish in Yakima, where he was the longtime pastor and champion of Hispanic people. I closed my eyes and was transported back to Mass at the student chapel at GU. Anyone who was on campus during the late ’60s, or ’70s was touched by his life and example. Everyone thought he was Jesus, walking the face of the earth. His spirituality was an example to everyone in a tumultuous time. – Yvonne Maier Shimke (’74), Edmonds, Wash.

I was deeply saddened when I learned of his passing, but I always held him up for those later (for 14 years) Fr. Pat was our pastor at St. Joseph Church in Yakima and continuing weekly ski buddy. I believe our children have strong faith today as adults and parents because he made their childhood faith real – fun, present, pragmatic and pervasive in their lives. – Mary Doherty (’68), Omak, Wash.

He had done it again! He never told the same story twice and my heart feels like it will jump out of my chest when you call me on and my neck and face start to get bright red and I want to puke – it’s a horrible feeling.” He laughed and then looked me in my eyes and said, “Do you like roller coasters?” and I said, “Yes.” He said, “Giving a presentation is just like that. Your heart races and your blood pumps and when it’s over you feel brave and want to do it again. You’ll be great and take the ride.” – Dee-Dee McDiarmid Wilson (’79), San Jose, Calif.

I first saw Fr. Pat in 1970 during a debate about the Vietnam War with Colonel Boyle, who was in charge of the ROTC program. It was my first experience of seeing a priest showing such passion and conviction for a cause. Many of us saw how he practiced what he preached at daily Masses, retreats, pilgrimages and other events such as anti-abortion rallies. – Roberto “Bert” Martinez (’74), Bradenton, Fla.

I remember receiving the sacrament of penance from him in my room at DeSmet Hall just weeks into my freshman year at GU. That was likely 40 years ago. It was a very personal and moving introduction to life at Gonzaga. – James Haigh (’73), Altoona, Wisc.

I think the picture is from the same Pilgrim-age in which he and everyone else watched from a crazy, high rock slab, the race against a dangerous rock slab. High up at the top I grabbed a tree root to pull myself up the last bit and proclaim victory. The root snapped, I fell backward, managed to turn around, and progressed to fall faster and faster, went airborne over a rock ledge, came down on my heels, picked up speed and tried to run when I hit the ditch at the bottom. The rear end of my bike slid across me and my butt was imbedded with gravel. My fall from the rock scared the living daylights out of Fr. Pat, but he was relieved he didn’t have to perform last rites! – Bob Sweeney (’74, ’79 M.A.), Tucson City, Calif.

I was at his sister’s lake cabin on Coeur d’Alene Lake when the mail boat delivered a letter from him informing her that he was in jail. When he married my wife Michelle and me in October 1981, I was almost late because his bicycle got a flat tire and he had to hitchhike to make it in time. – Rob Kessa (’83), Snohomish, Wash.

In the spring of 1975, I was a substitute teacher in Chicago. One cold, rainy day while I was driving home, I spotted a “hitchhiker.” I doubled over and thought the Lord had a lot to do with that. Sure enough, there was a beard hitchhiking with a backpack and a dog. His name was Pat and he said he was hitchhiking across country while on sabbatical, but he failed to mention what he did for a living. I learned he planned to go to law school in the fall, and when he asked me which school I would be attending, I remembered assuring him he would have no trouble getting into any school since it was located 2,000 miles away. Over the course of the next few years, we became good friends. I was always impressed by his thoughtful intelligence, his sense of humor and the endless energy he devoted to many causes helping the less fortunate in our society. I was deeply saddened when I learned of his passing, but I always had a smile on my face when I thought of him starting with our meeting in Chicago when I pulled over to pick up a hippie hitchhiker. – Greg Kane (’79 J.D.), Spokane.

I knew him well at Gonzaga and after I became a teacher and coach, he was stationed for a time at St. Joseph’s in Yakima. My volleyball team had a club tournament there and we needed a place to stay – all the inns were filled with teams. Pat put us up at the church and we won our division. I think the influence of the Lord had a lot to do with it. I always felt like we were the best. – Buzzy Welch (’89), Spokane.

