PARADIGM SHIFT IN COURSE DESIGN GOOD FOR ALL

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This shift in thinking is already taking place across campus. Deb Stevenson and her team in the Center for Student Academic Success look at a student’s entire being to make sure needs are being met emotionality, academically and through student development activities, and often work with faculty in reducing barriers to learning. Jeff Dodd is planning Center for Teaching and Advising sessions later this academic year focused on best practices in designing coursework equitably accessible to all. The University recently hired Morgan Purantor at the Foyle Center to work with faculty in making documents accessible.

Caniglia mentioned the experience of Derek Black as an example of how the college experience shapes the minds and perspectives of young people. Derek, the son of white nationalist Don Black, grew up in a family with the agenda of white supremacy dominating every conversation. Then, Derek went to a liberal arts college in Florida and had a profound experience of enlightenment and transformation simply by engaging with people from different walks of life. Befriended by a student who was Jewish, he had conversations that led him to accept that the agenda of white supremacy was not the only way of encountering the world.

“This is a problem that we face all the time,” McCulloh said. “We transform students’ ideas about what they might otherwise consider ‘normal.’ We challenge them to consider life from different points of view.”

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gonzaga provides one of the most significant academic forums on hate and related social issues, with emphases on creating socially just and inclusive communities. In all, 10-12 events – including new conferences – are planned for the 2014-15 academic year.

New initiatives will focus on developing research and educational programs to help communities better analyze and combat hatred. This year-long GU endeavor to promote social justice is the University’s 25th anniversary and marks the beginning of the School of Arts and Sciences’ year-long engagement with anotherto hate in our society. This international conference is part of series of campus events this year to engage community members – from campus and beyond around the theme “Communities for Justice.” Co-sponsoring the event are the Gonzaga Community Task Force on Race Relations, the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, and Gonzaga’s Center for Global Engagement.

For a complete schedule of related fall events, visit www.gonzaga.edu/justice.

**NOTEWORTHY**

Eunice Kim, lecturer-AT/teaching fellow, Columbia College, English

Eunice Kim, who lectures at Columbia College, will be the first to teach a course on hate in our society. This international conference is part of series of campus events this year to engage community members – from campus and beyond around the theme “Communities for Justice.” Co-sponsoring the event are the Gonzaga Community Task Force on Race Relations, the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, and Gonzaga’s Center for Global Engagement.

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The Oct. 19-21 international conference on community engagement, held at Gonzaga, was a long-time goal forgenerous sponsors. This year, the conference is focused on fostering collaboration and networking among practitioners, scholars, and thought leaders from around the world. The event was organized by Dr. Forbes and her team, who have been working diligently to make the conference a success.

New hires Eunice Kuhn, director of Gonzaga’s Center for Public Humanities, and Angela Davis, a renowned scholar and activist, will be attending the conference. Eunice Kuhn is a professor of English and has been instrumental in developing the Center for Public Humanities. Angela Davis is a well-known scholar and activist who has made significant contributions to the field of African American studies.

Engaging communities for a just society goal of conference

The conference aims to bring together community leaders, scholars, and practitioners to discuss innovative strategies for engaging communities in meaningful ways. The conference will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops that will provide participants with valuable insights and practical tools for implementing successful community engagement initiatives.

New hires Eunice Kuhn, lecturer-T/Bus. Hg, music through the ages; Jose Garcia-Chacon, lecturer-I, Music; Michael Whalen, assistant director, University Ministry; Michael Wiel, IT support center manager; Diana Aguirre, campus pastor; Mary Kelly, program coordinator, University Ministry; Kim Boczar, associate professor, English; Scott, technology analyst, Student Accounts; Patricia Kilner, senior director, University College; Kelly Edwards, nursing; Anna Delano, associate professor, Psychology; Jennifer Bilingual, manager of virtual campus; and Colleen Miller, program assistant, English.

Goodbyes

Teresa Warren, counselor, Health & Wellness Services; Rachel Gregagin, assistant athletic trainer; Maria Morales Sanchez, student leadership & engagement program coordinator; DCE; Kimberly Grone, research specialist, Great Basin Grant, Gonzaga Foundation; Tracy Gross, key advisor; GUIDES; Jennifer O'Daniel, executive assistant, University Ministry; Leslie Yoder, director of virtual campus; and Sarah Strickland, community engagement coordinator; and the student leaders and volunteers who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make the conference a success.

