

Symposium to examine health care justice

Justice Education Program uses talks as opportunity to educate students on ethical issues in health care

By **MARTHA REILLY**
News Writer

In an effort to raise awareness about underrepresented societal issues at the College, the Justice Education Program will host a symposium on health care justice featuring speeches from advocates and practitioners this Thursday at Rice Commons.

The Justice Education Program's student advisory committee organized this event to inform students about health care disparities in the United States, committee member and junior Maranda Pennington said.

Pennington said she encourages people to attend Thursday's talks to gain valuable and applicable information about a pertinent topic.

"If more people are aware of the injustices that occur in our society, more can be done to fix them," Pennington said. "Health

care injustices are even more important because a lot of times it can lead to life-or-death situations. Also, it is so important for individuals to know resources and preventive measures so they can lead healthy lives."

Sophomore Morgan Matthews, a member of the advisory committee, said the symposium will provide people with the opportunity to hear from skilled presenters with various experiences.

"Students need to take advantage of the chance to hear this information from professionals," Matthews said. "These people know what they're talking about. They can reassure us that there are answers to our questions."

Students can take away relevant advice from each talk as they increase their understanding of a universal issue, Matthews said.

"Everybody deals with health

see HEALTH CARE **PAGE 4**



LAUREN WELDON | The Observer

App caters to senior citizens



LAUREN WELDON | The Observer

By **SELENA PONIO**
News Writer

The development of a new app at Notre Dame is catching the attention of a specific group: senior citizens.

Researchers at the University's Interdisciplinary Center for Network Science and Applications (iCeNSA)

developed eSeniorCare, a comprehensive app that helps senior citizens manage, organize and provide feedback on their health care.

Nitesh Chawla, director of iCeNSA, said the opportunity for personalized health care and a focus on the mental, physical and the social well-being of senior citizens were sources of

inspiration for eSeniorCare.

"Our goal was to build a network for seniors to be more empowered ... to set their own goals and track them and truly achieve a personalized journey on health and wellness," Chawla said.

Chawla said researchers

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Student Government hosts refugee dinner

By **JENNA WILSON**
News Writer

In light of the recent refugee crisis, Notre Dame Student Government held a dinner to discuss the issue and provide a forum for several refugees to share their experiences Tuesday at the Morris Inn Ballroom.

According to a Student Government email, the dinner was intended to "[bring] together refugees, students, faculty and members of the South Bend community for a night of conversation ... and [focus] particularly on religious persecution as a means of forced migration. This dialogue helps students build relationships with members of the community, while learning about a global issue."

According to the email, over

135 Notre Dame students and faculty members attended the dinner, which featured commentary from refugees from Iraq and South Sudan.

"It's the perfect time to be having this conversation, with all the political rhetoric and the fear-mongering that we've been exposed to since the Paris bombing," Barbara Szweda, former director of Notre Dame Immigration Clinic and Legal Aid Clinic, said.

Szweda, now a refugee lawyer for Catholic Charities, was the first speaker of the evening. She explained the extensive process refugees must undergo in order to gain entrance to the United States.

"A refugee is a person who because of well-founded fear of persecution [due to their] race,

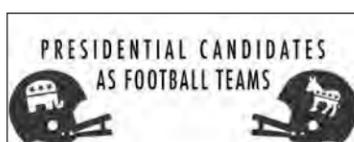
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THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite Christmas song?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Connor Hayes

senior
Alumni Hall

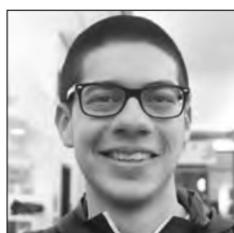
"All I Want for Christmas is You."



Fatima Montez

senior
Howard Hall

"I'll Be Home for Christmas."



Jesus Mendoza

senior
off campus

"Silent Night."



Kyle Planck

junior
Alumni Hall

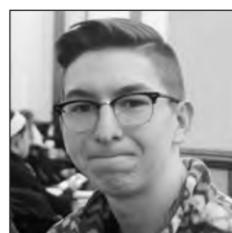
"All I Want for Christmas is You (Extra Festive Remix)."



Lily Crawford

senior
Badin Hall

"Minut Chrétiens (O Holy Night)."



Nick Rice

sophomore
Siegfried Hall

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

A graph in LaFortune Student center tracks student involvement in GreeNDot, a national violence prevention strategy that focuses on encouraging proactive bystander intervention in the form of small actions that work to change the culture.

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The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday

"Mastering Leadership"

Hammes Bookstore
4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Bob Anderson launches his new book.

Fall Reading Series

Geddes Hall Coffee House
7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.
MFA students read their work.

Thursday

Silent Auction

LaFortune Student Center
6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Fundraiser for Hannah's House.

Father Ted Talk: Ed Hums

Reckers
8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Lecture on an integrated life of faith.

Friday

Laudato Lunch

Geddes Hall
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Discussion about Notre Dame at Paris Climate Conference.

Hockey vs. Massachusetts

Compton Ice Arena
7:35 p.m.-9:35 p.m.
Notre Dame takes on the Minutemen.

Saturday

Shakespeare Festival

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Auditions for "Pericles" and "The Tempest."

"Anchored in Hope"

Keenan Hall
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
The Voices of Faith Gospel Choir Fall Concert.

Sunday

Violin Performance

Snite Museum of Art
2 p.m.-3 p.m.
Faculty member Tricia Park and guest Taylor Morris will perform.

Crèche Pilgrimage

Eck Visitors Center
2:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
Visit nativity scene exhibits around campus.

University announces new MLK Day events

Observer Staff Report

In an email to the student body sent Nov. 23, University President Fr. John Jenkins announced plans for the commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 18. All classes and campus activities from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. will be canceled to allow for student, faculty and staff participation in the events.

After receiving feedback from students, faculty and staff, the President's Oversight Committee on Diversity and Inclusion "recommended last spring that

we take time as a community on MLK Jr. Day to both celebrate the diversity that currently exists on our campus and to reflect on how Notre Dame might become even more welcoming and inclusive," Jenkins said in the email.

"The committee did so, too, in recognition of the fact that we have an obligation at Notre Dame to participate in and learn from the ongoing national and even global conversation on diversity and inclusion. All students, faculty and staff will be invited to participate, making this a special opportunity to

gather as a campus community," he said.

The committee is currently planning several events for MLK Jr. Day, which include a candlelit prayer service and midnight march from the Word of Life mural at Hesburgh Library to the Grotto, the email stated. There will be a luncheon and program for 3,000 students, faculty and staff in the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center and a Celebration Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m. featuring the Voices of Faith Gospel Choir, Jenkins said.

"Most importantly, I hope

you will use this occasion to reflect on the values that are so central to Dr. King's legacy and to Notre Dame's mission. Whether in the context of the courses you are taking, through attendance at campus lectures, or in informal discussions, your participation in our ongoing dialogue about what it means to be the kind of community we strive to be at Notre Dame and the ways that we, individually and collectively, can be a force for good in the world, is critical," he said. "At Notre Dame, we often speak of community. As president of the University,

I have the privilege of experiencing the strength and depth of the Notre Dame community in many settings, in our residence halls, at alumni gatherings, in the friendships formed on campus, and in the ways we come together in times of joy and sorrow. Our commemoration of MLK Jr. Day will be an opportunity to reflect on how we can make our community more welcoming and inclusive, and what we can do to make our nation and our world more just and harmonious. I look forward to joining with you for these important events."

