

Living, learning becomes a two-way street in Coughlin Hall

Gonzaga's traditions and ideals are all about building community. But keeping those traditions alive sometimes calls for new approaches. Coughlin Hall, Gonzaga's newest residence hall, is home to a new concept for building relationships between students and faculty.

Matt Lamsma, senior associate director of housing and residence life, believes that many faculty would like to engage in out-of-class relationships with students, but aren't sure where to start. To create a place where this kind of engagement is normal, he helped develop Coughlin as a living-learning community.

"Coughlin was built with living and learning in mind," Lamsma said. "We had the idea of allowing our students to interact with our faculty and Jesuits where they live. I would love to see Coughlin become a place where students want to be and engage in that extra part of a living-and-learning community."

Fr. **Michael Maher**, S.J., professor of history, is the live-in chaplain in Coughlin; he and **Torunn Haaland**, professor of Italian in the department of modern languages and faculty-in-residence, live and work alongside students – an essential part of the living and learning concept.

Coughlin houses four living-learning communities, the Sophomore Year Experience, Global Engagement, Service & Leadership and Mind, Body, Spirit, with 325 students involved. A third of the students attend classes together. Students also have the opportunity to engage in special programming and reflection around the program theme. When Fr. **Greg Boyle**, S. J., visited Gonzaga, for instance, he and the former gang members he works with held a discussion with the Service and Leadership Community.

Jessica Vanderwood, area coordinator for housing and residence life, was hired in support of this program. She lives in a Coughlin apartment and develops initiatives to get students learning outside of the classroom. Vanderwood is working toward a more academically rigorous Coughlin, with an academic component in every living community and with students taking a class together with the other residents on their floor.

Students find learning outside the classroom very rewarding," Vanderwood said.

Haaland agrees. She has lived on the fifth floor of Coughlin since August 2010 and holds weekly office hours in Coughlin's coffee shop, where her students gather for help. She also holds study nights in her apartment.



Assistant Professor Torunn Haaland, third from left, and Jessica Vanderwood, second from right, visit with students in the main Coughlin lobby.

"I have found that students take interest in my courses if I show interest in what is important to them," Haaland says.

"It has changed how I relate to students," she added. "I'm much better at meeting students where they are, appreciating them even if they aren't brilliant in my subject and taking interest in their everyday lives."

Sophomore **Molly Martin** lives in Coughlin and is enrolled in Haaland's Italian 201 course. "At first I was nervous about living with my professor," she said. "But it's been really helpful to have her there. I feel more of a relationship with her now."

The students see that Haaland is not infallible and become less intimidated about asking her for help.

By living in community with students, Haaland has learned that most of what the students do reinforces their academic and personal well-being.

Father Maher, on the other hand, has lived with stu-

dents for many years. "It's great to work with the staff and students, and to be with the students," he said. Even though at times they knock on my door at 11:30 at night and ask me if I know anything about Plato – which I do, but not at 11:30 at night. I enjoy it very much. As always, if there are problems the students might have with family matters or with their studies, I'm happy to help."

Vanderwood, with the assistance of Dr. Haaland, organizes community dinners for which faculty and staff are invited to engage in reflection with students. Next semester, she will start faculty "house calls" in Coughlin, a chance for faculty to come into Coughlin and talk with students "on their turf." Both initiatives allow students to see faculty beyond the lectern, as a person rather than as a lecturer. Vanderwood encourages any interested faculty to contact her at Vanderwood@gonzaga.edu.



Recognizing 'Atlas' and 'Mama Bear'

Two Awards in Service of Mission were presented during the Staff Assembly Fall Open Meeting. The first went, via cell phone, to **Kai Uahinui**, program supervisor in central computing. "If you look for someone who demonstrates *magis* in everything," read Father **Frank Case**, S.J., vice president for mis-



sion, "you will find Kai Uahinui." Letters nominating Uahinui compared him to Atlas, carrying the entire institution on his shoulders, and spoke of his no-frills devotion to Gonzaga.

Cecelia McMullen, circulation supervisor at Chastek Law Library, where she is affectionately called "Mama Bear," received the second mission award. Her nominators described her "efforts to change people's lives through great library service" and her "impersonation of *magis* and *cura personalis*."

'Time of transformation': President shares his priorities

At the Staff Assembly Open Fall Meeting, President **Thayne McCulloh** reiterated three primary areas of focus for Gonzaga this year: becoming an exemplar Catholic, Jesuit institute of higher education; deepening Gonzaga's educational excellence; and furthering the University's commitment to being a viable and sustainable institution.

