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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Douglas Farmer.

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CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

Graduation held in Stadium again

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Editor

After four years in the stands, the Class of 2011 will continue a recent University tradition and march down the tunnel Sunday to gather in the Notre Dame Stadium for the last time as a group.

Commencement for the graduating seniors will be held in the Stadium for the second year in a row, University Registrar Dr. Harold Pace said.

The venue allows seniors to invite as many guests as they want to the Commencement celebration. This year, Pace said over 21,000 guests will attend the ceremony, which will take place at 9 a.m. Sunday.

“The Notre Dame ceremony is truly a family celebration together,” Pace said. “It is just very unique and there is a special feeling among that group of graduates and family and faculty and administrators there ... It feels like a family atmosphere and celebration.”

Pace said moving Commencement to the Stadium improved the overall graduation experience for last year’s senior class.

“I think you have to put the fact of going down the ramp and that experience, as a group and as a class together, it’s such a great celebration,” Pace said. “So the celebration itself is good. We saw last year as we came on stage ... the students seemed to be happier.”

Prior to the switch in 2010, seniors received four tickets to the Commencement ceremony in the Joyce Center. However, with limited seating in the venue following its recent renovation, Pace said a change was needed.

“We moved to the Stadium [last year] because the Joyce Center seating was changed and reduced by about 2,000,” he said. “So we moved out to the Stadium simply to be able to say to our students, ‘Invite as many people as you like and we are going to be able to take care of all of them here.’”

Without a limit on tickets for each student, Pace said graduates were able to invite more family and friends to share in the ceremony.

“What we found from the graduates’ standpoint is they invited people that maybe weren’t just part of their immediate family,” Pace said. “So all the brothers and sisters got to come and that was great.”

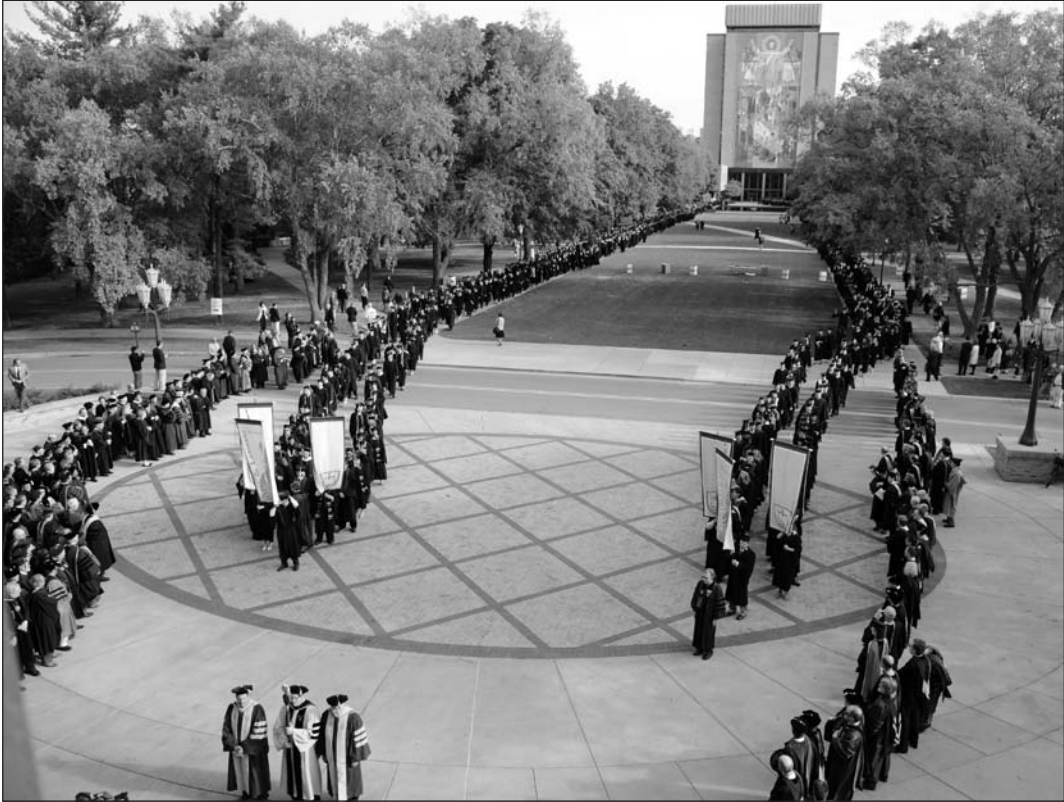


Photo courtesy of Notre Dame News and Information

Students line up for the 2010 Commencement exercises held May 16, 2010, in Notre Dame Stadium for the first time. The 2011 Commencement will also be held in the Stadium.

This year, the Office of the Registrar reported the largest request was 99 tickets in one group, followed by a request for 70 tickets and another for 50.

Students especially enjoyed the walk down the tunnel before they entered the Stadium, Pace said.

“We decided it would be so neat at Notre Dame to have the students go down that tunnel and then be seated on the field for Commencement,” Pace said. “It was a great experience to watch the students go down the tunnel. There were so many smiles and so much anticipation from the students as they were waiting to go down.”

The biggest challenge for an outdoor ceremony is the threat of bad weather, Pace said.

He said several options were considered for the ceremony in the event of rain or weather problems.

“What seemed to be a better model for us was to stay outside in the rain,” Pace said. “Only in the event of severe weather will we go inside. We have very specific things we will look for there — very high wind, torrential rain, lightning, tornadoes, all those things, would drive us inside. We make that call on Sunday morning.”

In the event of severe weather, Pace said each student receives three severe weather tickets for the ceremony inside

the Joyce Center.

Assistant Registrar Laura Spaulding said more graduate students attended the University Commencement ceremony in the Stadium than in past years.

“The graduate business and the graduate law and graduate schools didn’t have many students come to the Joyce Center,” Spaulding said. “But last year because of the Stadium, I think, there were lots of those students who came to the ceremony.”

Pace said graduate students typically receive their degrees Saturday prior to the University-wide ceremony, but agreed the Stadium venue drew more to participate Sunday as well.

In total, 2,700 students will attend the Commencement ceremony.

The University will also award 13 honorary degrees Sunday and at least two recipients will be familiar names to students.

“This year we have two of our own where people will know these people getting honorary degrees. Chuck Lennon from the Alumni Association is a real favorite of the students. He’s been at pep rallies, and people know him,” Pace said. “And then Lou Holtz, so people know him if not from football in the stadium then from TV.”

Few changes were made from the 2010 ceremony in the

Stadium, Spaulding said. Graduates will form lines outside the Stadium 15 minutes later than last year, but all other details essentially remain the same.

“[Last year] the students were at Library Quad playing Red Rover because they were there a little early,” Pace said.

The Stadium ceremony does include traditional features that are meaningful to students, Pace said.

“It’s always interesting to hear the valedictorian’s speech,” Pace said. “Here is a student, up there in front of everyone, talking about these last four years as an undergraduate. So I always think that is a high point for me, hearing what the valedictorian has to say and hearing their remarks.”

Just as the student body sings “Notre Dame, Our Mother” in unison after each football game, the students will sway together and sing the Alma Mater at Commencement before leaving the stadium.

“When they sing the Alma Mater as a group, we have them turn and face their parents and their guests, and they all were swaying and singing the Alma Mater together,” Spaulding said. “I think it was really a touching moment for the students.”

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Commencement Weekend Schedule

Saturday

9:00 a.m.	ROTC Commissioning Ceremony DPAC—Leighton Concert Hall
10:00 a.m.	Mendoza College of Business Graduate Ceremony Joyce Center—Purcell Pavilion
10:00 a.m.	Graduate School Commencement Ceremony Joyce Center—North Dome
1:00 p.m.	Service Send-Off Ceremony DPAC—Leighton Concert Hall
5:00 p.m.	Commencement Mass Joyce Center—Purcell Pavilion

Sunday

7:30 a.m.	Notre Dame Stadium Opens for Guest Seating
9:00 a.m.	Commencement Ceremony Academic Procession
9:30 a.m.	Commencement Ceremony Conferring of Bachelor and Honorary Degrees
Afternoon	Departmental Commencement Ceremony

Students anticipate Gates' commencement address

By SAM STRYKER
News Editor

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates sat in the Situation Room in the White House May 1 as the national security team followed the mission to target terrorist Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.



Gates

Two weeks later, Gates will stand in the Notre Dame Stadium and address the Class of 2011 during the weekend Commencement Ceremony.

Senior and political science major Kaitie McCabe said the choice of Gates as commencement speaker became even timelier with the recent death of bin Laden.

"Now that Gates is associated with a very current event, I think his presence at our ceremony seems more momentous, more warranted," she said. "I think a lot of seniors are interested to see whether he'll discuss or even mention bin Laden's death and the raid."

Gates has served under presidents in both major parties and due to his bipartisan stance, McCabe said she believes he will not overshadow the true focus of Sunday's events.

"I also think it's a blessing in disguise that we won't have a more controversial speaker at our graduation," she said. "The focus will be on the ceremony and the students rather than [the] rightness or wrongness of inviting a particular speaker."

Senior Patrick McDonnell,

also a political science major, said before bin Laden's death students seemed unenthused about the choice of the commencement speaker.

"I saw that a few students were excited, but most reactions were of indifference, simple acceptance or slight disappointment," he said. "I believe most seniors who are somewhat familiar with the secretary's background respect his service, but many do not know too much about him besides his current job."

Senior Alex Barbuto, a member of Notre Dame's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), said Gates' behind-the-scenes involvement in an influential event in American history heightened anticipation for the speech.

"He has something to be incredibly proud of, and I think the onslaught of reinvigorated patriotism and faith in our military will increase the audience's support of our speaker," he said.

Another member of the Army ROTC program, senior Geralyn Janke, said she appreciates the choice of Gates as the speaker as she prepares to enter the armed services.

"It's awesome that we get to hear the secretary of defense speak the day after we commission," she said. "Having someone so influential speak to us as we leave Notre Dame is a humbling capstone to my time here."

Barbuto said he hopes Gates will comment on those who serve America in military.

"As the son of a career Army officer, brother of an officer with multiple deployments, and soon-to-be commissioned officer myself, I vaguely understand the level of commitment and sacrifice it entails," he said. "I'm not sure



Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, bottom right, sits in the Situation Room May 1, watching a real-time mission to find target Osama bin Laden. Gates will speak at the 2011 Commencement Sunday.

most students can relate, but I hope Gates' speech might scratch the surface."

Senior and political science major Kevin Kimberly said Gates is not as closely linked to the efforts behind bin Laden's death as higher profile officials like President Barack Obama. However, he said Gates' experience could only enhance his dialogue Sunday.

"His involvement in the killing of bin Laden only enriches his story more. On whether his involvement gives more significance to his speech overall, I would say no," Kimberly said. "He is a pretty big official as it is. His involvement, while not recog-

nized at times, should be expected."

While Gates was involved in the background of the bin Laden mission, McDonnell said he did not expect the recent news to affect the speech from the secretary of defense.

"While it will certainly be interesting as a graduating senior to hear from him after such a historic event, I doubt any of the address's themes relate to bin Laden's death or differ from what they would have been if he was not killed," he said.

Gates, who has served as secretary of defense since 2006, announced in 2010 that he would step down from the position some time this year.

McDonnell said this event is important in regards to what is said during Sunday's ceremonies.

"It is not uncommon for public officials who are stepping down or retiring to have at least one speech where they either reflect on their tenure [or] chart out what they think the future holds," he said. "Even if his address is not so fantastical, he still may have much to say about life in public service."

McCabe said she thought Gates would relate to the graduating class because he too will soon begin a new chapter in his life.

"Just like us, Gates is embarking on a period of change and transition," she said. "I think that will impart his speech with added genuineness and significance."

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"It's awesome that we get to hear the secretary of defense speak the day after we commission."

Geralyn Janke
senior

"Just like us, Gates is embarking on a period of change and transition."

Kaitie McCabe
senior

Seniors celebrate last days at ND with traditional activities

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Senior Kate Callison has something left on her Notre Dame "bucket list" that she does not want to graduate without doing — and it has to do with "Twilight."

"One more thing on the list is taking my life-size Taylor Lautner cut-out around campus and taking pictures with it in fun locations," Callison said.

As their undergraduate days dwindle, seniors like Callison are checking items off their bucket lists and participating in Senior Week activities sponsored by student government. Senior Class Council (SCC) president Kate Clitheroe said her classmates would spend their last week as Notre Dame students attending a free kick-off barbeque, dancing at the Commencement Ball, striking down pins at Chippewa Bowl, taking a final class trip to the Grotto and heading to Cedar Point.

The seniors also had the opportunity to attend a

Chicago Cubs game, which is usually one of the more popular events sponsored by the SCC.

"Every year they do the Cubs game and about half the class goes," Clitheroe said.

Sunday's game in Chicago, however, was rained out and postponed until June. Some students headed back to campus while others stayed in the city and enjoyed the evening despite the cancellation.

This year's SCC also added new activities to the Senior Week agenda, Clitheroe said.

"We're pairing with Old2Gold to do a service project. We're going to have a drop-off location off-campus. Another new thing is we're trying to organize a discount program where companies from around town allow seniors to come in and get 20 percent off," she said.

The class trip to Cedar Point Monday was also a change. In the past, seniors traveled to Six Flags Great America.

Caitlin Casey, Senior Week Committee chair, said the location of Commencement Ball

Tuesday night was also new.

"This is the first year that we're doing the commencement ball in Club Naimoli in the Purcell Pavilion," Casey said. "We're excited about it because it's a new location, and it's nice to have the ball on campus."

Callison said she was looking forward to the Commencement Ball, which has the reputation of being a dance where couples either declare their undying love for each other or break up for good.

"I've heard that it's been a dramatic and an emotional event in the past, so I'm really looking forward to seeing all of the senior class in one place," she said.

While a last class trip to the Grotto is a long-standing tradition, Casey said SCC added a new piece to the event this year.

"We're doing a booklet take-away," she said. "It's called the Senior Wisdom Project, and it's words of advice about what they would tell undergrads about their experiences at Notre Dame."

Clitheroe said Senior Week also gives students the chance to explore campus as undergraduates for the last time.

"Seniors go a lot of places they have never been like the 14th floor of the [Hesburgh] Library, the [Notre Dame] Stadium press box and the [utility] tunnels," she said.

Callison said she completed most of the items on her bucket list this year after taking a tour of the utility tunnels with her section in Ryan Hall and visiting every chapel on campus.

"One thing I still want to do is go into the Law Library because undergrads aren't allowed there," she said.

As senior Matt Peterson looked back on his four years of college, he said he was grateful he was able to travel to the University of Southern California to watch the Irish beat the Trojans this year.

"I was also going to do the Hesburgh Challenge, but besides that, [I] just [want to see] everyone that helped shape my past four years," he

said.

Senior Katie Shircliff said she checked off several items on her Notre Dame bucket list this year, as well.

"I got to go to the Dome Dance, which was really fun," she said. "I also had a goal of getting something published while I was here, and I had a poem published in 'Lost Piece,' which is the journal that the Arts and Letters kids have."

There is still one more item she has to cross off her list before she graduates, though.

"I've always wanted to fly a kite on the quad, so hopefully I'll get to do that over the next few days," she said.

During her last days at Notre Dame, Shircliff said she was most looking forward to the last class visit to the Grotto Thursday.

"I think it will be a special time when we can all come together to celebrate our friendship and the experiences that we've shared at Notre Dame," she said.

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Commencement Weekend 2011

Dear Graduates,

Prayers and best wishes to members of the Class of 2011. On behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for the many and varied contributions you have made to the University as students. By your presence among us, you have enriched this community.

For those of you who are graduating seniors, I hope that your time at Notre Dame has been fruitful, that you are leaving the University not only with a superb education but also with wonderful friends who will be part of your life long after Commencement. I pray also that your years at Notre Dame have allowed you to nurture your relationship with God and created in you the desire to turn your gifts to the service of God's people. Wherever life's journey may lead, you are likely to encounter fellow Notre Dame alumni who are working to improve their corner of the world, in every imaginable profession and field of endeavor. We take enormous pride in all of the ways our graduates contribute to and serve their families, the Church, and society, and I am confident that you too will be part of this rich heritage of service.

For those of you receiving graduate or professional degrees, I hope that you will carry with you the best of our traditions as they relate to your discipline. We are certain that you will represent Notre Dame well, not only through your professional accomplishments but also by your commitment to justice and adherence to ethical standards. I wish you much success in all of your endeavors.

A diploma is a public ratification of skills and competencies. Commencement is our ritual sending of the holders of Notre Dame diplomas into the world. You will be sent on missions as Notre Dame graduates. The Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross describe one aspect of our mission as: *"The mission is not simple, for the impoverishments we would relieve are not simple. There are networks of privilege, prejudice and power so commonplace that often neither oppressors nor victims are aware of them. We must be aware and also understanding by reason of fellowship with the impoverished and by reason of patient learning. For the kingdom to come in this world, disciples must have the competence to see and the courage to act."* (#14) It is my deepest hope that you take with your Notre Dame degree the confidence that you are commissioned by your University and the Congregation of Holy Cross and the assurance that we will always pray for you while you are away from campus and celebrate when you return.

May Our Lady, Notre Dame, be with you and watch over you always.

In Notre Dame,



(Rev.) Thomas P. Doyle, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 20, 2011

The top Observer news stories from the 2007-2011 academic years

page 5



Obama speaks at Commencement

May 17, 2009

After months of controversy, President Barack Obama delivered the University's 164th Commencement Address, asking graduates to seek common ground on abortion and other divisive issues facing the country.

Obama acknowledged the controversy surrounding his visit to campus and noted the irreconcilable differences in the abortion debate.

"Your class has come of age at a moment of great consequence for our nation and the world — a rare inflection point in history where the size and scope of the challenges before us require that we remake our world to

renew its promise; that we align our deepest values and commitments to the demands of a new age," he told the Class of 2009.

University President Fr. John Jenkins invited Obama to speak at Commencement and receive an honorary degree in March of 2009 — a decision that sparked protests from students, alumni and groups unaffiliated with the University.

The student group ND Response, formed days after Jenkins' announcement, staged demonstrations and submitted a petition to Jenkins criticizing his decision.

Yet a count by The Observer in April showed

that out of 345 Letters to the Editor authored by students, 74 percent were in favor of the invitation and 29 were against Jenkins's decision.

In an interview with The Observer, Jenkins said he was "honored" when Obama accepted the University's invitation.

"Presidents from both parties have come to Notre Dame for decades to speak to graduates about our nation and our world," Jenkins said. "They've given important addresses on international affairs, human rights, service, and we're delighted that President Obama is continuing that tradition."

Seven students die during past four school years



Three students died in unrelated cases in 2008. Connor McGrath, a sophomore in Siegfried Hall from Oklahoma City, passed away Feb. 17 in Dillon Hall.

Timothy Aher, a student in the Law School's London Programme, died at his residence in the U.K. Aher was from Brookfield, Conn.

Andrew Bunikus, a junior from Zahm Hall, took a semester off to teach English to Thai students and died in a bus crash in Thailand April 18.

Sophomore Kevin Healey died April 24, 2009 after battling with bone cancer. Healey was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in December 2006. Friends said

Healey's courage was inspiring.

Junior Declan Sullivan died Oct. 27, 2010, after the scissor lift from which he was filming football practice fell. Sullivan, a Fisher Hall resident, was a student videographer for the football team. Friends remembered him as fun-loving and outgoing.

Elizabeth "Lizzy" Seeburg committed suicide Sept. 10, 2010. Friends said Seeburg, a first year student at Saint Mary's, always had a smile on her face.

Sophomore Sean Valero died in April 2011. The St. Joseph County coroner's office ruled his death a suicide. Friends described Valero as easygoing and a dedicated student.

Two students shot outside Club 23



Seniors Matthew Collins and Mitchell Depree were shot by a man in an SUV around 1 a.m. Aug. 21, 2009, following a conversation with the shooter. Collins was shot in the abdomen and leg, wounds that were originally considered life-threatening. A bullet remains in Collins' abdomen. Depree was shot in the leg.

August 25, 2007

Eddy Street Commons opens



Eddy Street Commons opened for business at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Restaurants like Five Guys Burgers and Fries and Chipotle have opened and four more tenants — Kildare's Irish Pub, Nicholas J. Salon and Spa, Camellia Cosmetics and an upscale diner called The Mark — are expected to open in the coming months.

August 2009

Students ask to add sexual orientation to clause



Members of the Campaign for Human Dignity petitioned University President Fr. John Jenkins to add sexual orientation to the University's nondiscrimination clause. The University did not change the clause, which states that it does not discriminate based on "race/ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status or age."

January 28, 2010

Spike in off-campus arrests causes tension



After a spike in off-campus arrests for underage drinking in fall 2009, the trend to arrest — rather than cite — students for underage drinking caught the attention of both students and the University.

The number of arrests declined after campus leaders began to meet regularly with South Bend law enforcement and educate students about local laws.

August 2010

Business school ranks No. 1 again



For the second year in a row, the Mendoza College of Business was named the top undergraduate business school in the nation in Bloomberg Businessweek's fifth annual rankings. Notre Dame, which was ranked second in 2009, beat out schools like the University of Virginia, the Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania.

January 28, 2010

IOSHA fines Notre Dame



The Indiana Occupational Health and Safety Administration (IOSHA) found Notre Dame guilty of six violations after a four-and-a-half month investigation into the October death of junior Declan Sullivan, the Indiana Department of Labor announced March 15. Notre Dame entered discussions with IOSHA to review the investigation's results.

March 15, 2011

Student arrests increase in Fall Semester. SMC first year student dies. Junior Declan Sullivan dies in accident.

The Year

2010♦

Observer Staff Report

Student arrests spike in fall semester

A peak in student arrests for alcohol-related offenses occurred in the late summer and early fall, as more than 100 students were taken to jail by the end of August.

The first and most high profile bust occurred July 17 when 43 students, including 18 Notre Dame athletes, were arrested by the South Bend Police Department (SBPD) and Indiana State Excise Police. The weekend of Aug. 27-29 saw 58 more arrests, made at separate parties by SBPD and Excise Police.

The spike in police incidents and student complaints about how law enforcement dealt with students drew responses from both University administration and student government.

Then-student body president Catherine Soler met with police several times to discuss the issue and set a precedent for a positive student body-police relationship in the future.

“There were lots of conversations we can work on within student government that can lead to greater changes,” she said.

SMC first year student dies at 19

First year Saint Mary’s student Elizabeth “Lizzy” Seeberg, described by loved ones as having a heart for service, committed suicide in her dorm room Sept. 10. She was 19.

Seeberg alleged that a Notre Dame student athlete sexually assault her Aug. 31. Following media coverage of Seeberg’s sexual assault allegations and an announcement from the St. Joseph County Prosecutor’s Office that no charges would be filed, the University called its investigation of the case “thorough and careful.”

Seeberg, originally from Northbrook, Ill., was a resident of McCandless Hall and an intended nursing major at the College.

Friends say Seeberg was committed to helping others and always had a smile on her face. Kalyn Fetta, a sophomore at Notre Dame who attended high school with Seeberg, said she had a “contagious joy.”

More than 400 students, faculty, staff, family and friends gathered together in remembrance of Seeberg for a memorial Mass in Regina Hall’s Chapel Sept. 13.

Lily Tomlin speaks at Saint Mary’s

“An Evening with Lily Tomlin” entertained a sold-out crowd at Saint Mary’s Sept. 27, as the award-winning actress shared her experiences from many years

of standup comedy and acting.

Tomlin came to Saint Mary’s as part of the Margaret Hill Endowed Visiting Artists, which brought director Hal Prince and actress Glenn Close to the stage in past years.

Through a series of character changes, Tomlin instilled life lessons in the Saint Mary’s audience.

A native of Detroit, Tomlin used her history in show business and her personal life as inspiration for her 90-minute show.

Junior dies in video tower accident

Junior Declan Sullivan, 20, died Oct. 27 after the scissor lift from which he was filming football practice fell. He was a student videographer for the football team.

Originally from Long Grove, Ill., Sullivan was double majoring in marketing and Film, Television and Theatre. He was a contributor to The Observer’s Scene section.

Those who know him well remembered Sullivan, a resident of Fisher Hall, as fun-loving and outgoing.

His rector, Fr. Robert Moss, said he remembers Sullivan “mostly just for his enthusiasm for everything he was involved in.”

The University held a Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in honor of Sullivan Oct. 28. Around 1,000 people attended the Mass, while about 1,000 others gathered outside and 500 more watched the Mass live in the LaFortune Student Center.

University President Fr. John Jenkins took responsibility for Sullivan’s death in an open letter to the Notre Dame community Nov. 5.

“We are conducting an investigation and we must be careful not to pre-judge its results, but I will say this: Declan Sullivan was entrusted to our care, and we failed to keep him safe,” Jenkins said in the letter. “We at Notre Dame — and ultimately I, as President — are responsible. Words cannot express our sorrow to the Sullivan family and to all involved.”

Donnelly defeats Walorski

Notre Dame alumnus and Democratic incumbent Joe Donnelly retained his seat in Indiana’s 2nd Congressional District Nov. 2, narrowly defeating Republican Jackie Walorski in one of the country’s key congressional races.

Donnelly won 48.2 percent of the vote, while Walorski garnered 46.8 percent.

Donnelly, a 1977 Notre Dame graduate and 1981 Notre Dame Law School gradu-

ate, said in an interview with The Observer his experience at the University has shaped his time serving Congress.

“When you leave Notre Dame, Notre Dame gives you the values you need to try a do a good job,” he said. “You have the motto of ‘God, Country, Notre Dame.’ That is the cornerstone of what we try to do in Congress, what is best for the country.”

University begins ‘Contending Modernities’

The University launched Contending Modernities, a research initiative to facilitate breaking barriers between Muslims and Catholics in the context of a modern world.

The conference, which took place in New York City Nov. 18 and 19, involved a panel series featuring Notre Dame faculty, Muslim leaders and religious scholars.

Participants included University President Fr. John Jenkins and Ali Gomaa, the Grand Mufti of Egypt and one of the world’s eminent Muslim scholars, who sat in on the conference electronically.

“This initiative builds on the simple strength of Notre Dame — a great research university and a religious mission,” Jenkins told The Observer. “That puts Notre Dame at the heart of some of the most important issues in the world today.”

The conference took place the same weekend as the football game against Army at Yankee Stadium and Jenkins said the pairing was an opportunity to draw attention to the University’s academic accomplishments.

“We have a football game here and to see that brings attention but that’s simply a vehicle to make people aware of the great educational and intellectual endeavors that take place at Notre Dame,” he said.

Cairo study abroad students evacuated

Twelve students participating in a Notre Dame study abroad program at the American University in Cairo (AUC) were among the American citizens evacuated from Egypt Jan. 31 after an uprising began that ultimately led to the overthrow of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The students were evacuated to Istanbul and Notre Dame then worked with State Department officials to transport the students to their hometowns, Notre Dame or London. Students were given the option of enrolling at Notre Dame’s campus in South Bend or at the University’s London Program for the remainder of the semester, based on individual preference and

available courses and housing.

On Feb. 24, just a month after the protests began, current sophomores accepted to the Cairo study abroad were notified that the fall 2011 program was cancelled.

The status of the spring 2012 semester hosted at AUC remains uncertain.

Two new minors to be offered in fall

In response to students’ growing concern over environmental issues, the University announced in March that it would create two new minors — Energy Studies and Sustainability — to be offered to undergraduate students beginning next semester.

Rebecca Hicks, who will serve as director of the Energy Studies minor, said the minor will challenge students as leaders and problem solvers.

“First, meeting the world’s energy demands in an environmentally responsible fashion is arguably one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century,” she said. “We feel that to meet this challenge, Notre Dame must play a key role in preparing leaders from all disciplines who understand the complexity of it.”

The Sustainability minor will prepare students to serve as leaders in their communities by making constructive contributions to the development of more sustainable practices, Sustainability minor director Maria Miglietta said.

Businessweek ranks Mendoza No. 1 again

After Bloomberg Businessweek ranked the Mendoza College of Business as the No. 1 undergraduate business school in the nation for the second consecutive year March 3, Mendoza Dean Carolyn Woo said Notre Dame is proud to combine premier education with upstanding morals.

“We really reinforce the message that you need to win with ethics,” Woo said. “We are most proud of the fact that a Catholic school that stands on this message is also recognized as the best business education ... This is a tremendous blessing for us to stand for our mission, to be a witness on behalf of the mission.”

After Notre Dame, Businessweek listed the University of Virginia, Emory University, the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University in the top five business schools.

IOSHA finds six Notre Dame violations

The Indiana Occupational Health and

YEAR IN REVIEW

August

August—Student arrests spike in fall semester
A peak in student arrests for alcohol-related offenses occurred in the late summer and early fall, as over 100 students were taken to jail by the end of August.
The first and most high profile bust occurred July 17 when 43 students, including 18 Notre Dame athletes, were arrested by South Bend Police (SBPD) and Indiana State Excise Police.

September

Sept. 10—SMC first year student dies at 19
First year Saint Mary’s student Elizabeth “Lizzy” Seeberg, described by loved ones as having a heart for service, committed suicide in her dorm room Sept. 10. She was 19.
Seeberg, originally from Northbrook, Ill., was a resident of McCandless Hall and an intended nursing major at the College.

October

Oct. 27—Notre Dame junior dies in video tower accident
Junior Declan Sullivan, 20, died Oct. 27 after the scissor lift from which he was filming football practice fell. He was a student videographer for the football team.
Originally from Long Grove, Ill., Sullivan was double majoring in marketing and Film, Television and Theatre. He was a contributor to The Observer’s Scene section.

November

Nov. 18–19—University launches ‘Contending Modernities’
The University launched Contending Modernities, a research initiative to facilitate breaking barriers between Muslims and Catholics in the context of a modern world.
The conference, which took place in New York City Nov. 18 and 19, involved a panel series featuring Notre Dame faculty, Muslim leaders and religious scholars.

January

Jan. 31—Cairo study abroad students evacuated
Twelve students participating in a Notre Dame study abroad program at the American University in Cairo (AUC) were among the American citizens evacuated from Egypt Jan. 31 after an uprising began that ultimately led to the overthrow of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mendoza ranks No. 1 again. IOSHA fines Notre Dame. SMC receives record donation for science. ND sophomore dies.

in Review

♦2011

Safety Administration (IOSHA) found Notre Dame guilty of six violations after a four-and-a-half month investigation into the October death of junior Declan Sullivan, the Indiana Department of Labor announced March 15.

Sullivan, 20, died Oct. 27 after the scissor lift from which he was filming football practice fell. He was a student videographer for the football team.

The citations resulted in fines totaling \$77,500. The violations included a “knowing” violation, meaning IOSHA found the University knowingly exposed its employees to unsafe conditions. The Indiana Department of Labor reported the University was fined \$55,000 for this violation.

