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SAINT MARY'S

THE OBSERVER

TO UNCOVER
THE TRUTH
AND REPORT
IT ACCURATELY

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Administration plans ceremony

By RACHEL O'GRADY

Associate News Editor

Now in its seventh consecutive year in Notre Dame Stadium, the 171st Commencement Ceremony will be celebrated Sunday, followed by 19 separate graduation ceremonies throughout the day.

University Registrar Chuck Hurley said he encourages graduates and their guests to show up early to this year's event, due to the attendance of Vice President Joe Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner.

"With the Vice President coming, that's a different challenge for us than in a normal year — but on the other hand, we've had this happen a number of times in Notre Dame's history," Hurley said. "During my tenure, this has been the third time we've had a President or Vice President come. We have some people on our staff that have done it five times."

However, while the security measures complicate the planning, Hurley said it is an enjoyable challenge.

"It's very neat. The Secret Service protection adds a layer there that's different than a normal year, so to speak, so getting people in and out of the facility takes a little bit longer, because the Secret Service has to check everyone through an airport security-type checkpoint," he said.

All bags will be checked, and

liquids will be prohibited, amongst other items. In the past, the Secret Service has been helpful in ensuring the safety of everyone at graduation, Hurley said.

"We're spending quite a lot of time collaborating with the Secret Service," he said. "They've been great to work with — they're extremely professional."

Despite some initial controversy over the location of last year's Commencement Ceremony, Hurley said the University plans to continue to use Notre Dame Stadium for graduation in years to come.

"In the 1950s and 1960s, they had graduation in the stadium as well, for a few years, until they built the Joyce Center," he said. "We went back in 2010 to the stadium, and that's worked out well."

However, Hurley said the use of the stadium is heavily reliant on the weather.

"When you hold an outdoor event of any kind, you're subject to Mother Nature," he said. "Indiana has quite an unusual weather pattern — this time of year, we've seen 80 degree, humid, hot days, but we've also seen snow. Take, for example, a few weeks ago, when we had that snowstorm on Saturday — that came out of the blue."

Since the University knows anything can happen with the weather,

they have alternative measures in place, Hurley said.

"We've got the University weather person, and we pay close attention to what he says, but we stick to the stadium the best we can," he said. "There's always the possibility, however, that we could move into Purcell Pavilion."

A move indoors would affect the number of guests a graduate could bring to the ceremony, according to Hurley.

"We have unlimited tickets for the stadium," he said. "Students can request as many as they wish. About two years ago, we had a young lady who was the first person in her family to graduate college and she brought 90 guests, and that was great."

"But when we give students their tickets, we give them a stadium ticket, and then students also receive three severe weather tickets."

However, Hurley said in case of severe weather, alternative viewing locations will be opened around campus.

"Folks will be able to go to DeBartolo Hall or Jordan Hall or Compton, or the north part of the Joyce Center, so they can watch it there," he said. "Or, if they wanted to, they could watch it in their hotel room on an iPad, because it's streamed."

Contact Rachel O'Grady at rogrady@nd.edu

NOTRE DAME Commencement Weekend Schedule	
SATURDAY, MAY 14	
9 a.m. ROTC Commissioning Ceremony	5 p.m. Commencement Mass (Purcell Pavilion, with overflow in the North Dome)
10 a.m. Graduate School & Mendoza College of Business Ceremonies	
12:30 p.m. Law School Ceremony	6:30 p.m. Graduation Dinner (North and South Dining Halls)
1 p.m. Service Send-off Ceremony	
SUNDAY, MAY 15	
7:15 a.m. Degree candidates assemble for Academic Procession (Hesburgh Library)	
9 a.m. Academic Procession (Notre Dame Stadium)	
9:30 a.m. Commencement Ceremony (Notre Dame Stadium)	

SAINT MARY'S Commencement Weekend Schedule	
FRIDAY, MAY 13	
1 p.m. Nurses Pinning Ceremony (Church of Our Lady of Loretto)	
4 p.m. Baccalaureate Mass Liturgy (Angela Athletic Facility)	
SATURDAY, MAY 14	
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Graduation Brunch (Noble Dining Hall)
Noon	Commencement Ceremony (Court of Le Mans)
4 p.m.	Vigil Mass (Regina Chapel)

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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.

ND increases graduation security

Observer Staff Report

The University announced updated security measures for this weekend's 171st Commencement Ceremony due to the attendance of Vice President Joe Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner, who will be jointly receiving the Laetare Medal during the ceremony.

According to a press release, the procession of the graduates will begin at 9 a.m., but guests are encouraged to arrive earlier due to expected delays. Every guest will be required to pass through "airport-style security checkpoints operated by U.S. Secret Service personnel," beginning at 7 a.m. at Gates A and C.

"Attendees are encouraged to check carefully their belongings before entering the security checkpoint lines," the press release stated. "Storage will not be provided for items prohibited for admission, meaning prohibited items must be discarded or returned to a personal vehicle. Water and other beverages will be available for purchase at stadium concession stands."

Items such as umbrellas, purses or bags larger than 12 by 12 by 12 inches, personal seatbacks, backpacks, signs or banners, unopened packages or gifts of any kind, containers of any type including bottles, cans or thermoses, coolers, grocery bags, tote bags and duffels will all be banned, according to the release. A complete

list of banned items can be found on the Commencement website.

If severe weather becomes an issue, the release stated the University will make the decision to move the ceremony indoors by 10:30 p.m. Saturday night.

"This decision will be broadly communicated via the NDAlert system, through local news outlets, email messages, online at commencement.nd.edu and on University social media accounts," according to the press release.

Guests of the graduates will need to obtain a "severe weather" ticket, as general admissions tickets will not be honored if the ceremony is held inside.

University names class of 2016 valedictorian

By **KATIE GALIOTO**
News Editor

Abby Davis — the class of 2016 valedictorian — said during her time at Notre Dame, she has learned how to “maintain a balance” between the different aspects of her life.

“Personally, I think that’s been the biggest challenge of college — just finding balance,” Davis said. “I think that’s something that took me until this year to figure out.”

Davis, a native of Avon Lake, Ohio, earned a 3.99 cumulative grade point average (GPA) in her four years at Notre Dame and will graduate with a degree in political science and minors in philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) and Russian. She was also a member of the Glynn Family Honors Program and a Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar.

The University’s selection committee invites students with GPAs above a certain cutoff to submit a valedictory address and an invocation, Davis said. From there, the committee selects students to deliver the speech in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, where it is recorded, and submit a resume and letter of recommendation.

Davis said she was shocked and excited when she found out she had been named this year’s valedictorian.

“Honestly, there were a few moments where I wasn’t really breathing. It seemed very unreal,” she said. “I’m not sure it’s completely sunk in yet, but after the moment of initial not breathing, I just felt excitement and gratitude.”

Davis said one of the most defining parts of her time at Notre Dame was the opportunity to form relationships with professors.

“One of the things I’ve loved most about studying at Notre Dame and in small classes is just the ability to regularly go to professors’ office hours and get to know them, get to talk about things outside of class,” she said. “I feel like professors have really helped me get the most out of Notre Dame.”

One class in particular, Davis said, helped change the trajectory of her academic career.

“I took sophomore year, kind of on a whim, a class called ‘Post-Soviet Russian [Cinema]’ for my fine arts requirement,” she said. “I knew nothing about film, not so much about post-Soviet Russia, even less about post-Soviet Russian film.”

Davis spent the summer of 2014 studying abroad in Latvia and the fall semester of the same year in Chile. Then, in the summer of 2015, she took courses and conducted research in Russia.



Photo courtesy of the University of Notre Dame

Abby Davis, a political science major with minors in philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) and Russian, was named the Notre Dame class of 2016 valedictorian. Davis hails from Avon Lake, Ohio.

“I just got really into it. The politics, the history — all of it was so interesting to me,” she said. “That’s actually what got me into Russian in the first place, that spur-of-the-moment decision.”

The day after graduation, Davis will return to Russia as a student aid on a University-sponsored trip before moving to Washington D.C. to start her job at Avascent, a consulting firm for companies in government-driven industries.

Outside the classroom, Davis served as co-chair of the University’s Code of Honor Committee and has been involved in various music ensembles and in community service at the

South Bend Center for the Homeless. She was a resident of Ryan Hall.

“I think joining musical ensembles helped me because it’s very much a team effort, coming together to work on something as one. It’s a huge stress reliever and, for me, helps create that balance,” she said.

Davis said as a freshman, she could not have imagined being where she is today — she entered the University as a chemistry major.

“I’m just thinking about how grateful I am for the whole Notre Dame experience and everyone I’ve met here — all the amazing friends, all the professors who have been such

important mentors to me,” she said.

Ultimately, Davis said, it seems “unreal” that she will be a Notre Dame graduate in a few days time.

“I’ve met some of the most incredible people I’ve ever known here at Notre Dame, who are also incredibly hard-working, incredibly supportive — just incredibly wonderful people,” she said.

“I’m making lists of people I need to stop by and say goodbye to. And you know when you have a lot of really hard goodbyes to say that you’ve had something really special.”

Contact Katie Galioto at kgalioto@nd.edu

ND announces first salutatorian in 45 years

By **KATIE GALIOTO**
News Editor

Senior Stephen Schafer, the University’s first salutatorian in 45 years, said he never had a preconceived notion of what he was going to do during the four years leading up to graduation.

“I would say if anything defines my time at Notre Dame, it would be embracing uncertainty and diving into unknown places,” he said.

Hugh Page, vice president and associate provost, dean of the First Year of Studies and chair of the valedictorian selection committee, said naming a salutatorian allows the University to “recognize in a more formal way two outstanding seniors” who will “represent the virtues and ideals animating a Notre Dame undergraduate education.”

Schafer, a native of Edgewood, Kentucky, has a 4.00 cumulative grade point average and will graduate with degrees in finance and economics. Schafer was also a Malpass Scholar, a merit-based award that provides students with the opportunity to learn and be involved with the process of managing the University’s endowment.

Schafer was a project leader for the Student International Business Council (SIBC) and Investment Club and a senior mentor for the Wall Street Club. He spent the summer of 2013 studying abroad in China and participated in the two-week Ireland Inside Track program in the summer of 2014.

After graduation, Schafer has plans to travel to Asia and Europe. He will then go to work in investment banking at Goldman Sachs in New York City, where he interned during his undergraduate career.

Before college, Schafer said he knew he wanted to go into finance, but he did not know what type of job he wanted to do.

“I think that I came in and was open to a wide variety of experiences and took part in a lot of different events, a lot of different clubs,” he said. “Through that, I was able to experience basically everything in finance from wealth management to sales and trading, to investment banking and private equity.”

Schafer said he learned early on how to manage his time efficiently and effectively.

“I hit my athletic prime back



Photo courtesy of the University of Notre Dame

Stephen Schafer, an Edgewood, Kentucky, native, earned a 4.00 grade point average and was named the University’s first salutatorian in 45 years. Schafer will work at Goldman Sachs after graduation.

in seventh grade — and since then, I started focusing on academics,” he said with a laugh. “If I wanted to just get away, I do that by studying.”

Schafer said he strove to divide his time equally between his academics and his social life.

“A lot of it just comes down to time management, which I think I did very successfully throughout college,” he said. “It may have been at the sacrifice of some sleep, but I would say

I have a pretty balanced life in terms of going out and going to sporting events and what not.”

A defining part of his time at Notre Dame, Schafer said, was his friendships with Notre Dame football players Sheldon Day and Ronnie Stanley.

“We all met freshman year and ended up becoming roommates,” Schafer said. “...Last week, both of them got drafted into the NFL, and I was named salutatorian. ... It’s a uniquely Notre Dame story.”

As seniors prepare to disperse across the country, Schafer said his classmates once again have the chance to “embrace uncertainty.”

“Throughout my time here, it was more like I was jumping into everything — and wherever it takes me, it takes me,” he said. “It’s something I’m very happy I did and something I want to continue to do.”

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Saint Mary's names three valedictorians

By **NICOLE CARATAS**
Saint Mary's Editor

Editor's note: A version of this story appeared in the print edition of The Observer on March 18.

Saint Mary's announced the names of three students who will represent the class of 2016 as valedictorians

Paige Aldrich
valedictorian
chemistry and mathematics



during the College's 169th Commencement.

The three honorees are Paige Aldrich, Annie Cavalier and Alex Vizard. Aldrich is a chemistry and mathematics double major, Cavalier is a chemistry major with a concentration in biochemistry and a minor in biology and Vizard is an accounting major with a concentration in finance and a minor in mathematics.

After graduation, Aldrich said she plans to study nuclear chemistry at Michigan State University's graduate program. Vizard said she will be working at Ernst & Young in Chicago, while Cavalier will attend medical school at Loyola University in Chicago.

Vizard said she was surprised when she found out she was one of three valedictorians.

"I never thought there would be three," she said. "I thought there would be some sort of tie-breaker. I never really thought about getting it. It wasn't an explicit goal, but I was very excited and proud to be able to represent my class."

Cavalier said during her college search, she initially did not have Saint Mary's on her radar because her mother graduated from the College in 1988. She said she wanted to go somewhere that felt more like a place of her own, but then she came to the College to visit.

"When I came to visit, I was walking through the buildings and talking to

professors and students," Cavalier said. "It just felt like the right fit."

Aldrich said Saint Mary's has helped make her accountable for her own life.

"I've learned a lot about the world around me and realized that I need to match what I believe with my actions," she said. "When I was

Annie Cavalier
valedictorian
chemistry



a freshman, I learned about factory farms and realized that I needed to become vegan in order to support what I believed to be right. I've also struggled with my faith throughout my life, so I took a critical look at my beliefs and have deeply improved my spiritual life."

Cavalier said the close relationships between students and professors make Saint Mary's special.

"It makes the classroom experience so much better," she said. "You don't feel like you're being talked at. That gave me a lot of confidence to speak up in class and share my opinions. ... I think that confidence is what I've gained in general, but also the ability to be independent and leave here with no doubts of the success that I will see in the future. I don't doubt my ability to do things that I want to do."

Vizard said the College and the Sophia Program, Saint Mary's liberal arts curriculum requirements, helped her gain confidence in all areas of her life.

"It's caused me to try a lot of new things," she said. "I took a lot of classes that I probably would have never tried taking, and I ended up really enjoying them. I think it's caused me to expand my mindset and grow as a person in general."

Cavalier said she is proud to be a Saint Mary's student because of the College's larger community.

"You can graduate from a

state school or another larger private school, and you don't ever really go back or associate yourself with the school after that," she said. "I know I will have ties to this school and this area for the rest of my life. I know it is a place I will always come back to, a place that I'm always going to miss."

Alex Vizard
valedictorian
accounting



Aldrich said she is proud to be graduating from a college that produces strong, kind, driven women.

"I could have learned information from textbooks," she said, "but it wouldn't have compared to the rounded education that I've gotten from the caring, intelligent professors at Saint Mary's."

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SMC to award honorary degrees

Observer Staff Report

Editor's note: A version of this story appeared in the print edition of The Observer on March 17.

Victoria "Tori" Murden McClure, president of Spalding University, will speak at the 169th Saint Mary's Commencement ceremony, which will take place May 14 on Le Mans Green, according to a College press release. The 350 graduating students represent 31 states and four countries, and three students will be valedictorians, the release said.

McClure is the author of "A Pearl in the Storm," which documents her adventure across the Atlantic, according to the book's website. She is best known for being both the first woman and first American to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean, as well as to ski to the geographic South Pole, the website said. A self-proclaimed explorer, McClure is chair of the board of the National Outdoor Leadership School, according to the website.

Prior to her presidency at Spalding, McClure was a chaplain of Boston City Hospital, a policy assistant to the Mayor of Louisville, Ky. and the director of a shelter for homeless women, the press release said. According to the release, she will be receiving an honorary

doctorate of humanities for her commitment to public service.

Along with McClure, Sister Joan Marie Steadman and Portia Prebys will be receiving honorary degrees from the College, the release said.

Steadman will be recognized for her leadership abilities and her mission-focused efforts to preserve the legacies of both the College and the congregation, the press release said. She is the executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and a board member of Loyola University Health System in Chicago, according to the release. She also served on the College's Board of Regents, now known as the Board of Trustees, from 1982 to 2006, and maintained her position during her presidency of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the release said.

Prebys will receive an honorary doctorate of humanities, according to the press release. She serves as the director of Saint Mary's study abroad program in Rome and will be recognized for her life's dedication to the cultural exchange between Italy and the United States, the release stated. A '66 graduate of the College, Prebys received a Fulbright Fellowship to study Renaissance history in Italy, where she currently resides, the press release said.

Notre Dame to confer seven honorary degrees

Observer Staff Report

Editor's note: A version of this story appeared in the print edition of The Observer on March 3.

Notre Dame will confer seven honorary degrees at this year's commencement ceremony, the University announced in a press release Wednesday.

Diane Nash, Rita Colwell, Richard Notebaert, Arturo Sandoval, Cardinal Donald Wuerl and Pauline Yu will join U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the 2015 commencement speaker, as honorary degree recipients.

Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2011 to 2015, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Nash, a civil rights movement leader, will also receive a doctor of laws. Nash helped shaped the Selma right-to-vote movement that eventually led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, according to the press release. She also participated in peaceful protests of the Vietnam War and worked in support of women's rights.

Colwell, a molecular microbiologist, will receive a doctor of science. Colwell's work focuses on global infectious diseases, water and health and is a

highly-sought after counselor on science policy and education matters, according to the press release. She is the Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, has authored or co-authored 17 books and more than 800 scientific publications and has been awarded 61 honorary degrees.

Notebaert, chair of Notre Dame's Board of Trustees, will receive a doctor of laws. Notebaert is the retired chair and CEO of Qwest Communications International. During his time as chair, the University has provided more financial aid, welcomed more diverse groups of incoming students and launched the Campus Crossroads construction project, the press release stated. Effective July 1, Notebaert will be succeeded as chair of the Board by John Brennan.

The University will honor Arturo Sandoval, an internationally acclaimed jazz and classical musician and composer, with a doctor of fine arts. Sandoval, who began playing the trumpet at age 12 at his home in Cuba, has since received 10 Grammy Awards, six Billboard Awards, an Emmy

Award and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013, according to the release. Sandoval continues to tour, perform and offer clinics across the globe.

Wuerl, the archbishop of Washington D.C., will receive an honorary doctor of laws. Wuerl was appointed a cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in March 2010 and is a chair of the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, according to the release. He serves on several Vatican congregations, councils and commissions and served as the bishop of Pittsburgh for 18 years.

The University will award an honorary doctor of humanities to Pauline Yu, president of the American Council of Learned Societies, a private, nonprofit federation of 73 national scholarly organizations that represent American scholarship in the humanities and related social sciences, according to the release. Yu previously served as dean of humanities at the University of California, Los Angeles and has taught at the University of California, Irvine, Columbia University and the University of Minnesota.

General will deliver address

Observer Staff Report

Editor's note: A version of this story ran in the Sept. 30 edition of The Observer.

General Martin Dempsey will speak at the University's 171st Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, the University announced Sept. 30.

As chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Dempsey served as the nation's highest-ranking military officer.

Dempsey, who retired Sept. 30 after four years at the position, spoke on campus in September 2014 on the threats facing the U.S. for the annual Jack Kelly and Gail Weiss Lecture on National Security. During that same visit, he presented the American flag

Gen. Martin Dempsey
former chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff



during the ceremonies before the football game against Michigan, according to the press release.

According to the press release, Dempsey graduated in 1974 from the U.S. Military Academy and later earned a master's degree in English from Duke University before serving as an assistant professor of English at West Point for three years. He also holds master's degrees in military art and national security sciences.

According to the release, Dempsey deployed with the Third Armored Division in support of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, followed by assignments in Germany, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Throughout his career, Dempsey has served all over the world, and received awards including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with "V" Device and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Action Badge and the Parachutist Badge, according to the press release.

Notre Dame's Commencement Ceremony will be held in Notre Dame Stadium on Sunday at 9 a.m.

ND awards Laetare to Biden, Boehner

By **KATIE GALIOTO**
News Editor

Editor's Note: A version of this story ran in the April 15 edition of The Observer

The University will jointly award the Laetare Medal to Vice President Joe Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner at Notre Dame's 2016 Commencement, the University announced in a press release March 5.

The decision sparked a controversy — on campus and on a national scale — and has received both criticism and support from various members of the Notre Dame community.

"I don't think controversies are necessarily a bad thing if they lead us to have serious conversations, to think deeply about issues," Jenkins said in the interview with The Observer.

The Laetare Medal is awarded to an American Catholic at Notre Dame's Commencement each year in recognition of outstanding service to the Church and society. The award honors Catholics in all different fields; recent recipients include singer Aaron Neville, biologist Kenneth Miller and poet Dana Gloria.

The decision to honor two Catholic politicians was not a timely one in light of the upcoming election, Jenkins said, but instead meant to recognize Biden and Boehner's many years of service to the country as their political careers begin to wind down.

"We're not endorsing the active politicians who are going to have a campaign," he said. "But I thought it was an opportunity to recognize people who had risen to the very highest level of political leadership. For their dedication to public service, their willingness to work with others for the common good, we recognize them with the Laetare."

Jenkins said the decision



LAETARE MEDAL

- "presented annually to an American Catholic in recognition of outstanding service to the Church and society"
- "considered the oldest and most prestigious award for American Catholics"
- originated in 1883
- awarded at Notre Dame Commencement

SUSAN ZHU | The Observer

to award the medal to two members of different political parties was to avoid any perception of the University endorsing one or the other.

"I said before, and I'll say it again, this award does not endorse the particular positions of either person," he said. "... I think it's significant these two men, despite being of different parties disagreeing on so much, became and remain friends."

The decision was meant to address the division and animosity present in today's political environment, Jenkins said.

