

# Notre Dame Report

## Faculty Notes

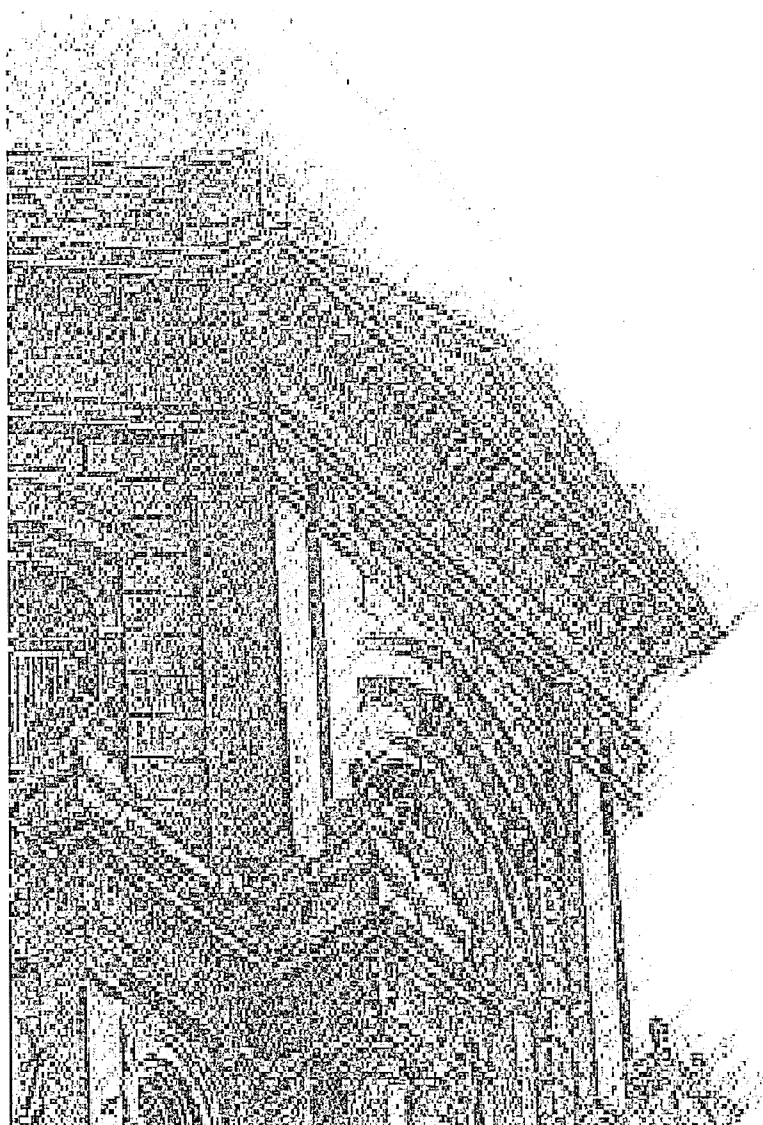
57 .....Honors  
57 .....Activities  
58 .....Publications

## Administrators' Notes

59 .....Publications

## Documentation

59 .....Minutes of the 295th Graduate Council  
Meeting



SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

N U M B E R 3

# Faculty Notes

## Honors

**Rev. Michael John Baxter, C.S.C.**, assistant professor of theology, published "In Place of an Afterword: My Argument with Father Corby, C.S.C." in *Swords of the Lord: Military Chaplaincy from the First to the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Doris Bergen, associate professor of history, Nanovic Institute and Kroc fellow, (Notre Dame: Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2004): 251–269; "John Courtney Murray" in *Blackwell Companion to Political Theology*, ed. W. Cavanaugh and P. Scott (Cambridge: Blackwell, 2004): 150–164; and "God is Not an American" in *God is Not Religious, Nice, One of Us, an American, a Capitalist*, ed. D.B. Laytham (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2004): 55–75.

**Katharina J. Blackstead**, librarian, was reappointed chair of the Trends, Marketing and Project Development Committee of the Library Administration and Management Association, Fund-raising and Financial Development Section for a two-year term.

