From Fort Worth to Spokane, Zags all the way

Camesha and Chad Little began a new life in Spokane in September 2017 when Camesha accepted an offer with Gonzaga School of Law. Chad is employed here now as well, as a building coordinator in the Hemmingson Center, while working on a post-baccalaureate degree in preparation for medical school.

The Littles both grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and met in high school. To this day, their parents still live five minutes from one another. Leaving family behind was a harder adjustment for them than facing the eastern Washington winters; Camesha loves our changing seasons.

She wasted no time immersing herself in Spokane community spaces. She helped with the Friends of the Black Lens fundraising efforts for the new Carl Maxey Center in the East Central Community. Continuing the work she enjoyed as a law student in Fort Worth, Camesha is co-chair for the Diversity Section of the Spokane County Bar Association, where her leadership is focused on growing community for attorneys of color, women, and members of the LGBTQ+ legal community.

Here at the Law School, Camesha is assistant dean of students and the director of the academic and bar exam support program. It’s a broad role that encompasses providing student services such as accommodations support, crisis/emergency resources, and oversight of student life organizations; in addition to bar exam and study skills coaching.

“Little did I know, this role was a perfect fit for me,” Camesha says. “I had practiced as an attorney for a short time and went into academic work. I was ready for advancement in my career, and my undergrad area of study was social work, which fits perfectly in this role.”

Camesha and Chad are big fans of college basketball. During the 2017 tournament run, back in Texas, Camesha was rooting for the Zags to win it all, and little did she know she would get to root for them in person during the very next season.

Here’s a hearty March Madness welcome to yet another Gonzaga employee couple.

WCC Tournament Format Changes; Zag Teams Won’t Play until Semifinals

Beginning with the 2019 WCC Basketball Tournament, March 7-12 in Las Vegas, the men’s and women’s championship format will change, whereby seeds 7-12 will compete in the opening round (Thursday), the winners meeting seeds 1-4 in the second round (Friday), those winners playing seeds 3-4 in the third round (Saturday), and those victors meeting the top two seeds in the semifinal round (Monday). The championship games are Tuesday.

Making Positive Change in U.S.

Mission: Possible is celebrating 20 years of serving others over spring break. March 9-16, 75 Gonzaga students, staff members Ally Clapp, So Yung Park, Jim Simon, Jeff Dodd, Darcey Phillips, Christina Thomas and Ben Goodwin, and assistant professor Kathy Nitta will work in community with local folks in New York, Knoxville, Montgomery, Chicago, San Francisco, Tacoma and Neah Bay, Wash. Simon reflects on a previous Mission Possible trip.

“Mission: Possible begins with a bus ride, usually very early in the morning. Groggy students arrive at Delmet circle from every direction. What we have in common is a commitment to scatter and serve through the Center for Community Engagement’s Mission: Possible trip.

“Our education and service work revolves around sustainability’s many forms. One day, you might find us clearing the invasive species French Broom from a former hillside quarry in the Marin Headlands and the next in the Mission District learning about the impact of gentrification on people of color.

“If sustainability is about the intersections of people, planet and prosperity, the trip explores all of these areas, making effortless connections between what is happening in the Bay Area and what could be done in the Inland Northwest about habitat restoration, waste reduction and climate change. Students have returned from the Mission: Possible trip to San Francisco and applied to the Student Green Fund to do projects related to what they learned on the trip.

“Mission: Possible is a fantastic opportunity for me, as a staff member, to be a co-educator in these student journeys. I often say that one week of Mission: Possible is like six months of meetings and relationship building back on campus. For weeks many of the trip participants go on to work or serve in sustainability related fields, and I have even hired a few of them to work as student assistants in my office.

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REMEMBERING THE START OF 20-YEAR ZAG TOURNAMENT RUN

It’s almost an afterthought among current Gonzaga fans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of that amazing run to the Elite Eight of the 1999 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament that ignited a streak of consecutive tournament appearances that now stretches into its third decade. But Spirit didn’t want to let the occasion pass without a reflection on those two weeks in March, 20 years ago, that remains as meaningful today as it was then to a Zag Nation that was only beginning to build at the end of the century.