"I do want, with this award, to fight against the tendency that those who disagree with us are necessarily evil or worthy only of our disdain," he said. "We can disagree — and even disagree on significant moral issues — and still find laudable qualities in those with whom we disagree."

Each year, a committee provides recommendations to Jenkins, who is free, but not required, to select an honoree from the list of suggestions. Biden and Boehner were not on this year's list of proposed recipients, but Jenkins chose to award the medal to the two individuals after discussing the matter with the committee, he said.

In response to Jenkins' decision, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese, released a statement condemning the University's choice due to Biden's stances on abortion and same-sex marriage. Rhoades said he is concerned honoring Biden and Boehner will provoke "scandal," as defined in the Catholic sense.

"That is a somewhat technical word in Catholic thought that means that the action creates the impression that we're sanctioning or encouraging immoral or unjust actions," Jenkins said. "I have the greatest respect for the bishop and want to respond by explaining our intentions, in the hope that I can counter any misperceptions leading to scandal."

Multiple groups have written letters to the editor in the Observer's Viewpoint section voicing their dissent. More than 3,000 individuals — many Notre Dame alumni — have signed a petition professing their agreement with the bishop, urging the University to reconsider the decision.

Jenkins said he wants to articulate the meaning of the award and his reasons for choosing it, a lesson he learned when the University invited Obama

to speak at Notre Dame's 2009 Commencement.

"What I've tried to do, and will try to do, is just explain clearly what we're doing," he said. "People can disagree; I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing, as long as it leaves to substantive, constructive discussion and not just acrimony."

A majority of the criticism is directed at Biden, which Jenkins said he is afraid reflects a one-sided partisan approach.

"I'm certainly not saying that I support all the Vice President's positions," he said. "But I do find, in the record, that he took account of his Catholic faith, even while trying to make decisions on legislation — that's often complex in a nation on issues on which the nation is deeply divided."

Ultimately, Jenkins said he thinks a public servant can exemplify what it means to be a Catholic leader, regardless of his or her political affiliation.

"I think it's important to evaluate, to take account both of that range of [Catholic] teachings and take account of the complex realities of our nation that is so deeply divided on these issues," he said.

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CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS

The Observer News department would like to thank the following seniors for the countless hours they spent in the newsroom and on location to uncover the truth and report it accurately.

Haleigh Ehmsen
Catherine Owers
Jack Rooney
Lesley Stevenson



CONGRATULATIONS

2016 STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

MAGGIE BOWERS**Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism**

given to a graduating senior who exemplifies the qualities of Moore, a former Notre Dame associate vice president, who was known for his integrity, character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability

ANTHONY CUNNINGHAM**Sister Jean Lenz, O.S.F., Leadership Award**

given to a post-baccalaureate student who has displayed leadership in promoting a more diverse, inclusive campus community for students

MEREDITH FRASER**Mike Russo Spirit Award**

honors an outstanding undergraduate student who exemplifies the qualities for which Mike Russo was known, including service, personal character, and who strives to bring the best out of themselves and others

WILLIAM HARRIS**Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., Leadership Award**

given to a graduating senior who embodies Blessed Father Moreau's vision of educating mind and heart and demonstrates a significant effort to advancing the Catholic character of the University

PRESTON IGWE**Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Award**

recognizing a graduating senior whose contributions have significantly advanced the climate of welcome and inclusion within or beyond the University community

COLLEEN MCLINDLEN**John W. Gardner Student Leadership Award**

given to a graduating senior who has exemplified the ideals of the University through outstanding community service beyond the University community

ALISON O'CONNOR**Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence**

presented to a graduating senior who exemplifies the qualities for which former Notre Dame Trustee Ray Siegfried, Class of 1965, was known, including leadership, generosity, devotion to the Catholic faith, and affinity for athletics

MAGGIE SKOCH**Rev. A. Leonard Collins, C.S.C., Award**

honors a graduating senior who has made substantial personal efforts to advance the interest of students at Notre Dame

ND, SMC student governments reflect on year

Baker/Kohler administration aimed to improve student opportunities and enhance campus events

By **ALLISON SANCHEZ**
News Writer

When seniors Kaitlyn Baker and Maddie Kohler took office as student body president and vice president in August, their goal was to improve numerous aspects of campus life, including security and communications between the student body and the administration.

"Our goals were to improve safety for the students on and off campus, provide more opportunities for the student body, student government and administration, and enhance already existing campus events and improve student participation at these events," Kohler said.

Baker said the two worked hard to be present on campus and address the needs of the student body.

"We hosted a community dialogue event in collaboration with [Student Diversity Board], we met with [College president Carol Ann Mooney] to discuss student concerns and we reached out to many students who openly expressed concerns on social media," she said.

During their one year term, Kohler and Baker were tasked with many duties and roles on campus. Baker said she was surprised by her role as a liaison between the student body and the

administration.

"I didn't expect to be so involved with administration and sit on many committees where I had the ability to vote," she said. "I really enjoyed having the opportunity to provide the student perspective at those meetings."

Kohler said she did not anticipate the recognition that comes along with being a leader on campus.

"I was so surprised to have everyone from administration, students, alumnae and even the Board of Trustees say hello and genuinely ask how everything is going within the student government association [SGA]," she said.

Kohler said that while they were able to improve communication on campus, the two are most proud of their executive board and committee chairs' accomplishments.

"We had an amazing group this year and would not have been so successful without their hard work and dedication," Kohler said. "We hope the events they hosted, speakers they brought in and enthusiasm they had enhanced the Saint Mary's experience for the student body."

Kohler said flexibility is an important trait to have as SGA vice president.

"You go into office and have all these goals you want to

accomplish," she said. "As time progresses, other issues arise that you need to deal with first and some of your goals are put on the back burner and that is OK. Some things are more important than others."

Baker said she advises the incoming president to enjoy every moment of her time as a leader on campus.

"It goes by really fast and it is very easy to get caught up in the hard work and stress of it all," she said. "Make sure you take the time to enjoy the experience."

Baker said her time as president gave her the chance to become involved in different areas of the College.

"I will miss getting to be so invested in the Saint Mary's community," she said. "The College has become a large part of who I am, and I really enjoyed getting to leave my legacy at Saint Mary's."

Baker, who majored in Communicative Sciences and Disorders, will be attending the University of Northern Colorado to receive a master's degree in speech language pathology, and Kohler, who majored in business administration and economics, will move to Chicago to work for PepsiCo.

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Ricketts/Ruelas administration focused on raising awareness of sexual assault

By **RACHEL O'GRADY**
Associate News Editor

Editor's note: A version of this story ran in the April 1 edition of The Observer.

When their time in office ended April 1, outgoing student body president and vice president Bryan Ricketts and Nidia Ruelas said they were proud of the work they did and excited for the work left to do.

"It's very bittersweet. I'm excited for Corey and Becca to get a start, for the cabinet to take on some issues that affect our students. I'm excited to get some time back to myself, but it's also, as we're getting ready and giving them all these transition materials and prepping ... it's bittersweet," Ricketts said.

Ricketts said the inability to continue working on the many initiatives set forth by their administration is frustrating; however, he said he is excited to see how the next administration steps up.

"We're putting together these materials on issues that are going on — I keep saying 'Oh, I could do this,' but no, I can't anymore and that's hard," he said.

Ruelas said it has been a privilege to serve as vice president for the past academic year.

"I feel very proud of everything we've accomplished this year. We've had so many successes and failures. I think that in all of those, though, we've learned so much — about ourselves, about the people we work with — and I'd like to say that we've all grown, as individuals and as a group," she said.

In a high-pressure and result-driven environment, growth is something that is hard to quantify, Ruelas said.

"It's something you can't put a timeline on, you can't put any kind of measure or value on, but I feel very proud that we've come this far and been able to accomplish so much," she said.

Ricketts said he was happy with the execution of their campaign promise to promote sexual assault awareness.

"With the 'It's on Us' campaign out in the dorms and getting people talking about that and helping funnel them into the Green Dot program, I think we were very successful," he said. "I'm happy with the work we did on our board report, researching and walking with survivors of sexual violence, in particular with the conduct process and the Title IX process and what we needed to improve with that."

The University has promised to release the campus climate survey results from last year, which Ricketts said

was a major success for his administration.

"I'm pretty happy on the transparency front as well," he said. "Getting the promise of releasing the survey was huge. I think that was one of, if not our biggest goal. That's all stuff to be proud of, I think."

Ruelas said the administration also made progress improving the climate at the University as it pertains to sexual assault.

"From the prayer services, and getting students to attend those, to asking people to think about being active bystanders and understanding that it's all on us as individuals to really make sure that we identify situations and step in ... we've created a culture of caring, all the time — even when it's the hardest thing to do," she said.

Ricketts said he has learned a lot about himself and grown as a leader during the past year.

"I understand a lot more about who I am and what I want to accomplish, but also how to do all that through relationships — with the administrators, with the cabinet, with the people that aren't in student government at all. You go back to at the end of the day and ask for help, and all those relationships were key," Ricketts said.

Ruelas said she also learned about the importance of relationships, particularly hers with the student body.

"I've learned about how resilient we are as a student body, and how important that is to accomplishing our goals, and it really is that we hold each other accountable to a higher standard of character," she said. "I think that that's been super important, as we've had to learn for ourselves, and we've had to tap into that desire to always be better and that desire to always be the best people we can be."

As they leave office and the incoming Robinson-Blais administration takes over, Ricketts said he hopes that they have left a strong foundation, particularly in regards to the relationship between the University and South Bend.

"I know [that relationship] is a major focus of so many people, Corey and Becca included, but also so many people across the community, and we've tried to get the word out there about South Bend," Ricketts said. "... The future of Notre Dame is with the future of South Bend, and that's become evidently clear. I hope we've left a good foundation for that to grow on."

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Saint Mary's names Outstanding Senior

By **MARTHA REILLY**
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Graduates of the College will receive their diplomas Saturday, but this year's Outstanding Senior Eleanor Jones said she has already earned the most valuable gift possible — a Saint Mary's education.

Jones, a global studies major, said she was surprised to learn that her leadership, service and academic achievement qualified her for this award.

"It was really unexpected just because I know how many people in our class are so passionate about what they do," she said. "We've got a great student body with a lot of people who do different activities across the board, so honestly I wasn't expecting it because we have so many incredible people. Knowing that makes it an even bigger honor."

Jones said her involvement with the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership enhanced her college experience by encouraging her to appreciate other lifestyles while recognizing a common humanity.

"There are universal issues that we can all revolve around," Jones said. "You get to realize more of your similarities and your differences and how you can celebrate them."

Jones said she spent two summers at Saint Mary's working for the Study of the United States Institute (SUSI), where women from North Africa and the Middle East develop action plans they want to implement in their home countries. Through her work with SUSI, as well as her year-long study abroad experience in South Africa, Jones said she learned the importance of intercultural leadership and sensitivity. In 2014, the Jordanian team proposed a company called SheCab, in which all passengers and drivers are female.

"I got to go to Jordan to give them moral support, and we went to the embassy with them when they presented their business plan," Jones said. "We decided we wanted to start a fundraiser on campus to show that Saint Mary's still supported them even though they weren't here anymore."

Marc Belanger, Global Studies professor, said in an email Jones's desire to understand and improve the world around her is evident in her superior work.

"As a student, [Jones] has first rate writing and analytic skills comparable to other outstanding students, but what makes her different is

Eleanor Jones
2016 Outstanding Senior



that [Jones] really cares about the human dimension of the issues we are discussing and asks questions that always push the discussion to a deeper level than it might normally go," Belanger said. "While her GPA shows that she gets A's most of the time, it is this level of what I would call ethical seriousness that makes her so interesting to work with."

According to Belanger, Jones's desire to respond to global challenges makes her deserving of the Outstanding

Senior Award.

"I don't think I have ever had a student any more determined to figure out the best way for her to make a difference in the world or more willing to question her own motives and goals with more honesty," Belanger said. "I think she can do that because she never forgets that it's not about theories or ideologies, but about human beings."

Jones said the support of Belanger, along with other faculty and staff, enables her to be her best self.

"Most of the things I've done are because a professor has tapped me on the shoulder and said 'Hey, I think this would be a good idea,'" she said. "Saint Mary's has kept pushing me to get outside my comfort zone. I feel like I'm always presented with different opportunities, and it's been hard for me to say no."

Jones said one of her most meaningful accomplishments is helping to pioneer the Food Recovery Program, which donates leftovers from the dining hall to the Center for the Homeless.

"We've saved about 5,100 pounds since last year," Jones

said. "You can see the initial impact of everything that you've done."

Though Jones has contributed to the community, she said her classmates' success is most impressive to her.

"I think that we have a lot of students who found what they are passionate about and have started applying it," Jones said. "We've got a well-rounded student body."

Jones will return to South Africa for a year of service at a children's home. She said students should view every challenge as a path to success and make the most of their college years.

Jones said Saint Mary's shapes its students into goal-oriented, compassionate leaders capable of changing the world.

"In a world where women are often times pitted against each other, here we've got this community of people constantly trying to support each other," Jones said. "It has taught me to be strong and confident in what I say, and I think that's pretty special."

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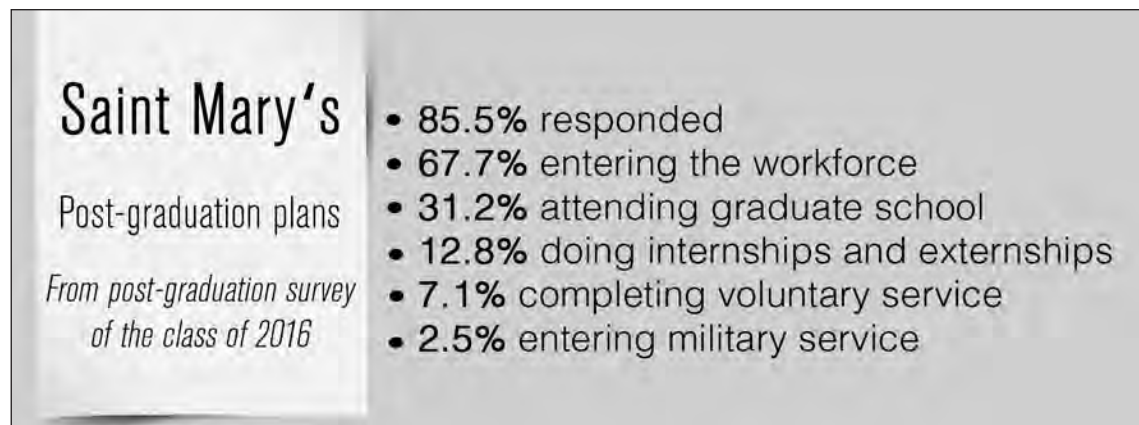


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ND, SMC seniors to volunteer, enter workforce



SUSAN ZHU | The Observer

Saint Mary's seniors to attend graduate schools, enter workforce and participate in service

By **NICOLE CARATAS**
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's Office of Institutional Research conducted the annual Graduation Destination Survey to gain a general statistical overlook on what graduates of the class of 2016 intend to do after graduation.

According to the survey, of the 331 women in the graduating class, 283 students responded for a response rate of 85.5 percent.

The survey showed that 67.7 percent of students will enter the workforce, 31.2 percent will attend graduate or professional school and 12.8 percent will participate in an internship or externship.

The data also showed that 7.1 percent of students will participate in voluntary service.

Stacie Jeffirs, director of the Career Crossings Office, said Saint Mary's encourages students to participate in voluntary service.

"The one great thing about Saint Mary's is it's encouraged to participate in service — it's part of the curriculum," Jeffirs said. "Students have an opportunity to explore those options a little bit more readily at the College, and they are encouraged to pursue those opportunities post-graduation. There's a strong value here at Saint Mary's in service to others, so I think it's definitely one of those areas that students are very interested in pursuing.

"It's a great opportunity after you graduate, especially for students who are in their own discernment process and trying to learn a little more about who they are and where they see themselves in the world. Being able to go out and participate in service for three months, a year, two years — it's a great opportunity for graduates to learn a lot about themselves."

The survey showed that 2.5 percent of students will enroll in military service, which is an increase from the previous graduating class, which had fewer than .5 percent.

5.7 percent of students reported having "other" post-graduation plans. According to Jeffirs, "other" includes fellowships, traveling and taking a gap year. Jeffirs said there is overlap in the data because some students will volunteer or work, while also attending graduate school.

Jeffirs said this data demonstrates the College's mission.

"You have to look at not just the statistics and the data and the percentages of where students are going, but you also have to look at where they are going and what they are doing and how that fits in with how they believe Saint Mary's has prepared them for the world," Jeffirs said. "Regardless, if the student is going to employment or graduate school, going into service [or the] military, the graduates think Saint Mary's has prepared them very well for what they pursue."

Sofia Piecuch, a senior global studies major with concentrations in international development and anthropology, will move to Geneva, Switzerland to intern at the Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA) and Volunteers in Development, Education and Solidarity (VIDES) Human Rights Office, she said.

"Its mission is to promote a network between the Salesian family — the biggest Catholic religious order in the world — and the United Nations, in order to protect and promote human rights," Piecuch said. "The office seeks to be specifically involved in the drafting of international policies that promote the right to education for all."

Beginning in January, Piecuch will spend two years as a missionary with Heart's Home, a Catholic non-profit organization that aims to foster and spread a culture of compassion, she said.

"This is an international mission that focuses on accompanying the poorest and most vulnerable members of society," she said. "I have not yet been given an assignment, but my top three choices were Senegal, Brazil and the Philippines."

After graduating, senior Danielle Gibaut plans to move to Chicago and work as an account executive at Chicago-23, a marketing agency. Gibaut, who majored in business administration with concentrations in marketing and international business, said Saint Mary's has prepared her in different ways for her future.

"All of the group projects helped me gain better communication skills," Gibaut said. "The [senior comprehensive project] from my fall semester definitely prepared me for the world I'll be

doing in the real business world. I found my voice here at Saint Mary's, and I know that'll be something I carry through my career path."

Senior Melissa Fitzpatrick majored in communication studies with minors in public relations, advertising and film studies. She said she will be doing a year of service in Brockton, Massachusetts.

"I'll be volunteering for an organization called the Holy Cross Family Ministries," Fitzpatrick said. "Their mission is to bring families together through prayer. The year of service also includes living in community with about seven other volunteers. We'll share dinners, weekend activities and really learn to live in solidarity with one another."

According to Fitzpatrick, she is excited for this journey and said she could not have done it without Saint Mary's.

"Saint Mary's has taught me how to be a better friend, listener, student and servant," she said. "I wouldn't be where I am standing today without my Saint Mary's friends, professors and mentors. Graduating from Saint Mary's, I know I am prepared to face whatever is in store for me."

Senior Isabella Gagnon, who majored in psychology, will be commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps. She said in an email she will report to Fort Gordon, Georgia for signal and communication training in September.

"Saint Mary's really helped me step out of my comfort zone and really empowered me as an independent woman," she said. "I feel so confident going to a work force that is only about 15 percent women. I was able to write my senior thesis on challenges women face in the military, so I feel very excited for the opportunities that I will have to give women in the military more of a voice."

Gagnon said she and her fiancée will both be part of the Active Duty Army, and she is excited for the future.

"I hope there will be many opportunities for me to share my faith when we move to new places and make new friends," she said. "I'm so thankful to always have Saint Mary's and be part of such a wonderful alumni network."

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SUSAN ZHU | The Observer

Notre Dame class of 2016 pursues service opportunities, full-time employment after graduation

By **SELENA PONIO**
Associate News Editor

Senior Jessica Zic stumbled upon her post-graduation plans one day in an email she received from the Center for Social Concerns. Zic, a neuroscience and behavior major with a supplemental major in Latino studies, said she knew she wanted to try something new after graduating but was unsure exactly what that entailed.

"I knew I wanted to do something different after school because I'd been a student my whole life," Zic said. "I wanted to see the world from a different angle before I started medical school and went back to the classroom."

After graduation, Zic will be volunteering at Casa de Esperanza de los Niños in Houston, Texas, a non-profit organization that helps kids who are in crisis due to abuse or neglect. According to Zic, she will be a part of the residential program and live in a house with interns and children under six years old.

"It just seemed like a really great place where I could do a lot for a very vulnerable population and grow as a person there before continuing on with my plans as a doctor," Zic said.

Zic said she is currently in the midst of applying for medical school for the fall of 2017.

"Working with children that young, there's so much going on in terms of brain development and health," she said. "If you're able to provide really good care for children that age, the impact will last their whole lives."

According to the First Destination Data for the class of 2015 on the Career Center's website, seven percent of students went on to participate in a service program after graduation, 62 percent of graduates entered full employment, 26 percent went onto graduate or professional school and two percent entered the military. Two percent still sought employment, while another two percent had other plans, the data said.

Zic said she believes Notre Dame places a huge role on the importance of service and her involvement with the Center for Social Concerns was vital in her decision to pursue service post-graduation.

"All of those service experiences ... I really learned a lot from them and having an opportunity to

serve for a whole year was something that was really special to me, just because of what I got through the previous experiences," Zic said.

Senior and finance major Kimberly Sammons will be working in Phoenix, Ariz. as an analyst for Amazon in their Operations Finance Rotational Program, she said.

"I didn't know where I wanted to live permanently, but I figured this would be a good opportunity to get involved with a great international company and experience more areas of the country than I had before," Sammons said.

Sammons said she will be working on the financial analytics of the company and figuring out how to reduce company costs without compromising quality.

Sammons said the ethics of business that she learned during her time at Notre Dame are just as important as her background knowledge in finance and learned communication skills.

"Notre Dame teaches you how to be a good business person ethically and how to succeed without having to sacrifice any of your morals and values," Sammons said.

Senior computer science major Kendra Bilardello said she will be a software engineer in St. Louis, Mo. for The Boeing Company at their Virtual Warfare Center.

"It was appealing to me because I really liked the defense aspect of computer science and helping in a way that's more related to defending the country," Bilardello said. "A lot of it is ... figure out where Boeing should put money into in the future and what sort of things pilots want to see ... 10 years down the road."