ND researcher develops drug for diabetic wounds

By **EDDIE DAMSTRA**
News Writer

Many diabetic patients suffer associated complications with their disease, but Dr. Mayland Chang, a research professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry, is attempting to mitigate the complication of chronic wounds.

"Diabetes has many complications and one of them is that patients with diabetes get wounds that don't heal," Chang said.

She said there is almost no knowledge of the causes of this specific complication, and this limited knowledge has led to the inability to combat the problem.

"This results is more than 70,000 lower limb amputations in patients every year just in the U.S.," she said. "About half of those patients, within three years, end up dying."

These statistics drove Chang to look for solutions to these problems, she said. Chang leads a research group

from Notre Dame's department of chemistry and biochemistry that has made significant progress in finding ways to fix the prevalence of chronic wounds in diabetic patients.

The team's main tools are diabetic mice, she said.

"We inflict wounds to mice, db/db mice, so they have type 2 diabetes, and we go with a biopsy punch," Chang said. "If you can imagine it, it is like trying to punch a hole in paper, you make a wound in the back of the mice."

The research team is able to analyze the mice wounds and gather data, she said, and the mice have already led the team to new discoveries. In an earlier study, the research team found two enzymes in the diabetic mice wounds: MMP-8 and MMP-9.

Chang said the research team hypothesized that MMP-8 was coming in to repair the wound.

"We also saw that MMP-9 up regulated in diabetic animal wounds, so we thought that MMP-9 was the cause for why the wounds did not heal," she said.

The first study also led to the team to utilize an MMP-9 inhibitor, ND-322, in attempt to heal the wounds, Chang said, but the results did not overly impress the team.

"We would see improvement, but not great improvement, so then we worked on making a more selective inhibitor," she said.

In their most recent study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the team utilized a new and improved MMP-9 inhibitor, ND-336, Chang said. While low levels of selectivity lessened the earlier inhibitor's healing abilities, the new inhibitor, ND-336, is far more sophisticated, Chang said.

"The ND-322 was a three-fold selectivity, this is like a 50-fold selectivity," she said.

Chang said ND-336 is a

much better inhibitor, and now that the team has proven their discoveries yield successful results, she can envision the practical benefits of these discoveries.

"If you had an MMP-9 inhibitor like ND-336, that in itself can become a drug that you can apply to heal wounds," Chang said.

Other options, Chang said, would be to apply MMP-8 to the wounds or utilize the combination of both. First the team would have to move on to human trials, she said, which will not be happening in the near future.

"You need first to get investment money that usually does not come from federal agencies. It may be like \$2 million to manufacture kilograms of the compound that we can't do here, and then be able to do the toxicology in a rodent and non-rodent species. We would submit that to the FDA and then they would grant us approval so we can test on humans," Chang said.

Finances, not time, are the main obstacle, Chang said.

"It is not that it is a long road, it is that you have to go and find the money to do it. If you have the money, you can get it done in one year. The problem is just getting the money to do that," she said.

Contact Eddie Damstra at edamstra@nd.edu

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THURSDAY 12.3.2015
10:00PM STUDENT STAND-UPS/
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FRIDAY 12.4.2015
10:00PM CONCERT: JOSH THOMPSON
12:00AM SWING NIGHT

SATURDAY 12.5.2015
10:00PM SUB PRESENTS: CREED BRATTON
12:00AM HIP HOP NIGHT

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Health care

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

care,” Matthews said. “It’s a topic that pertains to all citizens, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or background. It’s good to know about, especially as college students, who will need to use this information as we grow older.”

Matthews said students should consider planning for their futures as they absorb this new information.

“Right now, we can hear from primary sources about this important topic,” Matthews said. “One day, you’ll have to worry about yourself and your family. People should recognize that it’s not something that you can keep putting off or delaying. A discussion of health care is necessary not only as we grow older but also now, at this age.”

The symposium will demonstrate that connections exist between justice and health, two topics that people may not normally associate, Matthews said.

“When you look at the inequalities in health, you realize that you want to do something about [it],” Matthews said. “You

want to make that change. You want to work toward improving those conditions.”

The symposium contributes to the community aspect of Saint Mary’s, Matthews said, because knowledgeable students can unite as they work on this issue.

“Students should realize what exactly they are getting themselves into,” Matthews said. “Health care is often debated, and we want students to be informed when they approach this topic.”

The Justice Education Program’s student advisory committee centered this year’s symposium around health care because it finds value in informing students of problems they may encounter in real life, Matthews said.

“Through giving people this convenient way to learn more about health, we can lay out the facts and prepare them,” Matthews said. “Experts are ready to talk, and students should be ready to listen. Things are changing, and we need to be prepared.” Things are changing, and we need to be prepared.”

Contact Martha Reilly at mreilly01@saintmarys.edu

Refugees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion ... is unable or unwilling to avail themselves to the protection of the country and is unable to return,” Szweda said.

Szweda called on members of all faith traditions to accept refugees, mentioning the emphasis both Islamic and Judo-Christian traditions place on aiding and sheltering those seeking refuge.

“Refugees are among the most vulnerable people in the world. They are fleeing their homes and all that is familiar to them because of war or natural disaster. They come with absolutely nothing, some leave with just the clothes on their back,” Szweda said.

Haider, a refugee from Iraq who did not wish to share his last name, spoke of the difficulty he had when deciding to come to the United States.

“I did not have any plan to come to the United States until 2009, when I lost my wife in a car bombing. At that time, I had two kids — the youngest one was nine months old. At

that point, I decided I needed to keep the rest of my family in a safe place,” he said. “I thought, if I flee out on Iraq, who is going to [make the country better]. Why am I going to make those American boys take the heavy load of making my country better, while I flee to another country. I decided to stay, until that horrible accident.”

According to Haider, there is a common misconception that refugees are only looking for government handouts.

“I just want everyone to know that refugees they are just normal people. They have jobs and have families,” he said. “My house [in Iraq] was decent, with a big garden. The house we rent now is half the size of my garden. I hear my son talking, saying ‘I remember when we used to be rich,’ and I try to explain to him, it is not important to be rich, it is important to be safe.”

Ngor Majak Anyieth, a Notre Dame junior and refugee from South Sudan, also spoke.

“I am not an expert on the topic,” Anyieth said. “I am just going to tell you about my experience with the hopes it will help you think through the crisis at hand.”

According to Anyieth, life in a refugee camp is both a struggle and a joy. He said there is an overwhelming sense of community in the camp but also challenges during everyday life, including dealing with overcrowding and food scarcities.

“My experience as a refugee started 10 years ago, when I left my home country and went to a refugee camp in Northern Kenya, where I would spend the next six years,” he said. “Now, every time I [leave Notre Dame] and go home, I go to Uganda, to the refugee camp.”

