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SPIRIT

A newsletter for faculty and staff

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Send Spirit story ideas to goodwin@gu.gonzaga.edu

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Triple the trouble, triple the fun, triplets keep Kincanons on the run

Eric and Donna Kincanon thought they had family planning all worked out. They would have one child. They bought a house to accommodate a youngster in an open, friendly neighborhood. Life was good.



Eric Kincanon

But then it got more difficult.

First, the couple had trouble conceiving. After two years they had all but given up, obviously disappointed in their predicament. Suggestions of extraordinary fertility efforts were rejected by the couple. So they let down their guard, and *voila*, Donna conceived in October. But by November she was not feeling well. She lost a lot of weight, and had to be hospitalized in December.

"She was constantly sick," said Eric, who for 16 years has been a physics professor at Gonzaga. "Then her doctor thought she was looking awfully large. So they did an ultrasound. Donna couldn't see the screen. After a while the technician said, 'I'll tell you what I see.' Then there was a long pause. Then she said, 'I see three . . . so far.'"

"After she said that I thought there was going to be six or seven, and we'd lose them all," Eric said. "So I felt relieved when she concluded there were 'just' three in there. I was grateful three was a number I had heard before."

The rest of Donna's pregnancy was difficult, but on the 35th week – June 15, 1995 – she delivered Matthew, Rachel and Joseph, each 4 pounds. Rachel was the first one to go home, a week after delivery, and Eric found that to be a blessing, learning to care for one baby before they were overwhelmed with care for three. Matt came home after one month, and Joey, a week after that. Staggering helped the Kincanon's adjust to their new family life.

"But the real blessing was Donna's mom and sister, Jeanette and Susan," Eric said. "I don't think we would have survived without their daily help."

But sometime in August, Eric and Donna got a

little cocky, Eric said. "We thought we could care for the three kids on our own." So they sent Jeanette and Susan home. But after a short time everyone was exhausted and crying, and the Kincanons invited mom and sis back.

"For a while we rotated one kid to grandma's house every night. Two was much easier for us to deal with than three. Donna and I were outnumbered," Eric said.

Every night Eric would make 30 bottles of formula for the next day. Each one of the kid's formulas was different because requirements for each child were different . . . Matt was blue, Joey was green and Rachel was pink. "We had to constantly measure how much each one drank," Eric said. "We were constantly putting out fires."

Then, tragedy struck at six months. Rachel had a stroke, and incurred brain damage. Two years later she was diagnosed with autism. Life changed dramatically for the Kincanon clan, yet again.

Warp speed ahead eight years, now in a much bigger house. Matt and Joey are on auto pilot, Eric said. They attend St. Aloysius Grade School. Rachel attends special education classes at Westview. She requires constant adult supervision, and will probably never be completely independent, Eric said.

"Rachel goes through positive times," Eric said. "There's nothing like wrestling with 4-year-old triplets."

Eric calls Donna a saint. "I get to go to work for some relief," Eric said. "Donna is with Rachel 24 hours a day. She has not had a break. She is really a good, kind, patient person. I really don't know how she does it. But we've kept our sense of humor, and that has been important."



The Kincanon triplets, Joey, Rachel and Matt, age 8.

Eric said one day when all the kids were acting up, he decided to go to the bathroom. He took care of business, then realized the comfort in being secluded from the furor. He proclaimed through the locked door, "I'm not coming out." He can laugh about it now.

Rachel has tantrums, but the love of her parents is a steady force. When she's calm she loves watching videos and playing computer games. And she especially loves going to grandpa and grandma's house.

"With the boys we can look to their future and see them carrying on after we are gone," Eric said. "But with Rachel, it's completely different. We need to think about who will care for her when we are gone."

So for the Kincanons, family planning is more than originally bargained for. But they wouldn't trade the love of their children for anything in the world.

And that is their comfort.

(Donna (Blair) Kincanon worked in Faculty Services at Gonzaga before the triplets were born.)

SPIRIT AROUND CAMPUS . . .

• Music Associate Professor **Robert Spittal** has been awarded a commission from Idaho State University to compose a work for the Idaho State University Wind Ensemble's upcoming performance at the College Band Directors National Association conference in Reno, Nev., this month. Spittal, who is chair of the Music Department and conductor of the University Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds, will conduct the performance of the new work in Reno. Spittal has received commissions for new works from various musical organizations in recent years, such as the University of Northern Iowa and Clarion Brass Choir.

