GU creates minor in Native American studies

This fall, Laurie Arnold, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, began teaching at Gonzaga as director of Native American Studies. This interdisciplinary minor represents at least 15 years of preparation, both on campus and with a Tribal Advisory Board, which was convened to help launch the minor. The program also ties back to Gonzaga’s Jesuit origins.

Throughout her work, Arnold focuses on sovereignty – the inherent right of tribes to govern themselves. “The inherent piece in every course and the curriculum overall is tribal sovereignty, and how tribes apply it across all spectrums of tribal life, politically, culturally, historically and socially,” Arnold said. This semester, she is teaching an introductory course; in the spring, students will discover two courses, “Native American Activism” and “Indians of the Columbia Plateau.” The latter course is offered through the history department, where Arnold is an assistant professor, and is cross-listed with Native American Studies. Gonzaga’s decision to create a named program, rather than simply offering interdisciplinary courses listed in other departments pleases Arnold. This will allow for easier growth in the program, she said.

Biology Professor Robert Prusch, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was an early proponent of Native American studies at Gonzaga. He is grateful to see the minor established. “This has been a long-term objective of mine to develop this program and introduce our students to NAS and hopefully help Gonzaga live out its initial Jesuit mission in relationship to the tribes of the Inland Northwest.”

This fall, Arnold has developed six course proposals, drawing in history, art, athletics, health, nutrition, culture and other fields. “Native people are not just peoples of the past. While we can honor the heritage and tradition, we also need to honor what they are doing right now in 2013 and the 21st century,” she said. Building collaborative relationships with other faculty is important to her. “Native American studies is interdisciplinary by nature, so finding allies on campus is critical,” she said. “I can’t do it alone and I am not interested in doing it alone. I like collaboration. I like multifaceted programming.”

Arnold previously directed Native American Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame and the D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies at the Newberry Library in Chicago. She moved back to Spokane to be near her parents, who still live on the Colville Reservation.

Gonzaga will celebrate its second National Gonzaga Day on Jan. 25. Now an annual event, the purpose of this day is to mobilize the entire Zag Nation to gather in person and in spirit at the same time to celebrate the impact of Gonzaga’s mission. As with last year, alumni chapter events around the country and a special video message Gonzaga ambassadors will bring to the men’s basketball game that tips at 7 p.m. in the Kennel against BYU.

This year’s event is themed “Global Education, Global Celebration,” and will highlight the imprint Gonzaga’s programs and students have upon the world through a special halftime show, the message Gonzaga ambassadors will bring to events around the country and a special video debuted on Jan. 25. Gonzaga’s International Student Union is an important part of this year’s halftime show, and will be putting many hours into rehearsals and planning over the next six weeks.

By Dec. 9, nationalgonzagaday.com will have complete details on all events and activities. Plan now on the following: Starting Dec. 16, enter a prize giveaway on Facebook by telling us how you are going to celebrate; gear up now and show your Zag pride on Jan. 25; attend a special outdoor mass in tent city on Jan. 25; if you don’t have tickets to the game, join the Spokane alumni chapter event in the Globe Room; if you don’t feel like leaving home, watch a live stream of the halftime show at about 8 p.m. on your home computer or mobile device.

Holiday parties 2013

The President’s Christmas Party has a new location at Red Lion Hotel at the Park. Music and dancing will light up the night.

Dec. 20 President’s Christmas Party, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Riverfront Ballroom, Red Lion Hotel at the Park
- 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Hors d’oeuvre social
- 8:30-10:30 p.m. – Music and dancing
- Cocktail attire
- Special overnight room rate $69, call 800-735-5466, mention Gonzaga President’s Party
- Complimentary parking in hotel lot and across the street
- Special prize drawings for those who RSVP

Dec. 19 ROTC Christmas Party, College Hall 405, 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 18 Foley Christmas Party, Cowles Rare Books Room, 2-4 p.m.