"This is a time of amazing transformation for Gonzaga," said McCulloh. He touched on ongoing work toward efficiency, and on the challenges of budgeting for educational excellence during a tough national economy. The essence of Gonzaga remains unchanged, though. Education at Gonzaga, the president underscored, is accomplished through personal interaction.

McCulloh also spoke about the new Statement of Affirmation, which spells out Gonzaga's Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic values, asking staff members to read it, react to it and to make suggestions to make it clearer.

The Jesuit Conference of United States has asked all 28 Jesuit universities to create such documents.

"It is now a working document and will be the document through which new employees will understand our mission," McCulloh said.

Rodolfo Pagsanjan, conference services manager and president of Staff Assembly, spoke about initiatives under way this year:

- A bylaw committee is reviewing bylaws of Staff Assembly with an eye toward transparency, the group's operations and ways of proceeding.
- A rebranding committee is considering the themes and pillars of Staff Assembly, so as to better define the group's goals and identity. A logo contest open to all staff members will be announced later in the academic year.
- The community service component known as CARES, which is led by **Molly Ayers**, CCASL program coordinator, allows staff members to sign up to offer rides to doctor's appointments, deliver meals and other ways of helping employees during a time of need.

Benefits manager **Debbie LaRocco** reviewed Gonzaga's self-insurance health plan. "We are self-insured, which means we pay Premera to process our medical claims. Premera organizes that information and decides how much to pay out. It's our money that they use."

That's one reason the fitness and health of all employees is important to the University. This year 432 employees are participating in ZAGFit, which now allows spouses as members. ZAGFit no longer uses cash bonuses to reward participants, but instead will reduce the amount participating employees pay for their health benefit by \$10 per month during the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Search committee seeks Horn's successor

Dennis Horn, dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, has announced his retirement at the end of this academic year, his 15th year as dean. A national search for his successor is ongoing. The University is seeking a leader who will continue to lead the Engineering School toward a strategic plan; seek out interdisciplinary opportunities on campus, particularly projects that advance sustainability initiatives; and provide students with research and employment opportunities through entrepreneurial partnerships in the community.

Heading the Search Committee is **Dan Stewart**, associate professor of management in the School of Business Admin-

istration. "We are extremely pleased with the high quality of candidates who have applied," Stewart said.

Finalists for the position will visit campus early in December. After on-campus interviews, the committee will weigh the comments from faculty, staff, students and other stakeholders. The committee's recommendation is due to Academic Vice President **Patricia Killen** by mid-December.

Committee members are **Tony Bonanzino**, Trustee; **Noel Bormann**, chair and professor, civil engineering; **Grigore Braileanu**, professor, electrical engineering; **Tailian Chen**, assistant professor, mechanical engineering; **Paul DePalma**,

chair and professor, computer science; **Patrick Ferro**, assistant professor, mechanical engineering; **Theresa Gee**, Trustee; **Tom Illich**, the Engineering Advisory Board; **Yanqing Ji**, assistant professor, computer engineering; **Mara London**, assistant professor of civil engineering, **Paul Nowak**, professor, civil engineering, and associate dean; **Patrick Nowacki** of the engineering computer center, **Shannon Overbay**, associate professor, mathematics, and **Patricia Terry**, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Horn will be on sabbatical during spring semester; an acting dean will handle day-to-day operations.

Walking the sustainability walk

President **Thayne McCulloh** recently approved an extensive list of new Sustainable Purchasing and Design Policies recommended by the Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability. The new policies aim to reduce the University's use of energy, water and toxic products, and will promote the use of bio-based and post-consumer content recycled products. For instance, under the new policy, 25 percent post-consumer recycled content paper should be the new standard for most uses. "With this new policy, Gonzaga will be supporting both ends of the recycled paper market," explains **Brian G. Henning**, associate professor of philosophy and co-chair of the advisory council. "If we want to recycle items such as paper, it is important that we buy recycled-content products."

These new policies further demonstrate Gonzaga's ongoing commitment to responsible stewardship of the environment, which the U.S. Bishops Conference recently described as a matter of "moral and practical necessity." Consistent with these values, the new policies require that employees consider not only the price, availability and performance of products, but also their environmental and social justice implications.

The policies embody the three-tiered slogan of reduce, reuse and recycle for all sorts of things: composting food waste, recycling ink cartridges, using multi-use interoffice envelopes, reusable packaging and more. Construction of all new buildings will target the Silver LEED standard. Low- or no-formaldehyde paint, carpeting and other products shall be used when practicable.

