Blessings for the future

The Jesuits are the heart of Gonzaga. It is rare for anyone who has a relationship with the University to not have a personal story that involves a beloved Jesuit whose guidance, influence or inspiration left an indelible mark on their life. There are names that come up in these stories again and again — Father Tony Lehmann, S.J., Father Alfred Morissette, S.J., Father Pat Carroll, S.J. — the list is long and legendary. The undeniable impact of Jesuits who have graced the Gonzaga campus is at the core of so many contributions in support of the Jesuit Residence.

Gerri Craves, Gonzaga University Trustee Emeritus, is passionate about encouraging support for the Jesuit Residence, which will both honor and grow Gonzaga’s Jesuit community. For Craves, spearheading efforts to lift up the Jesuits at Gonzaga is spurred on by a dedication to family.

“We are committed to this community of men we admire and love and respect,” she said. “We are committed to a vision of bringing other Jesuits here...we will attract the best and the brightest who will be eager to be here.”

Craves’ leadership has been widely supported by many others on both boards — including University Regent David “Bart” Gallant and Trustee Mary Herche, who were inspired by the project, and encouraged by Craves’ support for the Jesuit Residence.

The Gallant family’s connection to Gonzaga spans four generations and was influenced by the Jesuit priests and strengthened by Gallant’s great grandfather being honored with the DeSmet medal. He also credits “the kindness that the Jesuits have extended to me and my family” for inspiring his support.

Herche likewise jumped at the opportunity to further Gonzaga’s Jesuit mission by providing funds to the Jesuit Residence project. She said, “To continually grow as a university, we have to continually change things. Me, myself, I never think anything’s over, it’s just a continuum.”

Like Father Tony Lehmann, S.J., always said, “...to be continued!”

VISIT GONZAGA.EDU/JESUITBLESSING FOR A PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE BOARD MASS AND JESUIT RESIDENCE BLESSING IN SEPTEMBER OF 2016.

Seven new Jesuit priests (including a 2004 Gonzaga alumnus) were ordained at St. Aloysius Church in the summer of 2016.
CELEBRATING 94 YEARS OF LOVE

It is nearly impossible for anyone to visit with Father Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J., and not leave with a smile. His graciousness, and joy for life and the Lord, are downright contagious.

On December 7, 2016, the Gonzaga community came together in celebration of Fr. Coughlin’s 94th birthday. He was the longest-serving president in University history and the first and only chancellor. On campus, cura personalis, care for the individual, exemplifies everything good about this man who saved Gonzaga University, preserved our Jesuit heritage and continues to share his love with so many colleagues, students, friends, alumni and associates.

More than 90 gifts totaling over $71,000 were made in honor of Fr. Coughlin on his birthday to the two funds that bear his name. Thank you to all who chose to pay tribute to him in this way.

Visit gonzaga.edu/CoughlinBirthday to view the slideshow presented at Fr. Coughlin’s birthday dinner.

A person and parties for others

Michael was a first-grader with a sensory disorder who was being bullied at school. He’d recently witnessed an accident involving his father, which resulted in a brain injury for his father and PTSD for little Michael. He didn’t have any friends; nobody would eat lunch with him or play with him at recess. The year prior, his mother had planned a birthday party for him. He stood by the window, waiting for any of the 10 invited children to arrive. Not a single guest came.

Michael’s mom explained her son’s situation to Spencer Broden (’20), who was a high school student at the time. Broden was inspired and undeterred by the challenge. Still just a teen, he established his own non-profit organization called Time 2 Party!, to provide complimentary birthday parties for kids just like Michael.

“The party we threw for Michael at the local trampoline park was unforgettable,” said Broden. “With an amazing turnout of my friends and his classmates, we totally turned around Michael’s birthday experience.”

Through his own charity, this mechanical engineering major came to understand how individuals can make a difference in the lives of others; as a sponsored Zag, Spencer Broden knows how it feels to be on the receiving end of such selfless generosity, too.

“Without my scholarship, I would not be able to attend Gonzaga,” he said. “My parents and I thought it was important for me to be in an environment that fostered and supported the same moral values we believe in and we knew it was going to take a lot of hard work to make that happen. If it weren’t for the kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity of those who give to GU, I wouldn’t be here. This means the world to me. One day in the future, I want to be on the other end, reading about someone just like me, whose life was forever changed for the better by the Zag family.”

Visit gonzaga.edu/Spencer to hear more from this sponsored Zag.
Q&A
Planning today for tomorrow

Nick (’06) and Dana (’07) Questad are planners. A naturally strategic and organized pair, they’re among the fewer than 50 percent of people their age who have mapped out their estate plans — plans that include a scholarship gift to Gonzaga.

Q: What inspired you to take this step?
A: Dana: “We were encouraged after the birth of our daughters to establish guardianship and create an estate plan. Also, we feel passionate about making it affordable and possible for others to go to Gonzaga, too.”

Q: Why was it important to you that the gift in your will be designated to scholarships?
A: Nick: “We both benefited from scholarships at GU. Frankly, we wouldn’t have been able to go to Gonzaga without the generosity of the donors who helped us. We had a tremendous experience when we were there and the benefits continue today — we believe wholeheartedly in Catholic education and sharing that is where our passion lies.”

Q: You also give of your time as GAMP mentors — why is that important to you?
A: Dana: “It’s about paying it forward and celebrating the tenets of fellowship, community, social justice and engagement that define Gonzaga. Reaching out to current students and recent grads has fostered an amazing network. We are always excited to see other Zags find success.”

If you’ve included Gonzaga in your estate plans, thank you! Be sure to keep Gonzaga up to date with any changes or specifics about how you would like your gift directed — contact Judy Rogers or Annette Davis at 800.388.0881 or email plannedgiving@gonzaga.edu. More information about planned giving is available at gonzaga.edu/bequest.

By the Numbers
The Campaign for Our Future.

Gonzaga Will.

$240 million raised to date | 34,612 donors to the Campaign so far

232 new scholarships have been established during the Campaign so far.

118 of those new scholarships have awarded, supporting 549 students with nearly $2.5 million toward tuition.

You are invited to help Gonzaga celebrate these Campaign milestones on Gonzaga Day, February 11, 2017.

Regions with over 1,000 cumulative donors:

Spokane: 7,219
Seattle: 6,412
San Francisco: 2,933
Portland: 2,134
Tacoma: 1,454
Denver: 1,148
Southern California: 1,147
Snapshot  [Together, we will]

In order to better serve you, Gonzaga’s University Advancement Division (Alumni, Development, Donor Relations, Organizational Effectiveness, and Marketing and Communications) is moving to a new collaborative space in the Boone Avenue Retail Center (BARC), at Hamilton Street and Boone Avenue. You are invited to visit our new location, where you’re sure to find inspiration and Zag spirit working together in service of the entire Gonzaga community.