Dec. 13 English Language Center 35th Anniversary Party, open house at Schoenberg Center, 4-6 p.m., celebrating 35 years of ESL and 15 years of TESL
Law School taking steps to enhance identity

With law school enrollment declining across the country, and national applications down 38 percent over the last two years, Gonzaga has launched a plan to counter the trends. Gonzaga School of Law is changing the way it presents itself: Pursuing Justice. Finding Solutions. At Gonzaga Law, this new identity line has been introduced along with a refreshed visual identity and strong new messaging. The result of more than a year of research and development work, this new brand for Gonzaga Law is focusing on what the school has always done extraordinarily well – provide an innovative, experience-based, academic program that produces graduates who are ready to take ethical, inspired action on behalf of a client or cause.

Gonzaga Law chooses to respect the commitment to ethical, whole-person education and admit only the students whom, in its experience, will excel in law school and as alumni.

The first-year class is small, 108, and projections for next year’s class even smaller. To better meet the needs of students, the school has initiated an accelerated two-year degree program. This 24-calendar-month program will give motivated students the opportunity to complete their legal education, along with a semester of experiential learning, in just two years.

Zag You’re It! campaign update

The Zag, You’re It! Community Campaign, a fundraising effort this fall, aimed to increase participation in giving back to Gonzaga University scholarships and/or the Spokane County United Way. The results: 295 employees contributed to one or both campaigns.

Stephanie Rockwell, annual campaign director, said 12 departments registered a 60 percent or greater participation rate. “For the first year (with the combined program) I think we were successful in getting the message recognized that participation is what counts,” Rockwell said.

“We will build on Zag, You’re It! Community Campaign next year by involving department volunteers, and sharing stories of how donor support is important. A big win this year is counting more Gonzaga faculty and staff donors than at this time last year,” Rockwell said.

Gonzaga’s Honor Roll of Donors 2012-13, including faculty and staff contributors, is now online at Gonzaga.edu/HonorRoll.

Employee disability services relocates to HR; DREAM creates student test center

Beginning this month, disability services for faculty and staff will reside in Human Resources. They previously were handled through the DREAM office. “It has become evident that the employee accommodations often need a more complex application of adjustments and leave benefits than do those of our students,” Kathryn Shearer, DREAM director, said. “The move to HR is creating a more streamlined, one-stop process for this side of the operations.”

Accommodation requests frequently come with a concurrent need to assess leaves,” said Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Kirk Wood-Gaines. “Leaves are managed by Benefits, which now will also oversee faculty and staff accommodations – hence the ‘one stop shop’ approach.”

In addition, DREAM has created a new student test center, located on the second floor of Foley. Open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, the test center provides accommodations for students who need extra assistance in taking tests, and eliminates testing in less-than-ideal spaces, such as desks in hallways or in professors’ offices, said Shearer.

“Creating the testing center is an effort to serve the broader population of students by integrating the needs of students with disabilities and the general needs of students and faculty,” she said. “The goal is increased service and an inclusively designed process for students with disabilities.”

The center was made possible through a collaborative effort by the Franklin Love and Mark and Marsha Herbaum families, the Academic Vice President’s Office, the Library dean and the DREAM office, Shearer said.

Dec.-Jan. home hoops schedules

Gonzaga’s Tennis and Golf Center is approaching completion, and will be ready for use in January, athletic officials say. It is located behind the Academy Retirement Center on Superior Street, south of Mission Park.
Focus On … Fast Eddy

Eddy Birrer says NCAA Division I noon ball is much better than NAIA noon ball.
Still enjoying the camaraderie, at age 69, with the likes of Zag great Blake Stepp (right).

He’s played with Raivio, Turiaf, Pendo and John Rille. And he’s been called a lot of names – Fast Eddy, Cousy, a white man’s Walt Frazier, Money, and now “I’ll guard the Old Guy.”