My most favorite story of Pat was when he came to a Search meeting in the basement of C-M one evening all scraps on his knees and arm and face. His bright smile ready to tell the story: “I was riding my bike along the river road this morning and lost control. I ended up going down the embankment toward the river. My bike and I stumbled over one another and landed side by side on a huge rock with the water rushing below! So lucky! But I was okay, just a few scrapes!” We sat riveted by his story telling of survival. Later several of us were eating lunch and someone at the table said, “Did you hear Fr. Pat got hit by a car? He and his bike slid across the Monroe Street Bridge. He got all scraped up but he’s fine.” I told my version of his survival and yet someone told another tale of how Fr. Pat was crossing Sharp and he was knocked over by a scooter. By the end of lunch we were howling. He had done it again! I never told the same story twice and one never knew the reality of those scrapes. He was funny and loving, compassionate and kind; an Irishman with the biggest heart and a twinkle in his eye and mischievousness in his interactions with the gullible. I smile when I think about him and how he present himself to each of us. He was a gem. – Joanna DeForest McCandless (’85), Edmonds, Wash.

I remember a poster he had on his office wall: “I believe in the sun when it is not shining and I believe in God when I do not feel Him!” Quite an inspiration for my vocation as a Sister of the Holy Names. – Sr. Cathy Beckley, SNJM (’99), Seattle.
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 gonza@gonza.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.

Dr. Arthur Dugoni, Navy V12 alumnus, has been named as president of the American Dental Association Foundation. He leads a team of directors and volunteers who are working to create a $1 billion endowment fund to support dental education, research and innovative modes of practice. Dr. Dugoni and his wife Katherine live in Palo Alto, Calif.

John McLachlan was named to North California Super Lawyers. He is a partner in the San Francisco office of Fisher & Phillips, LLP, and frequently represents management in cases before the National Labor Relations Board.

Mary Doherty works part-time for Catholic Family and Child Services in Washington’s Okanogan County. She recently retired from a long career as a community college dean. Mary plans to move back to Port Angeles this summer to spruce up and live in her childhood home. Late in the fall, Mary and two Gonzaga-in-Florence classmates, Lenna (Chester) Mulka and Kitty (Sieffert) Demakas traveled to Hawaii and swam with sea turtles and spinning dolphins.

Madeline Dunn was named the regional teacher of the year for Central Washington. She will serve as the regional nominee for Washington State Teacher of the Year award.

Gregory Huckabee (’74 M.B.A., ’76 J.D., Regent) was granted tenure at the University of South Dakota last year. As he said, “Now my two grandchildren, my wife Susan and I can count on eating regularly.” Last June he gave a presentation at St. Hughes College at the University of Oxford on the pedagogy of developing student and faculty ethics codes in business schools. Ernest Huber (’75 J.D.) has retired from the Navy. “Our eight kids are all grown, happy, successful and married well. We have eight grandkids and enjoy morning coffee on the deck and walking the beach,” he said. Ernest lives in Issaquah, Wash.
Linda and their son Colin live in Virginia. She serves on the Presidential Interagency Task Forceing Committee for Radiation Standards and also the Department of Defense on the Interagency Steer-
specializes in hand-carried ultrasound products. was appointed senior vice president of Kaiser's San Francisco Medical Center and other facilities. Christine lives in Danville, Calif. John Bowers, Jr. was appointed senior vice president of strategic development and patient practice. Karen says she is happy to be stepmom of her three children.

Gregory Komp has been recognized as a Fellow by the Health Physics Society, an award designed to honor senior members who have made significant contributions to the profession of health physics. Greg is director of radiation safety for the Department of the Army. He represents the Department of Defense on the Interagency Steering Committee for Radiation Standards and also serves on the Presidential Interagency Task Force on Radiation Source Security. Greg, his wife Linda and their son Colin live in Virginia.

Jim Swindal (M. Phil.) received the Eugene P. Beard Award for Leadership in Ethics at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Penn. The award honors those at the university who show commitment to moral and spiritual values through leadership in ethics, family life or service.

Christine Robisch is the senior vice president and area manager for Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco. She is responsible for health plan operations and is CEO of Kaiser’s San Francisco Medical Center and other facilities. Christine lives in Danville, Calif. John Bowers, Jr. was appointed senior vice president of strategic development and patient safety innovations with SonoSite, Inc., which specializes in hand-carried ultrasound products.

Sr. Paula Modaff (M. Religious Studies) celebrated her 50th anniversary as a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

John Loalbo (J.D.) joined Reed Smith, LLP as a partner in its tax, benefits and wealth planning group. Reed Smith is one of the 15 largest law firms in the world. Gino Cerchiai and his wife Shawn welcomed their first child May 27. Finn Brennan Cerchiai is athletic and strong, says his proud father. “He has already told me he wants to someday be a Zag and make the big walls of the McCarthy Center among the other greats,” Gino said. Brian Kuhta is approaching his 10th anniversary as product program manager for Hewlett Packard in Vancouver, Wash. He and his wife Patty have three children and live in Camas, Wash. Peggy Haun-McEwen (’90 M. Ed.) was named dean of students at Gonzaga Preparatory High School in Spokane. She also teaches theology and serves on the liturgy team. Peggy is a proud mother of three; her oldest son is a freshman at Boston College.