**Keith J. Egan**, adjunct professor of theology, was named a fellow of the Lumen Christi Institute at the Univ. of Chicago.

**Agustin Fuentes**, associate professor of anthropology, was named to the editorial board of *IBERIS*, the scientific journal of the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History.

**Mary Catherine Hilkert, O.P.**, professor of theology, became the president-elect of the Catholic Theological Society of America at the June meeting of the society.

**David A. Smith**, associate professor of psychology, was elected to fellow status in the American Psychological Association.

## Activities

**Kathleen Biddick**, professor of history, was an invited participant at the symposium "ICT and Education: Incremental Progress or Fundamental Changes" at Media Lab Europe, Dublin, May 19.

**Keith J. Egan**, adjunct professor of theology, presented "John of the Cross: Apophatic or No?" at the annual convention of the College Theology Society, the Catholic Univ. of America, Washington, D.C., June 4; presented two lectures on "Spiritual Guidance According to John of the Cross" at the annual conference of the Spiritual Directors of Ontario, Mount Carmel Center, Niagara Falls, June 8–9; lectured on "John Cassian: Mentor to the Carmelite Tradition" and conducted two workshops on "Friendship as Model for Contemplative Prayer" at the annual "Summer Seminar on Carmelite Spirituality," Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, June 20–26; presented "Contemplative Prayer in Troubled Times" at Retreats International, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, July 12–16; and presented "John Cassian" and "John of the Cross" at the Mt. Carmel Hermitage, Christoval, Tex., for Carmelite Hermits and for the Carmelite Nuns of Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Aug. 11–16.

**Leonid Faybusovich**, professor of mathematics, presented the invited talk "Jordan Algebras and Interior-Point Algorithms of Optimization" and was a visiting professor in the Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Tokyo, between May 28 and Aug. 27.

**Agustin Fuentes**, associate professor of anthropology, presented the invited talks "Hylobatid Social Patterns and Process: Insight into Hominoid Evolution and the Complexities of Social Structure," "Human Culture, Macaque Behavior, and a Global Tourism: Assessing the Context and Patterns of Pathogen Transmission Risk in Human-Macaque Interactions," and "Is Monkey Business a Valid Enterprise? The Political Ecology of Macaque 'Ecotourism'" at the "International Primatological Society Congress" in Torino, Italy Aug. 22–28.

**Prashant V. Kamat**, professional specialist in the Radiation Laboratory and concurrent professor, chemical and biomolecular engineering, presented "Photoinduced Charge Separation in Organic-Inorganic Nanohybrids" at the "Korea Conference on Innovative Science and Technology—New Frontiers in Photovoltaics," Gyeongju, Korea, Sept. 1–4; and "Photoinduced Charge Separation in Semiconductor-Metal and Chromophore-Metal Nanoassemblies," written with T. Hirakawa, at the American Chemical Society meeting, Philadelphia, Aug. 22–26.

**Rev. John P. Meier**, the Warren Foundation Professor of Catholic Theology, presented "The Petrine Ministry in the New Testament and in the Early Patristic Traditions" at the ecumenical conference sponsored by the Farfa Institute, Rome, May 12–15.

**Dean A. Porter**, director emeritus, Snite Museum of Art, delivered the invited lectures "The Rise and Fall of the Taos Society of Artists," Aug. 4; and "South by Southwest, Paintings from the Museum of the Southwest, Midland, Texas," at the Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, Ga., Aug. 5 and 7.

**John E. Renaud**, professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering, served as the general chair of the "10th AIAA/ISSMO Multidisciplinary Analysis and Optimization Conference," Aug. 30 through Sept. 1, in Albany, N.Y.

**Gabriel Said Reynolds**, assistant professor of Islamic studies and theology, was interviewed on Radio Javan, Iranian Youth Radio, May 25; and presented "The Eschaton and Justice in the Thought of Mulla Sadra" at the "Second World Congress on Mulla Sadra" in Tehran, Iran, May 25.