My wife, Mary (’94), was a week away from delivering our second child, Brook (’21), and there was no way I could make the trip to Phoenix for the Regional NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament games, March 18-20. So we sat together in our family room with our almost-5-year-old, Ben (’16), and watched as Gonzaga defeated Florida on a most dramatic Casey Calvary trip, and advanced to the Elite Eight.

Monson, Mark Few and Bill Grier - the guys who had built that amazing team. With a huge lump in my throat, I drove to campus. It just seemed like that was the place to be. To my surprise, so did an estimated 1,500 other loving Gonzaga fans. We assembled in front of Crosby Center and the Bing statue, and streamered northbound down DeSmet alley to the east circle of the Administration Building (now College Hall). It was packed. News missed all 36 of Gonzaga’s TV stations, which had been scrambled out on our campus for the past week, were there to witness it all.

There was no program, no trumpets blaring or cheerleaders chanting. There was just “together.” The mayor, a county commissioner, judges, civic leaders, alumni, supporters, students, faculty and staff. All of us, in one spot, to share our great joy in this team. We must have milled around for more than an hour before the crowd started to dissipate, talking about the previous game, the missed shot by Quintin Hall and the next in the Mission District learning about the impact of gentrification on people of color.

We would lose by 5 to eventual national champion Connecticut in the semifinals, but the indelible mark the Zags left on Division 1 basketball that March has not worn thin in two decades. This year’s tournament will be 21 straight for the Bulldogs, fourth longest current streak of NCAA appearances behind a few teams you may have heard of. Kansas (39), Duke (35) and Michigan State (21).

I remember feeling so overwhelmed with pride that Saturday afternoon, despite the loss. Proud of each one of those student-athletes who had represented our beloved Gonzaga so well, and their coaches - Dan monson, Mark Few and Bill Grier - the guys who had built that amazing team. With a huge lump in my throat, I drove to campus. It just seemed like that was the place to be. To my surprise, so did an estimated 1,500 other loving Gonzaga fans. We assembled in front of Crosby Center and the Bing statue, and streamered northbound down DeSmet alley to the east circle of the Administration Building (now College Hall). It was packed. News missed all 36 of Gonzaga’s TV stations, which had been scrambled out on our campus for the past week, were there to witness it all.

Women Zags Continue to Roll

Quick Facts
Won 14 of last 15 WCC Titles
Won 8 WCC Tourney Titles
Been to 9 of last 10 NCAA Tournaments
First appearance 2007
4 times to the Sweet 16
1 time to the Elite Eight

VIEW ONLINE AT: www.gonzaga.edu/spirit
**Faculty Teaming with CPD to Help Students in Career Pursuits**

Gonzaga’s Career & Professional Development office is training faculty members to be “career kindlers,” equipped with the background and coaching tools to assist students in career planning.

The Faculty Career Kindler Program was piloted last year and has continued to expand. The program was designed by Gonzaga’s Career Development Division to help students determine the kind of work they need to do, how they best prepare for it, and how to start their post-college careers. The program is designed to help students develop the skills and understanding needed to navigate the career search process and to connect them with the resources they need. The Faculty Career Kindler Program is a collaborative effort between CPD and the Career Development Division.

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Faculty catering with CPD to help students in career pursuits

Gonzaga’s Career & Professional Development staff is training faculty members to be “career kindlers,” expanding the role of career coaching tools to assist students in career planning.

The Faculty Career Kinder Program was piloted last academic year as a collaborative effort between CPD staff, Gonzaga’s Honors Program, and the Career & Professional Development staff.

The program offers workshops to help faculty members continue their relationship with so many of our Honors students.

Now, if we can successfully convince the students that Gonzaga is a great living and learning space, the honor program should be our flagship.

Let’s continue to improve the programming for faculty who are teaching in a more inclusive way. students across our institution.

Among those is an emphasis on inclusive pedagogy and inclusive educational practices, as seeking enrichment in other areas,” says Dodd.