Tina Bloomer (’95 M.B.A.) is an agency lead for the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST). The Washington program serves adults with below a ninth grade achievement level, offering them combined basic education, English as a second language and technical job skills. Brian Berry (M. Phil.) received the Mullan Distinguished Teacher Award at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. The award is the highest honor the college bestows on a faculty member.

Tina Bloomer

Karen Knechtel and Aidan deRenne

Karen Knechtel married Dr. Aidan deRenne on Feb. 27 in Portland, Ore. Michelle Steinmetz and Shannon (Kelly) Savage attended the wedding. The couple lives in Vancouver, Wash., where Karen is a C.P.A. and Aidan is a pediatrician in private practice. Karen says she is happy to be stepmom to Caitlin, 9, and Lorelei, 6.

Michael and Jennifer (’93 Cassidy welcomed Michael Lawrence, Jr. on Aug. 23. He joins siblings Siobhan, Kevin, Mara, Liam and Sean. The Cassidy family lives in Vancouver, Wash. Jennifer (Rief) Montele-

The Cassidy kids and new sibling Michael Lawrence

Tina Bloomer

one has graduated from Advocating for Change Together, a leadership training program with the Arc of King County. The program aims to develop new leaders in the disability movement in Washington. Jennifer is a full-time parent advocate for people with developmental disabilities. She and another ACT classmate have launched a community awareness program called Building Inclusion Together (www.buildinginclusiontogether.org). Jennifer, her husband Jeff and their two boys live in Mill Creek, Wash.

Claus Joens (M.B.A.) joined Western Washington University’s Center for Economic Vitality as a staff research analyst.

Troy Woo is the new finance director for the city of Lacey, Wash. He is responsible for the city budget and 22 employees who help with budgeting and accounting. Troy and his wife Brenda have a 13-year-old daughter, Kylie.

Greg Lewerenz received his master’s in acupuncture and oriental medicine from the Seattle Institute of Oriental Medicine. His massage and acupuncture practice, Foster Wellness, opened Nov. 16 in the Ballard neighborhood in Seattle.

Tina Bloomer

Celebrating their longtime Gonzaga friendship.

Kelly (Hyde) Ordiz, Sally (Dickson) Hull, Marcy (Zuefelt) Vogler, Victoria (Nicacio) Van Inwegen and Tammie (Williams) Perreault celebrated their annual ‘spa-cation’ in Boulder, Colo., this summer. They feel blessed to enjoy their lifelong friendship which started at Gonzaga. Gina (Warren) Corcoran and her husband, Brian, welcomed their first child, Finnegan Thomas, on May 4. Gina, Brian and Finnegan live in Minneapolis. Brian deployed to Afghanistan in September for a year with his Army Reserve unit, and Gina is at home to raise Finn.

The Cassidy kids and new sibling Michael Lawrence

Matt Kolbet and his wife Sara welcomed a baby girl, Adele Jane, on Sept. 1. They live in Newberg, Ore.

Abraham Ritter

Matt Kolbet

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McNellis family

Who’s this Zag?
Can you identify the dame in the cat’s-eye frames? Send your answer to gonzaga@gonzaga.edu or write to Editor, Gonzaga Quarterly, Marketing and Communications Dept., Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99258-0070.

Melanie Crick and Scott Peters were married Oct. 3 at the Island Wedding Chapel in the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. Sara Becker (’01) served as a bridesmaid; the bride’s mother, Nienke Crick (’92 M.Ed., ’98 Ed.D.), gave Melanie away. Christa Antoncich married Andrew Fiske Oct. 18, 2008, in Portland, Ore., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Christa is a physician’s assistant in Silverton, Ore., and Andrew is director of an alternative high school in Milwaukie, Ore.

Paul Wolfe and Shannon Landauer were married July 18. Paul has worked for Sen. Maria Cantwell in Washington, D.C., since May 2008. Rebecca Miles (M. Org. L) has been named executive director of Idaho’s Nez Perce Tribe. She is responsible for day-to-day management of governmental operations of the Nez Perce Tribe and implementing policy directives of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee. Natasha Tontachy and Tyler Sheils were married May 2 at Our Lady of the Lake parish in Lake Oswego, Ore. They celebrated their reception at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland.