**Slavi Sevov**, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, presented "Heavy-Metal Aromatic and Conjugated Species" at the "Intermetallic Compounds Workshop" in Stockholm, Sweden, Sept. 1–6.

**Andrew Sommese**, the Duncan Professor of Mathematics, presented the invited talk "Numerically Decomposing the Intersection of Algebraic Varieties" at the conference on "Komplexe Analysis" at the Mathematical Research Institute, Oberwolfach, Germany, on Aug. 24.

**Robert P. Vecchio**, the Schurz Professor of Management, was an invited speaker for a session titled "Reflections on 30 Years of the *Journal of Management*" at the national meeting of the Academy of Management, New Orleans, Aug. 10.

## Publications

**Francisco Aragón**, visiting fellow at the Institute for Latino Studies, published the poems "Viejo Mundo" and "Exile's Collage" in *Crab Orchard Review* 9, No. 2 (Summer/Fall).

**Rev. Michael John Baxter, C.S.C.**, assistant professor of theology, presented the plenary address "The Sign of Peace: The Mission of the Church to the Nations" at the annual meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America, Reston Va., June 11; the invited lecture "Beyond Liberal and Conservative Catholicism," St. Anselm Institute for Catholic Thought, Univ. of Virginia, April 21; "Present Your Bodies as a Living Sacrifice: A Theology for Doing More than a Year of Service" in a lecture series titled "Why Service?" at Loyola College of Maryland, Mar. 15; and "To Be a Sign of Peace: The Mission of the Church in a Time of War" for the "Ethics Program Lecture Series," Villanova Univ., Feb. 9. He served on the panel "Policymaking from a Catholic Pacifist Perspective" at the "Forum on Catholic Church Traditions on War and Peace," Jesuit Conference and Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown Univ., Washington D.C., Nov. 6, 2003; presented "Receiving the Gift of Peace in a Time of Permanent War," De Paul Univ., Chicago, Oct. 14, 2003; served on the panel "Just War and Pacifism" at the annual meeting of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, Crystal City, Va., Sept. 27, 2003; and presented the keynote address "War, Peace, and the Christian Conscience" at the fall symposium of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 26, 2003.

**Joseph Blenkinsopp**, the O'Brien Professor Emeritus of Old Testament Studies, published *Treasures Old and New: Essays in the Theology of the Pentateuch* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

**Victor Deupi**, assistant professor of architecture, published "Creating Meaningful

Cities" (a review of D. Mayernik's *Timeless Cities*), in *Modern Age* 46, No. 3 (Summer): 261-264.

**Keith J. Egan**, adjunct professor of theology, published "Banishing Anxiety," *Spiritual Life* 50 (Fall): 131-140.

**Mary Catherine Hilkert, O.P.**, professor of theology, published "Nature's Parables and the Preaching of the Gospel," *The Wisdom of Creation*, ed. E. Foley and R. Schreiter (Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2004): 107-118; and "Creation in the Image of God and Wisdom Christology," *Earth, Wind, and Fire: Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Creation*, ed. C.J. Dempsey and M.M. Pazdan (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2004): 147-163.

**Prashant V. Kamat**, professional specialist in the Radiation Laboratory and concurrent professor, chemical and biomolecular engineering, published "Uniaxial Plasmon Coupling through Longitudinal Self-Assembly of Gold Nanorods" with K.G. Thomas, S. Barazzouk, B.I. Ipe, and S.T.S. Joseph, *Journal of Physical Chemistry B* 108, No. 35 (2004): 13066-13068; and "Self-Assembled Linear Bundles of Single Wall Carbon Nanotubes and Their Alignment and Deposition as a Film in a dc Field" with K.G. Thomas, S. Barazzouk, G. Grishkumar, K. Vinodgopal, and Dan Meisel, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, *Journal of the American Chemical Society* 126, No. 34 (2004): 10757-10762.

**Ralph McInerny**, professor of philosophy, published a translation of *Introduction to the Summa Theologiae of Thomas Aquinas by John of St. Thomas* and introduction (St. Augustine's Press): 182 pp.