She said her classes familiarized her with the software Boeing used. Bilardello said Boeing is a great opportunity because of the 2,000 software engineers in St. Louis and the availability of different projects for engineers.

Rising seniors should remain optimistic about their job search, Bilardello said.

"Don't worry if you don't get something before fall break," she said. "People are still looking second semester so don't panic — Notre Dame is very good about prepping people for jobs. There is something out there."

Contact Selena Ponio at sponio@nd.edu

Seniors revel in last week on campus

ND Senior Week commemorates students' four years together with Commencement Ball, Chicago trip

By **COURTNEY BECKER**
News Writer

During the days leading up to graduation, Senior Week offered members of the class of 2016 one more chance to celebrate and come together through several different events.

Senior Week committee head Sarah Price said her experience working Senior Week as a junior last year equipped her with the skills and knowledge necessary to plan this year's agenda.

"I know that a lot of different people were talking to the senior class officers and I was, I think, one of the few people who had gone through it last year, so it gave me a lot of good insight into what I wanted to improve, change upon or even keep the same," she said.

While Senior Class Council (SCC) was included throughout the planning process, SCC vice president Shannon Montague said she gives full credit to Price and her committee for organizing a fun week of events.

"Sarah has done an absolutely incredible job with Senior Week — we couldn't have asked for a better person," Montague said. "We pretty much trusted her with everything, and she always kept us in the loop."

Online ticket sales were a new change to the week this year, Senior Week committee member senior Ted Cogan said, and allowed more students the opportunity to secure tickets to popular events. In past years, seniors had to purchase tickets in person, but this year all ticket sales were coordinated through Student Shop ND, an online platform for student group sales and donations.

Another new addition to Senior Week was Domerfest 2.0, a recreation of the class of 2016's freshman year Domerfest, Price said.

"Basically, we are doing exactly what you think it is. It is Domerfest all over again in Stepan Center, just like we had it when I was a freshman," Price said in an interview before Senior Week started. "That's one thing that I'm really actually proud of, and I think it's going to be a ton of fun. It's really ridiculous now, what we have going on for it, but there's going to be just basically unlimited ice cream, donuts and coffee, Chick-fil-A, pizza, six-foot beach balls and glow sticks, so it's just going to be crazy — it's going to be a fun night."

Price said Domerfest 2.0 garnered a surprisingly strong response from the senior class, with about 1,300 people attendees. Additionally, the service project was a popular event, Cogan said, and came as a pleasant surprise to the committee.

"We sold out of the service event really quickly," he said. "It's kind of cool that people made it their mission to say they want to do service on this week that's really supposed to be about us. ... We've been urging people to find other ways to do that because, even though the Senior Week committee can't provide it, anyone can reach out to all those different organizations."

Price said each senior class has its own vision of Senior Week, which this year's com-

"We put a lot of time and a lot of hard work into all of [the events], so I'm just looking forward to seeing all the seniors show up to all of them and just enjoy. It's supposed to be a fun week — each event we've taken a lot of time and care with, so we're really making sure that the day of, everyone is getting what they want."

Sarah Price
committee head
Senior Week

mittee has taken into account while preparing for the week.

"We put a lot of time and a lot of hard work into all of [the events], so I'm just looking forward to seeing all the seniors show up to all of them and just enjoy," she said in an interview before the week. "It's supposed to be a fun week — each event we've taken a lot of time and care with, so we're really making sure that the day of, everyone is getting what they want."

The senior class's engagement in Senior Week is indicative of the spirit of the class of 2016, Cogan said.

"I think we've been very pleased at how well our class has engaged in it," he said.

"On certain events we were worried about numbers. ... But I think we're kind of one of those classes that just says, 'Everyone's going to Finni's on Monday night to see standup,' or 'Everyone's going to Corby's for this one thing,' and I think that very much shows in our Senior Week attendance."

Price said one of the highlights of Senior Week will be the annual Commencement Ball on Wednesday night.

"I think I'm probably most excited for the Commencement Ball, to experience that with my own friends as a senior," Price said. "Last year, I was there as a junior and I had a blast working it, so I'm excited to actually attend it in my own right."

Cogan said in an interview before the week that he thinks the class Grotto trip, the final event of Senior Week, will be a fitting end to the week.

"[I'm excited for] the Grotto, actually," he said. "It's the last event of the whole thing, and I think ... after all this hectic craziness of Senior Week and the fun exhausting stuff, that'll be really nice for everyone to come together and just kind of be with each other for one last sentimental, reverent time."

Aside from the events she and the committee planned, Price said Senior Week serves as an opportunity for members of the class of 2016 to connect one last time without any distractions.

"I think it's a culmination of our four years and at this point I think a lot of us are just really excited to have that last week on campus without any class, without any tests or papers due and just really be able to enjoy everyone around you and catch up with people that you may not have seen even for a couple of years," she said. "I think there's definitely going to be a lot of tears shed, but happy tears."

Montague said she appreciates members of the senior class having a chance to celebrate with each other one last time before graduating.

"Yes, I'm going to miss everyone, but the fact that we get to celebrate this entire week with the campus all to ourselves is such an incredible opportunity," Montague said. "I wouldn't want to spend my last days on campus with anyone else."

Contact Courtney Becker at cbecker3@nd.edu

Saint Mary's students celebrate time at College with Opening of the Circle, Letter Writing Project

By **NICOLE CARATAS**
Saint Mary's Editor

In the week leading up to Commencement, seniors had the opportunity to participate in different activities to celebrate the traditions and sisterhood fostered at Saint Mary's.

The week is a time for students to have one more chance to spend time together as a class, senior class president CoCo Craig said.

"It's time for memories," Craig said.

According to Craig, the week began with a senior formal Sunday, followed by the Alumnae-Senior Champagne Brunch, yoga and scavenger hunt Monday.

Senior class vice president Lindsay Rzepecki said the Class of 2016 participation in the Class Gift Campaign — in which each class tries to achieve 100 percent participation in raising money for Saint Mary's — will be revealed, and the class's gift will be presented to College President Carol Ann Mooney on Monday.

Domerfest 2.0 and Babetostal were held on Tuesday, and the class took a trip Wednesday to Chicago for a Cubs baseball game at Wrigley Field.

The main events of the week took place Thursday, Craig said, when students painted handprints in the underground tunnel that connects Le Mans Hall and the Saint Mary's Student Center and participated in the Saint Mary's tradition of Opening of the Circle. Additionally, they received their letters from the Letter Writing Project, had a party on the island in Lake Marian and had their final walk down the Avenue.

"The Opening of the Circle is a tradition where the president of the class reads a script that basically prepares to send us off, but reminds us we are always welcome to come home," Craig said. "The Letter Writing Project is a genius idea the Class of 2015 started. Friends, faculty and family write letters to students about the positive impact they have contributed."

The Opening of the Circle will be a time of reflection for the graduates, Rzepecki said.

"Opening of the Circle will surely be a sentimental moment for all of us graduating seniors, as we participated in a very similar ceremony [Closing of the Circle] on our first day at Saint Mary's," she said. "We will reflect in prayer and join hands with our classmates."

Rzepecki said the week aimed to make memories for students to "carry with us as we move past the comfort of Saint Mary's."

"Each memory, person, hardship and celebration has made our own personal Saint Mary's story," she said. "These unique and precious gifts are something we will not be able to relive, but they will live on. This is the opportunity to celebrate those memories with just us, and only us — the Class of 2016. It's a time of celebration, and we certainly deserve it."

Senior Isabella Gagnon said in an email she was excited to spend her final days at Saint Mary's with her classmates.

"Senior Week has really allowed me to hang out with girls that I may not usually hang out with, that aren't in the same major or clubs that I am," Gagnon said. "It's also an extra week that we get to pretend we aren't about to be real adults. We can just ... bond with our fellow Belles all week without the stress of finals."

Gagnon said she is looking forward to the Senior Letter Writing Project, as well as other events during the week.

"I am excited for taking our final walk down the Avenue," she said. "I'm pretty sure this is the part where I will start crying uncontrollably. ... I want to get as much out of my Saint Mary's experience as possible. I think it's important to go to yoga classes and handprint painting to really do that. I'm not doing every Senior Week event, but I will make the best out of the ones I do go to."

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ND seniors receive student leadership awards

By **ANDREA VALE**
News Writer

On April 7, seven seniors were honored at the Student Leadership Awards Banquet. Each student was the recipient of one of seven annual awards honoring graduating seniors who, according to a Division of Student Affairs press release, “have made exceptional contributions to the Notre Dame community.”

Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism

Maggie Bowers received the Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism, which according to the press release is awarded to a senior who exemplifies “integrity, character, commitment to Notre Dame and writing ability.”

Bowers has been involved with the Dome Yearbook since her freshman year at Notre Dame, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the publication this past school year.

“Our goal is to capture a year in the life of a Notre Dame student in 352 pages, which sounds like a lot, but once you include seniors and subtract all of those pages, there’s not a ton of space to work with,” Bowers said. “So my goal this year was to cover the main events that always happen, but also to try and find things that maybe might not seem so important in the moment. But a year from now, five years from now, 10 years from now people are gonna look at that and say, ‘Wow, that was pretty indicative of my Notre Dame experience.’ So we made room for covering when Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor came to campus, but we also did it for ... all the construction that was going on on campus.”

Bowers said she was conflicted on whether or not to include all the construction in the yearbook this year.

“My friends are like, ‘Do you really want to put a whole page of construction in there?’ and I’m like, ‘Five years from now, we’re all going to remember how annoying it was that the parking was messed up, or that the stadium was so covered in scaffolding.’ That’s going to be important to us, we’re going to want to remember that,” she said. “So I guess, in my experience I was trying so hard to make the yearbook relevant to students, to every single one of them in one way or another.”

After graduation, Bowers is headed to Minneapolis in July to take up a position as a business management associate for General Mills cereal.

Mike Russo Spirit Award

Meredith Fraser received the Mike Russo Spirit Award, which honors a student who exemplifies the qualities of “service, personal character and striving to bring the best out of themselves

and others,” according to the press release.

During her time at Notre Dame, Fraser was heavily involved in her dorm, Ryan Hall, participating in service work and hall council and serving as president of the hall during the 2014-2015 school year.

“This meant not only that a team of three other students, 25 plus commissioners and I led some programming in Ryan Hall, but also that I served on Hall Presidents Council (HPC) with the leaders of all 28 other halls,” Fraser said in an email. “The next year, because of my belief in the importance of residence life and after working with a driven team of leaders in Ryan, I decided to run for co-chair of Hall Presidents Council, where I continued my obsession with the Notre Dame residence halls in another capacity.

Fraser said she was humbled to have been nominated and recognized by the Division of Student Affairs.

“I know from four years of camaraderie that every student at Notre Dame possesses exemplary values, and this award reminded me how special this campus is to have students who also acknowledge those values in each other,” she said.

In June, Fraser plans to move to Columbus, Ohio to spend three years working in marketing for Cardinal Health.

“The work I have done at Notre Dame, honored by the Mike Russo Spirit Award, will surely be of importance in my future,” Fraser said, “Our system of residence life involves caring for others. I tried to guide focus on ‘reeling in residents,’ especially those that might feel isolated on the outskirts of their hall community and uncomfortable jumping in.

Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., Leadership Award

William Harris received the Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., Leadership Award, which according to the press release is awarded to a student who “embodies Blessed Father Moreau’s vision of educating heart and mind as well as someone who has demonstrated significant effort to advancing the Catholic character of the University.”

While at Notre Dame, Harris has been involved in the Right to Life club, as well as Campus Ministry.

“My goal with the speech was to open people’s eyes and to challenge them to think about what it means for them to say they’re pro-life,” Harris said, “I think it’s really easy to bubble it down to a few simple issues, but really what it comes down to for me is truly loving everyone, no matter what.”

Besides his involvement with Campus Ministry and the Right to Life club, Harris counts his engineering degree as a factor in receiving the award, which he

said focuses “on both sides of the story, on educating our whole self.”

“They told me they were going to nominate me, and that already was enough, I was already so honored,” Harris said. “... And then, when I found out I got the award, I was blown away. There are so many cool people at Notre Dame, how was I picked out of all these people? And at the awards banquet ... it was really cool to hear about all of these people getting these awards, and things they’ve done, it’s cool to be counted amongst them.”

After graduation, Harris will work in the Process Engineering Division of Garmin Ltd. in Olathe, Kansas, manufacturing aviation products.

Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., Award

Preston Igwe received the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., Award, which honors a student “whose contributions have significantly advanced the climate of welcome and inclusion within or beyond the University community,” according to the press release.

During his time at Notre Dame, Igwe was a part of several student cultural organizations, including the Black Student Association, African Student Association, and the Wabruda, for which he served as president during the past school year. Igwe has also been a representative for the Diversity Council’s First Class Steppers since his sophomore year.

“This is very important to me because I know how tough it can be to be an underrepresented student at Notre Dame, and I worked to make sure that these students have just as rich and beautiful a Notre Dame experience as everyone else gets to have,” Igwe said.

Upon receiving the award, Igwe said he was “in disbelief.”

“I didn’t think that I’d ever win such a prestigious award,” he said. “I didn’t involve myself in so many activities for the recognition or awards, but it is an incredible honor to be recognized as a leader who made significant strides to make Notre Dame a more welcoming and inclusive community.”

After graduation, Igwe said he will either return to his hometown of Houston to work as a medical scribe, or go to Baltimore to work with Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry. He plans to begin applying to medical schools this summer, with hopes of enrolling fall of 2017. In the future he hopes to work as a physician in under-served communities.

“I want to provide quality medical care to communities that have historically been separated from it,” Igwe said, “I also want to address health disparities that plague minority communities, so that individuals in these households can have

longer and more prosperous lives.”

John W. Gardner Student Leadership Award

Colleen McLinden received the John W. Gardner Student Leadership Award, which according to the press release is awarded to a student who “exemplifies the ideals of the University through outstanding community service beyond the University community.”

Throughout her time at Notre Dame, McLinden has been heavily involved in advocacy work.

Last year, while studying abroad in Santiago, Chile, McLinden spent the final month of her semester abroad living in an intentional community, in which she and four other college students spent all of their time when not in class volunteering with a Jesuit service and outreach organization.

“It was maybe the best month I’ve ever spent during my time in college,” McLinden said.

Upon learning she had won the award, McLinden said she “was really surprised.”

“I knew they put my name in, but there are a lot of people doing a lot of good things on this campus,” she said, “When they say all those things, I’m like, ‘OK, I guess I did a lot of stuff here,’ but there are a ton of people that are doing things like that and not getting recognized for it. I don’t feel like I deserved that, more than anybody else did, but it was nice.”

After graduation, McLinden said she will be spending the summer working at a Catholic summer camp in Colorado.

“Service has been part of who I am here and even in high school, so I see service as being something that’s part of my life,” McLinden said. “Living my life and figuring out who I am and incorporating service into that, that is what I want to do.”

Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence

Alison O’Connor received the Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence, which is awarded to a student who exemplifies “leadership, generosity, devotion to the Catholic faith and affinity for athletics,” according to the press release.

During her time at Notre Dame, O’Connor served as president of the Gluten Free Club her sophomore year, a Leprechaun Legion board member her junior and senior years, president of McGlinn Hall her junior year and a resident assistant in McGlinn Hall this year.

“In terms of athletics, I really enjoy playing on the inter-hall and co-rec teams through RecSports,” O’Connor said in an email. “I think I played on 20 plus teams this year alone. I definitely played on every interhall sport the past two years. I also have been on the Leprechaun Legion board for the past two

years, assisting with giveaways at sporting events. I mean who doesn’t like making someone’s day by giving them a free t-shirt?”

O’Connor said she was surprised upon learning she had won the award.

“I knew I was being nominated, but I didn’t think I would have a shot at actually winning,” she said.

After graduation, O’Connor will go to St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School in Austin, Texas, where she will be teaching Chemistry and AP Physics as part of the Alliance for Catholic Education program.

Rev. A. Leonard Collins, C.S.C., Award

Maggie Skoch received the Rev. A. Leonard Collins, C.S.C., Award, which according to the press release is awarded to a student who has “made substantial personal efforts to advance the interests of students at Notre Dame.”

After struggles with mental illness caused Skoch to leave Notre Dame for a year, Skoch said she came back to campus wanting “to get involved to improve services and policies for students.”

“When I came back in 2013, I was lucky enough to provide feedback to different administrators about the withdrawal and readmission process,” Skoch said. “Through that, I started to build relationships with different people in student affairs, different administrators, and to learn a lot about the structure of policies and just the way things work, the logistics, the culture and the community.”

Skoch went on to become involved with Notre Dame’s chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-ND) during the 2013-2014 school year, and was elected NAMI-ND’s president for the 2014-2015 school year.

“I really sought to grow the group, and we ended up tripling our membership that year,” Skoch said.

Receiving the award was “a big surprise” to Skoch.

“It’s certainly an honor, it’s a gift to receive an award such as this, and to know that the work that I’ve done is important and recognized and has made a difference,” she said. “That’s been the best part of it all — award or not, knowing that things have improved and changed for the better, and that people’s lives are better for it.”

After graduation, Skoch said she will be working at Notre Dame for the summer, both as music director for Notre Dame’s Vision Program, and as an intern for Dr. Stackman. Afterwards, Skoch is headed to Loyola University Chicago’s Stritch School of Medicine to pursue a medical degree.

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College recognizes seniors for service, engagement

By **NICOLE CARATAS, MARTHA REILLY and KATHRYN MARSHALL**

Saint Mary's Editor, Associate Saint Mary's Editor and News Writer

Four Saint Mary's seniors were honored with C.S.C. Awards for service in different disciplines. These awards are given by the Office of Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) to students who are dedicated to community-based learning and volunteering.

Senior biology major Sarah Lucas received the Sister Maria Concepta McDermott, C.S.C. Award for Service in Education.

Lucas said she began volunteering at the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) her freshman year because she wanted to take a break from academics and work with kids.

"I love children, so I thought it would be a great way to spend some time and give back," Lucas said. "It's kind of like a stress-relief on top of everything else."

Kari Alford, program director of the ECDC, said she nominated Lucas for this award because of her ongoing commitment to helping children.

"She's given freely of her time for so many semesters," Alford said. "When I think of service, I truly think of the volunteering and consistency that we see from Sarah."

Saint Mary's promotes an attitude of service that encourages students to sacrifice their time and help others, Lucas said.

"At the college level, people are trying to figure out what they're going to do," Lucas said. "By giving back and just being part of the community, it really helps you focus on what's important and find what you're passionate about."

Senior nursing major Anna Cronin received the Sister Olivia Marie Hutcheson, C.S.C. Award for Service in the Health Field. Cronin is the Vice President of the Student Nurse Association on campus, she said.

Associate professors for nursing science Annette Peacock-Johnson and Patricia Keresztes nominated Cronin for the award. Both are members of the nursing department's Student/Faculty Affairs Committee, and Cronin stood out after the committee reviewed the extracurricular, leadership and service activities of the senior nursing students, Johnson said.

"Anna rose to the top of the list because of her multiple and varied service activities, which all related to health care," Johnson said. "She consistently engaged in health-care service activities throughout her four years at Saint Mary's and these activities were not only on campus, but in her home community, as well as her global service experience in Uganda."

She spent six weeks of the summer after junior year staying with the Sisters of the Holy Cross and working at a clinic in Uganda, she said, and would love to go back one day.

"I didn't really think of it as service," she said. "My parents instilled in me at a young age that service is a responsibility. Everyone should do some kind of service. I thought of it as something I wanted to do—I wanted to help."

Cronin admires the spirit of service in her fellow nursing classmates, and loves working with people who have a desire to use their craft to help others, she said.

"I would not be the kind of nurse I am without Saint Mary's," Cronin

said. "Going through clinicals and this small of a nursing program, where you have the individualized attention and you can ask your professors anything, is great. They know you by name, they know what you're capable of and they're not afraid to push you."

Senior Eleanor Jones, a global studies major with concentrations in international development, and gender and women's studies, received the Sister Olivette Whalen, C.S.C. Award for General Service.

Professors of modern languages and intercultural studies Julie Storme and Mana Derakhshani nominated Jones for the award.

"She's a remarkable young woman in many ways," Storme said. "Her level of social justice is so deep and broad."

One reason behind the nomination is Jones' involvement with the Food Recovery Program, Storme said.

"We take the leftover food from the dining hall every Monday and Wednesday evening and we drive it over to the Center for the Homeless," Storme said. "We've done that for two years and we've had over 5,000 pounds [of food] saved."

Through the program, Jones has expanded the circle of social justice at Saint Mary's by linking sustainability to human dignity, Storme said.

"She's managed to create enough commitment to the program that it will outlast her," Storme said. "Eleanor created something that wasn't being done, and, through sheer grit, made sure it happened by individual action."

Derakhshani said she was impressed with the way Jones lives her life according to her convictions.

"Sustainability and care for the earth is one of the missions that the Sisters of the Holy Cross have taken up as a contemporary issue, so it is fitting that Eleanor receive an award named after a Sister," she said.

Jones said she was surprised and excited to receive the award, since she sees herself as surrounded by many people who do great service work at Saint Mary's. Another social justice initiative of Jones's was inspired by an experience with SUSI (Study of the United States Institute), which hosts women from the Middle East and North Africa for five weeks, she said.

"Two years ago, the Jordanian team won the idea for SheCab, which is a taxi company that will be female drivers for female passengers," she said. "So I got to go to Jordan last year, and when I came back with my friend Emily, we decided to start a fundraiser for the company."

By selling "Blinkie's Belles" t-shirts and hosting events such as yoga on the Le Mans lawn, the fundraiser raised over \$2,000, she said.

Emily Milnamow, who is a communications major, received the Patricia Arch Green Award. This is awarded to a student who has taken on a leadership role.

