

Diversity Digest



*Henna at MSA's
Eid Dinner Event*

Message from the Chief
Diversity Officer

Meet the OIE Team

Autism Awareness

Education Corner

OIE Prevention Team
Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Ask OIE Title IX Anything

Spotlights

Media
Recommendations

What's Happening!
Announcements &
Events

Message From The Chief Diversity Officer



Robin Kelley, Ph.D.

Chief Diversity Officer

Dear Campus Community,

After a long winter nap, April conjures up images of flowers in bloom and sunshine. The April Diversity Digest acknowledges and celebrates many commemorative observances. This month, we observe the Easter Holiday, Autism Acceptance Month, Arab American Heritage Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month to name a few — all of which challenge us to embody the Jesuit values of caring for the whole person.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month invites us to support and care for survivors and challenges us to create a culture rooted in dignity. We should constantly ask ourselves: How do we create a university culture where every person feels safe, welcome, supported, and empowered? How do we live out our mission not only in words but in action?

These important observances force us to not only celebrate an acknowledgment but to move beyond celebration or awareness and toward the authentic embodiment of inclusion and belonging, recognizing, and accompanying diverse groups with different experiences as a strength of our community. We have so much to be grateful for.

This issue of the Diversity Digest highlights the work being done across our campus by students, faculty, and staff. Please enjoy this issue.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Robin Kelley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robin Kelley, Ph.D.

MEET THE OFFICE OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE (OIE)



Robin Kelley, Ph.D.

Chief Diversity Officer



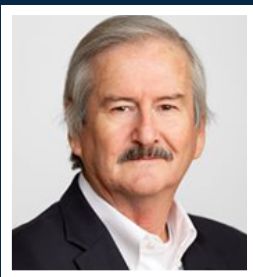
**Meghan C.
Ridgely, M.L.S.**

Assistant to
the CDO and
Office Manager



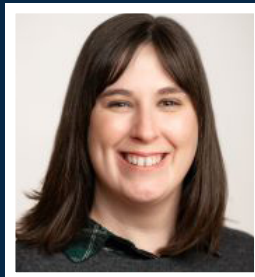
Christine C. Burge

Assistant Director,
Discrimination and
Harassment
Prevention



**David Gomez,
M.A.**

Title IX Equity &
Compliance
Investigator



**Kristina
Poffenroth**

Gender Based
Violence Prevention
Education Specialist



**Shalon Parker,
Ph.D.**

Director of the
Underrepresented
Minority Postdoctoral
Fellowship program

AUTISM AWARENESS

Every April, Autism Awareness Month serves as a time to educate, advocate, and foster greater understanding of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Originally focused on awareness, the movement has evolved to emphasize acceptance, inclusion, and meaningful support for individuals with autism.

Autism Awareness Month, now often referred to as Autism Acceptance Month, began in April 1970 when the Autism Society launched its first National Autistic Children's Week. This initiative later expanded into a month-long observance dedicated to increasing understanding and advocating for the rights of individuals with autism.

Autism is a neurological condition that affects communication, behavior, and social interaction. It presents differently in each person, making it a spectrum disorder. While some individuals may require significant support, others navigate daily life independently. The goal of Autism Awareness Month is to highlight these diverse experiences and challenge misconceptions surrounding autism.

In recent years, the focus has shifted from mere awareness to genuine acceptance. Organizations, advocates, and self-advocates stress the importance of moving beyond awareness campaigns to ensuring meaningful inclusion in schools, workplaces, and communities. Emphasizing neurodiversity, many seek to promote understanding rather than stigma.

By embracing acceptance and inclusivity, Autism Awareness Month continues to foster a world where individuals with autism can thrive and be valued for their unique perspectives and contributions.



**AUTISM
AWARENESS**

WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a neurological condition that affects communication, behavior, and social interaction. It presents differently in each person, making it a spectrum disorder. While some individuals may require significant support, others navigate daily life independently. The goal of Autism Awareness Month is to highlight these diverse experiences and challenge misconceptions surrounding autism.

In recent years, the focus has shifted from mere awareness to genuine acceptance. Organizations, advocates, and self-advocates stress the importance of moving beyond awareness campaigns to ensuring meaningful inclusion in schools, workplaces, and communities. Emphasizing neurodiversity, many seek to promote understanding rather than stigma.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

What is Autism Awareness Month?

An annual observance held in April to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Originally focused on awareness, the movement has evolved to emphasize acceptance, inclusion, and meaningful support for individuals with autism.

When did Autism Awareness Month Start?

Autism Awareness Month, now often referred to as Autism Acceptance Month, began in April 1970 when the Autism Society launched its first National Autistic Children's Week, which later evolved into a month-long observance.

How to Support?

Every April, Autism Awareness Month serves as a time to educate, advocate, and foster greater understanding of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). People can support Autism Awareness Month by engaging in educational initiatives, supporting autistic-led organizations, and advocating for policies that promote accessibility and inclusion. Small actions, such as learning from autistic voices, using respectful language, and fostering inclusive environments, contribute to a more accepting society.

EDUCATION CORNER

Arab-American Heritage Month



April marks Arab-American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans in the United States. With ancestral roots spanning across 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Arab Americans bring a diversity of traditions, languages, and experiences that have added to shaping American society.

In 2017 Arab American Heritage Month began as a rather small initiative by the Arab America Foundation. However, in April of 2021, President Joe Biden issued a proclamation that recognized Arab-American Heritage Month, he was the first president to ever do so.