IOSHA also issued five “serious” violations with fines totaling \$22,500. These violations included failure to properly train student employees in how to operate a scissor lift.

Floyd charged with OWI

Junior wide receiver Michael Floyd was arrested March 20 on campus after he was pulled over by the Notre Dame Security Police for running a stop sign.

Floyd failed three field sobriety tests and was then administered a breathalyzer test, which recorded .19 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath. Indiana’s legal driving limit is .08.

Irish coach Brian Kelly suspended Floyd indefinitely from all football activities beginning March 21. After attending a meeting with the Office of Residence Life in April, Floyd remained suspended from football but was allowed to continue his education as he prepares to graduate next spring.

This is Floyd’s second consecutive off season marred by legal issues. In January 2010, Floyd was cited for underage drinking in Minneapolis.

Floyd will appear in court June 7 at 8 a.m. to face charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

SMC Record Donation

Saint Mary’s received a record donation of \$10 million on March 26.

Class of 1995 alumna Jennifer Mathile Prikkel and her parents, Clayton and MaryAnn Mathile, donated the single largest private gift in the history of Saint Mary’s College.

The donors gave the money to both renovate the Saint Mary’s College Science Hall and inspire others to invest in educating young women in science.

Saint Mary’s will modernize the Science Hall with new learning and study spaces to encourage students to collaborate with their peers. The College will refurbish and expand labs, which will help biology, chemistry and physics students and support growing programs, like nursing. Updated equipment and technology will also be purchased.

Clayton and MaryAnn Mathile were former owners of the Iams Pet Food Company, and Prikkel is a member of Saint Mary’s College Board of Trustees.

“[The donation] was to really challenge people to invest their money in the life of a young woman who not only learns through her mind, but through her heart,” Prikkel said.

Admissions more competitive than ever

Members of the Class of 2015 may not have set foot on campus yet, but they have already broken records. The applicant pool grew by more than 2,000, allowing the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to put together its most accomplished class thus far.

A total of 16,543 students applied to Notre Dame this year. The University admitted 3,984 students and wait-listed 1,853. Last year’s final rate of admission was 29 percent. Before the University moved students off the wait-list, this year’s rate stood at 24 percent.

The mean SAT score of admitted students was 1443, a nine point increase from the Class of 2014. The median student ranks in the top 2 percent of his or her high school class. Two-thirds of those in the top 3 percent of their high school class were not admitted.

Director of Admissions Bob Mundy said that while selecting from a competitive application pool was challenging, it was ultimately exciting for the University.

“In my 28 years [in admissions,] this year has been unlike any other,” he said. “It is pretty exciting to feel as though we are maintaining the very special character of Notre Dame while advancing some other things.”

McCormick-Rocheleau win office

Junior Pat McCormick and sophomore Brett Rocheleau won the election for student body president and vice president after capturing 64 percent of votes in the Feb. 17 runoff. The pair assumed office on April 1, taking over duties from former student body president Catherine Soler and vice president Andrew Bell.

McCormick and Rocheleau defeated jun-

ior James Ward and freshman Heather Eaton in the runoff election.

McCormick said the duo would utilize the resources of student government to benefit Notre Dame.

“We want to try to transform student government as a way of amplifying students’ voices and responding to issues that students care about,” he said. “It is our hope that we can build a student government that allows students to chart their own course for the future of Notre Dame.”

Gans, Zupancic win office

Saint Mary’s juniors Nicole Gans and Jackie Zupancic earned 37.2 percent of votes to win the positions of Student Government Association (SGA) president and vice president, respectively, and took office April 1.

The team defeated juniors Emma Brink and Liz Busam and junior Casie Palmer and sophomore Maureen Parsons to win.

During their campaign, Gans and Zupancic said they hoped to improve technology on campus, continue renovating the Le Mans Hall basement, better communication between students and their government and foster a sense of community.

“The major goals of our platform were to help Saint Mary’s become more ecologically friendly, increase pride in Saint Mary’s and help develop better communication of policies and procedures, such as the allotment process,” Zupancic said.

“We are extremely honored to be serving the Saint Mary’s student body and we hope that the students view us as a resource for support, guidance and information.”

Notre Dame sophomore dies

Sophomore Sean Valero, described by friends as a quiet and hardworking student, died in mid-April. He was 21.

Valero, originally from Nishayuna, N.Y., was a resident of Keenan Hall and a double major in pre-professional studies and philosophy.

The St. Joseph County coroner’s office ruled Valero’s death a suicide.

While Valero was more introverted than outgoing, sophomore Stephen Schwaner said he most enjoyed spending time in the dorm with his friends.

“He was a really good guy, and had a really good heart,” he said. “Every single person that he met seemed to take an immediate liking to him.”

At a memorial Mass for Valero, a member of Campus Ministry read a statement written from the Valero family for the members of the Notre Dame community.

“There is something you can do for us. When you leave here tonight and go home, tell somebody there that you love them and that you appreciate them. And then live that out every day,” the statement read.

2011-2012 Forum to focus on education

The 2011-2012 Notre Dame Forum, focused on the American educational system, kicked off with a panel discussion April 13 titled “The System: Opportunity, Crisis and Obligation in K-12 Education.”

The panel consisted of four national experts in education including the founder and CEO of StudentsFirst, the director of Marquette University’s Institute for the Transformation of Learning and the inaugural director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

This year’s Forum continued in the tradition of focusing on large-scale issues. Panelists from the 2010-11 Forum, “The Marketplace and the Common Good,” approached the issue of global economics from many different angles. University professors and alumni participated in the panel and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman gave a lecture at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center in November.

Campus reacts to bin Laden’s death

Hundreds of Notre Dame students celebrated with fireworks, flags and “U.S.A.” chants on campus after learning of terrorist Osama bin Laden’s death May 1.

For some Notre Dame students, the event had personal significance. Freshman Beau Dolan’s father was among the Pentagon employees responding to the World Trade Center attacks in New York when Flight 77 flew into his office window.

“It’s never going to be gone, but I felt really relieved yesterday — a weird kind of peace,” Dolan said. “This guy murdered my dad, and he has been on the run for 10 years. I never got that sense of justice. After 10 years, I think I deserved to be ecstatic about this.”

Along with the show of patriotism, students tried to balance their celebration with an understanding of the event’s international significance.

“Retribution and revenge were not the motivating factors that came out of that day for me,” senior Christopher Bennett said. “Rather, I realized that the world can be dangerous. There is a need for people to step up and protect each other, and a need for greater awareness of our surroundings in the increasing globalized world.”

March

Mar. 3—Businessweek ranks Mendoza No. 1 for second consecutive year
Bloomberg Businessweek ranked the Mendoza College of Business as the No. 1 undergraduate business school in the nation for the second consecutive year. According to a University press release, Mendoza ranked in the top spot due to the school’s 98 percent placement rate three months after graduation. Notre Dame also received the highest rate of student satisfaction.

Mar. 15—IOSHA finds six Notre Dame violations
The Indiana Occupational Health and Safety Administration (IOSHA) found Notre Dame guilty of six violations after a four-and-a-half month investigation into the October death of junior Declan Sullivan, the Indiana Department of Labor announced March 15.

Mar. 26—SMC Record Donation
Saint Mary’s received a record donation of \$10 million on March 26. Class of 1995 alumna Jennifer Mathile Prikkel and her parents, Clayton and MaryAnn Mathile, donated the single largest private gift in the history of Saint Mary’s College. The donors gave the money to both renovate the Saint Mary’s College Science Hall and inspire others to invest in educating young women in science.

April

Apr. 1—New student government leaders take office
Junior Pat McCormick and sophomore Brett Rocheleau won the election for the Notre Dame student body president and vice president after capturing 64 percent of votes in the Feb. 17 runoff. Saint Mary’s juniors Nicole Gans and Jackie Zupancic earned 37.2 percent of votes to win the positions of Student Government Association (SGA) president and vice president, respectively.

April—Notre Dame sophomore dies
Sophomore Sean Valero, described by friends as a quiet and hardworking student, died in mid-April. He was 21. Valero, originally from Nishayuna, N.Y., was a resident of Keenan Hall and a double major in pre-professional studies and philosophy.

BRANDON KEELEAN | Observer Graphic



Photo courtesy of Notre Dame News and Information

Sr. Joan McConnon, left, and Sr. Mary Scullion, right, will be awarded the 2011 Laetare Medal during Commencement Sunday.

University awards 2011 Laetare Medal

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Editor

Sr. Mary Scullion and Joan McConnon, co-founders of Project H.O.M.E., will jointly receive the Laetare Medal, the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics, during the 2011 Commencement ceremony.

The Laetare Medal is the University's highest honor and is awarded annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity," a University press release said.

Project H.O.M.E. (Housing, Opportunities for Employment, Medical Care and Education) is an organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Philadelphia. Scullion serves as executive director for Project H.O.M.E. and McConnon is the associate executive director and chief financial officer.

"In their work for the homeless in Philadelphia, Srs. Scullion and Joan McConnon have splendidly answered the Gospel summons to brotherly love," University President Fr. John Jenkins said. "Serving the unsheltered Lord on the streets of their hometown, they have provided an example for others to serve likewise in cities worldwide."

Scullion and McConnon, both Philadelphia natives, founded Project H.O.M.E. in 1989, according to the release. Project H.O.M.E. began providing emergency shelter for about 50 homeless men and grew to form a community for chronically homeless men and women. The project provides them with food, clothing, medical care, employment and a sense of dignity, the release stated.

Project H.O.M.E. now includes 480 units of housing and two businesses that provide employment for formerly homeless people. Scullion and McConnon developed the project into a national model for community development in low-income neighborhoods.

The two initiated renovation of inner city vacant lots, economic development, home-ownership initiatives for working poor families and education and employment programs for youth and adults.

According to the release, 95 percent of the homeless who participated in their project have not returned to the streets. Project H.O.M.E. is widely credited for reducing Philadelphia's homeless population by half.

The daughter of Irish immigrants, Sr. Scullion entered the

Sisters of Mercy in 1976 after graduating from St. Joseph's University. She earned a master's degree in social work from Temple University in 1986.

Joan McConnon graduated from Pennsylvania State University and earned a master's degree in taxation from Drexel University in 1989. She returned to Philadelphia to work with the homeless after spending six years as an accountant.

The Laetare Medal is named for Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. The University traditionally announces its recipient on that day each year. The University began awarding the honor in 1883.

The last recipient of the Laetare Medal was poet Dana Gioia in 2010. Past recipients include operatic tenor John McCormack, United States President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker foundress Dorothy Day and Cardinal Joseph Bernadin.

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ND awards 12 honorary degrees

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Editor

Notre Dame will award 12 honorary degrees at this year's Commencement in addition to the honorary degree it will give commencement speaker Robert Gates.

Gates, the U.S. secretary of defense, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. The other recipients will be honored with degrees in law, science and engineering.

Charles Lennon, associate vice president for University relations, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree before he retires in June. Lennon served the University for over 30 years as the executive director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association. Under his leadership, the association grew from 151 to 276 alumni clubs around the world.

Lou Holtz, famed Irish football coach from 1986 to 1996, will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree. Holtz led Notre Dame to the 1988 national championship and is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

On three occasions during Holtz's tenure as coach, the Irish held the highest graduation rate among Division I-A football programs. An active philanthropist, Holtz works with the Touching Tiny Lives Foundation and the Women's Care Center of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The University will also award Shirin Ebadi, recipient of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, an honorary doctor of laws degree. As an Iranian lawyer and the first woman justice in the history of the Iranian judicial system, Ebadi founded the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran. She received the Nobel Peace Prize for her significant efforts regarding democracy and human rights for women, children and refugees.

Michael Brennan, a leading pioneer in the field of modern finance, will receive an hon-

orary doctor of laws degree from the University. Brennan is a professor emeritus of finance at UCLA and the London Business School. His research in financial markets and work in corporate finance significantly impact the development of finance as a science.

John Glynn, a 1962 graduate of Notre Dame, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. Glynn is founder and president of Glynn Capital Management, a California venture capital investment firm, and a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

Glynn and his wife endowed a chair in literature at Notre Dame and their family made a leadership gift to expand and fortify the Glynn Family Honors Program through the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Science.

Jacqueline Novogratz will also be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree. Novogratz is the founder and chief executive officer of the Acumen Fund. The Fund, a global nonprofit venture, has invested more than \$40 million in over 35 companies in developing countries.

Notre Dame will award Bishop Gerald Kicanas an honorary doctor of laws degree. Kicanas, the bishop of Tucson, Ariz., was vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2007 to 2010. As a proponent of Catholic education, he partnered with Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) to establish three ACE Academy schools in the Diocese of Tucson.

Huguette Labelle, a global leader in anti-corruption efforts, will also receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. Labelle chairs the board of Transparency International, an organization that promotes transparency in international politics and business. She is also a member of the board of the United Nations Global Compact, an initiative for businesses to promote standards of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption.

Mary Beth O'Brien will be honored with a doctor of laws degree. O'Brien dedicates herself to the work of the Ladies of Charity USA (LSUSA), the American affiliate of an international organization that responds to the needs of the poor. She served as the president of the organization, a representative to the United Nations for the International Association of Charities, a trustee of Catholic Charities USA and a member of the American Housing Foundation. All six of her children are Notre Dame graduates.

John Mather, a co-recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize for physics, will be awarded an honorary doctor of science degree. He is a senior anthropologist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and senior project scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope. Mather received the Nobel Prize along with George Smoot for developing a satellite project to study the early universe.

French mathematician Laurent Lafforgue will also receive an honorary doctor of science degree. Lafforgue is a professor at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques. He received the 2002 Fields Medal, the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel Prize. Lafforgue is also actively engaged in issues related to French public education.

The University will award Michael Griffin an honorary doctor of engineering degree. From April 2005 to January 2009, Griffin served as the 11th NASA administrator, where he oversaw work on the future of human spaceflight, the fate of the Hubble telescope and the agency's role in understanding climate change. Since leaving NASA, he joined the faculty in mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

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The University of Notre Dame's
The John J. Reilly Center
for
Science, Technology and Values
Is pleased to announce that the following students have
been awarded the distinction of

John J. Reilly Scholar

In

The Five Year Double Degree Program in
Arts and Letters/Engineering

Class of 2011

Rosary Abot

Santiago Garcés Escobar

Robert Jones III



JOHN J. REILLY CENTER
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Students honored as 2011 class valedictorians

Wassel's passion for writing flourished at SMC

By OLIVIA BRACH
News Writer

Senior Sam Wassel was named the Class of 2011 valedictorian and will speak to her fellow senior class at Commencement Saturday.

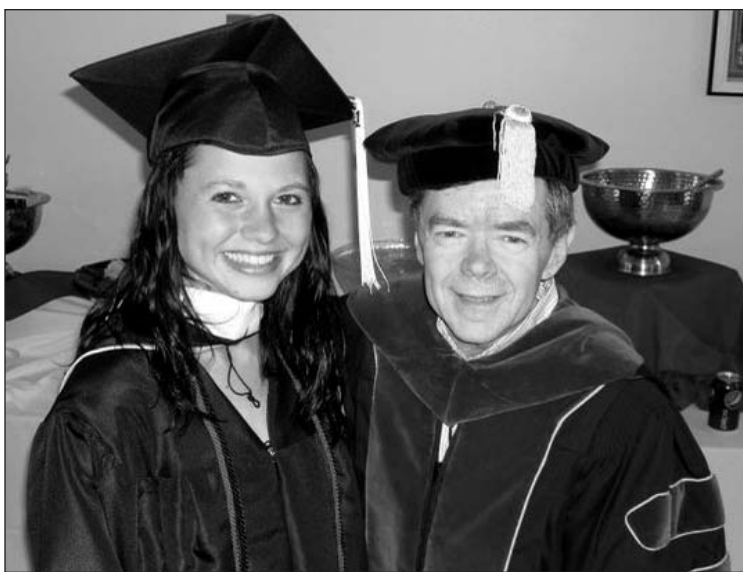
Wassel, an English Writing major who graduated in December 2010, said she was instantly attracted to the College.

"I was drawn to the personal environment I detected at Saint Mary's on my various visits to the College as well as its high academic standards and reputation," she said.

Wassel said she took an unanticipated turn when declaring a major. Though she originally intended to study chemistry, Wassel said encouragement from her sophomore creative writing professor led her to reconsider her decision.

"I realized that I gained infinitely more enjoyment and fulfillment in completing a one-page creative writing assignment than I did in drawing the various chair conformations of cyclohexane," she said.

From then on, Wassel embraced her passion for writing.



Wassel poses with Professor of English Ted Billy at the Saint Mary's College Honors Convocation May 1.

Photo courtesy of Sam Wassel

"I write because I feel compelled to do so and because I find a great deal of joy and fulfillment in the creative process."

Sam Wassel
SMC valedictorian

"I write because I feel compelled to do so and because I find a great deal of joy and fulfillment in the creative process," she said.

Since graduating, Wassel said her zeal for English and writing has increased. She is currently working on a fictional piece that began as her senior writing project.

"I would like to see some of my original work, whether

it be my poetry or fiction, published," she said. "What writer doesn't dream of one day perusing the aisles of a bookstore and seeing her original work in print?"

Though Wassel is excited about the future, she said she is not immune to the apprehension that comes with speaking in front of hundreds.

"My major is in English writing, not communications," she said. "The first step is simply getting to the podium without tripping and falling flat on my face. If I can successfully execute step one, hopefully everything else, minus me, will fall into place."

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Larkin reflects on years at Notre Dame, looks to future

By ADAM LLORENS
News Writer

Valedictorian Edward Larkin will address the Class of 2011 Sunday as the seniors congregate in the Notre Dame Stadium for the last time as a whole during the Commencement Ceremony.

As he reflects on his years at Notre Dame, Larkin said passion for ideas is more important than academic scores.

"Students of our generation are defined by numbers — tests, class ranks, GPAs, ACTs, SATs — this is how we view our life," Larkin said. "I think going into the real world, people succeed by clinging to an idea and going out and doing it."

Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg is an example for this generation, Larkin said, because he did not let these numbers block him from his dream.

"Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard, but he had an idea and stuck with it," Larkin said. "It is not about our rankings. It is about what we think and do ... That is what I hope the graduating Class of 2011 will get out of my speech."

Larkin, a native of East Lansing, Mich., spent four years on campus in Fisher Hall.

"Between Spring Break, football games and random moments on campus, I look back and realize all of the great times I have had with my friends," Larkin said. "The most unique thing about Notre Dame is the dorm structure we have."

Larkin said some of his most memorable moments revolve around the close friendships he made within Fisher.

"After four years, you find that you have a lot of really good friends from inside the dorm. I will be friends with these guys for the rest of my life," Larkin said.

Larkin, a biological sciences major, will graduate with a supplementary major in classical civilization. Larkin recognized two professors as instrumental in his development as a student. The first was Professor Zachary Schafer from the Department of Biology.

"[Schafer] is a smart, exciting guy," Larkin said. "I took Tumor Cell Biology with him in the 2010 Spring Semester and the way he taught the class was incredible."

The second was Professor David Hernandez in the Department of

Classics.

"I have taken two classes with [Hernandez], including Classical Archaeology," Larkin said. "He's one of the best young archaeologists in the world and showed me how truly messy our history is."

One of the highlights of his college career was his research last summer in New York.

"One of my proudest accomplishments during my time here is the research I conducted concerning developmental neuroscience last summer at Cold Spring Harbor laboratory in Long Island, N.Y.," Larkin said. "It was a pretty competitive program to get into."

Outside of the classroom, Larkin also wrote a bi-weekly column for The Observer. His column focused on the intersection of science, technology and society as well as the cultural and social implications of modern science.

"Something I have really enjoyed doing is writing for The Observer," Larkin said. "I am really proud of everything I have written and I love the feedback I get from each column."

The Class of 2011 valedictorian will spend his summer in Olympia, Greece, studying cross-cultural interaction through Harvard University. In the fall, he will begin one year of study at the London School of Economics to receive a Master of Science degree in philosophy and public policy.

"I want to concentrate on the policy surrounding end-of-life health care," Larkin said. "As an aspiring neurosurgeon, I believe the cost of end-of-life health care is a policy we seriously need to rethink."

Through writing and research, Larkin hopes to change the public outlook on health care.

"This is something that really drives me," Larkin said. "I want to write for a broad audience to aid in the rational approach to the future by our society."

After his year in London, Larkin will pursue medical school. Larkin will decide between Columbia University, Yale University and University of Pennsylvania for his medical studies.

"It was a big moment when I got accepted into medical school," Larkin said. "For anyone who wants to become a doctor, that moment has to be really special."

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Photo courtesy of Edward Larkin

Larkin, second from right, volunteered at the Doctors Without Borders cholera treatment center in Haiti over Winter Break.

The University of Notre Dame's

Science, Technology & Values Program

in the

College of Arts & Letters

Is pleased to announce the following graduating students for the

Class of 2011

Christine Bacha
Andrea Bailey
Carlos Briseno Gonzalez
Michaela Byrne
Theresa Caffuna
John Cockerham
Kevin Danchisko
Joseph Deters
Andrew Ea
Nina Farivari
Jonathan Gillig
Stephanie Gretsche
Caitlin Hackett

Alyssa Hartsell
Michael Henry
Linh Hoang
Celia Johns
Joslyn Jose
Emily Kolbus
Emma Klosterman
Bryan Lamb
Meehan Lenzen
Matthew Lopez
Wesley McGinnis
Katherine McKeough
Katie Meunier

Olivia Mohan
Kyle Nickodem
Michelle Patzelt
Andrew Rehagen
Tyler Smith
Mark Robertshaw
Jeffrey Steimle
Annette Sullivan
James Summers
Claire Thesing
Kathryn Thesing
Zachary Townsend
Timothy Zintak
Jonathan Zurcher



JOHN J. REILLY CENTER
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SMC to honor former Southwest exec with doctoral degree

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

The former president of Southwest Airlines will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Saint Mary's during the Commencement ceremony Saturday.

Colleen Barrett, who joined Southwest Airlines when the company was founded in 1971 and worked her way up to become president, said she encourages graduates to pursue a career based on their passions rather

than money.

"Don't ever take a job for the pay or the title," Barrett said. "Take it only if you are comfortable that you share a passion for whatever the basic cause the organization you are joining is embracing."

As the women prepare to begin their life after graduation, Barrett



Barrett

said they should attempt to match their interests with their career paths.

"If your avocation and your vocation can be the same, you are a very fortunate person," she said. "In my opinion, when this is the case, then work really doesn't seem like work, and it can actually be enjoyable."

Barrett said the most difficult part of the transition from college to the business world was the realization that she had a lot left to learn.

"[The hardest part was] realizing how much I had to learn about

teamwork, accountability, confidentiality in terms of clients," she said.

Although some lessons were difficult to grasp, others proved to be very valuable lessons in Barrett's life.

"[I realized that the] satisfaction of making a positive difference each day was far more important and rewarding to me than pay or accolades," Barrett said.

Barrett also discovered common sense and good judgment were valuable traits to possess in the business world and can be used to build relationships.

Barrett advised business majors to learn from networking and from their co-workers.

College classes are only a start to the business world, she said.

"Don't go out there thinking you are ready to teach anyone anything," she said. "Instead, go out there to grasp as much knowledge as possible from those who have been there for awhile."

Barrett stepped down from her position as president of Southwest Airlines in 2008.

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Class of 2011 graduates enter the job market

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

As current seniors prepare to enter a new phase in their lives, many will benefit from a rebounding economy and join the workforce in a few weeks.

Kevin Monahan, associate director of the Notre Dame Career Center, said the job market for the class of 2011 has improved from what it was one to two years ago.

"With any year, the timing of hiring depends on the needs of the industry," he said. "But across the board, almost every field was better this year, from banking and finance to marketing and retail to engineering."

In 2010, 82 percent of the senior class had definite plans for graduate school, service or employment at the time of their graduation, and 98 percent of the class had solidified its plans within three months of graduation, Monahan said.

He said he anticipates this year's class to reach up to 85 percent of definite plans following graduation. According to a 2011 study by the National Association for Colleges and Employers, only 24 percent of graduating seniors across the nation have a job in hand.

"Those are the traditional numbers, but this year, we expect more students to have more definite plans at graduation time," Monahan said. "There are definitely more opportunities now than there

were 12 months ago."

Monahan said companies conducted 30 percent more interviews on campus during this academic year compared to last year. These interviews led companies like KPMG and Target to hire more graduating Notre Dame students this year than in previous years, he said.

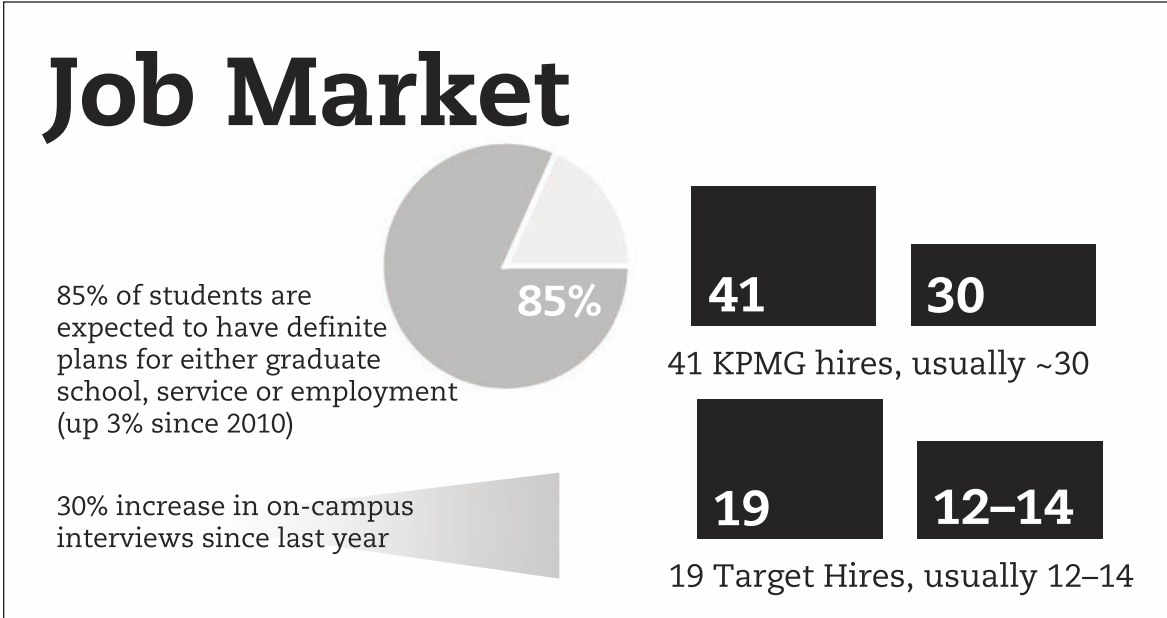
"KPMG normally hires about 30 graduating students for full-time positions, but this year, they hired 41," he said. "Target usually hires 12 to 14 graduating students, and this year that number went up to 19."

Senior Sarah Weiler, a chemical engineering major, accepted a position at the chemical company HallStar after working as an intern there last summer. The hunt for a job market seemed easier than that for an internship, she said.

"This year, companies got back to me faster about potential positions in comparison with last year," Weiler said. "In that respect, [the job market] was better, but people weren't falling over themselves to offer you jobs or anything."

Senior Eric Weeldreyer, who will work at Credit Suisse after interning with the investment bank last summer, said he thinks the job market for his class has improved.

"Corporate hiring has certainly rebounded for well-qualified college grads [from] the depths of the financial crisis and recession," he said. "The job markets certainly



BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

are not as robust as they were in the years leading up to the crisis, but opportunities are available for those who put strong effort into the process."

Weeldreyer said the investment bank offered him a full-time position on the last day of his internship. He said his work with Credit Suisse ultimately paid off.

"My experience looking for a job was more my experience looking for an internship," he said. "The experience was quite stressful and felt very competitive, but that internship was the key to finding full-time employment."

Though senior Katie Manfred double majored in

English and Film, Television and Theatre at Notre Dame, she will work after graduation at Epic Systems, which specializes in online medical records. She said obtaining a job with the company came rather unexpectedly.

"My plan has always been to work for a couple of years and then go back to graduate school because I'm still not sure what I want to study in graduate school," Manfred said. "I decided I wanted to do something outside of the theater, so I cast out a lot of lines with no specific requirements in mind."

Although the position does not directly relate to her career goals, Manfred said she is embracing the opportu-

nity.

"[Working at Epic] is a great way for me to get some work experience with a great company, save some money and take some time away from an academic setting to decide what I want to study in the future," she said.

The Career Center will assist graduating students still seeking employment, Monahan said.

"Looking for a job is always difficult, stressful and never easy, but we're committed to helping any student that is still actively seeking employment or definite plans," he said.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Graduates give College decorative clock for senior gift

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

This year's graduates will give the gift of time to their alma mater as their senior gift.

The Class of 2011 decided to donate a clock to the Spes Unica lounge as its senior gift, Senior Campaign member Colleen Lowry said.

"The [Spec Unica] clock is a large decorative clock that will be placed in the Spes lobby to remind Saint Mary's women that their time is precious and that they should take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to them in the four years they have at SMC," Lowry said.

Senior Campaign member

Julie Laemmle said seniors voted among three options — the clock, a tree to be planted outside of Spes Unica and a scholarship for an incoming freshman. With a majority of the votes, the clock was the class favorite.

Seven members of the Class Gift Campaign, including Lowry and Laemmle, presented the gift to President Carol Ann Mooney at the Alumnae-Senior champagne brunch Monday.

Laemmle said she used her dedication to the Class Gift Campaign as a way to thank Saint Mary's.

"I enjoyed being involved in the senior class gift because it is a way to give back to Saint Mary's and show how thankful I am for the past four

years," she said.

Although voting for the class gift ended last week, seniors are still able to donate to the Senior Campaign Fund. Members of the Campaign will be accepting donations throughout Senior Week and during the Tower Tours Friday.

Laemmle said the Class Gift Campaign is a chance for all classes to give back and show their support for Saint Mary's.

The Class of 2011 made donations to the Senior Gift Campaign throughout its four years at Saint Mary's and raised a total of \$2,500. Twenty-four percent of the class participated, Lowry said.

Approximately \$1,600 of those donations were con-

tributed in April.

Both Lowry and Laemmle felt a special connection between their donations and future classes at Saint Mary's.

"I made my class gift because I know how important it is to provide future

Saint Mary's women the opportunity to learn and grow to become as inspirational as the women that have gone before them," Laemmle said.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

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Members of Class of 2011 plan to enter religious life

By SAM STRYKER
News Editor

Senior Michael Daly submitted an application to medical school, but said he did not feel at peace with the prospect of a medical career after graduation.

Instead of becoming a doctor, Daly will enter the St. Paul Seminary in the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul in August.