Samira Payne, assistant director for the OCSE, nominated Milnamow because of the work she has done with the College Academy of Tutoring Program (CAT) — a program that goes into local Title I schools and provides tutors and teacher assistants to students.

In her nomination statement, Payne said Milnamow has taken on a leadership role by putting in extra time with the CAT Program

during her senior year.

"Her calm and quiet leadership style has earned the respect of her peers, and even more impressively, the respect of 26 middle school students at Navarre Intermediate Center," Payne said. "She has devoted many hours to planning and preparing for tutoring, and is always willing to jump in when needed. Her passion and commitment is evident in all her work with the CAT Program."

Receiving this award helped Milnamow realize her passions, she said.

"What I love doing is what I'm good at, and other people see that, too," she said. "This is what I love doing, and I would love it if this could be my job some day. It's really cool that I was able to get [this award] and it's affirmation that I'm on the right path."

Milnamow said her time at Saint Mary's helped shape her into a leader.

"The fact that Saint Mary's is so dedicated to going out into the community and helping the community has really made the CAT Program what it is," she said. "It's given me the confidence to be able to lead, whereas before I would have been more of a follower. ... I think that through my major — which is a lot about connecting with people and learning how to be an interpersonal leader — a lot of that has helped me figure out how to lead in a way that people actually listen rather than just being a boss."

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SMC professor to graduate with class of 2016

By **STEPHANIE SNYDER**
News Writer

After teaching for 29 years and taking classes for 12 years — one course every fall and spring semester, in addition to one summer course — Patti Sayre, professor of philosophy, achieved a 4.0 GPA and will receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree during the 2016 Commencement ceremony.

"I got my Ph.D. the last year that [Fr.] Hesburgh was president at Notre Dame," Sayre said. "I rather like the idea that I'm getting my BFA in Carol Mooney's last year."

Sayre said her passion for art began at a young age.

"People would ask me if I wanted to be an artist when I was in third grade," Sayre said. "I got this idea I would be an artist."

However, in her junior year of high school, philosophy pulled her in another direction, she said.

"My art didn't seem to be going anywhere at that time," she said. "I switched my sense of where I was going to be."

After earning her

undergraduate degree from Wheaton College in Illinois and her Ph.D. from Notre Dame, Sayre decided to pursue a career at Saint Mary's.

Sayre said Saint Mary's was, by far, the best fit for her.

"I'm not sure every women's college is like this one," she said. "I think this one has got something that others don't."

Years after she began teaching, one of Sayre's colleagues took Drawing I and inspired her to do the same, she said.

"I thought that's really wonderful," she said. "If you work at Saint Mary's at any capacity, you can take one course for free each semester."

"I was just going to take that one course, but then it was so good, I thought I would take Drawing II as well," she said. "I just decided I'm really enjoying this, and I'll just keep going."

According to Sayre, art majors must undergo reviews at the end of each semester where they present their work to faculty for critiquing. However, students

taking an art class who are not majoring in art do not have to go through the review.

"I thought, 'Of course I'm not going to do this,'" she said, "And then I thought, 'Well, what if I decided I did want to get a degree?' So the night before, I decided, 'I'm going to do something.'"

Sayre said the reviews provide purpose for the classes.

"It just makes what you're doing seem more real," she said. "Like it's not just going to end up in a closet — it's going to hang on the wall, even if it is only for 24 hours."

According to Sayre, she could not have earned her degree without the aid of other students and faculty.

"They held my hand a lot more than other people's hands," she said. "They were looking after me when I was on a point of collapse, because I had just never done this before. ... Given where I knew I was when I started and given where I am now, it really does seem like [the program] works. It turns you into someone who has an actual

artistic style, focus and goals."

She said the transformation was easier for her to see due to the extended period of time she was taking classes.

"Everyone else has to have this magical transformation happen in four years," she said. "I don't know if while it's happening they're quite aware of it, but I've seen it happen in others."

Although Sayre is graduating with a 4.0 GPA, she was not offered the status of valedictorian due to a rule that states students must have taken a certain number of credits at Saint Mary's to be considered for the position.

"I transferred in so much from graduate school and my first undergraduate degree, I believe I was just short," she said. "Besides, I think it's more important that the valedictorian speech come from someone who is not in this weird position I'm in."

Even without the valedictorian status, Sayre said she is proud of her accomplishment.

"I tell my students all the time that grades don't matter, but I'm

still a little bit proud of it," she said. "I got more out of myself than I thought was in there. It represents how I pushed myself."

As of now, Sayre does not think she will pursue a career in art, but would like to continue with her work and hopes to eventually have it showcased.

"I want very badly to keep going somehow, but I'm not going to jump ship here and try and go start a new career at this point," she said. "I like the idea that my art is being seen rather than just having it sit in the closet."

Sayre is done with her days of taking Saint Mary's classes for credit, she said. However, she still thinks she will sit in on classes both in and out of the art department.

"I'm going to miss being a student alongside students," she said. "I liked feeling that camaraderie and feeling that I was one of the students and not just a faculty member."

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2012

The star-studded musical sparked Broadway sing-alongs, Eddie Redmayne-love and Hatha-hate. Its soundtrack has never been more relevant as you have "One Day More" at our University until it is filled with "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables."

"LES MISERABLES"
DECEMBER 25, 2012



TWILIGHT SAGA: "BREAKING DAWN - PART 2"
NOVEMBER 16, 2012

As a new dawn was breaking over your Pinterest-inspired freshman year dorm room walls, a saga was ending. You pulled out your books (annotations defining your Team Edward or Team Jacob status) from the drawer you threw them in after your roommate made a snarky comment about a Twilight BuzzFeed quiz to reread marked passages before watching the finale of Edward and Bella's cringe-worthy onscreen drama.

"And do the Harlem Shake." And we did. And it was 2013 and it was great. The horse-masked, hip-gyrating movement had 40,000 versions uploaded to YouTube by February 15 (compared to 12,000 just four days prior). Most likely you contributed to at least one of the phenomenon's 175 million views or even organized your own spoof with fellow freshmen.

"HARLEM SHAKE"
FEBRUARY 2013



MILEY CYRUS VMA PERFORMANCE
AUGUST 25, 2013

The combination of foam fingers, giant teddy bears and a former Disney channel star sounds like the entertainment during the seventh-inning stretch of a South Bend Cubs game, but somehow these three things found themselves amidst the MTV VMAs and subsequently caused some major controversy. Coming off the "We Can't Stop" video, "Bangerz" release and hairstyle that rocked the world, Cyrus's twerking and Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" made headlines for weeks.

2013

"Frozen," the animated Disney film with an empowering message, two strong female leads and a soundtrack so good we have yet to "Let It Go." The film broke the record for highest grossing animated film, won two Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature and Best Original song and prompted the John Travolta "Adele Dazeem" mess-up.

"FROZEN"
NOVEMBER 27, 2013



BEYONCÉ

"BEYONCÉ" BEYONCÉ
DECEMBER 13, 2013

The album unprecedentedly dropped in the middle of the night and shifted the entire industry of record promotion and release. The album incorporated an audio-visual medium with its short films for each song. The hype carried her to the 2014 Super Bowl where she lit up the stadium so much that the power shut off – or was it the Illuminati? With "Lemonade," Beyoncé carried her mysterious release schedule, video-based album and important Super Bowl performances into 2016.

The Ice Bucket Challenge took over social media and raised more than \$115 million, as well as lots of awareness, for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Everyone from LeBron James to Taylor Swift to your entire Facebook feed participated.

ALS ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE
SUMMER 2014



"1989" TAYLOR SWIFT
OCTOBER 27, 2014

This album converted us all to T-Swift fans. No one is "above" her music now – including all the celebrities she Instagrammed with #SquadGoals, called to stage on tour and recruited for her "Bad Blood" music video. However, her decision to remove her discography from Spotify was detrimental to house party soundtracks everywhere, leaving a "Blank Space" where "Shake It Off" once resounded.

2014

2015

This was a banner, banger year for Bieber. "Love Yourself" succeeded "Sorry" as number one on the US Billboard Hot 100. "Where Are Ü Now" won a Grammy. Kanye West tweeted that "What Do You Mean" was his favorite song of 2015. All of this cemented his frequent airtime at Michiana's hottest clubs and dorm rooms.

Adele's "25" was the release fans had patiently waited for: Scene touted it as "a safe, pleasant enough album that reinforces her place as a pop music icon." "21" won Adele seven Grammys and was the world's best-selling album of the year for 2011 and 2012. "25" was the biggest-selling album release since "21."

Kendrick's third studio album delivered important music and an important message: to empower those who have been deprived of power and the means to obtain it. In the wake of recent police brutality and the movement for improved racial equality, the funk and jazz-infused album worked to raise awareness and spark conversations around these issues through critically acclaimed tracks.

"PURPOSE" JUSTIN BIEBER
NOVEMBER 13, 2015

"Jurassic World" raked in the third-highest worldwide box office grossing in history. However, the film was pushed to fourth with December's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" release. The two films capitalized on nostalgia and a new generation of fans for the franchises.

"25" ADELE
NOVEMBER 20, 2015

"TO PIMP A BUTTERFLY" KENDRICK LAMAR
MARCH 15, 2015

"JURASSIC WORLD"
JUNE 12, 2015



DRAKE INSPIRES ALL INSTAGRAM CAPTIONS AND HALLOWEEN COSTUMES
2015

"HAMILTON"
AN AMERICAN MUSICAL

"THE LIFE OF PABLO" KANYE WEST
FEBRUARY 13, 2016

"MADE IN THE A.M." ONE DIRECTION
NOVEMBER 13, 2015

Drake solidified himself as a meme in 2015. His "Hotline Bling" music video inspired groufits, Timbs and dad dancing on Halloween (and a T-Mobile Super Bowl commercial). He sat on top of mountains, mantles and The Cheesecake Factory roofs on Twitter as a makeshift Elf on the Shelf photoshopped from his "Views" cover art. At least 47 percent of all 2015 Instagram captions can be traced back to a Drake lyric.

"HAMILTON"
AUGUST 6, 2015

Three title changes, sloppy rough draft track lists, reworked songs and changed deadlines – "TLOP" was unprecedented in its shifted release, live-streamed Madison Square Garden hype session/fashion show and subsequent wait time. West's album and accompanying tweets solidified his "spaz in the news" persona alongside his solid discography as the self-proclaimed "greatest artist of all time."

One Direction released their fifth album "Made in the A.M." in November. The title was rumored to reference the absence of Zayn Malik – "After Malik" (A.M.). The group is currently on an "extended hiatus" and the release left Directioners wondering if the album was the last they'll hear from the group – meanwhile, ZAYN released his first solo album "Mind of Mine" in March 2016.

The rap-influenced musical opened this summer and as people just can't "Say No To This," it has pretty much been sold out since. For the "Helpless" of us who "Wait For It," the soundtrack on Spotify helps us "Stay Alive" while deprived of a coveted Broadway seat. The production was just nominated for a record-setting 16 Tony Awards and creator Lin-Manuel Miranda has been seen everywhere from the White House to "Inside Amy Schumer."

2016

The class of 2016 walked onto campus on August 12, 2012 with "Call Me Maybe" still ringing in their ears – the result of both tear-filled parents drop-offs and Carly Rae Jepsen's summer single. From 2012's countless car karaokes and parodies to Jepsen's 2015 "E*MO*TION," the class of 2016 has matured and evolved alongside the state of pop music. Sit down, put on some of the jams of the past four years and take a look back at the music, films and pop culture phenomena that defined the highs and lows of your four years at Notre Dame.

Leaving a legacy



Greg Hadley

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

When I was little, I knew where I was going to college: Notre Dame.

And this Sunday, sure enough, I'm going to graduate from this University.

It's strange to realize my life has unfolded almost exactly as eight-year-old me envisioned, minus playing center field for the Baltimore Orioles. And I'm not just talking about Notre Dame.

Really, most of my life to this point has seemed preordained. I knew where I would go to middle school, high school, college. I played the same sports and read the same books my family members did, went on vacations to the same spots with the same people.

When you're the ninth of 10 children, there's not much you can do that your siblings haven't already done. When you're the sixth kid in your family to attend Notre Dame, there's not much that's going to surprise you.

To some people, that might sound sad. Some people might think my family crushed my individuality.

To me, there's a more complicated truth at work.

I always knew I wanted to go to Notre Dame. But for a long time, I never considered why. It was just the way things were supposed to be. I was a Hadley, and therefore I belonged in South Bend.

But now, finally, I know why I've always felt a connection to this place.

At Notre Dame, we place a tremendous amount of importance on tradition. Every year, we do the same things over and over, because that's what we've always done.

It's not a perfect system — sometimes tradition stifles us from growing — but all the traditions we have build upon each other towards something greater: a legacy.

That legacy is what ties the Notre Dame community together. That legacy is more than football games or dorm masses. That legacy is the impact Notre Dame has upon the world. That legacy leaves an indelible mark.

When I was little, I sensed that many of my siblings had this mark. I idolized my older brothers and sisters, and so naturally, I wanted that mark too.

What I didn't know was that how I carried that mark was up to me. Notre Dame's legacy is not a static thing. Each new class of students builds upon it. Within each class, each student takes part in it in a different way. And though many of my siblings and I share in this legacy, we each experienced it in far different ways.

At the end of my sophomore year, I realized I suffer from dysthymia, a persistent low-level form of depression. It had gotten worse ever since I came to college, and I think the reason for that was because part of me expected my Notre Dame experience to be the same as my siblings and was disappointed when it wasn't.

That part of me was eight years old and saw everything in binary terms. He didn't realize it was OK to be different from his siblings, to become his own person. To be different was to not belong.

I don't think that way anymore. Each one of my siblings has varied interests, passions and ideas, and we each have chosen different paths in life. But at the center of it all is a bond, one in which Notre Dame plays an integral part.

My life was never preordained, of course. But I have taken part in a legacy. It's left a mark I'll always carry with me, and I've added to it and made it my own. It's a legacy I took up, and it's a legacy I leave behind.

Greg Hadley is graduating with a degree in political science and a minor in journalism, ethics and democracy. If you wish to send job offers or fruit snacks his way, email Greg at gghadley@gmail.com

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

On this day



Wei Lin

Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

When Facebook first introduced its On This Day feature, I cringed a little. Do I really want to see what the high school version of me posts? Do I want to see the pictures containing my highlighted hair, awkward smiles, and questionable fashion sense? Can I resist feeling the waves of embarrassment when I realize that younger Wei thought adding a space before his punctuation marks was cool?

Even with all these regrettable posts, I decided to go on ahead and look back in time. And goodness, it was really bad. However, at the same time, I also got to see posts from my first three years at Notre Dame. I definitely sensed improvements, and rather than cringe, I felt nostalgic.

As I began to check On This Day more frequently, I began to see pictures of old friends at social gatherings. I saw pictures of my friends and I finishing the Holy Half. I found pictures of my choir friends when we were touring France.

Eventually, I gave Facebook permission to remind me to check On This Day daily. It became part of my morning routine. It allows me to look back at my old self, the things I used to do and the people I used to hang out with. Sometimes, I'm disappointed that I no longer interact with these people as often, but at the same time, I realize that it's normal. Life is in a constant state of flux, and hanging out with different social groups is just part of it.

But that is not to deny the impact these people have made in my life and college career. Whether I consciously am aware or not, every single person I've interacted with has shaped me in some way. Some have become my closest friends, some have taught me to be a better student, some have inspired me to pursue a hobby, some have furthered my faith, and some have made me question my beliefs. I

couldn't imagine what Notre Dame would be like without the people I've met during my time here.

Like every graduating senior, the saddest thing about Notre Dame is how the school brings together so many brilliant and extraordinary people. We make all of these wonderful friends, but after four years, we are dispersed throughout nation, as well as the world, to make a difference and pursue our lofty goals. We will get there, we will do many wonderful things in our lives, but we will never be able to turn back time and relive our four years here. However, we can revisit these moments by looking through old Facebook posts, sharing stories of our experiences with the new friends we meet and, best of all, keep in contact with those who have shaped our lives.

To those people whom I've met along this four-year journey, thank you for creating memories with me. I will continue to browse On This Day and relive each moment over and over again. These past four years have been the greatest in my life so far. I can't wait to celebrate all of our achievements this Sunday. We've fought long and hard, and all great things must come to an end. But at least it won't be forgotten. In a year, we'll look back "on this day." Love thee, Notre Dame.

Wei Lin is graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration having majored in accountancy, economics and Chinese. He will continue to geek out when he starts his new job as a forensic consultant at PwC. Wei will be studying for the CPA exams this summer, but he welcomes anyone to contact him through his email at wei.lin.nd@gmail.com or visit him in New York City, even though he not-so-secretly lives in New Jersey.

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Unplanned



Catherine Owers

Associate News Editor Emeritus

The best things in my life have been unplanned. They haven't all been accidents, but rather decisions where I didn't realize the ramifications until well after I had made the choice — or didn't make the choice at all.

This is somewhat of a startling realization for a woman who considers herself to be a master planner: I have a practice of endlessly overanalyzing small decisions; yet somehow, my nascent tendency to go with my gut manifests itself on only the biggest life decisions.

When choosing colleges, I committed to Notre Dame without visiting any other university or, to be honest, seriously considering any other college. My visits to campus weren't perfect experiences; they were characterized by delayed flights and several feet of snow and attending my sister's biology classes — not the most engaging for the girl who very much knew she had to be an English major. But the sense of community I felt hanging out in Walsh, studying in the library and eating in South Dining Hall appealed to me a very fundamental level. So Notre Dame it was, with little debate.

Five years later, I can't imagine not knowing the uniquely phenomenal group of people I've met here at Notre Dame. And the two most meaningful experiences of my time at Notre Dame — working for The Observer and studying abroad — have also been unplanned.

I didn't attend my first Observer news department meeting because my four-year plan for college involved a deep commitment to the student newspaper on the way to a journalism career full of Pulitzer prizes. I attended my first Observer news department meeting because of a vague freshman interest in writing, coupled with some very strong encouragement from my sister's roommate, Tori Roeck, who also wrote news. So I rushed Delta News and let "what would Tori Roeck do?" govern more than a few of my decisions as associate news editor.

These past four years of writing about issues concerning our campus community has been extremely

fulfilling work. Being part of the Delta News team has made me a better writer and made me acutely aware of the vague AP style guidelines for papal encyclicals. More importantly, being part of the Delta News team has given me invaluable friendships and made me a better person.

I didn't have firm plans to study abroad at the beginning of my Notre Dame career, but I thought it sounded like an interesting experience. So I applied only for the Dublin program, only for the spring semester, and I thought if I wasn't selected for this program and semester, I wouldn't be missing out on much. Of course, I know now that I would have had a fantastic experience at any program, any semester.

But I did study in Dublin last spring, and now I can't imagine not riding the 39A, getting rained on for three hours at Easter Mass in Rome or negotiating with Italian taxi drivers — all with some of the very best people in the world. Studying abroad wasn't always easy, but it forced me to develop more than a little self-confidence and gave me an enormous amount of self-awareness.

When I look back on my senior year at Notre Dame, the times that I'll look back on most fondly aren't the traditional "lasts," like our last football game or last day of class. While those were fun, the unplanned times are the ones I'm holding on to — the spontaneous, late-night life talks and spur-of-the-moment decisions to stop studying and watch the sun set.

Looking to the future, I've got several maps and a lot of ambiguity at hand. And while this uncertainty does terrify me, I've come to realize the best experiences are the ones that are unplanned.

Catherine Owers is graduating with a degree in English and theology. After graduation, she'll continue to work her way through the canon of classic detective fiction, while eagerly awaiting Tana French's next novel. Please send reading recommendations and thoughts on correct AP Style for "Laudato Si" to owers.catherine@gmail.com

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One true home



Tabitha Ricketts
Viewpoint Editor Emeritus

Several times over the past few weeks, people have posed the question, “Why did you choose Notre Dame?” The truth is, I didn’t. At least not directly.

I can recall the excitement and pride I felt over five years ago when I learned I was accepted to my top-choice school — the only one to which I applied — and that I would be coming to South Bend to study. I was not headed for the gilded campus of Notre Dame, but for the dome-shadowed place across the street. That’s right: Saint Mary’s.

There were many reasons why I chose Saint Mary’s. I was 15. As an all-women’s Catholic college, it presented a supportive environment for me to make my fledging flight. I’m not going to lie; the proximity to Notre Dame and its golden opportunities was certainly a draw as well. In fact, it was the 4-1 engineering program that cinched the deal for me. But I never understood how, in others’ eyes, Saint Mary’s offerings were diminished by comparison.

I was told from the start that the relationship between Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s was rocky. Alumni from both campuses filled me in on the slurs they had learned, and it was a main topic of warning pre-Domerfest for the SMC first years. My experience at both schools has been peppered with stories of discrimination and discord between the two: students perpetuating terms like “the Sluttle” to describe the intercampus bus; students decrying the intelligence or worth of others based on the institution they attend; even taxi drivers who would refuse to take Saint Mary’s students the extra minute to our campus, and certainly never before dropping off any other passengers at Main Circle.

The strongest example came out of the BCS National Championship ticket controversy. A sparse 2,500 tickets were made available for students, at a price discounted by 50 percent thanks to a generous donor. Saint Mary’s students were allowed to participate in the student ticket lottery. The response from a very vocal part of the Notre Dame student body could best be classified as ungenerous, though framed as righteous protest — even the Observer article, “Championship ticket tension,” from December 4, 2012, only heard Notre Dame students’ reactions.

That tension reverberated like an earthquake along the fault line of the Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s connection, and many students on the Belle side of the street were left wondering where we stood, or whether we mattered at all in the hearts and minds of those we considered our brothers and sisters. That was, incidentally, my first experience with hate mail — I received a personal attack to my inbox after attempting to present a reasonable argument, at least as much as anyone is able to via Internet comments. And I know I was not the only one to be intimately disparaged — to be tracked down, sought out and called stupid, along with much worse — for my educational choice.