Madison King, director of communications and event coordinator for Student Government, concluded the event with a call to action.

“Take a rose outside as you leave, give that rose to your roommate or someone else that was not able to attend the dinner. Tell them something that you heard here tonight,” King said. “This will help us start the conversation around here on campus, as Notre Dame students, community members and friends of the human family.”

Contact Jenna Wilson at jwilso35@nd.edu

App

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wanted to create an app that made a difference in society by catering to a vulnerable group. He said senior citizens were especially vulnerable, as many are unaccustomed to technology, but the developmental process was not always easy.

“When we first launched the pilot ... the seniors did not like it,” Chawla said. “When we first launched it they were actually quite frustrated. We were persistent ... and we had

multiple focus and feedback sessions with the seniors.”

Chawla said collaboration with senior citizens was key to developing eSeniorCare’s appeal to its specific audience.

“We learned with them on what that entire user experience should be like for them,” Chawla said. “Now they basically are champions of this application.”

eSeniorCare contains features such as setting and tracking personal goals, monitoring sleep, brain games and more, Chawla said. However, its main purpose is to help

cultivate an enhanced communication system between senior citizens and their caretakers by providing interactive medical features such as medication scheduling, reminders and history.

“The seniors have a sense of empowerment as a result,” he said. “They feel empowered when they go to a physician and they take their tablets with them.”

Chawla said the development of the app was a two-year process, and what was once a study only requiring 16 participants is now a study with 38 participants.

He said eSeniorCare has not only helped the South Bend senior citizen population, but the development has also had scholarly benefits.

“It gives students a translational experience,” he said. “It is an immediate feedback on outcomes [that] actually makes a difference to a person.”

eSeniorCare has created a new support system for senior citizens that allows them to create their own personal social network, he said.

“The individual is able to have more knowledge, more awareness and be able to

communicate that with the health providers and give feedback to the health providers as well,” he said.

Chawla said that as the population ages, demands for technological advances like eSeniorCare are necessary to provide mental, medical and social support for senior citizens.

“In 10 years ... there will be an expectation of this kind of technology,” he said. “I believe that we are ahead and constructive in that space.”

Contact Selena Ponio at sponio@nd.edu

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SOPHIE IMPRESSES WITH SATIRE ON 'PRODUCT'

By **ADRIAN MARK LORE**
Scene Writer

There is something about absurdity and nonsense that has gripped left-leaning electronic musicians as of late. I noticed it first back in 2011, when a ridiculously melodic squeak was paired with a gratuitously thick bass in Hudson Mohawke's cult hit "Cbat." That was only the start: In 2012, the notorious release of "TNGHT," the first and only EP of Mohawke's self-titled project in collaboration with fellow trap-producer Lunice, didn't just hit the underground electronic scene with a blast of air-horn maximinimalism but jettisoned the scene as a whole to the mainstream (for better or worse). That fact alone would have one expecting a rather impressive affair of an album, not — as actually turned out — a dumbfoundingly catchy agglomeration of 8-bit chimes, baby noises and ... bubbles? But at least, I freely admit, there was quality there. Let's not forget, on the other hand, the almost idiotic simplicity of Baauer's major worldwide hit (?), the infamous "Harlem Shake."

The music, overall, was a parody of

itself, and it's not unlikely that it was, to a certain extent, born from the idea that the electronic music industry — laughably mediocre as of late — has been taking itself way too seriously.

At least, that's where SOPHIE seems to be coming from on "PRODUCT," a collection of eight singles recorded over the past couple of years, most of which have been previously released in other formats. (And there's something hideously appropriate in this fact alone, in an age that has shirked the album in favor of ephemerally chart-topping singles.) Sonically, the best way to describe them is as the soundtrack to Sour Patch Kids learning how to twerk, an ineffably strange attribution that nevertheless shines through the comically saccharine vocals, sour synths and smacking, head-banging kicks.

But perhaps the most meaningful label for this music is "antiseptic." Everything about this music is airtight, clean, perfectly produced, engineered and designed like ... well, a product. And is not the title itself a point-blank announcement that this music, like most of the other popular electronic music being released these days, is intended

to be nothing more than a product to be consumed and inevitably excreted once the fad has faded? Indeed, we find on the cover art for side-project QT single "Hey QT" another blatant stab at the advertising industry (and by extension the sales-minded nature of the mainstream music industry), in which a similarly "perfect" doll-like female figure — cue the synthetically high-pitched vocals that poke at our inaccurate modern conceptions of femininity — holds the eponymous soft drink she seductively attempts to advertise. But the video takes it to a whole other level, as we watch attractive, made-up models don Beats headphones while enjoying this apparently revolutionary new soft drink in a "formula testing lab," as if indeed the whole purpose behind the music video itself were to merely excuse the blatant product placement (sound familiar, Miley Cyrus?). For the record, they give the drink glowing reviews.

But you wouldn't catch any of it at first, because the music, after all, is pretty good. Satirical music doesn't tend to beat around the bush; it's usually purposefully terrible so as to parody the mediocrity of that which it is mocking.

But therein lies the brilliance of these singles: They are the guy with the ironically wild dancing at the club who — wait a second — actually has some great moves. And as such, the moves sneak into the mainstream repertoire and, before you know it, you're un-ironically doing them too. But more than being a compilation of trendy but ultimately forgettable singles, "PRODUCT" represents for dance music what vaporwave was to '80s Muzak and what nightcore was to Vocaloid pop. It's catchy, it's stylish, it's chic ... but take that glittery mask off, and it's subversive to the core.

Contact Adrian Mark Lore at
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"PRODUCT"

SOPHIE

Label: Number

Tracks: "VYZEE"

If you like: Arca, TNGHT, Eprom



25 DAYS of CHRISTMAS : THE MOUNT RUSHMORE OF HOLIDAY DRINKS

By **MIKO MALABUTE**
Scene Editor

It's that time of year again, where the temperature is consistently cooler and people do what they can to bundle up and stay warm. However, no amount of down vests and beanies can match the warmth (and accompanying heartwarming!) that the perfectly holiday drink can provide.

Apple Cider

Anyone who has tailgated in the Midwest can tell you, the best way to brave the cold isn't necessarily with a beverage reserved for the over-21 year olds — it's the piping hot mug of apple cider. The sweet, rich taste of apple in the hot beverage slowly

travels down the throat and courses through the veins up and down the body. People instantly feel the warmth from that perfect cup- of apple cider and are liable to break out into Christmas carols.

Eggnog

One of the most polarizing of the holiday drinks, eggnog (and here we of course are referring to the non-alcoholic version) is one of those drinks that people hear and — if they have never tried it — will instantly shudder and shy away from. But here's why they shouldn't: there's a reason why it's been around as long as the holiday itself. In fact, speaking of Mount Rushmore, George Washington himself was known to partake in the sweet, creamy drink.

Thus, it's hard to say no when one of our founding fathers gave the drink his seal of approval.