“It was hard to surrender my whole life’s work and dream to something so unknown, mysterious, yet glorious and peace-filled,” he said. “I cannot try to be something I am not, so I must become the best version of myself. I pulled my application from medical school because my love for Jesus was true.”

While his parents strongly influenced his faith formation, Daly said participating in an International Summer Service Learning Project (ISSLP) in India in 2008 was a “transforming experience.”

“I fell in love with the Eucharist and Christ’s mass,” he said. “Jesus was the only constant in my life, amongst

all the chaos and extreme poverty and illnesses. I relied on the power and love of the Eucharist in Calcutta.”

Daly said his friends and family have been supportive of his decision, though not without some playful responses.

“I do remember some friends telling me not to be discouraged that I haven’t found a girlfriend at Notre Dame. There are wonderful women in the real world,” he said. “I simply laughed at their misunderstanding, because it’s not about what I am giving up, but what I am gaining — love and fulfillment in the love of the Eucharist. I’ll be with Jesus, what’s better than that?”

His four years at Notre Dame were especially instrumental in the decision to follow a religious vocation.

“Notre Dame allows your vocation to be cultivated and harvested in a patient, supportive and gentle manner. I’ve visited other Catholic and non-Catholic universities and I was aware of the lack of Jesus’ presence,” he said. “There is something unique and blessed with having a chapel in almost every build-

ing. Jesus is literally everywhere in the tabernacle.”

Daly is not the only senior pursuing a vocation in religious life after graduation.

Fr. Jim Gallagher, director of the Office of Vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross, said five seniors participated in the Old College program during their time at Notre Dame and will enter the Holy Cross Novitiate in the fall.

Two additional seniors will enter their beginning Candidate Year this fall, Gallagher said. They lived as regular students during their time at the University.

Gallagher said not all those who choose a religious path following graduation have the same academic experience during their time at Notre Dame.

“The men of Old College are the only ones who are in a specific seminary program and they take all of their classes with the general student community,” he said. “Others who are entering after graduation have majors in a range of subjects.”

Many students began their life at Notre Dame without a plan to enter the priesthood,

Gallagher said, but they started to investigate their vocation as they developed their interests.

“For those entering into a religious or priestly vocation, they will most likely participate regularly in the sacraments, they will work with a spiritual director, they will talk with a vocations director and they will take many of their questions about their future to prayer,” Gallagher said.

Senior Christopher Gautsch, who is entering the Dominican Order following graduation, said he felt a strong calling to enter the priesthood after graduation.

“I am entering religious life because I think God is calling me to do it,” he said. “Don’t get me wrong, I want to do it too, but it all started when I started to perceive God beckoning me towards it.”

Gautsch made his decision to enter the Dominican novitiate in February and was accepted to the Order on Easter Monday. The decision was not an immediate one for him, he said.

“I went through most of my undergraduate career before making the choice to enter

religious life,” he said. “If it has been different, though, it is just that my love for theology has grown with the knowledge that I might myself be teaching and preaching the very same things one day.”

While his decision was not solely influenced by his experience at Notre Dame, Gautsch said the University’s atmosphere helped him develop his faith life.

“Even though Notre Dame is not without its problems, the community of holy friends and the emphasis on the life of faith that I found here would have been much harder, if not impossible, to find at many other schools,” he said.

Gautsch, who will spend a year in Cincinnati before beginning his seminary studies in Washington, D.C., said his friends at Notre Dame supported him as he tried to determine his vocation.

“I am blessed to have friends who want me to do what God wants me to do and would support me no matter what I discerned that to be,” he said.

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Students to volunteer after graduation

Graduates pursue missions with Teach for America, Alliance for Catholic Education, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Peace Corps

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

Over 160 members of the Class of 2011 will pursue post-graduate service work, said Michael Hebbeler, director of the Center for Social Concern’s Senior Transitions Program.

“There’s a great culture of service learning here and so these students ... embody that,” Hebbeler said. “They take that into places that are under-resourced that do need strong teachers, advocates, you name it.”

These seniors will pursue service across a broad range of programs, including Teach for America, Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Hebbeler said.

Hebbeler also said he saw a rising interest in international service. Fifty-seven students applied for positions in the Peace Corps.

Post-graduate service is a real-world application of the lessons many students learned in their classrooms at Notre Dame, Hebbeler said.

“It is a chance to really commit to social issues that need people to work toward change and to address serious concerns of poverty and injustice with an aim toward caring for the people afflicted by these structures and then working to change these structures,” Hebbeler said.

Hebbeler said serving oth-

ers is a learning experience for graduates.

“Both the person encountered and the Notre Dame student are equally affected by that encounter,” Hebbeler said. “Students are personally challenged by this year of service. They have to wrestle with these issues that they experience through the people they encounter and it causes them to reflect on how they understand themselves in relationship to others and in relationship to the world.”

Hebbeler said the decision to pursue post-graduate service is noble, yet difficult.

“[These students] have chosen a less comfortable path and that takes some courage,”

“[These students] have chosen a less comfortable path and that takes some courage.”

Michael Hebbeler
director
Center for Social Concerns

Hebbeler said.

The Center for Social Concerns will honor these students during a special gathering at 1 p.m. Saturday in Leighton Concert Hall.

The speakers at this year’s ceremony will include University President Fr. John Jenkins and Executive Director for the Center of Social Concerns Fr. Bill Lies. Nora Jones Bondi, a 2002 Notre Dame alumna who joined the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago after graduating and remains an employee there to this day, will also speak.

Students will also receive journals to fill with reflections during their time of service, Hebbeler said.

Senior Bianca Fernandez will join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps after graduation for

Post-grad service

160

graduates are pursuing service after graduation

57

students applied for Peace Corps

Ex: Teach for America, Alliance for Catholic Education, Jesuit Volunteer Corps

Center for Social Concerns will hold a gathering in their honor Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall

BRANDON KEELEAN | Observer Graphic

one year. In her position, Fernandez will interact with the Hispanic and Native American communities in Omak, Wash., through the Northwest Justice Project, a pro-bono legal services group stationed in the Pacific Northwest.

Fernandez said her time as a resident assistant (RA) influenced her calling to post-graduate service.

“I really enjoyed my year here as an RA and being present in people’s lives, and that’s something

that I definitely want to be very conscious of and strive toward in this upcoming year,” Fernandez said.

The mission of the University was also a major factor in her decision to pursue service, Fernandez said.

“I’ve been trying to put my heart in the right place,” Fernandez said. “I am grateful for my education here at Notre Dame particu-

“I definitely want to gain a wider worldview, challenge myself, make myself uncomfortable in this forced displacement because that is how you grow and that is how you push yourself a little bit further.”

Bianca Fernandez
senior

larly because it hasn’t been solely academic. When I’ve spoken to professors, they’ve not only addressed how I’m doing in class but how I’m doing as a person.”

While she is nervous to leave college and begin her post-graduate experience, Fernandez said the next step in her life promises to be an invaluable one.

“I definitely want to gain a wider worldview, challenge myself, make myself uncomfortable in this forced displacement because that is how you grow and that is how you push yourself a little bit further,” Fernandez said. “I’m very sad to leave Notre Dame, but I know I need to do it.”

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Football disappoints seniors



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Two students sit in shock following the Irish's 28-27 home loss to Tulsa Oct. 30. The Class of 2011 experienced the worst four-season stretch in Notre Dame football history.

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

After witnessing the worst four-season stretch in the history of Notre Dame football, senior Elise Gerspach said winning her final home game against the University of Utah made up for past disappointment.

"It was really important for us because we were so unfazed by losing at that point," Gerspach said. "Winning the last game made us see that despite the past four years, we can win."

The Class of 2011 witnessed a 3-9 record in 2007, suffering the most losses in a single season in the program's history. This year's senior class finished with a four-year stretch of 24 victories and 26 defeats.

Senior Holly Hinz said her freshman year also brought the lowest point of the four seasons. In their third home game, Notre Dame broke its 43-game win streak against Navy, losing in triple overtime.

"After the game the announcer just said 'And there ends Notre Dame's 43-year winning streak against Navy'," Hinz said. "Everyone just thought, 'Come on, as if we don't know that already.'"

Although the wins were few and far between their freshman year, senior Chrissie Gotimer said they were memorable.

"Having the first five games as losses was disappointing but it made that

sixth game that we won against UCLA (the University of California-Los Angeles) even more exciting," she said.

Although the game was played in California, Gotimer said students reacted strongly to the first win of the season.

"Everyone rushed out of the dorms and into the fountain and started singing the alma mater," she said. "Kids were just sprinting everywhere onto the quad, playing music and going crazy."

Gerspach said the highlight of her freshman season was Notre Dame's victory over Duke University.

"It was the last home game as well as the first win we saw at home," Gerspach said. "It was nice actually feeling good after a game."

Senior Tim Sweeney said though the Fighting Irish ulti-

mately finished 7-6 in 2008, their victory over the University of Michigan renewed optimism.

"It was pretty cool, it was raining and it was only the second game of the season," Sweeney said. "It gave us a little bit of hope."

Senior Josh Zavilla said the first game of the 2009 season against the University of Nevada provided a sense of optimism.

"We ended up winning 35-0 and that gave us a hope for having a good year that we didn't really have the year before," Zavilla said. "That plus the fact that it was football season again, it just seemed like a new year, a new start."

In their final regular-season game of 2010, Notre Dame beat the University of Southern California (USC), ending an eight-game loss streak to the Trojans. Gerspach, who traveled to Los Angeles for the game, said witnessing the Fighting Irish's victory was unforgettable.

"That was the real way we ended our football seasons here at Notre Dame," he said. "It was

such a huge momentum change, especially after winning the last home game."

Despite attending Notre Dame during the four worst seasons in football history, Hinz said she is able to find humor in the distinction.

"I also would not be surprised if we win a

national championship the year we leave," she said.

Sweeney said witnessing so many losses was made easier by doing so in good company.

"Being a Notre Dame fan is the overall experience. You're with your classmates and everyone is obviously feeling the same," he said. "We were losing but everyone always felt we were going to win every game. There's always that hope."

As someone who was raised to be a Notre Dame fan since birth, Gerspach said she came with expectations of greatness, and it was not easy suffering through the record stretch.

"The first season was depressing and just hard to watch," Gerspach said. "Every year we went in with the hope that it'll be better and then it just wasn't. It was always really

hard."

Despite her disappointment, Gerspach said has not been deterred from cheering for Notre Dame beyond graduation.

"It became something we just accepted — this is how our four years was," she said. "By senior year we all came to realize, 'I'm going to be a Notre Dame fan for the rest of my life, and it just happened to be tough when I was at school.'"

Gotimer said though she was a student for a lean period in Fighting Irish football history, she anticipates a brighter future.

"It's not necessarily easy to follow a team that fell from greatness," she said. "But when they do rise, it's going to be pretty exciting."

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Author Borchard to address SMC graduates

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

When asked to address the Class of 2011 at Saint Mary's Commencement ceremony this year, Therese Johnson Borchard said the opportunity would mean more to her than winning a Pulitzer Prize.

"I think being chosen as the Saint Mary's Commencement speaker is the highest honor I can think of," Borchard said in a College press release. "Much of who I am today was formed in my four years at Saint Mary's. The school is really part of my soul because it was there that I found the courage to be me."

Borchard graduated from Saint Mary's in 1993 with a degree in religious studies and she is now an active contributor to the field of psychology. She serves as the associate editor of Psych Central and the author of an award-winning blog called "World of Psychology."

Catherine Pittman, associate professor of clinical psychology, said she is excited to hear from a speaker with experience in a field relevant to many graduates' future careers.

"I am glad to have a speaker who is focused on assisting people as they struggle with issues of depression and other challenges," Pittman said. "I know that students in the Psychology Department are especially interested in hearing from her because many of them share a commitment to trying to assist others as they cope with life's challenges."

As an alumna, Borchard is a role model for students preparing for life after Saint Mary's, Pittman said.

"[Borchard's] shared background as a Saint Mary's woman gives our students confidence that, like her, they can go out to make a difference in the world," she said. "I know that seniors feel a sense of mastery based on their experiences at [the College,] but they wonder if what they have learned will translate into meaningful opportunities and accomplishments in the real world."

In addition to her work at Psych Central, Borchard also contributes to the daily blog "Beyond Blue," a site dedicated to those suffering from depression, according to the press release. She also authored and edited a number of psychology publications related to depression and is a columnist for the Catholic News Service.

Borchard hopes to incorporate the knowledge she has gained from working in her field into her commencement address Saturday, the press release stated. Borchard said she will discuss how students can live an authentic life, even if it means facing rejection to share their talents and gifts with the world.

Pittman said Borchard's address should inspire the Class of 2011 as the women leave the College.

"I think [Borchard] will help them feel more confident and empowered as a result of what she has achieved in her work."

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Senior ROTC cadets to be commissioned as officers

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

The Class of 2011 will commission the second largest Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) class in more than a decade, Capt. Dale Nees, a professor of Naval Science, said.

After serving as the commanding officer of the Naval ROTC Unit and the tri-military chair for the ROTC program, Nees said he enjoyed watching the current seniors grow during their four years at Notre Dame.

"I arrived when these 'kids' did," Nees said. "I watched them mature. It's significant that they're going to be entrusted with the safety of America's youth. They've been very dedicated, and they represent a good cross section of the University."

The ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday and will be followed by a reception in the Pasquerilla Center. The Army will commission 17 2nd Lieutenants, the Air Force will commission 17 and the Marine Corps will commission six. The Navy will commission 25 ensigns.

Senior Alex Barbuto, an Army cadet, said he joined ROTC as a freshman because he wanted to serve his country and follow a family tradition of military service.

Four years later, Barbuto will be commissioned as an officer Saturday alongside 64 others seniors graduating from the ROTC program this year.

"One of the best things we have [in Notre Dame's ROTC] is we're all very dedicated to helping each other out," Barbuto said.

Capt. Earl Carter, a professor of Naval Science and commanding officer of the Naval ROTC Unit, said while he is new to the ROTC program, he predicts the graduating class



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Notre Dame Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) cadets stand at attention on campus April 13. The Class of 2011 will commission the second largest ROTC class in more than a decade Saturday.

will be successful after their time at Notre Dame.

"These young men and women will measure up in every respect," Carter said.

The students at Notre Dame will make valuable contributions to the military, he said.

"From an outsider's perspective, the quality [of the students] is extraordinary," he said. "I'm impressed. They're going to be great additions."

Matthew Zak, a senior Navy midshipman, said he joined ROTC to serve the country he loves.

"My dad and my uncle both did ROTC at Notre Dame and my dad encouraged me to look into the program," he said. "I knew that it would be a challenge, but it would set me up with a lot of experience. I also chose the Navy because I wanted see the world and follow my dreams of being a Navy pilot."

Zak serves as the tri-military

commander for ROTC this school year and he coordinated events between the three military branches at Notre Dame. He will be commissioned as an ensign Saturday.

"The best thing about ROTC at Notre Dame is the unity between the group of fellow students going through the program. We have been through so much together. I would do anything for them if they needed it," he said. "I feel they would help me out if I ever needed anything. The leadership and teaching from our instructors is second to none and they have set us all up for success in the fleet."

Senior Midshipman First Class Nicholas Geraci said the advisors in ROTC give the program its strength.

"Without a doubt, Notre Dame's ROTC program pulls in some of the highest caliber military officers to teach, men-

tor and train us," he said. "They are experts in their fields and bring various backgrounds and professional experiences to the table. In the course of four years, they have truly been pivotal in transforming us from simply 'high schoolers' into military officers and leaders."

After four years in Notre Dame's program, senior Cadet James Hasson said members of ROTC learn to be successful officers by example.

"After looking at successful officers and not-so-successful ones, you see that leadership isn't about yourself," he said. "It's about serving the people you're in charge of. Those officers and [non-commissioned officers] I respected the most are the ones that cared about us."

As senior Cadet Louisa White prepares to leave Notre Dame, she said she will most miss the

"college experience."

"[The officer commissioning] is just a new chapter in our lives," she said. "We just learned as much as we can. In a way, we're still students going in [to the service], even though we're still graduated."

While the responsibility of the new positions is intimidating for some, the ROTC seniors said it is also exciting to begin their commissions.

"I am a little anxious, perhaps a little nervous, to set foot on that submarine for the first time and see 15 glowing eyes staring at me thinking, 'This guy has no idea what he's doing,'" Geraci said. "But I am also very excited and extremely grateful for the training, education and experience I have received here at Notre Dame."

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Four hall rectors prepare to leave home under the Dome

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

Students graduating in the Class of 2011 are not the only members of the Notre Dame community saying their good-byes to campus. Four hall rectors will leave their homes at Notre Dame as well.

Lyons Hall rector Denise McOsker spent five years in Lyons. Although she did not attend the University, she said she feels at home on the Notre Dame campus.

"I feel like a Domer," she said. "After a while, just the tradition of this place kind of gets in your blood."

McOsker will move to Florida to care for her parents. She does not yet have a job in her new state, but she hopes for a position with more regular hours than a rector's job.

"Sleeping properly is hard ... People will knock on your door at 4 a.m. crying, or having to go to be at the hospital with a particularly thirsty lady," she said. "But I was always happy to be there for my women. It's a challenge, but it's also a privilege."

Howard Hall rector Sr. Lucille D'Amelio agreed she would not miss the schedule of a rector's

life. She will seek a "less stressful position" after two years in Howard.

"I try to build a relationship with all the girls in the hall," she said. "But sometimes I have to put on the disciplinarian hat."

Despite the challenges of her role, D'Amelio said she treasures the opportunity to share in the residents' achievements.

"[The best part was] just being able to work with the women and share in their excitement, when they get accepted to abroad programs or internships," she said.

After her time as rector, D'Amelio said she was especially proud of Howard's service work. The dorm sponsored projects for melanoma awareness, hosted a stem cell match drive and raised funds for a water well in Africa.

"To see all the service the girls are doing, the creative things to help other people, has been wonderful to experience," she said.

Duncan Hall rector Fr. Tom Eckert joined Duncan Hall when the dorm opened in 2008. He also took special pride in the service his residents performed in the past three years.

Duncan residents organized

the Bald and the Beautiful in honor of Duncan resident Sam Marx who passed away from cancer after his freshman year. Eckert shaved his head alongside his residents during the fundraiser this year.

"One unforgettable moment was seeing 65 Highlanders gathered together at the Bald and the Beautiful event this spring to shave their heads to raise money for children's cancer research," he said.

"I even left my locks behind to be in solidarity."

Eckert was amazed by how quickly the new residence hall came together after its inception. He said he would especially miss the strong sense of community that has developed in Duncan during his time as rector.

"Without a doubt, I will miss the community and brotherhood of Duncan the most," he said. "In such a short time the

men of Duncan have turned a building into a home we can be very proud of."

Eckert will move to Goodyear, Ariz., to serve as the pastor of St. John Vianney Parish, where he previously served as a deacon. As a "triple Domer," Eckert said leaving campus will be difficult.

"Without a doubt, I will miss the community and brotherhood of Duncan the most. In such a short time the men of Duncan have turned a building into a home we can be very proud of."

Fr. Tom Eckert
Duncan Hall rector

"Without a doubt, the greatest challenge now is saying goodbye. After being part of such a close knit community and sharing in the lives of the men of Duncan, it will be challenging to step out of that," he said. "I know that the Highlanders will be in good hands as I move on."

Fisher Hall rector Fr. Robert Moss spent 12 years among the Fishermen and is the most veteran of the departing rectors. Like Eckert, he said he would miss the sense of community in his dorm, especially in Fisher's spiritual life.

"I've had great staffs every

year, great guys in the Hall," he said. "[I'll miss] the people, the contact — our Sunday masses too."

Moss said the most challenging part of the job was maintaining a Christian atmosphere in a men's college residence hall.

"For me personally, it was having the gift of patience," he said. "The greatest challenge was making the effort to create a Christian community."

Moss is unsure of his next career, but plans to remain on campus.

"I'll be at Notre Dame, and I am blessed with a lot of opportunities," he said.

The four rectors hail from different backgrounds, but as each prepares to leave Notre Dame, they said they never anticipated serving at Notre Dame as a rector.

However, D'Amelio said she was fortunate to serve in such a rewarding position.

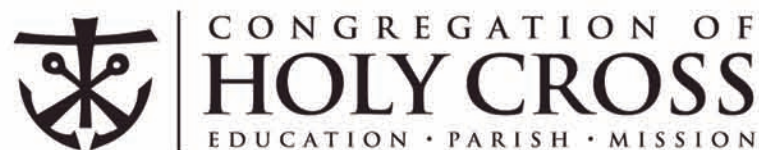
"It's been an interesting journey. I hope I've touched some lives, I know these people have touched mine," she said. "I was where I was meant to be during my time here."

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SMC honors faculty, student

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney presented three of the school's most prestigious honors to members of the College community earlier this month, according to College press releases.

Professor Nancy Nekvasil, chair of the Department of Biology, was this year's recipient of the Spes Unica Award for her eminent service to the College.

"Professor Nekvasil models selfless devotion to the College and exudes boundless enthusiasm for teaching and scholarship," Mooney said.

The recipient of the award is chosen based on nominations from Saint Mary's students, faculty and staff, the release stated. The Academic Affairs Council makes the final decision for the award.

"She demands the best of her students, supports their efforts and takes great delight in their success," Mooney said of Nekvasil. "A teacher-scholar, she shares her love of her discipline and helps students develop their own voice in that discipline."

Nekvasil served on a variety of committees, including Student Affairs, Academic Standards, Faculty Affairs and the General Education Committee. According to the press release, she is also an advocate of the College writing program and an advisor for two student clubs.

As the chair of the biology department Nekvasil led the department through extensive

reviews and counseled students who plan to attend graduate school in health care.

"I was very humbled receiving this award," Nekvasil said. "Many, many people work and give and serve Saint Mary's day in and day out. So to be selected among those individuals is a tremendous honor."

Political Science Chair Patrick Pierce received the Maria Pieta Award at the convocation. "He not only demands the best from his students, he also goes out of his way to help meet that demand," Mooney said.

The Maria Pieta Award was established in 1976 in honor of Sr. Maria Pieta, a teacher and administrator at Saint Mary's.

"The award recognized the quality of teaching done in courses for freshmen and sophomores," the release stated.

One student nomination for Pierce said his teacher was "the most valuable to my growth as an independent and analytical thinker," the release said.

Pierce maintains contact with alumna from his department, especially to help current students with networking, and is also the advisor for the Saint Mary's basketball program.

Pierce said he was very honored to receive the award.

"I was tremendously surprised and pleased to receive the Maria Pieta Award. Saint Mary's College is truly dedicated to undergraduate education, so it's a great environment for those of us who love to teach and to engage students," Pierce said. "To be recognized among so many outstanding teachers

is a real honor."

Junior Laura Glaub was awarded the Saint Catherine Medal. Glaub, a native of Okemos, Mich., received the award for her high standards of scholarship and her contributions to the College's spirit of Christian leadership, according to the release.

"She is a young woman who does not seek power or advantage for herself, but uses her endless energy to recognize and elevate others by nominating people for awards, finding innovative ways to express her appreciation and being driven by the desire to empower others," Mooney said.

Glaub is the founder of Love Your Body Week at Saint Mary's. She also served on numerous school boards, including Student Government Association, Residence Life, Dance Marathon, the Belles Against Violence Office and Student Activities Board.

Glaub has also given back to her community through her participation in the Office for Civic and Social Engagement's Rebuilding Together and College Academy of Tutoring programs.

"She shows us of what we are capable when we integrate heart and mind, and when we approach others and the world guided by the values of respect, compassion and service," Mooney said.

While she said she was honored to receive the award, Glaub recognized the other members of the College community as her inspiration to give back to the school.

"My goal at Saint Mary's was to make a difference. I hope next year I can make this happen," Glaub said. "I ... want to leave Saint Mary's knowing that the people I came in contact with smile when they hear my name."

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

Seniors earn prestigious fellowships, scholarships

By SAM STRYKER
News Editor

Fourteen members of the Class of 2011 received national scholarships and fellowships as they prepare for their next steps after graduation.

Roberta Jordan, assistant director of National Fellowships for the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE), said this year's class stands out compared to past years.

In particular, students were successful in obtaining Fulbright scholarships, which provide funding for research and teaching abroad. The University's Fulbright success rate of 25 to 30 percent is slightly above the national average.

"We're very pleased with the number of Fulbright successes, especially in light of the increased number of applicants nationwide," she said.

Graduate students Andrew Mrugala and Ann Weber were awarded Fulbright Research and Study Grants. The grant provides a year of funding for study and research abroad.

Seniors Cherrica Li, Jaime Cordes, John Greil, Amanda Johnson and Virginia Varraveto were awarded Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships, which offers funds for a year of teaching English abroad.

Students hoping for a Fulbright award began the application process months before the national deadline because these grants require University nomination or endorsement, Jordan said.

"Our hope for each applicant is that they find value in the process, especially in

light of the substantial time commitment for some of these," she said. "The discernment that is required can be an excellent exercise in taking a look back at what one has accomplished, connecting the dots of academic and extracurricular activities, and thinking and dreaming about what one hopes to do in the future."

Students also received other awards that provide funding for post-graduate work.

Graduate student Kristen Drahos and seniors Rosary Abot and Kayla Durcholz received Lilly Graduate Fellowships. The Lilly Graduate Fellowship provides a stipend for three years as well as summer conferences and mentorship.

Graduate students Claire Brown, Jake Lussier, and Kevin Mickey were awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, which grant an annual stipend and a cost-of-education allowance for up to three years.

Senior Claire Reising also received a French Government Teaching Assistantship, which provides a stipend for teaching abroad.

Jordan said award recipients receive not only financial benefit for their academic endeavors but also a valuable network of peers.

"Recipients are members of a cohort, a network of other similarly focused scholars," she said. "Quite often these foundations have people who can help recipients identify the best post-graduate opportunities and work with them for admission."

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Hoffman receives Outstanding Senior Award

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's senior Emma Hoffman recently received the Outstanding Senior Award for her involvement in Campus Ministry, her studies abroad and her work in the Student Government Association (SGA).

"As the valedictorian represents the mind, and the Lumen Christi Award recipient represents the soul, the Outstanding Senior embodies the heart of Saint Mary's," a press release stated.

According to the release, the Saint Mary's College Alumnae Association Board of Directors presents the award to a student who has upheld and demonstrated the values and spirit of Saint Mary's, and who is dedicated to her faith, academics, leadership positions and to the College itself.

Hoffman said in an email interview she was stunned and excited to receive the honor of Outstanding Senior.

"I'm very honored to receive the Outstanding Senior Award from the Alumnae Association,"

Hoffman said. "I am grateful for my Saint Mary's education because I gained the confidence to use my education, discovered my passion for environmental health and made friends that will stay with me the rest of my life."

Hoffman was elected class president during her freshman year and served on the Class Board during her sophomore year. She was Mission Commissioner of SGA as a junior and student representative to the Board of Trustees as a senior.

As a biology major, Hoffman conducted her senior research project on Little Corn Island in Nicaragua. During the project, she interacted with locals as she tested a water purification system, the release stated.

Through her experience at Saint Mary's, Hoffman said she has gained confidence in her opinions.

"As my senior year comes to an end, I do not have to worry that I will be lost in a crowd. My leadership abilities will set me apart," Hoffman said. "My path is not certain, but the tools and



Photo courtesy of Saint Mary's Media Relations

Senior Emma Hoffman gives a speech after receiving the Outstanding Senior Award at the Alumnae-Senior champagne brunch Monday.

friends I have gained at Saint Mary's will always hold me in good stead."

After commencement, Hoffman will continue her

service to the biology field by returning to Little Corn Island. She also plans to apply to graduate school to continue her studies in envi-

ronmental health or apply for the Peace Corps.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Not ‘The End’

I’ve tended to associate the reality of this whole graduation thing with a series of “lasts:” the last home football game, the last final exam, the last Finny’s (is there ever really a “last” Finny’s?) and so on. For me, each of these lasts came and went, and reality still hadn’t set in. I wasn’t starting to say goodbyes, I wasn’t thinking about moving out and I wasn’t breaking down every time someone played Vitamin C’s “Graduation.” (Just to clarify, Vitamin C still hasn’t gotten me yet, and I’m not sure it will.)



Matthew Gamber

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

But on Monday, when I signed a lease to move into an apartment in Chicago July 1, something changed. This wasn’t a last, but a first in a long line of important real-world, grown-up decisions — and it was this “first” that alerted me to how quickly reality is approaching.

For so long, I could only see our graduation as The End — of DeBartolo, 222, The Observer, Corby’s, American Studies and Cubs trips. Graduation represented the evil villain conspiring to separate us from our closest friends and the place we’ve called home for four years.

When I signed that lease, though, I began to understand that graduation is, as corny as it sounds, also a beginning. Life after Notre Dame had always seemed so distant, so uncertain, and in some ways it still does. But as it gets closer, I’m realizing the reality that awaits us isn’t so bad either.

As I look out at my group of friends, I see more than the people with whom I’ve shared countless hilarious nights and a handful of rough mornings. I see incredibly talented 22-year-olds who are ready to change the world (seriously) as doctors, lawyers, teachers, public officials, pilots, journalists and business-people. The caliber of people with whom I’ve shared this unparalleled four-year adventure is unbelievable, and that’s what makes it hard to leave this place. But it’s also why I can: because I know we are ready.

To view graduation as The End was absolutely terrifying, but as a beginning, how can we not view it as a thrilling chance to pursue opportunities in new cities and different fields? The real fun is about to begin as we figure out what and who we want to be when we grow up. (And if the events of Senior Week are any indication, we are far from being “grown up.”) Notre Dame and the people who helped me get here — especially my parents, Mark and Mary Jo — have helped me take some of those steps, and for that I feel unbelievably blessed. I’ve learned how special this place is, and I know I’ll take that with me wherever I go.

It starts in Chicago, but I hope that’s just the beginning.

Matt Gamber is graduating with a degree in Finance and American Studies. He would like to thank The Observer for giving him the opportunity to travel across the country over the past four years — it’s the skill from college he’ll use most in his future career. He would also like to thank the talented and dedicated staff that made his time at the paper the most rewarding aspect of his time at Notre Dame.

There, he said it.

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The views expressed in this Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

On Sunday I will walk with the Class of 2011 and become a Notre Dame graduate.

The use of the verb “to walk” in association with graduation ceremonies seems especially appropriate for four years of college.

I fell in love with Notre Dame when I first walked around campus as a high school student.

Freshman year, I was constantly in awe of campus’ beauty. As I learned the fastest paths from Pasquerilla East Hall to everywhere else on campus, I remember hoping I wouldn’t take the beauty of Notre Dame for granted by the time I walked across campus as a senior.

I met a classmate who became a sister to me during a walk to breakfast on the first day of Frosh-O. I met roommates who I walked everywhere with — to North Dining Hall, the library and LaFortune, but also along the edge of the Grand Canyon and up and down the beach in Hilton Head.

