January 25, 2014, marked the second annual National Gonzaga Day, a day when Zags gathered around the world to celebrate all things Gonzaga, cheer on the men’s and women’s basketball teams and recognize the University’s expanding global impact. Beyond the outpouring of Zag pride and the alumni gatherings that took place around the U.S. and the world (including Alumni Chapters in Japan, Canada and Florence, Italy), National Gonzaga Day was the first of many University endeavors this year with a global scope.

Gonzaga-in-Florence (G-I-F) commemorates 50 years of this seminal study abroad program with an all-class reunion in Florence, Italy, in April 2014. Alumni, family and friends of the program will celebrate their love of Firenze while surrounded by The Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, San Marco and more.

In October, Gonzaga will proudly host the 2014 Opus Prize, a prestigious award that recognizes individuals or organizations doing faith-based, humanitarian and entrepreneurial work around the world. After tapping Gonzaga’s global networks to seek nominations for the Prize, finalists will be selected by a jury. Faculty, staff and students will travel the globe to witness the finalists’ work in action. A top prize of $1 million and two $100,000 runner-up honors will be awarded by the Opus Foundation in order to further the winners’ efforts and to inspire people – particularly college students – to pursue service to others.

For ten years, the Opus Foundation has partnered with Catholic universities such as the University of Notre Dame, Marquette University and Georgetown University to nominate and...
celebrate dedicated humanitarians. Gonzaga is honored to join the ranks of distinguished faith-based universities chosen to host the Prize.

Global education, global celebration (continued)

Since 1963, over 6,000 students have experienced Gonzaga-in-Florence.

By the numbers

- 6,000 students have experienced Gonzaga-in-Florence.
- 67 students in the first class of G-I-F (full year).
- 175 current G-I-F enrollment (per semester).
- $49,410 tuition for a full year in Florence today (includes additional costs of travel, housing, meals, airfare and personal expenses).
- 35 students received a G-I-F endowed scholarship award (in total, over $111,000).

Funding priorities that will continue to expand Gonzaga’s global engagement efforts include:

- **Global Engagement Endowed Scholarships**
  If funded, the vision is to provide scholarships that both send and bring students to study in a cross-cultural environment.

- **Study Abroad Savings Accounts**
  If funded, the accounts provide a practical strategy for students to save money for study abroad expenses.

- **Faculty Innovation Resources**
  If funded, the ability of Gonzaga University’s faculty to confront global problems and provide students the opportunity to wrestle with global issues in the classroom will be enhanced.

Not to be done yet, and made possible because of donor generosity, Gonzaga expands its ability to provide students a transformational experience and global perspective with the continued construction of The John J. Hemmingson University Center, and positioning the Center for Global Engagement in the heart of the building.

Already serving some 500 international students at all levels, and with its model English-as-a-Second-Language program, the Center for Global Engagement is the physical and philosophical manifestation of the University’s commitment to be a truly international institution. Countries represented in classrooms today include Albania and Australia, Canada and Colombia, Iceland and India, the Netherlands and Nigeria, Venezuela and Vietnam, among many others. These students contribute to the diversity of Gonzaga, and they bring new perspectives and new values that, inevitably, GU graduates will gain as they transition to the workforce, post-graduate work or volunteer service opportunities.

- **Lisha Sosa (’14)**
  There is never a moment when I am not awed by the cultural enrichment that occurs in classroom discussions. Every day at Gonzaga, I have the opportunity to share a different reality of life, being from a third world country.

Read Lisha Sosa’s full story at gonzaga.edu/Sosa.

For more of Gonzaga’s vision for global engagement and funding needs, visit the Gonzaga Giving blog at gonzaga.edu/blog/global.
Expanded retreat offerings

The age-old question, “What am I going to do after graduation?” lurks in the minds of Gonzaga seniors. To help students answer this question, Gonzaga has introduced a Senior Discernment Retreat at Bozarth Mansion. A collaboration between University Ministry, the Career Center, the Center for Community Action and Service-Learning (CCASL) and Alumni Relations, the retreat employs the framework of Ignatian Discernment to assist seniors in making important decisions about life after college.

To further nurture the development of reflection in students, a second annual Men’s Retreat and an inaugural Women’s Retreat are offered during the 2014 spring semester. These retreats give participants an opportunity to examine the questions of identity, balance, love and purpose.

University Ministry, in line with Gonzaga’s mission, encourages students to explore spirituality and faith in a dynamic and relevant way through retreats, liturgies, programs and events, of which a record-breaking 2,020 students participated last year.

“Our hope is that, through persistent and consistent engagement with various ministries on campus, students will be able to recognize, articulate, demonstrate and embody the values of an integrated faith,” explains Michelle Wheatley (’07), director of University Ministry.

