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SAINT MARY'S

THE OBSERVER

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IT ACCURATELY

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Commencement 2013

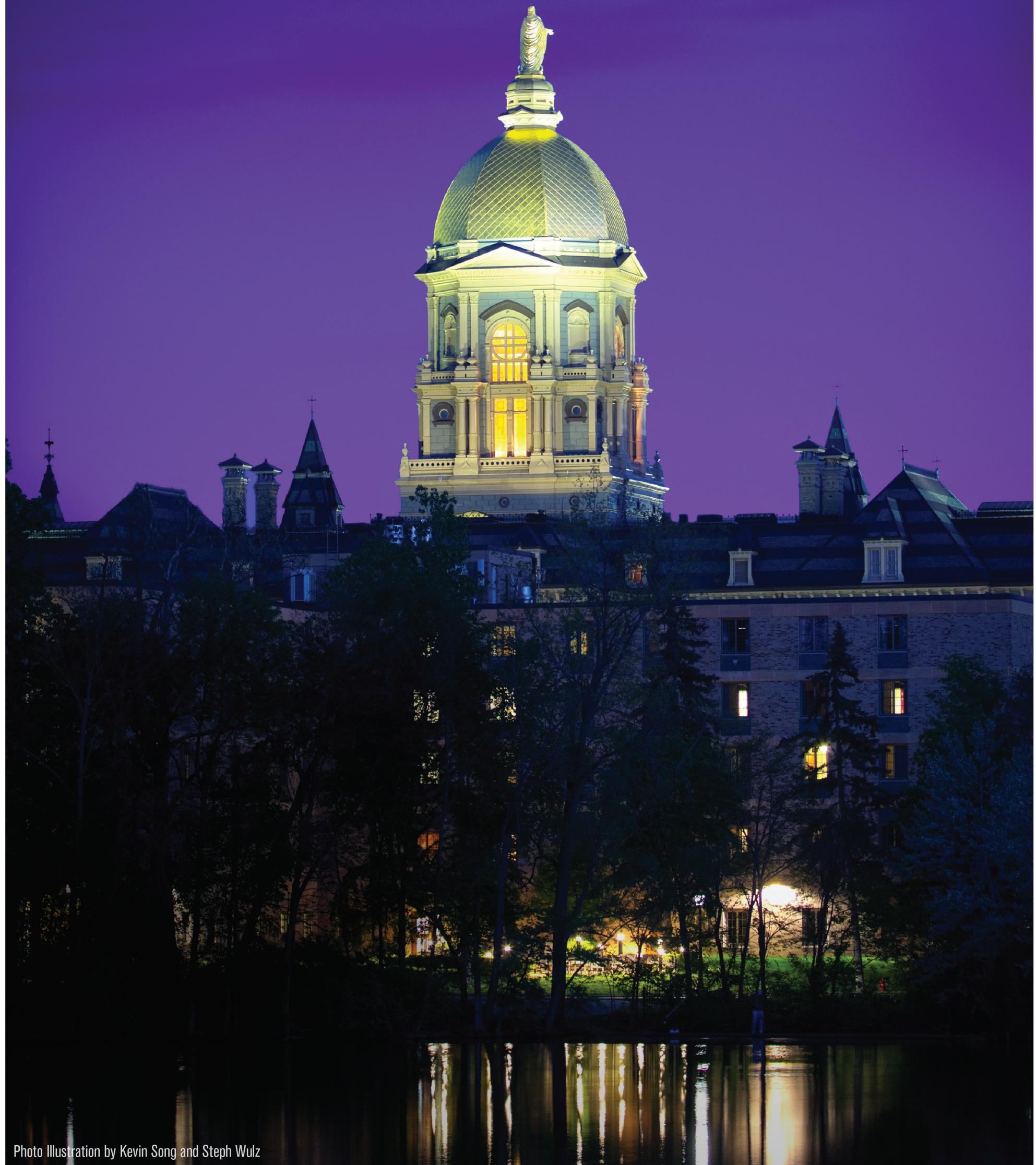


Photo Illustration by Kevin Song and Steph Wulz

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Administration plans ceremony

By NICOLE MICHELS
Assistant Managing Editor

The Class of 2013 will graduate from Notre Dame this weekend as years of study culminate in 19 diploma ceremonies and more than 100 events celebrating the accomplishments of the University's youngest alumni.

University Registrar Chuck Hurley said although the pressure on everyone involved in the weekend is enormous, it is one of the most rewarding times for the University.

"It's a lot of pressure on students because they're trying to balance seeing their friends for the last time, moving out, and dealing with family and guests while trying to organize things," Hurley said. "It's a lot of pressure on the president and the University and other leadership because they have a lot of events to go to. It's a lot of pressure on our office because we have 22 people in the registrar's office who are trying to put in grades, ... get the summer session running and put on a commencement for 26 to 27 thousand people, with over 100 events throughout the weekend."

"It's probably the most pressure-filled time for the whole of the University community — but it's worth it."

This year's 19 diploma ceremonies — a one-ceremony increase from last year — will include the law school, the graduate school and individual diploma ceremonies for the College of Arts and Letters, the Mendoza College of Business, the College of Engineering and the College of Science, Hurley said.

The increase in diploma ceremonies was due to the addition of the Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS) major to the College of Science, Hurley said.

"[The Colleges of] Arts and Letters, Business and Architecture have one

ceremony for all of the students graduating in their college," Hurley said. "[The Colleges of Science and Engineering] have elected to have a separate ceremony for each one of their majors."

The University honors the advanced studies graduates Saturday with three commencement ceremonies, Hurley said. Law students gather in the library mall, while graduate business students meet in Purcell Pavilion and other graduate students assemble in the Compton Arena to receive their diplomas.

The undergraduate commencement is the highlight of Sunday's celebration of undergraduate achievement, Hurley said. Students begin the day in Notre Dame Stadium for the commencement ceremony and then attend their specific diploma ceremonies in the afternoon.

The University hosts more than 100 additional events, such as luncheons and honors society dinners, for graduates and their families, Hurley said. He said the finalization of the events and ceremonies for this year's commencement weekend marked the first step in the coordination process.

"We go through [the list of events] based on the event size, estimated number of graduates attending the ceremony and estimated number of guests attending that ceremony, putting them into various locations like [the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center] or RecSports or Jordan Auditorium," Hurley said. "That's one of the first things we do every year and that is why it's very important that students fill out their ticket requests. ... On average, we've found that each student brings 8.2 guests to [undergraduate] commencement."

Though the individual college and program diploma ceremonies limit the number of tickets available to students, Hurley said students

are allowed to bring as many guests as they want to the undergraduate commencement ceremony.

"We have some students that bring no guests, but last year we had a student who brought 90 family members [because] she was the first person in her family to graduate from college, ... which is great," Hurley said.

The undergraduate commencement ceremony was moved from the Joyce Center in response to student requests voiced to University President Fr. John Jenkins, Hurley said. After considering the move, in 2010 Jenkins moved the ceremony to Notre Dame Stadium for the first time since the 1950s.

"We saw an almost tripling of attendance," Hurley said. "That first year, I believe we had almost 27 or 28 thousand, and it was good for the University community."

Hurley said the primary logistical challenge involved with coordinating the undergraduate commencement ceremony is the need to respect the football field.

"We can't bring in trucks and have them drive all over the field turf. ... We have to be very respectful of the field," Hurley said. "We put this field-covering system — it's like a plastic jigsaw puzzle — over the field and set up the stage, sound system and seating over that."

"We have to be very careful of how we do that. Part of it is done with forklifts [and] part of it is done with taking pieces off of trucks and carrying them into the stadium by hand. It takes a little bit longer, but it allows us to make sure we're respectful of the football field and that we don't destroy it."

The Athletic Department has been an indispensable partner to the Office of the Registrar while coordinating this ceremony, Hurley said.

"I can't say enough about Dan Brazo, stadium director, and Mike Branch, associate

athletic director — this isn't something they normally do," Hurley said. "They're normally running football games and other athletic events, but they bend over backwards for students. ... They do everything they can to put on a beautiful commencement for the students."

At the undergraduate commencement ceremony, attendees will listen to the bestowment of the Laetare Medals, as well as addresses by commencement speaker Cardinal Timothy Dolan and valedictorian Mallory Meter, Hurley said. After the recipients are recognized, Jenkins will confer degrees onto the students.

"Each dean steps forward and asks Fr. John [Jenkins] to confer the degrees onto the students in his or her college," Hurley said. "Then the students from that college are asked to rise, Fr. John says his part and confers the degrees, and then the students go off and in the afternoon ceremonies get their diplomas and the handshake onstage."

Although coordinating the weekend's events requires a lot of effort, Hurley said it all comes down to welcoming to Notre Dame those who contributed to their students' journeys to the University.

"[On this weekend], individuals who have made a lot of sacrifices for their students to attend Notre Dame visit here and are really awed by the institution, by the aura of Notre Dame, and it gets very emotional for the family," Hurley said. "It's one of the best investments made at the institution. ... It costs a lot of money to put on a ceremony in the stadium, but I think it's some of the best funds spent at the institution because I think it's important that we send our graduates off so positively."

Contact Nicole Michels at nmichels@nd.edu

Notre Dame Commencement Ceremonies

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, May 18, 2013

9:00 AM	ROTC Commissioning Ceremony
10:00 AM	Graduate School Commencement Ceremony
10:00 AM	MCOB Graduate Ceremony
12:30 PM	Law School Ceremony
1:00 PM	Service Send-Off Ceremony
5:00 PM	Commencement Mass in Joyce Center
6:30 PM	Graduation Dinner

Sunday, May 19, 2013

7:30 AM	ND Stadium opens for guest seating
8:15 AM	Candidates Assemble for Academic Procession
9:00 AM	Commencement Ceremony at Stadium

Saint Mary's College Commencement Ceremonies

Schedule of Events:

Friday, May 17, 2013

1:00 PM	Nursing Pinning Ceremony at Church of Our Lady of Loretto
4:00 PM	Baccalaureate Liturgy in Angela Athletic Facility
6:30 PM	Baccalaureate Dinner & Senior Reception

Saturday, May 18, 2013

8:30 AM	Graduation Brunch at Noble Dining Hall
12:00 AM	Commencement Ceremony in Court of LeMans Hall

ND seniors react to commencement speaker

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Editor

Cardinal Timothy Dolan will deliver the Commencement address to the Class of 2013, and the selection has prompted seniors to reflect on Dolan's relevance to the student body and his ability to successfully connect with them.

Dolan, the Archbishop of New York and the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will receive an honorary degree from the University at the May 19 ceremony in Notre Dame Stadium.

Senior Jason Kippenbock said he is thrilled by the selection because Dolan's charismatic personality and intellectual background make him an ideal fit for the event.

"When [Dolan] speaks, he has always emphasized how important it is to live out your faith fearlessly and not back down, like the way he lead the bishops' opposition to the health care mandate," Kippenbock said. "I'd expect his message to us as graduates of America's greatest Catholic institution would be to

not back down, and to use our gifts and our strengths to live out the gospel."

Senior Camille Suarez said she initially reacted negatively to the announcement because she doesn't believe Dolan is the most relevant selection for the class.

"I feel like this choice isn't perfect for this moment," Suarez said. "I was hoping Notre Dame would use this op-

Timothy Dolan

Archbishop of New York



portunity to kind of move the University forward, and I think this might be setting us back a couple steps."

Suarez said she hopes Dolan will present an image of the Church that is relevant and accessible to her and her classmates.

"I hope he talks about Catholic Social Teaching because I think that's one image of

the Catholic Church that needs to be promoted," Suarez said. "I hope he makes a call to the graduating student body and encourages us to use our [Notre Dame] degrees to promote Catholic Social Teaching and help the poor and suffering."

Senior Katie Pryor said she is excited to hear Dolan's speech because he is a prominent figure in both the Catholic Church and the world, as demonstrated by his mention in Time Magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People of the World in 2012.

"When I heard Cardinal Dolan would be the commencement speaker, I was very pleased with the decision," Pryor said. "He is not just another Cardinal but a Cardinal that actually has a lot of substance in his views and beliefs and a lot of wonderful things to say."

With the ongoing discussions about the next pope, Pryor said Dolan is an "especially exciting" choice because he is a member of the Church hierarchy.

"Cardinal Dolan is even one of the people being talked about

for pope, showing the great importance he has worldwide in the Catholic Church," she said.

Seniors Julia Kohn and Rachel Chisausky said while Dolan is a prominent leader, they are concerned the speech would be relevant only to students that identify as conservative Catholics, leaving others disappointed.

"I took a moment to look him up before I formed an opinion ... and everything I've read seems to indicate that he appears to have a political agenda rather than just being a religious figure, and I don't agree with any of the views that his agenda suggests," Kohn said. "I just don't know what he's going to talk about that's going to be that relevant to my beliefs and opinions."

Chisausky said she hopes Dolan's speech is not "homily style" and that it doesn't alienate non-religious students.

"I was disappointed, because I don't really know much about him but I'm not Catholic or really religious at all," she said.

"I just hope [his speech] is very open and applies to every

student in the graduating body and not just to religious people."

Kohn said if the University wanted a "famous" speaker, they should have sought a more relatable figure.

"For a school the caliber of Notre Dame, that has the name recognition of Notre Dame, I feel like we could have gotten someone really exciting," Kohn said. "I don't know that Cardinal Dolan is as relevant to everyone as a different famous person would be."

Senior Colin Campbell said he understands there isn't a speaker who can please everyone, but he is personally excited by the University's decision to give Dolan a platform from which many will hear him.

"I hope Cardinal Dolan helps us to understand the gifts that we have been given through our four years at Notre Dame and then provides motivation and support as we carry those blessings with us and walk out of that football tunnel for the last time," Campbell said.

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakub01@nd.edu

CEO to address Saint Mary's graduates

By KELLY RICE
News Writer

Social entrepreneur Kyle Zimmer will speak at the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2013 at Saint Mary's College on Sunday.

Zimmer, a 1986 graduate of the George Washington School of Law, is the president and CEO of First



Book, a non-profit organization that provides books to children in need. According to a College press release, she founded and became president of First Book in 1995. Under her leadership, the organization has distributed over 100 million books to children nationwide.

"I think we each have an obligation to [support] social justice," Zimmer said. "It is critical for each

of us to leave a positive mark on the world. In my case, I left my career as a lawyer to tackle the lack of books and resources available to kids in need, co-founding First Book with two friends more than 20 years ago. And we've been working ever since to develop innovative, market-driven models to address that need."

Silvia Cuevas, senior class president, said she is looking forward to Zimmer's address. Cuevas said she expects Zimmer's accomplishments will allow her to craft a memorable commencement address.

"The excitement beams from my face when I think of commencement and what's to come after Saint Mary's," Cuevas said. "Kyle Zimmer speaking during our commencement will be extraordinary — I am excited to listen about her path to leave a positive mark on the world and become a pioneer for change."

Cuevas said she hopes Zimmer's success in business and "inspiring" career will motivate her peers to work for social justice.

"My peers and I are hoping to be in her shoes someday, as women who know their potential to create something for the greater good of all," she said. "The college made an excellent choice, the class of 2013 will be itching to go out and be the change ourselves after we hear Zimmer speak."

Senior Dani Haydell said she expects Zimmer's speech to be inspiring because of Zimmer's career as a woman working for change.

"I am excited for Zimmer to speak at commencement because she is a good example of what women can accomplish when they put their time, effort, and heart into something," Haydell said. "Also, the fact that the company she is president of is working to make the lives of others better is a good example that women definitely are responsible for a huge part in changing the world and making it better."

Zimmer said she is happy to be speaking at an all-women's institution where women have had the opportunity to develop their unique skills and to collaborate

with one another.

"What makes an all-women's education unique is the opportunity to celebrate and develop each woman's leadership abilities and to gain an understanding of our own value systems — what's important to us, what drives us ... and the opportunity to make our voices heard and the mutual support we provide each other as we learn together."

She said she values each person for her unique contributions and will encourage graduates to collaborate with one another.

"I value collaboration over competition," Zimmer said. "We can make a bigger impact and develop better solutions together than we can on our own. I also believe there is huge creative power in fun — and so fun has played a role in my work."

Zimmer said she plans to address the world's need for smart and innovative thinkers in her speech. She said she hopes to encourage graduates to work for social justice by supporting a cause that drives them like her passion for education reform pushes her to

action.

"We need Saint Mary's graduates to make their impact felt in the world," Zimmer said. "The important thing to remember is that we all have contributions to make and we can create positive change on multiple levels: through our families, in our communities, in our places of worship, through our work, and through our volunteer efforts. The critical thing is to take action and not sit on the sidelines."

Zimmer will receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the College, according to a College press release.

"Saint Mary's focus on the importance of social responsibility makes this honorary degree particularly meaningful for me," Zimmer said. "Knowing that I'm associated with accomplished women of all ages who take this charge to heart, to address problems at home and abroad, is both inspiring and profoundly humbling."

Contact Kelly Rice at krice02@saintmarys.edu

THE OBSERVER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SENIORS FOR THE COUNTLESS HOURS THEY SPENT IN THE NEWSROOM AND ON LOCATION TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH AND REPORT IT ACCURATELY.

MEGAN DOYLE

SAM STRYKER

JOHN CAMERON

KRISTEN DURBIN

JILLIAN BARWICK

BRIDGET FEENEY

MEL FLANAGAN

YEAR-IN-REVIEW 2012-2013

MAY 21, 2012: HHS LAWSUIT

Notre Dame filed a lawsuit May 21, 2012, challenging the constitutionality of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate that requires employers to provide contraceptive services in their minimum health insurance packages.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. University President Fr. John Jenkins defended the University's position in a statement made the same day, saying the lawsuit was filed "with sober determination" to defend religious freedom.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Miller Jr. ruled Jan. 2 that the lawsuit should be dismissed because the University's claim is not yet "ripe," meaning it is not ready to be litigated. Notre Dame argued the University needs to set aside significant funds for the costs it would incur in connection with the regulations, and those budget decisions need to be made now.

In a compromise announced last year, the federal government had granted Notre Dame and other religious employers a year-long "safe harbor" before any regulations would take effect. In Miller's written opinion on the case, he stated the defendants have announced they are working to refashion the mandate and its exemptions. He dismissed the case because Notre Dame remains under the safe harbor for the time they believe is needed for those changes to be made.

Immediately after the dismissal, University Spokesman Dennis Brown said the administration was examining the judge's ruling. The University was considering its subsequent options, Brown said.

The White House proposed a compromise to the mandate Feb. 1, introducing a deal that would potentially allow Notre Dame to issue a health insurance plan to its employees without directly providing birth control coverage or claiming it was indirectly paying for birth control coverage.

The 60-day period for public comment regarding the proposed compromise expired April 8 without any public response from Notre Dame.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Notre Dame's 2013 commencement speaker, said in February that the compromise fell short but the bishops looked forward to finding "acceptable solutions" to the mandate.

HHS is now in the process of reviewing public comments and deciding whether this draft of the rule will become final.

JULY & AUGUST, 2012: TEAM USA FENCER

Mariel Zagunis, a former member of the Notre Dame fencing team, served as a flag bearer for Team USA at the Opening Ceremony for the 2012 London Olympics.

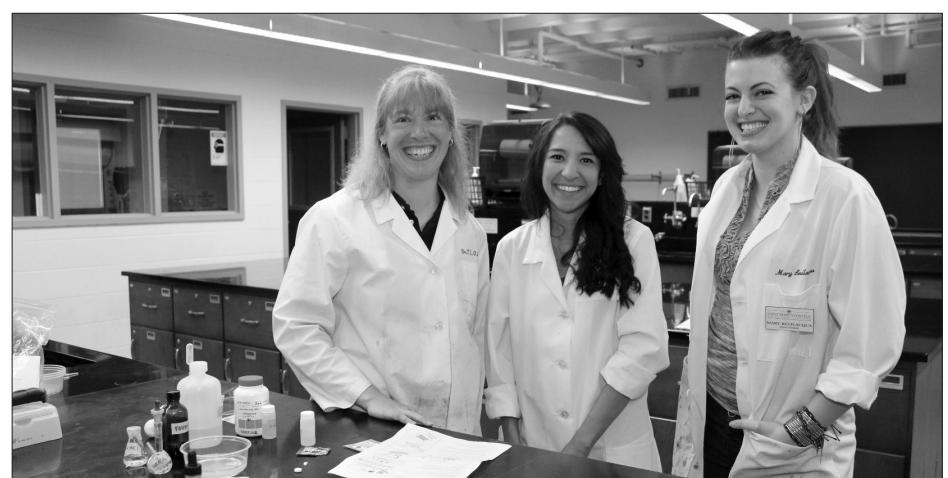
Zagunis, a two-time Olympic gold medalist with two World Championship titles and three consecutive Junior World Cup Championship title, said the role was an "honor and a privilege."

She took a year off prior to her freshman year at Notre Dame to train for the 2004 Olympics. A resident of Pasquerilla East Hall and an anthropology major, she said the University was "immediately supportive" of her Olympic aspirations. Five members of the Team USA fencing team were former or current members of the Notre Dame squad.

Zagunis took a leave of absence prior to the 2008 Olympics and has not returned to Notre Dame, but she said she hopes to complete her undergraduate degree from the University. She has taken summer classes at Notre Dame and in Portland, Ore., where she trains.

AUG. 19, 2012: SAINT MARY'S APPLIES FOR FIRST PATENT

On Aug. 19, Saint Mary's applied for its first United States patent, which is currently pending. The patent is for an inexpensive paper-based tool that can screen for counterfeit pain relievers. The paper analytical device (PAD), developed by an undergraduate chemistry research team at the College, is the size of a business card and offers results in less than five minutes. This technology could also ferret out other fake drugs that promise cures for everything from malaria to the flu. The researchers modified existing paper-strip technology to develop PADs that screen for substandard tablets of Panadol.



OCT. 18, 2012: SAINT MARY'S SOPHOMORE DIES

Ziqi Zhang, a sophomore at Saint Mary's, passed away Oct. 18 from injuries sustained in a car-bicycle accident outside the entrance to the College at State Route 933. Zhang was 19.

A resident of Regina Hall, Zhang was a dual-degree student majoring in mathematics at Saint Mary's and taking engineering classes at Notre Dame. She was a resident of Jiangsu Province in China.

College President Carol Ann Mooney expressed her sympathy in a statement.

"On behalf of the entire Saint Mary's community, I want to express our shock and deep sorrow at the passing of Ziqi Zhang," Mooney said. "We offer heartfelt condolences to her parents and sister and our prayers are with them. Death is never easy, especially when it is a young person with so much promise."

According to a release from the St. Joseph County Police Department, the accident occurred Oct. 18, just before 9 p.m. The driver, identified in the report as 34-year-old Erin Zick of Edwardsburg, Mich., told police she had a green light at the time of the accident. The report stated witnesses confirmed Zick's account and that there is no evidence drugs or alcohol played a role in the crash.

NOV. 6, 2012: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA REELECTED



NOV. 13, 2012: MICHAEL THIGPEN

Graduate student Michael Thigpen died unexpectedly at his off-campus residence, where he was found Nov. 13. He was 23.

Thigpen was a first-year master's degree student in Notre Dame's Global Health Program. The Monument, Colo., native completed his undergraduate education at the University of Colorado and came to Notre Dame in the fall of 2012.

Dr. Joseph Bock, director of the Global Health Program, said Thigpen was interested in the humanitarian side of global health and clinical practice. He intended to go to medical school after completing the Notre Dame master's program.

Outside of the classroom, Thigpen was a member of the Climbing Club and a musician who had performed professionally. Bock said Thigpen had been working on a CD of Christian rock music with Bock's son and was "a very talented musician."

Senior Shawn Steurer, president of the Climbing Club, said Thigpen participated in the club trip to Boulder, Colo., during fall break and "always had a positive outlook." Friends remembered him as an avid climber, enthusiastic about life and always smiling.

JAN. 7, 2013: FANS IN MIAMI

Despite the disappointing outcome of the BCS National Championship Game on Jan. 7, Notre Dame students and fans brought South Bend to South Beach to support the Irish against the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.

Tens of thousands of Notre Dame fans descended on the greater Miami area in the days leading up to the game, which attracted an estimated 40,000 fans to South Beach and included a star-studded Jan. 5 pep rally featuring Irish legends Lou Holtz, Joe Theismann and Mike Golic.

Alabama's pep rally, which took place on the same stage at Miami Beach, attracted a fraction of the crowd the Irish drew three hours later. Thousands of Notre Dame fans began to line up yards from the ocean almost an hour in advance to secure the best view of the stage.

Bill McCaughan Jr., president of the Notre Dame Club of Miami, said the club organized a bus between South Beach and Sun Life Stadium, a game watch at Monty's Bar on South Beach and a pool party the Sunday before the game with food, drinks, live music and bagpipes.

The game's final score was Alabama 42, Notre Dame 14.

JAN. 21, 2013: INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR OBAMA**FEB. 28, 2013: POPE BENEDICT XVI STEPS DOWN, REPLACED BY JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO****MAR. 22, 2013: SAINT MARY'S LAUNCHES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

On March 22, Saint Mary's publicly launched "Faith Always, Action Now," its largest endowment campaign to date, in hopes of raising \$80 million for scholarships, professorships, academic programs and campus renovation projects.

At a launch event, College President Carol Ann Mooney said she was pleased with the progress the initiative had made since 2007, when Saint Mary's opened the campaign privately and began accepting pledges. Mooney said the campaign name is meant to convey the College's ongoing commitment to advancing its mission.

While \$20 million of the campaign's funds will go to scholarships and grants for students at the College, approximately \$26.5 million will be dedicated to enhancing the academic and athletic facilities on campus.

APRIL 15, 2013: BOMBINGS AT THE BOSTON MARATHON

During the Boston Marathon on April 15, two pressure-cooker bombs exploded at 2:45 p.m., killing three people and injuring 264. The bombs went off near the finish line, approximately 13 seconds and 190 meters apart. The Federal Bureau of Investigation took over the investigation, and it released photographs and a video of two suspects April 18. The suspects were later identified as brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Runners in this year's London Marathon and a Chicago "unity run" honored the victims of the Boston bombings by wearing black armbands or "Runners for Boston" T-shirts as a sign of solidarity.

Notre Dame gives valedictory honor

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Editor

Mallory Meter's academic success at Notre Dame earned her the valedictorian honor for the Class of 2013, but she said one of the most important lessons from her college years did not come from the classroom.

Meter said her valedictory address will reflect on ways to "appreciate what's happening while it's happening" to close the gap between past and present.

"The main theme of the speech is basically to try to learn at our young age how to live consciously and to be present in the moment," Meter said. "It's this idea that we tend to go



Mallory Meter
Notre Dame
Valedictorian

through our day-to-day lives and they seem repetitive and dull, but then for some reason we look back at that experience and see it as perfect. I want to talk about how to change that disconnect."

Meter, a psychology major from Beverly Hills, Mich., graduates with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 and a string of consecutive Dean's List honors from each of her semesters at Notre Dame. The former Lyons Hall resident said her freshman year Introduction to Psychology course helped her finalize her choice of major.

"I had always been interested in something where I could work with people and something more science-oriented," she said. "For a long time, I thought I wanted to do pre-med, but after taking that first psychology class, I decided on that instead."

"I enjoyed it so much, it made sense to me and it was really interesting to me, so that made up my mind."

Though the courses for her major have been difficult, Meter said the most academically challenging part of her time at Notre Dame was the broad range of required classes taken during her first two years.

"To be honest, I think probably the most challenging part was freshman and sophomore years when your classes cover a lot of different topics," Meter said. "Freshman year, you have to do the science, the math, the English, the philosophy. ... I think having to switch between so many different modes of thinking was really hard."

"Once I got into my core psychology classes and I could really focus on just that, it became easier for me."

Meter said her family's links

with the Irish influenced her decision to come here.

"My grandfather went here and played football in the 1940s for the national championship team," she said. "He was one of the guys who was here, then had to leave for the war and came back. A few of my uncles went here, and then I have an aunt who went to Saint Mary's. It's big in the family."

Though she said she has "absolutely loved" her time here, Meter said her best memory as a Notre Dame student came during her one semester away from campus.

"When I look back, I think going to London to study abroad in the fall of my junior year was my most valued experience," Meter said. "I feel like living in another country pushes you to go outside your comfort zone, and you really mature while you're there. Being able to learn in a place that's so rich in history and culture—you really feel like you're living what you're learning."

Meter said she worked in several psychology research labs at Notre Dame, including a childhood/adolescent early education study involving Head Start program participants. During her junior year, she worked with Dr. David Watson and Dr. Lee Anna Clark at the Center for Advanced Measurement of Personality and Psychopathology, exploring the relationship between personality and psychopathology and the psychometric properties of various measures of mood and personality.

"When I was working specifically with Dr. Watson, I was able to do actual clinical interviews with the participants, which is awesome because as a psychology major, you really can't do a lot of one-on-one work with people until you have a Master's or PhD degree," Meter said. "The specific study was looking at how different traits and personality facets line up with different forms of psychopathology, ... which refers to every mental health disorder from depression to anxiety disorders to schizophrenia."

Meter's ideal career would blend psychopathology and interaction with children, she said.

"I'm going to the University of Chicago to get my Master's in social work, and I hope to focus on the clinical track rather than administrative," she said. "Afterwards, I hope to become a licensed clinical therapist working with people with mental health problems and someday, probably, I could see myself going back to get my PhD, too."

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubowski@nd.edu

Saint Mary's names 2013 Valedictorian

By KELLY KONYA
News Writer

Saint Mary's announced the valedictorian of the Class of 2013 will be Allison Sherman of Batavia, Ill.

Sherman, a computational mathematics major, said she originally liked Saint Mary's



because of the professors' commitment to teaching and the College's small class sizes.

"There is a strong sense of community and the personal attention that each student receives was very important in my final decision to attend Saint Mary's," Sherman said.

Professor Joanne Snow, chair of the mathematics department, said she hired Sherman as a teaching assistant after having her as a "star student" in Calculus III.

"Sherman has the rare ability to explain concepts that she clearly has mastered

to other students who have not yet achieved the same level of understanding," Snow said.

Sherman said her experiences as a teaching assistant in the department have encouraged her to pursue a career in education. She is in the process of applying to several teaching certificate programs and has not decided which program she will attend after graduation.

"In the future, I hope to teach at the collegiate level and further my study of mathematics," Sherman said. "I want to always be learning new things and I hope to inspire my own students to do the same."

Mary Connolly, professor of mathematics, said she helped Sherman develop her love for mathematics and encouraged her to decide on a math major. Connolly said Sherman's skills extend beyond academics.

"Computational mathematics is a major which combines significant computer science with higher-level mathematics classes," Connolly said. "Allison is a very talented computer scientist, but one of her truly outstanding qualities is her generosity towards other

students."

Sherman said her key to success is entertaining a healthy balance of friends, academics and extracurricular activities. She balances school with her roles as treasurer of the Mathematics Club, president of the Saint Mary's chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon and participant in the National Mathematics Honorary Society.

Sherman's former roommate Erin Masko said Sherman is a diligent student.

"She never puts off work for the next day but instead tackles it right away," Masko said. "She is wonderful and deserves this honor of valedictorian."

Sherman said she is grateful to be honored as her class's valedictorian.

"I was extremely surprised, and I feel incredibly honored to represent my class," Sherman said. "I owe a great deal of gratitude to the entire Mathematics Department faculty at Saint Mary's and in particular, Professor Snow, who has encouraged me throughout my collegiate career."