Michelle Wilcox recently directed the U.S. premier of British playwright Mike Kenny’s “The Gardener,” a production for young audiences. Michelle completed her master of fine arts in theatre for youth in 2007 at Arizona State University. She is education director for Space 55 Theatre Ensemble in Phoenix. Michelle and her husband John were married in October 2008; they live in Mesa, Ariz. Sara (Larson) and Casey McNellis (’01, ’02 M. Acct.) announce the birth of their second child, Jackson Anthony, born Feb. 22. The McNellises live in Pullman, Wash., where Casey is a doctoral student and Sara is a Realtor and stay-at-home mom.

Megan Marson is the new girls’ basketball coach at Mountain High School in Snoqualmie, Wash. “I’ve always wanted to coach,” she said. “I love the relationships you form, love the intensity, love the time in the gym, love the game and love being a role model.” Megan was an all-league performer in high school and has held other coaching positions since graduating from Gonzaga.


Sarah Cieplinski entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur as a canonical novice on Sept. 18 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Anna (Sunberg) and Makary Hutson (’05) were married June 20 on Schweitzer Mountain in Sandpoint, Idaho. Anna and Makary met in the fall of 2003; both were members of the GU ski club. They live in Portland, Ore., where Anna is a search engine marketing specialist with BlueWater Media. Makary is an environmental protection specialist for the Bonneville Power Administration. Leslie Hayes (J.D.) was named an associate with Hall, Farley, Oberrecht & Blanton P.A. law firm. Terry Blauvelt (M. Org. L) graduated from the University of Arkansas with a master’s of science in operations management. While there, he was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key International Honor Society and Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Terry also welcomed his second son, Jackson Oliver, on May 21. Sheriann Wirkkala (’08 M. Acct.) won the national 2008 Elijah Watt Sells Award. The award honors the top 10 candidates nationwide who pass all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination on their first attempt and earn the highest cumulative scores. Sheriann is the first Gonzaga graduate to receive this honor.

Courtney Conner was recently crowned Miss Idaho International. As Miss Idaho, Courtney will continue to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation. She is currently a community outreach specialist for the American Red Cross. Anthony DeLorenzo is working for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Portland, Ore. “Planthony” (his current nickname) is happy living and working with his roommates. Emily Bartelheimer, Mimi Refuerzo (’07), Kelsey Macintyre (’07), Kaari Swanson (’07), Katie Burns (’07), Tiffany (Erdman) Beardsley (’08) and Brendan Beardsley (’07) traveled to Quanamintne, Haiti, last July to work at La Maison Agne aux Dieu orphanage. The seven alums spent 10 days helping with construction projects and teaching vacation Bible school for 150 children. They also taught English, provided health-care education and played with the children. Emily and Mimi plan to spend two months at the orphanage next summer. Tiffany and Brendan celebrated their first wedding anniversary while in Haiti.

“Hearing Emily rave about Haiti and the mission at this orphanage is what inspired us to go,” said Kelsey. All seven in the group are from Washington’s West Side. Emily is a nurse in Everett, Wash., and Mimi has completed two years in Phoenix doing Teach for America and at last report was job hunting near Seattle. Kelsey earned her master’s in school counseling from GU and is working as a counselor at Valley Catholic School in Beaverton, Ore. Kaari is an ER technician in Kirkland and is enrolled in nursing school at University of Washington. Katie served in Chicago for a year doing Inner-city Teaching Corps and is in a counseling graduate program in Vancouver, B.C. While Brendan earned a master’s in industrial design from Arizona State, while Tiffany worked as a nurse on a trauma floor in Phoenix. The couple has moved back to the Seattle area.
In Memoriam

Hobart Teneff (‘44) passed away July 4 in Spokane. He formed and operated an engineering and sales company that furnished machinery to the construction and mining industries. In the 1980s, Teneff and Frank Duval formed Pe- gassus Gold, a major precious metals company. He was also president of Gold Reserve, headquartered in Spokane, and helped develop a gold project in Venezuela.

Bill Loeffler (‘48, ’76 M.B.A., former faculty) passed away Aug. 17 in Spokane. He served in the Army Air Corp as a second lieutenant. Bill was a principal in the accounting firm of Brajich & Loeffler and a member of Gonzaga’s accounting faculty for nearly 30 years.

James McMannis (’50 J.D.) passed away Aug. 17 in Spokane. He served in the 755th Bomber Squadron. He flew a number of combat missions and was shot down in Korea. Upon his return home, Frank joined the Army Air Force and served in the Korean War. He retired in 1978. Frank served as executive director for the Washington State National Guard and was a reserve officer in the Army Air Force for 36 years. He died on July 24 in Tumwater, Wash. During WWII Frank was a navigator assigned to the B-24s. At Gonzaga he was an active member of the Men’s Glee Club and toured the Pacific Coast as a tenor in the Glee Club’s quartet. He could fix almost anything, especially cars, and is remembered for his wit, honesty, generosity and for being “a gentleman and a scholar” (one of his favorite sayings).

