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BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

President Thayne McCulloh and those in Friday's meeting emphasized the importance of hearing student feedback on commencement.

Remaining campuswide events canceled

By ASHER ALI

With an abrupt end to on-campus life for the remainder of the spring semester comes the realization for many Zags the previously scheduled events may not be taking place as anticipated.

With an email sent to club presidents and on-campus organizations early last week, GUEST services confirmed no events are to take place on campus throughout the duration of the semester.

That means organizations, which had previously planned for months in preparation for their event, will not get to see the final result come to fruition — at least not in the way they may have originally envisioned.

Eight days after the student body learned the remainder of the semester would take place online in some capacity, on-campus organizations found out from the university that all previously scheduled events were not going to take place on campus. Doing so would contradict advice given by multiple government bodies that advises against holding gatherings of 10 or more persons in a single area.

"The GU Emergency Response Team has been hard at work for many weeks now preparing, monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Rebecca Biddison, Gonzaga Experience Live (GEL) coordinator. "They have continued to release guidance to students, staff and faculty that's informed by the WHO (World Health Organization), CDC, Gov. [Jay] Inslee and the Spokane Regional Health District."

GEL, Gonzaga's annual admitted student weekend, scheduled for April 18 and 19, will not be moving forward in its traditional fashion.

The GEL team sent an email to participating students and families March 17, which informed them the nearly 30-year tradition would be canceled. Instead, the organization offered a set of links aimed at getting prospective students better acquainted with GU, despite the inability to physically be on campus.

"In the absence of GEL, we will

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Administration weighs options for 2020 commencement ceremony

By GINGER MONROE

Last week, Zags were feeling anxious about the prospects of commencement 2020.

Not knowing if graduating seniors will be able to experience commencement is the worst kind of cliff hanger, senior Alyssa Groscoast said.

However, Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh tweeted a photo on Friday afternoon which might reassure some students.

"It's Friday, and Zag 2020 Commencement planning is underway... 6' apart! @GonzagaU #TheTasselsWillTurn #UnitedWeZag," McCulloh said.

McCulloh also responded on Twitter to last week's *Bulletin* article "Gone too soon: Gonzaga seniors discuss early departure concerns," pointing students back to his tweet about the Friday meeting, again using the hashtags #TheTasselsWillTurn and #UnitedWeZag.

The question that remains is: Will tassels be turning in person or over a Zoom conference call?

Manager of Academic Events Angela Ruff, who

attended Friday's meeting, said it was focused on brainstorming options for commencement, keeping in mind that GU hosts three commencements every spring: undergraduate, graduate and the School of Law.

The goal of the meeting was to figure out what options the students would prefer, Ruff said.

Ruff sent a survey to each of the graduating bodies Wednesday afternoon titled "Tassels Will Turn 2020" to discern what it is student's actually want.

The survey explored whether or not students are interested in a virtual commencement, or if they would prefer a delayed live ceremony.

"It is our goal to find a way of recognizing [graduates'] incredible accomplishment and helping [them] share in celebration with [their] family and friends," reads the survey introduction.

The short survey had four questions. Along with gauging students' interest levels in a virtual commencement or delayed live ceremony, it paid special attention to each

graduating body.

Students were also asked to list what they thought the three most exciting aspects of graduation would be.

The final question gave students the space to share any additional thoughts or concerns in regards to commencement.

Both Ruff and the survey introduction indicated that a virtual commencement could be put together in time for commencement to happen on the scheduled dates of May 8-10.

The options for a delayed live ceremony include Sept. 5-6 or sometime later in the fall.

The attendees of the Friday meeting were all focused on minimizing the disappointment many Zags are feeling regarding commencement.

"For Gonzaga, the value of doing [commencement] together, in as personal of a way as we possibly can, is a big driver about how we behave, as a community, as a workplace, as an educational institution," Ruff said.

Following in the Jesuit tradition of discernment, GU has tracked commencement 2020

decisions made by other Jesuit universities across the nation.

Updates can be found on the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities website: ajcunet.edu/coronavirus.

Creighton University is the only Jesuit institution to have officially canceled its commencement this year.

There are no virtual commencements scheduled, and 13 universities, such as Georgetown University, Fairfield University and Regis University, are planning to hold commencement in the fall for 2020 graduates.

"We felt around the table last Friday that asking students is the most important step," Ruff said.

Ruff said she hoped that by sending out the survey, administration would receive a strong enough indicator to know what students want, allowing for an official announcement by Friday.

"We are going to celebrate somehow," Ruff said.

Ginger Monroe is a staff writer.

Women's History Month: Gonzaga alumnae paving the way



PHOTO COURTESY OF DELORES ALEXANDER
Delores Alexander, Boeing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOLLY HUNT
Dolly Hunt, elected county prosecutor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEANNADAVIS.NET
Deanna Davis, CEO of Applied Insight.

By MELINA BENJAMIN

March is celebrated worldwide as Women's History Month, honoring the achievements of women and celebrating those who have paved the way for future generations.

What is the driving force behind equipping women with the mindset they can achieve anything? For Gonzaga University alumnae Delores Alexander, Dolly Hunt and Deanna Davis, it is generational impact.

Alexander, vice president of indirect supply chain at Boeing, recalled a time when she spoke at a university on the East Coast and a young woman raised her hand and said, "I am tired of having to be told you'll have to work twice as hard."

"It's not going to end in your lifetime," Alexander said in response. "Your obligation is to see if you can drive forward, just like your mom did before you and your grandmother did before her, so by the time your grandkids are in the world, circumstances have changed."

For Hunt and Davis, their parents played a substantial role in developing who they would become as professionals and leaders.

"My mother is a very strong woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo," said Hunt, elected prosecutor for Pend Oreille County in Washington. "Her influence on me got me to where I'm at."

Her parents emphasized, that as a woman, she could take care of herself, instead of feeling as though she had to rely on someone else to get her what she needed.

"I was born to parents who really believed in education and instilled in me a growth mindset," said Davis, author and consultant.

Women were first allowed to enroll at GU in fall 1948, according to Foley Library's university archives. This changed the dynamics and structures of higher education as we see it today. The admittance of women at the time, however, was primarily to promote the expansion of Catholic education.

Now, GU alumnae are making an impact in the classroom, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, government, the boardroom and social movements.

Alexander, who obtained her bachelor's degree in 1987 and master's in 2010 from GU, began her career buying and contracting for information technology (IT) services.

She joined Boeing at 23 years old in October 1987 and started off as an entry-level contract negotiator.

"I did know basic things about contracting but I had to learn a lot about the technology as I went through my first couple years," she said.

Managing a global team of about 400 people, Alexander oversees tens of billions of dollars of indirect spending, which spans hundreds of suppliers that support the internal infrastructure of Boeing's production of aerospace parts, employee and finance services and IT.

"When I started out, it was all me," Alexander said. "How I do things better versus how I now get others to do that. My work at Boeing is about organizational strategies and how that fits into the corporation."

When she graduated, GU left her thinking about service leadership and the idea of leaving things and people better than when you first arrived.

"I own [my identities] better now than I have ever before," Alexander said. "I was a female, young and mixed-raced. I took my mom's advice and I always made sure my execution and delivery were remarkable, so there couldn't be any other excuse. You couldn't use my gender, age and

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