I’ve taken classes — I’ve earned degrees — at both schools. The subjects I took at Notre Dame were harder, but the classes at Saint Mary’s were more challenging. There’s no ducking out of a discussion or hiding on your phone in the back of a classroom when the class is 12 people and the professor gathered in a circle to discuss the reading. When it comes time to present your senior comprehensive project, you’d better not have checked out with a case of senioritis, because the entire department is likely to show up in support.

What Notre Dame offered me was something bigger, but what Saint Mary’s offered was something more intense. They are both special. They

are both wonderful. They are both different, certainly, but most importantly, they are both worthy of respect.

I don’t mean to disparage Notre Dame. I’m going to stand proudly in that stadium with the rest of my class, cheer with them and celebrate what we’ve achieved. Heck, maybe I’ll even get a little misty-eyed the next time I sing the Alma Mater. But as much as I’ll miss this place, there’s a part of me that is relieved to be going.

It’s the part that was never fully able to ignore the looks I received wearing Saint Mary’s logos on the Notre Dame campus — “she’s just here for the boys.” It’s the part that felt wearing my Saint Mary’s ring in my Notre Dame classes was making a statement, a small gesture of defiance against the stereotypes — “she’s not smart enough to go here.” It’s the part of me that’s torn between pride and justification when explaining that I am not a Saint Mary’s student anymore, that I graduated actually, but yes, I’m also a Notre Dame transfer student — “she’s only going there because she couldn’t get into Notre Dame; she’ll just transfer over in a year or two anyway.”

I’ve had an amazing experience at Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame, so intertwined I couldn’t separate them out. I would not be the person I am without the opportunities the schools have provided me, in tandem. While I’ll speak of both places with equal measures of pride and familiarity, when I say my last farewell this spring I’m leaving behind only one true home.

Tabitha Ricketts is graduating with a degree in computer science and a concentration in cybersecurity. She is moving to Washington, D.C., to be a consultant, which is fancy-speak for “pay me and I’ll write code for you.” She welcomes applications for friendship at tricketts@alumni.nd.edu

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Find joy in change



Jack Rooney
Managing Editor Emeritus

A lot can change in four years.

When I first arrived at Notre Dame four years ago, my dad, like many other fathers, helped me move into my new dorm. He carried boxes, lofted beds and sweated along with the rest of the class of 2016 and their parents as we began our time at Notre Dame on a sunny August Friday.

When my dad comes for graduation this weekend, he will be in a power wheelchair, completely dependent upon others to move, communicate and live.

In March of 2014, sophomore year, he was diagnosed with ALS. A lot can change in four years.

Since his diagnosis, my time at Notre Dame has been set against the backdrop of his illness, the timeline of his deterioration. When I returned to campus for junior year, he could still walk with some assistance. When I came home for fall break, he was in a wheelchair. When I left to study abroad, he could still swallow solid food. When I returned, he took all his meals through a feeding tube. A few days after we lost to Clemson, he went into the hospital with pneumonia and hasn’t really been able to speak or sit up for long periods since. A lot can change in four years.

I’ve changed a lot these past four years, too. My dad’s unfortunate and untimely confrontation with mortality has forced me to deeply examine who and what I hold close — family, friends, places, experiences. Trying to balance a full college life and time with my dad while he is still with us

has presented me with choices that have caused me to grow up quickly and separate what’s actually important from the things that only seem so.

And with graduation upon us, life is about to change again. We’re all about to leave the place that has become a home for us, and the people who have become family. Many of us are moving to new places, new homes with new people who we can only hope end up as special to us as the people we found here.

I’m about to leave my home for at least the next year and a half — a summer interning in Florida followed by a year working in Ireland. And I still need to come to terms with the knowledge that the next time I come home will be for my dad’s wake and funeral.

These are all terrifying thoughts. But if these past four years — through my Notre Dame experience, my travels, my dad’s disease — have taught me anything, it’s that we can handle it. No matter what cross we bear — a move to an unfamiliar place, an uncertain career path, a dying father — we’ll make it work. No one’s suffering is easier or harder than another’s. It is just our own.

And despite what challenges may lie ahead, I also believe our shared Notre Dame experience has left us uniquely equipped to thrive wherever we go and in whatever we do. With a strong sense of human solidarity and keen concern for the common good instilled in us, it is time for our Notre Dame education to become service to justice.

Perhaps this is all youthful naivety, but the world has yet to give me a reason to be cynical. Because after four years of hard work, late nights

in the library or the newsroom, successes, failures and memories, I still know that a lot can change in the next four years, too.

When he was first diagnosed, my dad promised himself and my family that his disease would not define him. In the face of tremendous personal suffering, he would remain the same father, husband, brother, and friend he has always been. He has struggled with this promise, as has my entire family. It’s hard not to let something as devastating as ALS change you.

At times, I have seen my family’s situation bring sadness and frustration, but it has not robbed us of a deeper sense of joy. This joy is a profound conviction that throughout the triumphs and travails we encounter, we are living a good life.

This joy permeates my family, and it is the same joy I hope all of you — my Notre Dame family — feel as we forge our paths forward. Things will change, as they always do, but if we remain rooted in the joy we have found here, I have no doubt the Notre Dame class of 2016 can create our own change. After all, a lot can change in four years. And we can change even more after four years at Notre Dame.

Jack Rooney is graduating with a degree in political science and American studies with a minor in journalism, ethics & democracy. He’ll continue his journalism career as a summer intern for the Tampa Bay Times before spending a year working for Notre Dame in Ireland. He welcomes visitors in both locations, just email him at jcrooney2@gmail.com.

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Thank you, Pangborn



Mary Green

Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

Almost four years ago, I opened an email link that heavily shaped my Notre Dame experience, probably more than anything else during my time here.

It was Fourth of July weekend, AKA the time each year when incoming freshmen find out their dorm assignments, and I was nervous as I clicked the button that would let me know where I would rest my head for (almost) every night of the next eight semesters.

It said, “PA-240 B.”

Having no idea what dorm “PA” was supposed to be, I broke into a bit of a sweat as my mind immediately thought of the Pasquerillas — nothing against those halls, but I knew I was going to major in FTT, and PE and PW just seemed so far away from DPAC.

But when I looked at the list of hall names and abbreviations, listed next to “PA” was “Pangborn.”

Pangborn — huh?

To be completely honest, I had never heard of that dorm, and during my visit to campus just three months before, I had probably walked by it and not even noticed the beautiful, aesthetically pleasing cinderblock palace that was to become my home at Notre Dame.

While Pangborn, AKA Pang, AKA the Pang, AKA Pangborn Hall for Girls, AKA the phoxiest dorm on campus, didn’t immediately strike me with its beauty, I came to realize the value of its more underrated qualities — mainly its location on the corner of South Quad, but also its ridiculous amount of storage space, the horizontal configuration of its rooms and the two

stone lions that guard its entrance.

But even more than that, it’s the people who have made Pangborn so great during my four years.

During our first trip to the Grotto, the Frosh-O staff told us freshmen stories of the first time Pangborn and Notre Dame felt like home to them, but I already felt like I was home and had a family in this group of women. They acknowledged that our hall wasn’t the best building on campus, but it housed the best people, women who make up some of the most wonderful people I have gotten to know not only in my time on campus but in my entire life.

As I sat down to write this column, I realized that, along with this being my final piece published in The Observer (unless I become a cranky alum columnist), this is also the final paper printed during Pangborn’s time as a residence hall and a community. With that, I’d like to take this time to thank all the Pangborn women who have made my time so incredible and phoxy.

Our word limit for this column doesn’t allow me to individually thank each person of the seven classes who have lived in Pangborn during my time, but I thank all of you as a group. I couldn’t have asked for anything more from a community.

Pangborn has been where I’ve laughed, I’ve cried, I’ve cartwheeled down the hallways and I’ve yelled out way too many Pangsta Raps. It’s where I made some of the best friends of my life and met people who have been there for me through all the good times and all the not-so-good times.

It’s a place that I always show visiting family, alongside campus hotspots like Main Building, the basilica, the Grotto, the stadium and Touchdown Jesus.

It’s where I’ve written countless papers and Observer stories, read countless pages, watched countless movies and made countless memories. It’s the greatest of all Notre Dame dorms, and it’s exactly what I’ve needed in my time here.

It’s the reason I’ve been to Harmonia concerts, women’s lacrosse games, tennis matches, cross country and swim meets and Amish Acres. It’s the reason why I’ve fought in Baraka Bouts, participated in science experiments and printed T-shirts with my friend’s face on them. It’s the reason I wanted to become an RA and have been honored to serve as one the past year (special shoutout to all the residents of 2B). I’d like to think it’s the reason The Observer’s readership has gone up by at least a few people the last four years.

Most of all, it’s the reason why Notre Dame is such a special place for me and many other women.

It’s a place I know I’ll miss when I return to campus, but it’s one I know has brought way too many people together for it to ever truly be gone.

Thank you, Pangborn, Sr. Mary Donnelly and every Pangsta out there. Stay phoxy always.

Mary Green is a film, television and theatre and English major with a journalism, ethics and democracy minor. She will fulfill her TV major and journalism minor by pursuing careers in broadcast journalism, but will inevitably read enough books and articles to continue her learning in English. If you want to contact her, look for her on the local TV stations of America’s smallest markets, or just email her at maryegreen15@gmail.com

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Little piece of Notre Dame



Erin Rice

Graphics Editor Emeritus

Graduating seniors, have you ever read through a list of “things to do before you graduate”? I’m sure many of us just recently reviewed that list and with a stroke of panic realized you may have to fail one of your finals to give yourself another year to check them all off the list.

A year ago I decided to stay a fifth year to pick up another major. With a whirlwind of seemingly lasting relief that I have an additional year to do everything I wanted to, here I sit completely paralyzed by the fact that “we” are graduating. “We” have had our last football game, last winter break, last class, last final exam and we’re entering into our last summer, for those who don’t start work right away.

As much as I try, I can’t avoid the “we,” us, this community, friends, peers and mentors. The fact that I’m staying an additional year will never make up for the fact that the real experience and community is made up of all of you, us. Notre Dame has created an irreplaceable environment for us to learn, grow and make memories these past four years, making this home. For some of us it’s the Dome, the Grotto, our freshman year dorm, the Library, maybe it’s Taco Bell in the basement of LaFortune, or the path around the lakes — we all find a piece of ourselves attached to this place, and that’s why it seems so hard to let go.

Well, everyone, I’m staying another year. I’ll have

the Dome, unlimited Nacho Cheese Doritos Locos Tacos or a cute mini pizza from Pizza Hut, the lakes to wander around at sunset, the Basilica for morning Mass. I’ll have Notre Dame at my fingertips, but the largest piece of me isn’t attached to here, it’s attached to you.

While you all are quickly approaching the one way door to “adulthood,” a little piece of me is going with you, and a little piece of you is staying here. I want to challenge everyone to put aside the list titled “things to do before I graduate” and start a new one, “things I did before I graduated.” It will be impossible to avoid reference to your friends, peers, mentors, professors, faculty and neighbors. The idea of these people being outside our closest reach is scary, but it can be exciting. There’s an undeniable passion and spirit that sits in each one of us. Whether the passion is for writing, singing, math, medicine, running, art or engineering, we all share something that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

While this may seem like the end of the best four years of our lives, as many people have said before, this is truly just the beginning. That obnoxious Notre Dame connection that everyone talks about works in more ways than job networking. When your Notre Dame sweatshirt draws the attention of an alum in the airport, like many of us probably have experienced before, the simple act of knowing that “they have been there too, they know what it’s like” brings comfort, confidence and the feeling of home. You may not even know their name or what they have been

doing the past 15 years since they graduated, but that clearly doesn’t matter. That same piece of Notre Dame that exists in them, also exists in you, and will forever.

We are all so blessed to have been here and we are a blessing to all of the people we meet in the future. That connection you’ve built in the Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s community over the past four years isn’t coming to an end, it’s now an extension to every new adventure, person or experience you encounter. So whether you know where you’ll be, or have no plans for next year, the biggest adventure of your life has just begun. While all of this has been said many times before, I am proud of all of us for everything we have accomplished, and all that we have yet to achieve. So next time you worry about the things you haven’t done, stop yourself and smile about all that you have done. Smile because you know all of your closest friends from school are out there, probably doing something awesome. Keep them a priority, and come back to Notre Dame when you can to revisit that piece of you that’ll always be here.

Erin Rice is a senior and will be staying a fifth year to get a dual degree for her bachelor of fine arts (BFA) in graphic and industrial design. She’s almost as excited to have another year at Notre Dame as she is about dogs and ice cream. Contact her with any questions regarding the above (especially dogs or studying abroad in London) at erice4@nd.edu

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



CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS

Special thanks to graduating columnists Charlie Ducey, Kitty Baker, Jennifer Vosters, Kyle Palmer and Stephen Raab, and graduating copyeditors Austin Taliaferro and Bianca Almada.

Becoming my own man



Miko Malabute
Scene Editor Emeritus

I'm obviously not exactly a stud athlete, but I have a bit of a confession to make — when I play pick-up basketball, I'm not exactly the most confident player on the court. Even when I'm playing well, I don't always start off with oozing amounts of swagger and belief that I'm going to make every shot I take.

So here's what I do: I start off by passing the ball to my teammates. Driving and dishing, setting them up so they can knock down the open jump shots. Then they get more and more confident, and with their growing confidence I'm able to really settle into the game. Now I'm getting more confident by their own confidence — call it osmosis or something — and I can finally play my own game.

It's a lot easier when I approach the game that way. When I try to force the issue myself, I get so in my own head and I start critiquing my every flaw. But seeing other people — my peers, friends, etc. — flourishing gives me the confidence and determination to elevate my own game. When I first got to Notre Dame, I tried to force the issue. Before I even stepped onto campus, I had a nice pep talk with my mom. She told me she had confidence in me because I reminded her of a chameleon — not the most endearing of comparisons, but she explained it was because I could fit right in anywhere.

But at first, I didn't want to fit right in, I wanted to be the man. I forced the issue. And I tangibly

struggled with trying to stand out amongst my peers. So I finally stopped trying to act like I was trying to be something, and just sat back and tried to figure out how my peers fared. And as I saw them succeed and grow into their own, I got the confidence to grow into my own — to be my own person.

My brother told me before I got to Notre Dame to trust a man who is good and honest with you. I've been blessed to have met some of the best, most honest and most trustworthy people. Like any good team, at my time of need, I faltered, I leaned on my peers to bring me back on my feet. My father passed away early in my sophomore year, and it truly brought me to one of my lowest — and what felt like one of the longest — points of my life. But the Notre Dame community brought me back on my feet. They allowed me to get through it, both on my own and as a second family. The amount of support and love was unreal: people who said prayers for my family, the administration and professors sent me cards of support and love. I can honestly say I never expected that level of support and comfort, but to the people at Notre Dame that's just what you do. It's natural.

Looking back on the past four years, I never thought that I would be the man that I am today. No, I am obviously not perfect — spend even ten minutes with me and I'm sure I'll joke about my latest goof of the week — but I can safely say that I am proud of the transformations I've made as a student of the University. And I never saw it coming, because it wasn't until I saw everyone else grow into their own that I was able to settle into

the flow of life in South Bend; it wasn't until I was able to see the strides my peers made that I was able to play my own game.

The best part about becoming my own person, becoming my own man, these past four years is losing myself in the Notre Dame tradition and making it my own as well. The Grotto trips, the Alma Maters, the ripping up of The Observer and raining journalistic-confetti at basketball games and, of course, the football games, were things that I became very much a part of me as they did for countless other students in the past — and as they will become for the countless of fortunate students in the future. But as they became more and more a part of me, they became experiences of my own — and I grew more and more into the man that I am today.

I don't really know if I can recite to you what I learned in my sophomore year class, but I can tell you that the stuff I learned while at the University wasn't always what was in the books. It was how I learned to be my own man, which I learned from watching my own peers figure out how to become their own man or woman. And for me, that was the perfect game plan.

Miko Malabute is graduating with a degree in biochemistry. With every minute that passes, he will probably find a new passion to pursue and procrastinate responsibilities with while trying to figure out life. To file any complaints, please email him at miko.malabute@gmail.com

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

My last will



Lesley Stevenson
Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

As my time at Notre Dame comes to a close, I feel it incumbent to give to you, my friends, family and mentors, my last will and testament.

I, Lesley Stevenson, of over-zealous mind and undying school spirit, leave the following:

To my fellow 2016 graduates: nothing but my eternal love and support. Most of you are leaving this city, so I cannot leave you anything else but this and well-wishes for your undoubtedly prosperous future.

To Jim Collins: York mints, "Moulin Rouge!", money for future students to do research at theme parks and a 110-page thesis representing the best of what you taught me.

To FTT professors and staff (particularly Stacey Stewart, Jo Ann Norris, Mary Kearney, Carys Kresny, additional thesis advisors): 17 thesis writers next year, my blog that crashed, all the social media and the pictures I shouldn't have from "The Tonight Show," my "Pride and Prejudice" costume, in addition to eternal love and gratitude.

To Carys and Anton: my fears. You taught me how to (try to) be an actor and helped me break out of a shell I had built, so I leave these fears behind.

To Glynn: more K-cups. I'm sorry for the ones I stole.

Also, the senior trip to Chicago, travel coffee mugs, breads, bagels and pastries and future grant writers who want to go to theme parks. And especially to Paul Weithman, the never-ending draft of my thesis.

To AMST: someone else to argue that Harry Potter is an American subject, every pop culture class offered, several new freshmen and many, many tweets.

To Emily Okwara and Roisín Goebelbecker: American Studies and a PEMCo legacy to uphold.

To Jason Ruiz: more space in your schedule where I'd normally hog your office hours, the unicorn emoji, small Southern towns and (hopefully) much more PEMCo.

To my PEMCats: I give you my best.

To the PEMCommunity: movie nights, popcorn, "Hamilton," groupies, posters, photo shoots and a presence on campus and social media that has grown immensely in scope and influence. I leave you not just a club — a community. I am so proud of all of you.

To Amanda Bartolini, Tommy Favorite, Ryan Jones and Brynn Alexander: the strength to carry the PEMCo brand well into the future.

To Morgan Rice: all the "likes" and followers in the world, plus the infinite power of planning and executing marketing campaigns.

To Sam Squeri and Kelsey Dool: coffee, and lots of it.

To Liz Anthony: brunch at Uptown Kitchen, sunny South Bend days, the farmer's market and the fishbowl.

To Maria Anthony: Ben Schrimpf.

To Brian Davis: happy days in South Bend, plus Jacob and Liz's siblings.

To Connor Quigley: a pair of pants (not shorts).

To Margaret Hynds: much coffee. Very nap. Many luck. Wow.

To Delta News: the matriarchy, the unfixable page 2, no breaking stories. Ever.

To The Observer staff: more animal crackers, and the assurance that your work matters, even when it's thankless.

To Rosie Biehl: my single in BP. Treat it well. It is a treasure.

To Breen-Phillips: a dome dance. You're welcome.

To Sr. Mary McNamara: the first floor, Welcome Weekend and many more years of excellence in the best place on campus.

To ND Admissions: very well-trained tour guides who don't show up as late as I always did.

To Team Reilly (counselors and staff): #NDReilly #ND #food, more boys on the committee, Yesterday's, Goose Chase, "Rudy" and all the students we recruited.

To Tom Bear and Mark Seamon: students who are less sassy than I am but love you just as much.

To Don Bishop, Bob Mundy and LeShane Saddler: all my Memphians on campus and all the happy Easters.

To Val: my thanks.

To Bald and Beautiful: my brother's hair.

To Paul Manrique: my brother.

To Jack, Joe, Christianos and Chris Flynn: my brother.

To Fr. Doyle of Dillon Hall: my brother.

To University President Fr. John Jenkins: my brother.

To my brother, Paul Stevenson: so much love and the best wishes for your last two (or three) years here. You have already made an impact on this campus and I can't wait to see what you achieve in the next two years. I thought coming to Notre Dame was the greatest privilege of my life, but in fact coming here with you has been the greatest. Make good choices, bring honor to the family and live in every second you have at this place.

To my parents: see above. You made all this happen. You deserve this diploma as much as I do. You believed in me even when I couldn't believe in myself, and you have supported me in every way. All I can say is thank you.

Lesley Stevenson is proud to graduate with majors in film, television and theatre and American studies, but her crowning glory of these four years was contributing to every section of The Observer — including Photo and Graphics. She has bought a one-way ticket to New York to begin a career in theatrical producing, and you can reach her at lsteven1@alumni.nd.edu or on Twitter at @lcstevenson.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

On hearing you might transfer

To a student of color, on hearing you might transfer:

Recently we learned you have become so disheartened by racism at Notre Dame that you are considering transferring to another school.

We were told you and other students received several racist messages on Yik Yak, the social media app that allows people to post anonymous messages for others to read. We don't subscribe to Yik Yak, but one of our students shared one of the messages you saw.

We were sickened. The message was racist, and it was infuriating. As awful as it was, we understand this may not be the only instance of racism you have encountered on the Notre Dame campus. So we can understand why you might want to leave. And we support, categorically, your right to make decisions that will enable you to feel safe, to flourish and to be happy — whatever those decisions might be.

We write this letter to share our thoughts with you and other students of color as you consider the future. We want you to know:

Your faculty and staff care about you. We want to do everything we can to help you learn, grow and thrive at Notre Dame. We want to teach you, and we want to learn from you. And we will do all we can to help you feel that Notre Dame is truly your home.

You have allies among your fellow students. As tragic as it is that some Notre Dame students are so lost in personal webs of ignorance and fear, many more students believe in the Notre Dame mission of promoting learning in the service of justice. The student who showed us the racist message was distraught at the thought you might leave. That student and others like her are your allies and your friends.

You make Notre Dame a better place.