Arab Americans have made lasting contributions to the nation's cultural and intellectual landscape. Their influence extends into contemporary movements in academia, film, music, and social justice, reinforcing the importance of inclusion and representation. Despite these achievements, Arab Americans have historically faced challenges, including misrepresentation and discrimination.

EDUCATION CORNER

Arab-American Heritage Month serves as an opportunity to amplify their voices, acknowledge their struggles, and educate communities on the richness of Arab culture beyond stereotypes. Celebrating this month is a step toward fostering greater understanding, appreciation, and ally ship.

Gonzaga University's Arabic Program offers elementary and intermediate courses in Modern Standard Arabic, focusing on the language and cultures of the Middle East and North Africa. While the program does not currently offer a major or minor in Arabic, students can enroll in courses such as Arabic 101, 102, 201, and 202. Whether it's exploring the works of Arab-American authors, learning about the history of Arab immigration to the U.S., or attending cultural events, there are many ways to honor and celebrate this diverse community.

For more on the Arabic Program at Gonzaga :

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/modern-languages/programs/arabi.c>

For more on Arab-American Heritage Month :

<https://arabamericafoundation.org/national-arab-american-heritage-month/>

**ARAB
AMERICAN**
HERITAGE MONTH



EDUCATION CORNER

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a national campaign aimed at increasing public understanding of sexual violence and empowering individuals and communities to take action in prevention and support. Each year, SAAM provides an opportunity to center survivor voices, promote healthy relationships, and foster a culture of consent and respect. The 2025 theme, "Together We Act, United We Change," encourages everyone—students, faculty, staff, and community members—to stand in solidarity and commit to creating safer spaces through education, advocacy, and accountability.

At Gonzaga University, the commitment to a safe, inclusive, and respectful campus is reflected in a range of services and support systems. The Title IX Office plays a central role in responding to and preventing sexual misconduct, offering both confidential and non-confidential resources for students and employees. Those impacted by sexual assault, harassment, dating or domestic violence, or stalking can connect with the Title IX Coordinator by email at titleix@gonzaga.edu or call 509-313-6910. Gonzaga also partners with local organizations like Lutheran Community Services for 24/7 support, and the Health & Counseling Center provides confidential counseling to students. Educational programs, workshops, and events during SAAM further empower the Gonzaga community to actively engage in creating a culture of respect, care, and equity.



Resources:

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/student-life/health-well-being/health-counseling-services>

[LCS Northwest 24-Hour crisis line, \(509\) 624-7273](tel:5096247273)

[Title IX Coordinator, \(509\) 313-6910](tel:5093136910)

EDUCATION CORNER

World Autism Awareness Day

April 2nd is recognized internationally as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD). This day is dedicated to understanding, accepting, and supporting individuals on the autism spectrum. First recognized by the United Nations in 2007, this day is not only about awareness but fostering a world where autistic individuals are valued, included, and empowered. Autism is a spectrum disorder, meaning each person experiences it in their way. Some may find it hard to communicate, while others have unique talents in areas like art, music, or math. During WAAD, we focus on the ways we can educate ourselves.



To show support, take part in events drawing awareness to autism, listen to stories, and join the "Light It Up Blue" movement, where buildings and landmarks glow blue in solidarity. This April 2nd, take a moment to listen, learn, and support. Additional resources may be found below.

Resources:

<https://www.autismspeaks.org>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/autism-day>

EDUCATION CORNER

National ASL Day



National ASL day is celebrated on April 15th each year. On this day we recognize the importance of sign language and support those who in the community are deaf and unable to hear or speak. This day is dates back to the establishment of the first school for the deaf in the U.S. in 1817 located in Hartford Connecticut. This has played a crucial role in the development of ASL. In 1988, students at Gallaudet University (the only university for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students) protested to demand a Deaf president for the first time in its history. This movement was successful, and Dr. I. King Jordan became the first Deaf president, marking a major civil rights victory for the Deaf community.

Learning simple phrases such as "hello", "nice to meet you", and "thank you" can help support the deaf community. To learn more, attend ASL events, workshops, or local Deaf meet-ups to show solidarity and discover more about Deaf culture directly from those who have experienced it.

Gonzaga University offers ASL courses. If interested, please contact Dr. Kimberly Weber, Chair of Special Education at the School of Education or check out the resources below:

ASL Classes - Kimberly Weber weberk@gonzaga.edu

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/modern-languages/programs/american-sign-language>

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/academics/academic-resources/center-for-student-academic-success/disability-access/faculty/offered-accommodations/students-with-hearing-impairments>

OIE PREVENTION TEAM

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Since April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I wanted to take this opportunity to shed light on the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses. By sharing important statistics and insights, my goal is to help raise awareness and encourage a safer and more supportive environment for everyone in our campus community.



Firstly, how often does sexual assault occur on college campuses? According to statistics from RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), **13% of all students—both graduate and undergraduate—experience rape or sexual assault involving physical force, violence, or incapacitation.** The percentage is even higher when looking specifically at undergraduate students, with **26.4% of females and 6.8% of males** experiencing sexual assault during their time in college.

It's also important to recognize that stalking is a form of sexual violence that can have serious psychological and emotional effects. In fact, **5.8% of college students report experiencing stalking.**

These numbers are significant, yet we rarely hear about incidents on campus unless they are addressed in an official statement. The reality is that **the majority of sexual assaults go unreported.** But why? While every case is unique, the most common reasons survivors choose not to report include:

"I believed it was a personal matter."