Contact Kelly Konya at kkonya01@saintmarys.edu

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Seniors devoted to ND football

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Editor

The Class of 2013 navigated the ups and downs of Notre Dame football fandom during the past four years, but for the first time in a long time, the seniors will not leave the Irish at a low point.

The class that saw the end of the Charlie Weis era and the beginning of Irish coach Brian Kelly's time can leave saying their last game as students was the BCS National Championship game in Miami, Fla.

Senior Anthony Albert said for a while, his reaction to the 2012 season was, "Wow, what's going on here?"

"After three years, it's vindicating in a way to have had a season like this," Albert said. "Going to the national championship game was extremely unbelievable after everything we've been through."

"I know it was definitely one of the highlights of my four years here at Notre Dame, this senior season culminating in the national championship."

Albert said this year's game against Stanford was the highlight of his four years in the football student section.

"Really, everything from the past three years seemed to lead into that game right there," he said. "Going through the disappointments over the past three years, everyone in the senior section thought this was never going to happen. We thought we knew

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how this was supposed to go ... but that goal line stance was really something."

Senior Elliott Pearce began his season in Dublin at the Navy game and ended it in Miami at the championship.

"It was an epic journey," he said. "It was incredible. The game where we beat Oklahoma was the turning point for me; that's when I started to think this was possible. We're here, we're for real — it's awesome."

Though the experience of the past season was fantastic, Pearce said he "wasn't super surprised" to see the team's success.

"We had one great season after three disappointing ones. This was how it should have been all along," he said. "I don't honestly know where the last seven years came from, it was just bad luck."

"The year Weis went six and six, we had Michael Floyd and Golden Tate on the same team, we had Manti Te'o starting at linebacker ... it was a who's who parade of high school All Americans. We've had great players the whole time and these guys made plays, but we could never get a string of them together."

Albert and Pearce both said the 2011 matchup against the Michigan Wolverines was a major low point of the past four years.

"There are plenty low points to pick from, but it'd have to be that Michigan game under the lights last year," Albert said. "I was watching it with friends and all the sudden Denard Robinson is chucking it down the field and Gary Gray can't turn around and Michigan wins."

Pearce said the 2011 loss to Michigan was one example of the team's faltering "emotional momentum."

"That game was the lowest of the low because you think to yourself, all right, Charlie Weis is out, we had an okay first season with Kelly, so let's see if we can make

something happen," he said. "And then we're running over Michigan in their own house, and all the sudden we lost."

Pearce's favorite memory of the 2012 undefeated regular season was the night Notre Dame took the No. 1 spot, he said.

"I'll never forget spraying champagne all over Stonehenge after we realized we were going to be number one. It was incredible," he said.

Albert said the aftermath of the Nov. 17 game against Wake Forest was his favorite memory as well.

"I was sitting in my dorm room after we won, watching the two games with [then No. 1] Kansas State and then [then No. 2] Oregon," he said. "I think every student at this place was watching that game, praying for some kind of upset. I just remember that once Stanford [beat Oregon], the entire campus erupted. I sprinted to my friend's room in Irish Row and we celebrated."

Notre Dame football made an indelible mark on his four years here, Albert said.

"I thought it really helped to shape my experience here," he said. "Waking up every fall Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. with Rudy music blasting, it put a smile on my face. If I hadn't gone to a school where athletics were so huge I don't think I'd have had nearly as much fun."

Pearce also said he found the four football seasons to be "a great community building experience."

"Notre Dame is a big football school; everyone rallies around that," he said. "I'm a huge football fan, but that's not why I came here. Notre Dame is a school with a stellar academic program and a good integrity and spirit in their athletic endeavors. We can have that here and still have football be a great way to bond and have fun in addition to our academic work."

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakub01@nd.edu

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Seniors enter religious life

By CATHERINE OWERS
News Writer

Notre Dame seniors Kellie Raddell and Jimmy White will choose a path less traveled as they enter religious life post-graduation.

Raddell will enter the Nashville community of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia on Aug. 15. White will enter the Blessed Stephen Bellesini Pre-Novitiate, an Augustinian community in Ardmore, Penn., this fall.

Fr. James Gallagher, vocations director for the Congregation of Holy Cross, also said six men who

"[Notre Dame] provided the scaffolding for me to grow in the right direction."

Kellie Raddell
senior

came through the Old College program at the University will continue their formation with Holy Cross. Additionally, three other graduating seniors will enter into formation with Holy Cross in the fall, he said.

Raddell said many opportunities at Notre Dame, such as daily Mass, participation in the Campus Ministry CCD program and Eucharistic Adoration, were conducive to her spiritual development.

"[Notre Dame] provided the scaffolding for me to grow in the right direction," she said.

Raddell first began to contemplate the religious vocation while abroad, she said.

"I was in France and I didn't

speak French very well, so I was very quiet," she said. "But I had a lot of time for prayer, and I recognized the universal Church."

After visiting many orders, Raddell said she chose the Dominicans in Nashville because of their strong emphasis on tradition, as well their education-focused mission.

"They're a well-known community, and I feel like God kept sending people into my life that would mention [the Dominicans] or suggest them," she said. "I'm looking forward to loving the children [who] God places in my care."

Raddell said she also looked forward to entering the order with several other women her age.

"A lot of [religious] communities now are aging, so it's really nice that there are a lot of young people still entering this community," she said. "We'll be going through life together, as a community."

White said he attended an Augustinian middle school and high school, and considered the priesthood as early as fifth grade.

"It was really when I got here to Notre Dame that I began to actively think about it," he said.

White said he began to discern with the Holy Cross Congregation on campus but felt something was missing. The Augustinians' emphasis on community, as well as dedication to education in an active contemplative community, appealed to him.

"I realized that for most of my life, I was brought up with [an] Augustinian education, and that was really a part of who I was, so it just made sense. ... The Augustinians are monastic in their roots but balance the monastic prayer life with an active way of life," he said. "Other than community and my love for Augustinian theology, education is what really drew me to the Augustinians."

The demands of being a resident assistant (RA) in Duncan Hall this year helped validate White's decision to enter the religious life, he said.

"I really had the opportunity to see what active ministry was like, since the RA role here is so unique — it's not just the guy who unlocks the door or goes on rounds," White said. "It's really a pastoral position."

"There's been challenging moments, and I've had to have some difficult conversations this year. But to be able to be with residents in highs and lows and walk with them in those moments has been really fulfilling for me and reassuring that this is something I could be called to do."

Contact Catherine Owers at cowers@nd.edu

Commencement Weekend 2013

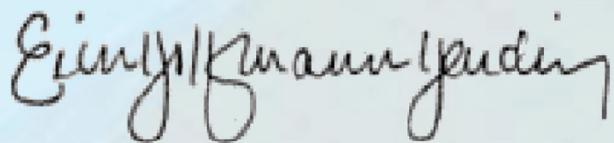
Dear Graduates,

Prayers and best wishes to members of the Class of 2013! On behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for the many and varied contributions you have made to the University. You have enriched this community by your presence among us as students and, today, we join in celebrating your accomplishments.

To our graduating seniors, masters, professional and doctoral students, I hope that your time at Notre Dame has been fruitful and complete with opportunities to enrich not only your mind, but also your heart. The University offers not only a superb education, but also relationships with friends, mentors, and faculty who I hope will be a part of your life long after Commencement. I pray that your years at Notre Dame have provided adequate time for reflection and deepening of your spirituality, so that you will carry into the world a 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 and I trust you will carry with you the best of our traditions as they relate to your own discipline. We take enormous pride in all of the ways our graduates contribute to and serve their families, their communities, and the greater world, and I am confident that you too will be part of this rich heritage of service, commitment to justice, and adherence to ethical standards.

I wish you much success in all of your endeavors. May Our Lady be with you and watch over you always; and be assured that we will welcome you when you return home to Notre Dame.

In Notre Dame,

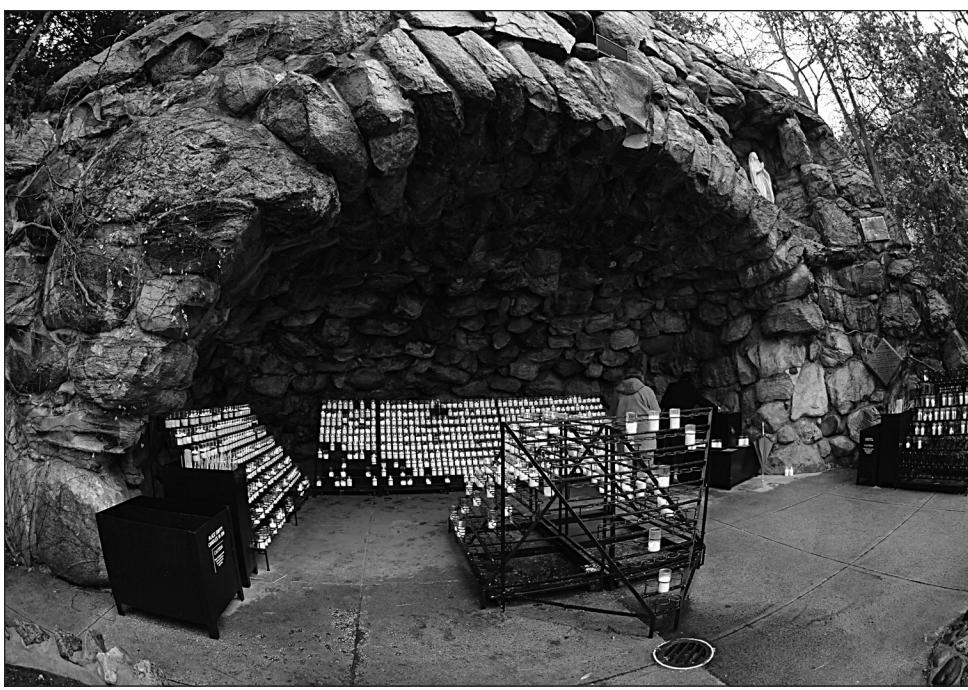


Erin Hoffmann Harding
Vice President for Student Affairs



Seniors relish the final week on campus

Notre Dame students complete bucket list items



Observer File Photo

During their last week as Notre Dame students, seniors spent time enjoying life on campus and visiting favorite locations, including the Grotto pictured here.

By WEI LIN
News Writer

As members of the Class of 2013 check off items on their Notre Dame bucket lists, the soon-to-be graduates share the common goal of treasuring their final moments together as students.

Senior Deirdre Bartlett said her last week ideally would include walking around the lakes and paying a visit to University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh.

"I'm going to spend my last week visiting all the places on campus that are the most memorable to me, such as the Grotto, the Basilica [of the Sacred Heart] and various buildings, with my friends," Bartlett said. "Mostly, [I want to] try to create memories with my friends before we are scattered across the globe."

Bartlett said she would miss the Notre Dame community, including members of her residence hall, her classes and the Liturgical Choir, where she served as president.

"The Liturgical Choir has been a highlight of my four years at Notre Dame," Bartlett said. "I'll miss [my] friends within the choir and [my] experiences shared with them. We toured the Vatican, the West Coast and East Coast.... I loved how we made friends during our freshman year and were able to remain friends with them through senior year."

Senior Jessica Vallejo said her favorite part of Notre Dame was the Basilica's "beautiful" Easter Triduum. Bartlett and Vallejo both said they hoped to complete a "chapel crawl" before graduation by attending Mass at every chapel on campus, including all the chapels in the residence halls and academic and administrative buildings.

Vallejo's plans will also take her off campus to enjoy the greater South Bend area, she said.

"I'm going to the South Bend Chocolate Factory," she said. "There's this car museum here in South Bend and I'm going to go there, too."

Vallejo said she also wanted to thank the workers at North Dining Hall for being so great and friendly.

Senior resident assistant (RA) EJ Sanchez said it was difficult to recall his favorite part of Notre Dame but that his friends defined the best moments of daily life on campus.

"I really enjoyed doing stuff with my dorm and friends," he said. "I hung out, watched movies and talked with people I'm really good friends with. I will miss walking through [the LaFortune Student Center] and recognizing random but familiar faces."

Sanchez said he fulfilled many of his bucket list items during his time at Notre Dame, such as completing the Holy Half Marathon, becoming an RA and participating in Bookstore Basketball. He said he had not been to Club Fever yet and wanted to find a time to go.

"I haven't thought of any crazy things to do [for Senior Week], but I want to spend lots of time with friends," he said.

Senior Christina Dollar said the best part of Notre Dame has "always been the people."

"The people are what I will miss the most," she said. "I'll miss the dome. I'll miss the campus and how everything is beautiful and gorgeous. The buildings are cool, the classes are cool, the professors are awesome and the stuff you learn is awesome. But I will miss the people and the conversations I've had with people the most."

Dollar said she never made a Notre Dame bucket list, even for her senior spring semester.

"I decided that I'd rather just do what I do and enjoy it," Dollar said. "[I want to] get the most out of the normal time I have left [and] spend time with people whenever I can."

"I feel like I want to soak in this as much as I can. I find myself taking my camera everywhere and taking pictures," she said. "I am noticing everything that's around me and focusing on what's going around me, because I don't want to miss anything."

Dollar said she feels like "it's too soon" for her Notre Dame experience to end.

"I feel like I've had a pretty full experience," she said. "However, that doesn't mean I want it to be over."

Contact Wei Lin at wlin4@nd.edu

Saint Mary's College organizes senior events



Photo Courtesy of Gwen O'Brien

Saint Mary's seniors participate in Monday's "Closing of the Circle" ceremony outside of Le Mans Hall as part of their senior week activities.

By KAITLYN RABACH
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's seniors celebrated their last days on campus with a week of activities that allowed them to gather as a class one last time.

Senior class president, Silvia Cuevas, said her class board tried to make this year's Senior Week events as universally pleasing as possible.

"I have a total of 10 board members and I really tried to pick individuals from each circle of friends on campus," Cuevas said. "I really asked for their input and opened the floor to them. I think we came up with some pretty good ideas and events."

She said about 300 of her classmates, double the amount of people who participated in the week last year, registered for the Senior Week events.

"The majority of our class registered for the week's events," Cuevas said. "We only have 385 in our class, so it is exciting that almost 300 people signed up. I call that a success."

Cuevas said the week kicked off on Monday with the Alumnae Champagne Brunch.

"This is a tradition and is usually a lot of the seniors favorite event," Cuevas said. "The Alumnae Association officially welcomed us as alumnae of the College."

Senior Sydnie Corso said the alumnae brunch was emotional and she was glad she was able to spend it with her classmates.

"I couldn't help but start crying during the Belles of Saint Mary's song," Corso said. "It really hit me. I am an alumna."

Senior Alison Meagher said she is looking forward to carrying out the College's mission as an alumna.

"This brunch was a great way to celebrate our last four years at Saint Mary's," Meagher said. "It feels sad to leave, but I am looking forward to applying the skills I have learned here to the rest of my life. I

can't wait to give back to the College that has shaped me so much."

On Monday, the group also participated in the official "Closing of the Circle" ceremony outside of Le Mans Hall.

"We lit candles and did the opening as a class when we were freshmen. It is just fitting to do the closing as seniors," senior Sarah McLain said. "It is a tradition and closing the circle in front of Le Mans [Hall] is just so Saint Mary's."

The group also attended a Cubs game in Chicago.

"Wrigley field is just awesome," senior Alyssa Carty said. "I am a huge professional baseball fan and that was by far my favorite Senior Week event."

On Tuesday, the group enjoyed a party on the island outside of Hager Parlor. They also started a new tradition of placing their painted handprints in the Le Mans tunnel.

"We have officially left our mark on Saint Mary's," Cuevas said. "Our handprints will forever be in the tunnel for future classes to see."

The group also toured the Round Barn Winery in Baroda, Mich.

"I love wine and hanging out with my Smicks," senior Caroline Keep said. "The two together make for a great combination."

Senior Brittani Hradsky said her favorite event will be the Second City Comedy Club event in Chicago.

"Hands down my favorite event will be Second City," Hradsky said. "If Tina Fey got her start there then it must be quality stuff."

Cuevas said she is blessed to be graduating from Saint Mary's and could not ask for a better class to celebrate this week with.

"As a freshman we did icebreakers during orientation week, now we are breaking out the tissues and celebrating our many accomplishments," Cuevas said.

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at krabac01@saintmarys.edu

The Observer wants to congratulate the Class of 2013!

ND, SMC award honorary degrees

SMC gives Doctor of Humanities to entrepreneur

By KAITLYN RABACH
Saint Mary's Editor

Jennifer Mathile Prikkel, former Saint Mary's Board of Trustee member and alumna, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the College during the commencement ceremony Saturday.

Prikkel is a partner at Mathile Family Enterprise, founder and president of Bridging Hope Farms and a member of the Board of Trustees for the Mathile Family Foundation. She said she is thankful for her Saint Mary's education because it has shaped her many successes.

"My Saint Mary's education has shaped all aspects of my life: my work, spiritual and family life," Prikkel said. "My time at Saint Mary's in the past and present isn't something that goes away when you leave. It is ever-present in all I am and all I do."

She said receiving this honorary degree means the world to her, because of the unique path that led to her time at Saint Mary's.

"In 1991, I was deferred and was asked to wait until the end of my third quarter grades before I would hear whether I was accepted to the College," Prikkel said. "So, in the mean time I was going to do everything



Jennifer Mathile Prikkel
Founder and president
Bridging Hope Farms

I could to put a good word in for myself. I made my parents drive me up one Friday and I met with the vice president of college admissions. I had a private meeting with her and insisted she accepted me to Saint Mary's."

Prikkel said after graduating in '95 with a degree in religious studies, Prikkel said she her education at Saint Mary's nurtured her heart as well as her mind.

Saint Mary's taught me to trust in the

gifts I was given and to use them to change the world," Prikkel said. "I have tried to do that in all parts of my life. I have especially tried to do that at Saint Mary's because the College has given me so much."

She said receiving this honorary degree has taught her the meanings of 'hard work' and of 'reward.'

"For someone who almost didn't get accepted to someone who is now getting her doctorate from her beloved Saint Mary's, I am not sure I can put words on what my heart feels every time I think about it," Prikkel said. "In fact, if I think about it too much I might cry. I just hope I can make it through the hooding without slobbering all over President Mooney."

Prikkel said Saint Mary's "never forgets her own," so, after she graduated she wanted to make sure she never forgot Saint Mary's.

According to a College press release, Prikkel and her parents are significant benefactors to the College, supporting the campaign to build the Spes Unica Hall academic building and to renovate the Science Hall.

"I am a firm believer of 'paying it forward,'" Prikkel said. "I stay connected and engaged with the College because Saint Mary's has given me so much and has enriched my life. I want to help her in any way I can. I want Saint Mary's to be around for the next generation of women."

Prikkel said she is proud to support a college with such "pure intentions."

"Saint Mary's wants the best for its students," Prikkel said. "No place can be successful and stand strong without a strong foundation. That foundation of course comes from the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Still today the charisma of the Sisters is alive because they laid a very good foundation for this College to stand upon."

She said she is thankful because so many Saint Mary's women have continued after their graduation from the College to work toward making the world a better place.

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ND selects six individuals to honor with degrees

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Editor

Commencement speaker Cardinal Timothy Dolan will receive one of six honorary degrees awarded at Notre Dame's commencement ceremony May 19, according to a University press release.

Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree, the release stated.

Gu Binglin, president of Tsinghua University in Beijing, will receive a doctor of science at the ceremony, according

"We select individuals for honorary degrees who have made significant contributions to society."

Dennis Brown
University Spokesman

among other prestigious awards. Her novels, books, essays and articles have earned her a reputation for "rigorous reasoning and a salient moral vision, often drawing from biblical narrative," the release stated.

Morton Schapiro will receive a doctor of laws for his work as an expert on the economics of higher education and college finances and affordability, according to the release. Schapiro is currently serving as the 16th president of Northwestern University. He began his career as a faculty member at Williams College in Massachusetts in 1980 and left in 1991 for the University of Southern California, where he taught and served in administrative posts, the release stated.

Kenneth Stinson, a 1964 Notre Dame graduate, parent and member of the board of trustees, will receive a doctor of laws, according to the release. Stinson is chairman emeritus of Peter Kiewit Sons Inc., a large construction firm, the release stated. He earned his graduate degree from Stanford University before serving three years in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy Civil Engineering Corps.

University Spokesman Dennis Brown said all are welcome to submit nominations for honorary degree recipients to the President's Office.

"We select individuals for honorary degrees who have made significant contributions to society," Brown said. "They are not selected on the basis of celebrity; some are more well-known than others, but all of them are extraordinarily accomplished in their fields."

Brown said people are selected from various fields, from law, the arts, entertainment, education, the Church, politics, business, media and other areas. University President Fr. John Jenkins makes the final decisions after consulting with Board members and senior leaders of the University, he said.

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SMC celebrates Multiethnic Commencement

By ANGELA BUKUR
News Writer

Saint Mary's College hosted its sixth annual Multiethnic Commencement Celebration on May 5 for 51 members of the College's class of 2013.

The Office of Student Involvement and Multicultural Services (SIMS) hosted the ceremony. The SIMS office addresses the academic and personal needs of underrepresented students at the College, SIMS assistant director Graci Martsching said.

"The SIMS office decided to start the annual Multiethnic

Commencement Celebration because of the many wonderful, but misrepresented, women who are a part of our community at Saint Mary's," Martsching said.

Sonia Manzano, who played Maria on "Sesame Street," addressed those assembled at the event.

According to a College press release, Manzano was raised in New York City's South Bronx as a first-generation American of Latino descent. In her junior year of college at Carnegie Mellon University of Pittsburgh, she traveled back to New York to star in the original production of the

off-Broadway show "Godspell."

Within a year, Manzano joined the production of "Sesame Street" and broke ground as one of the first Latino characters on national television, the release stated.

As a member of the "Sesame Street" writing team, Manzano won 15 Emmys and continues to create scripts for children's programs as well as other literary ventures.

"Some of the many reasons why we chose [Manzano] is because of her diverse background, many life achievements and influential strive toward women empowerment," Martsching

said.

Manzano has received the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Award, the Hispanic Heritage Award for Education and an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Notre Dame. According to the release, she was inducted into the Bronx Hall of Fame in 2004 and was voted one of the most influential Hispanics by People Magazine en Español.

Senior class president Silvia Cuevas said Manzano lives out what she sees as her responsibility to encourage people not to let fear keep them from pursuing untraveled paths.

[Manzano is] an example of someone who saw her ability and used it, full force," Cuevas said. "I hope the rest of my classmates are also eager to go above and beyond and that they won't allow fear or doubt [to] hinder them from doing so."

Martsching said the Multiethnic Commencement Celebration is meant to demonstrate the College's special effort to celebrate the challenges conquered by underrepresented students while at Saint Mary's.

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Congrats Seniors!



ROTC seniors commission as officers

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

As most members of the Class of 2013 move on to employment and further education, the participants of Notre Dame's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) will commission as officers in the United States Military.

Saint Mary's senior and Navy ROTC midshipman Devon Graham said because of ROTC, her post-graduation plans are very different from those of her friends. "A lot of my friends are considering medical school, graduate schools or figuring out if they want to take a year off," Graham said. "It is so nice to know that I have a job when I graduate and it isn't just a job."

Senior and Army ROTC cadet Ted Spinelli said officer commissions place a burden on him and his fellow cadets that most men and women their age do not carry.

"There is an immense weight of responsibility that comes with [officer commissions] because many of us will be in charge of the lives of others in less than a year's time," Spinelli said. "In this line of business, to give anything less than 100 percent effort to physical and mental preparation on a daily basis could be catastrophic or fatal. That is a responsibility that I do not take lightly."

Senior and Navy ROTC midshipman Brian Van Metre said the level of responsibility is humbling, but he and his fellow officer candidates welcome it as an opportunity to make an impact on their communities.

"I don't believe that there is any job outside the military where I would have as much responsibility at 22 years old," Van Metre said. "I think all of us who are about to commission are both humbled by that fact and extremely excited to start making a difference."

Spinelli said the bonds he formed with his fellow cadets

through their commitment to the program enriched his ROTC experience.

"I loved ROTC here at Notre Dame," Spinelli said. "The young men and women I have had the privilege of working with are fantastic students, leaders, and individuals."

On a personal level, the Army ROTC program at Notre Dame surrounded me with people who share my same ideals. It provided an immediate, loyal group of friends that I now consider to be my family."

Graham said she greatly en-

There is an immense weight of responsibility that comes with [officer commissions] because many of us will be in charge of others' lives in less than a year's time.

Ted Spinelli
senior

joyed her experience in Navy ROTC [NROTC], and the friendships she gained more than made up for the difficult times.

"There are always hard times, and we all go through a time that we question if this is the right path for us, which you should because it is a huge decision," Graham said. "I couldn't be happier that I am in the NROTC program at Notre Dame. The friends and contacts I have made are unforgettable."

Van Metre also said the friendships he made with his fellow midshipmen helped sustain the rigors of participating in ROTC.

"It's a very big time commitment during the school year. Waking up early for [physical training] and having an extra one to two classes every semester

can drain you towards the end," Van Metre said. "Luckily, you're generally not alone and can rely on friends in the same boat to help get you through."

Graham said Navy ROTC provided her with exciting opportunities, such as "driving a submarine or flying a C-130," while

Courtney said he shadowed a field artillery lieutenant in Hawaii for three weeks. Van Metre said through the Navy ROTC summer training program, he performed aerial acrobatics in planes, fired guns with the Marines, trained with Navy SEALs and flew in a V-22 Osprey

Van Metre said he and the other Navy ROTC seniors will commission May 18, after which he will report to the USS Mobile Bay, a cruiser stationed in San Diego, Calif.

Courtney said beginning July 19, his commission will take him to Fort Benning, Ga., where he will participate in the Armor Basic Officer Leadership Course), Army Reconnaissance Course and Ranger School on his way to a post in an armored unit. Once she receives her commission, Graham will attend flight school in Florida, where she hopes to receive her wings as a naval flight officer.

Spinelli said beginning in the fall, he will attend the Engineer Officer Basic Course and the United States Army Airborne school. He will then report to Fort Bragg, N.C. in April 2014.

Courtney said commissioning is not an end for ROTC seniors but rather, a meaningful moment in their continued efforts to become accomplished leaders. "[Commissioning] represents a big honor as well as a tremendous responsibility to continue to work and prepare ourselves so that we can be the best leaders of soldiers possible," he said

By Christian Myers at
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Club connects alumni worldwide

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Editor

Notre Dame seniors will disperse across the country after graduation, but thanks to the Alumni Association, every single zip code in the U.S. is associated with a Notre Dame club.

Annie Duffy, worldwide clubs program director for Notre Dame's Alumni Association, said there are 270 Notre Dame clubs across the world, 200 of which are in the U.S.

"We can pretty much guarantee that once you leave campus, you'll be in a place where there's a Notre Dame group," Duffy said. "These clubs are made up of alumni, family and friends, they're completely inclusive. They're based off of everyone's love for Notre Dame."

The Alumni Association encourages seniors to update their information record with the University once they know where they will live after graduation so they can automatically be associated with the Notre Dame club in the area, Duffy said.

"Our clubs will hold events throughout the year, camaraderie events like game watches or networking happy hours," she said. "A lot of our clubs have Catholic spirituality events like Mass and breakfast, and a lot provide support for current students, like a send-off in August where everyone can wish them well as they go back to campus."

Duffy said the Alumni Association's website, mynotredame.nd.edu, can connect graduated students with clubs in any particular city, and alumni are welcome to be a part of as many clubs as they want. Often

times, the clubs are instrumental in helping graduates settle into their new lives, she said.

"We strongly encourage [graduates] to get proactively involved in the clubs," Duffy said. "It can never hurt to reach out to them to see what they have going on. You can connect with recent graduates about where the best places to go are and what young graduates do in the city. It's a great way to meet people and form friendships."

The alumni clubs mark just one example of the Notre Dame family's expansion off campus, Duffy said.

"Everyone really shares a passion for Notre Dame," she said. "It's tough for young

Everyone really shares a passion for Notre Dame. It's tough for young alumni who are just graduating.

Annie Duffy
director
Alumni Association

alumni who are just graduating, you've been here for four years, you've formed this family and it's always very sad to leave here.

"But knowing you have this common connection with alumni wherever you go is unbelievable. I think it's that shared value and that love for Notre Dame that keeps everyone connected and gives us the strongest alumni network in the country."

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski
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FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

The Class of 2013 arrived on campus Aug. 21, 2009 for the start of their freshman year. The world was still in shock nearly two months after the unexpected death of Michael Jackson. Twilight was still popular and Miley Cyrus looked nothing like Draco Malfoy. No one had heard of Tinder, Lulu, Snapchat, Instagram or Pinterest, and Twitter was used solely to stalk celebrities. Since then, "tweet" has been added to the dictionary, taking pictures of yourself in public has become perfectly acceptable, you can get an iPhone for a penny and Snooki is a mom. A lot can change in four years and the world today is a very different place than it was in 2009. Oh, and we survived the Mayan Apocalypse.

2009

JUNE 25 – MICHAEL JACKSON DIES

The King of Pop was planning a comeback tour, rehearsing in Los Angeles when his health took a dramatic turn worse. The world went crazy, causing websites such as Twitter, Wikipedia, the Los Angeles Times, TMZ and AOL Instant Messager (which people still used, apparently) to crash for short periods of time.

2011

MAY 13 – "BRIDESMAIDS"



SNL comedians Kristin Wiig and Maya Rudolph played on-screen best friends in the hilarious, dare I say it, "Mean Girls" equivalent of the decade. Quotes from the film sneak their way into at least half of all our conversations, most of them coming from the hilarious Australian actress Rebel Wilson. Brides everywhere are imitating the cover art, which shows bride-to-be Annie and her five clashing bridesmaids in their matching dresses.



SEPTEMBER 17 – "THE TOWN"

Directed by and starring Ben Affleck, this dramatic crime film was set in Boston and depicted a gang of robbers and their interactions with the FBI. It earned a worldwide total of \$154 million and was made on a budget of only \$37 million.



JULY 15 – "HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HOLLOWES PART 2"

Every '90s kid died a little bit at the midnight premier of the final Harry Potter film. Ten years after the release of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the final film brought tears to the eyes of all the teenagers dressed up as Harry and Hermione sitting in the theater. Although the ending was slightly cheesy with its attempt to make the actors look 10 years older, the film marked the end of an era and was the highest-grossing film of 2011.



NOVEMBER 6 – OBAMA REELECTED PRESIDENT

After months of campaigning and tense debates, the presidential election took place on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Media outlets followed the election throughout the entire day, but the results weren't released until the early morning hours on Wednesday. Obama won with 332 electoral votes while Romney earned only 206.



OCTOBER 5 - STEVE JOBS DIES

When the co-founder of Apple Inc. died, the world might as well have stopped. It is difficult to imagine a world without Mac computers, iPhones, iPads and especially iTunes – and Jobs can be credited for each product. At the young age of 56, Jobs died of pancreatic cancer and the world lost a genius.



2012

DECEMBER 17 – "GOSSIP GIRL" SERIES

Ever since watching the very first episode of the racy The CW Network show, every teenage girl has been anxiously awaiting the moment where the identity of "the one and only source into the scandalous lives of Manhattan's elite" Gossip Girl was revealed. The final episode was both emotional and intriguing with the big revelation. Viewers who had grown up with the Blair, Chuck, Serena and Dan felt like a chapter of their lives was ending. Monday nights just aren't the same without the drama of the Upper East Side and the voice of Kristin Bell. Xoxo ...