Dr. Dennis Kelly (’51) passed away June 8 in Everett, Wash. He formed a legal practice in Spokane for 28 years before retiring. He had a passion for providing free dental service, serving at Morning Star Boys Ranch and the Good Shepherd Home for Girls, both in Spokane, and on reservations throughout Arizona, New Mexico and Washington. Dr. Kelly also was a Rotary International volunteer dentist in Guatemala, Honduras, Bolivia, Kenya and Thailand.

Fr. John Schwarz, S.J. (’51) passed away June 26 at Bea House on the Gonzaga campus. He attended North Central High School in Spokane before his studies at Gonzaga. Fr. Schwarz entered the Society of Jesus in 1953 at Sheridan, Ore. He studied philosophy at Mount St. Michael’s and theology at Creighton College in California before his studies at Gonzaga in 1964. Fr. Schwarz pursued graduate studies at Stanford and later taught history at Seattle University.

John Emery (’52) passed away Aug. 22 in Spokane. After graduation, “Jack” who was a native of Butte, Mont., worked for the Anaconda Copper Mining Company for 25 years. He and his wife Helen shared 51 years of marriage.

John Robischon (’52) passed away Aug. 5 in Olympia, Wash. John was a pioneer in the design, construction and operation of small community water systems. He founded two companies, South Sound Utility Company and Robischon Engineers and received a patent for his invention of an innovative system control component. His family recalls that he always championed the underdog whether watching a sporting event or providing free services to the owners of a small water system that struggled to make ends meet.

Edward Quenemoen (’52) passed away May 12 in Seattle. Ed was a Navy veteran, stationed in Guam during WWII. He began working for Boeing upon graduation from GU and continued to work until the 1990s after 37 years with the company. Ed loved skiing, backpacking and camping.

Donald Bosch (’53) passed away June 3 in Spokane. Don loved the natural beauty of the Twin Lakes where he enjoyed a cabin for over 20 years. He and his wife, Carol, raised six children and celebrated 59 years of marriage.

William Grismer (’53, ’53 J.D.) passed away June 25 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. William was a former Gonzaga Trustee, active in his community, serving as president of the Wallace Chamber of Commerce and Gryos, among other groups. He found joy in fishing, skiing and being in the great outdoors. Bill cherished time with his family.

Ret. Col. Frank Adams (’58) passed away July 24 in Tacoma, Wash. During WWII Frank was a navigator assigned to the 755th Bomber Squadron. He flew a number of combat missions before his bomber was hit, forcing him to parachute to safety. Upon his return home, Frank joined the Washington National Guard, rose to colonel and served in the Korean War. He retired in 1978. Frank served as executive director for the Washington State National Guard Association until 1982.

Victoria Mielus (’68) passed away Sept. 13 in Spokane. Vicki practiced as a social worker for over 30 years and dedicated her life to empowering at-risk families, children and vulnerable adults in her community. She was a committed advocate for those she represented.

Robert Bero (’73) passed away Aug. 21 in Xenia, Ohio. Bob was a Navy veteran, serving on the 1st F-14 Squadron at Miramar near San Diego. He then worked for Grumman in Iran training F-14 pilots. He went on to the Naval Reserves and worked at Raytheon as a test engineer. Bob constantly strived to improve his life and his mind through reading, gardening, photography, digital video editing, golfing, scuba diving and writing.

Alan Haueser (’78 J.D.) passed away May 6 in Guam. He worked in the Attorney General’s Office in Guam for 19 years, most recently as assistant attorney general in the juvenile and family division. He won a landmark decision in government employee rights with the case Haueser v. Department of Law.

Owen Gottsellig (’80 M.A. Teaching) passed away June 14 in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Owen, a teacher for many years, loved the classroom and connecting with his students. He played piano and guitar for a rock band, a cabaret band and later with “Evening Reign,” a popular dance band in Medicine Hat.

Daniel Brown (’84) passed away Aug. 22 in Jacksonville, Fla. He walked onto the Fighting Irish football team when he was an undergrad at Notre Dame. “His love for God and desire to serve Him were the impetus for his dedication to his students and athletes,” noted his family. He practiced law, coaching, teaching and athleticism in Florida and the Northwest.

Gayle Fredericksen (’85) passed away June 15 in Fargo, N.D. She was an oncology nurse at several hospitals in Spokane and North Dakota. Gayle enjoyed visiting and taking care of the patients and residents where she worked.