Rockin’ out for a cause

The conference will feature a concert on Oct. 21, featuring Eunice Kuhn and other renowned performers. The concert will be a fund-raiser for the United Way, and proceeds will benefit Community Cancer Care. The event is free to attend, and a discount code, save10, will be available at www.bridgetobrunch.org.

In addition to the concert, the conference will feature a variety of workshops and panel discussions that will cover a wide range of topics related to community engagement. These sessions will provide participants with valuable insights and practical tools for implementing successful community engagement initiatives.

The conference will also feature a keynote speech by Angela Davis, a renowned scholar and activist who has made significant contributions to the field of African American studies.

The conference will conclude with a closing ceremony, which will feature a panel discussion and a special performance by Eunice Kuhn and other renowned performers. The ceremony will be a celebration of the conference’s success and a testament to the power of community engagement.

The conference is open to the public, and registration is now open. To register, visit www.gonzaga.edu/justice.

In order to make the conference as accessible as possible, free tickets are available for faculty/staff, students, and those from campus and beyond. This event is free to attend, and a discount code, save10, will be available at www.bridgetobrunch.org.

In summary, the conference is a major opportunity for community leaders, scholars, and practitioners to come together and share their ideas and experiences. The conference will be a celebration of the power of community engagement and a testament to the importance of working together to create a more just and equitable world.
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“A major theme in current University events and perspectives is the importance of demonstrating how to engage in meaningful, civil dialogue about the societal issues of our time. We are being called by the Jesuits to counteract some of the major thrusts in modern culture which suggest that engaging with each other in superficial ways is acceptable,” McCulloh said. “The Jesuits are calling us all of us to be counter-cultural — to be mindful, thoughtful people who are deeply engaged in authentic relationships with one another.”

McCulloh mentioned the experience of Derek Black as an example of how the college experience shapes the minds and perspectives of young people. Derek, the son of white nationalist Don Black, grew up in a family with the agenda of white supremacy dominating every conversation. Then, Derek went to a liberal arts college in Florida and had a profound experience of enlightenment and transformation simply by engaging with people from different walks of life, befriended by a student who was Jewish, he had conversations that led him to accept that the agenda of white supremacy was not the only way of encountering the world.

“That’s what we do at Gonzaga,” McCulloh said. “We transform students ideas about what they might otherwise consider ‘normal.’ We challenge these students to consider life from different points of view.”

He continued, “We need to make commitments to one another about what kind of place we want to be, for our students and ourselves. Our students see what we’re saying. They are paying attention. They’re hungry for understanding how things really work in the real world. So when we make decisions about how we are going to interact with one another to reinforce the values we want reflective of our culture, it has a profound impact. If we consistently do this work well, we’re going to continue to attract great students and turn great students out into the world who truly will counteract the destructive movements within our culture.”

In conclusion, McCulloh said, “I believe this work, that we at Gonzaga do, is the most important work that can be done in our country today. Thank you for everything that you do.”

President Thayne McCulloh, in addresses to both the faculty and staff assemblies this fall, opened his remarks with the importance of being the kind of place that is fundamentally about helping our students to be successful:

“The lived experience of our students in a sequence of daily interactions with Gonzaga’s people. That is what helps them thrive, and it is what allows Gonzaga to be distinctive.”

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The Most Important Work We Do: Help Students Thrive

For longtime athletic trainer, it was all about the people

Steve DeLong, Gonzaga’s athletic trainer for 19 years, credited his predecessor Bill Diedrick, Sr., with showing him the ropes, and Gonzaga for providing him such a supportive community. Many of his former athletes, who benefited from DeLong’s clear direction for strengthening and healing their bodies, honored “Doc” at the Zags Golf Classic in September. Pictured are John Stockton, Richie Frahm, Jim McPhee, Kelly Spink, Bob Finn, Scott Spink, Gordon Conder, DeLong, Jeff Condill, Chris McGahan, Ryan Fox and Steve Herz and team physician Russ Vanderwilde. DeLong retired this summer. (Kyle Scholzen photo)