MAY 19 – COMMENCEMENT

Welcome to the real world.



2013

JULY 20 – "THE DARK KNIGHT RISES"



The final film in the Batman series, fans had high expectations for The Dark Knight Rises. The superhero film brought droves of people out to the midnight premiere, but its release will always be tainted by the memory of the shooting in a theater in Aurora, Colorado. The gunman opened fire during the midnight premiere and sent terror across the nation.

JANUARY 31 - END OF "30 ROCK"

NBC's hit comedy "30 Rock" came to an end after seven seasons, well-received by its fans. Tina Fey's acting and writing came together perfectly for the show, and no matter how perfect the ending may have been, viewers were sad to say goodbye to its beloved characters.



FEBRUARY 24 – JENNIFER LAWRENCE FALLS AT OSCARS, WINS BEST ACTRESS

"Hunger Games" and "Silver Linings Playbook" starlet Jennifer Lawrence continued her reputation of being your relatable girl next door by taking a graceful fall on her way up to claim Best Actress award at the Oscars. Resembling Cinderella on the stairs to the ball, Lawrence tripped over her dress and opened her speech by saying, "You all are only clapping for me because I fell." She is hilarious and down to earth, especially when she lets her sassy attitude loose in interviews.



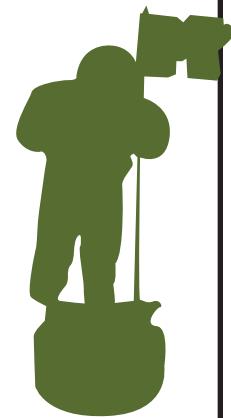
AUGUST 21 – WELCOME TO COLLEGE

You were a naïve freshman back then, still used a map to navigate campus and had nightmares about losing your friends in the dining hall or dropping your tray (ok, you probably still have these). You also met your Domerfest date, who you continued to awkwardly run into over the next four years.

SEPTEMBER 13 – KANYE TSWIFT
“IMMA LET YOU FINISH”

Taylor Swift was in the middle of accepting the MTV Video Music Award for Best Female Video when Kanye West pulled a classic Kanye West. He climbed on stage, grabbed the microphone from Swift and uttered the now-immortal words “Imma let you finish . . .” His rant ran out of steam fast and ended awkwardly, showing once again he’s not that

2010



CEPTION

conception of dreams of the human mind, confused crowds en the most talked about thing over \$800 million Nolan's film was one of movies of all time.

FEBRUARY 19 – TIGER WOODS SCANDAL

Following months of tabloid speculation and more than a dozen women claiming to have had affairs with him, Tiger Woods made a television statement admitting to spending his time during the previous month-and-a-half in a sexual addiction therapy program. Woods, once the No. 1 golf player in the world and highest paid player in professional sports between winnings and sponsorships, lost most of his lucrative sponsorships following the scandal and has won only one PGA Tour since.

DECEMBER 18 – “AVATAR”

The amazingly realistic animation and unique story line of this futuristic film awed viewers as they sat spellbound in the 3-D theater. Also, the animal-like characters inspired Ben Stiller to paint himself blue at the Oscars and made great Halloween costumes the following October. Creepy, if you ask me.

THE KICKBACK



Andrew Gastelum
Editor-In-Chief

Over the last four years, there have been plenty of memorable kickbacks. Some because of the friends, some because of the memories and some special ones because of the music.

Sometimes, in those incredibly unique circumstances, music can define full periods of time. Passion Pit's “Manners” represented the jubilant fun-loving antics of junior year of high school. Sleigh Bells' “Treats” was the letting-loose of the summer following graduation.

It's funny how that works out. After all, it's just music bumped over car speakers and beach radios. But it's a melody that sticks in the mind, prodding memories of different events that would have otherwise remained dormant.

So with that in mind, here are the best four albums of the last four years. Seniors, kick back and let the memories run rampant.

-Ch. Hether



“Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix”

Artist: Phoenix
Genre: Alternative

This album is senior year of high school. It's an album for anything, jamming, cruising, dancing, head-bobbing, and rocking out. It's a change in direction from the Phoenix of old, changing alternative music and, even rock, for the better.

It's such a complex sound, that even on your fifth listen (or if you're like me, 250th listen), you come away refreshed. In music, the gift that keeps on giving is rare. But in the world of “Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix,” it's Christmas morning all the time.



“My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy”

Artist: Kanye West
Genre: Hip Hop

Where do you even begin with “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy?” It is all of the above: soothingly beautiful, ominously dark, refreshing, twisted, and iconic to send the listener into a fantasy world that rap has never seen before.

It's a masterpiece about the American Dream, the struggle, the search, the grasp, the celebration and the subsequent fall.

And surely, it will go down as one of the greatest rap albums of all time. It's the perfect work.



“Bon Iver”

Artist: Bon Iver
Genre: Indie Folk

It doesn't get much more beautiful than Bon Iver's pastoral portrait. It's a whirlwind of emotion, nature, introspection and observation wrapped into one.

The swirling melodies, the resonating falsetto, the deepening base, the subtle acoustics all combine to a zone of tranquility unlike many others in the field of music.

Many feared the self-titled album would be too much of a departure from Bon Iver's acoustic, folky sound, but this ship ended up expanding the map to broader horizons.



“good kid, m.A.A.d city”

Artist: Kendrick Lamar
Genre: Rap

He's Kendrick Lamar. And this, his first studio album, is his masterpiece. The potentially limiting factor about music is that it is solely an audio medium. But with “good kid, m.A.A.d city,” Kendrick should win an Oscar for Best Picture for his depiction of life in Compton.

And that is the ultimate complement for an album. He tells a complete story, with matching beats and rhythms to not just fit the chapter, but complement it as well.

He makes Macklemore look like a chump at amateur hour.

VIEWPOINT

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INSIDE COLUMN

This is not the end



Allan Joseph
Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

I've been dreading writing this column for along time, because it seems like an impossible task. "How," I've asked myself countless times, "could I ever hope to capture four years of Notre Dame in 500 to 600 words?"

The answer, of course, is that I can't—because the last four years have been filled with experiences that simply defy description.

I'll never forget embracing my classmates and proudly singing the Alma Mater after football games, whether in the pouring rain (Stanford, 2012), or glorious sun (Nevada, 2009). But how could words really capture what that's like to those of us who were there?

I'll always be stunned by how extraordinary the people I've met at Notre Dame have been. From my professors to my best friends, from administrators to classmates, I'm constantly impressed. Yet how could I ever fully describe this community to those of us who have been a part of it?

There will always be pictures of campus—the Grotto, the Dome, the Basilica, the Stadium. These places have shaped me and my classmates. But how could a picture fully represent the peace of the Grotto at night, the energy of North or South Quad on a sunny day or the way the Golden Dome gleams no matter the weather?

Then again, maybe we don't need to capture everything.

Maybe it's enough to remember that football Saturdays showed us how tradition can be passed down to bind people together through the generations.

Maybe it's enough to see a picture of the Grotto and remember there's always time for a quiet moment or a picture of the Dome and remember that there's always hope and beauty, no matter how dark or ugly a day we may be having.

No matter how hard we try, we'll never be able to capture the spirit of Notre Dame. But the spirit of Notre Dame has captured us. After these four years, this place has made a mark on us in ways we don't yet understand.

Yes, we'll always miss this place, but no, it isn't the end, as much as it feels like it.

Perhaps what I was dreading wasn't writing this column, but instead was the idea that in doing so, I'd be accepting that I was done with Notre Dame. But that's not true, and it really shouldn't be a surprise. Because on Sunday, when my classmates and I sing the Alma Mater one last time together, the final line will ring out and remind us that our hearts will—forever—love thee, Notre Dame.

Allan Joseph is graduating with a degree in economics and Arts & Letters Pre-Health Studies and will be attending medical school at Brown University in the fall. He'd like to warn his future classmates not to attempt speaking with him on fall Saturdays. Allan would like to thank too many people to fit in this space, but they know who they are. He can be reached at ajoseph2@alumni.nd.edu, as weird as that is to type.

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

Four years of poorly told stories



Megan Doyle
Managing Editor Emeritus

I am a terrible storyteller.

My friends will vouch for that. They have listened to my ramblings for four years, nodding along with patient interest and sometimes even laughing at the punch line when I finally get there. I actually find \$5 at the end of all my stories now without their prompts.

In the four years that my friends have listened to those long-winded stories, they have also starred in the stories that I will someday tell my coworkers and kids (as we sit around the TV watching the Irish crush some inconsequential team for a national championship and then celebrate my firstborn child's acceptance into Notre Dame).

They will hear stories about Domerfest and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Stories about Justin Bieber and stealing gummy worms from the LaFun candy wall (I actually need to apologize to all the nice ladies who work in the Huddle). I will tell stories about gold body paint, about standing in the middle of the end zone drenched in the pouring rain and overwhelmed with joy. Stories about an administration that sometimes failed us and sometimes raised the bar for us even higher.

Stories about the way the Grotto is the warmest place on campus, even in the cold of a South Bend winter, even in the cold of loss.

They will hear stories about cookie monsters and breakup wine. Stories about the Lyons Hall storage closet (well, maybe not). They will hear stories about cigars on the bridge and Flat Tuesdays. I will tell stories about my favorite Observer coworker Cindy. Stories about 90s Night at Legends and stories about belting out Avril Lavigne songs on the stage at Finny's with reckless abandon. Stories about jumping into the lake naked with my best friends in the middle of the night ("Catherine, I saw your butt!"). Stories about probability.

They will hear stories about the four women who have earned sainthood for living with my alarm clock. Stories about Aurora, who picked me up when I wiped out in front of Hot Brad From Dillon during our Frosh-O scavenger hunt, who has been picking me up ever since. Stories about Eileen, who will always be my all-time favorite romcom partner, who truly earned the Lyons Hall Spirit Award. Stories about Catherine, whose brain isn't wired for science like mine, but will someday deliver my babies. Stories about Lauren, who by some amazing miracle is still my friend after all these years, who can't ever use the correct form of "you're," but who

always is my person anyway. Stories about these four women who put up with the thousands and thousands of words I wrote in this paper—and if this column has turned into more long-winded rambling about how much I love them, then so be it. They deserve all the words, all the world.

I will leave this school with a degree (I think), and I'm pretty psyched about that (thanks, Mom and Dad). But I'm also leaving with four years of stories. I have many more than four years of stories ahead of me, stories that will star those coworkers and kids, stories that will change me even more than finally earning this degree will. I can only hope those years will make me a better storyteller as they continue to shape me, because these four years are a story I'm never going to stop telling, no matter how much I ramble or how badly I massacre the punch lines.

(And then I found \$5.)

Megan Doyle is graduating with a degree in English, as well as a minor in the Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She would like to thank Starbucks and Nutella for everything they both have done to get her here. Megan can be reached at megandoyle823@gmail.com.

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College memories without the fluff



Samuel Stryker
Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

When I started to think about putting fingers to keyboard for this column, I tried to think of some big sweeping theme that defined my Notre Dame experience to elaborate upon. Nope, that won't work.

There have been so many highs and lows, twists and turns in my time at Notre Dame, that to characterize my experience under the Dome in 600 words or less would be impossible. So I decided to streamline, remove all the fluff. I would like to think that the people who made my experience here what it is know exactly what I'm talking about. So here we go.

Finding out I got into Notre Dame sitting next to Lauren. Standing next to the Basilica when I found out she got in. Chuck and Blair take Notre Dame. "Go Irish, Beat Wolfpack." Falling asleep in freshman math class (or skipping to buy Lady Gaga tickets). Applying to transfer. The fruit/vegetable comic. Alexis. St. Patty's Day. Bringing 200 lbs. of luggage back over Christmas Break freshman year. Meeting Farrah from "Teen Mom" at the airport.

Teenage Dream Week. "Go Harry, Beat Voldemort!" Headbands. Tony the Tiger and Toucan Sam. Observe and Report. Delta News. Mr. Fishy. SBCS. "Bridesmaids." Winsome making eggs in NDH.

News Writer. Production One.

Production Two. Assistant News Editor. News Editor. Assistant Managing Editor. Seth Meyers. "Gay Students Discuss Coming Out at Notre Dame." Boston for the election (barely). Meeting Fr. Hesburgh. ICPA. The Observer office. Deb. GandyC4ever. Leaving dark chocolate in my mailbox. Bruno's Night. SYS. Beer Pong Tournament. The Rover and Scholastic — LOL.

Appalachia. New River Gorge. Ranger Mark. The Demon Horse. Country Roads. "It's a thing." "Breaking" parietals. Water Olympics. S'mores. The Tampa Girls. GW. Sleeping over in the dining room.

Rome. Italy. Absinthe. Joutfits. Joccupy Rome. Google Translate. "BOOK IT!" The Booze Cruise. The Eiffel Tower (both types). Food pictures. Selfies with the Mona Lisa (actually in general). Frizzante. 201 minutes in Siena. "Here's the thing ..." Nutella. RyanAir. Waking up in Paris, in class in Rome two hours later. AS Roma. Giolitti. Dar Poeta.

Bottom bunk. JCU Gladiators. The Heineken Experience. Karlovy Lazne. "Good Girls Go Bad." "Bad Romance." "Tik Tok." "Teenage Dream." "Moves Like Jagger." "Born This Way." "Where Dem Girls At." "Titanium." "Call Me Maybe." "Young & Beautiful." "What Dreams Are Made Of." "Die Young." "Dancing on My Own." "Unwritten."

Every Syllabus Week. "Happy Senior Year to YOU!" Blackout Swans. Finny's Stage. \$2 Sex on the Beaches

at Fever. CJ's (just kidding). Vesuvio's determining how well your night went.

CCD and the A-Team. NBC, New York in the summer. San Diego in the fall.

The Ireland game. Disneyland and the USC game. Being sick in bed when K-State and Oregon lost. Florida with the Jupiter Crew. South Bend to South Beach. The Best Day of Our Lives (before Roll Tide happened).

Killing it at the Holy Half. Finishing the Hesburgh Challenge. Freaking out about jobs. Cats, pizza, being single — they're all linked. SWUG. Basic. #Blessed. Pigtostal. Civil War. "The Hills" marathons. "Let's get one thing straight ... "

Long runs around campus. The second floor of the library. Tailgating on Game Day. The Basilica and the Golden Dome at sunset. Four years (actually a lifetime) of friends and family.

Go Irish, Beat the Real World.

Sam Stryker is a senior majoring in Film, Television & Theater and Medieval Studies (and isn't sure which makes him a more attractive job applicant). He would like to thank his family for all the love, support and sassiness that have pushed him these four years. He would like to remind everyone to live every week like it's Shark Week. Sam can be reached at sbstryker@gmail.com.

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

My journey began with a simple phone call



Andrew Owens
Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

I can still remember the date and where I was. It was May 6, 2009 when I received a phone call from admissions counselor LeShane Saddler. For the previous month, I had badgered him with emails, letters and phone calls of my own expressing my desire to go to Notre Dame after being placed on the waiting list.

When I picked up the phone, he identified himself and asked if I still wanted to attend Notre Dame.

I said, "Yes, absolutely."

He asked if I would commit right then if a spot were hypothetically offered.

I said, "Yes, absolutely."

Then LeShane told me that Notre Dame would like to offer a spot in its class of 2013 to me.

All the sudden, I was lost for words and started crying tears of joy — something I have no shame in admitting.

After a few seconds of silence on the phone, LeShane asked if I was still on the line. I mustered

up the strength to respond and tell him that I of course accept the offer.

The dream I had spent my entire life working toward had been achieved.

Many times, our vision of a goal is inaccurate, or skewed by our desire. Many times, we realize our perception of what we wanted so desperately does not align with its reality.

After spending four memorable years here, I can proudly say that was not the case at Notre Dame. My expectations were grand, but my experience was even grander.

Looking back at that day a little more than four years ago when I received the phone call, I never could have imagined that the Notre Dame experience would include as much as it has for me.

I never would have predicted becoming dorm president, covering a national championship game, traveling to Ireland or meeting the incredible people I've developed friendships with the past four years.

When I was home for Easter, my aunt asked me how I felt about the looming graduation date and departure from Notre Dame. After telling her I wanted it to slow down because the time has flown

by too quickly, her reply stuck with me this past month:

"It's a good thing that it went so quickly, because that means you've truly enjoyed it."

And that is truly the case.

It turns out the vision I had for Notre Dame before becoming a student wasn't entirely accurate. A college admissions pamphlet can only include so much, instead it's the shape your four years take — and the spontaneous moments within that time-frame — that make it so memorable and rewarding.

As much as you try to plan out your future, it's the unexpected journey — and occasional phone call — that remain with you.

Andrew Owens is graduating with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. He would like to thank his family for all of their love, support and sacrifices. He would also like to thank all of his friends, especially those at Carroll Hall, for an unforgettable four years. Andrew can be reached at aowens2@alumni.nd.edu

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Roam under the dome



Kristen Durbin
News Editor Emeritus

When I chose to enroll at Notre Dame four years ago, a major factor in that semi-spontaneous decision was the school's perfect distance from my home in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Back then, "going" to Notre Dame simply meant hopping on I-294, following its gradual transition into I-80 and ending on this beautiful campus, 121 miles and two hours away from 408 Cherry Creek Lane.

Throughout my first two years as a Notre Dame student, my conceptualization of this University, its work and its influence barely extended past Douglas Road and Angela Boulevard. In my mind, it simply occupied the physical 1,250 acres of campus space in Notre Dame, Indiana, as the place where I went to class, wrote papers, engaged in discussions, cheered in the student section and interacted with classmates from all over the world.

By the end of sophomore year, I was an expert at navigating life within the much-maligned Notre Dame bubble and balancing schoolwork with weekly dorm parties in 133 Duncan Hall like it was my job. That life was comfortable, easy.

2011 was the year that all changed, when Notre Dame became something bigger than its collegiate yellow brick

buildings and the iconic Golden Dome.

That summer, I spent eight weeks working in Idaho as part of the Center for Social Concerns' Summer Service Learning Program. In a distant, sprawling western state I previously only associated with potatoes, I found homes away from my home under the Dome among my three host families, two of which were Notre Dame alumni couples and the other the parents of two recent alumnae.

A month after leaving my new homes away from the Dome, I jetted across the Atlantic to study abroad in Toledo, Spain, with 26 other Domers. After three and a half months of gallivanting across Europe together from France to Florence and everywhere in between (namely the Camelot dance floor), the "speople" had become some of my best friends at Notre Dame.

When we returned from our carefree continental cavorting to the South Bend permacloud, I felt confined by the finite borders of campus that previously comforted me in their steady security. I needed to get away again, to find another home away from Dome to fill part of the void that emerged as soon as I left the Madrid airport.

I got my wish last summer when I spent two months in El Salvador through the International Summer Service Learning Program. Notre Dame brought me to this tiny, unfamiliar Central American country, where I was surprised to find the familiar spirit of the University alive and well in

a recent alumna who started a new chapter of her life in El Salvador after graduation.

If there's anything the past four nomadic years have taught me, it's that no matter how far I roam away from my home under the Dome, Notre Dame will be there. From Austria to Australia, Idaho to Italy, members of the Notre Dame family welcome fellow Domers with open arms. As graduates of Our Lady's University, we carry the unique academic experiences, social mishaps and journeys of personal growth with us as fond memories of our fleeting four years here wherever we go. I may be leaving this hallowed northern Indiana campus this weekend along with my fellow seniors, but I'll leave knowing Notre Dame will never leave me.

Kristen Durbin will graduate with a fairly uncommon pair of degrees in American Studies and Pre-Health Studies, which she firmly believes have made her into the ideal dinner conversation partner and taught her that knowledge really is power. Kristen wouldn't be where she is today without coffee, Daft Punk, Easy Mac, the incredible friends she met at Notre Dame or her family's all-encompassing support. Kristen can be reached at kdurbin@nd.edu

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Seniors, we're all still works in progress



John Cameron
News Editor Emeritus

Rounding out my four years at Notre Dame, I feel like I've seen it all. I've learned a lot about myself, other people and the world: both through an academic lens and otherwise. That being said, I'm not going to impart some groundbreaking wisdom. Frankly, I'm still a work in progress.

Up until college, it seems like life is a series of checkpoints, always with a designated "next." Whether your Domer parents indoctrinated you at birth or you wandered your way here, there's a certain designated path, or at least expectation, to take the next step toward adulthood prevailing in the educational system.

Then the "real world," as so many call it, hits. While it seems like a fitting description relative to the Notre Dame "bubble" we see ourselves in, I struggle with the question: If we're heading into the real world, what world have I been living in for the past four years?

From the vantage point of (as I write this) 12 days before commencement, I can tell you I feel like I've got the world a

whole lot less figured out than I thought I would by now. Yes, I got the job I wanted in the city I wanted to live in surrounded by the friends I wanted, but I feel anything but settled.

At least for me, the saddest thought throughout the latter half of college is that we're reaching some sort of endpoint: That there's graduation and then it's all downhill. It may be naive for me to say I choose to — have to — believe this isn't necessarily the case. Sure, life will probably never be as care-free and fun. But it wasn't the nights at Finny's or the Game Days that have made me into the person I am today (or at least not entirely). It's the challenges and struggles, the ups and downs; we know the real world has no shortage of those.

Life up until college is exciting because, while there's so much certainty in the short-term, we have our "whole lives ahead of us," with infinite potential and opportunity. Once we've taken our first step into the adult world, many of us — myself included — can't help but feel a sense of loss for all the doors that we might have forgone in choosing the one door we did.

The problem with looking at life as a succession of achievements and diplomas before the final drop into the real world is that it implies we're no longer growing and

changing. College is called the formative years — and no doubt, they've been the most formative of my life thus far — but we're not formed at 22.

The kid who got dropped off at Keough Hall in 2009 and the person walking across the stage Sunday are profoundly different, and that's not a bad thing. My greatest hope for life after my undergraduate years at Notre Dame end is that the coming years continue to present opportunities and challenges that leave me just as changed by 2017, 2021 and 2025.

John Cameron is graduating with a degree in Finance and Political Science. He would like to thank his family for guiding him along the path to Notre Dame and supporting him throughout, his roommates from freshman year to the present for putting up with his stress attacks and messy living spaces, his professors for equipping him with the skills and ethical sensibilities to succeed and the University of Notre Dame for the best four years of his life. He can be reached at jcamero2@alumni.nd.edu

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

Snapshots of my college experience



Chris Allen
Sports Editor Emeritus

The assignment to write a senior retrospective column made me realize a shortcoming in myself. I can't provide any sort of bigger context for the four years the Class of 2013 has spent at Notre Dame. I can't possibly neatly sum up the 1,367 days between Aug. 21, 2009, when we rolled into campus from every corner of the country and the world, and May 19, 2013, when we will depart with diplomas in hand.

That sort of big-picture nostalgia is not for me.

And it's probably better that way, as words couldn't do that time justice. Instead, I like to think about snapshots in time. These four years are made up of thousands upon thousands of snapshots in time. These indelible moments are what will stick with us in vivid memory no matter where we go after May 19. We will remember whom we were with. What we did. What we saw. What we achieved. How we felt.

In the hopes that you too will pore over old memories and reminisce with friends this weekend, and in the future about the snapshots in time that made life at Notre Dame so incredible, I present the snapshots that made my undergraduate career memorable.

Less than a month into my freshman year, I made the trek from Alumni Hall to Riehle Fields behind Stepan Center on my first assignment as a sports writer at The Observer. I covered a women's interhall football game between Badin and Walsh in a driving rainstorm with a pen and a spiral notebook. The ink bled on the page, but it felt like progress toward something bigger. That night marked the beginning of a journey that would lead me to the editorship of The Observer's sports department and the press box of college football's biggest game. Along the way, I met and worked with some of the best people I have had the pleasure to know.

In Sept. 2011, I was already well into my semester of study in London, England. After an arduous 10-hour overnight bus ride across the English Channel, through France and into Belgium, I arrived in Bruges. With my fellow Alumni Dawgs Dan Morris and Carlos Herrera, I hiked 45 minutes to my hostel around this medieval city at 6 a.m. with little to no sleep and nothing on my agenda but discovery. That day, and really that whole semester, I learned the lesson we are often reluctant to learn here — that there is a world beyond the boundaries of our campus ready to teach us and enrich us. It was a pleasure to explore that world with other Notre Dame students for four months.

Finally, on Nov. 17, 2012, I went to my last football game as a student in Notre Dame Stadium. As a sports-crazed student and later as a football beat writer, my life as an undergraduate student was always somewhat linked with the football team. So on this day, as a 10-0 Irish team readied to take on Wake Forest, I did something a little different. As soon as the stadium opened, I went in. I remember not who was with me, but who wasn't with me, because I sat alone and let the sights and sounds that exemplify our University soak in. I sat and reflected on the remarkable opportunity that these years have been. To have studied and lived with the Class of 2013. To have cheered on the most storied football program in America. To have been a student at the University of Notre Dame.

Here's to the snapshots in time.

Chris Allen will graduate with a degree in accountancy and head to work in June for Johnson & Johnson. He wants to thank his family for letting him be one of the few in the family to not go to Rutgers. He can be reached at callen10@nd.edu, but only for a few more weeks. After that, maybe send him a Snapchat.

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Leaving our mark on Saint Mary's College



Jillian Barwick
Saint Mary's Editor Emeritus

"Well-behaved women seldom make history."

The famous words of Laura Thatcher Ulrich, also attributed to Marilyn Monroe and Eleanor Roosevelt, have proved that women across the globe have left their mark in the history books.

So here I am, four years later, and what have I done to leave my mark at Saint Mary's College? The answer to that question is still unfolding as graduation festivities begin.

Have I left any marks?

This is my final chance to do so in this fine publication we call The Observer, so here it goes.

To my fellow Belles, the Class of 2013, the last of Smicks to bask in the glory of co-exes, the seniors that felt the heat from the Great Moreau Fires of 2013 and my classmates, this final column is for us and all of the marks we have made at Saint Mary's over the past four years.

This one is for you. This is our mark.

Looking back down The Avenue, I see the memories, the laughs, the tears, the senior comprehensives, the

tests, quizzes, papers and a lasting legacy that will never be forgotten by my sister Belles.

How surreal is it to think that just four short years ago, we were new to this place we now call home? We were unknowing, naïve and even a bit shy to allow ourselves to open up to this wonderful place.

This brings me to our stellar education at Saint Mary's.

In the last 169 years of higher education, Saint Mary's has produced many wonderful women who have become some of the brightest minds out there.

Do you remember Annie Camden from "7th Heaven," otherwise known as Catherine Hicks? She is a Smick. How about Adriana Trigiani, famous author and screenwriter? Also a Saint Mary's graduate.

If they left their mark on Saint Mary's, well, so can we.

As I sit here during my final finals week and think about what I have done to be part of this wonderful institution, I think back again to leaving a mark on Saint Mary's.

Maybe it was never meant to be a mark left by me, but rather, Saint Mary's leaving a mark on me.

This place, so beautiful and vibrant, is a place that will forever be my home away from home. While it may be terrifying that we Belles must leave our home soon, the excitement of knowing we are always welcome back will

forever remain.

This time when we drive down The Avenue for the final time as students, remember to take a look back at the trees that line the road, Holy Cross Hall, LeMans front lawn and lastly, the Welcome Center.

After that final glance back, then you will know Saint Mary's has left its mark on you forever and it will always be inviting you back.

As my parting words to my Belles of 2013, President Mooney knows best.

"We alumnae know what a profound mark the College has made in our personal and professional lives."

Congratulations to my Smicks. We did it.

Jillian Barwick is graduating with a degree in communications with a concentration in mass communications and a minor in public relations and advertising. She would like to thank her parents for encouraging her to pursue her perhaps unconscious dream of being a Belle, her Saint Mary's sisters and her Kegacy Krawlers, for without them, there would have been less fun in her life. She can be reached at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

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Never be afraid to stray off the beaten path



Brandon Keelean
Graphics Editor Emeritus

Anyone who has ever ridden in a car with me knows I am directionally challenged. It is so bad that my parents made me wait until two months after my 16th birthday to get my license. They were concerned one day I would end up in Detroit by accident.

But despite my less than stellar ability to navigate the streets of Zeeland, Mich., I at least had my life on track the summer before I left for college. I was going to major in design and political science, go to law school and work on copyright and trademark infringement cases as an intellectual property attorney.

Along the way, though, I strayed from my rigid life plan. And now, as a graduating senior, I am more lost than ever.

Somewhere amidst the spring foliage and my finals, I realized how off the path I am and how unsure I am about where my current path will take me. I have a number of theories about why I got off track, but my favorite is a simple one: Life just happens that way. If there is one thing I have learned at Notre Dame, it is that knowledge does not always

present the right answer. More often than not, it just opens my eyes to more information I need to learn.

So, I am lost. Not lost in a panicked, "I am going to die in the desert" sort of way, but rather in a "let's see what happens" way.

I should have seen it coming. Everyone told me I would lose my way at some point. I was constantly reassured by friends and family that it is okay to change your major, because not everyone chooses correctly the first time. I was told and am still told that no one knows what they are going to do when they grow up.

When I started at Notre Dame, I did not believe any of that. To me, a hyper-driven college freshman, uncertainty was not allowed. I did not see a reason to stray from the path I was on. And at the time, I did not realize how narrow the road I set for myself was.

But I soon found out. During my four years as a student at Notre Dame, I have been embraced by the most wonderful, loving people. They opened my eyes to the world around me and helped me through the undergraduate experience. Like any liberal arts student, I was exposed to a wide variety of disciplines, ideas and perspectives. My experiences at Notre Dame shaped me as a person and made me the lost soul I

am today.

Thus, I get to my pearl of wisdom: Give yourself the liberty to wander. Constricting yourself to one path is fine. But if you forget to turn left at the light, keep going down that road a little longer. You might discover something better — another trail with different opportunities. I kept going and got lost, but right now I could not be happier.

There is a catch to unrestricted freedom, however. I learned of it when my parents finally allowed me my driver's license. On that day in August, my mom told me why she waited. She said it was because she loved me and she needed to make sure that no matter how far off the beaten path I strayed, I could always find my way back home.

Brandon Keelean is graduating with Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design and without a degree in Political Science. He will not be attending law school in the fall. He dedicates this column and his undergraduate career to the family and friends that gave him directions along the way. He will always call Notre Dame home. Brandon can be reached at brandonkelean@gmail.com

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Thank you. I've been extremely lucky.



Sarah O'Connor
Multimedia Editor Emeritus

I've been putting off writing this column for almost a week and a half now. Anyone who knows me well knows I am not a creative writer. I really dislike it and would prefer to do almost anything else. I'm a computer science major and my job at The Observer dealt strictly with taking photos and making videos — nothing involving a lot of writing talent. I procrastinated as much as humanly possible each time I was required to write a column for The Observer for the sole reason I dreaded having to write it.

This column is different.

It's due in only a couple of hours, but for the first time, the reason I delay writing it isn't a loathing of writing.

This time, it's for something more.

Writing this column is accepting that my college career at Notre Dame is coming to an end. It's accepting that in no time at all I will be graduating and will be having to say goodbye to this place.

It's a goodbye I've been trying to avoid. A goodbye that, honestly, I'm not quite ready for.

The reason I've been avoiding the finality of the next coming weeks is because of the love I have for this wonderful place. My unwillingness to say goodbye validates the impact this University, the people and the experience have had on my life.