Margaret Lysiak (’93) passed away Aug. 31 in Olympia, Wash. She worked for the North Thurston School District as a special education teacher.

Peter Anthony (’95) passed away May 31 in Spokane. He loved his family and his dogs and cats, appreciated the beauty of the Northwest, had a keen interest in all things mechanical, worked endlessly on remodeling projects and held in high regard his friends and coworkers.

JoAnne Kock (’95 Ph.D. Educational Leadership) passed away Aug. 8 in Las Vegas. She was a housewife until the late 1970s when she went back to school. After the death of her husband in 1983, JoAnne earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees. She went on to work for the University of Nevada Reno in Las Vegas and continued to work until the time of her death.

James McMannis (Regent emeritus) passed away Aug. 23 in Pasco, Wash. George was a full colonel in the Army, serving in WWII and after, 30 years in all. He started General George, Inc., a general contracting firm, in 1985 and continued going into the Richland office until a month before his death. His company worked on projects including the Tri-Cities Cancer Center and the Environmental Molecular Science Laboratory at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Grant was a founder and past president of Tri-Cities Water Follies.

Walter Davis (friend) passed away Sept. 2 in Spokane. He was a former Gonzaga student and graduate and served on the Spokane Planning Commission. Walter was an avid conservationist and strong advocate of Second Amendment rights. He devoted many years to preserving the water and environmental quality of Loon Lake where the family had a cabin.

Lesley Lee (employee) passed away Sept. 11 in Spokane. She was a member of the Gonzaga Law School Chastek Litigation staff since 1994. Lesley enjoyed the arts, classical music and literature, dance, gardening and tennis.
Bay Area: GU Bay Area hosted its annual Gala Sept. 25 in partnership with the Diocese of San Francisco to remember and honor Father Tony Lehman, S.J. Over 100 members and their guests, including several parents, joined the festivities which commenced with a Mass offered by Father Bruno Segatta. Fr. Bruno noted that Fr. Tony was his predecessor at Gonzaga-in-Florence and spoke fondly of him, describing him as a person who fixed “broken spokes” and impacted nearly everyone he contacted. Gail Bigg and Rich Angotti spoke about their experiences with Fr. Tony. Fr. Bruno created and gifted two portraits of Fr. Tony. After a delicious Tuscan dinner, the sponsoring rights of each were auctioned off to benefit the GU Bay Area Scholarship Fund. Mary Nadine Kane (GIF ’06) and Simon Manning (GIF ’86 & GU ’87) were the high bidders and their Fr. Tony paintings will hang in Gonzaga-in-Florence and Spokane respectively. Gala 2009 was co-chaired by Randy & Marlene DeVoito and Rich & Cathy Worner. Contact: Mike Tobin, mjstobin@gmail.com, 415.229.8974.

Chicago: Brrr...The Chicago winter is back. Make sure you’re bundled up because the official Chicago Chapter kick off party is during the weekend of the Gonzaga vs. University of Illinois game at the United Center, Jan. 2. A pre-game party will be held two hours before game time in the United Center Governor’s Room. Be on the lookout for full details and RSVP information via email we all learned that New Orleans needs groups like Gonzaga’s Alumni Service Group, a couple of parents and a group of 125 students who took the time to call all DWG Gonzaga alumni to join in the 2009-10 monthly chapter events. This year’s calendar has been busy: Aug. 29 – GU-BBQ (hosted at Cynthia’s home); Sept. 19 – Addison Oktoberfest (it felt like you were in Munich, Germany); Oct. 16 – Dallas Stars game; November to February – GU Men’s BB game watches; March Madness game watch; April – Greater Dallas Rebuild Together service project – it’s our third year and – and RTGD Social Networking Kick-Off; and to end the year a May wine-tasting event in Grapevine, Texas. We invite all DWG Gonzaga alumni, family and friends to join our chapter. Contact: Cynthia Reyes Methvin, gozags@centurytel.net or view our chapter online at zagsonline.org, and click on Dallas.

Los Angeles: Our year-old chapter is off to a great start. Our latest event was an incoming frosh/alumni mixer at a historic winery in downtown L.A. where we had 40 frosh, parents and alumni. We’re growing and adding people through our Facebook and LinkedIn groups (search LA Chapter Gonzaga Alumni Association), and have game watches and more special events coming. Be sure to tell the alumni office that you live in L.A. to make sure you’re included. It’s a fun group; please help us grow. Contact: Mike Bell, mbell@bradmont.com, 626.354.8505.

