

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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Anonymous Instagram account @zagsunmasked exposes students without masks

By MILA YOCH

An anonymous account on Instagram known as @zagsunmasked posted its first photo of two students walking on GU's campus on Aug. 28, one with a mask covering her nose, the other with her mask off the face and pulled under her chin, the caption written with the message "#ProtectOurZags" and a heart emoji.

Since then, this account has garnered 712 followers and has posted 16 photos of students without a mask and without context in the captions. All posts contain the hashtag "#ProtectOurZags."

The Gonzaga Bulletin reached out to the @zagsunmasked account on Sept. 3.

Since then @zagsunmasked have said "no comment," and suggested they feared for their safety.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, GU and Spokane have asked that the Spokane college community take proper COVID-19 protection measures, as mentioned in a letter from the Spokane Regional Health District, asking that students "take care of your own health, and those closest to you, by wearing face coverings."

GU has made an effort to implement COVID-19 mask wearing responsibility, distributing free masks to students and posting signs around campus, alerting

students that masks were mandatory while on campus.

Other U.S. universities have closed due to COVID-19, like University of North Carolina Chapel Hill that reversed its plan for in-person classes after 130 students tested positive for COVID-19.

Thus, there is a real fear in the Zag community of GU being shut down and students being sent home to conduct remote-only courses.

"When you don't wear a mask you put other students, parents, teachers and our community in the Logan [Neighborhood] in danger. #ProtectOurZags," said the account in their saved Instagram story

titled "Why?"

The community response has been less than positive, including from those who were featured on the account, like senior Carsyn Kniss.

In the photo Kniss is featured in, she was crossing Sharp Avenue from campus with her four roommates.

"Two of us took down our masks for just maybe 30 seconds, because there was no one near us and it was a very hot day," Kniss said. "We had just finished walking for over an hour around campus with our masks on, and we just quickly caught our breath, which is when the photo was

SEE UNMASKED PAGE 2

GU works to virtualize mental health services

By SOFIA CHAVEZ

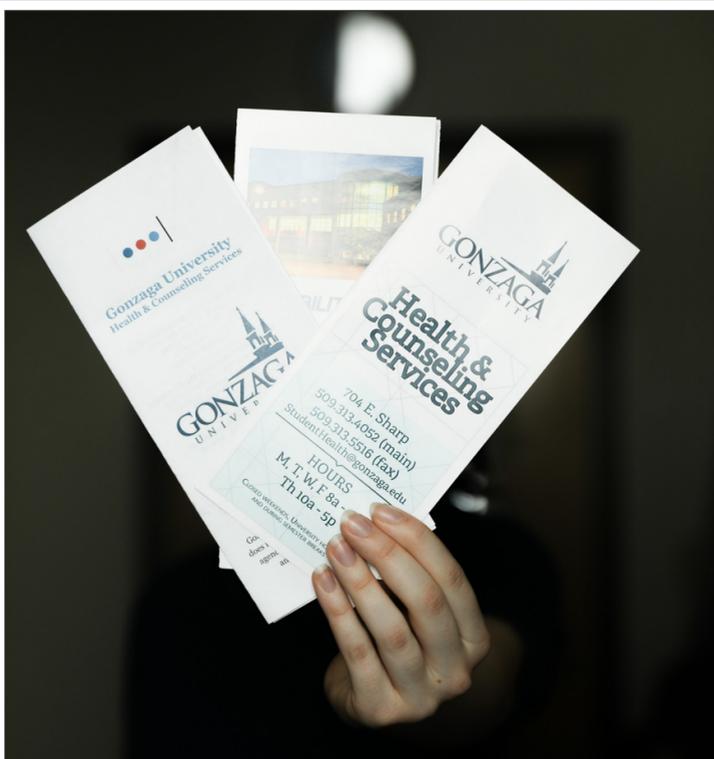
Nearly a week after move-in, Gonzaga students are busy adjusting back into college life after months of pandemic-induced isolation. Meanwhile, members of the GU staff are also facing a daunting task: altering university resources to function in a virtual world.