"It's not that important to report."

"What if I'm the one who gets in trouble?"

"The police won't help me."

"I don't want them to get in trouble."

"I reported it, but not to the police."

These six reasons alone account for nearly **70% of unreported cases.** There are many barriers to reporting, including fear, stigma, and uncertainty about the process, which is why raising awareness and creating a supportive environment for survivors is so critical.

But college campuses are supposed to be safe—so how does this happen?

A significant factor in many campus sexual assault cases is **substance use**, often involving alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs. These substances can impair judgment, lower inhibitions, and make individuals more vulnerable. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, **in 75% of incidents where the perpetrator voluntarily comes forward, they admit to consuming alcohol before the assault.**

While substance use does not cause sexual assault—only perpetrators are responsible for their actions—it is often a contributing factor that increases risk. This underscores the importance of awareness, education, and proactive measures to create a safer campus environment for everyone.

HOW DO WE PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING? ---

Educate yourselves and others! Awareness and education are some of the most powerful tools in preventing sexual violence. Gonzaga's **Office of Inclusive Excellence** plays a crucial role in educating our campus on gender-based violence, providing resources, and fostering important discussions.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- **Research topics** you don't completely understand, it's ok to not know!
- **Attend events** focused on awareness and prevention.
- **Have open conversations** about these issues—silence allows harm to continue.
- **Take your friends seriously** if they confide in you about an experience. Support and believe them.

Taking the initiative to learn about sexual violence, consent, and bystander intervention can make a huge difference. Educating yourself helps break down misconceptions and empowers you to support others effectively. By working together, educating ourselves, and actively promoting a culture of respect and accountability, we can help create a safer and more informed campus community.

REFERENCES

NSVRC. (2025). *What do you need to know about sexual assault on college campuses?* Retrieved from National Sexual Violence Resource Center: <https://www.nsvrc.org/what-do-you-need-know-about-sexual-assault-college-campus>

Rainn. (2025). *Campus Sexual Violence: Statistics*. Retrieved from Rainn: <https://rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

ASK OIE TITLE IX ANYTHING

We know that it can be confusing to understand and navigate Gonzaga's policies and procedures as they relate to Title IX, Harassment and Non-Discrimination, and bias incidents. In the next few Diversity Digest issues, our goal is to provide an in-depth explainer on each process.

WHAT IS TITLE IX?

Title IX is part of the 1972 educational amendments to the 1964 Civil Rights Act and is designed to protect individuals from discrimination based on sex, which means it covers a range of behaviors that can interfere with a person's ability to fully participate in educational programs and activities. These behaviors can include sexual harassment and assault, gender-based harassment, retaliation, and other sex-based discrimination.

Title IX applies to nearly every college and university in the United States because it governs any educational program or activity that receives federal funding. This means that if your institution accepts federal dollars, as Gonzaga does, Title IX applies at the University. Title IX rules and regulations are set by the Department of Education and instruct educational institutions on how they respond to allegations of gender-based harassment and discrimination in university programs.

One of the things Title IX regulations determine is whether a school has jurisdiction, or the authority, to investigate an allegation of gender-based harassment and discrimination. Under the current regulations, the incident must occur within a school program or activity, whether the incident happens on campus, like in a residence hall, or at an off-campus school sponsored event, like an out-of-town basketball game. Another jurisdictional requirement is that the individuals involved in the incident must be enrolled at or employed by the university for the regulations to apply. These requirements ensure that schools are held accountable for actions that occur within their educational activities, while also setting clear boundaries for when the law applies.

ASK OIE TITLE IX ANYTHING

The Title IX regulations also determine how and when an investigation is initiated, instruct institutions to provide supportive measures, and what the process is for resolving a complaint. Supportive measures are a great tool for institutions. They allow us to implement things like classroom changes, residential accommodations, and other measures to ensure that individuals impacted by gender-based harassment and discrimination get the help they need to keep their academic lives on track, even while going through a Title IX process.

In essence, Title IX isn't just about responding to individual incidents—it is also about fostering an educational environment where discrimination on the basis of sex, whether overt or subtle, is not tolerated. Schools have a legal responsibility to investigate complaints and take appropriate steps to ensure that all members of their community have equal access to educational opportunities. While Gonzaga has a legal responsibility to address complaints, the Title IX Team also genuinely cares about the well-being of the Gonzaga community and strives to facilitate these processes in an equitable and trauma-informed manner.

***For Additional Title IX Resources at Gonzaga University,
Please check out the links below:***

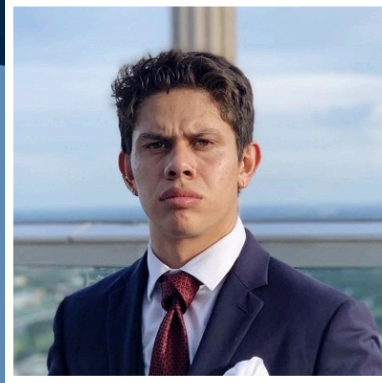
[TITLE IX AT
GONZAGA
UNIVERSITY](#)

[TITLE IX
POLICY](#)

[TITLE IX
RESOURCES](#)

[REPORT AN INCIDENT](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Francisco ("Kiko") Macías

J.D. Candidate 2025, Gonzaga University School of Law

Francisco Macías is a 3L student at Gonzaga University's School of Law. He completed his undergraduate degree in psychology and philosophy at Trinity University and was drawn to Gonzaga by its Jesuit education and values. Francisco serves as the Diversity Officer for the Student Bar Association and the Vice President of the Latin Law Student Association. During his time at Gonzaga, he has helped develop a law caucus for underrepresented student groups to collaborate. Francisco will be graduating this May.