Each and every moment here has made Notre Dame what it is to me today, and for that I will be forever grateful to everyone who contributed to my experience here.

I am lucky to have had wonderful professors who challenged and inspired me, who have helped me succeed in receiving the best education imaginable and have taught me far more than just academics.

I am lucky to have had such great classmates who have constantly humbled me by their brilliance and who have been my companions as we've struggled through 8 a.m. exams, ridiculous assignments, challenging group projects, all-nighters and stress-induced mental breakdowns.

I am lucky to have had such terrific co-workers at The Observer who have impressed me with their talent and dedication, who I've shared late nights in the office with, who have been my travel companions everywhere from Dublin to Miami, who have given me some of the most unbelievable opportunities of my life and helped make the office my second home while on campus.

I am lucky to have spectacular friends, both old and new, who have given me countless unforgettable memories and who have been continuous sources of support, compassion, happiness and humor. I've been lucky for the ones who have kept me sane, who I've been able to lean on and who have become family.

To all these extraordinary people who have molded my experience at Notre Dame, I have been incredibly blessed to have known you these past four years.

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

Thank you for the memories, the friendships and the smiles. Thank you for making Notre Dame the place that I love so much, and thank you for making this experience one that is so hard to say goodbye to.

I've been extremely lucky.

Sarah O'Connor is graduating with a degree in Computer Science. She would like to thank her family for their love and support, her friends for always being there and everyone who has been a part of her Notre Dame experience. Sarah can be reached at sarah.a.oconnor.1@gmail.com

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Notre Dame will always be my home



Suzanna Pratt
Photo Editor Emeritus

I come from one of "those" Notre Dame families. You know, the kind where at least 16 people have attended, participated in every activity under the sun and lived in nearly every dorm.

In many ways, the Notre Dame family is the same thing as my actual family. My parents met here, my older brother lived in the dorm next to mine for two years, countless aunts and uncles and cousins are Notre Dame graduates and I inherited my grandmother's class ring.

Some of my earliest memories are

of Notre Dame. I remember walking around the lakes to visit the site of my father's old dorm, finding the windows of the rooms my mother lived in and lighting candles at the Grotto. I remember sitting in the stadium before it was renovated and playing with my Polly Pocket toy instead of paying attention to the football game below me.

I remember crying about spilling my apple juice in the stands. Two decades later, football still makes me cry, but so does the thought of leaving the place that gave me so many opportunities.

I found The Observer my first weekend on campus when I didn't know a thing about photography. Over four years, my job took me from a private tour of the tunnels to an awards ceremony on the 14th floor of the Hesburgh Library and from Dublin to Miami. I declared an anthropology major and discovered a passion for archaeology, literally getting my hands dirty on an excavation in Albania. I

devised an independent research project and slaved away all year producing a senior thesis longer than every other term paper I have ever written combined. I studied abroad and fell in love with rock art and quokkas and watching the moon rise.

I get chills walking around campus at night, not because the sound of the Basilica bells playing the alma mater to a silent quad is chilling in and of itself, but because this campus is where I feel at home and where the best experiences of my life have taken place. As seniors, the only thing we want to do is rewind four years so we can live through our time as undergraduates again. Of all the things I've learned in four years about anthropology, about life, about myself and about others, the most important thing I've learned is Notre Dame will forever be the place I call home. No matter where the future takes me, I can always look down at my class ring and see the golden dome. In our hearts forever, love thee, Notre Dame.

Suzanna Pratt is graduating with a degree in Anthropology and Peace Studies and will be pursuing a master's in Applied Anthropology at the University of South Florida next year. She would like to thank her family for putting up with her. Suzanna can be reached at spratt2@alumni.nd.edu

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

The Alliance for Catholic Education is proud to welcome its twentieth class of Catholic school teachers. We give thanks for their gift of service to America's Catholic schools. Please join us in congratulating the following 2013 graduates of Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame.

Welcome ACE 20!

Roscoe Anderson
School of Our Lady, Santa Ana

Ashley Armentaniz
Immaculate Conception, LASC

Katherine Baglini
St. Cecilia, Dallas

Alexander Davis
St. John the Evangelist, Washington D.C.

Kathryn Bodie
Bishop Garriga, Corpus Christi

Rachel Boggs
St. Martin de Porres, Oakland

Melanie Brin tall
Blessed Sacrament, San Antonio

Dallas Bunsa
Bishop Dunne, Dallas

Kevin Casey
Sacred Heart, St. Petersburg

Brett Cavanaugh
St. Anthony, Brownsville

Cristina Couri
Academy of Our Lady, New Orleans

Kaleen DeFilippis
Incarnation, St. Petersburg

Anne DeMott
All Saints, Fort Worth

Connor Geraghty
St. Albert the Great, LA East

Anna Gorman
St. Philip Neri, Oklahoma City

Elizabeth Jen
Notre Dame in Vacaville, Sacramento West

Brian Jerger
St. Joseph Academy, Brownsville

Allison Jeter
St. Jardath, Oakland

David Jones
St. Pius V, Jacksonville

Jessica Jones
Holy Rosary, Jacksonville

Crystal Lee
Annunciation, Denver

Jaimie Malandra
Guardian Angels, Denver

Leah Malm
Cantwell High School, LA East

Russell McFall
St. Jardath, Oakland

Liz Moore
St. Michael, Memphis

David Murray
Memphis Catholic, Memphis

Kelly O'Brien
Our Lady of Grace, Sacramento East

Mary Pullano
St. Petersburg Catholic High School, St. Petersburg

Rose Raderstorf
Santa Cruz, Tucson

Chelsey Rarnos
St. Joseph Academy, Brownsville

Maria Rodriguez
Maternity BVM, Chicago

Erin Rosario
Sacred Heart, Oklahoma City

Linda Scheiber
St. John the Evangelist, Tucson

Brian Schwartz
St. Pius X, Denver

Alejandro Sigala
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mission

Jason Taulman
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, New Orleans

Kaitlyn Wegryzn
St. Alphonsus, Biloxi

Congrats Seniors!



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THE OBSERVER | FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013 | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A pro-life perspective on Obama speaking

I am a 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 Mar. 20, 2009, I was receiving infuriating emails 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
March 21, 2009

Thank you, Declan Sullivan

I have, from time to time, lost faith in my Notre Dame community. I have loved this school for my entire life, so take the former statement as all the more profound. I have felt that our campus is divided against itself in 80 different ways. I have felt that our campus is at war with itself. I have felt that the people on this campus care more about the lack of success that plagues our football team than they do about issues of humanity that affect the world every day. I feel that we are slowly slipping away from the ideals that Notre Dame was built upon, survived on and currently promotes as the true spirit of our student body.

Two hours ago, all of that changed. Two hours ago, the memorial service for Mr. Declan Sullivan commenced. As the entire campus knows, the student body flooded the Basilica, overflowed into the Lafun Ballroom and even had to listen outside. Others, like myself, watched the memorial service from the live feed online. For an hour, the entire campus stood still as we all came together to celebrate the life of Declan Sullivan and to help his family and friends begin the mourning process.

I never had the privilege to meet Declan, but I have spent

the last several hours thanking God for this soul that could be so inspiring. For though I never met this man, he restored my faith in this University. Though I never knew him, I found myself crying through his service as if I had known him my entire life. I found my heart was aching for his family, and as I scanned the faces in the crowd that filled the Basilica, I knew that the entire group felt the same way. I felt the power of the entire student body spreading their prayers over his family, his friends and his dorm mates.

For the first time in a long time, I felt this community united. On this day, we didn't belong to a race. We had no political standing. We were not gay or straight. We were not A-students or the "C's get degrees" crowd. We weren't pro-life or pro-choice. We weren't pro-Brian Kelly or anti-Brian Kelly. We just were. For a brief moment, we were undivided. We were the Notre Dame community that I so long to be a part of. I challenge the student body to remain that way in honor of the man who had a soul so strong to call us back to who we are. Remember that we must support one another, not tear each other down as we are so often tempted to do. Remember that we are united through all, and that our minor disagreements

should never be allowed to prevent us from standing together as one community. And when one of our community falls, remember that they are always one of our own. We feel the pain of a family's loss because we have indeed lost a family member.

Remember Declan Sullivan, whose influence is so strong that an entire community of 8,000-plus people came together to celebrate his life. For this, he is truly the embodiment of the Notre Dame spirit.

To his family: thank you for sharing such an amazing person with the Notre Dame family. My prayers and the prayers of the entire community are with you.

To Declan: Thank you. Thank you for restoring my faith in my Notre Dame family. Thank you for reminding us of who we are.

For at the end of the day, we are but one simple thing: We are ND — united in the memory of one of our faithfully fallen.

Jim Ropa
sophomore
Siegfried Hall
October 29, 2010

Let's act on GLBTQ 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 Pa. and Holy Cross College in Ind., 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 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
January 29, 2010

No regrets, one request

We have no regrets. We booked our hotels after the Pittsburgh game. We booked our flights after USC. We prayed we would win tickets in the lottery. 99 percent of us didn't. We appealed to our spouses and better sensibilities that this was a once in a lifetime event. They submitted. And then we paid way too much for tickets. We begged our parents to take the grandkids for a few days. They couldn't say no. We had used up our fun tickets for the year by Jan. 7. We flew from places like R.I., S.D., Idaho and Texas. We arrived in South Florida to eternal sun and optimism. We may have had a cocktail (or two). We saw dear friends we haven't seen in 10, 15 or 20 years. We felt an energy, a passion and a part of something that we haven't felt in a long, long time. It felt like home. We tailgated like champions. The blues and greens outnumbered the reds at least three-to-one. Of the 55,000 Domers in the stadium, we were the 40,000 who stayed until the clock hit 0:00. We have no regrets. We would do it all over again, even if we already knew the ending. We thank you.

We have one request. At one of the greatest games in our history, we failed to acknowledge maybe our greatest tradition, and that is standing together as one family and singing our praise to our Beloved Lady of the Lake. Our feeling of emptiness in the stands grew ever deeper when we could not acknowledge the good fight and send off our team properly for having one of the greatest seasons we can remember, and for giving all of us alumni the opportunity to experience what we did. Maybe it was the overwhelming grief of the moment. Maybe it was the bureaucracy of the Orange Bowl Committee and their stages and ensuing presentations. But I ask you, next time, make it happen. Give us the opportunity to thank the team for a tremendous season, and show us a little love for the sacrifices we all made to be there in support. Misery loves company, and we all could have used a little family love around about 0:00. We are ND.

Andrew Nachman
alumnus
Class of 1997
January 16, 2013

Office of the Provost announces faculty milestones

The University congratulates faculty members whose promotions, appointments as endowed professors and emerita/emeritus designations were announced at the President's Dinner Tuesday, May 21.

TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIST



Alessia Blad
Romance Languages and Literatures



Steven J. Brady
First Year of Studies



Anthony C. Holter
Alliance for Catholic Education



Catherine F. Pieronek
College of Engineering



Jessica McManus Warnell
Management

TO PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIST



James M. Frabutt
Alliance for Catholic Education

TO RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Dominic T. Chaloner
Biological Sciences



Gyorgy Csaba
Electrical Engineering



Xinyu Liu
Physics



R. Mark Rennie
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering



Allen G. Oliver
Chemistry and Biochemistry



Mark A. Suckow
Biological Sciences

TO RESEARCH PROFESSOR

TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TENURE (CONT.)



Mark A. Caprio
Physics



Antonio Delgado
Physics



Giles E. Duffield
Biological Sciences



Curtis D. Franks
Philosophy



David Galvin
Mathematics



Vijay Gupta
Electrical Engineering

TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TENURE (CONT.)



Michael T. Niemier
Computer Science and Engineering



Michael (Tzvi) Novick
Theology



Isabelle C. Torrance
Classics



Sophie K. White
American Studies



Abigail K. Wozniak
Economics



Ruth M. Abbey
Political Science

TO PROFESSOR (CONT.)



María Rosa Olivera-Williams
Romance Languages and Literatures



J. Daniel Philpott
Political Science



Gabriel S. Reynolds
Theology



Jeanne Romero-Severson
Biological Sciences



Steven R. Schmid
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering



Lynette P. Spillman
Sociology



Daniel A. Graff
History



Brian R. Levey
Accountancy



Tonia Hap Murphy
Accountancy



Hannelore H. Weber
*German and Russian
Languages and Literatures*

TO ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN



Tracy C. Bergstrom
Hesburgh Libraries

TO LIBRARIAN



Jessica N. Kayongo
Hesburgh Libraries

TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TENURE



Corey M. Angst
Management



Brad A. Badertscher
Accountancy



Tobias Boes
*German and Russian
Languages and Literatures*



Kasey S. Buckles
Economics



Nero Budur
Mathematics



Jeffrey J. Burks
Accountancy



Andrew B. Kennedy
*Civil Engineering and
Geological Sciences*



Krupali Uplekar Krusche
Architecture



Jennifer Mason McAward
Law



Jason S. McLachlan
Biological Sciences



Marisel C. Moreno-Anderson
*Romance Languages and
Literatures*



Monika A. Nalepa
Political Science



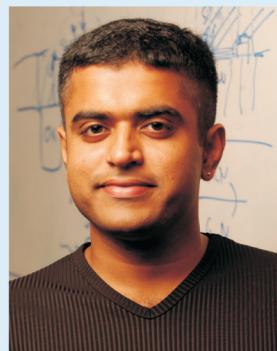
Brian M. Baker
Chemistry and Biochemistry



Patricia L. Clark
Chemistry and Biochemistry



Li Guo
Classics



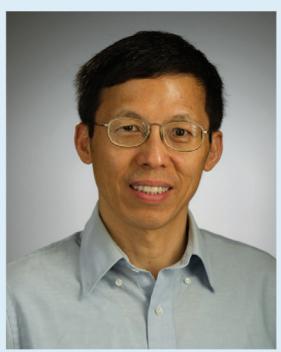
Debdeep Jena
Electrical Engineering



Joseph P. Kaboski
Economics



Semion Lyandres
History



Meng Wang
Aerospace and Mechanical



Huili (Grace) Xing
Electrical Engineering



Samir Younés
Architecture

NOT PICTURED

TO RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Nancy Marinelli, *Physics*

Office of the Provost announces faculty milestones

TO ENDOWED PROFESSOR



Sarvanan Devaraj
Fred V. Duda Professor of Business



Edward J. Maginn
Dorini Family Professor of Energy Studies



Eduardo E. Wolf
Anthony Earley Professor of Energy and the Environment

TO EMERITA OR EMERITUS



Joan Aldous
Sociology

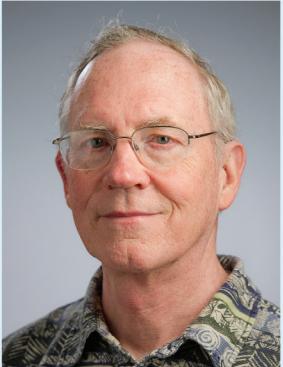


Stephen M. Batill
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering



Gerard F. Baumbach
Institute for Church Life

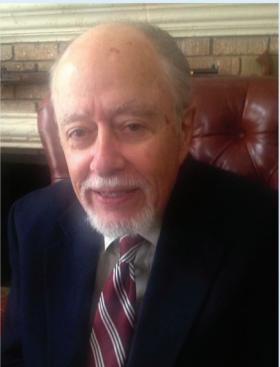
TO EMERITA OR EMERITUS (CONT.)



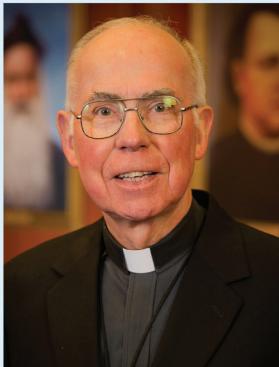
John J. Bentley
Radiation Laboratory



Louis J. Berzai
Computer Application Programs



G. Robert Blakey
Law



Thomas E. Blantz, CSC
History



Francis X. Connolly
Mathematics



Thomas J. Frecka
Accountancy

TO EMERITA OR EMERITUS (CONT.)



Paul R. Grimstad
Biological Sciences



Kwan S. Kim
Arts and Letters



Khalil F. Matta
Management



Richard P. McBrien
Theology

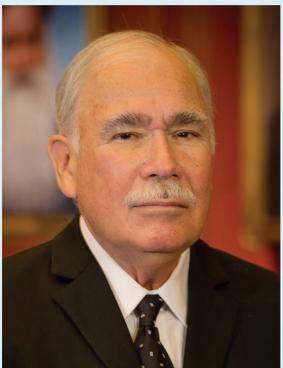


Peter R. Moody
Political Science



Carolyn R. Plummer
Music

TO EMERITA OR EMERITUS (CONT.)



Juan M. Rivera
Accountancy



W. Robert Scheidt
Chemistry & Biochemistry



Albert K. Wimmer
German and Russian Languages and Literatures



Joanne M. Bessler
Hesburgh Libraries



Katharina J. Blackstead
Hesburgh Libraries



Gay N. Dannelly
Hesburgh Libraries

TO EMERITA OR EMERITUS - LIBRARIANS (CONT.)



Carole J. Pilkinton
Hesburgh Libraries

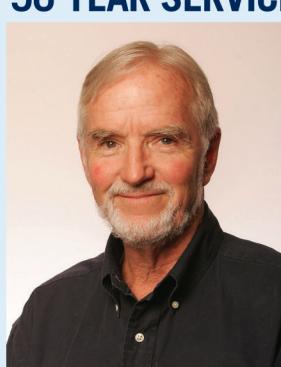


G. Margaret Porter
Hesburgh Libraries

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TO EMERITA OR EMERITUS
Paul F. Bradshaw
Theology

50 YEAR SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



John J. Kennedy
Marketing



William H. Leahy
Economics

Class of 2013 graduates enter a stronger job market

STRONGER JOB MARKET

Seniors will:

- Enter the workforce
- Service
- Go to graduate school

DID YOU KNOW?

The Notre Dame Career Center still supports graduated students.

careercenter.nd.edu/

STEPH WULZ | The Observer

Notre Dame Career Center will continue to offer services for seniors after graduation

By NICOLE McALEE

News Writer

Despite the economic ups and downs of their four years in college, this group of graduating seniors enters a job market with excellent prospects, according to Career Center director Hilary Flanagan.

"This year's job market really is good," Flanagan said. "When [the seniors] came in as freshmen, it was a really different picture in terms of the national job market than it is now."

Statistics about the Class of 2013's post-graduation plans are not yet available, but Flanagan said the Career Center will collect that data at graduation ticket pickup.

Career counselor Robyn Centilli said she expects most graduating seniors to have a job or other plans for after graduation.

"I would say, without having all of the numbers and the data, ... [the hiring rate is] probably going to be pretty comparable to last year or previous years, where a higher percentage of our students are graduating with some type of future plans," Centilli said. "I don't want to say just jobs, because we have a large percentage of our student population that will do service for a year or two, or are going to graduate school in some form."

Notre Dame graduates typically face many job opportunities, Flanagan said. Centilli said she expects graduates to build on relationships with alumni and employers despite the volatile economic climate.

"We have a very loyal alumni base, but we also have very loyal employers because of the quality of our students," Centilli said. "Even when the market was down, recruiting didn't really see that fluctuation here because of the fact that they wanted to continue that partnership."

Flanagan said approximately three percent of seniors typically graduate without future plans, but she noted that they may continue to use Career Center services.

"We don't cease and desist," she said. "When they walk across the stage, it doesn't mean that the University is done with them. If they're within one year of graduation, it's basically, as far as we're concerned, like they didn't leave."

Flanagan said the Career Center has many resources to prepare students to enter today's unpredictable job market.

"[We are] getting the students ready to think about how to market themselves in terms of [their] own unique personal brand as a student," she said. "How you market that in 2013 and beyond is a lot less about getting your foot in the door somewhere and being there for 60 years. That's not the world of work that you all are entering."

Centilli said the Career Center's services are available to all students. The Center performs résumé and cover letter reviews, and it helps students with networking and interviewing skills.

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Cuevas receives Outstanding Senior Award

By KELLY KONYA

News Writer

Saint Mary's senior Silvia Cuevas, a business major with concentrations in finance and international business, received the Outstanding Senior Award for her work as a student exemplifying the spirit and values of the College.

According to a College press release, the Alumnae Association Board bestows the award to a senior who worked to embody the "heart of the College" during her four years. Director of media relations Gwen O'Brien said the Outstanding Senior Award is one of three honors bestowed on seniors who personified qualities essentially Saint Mary's. "As the valedictorian represents the mind and the Lumen Christi

Award recipient reflects the soul, the Outstanding Senior Award embodies the heart of Saint Mary's," O'Brien said. "Silvia's combination of intelligence, spirit and determination are

Silvia Cuevas
Saint Mary's
Outstanding Senior



what make her stand out as she graduates."

Cuevas, a native of Hammond, Ind., has been involved in many different activities on campus throughout her four years at Saint Mary's, culminating in her term as senior class president

this year.

"I found my niche with Student Government, the Intercultural Leadership Program, and the Spark Program," Cuevas said. "People are right about Saint Mary's: small campus, big opportunities."

Class of 2013 vice president Ambreen Ahmad said Cuevas perfectly embodies the mission of the College.

"Silvia really encourages people to strive to do anything they set their hearts to," Ahmad said. "She has such a positive spirit and is not afraid of any challenge."

Cuevas said she enjoyed forming relationships with different professors and faculty who have inspired her during her four years at Saint Mary's.

Mana

assistant director of the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and Intercultural Leadership Certificate chair, said Cuevas was a joy to have in the program because she was willing to offer her insights on how to create a more inclusive community.

"I have extremely high hopes for Silvia," Derakhshani said. "With her skills at working with others, organizing projects and her passion for bringing about justice, she will change whatever context she is in for the better."

Jill Vihtelic, professor of business, said she shared that high degree of respect for Cuevas after knowing her as both her professor and academic advisor.

"Silvia has an infectious smile that warms the classroom climate and invites others to

participate," Vihtelic said. "I expect Silvia to do very well in her future, for her the sky is the limit."

Cuevas said after graduation she will join the Target team in Minneapolis as a Business Analyst.

"I would eventually like to become the Mayor of Hammond and get involved with the economic development in Northwest Indiana," Cuevas said. "I cannot wait to return to where I'm from with corporate experience under my belt to make my neighborhood a better place for future generations."

Cuevas said she will miss Saint Mary's, which will remain one of her favorite chapters in her life.

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Majority of Saint Mary's seniors entertain post-graduate plans

By KAITLYN RABACH

Saint Mary's Editor

As the Saint Mary's class of 2013 eye life after the cap and gown, most Belles plan to don a suit and tie to enter the workforce, according to a recent College survey.

Stacie Jeffirs, director of the College's Career Crossings office, said current seniors attempting to enter the job force will be aided by an economy that has steadily gained strength over the past four years.

"I would definitely say that the job market is up three to five percent for college graduates entering the market," Jeffirs said. "This is a slight gain and [that] will definitely benefit graduating seniors. An increase is always good."

Jeffirs said the College recently administered a survey titled "Graduate Destination Survey" to seniors.

"This survey gives a pulse on where seniors are at right now," she said.

Jeffirs said the survey reported an estimated 60 to 75 percent of graduates indicated they will be employed full-time, while an estimated 30 percent reported they intend to pursue some form of graduate degree.

"There is an overlap in numbers because some will choose to enter the workforce and pursue a degree in higher education at the same time," Jeffirs said.

"One-third of this year's graduates reported going on to some sort of advanced education," Jeffirs said. "This is a pretty substantial amount."

Senior Maria Malm will be pursuing a graduate degree in speech pathology at Northwestern University. She said the small class size at Saint Mary's offered her the skills and opportunities she needed to stand out in the graduate school application process.

"I would say going to a small school opened up some pinnacle opportunities for me," Malm said. "It really allowed me to stand out in the application process and because I was able to get to know my professors so well I had some pretty good recommendations."

Jeffirs said a small percentage of students will volunteer and an even smaller amount will enter into the military after graduation.

She said since Saint Mary's is a faith-based, liberal arts institution, students develop unique skill sets that set them apart in

the job market.

"I think the liberal arts education is key in graduates finding jobs, especially in this market," Jeffirs said. "Our girls have built the skills that are in demand by employers. They have worked on their communication, writing and problem solving skills. They are also at an institution where values are at the heart and center of their education. Employers want employees that have a strong set of values they can contribute to the world."

Jeffirs said the United States economy looks different than it did four years ago, at least in part due to the influx of new industries and the more-interconnected global economy. Saint Mary's prepares students well to take on the challenges associated with the new shape of the national economy.

"Approximately 50 percent of our students participate in some sort of study abroad program," Jeffirs said. "This is another skill that can really let an applicant stand out."

A lot of Saint Mary's graduates are offered a position after working at summer internships, Jeffirs said.

"Many of our students are involved with experiential learning and our office helps sophomores and juniors find quality internships," Jeffirs said. "It is very important to have these hands-on learning experiences. I see that it is very critical in students developing experience in the field they want to go into." Jeffirs said the College offers learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom.

"Leadership opportunities are extremely important, especially for women in the workplace," Jeffirs said. "Here at Saint Mary's, leadership opportunities can be found everywhere. Students have a strong foundation to build off of when they leave here."

Senior class president, Silvia Cuevas said Saint Mary's prepared her well for her new job at Target headquarters in Minnesota because she took advantage of the College's many leadership opportunities.

"I am very hopeful for all of my classmates," Cuevas said. "We have been given the tools we need to succeed and if you are a go-getter you will get the job. Saint Mary's creates go-getters."

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Seniors commit to volunteer work



Photo courtesy of Mary Pullano

Seniors Mary Pullano (back center) and Katherine Baglini (back right), both accepted into the ACE program, volunteer at St. Adalbert's Elementary School in South Bend.

By CHARLIE DUCEY

News Writer

Following graduation, more than 10 percent of Notre Dame's Class of 2013 will participate in volunteer programs, ranging from teaching underprivileged grade-schoolers to building wells in the developing world.

The number of students participating in post-graduate service has increased tremendously in the past few decades, according to the Center for Social Concerns [CSC]. In 1985 2.8 percent of graduates went on to participate in service, while 10 percent of the Class of 2003 did.

Senior Aaron Lorton plans to participate in a year of service and then attend medical school. He said he is considering several service programs, including the André House of Hospitality, which serves the poor in his hometown of Phoenix, Ariz. Lorton said he is also drawn to a specialized teaching program at the Nativity Preparatory School of New Bedford, Mass.

"I like the idea of being able to work in all facets of the students' lives," he said. "The program wants its volunteers to be involved in coaching, leading tutor groups and mentoring."

Lorton said his motivations for post-graduate service and for medical school are linked.

"The reason I want to do service is the same reason that I want to go into medicine," he said. "It's the feeling you get when you help someone without looking for a reward."

Senior Matt Schirtzinger also plans to complete a year of service before entering medical school. He said he chose to serve through AmeriCorps because the program gives him flexibility in choosing allocations.

"I'm looking at a couple of options around the central Ohio area, — tutoring in reading programs as well as outreach to people with HIV and AIDS," he said. "The HIV outreach interested me in particular as a different but equally important approach to public health [compared to medical school]."

Schirtzinger said he is motivated by a desire to improve his local community of Columbus, Ohio.

"I like the Columbus area," he said. "I tutored low-income students during high school and realized that there are a lot of people who don't have the package of benefits that I had growing up, and I thought that service work would be a good way to help people to get to the same place where I am."

The Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) is another service opportunity Notre Dame graduates have gravitated toward in recent years, according to the Center for Social Concerns. Since its creation in 1994, ACE volunteers have accounted for approximately a quarter of the Notre Dame alumni involved in service directly after undergraduate studies.

Senior Mary Pullano will be among these ACE participants. She said several undergraduate courses provoked her interest in education, as she learned about the massive inequities in the American schooling system.

As Pullano sought to channel her interest in education into service, she said she singled out the ACE program in particular.

"I chose ACE because of the strong preparation they provide with the Master's in Education program," she said. "The support from the teaching communities and emphasis on spiritual growth were also important to me."

Senior Katherine Baglini said she chose to participate in ACE because of its emphasis on fostering community.

"I think ACE stands out because of the benefit of the large ACE family and the community support, living with other first- and second-year teachers," she said.

Baglini said she believes even a single volunteer can implement this change.

"It doesn't happen all at once," he said. "It is a steady effort, and its effects might not be easy to see in the moment. But I do think that an individual can bring about change in the world."

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Catechists awarded Laetare Medal

By MEL FLANAGAN

New s Writer

The three founders of the Special Religious Education Development Network (SPRED) were shocked to find out they were this year's recipients of the Laetare Medal, Sr. Mary Therese Harrington, a medal recipient, said.

The University will present the medal to Harrington, Sr. Susanne Gallagher and Fr. James McCarthy at the University Commencement ceremony this May.

The medal, established at Notre Dame in 1883, is the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics. It 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," according to a University press release.

Harrington said the Laetare Medal will bring much-needed recognition to their organization, which provides religious education for parishioners with intellectual disabilities.

"Our work is very hidden because not too many people pay that much attention to people with disabilities," Harrington said. "The fact that someone thought we were doing a good job just blew us away. ... That's very affirming for us."

McCarthy, a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago, first conceived the idea for SPRED in 1960 when he read letters from parents expressing their difficulty in finding ministries for their children with intellectual disabilities, Harrington said.

He began working on the project in his off time, and in 1963 Harrington joined McCarthy when he requested a member of her congregation, the Society of Helpers, for assistance.

"Theology for people with intellectual disabilities was very bleak, you teach them their prayers and that was about it," Harrington said. "So many had a capacity, but you had to figure out a different way."

The pair began to work with Catechist volunteers to implement a more contemplative and liturgical approach to religious education better suited to people with these disabilities, Harrington said. She said they based the approach off the prior research and practice of French priests from Lyons, France and Quebec, Canada.

"We didn't know how to introduce [the method] to the [United States]," Harrington said. "We started working in rooms with one-way viewing mirrors. The volunteer catechists could observe us working, then do the same thing."

Gallagher, a member of the Sisters of Providence, joined the organization in 1967 to design a Montessori environment for the groups. With the environment, syllabus and observational teaching method in place, SPRED began multiplying its centers across the United States the following year, Harrington said.

Today the Chicago SPRED center has trained volunteers for 156 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago, 15 other dioceses in the country and parishes in Australia, South Africa, Scotland and other English-speaking nations.

"What [the Catechists] are really looking for is the basic mentality or basic attitude toward people with intellectual disabilities that is very respectful but

can go outside the box to figure out ways to include them in worship settings," Harrington said.

The SPRED groups in each parish function with six "friends," or people with disabilities, and six sponsors, the volunteer catechists. Each group has a parish chairperson who is accountable to the parish priest.

In this way, Harrington said SPRED is very parish-based and parish-operated. She, McCarthy and Gallagher serve as resource people for the individual groups.

Harrington said SPRED also offers continual training at its center, where catechists can continue to observe teaching methods and discuss difficulties they are experiencing.

"It's a very trim, decentralized operation," Harrington said. "We can keep it moving well and quickly because it is decentralized."

The sponsors at each parish meet once per week, Harrington said. During the first week they prepare a syllabus for the second week, when they put on a two-hour class for their friends. At the third week's session, the catechists reflect on the previous class and ways they can improve it for the following week, when the friends attend class again.