I rushed around campus trying not to spill my coffee and still make it to class on time. Sometimes I succeeded.

I learned that after spending hours in the basement of South Dining Hall producing The Observer, there was no guessing what the weather would be when I left to walk home in the middle of the night.



Laura McCrystal

News Editor Emeritus

Walking away

I enjoyed studying in LaFortune because when I needed a break I could walk around and talk to people I knew.

While friends wanted to avoid the dining hall at its most crowded times, I loved walking around, getting my food and trying to keep my tray balanced amidst hundreds of hungry students.

Then there was the time I started to walk into the boys’ bathroom in DeBartolo at class change time. The person who made the location the men’s and ladies’ rooms opposite on the first floor from the second and third floors has an excellent sense of humor.

I spent a semester in Angers, France walking down narrow streets to class and up and down the spiral staircase in my host family’s home. I walked around European cities until my feet ached.

I walked between tailgates on football Saturdays. I stormed the field after Notre Dame beat Utah and I lingered there with my friends for as long as possible before walking out of the stadium through the tunnel.

But before saying goodbye to Notre Dame football as a student, I walked around New York City and into Yankee Stadium. A week after that, I skipped and jumped out of the Coliseum singing the fight song after a win against USC.

This spring, as I realized my days as a college student were slipping away, I did not want to be that senior who took Notre Dame for granted. So I began to take the scenic route to class and made a point of visiting the grotto each day. I even got somewhat strange glances from passersby as I walked around campus alone with a

smile on my face. They must have been underclassmen.

In the years to come, I’ll join the throngs of alumni who descend upon campus on football weekends and show their children the places where they used to sleep, eat, study and play.

But it’s not just the beauty of campus itself that makes it home. One Sunday in August 2007, I sat in the JACC with my parents. My father, who had played devil’s advocate throughout my college search process, turned to me and said, “You’re right, Laura. You belong here.” Later that afternoon, my parents said goodbye to me in the middle of South Quad and walked away.

This Sunday, I will walk onto campus as a student and leave as a graduate. I do not know where I will walk next. But I will never forget the places I walked in the past four years. I will never forget the things I thought about and the people I talked to along the way.

It is time to walk away, but I will never stop belonging here.

Laura McCrystal is graduating with a degree in American Studies, French and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She would like to thank her parents for agreeing that Notre Dame was the right place for her. And many thanks to the roommates, friends, Observer staffers and professors who made the last four years unforgettable. Laura can be reached at lmcrcryst@nd.edu

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Notre Dame in 555 words or less

Welcome to the land of snow excess. McGlinn Hall, home of the Shamrocks and the “hut dance.” Disneyland as a pregame for beating USC. Trying and failing to tri-fecta Finny’s. Night of Mayhem on campus. Walking home from Domerfest with trumpet players.

Going to Domerfest as a junior for free Dip-n-Dots. The bench breaking at a hockey game. Remember that website Juicy Campus? Yeah, me neither. Buzzin’. The grotto in November 2007 and the best Christmas formal ever. Nicaragua 2010. ND-NOLA Team Silver Dragon.

Dear diary, thank you God. Vamps and Vino on Thursday nights in McG 4A. Women’s basketball eating those Huskies for breakfast. Dance parties in McGlinn.

Listening to “Verme,” “Volver,” “Mi Nina Bonita” and “Total Eclipse of the Heart” before and after climbing a volcano. Deep conversations in the DH. Oversharing. Appalachia 2008 — it’s time to ball out. My name is Boo. Zaaaaa. Club H and “Topographies.” Hot and dangerous. Do you like cheese? My favorite’s gouda!

Drummers’ circle. Blue Moon — half-drunk but not forgotten. Having a Latina roommate.



Jordan Gamble

Scene Editor Emeritus

Crank me up. Snowpocalypse 2011. Riding the elevator with Father Hesburgh, who apparently has never heard of Gummi Works. When I see an open highway, it’s like ... well, it can’t be printed in The Observer.

Being Ross’s aid to Ross-Ade Stadium. You just look like you can move. The Shirt 2009: Rise and strike, bend and snap, same thing, right?

A sea of flesh. Observer Observer Observer Observer. Duncan Mass and “Canticle of the Turning.” It’s hard to dance with the devil on your back.

RIP Lula’s. RIP Keenan Revue. RIP Hesburgh Challenge. RIP quarter dogs. RIP McGlinn togas. RIP fun pep rallies (wait, did those ever exist?)

I would say “RIP Notre Dame” but I’ll be vicariously living through every other student here until the day I die. Here’s to hoping I, too, can afford football tickets and a swanky condo on Edison that I’ll only use six or seven weekends per year.

Beautiful landscaping, beautiful bathrooms, beautiful dorms, beautiful bookstore — oh, so that’s where our tuition goes.

Worst record ever in football and I would never trade it for anything. Seriously, how can you complain about running to Stonehenge after UCLA, the Michigan downpour in 2008, the last-minute wins of 2009 and the epic epicness that was Notre Dame-Utah last fall? You can’t really, unless you are a Notre Dame hipster too cool for unabashed happiness.

Rushing the field after the Utah game and following the “Rage” mattress-pad-

banner out through the tunnel was probably one of the happiest moments in my life. Except for opening my Notre Dame acceptance letter Dec. 17, 2006 — and promptly laying down on my kitchen floor and screaming. Knowing that feeling better is just a grotto visit away.

Duck Island. Alexandra, you are amazing and I’m gonna miss not being across the street from you next year. Tour guide inside knowledge: Did you know that Mary on the Dome weighs a whole bunch ton and is taller than two Luke Zellers?

Ranting about Catholic Social Teaching over Papa Smurfs #onlyatnotredame. The jig, the drum cadences, the memories, the “Triangle Room” at DeBart, the Spanglish, the Nicaragua ukulele, the never-ending supply of Diet Coke in the basement of South, the food at SDH, the joy, the sadness, the friendships, the weather.

Love. Thee. Notre. Dame.

Jordan Gamble is graduating with a degree in American Studies and a minor in both Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and Catholic Social Teaching. She has an internship at The New York Times this summer and might actually graduate to real work by September, but it’s possible she’ll just drop everything and write trashy teen romance novels for a living. She’d like to thank her parents for working really darn hard to get her to Notre Dame in the first place. Jordan can be reached at Jordan.r.gamble@gmail.com

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Stay centered by accepting whatever you are doing. This is the ultimate.”

Zhuangzi
Chinese philosopher

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“One must not lose desires. They are mighty stimulants to creativeness, to love and to long life.”

Alexander A. Bogomoletz
Russian physiologist and pathologist

The graduation speech I never got to give

I haven't told anyone this since Frosh-O, but I was salutatorian of my high school class. There were two valedictorians and then there was me, representing all those kids smart enough to get A's but too lazy to take honors physics.

I bring this up because the principle at my high school thought three faux-inspirational speeches written by high school students would be too much for our commencement ceremony's audience to bear. So he told me I wouldn't be giving a speech.

Four years later, with the wound still fresh, I have found a new platform hidden in a closet in the basement of South Dining Hall. I now present to you "The High School Graduation Speech I Never Got to Give (For Real, It's About Mermaids)."

"There was once a young girl who came home from swim practice very sore from the team's post-swim calisthenics. She explained to her mother that workouts in



Laura Myers

Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

the water were easy, but out of the water they were too hard. Her mom told her, 'I guess when you grow up you'll have to be a mermaid.' So the girl had a new goal.

"Okay, I'm going to admit it. That girl was me. And since last summer, I've come to the realization that I can't grow up to be a mermaid."

Pause for laughter.

My speech was going to go on to urge students to take the challenge of getting out of the water, which was easy and safe, for the difficulties of dry land. The water being a metaphor for high school and the dry land being a metaphor for ... life? Who knows.

It probably would have included a wise saying from Mr. Feeney, Harry Potter or a Spill Canvas song. Of course, if I were writing it as a college senior, more intellectual and sophisticated, etc., I would definitely quote John Wooden, St. Augustine or Barney Stinson.

Clearly, this speech would have been hilarious, not to mention moving and perfect at explaining just how everyone feels at graduation. I was so certain I could do that then, but I don't have a clue how to pull it off now.

Everything this week has been the last of something, and the conversations have ranged from the obligatory ("I can't believe we made it") to the depressing ("Now

we're going to get old") to the absurd ("I'm going to miss singing along to the Spice Girls at the Backer") — that last one was me.

As John Wooden said, on the sheet of the quote-a-day-calendar I tore off the day I wrote this, "It's not so important who starts the game, but who finishes it." Not one person graduating this weekend is the same as the one who started here four years ago. When I got to Notre Dame, I'd never seen an episode of *The Office*. I couldn't even pretend to know about economics. I cared that I was salutatorian of my high school class.

Now, among other things, I pretend to know about economics all the time. I baked a cake for Jim and Pam's wedding. I don't care about grades, but about learning.

We've all learned a lot in our four years here, about poetry and math and maybe the technical aspects of our future careers. About friendship and responsibility and the best way to maneuver around Corby's when it's packed. About losing and about winning, and about standing with your classmates in either outcome.

Now, like the girl who couldn't stay a mermaid, we have to leave those conversations and those experiences for a bigger, more difficult world.

A friend pointed out to me the other day that it doesn't matter that we're leaving.

We'll always have our Notre Dame education and everything that comes with it, from logical thinking to alumni connections. He told me we'll always be the people Notre Dame made us. Four years ago, I was most upset because I wouldn't get to deliver the perfect sign off: "So congratulations, Wadsworth High School Class of 2007. Make a splash." Which, of course, makes no sense considering I just told them to get out of the water. But back in 2007 I thought I was really clever.

I guess one thing hasn't changed.

So congratulations, Notre Dame Class of 2011. Make — no, I can't say it. There's no way this ending's going to be that easy.

Coming soon to a couch near you(r living room), Laura Myers is graduating with a degree in economics and no ideas on how to improve on the \$11.09 in her checking account. She made some stockings once. She wants to thank Dad for the Sports Illustrateds and Mom for teaching her how to play Scrabble way before it got cool (and both for a million other things). She would also like to thank her Downy Wrinkle Release Spray for always having her back, and Deb for being Deb. Laura can be reached at lmyers2@nd.edu

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To my home: Class of 2011

Five years ago, I never thought I'd be here. When I started looking at schools, Notre Dame was barely on my radar. It was only after persistent suggestions from a friend's grandmother that I even decided to come out to my first football game.

My parents and I drove up and down the east coast and even flew across the country looking at colleges. I saw everything from small schools to state universities.

The one school I never officially visited? The University of Notre Dame. In fact, my parents never even saw the campus until the day they dropped me off. It seems odd to think that a place that seemed so foreign four years ago couldn't feel anymore like home.

Every time I set foot on campus, it will always be as coming home. When I leave wherever I'm living to come to a football game, I won't be going away. I'll be coming back. The times I've had here have made this place a part of my personality more than I could have ever imagined.

As excited as I am to get my diploma Sunday, I've already gotten the most valuable thing I'm going to take from these four years. The friends and relationships I've made here will undoubtedly stay with me forever.

When I look back on my college experience 20 years down the road, am I going to remember the time I stayed up all night studying or writing a paper? Maybe. All those nights seem to blend together. I know I'm going to remember, though, the time I got up at 4 a.m. to go to the Kentucky Derby. I'm going to remember tailgating with friends and going on football road-trips.



Sam Werner

Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

Most of all, I'd like to just thank the Class of 2011 — especially my friends — for sharing these experiences with me. I can't imagine a better group of people to spend the past four years with. Even those of you that I don't know personally, we have a wealth of common highs and lows we've gone through.

Not all of the memories are good, necessarily. We didn't win a football national championship (quite the opposite, in fact) and the Indiana State Excise Police certainly won't be getting Christmas cards from any members of our class. All that matters, though, is that we shared these experiences. This week has brought such a flurry of emotions that it's difficult to characterize in one 600-word column. Like the rest of our time here, it's been both imperfect (the Cubs game getting rained out) and absolutely perfect at the same time (a fantastic day in Chicago with my closest friends).

As much as I don't want to move on from Notre Dame, I know it's time. More importantly, I know Notre Dame will always be there when I want it. It will be here for football games reunions when I come back, and it will also be there with me in the memories and relationships I've built here.

Thank you, Notre Dame, and thank you Class of 2011. It's been real.

Sam Werner will graduate with a degree in American Studies and a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. He'll be working for the summer at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, where he'll have to learn how to work with actual deadlines. He'd like to thank his parents, his younger sister and all of his friends. He is not looking forward to the fall when, for the first time since October 2006, he'll have to watch a Notre Dame home game on TV. Sam can be reached at swerner@nd.edu

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Thanks for the memories, Notre Dame

The University recently asked me if I learned something in the past four years.

Part of the long list of pre-graduation tasks for seniors included a short survey about the academic experience here at Notre Dame. I rolled my eyes at the pointlessness of trying to sum up four years of at an academic institution in five or so multiple-choice questions. I indicated that, yes, I did learn something.

After four years and \$200,000, I sure hope so. I learned that a coupon for a free bagel is literally and figuratively priceless if it allows me to sit in Einstein's for hours talking to my friends.

I learned that leaving Finny's for 10 minutes to use the bathroom at C.J.'s or O'Sullivan's will save about 40 minutes in a line.

I learned to fix finicky computers at 3 a.m. and to love my beautifully dysfunctional Observer family. I never quite learned how to explain to skeptical people what my major in American Studies is, except that it is in fact the best major at Notre Dame.

I learned that life can be rough at times, but I also learned that chocolate from the Huddle and good friends can make almost anything better. I'm fairly certain I went to more classes than I skipped (just kidding, Mom) and those classes fundamentally changed the way I view the world. I am more analytical and open-minded, thanks to some of the amazing professors I have been lucky enough to experience.

This place made its indelible mark on me, mostly because of the people. Notre Dame students are truly extraordinary. I am constantly humbled by the brilliance of my friends, and when I leave for the real world, I'll have to remem-

ber that I can't leave my laptop and wallet on a table and know it won't be stolen.

Soon, I will have to pack up my room, and the best-outfitted kitchen in any college house (did we ever get that garlic mincer?). My mom keeps telling me to get a big trash bag to start throwing away the things I don't need. I can't bring myself to do it because I fear an empty room will make it too real.

I don't want to say goodbye to the best friends that have been my family for these four years.

When I can't put off bringing the trash bags up to my room any longer, I'll think about the 10-hour drive to North Carolina, closing down Finny's and then watching the Royal Wedding (oh wait, I fell asleep) and that first dorm party in Stanford that we all awkwardly attended together. I'll think of those, and other memories that make me smile. We learned to lean on each other and pick each other up when necessary. We also simultaneously learned to be independent and self-reliant. We navigated college together, and conquered it.

In the sadness and nostalgia of this coming weekend, I'll have to remember that it's not really goodbye. The term commencement is interesting because no one seems to think of graduation as a beginning.

But I think the most important lesson I am taking from college is that I can do this. It was the best four years of my life, but I have taken Notre Dame for everything it is worth, and now I am ready to move forward.

So in case the graduation survey results aren't completely sufficient, I learned everything.

Madeline Buckley is graduating with a degree in American Studies and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She would like to thank her parents for all their love and support, and the gift of a college education. She can be reached at mbuckley@nd.edu

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Madeline Buckley

Managing Editor Emeritus

Affirm it, visualize it, believe it

It's 1:30 a.m. in the wee-hours of Friday morning, the last day of my last finals week, and I'm settling in for, yes, my last all-nighter.

On the signature "LaFun Run" return trip to Riley Hall from picking up my last late night Venti half-sweetened iced coffee from Starbucks, I had a realization that I haven't experienced in recent memory, a realization which, perhaps I simply hadn't had the time to slow down to feel, understand or really reflect upon.

The realization, that despite all my friends being out at Fever, Finnigan's/Finnies/Finny's, Oyster Bar or another questionable local establishment, despite a week packed full of exams and anticipation for the future and despite the impending 10 a.m. deadline for my last undergraduate Industrial Design presentation looming ever closer, I was, well, content.

I might not know what my next step in life is, or what that uncertainty means for the next week, month, year or decade, but somehow, that's OK.

I liked to pretend Notre Dame is a different place for me. That growing up here in South Bend as a townie, being immersed in the Notre Dame culture since birth (including blue and gold colored braces) makes Our Lady's University mean so much more to me than everyone else here.

However, the recent news that my family would be leaving Notre Dame alongside me was a somewhat sobering moment. That my relationship to Notre Dame before these four years didn't make me any different than anyone else here.

I had assumed, somewhat naively, that leaving Notre Dame wouldn't really be leaving, that I would always be back, that home would always be the same golden place it always had been. But now, suddenly, it had seemed, my only connection was the blue-stoned, gold finished monogram Notre Dame on my right ring finger.

On my computer monitor at home, I have a fortune cookie paper taped to it that reads, "Affirm it, visualize it, believe it and it will actualize itself."

Maybe this spoke to me originally as a design major in the most literal sense. But many late nights later, I see it more deeply. Your experience here is very much what you make of it. My dorm. My friends. The Observer.

Everything you do here builds your relationship with this place further, which is why working through tonight is OK.

When else will I get to cram into a computer lab with 20 comrades, each with the common desire to impress none other than Kenneth Cole, or maybe more importantly just the desire to graduate with something to show for it? Late nights at The Observer, partying with friends, football tailgates — the list goes on.

Each and every moment here has made this place what it is to me today. And no matter where I am, where my family is, where my friends are, that will never change.

So now, instead of saying goodbye, I say thank you.

Thank you to my friends, new and old, who have always stayed by my side. Thank you to my family for putting up with me and my quirks for 22 years. Thank you to everyone at The Observer, for the times, both good and fantastic.

To my second families and second homes at O'Neill and Riley Hall. To my professors, my co-workers, my girlfriend. To everyone who has helped to support me, mold me and make me who I am today, for this I will forever be grateful.

In watching friends go through the best of times and the worst of times, I've seen firsthand what Notre Dame is really all about.

Notre Dame will forever be my home, and that home is more than just a place, it is each and every person who shares a love for what this University is and the people it stands for.

For those of you lucky enough to have one, two or even three more years here: Love this place, and it will love you; get out there, and don't waste a minute of your four years here, they'll be some of your best.

Good luck, Class of 2011 and Love thee Notre Dame.

Dan Jacobs is graduating with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Industrial Design and plans to pursue a career in design in the Chicago area. Dan wants to thank his friends and family for making this the best four years of his life and looks forward to crashing on many, many couches in the years to come. Dan can be reached at djacobs1@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Dan Jacobs

*Photo Editor
Emeritus*

Leaving the familiar to brave the unknown

In a few short weeks, I will be trading God Quad for Times Square, the Golden Dome for the Empire State Building. A cubicle in the 48-floor Condé Nast building will replace my desk at The Observer in the basement of South Dining Hall.

This year, my friends and I live within walking distance of each other. Next year, we will each be far flung, from New York and Boston and Chicago, to Atlanta, Dallas, even the Cayman Islands.

In short: I'm scared. I know it's natural to be, not only because I will be leaving my comfortable, predictable life, but because for the first time in my life I don't really know what comes next.

While all these changes are intimidating, I also know that, deep down, I am ready to embrace the unexpected and the unknown.

My time at Notre Dame has prepared me well for the new reality of the working world and I know the relationships I've made here will survive the challenge of distance. Next year, I will miss the freedom of a student's life — the long pauses in a loose college schedule, the afternoon naps and of course Thursday nights at Feve.

I will miss the exquisite and comforting sight of Notre Dame's leafy quads. On the other hand, I look forward to new freedoms and new views.

I hope to take all that I've learned here, from professors, from friends, from classmates, and use it all. As we graduate and go out into the world, let's strive to do well, but also to do good. As Notre Dame graduates we carry a responsibility to help others less fortunate.

Let's work hard, but let's also remember we only have one life. Let's laugh — at ourselves, especially, and with each other, but never at someone else's expense. Let's remember to be kind to all we meet because it's impossible to



Blair Chemidlin

*Graphics Editor
Emeritus*

know everyone's hardships. Let's make new friends, but let's also stay in touch.

I would like to use this remaining space to thank the people who have always helped me get from one day to the next.

I thank my family: my dad, who is a constant source of inspiration for me, my mom, who has more love in her heart than she knows what to do with, and my brothers Conor, Grant and Reid, who taught me how to be tough and keep up with the boys.

Amy, Eliza, Sofia, Cassie, Jordan, Kaitlyn and Grace: you have become my sisters. I cannot wait to visit each of you next year, no matter the airfare!

To my boyfriend, Billy: thank you for helping make my senior year the very best. I love you.

And, finally, to my friends at The Observer: while my first visit to Disneyland during our Thanksgiving trip did have its perks (single riders jump the line!) I had so much more fun when you all joined me the next day. It takes a close-knit group of editors to carry on fake Editorial Board meetings weeks after our terms have ended.

To my professors: thank you for opening my mind in all sorts of ways and equipping me not only with facts and information but with something far greater — true knowledge.

To all of my family, friends, classmates and Notre Dame faculty and staff, thank you. Together, you have made the past four years of my life amazing and each moment unforgettable. I am forever indebted.

Blair Chemidlin is graduating with a degree in English and Sociology. After graduation, she will be working at Brides Magazine in New York City. She will be spending many long hours on buses, commuting from her home in New Jersey. Blair could have written a book about her time at Notre Dame and why she is so grateful to everyone in her life, but thankfully, managed to create a SparkNotes version for The Observer. She can be reached at bchemidl@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

The Observer would like to thank the following seniors for four years of late nights, missed deadlines and flawed stories.

Madeline Buckley, Ashley Charnley, Blair Chemidlin, Joe Choi, Lillian Civantos, Tess Civantos, Coleman Collins, Steph DePrez, Patty Fernandez, Matt Gamber, Jordan Gamble, Mike Gotimer, Katelyn Grabarek, Sofia Iturbe, Dan Jacobs, Melissa Kaduck, Casey Kenny, Claire Kiernan, Megan Loney, Michelle Maitz, Laura McCrystal, Laura Myers, Eric Prister, Pat Sala, Katlyn Smith, Meaghan Veselik, Sam Werner

But instead, we thank you for lots of laughs and even more great memories.



EXCERPTS FROM PAST ISSUES

Four Years in Review

Obama speaking

I am Roman-Catholic, pro-life and middle-upper class citizen with strong leanings toward the Republican Party. Oh, and one more thing: I am ecstatic that the President of the United States is coming to speak at my graduation Commencement. Within hours of the big announcement on Friday, I was receiving infuriating e-mails from my fellow pro-lifers calling for the immediate repeal of President Obama’s invitation to Notre Dame. “We must stand against evil,” said one message. “He supports gay marriage, which is an affront to the family,” read another. “He should not be given this opportunity to confuse our youth.” One message went so far as to compare Obama with history’s most hated villain. The email read: “The German people supported Hitler because he was dynamic and promised jobs and food. There is more to a man than his charisma.” There is also more to a man than his views on the single issue of abortion. Such rash and radical comments not only fail to promote the end of abortion, they undermine the entire pro- life movement.

In an emergency press release issued by the Pro-Life Action League, National Director and Notre Dame alumnus Joe Scheidler made the following statements: “Over the first two months of his administration, Barack Obama has established himself as the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history. My alma mater should not be providing a platform for this president. Father Jenkins cannot expect pro-life Catholics to stand back and allow the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history to make a mockery of Notre Dame’s Catholic identity.” As a pro-lifer myself, I understand where Scheidler is coming from; I, too, am concerned for the pro-life movement under the Obama administration. I simply cannot agree, however, with the idea that Notre Dame, one of the finest academic institutions in the nation, should deny the President of the United States a platform to speak solely because of his views on abortion. Obama is not coming to Notre Dame to speak about abortion, nor is his speech supposed to play a pivotal part in the formation of our Catholic identity.

It is our responsibility, not our Commencement speaker’s, to continue to cultivate our Catholic identity and apply it beyond graduation. The role of a Commencement speaker is to welcome college graduates into the real world, arm them with knowledge of complex and evolving issues, and inspire them to be passionate and influential citizens of a global community. I simply cannot think of anyone more qualified to do these things than the leader of the free world, President Barack Obama.

Thus, to my fellow pro-lifers: let us battle the president on each and every issue pertinent to life, but let us not undermine our intelligence and our patriotism by forsaking other important issues in the reckless pursuit of one. The world will not stop turning for the abortion issue to be resolved. We as Catholics are therefore called to be dynamic citizens who take a multi-dimensional approach to making our world a better place; this means listening and learning from influential world leaders such as Barack Obama. To disinvite the President of the United States based on a single issue, even one as important as abortion, would be a disgrace both to our Catholic identity and to this great Catholic University.

Mark Weber
senior
off campus
Mar. 21, 2009

A eulogy to 4 Loko

It is a dark time, Notre Dame, for our beloved caffeinated malt beverage, 4 Loko, has all but perished. Recently, Phusion Projects LLC of Chicago, the manufacturer of the sweet nectar, has announced its intention to remove the caffeine from the product, thus reducing it to a pitiful concoction void of all its former splendors. Live in our memories, dear divine, for that is to where you have been reduced. Shortly, none of us will ever again revel in this ingenious combination of caffeine and alcohol. None of us will ever again experience the pleasures of rambunctious intoxication that was once only within the reach of rich frat boys and their Colombian Bam-Bam.

Dark times, indeed! The simple joy of a beverage that delivered inexpressibly forgettable nights shall die. Nay! Not because consuming the beverage resulted in disappointing excursions, but for the literal blackout it delivered upon exposure — this eulogist admits some of his finest experiences while under the direction of this delectably divine substance. So young in its life, so rapturous in its cause, those within the 18 to 25-year-old age bracket and those earning under \$30,000/year shall surely feel this atrocity most. A weekly tradition it was, feeling like Pablo Escobar, buying the “cocaine in a can” and indulging in its many fruits.

For shame to all those responsible for this heinous crime of deprivation! We return to the hallowed halls of 40s at four. We return to the art of a simple shower. We return to our earlier world. But I dare say this: at what cost, dear readers, at what cost? There will likely be a new beverage. There are always the traditional standbys. But it wont be the same.

In our hearts forever, love thee 4 Loko.

Sam Mitchell
sophomore
Knott Hall
Dec. 8, 2010

Four Years in Review

Obama speaking

Dear six guys I’ve hooked up with this semester, Thank you for the hook-up. It was ... decent. From my experience, it was a typical freshman year hook-up.

Some of you shamelessly lead me on, while with others it just sort of happened. Obviously, I wanted it too because I definitely didn’t stop you. In fact I love to kiss boys, my roommates and I refer to it as “my hobby.”

Yes, the hook-up itself was fine, but afterwards we’ve run into a problem. The problem is the dining hall, at parties, the quad and in class. It’s the way that you look at me, with that awkward stare that makes me want to scream “Yes we did hookup once and no we haven’t talked since then!” Other times we see each other and you quickly dart your eyes to avoid eye contact or suddenly become enthralled in conversation with the nearest object. To be fair, I think I may have gotten a “hey” from one or two of you before (it’s been a while though, so forgive me if my memory isn’t perfect).

What about my number, did you ask for it just as a matter of course? Is it your way of saying,”Thanks for the hook-up, can I have your number so that I can delay your realization that we are never going to speak again?” Well it worked, I gave every one of you my number and haven’t heard from most of you since. How many of you would actually call me if you needed someone to go grab lunch with? Or if you needed help studying for a class that we both have? How many of you haven’t deleted it, or are just now realizing that I must be that mysterious “Melissa” entry in your contact list?

Don’t blame me for not calling you, a broken phone can attest to the fact that I’ve lost most of your numbers. I doubt you would answer even if I

Melissa Buddie
freshman
Lyons Hall
Nov. 13, 2008

Time to act on GLBT issues

As a recent alumnus and member of the 2006-07 Student Senate, it is disheartening to witness the actions — or, rather, inaction on the part of this administration — taking place on Our Lady’s campus.

The Student Senate passed a resolution in March, 2007 requesting the University add “sexual orientation” to its non-discrimination clause. While I do not personally identify as GLBTQ, I remember strongly supporting the Social Concerns committee chair during Senate proceedings. I was shocked such wording did not already exist. And I remember being a part of the 25-1-1 majority that voted to pass the resolution.

This publication, The Observer, reported at the time that both the Student Senate and Faculty Senate had passed similar language in 1998. Two Holy Cross schools, King’s College in Pennsylvania and Holy Cross College in Indiana, already included the language at the time. I recall students on campus having civilized and intelligent debate regarding the issue. Yet, three years later, we have not progressed. Students, faculty, and alumni continue to support measures to be more inclusive with regard to our

could call you. I’m a good person and an even better friend. But obviously, since we hooked-up, it would be too much to ask that we ever consider friendship as an option. Ignoring each other, apparently, is the only choice that we have.

Of course, I don’t render myself blameless. Our hook-up was the most convenient form of instant gratification that we could find. I realize that and I admit to being just as guilty as you are. But next time I smile at you on the quad, or say hi to you in class, can you pretend that you haven’t gone both deaf and blind since that night that we met at that party?

Although I doubt that you are willing to do that, I am sure of one thing: You six guys are where I draw the line. This weekend, and all weekends until I graduate, I refuse to add to this list. I won’t hook-up with any more random boys. Not because the act itself wasn’t enjoyable, but because this campus isn’t that big and I can’t afford to have any more boys refusing to look me in the eye when I walk down South Quad. At Notre Dame, I am looking to make friends (not boyfriends, fiancés, or husbands) and hook-ups obviously lead to anything but friendship. I can find a new hobby, hopefully something that really does make me happy, but I will not hook-up. I’ll see you at the dining hall.

Sincerely, Melissa.

P.S. — Don’t worry about our kiss under the arch — unless we move to Utah, it’s unlikely that all six of you will find yourselves married to me.

GLBTQ brothers and sisters, but nothing is done. It is not news that the administration can be selectively deaf regarding student issues, but 12 years of repetitive voices and increasing volume must have an effect.

Notre Dame, it is time to act. Alumni, students and faculty have done all they can. Now, it is up to this administration to stop dismissing the issue and step up to the plate. Take bold steps to live your “Spirit of Inclusion” in word and deed. Include “sexual orientation” in the University’s non-discrimination clause. Allow the Student Union Board to recognize groups of gay students on campus as legitimate student groups. And if you won’t, you at least owe 12 years of the Notre Dame community an explanation of your reasoning. Refusing to address the issue — hoping that ignoring it will make it go away — will not cut it any longer.

Chris Beesley
alumnus
Class of 2008
Jan. 29, 2010

Welcome to the Family, Coach

Welcome to the Notre Dame Family. In short order, you are getting a full taste of the Notre Dame family. Our family, like all families, is dysfunctional. We strive for perfection but often fall short. We have our flaws, disagreements and issues, but ultimately we love our family unconditionally. For those who truly know Notre Dame, love her. Those who don’t just don’t understand.