New York: Start spreading the news – the New York chapter is busy! This fall we welcomed eight of Gonzaga’s most ambitious business students to connect with our alumni and friends in several high profile financial institutions including the New York Stock Exchange, Deutche Bank and J.P. Morgan Chase headquarters. We hosted an enjoyable evening social at O’Lunney’s Irish pub for alumni, parents and the visiting students to get to know each other. We look forward to welcoming hundreds of alumni and fans to N.Y.C. on Dec. 19 when the Zags take on Duke at Madison Square Garden. Come shake hands over a cold drink at Mustang Harry’s before the big game (it’s only a block from the Garden). Let us know if you have any questions about visiting New York, and check out our Web site for our most current event information at www.zagsonline.org/newyork chapter. Contacts: Ben Bianco and Karen Kowalski, co-presidents: kobi@zagzogs.com.

Seattle: Athletics was the recurring theme for the events of the Season’s end. Be sure to follow the summer and early fall of ’09. The summer mantra was “Take me out to the ballgame!” And that is just what the Seattle Chapter did twice in ’09. On June 6, 4 alumni, family and friends headed to Safeco Field to see our fellow Zag Mike Redmond and his Minnesota Twins take on the Mariners. What a great day for a game and a victory for the Mariners. A few weeks later, Seattle area alumni participated in the Everett AquaSox “Alumni Night” where many regional universities gathered to show their school pride. With 23 Zags in attendance for the Aug. 20 event, we showed them what the Zag Nation is all about. On Oct. 12, the Seattle Chapter hosted its annual basketball “Tip-Off Luncheon” at FX McRory’s in Seattle. Assistant men’s basketball coach Ray Giacoletti previewed the upcoming season and shared his perspective on what to expect from the seven new players who will take the court as Zags for the first time this season. Contact: Steve Robinson, sdrobinson@karrtuttle.com, 206.224.8012.

Alumni service group in New Orleans Alumni from ’82 to ’06, a couple of parents and a great-aunt were all there for New Orleans’ first year through Gonzaga’s first annual service project in New Orleans in September. Most of the week was devoted to scraping, priming and painting. “I think we all learned that New Orleans needs groups like us to go in and show that someone cares and can help,” said Teresa Hudak of Gonzaga’s Alumni Office. The project was planned with the help of Rebuilding Together, a non-profit agency. Work is under way on a 2010 alumni service project; to join in the planning effort, email hudak@zagzogs.edu.

Portland: Twenty-five Portland alumni, their children and parents of current GU students rolled up their sleeves on Sept. 12, for the Third Annual Chapter Service Project to benefit the St. Andrew Nativity School. Participants worked hard cleaning, organizing and painting in the classrooms. “It was a great day and turnout was better than expected,” said Tony Lucarelli (’83), “Everyone had a job to do that benefited the school greatly.” The Nativity School has no custodial staff, so the work taken on by alumni volunteers hadn’t been done in a year. “This work is truly at the root of the Jesuit tradition of being ‘people for others,’ serving the poor and the marginalized,” said the school President Loretta Wiltgren(’76). The day’s work “makes the school pleasant, welcoming and safe for our kids – they don’t always have that at home.” Contact: John Timm, johnt@timco.com, 503.288.8818.

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Spokane: A bright idea by a GU alumni couple has helped brighten the lives of more than a dozen G.I. military alumni and many of their buddies serving in overseas posts. Brian Saba (’04) and his wife Jodi started assembling packages of various useful items and other goodies to ship to soldiers, Marines and other military alumni serving overseas, mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Brian, who lives in Coeur d’Alene, is chair of the North Idaho Committee of the Alumni Association’s Spokane Chapter and that’s his service project. With help from many GU alumni, friends and businesses friendly to Gonzaga, upwards of 15 sizable shipments have been made to the GIs. It all started as a bit of a personally funded idea of sending a care package once a quarter. It’s grown to about once a month. The packages contain all those significant items that help make life easier for soldiers – such things as shaving gear, toothpaste, cookies, candy, a hometown newspaper or two, a favorite magazine – all those homey type things that help boost the morale of combat men and women who are far from home. Contact: Rol Heriges, sgrgr@comcast.net.