Hot Chocolate

If you still can't bring yourself to the presidential level of Washington and down a cup of eggnog, then this drink is the way to go. The fool-proof drink appeals to everyone, and whether you're seven, 17 or 70 years old, an inviting cup of hot chocolate will always get your heart singing your favorite Christmas tunes. Just a word of the wise to keep you more Santa than Grinch: stay away from simply using chocolate syrup and milk and throwing it in the microwave — you deserve better. Bring out the pots and melt some of your high-end chocolate, then mix in the milk.

Pumpkin Spice Latte

I know, I know. People will read this and instantly roll their eyes as the infamous drink has been known to draw many people's ire and scorn. But here's the fact of the matter — people secretly love it, and everyone knows that once those leaves turn a different shade of color and drop to the ground, they're instantly craving that autumn/winter concoction. Call it whatever you want: basic, cliché or even played-out. You can discuss it with everyone else standing in line for the "PSL." Word to the wise, instead of simply putting milk into it, try the flavored syrups! You still get the caffeine, less calories and — above all — it is a win-win. It tastes like Christmas.

Contact Miko Malabute at
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INSIDE COLUMN

Travel with Fr. Ted

Caroline Genco
Photographer

“You work in the library?”
“Wait ... you asked them for this job?”
“Are you not just bored all the time?”

These are the typical questions received when explaining to other students that you work in the University Archives. Although I typically never trek to the library to study from my cozy abode in Ryan Hall, this job makes the journey worthwhile.

On the first day of September, I went to the sixth floor of Hesburgh Library and asked if there were any internship positions available for students. Though I had minimal work experience, they likely sensed my overeager affinity for quiet office spaces and hired me on the spot.

In following my passion for photography, I began working with the archivist specializing in photographs, Ms. Hogan. After completing my first projects, Ms. Hogan removed four wooden cigar boxes from the endless rows of shelves and placed them on my desk. She explained they were left to the Archives from Fr. Ted's office, and while I felt unworthy of the assignment, I could not wait to see what was inside.

Hastily written on top of these boxes beside a “Cuesta Rey International” seal read, “17 days around the world.” I immediately thought of my father and how envious he would be. Carefully opening each box, Ms. Hogan and I found rolls and rolls of film labeled in chronological order of Fr. Hesburgh's journey.

On the backs of each photograph, Fr. Ted wrote a caption of the scene often calling people by name or explaining the circumstances for each photograph. I imagine this meticulous practice was a pleasant and meditative process for Fr. Hesburgh when returning from such incredible adventures.

Overwhelmed yet excited, I vicariously relived this pilgrimage around the world with Fr. Ted. From Beijing to Moscow, I sorted through the photographs, realizing the direction of his lens gravitating not toward capturing tourist sites as we typically do today, but rather images illustrating culture, native people and often the poor. My favorite discoveries came from examining which negatives lacked photographs in the roll. Since these were often group shots, I imagine they have since been disseminated throughout the world to his numerous travel companions.

Through this seemingly trivial practice of organizing photographs, I recognized Fr. Hesburgh challenging the idea of practicing virtue at a distance. I hope one day to be able to do as he did – pursue an adventure not as a passive observer but as a student of culture and seeking to touch lives of individuals around the world.

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

The integrity of Chinese factories

Yuchen Zou
Guest Columnist

Notre Dame's “China policy,” which launches a pilot program to manufacture products in two Chinese factories, has caused a campus-wide debate. As an undergraduate who doesn't have much knowledge of labor laws, I don't feel more qualified than any other student to comment on the policy itself. But as a Chinese national, I want to speak up and share my thoughts. This article reflects my own opinions and doesn't represent the position taken by any particular student body at Notre Dame.

I don't yet have a firm stance on the China policy. Admittedly, laws that deny workers the freedom of association are fundamentally contradictory to Catholic social teaching (CST). One of the key themes of CST is the dignity of work. Workers have the right to form unions that protect their interests. In “Rerum Novarum,” Rights and Duties of Capital and Labor, Pope Leo XIII explicitly points out, “The most important of all are workingmen's unions, for these virtually include all the rest. ... It were greatly to be desired that they should become more numerous and more efficient.” Private societies such as workers' unions are supported and cannot be prohibited by public authorities.

According to the website of War on Want, a London-based anti-poverty charity, “There are approximately 150 million internal migrant workers in China who, because of their status, do not receive any state benefits or protection. They have to endure poor working conditions such as excessive and forced overtime, denial of social security rights and failure to provide employment contracts, as well as severe health risks.” Personally, I have heard stories of Chinese sweatshops where workers under high pressure committed suicide. I agree that to support a system that violates workers' rights is highly problematic.

However, when I ask people why they are against the China policy, most responses have nothing to do with CST. To be honest, most Notre Dame students I have talked to said they are against it simply because they are against it. The logic behind their answers, if I have interpreted it right, is: because I have been taught since kindergarten that Chinese factories are evil, I don't like them. Because I don't like them, I'm against the policy before actually knowing the most basic information of the factories Notre Dame chooses to cooperate with.

This type of reasoning is not limited to the China policy. It is human nature to judge, making quick and loud conclusions based on preexisting assumptions without diving deeper. I find this extremely troubling. No one I talked to has made a specific argument against the policy or pointed out what is actually wrong with it. Is there a loophole in the due diligence process? Which part of the decision-making procedure needs improvement? Should we have worked with a different consulting agency in making the landscape assessment? No one I talked to has read the full report

attached in the email, and no one even remembers the names of the Chinese factories we are working with. They think working with Chinese factories is wrong simply because it is wrong.

Verité is the University's key partner in the policy. According to the Worker Participation Committee (WPC) report and Verité's website, it is a Massachusetts-based non-profit with the mission of ensuring “people around the world work under safe, fair and legal conditions.” According to the report, assessment of the factories were conducted by Verité, whose representatives visited the selected factories and collected online and on-site data that scored factories against 71 specific criteria. These criteria are listed, in English and Chinese, on pages 31 to 37 in the report.

Let's look at the two factories that passed the standards: Huai'an Yuan Tong Headwear (ASI) and Wintax Caps, Shenzhen. Both, according to Bloomberg, are privately owned businesses nominated by existing Notre Dame licenses. I am not an expert, but according to the report, neither Verité nor the Chinese factories directly represent the Chinese government. ASI and Wintax Caps are two businesses, like thousands in the U.S., which meet rigorous standards for integrity in treating workers. Should their integrity be devalued just because they are operating in the Chinese market? In an era where people do not judge by race or nationality, why are we still judging businesses that way?

“As a Chinese citizen, my view and opinion of China as a historical entity, a country and a political state have always fluctuated greatly throughout the years; there were times when I am definitely not proud of its decisions or actions. However, I feel that a lot of the phobia/contempt/condescending pity that some people I've encountered may harbor are more directed at China's administration than its other facets — history, culture, language, arts, sciences, technology, philosophy, religion ... and more importantly, its people and their unique values shaped by a turbulent yet rich past. I would like to point out that China is so much more than a manifestation of a political or ideological system that one supports or condemns.” This is a post on Facebook by my friend, and I cannot agree more. I think it is key to my understanding of this issue and a lot of other controversies related to China.