"Find what you love, and put everything into it"

- Francisco Macías



[View the full interview here.](#)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Mirjeta Beqiri, Ph.D.

Professor of Operations Management

Dr. Mirjeta Beqiri is a professor of Operations Management and former Director of MBA Programs at Gonzaga University. She holds degrees in Statistics and Operations Management from the University of Tirana and Southern Illinois University, respectively, and teaches across undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. Her research focuses on service quality, outsourcing, business ethics, and distance learning. She has helped lead international programs, served in various university committees, and remains active in professional organizations and community service, including her role on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest Board.

“Stay true to your values and embrace discomfort as a path towards your growth and impact”

- Mirjeta Beqiri

View the full interview here.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Karli Honebein *(She/Her)*
Climate Literacy Program Manager

Karli Honebein works as the Climate Literacy Manager at the Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment. She is from Reno, Nevada and graduated from Gonzaga in 2018. As a graduate of Gonzaga University, Karli has found joy in bringing her expertise and passion for climate change work back to her alma mater. Her undergraduate degree is in Environmental Studies with a minor in Biology, and after graduating she served as an AmeriCorps Member in Spokane Valley working in environmental education. After a brief detour into corporate consulting, she was thrilled to join the growing team at the Climate Institute under the Director and her former professor, Dr. Brian G. Henning.



Climate Literacy Fellows working with 3rd graders

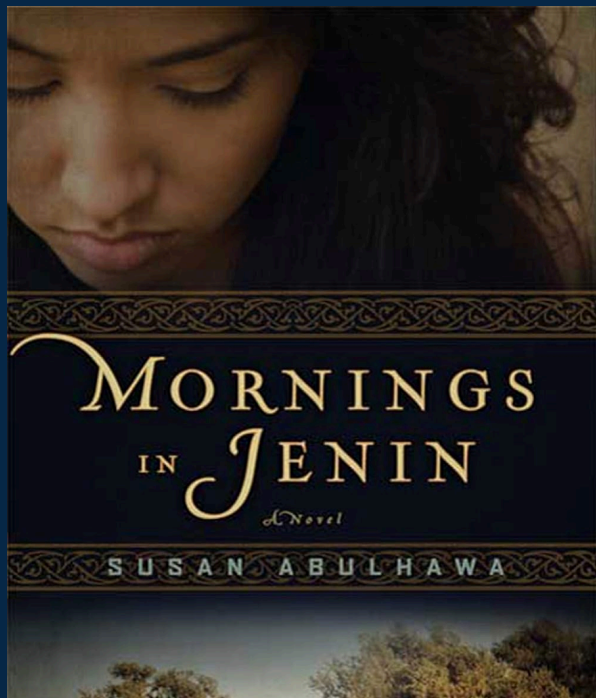


Professional Learning workshop with K-12 teachers

In her role as Climate Literacy Program Manager, she oversees all of the Institute's climate education work including the Climate Literacy Fellows, professional learning workshops for teachers, working with the School of Education, and more! The Climate Literacy Fellows are paid Gonzaga undergraduates who work for the Climate Institute and visit K-8 classrooms to teach hands-on climate science lessons and this program has been one of the highlights of her work so far.

The Climate Institute is committed to supporting thriving, equitable human societies within flourishing ecological communities by providing regional capacity building, scholarship, and teaching. This commitment to bringing about equitable communities is deeply informed by our Jesuit tradition of care for the planet and a just society. The different areas of work in the Climate Institute including the Climate Literacy Project and the Climate Resilience Project provide opportunities for Gonzaga students to step outside the Gonzaga bubble and authentically experience the Spokane community. Working with other neighborhood and communities within Spokane provides Gonzaga students broader perspectives and appreciation for the strengths and challenges that our neighbors and community experience.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS



Mornings in Jenin

Book

Mornings in Jenin by Susan Abulhawa is a powerful historical novel that follows four generations of a Palestinian family, the Abulhejas, as they endure displacement, war, and loss from the creation of Israel in 1948 to the early 21st century. Through the eyes of Amal, the story explores themes of identity, love, and resilience amid the Palestinian struggle. Blending personal tragedy with historical events, the novel offers a deeply moving perspective on the human cost of conflict.

The Feeling of Being Watched (2018)

Documentary

The Feeling of Being Watched (2018) shows the investigation, lead by Assia Bendaoui, on Muslim American community that suspects it's been under FBI surveillance since the 1990s. She sets out to investigate long-brewing rumors that her quiet, predominantly Arab-American neighborhood was being monitored. Bendaoui discovers thousands of pages of FBI documents which prove that the neighborhood was the subject of counter-terrorism investigation before the September 11 attacks.