• "Effective Communication Handbook," co-authored by communication arts Professor **John Caputo**, was recently published by Trinity College Press/Dramatic Lines in London. The textbook is designed to reach a world market to prepare students for examinations and certificates in communication, including English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Caputo also serves as director of Gonzaga's new master of arts degree in Communication and Leadership Studies. **Bud Hazel**, professor of communication arts, is a contributing writer. The book is available at the Gonzaga Bookstore.

• For those keeping track, Gonzaga's 4th-ranked Bulldog basketball team ranks among the country's top 25 in scoring, field goal percentage and field goal defense. Only two other Division I teams can make the same claim: Connecticut and St. Joseph's.

• Gonzaga students are seeking faculty and staff to participate in their April 2-3 all-night walk-a-thon in Colleges Against Cancer's annual Relay for Life. Teams of 10 walkers will be assembled to walk for pledges through the night and into the morning. Plenty of food and entertainment will be provided. For information, contact **Jeff Hart** at hart@gonzaga.edu.

Gonzaga ranked No. 2 in West by Carnegie

Carnegie Communications annually conducts a survey of nearly 4,000 college-bound high school students to determine the perceived quality of, and interest in colleges and universities throughout the country. This year Carnegie ranked Gonzaga second in the West behind Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. Cal Poly-Pomona was third, Loyola Marymount fourth and Trinity (Texas) fifth.

Faculty senators like what they're seeing, identify needs yet to be tackled

Faculty senators are giving a favorable grade to their organization and work thus far, now six months into operation.

"The Senate seems to have given the faculty a more representative voice that has greater credibility with the administration," said English Professor **Mike Herzog**. "There's a clear connection between senators and their constituencies."

"Establishment of the Faculty Senate has signaled a shift in the way faculty conduct themselves – the faculty has taken a proactive approach to change the way it interacts and makes recommendations," said business Professor **Paul Buller**. "Structurally, it is more inclusive and representative than the old model."

Engineering Professor **Carlos Tavora** would like to see more faculty willing to run for president. Sitting President Father **Tim Clancy, S.J.**, this winter was reaffirmed as president for another year after the Senate failed to attract any other candidates for the top office.

Tavora would also like to see the Senate assist and support Gonzaga President Father **Robert Spitzer's** effort "in making our Mission

Statement more relevant to all aspects of our community life."

The decision to work through standing committees (academics, finance, community and mission) has allowed the Senate to address a wide range of questions with better efficiency, said religious studies Professor **Pat McCormick**.

It is clear that faculty are seeking a means to become more integrally involved in governance of the University.

"Our job in the immediate future is to build on what we have done by clarifying and supporting the appropriate faculty role in University governance," Herzog said. That would include a more effective interaction with the Board of Trustees, he said.

"I remain hopeful that the new structure will facilitate communication among faculty and University committees but ultimately the success of the Faculty Senate will depend largely on the efforts and industry of the faculty who choose to get involved and the trust placed in them by their colleagues," said Law Professor **Stephen Sepinuck**.

Stockton honored

John Stockton ('84), who many credit with starting the ball rolling to Gonzaga's current basketball success, was honored Feb. 18 in the Kennel as his jersey No. 12 became the first basketball number retired. Now he enjoys GU basketball games from his seats behind the Bulldog bench.

John ('84) and Nada ('84) Stockton



Fall-to-spring retention high

"Student retention from fall 2003 to spring 2004 is very strong," reports Registrar **Jolanta Kozyra**. "We have retained 99 percent of our fall '03 incoming freshmen. A total of 95 percent of all full-time undergraduate students enrolled during fall '03 came back for the current semester."

"The demand for Gonzaga, its popularity, and the good academic reputation leads people to want to stay," Kozyra concluded.

Zags getting fit

About 160 Gonzaga employees have completed the Health Risk Assessment as part of the ZAGFit program, reports **Debbie Cerenzia**, associate director of human resources. "We've also had a good turnout for many of our events, like our Walking Works introductory meeting."

Pedometers may be purchased for \$3 from the Safety and Benefits office.

Upcoming Wellness Committee events include:

- "Outsmarting Diabetes," featuring endocrinologist **Dr. Carol Wysham**, March 16, noon in the Foley Teleconference Center
- "Cardiac Disease Awareness," presented by the Sacred Heart Women's Health Center, April 7, noon, Foley Teleconference Center
- "Asthma Basics, Medications, Trigger Reduction and Management," presented by **Dan Robinson**, coordinator of the Inland Northwest Asthma Coalition

New Hires:

Greg Garneau, faculty librarian, Law Library; **Greg Goral**, asst. volleyball coach, Athletics; **Robert Hartman**, help desk technician, CCNSS; **Edin Jusic**, custodian in training, Plant Services; **John Lee**, instructor, Religion; **Samuel Mahaffy**, grant specialist, President's Office; **Sheri Meyer**, director general studies, Professional Studies.