"The Advisory Council, with advice and support from colleagues in Plant, Purchasing and ITS, has performed a very valuable service for the University," said Earl "Marty" Martin, executive vice president. "These new guidelines provide a blueprint for how Gonzaga can continue to reduce its carbon footprint well into the future."

The policies are effective immediately.

"In approving these new policies, President McCulloh has started the process of bringing our operations in line with our commitment to becoming climate neutral," said Henning, adding that the new policies will be "a cornerstone of what will eventually be a comprehensive sustainability plan for the University." For details on the new policies, go to www.gonzaga.edu/NewSustainablePolicy.

NOTEWORTHY

New Hires

Carina Bauer, staff psychologist, counseling center; **Christopher Carter**, warehouse worker, Plant; **Melony Chapman**, administrative secretary III, Athletics; **Joel Daley**, custodian, Plant; **Nicholas Grainger**, residence hall director, Housing; **Christina Hampton**, office assistant, career center/GAMP; **Whitney Hughes**, marketing specialist, Athletics; **Jeffrey Rockey**, custodian, Plant; **Rachel Zack**, science outreach coordinator, biology.

Promotions/New Positions

Patrick Baraza, lecturer-AT to lecturer-IR, religion; **Aaron Collins**, custodian to custodial specialist, Plant; **David Gilbert**, Bozarth retreat center manager to outdoor program and risk management specialist; **Brenda Grubbs**, administrative assistant, Plant to PA III, Nursing; **Dana Mannino**, circulation assistant III to administrative secretary I, Law library; **Joseph Poss**, associate to acting vice president, University Relations; **Margot Stanfield**, vice president, University Relations to senior vice president of principal gifts.

Goodbyes

Rebecca Brant, manager of summer sessions, academic vice president's office; **Margie Brickner**, acquisition assistant III, Law library; **Diane Ithomitis**, retreat center coordinator, Campus Services; **Nancy Marcus**, program coordinator, alumni, University Relations; **Everett Wiltse**, custodian, Plant.

Anniversaries

30 Dale Goodwin, director of publications, University Relations; **Kathleen Morrison**, administrative assistant, Business.

20 Linda McDonald, senior faculty assistant, English; **Kevin Pratt**, director of GAMP, University Relations.

5 Stacy Boyd, security officer, security; **Nicole Cooney**, program coordinator, Hogan, Business; **Erin Hays**, associate dean, Admission; **Eva Walker**, administrative secretary II, University Relations.

Cradle Call

Fernando Ortiz, director, Counseling Center, and his wife, Christi, recently had a baby girl. Grace was born on Nov. 10. **Catherine Walker**, assistant athletic director for compliance, and her husband, Michael, recently had a baby boy. Michael, Jr. was born Nov. 16.

Christmas Blessings to All!

President's Employee Christmas Party

7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16
Martin Centre Field House.

Foley Christmas Party

2-4 p.m. Wed., Dec. 14
Foley Center Library.

ROTC Christmas Party

12-3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15
ROTC headquarters, east end of College Hall, lower level.

Candlelight Christmas Concerts

Fri., Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 10, 2 p.m.
St. Aloysius Church. Gonzaga University Choir, Women's Chorus, and Men's Chorus, Gonzaga Brass Quintet, with **Timothy Westerhaus**, conductor. The Gonzaga Wind Symphony Brass, conducted by **Robert Spittal**, will perform prelude music with **Robert Carr**, organist. Purchase tickets online at <https://commerce.cashnet.com/guchoir>.



NOTE OF APOLOGY

Dear readers,

This month and in February, when the next issue of Spirit is printed, a backlog of anniversaries will appear. My apologies to all of you who waited and wondered what happened to your anniversary listing.

-Marny Lombard, editor

August 2010 Anniversaries

25 Father Kenneth Krall, S.J., lecturer, classic languages.

20 Mary Heitkemper, director, Career Center; **Thayne McCulloh**, president; **Larry Shockey**, engineering design tech.

15 Julie Claar, office manager/assistant to the director, law clinic; **Murlaine Steckler**, mail services supervisor.

10 Catherine Dieter, director of certification, education/administration; **Scott Ekstrom**, lead classroom support and multimedia tech, client support and technical education services; **Gail Hammer**, director of family law clinic, clinical law program; **Diane Moore**, technical support specialist; **Ann Murphy**, professor, Law; **Robert Thomas**, chemistry lab specialist; **Timothy Woodard**, general

maintenance III, Plant.

5 Upendra Acharya, assistant professor, Law; **Stacey Avery**, development assistant III, University Relations; **Patrick Baraza**, lecturer, religious studies; **Gary Chang**, assistant professor, biology.