This is only my own viewpoint, which, in many aspects, needs further refinement. However, I don't think “it's wrong because it's wrong” is a better argument than mine. I am still struggling to take a definite position on the China policy and want to develop a clearer stance through engaging in more conversations. I genuinely hope that these conversations are those where people draw conclusions not based on preexisting biases, but on rational reasoning and a clear understanding of all the background information.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Praise for saved theology classes

As the student body was reminded in a Nov. 30 email, Notre Dame is considering making changes to its core education requirements. In the discussion of these changes over the past several months, the most controversial decision on the table has been a change to or reduction in the University's theology requirements. While there are certainly valid points to be made on either side, I think an issue that has not received enough attention is what that proposed change would have meant for the state of Notre Dame's identity.

Notre Dame is a Holy Cross school and as such, has always strived to exemplify Blessed Basil Moreau's words: “We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.” To ignore the idea that education of the heart (and by the same token, the soul) is equally important to that of the mind would be, I think, to miss the point of a Holy Cross education entirely.

Thus, had Notre Dame eliminated or reduced the theology requirement as was proposed by some, Notre Dame would be turning its back on a crucial part of its very foundation. In this consideration, Notre Dame encountered a crisis of self.

It's interesting to note this identity crisis because many college students go through the exact same thing. Most arrive on campus with no idea who they are or who they will become.

These questions, interestingly enough, are examined in the very requirement in question. What theology does is invite students to ask, “Who am I?” and “Who am I becoming?” in the light of God. Students from any and every faith background are able to ask and understand who God is and what that means in terms of who they will be and what they believe. These classes allow students to grow in relationship with God and each other as they navigate their college experience. The theology requirement, at its core, allows students to see a crisis of self as something beautiful and invites them to place their hand in the hand of God as they encounter it.

As Moreau once stated, “Education is the art of helping young people to completeness.” The Notre Dame education is not fully complete without the theology requirement. And without a safe place to encounter the crucial questions of God and self, Notre Dame students will not be either. Therefore, I applaud the committee with their draft report recommendation of maintaining the theology requirement.

Rebecca Hammock
junior
McGlenn Hall
Nov. 30

Presidential candidates as football teams

Louis Bertolotti
Mr. 2016

Donald Trump — Clemson University

Seemingly unbeatable. No matter what happens, whether it be his stance that all Muslims in the country should be registered or his mocking of a physically disabled reporter, he somehow always seems to slip away and stay on top. No one believed he would be topping the polls for this long, but it seems to be the real deal now. It will be interesting to see how he handles himself once he has to go head-to-head with the big guys.

Hillary Clinton — University of Alabama

A Clinton's at the top again? This seems to be the case every time the rankings come out. People are starting to get tired of the Clinton brand and are kind of just rooting against it at this point. But, you have to admit she has been pretty impressive. Despite a huge setback due to the scandal over her private email server and a close call in the Benghazi hearings, she's rallied a huge amount of support and seems to be the candidate to beat. She really just plays on a higher level sometimes.

Ben Carson — University of Iowa

Who saw this coming? Carson, an amazing neuroscientist and decent public speaker, had no real record before this year but has seen an astonishing amount of support nonetheless. While his wins have not been too impressive, he's still in the race when it matters most and has avoided any true losses. He may not have what it takes to go the whole way though.

Marco Rubio — Oklahoma University

The young, handsome senator from Florida seems

poised to go places. Though he had a huge loss early on in his handling of immigration reform in the Senate, he has been solid ever since and appears to be the real deal. Momentum is certainly going in his direction.

Ted Cruz — Michigan State University

Similar to Rubio, Cruz is well-positioned right now but may not make it the whole way. He can clearly play with the big boys and strongly appeals to a big segment of the Republican party. Let's see if he can hop Rubio.

Bernie Sanders — University of North Carolina

Although it didn't seem possible at first, Bernie has been on a huge winning streak. As a democratic socialist, he's not the most conventional candidate, but he's here, and he might just be able to rally enough votes to get into the big game. Though he's a long shot, you never know with him.

Chris Christie — Stanford University

Christie's name is always in contention. As a conservative governor in a liberal state, he was able to get a lot done. Though he hasn't always looked like the best candidate, he shines when it matters and is not out of the picture yet. He's had a few impressive wins and may just be able to pull it off. But don't hold your breath.

Jeb Bush — University of Notre Dame

Oh Jeb, how we pain for you. With the support of his family's strong, nationwide brand, his super PAC's huge endowment and his desire to be a middle-of-the-aisle Republican who could bring in the Hispanic vote, he had an incredible amount of potential. However, a string of injuries ultimately brought him down, despite a valiant effort. Although he has almost no shot at making it to the final game,

he is still a formidable candidate.

Carly Fiorina — Naval Academy

You gotta love Carly. As the only female candidate in the GOP race, she adds a nice dimension to the Republican field and allows them to show how inclusive their message can be. There was a time when it even seemed she was going somewhere, but after failing to keep her momentum, she has now all but dropped from being a contender.

George Pataki, Lindsey Graham and Jim Gilmore — University of Houston

Yeah, I didn't really know they were a thing either.

Joe Biden — Louisiana State University

When Biden was considering entering the race, it seemed like it would be a disaster for opponent Hillary Clinton. He was able to rally a lot more excitement and had a much deeper record than the former First Lady. But, it all fell apart, and now he's not even in the race. And look where Hillary is now.

Martin O'Malley — University of Central Florida

Why does he even bother showing up anymore? It's clear this is headed nowhere, and it's somewhat embarrassing at this point. He hasn't been able to notch a win this entire year and it doesn't seem like one is coming anytime soon.

Not receiving votes — Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee, John Kasich and Rick Santorum

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The golden door for refugees

Ray Ramirez
The Crooked Path

Set about shoulder height in the door frames of observant Jewish homes, you will often find small rectangular cases of pewter, brass or even plastic. Inside each case is a Mezuzah, a piece of parchment on which specific prayers from the Torah are written. These are then rolled into a scroll, wrapped in paper or plastic and placed in the case. As one enters the room, he or she touches the case; the Mezuzah is a Mitzvah, a promise to honor God and a blessing on the house and those who enter it.

New York City, in its role as the doorway to the United States, displays a revered symbol of the promise and blessings of liberty. Shortly after the Union victory in the Civil War and the end of slavery in this country, the French law professor and politician Édouard René de Laboulaye proposed raising a monument to American independence in the form of a statue. The French would finance the statue, and the Americans were to provide the site and build the pedestal.

"The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World" was designed by the French sculptor Frederic Bartholdi in collaboration with the engineer Gustave Eiffel, who was responsible for its frame. The statue is of the robed Roman goddess Libertas, who bears a torch and a tablet inscribed with the date of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776. A broken chain lies at her feet.

The traditional Jewish prayer of blessing by the doorway may have inspired the famed poet Emma Lazarus. Lazarus was a descendant of Sephardic Jews who immigrated to the United States from Portugal around the time of the American Revolution. Born July 22, 1849, Lazarus grew up in New York and Newport, Rhode Island, and was educated by private tutors. Lazarus met

Ralph Waldo Emerson, who became her friend and mentor, and the two corresponded until Emerson's death in 1882. In 1883, Lazarus donated her poem, "The New Colossus," to an auction raising funds for the construction of the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. In 1884, Lazarus fell ill from Hodgkin's lymphoma. She died on Nov. 17, 1887.