The goal of the sessions is four-fold, Harrington said. The catechists aim to instill within the individuals a sense of the sacred, a sense of Christ, a sense of the Father and a sense of the Spirit as living within the Church.

"We're not working with heavy duty concepts, we're dealing with much more intuitive and contemplative aspects," Harrington said. "We use a lot of the arts, like music, gestures, silence, to illustrate points."

To aid parents of the intellectually disabled, Harrington said the volunteers try to educate their children to a level where they are able to participate in a normal worship setting.

"Some families are afraid to bring their children to Church because they have been treated disrespectfully there," she said. "The child is not prepared, and the assembly is not prepared."

SPRED works to overcome that, Harrington said. In addition to preparing the disabled individuals for worship, she said many parishes have installed several liturgies throughout the year that may appeal to those who are intellectually disabled.

Although some people have criticized the process as too labor-intensive, Harrington said the method has proven successful.

In a press release, University President Fr. John Jenkins praised SPRED's commitment to educating people with disabilities.

"Insisting that a developmental disability neither tempers Christ's invitation nor restricts one's right to respond, they have ushered countless people to their rightful place at the Eucharistic table," Jenkins said.

Being awarded the 2013 Laetare Medal allows SPRED to demonstrate the fruits of its efforts to others, Harrington said.

"We see there's a real person inside, and they really respond," she said. "Not in a way a regular child would, but in their own way."

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Swarbrick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

anticipate right now."

Swarbrick said he and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves were the two different forces who came together in constructing the stadium plan. While Affleck-Graves was more focused on locating university assets, Swarbrick said he was concerned with maximizing the value of Notre Dame Stadium as a piece of real estate.

"One [factor] was my interest in addressing various issues with the Stadium but recognizing, principally driven by the notion that we had to make it more of a year-round facility," Swarbrick said. "And as campus has grown up around the Stadium, you can't afford this real estate and not use it. And so that was the starting point for me from which over the past few years I've been sort of going down this path."

Swarbrick's views coupled with Affleck-Graves' preferences, and the two processes came together "in a great Notre Dame way," according to Swarbrick.

New videoboard in the Stadium?

While Swarbrick acknowledged fans and alumni are eager to hear about the possibility of adding a videoboard to the stadium, he said the process is not nearly that far along at this point.

"I know people love to talk about videoboards or suites or playing surfaces," Swarbrick said. "None of that is addressed in this at this moment. We're more focused on the use concepts. Will we build a stadium where we can communicate more effectively with fans as we do this renovation? Sure. Absolutely. What form that takes ... Is our focus broadband? You all will be bringing devices into the stadium that you want us to serve, what role does broadband play?"

What role does video play? How do these things fit together? That's all ahead of us here. We've made no decisions."

Swarbrick did say he believes the Shamrock Series games have converted many of those fans who were initially opposed to putting a videoboard inside the historic stadium. Those fans, Swarbrick said, now realize the boards are about endorsing Notre Dame and telling its story as opposed to pursuing commercial interests.

Football success and its NFL implications

In the days after Notre Dame's loss to Alabama in the BCS National Championship Game, reports surfaced and rumors swirled about the possibility of Irish head coach Brian Kelly jumping ship to the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles. Throughout the whole process, however, Swarbrick said he was entirely comfortable with the communication between the involved parties and confident Kelly would return to Notre Dame.

"It worked very much the way I would have wanted it to," Swarbrick said. "Really good communication between Brian and I. Good communication between the Eagles and I, both of which you would hope happen and did in this case."

"So I was very comfortable with the process and I know it caused some of our fans and supporters discomfort, but I not only had confidence in the outcome, but I think your most committed employees are the employees who know they have the freedom to explore other opportunities. It's not limited to coaches. It's true of everyone. So throughout I was very comfortable with how it was handled."

Conference affiliation and scheduling

see SWABRICK PAGE 11



Observer File Photo

Irish sophomore quarterback Everett Golson fires downfield during Notre Dame's 20-13 overtime victory over Stanford on Oct. 13 at Notre Dame Stadium.

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the game," Irish senior linebacker Manti Te'o said afterward. "The first two minutes of the game, the last two minutes in the second quarter, the first two minutes of the third quarter and the last two minutes of the game, and obviously the first two minutes of the game didn't pan out the way we thought it would go."

Notre Dame fell behind 35-0 and only got within four touchdowns after senior running back Theo Riddick's 6-yard touchdown snag with 7:51 left in the fourth quarter.

"We've got to get physically stronger, continue to close the gap there, and just overall you need to see what it looks like," Kelly said. "Our guys clearly know what it looks like. When I say, 'know what it looks like,' a championship football team. They're back-to-back national champs. So that's what it looks like. Measure yourself against that, and I think it was pretty clear across the board what we have to do."

Notre Dame began its best season in 25 years (when the 1988 Irish won the national championship) in unfamiliar territory — Ireland. The Irish returned to the Emerald Isle for the first time since 1996 and dominated Navy on their way to a 50-10 win.

Te'o notched eight tackles and his first career fumble recovery and interception. He would end the season with 113 tackles and seven interceptions as the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy.

Sophomore quarterback Everett Golson earned his first start in an Irish uniform and completed 12 of 18 passes for 144 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

The Irish running game rumbled for 293 yards on the ground despite the absence of senior running back Cierre Wood, who, along with junior quarterback Tommy Rees and junior defensive end Justin Utupo, was suspended for the opener.

Rees returned in a big way the next game, in a 20-17 victory over Purdue on Sept. 8. Golson's fumble with less than four minutes left led to a Purdue game-tying touchdown.

After Golson sustained a wrist

injury, Rees stepped in to lead the Irish on the game-winning 55-yard drive. Sophomore kicker Kyle Brindza nailed a 27-yard field goal with seven seconds remaining to secure the win over the Boilermakers (6-7).

The Purdue touchdown in the final minutes would be the only offensive touchdown the Irish defense would allow in the next 40-plus days, a stretch spanning four games.

The Irish earned a 20-3 win at Michigan State on Sept. 15, marking the first time in a decade Notre Dame started 3-0. The win over the Spartans (7-6) was the first win over a top-10 opponent since 2005.

Te'o led the Irish on defense with 12 tackles and a fumble recovery after a week in which he was believed to lose both his girlfriend and his grandmother. A week later, in a 13-6 win over Michigan at Notre Dame, students donned leis to support Te'o. He responded with eight tackles and two interceptions in Notre Dame's first win over Michigan (8-5) in three years.

"I mean, it all revolves around him, his personality, his strength," Kelly said. "He's a special guy. Take advantage of him while you've got him now, because I've never been around a kid like that."

The Irish defense totalled six takeaways and stifled Wolverines senior quarterback Denard Robinson, making up for two years of torment by the Michigan signal caller. Rees relieved Golson again and provided the only touchdown of the contest with a 2-yard dive in the second quarter.

After a 41-3 domination of Miami (7-5) at Soldier Field in Chicago on Oct. 6, the Irish returned to South Bend to take on Stanford and for the first time since 2005, "College GameDay" was on campus.

Notre Dame held on to a 20-13 overtime win in the rain after stuffing Stanford senior running back Stepfan Taylor four consecutive times inside the 5-yard line.

"It comes to fruition in the way the game ended and our team coming up with a great goal-line stand," Kelly said. "Classic."

Rees replaced Golson, who suffered a concussion on a hit in the fourth quarter, again and

tossed the game-winning score in overtime, hitting junior receiver TJ Jones on a 7-yard slant.

The Irish held the Cardinal (12-2) to 272 total yards on their way to a 6-0 start.

"It's great anytime you can get a win," Rees said. "The atmosphere was great tonight. The students did a great job. The defense obviously played really, really well again, and it feels good to get the win."

After dispatching BYU (8-5) the next week with a tough 17-14 Golson-less victory in which Riddick ran for a career-high 143 yards, the Irish were set for a date at Oklahoma. The Sooners had only lost in Norman, Okla., four times under coach Bob Stoops.

The Irish broke open a 13-13 game late in the fourth quarter to run away from Oklahoma (10-3), scoring 17 points in less than four minutes. Te'o put on another fine performance, tallying 11 tackles, a sack and an interception, and the Irish defense clamped down despite giving up the first rushing touchdown of the season.

The Irish survived a triple-overtime threat from Pittsburgh the next week before easily toppling Boston College and Wake Forest. Notre Dame was ranked No. 1 in the country and all that stood between them and a national title game berth was USC.

Brindza hit five of six field goals to lead the Irish past the Trojans, 22-13, and onto Miami. USC senior quarterback Matt Barkley was sidelined with a shoulder injury, which pushed redshirt freshman Max Wittek into the starting role and into the spotlight.

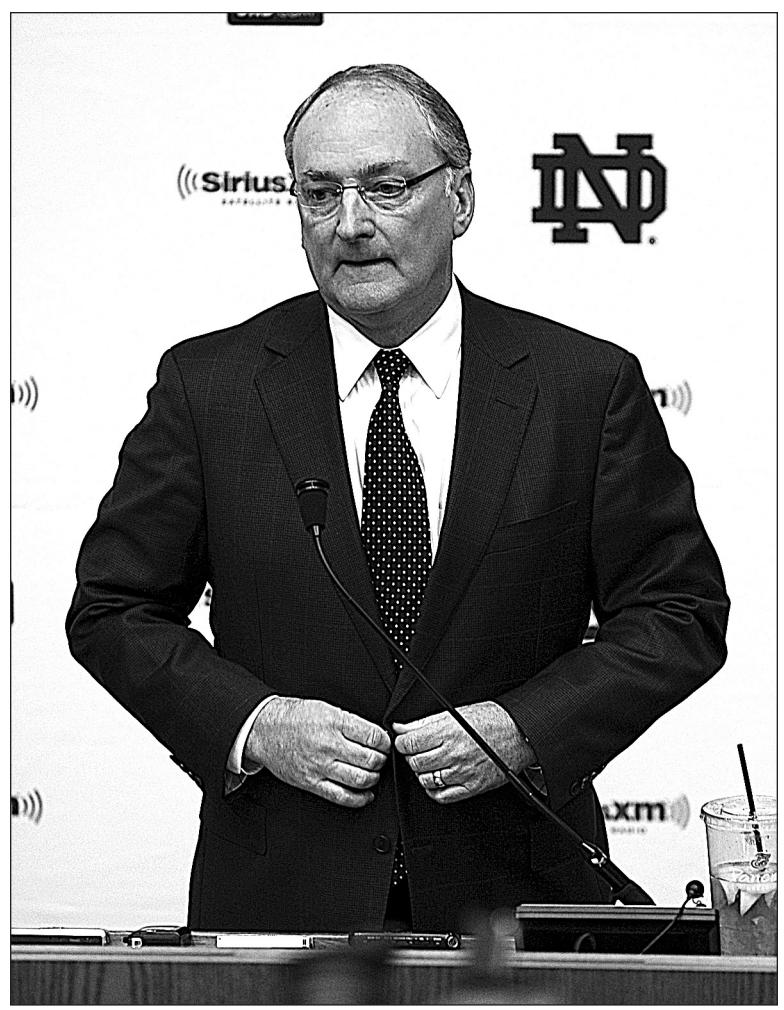
The Irish made life difficult for Wittek, yielding only 186 passing yards while snagging two interceptions. Riddick paced the Irish offense with 146 rushing yards and a score.

"We've brought a lot of pride back to Notre Dame," Te'o said. "I'm grateful to be a part of it."

"We're the best team. We're No. 1."

In 2013, the Irish return eight starters on defense and, for the first time in the Kelly era, will have the same starter at quarterback for consecutive seasons. The Irish open the 2013 season against Temple on Aug. 31.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu



Notre Dame Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick speaks to the media at a Jan. 16 press conference in the Isban Auditorium.

Skylar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

my middle school days. And it's just a great feeling, to be from here and to see the support, knowing people are in your corner and want you to win."

McGraw said the backing from local fans was palpable.

"I think people like the home talent. They appreciate that kids stay close to home," McGraw said. "When we went to Indianapolis for the Final Four [in 2011] we got a huge crowd. The entire state was cheering for us. So, I think it's a bonus to have a player like that stay close to home and help us grow our fan base and create more interest in the women's game."

It was during that NCAA tournament in 2011 that Diggins, then a sophomore, began to attract attention outside of Michiana.

"Probably my biggest moment [from Diggins' career] was when we beat Tennessee in the Elite Eight and made our first Final Four since 2001," Ivey said. "It was a monumental stage for us. It was the first time beating Tennessee, first time beating [then-Tennessee coach] Pat Summitt at the head of the program. That was the year Skylar became a household name."

Senior Leader

The inscription on the statue of former Irish football coach Dan Devine reads: "Leave the field a better player. Leave

Notre Dame a better person."

According to coaches and teammates, Diggins is taking that motto a step further, leaving the program itself stronger at her departure.

"I try not to think of it," Ivey said when asked what the team would be like if Diggins had not come to Notre Dame. "I knew that that piece of the puzzle for us was basically program-changing. She draws so much attention, even from other recruits.

"Recruits want to come here because they could be a part of this with her. Like anyone who looks up to LeBron, they want to go play for the Heat. That's what she brings for us."

Diggins has also been instrumental in the development of the players who will try to take her place after she graduates.

"She's always a competitor, and it helps a lot," freshman guard Jewell Loyd said after being named national freshman of the year April 4. "She makes everyone around her better, and that's something I always want to have in my handbook to do as well."

Diggins is as effusive in praise of her teammates as they are of her.

"I'm so proud of Jewell," Diggins said. "She's somebody that I really tried to take under my wing, and just, her growth this year has been so amazing, and she's done so much for our team and for our program. I know next year that I can kind of pass the baton to her and [juniors] Kayla McBride and

Natalie Achonwa and this team is going to be okay for years to come because of her."

Loyd says teammates will remember Diggins as a teammate, not as a celebrity or iconic player.

"At my second workout or something me and her were in the gym and she was like, 'Want to work on your ball handling?' I was like, 'Sure, I've got nothing better to do,'" Loyd said. "We worked out and joked around and listened to music, and that's how we really started our bond. And that's something that I'll cherish forever, because not a lot of upperclassmen will embrace the freshmen, but she definitely does."

Shocking Developments

Diggins had hardly any downtime after her playing career ended. On April 15, just more than a week after her final game, the Tulsa Shock selected her with the No. 3 overall pick in the WNBA Draft.

Diggins made her professional debut in a 72-58 exhibition loss to the Atlanta Dream on May 9 and scored nine points and collected three assists to go along with an elbow to the mouth.

And though she has gained five stitches, 50,000-odd Twitter followers and has changed teams, the message remains.

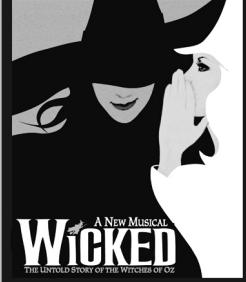
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Contact Vicky Jacobsen at
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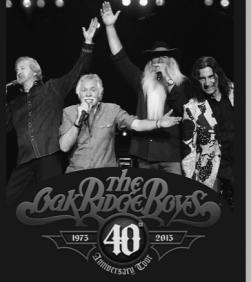
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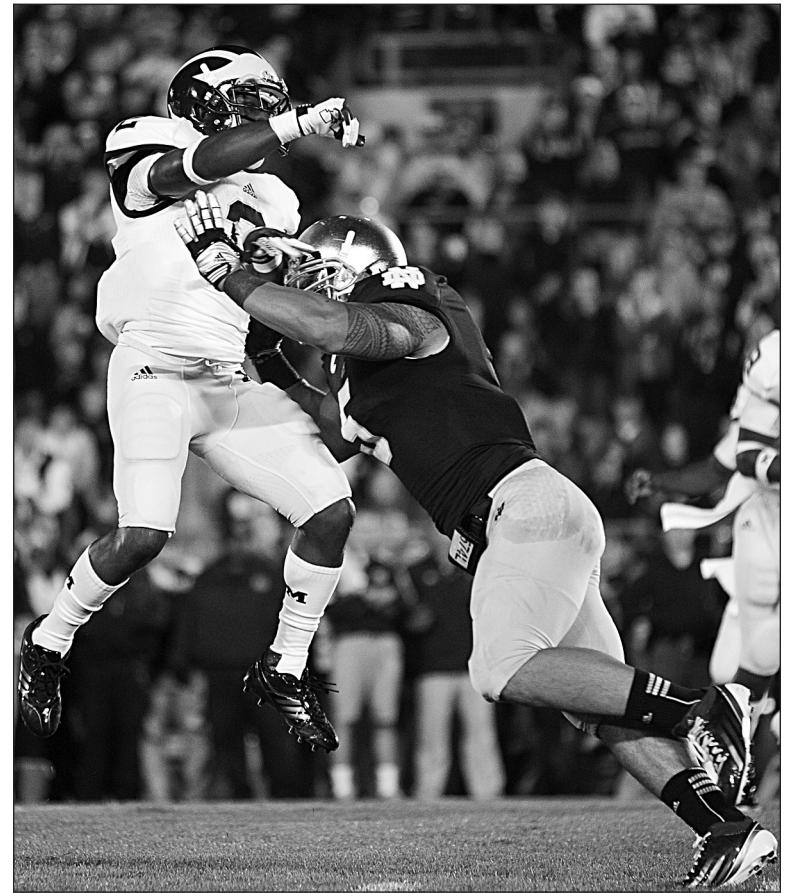
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Observer File Photo

Former Irish linebacker Manti Te'o pressures Michigan running back Vincent Smith in Notre Dame's 13-6 win on Sept. 22.

Manti

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When Te'o's faith led him to commit to Notre Dame in the winter of 2009, he swapped sandcastles for snow shovels and left the only home he had ever known for northern Indiana. He said the transition tested his resolve.

"I was homesick and I really missed my family," Te'o said. "Freshman year I definitely couldn't have called this place home. It was totally different."

He said he eventually embraced Notre Dame and decided to make the most of his collegiate experience.

"I could call this place home [sophomore year]," he said. "This year solidified the feeling of this place being my home and I'm definitely going to miss it."

His father, Brian Te'o, noticed the change during Christmas break of Manti's sophomore year in Hawaii.

"He came up to my wife (Ottilia) and I, and said, 'I have to get ready to go back home,' and my wife and I are saying to each other, 'You are home,'" Brian said. "That's when he started to feel like Notre Dame was home. It was a place of comfort and Notre Dame has become physically, spiritually and emotionally, his home."

When Manti was placed in Dillon Hall leading up to his freshman year at Notre Dame, he relished the opportunity to meet new people, regardless of whether they were scholarship athletes or not.

"It was like having a normal roommate, except that he was a football player," said Long Tran, Manti's roommate for freshman and sophomore years. "He took his religion very seriously. I thought a football player would be partying [all the time], but he didn't do that."

"He helped me out a lot with

real-life stuff. I was shy my freshman year, but he introduced me to all his friends. ... He would pick me up when I was down ... and had a very positive impact on my college career."

Manti said it was never an obligation or an extra effort to befriend non-athletes. It's simply who he is.

"I love to make friends," he said. "I love to include people. I don't like people to feel excluded from anything and I have some friends that are still in Dillon who are seniors."

Fr. Paul Doyle, Dillon Hall rector and football team chaplain, said in both roles he witnessed Manti making a difference in people's lives.

"He doesn't even realize what an impact he had," Doyle said. "I know he helped some people make good choices who might've been inclined to be doing things they shouldn't be doing, but Manti was in the midst and they didn't go that way and they're better for it."

Doyle recalled a moment in the locker room after Notre Dame's overtime victory over Stanford in October that exemplified the senior captain's grace and humility.

"We come in after the game and the players are hugging each other," Doyle said. "Manti's over there doing that too, and then he breaks away from the pack and thanks [University President Fr. John Jenkins] for letting him come to school here and gives [Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick] a big hug. That kind of presence is noteworthy."

Before Manti made the decision to return for his senior season, Brian researched the possibility of Manti declaring for the NFL Draft. When presented with the information, Manti asked his father for advice.

"At his age I was a dad with two kids, so I would've gone [to the NFL]," Brian said. "But I

see MANTI PAGE 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish return to Final Four, fall to UConn

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

The third time did not prove to be a charm for No. 2 Notre Dame.

Despite losing three starters from a 2011-2012 squad that fell to undefeated Baylor in the national championship game, the 2012-2013 Irish (35-2, 16-0 Big East) put together one of the most successful seasons in program history, rattling off a 30-game win streak, earning a No. 1 seed and booking their third consecutive trip to the Final Four.

In the end, however, Notre Dame came up empty-handed yet again, as the Irish lost to fellow No. 1 seed and eventual national champion Connecticut, 83-65, in the national semifinals in New Orleans.

Despite the disappointing ending, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she was proud of the way her team defied expectations throughout the season.

"Nobody expected us to be in the Final Four," she said. "We graduated three starters and thought we were rebuilding, but I think the core of the team, the veterans — [junior forward] Natalie Achonwa, [junior guard] Kayla McBride and [senior guard] Skylar Diggins — really stepped up and had great seasons."

Notre Dame entered the season charged with the task of replacing guards Natalie Novosel and Brittany Mallory and forward Devereaux Peters from a team that finished as the national championship runner-up. And although the Irish entered the season coming off two consecutive title game appearances, only three of the Big East's 16 head coaches predicted Notre Dame to win the conference title in a pre-season poll.

But Notre Dame found a number of different contributors to help fill the scoring and rebounding void left by the trio of departed seniors.

Freshman guard Jewell Loyd stepped into the starting lineup almost immediately and took an active role in Notre Dame's offense, finishing the season averaging 12.5 points and 5.2 rebounds per game. Loyd was named the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) National Freshman of the Year, as well as the Big East Freshman of the Year.

"I thought she would contribute, but I didn't expect her to come

along this quickly," McGraw said of Loyd. "I don't think you ever expect a freshman to play so well so early in the season."

After playing a reserve role the past two seasons, Achonwa became Notre Dame's main threat in the paint. The 6-foot-3 forward, who played for the Canadian national team in the 2012 Summer Olympics, averaged 13.8 points and 9.5 rebounds per game and recorded a school-record 19 double-doubles on the season.

[Achonwa] came in with a lot of confidence having played on the Canadian Olympic team, which really helped her," McGraw said. "She gained some confidence and aggressiveness and was assertive on offense. She did so many great things that we needed, and we expect great things from her next year."

McBride was no stranger to the starting lineup, but she nonetheless took on an increased role in the offense and improved her scoring numbers. McBride finished second on the team with an average of 15.9 points per game and earned third-team All-America honors.

[McBride] had a phenomenal season to get to be an All-American," McGraw said. "She wasn't even on the All-Big East preseason team. She made so many big shots for us this year."

From the start of the season, most of the attention around the team was focused on Diggins, who entered the season as one of the most accomplished players in Notre Dame history. Diggins capped off her final season in an Irish uniform by averaging 17.1 points, 6.1 assists and 3.1 steals per game.

Diggins was a unanimous first-team All-America selection and received the Big East Player of the Year award for the second straight season. Diggins became Notre Dame's all-time leading scorer, breaking the record previously held by Irish assistant coach Beth Cunningham, and also became the program's all-time leader in steals, games started and minutes played.

"She's the best player to ever play here," McGraw said of Diggins. "I think without question the contribution that she made was amazing, and it exceeded expectations. I think she was able to accomplish what no one was able to do before her and a lot of the records she set will remain."

and his family, he went deeper and made a decision that was much more fulfilling: to complete his goal and get a degree from Notre Dame."

Brian said Manti, a design major, has fully immersed himself in his academic and athletic crafts this year in ways he hadn't always before.

Manti said the realization of impending graduation and a farewell to Notre Dame has



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish freshman guard Jewell Loyd drives against a Connecticut defender in Notre Dame's 83-65 loss to the Huskies in the Final Four on April 7. Loyd was named the USBWA National Freshman of the Year in April.

Notre Dame's players weren't the only ones earning accolades, as McGraw took home both the Associated Press National Coach of the Year award and the USWBA National Coach of the Year award.

The Irish began their season in the most unusual of locations — aboard the USS Yorktown in Charleston, S.C. There, they defeated then-No. 19 Ohio State, 57-51, on a cold, windy playing surface. Notre Dame would go on to win its first five games, including a road victory over then-No. 19 UCLA on Nov. 23, 2012.

Notre Dame's first stumble came against then-No. 3 Baylor at Purcell Pavilion on Dec. 5, as the Irish fell to the Bears, 73-61.

The Irish wouldn't lose again until April, as the team went on a 30-game win streak that included three victories over Connecticut (35-4, 14-2). The Irish held on to top the Huskies, 73-72, on Jan. 5 and gutted out a gritty 96-87 three-overtime victory when the teams met again March 4.

As the series shifted to Hartford, Conn., for the Big East tournament, the Irish continued their success against the Huskies, beating Connecticut, 61-59, in a tightly contested tournament championship game. With the victory, Notre Dame earned its first Big East postseason title in program history.

"We won 30 games in a row, which is a record that even our [2000-2001 national] championship team couldn't accomplish," McGraw said. "[It was great] to beat Connecticut three times

and win the Big East tournament. We've never won the Big East tournament before, so that was a moment we really treasured."

Although Notre Dame went undefeated in Big East play, the Irish faced their share of scares from conference opponents. The team pulled out a narrow 75-71 overtime victory over South Florida on Jan. 8 and battled to the final whistle in close wins over Villanova and Syracuse.

McGraw said her team's mental strength allowed it to get past many challenges over the course of the season.

"Mental toughness comes from everybody," McGraw said. "I think the whole team had tremendous mental toughness, and you certainly need that throughout the season, to put away your feelings and play another overtime."

Entering the NCAA tournament as the No. 2 ranked team in the country, the Irish survived early challenges from No. 16 seed Tennessee-Martin, No. 9 seed Iowa and No. 12 seed Kansas relatively unscathed.

Notre Dame's matchup against No. 2 seed Duke in the Elite Eight was a little more difficult, as the Blue Devils took a 37-31 lead into halftime. But Notre Dame battled back, going on a 15-2 run early in the second half to take the lead and punch its ticket to New Orleans with an 87-76 win.

In New Orleans, the Irish faced the Huskies once again, but this time they were not able to replicate their regular season success. Notre Dame went cold on offense,

shooting less than 30 percent from the field, and had no answer for Connecticut's star freshman forward Breanna Stewart, who finished with 29 points.

"[The worst part of the season] was just losing to Connecticut," McGraw said. "It was incredibly disappointing to have to lose that one after having beaten them three times."

Next season, the Irish will be without Diggins, who was selected by the Tulsa Shock with the third overall pick in last month's WNBA Draft. But McGraw said she thinks Diggins' legacy will be reflected in the team's returning players.

"I think [we can be successful] because [Diggins] left us an attitude," McGraw said. "She taught us how to have a little bit of swagger in our step, and I hope that's something we learned and will carry on in the future."

McGraw said the results of the past season solidified Notre Dame's status as an elite program but added that the program still has not reached its ultimate goal.

"I think for us to look back and go to three Final Fours in a row is an accomplishment that not many programs in the country have ever done," she said. "I think we'll look at the moment of three [Final Fours] in a row and the great win streak."

"But our goal is still the national championship and until we get that, we won't be satisfied."

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

Manti

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

looked him in the eye and said, 'Son, you are not me, and you are not in my position. You're a young man with your whole future ahead of you.'

"He looked at me and said, 'Dad, I want to stay. I want to experience my last year at Notre Dame.' Given the presentation of a secure future for himself

helped motivate him.

"I try to embrace everything, experience everything and not count my days and try to make my days count and live every day like it's my last," he said. "I think, as a young guy, you don't understand that because you see you have four years and you think it's such a long time and I can postpone things and lounge around."

"When you know you have

less than two months left, it puts a fire under your butt to stay involved and try to experience as much as you can because it's going to be over."

Irish coach Brian Kelly said Manti's example permeates the program as young players watch the star's every move.

"I think it's important Manti understood [the importance of education]," he said. "Hopefully he can be the guy that says,

'Look, you can be a great player. You can still lead your team and have a degree, and have a degree from a place like Notre Dame. ... I think it's a great case in point of a guy that understands and recognizes the value of a life versus a career.'

"His life is set up because he's got a degree from Notre Dame."

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

HOCKEY

In final CCHA season, ND claims conference crown

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times and then it got better for Notre Dame.

Or as Irish coach Jeff Jackson said, Notre Dame (25-13-3, 17-8-3 CCHA) saw the entire spectrum of winning and losing.

"It was a tale of three seasons," Jackson said. "We had a great first half, a tough middle coming back from winter break and a great finish. Of course it was a disappointing way to go out before we reached the Frozen Four again, but it was great to win the CCHA. I think we played our best hockey of the season going into the NCAA tournament. So it was nice to finish up stronger."

Notre Dame began the season 14-4 and went into winter break as

the No. 3 team in the country. After the break, the Irish went 2-6 in January. Jackson said the strength and leadership of the senior class held the team together through the times of adversity, both during the trying January stretch and through the four years overall.

"[The seniors] all had different stories," Jackson said. "A few guys left for pro hockey, but they all in their own way found a way to overcome adversity over their four years here. [Defenseman Sam] Calabrese broke his leg freshman year and then came back. [Goalie Mike] Johnson lost his starting position after leading a team to the Frozen Four [as a sophomore]. [Right wing Kevin] Nugent was in and out of the lineup. They overcame their adversity and stayed positive. They all helped lead our team. Two of them weren't in the

lineup every night, but they made sure everyone was doing the right thing at all times."

Nugent was the one who put a stop to the five-game losing streak Jan. 26 and sparked the Irish to a 5-2 win over Ferris State. With the game locked at 2-2, Nugent threw a wrist shot on net at the end of a shift and broke the tie. The eventual game-winning goal was Nugent's first career goal in 64 games and it reversed Notre Dame's January slide at the time.

"To be honest at the time, I was just happy to get that goal," Nugent said. "We were in a bad place at that point in the season and I was just happy because it was a good boost. Looking back, I would be a little disappointed if I didn't score my whole college career."

Notre Dame surged in the remainder of the regular season,

going 5-2-3 down the stretch. Then in March the Irish won the last ever CCHA tournament. Notre Dame defeated Bowling Green twice, Ohio State and then Michigan in the championship matchup at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. It was the fifth time the Irish defeated the Wolverines in the 2012-13 season and capped off a season sweep. The seniors said it was an incredible experience.

Senior defenseman Sam Calabrese said the CCHA championship win was a special time for the team.

"Beating Michigan at Joe Louis, for the fifth time, is something I will always remember," Calabrese said. "To go out on top of the CCHA, it is a great way to go out and see the ND banner hanging up in Joe Louis."

Junior captain and All-American center Anders Lee said the best

part of winning the CCHA title was sharing it with his teammates.

"I was happy to be able to win the conference and be together as a team to celebrate the joys of winning," Anders said.

With the victory over the Wolverines, the Irish entered the NCAA tournament but lost 5-1 in the first round to St. Cloud State.

"We ran into a really good St. Cloud team," Calabrese said. "I don't think we played our best game of the season, but it was a good ride."

Lee said that although the Irish fell short there were many positives in the season.

"We have a caliber team that is capable of and wanted to compete for a national championship," Lee said. "It was a disappointment that we fell a little short, but we won the CCHA and took down a lot of top-ranked teams this season."

Nugent credited the team's success to the camaraderie and closeness of this season's group of athletes.

"Overall, we bonded more as a team more than any of the other four years I was here," Nugent said. "This translated to our success and unfortunately we lost in the NCAA playoffs, ... I've been lucky to get to know these guys so well."