**Rev. John P. Meier**, the Warren Foundation Professor of Catholic Theology, published "Pietro: origini di un primato" in *Il Regno* 49, No. 14 (July 15): 496-507.

**Nathan Mitchell**, professional specialist and associate director of the Center for Pastoral Liturgy and concurrent professional specialist in theology, presented "Confirmation in the Second Millennium: A Sacrament in Search of a Theology" at the "Settimo Congresso Internazionale di Liturgia," the Gregorian Univ., Rome, May 6-8; and the keynote speech "The Unsayable Said: Story, Song, and Symbol in Christian Worship," at the "Form/Reform Conference" in Los Angeles, Aug. 8-11.

**William A. O'Rourke**, professor of English, published "The Making of FDR, 1932," a review of S. Neal's *Happy Days are Here Again*, in *Chicago Sun-Times*, July 4.

**John E. Renaud**, professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering, published "Solving the Infeasible Trust-Region Problem Using Approximations" with V.M. Perez and M. Eldred, AIAA-2004-4312, *Proceedings of the 10th AIAA/ISSMO Multidisciplinary Analysis and Optimization Conference*; "Homotopy Managed Interior-Point Methodology for Unilevel Reliability-Based Design Optimization" with H. Agarwal and L.M. Watson, *ibid.*; "Variable Fidelity Optimization Using a Kriging Based Scaling Function" with S.E. Gano and B. Sanders, *ibid.*; and "Hybrid Cellular Automata: A Biological Inspired Structural Optimization Technique" with A. Tovar, N. Patel, G. Letona, A. Kaushik, and B. Sanders, *ibid.*

**Kay L. Stewart**, associate professional specialist in the Freimann Life Science Center, published "Development of an Environmental Enrichment Program Utilizing Simple Strategies," *Animal Welfare Information Center Bulletin*, 12, Nos. 1-2 (Summer): 1-7.

**Mark Suckow**, director of the Freimann Life Science Center, published "Cross-Species Global and Subset Gene Expression Profiling Identifies Genes Involved in Prostate Cancer Response to Selenium" with M. Schlicht, B. Matysiak, T. Brodzeller, R. Dhir, M.J. Hessner, P. Tonellato, **Morris Pollard**, the Coleman Director of the LOBUND Laboratory and professor emeritus of biological sciences, and M.S. Datta, *BMC Genomics* 5, No. 58 (2004).

**John P. Welle**, professor of Romance languages and literatures, concurrent professor of film, television, and theatre, and Nanovic fellow, published "The Cinema of History: Film in Italian Poetry of the 1960s and 1970s" in *From Eugenio Montale to Amelia Rosselli: Italian Poetry in the Sixties and Seventies*, ed. J. Butcher and M. Moroni (Leicester: Troubador Publishing, 2004): 50-62.

# Administrators' Notes

## Publications

Alan S. Bigger, director of Building Services, published "The Frugal Housekeeper Goes to Washington: It's Show Time!" with L.B. Bigger, *Executive Housekeeping Today* 25, No. 9 (September): 6+.

# Documentation

## Minutes of the 295th Graduate Council Meeting

February 11, 2004

**Present:** Jeffrey Kantor, Anthony Hyder, Donald Pope-Davis, Julia Braungart-Reiker (representing Mark Roche), Joseph Marino, Carolyn Woo, Gay Dannelly (representing Jennifer Younger), James Powell, Barbara Turpin, Peter Diffley, Hope Hollocher, Lionel Jensen, Peter Burns, Doris Bergen, Edward Maginn, Peter Kogge, Seth Brown, Joachim Rosenthal, Laura Carlson, Douglas Hall, Cynthia Mahmood, Martiqua Post, Meg Garnett, Terrence Akai, Howard Hanson, Andrew Deliyannides

**Absent:** Frank Incropera, Joseph Wawrykow, Richard Sheehan, Ani Aprahamian, Paul Weithman, Michael Signer

### I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 294th GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

Prof. Hyder invited a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2003 Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Prof. Pope-Davis informed the council that the University received notification from the NRC that rankings will not be done this fall but will be pushed back a year.