GU's Health & Counseling Services is one of the main campus resources for students seeking mental health support, receiving over 600 psychiatric visits in 2019. But since counseling necessitates contact, members of the counseling team have been forced to innovate in order to best serve students in the context of a pandemic.

"COVID-19 has definitely changed the landscape for counseling at Gonzaga University," Kristiana Holmes, the director of Health & Counseling Services at GU said.

While the approach to student counseling has not changed, the format of sessions and appointments has.

Holmes said that counseling services are currently being offered through Zoom, though students undergoing crisis situations are able to interact with a counselor in person. In person sessions may also be an option for students whose specific circumstances cannot be accurately dealt with in a



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

In the midst of experiencing a staff change, Health & Counseling Services is transitioning mental health support to online formats.

virtual space.

But the transition has not been easy. "Counselors have had to learn how to engage in tele-mental health visits in a short period of time," Holmes said.

Adding to the pressure, this shift is also occurring in the midst of a crucial staff change, with the board-certified GU psychiatrist resigning, in good terms, following the end of the summer semester.

Holmes said that efforts are being made to fill this position and that there

are various structures of support in place to provide psychiatric care and medication management.

One of those measures is the GU partnership with Psychiatric Residency Spokane and other community partners.

Fortunately, in spite of many curveballs thrown at Holmes and her team, counseling staff and students alike have reported that virtual sessions have

SEE SERVICES PAGE 2

On-campus in isolation: Spaces for COVID-19

By DEVAN IYOMASA

In the event a student living on-campus tests positive for COVID-19, Gonzaga has repurposed two of its residence halls to serve as isolation units capable of housing up to 75 students.

According to Taylor Jordan, GU's COVID-19 coordinator, there are 43 beds available in Roncalli House and 32 beds available in the Sharp Apartments.

On-campus students who test positive for COVID-19 will be housed in Roncalli House, whereas students who are awaiting test results and unable to self-isolate while exhibiting symptoms will be housed in the Sharp Apartments.

"We use two separate places to avoid exposures to students who are symptomatic but not confirmed positive, from students who are confirmed to have COVID-19," Jordan said via email. "They may have the flu, or some other illness, and we do not want these students to be exposed to COVID-19 while they wait for their results."

Students who test positive will be required to stay in their isolation unit for at least 10 days after the onset of their symptoms or positive test result if asymptomatic and can be released after being fever free for 24 hours.

Each unit is a single-occupancy room and has two sets of linens and a microwave for students' use.

Meals will be delivered to students once a day, which will include their lunch, dinner and breakfast for the next day. Students will communicate with a Sodexo dietitian who arranges their individualized

SEE ISOLATE PAGE 2

Diversity, Inclusion, Community, & Equity (DICE) active BLM programs

BLACK LIVES MATTER

#SayTheirName

Exhibit on Herak Lawn

Wed Sept. 9 - Wed Sept. 16

In memoriam of the unarmed Black people who have died as a result of police brutality.

Sept. 15

Black Lives Matter & The Catholic Church with Olga Segura

In this program hosted by the Unity Multicultural Education Center (UMEC), in collaboration with the Office of Mission and Ministry, students will converse with Olga Segura on the role of the Catholic Church in the fight against racism.

Sept. 29

John Lewis: Get in the Way

A viewing and discussion of this documentary of John Lewis, a civil rights advocate and congressman.

Oct. 5

Talk About It Monday: It's Not About Good Cops vs. Bad Cops

A look into why the "good cop vs. bad cop" argument fails to address systemic problems with policing in America.

Oct. 23

Calling in the Calling Out Culture with Loretta Ross

Author and human rights leader Loretta Ross discusses how we can create a calling in culture instead of a calling out culture. This is a joint program between the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center and UMEC.

For more information on how to register for each program and for the full DICE calendar, visit <https://tinyurl.com/DICEcalendar>. Each event is also listed on Zagactivities.

PROGRAMS CALENDAR BY MELINA BENJAMIN

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