

The second month of working as a part of the Alumni Service Corps is halfway complete and I am falling into a rhythm. There is Campus Kitchen on Mondays and Tuesdays, dinner with the Jesuits on Wednesdays, and Campus Kitchen again before the week ends. Sprinkled into the week are days of substituting, but for the most part, I have become comfortable in my new environment.

Although the weeks have become rhythmic, each day still holds its own twists and turns. Today Gonzaga had mass and a community period, which is a 30-minute block to promote community on campus. My day started in the library giving out dress uniforms to the students who forgot a coat and tie. As a student who frequently had to use this feature of the library, I was able to expedite the process by taking student's money and phones before the librarians gave out the clothing. After the rush subsided around 8:15, I began to help Pam Valeiras set up the library for our community period activity of painting pumpkins. This involved moving the tables in the Library, covering them with newspaper, and preparing the painting supplies. The bell rang quicker than expected, and then it was off to mass where I was in the freshman portion of the church waking up sleepy parishioners.

Mass ended and I strode into the cafeteria where I was able to help keep order over the course of a shortened lunch period. I usually walk around the lower commons to talk to as many of the students as possible. Talks in the lunchroom range from Instagram beefs with other schools to conspiracy theories to political discussions. Mama actually said, "Forrest, Life is like Gonzaga's cafeteria..." After the enthralling conversation I was able to eat and return to the library and finish setting up for the pumpkin painting. Once the painting started, the designs the boys did were amazing. There were images of famous people and characters from books, so each pumpkin was transformed into a different masterpiece. I finished my day by working with a student to understand AP Computer Science and I missed part of the class I was supposed to cover because I was caught up with the student.

My days do blend together at times, but the moments that stand out are the ones where I am able to spend time with multiple groups of students. Each person and group brings their own character to Gonzaga and is able to add some interesting part to my day.