Self-deprecation is a sandbag, though. Accounting Professor Eddy Birrer, 69, runs the court three times a week during noon ball in the Rudolf field house. He’s always had a passion for basketball.

“My mom and dad had ninth grade educations and they didn’t know much about basketball,” Birrer recalled. “But I had a passion for basketball. I really enjoy interacting with the students. It’s good to see them outside the classroom; see a glimpse of their character,” he said.

People who come from other schools, grad and law students who play here, they all say noon ball here is better than anyplace else. It’s competitive, but fun. No one is trying to prove he’s an all-star.” So what’s his best move? “Heading to the shower,” Birrer cracked.

How much longer will you play? “I’ll keep playing as long as I can. I play about two-thirds speed now, self-preservation, you know.” He also brings his own spirit to the court, like just before Christmas when he dons his red Converse – “Like just before Christmas when he dons his red Converse – Stars with the bells on the back. Former coach Bill Grier called them his Kris Kringle.

Birrer has coached club soccer for nearly 40 years. He also collects pottery. His wife Terry taught British literature at Gonzaga Prep for 25 years, and they enjoy traveling to Great Britain. Three of their four children are GU grads – two are twins, whom he calls Debit and Credit. People ask “How do you tell them apart?” His stock Eddy-esque answer is “It’s easy. Debit’s on the left.”

It appears Birrer and English Professor Mike Herzog have a little competition going . . . surprise! Who will teach the longest? Birrer has taught one year longer, he claims, but Herzog’s years have all been at Gonzaga.

Bottom line for this accounting professor: he’s still having fun, enjoying the community and will teach perhaps another three or four years. He gives no sign of slowing down.

Jesuit arts series continues in February by celebrating poet Gerard Manley Hopkins

The Jesuits and the Arts series continues in February with an illustrative look at the life and impact of Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. On Feb. 5, Father Thomas Lucas, rector of Seattle University’s Jesuit community, will set the context for Fr. Hopkins’ contributions. On Feb. 6, Richard Austin, a British native, will do a theatrical recitation of Hopkins poetry. Austin has performed Hopkins’ works around the globe. On Feb. 7, Gonzaga Special Collections Librarian Stephanie Plowman will present on Foley’s Hopkins collection, which is one of the most complete collections in the world. The series continues in spring 2015 with Jesuits and the Theater, and in fall 2015 with Jesuits and the Visual Arts, announced Vice President for Mission Father Frank Case, S.J.
ALL IN

Stephanie Golden, Haiden Palmer and Keani Al-banez emerge from the tunnel after a recent basketball game, smiles broad and mirrored in the faces of their fans. Pens in hand, they sign whatever their fans put in front of them. They have helped build a phenome-
nal following, a gracious community, a family here in Spokane.

Eleven Gonzaga players are logging significant playing time – and that helps create the easy atmosphere in the locker room. In a family, even a big one like Gon-
za women’s basketball, everyone contributes.

Take senior Stephanie Golden, of Clayton, Calif. She
came to Gonzaga with big expectations, but hasn’t played as much as she might have imagined.

“With this tremendous support system, I trust the
process,” Golden said. “You truly have to earn a spot on
this team. I earn that spot by doing what coaches and
players ask of me,” Golden said.

“She sees the big picture, a means to a bigger end,”
Coach Kelly Graves said. “She helps our young post
players get better. She’s really a valuable part of what
we do.”

Four tenets form the foundation of this team: building leadership, recruiting top players and good people, sharing a creative vision, and creating a family atmos-
phere. The last standard supports all the others.

“I was in a program (Oregon State as a freshman)
that was 180 degrees different than this one,” said sen-
or Haiden Palmer. “Here we are part of the coaches’
families. I love my teammates. I see them as sisters. Our
fans really care about us as people. When we lose they
feel our pain and when we win they celebrate with us.”

Palmer, whom Graves calls his hardest worker, volun-
teurs with Blessings Under the Bridge, West Central
Community Center and Youth for Christ.