As a quick aside, Lazarus' good friend, Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, the daughter of the writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, was inspired by Lazarus' good works and her death from cancer to establish the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne. These nuns, who are part of the Third Order of Saint Dominic, care for those with limited financial resources who are suffering from terminal cancers and provide some freedom from the burden of disease and the chains of poverty.

Shortly after Lazarus' death, the immigrant processing station at Ellis Island was opened in 1892 in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. Lady Liberty greeted generations of immigrants fleeing poverty and political upheavals in Ireland, Italy, Spain and dozens of other countries. Lazarus' "The New Colossus" was given fresh life as an anthem to the United States' commitment to freedom for all people of the world. In 1903, the sonnet was engraved on a bronze plaque and attached to the statue's pedestal.

Lazarus' poem, fixed to the statue that sits beside the doorway to this country, is short, but its message still resonates:

"Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, / With conquering limbs astride from land to land; / Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand / A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame / Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles.

"From her beacon-hand / Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command / The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame. / 'Keep, ancient lands, your storied

pomp!' cries she / With silent lips.

"Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, / The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. / Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, / I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

We should recommit ourselves to this nation's long-standing role as a beacon of liberty, embrace the offer of sanctuary recounted in Lazarus' poem and breathe new life into the promises we have made and the blessings we claim in the name of liberty. If we choose to reject that covenant, I suggest we strike the bronze plaque from the base of the statue and replace it with the words of another poet, Dante Alighieri, who emblazoned this caution beside another door: "Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch'intrate ..." This means, "Abandon all hope, you who enter here ..."

But enough from me — take it from the Pope [The Catholic Herald, June 2014]:

"Pope offers prayers for refugees during general audience"

Pope Francis reminded the faithful that Jesus was a refugee. Addressing Mary as "mother of refugees," Pope Francis offered prayers for the millions of people in the world forced to flee their homelands, and he asked Catholics to reach out to them with assistance and a real welcome.

"Remember, Jesus was a refugee; he and Mary and Joseph had to go to Egypt to save his life," the Pope said on Wednesday at the end of his weekly general audience. "Pray to Mary who knows the pain of being a refugee."

Ray Ramirez is an attorney practicing, yet never perfecting, law in Texas while waiting patiently for a MacArthur Genius Grant. You may contact him at patrayram@sbcglobal.net

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

Bowl-eligible ain't what it used to be



Ryan Klaus
Sports Writer

Following conference championship games this weekend, college football will culminate once again this winter by embarking on its annual series of bowl games.

As has been the case several times in recent years, this year's bowl slate will include an increase in games and, consequently, an expansion of the number of teams competing. To be exact, this bowl season will offer invitations to a mind-boggling 80 teams that will be playing in a record 40 bowl games.

That's just too many.

Of course, it is clear why the number of games continues to increase — money — and I understand this is the reason why the system will likely only continue to grow no matter how absurd it becomes. Likewise, I recognize any argument against expanding the bowl system based solely on the implied sanctity of existing bowl games is equally ridiculous; nothing about a system that already includes bowls named after Idaho potatoes and other bizarre sponsors is inviolable.

Nonetheless, there is no denying the absurdity of this year's schedule, which, due to a combination of the record number of available slots and a lack of .500 FBS teams, will include multiple teams boasting 5-7 records.

I don't know about the rest of the world, but I have no interest in watching postseason games featuring teams that haven't even amassed enough victories to unequivocally call themselves mediocre. And while it is always precarious to cite the sanctity of bowl games, it is incomprehensible as to how a 5-7 team can logically be deemed deserving of any type of

postseason opportunity.

An example of an undeniably undeserving team that will likely be included in this year's bowl season is Kansas State, who, whether or not they win their final game on Saturday, is expected to receive a bid despite only currently having five wins. In "earning" their spot in a bowl, the Wildcats best win (barring a victory against West Virginia on Saturday) will have been a triple overtime victory at home over Louisiana Tech of Conference USA. The remainder of Kansas State's wins include FCS foe South Dakota, 3-9 University of Texas-San Antonio and Big 12 bottom-feeders Iowa State (3-9) and Kansas (0-12). Owners of this pedestrian set of wins, the Wildcats will nevertheless likely be given the opportunity to raise a trophy at season's end. Similarly, many of the other teams that currently sit at 5-7 have accumulated the bulk of their unimpressive win totals against teams that are, simply put, dreadful.

That the protocol for selecting 5-7 teams after the rest of the slots are filled is based on Academic Progress Ratings (APR) is perhaps the only reasonable part of the equation. Still, it is very difficult to make a compelling argument in favor of including teams in any form of postseason play that have had limited success during their regular seasons.

Unfortunately, this extremely comprehensible notion has been and will continue to be completely disregarded in favor of the monetary opportunities that enlarging the field of bowl games presents.

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Hazell making changes to avoid former mistakes

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind.—Purdue's numbers are alarming.

Coach Darrell Hazell has won six games in three years. He has three wins against FBS foes and two in Big Ten play. Empty seats have become the norm at Ross-Ade Stadium, and the school known as the Cradle of Quarterbacks has become a quarterback carousel with six different starters since 2013.

Nobody knows better than Hazell that things must change next season.

"We will take a long look at things, everything from A to Z," he said Saturday after finishing another season with another loss to rival Indiana. "We will make the appropriate changes we need to make to be sure this program moves forward to where we all want it to be."

The reconstruction project has already begun.

Just 24 hours after Purdue completed a 2-10 season (1-7 Big Ten), Hazell said his offensive and defensive coordinators — John Shoop and Greg Hudson — and defensive tackles coach Rubin Carter were out.

Hazell is not, to the dismay of some critics who think they've already seen

enough to pass judgment. But it's going to take a lot more than a staff shake-up to appease an increasingly frustrated fan base that expects more than its gotten out of this football program.

Since Hazell's arrival in 2013, the Boilermakers have:

— Gone 6-30 overall, 5-15 at home, 2-22 in Big Ten play and 0-13 in November.

— Finished the last three seasons with losing skids of 10, six and four games.

— Allowed Indiana to score a school-record 56 points in the 118-game series in 2013 at Bloomington and then gave up 54 points on Saturday -- the Hoosiers' highest scoring total in West Lafayette.

If the Boilermakers don't reverse the trend next season, Indiana could tie a school record for consecutive wins in the series (four), something that hasn't happened since 1944-47. And while the Hoosiers used their home turf to push three top 15 teams to the limit, Purdue's home fans watched their team go 2-5, get outscored by an average of 41-30 and allow the last four visiting teams to surpass 40 points.

Within 48 hours of the season finale, Purdue's athletic website had pulled

down this season's results and replaced them with a 2016 schedule.

"They've got to stick with us," Hazell said when asked about his message to fans. "They need to see the progress made by the young guys coming up through the ranks. We will get it flipped."

There are promising signs.