Calabrese said his teammates and future Irish hockey players should embrace the moments like the CCHA championship and the NCAA tournament.

"Enjoy the moment," Calabrese said. "You don't really think of yourself as a senior and you expect to get back, but embrace those championship moments — conference finals and NCAA tournament — because you never know if you will be back. So, enjoy your time at Notre Dame and as a Notre Dame student athlete."

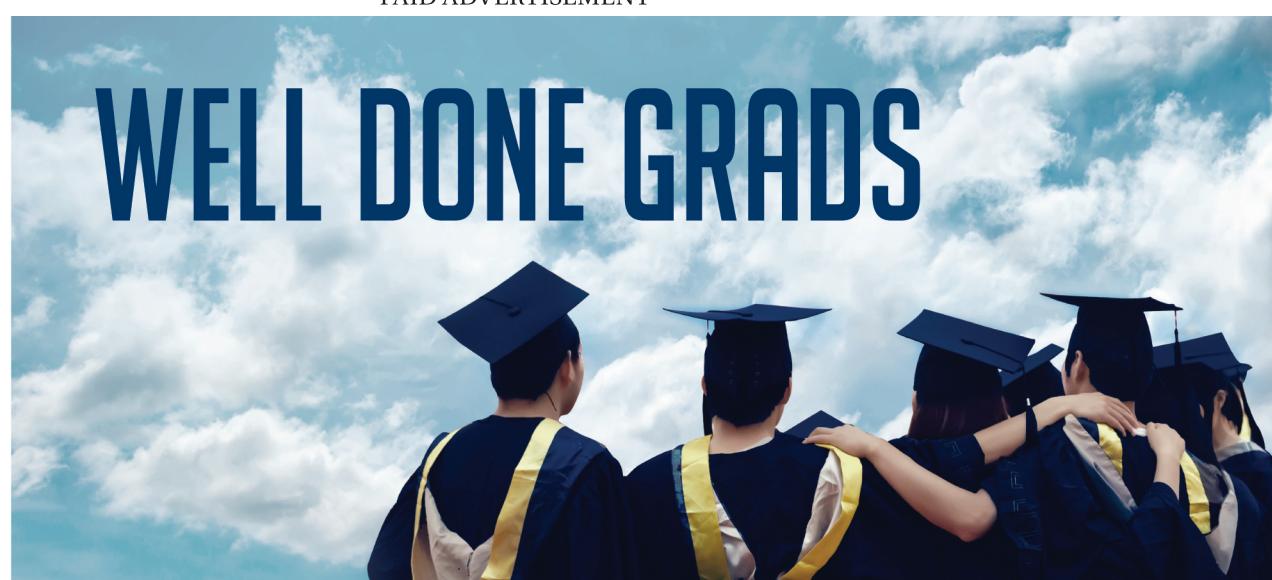
After the season, the Irish named Lee — who went on to help the New York Islanders make a playoff run in the NHL — the Notre Dame Monogram Club MVP. The Irish coaching staff awarded Johnson the Charles "Lefty" Smith Coaches honor as the unsung hero of the team. Sophomore right wing Peter Schneider was awarded the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley's Rockne Student-Athlete Award as the player with the top grade-point average on the team, and sophomore defenseman Robbie Russo earned the William Donald Nyrop defensive player of the year.

Looking back on the season and his career, Calabrese said the team is a family, which made for an incredible four years.

"These were special times," Calabrese said. "It's a family here. Being with these guys for four straight years, you learn so much about them. They are there for you and they celebrate with you the joys of being a student athlete. I still keep in touch with the seniors and juniors from my freshman year and I know I will keep in touch with these guys too."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Solid regular season marred by early tourney exit

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

For the seventh straight season, the Irish reached the 20-win mark. For the fourth straight season, the Irish reached the 10-win mark in Big East play. But for the third time in four years, Notre Dame failed to reach the second round of the NCAA tournament.

The Irish (25-10, 11-7 Big East) put together a 23-8 regular season, reached the semifinals of the Big East tournament and earned a No. 7 seed in the NCAA tournament. But Notre Dame fell to No. 10 seed Iowa State, 76-58, on March 22, and extended its Sweet 16 drought to 10 years.

"I really would think it's the next step for our program," Irish coach Mike Brey said after losing to the Cyclones. "We've been so consistent in the regular season, and we haven't been able to do much here. That's what keeps me up at night and keeps me trying to figure out how we can be better at it. That's what's very extremely disappointing about tonight. Go back to the drawing board and try and figure it out."

Against Iowa State, the Irish shot just 4-for-17 from 3-point range, while the Cyclones drilled nine of 21 trifectas en route to the victory. Notre Dame got down early after committing 14 first-half turnovers, and Iowa State led 35-23 at the intermission.

"Off those turnovers, they were able to run and get easy points," Irish senior forward Tom Knight said after the game. "We were trying to limit that, but with 14 in the first half, it's really hard to stop them from scoring easy points when you

have that many turnovers."

Irish junior guard Jerian Grant, who committed a team-high five turnovers, said the ball-control issues were uncharacteristic, and the loss was especially disheartening.

"You know, it hurts. All season, it felt like we had a team this year that could make a deep run in March, and I really believed that," Grant said after the game. "I just feel like we picked the worst day to have our worst game. All through the year, I felt like we turned the ball over less than 10 times a game. To do it 14 times in the first half is something that's hard to come back from. It's something we don't normally do, is turn the ball over, and that really hurts."

Throughout the season, the Irish were not a team prone to coughing up the ball. Heading into the Iowa State game, Notre Dame was tied for 24th nationally in fewest turnovers per game at 11.1. The Irish, behind the typically stellar backcourt play of Grant and fellow junior guard Eric Atkins, ranked second nationally in assist-to-turnover ratio at 1.54 and sixth in assists per game at 17 per contest.

Grant, who was named to the All-Big East second team, led the Irish in scoring (13.3 points per game) and assists (5.5 per game) while averaging over 36 minutes a night. Atkins, meanwhile, spearheaded the offensive attack and finished with one less assist than Grant over the course of the entire season while averaging 11.2 points per game.

While the junior duo controlled perimeter play, Irish senior forward Jack Cooley picked



Irish senior forward Jack Cooley pulls up a contested jump shot over a Villanova defender in Notre Dame's 65-60 home victory over the Wildcats at Purcell Pavilion on Jan. 30.

up right where he left off after a breakout junior campaign. The 6-foot-9, 246-pound workhorse racked up 19 double-doubles and earned a spot on the All-Big East first team while averaging 13.1 points and 10.1 rebounds for the season. Cooley was the only player in the conference to average double figures in both scoring and rebounding.

After being named to the all-league team, Cooley said he thinks opposing coaches were particularly impressed with his tenacity and relentlessness.

"Every coach comes up to me after every game and tells me they appreciate how hard I play," Cooley said. "It means a lot to just have it come true and this award. It means so much."

Cooley and the Irish broke out to a 12-1 record against the nonconference portion of its schedule. A 64-50 victory over then-No. 8 Kentucky, the defending national champions, highlighted the opening stretch for Notre Dame. Powered by Grant and Atkins in the backcourt, the Irish thoroughly outplayed the Wildcats in the first half and opened up a 36-25 advantage at the half. For the game, Notre Dame limited Kentucky to 40 percent shooting from the field.

"I'm really proud of our group," Brey said afterward. "We really prepared like an experienced team the past two days. I thought we played like an experienced group, defended excellently for 40 minutes and got into our offensive rhythm when we really needed to. Our guards were fabulous, controlling the tempo of things. But [it's] something for us to build on."

The Irish vaulted off the victory over the Wildcats with seven more wins, which took them into Big East play. But after winning its first two league tilts, Notre Dame dropped three of four conference matchups, a

stretch culminating in a 63-47 loss to Georgetown at Purcell Pavilion on Jan. 21.

Irish graduate student forward Scott Martin was limited to 18 minutes against the Hoyas, and Brey said after the game that Martin's knee was clearly bothering him. Martin, who battled multiple knee injuries throughout his career at both Purdue and Notre Dame, would not play again. On Feb. 28, Brey announced the Irish were shutting down Martin for the remainder of the season.

But the Irish responded as a reinvented team. Knight was inserted into the starting lineup alongside Cooley, and the Irish morphed into a bruising, defensive squad at times. Without Martin, the Irish ripped off seven wins in nine games during late Jan. and Feb. One of those wins came against eventual national champion Louisville on Feb. 9 in arguably the greatest college basketball game of the season.

The Irish trailed by eight points with 44 seconds remaining in regulation, at which point Grant scored 12 points in 23 seconds to erase the deficit, tie the game at 60 and force overtime.

It certainly wouldn't be the only time the game advanced to an extra period. Notre Dame and Louisville battled through five overtimes as Saturday turned to Sunday at Purcell Pavilion. The Irish took the lead for good when Atkins scored a layup with 1:20 remaining in the fifth overtime, holding on for the thrilling 104-101 victory.

"Where do you want me to start?" Brey asked after the marathon. "Because I don't know where to start. Unbelievable. I'm really proud of my team because many times we were down and in the overtime and kept fighting back. Everybody was part of it tonight. It's one of those magical nights in our building. They were really good, hard to score

on. I can't even remember all of the big plays different guys made to get us to where we're at with a win like that. We've had a lot of good wins in this building but I can't remember one more thrilling or dramatic with different twists and turns."

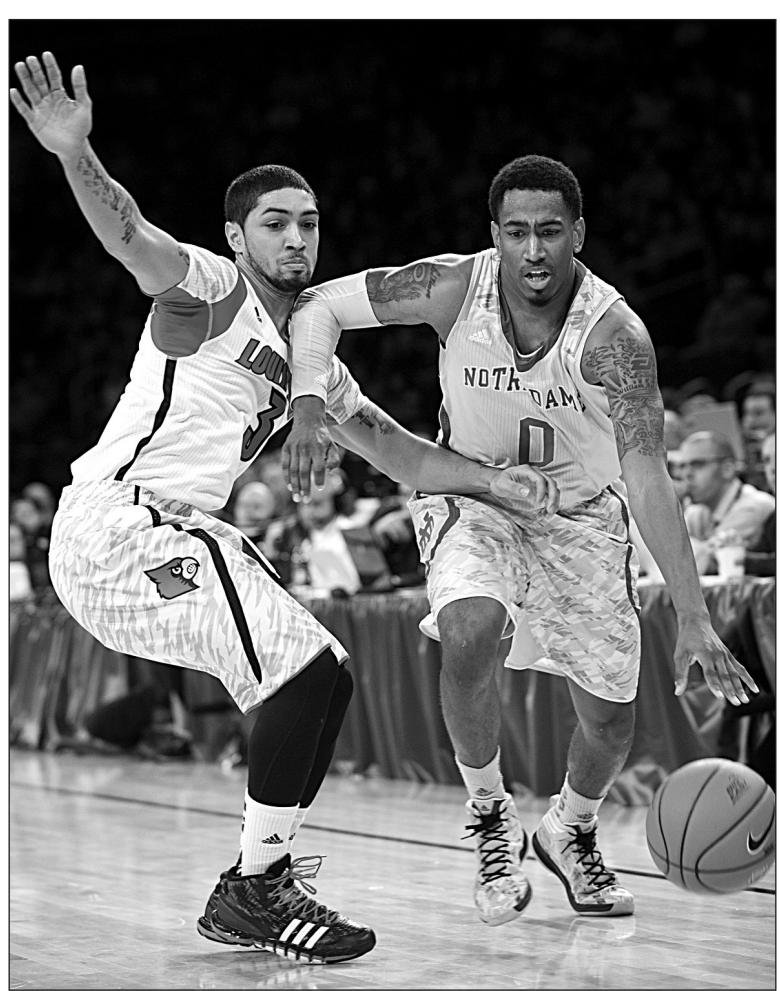
The Irish would meet the Cardinals twice more before the season's end, but Louisville got revenge on both occasions. In the second of the two meetings, the Cardinals knocked Notre Dame out of the Big East tournament in the semifinals for the third consecutive year. The Irish will head to the ACC next season having never reached Saturday night's championship game at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

"I'm very disappointed we could never get to Saturday," Brey said after the 69-57 semifinal loss. "I guess I got to say can we get to Sunday afternoon now in the new league or whatever. But I'm thrilled that we played in the semis in such a magical night here."

Following the Big East tournament, the Irish received a No. 7 seed in the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive year. Yet again, however, Notre Dame couldn't advance past the opening round, much less the opening weekend.

"Now we've got to maneuver a new league next year," Brey said after falling in the first round. "We've got to come out of a new league. But that's like the unfinished business for this program. It's really well respected nationally. It had a great identity in the Big East. It will be interesting to see what it is in the ACC. We even got to the semis of the Big East [tournament] four years in a row."

"But this is a hump we can't get over yet. But we'll keep trying to figure it out."



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Eric Atkins blows past Louisville senior guard Peyton Siva in a 69-57 loss to the Cardinals on March 15 in N.Y.

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NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

2012-2013: A YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Sept. 8: Women's soccer junior midfielder Mandy Laddish and freshman forward Cari Roccaro help the United States win the U-20 FIFA World Cup.

Sept. 12: Notre Dame agrees to join the Atlantic Coast Conference after 18 years in the Big East.

Sept. 14: Men's and women's cross-country teams both win the National Catholic championships at Burke Golf Course.

Sept. 23: Volleyball beats No. 10 Louisville. It was the first time the Irish beat a top-10 team since 2009.

Oct. 13: With ESPN's "College Game-day" on campus for the first time since 2005, football beats Stanford, 20-13, on a goal-line stand in overtime.

Nov. 11-12: Men's soccer wins the Big East Tournament and earns the top-seed for the NCAA tournament.

Nov. 18: Football reaches the No. 1 ranking in the BCS standings for the first time in program history.

Nov. 23: Women's soccer loses to Florida State, 1-0, in Elite Eight.

Nov. 2: Football tops USC to clinch its first undefeated regular season since 1988.

Nov. 25: Men's soccer loses to Indiana in third round of the NCAA tournament.

Dec. 8: Senior linebacker Manti Te'o finishes second in voting for the Heisman Trophy, receiving more votes than any defensive player in college football history. Forward Ryan Finley and midfielder Dillon Powers earn NCAA first-team All-American honors.

Jan. 7: Football loses to Alabama, 42-14, in the BCS National Championship game.

Jan. 13-17: Four Notre Dame soccer players drafted in the MLS. Forward Ryan Finley taken ninth overall by the Columbus Crew and midfielder Dillon Powers taken 11th overall by the Colorado Rapids in the MLS Superdraft. Midfielders Michael Rose and Adam Mena drafted by Vancouver Whitecaps in the supplementary draft.

Jan. 15: Cari Roccaro named Soccer America's Freshman of the Year.

Feb. 9: Men's basketball outlasts eventual national champion Louisville, winning 104-101 in five overtimes.

Feb. 17: Hockey defeats Miami (Ohio), 2-1, in the OfficeMax Hockey City Classic at Soldier Field in Chicago. Women's track and field win Big East Indoor Championship; men's track and field finishes second.

Feb. 27: Irish win the Big East championship in men's swimming.

March 12: Women's basketball beats Connecticut on a last-second layup to win its first Big East tournament championship.

March 22: Men's basketball loses to Iowa State, 76-58, in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

March 23: Swimmer Emma Reaney finishes in the top five for 200-yard breaststroke and 100-yard breaststroke at the NCAA championships.

March 24: Hockey beats Michigan, 3-1, to win the CCHA championship in the final game in conference history.

March 25: Fencing finishes second at the NCAA championships. Freshman Lee Kiefer wins the women's foil individual championship, while senior Courtney Hurley takes the women's epee individual crown. Men's lacrosse achieves a No. 1 ranking for the second time in program history.

March 30: Hockey falls 5-1 to Saint Cloud State in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional.

March 31: Women's basketball senior guard Skylar Diggins breaks the school's all-time scoring record in a 93-63 Sweet Sixteen victory over Kansas.

April 3: Women's softball earns 1000th win in program history with an 8-2 victory over Georgetown.

April 7: Women's basketball falls 83-65 to Connecticut in the Final Four. Women's lacrosse tops Cincinnati, 13-6, to win its 10th straight game and tie the 2004 squad for the best start in program history.

April 12: Junior center Anders Lee is named a second-team CCH Hockey All-American.

April 15: Rowers Molly Bruggeman and Erin Boxberger invited to US Rowing National Team camp.

April 16: Diggins is taken third overall in the WNBA draft by the Tulsa Shock.

April 21: Women's tennis wins sixth straight Big East championship over USF. Men's tennis wins the Big East championship over Louisville.

April 23: Women's golf wins Big East tournament with a tournament-record 54-hole score of 861. Freshmen Lindsay Weaver and Talia Campbell tie for first in the individual championship.

April 24: Junior closer Dan Slania sets the school record with his 26th career save in a 7-3 win over Michigan State.

April 26-28: Six football players are selected in the NFL Draft. Tight end Tyler Eifert is taken 21st overall, while Te'o is picked 36th overall. Safety Jamoris Slaughter, running back Theo Riddick and defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore are chosen in the sixth round, while safety Zeke Motta goes in the seventh round.

April 30: Men's golf finishes third at the Big East championships. Freshman Cory Scipiider shoots a 211 over 54 holes to finish third in the individual championships.

May 5: Women's track and field wins the Big East Outdoor Championship; men's track and field finishes second.

May 10: Notre Dame women's lacrosse loses to Stanford in first round of the NCAA Tournament. Men's tennis falls in the first round of the NCAA tournament to Washington.

May 11: Women's softball loses to USF in the Big East tournament finals. Women's tennis loses to Michigan in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish stand out as model of consistency



Irish freshman attackman Matt Kavanagh surveys the field during Notre Dame's 10-8 win over Georgetown on April 14 at Arlotta Stadium.

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

The No. 2-seeded Irish are still alive in the NCAA tournament, but no matter what happens in Sunday's quarterfinals, Notre Dame has established a consistency nearly unmatched in NCAA lacrosse.

The Irish (11-4, 4-2 Big East) have advanced to four straight NCAA tournament quarterfinals, the second-longest active streak in the country behind only Sunday's opponent, Duke.

"I think [the streak] says great things about the consistency of our program," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "I think that's something our guys should be very proud of because a lot goes into that every year and they

certainly know what the level of competition is, so it's a great accomplishment for them."

The quarterfinal appearance comes off a 9-7 victory against Detroit in the tournament's first round last Saturday at Arlotta Stadium. Corrigan said he was grateful for students' showing of support in the win over the Titans (5-10, 3-3 MAAC), a game in which Notre Dame rallied from a four-goal fourth quarter deficit.

The Irish had one of the toughest schedules in the country this season, with 10 games against opponents that were ranked when the game was played. Corrigan said the tough schedule benefitted the Irish going into the tournament both in seeding and in preparation.

"We didn't ever get a chance to kind of relax and just groove into the season with great confidence," he said. "But at the end of the day, I think it's better to have to fight your way through the season, because at the end you realize where you are, and when you do start playing with confidence, you've earned it ... and you know where your weaknesses are."

Notre Dame was able to slide through the tough slate thanks in large part to freshman attackman Matt Kavanagh. Kavanagh led the Irish in points and benefitted from playing alongside fifth-year Sean Rogers and sophomore Conor Doyle, both of whom returned as starting attackmen this season.

"It was great for [Kavanagh] to come in, as confident as he is, [and] not have the weight of having to do everything, because he had two experienced guys with him – who are both very confident as well – and the value of their experience, which they could share with him and have throughout the year," Corrigan said.

Kavanagh and Rogers both earned all-Big East honors, as did seniors goalie John Kemp and defender Matt Miller and juniors midfielder Jim Marlatt and defender Stephen O'Hara.

Though the Irish advanced to the quarterfinals, they did not repeat as Big East champions in their final season in the conference. Despite the loss, Corrigan said there wasn't much time to dwell on the negatives and said Notre Dame's body of work set it up for a strong postseason run.

Notre Dame faces the Blue Devils (13-5, 2-1 ACC) this weekend with a chance to make its third Final Four in four seasons. Notre Dame has won four consecutive regular-season games against Duke, including a 13-5 win Feb. 16, but lost in 2010 and 2011 to the Blue Devils in the NCAA tournament.

Corrigan said Duke has mostly kept the same scheme from three months ago, but its young personnel has matured, and the Blue Devils have shuffled some players around, starting a new attackman and goalie. He also said he's not concerned about Notre Dame's last two postseason matchups against Duke.

"[The Blue Devils are] a very, very good team and probably playing as well as anybody in the country right now," Corrigan said. "There's always that challenge in playing them, but I don't think there's a mental hurdle to beating them, because we've beaten them three times in the last three years, so I don't think our guys look at it that way."

The Irish and Blue Devils are set for a 2:30 p.m. start Sunday at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

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MEN'S SOCCER

Team earns No. 1 overall seed, falls to IU



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish senior midfielder Dillon Powers dribbles in Notre Dame's 3-1 victory over Akron on Sept. 9 at Alumni Stadium.

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Though the season began with uncertainty and ended with disappointment, Notre Dame put together a stellar campaign and earned the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA tournament.

The Irish (17-4-1, 5-2-1 Big East) found out in the preseason that senior captain and midfielder Michael Rose was out for the season with a knee injury. Then, in

the season opener against Duke, senior midfielder Adam Mena also went down with a knee injury and was unable to return to the pitch. Despite the devastating loss of two veteran seniors, Irish coach Bobby Clark said Notre Dame responded well to adversity.

"When you lose two top players like that and still do what we did as a team, there is a lot of satisfaction in that," Clark said. "It was a good season. We had a lot

of injuries and our senior class responded well. ... We had the second-hardest schedule in the country and we only lost four [games]. ... Our senior class did a fantastic job this year leading the team."

"[Forward] Ryan Finley, [midfielder] Dillon Powers and [defender] Grant Van De Castele were fantastic this season. You have to give it up to these guys, guys like [midfielder/forward Kyle] Richard, [midfielder Bob] Novak and [midfielder/forward Danny] O'Leary, who were support guys and became very important. They filled in for Rose and Mena when they got hurt and they came together and led the team."

The Irish went into the NCAA tournament with the No. 1 overall seed and, after downing Michigan State in the second round, met No. 16 seed Indiana in the third round at Alumni Stadium on Nov. 25. After a first half controlled by the Hoosiers, Notre Dame came out early in the second stanza to take the lead on a goal from Richard. But 56 seconds later, Indiana junior midfielder Nikita Kotlov struck back to knot the score at one goal apiece. The teams finished off regulation dead even and went

into golden-goal overtime.

Two minutes into the second overtime, Kotlov flicked on an incoming cross to sophomore forward Eriq Zavaleta, who buried a wide-open header into the back of the net for Indiana's 2-1 victory.

Clark said the loss to the eventual national champion Hoosiers was heart-wrenching.

"Some people call it sudden victory, but when you lose it is definitely sudden death," Clark said. "It's agonizing to lose in that final moment. And it wasn't so much that we lost in double overtime to Indiana, but we felt like we didn't do as well as we could have in that game. Our program is at that stage, not just where we want to win, but we expect to win."

Despite the loss, Clark saw silver linings in the season.

"If you look back, there were so many positives," Clark said. "At the end of the day, if you don't win, obviously, you are going to be disappointed going out in the third round to the would-be champions. There are positives to take out of the season. We ended the regular season as the No. 1 [team] in the country and even after the loss, we were still No. 1 in [the] RPI rankings after

the season."

The Irish lost four players to the MLS Draft. The Columbus Crew selected Finley with the ninth overall pick and Powers went two picks later to the Colorado Rapids in the MLS SuperDraft. Rose and Mena were later chosen in the Supplemental Draft by the Vancouver Whitecaps.

After three years of playing alongside Powers, Irish junior forward Harry Shipp said he will miss the standout midfielder for the example he set to the whole team.

"I am extremely happy for [Dillon]," Shipp said. "He has been exceeding expectations away from campus, adjusting to the new lifestyle. I look at him as a role model as I plan to make that transition next fall. I don't look to him as a role model just as a soccer player but for his lifestyle."

Shipp also said the team is seeking more than just a No. 1 ranking next season.

"We will continue to build off of last year and have a successful regular season," Shipp said. "I think it is time, though, for us to gain success in the postseason."

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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Laddish, Roccaro lead 'Baby Irish' to Elite Eight

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

With 12 freshmen on its roster, Notre Dame entered the season as one of the youngest teams in program history.

Although the team, dubbed the "Baby Irish," struggled against a tough early non-conference schedule, it hit its stride for the NCAA tournament and won three games before losing 1-0 to then-No. 7 Florida State in the tournament quarterfinals.

"I think the expectations we always have here is that we want to get back to a Final Four," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "We always want to have our program to a point where the goal should be the College Cup every year, and I think we were probably 30 minutes away from that against Florida State. Getting to the Elite Eight, especially with a very young team, I think we were right on target with where we'd hoped to be at the beginning of the year."

Despite the shift in the team's composition, the Irish (16-6-2, 8-1-1 Big East) had little time to acclimate to the start of the season, as they faced a strong non-conference slate. Notre Dame endured some difficult growing pains early in the season, as the Irish dropped games to Wisconsin, Washington and then-No. 19 and eventual national champion North Carolina.

But there were also some bright spots for the Irish, such as a victory over then-No. 24 Santa Clara and a draw with then-No. 19 Portland.

"I think we played a difficult schedule and that prepared us for the kind of games we were going to get and prepared us for having to [play] on the road as well," Waldrum said.

Just before the start of Big East play, Notre Dame received two boots in junior midfielder Mandy Laddish and freshman forward Cari Roccaro, who both missed the early part of the season to play for the gold-medal winning United States squad in the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup.

Bolstered by the additions of Laddish and Roccaro, the Irish tore through the early part of their conference schedule, winning their first seven league matches. Notre Dame finished second in the Big East's National Division and advanced to the conference tournament's semifinals, where it lost to then-No. 15 Marquette, 1-0.

The Irish received a bid to the NCAA tournament, where they beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 3-1, in the first round. The team then traveled to Gainesville, Fla., where it upset then-No. 10 Wake Forest, 2-1, in the second round and blanked then-No. 8 Florida, 2-0, to advance to the Elite Eight.

"You hope you have your season planned in a way that you're

peaking at the right time of year, and I think this was one of those years when we did that," Waldrum said. "Once the NCAA tournament started, we were playing our better soccer toward the end of the year, and I think that's the way you'd want it."

Waldrum said the biggest challenges of coaching a young team were inconsistency and the lack of veteran leadership.

"[We had problems] just getting the week-in and week-out and maybe even the day-in and day-out consistency," he said. "We also had so many young kids that were key players for us this year, and we talked about the standards of the program, but there weren't a lot of people to show them what the standard was because we were so young."

Despite their occasional inconsistency and inexperience, several first-year players stepped up for the Irish. Freshman forward Crystal Thomas led the team with 10 goals, while Roccaro was third on the squad with six goals in just 16 games and was named the Soccer America Freshman of the Year. Freshman goalie Elyse Hight was a consistent presence in net for the Irish, posting a goals-against average of 0.63 in 16 starts.

Waldrum said he was impressed with the development of his team over the course of the season but added that Notre

WEI LIN | The Observer
Irish junior midfielder Mandy Laddish battles for the ball in Notre Dame's 2-1 win over the Haiti National Team on April 26.

Dame still has strides to make.

"I'll always remember just how much fight and competitiveness this group had as a group of young players," Waldrum said. "Even though we were playing our best soccer at the end of the year, I think we're still miles away from playing the way we want to play."

The Irish lose only one starter, senior defender Jazmin Hall, to graduation and will return the majority of their roster for next

season. The team will also begin play in the ACC, a conference which had nine teams selected for last year's NCAA tournament.

"We're going to get a challenge every single week, and that wasn't the case with the Big East," Waldrum said. "I think kids will really have to rise to the occasion because it's going to be a battle all the way through."

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

After torrid start, Irish stumble down stretch

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame had an up-and-down season, and it came largely in that order.

After opening the season with the best start (10-0) in program history, the Irish (12-5, 5-3 Big East) lost five of their last seven games, missed the Big East tournament and fell in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Notre Dame lost several key players from last year's squad and Irish coach Christine Halfpenny brought back a team filled with youth and inexperience for the 2013 season. With that in mind, Halfpenny put an increased emphasis on getting back to the basics, which allowed the team to explode out of the gates.

"Starting out the year we had a lot more preseason than usual, and we really worked hard on our fundamentals," Halfpenny said. "We built off what we did last year, and each class matured during that preseason and during that run. That's what allowed us to start 10-0."

That run started with a key win

in the season opener at Stanford and was highlighted by big home victories over No. 13 Ohio State and No. 19 Rutgers. The 10-game streak tied Notre Dame's best ever start to the season and put the Irish in front of a very competitive Big East title race.

The schedule's difficulty steadily increased as the season came to a close though, and game after game against top competition took its toll on the Irish. Notre Dame's first loss of the season came in a 14-13, double-overtime heartbreaker against No. 17 Loyola, and the Irish went on to lose three of their next four games — all against top-20 competition.

Halfpenny said the competition may have exposed her team's inexperience, something that may have made the difference in those tight games.

"We had seven or eight freshmen and sophomores on the field at times this year," Halfpenny said. "Heading into those heavyweight showdowns, I think our youth caught hold of us a little bit."

Notre Dame closed out its regular season with a win over Marquette to bring its conference

record to 5-3, but that mark wasn't enough to put the Irish in the Big East's top four teams and qualify for the Big East tournament.

However, the Irish were still selected to be part of the 26-team NCAA tournament field, the only team not to play in its conference tournament to do so. Notre Dame faced a rematch with Stanford in the first round, but came up just short the second time around, as the Cardinal scored a free-position goal with four seconds remaining to steal an 8-7 win.

The loss ended Notre Dame's season and was its fifth defeat in seven games. But while the team was discouraged by the losing streak, Halfpenny said the Irish learned valuable lessons from both victory and defeat.

"As much as you want to learn from wins, I thought we really learned from our losses this year," she said. "It's proven to make us stronger."

Halfpenny said her team also learned from its graduating seniors, who set a strong example for the young squad both on and off the field.

"Our seniors have all been such



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish senior attack Jenny Granger looks upfield during Notre Dame's 13-12 victory over then-No. 8 Georgetown on April 14 at Arlotta Stadium.

assets to our team, and have been great at developing our more youthful players and helping us get to this point. We couldn't ask for

more out of our senior leadership."

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Swarbrick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

When Notre Dame finalized its move to the ACC on March 12, the immediacy of the transition — the Irish will play in the conference beginning next season — made scheduling incredibly difficult, Swarbrick said.

Swarbrick said football scheduling, in particular, has been challenging as Notre Dame balances its independence as well as its five-game ACC commitment.

"We're in a different position than anyone has ever been in, because when everybody else has had some change in affiliation, they're just swapping one conference schedule for another conference schedule," he said. "And then you just have to worry about the three other or four other games they have. All 12 of our games are independently-contracted games, so it has a complexity to it that's hard to describe to people and hard for people to appreciate."

"You take on a five-game commitment from the ACC — which we think is absolutely the right solution — you've got 12 potential schools that are impacted by trying to make those five games fit in and work. It's complicated."

The complications begin in 2014, when Irish football is scheduled for five games with ACC opponents. Notre Dame reportedly has lined up a 2014 matchup with Florida State, which could force the Irish to drop their scheduled game with Arizona State.