Tacooma: Early summer found Tacoma Chapter members still savoring the memorable Mass and reception that the chapter hosted for Father Spitzer at the Tacoma Golf and Country Club prior to his departure from Gonzaga. Listening to Father’s inspiring homily with American Lake as the backdrop was postcard perfect. As the summer progressed, the chapter organized an evening with the Rainiers, the local AAA minor league baseball team. Participants spent the evening in the company of other alumni and their families cheering on the home team and then being treated to the spectacular display of fireworks that followed the game. In early November, the chapter held its Fifth Annual Coach Krause Evening, our signature event. Coach Krause presented an informal insider’s perspective on the players and upcoming season. This year we held the dinner and talk at the Tacoma Yacht Club, complete with breathtaking views of Puget Sound and raffle opportunities. Contact: Julie or Paul Rehberger, jbrsar@ol.com, 253.564.7743.
Granddaddy of campus lectures

By Robert C. Carriker

The William L. Davis, S.J., Lecture Series is the granddaddy of all “named” campus lectures at Gonzaga. For 37 years the Davis Lecture, sponsored by Gonzaga’s Department of History, has honored its namesake, justified the confidence of the donor-family, and enriched campus and community life in Spokane. The venue for the lecture has changed over the years, but the quality of the speakers has never wavered.

Prior to the Davis Lecture, Gonzaga had no fund dedicated to bringing scholars to Boone Avenue where they might exchange ideas with students, faculty and the community of Spokane. What Gonzaga did have, beginning in the 1950s, was a once-a-year Town & Gown lecture. It was a dress-up affair administered with appropriate pomp; the speakers were usually faculty members. Then, in late summer of 1971 the university received a substantial gift of stock and cash from Edgar and Zita Berners of Green Bay, Wis. The accruing interest from that gift would provide funds for an annual lecture memorializing the career of Father William Lyle Davis, S.J., who had died earlier that year. Fr. Davis had taught history at Gonzaga since 1931 and was Zita Berners’ brother. Father Anthony P. Via, S.J., a close friend and former student of Fr. Davis, became the first to administer the lecture, in part because the Bernerses wanted in that role someone who had a personal connection with Father “Pop” Davis.

Fr. Via devoted a generous amount of time to inviting speakers, negotiating a suitable date and firming up travel arrangements to Spokane. For the first seven years, a formal dinner with upwards of 60 distinguished guests began the evening. Gonzaga University Press published the first three lectures. Times change, however, and today email is the fastest way to complete such arrangements. March is always off limits because of Gonzaga’s regular participation in the NCAA basketball tournament. Speakers today make their own travel arrangements with an eye to enriching their frequent flier memberships.

The most recent Davis Lecture took place in the afternoon instead of the evening. Since 1997 it has been rare to book a speaker who does not require a full complement of audio-visual technology in the lecture hall.

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., a Harvard historian and the winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, inaugurated the series. Richard S. Kirkendall, a brilliant historian and former student of Fr. Davis followed in the second year. Two more recent Gonzaga graduates have taken the podium: Professor Nancy Unger of Santa Clara University in 2001 and my son, Professor Robert M. Carriker of the University of Louisiana in 2005.

Three speakers have traveled from western Europe to speak on Boone Avenue. Topics have included insights on Hitler’s final solution in Poland; Richard Nixon and presidential sin; and biographies of Narcissa Whitman, Ulysses S. Grant, Charles M. Russell and Davey Crockett. Thirty-seven blockbuster subjects over 37 years.

It would be impolite, as well as impossible, to name the best of the lectures, or even the best attended. The 1979 lecture is memorable, however, because Washington Gov. Dixie Lee Ray attended and Father Via, in his final year with the lecture series before going off to direct the Gonzaga-in-Florence program, provided an introduction of the speaker – with a respectful wink to the memory of Fr. Davis:

“Those of you who have followed our lecture series since its inauguration may be aware of the fact that Professor Hawke's topic this evening, the Lewis and Clark expedition, is the first time we have chosen a lecture in the general area of Father Davis’ interest, the Pacific Northwest. There is a reason for this: Because Father Davis was such an enthusiastic and energetic lecturer, he was invited in 1956 to deliver the university Town & Gown lecture on the travels of Father Peter De Smet in the Northwest. On that occasion Father Davis began his lecture at the scheduled time of 8 p.m. Three hours and forty minutes later, at 11:40 p.m., he concluded his presentation. I mention this anecdote this evening not with the intention of inhibiting our speaker, but rather as a means of explaining why Pacific Northwest history has not been the subject of earlier lectures in this series. After all, one would have to assume that in 3 hours and 40 minutes the last word had already been uttered. After a silence then of 23 years, we are pleased to return to the general topic of Northwest history and we do so secure in the knowledge that finally after all these years we have found someone who can add something to Father Davis' marathon presentation.”

Professor Robert Carriker is in his 43rd year of teaching history at Gonzaga. He has been administrator of the Davis Lecture Series for the past 29 years.

Father William L. Davis, S.J.
“My estate gift for Gonzaga keeps money in my pocket today while helping me support Gonzaga students tomorrow.”

Brady Stahl ('03) Heritage Society member

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