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“Many people reached out to me during the break with thoughts and reactions to this situation. I want you to know and understand, and although some of it is difficult to hear, I appreciate hearing from you,” McCulloch said.

The Catholic Church continues to face much turmoil. “What does a Catholic university like ours have to teach, to discover and to share with the larger church about exploitation of power, the role and responsibility of privilege, the devastation of betrayal, and the paths to reconciliation?” he asked.

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A woodland walk, listening for the sounds of birds, is a secret joy of author and documentary filmmaker Deena Gonzales’ childhood. The experience inspired Gonzales’s new book on women’s health and fitness, “Reaching Out.”

Gonzales recently met with students and faculty in her former campus community, Gonzaga University. The professor’s book, “Reaching Out,” is about how to help people with disabilities. She says the book is aimed at helping readers understand that people with disabilities are more than just a diagnosis, they are human beings who can contribute to society.

Gonzales talked about how she became involved in the field of women’s health and fitness, and how she came up with the idea for her book. She also shared some tips on how to get started in the field, including finding a mentor and volunteering.

Gonzales is a passionate advocate for people with disabilities. She says she wants to help break down barriers and make the world a more inclusive place.

Gonzales says she hopes her book will inspire others to pursue a career in women’s health and fitness.

“I want to encourage people to think about what they want to do with their lives and then take the steps necessary to achieve those goals,” she says. “I hope my book will inspire others to pursue a career in women’s health and fitness.”

Four Dean Searches in Home Stretch

Interim Provost/Senior Vice President Beth Martin reports all dean searches are on track in the schools of Education, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Leadership Studies, and Nursing and Human Physiology.

Search consultants Academic Search will soon meet with each search committee to aid in the selection of the semifinalists for their positions. In early February, each search committee member will receive applicant materials for review.

The College of Arts and Sciences has set a goal of having five new faculty members on campus by Fall 2023. The college is exploring ways to attract and retain top talent.

The recruitment process for the new dean of the School of Nursing and Human Physiology is ongoing. The search committee is currently reviewing applications and interviewing candidates.

New Hires

Silvia Madrid Jaramillo, lecturer, Math; Dylan Sweeney, analyst, Institutional Research; Rita Clark, works in the office of the Academic Registrar; Michael Taylor, clerk, Mail Services; Mikula Pesho, program analyst, Financial Services; Andrew Bartsch, IT; Sasa Galić, admissions specialist, Virtual Campus; Henry Vlahos, financial aid specialist; Virtual Campus; Kelley Mercantel, benefits specialist, Personnel; Preveen Srivastava, program analyst, Records; Lauren Hahn, services coordinator, Registrar; Daniel Meyer, HR assistant, Human Resources; Gaby Zanjakov, digital communications specialist, University Communications Development; Jillian Labelle, lecturer, Accounting; Lisa Pratt, director of Academic Affairs; Robert Gift, student services coordinator, Registrar; S. Clark, administrative assistant, HR; S. Clark, administrative assistant, CA.

New Positions/Promotions

Jennica Paraiso, director, Health Promotion; Nicole Mannetter, director, Career Services; Stephen Schwartz, director, Essentials, Financial Services; Sandra Vance, director, Counseling Office; Janice Gay, student life coordinator, Student Affairs.

Goodbyes

Frank Case, associate dean, School of Law; Patrick Deneen, dean of the School of Law; Kathleen Maureen O’Connell, dean of the School of Education; Deena Gonzalez, dean of the School of Education.

Post-Search Vice President Deena Gonzalez

The University has a new post-search vice president, Deena Gonzalez. She will begin her new role on March 1, 2023.

Gonzalez has been a leader in the University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, where she has worked for over a decade.

She is a well-respected community leader and has served on numerous boards and committees.

Gonzalez says she is looking forward to working with the University’s administration and faculty to improve the University’s diversity and inclusion efforts.

She says she is excited to be part of the University’s future and to continue to work towards creating a more inclusive and welcoming campus for all.

Gonzalez says she is committed to building a strong and diverse community that values diversity and inclusion.

She says she is excited to work with the University’s leaders to ensure that all students, faculty, and staff feel welcome and respected.

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Following a year of gathering cross-campus input, Mission Exam Center Core Team sends Gonzaga report to peer review committee.