Arizona State athletic director Steve Patterson has been critical of Notre Dame's handling of the ongoing situation, but Swarbrick declined to delve into any specifics.

"I'm going to avoid the specifics of it for exactly the reasons I said: You can't predict any one of [the 12 game slots] without having conversations with three other schools," Swarbrick said. "We're working to try and be good partners and protect relationships, but it's very complicated. At the end of the day, it's hard to imagine a result where everybody is happy."

If and when a slot does open up, Swarbrick said Notre Dame would love to schedule an annual matchup with an SEC foe.

"Yeah, we'd like to because we think that would be good for the program," Swarbrick said. "But at the same time, we're — in the near years of this commitment, it's going to be really hard we just have more teams than we have slots right now, so we've got to work through sort of the contracts that are in place. But we would very much like to figure out how to play an SEC team, different teams from the conference once a year."

Student seating policy

On April 17, the Leprechaun Legion announced it would be launching a new seating policy for students at football games. Swarbrick said he played no role in consummating the new general admission policy, which has drawn the ire of many students on campus.

"I must say I haven't been engaged in that but I'm not trying to avoid the issue it's just I wasn't," he said.

Swarbrick said former senior athletics director for guest relations and event marketing Josh Berlo managed the discussion with the Leprechaun Legion. Berlo was named the athletic director

at the University of Minnesota-Duluth on April 3 and began his new job May 1.

As for feedback on the new plan, Swarbrick said if there has been negative reaction, none has been directly brought to his attention.

Basketball practice facility

Swarbrick said neither the move to the ACC nor the proposed football stadium expansions have changed anything regarding a basketball practice facility. According to Swarbrick, the facility remains a priority.

"We did some site visits to understand the magnitude of what we thought we wanted to create," Swarbrick said. "We've had some preliminary discussions about what it would look like and where it might go. But we haven't started having conversations with people who might be interested in supporting it."

Swarbrick said securing funding is the next step in the process. The university's building policy requires 100 percent of the money to be committed and 75 percent to be "in hand" before any more progress can be made, Swarbrick said.

From the site visits, Swarbrick said he learned two keys to a practice facility are having plenty of space and being in close proximity to the gameday arena.

The building would have equal facilities for both the men's and women's squads in order to avoid odd practice times.

Editor-in-Chief Andrew Gastelum contributed to this report.

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BASEBALL

Junior-powered squad cracks top 25



ALLY DARRAGH | The Observer

Irish junior closer Dan Slania prepares to deliver a pitch in a matchup against Quinnipiac on April 21 at Frank Eck Stadium. Notre Dame went on to win the game 5-1 en route to sweeping the Bobcats in a three-game series. Slania set the Notre Dame record for saves, notching 27, on April 24 in a 7-3 home win over Michigan State.

By JOHN SANDBERG
Sports Writer

In baseball's history, the game's fascination with numbers has always shone through. Fitting then, that in Notre Dame coach Mik Aoki's third season, a trio of juniors shone brightest for the Irish.

Junior infielders Eric Jagiolo and Trey Mancini powered the offense and regularly sat among the offensive leaders in the Big East. On the mound, junior right-hander Dan Slania was everything as advertised in the closer's role, leading the Big East in saves throughout much of the season en route to breaking former Irish closer Kyle Weiland's school record of 25 career saves.

"I think ... when it's all said and done, there's going to be a huge buzz about [all three of] them in June," Aoki said at the start of the season. "They're phenomenal kids who've worked their rear ends off. ... I'd probably be foolish to think we'll have them for their senior year, but it'd be nice if we did."

Aoki, of course, was speaking in reference to June's MLB Draft. Jagiolo, Mancini and Slania have all been mentioned by the national media as potential early-round draft picks.

While talk about bright futures might have distracted some teams, Notre Dame had a demanding schedule to keep it busy.

The Irish began the season by winning two of three games in Fla. on Feb. 16 and followed with a sweep of Tulane in New Orleans. Notre Dame then won three of four games at the Irish Baseball Classic in Cary, N.C., before hitting the road again over spring break for a weeklong trip through-out California. Through the first

month of the season, Notre Dame rose as high as No. 15 in the national top-25 rankings.

In March, the Irish began Big East play with series wins against Seton Hall and Villanova, but suffered road sweeps to Louisville and Pittsburgh. Notre Dame finished April on a hot streak by winning eight of nine games, including a home sweep of Connecticut.

On May 3, Irish fans witnessed history as South Florida and Notre Dame battled for 19 innings before Notre Dame ultimately fell to the Bulls, 8-2. The matchup tied for the longest game in Big East history and was the longest game in the history of Frank Eck Stadium.

Aoki praised the six seniors on his team for "doing things the right way" throughout their time at Notre Dame.

"Academically they are a very high-achieving class and on the field they're a very high-achieving class," Aoki said. "They've taken the steps to help this program get back to where we all want it to be, back to that 2002 College World Series."

Maybe no senior has been more impressive in his final season than Adam Norton. The right-hander ranks among the best Big East starters with a 9-3 record and 2.00 ERA (as of May 15).

Aoki said Norton will be especially missed after this season.

"He's a great kid and a ton of fun to be around," Aoki said. "Regardless of the wins and losses we're really going to miss that kid."

The Irish conclude regular-season play with a game against Cincinnati and will look toward the Big East tournament, which begins Wednesday in Clearwater, Fla. Aoki said with the amount of

talent Notre Dame has, the key will be for his players to maintain the right mental approach.

"We need to go out there to play to win rather than playing to avoid

losing," Aoki said. "Just constantly attack the other team. ... If we do that we're talented enough to make a run at [the Big East championship] and make it into the NCAA

tournament and make a run at that."

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ND VOLLEYBALL

Hot start, cold finish leave squad feeling dissatisfied

By ALEX WILCOX
Sports Writer

Going into the season, Notre Dame wanted to win the Big East championship and make a run deep into the NCAA tournament. After early wins over top-ranked opponents and an 11-match win streak toward the end of the season, the Irish looked primed to do just that.

Notre Dame's season ended in disappointment, however, with four straight losses, including a three-game sweep at the hands of Ohio State in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

Irish coach Debbie Brown said the early exit from postseason play left her team with a feeling of dissatisfaction.

"We were all really disappointed because we had higher expectations," Brown said. "We had a real strong performance through the middle of the season, so it kind of left a bad taste in our mouth to end that way. [We] just really wanted to advance deeper and felt like we

had the talent to do that and we just hit a slump at the wrong time."

Despite its late struggles, Notre Dame (20-10, 13-2 Big East) finished the season with 20 wins for the first time since 2009.

Brown said the team's early season triumphs over Big 12 power Kansas and then-No. 10 Louisville stuck out in her mind.

"[Kansas] was a significant win over a top-ranked team early, but then we followed that up with Louisville, which is our biggest conference rival, and at the time I think they were top-10, so both of those were key to keep the momentum and let our team know we're moving in the right direction," Brown said.

The win over Kansas provided a spark for the Irish, as they went on to win 14 of their next 15 matches. In consecutive matches against Louisville and Cincinnati, the Irish battled back from a 2-0 deficit to win 3-2.

Brown said those two matches were crucial for building the team's confidence.

"Early on, we had some come-from-behind wins that were just really instrumental in the development of the team and [helped us] know that we could play at a really high level when our backs are against the wall and come out on top," Brown said. "I think those types of experiences just go a long way in terms of confidence."

Brown said the Irish were successful largely because of their passing and hitting efficiency.

"I'd say probably one of the things that kept us in matches was our passing. Our serve-receive was really consistent," Brown said. "When you get the pass right where you want it, it just makes the offense that much better. We actually ended up being 27th in the country in terms of hitting efficiency, and that's probably the stat that most closely correlates with winning."

The 11-match winning streak culminated in a 3-2 victory over Cincinnati Senior Day at Purcell Pavilion, which Brown pointed to as the highlight of the season.

"The crowd was phenomenal, and we just played inspired," Brown said. "There's a play that sticks out in my head of [sophomore outside hitter] Toni [Alugbue] going over the scorer's table to get a ball. There was just a lot in that match, and I think when you have a match like that for your seniors at the end, it's pretty cool to be able to do that."

The team will lose senior right side hitter Marie Roof and senior middle blocker Hilary Eppink. Brown said the two girls made a major impact over their four years on the squad.

"It's hard to put into words," Brown said of the seniors' contributions. "[Roof] was somebody who did anything we asked her. She set her freshmen year, she played right side, she played middle, she played back row, she just was so versatile and always willing to do whatever she could for the team. With [Eppink], she's just super steady and a strong middle hitter for us. In terms of what she could do on the court, she could hit outside, she could hit in the middle, so she again was versatile for us."

While the disappointing finish still stings, Brown said the season was ultimately successful for the program.

"I felt like we made progress for sure," Brown said. "We didn't reach our goals and in the world of athletics, that happens so you just have to reset and regroup. I like the progress that we made as a team, [and] we're excited about entering the ACC and starting fresh. Overall, I know we improved and I know we got better. I know the program is moving in the right direction."

ND SOFTBALL

Irish advance to NCAA Regionals



EMILY CRUSE | The Observer

Irish junior pitcher Laura Winter winds up to pitch in Notre Dame's 5-4 loss to Wisconsin-Green Bay on March 28.

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

Irish pulled off a 3-1 victory to win the series and the Big East regular season title.

Senior catcher Amy Buntin said the high-stakes series was the most difficult of the season.

"As a team, they have very disciplined hitters and hit the ball hard," Buntin said of the Cardinals. "They took one game from us, but we won the series with two timely wins."

Buntin said the series win against Louisville gave the Irish momentum heading into postseason play.

"We aren't done yet," Buntin said. "In a way, the season is just beginning, with the postseason just a couple of days away."

After falling to South Florida, 1-0, in a 10-inning thriller in the Big East Championship final, Buntin said the Irish are ready for the NCAA Regionals, which begin Friday. The Irish will square off with Virginia Tech in the Lexington Regional at Cropp Stadium on Friday at 5 p.m.

Though Buntin and four other seniors are preparing to play their last games in their Irish careers, Buntin said she knows the program will continue to thrive.

"I am confident the future of Notre Dame softball will continue to grow as a program," Buntin said. "The team is full of young talent and potential."

After a loss to Northwestern on April 9, the Irish found their groove and ripped off 11 straight wins before falling to DePaul in the final game of a three-game set April 28.

Notre Dame entered its final series of the season against Louisville tied with the Cardinals for first place in the Big East. After inching out a walk-off 5-4 win in the first game, the Irish fell to the prolific Louisville offense 15-1 in the second game. In the rubber game Sunday, the

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MEN'S TENNIS

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

In a season filled with big matches, the Irish captured their greatest moment of the year when they swept Louisville, 4-0, to claim the last ever Big East conference championship in Irish coach Bobby Bayliss' final season.

Notre Dame's season ended in the opening round of the NCAA tournament May 10 when the No. 28 Irish (19-8) lost a four-and-a-half-hour thriller to No. 37 Washington, 4-3. Despite the loss, Notre Dame still finished its spring season strong by winning nine straight matches, including three home victories, en route to its ninth Big East championship.

"The Big East [title] was probably the biggest highlight because of the timing," Bayliss said. "For our seniors, it was their last opportunity to play at Notre Dame. For me, the last home match I would coach."

"We not only won it, but we won it convincingly. We really overpowered Louisville in the finals and that's a team

has given us difficulty over the years."

In addition to claiming the team championship, the Irish swept the Big East regular season awards as Bayliss won the Big East Coach of the Year, junior Greg Andrews captured Big East Player of the Year and freshman Quentin Monaghan earned Big East Freshman of the Year.

Leading up to the Big East championships, the Irish had won six straight — a streak that began after Notre Dame fell to then-No. 3 USC, 6-1. Notre Dame faced top-ranked opponents like USC the entire spring season, finishing with a 6-7 record against opponents ranked in the top 50.

Although the Irish lost tough matches to top-10 opponents such as USC and Duke at home, they claimed victories over No. 21 Michigan, 4-3, and No. 13 Illinois, 4-0, at the Eck Pavilion.

"Beating Michigan and Illinois here ... stick out in my mind as highlights," Bayliss said. "They are traditional powers and we had really exciting matches against them."

"We played well against [USC] in a match we lost. Although the score was 6-1, there were a whole lot of three-set matches."

In a fall season usually geared more toward individual play, the Irish had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as a team to play Ireland's Davis Cup team in Dublin, Ireland on Aug. 31. Notre Dame lost the exhibition match, 9-3, but the entire trip was still a remarkable experience, according to Bayliss.

"Another thing that stood out [from the fall season] was the fantastic opportunity to go to Ireland to play the Irish Davis Cup players and see the Navy-Notre Dame football game," Bayliss said. "What a great opportunity that was for our team."

On May 10, the Irish fell to Washington in the NCAA tournament in Columbus, Ohio. While the team's season is finished, Andrews will continue his season at the NCAA Singles Tournament, as the junior earned the Big East's automatic qualifying spot.

"Greg's really had a great year," Bayliss said. "He's played



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish junior Greg Andrews returns a shot during Notre Dame's 6-1 win over SMU on April 5 at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

a lot of the better players in the country and he has been a whisker from some great wins that would elevate him to a very high ranking. And hopefully this will be the stage to put him over the top and he can finish the year

with a bang."

Andrews will play in the opening round of the singles tournament May 22 in Champaign, Ill.

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FENCING

Squad finishes runner-up

By A.J. GODEAUX
Sports Writer

Oh so close. That's the refrain echoed by Notre Dame after the team fell just short of a fourth combined NCAA championship.

Sophomore foilist Maddie Zeiss said the second-place finish to Princeton does not tarnish stellar efforts by the team this season.

"Regardless of how the season ended, we grew as a team so much this year," Zeiss said. "It all started with our captain, [senior foilist] Grace Hartman, who was amazing."

While the team fell just short of its national championship aspirations, Notre Dame still turned in a successful campaign. The Irish finished as the NCAA Midwest Region champions and nine Irish fencers were named All-Americans, including senior foilist, 2012 Olympian and Midwest Region individual champion Gerek Meinhardt. On the men's side, junior foilist Ariel DeSmet and junior sabreur Kevin Hassett also earned All-American honors.

On the women's side, all six fencers who qualified for the NCAA championships were named to the All-American team.

Freshman foilist Lee Kiefer and senior epeeist Courtney Hurley went a step further and claimed individual NCAA championships in their respective weapons. Kiefer matched Meinhardt — whose only loss was in his semifinal bout — and former Irish foilist Andrea Ament's 2002 championship performance for the second

best win-loss record (22-1) by a Notre Dame fencer at the NCAA championships.

Hurley became the program's first four-time All-American since 2005.

While Zeiss, a first team All-American herself, said she will remember the individual awards, the meet wins and the NCAA championships, she said she will especially treasure the bonds the

team formed and the unselfishness across the squad.

"None of what we did this season would have been possible without everyone's support," Zeiss said. "From day one, we knew we loved each other and were going to be there for each other no matter what happened."

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FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Football makes title game, loses to Tide

Undefeated on Nov. 24, 2012; Streak ends Jan. 7, 2013



In Irish coach Brian Kelly's first two years, Notre Dame turned in a pair of 8-5 seasons.

Despite losing players to the NFL, the Irish were more successful in Kelly's third season, going undefeated against their regular season schedule.

Regular season highlights included a rout of Navy in Dublin, a 20-3 upset of Michigan State, an

emotional 13-6 victory over Michigan, an overtime goal-line stand against Stanford, a road victory over Oklahoma and a come-from-behind three-overtime win over Pittsburgh.

The Irish reached No. 1 in the polls after a Senior Day victory over Wake Forest and sealed a berth in the BCS National Championship game with a 22-13 vic-

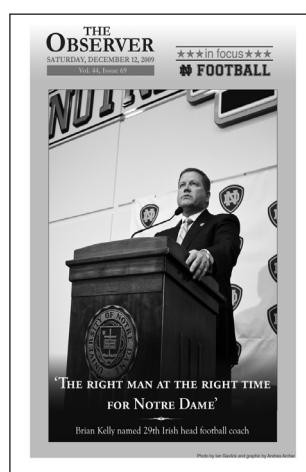
tory over USC on Nov. 24.

Traveling to Miami to face off against Alabama in the national championship game, the Irish struggled to contain the Crimson Tide's offense, as Alabama rolled out to a 28-0 lead at halftime.

In the end, Notre Dame fell to the Crimson Tide, 42-14, ending the program's first national title run since 1988.

Weis fired, Kelly hired

Nov. 27, 2010



After firing head coach Charlie Weis on Nov. 30, 2009, Notre Dame hired Brian Kelly on Dec. 11, 2009. Athletic Director Jack Swarbrick named Kelly as the 29th head coach of Notre Dame football.

Kelly brought Bob Diaco, offensive coordinator, and Charley Molnar, offensive co-ordinator.

Women's basketball makes Final Four thrice

April 7, 2013



After tournament runs that culminated with title game losses in 2011 and 2012, the Irish made another deep run in 2013.

Led by senior guard Skylar Diggins, Notre Dame won 30 straight games and made its third consecutive Final Four. The Irish lost to Connecticut, 83-65, in the national semifinals.

Te'o finishes second in Heisman voting

Dec. 8, 2012

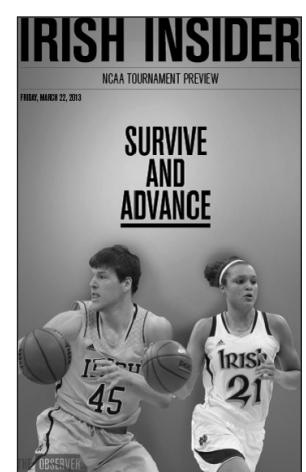


After a stand-out season, middle linebacker Manti Te'o finished second in the Heisman Trophy voting behind Texas A&M freshman QB Johnny Manziel.

Te'o ended with 321 first-place votes and Manziel received 474. Te'o tied for second-most interceptions in the NCAA with 7 and tallied 11 tackles.

Men's hoops makes four straight tournaments

March 22, 2013



Despite losing graduate student forward Scott Martin to a knee injury midway through the season, Notre Dame survived Big East play and made its fourth consecutive NCAA tournament.

Led by senior forward Jack Cooley, the Irish earned a No. 7 seed before falling to Iowa State, 76-58 in the first round.

Irish leave Big East, join ACC

Sept. 12, 2012

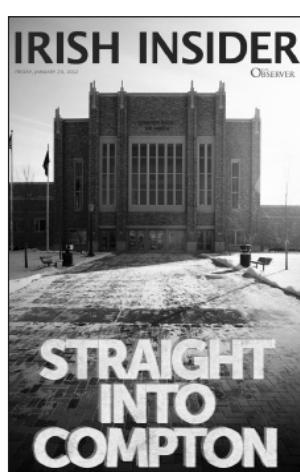


Notre Dame accepted an invitation to join the Atlantic Coast Conference in all sports except for football, after being a member of the Big East since 1995.

Notre Dame agreed to play five games annually against ACC opponents in football starting in 2014.

Compton Family Ice Arena opens

Oct. 21, 2011



Thanks to a \$15 million donation from the Compton family, the Irish hockey program had a new place to call home — the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Notre Dame had played all of its hockey games in the Joyce Center before moving to the new facility. The Irish opened the building with a 5-2 win over RPI.

Women's soccer wins national title

Dec. 5, 2010

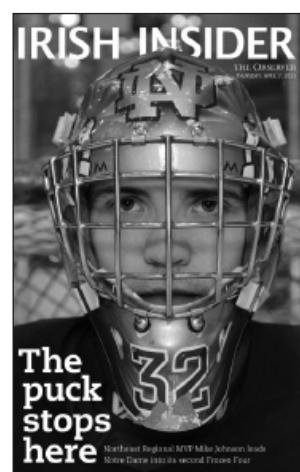


After four consecutive trips to the College Cup without a title, the Irish finally broke through with a 1-0 victory over previously undefeated Stanford.

Notre Dame received strong efforts from its freshmen, who scored the last four goals of the season and helped shut down Hermann Trophy winner Christen Press.

Hockey reaches Frozen Four

April 7, 2011



The Irish reached the first Frozen Four in program history in 2008. 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 in St. Paul, Minn.

Men's lacrosse reaches title game

May 31, 2010



Despite being unseeded in the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame rode a stalwart defense to a berth in the national championship game against Duke.

The Irish and Blue Devils finished a low-scoring regulation tied at five. The Irish gave up an early goal in overtime to lose 6-5.

TRACK AND FIELD

Women win Big East titles, men come in second

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

All season long, the Irish had one main goal: win the Big East title, both indoors and outdoors, men and women. While the women captured both titles, the men fell short of their goal, finishing as runner-up at both the indoor and outdoor championships.

But according to junior captain and long jumper Logan Renwick, the squad has more reasons than not to be proud of its season.

"Obviously, to have the women win both indoors and outdoors is very impressive," Renwick said. "It was disappointing for the men not to win, but it's made us hungry to finish off the year strong and head into next season, especially in the ACC, where the competition will be that much better."

The Irish started off the year at the Blue and Gold Invitational at the Loftus Sports Center on Dec. 7, 2012, and do not finish off their year until June 8 at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Ore. Such a long season, Renwick said, has allowed

several athletes to make enormous improvements, such as sophomore sprinter and hurdler Jade Barber.

After an impressive freshman year in which she earned all-Big East accolades in the 100-meter hurdles and both the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays, Barber was even better in her sophomore campaign. She won the 60-meter hurdles and 4x400-meter relay at the Big East indoor championship and was named Most Outstanding Track Performer. Later, at the national championship in Fayetteville, Ark., Barber earned all-American honors in both events.

Barber's outdoor season has been equally impressive with Big East titles in the 100-meter hurdles and 4x100-meter relay. She is currently preparing to compete in the NCAA regional qualifying meet, with a chance to advance to the national championship.

Jade had an immediate impact for the team as a freshman, but she's really put herself on the national stage this year," Renwick said. "Her progress has been incredible and she has a very bright future."

On the men's side, junior Pat Feeney and sophomore Chris Giesting are not only two of the nation's top 400-meter runners, but also roommates in Knott Hall and friendly rivals.

"Chris and Pat are both great competitors who have a very healthy rivalry," Renwick said. "Watching them go back and forth all year has been very exciting, and it pushed us all to do better as well."

Feeney and Giesting spent much of the indoor season one-upping the other, continually lowering the school record in the process. Feeney ended up with the record at 46.03, but both earned indoor all-American honors. Giesting has had the advantage during the outdoor season, winning the Big East title. Both sprinters are currently ranked in the top 25 nationally and will be competing at the NCAA regional meet.

The Irish next compete at the NCAA regional meet, which will take place in Greensboro, N.C., on May 22-25, before they conclude their season at the NCAA national championships in Eugene, Ore., on June 5-8.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish sophomore Jade Barber leaps over a hurdle at the Mayo Invitational on Feb. 1. Barber won the 60-meter hurdle event at the invitational.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish take conference title, fall in NCAAs

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

Some seasons are dominated by one player. Some are defined by a key win or loss. And some will be remembered for the way they put every onlooker on edge.

The Irish didn't dominate every match this spring, but they never failed to keep it interesting.

Notre Dame's wins weren't always pretty. Of the 21 full matches the squad played — where the doubles point and all six individual matches were completed — nine were decided by a score of 4-3.

"I really feel like these guys overachieved a lot this year," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "I've never had teams come back as much this year's team. We had two matches we were behind 3-0 and won four straight matches to win, 4-3, and we had two matches where we were down 3-1 and came back to win 4-3. It's just a group that never quits."

After a successful fall campaign, the No. 24 Irish (18-9) ended the spring season with a 4-0 loss to Michigan (23-5) in the second round of the NCAA tournament May 11. Notre Dame beat N.C. State, 4-1, in Ann Arbor, Mich., the day before in the opening round.

Louderback said the highlight of the season was capturing the

program's sixth straight Big East title by beating South Florida, 4-1, on April 21 in Notre Dame's last Big East tournament before leaving for the ACC.

"To win it, down at South Florida against South Florida, took a great effort from our kids," Louderback said. "We played on a hot-weather day down there, which we definitely weren't used to because of the spring we had weather-wise. I think that was probably the biggest highlight of the spring so far."

Junior Britney Sanders unanimously was named the Big East Player of the Year, while freshman Quinn Gleason and junior Jennifer Kellner were also named to the All-Big East team.

"When you lose your top two who were really good you worry about that following year," Louderback said in reference to Kristy Frilling and Shannon Mathews, two All-Americans who graduated in 2012. "Probably the biggest surprise was how well the players at the top of our lineup played. The kids who played three and four last year really stepped up to play one and two and won a lot of matches. It was great to see them do well."

The Irish will face significantly tougher competition when they enter the ACC next year — there are five ACC schools,



WEI LIN | The Observer
Irish senior Chrissie McGaffigan lunges for a shot in Notre Dame's 5-2 win over DePaul at Eck Tennis Pavilion on March 2. McGaffigan played No. 4 singles for an Irish team that won the Big East championship.

not including Notre Dame, currently ranked in the top 25 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association — but Louderback said he is excited for the coming seasons.

"The Big East was good for us while we were in it," Louderback said. "But we're really excited about going ACC. It's a tough, tough league, a tough conference, but for us we're really

excited to have a chance to go in and play such good schools."

Although the Irish will lose senior captain Chrissie McGaffigan to graduation, they add several freshmen and hope to see Julie Vrabel remain healthier in her sophomore season. Vrabel is now fully recovered from shoulder surgery that occurred in her senior year of high school.

"Chrissie McGaffigan has done a great job for us this year," Louderback said. "She's won a lot of singles matches and is probably our best doubles player. We'll miss her a lot, but we have a good group of freshmen coming in. I feel like we have the chance to be very, very good."

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

ND has best finals finish ever

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

With a second-place finish at the Big East championships and the best finish in program history at the NCAA championships, Notre Dame reached new heights this season.

The Irish had a strong showing at the conference championships in early March, earning 35 all-Big East scrolls, but they fell just short of a title, as they finished second to Louisville.

A few weeks later, the squad took 16th place in a field of 43 schools at the NCAA championships to obtain its highest finish ever at the national college swimming event.

"I think that [our finishes] show a lot about the girls that were there and how far determination and hard work can get you," sophomore swimmer Emma Reaney said. "We really wanted to prove ourselves on the national stage, and I think we're beginning to do that."

Reaney completed a standout season by saving her best performances for the Big East and NCAA championships. At the conference meet, Reaney won six of the seven events she competed in and shattered conference records in 200-yard Individual Medley and 100-yard breaststroke events. For her achievements, she received the Big East's Most Outstanding Swimmer award.



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Sophomore Emma Reaney swims the 100-yard breaststroke during the Shamrock Invitational on Jan. 25 at Rolf's Aquatic Center.

Her success continued at the NCAA championships, as she earned four All-American honors and finished fifth overall in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events.

Meanwhile, the conference's Most Outstanding Diver award went to senior Jenny Chiang. She became the first diver in Big East history to win championships in the same event four years in a row, as she won four consecutive titles in the 3-meter dive event.

The Irish also bid farewell to another senior diver, Kimmie Lisiak, who competed in the 1- and 3-meter dives throughout her Notre Dame career.

Senior Kim Holden returned from double shoulder surgery in 2011 to earn titles in three events at the conference

championships. She set a school record with a time of 52.57 seconds in the 100-yard fly at the Big East championships.

Senior swimmers Gracie Fredlake, Jamie Malandra and Lauren Scott will also graduate from the squad.

The Irish will look to build on the momentum from their success at the NCAA championships as they prepare for next season.

"As far as recruiting, [the success] will bring a lot of very fast girls to look at the team and school that probably wouldn't have otherwise," Reaney said. "It's great to watch this program grow and to be part of it."

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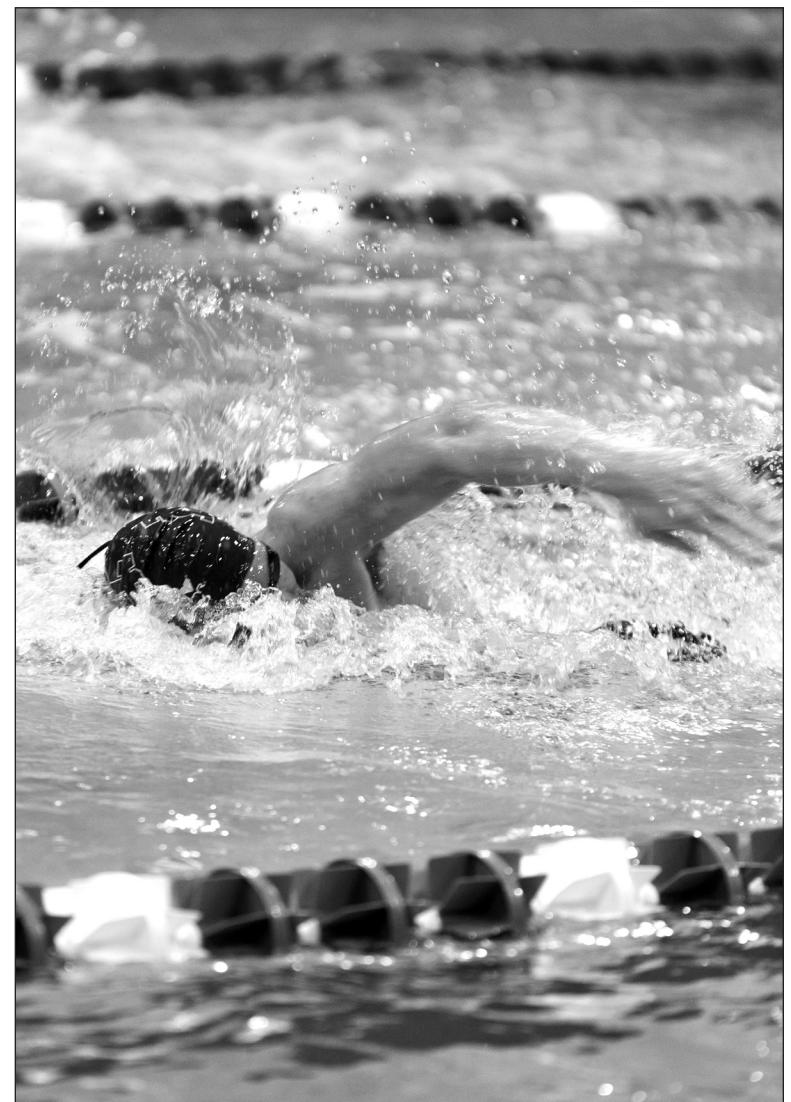
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MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Irish excel and win Big East



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish junior swimmer Frank Dyer competes in the 50-yard free during the Shamrock Invitational on Jan. 25 held at Rolf's Aquatic Center.

By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

With another year of experience and training under their belts, the Irish had one of the best seasons in program history, recording only one dual-meet loss, winning the final Big East championship and sending a team-record nine swimmers to the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis.

Notre Dame finished the regular season with an 8-1 record, including close wins over strong Purdue and Louisville squads in November, and suffered its only loss coming to Iowa at the Northwestern Invitational.

In Indianapolis at the conference championship meet from Feb. 27 to March 2, Notre Dame scored a meet-record 991 points, 139.5 ahead of second-place Louisville, to capture its second consecutive league title. The Irish finished each night of the meet in first place, staying steady from day one to day four and displaying their depth. Thirteen swimmers and two divers picked up a total of 41 All-Big East Honors in 17 different events.