Continued financial support is vital to these student programs. To learn more, visit gonzaga.edu/blog/umin.

DREAM receives sustaining gift

To many, attending college is a dream come true; a hard-earned next step to a better, more educated life. For some, however, the dream is so much more than hard earned – it’s hard fought. Gonzaga’s Disability Resources, Education and Access Management (DREAM) office recognizes the challenges a person with disabilities may face at college, and co-creates an environment committed to serving all in an atmosphere of equality, partnership and dignity.

For Mark and Marsha Hierbaum, sending their daughter Stephanie (’02) to Gonzaga with support from the DREAM office made all the difference in her experience. Because of the supportive care given, the Hierbaums were inspired to make a generous gift back to the program.

The Hierbaum’s gift is transformative for the program, and is dedicated to helping students with disabilities in the areas of universal design, accessibility and accommodation. With steady enrollment growth over the past 10 years, the DREAM team (pun intended) is in high demand, serving 496 students in 2011-12, up from 191 in 2003. Now, because of the gift from the Hierbaums, the program can dream to provide comprehensive support to persons with disabilities at Gonzaga University in step with enrollment demands.

A special thanks to Mark and Marsha Hierbaum for spreading the Zag spirit to students of today and tomorrow and for recognizing the need for this program to thrive.

“We were happy to make the contribution; with so many people now diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, we are sure that it will be well used in the DREAM office.” - Marsha Hierbaum

Gonzaga takes sustainability seriously. This is seen across campus in purchasing decisions and building materials – and now expanded with the creation of a council to drive initiatives.

What is the ACSS?
The Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability (ACSS) is an ad hoc University committee responsible for making recommendations to the Cabinet regarding the University’s impact on, and stewardship of, the environment. The committee consists of students, staff and faculty who meet regularly to discuss solutions to make Gonzaga’s campus greener.

How does sustainability fit with GU’s vision?
In 2012, President Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil., approved Gonzaga’s first Climate Action Plan, which commits to reduce the impact of GU operations on the environment by 20 percent by 2020 and 50 percent by 2035 (from 2009 levels), and to seek ways to incorporate the concepts and principles of sustainability and environmental justice across its curricula.

Why is sustainability important for GU?
Responsible ecological stewardship and sustainability is fundamental to Gonzaga’s Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic mission. President McCulloh noted while signing the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor that Gonzaga recognizes the detrimental effects of our actions on people and the planet, “especially those among us who are vulnerable and therefore suffer the most from climate change and environmental degradation.”

How does GU make sustainability a priority? The ACSS created a guideline document to help the University identify sustainable practices. In effect today, Gonzaga’s major food contractors compost food waste to the greatest extent possible; most classroom technology equipment is repurposed, sold or recycled after end of life; a Spokane Farmers Market on campus allows students to buy local food; and, car sharing is offered through Zipcar as a cost-effective and environmentally-conscious option for occasional drivers.

To read more about Gonzaga’s sustainability focus, go to: gonzaga.edu/blog/GUsustainability.
Transforming students through research opportunities

Early in his education, Associate Professor of Sociology, Vikas (Vik) Gumbhir, transformed from being merely a student who studied sociology into a sociologist once he saw the power of research.

“More than anything, doing research showed me that I had something to contribute to scholarly conversations on topics that mattered to me,” Gumbhir says.

Because of this experience, and Gonzaga’s Jesuit mission, Vik and his co-director Nicole Willms and other faculty colleagues are committed to offering similar research opportunities to Gonzaga students. In response, they established an undergraduate research program that allows students to develop their own research projects on topics of their choice.

The range of research is fascinating, with current student Lauren Ferguson (’14) studying adult children of divorced families and its effect on their intimate relationship experiences. Last year, Amber Buehlimaier (’13) studied the attitude and experiences of adopted children related to the reunification with their birth parents, graduates Sinead Christensen (’13) and Paige Teichmann (’12) studied whether or not organized recess activities and additional playground resources implemented at a local elementary school increased student activity levels.

The research consumes an entire academic year, starting with students reviewing the related research findings, designing a project that makes a substantive contribution to the literature, collecting and analyzing data and ultimately presenting their findings at the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) annual conference. The PSA is an organization dedicated to the high quality teaching of sociological knowledge and mentoring the next generation of sociologists.

This approach is working. “When I reminisce about my Gonzaga education, I instantly think of the research program, my particular project and my PSA roundtable,” said Josh Seim, a Class of 2009 graduate. “I strongly believe that my participation in the research program was the single most important factor leading to my admission and success in graduate school.”

Gonzaga benefactors continually support research through endowed funds and gifts. To learn more about exciting student research, visit gonzaga.edu/research.