We love our football, maybe too much. Winning is an expectation. An expectation exemplified by our cheers when a trick play works and our jeers when the pass to the best receiver in the nation against the worst pass defense gets intercepted. Expectations that make many feel you have had plenty of months to turn around years of mediocrity.

We love this University, but sometimes forget her imperfections. “What would you fight for?” We state with great pride, but when things aren’t perfect, we scream greed or accountability. Ultimately, though, we all have an indescribable feeling for her. A feeling that keeps us united.

We love our students and all the gifts they bring to our University. We don’t like them throwing snowballs or getting arrested off campus. Although

imperfect, Notre Dame students are like no other. When we lose one, we lose a family member.

We love our football coach. We love him more with wins, and less with losses. With tragedy, thankfully rare, we don’t know how to respond. Please be patient. You have seen our dysfunction, our anger, our finger pointing and our calls for judgment. You have also witnessed the community of faith that makes this University great. Eventually, you will see the incredible forgiveness, compassion and love that define Our Lady. You are going through an incredible tragedy. We will come to recognize your eternal pain and that Declan was part of your family as well. The Notre Dame family, though dysfunctional, recognizes that we need to stay united in good times and bad.

Coach Kelly, stay tender, strong and true. Those who know Notre Dame, your family, will pray for Declan, the Sullivan family and everyone involved in any way with this tragedy.

Mick Connors
alumnus
Class of 1988
Nov. 3, 2010

Movies

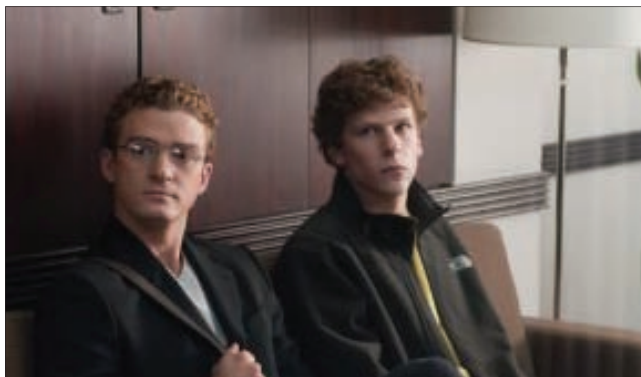


For “Harry Potter” – and our childhoods – the end is near



“Toy Story 3” brings even college kids to tears

The British monarch with the stammer steals the world’s heart, and all its gold statues



“The Social Network” defines the Facebook generation



“Inception:” the movie that rocked Hollywood and continues to blow our minds

Television



Michael Scott leaves a void that cannot be filled



TBS stands with Team Coco for new Conan show



Thanks to “Glee,” Gwyneth Paltrow owns TV



New judges reinvigorate “American Idol”



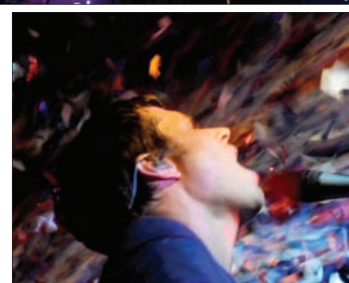
“The Voice” discovers new talent on reality TV

Year Rev

Campus



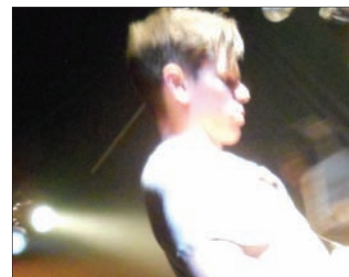
OK Go shows Notre Dame some love



The Keenan Revue makes its triumphant return to campus



Augustana closes the year with a concert at Legends



For more on the year’s events, v

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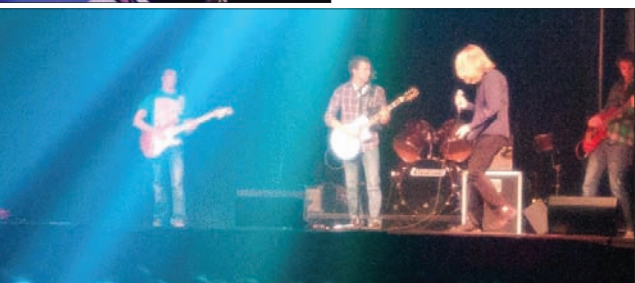
Events



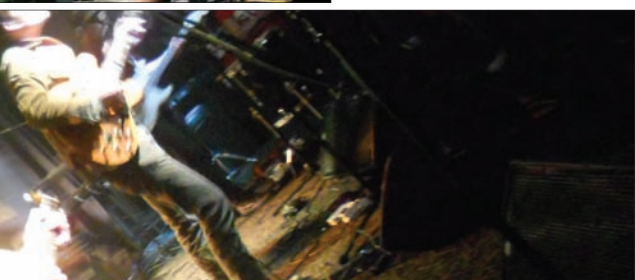
Guster hit off the year at the B1 Block Party



SUB rocks Stepan Center with Chiddy Bang and O.A.R.



Student theater brings viral videos to campus



Pop Culture



High: The Royal Wedding brings a fairy tale to life

High: Sandra Bullock handles Hollywood scandal with dignity



Low: Charlie Sheen stops #winning and sinks into delirium

Low: Ark Music and Rebecca Black prove talent isn't necessary for success



Low: Even after growing up, Taylor Swift keeps whining



Music

The Year's Be\$
t Party \$ong\$



1. "Blow"
— Ke\$ha



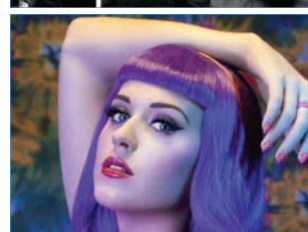
2. "Till the World Ends"
— Britney Spears



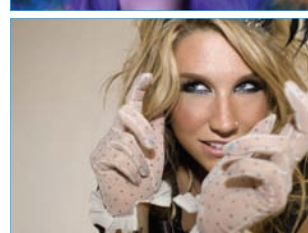
3. "F**k You"
— Cee Lo Green



4. "Like a G6"
— Far East Movement feat. Catarac & Dev



5. "Teenage Dream"
— Katy Perry



6. "We R Who We R"
— Ke\$ha



7. "Stereo Love"
— Edward Maya & Vika Jigulina



8. "I Like It"
— Enrique Iglesias



9. "Raise Your Glass"
— P!nk



10. "Yeah 3x"
— Chris Brown

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MEN’S TENNIS

Bayliss directs Irish to another tournament bid

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

This season has been another feather in the hat for Irish coach Bobby Bayliss. The team finished second in the Big East and earned a berth as a No. 2 seed in the 64-team NCAA tournament for the 20th time in 21 years.

Team depth and versatility allowed the Irish to prolong their season May 13 in a first round match against East Tennessee State before losing the following day to fourth-ranked Ohio State.

The match against the Atlantic Sun champion Buccaneers in Columbus played out in nail-biting fashion.

The Irish (18-13) earned a come-from-behind 4-3 victory, with No. 4 singles freshman Greg Andrews winning the final two sets over Charles Bottoni in the final match. After the Irish fell behind 1-0 in doubles play, they rallied to win four of six singles matches, with junior Casey Watt, senior Daniel Stahl and sophomore Blas Moros all winning in straight sets at the No. 1, 3 and 6 singles positions, respectively.

After falling in his first set 2-6, Andrews rallied to win the final two sets 6-4, 7-5 to secure the victory.

This win set up a second round rematch against the Buckeyes, in which the Irish hoped to avenge a 5-2 loss from April. The Buckeyes, however, proved championship-worthy in a 4-0 win, in which they swept two doubles matches and three singles matches, all in straight sets to advance to the

round of 16.

Nevertheless, on the season, the Irish’s challenging slate of matches prepared them well for the rigors of tournament play. The team faced 23 nationally ranked teams, including the then-No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 teams in the nation in Virginia, Ohio State and Illinois.

“Our depth and balance have been our greatest strengths,” Bayliss said. “In looking back, we had injuries to [freshman] Billy Pecor and [junior] Sam Keeton who were projected starters and still finished with three top-20 wins.”

The team’s depth shined in one of the season’s signature wins March 8 against No. 4 Illinois at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Irish clinched the doubles point with strong play from their No. 2 and No. 3 teams, each posting 8-2 victories. The Illini were the highest-ranked opponent Notre Dame has defeated in nine years.

Contributions came from all classes of players, from freshman Greg Andrews, who quickly became a dominating player with his 25-9 mark in doubles play, to seniors such as Stahl, Sean Tan and Tyler Davis.

The program will graduate seven seniors, including Stahl, who plans to pursue aspirations of becoming a professional tennis player. He compiled a 24-11 record in mostly No. 3 singles play.

“[Stahl] has become our go-to guy,” Bayliss said. “He has rock-solid ground strokes, and he just keeps getting better.”

Contact Matt Unger at munger3@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Irish win Big East title

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

With the strength of No. 5 junior Kristy Frilling’s leadership and an infusion of talent from the freshman class, No. 20 Notre Dame battled through adversity to post a 17-10 record this season and won the Big East title to advance to the NCAA tournament.

“Our team has persevered through some adversity this year and I think we’ve shown that as we’ve positively progressed throughout the season,” Frilling said. “Everyone has worked very hard and has improved a lot.”

The Irish had a strong season in singles and doubles action, ending with a winning record in both areas. Senior Kristen Rafael attributed the team’s versatility to hard work on the court.

“I think our strength is our willingness to never give up and keep improving with every match,” senior Rafael said. “Our season has not been perfect, but we know that with every opportunity, we will improve into the great team that we know we have the ability to be.”

Rafael ended her college career on a high note with a

seven-match winning streak at No. 4 singles.

“I am going to miss playing for and representing such an amazing university, my coaches who have supported me in every aspect of my life from day one and the struggles, fight and passion I share with the team I have the opportunity to play next to,” Rafael said.

The Irish earned various individual accolades for their 2010-11 season. Frilling was named the Big East Player of the Year for the second straight season after losing only four matches. In addition, Irish coach Jay Louderback earned the Big East Coach of the Year award. This year’s award, Louderback’s second in a row, marks the ninth time he has earned the honor since the Irish joined the Big East. Notre Dame’s trip to the NCAA tournament was also the 18th in Louderback’s 22-year coaching career.

Junior Shannon Mathews and freshman Jennifer Kellner also earned spots on the all-Big East team.

In doubles, Mathews and Kellner ended their season with a 19-4 record. They lost in the second round of the NCAA tournament to the

Northwestern’s Linda Abu Mushrefova and Nida Hamilton. The Northwestern duo broke Frilling and Mathews’ 17-game winning streak.

Mathews also performed well in singles, earning the Most Outstanding Player in the Big East tournament award.

Frilling was proud of the way her team worked together this season.

“I think our team has great chemistry and we all care about how we do and about each other,” Frilling said. “Little things like that really help, even when you don’t think it matters.”

The Irish were disappointed with their season-ending defeat by Northwestern, but the loss only made them more eager for revenge next season.

“The most difficult part of any season is the losses,” Rafael said. “It also gives us motivation to fight and be hungrier for the next match.”

The graduating Rafael said she feels confident that Notre Dame’s young talent will enable the team to compete at a high level after she leaves.

“With four freshmen, one of our greatest strengths was the ability for them to step up and play like veterans, like Kellner and Julie Sabacinski have,” Rafael said.

Contact Katie Heit kheit@nd.edu

MEN’S SOCCER

Seniors Perry and Brovsky lead NCAA tourney run

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The arrival of fall at Notre Dame brings with it a few certain facts — the days will get shorter, the temperature colder, the leaves will change color and Bobby Clark will lead his Irish squad to the NCAA tournament.

The 2010 year was business as usual for the Notre Dame coach, as the Irish (10-6-4) rode the goal scoring of senior forward Steven Perry and the leadership of a deep senior class to their 10th straight NCAA appearance under Clark. The team fell 2-1 to Dartmouth on a golden goal in extra time during the second round. Clark said the bitter defeat at the hands of a familiar

foe — Clark coached at Dartmouth for nine seasons — came at the end of a well-played season.

“I always say it’s a good season to reach the NCAA tournament, and a great one if you can advance and reach the College Cup,” he said. “To be the ninth overall seed out of 200 teams in college soccer, that’s the top five percent. That’s where we want to be. We needed to have taken full advantage of our good placement, however. If you look at professional soccer, the best team rarely wins in a cup format.”

Coming off an 11-8-4 campaign in 2009, Clark and the Irish had to replace the production of the Big East’s lead goal-scorer Bright Dike, who current-

ly plays for the Major League Soccer team the Portland Timbers. Graduated midfielder Justin Morrow also left a gap on the field when he went to play for the San Jose Earthquakes. The holes were ably filled by the senior duo of Perry and midfielder Jeb Brovsky.

Perry took over for Dike as the Big East’s top goal-scorer with 12 goals on the campaign, and also led the conference in points (28), shots (73) and game-winning goals (five) en route to nabbing a unanimous first-team all-Big East selection. Brovsky started every game in the midfield for the Irish, leading a young group of midfielders and tallying four goals and an assist, garnering first-team all-Big East honors. The two conference first-team-

ers led a group of seniors that Clark said have been the most spirited group he has coached at Notre Dame.

“The biggest positive of the season was that the group of seniors was just a terrific group,” Clark said. “There was as good group harmony as I’ve had since I’ve been coaching here, and the credit goes to the senior class. They’re a very positive group, and they were even more excited about the program as seniors than they were as freshmen.”

Clark said another highlight of the season was senior captain and goalkeeper Philip Tuttle’s return from a preseason meniscus injury to start 13 games for Notre Dame.

“Initially the prognosis was

that he might miss the whole season, but Phil as a captain told the team ‘I’ll be at every practice,’” Clark said. “From there, he worked like an absolute Trojan, just worked so hard to get back in and have success for us.”

The success of the senior leaders came full circle when Brovsky, Perry and senior right back Bilal Duckett were chosen in the MLS SuperDraft, and Tuttle was chosen in the supplemental SuperDraft. Clark said the selections underscored a larger victory.

“What’s more important is that all four are going to graduate,” he said.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

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Thank you Jimmy. Thank you Eric. Thank you.

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ND WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Season falls short of expectations



TOM LA/The Observer

Senior libero Angela Puente passes the ball during Notre Dame's 3-0 loss against Northern Iowa Nov. 7. The Irish went 19-13 this year.

By MICHAEL TODISCO
Sports Writer

Irish coach Debbie Brown has high expectations for her team each and every season, making the 2010 campaign a significant setback in the recent success of the program.

"It is our goal to win the Big East championship and make the NCAA tournament every year, so this year was certainly a disappointment," she said.

Although Notre Dame's 2010 run was labeled a disappointment by Brown's standards, the team's season was fraught with individual and team successes. During the campaign, Brown earned her 450th win as head coach, senior middle hitter Kelly Sciacca recorded her 1000th kill and freshman outside hitter Andrea McHugh was named the region's most outstanding freshman.

The Irish finished the season with a 19-13 overall record and an 11-5 mark in Big East play. The young Notre Dame roster showed promise and resolve throughout the season, but struggled when facing top competition.

The Irish lost a talented senior class at the end of the year. Kelly Sciacca and libero Angela Puente were key players for Notre Dame this season, while outside hitter Stephanie Slatt and defender Megan Dunne also made key contributions to the team.

Brown had nothing but kind words to remember the senior class by.

"I think so highly of the class as a whole," Brown said. "They were all great people, great student athletes and wonderful ambassadors for the University. They each brought very specific talents and were very, very valuable to the team. I enjoyed coaching each of them and it was hard to say goodbye to them."

Most notably, middle hitter Kelly Sciacca rounded out one of the most celebrated careers in Notre Dame volleyball history. Sciacca recorded the 1,000th kill of her career on Oct. 15 against DePaul. With that accomplishment, she became only the ninth player in Notre Dame history to finish with 1000 kills and 400 blocks.

While the senior class will be difficult to replace, the young contributors proved themselves on the court this season.

"I think the young players improved a tremendous amount this season," Brown said. "We had several freshmen and sophomores on the floor each match. The experience they gained was very valuable and the seniors did a great job bringing them along."

Amongst the talented young Irish nucleus, McHugh excelled during the 2010 campaign. McHugh earned not only the Big East freshman of the year award, but was voted the Northeast Region Freshman of Year by the American Volleyball Coaches' Association.

"Andrea was amazing this season and earned some great accolades," Brown said. "We knew she would be a significant contributor to the team, but didn't necessarily foresee that she would perform at such a high level."

Looking to next season, the Irish restocked their lineup with a talented triumvirate of high school stars. Toni Alugbue, Jeni Houser and Meg Vonderhaar are set to enroll at Notre Dame in the fall and should make an immediate impact on the Irish roster.

"We really are pleased with our recruiting class," Brown said. "We have three really strong freshmen who will add considerable depth. They are all great offensive players, which is an area we really need to improve in. They are great competitors, all from great club programs, and we expect to see really good things out of them."

Brown said that the returning players have already made great gains this spring to set up the Irish for a successful run in 2011.

"The returners have been working all spring to prepare themselves for the fall," Brown said. "We are pleased with our offseason workouts and conditioning. We have improved everyone's vertical jumps, which was a big goal for our team."

Thanks to a strong offseason and an incoming crop of talented freshmen, Brown believes the team is poised to contend for a title next year.

"We always want to be in a position where we win Big East championships," Brown said. "That will really never change and with the talent we are bringing back for next year, we think that is a very realistic goal."

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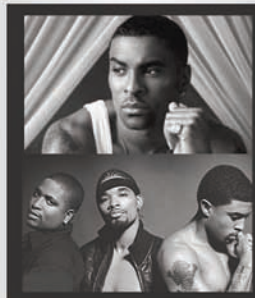
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HOCKEY

Young team closes Joyce Center with Frozen run

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

In the history of Notre Dame's 43-year tenure at the Joyce Center, the 2010-11 season will go down as the twist ending no one saw coming.

With a roster featuring 12 freshmen and only 13 returning players coming off a disappointing 2009-10 campaign, Irish coach Jeff Jackson's team posted a 25-14-5 record, finished second in the CCHA and advanced through the NCAA Northeast regional to make the program's second Frozen Four appearance before bowing out to eventual champion Minnesota-Duluth.

The final season at the only arena Notre Dame varsity hockey has ever known represented a turnaround not even Jackson could predict.

"We kind of went into the season with open eyes. We knew we were going to be young, but we didn't know what kind of an impact those young players would have on our team," Jackson said. "Certainly we were hoping to have a good team, but I don't know we were thinking we were going to the Frozen Four this year with the youth that we had."

Before the Irish could begin to bounce back from a 13-17-8 record in 2009-10, a number of events occurred in the off-

season to give the roster its youthful makeup.

Following the graduation of seven seniors, junior all-American defenseman Ian Cole left for the St. Louis Blues of the NHL.

Freshman right wing Kyle Palmieri and Notre Dame signee and defenseman Jarred Tinordi soon followed suit with the Anaheim Ducks and Montreal Canadiens, respectively.

The high turnover of players allowed for an influx of 12 signees to join the team, among them blue-chip recruits in defenseman Stephen Johns, left

wing Anders Lee, center T.J. Tynan and goalkeeper Steven Summerhays. The class began training with Notre Dame in the summer, which Jackson said was key to their development.

"The summer bridge program definitely helped our guys in a couple areas," he said. "They got an idea of what they would have to do academically and then the other part of it is they got to spend a lot of time with their future teammates."

Though the dozen newcomers brought a fresh look to the Joyce Center ice, the roster also featured four seniors, three of whom remained from the 2007-08 team that produced the program's first Frozen Four run and title game

"We knew we were going to be young, but we didn't know what kind of an impact those young players would have on our team."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Irish senior wing Calle Ridderwall fights for control of the puck during Notre Dame's 4-3 loss to Minnesota-Duluth Apr. 7. In the Frozen Four semifinal, Ridderwall scored a shorthanded goal.

appearance.

Though left wing Calle Ridderwall, right wing Ryan Guentzel and center Ben Ryan were all program veterans, defenseman Joe Lavin was chosen as the team captain despite being with the program less than a year after transferring from Providence last December.

Jackson said the choice spoke to Lavin's leadership ability on and off the ice.

"Lavin as a captain may have been the biggest surprise in terms of people's expectations of the leadership. Joe came in halfway through his junior year and gained a lot of respect right away," he said. "He's an adult, and he does things the right way on the ice, off the ice and in the classroom."

The season started with the Irish rattling off five wins in their first six games, highlighted by a 2-1 home defeat of then-No. 1 Boston College in which Ridderwall lit the lamp twice and sophomore netminder Mike Johnson stopped all but one of Boston College's 29 shots.

Jackson said the victory gave the young team confidence moving into the bulk of the CCHA schedule.

"At the time I think they thought it was a huge upset, and at the time maybe it was," he said. "I think it was a real boost to their confidence in terms of knowing they could play with a top team in the country. There were points of our season that made them more confident, and also some setbacks that made them realize that they would have to get better."

The emergence of Lee and Tynan as national freshman scoring leaders helped the Irish move into first-place in the CCHA standings heading into a 17-day Christmas break, positioning the unlikely leaders as CCHA favorites. The Irish wrestled with Miami (OH) and Michigan on a week-by-week basis until the last night of the season, when the Irish found themselves one point ahead of Michigan with only a Saturday night game against Western Michigan remaining on the slate for the CCHA title.

Two first-period goals from the Broncos put the Irish in a 2-0 hole they would not recover from, and Michigan's 5-0 victory on the same night

handed the Irish a second-place finish.

The loss, coupled with two decisive losses in the CCHA tournament, meant the senior leadership needed to right the team's mindset heading into the NCAA tournament.

"I think they realized that they were too amped up at times," Jackson said. "We would take unnecessary penalties and put ourselves behind the eight-ball in big games. I think that happened on the last night of the season and in Detroit against Miami."

The team wasted no time responding to the series of defeats, emerging from the NCAA Northeast regional as a No. 3 seed with wins over Merrimack and New Hampshire, two teams playing less than an hour from their respective campuses. In the regional final, the Irish played arguably their most complete game of the season, highlighted by a Regional MVP performance in goal from Johnson, who made 37 saves.

"I thought we refocused right away," Jackson said. "The game against New Hampshire was probably our best game of the season in terms of overall play, with the puck and without the puck."

The strong play from the regional brought Notre Dame to the Frozen Four in Saint Paul, Minn., to face off with another team playing in its own backyard — Minnesota-Duluth. Freshman left wing Jeff Costello got the Irish on the board in the game's opening minute, but three power-play goals and an even-strength goal gave the eventual NCAA champion Bulldogs an insurmountable lead over Notre Dame, who fell 4-3.

Jackson said the game ultimately exposed a weakness in the Irish special teams.

"We took too many penalties early in the game," he said. "That played into one of our most inconsistent parts of our game, our special teams, which were an issue all season. I think we played our hand

poorly in that game by taking penalties."

Though they fell just short of a national title, the final season at the Joyce Center saw plenty of positives for the future of Irish hockey at the newly constructed Compton Family Center.

The campaign featured the emergence of two national standouts, Tynan and Lee, who finished first and second, respectively, in scoring among all freshmen nationally. Tynan, selected by many media outlets as the national freshman of the year in college hockey, came to South Bend instead of spending a year in junior hockey after the late departures of Tinordi and Palmieri — a fact that made his 54-point campaign even more remarkable.

"T.J. is a competitor," Jackson said. "He'd make plays in front of the net, but he'd also make plays before he'd get to the net front. I think he's a playmaker, and he's probably more of a skilled, dynamic type of player."

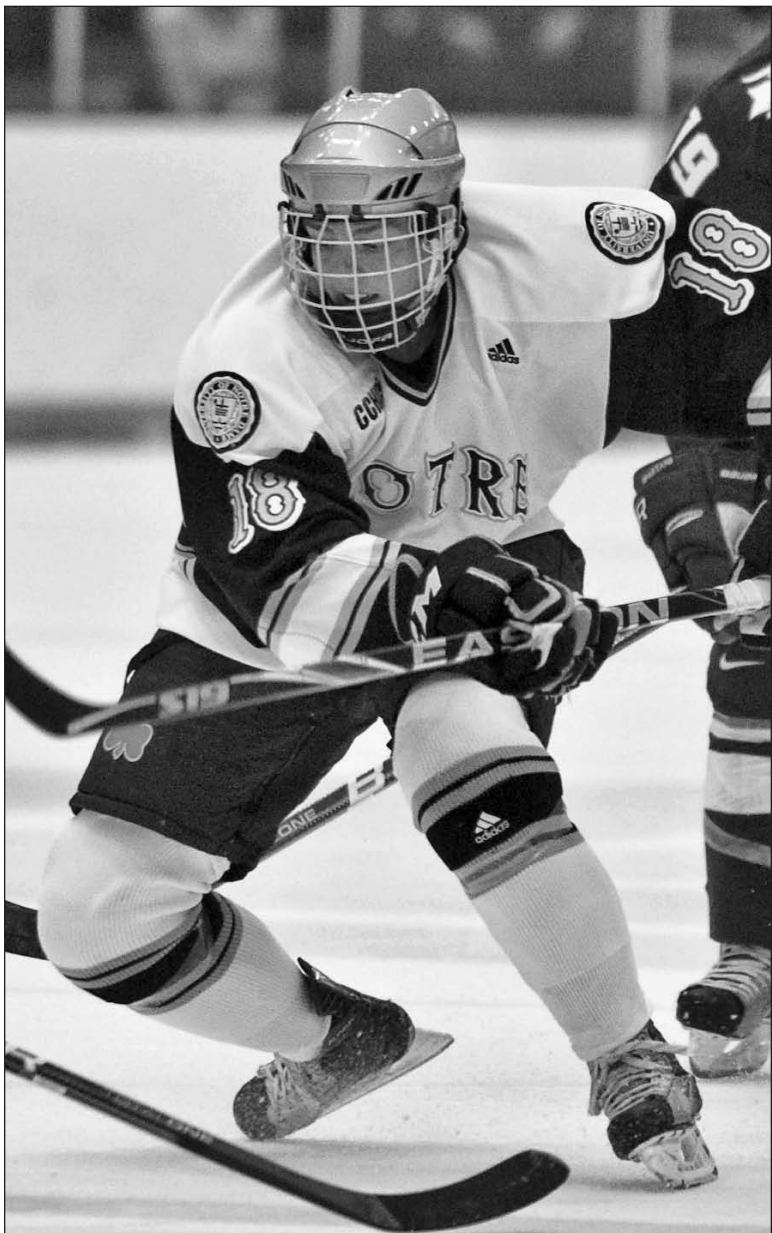
Lee, who chose hockey over football after being recruited by a number of colleges to play quarterback, leveraged his size and strength to become a physical presence on the wing and led the Irish with 24 goals.

"Anders is dominant from a physical perspective," Jackson said. "He gets deep in the offensive zone. He has a great release, great shot and is always in the crease area. But I think next year, more than just Tynan and Lee, I think all of the players in that class can increase their numbers and be key for us."

The scoring duo of Tynan and Lee may headline the freshman class, but they are just a part of the young nucleus of the team that will open up one of the premier hockey facilities in the country in October 2011 in style — with the raising of a Frozen Four banner.

What a way to close the book.

Contact Chris Allen at
callen10@nd.edu



WU YUE/The Observer

Freshman center T.J. Tynan skates in Notre Dame's 6-2 win over Michigan State Nov. 19. Tynan led the Irish in points this season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Surprisingly successful season ends with early exit

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Editor-in-Chief

Losing the all-time winningest class in program history – Tory Jackson and Luke Harangody – was supposed to cripple this year's Irish. Instead, senior forward Ty Nash claimed that title for himself, running his total to 96 wins after earning 27 more this season.

In fact, the Irish won eight of those before losing their first, marking the best start in Irish coach Mike Brey's tenure. Notre Dame leapt from unranked to the top 25 after winning the Old Spice Classic in Orlando, Fla.

"I learned something about my team that I knew I would down here," Brey said after defeating Georgia, California and Wisconsin. "You hope to learn while you're winning, certainly that's helpful. But for us right now, this team is very confident."

That confidence was only slightly tempered when the Irish traveled to Louisville to face Kentucky on a neutral court – neutral only by the strictest of definitions as Freedom Hall was filled with tens of thousands of Wildcats fans.

A brilliant first half from senior guard Ben Hansbrough, eventually named Big East Player of the Year, led to a tie at halftime before he, and the rest of the Irish, lost their touch in the second half, losing 72-58.

With the dream of a perfect

season dashed, the Irish moved forward and learned from the loss, including one thing in particular, according to freshman guard Eric Atkins.

"I learned we won't be undefeated," Atkins said after playing 31 minutes and handing out four assists in the affair.

On the season as a whole, Atkins proved crucial. After the Kentucky defeat, Notre Dame reeled off four more wins, including a 69-55 rout of No. 9 Georgetown, putting the Irish on the verge of the top-10. Three days later, though, on the road against No. 5 Syracuse, Notre Dame fell 70-58, crippled after senior forward Carleton Scott suffered a hamstring injury in what was a close game's final minutes. As Scott nursed the hamstring back to health, Atkins started Notre Dame's next five games, playing 39 minutes in crucial Big East victories over No. 8 Connecticut and St. John's.

Yet the true star in both games, as was the case all season, was Hansbrough. The transfer from Mississippi State finished his second and final season playing for the Irish with 18.4 points per game, shooting 43.5 percent from beyond the arc, including hitting eight of 12 threes on Senior Night in a 93-72 victory over No. 19 Villanova.

"I think the first thing you have to do is expect things of yourself before you can do them," Hansbrough said following the Senior Night festivities. "If you don't expect yourself to do them, then you'll never do them."

"I think the first thing you have to do is expect things of yourself before you can do them."

Ben Hansbrough
senior guard



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Senior forward Ty Nash powers his way through the Louisville defense Feb. 9. The Irish won the game in overtime, 89-79, as Nash scored seven points and grabbed six rebounds.

By the end of the season, Hansbrough's trophy case had doubled and redoubled in size. The guard was named Notre Dame Monogram Club MVP, a John R. Wooden All-American, a Second Team Associated Press All-American and Big East Player of the Year.

Brey was also named Big East Coach of the Year, the third time in the last five seasons he has claimed the prize.

Behind Brey and Hansbrough, the Irish finished the Big East season in second place, one game behind Pittsburgh, even though Notre Dame topped the then-second-ranked Panthers 56-51 Jan. 24 in only the second loss in 53 home games for Pittsburgh. In the upset, the Irish resorted to the slow-paced "burn" offense that Brey first instituted late last season, but had not yet been seen this campaign.

"This was the first time we committed to an all-out 'burn,' and we beat Pitt doing it two times last year," Hansbrough said following the win. "This is probably the best win I've had ... maybe ever."