### II. DISCUSSION OF PATTERNS OF ATTRITION

Prof. Diffley opened his presentation by defining the attrition rate as the percentage of students who left their graduate programs without their intended degree as stated in their application for admission. He studied the attrition of Notre Dame students who entered between 1985 and 1996; this included full-time, continuously-enrolled PhD students who were to be supported for four to five years. The study encompassed 532 students from four departments representing each of the University's four divisions.

Prof. Diffley explained that students in the engineering and science departments he studied take comprehensive exams and propose dissertation topics late in the third year of enrollment and on average graduate two to three years thereafter. He said that although the two departments have similar paths to the PhD, their rates of attrition are very different. Students in the science department have an attrition rate of 35% while the engineering department attrition rate stands at 49%. Humanities and social science students on average take their comprehensive exams and propose their dissertations late in the fourth year of enrollment and graduate three to four years thereafter. Their attrition rates are 35% and

42% respectively. The attrition rate in the humanities department is similar to the science department in the study, which suggests that time-to-degree is not a factor in the attrition equation.

Prof. Diffley went on to explain that several patterns emerged when he plotted the percent of total attrition that occurs in each year of enrollment. In the science department 20% of attrition occurred in the first year of enrollment while only 5% of humanities' students left their program during that time. He noted that half of the attrition cases occur within two years of matriculation in the engineering department, within three years in the science and humanities departments, and within four years in the social science department. He suggested that the sooner attrition happens the better. Few of the engineering and science students left their program without a PhD after the fourth year of enrollment, but that wasn't the case in the humanities and social science departments, where about 25% of attrition occurred after the fourth year. Of these cases of attrition, over 40% had approved dissertation topics.

Prof. Diffley described how graduate GPAs related to attrition. According to the data collected, in the science department, students who terminated in their first two years had an average GPA of 3.01. Students who left during or after comprehensive exams had much higher GPAs (3.5) but were still lower than the average GPA of graduates. The findings in the engineering and humanities department were similar. In the social science department, the results showed that students who get to the comprehensive exam stage before leaving have GPAs that are every bit as low as those who left during the pre-comp period. Prof. Diffley said that a way to reduce the time to attrition would be for departments to set a minimum GPA standard that is above the Graduate School's current limit of 3.0. Prof. Brown suggested investigating how many students with low graduate GPAs eventually graduated.

Prof. Diffley said that he had hypothesized that a poor undergraduate record preceded a poor performance in graduate courses. Comparative analysis of the data, however, indicated that there was no significant difference in undergraduate GPA, baccalaureate origin, or GRE scores between

those students who left a program without a PhD and those who graduated with one. He then questioned whether campus visits affect attrition. The data collected was from two three-year periods: 1993–1995 (before campus visits by applicants were common) and 1998–2000 (after the graduate school initiated a departmental recruitment fund). Attrition rates in the first three years were compared. Prof. Diffley explained that the results are preliminary because the sample size was small but that they are encouraging. The engineering department had a large drop in attrition, from 45% to 30%, after campus visits were initiated. The science and humanities departments had modest reductions of less than 10%. There was little effect of campus visits on the social science department. He suggested that applicants, after a campus visit, are better informed when they decide whether to enter a graduate program at Notre Dame or elsewhere.

Prof. Jensen asked what an acceptable attrition rate would be. Prof. Diffley responded that the Graduate School is close to 40%. He said that a drop of 10% could save a million dollars a year, money that could be recovered and used to support more students.

### III. REPORT OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY

Prof. Kantor thanked all the members of the committee and noted that some of the recommendations would be included in the fall budget. He then introduced Prof. Laura Carlson, committee chair, and invited her to report on the committee's findings.

Prof. Carlson reported that, while the committee applauded the allocation of funds for the subsidy, it lamented the amount. She said support for student and family insurance should become a University Development priority and that it was difficult to decide how to allocate the funds. The committee had the following recommendations.