Diversity in all of its expressions, whether racial, ethnic, economic, linguistic, aesthetic or other forms, makes for a stronger, smarter, more wholly human community. While it is not your responsibility to make Notre Dame a better place, we want you to know that your presence in this university matters.

You belong here. When you received your letter from the admissions office telling you that you had been accepted to Notre Dame, this became your university. The library, the dorms, the classrooms — these are your places. The quads, the lakes, the Grotto — they are here for you. No one has the right to take these from you, and no one can. Let the haters leave, if that's what they choose. We will wish them better days and hope they someday learn to love others as God intended. Notre Dame belongs to you, not them. Why should you leave?

As you well know, a hallmark of the United States' past is institutionalized racism; and the struggle for justice and equality continues. The racist message you received makes clear that that struggle is taking place, too, at Notre Dame.

We write as Notre Dame faculty members to say your struggle is our struggle. We will stand beside you, and we will denounce all forms of hate speech as intolerable and unacceptable.

We wish you everything good as you consider your bright future, and we offer you our support.

Sincerely,

John Duffy
professor of English

Jan. 18, 2015

To view the complete list of the 157 authors who have signed their names to this letter, visit ndsmcobserver.com

No regrets, one request

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

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

Andrew Nachman
class of 1997
Jan. 16, 2013

On Father Hesburgh

Dear Father Ted,

It is with gratitude and deep devotion that I write to reflect on your legacy at Notre Dame and your lasting gift to the women of Our Lady. Forty-plus years later, we women of ND are the proud legacy of your having the vision and the courage many years ago to break the mold and allow us to attend this great university. The Notre Dame community fostered and grew under your good guidance, and the men and women that now serve as Our Lady's ambassadors are positive proof that co-education is the best environment for men and women to learn how to live and work together. We women of Notre Dame are blessed and thankful for having been given this opportunity to grow and serve in the spirit of Our Lady.

You have set an example for all of us, the men and women of Notre Dame, of the importance of service to God and others above self. Your legacy will live on in all of us who were made to feel as equals on this campus, whether in the classroom or the athletic arena. You inspired us to strive toward excellence, to challenge the status quo, to break barriers in our careers and our lives and to look to Our Lady for guidance and support.

Your dedication to God, to Country and to Notre Dame (to paraphrase from a "best-seller"), has given us the moral compass to live by. Whether in our professional lives, or more importantly in raising our families and within our communities, the lessons you helped impart while we were at Notre Dame have shaped who we are. We are the women of Notre Dame, and we are a powerful, spiritual and responsible group who cherish life and seek justice and truth.

We thank you for your influence in our lives, which will live on in eternity. Your work on this earth is now complete; may you rest in peace in the comfort of your Lord.

We are Notre Dame.

Yours in Our Lady,

Tara C. Kenney
class of 1982
first woman student body vice president
March 1, 2015

Prayers: not enough

Sexual assault prompts: Prayers? Consequences? Change? Action?

In the wake of student government's inaugural sexual assault prayer service for the year, it seems fitting to evaluate the response to sexual violence proposed by campus leadership. Praising the "great visibility with 'One is Too Many' last year," student body vice president Matt Devine gave Observer readers a glimpse into his administration's approach: "we're looking at more action words ... if there's something we can do to incorporate the idea of an active bystander into the title, then we'd like to."

This word-driven campaign to combat sexual assault with catchy slogans is worse than misguided; it's insulting.

Ask a victim of sexual violence if lighting a candle changes a culture. Ask a perpetrator if posters would have stuck in his mind. Ask yourself, the unnamed "active bystander," if anyone remembers the silence of the "sacred Grotto" in between shots and ceaseless fingers. Where unanswered prayers fail and discourse deflates, addressing the roots of sexual assault requires an immediate and un-romanticized policy.

The threats to an incoming class of potential prey will not be prayed away. Devine stated, "[The prayer service]'s the first year students' first introduction to something like this, and it's important for them to understand that this is our response." According to the student body vice president, the importance of the prayer service lies not in the moral bankruptcy it allows, but rather in the

feigned solidarity it displays.

When a prayer service continues to be the only visible consequence of sexual violence — a response in name but not in substance — student government sets a precedent of passivity that does little to bolster their own credibility or that of the student community.

If, as Cavanaugh resident assistant Allison Leddy claims, by attending this University we choose "to be more," student leadership from LaFortune to each residence hall must take a more authoritative role in curbing a beer-swilling culture of frat boy conformity. For it is this cultural mentality, and not student government's prayer service, that currently represents each freshman's introduction to educating "the mind and the heart."

If alcohol is an initiation into dorm brotherhood, is it also an initiation into sexual activity, wanted or unwanted? If we segregate dorms by gender, can we expect a woman to enter a male dorm as anything other than an exciting and foreign object?

Most importantly: Can our student government align itself with dorm leaders to change initiations that anesthetize our self-respect?

We can either acknowledge that this community needs more than a prayer service, or sleepwalk to our self-destruction.

Dylan Parent & Austin Hagwood
class of 2015
Sept. 24, 2014

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND 2016

Dear Graduates,

Prayers and best wishes to members of the Class of 2016! On behalf of the University, thank you for the many and varied contributions you have made to this community. I hope that your time at Notre Dame has been fruitful and complete with opportunities to enrich not only your mind, but your heart. Today, we join in celebration of your accomplishments.

When you first arrived at Notre Dame, we welcomed you as a member of our community. Now, with a degree in her name, you will forever represent Notre Dame to the broader world. I hope that the education you have received here will be applied in a vocation that you pursue with wisdom, integrity, and purpose. May reflection and spirituality remain an integral part of your daily life and inspire you always to serve those in need. Wherever life's journey may lead, I hope that your path is surrounded by fellow Notre Dame friends, mentors, and faculty who encourage and support your endeavors.

May Our Lady be with you and watch over you always; and know you will forever have a home here on campus.

In Notre Dame,



Erin Hoffmann Harding
Vice President for Student Affairs

SMC senior receives ROTC leadership award

By KATHRYN MARSHALL
News Writer

Caroline Rech, a senior nursing major and ROTC Air Force cadet, is the first from Saint Mary's to be named top of her Air Force class, which includes cadets from both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

In addition to being first in her class of nine cadets, Rech received the Commander's Leadership Award and was one of four cadets to be honored with a sabre this year, she said.

"To know there is this huge legacy of outstanding Saint Mary's women who have been a part of ROTC, and to know that I'm among the top of them, is a huge honor," Rech said.

The Commander's Leadership Award is given annually to the top cadet of the ROTC Air Force detachment at

"To know there is this huge legacy of outstanding Saint Mary's women who have been a part of ROTC, and to know that I'm among the top of them, is a huge honor."

Caroline Rech
senior

Notre Dame who demonstrates dependability, character, military discipline, leadership and high personal standards, Rech said.

Rech said she found out about the award after following up on a missed call from her commander after class.

"He's a colonel in the army and colonels don't usually call you — they have people working for them who do that," Rech said. "I was so nervous. I thought 'What did I do? This cannot be good,' and I called him back, and he told me I got the award.

"It was definitely a surprise. I know I've done well. In ROTC, you're constantly being ranked and rated, and they tell you kind of where you are, and my class is very impressive. It's pretty competitive — they're all pretty great and it's just a huge honor."

Within her class of nine senior cadets, eight received academic honors and outstanding physical fitness standards, Rech said. She said the commander of the Northeast region was impressed with the class, saying if the nine were each at different schools, they

would all finish as top cadets.

Eight of the nine have been together since freshman year and are part of a class that began with more than 20 members, Rech said.

Rech said she doesn't have any immediate family involved in the military, and wasn't aware of ROTC until high school, when she decided she wanted to join the armed forces after college. During the college decision process, Rech's mom helped her get in touch with detachments of the different colleges she was considering.

At the same time, Rech said she also knew she wanted to pursue nursing.

"I had this deep passion for service," Rech said. "I knew that was something I wanted to be a part of my life in whatever I did and I felt nursing was a way to fulfill that in caring for people when they're in their most vulnerable times."

During her time with ROTC, Rech spent 11 weeks in 2013 studying Russian in San Diego with other cadets and midshipmen from around the country, she said. The following summer, she had the opportunity to travel to Estonia with friends in the program.

However, Rech said, ROTC hasn't been easy.

"It's tough, it's competitive and it's a different environment," Rech said. "I'm over [at Notre Dame] on Tuesdays. There could be a circus that happens at Saint Mary's on Tuesdays and I [would] have no idea because I'm over there. I feel I have missed some things here on campus. ... It's been a challenge and part of it is that it has been so new."

Rech said an ROTC scholarship she received enabled her to attend Saint Mary's.

"I never, ever would have thought when I accepted the scholarship and started ROTC that I would be where I am now," Rech said. "I've had some amazing opportunities through ROTC that make me even more excited to see what active duty will bring. I've developed responsibility and leadership and discipline, and in addition to that I have guidance from great officers who teach us and help us grow in our leadership."

In August, Rech will begin active duty at a civilian hospital in Tampa, Florida, where she will spend several months doing nursing clinicals. She will then go to Travis Air Force Base in California to start medical-surgical nursing.

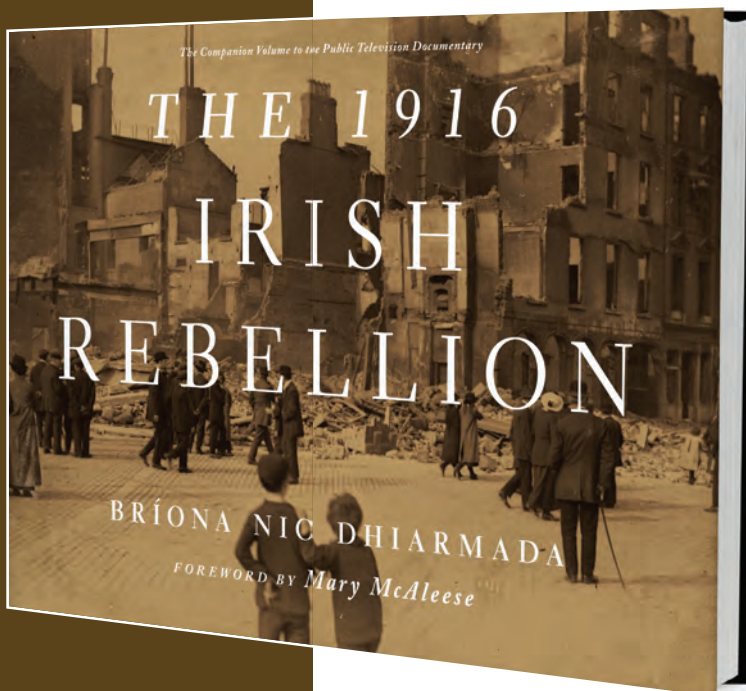
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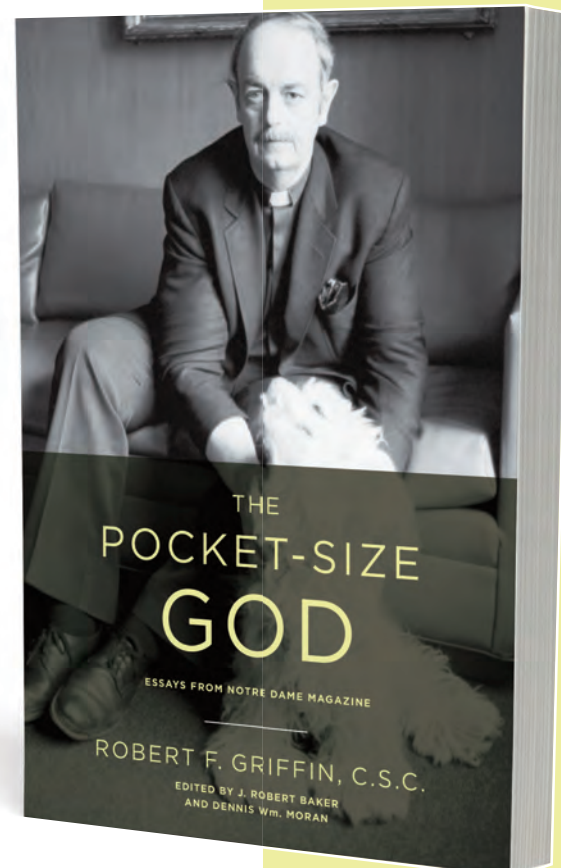
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**Thank you for four great years, and
congratulations to the graduating senior
student-athletes of the class of 2016.**

From Notre Dame Athletics



Notre Dame ROTC to commission senior cadets



ROSIE LOVOI | The Observer

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) members gather on South Quad for Pass-in-Review ceremony April 13.

By **LUCAS MASIN-MOYER**
News Writer

On May 14 in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, 13 cadets will be commissioned while the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, gives the keynote address. This ceremony will be a joint commissioning with members of the Navy and Air Force ROTCs.

According to Lt. Col. Christopher Pratt, the class of 2016 has stood out for its intelligence, motivation, and leadership.

“We have a very strong senior class — we have 13 seniors commissioning, which is the largest commissioning class out of the tri-mil this year,” Pratt said. “Out of this senior class, we have four that we call DMG — Distinguished Military Graduates. These are individuals that are in the top 10 percent of the country.”

The Notre Dame ROTC is comprised of students from six universities — the University of Notre Dame, Bethel College, Saint Mary’s College, Holy Cross College, Indiana University at South Bend (IUSB) and Valparaiso University.

The cadets who are being commissioned from Notre Dame, listed with their assignments, are as follows:

- Austin Crehan — Illinois National Guard — Infantry
- Michael Deasey — Army Reserve — Military Intelligence
- Fernanda Garcia — Active Duty — Corps of Engineers
- Matthew Jackson — Active Duty — Field Artillery
- John Lake — Active Duty — Cyber Corps
- Michael McGraw — Active Duty — Armor
- Peter Noell — Active Duty — Infantry
- Ryne Quinlan — Arizona National Guard

— Corps of Engineers

- Michael Weeks — Army Reserve — Military Intelligence

From Saint Mary’s College, Isabella Gagnon and Brett Quick, both of whom will be serving Active Duty in the Signal Corps, will be commissioned.

According to Pratt, the class of 2016 enjoyed many special experiences, chief among them being a staff ride to the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Pratt said this trip “allows [cadets] to connect to the program’s history and lineage, tying into the Irish Brigade, which served at Gettysburg.”

In addition, this trip allowed seniors to view a statue of Father William Corby, a former President of the University and member of the Irish Brigade during the battle of Gettysburg, a replica of which stands outside of Corby Hall.

The senior cadets also participated in many other events this year, including leadership developments exercises (LDX) at the National Guard Armory in Kingsbury, Indiana and at Fort Custer in Michigan. Cadets also participated in combat water survival tests at the University, rappelling labs at the South Bend Fire Department and two awards ceremonies.

Pratt said success is consistent among cadets in the Notre Dame ROTC program and that this success is the culmination of four years of work.

“When you come in as a scholarship cadet to Notre Dame, you generally finish,” he said. “We have about a 96% progression rate, which means that if you start the program, you generally finish if you’re a scholarship cadet. The important thing with that is that 95% of seniors [were commissioned] ... [and] that is mostly based on their performance.”

Contact Lucas Masin-Moyer at lmasinmo@nd.edu

15 ND students awarded national fellowships

By **JUSTINE WANG**
News Writer

Fifteen graduating seniors have received awards from the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Program. This program provides grants for individually-designed study, research projects or English Teaching Assistant Programs.

According to its website, the Fulbright Program “facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction on an individual basis in the classroom, field, home and in routine tasks, allowing the grantee to gain an appreciation of others’ viewpoints and beliefs, the way they do things and the way they think.”

The awardees for Fulbright study and research grants were Lauren Antosz, Rose Doerfler, Charlie Ducey, Savannah Kounelis and Andrew Scruggs. The awardees for English Teaching Assistantships were Whitney Bellant, Bridget Galassini, Adam Henderson, McKenzie Hightower, Zachary Horne, Ray Von Jones, Emily Migliore, Monika Spalinski, Luke Wajrowski and Kyle Witzigman.

Witzigman, who is an honors political science major and a member of both the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program and Glynn Family Honors Program, said he was inspired to apply for the fellowship partially due to multiple research and travel opportunities he had at Notre Dame during his undergraduate career.

“Notre Dame’s support and funding allowed me to teach and intern with non-governmental organizations in Hanoi, Vietnam during two separate summers,” he said. “I attended a higher education conference in Bac Ninh province last summer and was intrigued by the relationship between an education and an education system. Fulbright provides a window in which I can learn about the nuance of a culture and of a student perspective by teaching in a classroom.”

Witzigman said he has four goals for his time in Vietnam.

“One, learn how to cook Vietnamese food. Two, improve my Vietnamese language skills. Three, play football with a *câu lạc bộ* and make a fool of myself,” he said. “And four, say yes more often than not.”

Ducey and Wilson both received the Austrian Teaching Assistantship, which “provides prospective teachers of German and/or graduates with an interest in Austrian studies with opportunities to work at secondary schools

throughout Austria,” according to CUSE.

Other awards included funding for abroad graduate programs.

Grefenstette, who is a theology major in the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program and Glynn Family Honors Program, received full funding for a one-year Master’s of China Studies program at Yenching Academy, a prestigious college within Peking University.

According to Dr. Jeffrey Thibert, interim director and assistant director of national fellowships at CUSE, the graduating classes of recent years have seen increasing success in regards to national fellowship applications, especially the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

“We have also seen increasing success more generally for Notre Dame undergraduates. ... Not only have we had a Rhodes Scholar for two consecutive years, but also we have had larger numbers of finalists for other major fellowships, like the Marshall Scholarship and Luce Scholarship,” Thibert wrote in an email.

Among the graduating class, six students were awarded fellowships from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP), and two were named Honorable Mention. According to CUSE, the fellowship provides funding for research-based study leading to a master’s or doctoral degree in the fields of science, engineering, technology, math or social science. The National Science Foundation received over 17,000 applications for the 2016 competition, and made 2,000 fellowship award offers and 2,908 honorable mentions.

“I believe that this increasing success is indicative of an upward trend for fellowships outcomes for Notre Dame students and alumni, as it is now clearer than ever that our students and graduates can hold their own in the competitions for these prestigious opportunities,” Thibert said.

The awardees included Kennell Huggins, Brian Keene, Ellen Norby, Joseph Norby, Toby Turney and Melanie Wallskog. Jesse David Suter and Zoe Volenec received Honorable Mention awards.

Wallskog, who is an honors economics and ACMS major in the Glynn Family Honors Program, expressed the flexibility that the NSF’s GRFP will provide her going forth as she pursues an economics Ph.D at Stanford University in the fall.

Having been a part of several economics research projects, some of which were with the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities, Wallskog naturally found graduate school to be her next step, she said.

“My ND economics professors highly recommended that I apply for the NSF GRFP as part of my journey towards my economics Ph.D,” Wallskog said in an email. “The GRFP is extremely valuable for three reasons — it provides three years of grad school funding, it allows you to focus on research during those three years ... and it sends a big signal in your grad application that you are a valuable applicant.”

“The GRFP allows me a lot of research flexibility at Stanford, since it encourages me to focus on my own research, rather than teaching or researching solely for faculty members. Furthermore, having the GRFP opens up opportunities for me with the NSF; they have additional funding resources and programs that are particularly available to GRFP recipients,” Wallskog said.

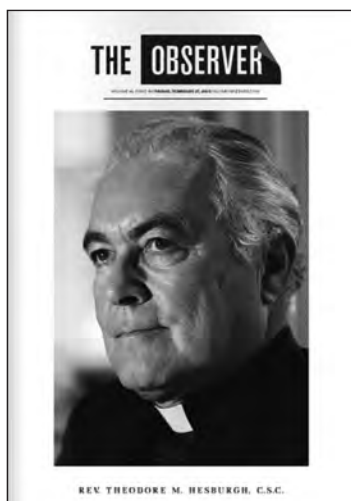
According to Thibert, besides graduating seniors, CUSE is seeing increased alumni success in applying for national fellowships as well.

“For some, it makes sense to wait an extra year or two to apply for something like the Rhodes or Fulbright, because it gives them more time to develop a record of achievement that demonstrates that they are already making a difference with regard to a field of study or social issue,” he said. “First, we would like to see more alumni applying for national fellowships. Second, alumni can work with CUSE on their applications. Third, nearly all fellowships allow you to apply multiple times, so I would encourage most people to apply as graduating seniors and as alumni — in fact, both of our most recent Rhodes Scholars were re-applicants.”

“An undergraduate education characterized by scholarly engagement [and] applying what is learned in the classroom to make a meaningful impact on the world, is key to success with national fellowships, and CUSE’s primary role is to help students identify and pursue these opportunities. ... CUSE has had great success in recent years, and we look forward to building on that momentum in the years ahead.”

Contact Justine Wang at jwang27@nd.edu

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh dies at 97



On Feb. 26, 2015, Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, 15th president of Notre Dame and one of the most influential figures in higher education, died at the age of 97. Friends, family and the Notre Dame community came together to celebrate his life at his funeral held at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on March 4, 2015.

Former President of the United States Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, M.A. class of 1975, topped a long list of dignitaries who offered reflections at the memorial

service for Hesburgh on March 4 in Purcell Pavilion.

Other speakers included Carter's wife, former First Lady Rosalynn Carter; former president of Princeton University William Bowen; Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly, class of 1977 and Law School class of 1981; Dillon Hall rector Fr. Paul Doyle; former football head coach Lou Holtz; archbishop emeritus of Washington Cardinal Theodore McCarrick; Indiana Gov. Mike Pence; Board of Trustees member Martin W. Rogers, class of 1988; former

Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and former Pennsylvania Sen. Harris Wofford.

University President Fr. John Jenkins described Fr. Hesburgh as a moral force in a statement sent to the student body.