THE FEELING OF BEING WATCHED



MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS



American Arab (2013)

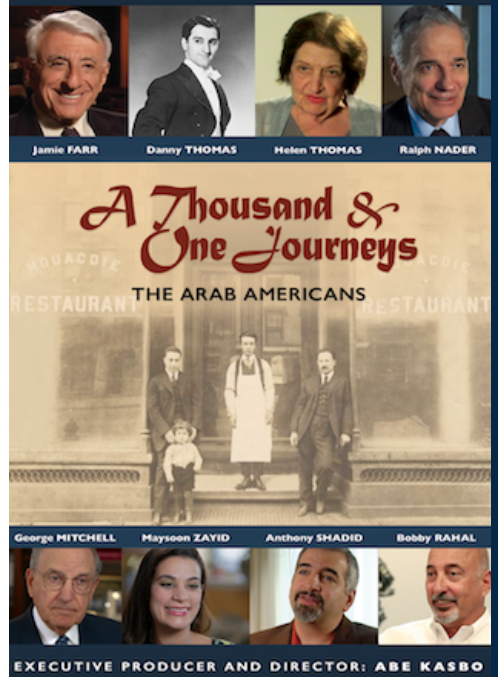
Documentary

American Arab (2013) is a documentary by Iraqi-American filmmaker Usama Alshaibi that explores the complexities of Arab-American identity in post-9/11 America. Through personal stories and interviews, Alshaibi examines issues of racism, stereotyping, and cultural duality faced by Arab Americans. The film blends his own experiences with those of others navigating their identities in a country that often views them through a lens of fear and misunderstanding. *American Arab* challenges monolithic portrayals of Arab Americans and highlights the diversity and resilience within the community while questioning what it truly means to be “American.”

A Thousand and One Journeys: The Arab Americans

Documentary

A Thousand And One Journeys: The Arab Americans is the untold story of almost 200 years of the contributions of those who immigrated to the United States from the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf have made to the American fabric. The film discusses the Arab-American immigrant experience through the personal stories of people who immigrated in pursuit of the American Dream. The film explores early and multiple waves of immigration along with the tremendous impact of 9/11 on the Arab American community.



MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

ARAB-AMERICAN MUSIC



"Ask the Birds in Cairo"

Music

"Ask the Birds in Cairo" by Felukah and MC Bolbol is a beautiful mix of hip-hop, poetry, and Arabic music that celebrates Arab-American heritage. The song explores themes of identity, home, and culture, capturing the feelings of those living between two worlds. With its mix of Arabic and English lyrics, it honors tradition while embracing modern Arab-American music.

"Inner Rhyme"

Music

"Inner Rhyme" by Chaker and Layale is a beautiful mix of traditional Arabic music and modern sounds. The song tells a heartfelt story about identity, connection, and belonging. With its poetic lyrics and emotional melodies, it honors Arab heritage while bringing a fresh, modern touch to the music.



"Be Kind"

Music

"Be Kind" by Zak Abel is an uplifting song about compassion, understanding, and treating others with kindness. As a British-Moroccan artist, Zak Abel's music reflects his diverse background, blending soulful vocals with modern pop and R&B influences. The song's message of empathy and unity resonates with the Arab-American heritage theme by promoting values of respect and cultural appreciation.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Office of Inclusive Excellence



Colleagues of Color

When: Wed, April 2, 2025 12pm - 1pm

Where: 153 College Commons (Humanities Building)

About: Colleagues of Color is a cultural affinity group focusing on issues of faculty and staff of color and providing professional development and networking opportunities. Recent Colleagues of Color hosts for academic year 2024-2025 included Dr. Itohan Idumwonyi from Religious Studies and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Robin Kelley. Each recent speaker connected their presentations around being stronger in community and self-care. The group meets monthly.



IMPACT

When: Wed, April 9, 2025 12pm - 1pm

Where: 153 College Commons (Humanities Building)

About: The Intercultural and Multicultural Professionals Advancing Change Together (IMPACT) group is an affinity group of faculty and staff of color and their allies at Gonzaga University. The purpose of IMPACT is to support members and initiatives that create dialogue, raise awareness, and educate the campus and community on the richness of human differences that exist on campus, regionally, and globally. The group meets two to three times a year. In December 2023, OIE expanded the concept of IMPACT and held a Cultivating Community Reception to include members of the Spokane community and regional universities, colleges, and community colleges as well as Gonzaga Community members.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy

IELA Workshop 9

When: Friday, April 4, 2025 9am - 3pm

Where: 153 College Commons
(Humanities Building)

IELA Workshop 10

When: Friday, April 25, 2025 9am - 3pm

Where: 153 College Commons
(Humanities Building)

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy Graduation

When: Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Time TBA

Where: Hemmingson Ballroom
Cardoner (North)



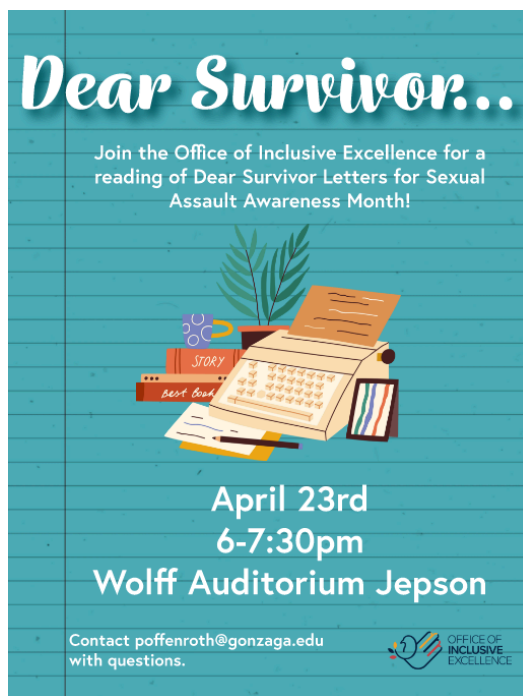
The Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy (IELA) is designed as a scaffolding or building blocks adult learning and development program that will help the Gonzaga realize our Inclusive Excellence strategic goals as a learning community. The academy will utilize multidisciplinary strategies and cover topics such as oppression, anti-racism, equity, diversity, inclusion, implicit bias, micro-aggressions, race, privilege, power, inequities, gender identities, current issues, generational intelligence, and more to deepen and expand the collective cultural competency of the Gonzaga community.