On the road, the Boilermakers made life tough on perennial Big Ten powers Michigan State and Wisconsin. Markell Jones set a school rushing record for freshmen with 875 yards and became the first Boilermakers' running back to run for 10 or more touchdowns in seven years. Redshirt freshman David Blough started seven games and one of the two wins came against Nebraska.

The hope is that Blough and Jones emerge as the cornerstones Hazell needs.

"We have a long way to go, but I am looking forward to getting there," said Jones, Indiana's Mr. Football Award winner in 2014. "In the offseason, I am going to be sure to do everything I can do to be sure that happens. We are going to continue to fight and not continue to settle for this kind of season. I think we have a bright future."

NBA | 76ERS 103, LAKERS 91

76ers top Lakers, Bryant for first win of season

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kobe Bryant won over the fans — he just couldn't beat the previously winless Philadelphia 76ers.

With the spotlight on Bryant during the final game of his career in his hometown, the Sixers stole the show and defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 103-91 on Tuesday night for their first victory of the season.

The Sixers had lost their first 18 games, and 28 overall dating to last season — the longest losing streak in the history of major professional sports in the United States. But they remained tied for the worst start in NBA history with the 2009-10 New Jersey Nets, who also opened 0-18.

It was the first win for the Sixers since March 25 at Denver.

Hours earlier, Bryant felt the love in Philadelphia as soon as he entered the arena.

He took selfies with fans who might never see him play again, and his presence injected a playoff atmosphere into a city that has lost much of its interest in NBA basketball.

With a packed crowd standing and roaring in appreciation, Bryant was introduced to an ovation worthy of a hometown hero, not the "Hometown Zero" he was once labeled in Philadelphia's tabloids.

Bryant, who will end his 20-year career this season, opened the first leg of his farewell tour in his hometown and was feted with the kind of reverence and gratitude normally reserved for a Sixers great.

He buried a step-back 3-pointer off the opening tip.

He hit another 3 on the

next possession.

Bryant made it 3 for 3 and had the Philly crowd chanting "M-V-P!" as he turned back the clock to his championship form. He scored 20 points on 7-of-26 shooting and made four 3s.

By the fourth quarter, the Philly fans had turned their attention toward the home team, chanting "Beat LA!" when beleaguered rookie Jahlil Okafor made a layup for a 94-80 lead.

Okafor, the No. 3 overall pick out of Duke, has been attached to a string of off-court incidents that included reckless driving and a fight in Boston. He has apologized for his recent decisions. Sixers coach Brett Brown said Okafor will likely soon be accompanied by team security on public outings.

Bryant said he would simply tell the 19-year-old rookie to stay focused on basketball.

Write Sports.

Email Zach at zklonsin@nd.edu

M Bball

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"I also like then that we have almost a week before we play again where we can get some practice reps," Brey said. "We've gathered a lot of information starting Thanksgiving Day, and now we've gotta kind of work on some things and adjust some things."

After topping 80 points in each of its three home contests to open the season, Notre Dame hit a high-water mark of just 73 points in three games in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, over break. However, Brey is more concerned with the defensive play his team has put forth — the Irish conceded 68.7 points per game at the AdvoCare Invitational.

"Offensively, we've been pretty efficient," Brey said. "I've been disappointed in our defense. I thought we could be a little more consistent down there, and certainly [Sunday] we just could never get a key stop to get it to two possessions or to win a game. So I think that's something we really have to talk about and address and hold guys accountable to. I think it's key that we will have some reps to work on things after the Illinois game."

Brey pointed to junior guards Demetrius Jackson and Steve Vasturia, who often pressure opposing guards, as models for the rest of the Irish squad to look to on the defensive end.

"I think any time you have your captains and your leadership doing that, it's a key," Brey said. "The one key that really sets a great tone is Demetrius Jackson and Steve Vasturia work so hard defensively. They set a great tone. I think we've gotta get the rest of our group in that kind of frame of mind for more possessions."

In Florida last week, Notre Dame struggled from the foul line, shooting just 34-for-55 at the charity stripe, including an 8-for-17 performance in the two-point loss to Monmouth on Thanksgiving.

Brey said he's taking a cautious approach to remedying the problem, however.

"I think with free throws some times, you don't want to overcoach

it," Brey said. "It's like talking about a guy's golf swing over and over again. You know, one thing about our guys is when they haven't shot it well from the foul line, they get in the gym on their own and do it instead of me overcoaching free throws."

Wednesday's contest marks Notre Dame's third time in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge since leaving the Big East. The Irish are 1-1 in two games, falling at Iowa in 2013 before defeating Michigan State in overtime last year at Purcell Pavilion.

"I think it's great. It's an honor to be part of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge," Brey said. "You feel some responsibility to carry the flag for the league."

The Illini will re-open the renovated State Farm Center for Wednesday's game, and Brey said he's looking forward to seeing how his team plays on the road against a blue-blood program.

"Illinois has a great basketball tradition, and we know with the opening of that building, the place will be rocking," Brey said. "This will be our first road atmosphere, so how do we react there? It would be a huge win for this nucleus to win on the road coming off a Sunday disappointment against Alabama."

With a long season ahead, Brey said he doesn't think Wednesday's game — or the next one against Stony Brook at Purcell Pavilion on Tuesday — is a "defining moment" of the Irish season, but he said it is important to get wins with the strong slate Notre Dame is facing in December.

"I don't know if it's a defining moment, but it's a key moment," Brey said. "You've gotta remember our season is so long, so many things happen, but the one thing about if you look at our strength of schedule, the teams that we are playing ... we have some big challenges up. I love that for our group. Any win you get here for the most part before Christmas is gonna be a quality win."

"... It would certainly grow our confidence here to have some success in this next stretch."

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu



KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish senior forward Zach Augustine looks to make a move in the post during Notre Dame's 86-78 win over Milwaukee on Nov. 17 at Purcell Pavilion. Augustine scored 17 points and grabbed six rebounds in the game.

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KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish junior guard Steve Vasturia takes a shot during Notre Dame's 86-78 win over Milwaukee on Nov. 17 at Purcell Pavilion.



KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish senior guard Hannah Huffman, center, leads a fast break with junior forward Kristina Nelson, left, and freshman guard Marina Mabrey, right, during Notre Dame's 74-39 win over Toledo on Nov. 18 at Purcell Pavilion. Huffman had a team-high seven rebounds, while Mabrey scored six points, and Nelson added four points in the victory.



KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish junior forward Taya Reimer dribbles towards the basket during Notre Dame's 74-39 win over Toledo on Nov. 18 at Purcell Pavilion.

W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Meanwhile, looming large for the Irish is the absence of sophomore forward and 2014 ACC Freshman of the Year Brianna Turner, who will miss the game Wednesday and could be sidelined longer due to a shoulder injury she suffered in practice last week.

"We're not as good as we've been the past five years with Brianna out of the lineup. ... You don't lose the [pre-season] ACC Player of the Year and not miss a beat," McGraw said. "I think that our guard play is very good, but we're young, with two freshmen All-Americans [Marina Mabrey and Arike Ogunbowale]. [Junior guard] Lindsay [Allen], of course, is one of the best point guards in the nation.