Irish coach Tim Welsh, who was named the 2013 Men's Big East Coach of the Year, said earning the final league title was a memorable part of the year, but only one of several high points from the season.

"[The Big East championship] was certainly one of the highlights of the season," he said. "I

think that our mission from the university is to compete on a national basis, so it was also great having our largest team ever at the NCAA Championships, and to have two new people [John Williamson and Zach Stephens] score at the meet, both sophomores so they'll both be back, and to have a relay team score."

Williamson and Stephens both earned All-American honors for their swims in the 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard breaststroke, respectively. Williamson and Stephens represent part of a strong and still-improving sophomore class that claimed four of the team's nine qualifiers.

Welsh also said the developments he saw this season, which showed during his team's string of championship meets, proved that the Irish are ready to compete with some of the country's best teams, especially during next year's transition to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

"The concluding month was the month that kind of solidified in our minds the fact that we are ready to play at a national level," he said. "We're not hoping to get there anymore. We have to do the work and we have to improve every year and that's what we ought to do, but it's kind of solidified in our minds that when we do the work and when we improve, we will play at a national level."

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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

ND takes individual, team conference titles

By KIT LOUGHREN
Sports Writer

In golf terms, No. 26 Notre Dame finished its season under par, as the Irish took home their fifth Big East championship in program history.

"We had a really solid season for the program as a whole," Irish coach Susan Holt said. "We had a really great team record, the lowest team score [in Big East tournament history] and going out of the Big East like we did was awesome."

The Irish posted solid finishes in their four-tournament fall season, as the team came in second at the Susan Maxwell Berning Classic in Norman, Okla., and third in the Mary Fossum Invitation in East Lansing, Mich.

Notre Dame struggled at the start of its spring season, concluding its first tournament — the Seminole Match-Up Invitational in Tallahassee, Fla. — with a seventh place finish.

Notre Dame continued to improve its performance as the season progressed, finishing fifth and third respectively in its next two tournaments.

The team captured its first team title of the season at the

Briar's Creek Invitational in John's Island, S.C. on March 26, and sophomore Ashley Armstrong finished as the tournament individual champion with a one-over-par score of 217 (74-71-72).

After an eighth place finish at the SMU Dallas Athletic Club Invitational in Dallas, the Irish then headed into the Big East championship.

The team posted a six-under-par score of 861 (294-285-282) in the 54-hole tournament, and freshmen Lindsey Weaver and Talia Campbell both shot six-under-par totals of 210 to share medalist honors.

"Winning the Big East tile was certainly a goal," Holt said. "It is a great accomplishment and solid success, and our program will definitely be able to make the transition to the ACC and be a competitor."

Weaver said she considers the Big East championship victory to be her team's greatest success of the season.

"Since we lost by one shot to [South Florida] last year, it was very important to redeem ourselves this year," Weaver said.

Following the championship, Weaver was named both



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish freshman Talia Campbell follows through during the Mary Fossum Invitational on Sept. 15 in East Lansing, Mich. Campbell and fellow Irish freshman Lindsay Weaver tied for first at the Big East tournament.

Big East Player of the Year and Big East Freshman of the Year. Campbell and Armstrong were both named to the All-Big East team, while Holt was named Big East Coach of the Year for the

third time in her career at Notre Dame.

The team earned the No. 9 seed in the NCAA East Regional at the Auburn University Club in Auburn, Ala., where it shot a

908 (292-304-312) over 54 holes to finish tied for 15th out of 24 teams.

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MEN'S GOLF

Young Irish team finishes third in Big East



Observer File Photo

Irish freshman Cory Sciupider lines up for a shot at the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic at Warren Golf Course on Oct. 9. Sciupider shot a 67 to finish third in last month's Big East tournament.

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

After a season of growing pains, the Irish hope a strong finish will vault them to a return to glory in coming years.

Irish coach Jim Kubinski

knew his team was in for a rebuilding year after losing three seniors from last year's Big East championship squad. Kubinski also said this year's ups and downs bode well for the future of his program.

"I think [this season] was

a stepping stone," Kubinski said. "This year, I was frustrated because I thought we were better than we were playing. When we finished up this season playing the way we did, I'm more excited right now than I've been in a lot of years

for the prospects of this team."

Notre Dame posted several top finishes in the four-tournament fall season, as they came in second at the Georgetown Intercollegiate and fourth at the Macdonald Cup.

The spring season had an inauspicious start for the Irish as they finished 15th, 15th and 11th in three of their first four tournaments, respectively. Kubinski singled out the last tournament of that opening quartet as a highlight for the Irish, with Notre Dame tying for fifth at the C&F Bank Intercollegiate in Williamsburg, Va. Freshman Cory Sciupider led the way, firing a 67 to tie for first place individually, while junior Andrew Lane wasn't far behind with a 68 in third place.

But as the season progressed, the Irish never put together a consistent three rounds until their performance at the Big East tournament in late April. The Irish came out shooting well in round one and led the field with a score of 288. Notre Dame fell behind in round two, but shot a tournament-best and season-low 280 for the final round — led again by a 67 from Sciupider. While the round was not enough to propel the Irish to a title — they

finished in third — Kubinski was proud of his team's perseverance.

"I thought the highlight of the year for the team was the final round of the year," Kubinski said. "To play our best round of the season, when it was really do or die, I thought that was really good for a team that headed into the year needing some experience. The guys said they didn't see it as the last round of this year, but rather the first of next year, to build some momentum."

The Irish will return all starters next year except senior Paul McNamara. Sciupider, Lane, junior Niall Platt, freshman Zach Toste and sophomores Tyler Wingo and Patrick Grahek will all return with experience, and Kubinski said he expects the three incoming freshmen to have an impact as well.

Kubinski said his team's weakness this year will be a strength in 2014.

"I think we can take the momentum of [the Big East tournament] and say 'we can do this,'" Kubinski said. "Let's take this into next season and we can shoot some great rounds."

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ND CROSS COUNTRY

Men's and women's squads qualify for NCAA meet



JOHN NING | The Observer

Irish graduate student Johnathan Shawel runs in the five mile race of the National Catholic Championship on September 14 hosted by Notre Dame. Shawel took fifth place out of 276 runners.

By VICKY JACOBSEN

Sports Writer

Both the men's and women's squads concluded the 2012 season at the NCAA championship meet in Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 17. The men, who qualified as a team for the third year in a row, finished 28th out of 31 teams, while the women finished 15th, their best showing since 2005.

"We moved forward in terms of competing at the national level," women's coach Tim Connelly said. "We finished 15th and we really weren't too far away from being 10th or 11th."

As was the case throughout the year, the women's team stuck together at the championships, as senior Rebecca Tracy, sophomore Gabby Gonzales and juniors Alexa Aragon and Kelly Curran all crossed the line within two seconds of each other.

"We had a team that didn't have a whole lot of front-runners, so we really emphasized finding each other and racing with each other," Connelly said.

"And I thought we did a really good job of that at the NCAAs."

The men's team qualified for the national finals despite losing senior Jeremy Rae the previous weekend to an injury at the Great Lakes regional.

"When you lose your No. 1 runner, it's a tough nut to crack, but they did and they did very well," men's coach Joe Piane said. "You have to understand that there's 321 Division I teams, and only 31, or 10 percent, make it into the national championship. So that's a pretty formidable obstacle to overcome, and they did. They did a great job."

The women's team benefitted from decorated track athletes who found their footing on the trail.

"Kelly Curran really took a big step forward for us in terms of being a cross-country runner," Connelly said. "She's done a really good job her first two years on the track, and this year as a junior she really stepped up and did a great job in terms of cross-country. Rebecca Tracy was the same way. She had

been an All-American on the track and really took a big step forward in cross-country as well."

The injury bug also bit the women: Connelly said his biggest disappointment of the year was that sophomore Hannah Eckstein was injured after a great performance at the regional meet and was unable to compete at the NCAAs.

The outlook for next year remains strong, however, as Tracy is the only senior leaving the women's top-five, and Jeremy Rae and J.P. Malette will both return for fifth years on the men's side.

"We lose one fella, [senior] Jeff MacMillan, and other than that everybody's back," Piane said. "We did not run Michael Clevenger this year, nor did we run Tim Ball, nor did we run Kevin Durham. All were very, very good freshmen, and so they're basically freshmen again next year. It's going to be a very, very good team."

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ROWING

Irish finish atop the Big East



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish junior All-American Molly Bruggeman rows during a practice at St. Joseph's Lake on April 25, 2012.

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

Throughout the fall and spring seasons, No. 11 Notre Dame worked to position itself to win its 10th straight Big East championship and to compete at the NCAA championships in June.

Notre Dame's season started in the fall, when the team had a series of races and training routines in preparation for the spring season.

Sophomore Stella Willoughby said the fall season was critical for the team's development, which allowed them to attain positive results in spring competition.

"In the fall, we had a larger group of rowers to begin with than [we did] last year," Willoughby said. "And then we began to recruit walk-ons as well, who are critical for the team's success as they give the team a huge pool of depth and also competition. Training was definitely harder this fall than [it was] in the past."

The work ethic of the Irish before fall events like the Head of the Charles Regatta paid off in the spring, when the team began to line up against some of the country's strongest competition.

At the Lake Natoma Invitational in Sacramento, Calif., the Irish tied for third in a field consisting of some of the top teams in the country, including No. 1 USC, No. 2 California-Berkeley, and then-No. 9 Stanford.

"The California trip was amazing because we had the opportunity to go to a different climate and different environment to train in," Willoughby said. "We tied Stanford, and being on that level with the top teams gave us the ability to grow as a team."

Next, Notre Dame competed in the Dale England Cup in Bloomington, Ind. where they dominated the competition, placing first overall with a score of 118 points.

"At the Dale England Cup, we were the top performers ... winning the majority of the events gave us a great deal of momentum for the Big East and NCAA championships," Willoughby said.

Willoughby said the Irish are looking forward to the upcoming Big East and NCAA championships. The Big East championships will be held in Mercer County, N.J., on May 19, while the NCAA championships will take place in Indianapolis from May 31 through June 2.

For the first time, the winner of the Big East championship will automatically qualify to compete at the NCAA championships. The Irish are currently the top-ranked team in the Big East.

"All fall and spring [work] will culminate in these end of year races," Willoughby said. "We expect to win the Big East championship this year and get a spot at the national championship."

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Saint Mary's: Year in Review

Soccer sets wins record, Faller first-team All-MIAA for tennis, Golf finishes second in MIAA fall season

Basketball

By A.J. GODEAUX
Sports Writer

Belles coach Jenn Henley had only one way to describe the year: a "learning season."

However, despite a 5-20 final record, Henley was quick to point out that "learning season" doesn't mean failure. In fact, Henley insisted the year was far from a failure for a team featuring two seniors and seven freshmen.

"When you lose five seniors from the year before, we didn't start over, but we were so inexperienced," Henley said.

What the team lacked in wins — the Belles also went 3-13 in the MIAA — it made up for in growth as a team, Henley said.

"We were a completely different team at the end of the year," Henley said. "We overcame a lot of adversity, with these young kids growing so much just to compete. The difference from the start of the year to the end of the year was huge."

Junior guard Shanlynn Bias led the new-look squad toward the end of the season. Bias, senior guard Kayla Wolter, junior forward Katherine Wabler and sophomore forward Ariana Paul entered the season with 22 combined starts. And while all four set career high single-season marks in points and assists, Bias stepped up and led the Belles in points, steals and assists. Bias was also named second team All-MIAA, the sole Belle named to the all-conference team.

Seven of Saint Mary's losses were to teams that made the NCAA Division III tournament. Four of the defeats came at the hands of conference foes Calvin and Hope, top-five teams for most of the season. Ten more losses came by single digits, including a two-point heartbreaking loss to Aurora on Dec. 29, 2012.

"I don't think we had any defining moments in the traditional sense," Henley said. "When you're that young, the defining moments for me were seeing these young kids having success for the first time at the college level. That's what's going to set the tone for next season."

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Softball

By MEREDITH KELLY
Sports Writer

Behind its strong veteran leadership, Saint Mary's finished the season tied for fourth in the MIAA, narrowly missing out on a spot in the four-team conference tournament.

The Belles (19-17, 9-7 MIAA) began their season with a spring break trip to Florida, losing their first three games. The team recovered to win five of its next seven games and end its Florida trip with a 5-5 record.

Saint Mary's got off to a hot start in conference play, winning seven

of its first nine games. The Belles, however, faltered down the final stretch and lost five of their final seven games, including their last four.

In the end, the team did not qualify for the conference tournament, losing the tiebreaker for the final tournament spot to Hope.

The Belles received notable contributions from senior co-captains shortstop Emily Sherwood and catcher Morgan Bedan. Sherwood batted .300 and had 20 RBIs, while Bedan hit for a .304 average in 36 games.

Saint Mary's coach Erin Sullivan said the team's two seniors excelled at leading the team this season.

"Morgan and Emily have balanced each other so well and left our returners with a great sense of our team culture," Sullivan

said. "I'm very proud of how they stepped up to lead such an incredibly young class."

Bedan and Sherwood both were honored with senior awards from the Saint Mary's athletic department. Sherwood won the Competitive Spirit Award, while Bedan won the Marvin Wood Outstanding Senior Athlete Award.

Next season, junior pitcher Callie Selner will return as the team's lone senior. The Belles' two other upperclassmen will be sophomore outfielder Victoria Connolly and sophomore catcher Cecily Medina. Selner was the team's top hitter with a .429 average and 64 RBIs and also sported a 2.10 ERA in 23 appearances on the mound.

"I see all three of them stepping up to lead in their own way [and] the way that accommodates them

best and really shows off their strengths," Sullivan said.

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Swimming

By D.H. KIM
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's capped its final season in program history with a seventh place finish at the MIAA championships.

The Belles (1-5) had a difficult start to the season, as they lost their first four consecutive dual-meets.

Despite its struggles, there were several bright spots for Saint Mary's. In the team's dual-meet against Albion, freshman diver Andrea Canacci scored a 189.95 in the 1-meter diving for the fifth-best

score in program history. In addition, senior swimmer Ellie Watson, sophomore swimmer Anna Nolan and freshman swimmer Carolyn Neville each won individual events against Albion.

The Belles took home their first win of the season when they defeated Olivet, 153-105, in February. The team won 10 of the meet's 16 events, and Watson swam the fifth-fastest time in program history in the 200-yard butterfly event.

A week after the Olivet meet, the Belles traveled to MIAA championships at Jenison High School in Jenison, Mich., where they finished last in the field of seven teams.

On March 19, Saint Mary's vice president of Student Affairs Karen Johnson announced the school

see SMC YEAR **PAGE 22**

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SMC Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

would end the swim program, effective at the end of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Belles coach Mark Benishek, who left the team at the end of the season for a job in Seattle, said he was disappointment at the termination of the swim program.

"My heart especially goes out to the juniors, sophomores and freshman that will not be able to finish out their careers at Saint Mary's," Benishek said shortly after the announcement of the program's cancellation.

Saint Mary's senior swimmer Genevieve Splitter said she would always remember her time spent on the team.

"This is devastating for all of us, but we are still a team and we will have the memories we made and our accomplishments to keep us going," Splitter said. "My fondest memories were the teammates and the hardship we went through as a team."

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Tennis

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

The Belles brought a lot of potential into this season, but they couldn't quite capitalize on it.

Belles coach Dale Campbell said Saint Mary's (10-8, 4-4 MIAA) could have accomplished much more.

"We underachieved, and I underachieved," Campbell said. "I need to ask for more, and the team needs to believe that they can do the work necessary to play at a higher level."

The Belles opened the 2013 season with losses to Case Western and Ohio Northern.

Over spring break, the Belles defeated Illinois Wesleyan, 6-3, and Wisconsin Lutheran, 8-1, but Saint Mary's then lost two in a row.

The Belles, however, broke their inconsistent streak by stringing together four straight victories and pulling their record to 6-4 overall and 2-0 in conference play.

After an 8-1 loss to Albion on April 10, the Belles racked up three more wins, including a win over Alma that Campbell said was among the best performances of the season.

"I think our best matches were our 6-3 and 5-4 victories [over Trine and Alma] midseason and taking care of our other conference opponents," Campbell said.

As the season wound down, the Belles found themselves in the hunt for one of the MIAA tournament spots.

Saint Mary's fell to Hope on April 20. A narrow 5-4 loss to Calvin followed four days later, and the Belles closed out their season with a 7-2 loss at the hands of Kalamazoo.

The three losses dropped the Belles into a tie for fourth place with Calvin (6-11, 4-4 MIAA) in the MIAA. Since Calvin had just defeated Saint Mary's head-to-head, the Knights earned the fourth and final spot in the MIAA tournament.

Campbell said he will set the bar higher next season.

"We didn't reach our goal of making the tournament, so that was disappointing," Campbell said. "I just want to take away that we can work harder, play with more enthusiasm and set the bar much higher. We have the talent to do it."

After a disappointing season finale, the Belles received some good news. MIAA coaches named junior Mary Catherine Faller to the all-conference first team.

Campbell said he wants Saint Mary's to build on this past season and its positives.

"We will have seniors and a lot of juniors next year, so experience should start to work in our favor, but we must prepare better," Campbell said.

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Volleyball

By MIKE GINOCCHIO
Sports Writer

It was a roller coaster ride of a season for the Belles.

The squad started the season on a four-game win streak and won six of its first seven. It followed its hot start with a four-game losing streak and played inconsistently the rest of the season en route to a final record of .500.

The Belles (14-14, 7-9 MIAA) opened the season with four wins for the first time since the 2006 season and took home the North Park Classic tournament title, as sophomore outside hitter Kati Schneider and senior setter Dani Brinks were named to the all-tournament team for their performances.

The Belles went 4-1 in open conference play, which marked best five-game start to conference play since the team joined the MIAA in 1997.

Saint Mary's boasted several strong individual performances this season.

Sophomore middle hitter Melanie Kuczek, a transfer from Lewis University, made a major impact in her first season for the team, leading the Belles with 61 blocks and 20 solo blocks. Schneider was named the MIAA Position Player of the Week twice and selected to the

All-MIAA First Team for the first time in her career. Brinks was also named the MIAA Position Player of the Week. With her team-leading 812 assists, Brinks finished her career second on the all-time list for assists in program history.

The team fought until the last day of the season, when the Belles forced then-No. 5 ranked Hope to four sets before losing 3-1 and then the Belles rallied to topple Wheaton in three consecutive sets.

Thirteen players from this year's Belles squad, including Schneider and Kuczek, will return next year. Freshman Katie Hecklinski, who led the team with 351 digs in her first season, will also be back when the team returns to action in the fall.

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Cross Country

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

Although Saint Mary's struggled to meet its lofty preseason expectations, Belles coach Jackie Bauters said the team's season was a success in many ways.

"There were several girls that had lifetime-best races this season, which is what we try to focus on and improve upon for next year," Bauters said. "While we had hoped to finish higher in the conference rankings, the competition was tough and the results were not a result of lack of effort."

The Belles began the season ranked 10th in the Great Lakes Region in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association poll, marking the first regional ranking in program history.

Despite their high preseason ranking, the Belles struggled against conference competition and finished sixth in both the MIAA Jamboree and the MIAA championships. Saint Mary's ended its season with a 19th place finish in the NCAA Great Lakes Regional race.

Junior Jessica Biek paced the Belles with several top finishes and recorded the squad's best time of the season when she ran a 23:06 at the MIAA championships. The veteran Belles team, which included six seniors, also received strong contributions from seniors Emma Baker, Julia Kenney and Elizabeth Majewski.

Bauters said the impact of the team's seniors extended far beyond their performances in competitions.

"The biggest positive that I believe came out of the season was the amount of team cohesion and

chemistry that developed, largely as a result of our six senior leaders," she said. "They did an exceptional job of preparing the foundation for our team to grow from next year."

Looking forward to next season, Bauters said the Belles would definitely miss the contributions of their seniors, but said she is optimistic about the team's incoming freshman class.

"Hopefully, collectively we have prepared the other athletes to step up and fill the positions [the seniors] are leaving," she said. "We have a solid group of talented athletes coming in next fall. From what I can tell, it's going to be a great fall."

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Golf

By COLE SCHIETINGER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's put together another strong season, both in terms of overall success and improvement.

Belles coach Jason Kolean repeatedly stressed the improvement his team made this year.

"A lot of the girls met their expectations and we still have some stuff to build on for next year," Kolean said. "Four out of my five girls took off at least a half stroke from their [average round's] score."

Those improvements showed early in the spring season, when the Belles fired a 322 in the second round of spring-opening George Fox Phoenix Invitational.

In addition to its tangible improvements on the course, the Saint Mary's has also become stronger mentally and grown as a team, according to Kolean.

"[Over the offseason], we had our head coach resign, so we had a lot of turnover and change from that," Kolean said. "The coaches love to see these girls interact on the course. They've gotten so much stronger mentally."

Over the course of the season, the Belles established themselves as a talented, young team poised for success. By season's end, their hard work had culminated in a second-place finish in the MIAA NCAA Qualifiers, a finish that the team will look to improve next year.

"We've set ourselves up for next year, and I think we can really go out there and succeed," Kolean said. "One of our biggest expectations is to beat Olivet next year, and take first in the MIAA. We're going to really push to improve and hope that that is enough to beat Olivet or whoever else next year."

In the fall season, the Belles concluded a strong campaign by turning in another second-place finish in the MIAA at the two-day MIAA

End of Season Jamboree.

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Soccer

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

The 2012 season proved to be the most successful in program history as the Belles finished with a record 13 wins.

Sophomore goalkeeper Chanler Rosenbaum said she took great pride in helping Saint Mary's (13-5-2, 10-5-1 MIAA) to a historic season.

"It's an awesome feeling," Rosenbaum said. "We're always going to be in the [record] books."

In addition to setting the record for wins, the Belles, led by Rosenbaum in net, recorded a program-best 10 shutouts.

The season started off strong and Saint Mary's rolled to a 4-0-1 start, highlighted by a 2-1 home victory over conference power Adrian on Sept. 15. Junior forward Kaitlin Teichman said the win gave the team the momentum it needed to be successful in conference play.

"It was a great game to win," Teichman said. "They are always a really good team and the game gave us a lot of momentum for the season as a whole. Wins at home especially bring us a lot of great energy."

Following the win over Adrian, the Belles suffered their first loss, falling 2-1 to Alma. A 1-0 loss to Calvin brought Saint Mary's record to 5-2-1, but the Belles quickly rebounded by winning five straight games in pursuit of a conference title.

Saint Mary's closed out its season with a 13-5-2 record and finished fourth in the MIAA.

Teichman said the keys to the team's success were depth and versatility.

"We had a deep team with good camaraderie," Teichman said. "You could put anyone out there and feel comfortable about playing with them. There was so much talent this year."

Despite the strong season, the Belles vacated their position in the MIAA tournament due to a violation of Saint Mary's Department of Athletics policy.

However, Rosenbaum said the Belles are eager to begin their 2013 season and build off a program-best campaign.

"I've never been so excited to start a season in my entire life," Rosenbaum said. "I'm excited to see how far we go and how well we compete against these teams."

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SAINT MARY'S YEAR-IN-REVIEW

2013

Aug. 22: Saint Mary's cross country ranks 10th in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association preseason poll for the Great Lakes Region.

Sept. 12: Saint Mary's volleyball beats Adrian 3-1 to start the season with a 6-1 record.

Sept. 25: Belles soccer scores seven times against Albion; it is the most goals scored by the Belles since 2007.

Oct. 13: Saint Mary's finishes second in final MIAA standings with a second-place finish at the End of Season Jamboree.

Oct. 27: Saint Mary's soccer sets school record with 12th win of the season against Trine.

Nov. 3: Sophomore outside hitter Kati Schneider named to all-MIAA first team. Schneider is the first to do so since 2009.

Nov. 7: Amy Komisarek named inaugural Saint Mary's lacrosse coach. The team will begin play in the Spring of 2014.

Nov. 20: Belles basketball wins two of their first three games. Both wins came in the last three seconds.

Feb. 16: Saint Mary's swimming finishes 7th at the MIAA conference tournament.

Feb. 25: Junior guard Shanlynn Bias garners all-MIAA second team honors for Belles basketball.

March 1: Saint Mary's cancels swimming program.

April 27: SMC golf finishes second in the MIAA NCAA qualifying round.

May 4: Sophomore Mary Catherine Faller named to all-MIAA first team for Belles tennis.

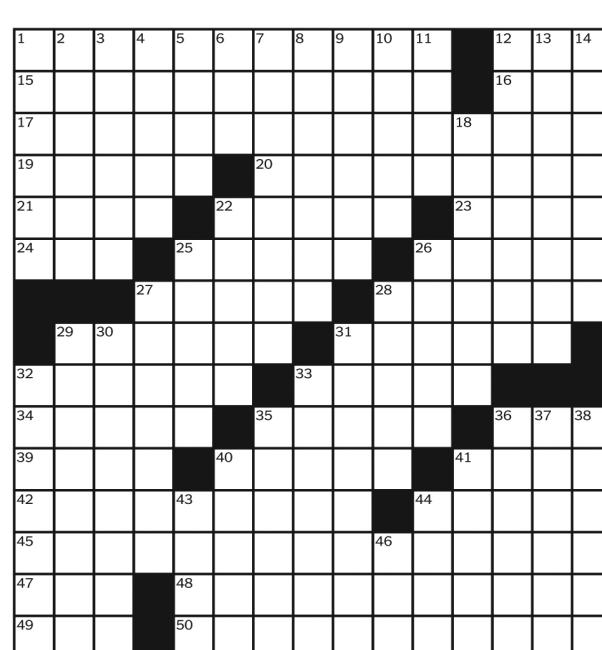
May 7: Three Saint Mary's softball players receive all-MIAA honors.

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Entrée meant to be eaten with the fingers, according to its creator
 12 "People's Choice Awards" airer
 15 Key chain
 16 Millerite, e.g.
 17 In flight?
 19 Late critic featured on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
 20 Position of prominence
 21 Vatican money, once
 22 Sunbathes, informally
 23 So-called "Playwright of the Midwest"
 24 Out of spirits
 25 Marlon Brando's role in "Superman"
 26 Leave off
 27 W.W. II pistol

- 28 Buildings with many owners
 29 Post office purchase
 31 Big 1970s-'80s band with a geographical name
 32 Art of television
 33 Innocents
 34 Playing costs
 35 Dear
 36 What Mad magazine lacked from 1957 to 2001
 39 Part of many a vegan's diet
 40 Country singers?
 41 Short distance
 42 Goes beyond the pale?
 44 Element #100 is named for him
 45 It's often freely given
 47 Surveillance cam location



PUZZLE BY PATRICK BERRY

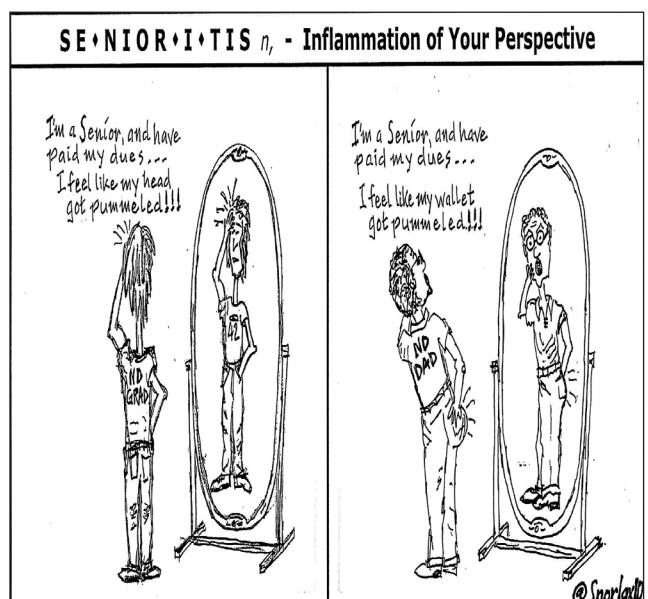
- 27 Suspect groups
 28 Turns up
 29 Seeker of the Seven Cities of Gold
 30 Induces
 31 Victorian-era furnishings
 32 Shows the ropes
 33 Title maiden in a Heinrich Heine poem
 34 Home of the Karl Marx Theater
 35 Painting and ballet
 36 Endangered
 37 Lower
 38 Be an angel?
 39 Symbol of Apollo
 40 Willard Scott's successor on "Today"
 41 Shoulder-fired weapon, for short
 42 Salt
 43 Salt
 44 Nobody's Business (old blues standard)
 45 Dear
 46 Company boycott?

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4

4					1	
	8				6	
		6	8	3	9	5
8		2	6		9	
			7	1	2	
1	2	4	8			
		4			7	
3					8	

The Observer wants to congratulate the Class of 2013!

HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Pick and choose what you do carefully. Your motives must be good if you don't want to experience interference. An imaginative approach to the way you make and handle your money will help you stabilize your finances for future investments. What you learn this year will encourage and help you secure a better future. Give and take will be necessary. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 24, 36, 40, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take advantage of the changes going on around you. It's the perfect time to implement something into your schedule that you've always wanted to pursue. Don't limit what you can do. Being adaptable will result in personal opportunities. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Focus on money matters and how you can earn more. Upgrade your skills or take a course that will train you to do something specialized. Keeping a secret will protect you; telling a lie will not. Know your boundaries. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do something you feel passionate about and you will be successful. Share your thoughts and plans with people who have something to contribute. Greater security can be yours, but get what you want in writing, as empty promises are apparent. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will escalate based on the information you fall privy to receiving from an unreliable source. Don't jump to conclusions or make the mistake of acting too quickly. Put more into self-improvement projects, not trying to change others. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems dealing with a partner, lover or your job will cause worry and anxiety. Answer questions cautiously to avoid jeopardizing your reputation. Honesty mixed with a little Leo charm and the willingness to compromise will improve your situation. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do your best to please others and you will get favors in return. What you learn from participating in an exercise, seminar or event will help you diversify what you have to offer. Don't let an emotional relationship stand between you and success. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional matters will surface. Deception, misinterpretation or mistaking what's actually intended or being offered to you will be a problem. Ask questions and do follow-up to avoid an error that can leave you or someone else in the lurch. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A short trip to visit an old friend, relative or neighbor will help you learn more about your roots. You may want to rethink your strategy and come up with a plan that fits your changing lifestyle. A business partnership looks promising. ★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll gravitate toward adventure, but make sure that you don't spend or react impulsively. Being fair is the key to making the changes that will suit your needs, budget and whatever personal relationship you are in or contemplating. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make improvements to your surroundings. Discuss your plans with someone who shares your concerns and recognizes the importance of maintaining a strict budget. Don't let love turn into a costly situation. Invest in you, not in someone else. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Not everyone will be accommodating. Keep your plans a secret for the time being until you have worked out the details. Expanding your interests will lead to an encounter with someone who will become quite special to you. Love is highlighted. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to the people, places and pastimes you know well. Be honest about the way you feel and avoid anyone trying to pressure or use you to get ahead. Offer suggestions but don't donate, invest or offer cash. Deception will lead to sorrow. ★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are determined, disciplined and imaginative. You are just and protective.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIDIT
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SMURT

SACGIN

EPUCON



Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EPOXY NEEDY MATRIX IDIOCY
Answer: Everything was going fine as he chopped down the tree until the — "AXE-IDENT"

WORK AREA

THE OBSERVER

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