The IELA advances Gonzaga's Inclusive Excellence goals through workshops on equity, diversity, and inclusion. This year, two 26-member cohorts completed DEIB-focused projects and earned the Inclusive Excellence Leadership Certificate.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?


ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event




Dear Survivor...

Join the Office of Inclusive Excellence for a reading of Dear Survivor Letters for Sexual Assault Awareness Month!



April 23rd
6-7:30pm
Wolff Auditorium Jepson

Contact poffenroth@gonzaga.edu with questions.



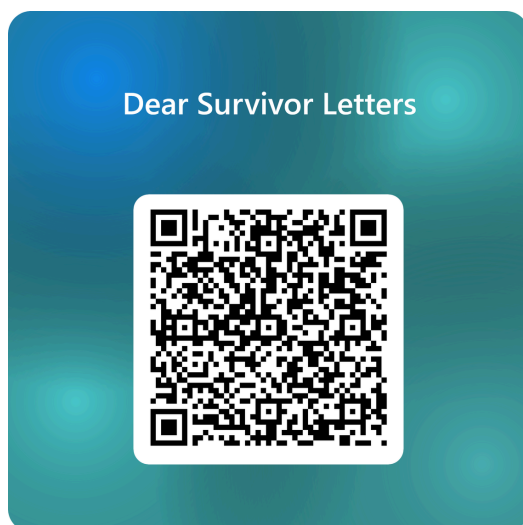
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and The Office of Inclusive Excellence is collecting letters of support for survivors of sexual violence on campus. These letters will be displayed on campus and read during our "Dear Survivor" event on April 23rd. Scan the QR Code to submit a letter.

Dear Survivor...


About: The Office of Inclusive Excellence is collecting letters from community members to support survivors of sexual assault, called "Dear Survivor" letters. We are planning an event for reading these letters on April 23rd in the Wolff Auditorium at 6pm and a display in the Hemmingson Rotunda from April 23rd to April 29th for the letters we may not have time to read during the event. Our goal is to collect letters from as many different people and areas on campus as possible so that the survivors of sexual violence in our community know that they aren't alone, feel empowered, and know that the campus community supports them.

When: April 23rd, 2025 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: Wolff Auditorium, Jepson



Dear Survivor Letters



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Conference

About: The OIE and the Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Planning Committee have scheduled a Sexual Assault Awareness Month Conference on Monday, April 28th in the Hemmingson Auditorium. The keynote speaker is Tim Mousseau, a survivor and prevention educator who got his MS in the Organizational Leadership program here at Gonzaga. His keynote will address masculinity, reclaiming the narrative around sexual violence, and bystander intervention. Workshops following the keynote will be provided by students, staff, and faculty and will cover topics like consent, media literacy, and resources available on campus

When: Monday, April 28, 2025 9pm - 5pm

Where: Hemmingson Auditorium

Reclaiming Our Story
Sexual Assault Awareness Conference

April 28th 12-5PM
Hemmingson Auditorium



Join us for free lunch & our keynote speaker, Gonzaga alum, Tim Mousseau at 12!

After our keynote, there will be workshops presented by staff, students, & faculty on topics related to sexual assault awareness. Attend one session of the conference and you can be entered to win a prize!

Use the QR code to RSVP to ensure we have enough food!



 OFFICE OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Contact poffenroth@Gonzaga.edu with questions



Use the QR Code to RSVP to ensure we have enough food

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Campus Events

Conference: Value and Responsibility in AI Technologies

About: This conference brings together scholars from diverse disciplines (Philosophy, Political Science, Computer Science, Law, Business) and industry experts (Adobe, Google) to explore ethical challenges and develop solutions for responsible, values-driven AI. One overarching goal of the conference is to examine how we can ensure AI technologies serve the common good and uphold principles of democracy, equity, social justice, human dignity and care for the planet.

Where: Thursday, Apr 03, 2025 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

When: Bollier Center



Actors from the London Stage: Hamlet

About: Hamlet is one of the most well-known of all Shakespeare plays, and for good reason. In this not-to-be missed performance, five actors from one of the oldest touring Shakespeare theater companies in the world take the stage to deliver an exceptional performance of the Bard of Avon's tale of madness, revenge, and the supernatural.

Where: Saturday, Apr 05, 2025, 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

When: Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center



Timothy J. O'Leary, S.J., Public Lecture

About: Sarah Delaney is the 38th Annual Timothy J. O'Leary, S.J., Lecturer. Dr. Delaney is a Professor of Chemistry at Brown University and currently serves as the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the Graduate School.

Where: Wednesday, Apr 09, 2025 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

When: Wolff Auditorium, Jepson Center

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra

About: You are Invited by Gonzaga University's Board of Trustees to the 2025 Ignatian Gala. Join the Gonzaga University Board of Trustees and honored guests for an exclusive celebration recognizing the numerous contributions of Thayne and Julie McCulloh.

Where: Thursday, Apr 10, 2025 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

When: McCarthy Athletic Center, Gonzaga University



Student Choreography Showcase

About: Enjoy the variety of work presented by the Student Choreography Class of Spring 2025, Boundless Dance Classes, and more. This concert is sure to impress as students showcase creativity, vision, and leadership through completed dance works performed by students.