“W
She has been on the dean’s list most every
semester since she has been here,” Graves said. “She
tutoring almost every day as a freshman.

“I think she has been on the dean’s list most every
semester since she has been here,” Graves said. “She
stayed here this summer, shot every day, lifted in the
weight room. Now she’s a starter. That’s what Gonzaga
does for kids. Her dad cried when she made the dean’s
list.”

“It’s the atmosphere,” Albanez said. “We’re one of
the top two fan bases on the West Coast. You can play at a
Pac-12 place and have 500 fans. Here we sell out our
arena.”

“Those young women reinforce our philosophy every
day. A person cannot truly be whole until they become
part of something bigger than themselves,” Graves said.

Battle in Seattle melds friends, memories

Ten years, countless memories, last-second shots
including Adam Morrison’s buzzer beater to sink
Oklahoma State 64-62 in 2005, six wins and four
losses, meeting up with friends and family – these all
define Gonzaga’s annual Battle in Seattle. It’s be-
come the marquee basketball matchup in the state of
Washington.

Gonzaga matches up against South Alabama
Jaguars on Dec. 14 for the Zags’ 11th annual game
in Key Arena. Gonzaga has won the last two games
(Kansas State and Arizona). Interesting fact: 2008’s
matchup against then No. 2 Connecticut set the
state’s attendance record for a regular season col-
lege basketball game, selling out the 16,763-seat
Key Arena. Gonzaga lost that contest, in overtime,
88-83.

“The team looks forward to it,” said Kris Kassel
associate athletic director/external operations.

“We’ve had a number of players from the I-5 corridor
over the years and this game gives them an oppor-
tunity to showcase their team to their family and
friends,” he said. “Additionally, it gives fans on the
West Side a chance to see Gonzaga play, and is a
close ‘away’ game for east-side fans. And the Alumni
Association always stages a great pre-game social.”

Tickets are still available through Ticketmaster.
Prices vary from $16 to $253 and will increase by $5
on game day.

Previous Battle in Seattle results:
2003 – #17 Gonzaga 87 – #20 #3 Missouri (OT)
(Attendance: 12,831)
2004 – Gonzaga 68 – 57 Massachusetts (A: 10,126)
2006 – #18 Nevada 82 – 74 Gonzaga (A: 15,110)
2007 – #11 Tennessee 82 – 72 Gonzaga (A: 15,141)
2008 – #2 Connecticut 88 – 83 #7 Gonzaga (OT)
(A: 16,763)
2009 – #21 Gonzaga 103 – 91 Davidson (A: 13,176)
2010 – #20 Illinois 73 – 61 Gonzaga (A: 14,789)
2011 – Gonzaga 71 – 60 Arizona (A: 15,127)

Sodexo sustainability

As part of a nationwide Sodexo commitment to develop-
ing sustainable food practices, Gonzaga’s dining ser-
vice is implementing several energy saving techniques. From
high-tech solutions, like wireless dishwashing systems that
dramatically reduce water usage, to the simple, like buying
local produce, they’ve made a commitment to the environ-
ment.

In particular, Sodexo is working with area farmers to buy
local produce, said Courtney Mueller, Sodexo spokes-
woman.

“There has been a noticeably positive response within the
student population,” she said. “More students are asking
where their food is coming from, and are even putting togeth-
er events to support smaller, local farms.

“This type of partnership enables us to be eco-friendly,
sustainable, and supportive of our community,” she said. “It’s
particularly good to have this kind of partnership at GU be-
cause it lies in nicely with the Jesuit Mission.”

One of the challenges that the program faces is the issue
of scale. Many of the farms don’t produce enough food to fill
a typical Sodexo order. However, Mueller said there is an
effort to unify the farmers, so that together they can provide
enough produce.

Today’s players continue to fan the flames of a strong Gonzaga women’s basketball community that has enveloped the entire Inland Northwest.