September 2010 Anniversaries

40 Michael Herzog, professor, English; **Scott Patnode**, director/curator Jundt museum.

35 John Maurice, professor, Law.

30 Ronald Harris, assistant professor, ESL.

25 Chou-Hong Chen, professor, MIS, Business; **David Elloy**, professor, management, Business; **Thomas Miller**, associate professor, communication arts; **Willbann Terpening**, professor, operations, Business; **John Vander Beek**, associate professor, math.

20 Carl Bozman, professor, marketing, Business; **John Caputo**, professor, communication leadership; **Paul DePalma**, professor, computer science; **Mary Garvin**, assistant professor, religious studies; **Jerri Shepard**, associate professor, leadership and administration, Education; **Robert Toshack**,

manager of computer operations, Business.

15 Mary Farrell, professor, art; **Colleen Goodwin**, senior lecturer, math; **Patrick Hartin**, professor, religious studies; **Quanhua Liu**, associate professor, philosophy; **Stefania Nedderman**, associate professor, Spanish; **Gary Weber**, associate professor, accounting, Business; **Nancy Yamaura**, lead custodian, arena, Plant.

10 Summer Berry, costumer/marketing coordinator, theatre arts; **Kevin Chambers**, associate professor, history; **Joseph Haydock**, associate professor, biology; **Theodore Nitz**, associate professor, history/international studies; **Kelly O'Brien-Jenks**, assistant professor, Foley Center; **Michele Pajer**, senior lecturer, English; **Jean Pugh**, senior faculty assistant, social science; **Ross Windhorst**, HVAC tech III, Plant.

5 Shonna Bartlett, program director, Ministry Institute; **Holly Brajcich**, director, Law Services Center; **Monica Chapman**, assistant director, bookstore; **Nancy Fike**, director of development and alumni relations, Law; **Jerome Krause**, assistant to athletic director, Athletics.

Health Plan Dependent Eligibility Audit

Gonzaga University is committed to maintaining high quality and affordable healthcare for its employees. The University pursues these goals through a self-insurance program administered by Premera Blue Cross. In a self-insurance program each participating employee has a vested interest in receiving the coverage benefits and in ensuring the program's financial viability. Gonzaga's ability to afford good health care coverage is under constant pressure from rising costs. In fairness to all, the University is taking several steps to keep future premium increases at acceptable levels. One effort is an audit to ensure that only eligible dependents are provided medical coverage.

In November, employees with dependent coverage were asked to verify that their dependents now receiving coverage

under the health plan meet the eligibility definition. Letters and forms were mailed to employees listing their covered dependents. These employees were asked to review their list of dependents and make necessary changes. Beginning in January, all employees claiming dependents will be required to provide documentation supporting the eligibility of each dependent. Acceptable documents will include birth certificates, marriage certificates, court orders, federal tax returns and others. The correspondence will include a list of such documents.

To ensure that this process is handled as smoothly as possible, the University has partnered with a national benefits consulting firm, Mercer, to administer the project. Employees may call the toll-free number (1-888-892-4711) to ask questions or request assistance with the process.

Women's season tickets hit a new peak

Last year's run to the Elite Eight proved the women's basketball team is a force to be reckoned with. And the Spokane community is taking notice.

"Winning as much as we do with the style of play that the team has makes it a lot of fun to watch. It's by far the best value in Spokane for entertainment," said Chris Johnson, director of ticket operations and travel.

More season tickets were sold for Gonzaga women's basketball this year than all other schools in the West Coast Conference combined, excluding BYU. Ticket sales have steadily risen for the past five years, from 932 season tickets sold in the 2005-06 season up to 4,085 this year. McCarthey Athletic Center's season tickets are capped at 4,500, leaving space for students, sponsors, faculty and staff. Season tickets cost \$85 each.

"The fans really connect to the approachability of Coach Kelly Graves and the players," Johnson said. Community basketball teams, who see the players as role models, come to the games as a group. Elderly couples follow every game. Parents bring the whole family. And afterwards, they can meet Coach Graves and the players at autograph sessions.

The team, according to Johnson, lends itself to fandom. "There are a lot of die-hard, passionate fans of the women's team," he said. "Everyone yells and screams and cheers the way the student section does. The two games of the NCAA tournament we hosted last year were the loudest I've ever heard McCarthey, including men's games."

Gonzaga would like to gratefully acknowledge the faculty and staff who contributed to the University during the 2010-11 fiscal year. Thank you for the many blessings you bring to our students throughout the year. Merry Christmas!

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