Where: Friday, April 11 & Saturday, April 12 7:00 PM

When: Magnuson Theater



GU Music Department Gala

About: Concert will include large and small ensembles including the Gonzaga Choirs, Gonzaga Wind Ensemble, Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra, and the Gonzaga Jazz Ensembles.

Where: Saturday, Apr 12, 2025 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

When: Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Active Hope for a Livable Future: Divesting from Fossil Fuels

About: Hurricanes ramping from a Category 1 to 5 in mere hours, heat waves scorching our crops and people, flooding displacing millions of people each year, forest fires ripping through our beloved land at increasing heat and speed; we can see how, as Pope Francis wrote, The world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. (Laudate Deum, 2). As Gonzaga educates students to be leaders in service for the common good and to give glory to God, we are called to reflect upon the ways in which we are investing in the sustainability or collapse of this world in which we are inviting them to lead.

Where: Tuesday, Apr 15, 2025 6:00 PM

When: Hemmingson Auditorium, Gonzaga University and livestreaming online

Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Rob Carney

About: Rob Carney is the author of seven books of poems, including *The Book of Sharks* (Black Lawrence Press, 2018), which won the 15 BYTES Book Award for Poetry in 2019. Two more books are forthcoming in 2021: *Call and Response* (Black Lawrence Press), a collection of new poems, and *Accidental Gardens* (Stormbird Press), a collection of 42 flash essays about the environment, politics, and poetics. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Carney earned a PhD in 1997 from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette then came to Utah to work at Utah Valley University (still called UVSC back in those days). In 2014 he received the Robinson Jeffers/Tor House Foundation Award for Poetry.

Where: Wednesday, Apr 16, 2025 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

When: College Common (Humanities Building Rm. 153)

Graduating in the Age of Trump

About: On the fourth anniversary of the creation of the Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment, the Director, Director Henning, will discuss the challenge of pursuing climate action in a time of intense social, political, and ecological turmoil. Drawing on his background as an ethicist, Dr. Henning will ask what this moment requires of us.

Where: Tuesday, Apr 22, 2025 6:00 PM

When: Hemmingson Auditorium, Gonzaga University and livestreaming online

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Honors Research Showcase

About: The Gonzaga Honors Program presents the third annual Honors Senior Research Showcase! As part of their Honors Degree requirements, Honors students must complete an interdisciplinary research project. The students this year have taken seriously the charge to connect the expertise they have gotten from their majors with their values, future ambitions, and commitment to social justice. Please consider joining us, whether for two minutes or two hours, to learn more about these projects and to celebrate the significant work and accomplishment of our students and their faculty mentors!

Drinks and light appetizers will be served. No RSVP Required! This event is free and open to the public - bring a friend!

Where: Friday, Apr 25, 2025 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

When: Bollier Center 2nd Floor



Annual Spring Dance Concert Celebrating the First 25 years of Gonzaga Dance

About: The Spring Dance Concert will feature works choreographed by Gonzaga Dance faculty and set on current students in the program. Works will cross all genres including ballet, modern, jazz, tap, and pop culture.

Where: Saturday, Apr 26, 2025 7:30 PM

When: Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, Coughlin Theatre



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

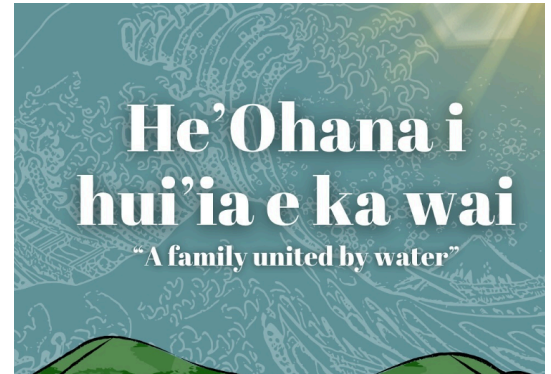
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

He'Ohana i hui'ia e ka wai: "A family united by water"

About: HPIC's annual Lū'au is an opportunity for our club to share our Pacific Islander cultures with the greater Gonzaga community.

Where: Saturday, Apr 26, 2025 5:30pm

When: Hemmingson Ballroom



Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra Featuring Piano Soloist, Yoon-Wha Roh

About: This program features Semiramide Overture, Poet & Peasant Overture, Prelude to Die Meistersinger, and Piano Concerto No. 2

Where: Monday, Apr 28, 2025 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

When: Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, Coughlin Theatre

Cost: \$5.00 - \$24.00

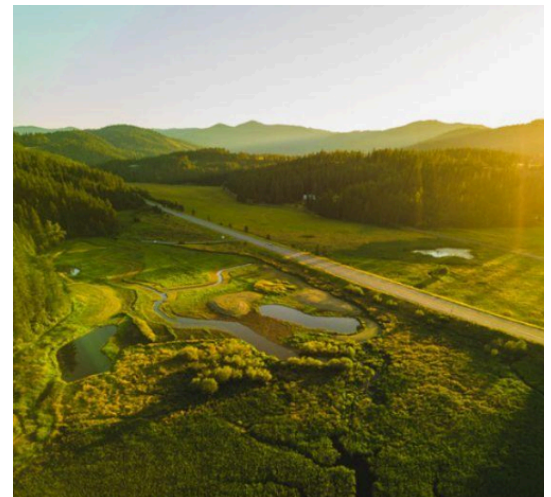


Wind Ensemble Concert, The Earth Awakens

About: Featuring the World Premiere of Inland Viewscape by Michael Kropf. The concert will also include music from composers Gustav Mahler, Percy Grainger, and Joseph Wilcox Jenkins and will feature soprano soloist, Nicole Sonbert. All proceeds from the concert will be donated to local non-profit, the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy.