After reviewing reports from nearly 40 areas/groups, the Mission Exam Center Core Committee integrated the cumulative feedback and prepared a draft self-study report according to guidelines set by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). The committee shared this draft with the Gonzaga community in a memo on Feb 13, along with a survey link for staff, faculty and students to provide feedback. Primary aspirations identified in the report include expanded mission engagement, continued work on diversity, equity and cultural fluency, and clarifying institutional work values, among others.

As you may be aware, shortly after the draft was released, Gonzaga was included in national news about an investigative report covering sexual abuse by Jesuits, and that some with credible allegations of abuse of minors once lived in Cardinal Bea House. This experience engendered a variety of responses and questions in the community, including concern about the meaning and future of our Mission Jessuitica.

Our Core Committee will be working with senior leadership to acknowledge the significance of this experience in our self-study report, says Michelle Wheatley, acting director for Mission and Ministry.

Much of the report will remain unchanged, she says, as it represents and highlights Gonzaga’s unique mission and contributions to mission and community. However, modifications will be included in the Executive Summary, the Process Overview, and the professional section called “Jesuit Presence.”

“This is a really important moment in the life of our University,” says Wheatley. “What I encountered in this process was how profoundly many of us are inspired by Gonzaga’s Jesuit heritage. Our Ignatian business invites us to bring our capacities for education, discernment and love into this very experience. I remain confident that, as a learning community, we can advance our mission through collaboration, empowerment and creativity.”

On Jan. 24, Gonzaga’s Mission Priority Exam report (a 50-page document covering seven standard categories for all participating schools, plus additional characteristics unique to GU’s process) was submitted to a peer review committee. The four members of that team are leaders from Creighton, Fairmont State, and University of Notre Dame, as well as the founder of the Center for Excellence in Mission and Ministry.

Administrative leaders have been actively discerning responses to the themes and feedback provided through the exercise of our mission process. The next step is to identify mission practices, To stay true to our mission hues about this stage of the Exam process.

Peer Review Team Open Session

An open session with peer reviewers is scheduled for Feb. 25, 1–2 p.m., in the Hemmingson Auditorium. Peer reviewers have requested specific mission practices to consider, with various groups, as well.

New Hires

Silvia Madrid Jaramillo, lecturer, Math; Dylan Sweeney, analyst, Institutional Research; Tina Clark, Work Study, student worker; Michael Taylor, clerk, Mail Services; Mikula Presho, program assistant, Financial Services; Amber Jones, administrative asst II, Registrar’s; Janae Streams, administrative asst III, Law Dean’s Office; and Heather Smith, administrative asst III, Library.

DEFEEA GONZALEZ

Deinea Gonzales was appointed Gonzaga’s first permanent provost and executive vice president. The announcement is an opportunity for Gonzaga to move forward in its search for a new president. The provost role is an opportunity for the university to ensure that the institution continues to be successful.

Daniel Meyer, the dean of Gonzaga’s College of Law, has been named interim provost and executive vice president. Gonzaga is a Jesuit institution and is located in Spokane, Washington.

Daniel Meyer has served as dean of Gonzaga’s College of Law since 2014. He previously served as interim dean and interim provost. In addition, he has served as associate dean of Gonzaga’s College of Business and Economics and as director of Gonzaga’s Center for Public Humanities. During his tenure at Gonzaga, he has been involved in a number of initiatives, including the creation of a new undergraduate degree program in public humanities, the development of digital humanities courses, and the creation of a new graduate program in digital humanities.

In his role as provost, Daniel Meyer will be responsible for overseeing academic affairs, including the development of new degree programs, the hiring of faculty, and the allocation of resources.

He will also be responsible for overseeing the university’s financial affairs, including the development of budget plans and the allocation of funds.

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Staff member at the University Core Curriculum, Deb Ellis, is a selfless adviser and confidante to students. In April, residents of Spokane's new Grace with Purpose apartments broke ground on a parking garage that will be part of the $55 million gift. The foundation of the garage was a gift to the University from Myrtle Woldson.

Ellis says the project will make a great difference to students, faculty, and staff, and is excited to see its completion. "It will be a much-needed addition to the campus, and will provide much-needed parking," she said.

Through her research and teaching collaborations, faculty members have been working to build bridges between disciplines, and to create a more inclusive learning environment. Ellis is involved in several initiatives, including the University Core Curriculum, which is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills, and to prepare them for success in their future careers.

The project is expected to be completed by 2021, and will provide much-needed parking to students, faculty, and staff. Ellis is excited to see the project's completion, and believes it will have a positive impact on the University's campus life. "It will be a great addition to the University," she said.

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