Goodbyes:

Paul Cooley, director of field experience, School of Education; **John Hayes**, custodian I, Plant Services; **David Knight**, custodian II, Plant Services; **Chong Lee**, custodian III, Plant Services; **Phillip McReynolds**, asst. professor, Philosophy; **Arlene Sperry**, registered nurse, Health Center.

Promotions/New Assignments:

Sharon Griffith, from temp. program assistant I, Student Accounts to program assistant II, Financial Aid; **Preston Hall**, from temp custodian to custodian in training, Plant Services; **Dmitry Kopets**, from custodian in training to custodian I, Plant Services; **Jim Schlaich**, from HVAC tech in training to HVAC tech I, Plant Services; **Sharon Straub**, from asst. director field experience to director field experience, School of Education; **Jeff Taylor**, from electrician in training to electrician I, Plant Services; **Michelle Wissink**, from mail clerk I to mail clerk II, Plant Services.

Anniversaries:

35 **Ken Sammons**, director, Plant Services.
20 **Allen Albano**, locksmith III, Plant Services.
15 **Darlene Almanza**, program assistant III, Admissions; **Constance Scarpelli**, library tech II, Foley.
10 **Dalene Neiner**, computer lab assistant, Chastek Library.
5 **Debbie Eldredge**, prospect research coordinator, University Relations.

Cradle Call:

Dori Sonntag, assistant director, Annual Giving, and husband David are the parents of Tyler Richard. Born Feb. 18, he was 7 lbs. 15½ ozs and 19 inches long. **Tommy Lloyd**, assistant men's basketball coach, Athletics, and wife Chonelle are the parents of Sofia Marie. Born Jan. 27, she was 7 lbs. 12 oz. and 20½ inches.

Gonzaga's School of Law was the first professional school established in 1912, and with it the college became a university. Throughout the years the Law School has been one of Gonzaga's best known components. Here is a brief look at the School of Law today:

- 39 faculty
- 39 staff
- 611 students enrolled this spring
- Ten employees with 25 or more years of work experience here: **Mike McClintock**, 31; **Vern Davidson**, **Mark Wilson**, **Sharon Day**, 29; **Bill Clarke**, **John Maurice**, **Jim Vache** 28; **Bonnie White**, 27; **Al McNeil**, **Elizabeth Thweatt**, 25.
- Areas of special emphasis: University Legal Assistance Clinic, Tax Clinic, Elder Law, Externship Program, Institute for Law School Teaching, Thomas More Scholarship Program, CLE Programs, Florence Summer Law Program
- The first woman graduate was in 1935, 20 years before Harvard had a woman graduate.
- The Law Clinic received the Legal Foundation



With 25 years or more of service in the Law School are (l to r) Al McNeil, Bonnie White, Mark Wilson, Elizabeth Thweatt, Vern Davidson and Sharon Day.

of Washington's annual Goldmark Award in 1995 for helping low-income Spokane area residents. It also was cited as the principal factor in the Law School receiving the American College of Trial Lawyers' 1994 Emil Gumpert Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy.

- The Law School counts many prominent attorneys among its alumni, including Washington State Attorney General **Christine Gregoire**, and Washington State Supreme Court justices **Mary Fairhurst** and **Barbara Madsen**.

Trustees approve budget, raises; assess their effectiveness

Trustees approved the 2004-2005 University budget at their February board meeting.

That \$90.7 million budget includes a total of \$501,500 in salaries and benefits for eight new faculty positions (five in arts and sciences, two in business and one in professional studies). The salary survey adjustment pool amounts to 4.52 percent next year, which will include a general 2-percent salary increase for anyone not receiving a survey adjustment. The budget includes the second-year phase-in of an increased employer contribution to the employee pension fund, and a 15-percent increase in employer contribution for medical insurance premiums.

In addition, Trustees spent a good share of their time in self-evaluation. This process was an extension of the Trustees' efforts to assure that they follow the "best practices" as recommended by the Association of Governing Boards for Colleges and Universities. The discussion included such topics as the effectiveness of the Board's committee structure, the conduct of Trustee meetings and ways in which the Trustees can most effectively assure appropriate

oversight and policy-making responsibilities.

Trustees also modified their annual meeting schedule. They eliminated their September meeting primarily because enrollment figures are still in flux at that time. They may choose to expand their October meeting on campus. They moved their December meeting from Seattle back to campus. The February meeting will continue to be held in the Southwest, where many Trustees reside in the winter. The April meeting will be held on campus, and the July meeting will continue to be held in Coeur d'Alene. A joint meeting involving Regents will be held in conjunction with the October, April and July meetings.