1. The subsidy should provide for students who receive a full stipend and who have purchased the University sponsored Mega Life policy.
2. The subsidy should be steadily increased until it accounts for 75% of the insurance cost. At a minimum, it is expected that there will be an increase that will offset the

increasing costs of insurance when support shifts to new money from the University in year four and beyond.

3. 10% of the allocation in a given year should be dedicated to a subsidy for family insurance. In years 1–3 this would be administered through, and restricted to student family members enrolled in, the Graduate School Family Medical Assistance Program. This subsidy should be increased and participation broadened in year four and beyond.

4. Graduate School subsidy money, for students or family members, which is not used in the first year, should be added to the subsidy money for the second year, and any second year surplus should be used in the third year of the program.

5. Money should be made available to allow departments to offer a full insurance subsidy to the best students in the admissions pool. These would be students other than Presidential and Schmidt fellows, who will automatically receive full subsidy. New monies are requested for this purpose.

Prof. Carlson welcomed any comments or questions. Prof. Hollocher noted that the recommendation contains a stipulation that research grants should provide the subsidy. She went on to say that some of the faculty in Biological Sciences felt that requiring funding from research grants might disadvantage those students supported by the Grad School. In addition, this would put an undue burden on departments because of the continuing cuts in research grants. She suggested that the Graduate School take on the full burden of cost.

Prof. Hyder commented that the NIH and NSF budgets have not, in fact, been cut but continue to grow.

Prof. Brown said that there should be no discrimination between a student receiving Graduate School funding and a student on a research or training grant. He then went on to read written comments from Prof. Bergen, who had to leave the meeting early. She said that the 10% allocation for family insurance would not produce any significant improvement to the situation for graduate student family members. We need to make real changes she said, and substantially increase the allocation of funding in order to face the base problem of insurance for graduate students with families.

In response, Prof. Brown said that this was the most contentious topic for the committee due to the cost limitations. He said the money should be targeted to the neediest families who, even with a \$1000 subsidy, still won't be able to afford health insurance. Prof. Carlson said that the committee did not want the issue of family coverage to be lost. Prof. Jensen said that the committee tried to find ways to help defray the costs and get people some kind of coverage. Prof. Kantor stated that the subsidy would be part of the long-term budget plan.

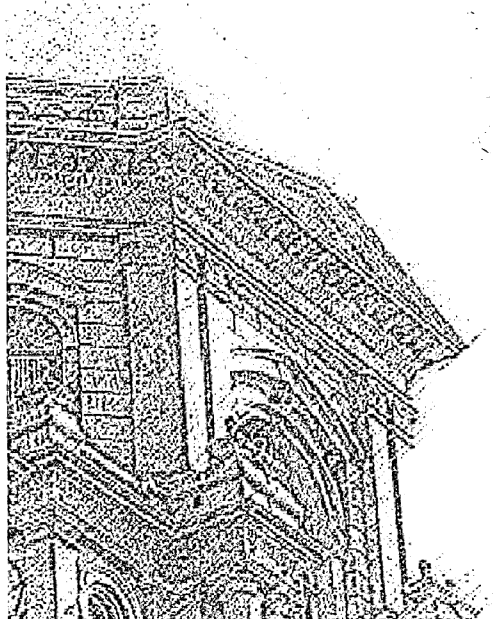
Ms. Post said that, although she felt that the issue of families should be included in the discussion, participants in Graduate Student Union meetings felt that, given the limited funding, just students should be subsidized. They felt that \$1000 would not make much of a difference to the small pool of students with families.

Prof. Maginn stated that it was decided by the committee that whoever was funding a student, whether it's the Graduate School or an outside grant, that entity should fund the insurance subsidy. Prof. Kantor said that that is the most common practice at peer institutions.

Prof. Kantor invited a motion to endorse the recommendations. The recommendations were unanimously endorsed. Prof. Kantor adjourned the meeting at 4:40.

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