The "burn" offense did not appear for another whole contest for the Irish, but made cameos throughout the season when Brey wanted to change pace.

"We are still just as aggressive as we normally are, it just takes us longer to get to it," senior forward Scott Martin said. "We don't stop looking to score, we just wait for it, wait for it, let the clock burn down a little bit, then we have our aggressive mindset the rest of the shot clock."

Martin finally joined the Irish on the hardwood after two seasons on the bench – one due to NCAA transfer regulations and one due to a torn ACL. Before

the season, Hansbrough raved about the versatility Martin would bring to the Irish.

"We didn't have anybody as far as a Scott Martin on our offense last year," Hansbrough said. "Scott may have the best

10 to 15-foot catch-and-shoot on the squad. He is something of a zone-buster. ... People are going to see an offensive side this year that maybe Notre Dame hasn't seen in awhile."

"People are going to see an offensive side this year that Notre Dame hasn't seen in awhile."

Ben Hansbrough
senior guard

Joining Hansbrough, Scott, Nash and Martin in the starting five was fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis. Abromaitis averaged 15.4 points per game, and hit 42.9 percent of his three-point attempts, as he started all 34 games in the season.

The fivesome, all having played college basketball for at least four years, gave Notre Dame a depth of experience nearly unrivaled across the country.

"You've got five guys who are in their fourth or fifth years of college basketball," Brey said. "We have a nucleus of guys back that have had some success together. We have five guys who are technically seniors who have been around a little bit, and so it's a great group to try to build with and grow with."

With that experience, came a late-season push, winning 12 of the final 14 regular season games, and earning a double

bye in the Big East tournament.

The double bye resulted in a quarterfinal victory over Cincinnati before falling to Louisville 83-77 in overtime in the Big East Semifinals in Madison Square Garden.

"Really disappointed," Brey said afterward. "We wanted to try and get Saturday night here. We've never been to Saturday night."

With a 26-6 record, including a 15-5 mark in the Big East, Notre Dame waited with bated breath while the NCAA tournament field was released. A No. 2 seed with opening round games in Chicago left the Irish excited for the possibility of a deep tournament run.

"[I'm] thrilled to jump on the bus to come down the toll road over here," Brey said before the opening game against No. 15-seed Akron.

But, the run was not to be, as Notre Dame topped the Zips 69-56 but fell to No. 10-seed Florida State 71-57 a mere two days later.

After the early exit, a common plague during Brey's 11

years at Notre Dame, the Irish coach knew his team was disappointed, though with good reason even beyond the one game.

"We're all really leveled physically and emotionally because we invested so much," Brey said. "It's hard for me to frame the season right now."

Yet Scott recalled what had been expected of the team before the season, and by how much Notre Dame exceeded those expectations.

"We had a great year," he said.

"We're all really leveled physically and emotionally because we invested so much. It's hard for me to frame the season right now."

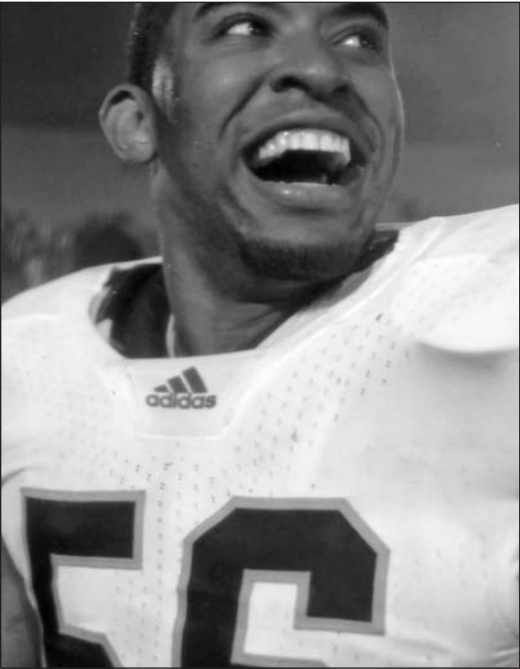
Mike Brey
Irish coach



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Ben Hansbrough shoots a layup against Marquette Jan. 22. The senior was named the Big East Player of the Year for the 2010-11 season.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

highs



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer



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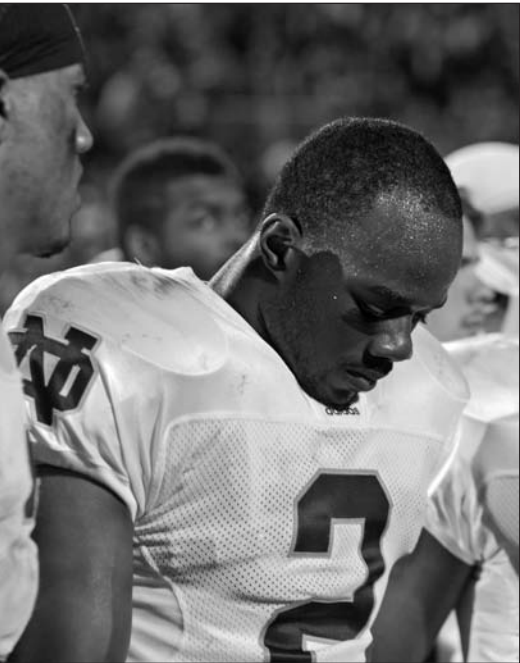


PAT COVENEY/The Observer



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Clockwise, from top left: senior linebacker Kerry Neal celebrates after beating USC; Ryan Guentzel and Sean Lorenz celebrate a goal en route to a Frozen Four appearance; sophomore midfielder Steve Murphy shoots for the No. 4 Irish; sophomore Skylar Diggins celebrates after the Irish defeated perennial power Connecticut in the Final Four; the women's soccer team celebrates its 1-0 victory over Stanford in the national title game; senior and Big East Player of the Year Ben Hansbrough shoots the ball against Marquette Jan. 22.



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer



DAN JACOBS/The Observer



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

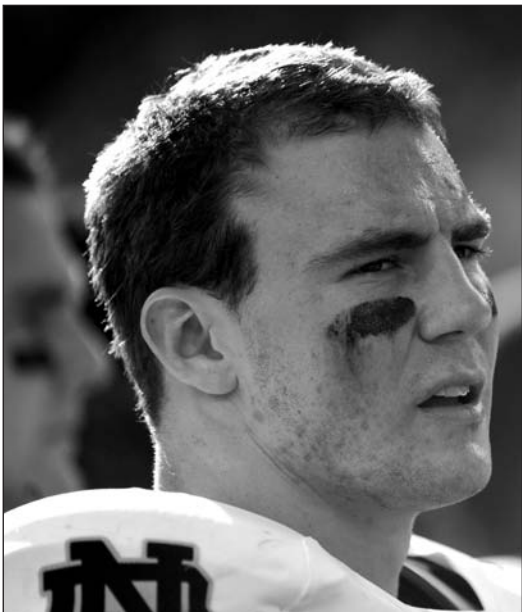


SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

lows



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Clockwise, from top left: senior cornerback Darrin Walls reflects on Notre Dame's overtime loss to Michigan State; the Irish leave the court after losing 76-70 to Texas A&M in the national title game; senior libero Angela Puente goes up for a block during a difficult season for Notre Dame; sophomore Zeke Motta surveys the action during Notre Dame's 35-17 loss to Navy Oct. 23; the Irish watch the end of their second-round loss in the NCAA tournament to Florida State; freshman T.J. Tynan reflects after the Irish lost in the Frozen Four.

BASEBALL

Aoki improves program in first season as coach



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Sophomore Adam Norton delivers a pitch against Central Michigan March 29. The right-hander is 2-1 with a 3.20 earned run average.

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

With a new coach and a young team, Notre Dame had an excuse for its anemic offense and poor run support early in the season.

But the Irish (21-25-1, 12-11 Big East) are starting to peak at the right time after winning consecutive series against Big East opponents Seton Hall and Rutgers — two of the three teams vying for the final spot in the Big East Tournament. Notre Dame capped off its recent success with a three-game sweep of South Florida last weekend.

The story of Irish coach Mik Aoki's first season has been his young squad's considerable progress, guided by the senior leaders.

"The one thing that I have been really impressed with and thankful for is our seniors who have really bought in and done an exemplary job of leading the team throughout the year," Aoki said. "There has been some progress and we hope that it'll be enough to play us into the [Big East] tournament."

Notre Dame hired Aoki in July of 2010 to replace Dave Schrage. Aoki led Boston College to its first NCAA Regional since 1967 with a 34-26 record in 2009.

This year Aoki has faced some new struggles as his team's worst enemy has been itself. His toughest challenge may be dealing with an inconsistency that emerged from the season's onset.

"This year has been a little up-and-down," Aoki said. "If the season were to end today, I would say that we have underachieved who I think we could be a little bit. At times we have really shown that we could be a quality ball club, and at times I have been really disappointed with our level of play."

But the biggest strength for the Irish has been their pitching, as the staff is ranked first in the pitching-heavy Big East in runs allowed (136) and second in

earned run average (3.00).

Brian Dupra (3-5), Lowe's Senior Class Award finalist Cole Johnson (2-5) and Todd Miller (4-3) have spearheaded the effort. All three seniors have sub-3.00 ERAs, but a lack of run support has cost them wins throughout the course of the year.

"I think it has been a very good season but I wish I had a few more wins," Dupra said. "I think we have some pieces of the puzzle to go forward and get going to make the season that much better. But it is just amazing pitching Friday nights — that's what you come here to do. It's been awesome, and I'll remember coming into games knowing that you're going up against the best and having to bring your best as well."

Meanwhile, the Irish may have witnessed the birth of a future star in freshman first baseman Trey Mancini. The first-year slugger leads the Irish in nearly every offensive category going into the last week of the season, including batting average (.342), home runs (7) and RBI (28).

The highlight of his year thus far came in a crucial 5-4 comeback win against Seton Hall May 1, when Mancini cleared the left field fence with a two-out, three-run home run to give the Irish the lead for good.

"College baseball is a 55-game season, so you can't get too down on yourself when you have one bad game," the first baseman said after his game-winning blast. "You have just got to keep going, stay positive and wait for the right pitch to hit."

With a spot in the conference tournament still up for grabs, the Irish will need to rely on timely hitting, an area Aoki has focused on all year. The squad will look to clinch a playoff berth when it ends the season with an away series against seventh-place Louisville starting May 19.

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ND SOFTBALL

ND advances to NCAAs

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

Despite a Big East semifinal upset at Louisville May 13, the No. 18 Irish have a 45-9 record and a regular season conference championship under their belt, as well as high expectations for the NCAA tournament.

From the outset, senior catcher Alexia Clay said the team knew it had the potential for a very successful year.

"We knew that this year was going to be a pretty big year for us, and for the most part I think what we anticipated has been true," Clay said. "We had a really good season, won a lot of games and won a regular season championship."

The Irish (45-9, 19-1 Big East) started the season off by rolling to a nine-game winning streak, the best start in program history. But a spring break trip to California in mid-March ended in disappointment for the squad, as close losses to four out of five top-20 teams slowed Notre Dame's momentum.

Though their performance over the trip proved that the Irish could hold their own against top teams this season, the trip also exposed a few key flaws in the Notre Dame arsenal, specifically pitching and hitting in the clutch.

The team's struggles continued as it returned home, as a loss to Western Michigan broke a 21-game home win streak. Both the spring break trip and the unexpected home loss were wake up calls for Notre Dame.

"I think that spring break was definitely a turning point, but teams go through big and little humps throughout the season and that was a big one for us," Clay said. "We've had a couple of



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Senior infielder Katie Fleury takes a cut against Louisville on April 17. Fleury has six home runs and 20 RBIs this season.

other ones that have been reminders that we always have to be on our game because people can score runs off of you any day."

The Western Michigan loss was one turning point the team certainly took to heart, rattling off 14 straight wins following the defeat. The run was snapped by a loss to Louisville Apr. 17, but Notre Dame responded by winning 14 more games leading up to the Big East semifinals, where the Cardinals were once again Notre Dame's downfall.

The second half of the season saw the rise of freshman pitcher Laura Winter, who had a stellar breakout season highlighted by a no-hitter Apr. 27 at South Florida. The excellent hitting of senior captain Heather Johnson, who won three straight Big East Player of the Week titles and produced a 21-game hitting streak, also highlighted the latter half of the year.

The fifth-ranked Cardinals, who have knocked the Irish out of the

conference tournament four of the past five years, put together a 6-0 semifinal win in front of their hometown crowd to put an end to Notre Dame's dream of winning a Big East tournament title.

"Obviously our pitching didn't really help us out," Clay said. "Louisville had a good offensive plan against our pitchers and unfortunately our bats weren't working like they normally are, so that was to our disadvantage."

In spite of the unexpected loss, the Irish are looking ahead to the NCAA tournament, which begins this upcoming week with regional play. The team will look to rebound like it has all season.

"[The loss] definitely lit the fire for us to get ready for regionals," Clay said. "I'm anxious to see how we do. I really think we can pull it off this year."

Notre Dame begins NCAA tournament play May 20.

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WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Slow start leads to first missed NCAA tourney since 2007

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

Despite advancing to the Big East tournament championship game, Notre Dame failed to earn a berth in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2007.

“It’s really important to know that we need to work to earn our victories,” Irish coach Tracy Coyne said.

The Irish (10-9, 6-2 Big East) still placed five players on the all-Big East teams, including senior midfielder Shaylyn Blaney. For Blaney, her selection to the first team marks the third year in a row she has earned the honor. Blaney, who led the Irish with 35 goals this season, was also named a second-teamer as a freshman.

Joining Blaney on the first team are senior defender Jackie Doherty and junior attack Maggie Tamasitis. Doherty ranks third nationally with 2.42 caused turnovers per outing. She also scooped up a team-high 56 ground balls on her way to her

second consecutive all-Big East selection.

Meanwhile, the all-Big East selection was the first for Tamasitis. Tamasitis notched career highs in goals (21), assists (46) and points (67) while falling just two assists shy of the national leader. Perhaps even more impressive, Tamasitis continued and extended her point streak to 37 games, the second longest streak in program history.

Senior midfielder Kailene Abt and freshman midfielder Kaitlyn Brosco garnered second team honors for the Irish. Abt finished a stellar career by piling up 26 goals, 11 ground balls and 20 draw controls.

Brosco, the first freshman to be named all-Big East since Blaney, racked up 32 goals and 8 assists in her rookie campaign. She fell three goals short of being the first freshman in program history to lead the squad in goals.

The Irish faced a tough early schedule on their way to a 3-5 opening that included three one-goal losses.

“The team had a lot of charac-

ter. Losing can bring out the worst in teams but it brought out the best in us,” Coyne said. “We stayed together, stayed committed and fought hard.”

Notre Dame rebounded in conference play, ripping off a four-game win streak before being stopped by Loyola (Md.) in the Big East title game 12-10. Notre Dame also knocked off Big East regular-season champion Georgetown twice during the campaign on its way to a 10-win season for the sixth straight time.

“[The best part of the year was] playing for a Big East championship,” Coyne said. “Beating Georgetown at home on Senior Day was also a memorable experience.”

Notre Dame will wave goodbye to one of the most productive senior classes in the program’s history. The graduating class won a Big East title and featured two all-Americans in Blaney and Doherty.

“[The seniors] are amazingly talented. They’ve played in two Big East championships and three NCAA tournaments,” Coyne



KIRBY McKENNA/The Observer

Senior midfielder Kaitlin Keena runs in pursuit of the ball during Notre Dame’s 13-8 loss against Ohio State March 10.

said. “They have embraced the new talent that came while they were here.”

Despite losing this group of players, the Irish look to rebound next year. Returning for Notre Dame are Tamasitis and Brosco, along with sophomore goalie Ellie Hilling and sophomore midfielder Jenny Granger.

“We’re going to go back after a championship,” Coyne said. “We have a great recruiting class coming in and a lot of talent coming back. I’m going to miss these seniors a lot but we have to get right back to work.”

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GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Freshman midfielder Liam O’Connor handles the ball in the 11-7 Irish win over Drexel March 6. O’Connor played in 13 games this season.

MEN’S LACROSSE

Irish earn first No.1 ranking

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

After falling to Duke in the 2010 National Championship game, the No. 4/5 Irish returned stronger in 2011 and established themselves as one of the nation’s elite teams.

Captained by senior midfielders Zach Brenneman and David Earl, senior long stick midfielder Andrew Irving and senior defense Kevin Ridgway, Notre Dame (10-2, 5-1 Big East) entered the season ranked in the top 10. After rattling off nine straight wins, the Irish gained control of the top spot in college lacrosse on April 18 for the first time in program history.

The road to No. 1 began with Notre Dame’s 12-7 win over then No. 5 Duke, after which the Irish continued to capture victory after victory, running their record to 10-0 by late April. During that stretch, Notre Dame ranked first in scoring defense as they held opponents to under six goals per game. The Irish defense that led last year’s title run continued to dominate despite having lost two-time All American and Most Outstanding Player of the 2010 NCAA Championship Scott Rodgers.

Stepping in between the pipes for Rodgers was sophomore John Kemp, who has maintained a .607 save percentage.

“[Kemp]’s been great all year; I don’t think he’s had a bad game,” Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. “I think he’s done a great job, he’s grown as a leader through the year and he’s done a great job of stopping the ball and handling himself well in the clearing game.”

For a team that continues to be a defensive power, the Irish displayed increased proficiency from the offensive end this season.

Led by the star power of Brenneman and Earl, the Irish also benefited from the contributions of a number of other goal scorers. Senior attack Sean Rogers leads the team with 17 goals, and senior attack Colin Igoe, freshman attack Westy Hopkins, junior midfield Max Pfeifer and sophomore attack Ryan Foley have all reached double-digit points this season.

Despite their offensive depth, the Irish have struggled at times to convert on scoring opportunities and put the ball in the net.

“There are times when [the offense] has been [better than last year] and times when it hasn’t, but I think overall, we’ve got more diversity in our offense this year ... so that certainly makes us more dangerous,” Corrigan said.

Their versatility on offense wasn’t enough to extend their undefeated record past 10 games, as the Irish finished the year with two straight losses: 8-11 at the hands of No. 1 Syracuse (14-1, 6-0) and 8-9 (OT) to No. 10 North Carolina (10-5, 1-2 ACC). The losses served as jarring reminders that the Irish will have to bring their best to the table against the country’s other top teams.

“We just didn’t play Notre

Dame lacrosse — 60 minutes of good offense, smart transition [and] communication on defense,” Irving said. “When we don’t do that, we get in close games.”

The losses have not affected Notre Dame’s confidence, and the Irish still appreciate how successful their regular season was.

“I think this was obviously a successful regular season,” Earl said. “We finished fourth and got a home seed so we are happy and excited about that.”

Throughout the course of the regular season, Notre Dame faced off against six opponents currently ranked in NCAA Men’s Lacrosse RPI Top 25, four of which reside in the top 10. Their challenging regular season has helped the Irish prepare for the upcoming NCAA Championship Tournament, Ridgway said.

“I think we have battled all season and we put together 10 good games early on,” he said. “I feel we are prepared to go into the tourney with the idea of ‘it’s win or don’t come back tomorrow.’ If the regular season taught us anything, it is to come to practice every day with the idea of getting better.”

Notre Dame earned the No. 4 seed in the tournament and will host unseeded Penn (8-6, 4-2 Ivy League) in its first round game scheduled for Saturday, May 14, at 2:30 p.m.

Also on the horizon for the Irish is the June 2 announcement of the Tewaaraton Trophy, college lacrosse’s player of the year award. Brenneman, Earl and Ridgway are among the 25 nominees for the award.

“I think this was obviously a successful regular season.”

David Earl
Irish midfielder

“I think we have battled all season and we put together 10 good games early on.”

Kevin Ridgway
Irish defender

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish enjoy magical run to championship game

By ANDREW OWENS
Associate Sports Editor

The 2010-11 season was expected to be a transition year for the Irish — the program graduated three of its top five scorers in 2010, and was depending on a few inexperienced players to emerge in more prominent roles.

After a regular season in which they were consistently ranked in the top-10 followed by an appearance in the Big East tournament championship, the Irish went on a run to the NCAA championship game with signature victories over Tennessee and Connecticut on the way.

Not bad for a transition year. “It was an amazing run,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “The team really exceeded expectations of anyone. We were ranked No. 9 or No. 10 before the Final Four run. The team had an incredible drive to succeed.”

The Final Four victory over Connecticut, which advanced Notre Dame (31-8, 13-3 Big East) to its second ever national championship appearance was a defining moment for the team's campaign. The 72-63 victory eliminated the Huskies and sent the Irish to their first national championship berth in 10 years.

“I think it was the feeling of ‘finally we did it’ after beating Connecticut,” McGraw said. “After losing to [Connecticut] three times, [the players] went in believing they could win, just like they did in the Tennessee game.”

The Irish had advanced to the Final Four with a 73-59 win over Tennessee March 28.

The victory was especially important for the team, as the program was 0-20 all-time against the Volunteers and their legendary coach, Pat Summitt. The performance transformed a team that was previously regarded as very talented, but not elite, and propelled it into the upper echelon.

Irish sophomore guard Skylar Diggins sparked Notre Dame throughout the tournament. She became the team's primary point guard this season after an impressive freshman year.

The South Bend native scored 24 points in the win over Tennessee, a season-high 28 in the winning effort against Connecticut and concluded her tournament run with 23 in the title game loss to Texas A&M.

“She played big on the big stage,” McGraw said. “She really did great and handled herself with poise, had tremendous will to win — she was not going to lose. She pushed herself, scored a lot of points, made good decisions and led us a long way.”

The nation took notice of Diggins' efforts, as the sophomore stole the spotlight from Connecticut's Maya Moore and became a household name. She was honored as a member of the all-tournament team after the championship game and will be on everyone's short list for national player of the year when the season begins in the fall.

“In a way I'm just living the dream,” Diggins said during the tournament run.

Notre Dame succeeded in the tournament against consecutive No. 1 seeds, largely due to the daunting regular season schedule it encoun-



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Sophomore Skylar Diggins drives against Connecticut April 3. The guard scored a season-high 28 points as the Irish defeated the No. 1-seeded Huskies 72-63 to advance to the championship game.

“It was an amazing run. The team really exceeded expectations of anyone.”

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

“[Diggins] played big on the big stage. She really did great and handled herself with poise, had tremendous will to win — she was not going to lose.”

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

tered. The Irish lost three close non-conference games in the regular season to strong opponents — an 86-83 loss in two overtimes to UCLA Nov. 18, an 81-76 loss to No. 9 Kentucky Nov. 21 and a 76-65 loss to No. 2 Baylor Dec. 1 that was more competitive than the score indicates.

In Big East regular season play, the Irish only lost three times — twice to two-time defending national champion Connecticut and once in the regular season finale to No. 12 DePaul, 70-69.

Not only did the Irish redeem themselves against Connecticut, but they also avenged the DePaul loss by beating the Blue Demons in the Big East tournament semifinals, 71-67 March 7. With both teams consistently among the best in the Big East and their recent matchups being so competitive, Diggins thought the win meant even more to the squad because of the budding rivalry.

“Their being close to us and being such a good team — we know when we play them it's going to be competitive,” she said. “We've got players from [Chicago] ... so it's just a competitive game and everyone's going to be up for that game.”

The special run by the Irish ended in the championship game April 5 at the hands of Texas A&M, 76-70. Aggies forward Danielle Adams proved to be too much for the Irish to handle, scoring 30 points and recording nine rebounds.

“We did not find an answer for her,” McGraw said. “She's just a great player. She's got a big body, we couldn't get around her.”

Adams' physical presence drew several fouls throughout

the contest, leading to freshman forward Natalie Achonwa's departure with five fouls. Senior forward Devereaux Peters missed crucial minutes down the stretch because she was in foul trouble as well. Aggies guard Tyra White sank a 3-pointer with two seconds left on the shot clock and 1:07 left in the game to put Texas A&M up by five.

“That was a knife right in my heart. That was the game,” McGraw said after the game. “It was an unbelievable shot.”

Senior forward Becca Bruszewski will be the squad's only departure heading into next season. She served as the team's emotional leader and captain and will be difficult to replace.

“[The team] always continued to fight and had some great leadership because of Becca,” McGraw said. “Everyone rose to the occasion. It was a fun season and a great group.”

Achonwa will replace Bruszewski, having emerged during her freshman year as a low-post presence and important contributor, especially down the stretch.

“I thought she had a great tournament,” McGraw said of her freshman forward at the Big East tournament. “I thought she could've been on the all-tournament team because she just did so many

great things for us off the bench. You could see she wasn't intimidated. Overall I was really pleased with the way she played.”

Peters' durability was in question at the start of the season because of past difficulties with injuries. The senior, who will return next year as she has one year of eligibility remaining, responded by playing in every game this season and anchoring the stout Irish defense. She was honored with Big East defensive player of the year award at the conference tournament in March. One of her best games came in the national championship appearance, when she scored 21 points and recorded 11 rebounds in the loss.

The berth in the national championship game came on the 10-year anniversary of the program's only championship win and three months prior to McGraw's induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

With most of the team remaining intact, the addition of a strong incoming freshman class and the possible

return of freshman guard Kayla McBride, who missed most of the season due to personal reasons but is expected to rejoin the squad, Notre Dame is poised to make yet another tournament run in 2012.

“The last loss will motivate us through the summer — we will have a renewed energy and be more determined,” McGraw said. “Our goal will be to win the national championship in 2012.”

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SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Junior Natalie Novosel attempts to dribble away from defenders in a 77-64 victory over Temple in the NCAA tournament on March 21.

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Program earns third national championship

By CHRIS MASOUD
Assistant Managing Editor

Notre Dame finished the 2010 season in championship form, capturing the program's third national title, and their second under Irish coach Randy Waldrum.

While a lone victory in early December will do little to dictate the outcome of the 2011 campaign, junior defender Jessica Schuveiller believes the desire for a consecutive title will prevent any Irish player from sitting on her laurels.

"We know what it's like to not finish first and not finish on top," Schuveiller said. "Now, having won and knowing the feeling of what it's like

to be part of a championship team, that is motivation in itself."

While most teams wait until the preseason to begin shifting the focus from celebrating a championship to preparing for another run, junior forward and 2011 Honda Sports Award winner Melissa Henderson said the adjustment began on the trip back to campus.

"I remember driving on the bus and talking with a couple of the girls on our way to the airport," Henderson said. "We just kind of looked at each other and it was just like, 'This is probably the greatest feeling I've had in my life.' After that, we [said,] 'Let's do it again, let's make it happen again.'"

Waldrum added that unlike his first national championship team in 2004, the current squad immediately set its sights on a repeat run. The desire to become only the second women's soccer program to win consecutive national championships and the first since North Carolina accomplished the feat from 2008 to 2009 took hold of the

team before the fervor of winning a championship had even subsided.

"That was really interesting, because I think it really did start that quick," Waldrum said. "We enjoyed the moment for all of us being the first [in 2004]. I don't recall any of those kinds of conversations coming back from '04."

Notre Dame's quest for the College Cup began in the spring of 2010, as Waldrum rallied his players through sprints, drills and more sprints. While the dominance of Henderson at the front was a certainty, questions still remained heading into the regular season, including a gaping hole created by a sidelined

Courtney Barg at the midfield position.

Like all championship-caliber teams, a number of players stepped up to the challenge, but none more so than freshman Elizabeth Tucker. Tabbed by Waldrum to fill in the hole left by Barg, the rookie finished with nine goals and three assists, exceeding the expectations of teammates and coaches alike.

"[Waldrum] is one of the greatest coaches in the country," Schuveiller said. "We trust his decisions."

But Waldrum's biggest decision did not come until the final two weeks preceding the NCAA tournament. After a 2-0 upset at the hands of Connecticut on Oct. 31 eliminated the Irish prematurely from the Big East championships, Notre Dame found itself on the wrong side of

momentum.

"We had reached a point in the season where we weren't necessarily playing as well as we hoped, and we needed time to change things if we wanted to come back and win a championship," senior goalkeeper Nikki Weiss said.

The loss to Connecticut capped a five-game stretch that included two ties, and Waldrum admitted a significant change had to be made to set the Irish back on course.

"There's no doubt [the loss] was a turning point," he said. "Why certain things fell the way they did, I don't know that I could put my finger on all of it. After that happened, that just made us realize that we finally do have two weeks if we are going to make a move."

So with just two weeks of practice remaining before the first round of the tournament, Waldrum moved senior Lauren Fowlkes to the midfield position, bringing junior Molly Campbell back into a defensive role.

"I don't ever recall having made a move like that in the 20-something years I've been coaching, because that's a position that's so hard — to pull somebody out of the middle of your defense late in the season and bring somebody else in," Waldrum said.

"Two things had to happen to make that work. One is that we were willing, since

we've tied two games and lost a game in the past five, we might as well try and score more goals and win the games in the playoffs, even if it means we're going to be a little bit shaky in the back ... The other big piece that a lot of people

don't talk about is how well Molly Campbell came in and played in that last stretch."

As evidenced by Notre Dame's flawless 6-0 record in the NCAA tournament,

"[Waldrum] is one of the greatest coaches in the country. We trust his decisions."

Jessica Schuveiller
junior defender

"Now, having won and knowing the feeling of what it's like to be part of a championship team, that is motivation in itself."

Jessica Schuveiller
junior defender



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Junior midfielder Courtney Barg prepares to kick the ball against USC Nov. 14. The midfielder played in 11 games this season.

the gutsy move was a complete success.

Prior to the position rotation, Waldrum had experimented with a similar lineup in the preseason, but met challenges. Nevertheless, Waldrum's faith in his players and their unwavering trust in him made the change the eventual success it was.

"We had actually tried Molly during preseason back there because I was thinking we might need Lauren up front, and it just didn't look the same," Waldrum said. "Lauren had to bring back a scoring presence, which she did, and Molly had to at least be consistent in the back, which she was. It just changed the mindset. Training from then on out was amazing."

Handed a four-seed by the selection committee, Notre Dame defeated New Mexico and USC in the first two rounds of the tournament with scores of 3-0 and 4-0 respectively. The Irish then travelled to North Carolina to face the most decorated program in women's soccer, where they dismantled their heated rival 4-1.

Before heading to Cary, N.C., for the College Cup, the Irish blanked Oklahoma State 2-0 in front of a hostile crowd of 2,660 fans. Suddenly, Notre Dame had gone from the upstart No. 4 seed to a legitimate title contender.

"I don't know how to pinpoint it or why it got so good, if it was just a realization for everybody that one more game that we lose and we're done, or if it was the seeds that came out and the

kids got [upset] about it," Waldrum said.

With a renewed focus, the Irish took down Ohio State 1-0 to set up a match with the top-ranked Stanford Cardinals for the collegiate soccer crown. A goal by freshman Adriana Leon 63 minutes into the game gave Notre Dame its first title since 2004.

