



# GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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Dear campus community,

Successful organizations are informed and supportive of current strategic priorities, change initiatives, and other developments.

In today's world of remote/hybrid work, staying informed and engaged is more challenging than ever.

One method to address this challenge has been regular 30-minute Community Zooms which the University began shortly after the shelter-in-place order pushed us all into working from home back in March 2020. Periodic meetings within Departments, Divisions, Faculty Senates, and the newly-established Staff Council are another method for keeping folks abreast of important news. Monthly, informal "Coffee and Conversations with the President" are yet another method.

The University felt this brief, digital newsletter would be yet another useful tool for keeping faculty and staff informed about goings-on at GGU.

### **Week in Review, April 22, 2022**

#### **GGU's Next CFO**

It was announced that Elaine Clark will become GGU's next Vice President for Finance and Administration & Chief Financial Officer (CFO), successfully concluding the national search which began in September. Elaine will officially start her appointment May 16<sup>th</sup>. Elaine joins GGU after serving over two decades in senior financial leadership roles, which included time as the Associate Vice President of Finance and Assistant Treasurer for Mills College and over 12 years as CFO for other non-profit and for-profit organizations. In addition to demonstrating exceptional financial acumen, working with governing boards, and building high performing teams, her work has included ERP implementations; managing over \$700M in real estate transactions, construction, and other capital projects; as well as providing integral support or leadership for a number of innovative and collaborative initiatives such as the first online programs in Mills College history and new joint enrollment and housing programs with UC Berkeley on the Mills College campus.

## **upGrad Partnership**

The University is embarking on a strategic, mission-focused initiative to offer highly-affordable (\$8,000-\$10,000 per program) degrees in an asynchronous, online format globally. The initiative is being undertaken in partnership with upGrad, a global leader in online education with over 2 million platform users in over 100 countries. Provost Brent White and Professor Jay Gonzalez, recently named Vice Provost for Global Affairs, were in India this past week working with upGrad on the launch of this program. Two million dollars in philanthropic support has already been secured to support start-up costs for this initiative. The first seven programs in this strategic initiative are the DBA, MBA, MS Business Analytics, MS Project Management, LLM, BA in Business, and BS in Data Analytics.

## **Budget Advisory Group**

A Budget Advisory Group, to consist of representatives from multiple constituencies throughout the campus, is under discussion. The formation of this group is one of the outgrowths of the Shared Governance Working Group which has been meeting since last August. Interim CFO Brad Mitchell met this week with the Graduate and Undergraduate Faculty Senate to solicit input on this group's scope and members. He will also meet with the Staff Council to also solicit feedback.

## **Blockchain Symposium**

The Third Annual Blockchain Law Symposium was held on Thursday, April 20 with student presentations about blockchain and human rights, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and their role in securities & copyright law, digital identity, NFT event tickets, and CityCoins, among other topics.

## **Commencement 2022**

For the first time since 2019, Golden Gate University will hold an in-person Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, April 23 at Oracle Park in San Francisco. More than 330 graduate and undergraduate students from the classes of 2022, 2021, and 2020 will participate. (Note: The Law School Commencement will take place next month, on Thursday, May 19.)

- This year's Commencement speaker will be New York Times best-selling author, speaker, researcher, mentor, and Clark Atlanta University business school Professor Dr. Dennis Kimbro.
- The Graduate Student Speaker is Sakshi Thinda Kalkat, who earned her MBA with a concentration in Marketing with High Honors in 2020.
- The Undergraduate Student Speaker is Charita White, who is earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Management with a dual concentration in Psychology and Human Resource Management with Summa Cum Laude honors in 2022.

- Each year, faculty in the Ageo School of Business, School of Accounting, Braden School of Taxation, and the School of Undergraduate Studies honor a select group of full-time and adjunct faculty for their excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service to university.

The recipients of the full-time faculty awards are:

- Jeff Karlin, Professor, School of Taxation, recipient of the Judith Browning Award for Outstanding Teaching
- Siamak Zadeh, Assistant Professor, Ageo School of Business, recipient of the Outstanding Scholarship of Application, Integration, and Discovery
- Anitha Manohar, Associate Professor of Finance, Ageo School of Business, recipient of the Walt Stevenson Award for Service

The recipients of the Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Awards (for 2020-2022) are:

- Jon Vaught
- Terry Curl
- Ruth Astle
- Alan Roper
- Colm Martin
- Doug Carlberg