"While serving four Popes and accepting 16 presidential appointments, Father Ted was a moral force in virtually all major social issues of his day, including civil rights, peaceful uses of atomic energy, campus unrest, treatment of Vietnam draft evaders, third-world development

and immigration reform.

"Next to Notre Dame's founder, Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C., no one has had a greater impact on the University than Father Ted. With his appointments to the faculty, his creation of great centers and institutes for scholarship and research, his commitment to our Catholic character, and, most of all, his leadership, charisma and vision, he turned what was a school well-known for football into one of the nation's great institutions for higher learning."

ND, SMC lose 12 students in four years

2012 witnessed the passing of two students. On Oct. 18, Saint Mary's sophomore Ziqi Zhang died from injuries sustained in a collision between her bike and an SUV outside of the main entrance to Saint Mary's on State Road 933. Zhang was a dual-degree student at Saint Mary's taking engineering classes at Notre Dame.

Michael Thigpen, a first year master's student and professional musician, died Nov. 13 at his off-campus residence. He is remembered by his loved ones for his caring nature and strong desire to help people.

Connor Sorensen died Dec. 20, 2013 after a lifelong battle with lung disease, along with other

health-related issues. Sorensen was able to graduate early, despite his deteriorating health. His friends described him as relentless in his motivation to find cures for diseases, due to his personal experiences.

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's lost two students in 2014. Third-year Ph.D. student Akash Sharma died Jan. 1. Sharma was studying chemical and biomolecular engineering and worked as a teaching assistant. He was from India.

Saint Mary's first-year Madelyn Stephenson died when her car was hit on the driver's side by a semi-tractor Jan. 3. She had a passion for learning Arabic and her loved ones described her

as a shy, smart girl.

Five Notre Dame students were lost in 2015. Sophomore Daniel Kim was found dead Feb. 6 in his off-campus residence. A former fencer, Kim was a business student from New Jersey.

Senior finance major Lisa Yang died March 3; her death was ruled a suicide by the St. Joseph County Coroner's Office. She was a resident of McGlinn Hall and friends said she was naturally good at everything she tried.

Senior Billy Meckling died in the early hours of May 16 after falling from the roof of the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center; he was set to graduate the following day. Meckling was

a four-year member of the Irish varsity fencing team, winning two monograms.

Rebecca Townsend, a member of the incoming class of 2019, died July 2 after she and a friend were struck by a car during a Fourth of July celebration. She graduated with honors from Immaculate High School in Danbury, Connecticut.

Junior Jake Scanlan, a mechanical engineering major from North Potomac, Maryland was found unresponsive in his bed in Siegfried Hall on Nov. 11; he was pronounced dead shortly thereafter. His friends said he treated everyone like an old friend and loved to make people smile.

In 2016, Notre Dame lost two

students. Third-year law student Karabo Moleah, 26, died March 31 in Philadelphia; he had been studying in the Law School's Washington D.C. program. He had previously lived in the Fischer O'Hara Grace student community, and his friends remember his questioning nature and intelligence.

On March 9, junior Theresa Sagartz was found dead in her off-campus residence from natural causes related to a chronic medical condition. A third generation member of the Notre Dame community, Sagartz was in the College of Science. Her friends and family remember her as adventurous, self-assured and generous with her time.

Notre Dame initiates suit over HHS mandate



On May 21, 2012, Notre Dame filed a lawsuit to challenge the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring employers to provide contraceptive services in their health insurance plans. After a court battle which made it all the way to the Supreme Court, a federal court of appeals ruled against Notre Dame on May 19, 2015.

University recognizes LGBTQ organization



On Dec. 5, 2012, the University released a formal statement declaring the result of a review process that lasted five months: the administrative support for students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning would be increased.

The recognition of the student organization, PrismND, was included in this statement.

Students abroad witness papal election



On March 13, 2013, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now known as Pope Francis, was elected Pope Benedict's successor after two weeks of consideration by the conclave of cardinals. Pope Francis is the first Latin American Pope.

Many of the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students who were abroad witnessed the turnover in St. Peter's Square.

University announces 'Campus Crossroads'



On Jan. 29, 2014, the University announced the \$400 million "Campus Crossroads Project." The undertaking is a renovation to the stadium, which will include classrooms, recreational facilities, meeting rooms and a student center.

The purpose of the endeavor is to centralize every element of campus life in one location.

ND announces school for global affairs



On Oct. 1, 2014, the University announced plans to open the Donald R. Keough School of Global Affairs, the first new college at the University in nearly a century.

It will be based in Jenkins Hall, a new building currently under construction, and R. Scott Appleby will serve as the Marilyn Keough Dean for the school.

ESPN sues Notre Dame for record access



On Jan. 15, 2015, ESPN filed a lawsuit against Notre Dame claiming NDSP violated Indiana's public records law by refusing to release campus police records.

Although the trial court judge ruled in Notre Dame's favor in April 2015, ESPN won the appeal March 15, 2016 when the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled that NDSP is a public agency.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2015-2016

JUNE 22, 2015: COLLEGE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

SINCE TAKING OFFICE in June 2004, current College President Carol Ann Mooney has loved working closely with the Saint Mary's students — the very thing she said she will miss the most when she retires May 31.

"One of the great joys of being president at a small college is to be able to interact with the students," Mooney said. "You are fascinating young women who really are preparing to make a difference in the world. You care deeply about the good of this community, and I trust that will expand to the various communities you will inhabit as you move through your lives."

During her tenure, Mooney launched the "Faith Always, Action Now" campaign — which raised \$105 million for the College — as well as three new graduate programs.

President-elect Jan Cervelli will take Mooney's place June 1, 2017, after Mooney's contract expires. Cervelli, a South Bend native and Saint Joseph's High School alumna, said she is excited to immerse herself in student life at the College. "I want to become a part of the class of 2020," she said. "... I want to be able to walk the walk with students and see what it's like to take classes, to live in the dorm [and] to eat the food."




AUGUST 2015: ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTS NEW FIRST-YEAR COURSE

MEMBERS OF THE class of 2019 were enrolled in the Moreau First-Year Experience course, a new freshman requirement for the 2015-2016 academic year. The course, which took the place of the previous physical education requirement, emphasizes the holistic growth of the student and aims to ensure a seamless transition for incoming students into the Notre Dame community. Maureen Dawson, associate professional specialist for the First Year of Studies, said the course, which met once weekly and consisted of approximately 19 or 20 students, is meant to create a platform for conversation about the college experience.

The course was not without controversy, with many students expressing their dissatisfaction in a midterm survey. Dawson said the survey encouraged classroom conversations between instructors and students about how to improve discussions and streamline assignments. "The student midterm survey gave us a lot of really clear, concise responses from students about what they thought was working, what was uninteresting and what was laborious," she said. "I think over time we'll evolve [our] ability to showcase resources more pointedly. ... Now we're at the stage where we're sharing information with students, and we're building a base for reflection and discussion. ... With each successive semester, we'll be able to move students more directly in contact with these resources and opportunities around campus."

JANUARY 2016: JENKINS BEGINS THIRD TERM IN OFFICE

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT FR. John Jenkins completed his 10th year in office this school year, following his election to a third five-year term by the Board of Trustees in January 2015. During his tenure, Jenkins has consistently emphasized Notre Dame's research efforts for both students and faculty. Jenkins oversaw the creation of the office of vice president for research in 2007 and announced significant increases in research funding the following year.

In recent years, building projects — most notably the Campus Crossroads project — have become another defining characteristic of Jenkins' presidency. In addition to Campus Crossroads, the University is currently building two new residence halls and several new class buildings, including Jenkins Hall, which will house the new Keough School of Global Affairs. Jenkins said he plans to continue efforts to make Notre Dame an example for the world and a leader in the Church. "I think we need to continue to make progress," he said. "I do think ... our Catholic mission is something we need to continue to talk about, especially at this time. It's a challenging time, but I think there's no institution placed like we are to speak to really serious issues in the world about the environment, about economic inequality, global solidarity."

JANUARY 13, 2016: HOUSING ANNOUNCES DORM CHANGES

THIS YEAR WAS the last year freshmen women were eligible to be placed in Pangborn Hall. In an email sent to the student body, University administration said residents of Pangborn Hall will be moved to the new female dorm that is currently under construction east of Pasquerilla East and Knott Halls, while Pangborn Hall will serve as a "swing dorm" for residents of Walsh and Badin Halls, which will undergo renovation during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years, respectively. The new male dorm currently under construction will be filled by application.

Heather Rakoczy Russell, associate vice president for residential life, said the addition of new dorms and the renovation of existing ones is a continuation of the residential master plan that began in 2006.

"That residential master plan was largely aimed at what we call 'decanting,' or un-crowding the undergraduate residence halls," Rakoczy Russell said. "A room, for instance, that's a triple might become a double, doubles become singles and so reducing the configurations. Some of you probably live where [the] study room have been converted into student rooms, so we, to the extent that we could, reversed that."

JANUARY 17, 2016: ND CELEBRATES WALK THE WALK WEEK

THE UNIVERSITY HOSTED the inaugural Walk the Walk Week, taking new steps to celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The week began with a march around campus the night of Sunday, Jan. 17, followed by a candlelight service in the Main Building.

"So many people worked together to make this happen," senior Chizo Ekechukwu, chair of Diversity Council, said. "A lot of different groups throughout campus came together in collaboration to create conversations about this topic."

Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, who, along with Alicia Garza, started the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter as a response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the Trayvon Martin case, delivered the keynote address for Walk the Walk Week. "We have a long history in the black community of disruption, a long legacy," Cullors said. "What we're doing here is we're adding to that legacy and we should be proud of it and embrace it. The only way we've seen systemic change happen in this country is disruption."

FEBRUARY 8, 2016: GAMEDAY COMES TO CAMPUS

HOURS BEFORE NOTRE Dame overcame a 15-point deficit to defeat basketball powerhouse and then-No. 2 North Carolina in a packed Purcell Pavilion, ESPN's College GameDay paid South Bend a visit. Seth Greenberg, GameDay analyst and former Virginia Tech basketball coach, promised a great game, and he delivered on that guarantee. "This game is just gonna be a good game, and this place is just steeped in so much tradition, to see and experience it in a different way, it's pretty great," Greenberg said.

Greenberg, who is an analyst for the show alongside Jay Williams, Jay Bilas and host Rece Davis, said the energy in Purcell Pavilion was vital to outputting a good show. "What makes a great GameDay show for us is when you walk in and it's a packed house. When you've got that ownership and energy and passion and the students are into it, for me that's the closest I get to coaching again," Greenberg said.



FEBRUARY 11, 2016: KEENAN REVUE MARKS 40 YEARS

FOLLOWING IN THE footsteps of Keenan Hall residents spanning the past four decades, the men of Keenan Hall performed the 40th annual Keenan Revue in February. Since its inception, the Keenan Revue has tended toward the controversial, poking fun at various Notre Dame and Saint Mary's traditions and stereotypes and getting kicked off Saint Mary's campus in 1991.

"The Revue's slightly controversial nature is exactly why it's remained such a prominent University tradition," Ryan Rizzuto, senior producer of the Revue, said. "The beautiful thing about writing comedy is what you can say with it. It can turn a mirror on the student body and the administration and make people listen to arguments that they'd normally tune out."

"The New Keenan Revue" opened Nov. 6, 1976, founded by then-Keenan Hall resident assistants (RAs) Thomas Lenz and Richard Thomas as an alternative activity to the drinking culture on campus in response to the death of a classmate which occurred after a night of drinking. "That was kind of the context for people saying, 'Okay, so getting wasted every weekend is one thing to do, but what else could the dorm do that would contribute to the growth of the dorm spirit and to the health of the community?'" Lenz said.



MARCH 5, 2016: LAETARE MEDAL DECISION CREATES CONTROVERSY

THE UNIVERSITY NAMED Vice President Joe Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner as co-recipients of the Laetare Medal on March 5. According to the University website, the Laetare Medal is awarded each year at Notre Dame Commencement to American Catholics "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

"In recognizing both men, Notre Dame is not endorsing the policy positions of either, but celebrating two lives dedicated to keeping our democratic institutions working for the common good through dialogue focused on the issues and responsible compromise," University President Fr. John Jenkins said in the original press release.

The announcement sparked controversy — both on campus and on a national level — and stirred debate on the religious and political implications of the decision. On March 18, 89 students signed an Observer Letter to the Editor expressing their objections to the University's decision. Students also held a pro-life service protesting the decision, and more than 3,000 alumni signed a petition voicing their opposition. Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop Kevin Rhoades released a statement condemning the decision for similar reasons: namely, Biden's stance on abortion and same-sex marriage. Other members of the Notre Dame community expressed their support for the selection of Biden and Boehner as joint honorees, arguing that the decision promotes political unity in an era of partisan division and animosity.

APRIL 9, 2016: SNOW LEADS TO HOLY HALF CANCELLATION

ONE OF NOTRE Dame's most well-known traditions, the Holy Half Marathon, was cancelled this April due to icy conditions. The race cancellation altered the plans of the more than 1,500 people signed up to compete.

According to a statement from race directors, safety concerns for the runners motivated the decision to cancel the race. The Holy Half, which is a charity event benefitting the South Bend community, consists of both a 13.1-mile and a 10-kilometer race run by students and faculty of the Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross campuses, along with members of the South Bend community, alumni and fans from across the nation.

Junior Peter Rodgers, president of the Holy Half club, said the planning for the event is divided into a number of different categories including course design, food and entertainment, sponsorships and volunteer recruitment. "We also do a lot of work with the University Council people, which is the [Notre Dame Security Police], [Notre Dame Fire Department], Student Activities Facilities, RecSports and medical to make sure that on race day, the runners are safe [and] the roads are clear for runners," Rodgers said.

APRIL 29, 2016: TASK FORCE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT RELEASES REPORT

ON APRIL 26, 2015, College President Carol Ann Mooney announced the creation of a presidential task force to address the issue of sexual assault on campus. The creation of the task force followed the release of the CNN documentary "The Hunting Ground," as well as a private conversation between Mooney and the student body. The task force was made up of three faculty members, six students, three administrators, vice president for student affairs Karen Johnson, College counsel Rich Nugent and Mooney herself. It was split into three subcommittees — education and training, support and processes — which then reconvened as a whole task force to report their findings and make recommendations to the College about how best to improve issues regarding sexual assault.

The task force met throughout the 2015-2016 school year to discuss their findings and to write the report. The final report was published April 29 of this year and contained suggestions on how to improve the handling of sexual assault cases. The report included recommendations for improving and expanding staff and faculty training, as well as access to resources and communications between Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Holy Cross College.

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COMMENCEMENT 2016

FOOTBALL | 10-3

Irish reach Fiesta Bowl despite early injuries

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Assistant Managing Editor

In the end, it was all just too much for Notre Dame — too many injuries, too much rain, too many seconds and too much Ezekiel Elliot.

Through all the adversity, however, the Irish managed to put together their best season since their 2012 national championship run and just their second 10-win season since 2006.

The team finished only four points — a failed two-point conversion in a hurricane in Death Valley against national runner-up Clemson and a last-second field goal in the regular season finale against Stanford in Palo Alto, California — shy of an undefeated regular season before falling to Ohio State, 44-28, in the Fiesta Bowl.

Graduate student Everett Golson and junior Malik Zaire duked it out for the starting quarterback position in 2015's



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish sophomore quarterback DeShone Kizer surveys the field during Notre Dame's 44-28 loss to Ohio State on Jan. 1.

see FOOTBALL PAGE 31

MEN'S BASKETBALL | 24-12, 11-7 ACC

ND returns to Elite Eight

By ALEX CARSON
Assistant Managing Editor

Back in November and December, it looked unlikely Notre Dame could climb back to the Elite Eight, where it finished the previous season.

The Irish (24-12, 11-7 ACC) dropped two of three at the Advocare Invitational over Thanksgiving break, falling to Monmouth and Alabama, and blew a 16-point second-half lead against Indiana at the Crossroads Classic on Dec. 19 in Indianapolis. And after early conference losses to Virginia and Pittsburgh, Notre Dame sat just 10-5 overall and 1-2 in the ACC.

But a week after that Pitt loss — a rare home defeat for the Irish — they went on the road and got their season back on track in a 95-91 win at then-No. 9 Duke on Jan. 16. Sophomore forward Bonzie Colson led Notre Dame off the bench that day, scoring 31 points and grabbing 11 rebounds, as Notre Dame did enough to get their fourth win

in the last five tries over the Blue Devils.

"We got enough defensive stops to get out of there," Irish head coach Mike Brey said after the win. "... [It was a] great day of growth for us early in the season."

It was one of a handful of defining moments for the Irish in 2016. But the biggest ones came in March, during the NCAA tournament.

At halftime of Notre Dame's first-round showdown with No. 11 seed Michigan, things looked bleak for the Irish. They trailed 41-29 at the break in Brooklyn, New York, and it looked like they were headed toward resurrecting the program's trend of early tournament exits.

"[The halftime] conversation started nice and calm, and then I just started to lose it a little bit," Brey said March 18. "As far as, 'I love you. You're great guys, you have done everything we've asked, but either you're

see M BBALL PAGE 32

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Seniors rewrite their programs' record books

Three-time All-American Matt Kavanagh strives to lead the Irish to first NCAA national title

By ALEX CARSON
Assistant Managing Editor

When Matt Kavanagh walks off the field for the final time later this month — whether it be after a win or a loss — he'll walk off as one of the best players to wear the Notre Dame uniform. As a freshman, he led the team in goals and assists, with those 32 goals an Irish record for a first-year. When he scored 75 points in the 2014 season, he set a new program record. And when he's done, he'll be the second highest-scorer in Notre Dame history.

That's not a bad haul for the three-time All-American and 2015 Tewaaraton Award finalist.

Kavanagh's history with, and interest in, lacrosse goes back to his childhood — he was introduced to the sport through a friend's uncle, who was the coach at Virginia.

"At a young age, I was exposed to the sport and at the time, Virginia was arguably the best team in the country," Kavanagh said. "They went to a bunch of final fours that I attended as a little kid and then they won a couple national championships, so that definitely motivated me to play the sport at the highest level."

By the time Kavanagh matriculated to Notre Dame, he was seen as one of the best newcomers in his class — and the Irish used a local connection to lure the Rockville Centre, New York, native to South Bend.

"Through the recruiting process, the assistant coach — Gerry Byrne — actually went to my high school, so he got in contact with my coaches, and then we linked up and talked during my junior season, and then after my junior season ended, I gave them a verbal commitment that I was going to come here," he said. "It happened pretty fast. Looking back on it, [it's] probably the best decision that I've made."

Before the 5-foot-8 attack stepped foot on campus, he was competing at a high level — for his country though, not the Irish. Kavanagh was a member of the USA under-19 national team in 2012 and said the experience the summer before his freshman year helped ease his transition.

"It was really cool. The under-19 team was awesome," Kavanagh said. "We ended up winning the gold medal there. I think a lot of my success early in my career — freshman and sophomore years

see KAVANAGH PAGE 30

Track and cross country star Molly Seidel to leave university as a decorated NCAA champion

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Editor

Winning is in Molly Seidel's blood. She has four national championships to her name, and with the outdoor ACC and NCAA finals coming up, Seidel will have even more opportunities to add to her trophy case.

The Hartland, Wisconsin native is the reigning cross country national champion, and in March, she won both the 3,000-meter and the 5,000-meter national championships. Yet, when considering these three recent accolades, Seidel said it is her first championship — the 10,000-meter title back in June of 2015 — that stands out to her.

"The 10K stands out, you always remember your first," Seidel said. "Just because it was so unexpected. It just kind of came out of nowhere. It was kind of the start of, 'Ok, I can really be competitive on the national level.' I'd never run at a national track meet before. ... It was kind of that moment where I realized, 'Ok, you can do this again.'"

Now, Seidel's success is anything but unexpected. With her four national titles, she is easily the most decorated women's track and field athlete in Notre Dame's history. She is the first woman ever to win an individual national championship at Notre

Dame, and her cross country championship marked the first time an Irish runner — men's or women's — accomplished the feat since Oliver Hunter claimed the national title in 1942.

And although Seidel is arguably the greatest runner in school history, she said she prefers to keep her eye on the future rather than the past.

"On a day-to-day thing, you're just focusing on putting in the work and doing all the little things," Seidel said. "It's kind of cool to be able to get the chance to maybe stop and appreciate it, but I try to always keep looking forward and not rest on the laurels."

Despite her incredible success the past two seasons, Seidel's road to this point has not been free of bumps. During her first two years on campus, Seidel struggled after battling a slew of injuries, including illness and stress fractures in her fibula and tibia. During her recovery, Seidel said she relied on her training and her love of running.

"I think it's just trusting in the training," Seidel said. "Trusting in my love of the sport. Regardless, I'd still be going out and doing it, no matter what. Just hanging with it and trusting in the training I was doing that I could get back where I had been."

see SEIDEL PAGE 30

Kavanagh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

— I can attribute that to playing in those games over in Finland, playing at such a high level with really great players and playing against great players who all played Division I. It was a little taste of what was to come. ... I kinda got to know what the intensity and the speed of the game is like at the next level.”

Once Kavanagh got on campus though, he made a big impact from the start: In Notre Dame's second and third games of his freshman season, against Penn State and North Carolina, Kavanagh scored game-winning overtime goals en route to his 48-point campaign.

“It was definitely cool to contribute as a freshman,” he said. “You're still trying to get to know the guys on your team, the guys in your class, and to score two big goals in overtime in the first couple games of my career was definitely cool, and it kind of set the tone for what was about to come. It was really cool playing with guys like Sean Rogers; he was a fifth-year senior, so I got to learn a lot and got a lot of experience from him that I've used over the years.”

His sophomore season, 2014, turned out to be his best statistically and while it also turned out to be the team's best, it could've ended a lot earlier than where it did: in the national championship game.

“To be honest, we were kind

of having an up-and-down season,” Kavanagh said. “We were the fourth-place team in the ACC tournament, and then we played Maryland in the first round of the ACCs and we kind of needed to win to get into the tournament, and we won that game in the last six seconds. That led us on a nice little run to the championship game, where we fell a little short.”