"It's sunk in, I think," Fowlkes said. "I think it's something that kind of gives you the chills every

time you think about it and you're excited about on a daily basis. I think there's no better thing in a college career. I'm so fortunate to have been able to do that and be a part of such a great team. It's amazing. It's still hard to put into words."

While Notre Dame will lose a core of seniors that includes Fowlkes, Weiss, forward Rose Augustin, forward Erica Iantorno and defender Julie Scheilder, Waldrum believes the 2011 roster will feature just as much talent as this year's. A talented incoming class coupled with the momentum of winning a national title should position the Irish well for a repeat run.

"What I've learned over the years is that you don't really replace those kids," Waldrum said. "You've just got a new group that comes in. They now have to come in and fill the role, and I think there's enough talent coming back that — we've been doing this a long time — we'll be talented enough to make another run at it."

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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior forward Rose Augustin attempts to keep the ball away from Connecticut players in a match against the Huskies on Oct. 31. The midfielder finished second on the team with 11 goals and 10 assists in 2010.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles complete best season in team history

By JOSEPH WIRTH
Sports Writer

Although the Belles did not finish the season they way they wanted to, the 2010-11 season will go down as a landmark season for the program and one of the best in its history.

The team was led by a trifecta of juniors in forward Kelley Murphy, guard Patsy Mahoney and guard Maggie Ronan. Each averaged over 10 points per game, and Murphy led the way with 15.5 points per game. Murphy was also a force on the glass, averaging nearly 10 rebounds per game.

"We accomplished a lot this season," Murphy said. "We broke individual records in steals and scoring, as well as accomplished team goals. We broke the school's record for most wins in [a] season with 18."

The Belles started the season strong with four straight wins, including victories over Aurora and North Central to claim the North Central Tournament title.

Despite losing three of the first five conference games, the Belles rallied to finish in the top three in the conference with an 18-8 record, with 11 of those wins coming in the MIAA.

Belles coach Jennifer Henley explained this season's significance for the Belles, adding that this year's success could lay the foundation for future achievements.

"We just finished the most successful season in history with our basketball program," Henley said. "We had three players named to the all-conference team."

The Belles' season ended prematurely with a loss to Trine in the first round of the MIAA tournament, but Murphy does not think that should overshadow the team's successful season.

"Our season ended with an unexpected upset, but we are not going to let that define our 2010-2011 season," Murphy said.

Both Murphy and Henley plan to use the success of the past year as a springboard for the 2011-12 season.

"We are approaching next season strong with experience and a talented incoming class," Murphy said. "We look forward to picking up right where we left off to build on all of our successes accomplished this season."

Henley also has high expectations for next season.

"Getting upset by Trine in the MIAA conference tournament was not the way to end the season, so we are looking forward to making another run next year," Henley said. "We return one of the most talented groups since I have been a part of the program. I think we have the potential to do many great things for the 2011-2012 season."

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FENCING

Irish reclaim national crown

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

Following a close defeat to Penn State at the 2010 NCAA championships, the 18 Irish senior fencers set a goal in the off-season — get back to the championship match, but this time win it.

Ranked No. 1 in the country from the beginning of the year, the Irish throttled the competition at the Temple Open in Philadelphia, the first match of the year, and never looked back en route to winning the eighth team championship in Notre Dame history and its first since 2005.

Though the Irish were favorites from the beginning, they faced plenty of adversity along the way, the most serious being the loss of top men's fencer junior Gerek Meinhardt to injury during a training session in December. Just the month before, Meinhardt took bronze at the World Championships in Paris, the best result in American foil in the history of the discipline.

"Gerek is truly a world-class fencer," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "To lose him was definitely a great loss, but this was a great team with great captains and great coaches. One may have been lost, but the team was still fighting. Meinhardt's injury really mobilized the team."

Faced with losing his top fencer for three months, Bednarski attributed his team's resiliency to the leadership of his seniors, who kept the group on an even keel despite the immense pressure associated with being national championship favorites.

"The pressure was great because of our No. 1 ranking, but



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

The Irish pose with the national championship trophy one day after they claimed the program's first title since 2005.

also because recently we have always seemed to finish second or third," Bednarski said. "These seniors were competing for the last time. There was so much devotion. We will be losing a lot of great fencers."

The Irish cruised through the NCAA regional, qualifying the maximum 12 fencers in each discipline and earning a berth in the NCAA championships at Ohio State. Once there, both the men's and women's teams held off familiar foe Penn State to easily take the team title. In addition, junior Courtney Hurley won the women's individual epee title.

"These teams handled the pressure so well all year, and I really attribute that to the seniors," Bednarski said. "They had a lot of experience, and it showed."

The challenge to replace the outgoing seniors, including a number of All-Americans, will be made all the harder by the departure of at least four Irish fencers next year as they train for and compete in Olympic qualifying competitions. They will return the following year in spite of qualifying conflicts with NCAA competition, but for one year at least the Irish will have to do without their services.

"Losing those fencers to Olympic competition will certainly present a challenge to us, but as evidenced by our freshmen this year, we have every confidence in our ability to reload," Bednarski said. "We expect to compete next year."

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Swarbrick

continued from page 40

set of assets than Texas.

"[Texas's plan] is based on the remarkable passion for that school in a geographic area, so it fits over a cable footprint. I have interest everywhere, but not a concentration of it in one place."

Thus, while Swarbrick has plans for a potential Notre Dame-only network, he must first wait on the development of certain pieces of technology.

"Our opportunities will really come as broadband delivery increases and as [younger demographics] are consuming media on a more content-by-content basis rather than a network basis," he said. "So as those two things evolve, that's really going to play to Notre Dame's favor."

In the meantime, Swarbrick said the creation of stations like Texas's, the Big Ten Network or the incipient Pac-12 Network led to stabilizing the college football landscape.

"When you get conferences whose members are also equity partners in a media company, it changes the dynamic completely," he said. "So you get those two cornerstones of the industry (the Big Ten and the Pac 12) who are going to be very set ... They will be very stable. With two large conferences reflecting that level of stability, I don't think there's enough of a dynamic to cause major change."

Football schedules get tough

As a result of his confidence in conference stability, Swarbrick

sees a stiff challenge for Irish coach Brian Kelly and Notre Dame football.

"It's really incumbent on Notre Dame to be able to make the case at the end of the year that it's played the toughest schedule in the country," he said. "There will be a strong presumption in favor of the [Bowl Championship Series conference champions]."

"If we want to be there, we better be able to make that argument that no one in the country played a tougher schedule, and so that's how we're going to build them."

For example, the 2012 schedule includes a game against Navy in Dublin, Ireland, as well as match-ups with Miami, USC, Stanford, Michigan, Michigan State, Pittsburgh, BYU and Oklahoma.

"Who formed that schedule?" Swarbrick joked. "Who did that? You know, that year is especially challenging, but it'll be representative of the future."

Swarbrick hopes to unveil that future soon.

"I hope to have the schedule out through 2017 before we start the fall season," he said. "There may be a piece or two missing, but we're pretty close."

He expects that future to reflect the recent past, though he noted he may not ever see a year like this one again.

"Every year is its own story," Swarbrick said. "[I feel like] a proud parent."

Sports Editor Allan Joseph contributed to this report.

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FOOTBALL

Late-season surge highlights Kelly's first year

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Editor-in-Chief

After opening his Notre Dame career with an 8-5 season and a bowl victory, all Irish coach Brian Kelly could talk about was year two.

"We still have more things that we have to get done, especially now that we're going to have our players for a full year of weight training and conditioning," Kelly said after Notre Dame topped Miami 33-17 in the Dec. 31 Sun Bowl to close the season.

"You're going to see a big jump from our football team, relative to their work volume and what they're able to do for us. You're going to see a huge difference in year two."

Irish fans saw a "huge difference" in year one, though, as Kelly snapped an eight-year losing streak to Southern California, beat a ranked opponent for the first time in Notre Dame's last 11 attempts and won a New Year's Eve bowl game.

Kelly's first "first" came in September with his first victory coaching Notre Dame, a 23-12 win over Purdue Sept. 4.

"[It was a] good way to start the season, obviously," Kelly said following his debut. "There's a lot of firsts here today: first walk from the Basilica, first pep rally. There's a lot going on. At

times I wasn't certain if we were going to get lined up for stretching today the right way."

The Irish not only lined up and stretched properly, but also executed both offensively and defensively, jumping to a 20-3 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Junior quarterback Dayne Crist completed 19 of 26 passes for 205 yards and a touchdown, and the Notre Dame running game tallied 153 yards.

Following the encouraging win, the Irish dipped into a bit of a tailspin, losing the next three games: 28-24 to Michigan, 34-31 in overtime at Michigan State and 37-14 to Stanford.

"What do you believe in after a loss like this?" Kelly said following the overtime defeat by

the Spartans Sept. 18. "Do you believe in your teammates, do you believe in your coaches, do you believe in the preparation? If you do, you'll come back and we'll work harder and we'll continue to work to get better."

"If you don't believe, then these are times when you start to see teams pull apart. So, it's all about belief at this point."

The losses to Michigan and Michigan State certainly challenged Irish fans' belief, both coming in last-minute, heart-wrenching form.

After Wolverines quarterback Denard Robinson tortured the Notre Dame defense all afternoon — finishing with 502 total yards — Crist and



WU YUE/The Observer

Junior quarterback Dayne Crist drops back in a 31-13 win over Boston College Oct. 2. Crist threw for 203 yards and three touchdowns in the game, which brought the Irish record to 2-3.

junior tight end Kyle Rudolph linked up for a dramatic 95-yard touchdown with less than four minutes remaining to give Notre Dame its first lead of the day. The scamper proved costly, as Rudolph injured his hamstring, effectively ending his season — and his college career. Rudolph later declared for the NFL draft, and the Minnesota Vikings selected him in the second round.

The biggest play of Rudolph's college career was quickly forgotten, though, as Robinson unflinchingly put together a 72-yard drive in only 3:14 to retake the lead and the game, with only 27 seconds remaining.

A week later, Michigan State and Notre Dame traded touchdowns for four quarters before Irish senior kicker David Ruffer gave Notre Dame a three-point lead in overtime. A few minutes later, the Spartans lined up for a field goal of their own, only to instead fake it, running a play known as "Little Giants," for a 29-yard touchdown.

During the slugfest, Crist threw 55 passes, completing 32 of them for 369 yards and four touchdowns, while Michigan State tallied 203 total rushing yards.

"I think [the offense took another step this week]," Crist said. "I think that when we watch it tomorrow, that will be one of the positives. But we're always going to look back and think, 'What if we made a play here or there, or executed a little better, what would have happened?'"

To close September, Notre Dame took a few steps backward, at one point trailing Stanford 34-6.

"Stanford deserved today's win," Kelly said. "That is a fine football team."

After the thorough disappointment dropped the Irish to 1-3, the tide turned, to the tune of a three-game winning streak: 31-13 at Boston College, 23-17 over Pittsburgh and 44-20 against Western Michigan.

"Happy. Happy, happy, happy," Kelly said following the Boston College victory. "Everybody's happy in Notre Dame land. Our boys wanted

to win badly. They worked hard at it, and I'm happy that they got a win ... We're not there yet, but we're going to keep working every day and continue to work on those things to get better."

The Irish defense held the Eagles to a total of five rushing yards, while forcing two turnovers and 12 Boston College penalties. Yet, Kelly wanted more out of his team.

"Mental and physical toughness, we have to do it," he said. "That's our weakness right now ... It's got to be tended to immediately, and our guys are understanding that, and we'll continue to build it."

Continue to build it they did, hardly struggling with the Panthers and rolling right by the Broncos.

"This team was 1-3," Kelly said after raising the Irish record to 4-3.

"When we talked about that at that time, you can go in one of two directions at 1-3. You can fall off the cliff and have a disastrous season or you can work toward 9-3."

Working toward 9-3 became a dream rather than a reality one week later, as Navy gave Notre Dame a clinic on the triple option en route to a 35-17 victory at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Midshipmen ended the day with 373 rushing yards on 60 carries, led by fullback Alexander Teich with 210. Quarterback Ricky Dobbs added 90, and only attempted two passes, completing both for a total of 71 yards, including a 31 yard touchdown to Teich.

To close October, Notre Dame fell to Tulsa 28-27, and suffered perhaps an even tougher loss as Crist tore his ACL and joined Rudolph on the sideline for the rest of the season.

But that would be the last of the losses for Notre Dame in Kelly's inaugural season,

which closed with a four-game winning streak: 28-3 over No. 15 Utah, 27-3 over Army at Yankee Stadium in New York City, 20-16 at USC and 33-17 in the bowl game.

Each win seemed to exorcise another demon for the Irish, both for the fans and for the team.

"The senior students needed it as much as the senior student-athletes did," Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick said in May. "On the individual, personal level, I felt so good for the young men who had worked so hard."

The victory over the Trojans flipped the script from early in the season, as Notre Dame scored late and held off a last-minute push, earning the win.

Senior running back Robert Hughes broke into the end zone with 2:23 left, and senior safety Harrison Smith sealed the win with an interception in the final seconds.

"I don't think words do it justice. Everyone's ecstatic," freshman quarterback

Tommy Rees said after throwing for two touchdowns in the win. "It's great for the seniors to go out with a win over USC. Words can't describe how everyone's feeling right now."

Rees carried his three-game starting streak and winning streak to El Paso, Texas, to face Miami in the Sun Bowl. When he left for New Year's, he and the Irish had ended the season with a four-game winning streak for the first time since 1992.

"Clearly, we're gaining a lot of confidence," Kelly said. "Miami is a good football team. We've beaten some good football teams later on in the year as we've kind of come together and found our identity."

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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior wide receiver Michael Floyd hauls in a pass during Notre Dame's season-opening 23-12 win over Purdue Sept. 4.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

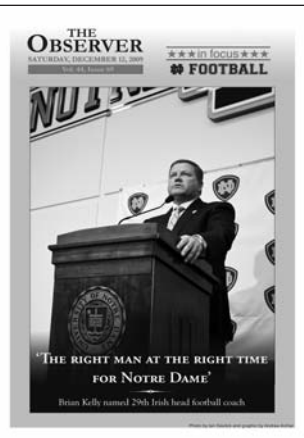
Friday, May 20, 2011

The top 10 Observer sports stories from the 2007-2011 academic years

page 34

1 Weis fired after five seasons; Kelly hired

December 1, 2009; December 12, 2009



After leading Notre Dame to the most losses in a three-year span, Charlie Weis was fired on Nov. 30, 2009, and a mere 11 days later, Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick named Brian Kelly as the 29th football coach in Notre Dame history.

Weis held the reins to the football program for five years, accumulating an overall record of 35-27. After going 9-3 in his first season and earning an appearance in the Fiesta Bowl, Weis was granted a 10-year contract extension through 2015.

Nonetheless, two home losses to Navy and consecutive Senior Day defeats to Syracuse and Connecticut spelled the end of the Weis' time leading his alma mater.

A secretive coaching search resulted in the hiring of Kelly, who was fresh off an undefeated regular season at Cincinnati in his third year with the Bearcats.

Previously, Kelly was the head coach at Central Michigan for three seasons, leading the Chippewas to a Mid-American Conference in 2006.

Kelly began his head coaching career at Division II Grand Valley State, tallying a 118-35-2 record over 13 seasons.

Kelly's first season had its highs and lows. Though the Irish dropped heartbreaking losses to Michigan, Michigan State, and Tulsa, Notre Dame closed the season on a four-game winning streak. The defense led the Irish past No. 15 Utah on Senior Day, Army in Yankee Stadium, USC in Los Angeles and Miami in the Sun Bowl to close the season.

2 Football finally defeats USC



Notre Dame capped a difficult season by snapping an eight-year losing streak to USC with a 20-16 victory over the Trojans in Los Angeles.

The rivalry win did not come without drama, as senior Harrison Smith intercepted a Mitch Mustain pass on the Irish one-yard line in the last minutes to seal the long-awaited win.

Nov. 27, 2010

3 Women's hoops falls just short



After a scintillating tournament run that included a historic Elite Eight victory over Tennessee and a Final Four win over perennial power Connecticut, the Irish fell just short of the national championship. Notre Dame lost to Texas A&M 76-70 in front of thousands of Irish fans who made the short trip to Conoco Fieldhouse in

April 5, 2011

4 Women's soccer wins national title



After four consecutive trips to the College Cup without a title, the Irish finally broke through with a 1-0 victory over previously undefeated Stanford.

Notre Dame raced through the NCAA tournament on the strength of its freshmen, who scored the last four goals of the season and helped shut down eventual Hermann Trophy winner Christen Press in the title game.

Dec. 5, 2010

5 Hockey reaches two Frozen Fours



The Irish reached the first Frozen Four in program history in 2008, falling in the national title game. The freshmen on that squad were seniors on the team that reached the 2011 Frozen Four; the seniors shepherded an exceptionally young team (loaded with 12 freshmen) to another Frozen Four berth, capping their record-setting careers.

April 7, 2011

6 Swarbrick takes over AD position



On June 1, 2008, Kevin White, then-director of athletics, announced that he would be leaving Notre Dame to assume the same position at Duke.

Six weeks later, Swarbrick was hired as the 12th athletic director in the school's history. He was previously a lawyer instrumental in the Indianapolis sports scene.

July 16, 2008

7 Men's lacrosse reaches title game



Despite being unseeded in the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame rode a stalwart defense through seeded teams to a berth in the championship game.

The Irish and Blue Devils played the lowest-scoring title game in NCAA history, finishing regulation tied at 5. The Irish gave up an early goal in overtime but were proud of their historic run to the title game.

May 31, 2010

8 Fencing reclaims national title



After two second-place finishes to Penn State in the past two years, the Irish overcame the loss of junior foilist and team leader Gerek Meinhardt to earn the program's first national title since 2005.

The championship was the eighth such title in program history and the third under coach Janusz Bednarski.

March 27, 2010

9 Men's hoops earns No. 2 seed



Notre Dame followed up a 2010 tournament appearance with one of the best seasons in program history, highlighted by a 56-51 victory at No. 2 Pittsburgh Jan. 24.

Senior Ben Hansbrough earned Big East Player of the Year honors, and coach Mike Brey earned conference Coach of the Year accolades.

March 17, 2011

10 New facilities constructed



After hosting Irish athletic events for over 40 years, the south dome of the Joyce Center received a renovation in the summer of 2009 and reopened in October as the Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center.

New facilities for lacrosse, soccer, track, softball and hockey were also completed in the past two years or are currently in the works.

Oct. 6, 2006

“Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.”

—MICAH 6:8

The University of Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns wishes to honor the following graduates of the Class of 2011 who have committed a year or more to full-time postgraduate service. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go forth.

ACADEMY PREP Kathryn Mullaney	AMATE HOUSE Nicole Ashley Anna Mayer Erica Severson	FRANCISCORPS Molly Boyle	NATIVITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL Celia Johns	SAINT JOSEPH WORKER PROGRAM Caitlin Nichols
ALLIANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION Steven Alagna John Anders Joe Augustinsky Stacey Brandt Blair Carlin John Clark Julianne Corroto Emily Crosby Meaghan Crowley Jamie Cunningham Katie Dufner Dominic Fanelli Ann Marie Ferry Mary Forr Tomas Gallegos Karla Garcia-Huerta Dominic Golab Patrick Graff Jeffrey Grant Paul Hotovy Scott Jarvie Amy Kalmar Kevin Kimberly Carolyn Leary Mary Kate Lyons Tracy Lyons Vickey McBride Meghan McDermott Brent Modak Michele Monk Megan Osterhout Megan Otero Nick Reed Isaac Reichman Chris Rhodenbaugh Conor Rogers Greg Rustico Katie Schenkel Ryan Schwab Elizabeth Shadley Luke Stavole Francesca Swalwell Joel Viramontes Michael Wagner Tim Woodward Caitlin Wrend Theresa Yerkes	AMERICORPS VISTA Katie Snyder	GOOD SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS Catherine Scallen Nicolle Walkling	NOTRE DAME CAMPUS MINISTRY Rebecca Sharbaugh	SAINT MICHAEL INDIAN SCHOOL Carissa Brownotter Melissa Coles Ashley John Brendan McCarthy Ben Mueller
	ANNUNCIATION HOUSE Elizabeth Furman	HOLY CROSS OVERSEAS LAYMINISTRY PROGRAM (CHILE) Michael Hogan Bridget Mullins	NUESTROS PEQUEÑOS HERMANOS Kathryn Clitheroe Margaret Skinner Mark Winkler	SAINT PAUL SEMINARY Michael Daly
	BON SECOURS VOLUNTEER MINISTRY Sarah Ceponis	HOLY CROSS OVERSEAS LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM (UGANDA) Annapatrice Clarke Cody Eckert Shane O'Brien	OPEN ARMS HOME FOR CHILDREN Anna-Claire Marrone Reid Spears	SAINT PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC WORKER Laura Beverly
	CASA MARIANELLA Bridget Flores	INNER-CITY TEACHING CORP Sierra Skelton	OPERATION TEACH PROGRAM Roberto Chavez Sarah Corke	SPIRITUS Kelly Weber
	CENTER FOR HOSPICE Michael Baer	JESUIT ALUMNI VOLUNTEER PROGRAM Lauren McCallick Elizabeth Young	OXFAM AMERICA Claire Brosnihan	TEACH BHRIDE Daniel Masterton Kurt Nowak
	CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS SEMINARY John Ahearn Michael Eardley Matthew Hovde Karlo Leonor James Maslar Michael Palmer Ryan Pietrocarlo	JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS John Corgan Emily Niznik-Salvaterra	PACIFIC ALLIANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION Corbin Johnson	TEACH FOR AMERICA Bilma Canales Lillian Dixon-Sudduth Annette Esquibel Kathryn Hunger John Greil Erica Iantorno Sofia Iturbe Anna Katter Dennise Martinez John McGeehan Elizabeth Morgan Justine Murnane Rachel Roseberry Jasmin Simmons Gabrielle Tate
	DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOL Lauren Tonon	JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS NORTHWEST Bianca Fernandez Eddie Guilbeau Janna Lam	PEACE CORPS Steve Bonomo Kelsey Conlon Anastassia Fagan Trigg Ferrano Courtney Gandy Hannah Jackson Megan Keegan Elizabeth Nagel Cari Pick Marissa Woodard Maria Lamas	TOM DOOLEY INTERNSHIP Mark Robertshaw
	DOMINICAN VOLUNTEERS USA Alexandra Sajben Maria Sellers Laura Simons	L'ARCHE Megan Hrdlicka Kaitlyn Kiger Sarah Ruskowski	PLACE CORPS Molly Casanova Erica Ramirez	UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY Maria Antoniak
	ECHO Laura Berlage Joe Sheehan	LIFE TEEN MISSIONS Elizabeth Gormley	SACRED HEART NATIVITY SCHOOL INTERNSHIP Felicia Aguirre	URBAN TEACHER CENTER Rachel Banks Mary Deweese
	FARM OF THE CHILD Erin Rider David Rivera	MAGGIE'S PLACE Emily Lambert Allison Vander Broek		
		MERCYWORKS AT MERCY HOME Mary Pat Brogan		

Notre Dame:

Senior Jackson finishes in top 100 in NCAA cross-country race; diver Lex secures school record from 3-meter

Observer Staff Report

Cross Country

Nov. 22, 2010 marked the official end of a career for 13 seniors. While many of them would continue to compete in track during the winter and spring months, their time as long-distance racers came to an end.

The men finalized their season at the NCAA championships, taking 25th overall. Dan Jackson, the only senior in the championship meet, crossed the line in 100th place.

“I am most proud of helping lead the team to a 25th place finish at the NCAA national championships [after] beginning the season unranked,” Jackson said. “I have never been part of a team that trained so hard and was focused so much on a single goal.”

Prior to that final day, Jackson earned a fourth-place finish and all-region honors at the NCAA Midwest regional, where the men took third. Senior Mat Abernathy contributed a 139th place finish for the Irish, crossing the line for the last time.

The women earned sixth place, as senior Erica Watson took 45th in her last race.

“One of my favorite memories is lining up to race the Regionals meet, and hearing the reverberating cheers exploding from our kilt-and-face-paint-wearing cheering section,” Watson said.

Both teams began the season with first place finishes at the Valparaiso Crusader Open Sept. 3, where Irish senior Paul Springer took first place, followed immediately by senior Thomas Noel in second.

The Big East championships also highlighted the season, where the men finished fifth and the women sixth. Jackson earned his first all-Big East honor, notching a 12th place finish. Other seniors competing in the meet included Abernathy, who came in 53rd, and Ryan Gamboa, who took 69th. On the women’s side, Watson took 33rd, joined by fellow senior Theresa Cattuna, who came in 64th.

“I was watching the O.S.C.A.R.S. highlight video a few days ago, and I started getting teary when I saw the clips of our team-racing together, praying together and celebrating together,” Watson said.

The Irish say goodbye to nine seniors on the men’s side and four on the women’s. Leaving the men are Abernathy, Carter, Jackson, Gamboa, Noel and Springer, along with Kyle Higdon, Ryan Jacobs and Kevin Labus, who mainly run

relays for track. The women bid farewell to Cattuna and Watson, along with Abby Higgins and Marissa Treece, both of whom primarily trained as middle-distance track runners.

Men’s Swimming

Success manifested itself in the form of records, individual titles and annual awards for the Irish this year, but not in the form of a team title at the Big East championships.

Despite falling short of the team title, the Irish (6-4) exhibited a level of talent and an ability to improve that bodes well for future years.

“I think overall we had a great season in terms of progression,” senior diver Eric Lex said. “The coaches’ goal was to have two years progression in one year, and I think we definitely accomplished that.”

Under Irish coach Tim Welsh, Notre Dame had considerable success in the regular season, the highlight of which came on the final day at the Shamrock Invitational. In his final home meet, Lex secured first place and the school record from the 3-meter board by surpassing the 400-point mark for the first time in Notre Dame history.

Two weeks later, Lex highlighted what was a dominating performance by the Irish at the Big East Diving championships by taking first place in the 1-meter event. Senior Nathan Geary led the pack from the 3-meter board en route to a Notre Dame sweep of the diving portion of the meet. Lex was named the Big East’s Most Outstanding Diver, and Irish diving coach Caiming Xie earned the Big East Men’s Diving Coach of the Year award for the eighth time in his career.

In the swimming portion of the conference championships that followed, Notre Dame posted six new school records, but could not maintain a lead and finished second behind defending champion Louisville.

Freshman Frank Dyer captured the individual Big East title in the 500-yard freestyle with the best time in conference history before becoming only the second Notre Dame swimmer to ever compete in the NCAA championships. Dyer swam the 100, 200 and 500-yard freestyles, coming in 26th in the 200-yard freestyle, the highest finish ever for an Irish swimmer at the national meet.

The combination of returning veterans and talented underclassmen should raise expectations

next season, senior swimmer Michael Sullivan said.

“We have great leadership and talent in place to make sure the team keeps improving, and although it’s not going to be easy to leave it, it is going to be awesome to watch this team get better in the coming years,” Sullivan said.

Women’s Swimming

The Irish endured a chaotic season, as they relied primarily on senior leadership without a head coach alongside the team and fell short of extending their 14-year winning streak in the Big East championship.

Irish coach Brian Barnes left the team for personal reasons, and the swimmers practiced with volunteers and assistant coaches for the remainder of the season. Senior co-captain Kellyn Kuhlke said the seniors had to lead the team through adversity, which ultimately brought the women closer together.

“We had to make sure girls were okay and enjoying their time at Notre Dame, and we wanted to make sure their voices and concerns were still heard,” she said. “We basically served as the liaison between the coaches and players and made sure that communication was open and strong.”

Notre Dame took advantage of an early-season meet to evaluate team members and define the roles of every individual contributing toward the team’s main goal: a trip to the NCAA championship.

“[The meet] showed what work we had to do to achieve goals we thought we could achieve,” Kuhlke said. “Our goal was to achieve beyond what we had in the past, and we continued to get better every day. We wanted to get more people to NCAAs and to score higher at NCAAs.”

Overall, the Irish experienced success in the pool, and their meet at Northwestern demonstrated their hard work and senior leadership. Training without a coach for an indefinite amount of time can be stressful, Kuhlke said, especially for the freshmen on the team.

“Our meet at Northwestern [brought us together],” she said. “We came back from Hawaii, and we were jetlagged and tired from our training trip. It was one of the last meets leading up to our resting time before Big Easts, and the team had a lot of momentum, good energy and a good vibe.”

Meanwhile, the Irish divers shone in the deep end of the pool.

Sophomore Jenny Chiang and senior Heidi Grossman were espe-

cially impressive at the Big East Championship. Chiang claimed her second consecutive 3-meter diving title and finished second overall in the 1-meter diving competition, while Grossman came in third in both events.

Chiang and Grossman closed out the season with top-25 finishes in both the 1-meter and 3-meter events at the NCAA Zone Diving Championships. Chiang took 12th place in the 3-meter competition and 14th in the 1-meter competition, while Grossman finished in 22nd in the 1-meter and 17th in the 3-meter.

Chiang also competed on a national level at the USA Diving winter national championships. After finishing second in the preliminary round of the 3-meter competition, Chiang finished 29th in the quarterfinal round.

Chiang said that competing in the meet was a great experience despite her disappointing second round dives.

“There’s so many good divers there, so it’s a good meet to motivate you to do better and work harder,” Chiang said.

The Irish sent two swimmers, senior Samantha Maxwell and sophomore Kim Holden, to the NCAA championship meet. Maxwell, who made her fourth Big East championship, finished in the top 40 in the women’s 200-yard breaststroke.

The Irish failed to win a 15th straight Big East title when they finished second to Louisville, but despite the heartbreaking end to the seniors’ careers, Kuhlke said the teammates will remain lifelong friends and supportive alumni.

“I have great friends; our bond will last forever,” she said. “Losing senior year was not something we thought would happen or something we ever wanted to happen. With the things we went through—good and bad—our class is competitive, has a lot of heart and wants to see things go in a good direction.”

Men’s Track

Under the guidance of coach Joe Piane, Notre Dame has built a tradition of success on the track. After a year full of all-Americans, broken records and team championships, Notre Dame has asserted itself as a national contender.

The Irish opened the indoor season strong with some great performances at early season meets. The team showed its middle distance class immediately, sweeping every distance from 400 to 1600-meters at the Notre Dame

Invitational. At the Indiana Relays, Notre Dame, led by sophomore Jeremy Rae, took gold in both the 800-meter and 4x800-meter relay.

Continuing the middle distance domination, Rae provided one of the highlights of the year at the Meyo Invitational, breaking the four-minute mark to claim the prestigious Meyo Mile.

“Breaking four in the mile has been a goal of mine since I started running track in the eighth grade,” Rae said. “Being able to do it in front of family, friends and teammates made it extra special. Never before have I been so satisfied with how a race played out.”