Finally, the Trustees met with Oregon Province Provincial **Father John Whitney, S.J.**, to discuss Fr. Whitney's document, "Understanding the Structure of a Jesuit Apostolic Work in the Oregon Province." The document, which is still in draft form, seeks to clarify the role of the Provincial, the Board of Members and the Board of Trustees at Gonzaga, Seattle University and at the Provinces' high schools.

G-Bay flourishing as Thomas knows keys to a good service



Anne Thomas, G-Bay creator

Anne Thomas, senior assistant dean of Admission, is known around campus as the creator of the successful G-Bay online flea market, which is celebrating its three-year anniversary this month.

But she's quick to add two disclaimers. First, she's never used the better-known E-Bay online buying service. And it was actually her husband, Gonzaga alumnus Don Thomas ('84), who came up with the name.

"We had bought a house, and I was looking to buy something, and thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool if I could e-mail my friends at Gonzaga and ask if anyone had it.' I knew I could trust everyone to be honest," Thomas said.

And the brainchild was hatched.

Now G-Bay averages 30 submissions per month. The strangest submission was two or three issues into the program when someone submitted live European crickets for sale, Thomas said.

"Someone else sold their house on G-Bay," Anne said. "I got a nice thank-you note from the faculty member. We actually receive a fair

amount of thanks for this service."

While there is the occasional odd or unusual submission, furniture and cars top the list of most frequent items submitted, Thomas said.

Thomas has moved through the ranks in the Admission Office. She came to work at Gonzaga in 1993, after having graduated from GU in 1991, and having worked in corporate America in Seattle for two years. Initially, she was a heavy traveler, but always had multiple projects going in the Admission area. Since her son Joseph was born two years ago, she no longer travels.

She has risen from admission counselor to assistant dean, to senior assistant dean. She now works 20 hours a week, and life couldn't be better, at home or at work.

"When I started in Admissions we had maybe 15,000 inquiries a year. They have tripled since then," Thomas said. "If it weren't for the technology we now have, we couldn't keep up. But technology has made all of our jobs so much easier.

"We still put a lot of value in personal contact with our prospective students, and I think that has given us an edge," she said. "Just the

other day I received an e-mail from a student who had written to ask about financial aid, and I had e-mailed back the information. He said he had made financial aid inquiries to six colleges, and we were the only one that e-mailed him

back a personal response. 'For that reason, Gonzaga is now my first choice,' he said. That doesn't seem unique to me. It seems like that is what you should do. But apparently we are one of the few schools that are doing it that way," Thomas said.

She is pleased to be surrounded by people, in Admission and on campus, who believe in Gonzaga much the same way that

she does.

"Having experienced the corporate environment before coming here, I have a true appreciation for how special this place is," Thomas said.

Oh, by the way, Anne and Don are expecting their second son in April. "And we're gladly accepting any suggestions for a name," she offered.

Perhaps she should be checking G-Bay for any names for sale.

"Having experienced the corporate environment before coming here, I have a true appreciation for how special this place is,"
—Thomas said.

Arena named for longtime supporters

Gonzaga's long-awaited new arena will be called the McCarthy Athletic Center, President Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., announced Feb. 28 following the last home game in Martin Centre. Named for the families of Gonzaga alumni Tom ('73) and Phil ('74) McCarthy, the new athletic center will be ready for occupancy in November. The McCarthy family made a significant lead gift to the project.

The McCarthy Center will seat "at least 6,000" people (architects won't know an exact seating capacity until the seats are actually installed). All season ticket commitments for the building have been filled, but fund raising for the construction will continue until the facility is fully funded.

Ticket line party fruitful

Although the line to receive faculty and staff basketball tickets to the last two games in the Kennel began about 5 a.m., there were only 138 people in line at 4:30 p.m. when ticket distribution began last Monday. Everyone who was in line at 4:30 received tickets, reports Athletic Department officials, who bought pizza for the fans at noon. If and how tickets will be made available to faculty and staff next season in the new arena is a decision to be made by Sept. 1. The ticket allocation process is reviewed annually at the end of basketball season to determine how the process can be refined, including how it might be structured to alleviate lost work hours.

"There is not a perfect solution to the distribution system," said Vice President Chuck Murphy, who oversees athletics. "Over the last two or three years we've tried to come up with a better solution with everyone's interests in mind. If seats available are less than the demand, there will never be a perfect solution. There have been few times in the last three years when everyone who stood in line did not get tickets."

