Scott Morris (’80, M.A.) made his career making power for others. And he and his wife Liz (’90 continuing to power the potential of Gonzaga’s undergraduate students with a generous gift to the College of Arts and Sciences to sustain the Morris Undergraduate Research Fellowship as part of a larger total commitment to the University. Their gift celebrates the inspired work of Gonzaga’s faculty, staff, students, alumni and community, and reinforces the University’s commitment to undergraduate research.

This fellowship was established in 2007 by the Morris to support undergraduate research in the humanities, fine arts and social sciences, with faculty mentors through the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry. This fellowship is unique in that it is driven entirely by student interests.

“Liz and I have been so inspired by what we’ve already seen the Morris fellows accomplish,” Scott Morris shared. “We are honored to further the program through this gift.”

For example, Mitch Davy (’17), a Music Composition & Pre-Med major, did research on “Dancing in Harmony: A Documentation of the Traditions and Practices of Choral Music in Zambia” and Analee Scott (’18), Sociology, studied “Investigating Multilingual Theory and Practice in Spokane Public Schools.”

“We are so grateful for the opportunity to help ignite these passions; that take students into the next stage,” said Liz. The Morris have already seen the research done by Morris Fellows spark an interest that carries into graduate study and/or alumni volunteer experiences.

These two Zags met at GU, nurtured their values here, and, for 32 years, have given back to the University furthering the ideals of respecting individuals’ dignity and a commitment to service for others.

Scott, former chair of GU’s Board of Trustees, recently retired as president and CEO of Avista Corporation, began his career as an assistant chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, is a retired speech pathologist. Both remain active in the community.

This marks the first year where all traditional undergraduate students have been a part of the new Core Curriculum. Reviews have been good, and Core Director Molly Kretchmar-Hendricks is now partnering with three recently appointed Core Fellows: Biology’s Erik Schmidt, Ellen Maccarone and Brook Swanson to concentrate on First-Year Seminar (FYS), Philosophy’s Erik Schmidt to focus on Core Integration Seminar (CIS), and Philosophy’s Ellen Maccarone to help integrate mission within the Core.

“When we designed the new core, we envisioned the FYS and CIS as ‘bookends’ of a robust Core experience for students. Faculty members have embraced these courses with enthusiasm, crafting interesting and engaging courses in each era,” says Kretchmar-Hendricks. “Now that we have moved through much of the course development, Brook and Erik will work with FYS and CIS colleagues on ongoing faculty and course development and assessment. Ellen will collaborate with both Brook and Erik, as well as with the Mission and Ministry office, to develop and curate resources to support mission-related teaching and learning in both the FYS and CIS.”

Swanson’s approach includes three major initiatives: 1. Develop a workshop to encourage and support more cross-disciplinary collaboration, including efforts to involve staff and community members; 2. Promote “intense engagement” by bringing in one core-related book to FYS instructors about truly challenging students to step outside their normal comfort zones, asking the teachers to do the same; 3. Develop a deeper integration of FYS across academic and student life, leveraging the rich expertise and experience we have on this campus.

Schmidt also proposes three major tenets to his work with the CIS: 1. Appoint a subset of current CIS instructors to meet each fall to review assessment materials and identify improvements that could be made, both in academic presentation and in student experience; 2. Stage a spring retreat for current instructors to talk about what went well and what could be improved in the first year; 3. Develop the online resources and question-and-answer sessions each semester for the benefit of faculty who might teach a future section. Schmidt says, “I want to collect and provide resources – both material and communal – for those teaching in the Core who desire to know how to use more of our Jesuit heritage in their teaching.”

That includes a spring workshop focused on building mission-related outcomes for their courses.
One of the University values shared with Gonzaga faculty and staff in a Nov. 21 memo from the president’s cabinet is “a shared responsibility for faculty, staff, and leadership, which grew out of the University’s Mission Priority Examen last year.”

Fr. Bob Nitsch, S.J., provincial assistant for higher education for U.S. Jesuits, during a Nov. 21 meeting with groups about mission formation, and how we see that come into play.

He sought, and received, feedback from various constituents. During a meeting with key Mission & Ministry campus leaders, he suggested conditions for the future of Gonzaga. Some of those conditions:

- Gonzaga has changed dramatically in the last 20 years, with priorities. So the question is if mission formation is really aligned with the mission as we move forward.
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One of the University values shared with Gonzaga faculty and staff in a Nov. 21 memo from the president’s Cabinet is “a sharp sense of the purpose and identity, and the leaders who grew out of the University’s Mission Priority Examen last year.”

Fr. Bob Niehoff, SJ, provincial assistant for higher education for University of the Sacred Heart in St. Louis, said in November how groups with mission formation, and how we see that in the world.

He sought, received, and evaluated from various constituents. During a meeting with key Mission & Ministry campus collaborators earlier this fall, the project was shared.

• Gonzaga has changed dramatically in the last 20 years, with fewer Jesuits to lead our mission efforts.

• The University, said Niehoff, “is not as well situated as the Jesuits to adequately realize how lay people can help carry the mission forward.”

• We need to have a campus-wide understanding of those things that distinguish Gonzaga from other Catholic institutions.

• We need to have a group that can better incorporate mission into their courses.