In the Jesuit tradition, a group on campus is leaning into the tension and engaging in a series of "Productive Discomfort" sessions. One remarkable statistic: About 90 percent of Gonzaga’s Honors Program members complete the program and graduate from the program last academic year.

One of the ways we can help our students is by providing them with a coherent, up-to-date, and in line with Gonzaga’s mission cultural and global environment than it was when the Honors Program began in 1958.

To the question, “How difficult is this?” Marty helped Ron learn the technique of ice climbing. Ron built a plywood wall in Ron’s backyard on which to practice. Because most ice climbs require parking for some time, Ron walked over to the cemetery for a month before his first climb, carrying a 25-pound backpack, which was not ideal. He also learned to use the ice tools, clothing, ice tools, climbing harness, crampons, ropes, ice screws, quickdraws, carabiners and a helmet.

Ron bad had such fun that he continued to climb near Canmore, Alberta, in January.

When the University’s overall consumption of natural gas has dropped by 27 percent, electric consumption grew by 25 percent, and overall emissions have decreased by implementing strategies to increase campus energy efficiency, Gonzaga was named

Faculty are trained during four, one-hour sessions – or one four-hour Saturday session – that flexibly fit into busy weekly schedules. They are introduced to functions and goals of CPD, how to incorporate career planning into their courses, and a review of career research and teaching. They are introduced to curricular support and teaching resources.

Molly Pepper, associate dean for undergraduate programs in the School of Business, completed the training and realized the benefits of the program by career coaching. One of the kindlers in the business school is providing students with career coaching.

The program has provided 50 students with alternative career opportunities at their own pace and rewards their participation in helping students achieve career outcomes, she says. Similar praise comes from Jonathan Rossing, Communications Department chair.

"While academic affairs and career development divisions can often operate in silos, this program intentionally brings together different academic and student support units in service of honoring both the student and the faculty member," he says. He even designed a new course for seniors titled "Crafting a Successful Future," a major program intending to give students the tools to tell their stories and compelling and persuasive about the skills, abilities and competencies they’ve developed across our curriculum.

To learn more about the Career Kinder Program, visit http://www.gonzaga.edu/career/kinder, or contact Mary Heitkemper at ext. 431.

I consider myself fairly athletic, I’ve always been outside, hiking, biking, kayaking, I just challenged myself, “Can you do this?”

Ron’s first question was, “Am I likely to fall?” Second question was, “How difficult is this?”

The program broadened Ron’s mind about his career. He expanded his career horizons.

Raising the money for the visit was easy, but the event, which started in 1989, has a life of its own. It’s the only fundraising event that Gonzaga has every coordinated that is not tied to a specific department.

Efforts to Reduce Energy Use, Emissions Recognized

Every donation to Zags Give Day on March 19 will be matched by a generous Gonzaga family.

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In a renewal of longstanding efforts, a core group of Gonzaga faculty (and staff) are engaging in ongoing conversations about teaching in a more inclusive way, says assistant professor Jeff Dodd, director of the Center for Teaching & Learning.

"We’re trying to identify areas where we can enhance the programming for faculty who are seeking enrichment in other areas,” says Dodd. "At this stage, it’s an emphasis on inclusive pedagogy and inclusive educational practices, as well as thinking more deeply about how issues relating to factors of identity influence classroom culture.

Dodd is facilitating the sessions along with Raymond Reyes, chief diversity officer. The group gathering monthly to discuss the importance of teaching in a more inclusive way, says assistant professor Jeff Dodd, director of the Center for Teaching & Learning.

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DICRA's “Icemans Cometh” campaign, which promotes sustainable transportation, has led to a 25 percent reduction in Gonzaga's greenhouse gas emissions since the campaign began four years ago. The reduction in emissions has been achieved through voluntary measures and innovative practices. Specifically, during the 2015-16 academic year, Gonzaga saw a 23 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, compared to the previous year. This reduction has been achieved through a variety of measures, including increased use of electric vehicles, more use of renewable energy sources, and more efficient use of energy in campus buildings. As a result of these efforts, Gonzaga has been recognized for its commitment to sustainability and has received several awards for its sustainability efforts.
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