

Balancing Act

Quinn McGee

Everyone has heard the expression “life is a balancing act” right? At least most people have. Well that’s how it feels a lot of days at Gonzaga. I am now over a month into my time as a member of the Alumni Service Corps and I think every day gets a little crazier. It’s not so much the work in Campus Ministry that has me toeing the balance beam like I’m trying to win the gold in Rio; but it is more of a combination of all my assumed duties. Now that I have had time to settle into my new role I am taking on a lot more responsibilities, all of which I love and am happy to do. One of these new responsibilities is the role of assistant freshman crew coach.

I am now responsible for over 40 freshman every day after school. Imagine that for just a second. Nearly two entire classes of freshman all at once down on the Anacostia River learning how to row for the first time in their lives. There are a select few who have rowed previously but not everyone has had such a chance. This means that every afternoon I have 40 novices running around SE trying to stay out of the way of the Varsity team while trying not to break anything that could cost the team tens of thousands of dollars, with some rowing thrown in there at some point of course. Let me just say one thing here before I go on... I absolutely love it! These boys are turning into the reason that I get up in the morning and not just to go and coach them every afternoon. One of the best parts about being a part of this faculty and being a coach is seeing the kids all the time. I am a very social person so it is always awesome when one of my rowers walks up to me while I’m working 5th lunch in the Lower Commons or gives me a hard time about the impending practice when I walk in to substitute his class on a Friday afternoon. These young men help me get through the day; however, like I said before, it is a balancing act. I am a mentor to these guys, their teacher and coach, yet those are two very different job descriptions, especially when you toss Campus Ministry into the equation. I see these boys in every capacity of my job and obviously there are considerable overlaps but my mind has to be focused at the job I am doing at that time, not the one that starts at 3PM.

What I am coming to learn is that there is never a point when one job ends and the next one begins. When I am covering a class I am still representing Campus Ministry and when one of my rowers comes up to talk to me during the day I am still his coach. That is not something that just disappears. It is definitely taking some time to work all of this out and learn how to treat my jobs and my time but I can confidently say that I am getting better by the day. Some day soon I know I will get it down to a perfect routine, hopefully by spring and the crew championship season. These boys will need much of my focus when that rolls around!