"... We're going to score in different ways, we're going to win in different ways, we're going to have a lot more close games than we've had in the

past, so I think a lot of it's going to depend on how we shoot the ball each game."

Notre Dame's frontcourt woes are exacerbated by the struggles of junior forward Taya Reimer, who started almost every game last season but is dealing with an Achilles injury and just beginning to ease back into the rotation.

"You're going to be a little rusty when you've been out for three months and haven't been able to really practice, so I think it was great having her back in the lineup, and that's all I can say about that," McGraw said of Reimer's limited return to game action last week.

The game against Ohio State certainly has implications in terms of rankings, but for McGraw, it has personal significance as well. Buckeyes head coach Kevin McGuff, who just reached 300 wins with his team's victory over Texas A&M, worked for her as an assistant coach for several years, including Notre

Dame's 2001 championship season. His wife Letitia also played for McGraw at Notre Dame from 1991-1995.

"I think just with [McGuff] and Letitia meeting here I was responsible for that whole marriage and the five kids, and so I just feel like a part of that bigger family," McGraw said. "It's great to see him succeed. I knew he was going to.

"... I'm godmother to one of their kids. It's a close relationship, and it's a tough game to play, because you hate to play people you really care about, so it'll be a little tough, but once the game starts, I'm sure we'll both be competitors."

Notre Dame and Ohio State will meet at Purcell Pavilion at 7 p.m. Wednesday, the first of three top-25 clashes for the Irish, who then travel to No. 1 Connecticut on Saturday and host No. 23 DePaul next Wednesday.

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SMC Bball

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struggles, senior Krista Knapke posted her third straight double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Macius also chipped in 13 points. Diamond stressed the importance of the senior leaders' performances.

"[Knapke] is such a threat inside the paint," Diamond said. "Even though she struggled with her free throws, her resilience each time she stepped up to the line and her strength under the boards was something that really rallied the team tonight. Similarly, [Macius]

showed a determination that I really admired on the floor. Her short shots were hot, and her speed on defense and quick hands made it hard for any defender to get by her."

Diamond said the team will be working on their defensive attack as it prepares for two more away games this week.

"There need to be a lot of adjustments in our defensive game looking forward," Diamond said. "We need to recognize the quickness that we have as a team and utilize this before getting into foul trouble early, which is what we have seen in the last few games. I think that most importantly

though, we need to stop trying to match the tempo and overall game of the teams we play and play our own game that we have practiced so hard to perfect.

"I am excited for our game against Benedictine because I know that our team and our staff are all aware of the changes we need to make to find success on that court on Wednesday."

Saint Mary's will travel to play Benedictine on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Dan and Ada Rice Center.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Shorthanded Irish set to welcome Buckeyes

By **RENEE GRIFFIN**
Sports Writer

No. 3 Notre Dame will face the biggest test of its 2015 season so far when No. 10 Ohio State visits Purcell Pavilion on Wednesday for the Big Ten/ACC Challenge, starting off a string of three games against top-25 teams.

The Irish (6-0) are coming off their closest game of the season, a 92-84 overtime victory over No. 24 UCLA on Saturday, which marked their only game against a ranked opponent thus far. The Buckeyes (4-2), on the other hand, have already taken on the top two teams in the country in Connecticut and South Carolina, though both matchups ended in losses.

"I think they feel like they can play with anyone," Irish head coach Muffet McGraw said. "It's a great measuring stick to see where we are right now, because they are one of, if not the best team in the Big Ten. ... They gave South Carolina a great game."

McGraw said her main concern Saturday is defending sophomore

guard Kelsey Mitchell, who she called "the most exciting player in college basketball." Mitchell scored 42 points in Ohio State's win over then-No. 9 Texas A&M on Saturday, earning her national Player of the Week honors.

"We have to slow Mitchell down," McGraw said. "We're not gonna stop her. We're not gonna hold her scoreless. She's going to get hers. She's averaging like 25 or 26 [points per game], so we'd like to keep her to a little less than that, if we could. But she's absolutely the key."

Slowing down the rest of the fast-paced Buckeye offense will also be crucial to Notre Dame's game plan, McGraw said.

"They get the ball and within two to three seconds, they're into their offense," she said. "They really move the ball quickly. Transition offense is huge for them, they like to run, they score a lot of points. They've got some kids who can shoot the ball on the perimeter. So they have a really good team."

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KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish sophomore forward Brianna Turner makes a move in the post during Notre Dame's 74-39 win over Toledo on Nov. 18 at Purcell Pavilion. Turner will miss Wednesday's game due to a shoulder injury.

SMC BASKETBALL | OLIVET 61, SMC 48

Belles fall in conference opener

By **MAUREEN SCHWENINGER**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's fell 61-48 to Olivet in its conference opener on Monday night at Angela Athletic Facility.

Sophomore forward Gabby Diamond said the Belles (0-6, 0-1 MIAA) came out with a high energy as they tried to put the team's shaky start to the season behind them.

"It has definitely been a struggle these last few games, and it would be understandable if our confidence was shaken from those," Diamond said. "We had learned from those past games. Our team did a great job with our energy in starting the game and making our presence known in that gym."

Senior guard Maddie Kohler's long 3-pointer gave Saint Mary's a slight edge, 14-12, after the first quarter. The team followed with another 10 unanswered points after the break, but the Comets (3-3, 1-0) came back with a 17-4 run to close the half with a 29-28 lead.

There were four lead changes as the teams went back and forth in the third quarter. The Belles pulled ahead, 36-33, with a jump shot by senior guard Sarah Macius. Olivet soon took control on the boards, however, and made Saint Mary's pay with an 11-0 run. The Belles surrendered 26 points off turnovers, a deficit Diamond said was too challenging to overcome.

"It's hard for any team to come back from such a point difference," Diamond said. "[The turnover margin] coupled with a drastic change in our shooting percentage compared to the first half made things even more difficult. I think that both of those took hard hits on our confidence throughout the second half, and it was very challenging to get that back as the clock wound down."

The Belles hit only six of their 26 field goal attempts after half-time and were unable to take the lead for the rest of the game. Despite the team's second half

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

ND looks to bounce back in ACC-Big Ten Challenge



KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish junior guard Demetrius Jackson battles for a layup during Notre Dame's 86-78 win over Milwaukee on Nov. 17.

By **ALEX CARSON**
Associate Sports Editor

Just a few days after suffering losses to Monmouth and Alabama at the AdvoCare Invitational in Florida last weekend, Notre Dame gets right back on the court Wednesday, traveling to Illinois as part of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Wednesday's game gives the Irish (4-2), who fell out of the top 25 Monday, an immediate chance to bounce back against the Fighting Illini (3-4), and Irish head coach Mike Brey said he's looking forward to having his team out on the court so quickly for another big game.

"I like the fact that we play, and we play in a big-time atmosphere on Wednesday," Brey said.

The game will wrap up a stretch of four games in seven days for Notre Dame, and Brey said he's looking forward to getting quality practice time in after Wednesday's contest.

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