Niehoff greatly appreciated the feedback, and said, “Our Jesuits need instruction on how to be great collaborators and cheerleaders to help them inform our lay partners. That’s something we will work on.”

One of the group brainstormed suggestions to help in our journey to best articulate the mission ideals in our work.

“We need Jesuits to help us understand how we can be more articulate with our help to them,” said Niehoff. “It is valuable. I love hearing the stories of their journeys. And having role models to share their stories is one we have been told.

Tom Chester, associate vice president for Human Resources, said that Vatican II empowered the Pope of God to be and lead the Church, “with a new understanding of the changes of the Society of Jesus so we can authentically continue the Jesuit mission at Gonzaga. He recognized offering members of a Jesuit, and a leadership classroom that a Jesuit to walk students, faculty and staff through the Jesuit lay connection, that is important as we move forward.

Purvinage suggested using the Fall and Spring Faculty Centers and the Staff Office Open Houses to help our employees become better informed about our mission and its impact on the world.

Flannery Cannon for Catholic Studies, John Shevold suggested using our mission leaders help to inform the Faculty. “We want to help our students, faculty, and staff on how they can better incorporate mission into their courses.”

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Scott Morris (’80, ’89 M.A.) made his career making power for others. And he and his wife Liz (’80) continue to power the potential of Gonzaga’s undergraduate students with a generous gift to the College of Arts and Sciences to sustain the Morris Undergraduate Research Fellowship as part of a larger total commitment to the University. Their gift celebrates the inspired work of Gonzaga’s faculty, staff, students, alumni and community, and reinforces the University’s commitment to undergraduate research.

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“We are so grateful for the opportunity to help ignite these passions that take students into the next stage,” said Liz. The Morrises have already seen the research done by Morris Fellows spark an interest that carries into graduate study and/or alumni volunteer experiences. These two Zags met at GU, nurtured their values and a new upper division course in immunology. Scilla Grant is unique in that it is driven entirely by student interest. Scott, former chair of GU’s Board of Trustees, recently retired as president and CEO of Avista Corporation, become an advisor as director of the Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, is a retired speech pathologist. Both remain active in the community.

Scott and Liz Morris continue to give students realize and further their passions.

IN STUDENTS

POWERING THE POTENTIAL IN STUDENTS

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“This new position is symbolic in that it demonstrates the significant ways the two universities continue to strengthen and evolve our shared work,” says the College of Arts and Sciences to sustain the Morris Undergraduate Research Fellowship.

When President Thayne McCullough selected author and women’s suffrage expert Sally Rocke Wagner to visit campus as part of our 19thth Century: Coverage of the movement’s centennial, no one could have known the ways our guest would connect with regional and national headlines.

Wagner’s address on campus took place just one day after the Coeur d’Alene Library’s story of hidden books headlined in the New York Times (“Woodland in the Library, Nov. 18). Her anthology, “The Women’s Suffrage Movement” was one of several books that staff at the library began finding hidden in obscure places, following a statement by an unknown patron: “I know she was a suffragist so I left a book for her to find.”

Considering Wagner’s favorite influencer in the suffrage movement - Matilda Joslyn Gage - also authored a book deemed “dangerous,” Wagner felt she was in good company.

Gage is a central part of the story Wagner tells when she speaks with audiences like the one gathered at Gonzaga in November. Gage has historically been in the shadows of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cody Stanton as leaders of the suffrage movement, but it was Gage who sought for equality beyond the confines of gender. She recognized the unique impact of women in Native American tribes long before the European settlers arrived, and also spoke boldly about the treatment of African Americans.

Those themes are strong in Wagner’s message, as well. “The reason I have dedicated my life to her story and bringing it into the world is that her vision was transformational,” Wagner says, “Gage said, ‘There will be no peace in this country until there is absolute equality for each group - men and women, black and white, immigrant and native, rich and poor.’ It’s a vision worth bringing forth today.”

Wagner adds. “Kate Vansleke”

>> Event coordinator Angela Ruff arranged to drive Wagner to the Coeur d’Alene Library to offer an additional copy of “The Women’s Suffrage Movement” and to keep a note for the patron hiding books. Listen in on this informal interview native book on that find. This story from https://gonzaga.edu/womenvote.

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Xmas and Holiday Cheer at Gonzaga

Christmas and Holiday Cheer at Gonzaga

Crosby House
Dec. 7, 4 p.m., Crosby House
Prime cook comfort and hot cider. The house is decorated for Christmas.

The Advocate for Bing Crosby invite the campus community to drop in.

Advent Mass and Photos with Santa and Spike
Dec. 8, 10 a.m., Mass, University Chapel
Green Christmas tree, wings, magic tree, desserts, (Gluwein and Egg Nog (sold and unlocked)

Military Science’s chance to say “Thank You” to the greater University community for everything they do to support ROCF cadets.

12019

President’s Christmas Party
Dec. 15, Davenport Grand Hotel
6-8 p.m., Social Dinner Buffet, holiday photos, raffle prizes, donations collected for Giving Back Packs

8:30-10 p.m., DJ & dance, those not dancing are invited to stay and mingle

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FROM THE EDITOR

— Ellen Maccaroni

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GONZAGA FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER

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GONZAGA UNIVERSITY