Where: Monday, Apr 28, 2025 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

When: Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Spokane Events

Northwest Improv Fest 2025

About: The Northwest Improv Fest features comedy shows from both local and visiting troupes, workshops led by seasoned performers and teachers, and opportunities for the Spokane community to connect, learn, and grow together. Whether you are an improv enthusiast or just looking for several nights of fun and laughter, this festival is for you. Join us and experience improv like you have never experienced it before.

Where: Friday, April 4 & Saturday, April 5 2025 at 6:00 PM

When: The Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W Sprague Ave



Pops 5: Pink Martini featuring China Forbes: 30th Anniversary Tour

About: Pink Martini is back! Drawing musical inspiration from around the world, Pink Martini, the self-described "little orchestra," reunites with "big orchestra" Spokane Symphony to perform its cosmopolitan world music spanning jazz to cabaret to retro pop in over 25 languages.

Where: April 5, 2025 7:30 pm, April 6, 2025 3:00 pm

When: The Fox, 1001 W Sprague Ave



Spokane Community Business Network

About: A dedicated space for local businesses and professionals across Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Our aim is to foster a supportive environment where everyone can expand their networks and bolster each other's endeavors. Join us as we cultivate lasting connections and empower one another on our journey to prosperity.

Where: Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:30am - 2pm

When: Morty's Tap & Grille, 5517 South Regal Street



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Chamber Soirée at The Davenport

About: Chamber music concerts offer a unique and personal way to connect with music. Often referred to as “the music of friends,” these performances invite audience members into a musical dialogue between instruments - a conversation where ideas and emotions are exchanged, much like friends sharing thoughts. Set in the opulent but intimate Davenport Historic Hotel's Marie Antoinette.

Where: April 16 & 17, 2025 7:30pm

When: The Historic Davenport, 10 S Post St, Spokane



Candlelight: The Best of Hans Zimmer

About: Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Spokane. Get your tickets now to discover the music of Hans Zimmer at Riverside Place under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Where: Fri, April 18, 2025 6:30 PM

When: Riverside Place, 1110 W Riverside Ave

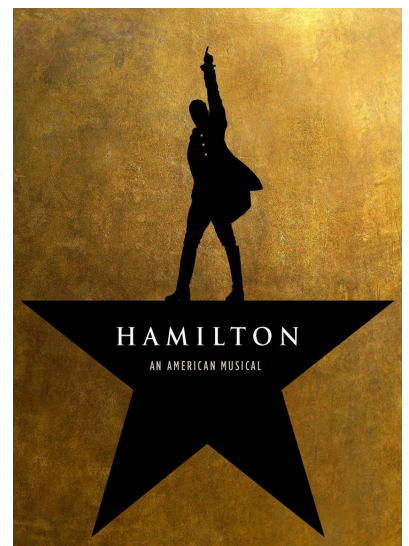


Hamilton - Touring

About: *Hamilton* is the epic saga that follows the rise of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton as he fights for honor, love, and a legacy that would shape the course of a nation. Based on Ron Chernow's acclaimed biography and set to a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B, and Broadway. *Hamilton* features book, music, and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, direction by Thomas Kail, choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, and musical supervision and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire.

Where: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 - Sunday, April 20, 2025

When: First Interstate Center for the Arts



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Easter Brunch at Spokane Pavilion

About: Join the fun at Riverfront Park's Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch with the Easter Bunny! Celebrate the Saturday before Easter with a festive brunch at the Spokane Pavilion and a free Easter Egg Hunt in Riverfront Park. Capture special moments with the Easter Bunny, enjoy a delicious meal, and make lasting memories with family and friends!

Where: Saturday April 26, 2025 7:00pm

When: First Interstate Center for the Arts



Swan Lake

About: Swan Lake is a ballet masterpiece that tells the story of a prince who falls in love with a beautiful swan princess under a spell. The ballet is renowned for its stunning choreography, intricate set design, and Tchaikovsky's captivating music. Its themes of love, sacrifice, and redemption continue to resonate with audiences of all ages and backgrounds, making it a timeless classic that has endured for more than a century.

Where: Saturday April 26, 2025 7:00pm

When: First Interstate Center for the Arts



National Women's Expo

About: The National Women's Expo, a two-day event, will be held at the Spokane Fair & Expo Center on April 26th and 27th, offering a variety of exhibits, interactive booths, and resources focused on women's interests, including fashion, beauty, and self-care.

Where: April 26th and 27th, 2025 10:00 AM

When: Spokane Fair & Expo Center, 404 N Havana St





OFFICE OF **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

Thanks for reading this month's Diversity Digest!

[Click Here to Subscribe!](#)



Follow us on Instagram: @gonzagadiversity
Questions? Comments? Have an idea for an article?
Email us at inclusiveexcellence@gonzaga.edu

EDITORIAL BOARD

Ashlinn Aguayo
Alexis Ewing
Maricia Garcia
Erick Hernandez
Robin Kelley, Ph.D.
Trieu Khanh Vy Nguyen
Reese Ramey
Meghan Ridgely