The Irish then headed into the Indoor Big East championships looking for their fourth straight Big East title. The team received strong performances across the board, including wins from freshman Patrick Feeney in the 400-meter, junior Johnathan Shawel in the 1000-meter and Rae in the mile. Despite the team effort, Notre Dame came up just short, finishing second to Connecticut by less than five points.

The indoor season wasn’t quite over for the Irish after the Big East season, as the team qualified their distance medley relay for the NCAA championships. The team of Shawel, Feeney, Rae and graduate student Jack Howard ran their best time of the year, finishing in 9:30.16 to claim fourth-place and all-American honors.

“The four of us were very excited heading into NCAAs and it showed on the track,” Rae said. “Each of us ran near personal records. We were able to beat some highly ranked teams, and ended up being all-Americans.”

On that note, the Irish took their game outdoors, and it was the field athletes who gave the team an immediate boost. Senior Denes Veres won the shot put at the highly competitive Arizona State Invitational, and senior Justin Schneider placed second in the decathlon at the Alabama Relays.

The success in the field continued at the Outdoor Big East championships, where senior John Belcher won the weight throw with a personal best mark of 58.89 meters, and junior Kevin Schipper took first in the pole vault. Those performances were not enough to tip the scales, however, as the Irish finished second to Connecticut once again.

While the two close defeats may have clouded over part of this season’s success, the senior class graduates as one of the most successful classes in school history, and the friendships and bonds

NOTRE DAME
YEAR IN
REVIEW

September

September 4:
Football opens the Brian Kelly era with a 23-12 win over Purdue.
September 25:
Men’s soccer opens Big East play with a 1-0 win over No. 12 St. John’s.

October

October 23:
Hockey defeats defending national champion and No. 1 Boston College 2-1.
October 30:
Football loses its fifth contest in eight games, falling to Tulsa 28-27.
October 31:
The NCAA-record 77-game unbeaten streak against conference opponents comes to an end when UConn beats women’s soccer 2-0 in the Big East quarterfinals.
November 13:
Football defeats a ranked opponent for the first time since 2006, beating Utah 28-3 on Senior Day.

November

November 26:
Women’s soccer advances to its fifth consecutive College Cup with a 2-0 win over Oklahoma State.
November 27:
Utilizing a late fourth-quarter TD drive, football defeats USC for the first time since 2001, 20-16.
November 28:
Men’s basketball wins the Old Spice Classic with a 58-51 win over Wisconsin.

December

December 5:
Women’s soccer wins the national championship with a 1-0 win over Stanford.
December 8:
After starting the season 8-0, men’s basketball loses for the first time, 72-58 to Kentucky.
December 31:
Football ends its season with a four-game winning streak thanks to a 33-17 Sun Bowl win over Miami (FL).

Year in Review

board; men’s golf wins Big East without injured leader Usher; Rowing wins eighth straight conference title

and the friendships and bonds formed will far outlast the memories of times and races. “Every time I put on the Irish uniform, I am filled with great memories and emotions,” Veres said. “Over the past four years, my teammates have made the experience unforgettable. I cannot imagine being a part of any other program.”

Women’s Track

The Irish struggled with an up-and-down season, finishing with mixed results in both indoor and outdoor competitions. Notre Dame finished near the middle of the conference pack in both seasons at the Big East championships. The Irish came in eighth at the indoor competition Feb. 20 in Akron, Ohio, and followed that effort by earning 10th place in the conference at the outdoor meet, held May 8 in Villanova, Penn. Though the Irish were not one of the conference’s top squads this year, they still succeeded in many ways individually. One of the most accomplished athletes this year was sophomore Rebecca Tracy. Tracy won the mile at the Big East indoor championships and finished third in the 1500-meter run for the conference on the outdoor circuit. In addition, she posted a mile time of 4:42.14 in January’s Notre Dame Invitational, which was the second fastest in the country at the time.

Though success in track is often viewed on the individual level, Tracy credits her strong performance to the leadership of the upperclassmen on the team, especially senior Abby Higgins. “I am going to miss all of our seniors dearly,” Tracy said. “They have all contributed so much to the team. [But] if I have to pick one senior that has had the greatest effect on me, it would be Abby. I got to work with her all spring last year and she is the best training partner, as well as a great teammate and leader.” Another notable standout was senior shot putter Rudy Atang. Atang, who placed sixth with a 14.73-meter mark in Akron, bested that mark in Villanova, where she finished fourth in the conference after a throw of 15.51 meters. Atang is now preparing to compete in the NCAA championships June 8-11 in Des Moines, Iowa. Just like Tracy, she credits teammates for a large part of her success. “I will miss my teammates the

most, especially the senior throwers: Denes [Veres], Greg [Davis] and John [Belcher],” Atang said. “Like siblings, we have been though our ups and downs, but they have continued to inspire and motivate me in more ways than they know.”

Men’s Golf

After a successful fall season, the Irish entered the winter and spring with a firm sense of who they were. Led by the defending Big East player of the year, the Irish golfers were a top-30 squad looking to claim a Big East championship that barely evaded them the year before. Injuries, recalcitrant weather and inconsistent play, however, changed that picture drastically. In the end, though, the Irish are where they hoped to be — Big East champions heading into the NCAA regionals. “Our fall season was great,” Irish coach James Kubinski said. “We were a top-30 team and playing great, but we had a really tough winter, which really hurt us going into the spring.” With snow and cold temperatures keeping the team inside until early April, the Irish struggled with consistency early in the spring season. After not recording a finish higher than second in the fall, the team finished fifth (TPC Match Play), second (in a match play loss to Yale), 12th (Schenkel Invitational) and eighth (LSU National Invitational) in its first four tournaments. “The early season was frustrating for us,” Kubinski said. “We really didn’t play that badly, even at Schenkel where we really imploded on the last few holes. We just couldn’t put together consistent rounds and tournaments.” Notre Dame proceeded to take first at the Battle at the Warren at Notre Dame’s own Warren Golf Course in its final tune-up before the Big East championships. However, the team’s struggles were exacerbated when No. 1 golfer Tom Usher broke his hand lifting weights the week before the Big East championships. The junior, despite playing through some rough stretches, was the team’s best golfer throughout the early season. Kubinski will find out this week whether Usher will be cleared to play in the NCAA regionals. “Losing Usher was definitely tough,” Kubinski said. “We had to have other people step up.” Kubinski inserted Connor Alan-Lee into the line-up for the Big East tournament, and the senior

rewarded his coach’s faith with a strong performance. Led by Big East individual champion Max Scodro, the Irish easily outdistanced Louisville in the final round to take home the championship. For his efforts, Scodro, the only golfer to finish under par, was named the Big East player of the year after the tournament, making it the second year in a row that a Notre Dame golfer has received the honor. “Scodro has been great this year, incredibly consistent,” Kubinski said. “He’s literally only had a couple bad rounds all year. He really deserves the honor. I hope he’ll be named to the PING all-Midwest team as well.” Scodro wasn’t the only Irish golfer to receive a postseason award. Niall Platt was named Big East freshman of the year, and the conference’s coaches voted Kubinski coach of the year. “Platt has met my expectations, which were quite high, since the fall. He’s quite mature for his age, hasn’t come out of the lineup all year, and is one of the best putters we’ve had here in a long time,” Kubinski said. “As for me, it’s really a team award, so I’m quite grateful to the guys. The coaches really vote for it on team performance.” The Irish are participating in the NCAA regionals this weekend in a pool of 14 teams, five of which will advance to the NCAA championships in Stillwater, Okla., beginning June 1. “We definitely feel like we should get out of our regional. If we play well, we should be fine,” Kubinski said. “If we get into match play at the NCAA championships, I like our chances against most teams in the country. It should be a fun ride.”

Women’s Golf

2011 proved to be a year of firsts as Notre Dame reached unprecedented levels of success on the links. In addition to winning their fourth Big East title, claiming four spots on the All-Big East Team and Susan Holt winning the Big East Coach of the Year award, the Irish qualified for the NCAA championship finals for the first time. “We have advanced to regionals the past four years as a team. This has been the norm for us,” Irish coach Susan Holt said. “By advancing to finals now for the first time in program history, we have set a new norm for the future.” Senior So-Hyun Park agreed

with Holt and said the seniors were especially happy to see their four years of hard work pay off on the course. “[Senior captain] Katie Conway and I came to Notre Dame to make a difference in the women’s golf program. Advancing to NCAA finals was our ultimate goal and we worked very hard for it for the past four years,” Park said. “It meant a lot to Katie and I especially because it is our last year playing at Notre Dame. We were more determined than ever to get ourselves onto the next stage.” Although the Irish enjoyed many impressive individual accomplishments — Park, junior Becca Huffer and freshmen Nicole Zhang and Kristina Nhim were named to the 2011 All-Big East team, and Huffer was named the Big East Player of the Week in March — Holt credited her team’s depth and teamwork for its success. “This team is made up of the top four recruiting classes in the history of the program, and as a result, we expected to do great things,” Holt said. “We did not rely on any one player to produce low numbers. We had six players that could step up and shoot low scores and we had that from everyone throughout the year.” Aside from qualifying for the finals for the first time, the highlight of the season came at the Big East championships when the Irish defeated rival Louisville for their first conference title in three years. “We gave the title to our biggest rival in the field, Louisville, for the past two years, so we weren’t going to let them take the championship title from us this year,” Park said. “Katie Conway and I were especially glad that we were able to win it our last year of collegiate golf. I also think that winning the Big East championships helped us get into good momentum going into NCAA regionals.” The Irish will wrap up their season at the NCAA championship finals from May 18 to 21 at the Traditions Club in Bryan, Texas. “We have a pretty good idea of what to work on in order to get ready for NCAA finals,” Park said. “With our talents, there is no reason why we shouldn’t win every single tournament we play.”

Rowing

It was another successful season for the Irish, as they won the Big East championships for the eighth consecutive season, this time as an underdog. Though No. 1-seeded Louisville

was favored to win the conference at the May 1 competition in West Windsor, N.J., it was the Irish who emerged on top, scoring 114 points. The Cardinals came in second with a score of 109. “There was some tight racing out there [at the Big East championships],” Irish coach Martin Stone said. “Everybody contributed — a lot of people stepped up.” But that wasn’t the only significant accomplishment of the year for Notre Dame. Ranked in the nation’s top 20, the Irish competed in their final regular season race at the Oak Ridge Regionals in Oak Ridge, Tenn., May 15 against 10 teams from four different conferences. Notre Dame needed an impressive showing to be selected for the 16-team NCAA tournament, which takes place from May 27 through May 29 in Sacramento, Calif. “It has almost become a last-chance race for the NCAA’s,” Stone said before Oak Ridge. “There are a few combinations of results and certain things that would result in us making the NAAs. Really all we can do is have every one of our boats race as fast as possible.” The Irish did just that, with all six boats performing well enough in qualifying rounds to advance to the grand final heats. Due to this success, the Irish were selected to compete in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2007. The primary catalyst that propelled the Irish to reach their goals this season was a continuous improvement throughout the year, which the Irish hope will continue into next week. “We’ve gotten faster as the year has gone on,” Stone said. “That’s always a goal. Sometimes you’re only as fast as you are in March, but we continued to gain speed as the season wore on.” Despite the continued dominance in the conference, Stone knows how much more difficult future success will be with a greater number of rowers competing in the sport. “Women’s rowing is getting faster and faster each year,” Stone said. “It has to do with the increased popularity of the sport and more kids rowing. More kids are training and training right before they even get to college. Right now there are probably four varsity 8s that have separated themselves [nationally]. There are then 19 or so varsity 8s that are pretty darn close. There’s a lot of parity right now in the sport.”

January

January 8:
Women’s basketball loses in the final seconds to No. 2 UConn, 79-76.
January 28-29:
Hockey ties a pair of home games against Miami (OH).

February

February 19:
Baseball gets its first win under new head coach Mik Aoki by routing Purdue 19-2.
February 20:
In a rematch of 2010’s national championship game, men’s lacrosse defeats Duke, 12-7.
February 26:
Hockey loses its regular season finale to Western Michigan 2-0 and drops to second place in the CCHA behind Michigan.
February 28:
Men’s basketball ends the season undefeated at home with a 93-72 win over Villanova.

March

March 20:
No. 2 seed men’s basketball is upset in the third round of the NCAA tournament against No. 10 seed Florida State, 71-57.
March 27:
1) A 2-1 win over New Hampshire in the NCAA regional sends hockey to its second Frozen Four in program history.
2) Fencing wins the national championship for the eighth time in program history and first since 2003.
March 28:
Women’s basketball defeats top-seeded Tennessee for first time in 21 attempts to advance to the Final Four.

April

April 3:
Women’s basketball defeats two-time defending national champion Connecticut 72-63 to advance to the championship game.
April 5:
Women’s basketball falls to Texas A&M 76-70 in the NCAA championship game.
April 7:
Hockey falls to eventual national champion Minnesota-Duluth 4-3 in the Frozen Four.
April 18:
Men’s lacrosse takes over No. 1 in two national polls for the first time in school history.

May

May 1:
1) Women’s tennis wins its fourth straight Big East championship.
2) Rowing wins its eighth straight Big East championship.
May 7:
Women’s golf secures a trip to the NCAA championship finals for the first time in program history.
May 14:
Men’s lacrosse wins a first round NCAA tournament game over Penn 13-6.

Fowlkes

continued from page 40

and on the field is my competitive spirit.”

Fowlkes’ competitive drive led her to become one of the most versatile players in Irish history. Recruited as a defender out of the Kansas City suburbs, she could play nearly anywhere on the field.

“Lauren’s just a very smart player — she’s very versatile,” junior forward Melissa Henderson said. “She’s able to fill in wherever the team needed her, no questions being asked. I think that was really special about her.”

Fowlkes spent her freshman year backstopping a College Cup run but moved around the pitch her sophomore year due to a conflict of commitments. The 2008 under-20 World Cup coincided with the NCAA tournament, and when Fowlkes joined the national team en route to a World Cup gold medal, a hole emerged in the line-up that Waldrum tried to fill up all year.

“When we knew she was going to miss the playoffs, we kind of moved her around,” he said. “[Center back] is too critical of a position to have somebody leave in the middle of your season and try to get somebody get integrated back there.”

While she moved around both her junior and senior years, Fowlkes’ final position changes may have been her most impor-

tant. After a stunning loss in the Big East quarterfinals, Fowlkes moved from defender to forward to spark the offense, but then played all three positions in the College Cup semifinal and final as the game dictated, leading her team to a long-awaited title.

“What’s important is that that kind of stuff never bothered her,” Waldrum said. “It’s just a ‘put me wherever the team needs me’ kind of attitude ... For us at that level at that time, she played a role that we needed. It was a Band-Aid to try and get some solutions, and she did a great job.”

That team-first attitude extends to Fowlkes’ most treasured memories of her four years.

“Obviously nothing means more than winning a national championship this year,” she said. “Any team accolade is always going to far, far outweigh any individual honor that I could ever receive just because of how amazing that whole experience was.”

Fowlkes’ journey from back line to front line (and back and forth a few times in between) mirrored her growth as a leader — a maturation process that resulted in her co-captaincy in her final year.

“Lauren had the vocal part that we really wanted. It was really a nice thing to watch her grow,” Waldrum said. “When she came in as a freshman she had those leadership qualities and she understood the game, so she wasn’t afraid to say things. As a freshman she wasn’t ready to lead this team, but we could see the future

leader in Lauren ... By the senior year, she had really evolved and grown into that role.”

Fowlkes’ growth did not stop after the national championship, however. Shortly after camp ended with the under-23 national team in December, Fowlkes was drafted fifth overall by the Philadelphia Independence of Women’s Professional Soccer.

Now finishing up her degree with one last class while playing back for the Independence, Fowlkes continues to be grateful for her opportunities.

“This is definitely a dream come true,” she said. “To be drafted in the first round, to be a professional when the league is so small and when there’s not a lot of that type of opportunity for people coming out of college, I feel really fortunate to be able to do this.”

With graduation, however, comes some nostalgia.

“Notre Dame is a place full of such awesome, special people and it’s not something that’s common everywhere else you go. It’s hard to leave,” she said. “I couldn’t have imagined anything better, not only with soccer and all those accolades and stuff, but I honestly feel like I got an education at the top institution in the country. That’ll be one of the things that’ll be in my life forever, and it’s something I’m extremely thankful for. I couldn’t have asked for a better college experience.”

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior Lauren Fowlkes voices her displeasure to Ohio State’s Lauren Fuller during the 2010 College Cup semifinal.

Corrigan

continued from page 40

and be confident. It’s the kind of thing you continually work at as a coach and player.”

With 26 career assists, Brenneman can not only score, but he can also create opportunities for others and visualize effective offensive schemes. Ridgway said he understands defenders’ difficulty in guarding the versatile midfielder because he faces him daily in practice.

“[Brenneman] can fit it into tight spaces past the goalie’s stick, making him tough to stop. He’s a very stubborn dodger who sometimes catches goalies by surprise when he releases his powerful shot early,” Ridgway said. “I mostly guard him when he beats his man, and I have to slide to him when he’s up top where his momentum makes him tough to cover. He is a great player and can make plays all over the field, making him truly tough to guard.”

Several of his teammates say Brenneman is a Tewaaron Trophy nominee because of his outstanding shot. Brenneman said he maintains the same mindset every time he possesses the ball on offense, allowing him to strategize and create the play that is best for the team.

“The ideal situation is me catching the ball 12 yards away and just ripping it,” he said. “When I’m dodging, I’m looking first at who’s guarding me, and then I’m looking

for who’s getting ready to slide. Then I dissect the situation from there — do I need to pass the ball quickly in or carry it longer?”

Brenneman credits his shooting skills to his hard work and his drive to be the best. He said Corrigan taught him that even the best players make mistakes, but that doing so can only improve their game and ultimately eliminate the fear of making the wrong play.

“The best lesson that I’ve learned is that if you make a mistake, you make a mistake at 100 miles per hour. You don’t ever want to make a passive mistake — that gets no one anywhere,” Brenneman said. “This year and throughout my career, I’ve tried to focus on the next play. Everyone’s going to make mistakes, but it’s really focusing on the next play and trying to help your team with that.”

The Long Island Lizards selected Brenneman with the fifth overall pick in the 2011 Major League Lacrosse Draft. The 6-foot-3, 215-pound midfielder will report to camp as soon as his collegiate career comes to a close. Right now, however, Brenneman is focused on the next play and expects the Irish to achieve the goal they set on day one this season.

“[Our goal is to] win a national championship,” he said. “We’ve been there. This team is definitely an experienced group that [was] there last year. The experience is something that’s going to help.”

Brenneman said he is grateful

he got the opportunity to play lacrosse for an elite program, while simultaneously receiving a degree from Notre Dame. His hectic schedule might intimidate just about anyone, but Brenneman said his time at Notre Dame taught him how to manage his time properly, allowing him to excel as a student-athlete.

“Don’t leave stuff to the last minute. It’s definitely a grind, and if you know you’ve got work, get it done,” he said. “When it comes down to it on Friday and you have a test to study for, or it’s Thursday and you’re tired and beat up, you don’t want to do it. I’ve definitely learned it the hard way, and you’ve got to get stuff done early.”

Brenneman hopes to leave behind a legacy of hard work and dedication that extends beyond the lacrosse field after he graduates. Giving back to the community is important to Brenneman, who participated in a service trip to Japan and Notre Dame’s Playing for Peace event, which raised awareness about the conflict in Sudan. Brenneman said his work ethic is evident in community service, lacrosse and academics.

“I’d like to leave [behind] how hard I worked and how hard the senior class worked to get us where we are today,” he said. “I think we all worked exceptionally hard on the field and off the field, and I hope that our beliefs and our demeanor and our work ethic are pushed on to everyone else.”

Contact Megan Golden at mgolde01@saintmarys.edu



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Senior Zach Brenneman looks for a shot during Notre Dame’s 8-7 victory over Ohio State March 23 at Arlotta Stadium.



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Senior Zach Brenneman shoots during Notre Dame’s 12-8 victory over Villanova April 2. Brenneman netted two goals and an assist in the game.

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 "The Children of Men" author

8 More than a quarter of the earth's crust

15 Resource of western Australia

16 Out of the loop

17 2007 film featuring a heavily tattooed main character

19 Affectionate feelings

20 "It's a ____"

21 Native of Ayr

22 At least one

23 Gab

25 Idea person's cry

26 Origami design

27 Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality," e.g.
- 29 Early Windows underpinning

32 Complimentary item at restaurants

37 Field of Bible-based study

38 Hogwarts enrollee

39 Always used by Longfellow?

40 Grp. represented by the Southern Cross

41 Deep shockers

42 Long ____

44 Two of these are needed to pass

46 Speak on the record?

49 Openable with a gentle push, say

51 Quite a tidy sum

52 Matter of contention
- 53 Constables' superiors

57 Fraction of a fraction

58 Kind of jam in a sacher torte

59 Who wrote "In the country of the blind the one-eyed man is king"

60 Calm swimming spots

- Down**

1 Only work of art that Michelangelo signed

2 Exhaust

3 "The Outlaw ____ Wales"

4 Queen and her servants, maybe

5 Bully in "Calvin and Hobbes"

6 Be off

7 Typical tabloid writers

8 Health V.I.P.'s

9 A party to

10 Skip town

11 "If only that were true!"

12 Descending in steps

13 Modern ice cream flavor

14 It might hold a few swallows

18 Mine

23 Grand entrance

24 Squad car necessities

25 Passé skyline sights

26 Cantilever, e.g.



- Puzzle by Patrick Berry
- 28 Dictate

30 ____ a day

31 Song ending

32 Longing

33 Available

34 Clay used by potters

35 Cincinnati-to-Dayton dir.

36 Department store department
- 43 Film set workers

45 Barley product

46 "But wait, there's more!" company

47 Composer Bruckner

48 Spray targets

49 Place to pray

50 Carte du ____
- 51 Where the 2003 true-life film "Touching the Void" is set

52 Actor Scott

54 Surveillance tool, briefly

55 Univ. application datum

56 One-tenth of a microjoule

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

I	P	O	D	S	D	V	D	S	A	P	I	S	H
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M	Y	E	E	I	S	L	E	A	R	I	E	L	
T	R	A	V	E	L	E	R	S	L	O	G	O	
I	T	S	O	N	M	E	A	T	O	N	E	S	
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nikki Reed, 23; Trent Reznor, 46; David Eigenberg, 47; Bill Paxton, 56

Happy Birthday: This is a year of expansion, learning and using your experience and knowledge to get ahead. Changes can be made that will help you emotionally, financially and contractually. Your intuition will guide you in money matters. Your ability to take on more will impress someone who can help you reach your goals. Your numbers are 5, 11, 27, 32, 35, 39, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Uncertainty regarding a financial matter must be cleared up as quickly as possible. Consider anyone who may be influenced by your decision. Creative accounting will help put things back on track and allow you to do some of the things you have scheduled for the rest of the year. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Open up discussions that are pertinent to your future and professional and financial advancement. Greater opportunities are apparent if you are willing to pick up additional skills. Don't limit the possibilities. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): As long as you take care of your responsibilities, everything else will fall into place. An empty promise made by someone offering you a position will leave you in an awkward position. Get any agreement in writing. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Enjoy the people who mean the most to you or help out someone reaching out to you. Getting involved will impress someone you have wanted to spend more time with. Love is highlighted and a social encounter should be planned for the evening. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Approach change as an invitation to something new and exciting. Embrace the opportunity to expand your interests and to experience how someone else sees and deals with similar situations. Don't let emotions cause you to overreact. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Outsiders will be more receptive than the people you deal with all the time. A problem at home will develop if the changes requested aren't made. Attending a course or signing up for a class will turn out better than anticipated, helping you bypass complaints. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a greater interest in what others are doing. Making an effort to improve your home, investments or assets will result in long-term profits. Good personal and professional fortune are within your reach if you put in the effort. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new avenues and attend different networking or social events. You'll be drawn to people who complement you by offering exactly what you need to complete a project. Your patience will pay off. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will make an honest decision difficult. Don't be fooled by what someone tells you. Go to the source. Don't let uncertainty regarding your home and family lead you to a poor professional choice. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be summoned to help an organization or group you know little about. Do what you can but not at the expense of your own responsibilities. Home improvements and adjustments will bring you closer to the one you love. Love and romance are in the stars. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to make a sudden and unexpected change but, before you do, consider how it will affect the people who care about you. Problems due to past poor choices will come back to haunt you. Get serious about your future. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Mix what you have done in the past with what you want to do in the future and you will excel. Don't let someone else's last-minute change or decision cause you to rethink your direction or plans. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You have great stamina, high standards and good ethics. You strive for greater security and financial standing.

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LEDENE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

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Answer: Easily raised at morning roll call — SARGE'S VOICE



THE OBSERVER

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OBSERVER EXCLUSIVE

Swarbrick discusses the future of Notre Dame athletics

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Editor-in-Chief

Wikipedia refers to him as America's first sports agent. He holds a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame and a law degree from Stanford University, and once upon a time, Jack Swarbrick convinced the NCAA to up and move its headquarters to the middle of Indiana.

But these days, Swarbrick, the director of Notre Dame Athletics, is known as the unifying force behind two national titles and two more Final Four appear-

ances in one year.

"The one thing I have worked hard to do, and I think our coaches and athletes have really embraced it, is to articulate that the national championship is the goal annually," Swarbrick said in a recent sitdown with The Observer. "That's what we're trying to do, and to really focus on that as the objective for the

See Also

**Full transcript of
The Observer's
sitdown with
Swarbrick**

ndsmcobserver.com

sports."

While Notre Dame rarely sees true droughts in the realm of athletic success, this past year brought quite a harvest among Swarbrick's fields: a women's soccer national championship — the first title of Swarbrick's career — a fencing national championship, a women's basketball runner-up finish and an appearance in the Frozen Four from the hockey team.

"We had 16 of our teams get into the tournament, and you can't win if you don't get into the tournament," said the Yonkers, New York, native. "That's the

start, really having a consistently large base of teams and individual athletes who make it into the NCAA tournament."

But with that success comes a challenge for the leader of all things Notre Dame sports: attendance across all sports programs.

"The good news is we have lots of success," Swarbrick said. "The challenge with that is we have a lot of great programs that have a lot of contests that we have to market and get more people to come to."

A Notre Dame Network?

In theory, a broadcast network

consisting solely of Notre Dame athletics could increase the marketing platform, boosting the attendance figures. The University of Texas has already utilized this tactic to the tune of \$300 million in a deal with ESPN to form the Longhorn Network.

Yet, the former Indianapolis lawyer foresees Notre Dame going a different direction.

"We are very focused on building our digital media capacity," Swarbrick said. "It'll probably take a slightly different form because we work with a different

see SWARBRICK/page 32

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Four years of success



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Senior midfielder Zach Brenneman works his way around an Ohio State defender Mar. 23. Brenneman has played in 60 of 62 games over his four-year career.

Brenneman leads lacrosse to previously unseen heights

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

Since signing on as a freshman with raw talent and a heated temper, senior midfielder Zach Brenneman has learned to rely on the next play, ultimately developing into a player-of-the-year candidate and household exterminator.

Brenneman has played in 60 of Notre Dame's 62 games during his four-year career, only missing two matches early this season due to an injury. The co-captain netted 29 goals during his junior year and has recorded 14 goals thus far as a senior.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said Brenneman is aware of his role on the team and the importance of his leadership on the field.

"He takes a beating, but he's a big, physical kid," Corrigan said. "He hasn't missed a lot of time because he understands that that comes with the game and that comes with the way he plays the game."

Brenneman lives off-campus in a house with several of his lacrosse teammates, including senior defenseman and co-captain Kevin Ridgway.

Just like Brenneman takes control in Notre Dame's Arlotta Stadium, Ridgway said, he can also be counted on to complete almost any task in his own house.

"Zach is Mr. Fix-it around our house," Ridgway said. "He doddies everything

from catching mice to fixing holes in our walls to cleaning dishes. He's very reliable to the point where the other teammates won't clean and then laugh at him because they know he is going to do it eventually. He's also the house cook, [but he is] not the grill-master — that title belongs to me."

Brenneman said the distance after graduation will not separate him from his teammates.

"I can go to these guys with any problem, and I can talk to them. They're kind of just like brothers," he said. "I definitely think I'll stay in touch with my teammates. I will definitely be a supportive [alumnus], and I will help the guys in whatever way that I can."

Brenneman has come a long way from his arrival at Notre Dame. As a freshman, Brenneman bumped heads with Corrigan on a few occasions because the coach and team captain both shared such a strong passion for making the team better. With time, Corrigan said, they have learned to work together and collaborate instead of clash.

"I think he's a very talented kid and very driven to be good and to be great," Corrigan said. "I think in times where I've had to work with him, it's been a mix of trying to get him to adapt to things I want to do but valuing what he does and giving him the freedom to do what he does best

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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior Lauren Fowlkes celebrates with the women's soccer national championship trophy Dec. 5. Fowlkes played three different positions during the national title game.

Fowlkes named two-time athletic and academic All-American

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Editor

Play defender, midfielder and forward in the national championship game, celebrate a national crown, take final exams early and begin camp with the national soccer program — senior Lauren Fowlkes did it all in the space of just one early-December week.

"That was crazy," Fowlkes said with a laugh. "[I was] just trying to celebrate but then buckle down and get through my last finals."

That week was simply another chance for the Irish co-captain to display her two trademark characteristics: competitiveness and versatility.

"[On the field,] I think her versatility was really key for her and the impact she had on the program," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "Off the field, it's just the competitiveness she has as a person. She's tough, she's physical, she's fearless — but she takes the same thing to the classroom too."

Fowlkes may have been at her most competitive that weekend in Cary, N.C. With one final shot at a national title remaining, Fowlkes refused to let Ohio State's Megan Fuller push her around. After Fuller tackled Fowlkes near the boundary, the senior let fly in one of the most memorable images of the 2010

College Cup.

"We got into a little scuffle and she just got in my face," Fowlkes said. "Obviously I wasn't very happy about it. It's just one of those things when you're caught in the moment and you have to stand up for yourself."

Waldrum called the incident indicative of Fowlkes' play — but what struck him most was Fowlkes' later run-in with Fuller.

"After that incident happened, there was a long-range shot ... that hit the crossbar. Lauren's following it up, and you see her with the same girl, and Lauren pretty much leveled her on the follow up," he said. "She wasn't going to forget it. That kind of epitomizes Lauren."

Fowlkes' competitiveness translates off the field as well. Only the 13th athlete in Notre Dame history to earn both All-American and Academic All-American honors in two separate seasons, Fowlkes graduates with a 3.62 grade point average as a science-business major. Yet when asked to pick which honor meant more, Fowlkes had a difficult time. "I don't know — I would say almost the academic one almost brings more weight," she said. "I've always been one of those types of people that whatever it is, I'm giving my 100 percent best effort. I think what makes me excel in the classroom

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