But without one other pivotal moment, Kavanagh wouldn't have gotten the record and the Irish wouldn't have played for a title. In the fourth quarter of their NCAA quarterfinal game against Albany, the Irish trailed by five goals. But a rapid comeback forced overtime, and Kavanagh got the job done there, scoring his third career overtime winner to send the Irish to Championship Weekend. For Kavanagh, that win meant more than advancing in the NCAA tournament.

“My favorite moment was that was that game at Hofstra against Albany in the quarterfinals where we ended up winning in overtime,” Kavanagh said. “... It was pretty special for me just because of where we played at Hofstra — I live about 10 minutes away, so I had about 30 or 40 family members there that got to enjoy it and celebrate after the game.”

The quarterfinal win bought Notre Dame a couple more outings, and let Kavanagh set the school record in the title game loss.

“I think I took my game to the next level that year, assuming a lot



GRACE TOURVILLE | The Observer

Irish senior attack Matt Kavanagh maneuvers around defenders during Notre Dame's 8-6 win over Duke on April 10 at Arlotta Stadium. Kavanagh was named a Tewaaraton Award nominee on April 29.

of responsibilities on the offensive end for our team,” he said.

Now, as Kavanagh is set to finish his senior season, his role is different. Instead of being the underclassman making a big contribution, Kavanagh is one of the veteran leaders in the locker room.

“You're a role model and a leader to the younger guys — you set the tone in practice and weight room and off the field, so there's a lot of responsibility that comes with that,” he said. “Having played for the first few years as an underclassman, I got to spend a lot of time with upperclassmen and see how they handle themselves well. I did a pretty good job of taking what those older guys said and

did and expressing it this year as a senior and as a captain.”

In a classic bit of senior advice, Kavanagh noted how his four years at Notre Dame haven't felt that long at all.

“Looking back as a freshman, you don't realize how quickly it goes,” Kavanagh said.

When this season concludes, Kavanagh will have a chance to play professional lacrosse — he was selected fifth overall by the Denver Outlaws in this year's Major League Lacrosse Draft — but he's not focusing on that with only weeks left at Notre Dame.

“I don't think it would be fair to myself or my teammates if I looked ahead into what this summer has in store,” Kavanagh said.

“We still have a couple weeks left, and we've gotta take care of some business.”

That business? Chasing a first national title.

“I think, honestly, that's the only thing that's missing from making this the best experience of my life,” Kavanagh said. “We've traveled all over the country — we even went to Italy, so we've traveled the world — played in NFL stadiums, played at the highest level on the highest stage in the national championship.”

“But I think it would be really nice to cap off this season and my career with a championship.”

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu

Seidel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

However, Seidel's time at Notre Dame should be defined as more than just a list of championships.



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish senior Molly Seidel crosses the finish line during Notre Dame's annual Mevo Invitational on Feb. 6 at Loftus Sports Center.

In her final seasons, Seidel has become a mentor to the younger runners on the team, including freshman Anna Rohrer, who finished sixth overall in this year's cross country NCAA

championships.

“It's been great being able to have not only Anna but a number of freshmen this year who are extremely competitive on that national scale,” Seidel said. “It really speaks to the strength of the team and makes it that much more exciting when you can go to a national race and have one of your teammates right there with you.”

“[It] definitely helps in training too, being able to run with another one of the best runners in the country and get to work with her. It's been fun, and I'm very excited to see how all of our freshmen grow and progress in the next several years.”

The training partnership between Rohrer and Seidel benefits both runners, Rohrer said.

“I think it's been really helpful to have someone to train with that I can look up to,” Rohrer said. “[Seidel] has accomplished so much, and I'm hoping to do the same, so it's really cool to have someone like her to run with every day and to see what I need to do to get to that level.”

And when she isn't running, Seidel also shines in the classroom. Seidel was recently named the ACC's Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive season, and she has received All-Academic honors since

her freshman year. On April 27, Seidel was also awarded the Byron V. Kanaley Award, which is awarded to senior athletes who have been exemplary students and leaders.

“I think at a school like ND, you get the chance to be a full student and athlete at the same time,” Seidel said. “It's not like you're going and just not playing school. You definitely have to put in the work on both ends, and I think they really compliment each other.”

Through her studies as an anthropology major, Seidel said she is glad she came to a school which emphasizes academics as well as athletics.

“That's definitely what I wanted coming into college,” Seidel said. “I wanted, not only to be an athlete, but to be able to have that incredible academic experience. It hasn't always been easy — there have been a lot of nights where I've been seriously re-thinking my decision to go to a school that's so challenging academically. But in the long run, it's been incredible. I've gotten to have an amazing academic experience. I've gotten to go and do independent research in different countries and gotten to explore all these classes that I never thought I'd get the chance to take. It's been really fun and incredibly rewarding.”

And while graduation will conclude her undergraduate career at Notre Dame, Seidel already has her eyes on an even bigger goal: qualifying for the 2016 Olympics.

“Knowing that the trials are coming up this summer has definitely been a big inspiration for me to work hard and keep going towards that,” she said. “You never know how it's going to go. In races like that, it really just comes down to who's ready on that day and who sets themselves up well. I'm just going to do everything I can to try and stay healthy and keep my training progressing so that I can be as ready as possible on the day [of the trials]. From there, it's kind of in God's hands.”

And as her time at Notre Dame nears its close, Seidel said she wants people to remember her not for her four championships but rather for her love of running.

“I love this sport more than anything. No matter what happens, I'm going to never give up, and I'm going to keep going for it,” Seidel said. “And that's just something I always try to instill in the freshmen and some of the younger girls. You do the sports because you love it, and I love running more than just about anything.”

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Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

spring ball, but after Golson announced he was transferring to Florida State on May 19, Zaire became the heir-apparent to take the starting job.

This notion only solidified after Zaire shone in the season-opener, completing 19-of-22 passes for 313 yards and three touchdowns while guiding Notre Dame's offense to a 38-3 victory over Texas in front of a raucous Notre Dame Stadium on Sept. 5.

"[Zaire] clearly has the ability to throw the football as much as we would need him to throw it and throw it accurately, which he did tonight," Kelly said following the game. "Vertically, down the field, I thought he pushed the ball down the field accurately. He threw precision routes on dig routes. So we knew what he was capable of: I think he put it together tonight, and he's got room to grow."

Zaire and the Irish offense struggled at times the following weekend against Virginia though, trailing 14-12 at halftime, but Zaire found junior receiver Will Fuller for a 59-yard score midway through the third quarter, the Irish defense forced a punt, and the offense again started moving into Virginia territory, looking to extend the lead.

Then came a 1st-and-10 keeper by Zaire off the left side of the offensive line and a Cavalier defender landing in an awkward spot on the junior's right ankle.

Just like that, Irish fans nationwide held their breath as ESPN showed the replay

over and over again, and still Zaire stayed down, surrounded by Irish trainers and teammates. Eventually he was carted off the field and all eyes turned to his unproven and unknown backup coming in off the bench — sophomore DeShone Kizer.

Senior running back C.J. Prosise, himself a replacement after junior Tarean Folston tore his ACL early in the win over Texas, took the handoff on the next play and made his new quarterback feel welcome, scampering in from 24 yards out to push the Irish in front 26-14.

Kizer, who ran the first 14 plays of his career against the Longhorns, and the Irish offense struggled to get going for most of the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers had no such problem, marching right through the Irish defense for two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to take a 27-26 lead with 1:54 remaining.

That's when Kizer's mind went blank, he said after the game.

"Not much went through my mind, it was kind of funny," Kizer said. "I go to bed the night before a game preparing for that to happen, and I just kind of blanked. It was time to play football, and that's the only way I can look at it. I wasn't going to be the guy to come in and lose a game for the Irish."

Starting at his own 20-yard line, Kizer converted a 4th-and-2 with a four-yard keeper to keep the Irish alive, and then completed three straight passes to move the ball to the Virginia 39. With the clock running under 20 seconds, Kizer took the snap, stepped to his left and then let fly a bomb to the far sideline. The ball dropped



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Former Irish receiver Will Fuller hauls in the game-winning touchdown reception over a defender during Notre Dame's 34-27 win over Virginia on Sept. 12. Fuller was selected 21st overall in the NFL Draft.

perfectly in the hands of Fuller, streaking to the pylon just out of reach of the Cavalier defender. Kizer raced down the field with his arms in the air as the raucous crowd at Scott Stadium suddenly fell silent as the Irish survived with a 34-27 victory.

It was just the beginning for Kizer and the Irish offense, which put up more than 28 points in seven of the 10 remaining games in the regular season.

"Certainly DeShone Kizer doesn't have the experience that Malik has, but we can run our offense through DeShone," Kelly said following the Virginia win. "He has a lot of weapons around him, and we saw that tonight. He has a running back and receivers. We just have to balance the offense and do the things that he is capable of doing."

"Teams have to overcome injuries."

Even after losing his starting running back and starting quarterback in the first two games of the season, there is no way Kelly could have known how those words came to define the rest of Notre Dame's season, especially on the defensive side of the football.

The season's injury report reads like a laundry list:

The defensive attrition began before the season even started when senior defensive lineman Jarron Jones tore his MCL and freshman cornerback Shaun Crawford tore his ACL during fall camp. Both missed the entire season.

Graduate student safety Avery Sebastian, who transferred to Notre Dame from California before the season, fractured a bone in his foot against Texas and missed the rest of the season.

Starting junior tight end Durham Smythe tore his MCL against Virginia and missed the rest of the season.

Attrition at the safety position continued two weeks later with the loss of sophomore safety Drue

Tranquill against Georgia Tech. Tranquill, who missed the final two games of the 2014 season with a torn left ACL, tore the same ligament in his right knee after landing awkwardly while celebrating a pass breakup and missed the rest of the season.

Prosise suffered a concussion against Pitt and returned two weeks later against Boston College, where he suffered a high ankle sprain that kept him sidelined for both the regular-season finale at Stanford and the Fiesta Bowl.

Senior cornerback KeiVarae Russell suffered a broken right tibia in the Shamrock Series victory over Boston College in the penultimate game of the regular season and missed both Stanford and the Fiesta Bowl.

Junior linebacker James Onwaulu was hampered by an MCL sprain late in the year. He missed the Stanford loss.

Junior cornerback Devin Butler broke his foot in practice leading up to the Fiesta Bowl. He missed the bowl game.

Defensive lineman Sheldon Day also tweaked his foot in practice the week before the bowl game, but x-rays came back negative and the senior defensive lineman played through the pain and an illness that required him to receive IVs the morning before the Fiesta Bowl to register four tackles — one for a loss — and force a fumble.

"[I] couldn't be more proud of the way our kids competed, overcame some catastrophic injuries to key players," Kelly said following his team's last-second loss to Stanford. "Quarterbacks, running backs, tight ends, defensive linemen, cornerbacks. I mean, we're talking about across the board here: We're not just talking about one position, we're talking about impacting all positions."

In short, Notre Dame was hanging together by string

late in the season.

That string unraveled midway through the first quarter of the Fiesta Bowl.

Junior All-American linebacker Jaylon Smith landed awkwardly on his left leg at the end of a play and had to be carted off the field.

Smith's replacement, freshman Te'von Coney, suffered a shoulder injury of his own two series later, thrusting graduate student linebacker Jarrett Grace into extended action.

The Buckeyes and Elliot, their star junior running back, carved up what was left of the Irish defense for the rest of the game.

Kelly described Smith's injury as a "significant knee injury" after the Fiesta Bowl, but only later did the full damage emerge for the potential top-10 pick in the NFL Draft: a torn ACL, torn MCL and nerve damage.

Despite the injury, Smith was selected 34th overall by the Dallas Cowboys in the 2016 Draft, one of six Irish players taken in the first three rounds and seven overall draft picks.

"[I] couldn't be more proud of the football team," Kelly said following the Fiesta Bowl loss. "An honor to coach them, honor to be around them. The way they competed this year, regardless of the circumstances, they just kept playing. ..."

"I felt like, you know, this game would ultimately be decided on who was tougher and who was more physical. We didn't get out-toughed. [Ohio State] ran the ball effectively. I'm not taking anything away from their ability to do so."

"But we didn't flinch. That's the mark of this team this year: that they played hard and physical. Regardless of who was out there, they gave us everything they had. We were a little shorthanded, but they didn't make any excuses for it. They battled."

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Former Irish linebacker Jaylon Smith sacks the quarterback during Notre Dame's 38-3 win over Texas on Sept. 5 at Notre Dame Stadium.

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

gonna be a little tougher or this is gonna be another North Carolina game all over again. But everyone'll pat you on the back because you're nice guys and you get good grades."

But it wasn't another outing like Notre Dame's 78-47 ACC semifinal loss to the Tar Heels, as the Irish opened the second half on a 22-7 run to take a 51-48 lead. The Wolverines stayed in it, though, and with four minutes to play, the game was tied, 59-59.

That's when junior forward V.J. Beachem stepped up and led Notre Dame to the win. He hit a 3-pointer, then followed it up with another bucket to put the Irish ahead 64-59 en route to a 70-63 win over the Wolverines. That first-round game was Beachem's coming-out party, as the Fort Wayne, Indiana, native went 7-of-7 from the field for 18 points.

"All of them were open shots, so we just had great movement, and the guys found me when I was open," Beachem said that night. "I was just able to step up and knock them down."

The late game drama in the tournament was far from over for the No. 6 seed Irish, though. After 14th-seeded Stephen F. Austin pulled an upset of No. 3 seed West Virginia in the first round, Notre Dame had a golden opportunity to return to consecutive Sweet 16s.

But again, it needed a

comeback to get it done.

In a game that was tight throughout, Notre Dame held a seven-point lead with nine minutes to play, in prime position to put the upstart Lumberjacks away. But senior guard/forward Thomas Walkup wouldn't let his Stephen F. Austin team go away lightly, drawing the game even with a handful of minutes to play before pushing his team ahead in the closing minutes.

With just two minutes left, the Lumberjacks led 75-70.

But Notre Dame didn't panic.

Junior guard Demetrius Jackson hit a layup with 1:34 left, drained two free throws with 47 seconds to play and after the Irish got a third successive stop defensively, looked to win the game for Notre Dame.

He drove, with the game on the line, but his wild shot didn't come close. Senior forward Zach Auguste, who was a perfect 8-for-8 from the field, grabbed the rebound and tried for a put-back, but he too was unable to get the job done.

But it was freshman guard Rex Pflueger, who hadn't scored all day, who was waiting to tip in the game-winner with 1.5 seconds left to send Notre Dame to the Sweet 16 in a 76-75 win.

"I just saw the ball come off and I just attacked it, and luckily it went in," Pflueger said March 20.

"I can't thank Rex enough for finishing that," Auguste said. "The ball was missed, I went up, was aggressive on the glass, tried to draw a

foul and got some contact, missed my layup. Then I fell, and I just see the ball go through the net and I look and it was Rex, the one that tipped it in, and I couldn't believe it."

The improbable finish landed Pflueger a spot on CBS's tournament-ending "One Shining Moment" montage and earned the Irish a trip to Philadelphia for a Sweet 16 showdown with seventh-seeded Wisconsin on March 25.

That night, it looked like Notre Dame may have run out of magic. With the game tied 53-53 and 25 seconds on the clock, Badgers junior forward Vitto Brown hit a 3-pointer to put his squad ahead late.

But as soon as Brown's shot went through the bucket, Jackson led late-game heroics once more. He got a quick bucket with 19.3 seconds left to close the gap to one, and when the Irish applied some defensive pressure, Wisconsin couldn't handle it.

Colson stripped Badgers junior forward Nigel Hayes after the ensuing in-bounds pass, and Jackson picked up the ball and scored to put Notre Dame ahead, 57-56, just 11 seconds after they went behind. After Beachem grabbed a defensive rebound and hit two free throws, Jackson got another steal, Notre Dame's 10th of the night, and hit two of his own from the charity stripe to seal the 61-56 win.

"We had a really aggressive trap, and then Bonzie made a great defensive play,



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish junior forward V.J. Beachem elevates towards the basket during Notre Dame's 84-79 overtime win against Duke on March 10.

getting his hands on it," Jackson said that night. "It kind of fell into my arms, and I just wanted to put it in and finish it. ... I just wanted to be aggressive defensively, just trying to get a steal and win the game, trying to make a game-winning play."

The win moved the Irish onto the Elite Eight, where once more, they'd see their season come to an end at the hands of a No. 1 seed — this time, it was to North Carolina, 88-74.

It looked like Notre Dame had a chance when it used a 12-0 run to pull ahead 52-51 with 13 minutes to play, but the Tar Heels showed a ruthless efficiency down the stretch — scoring 37 points on their final 19 possessions — to take the double-digit win and keep Notre Dame from its first Final Four in nearly 40 years.

"They pounded on us, they got second shots, they made big shots," Brey said March 27. "Didn't they tip one in off the back of their freaking head now that I think of it? When something like that happens, you go, 'You know, it's been a good year.'"

For a team that lost two stars, Pat Connaughton and Jerian Grant, to the NBA, a return to the Elite Eight was a tough task.

"We had a lot of pressure on us with what we were able to do last year," Jackson said. "So to be able and come back this year with all that weight on our shoulders ... I think it's good for us to establish our own identity and get back there."

Though Notre Dame didn't top North Carolina in the tournament, it did beat the then-No. 2 Tar Heels at home Feb. 6, coming back from a 15-point deficit to top the eventual national runners-up 80-76.

Notre Dame's calculus to a win that night was simple: 20 offensive rebounds, 31 made free throws and just two turnovers were the keys to an upset win that left the Purcell Pavilion floor filled with students not long after the final buzzer.

"One thing I'm really proud of, our program, when we've been under the bright lights and the big stage, we have flat out delivered," Brey said that night. "Flat out delivered. GameDay again here, and I'm really proud of our program, and I'm so proud of this group. They've played in some big ones, and they find a way to really deliver. Couldn't be happier for them."

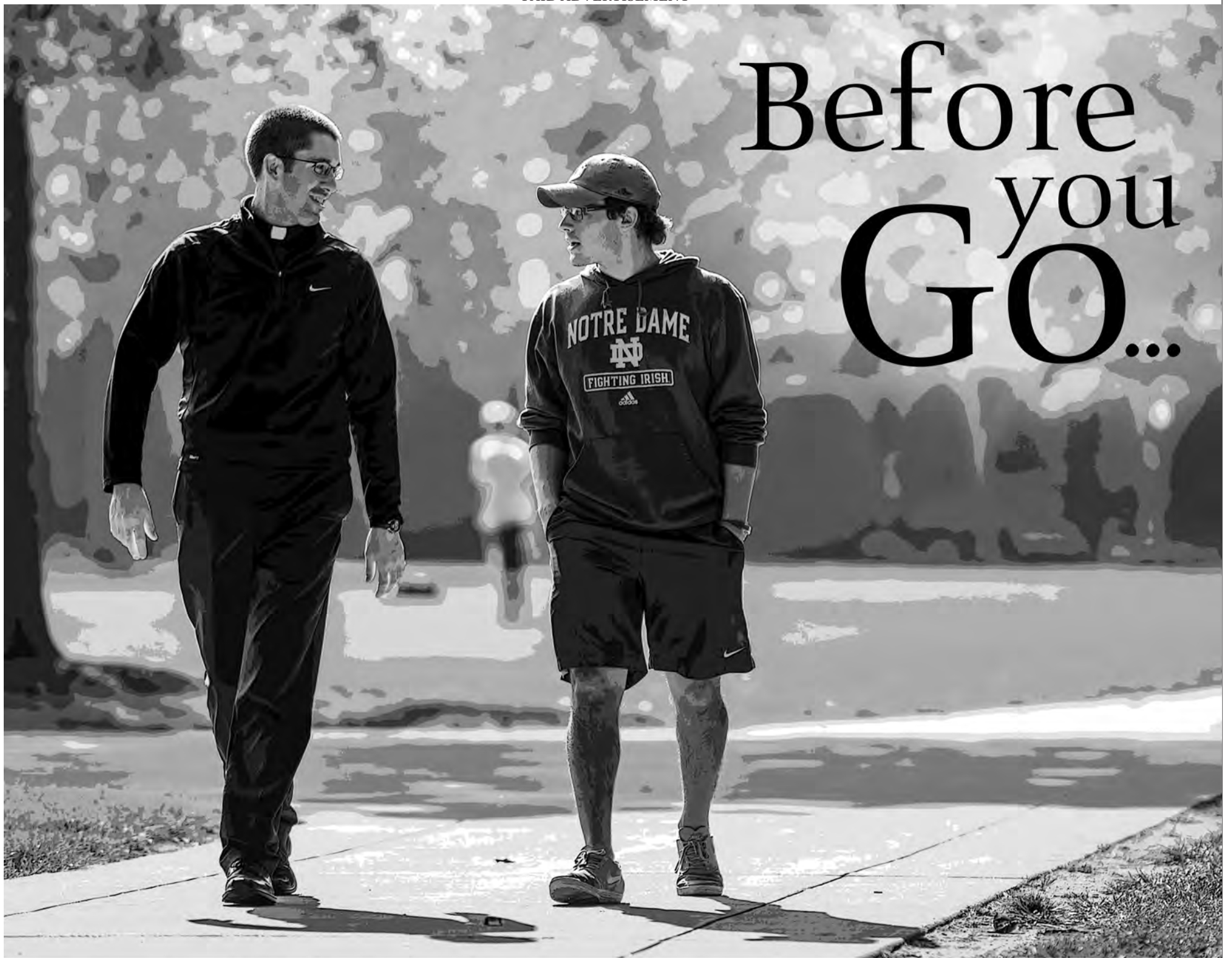
A Feb. 13, 71-66 win over then-No. 13 Louisville effectively punched Notre Dame's ticket to the NCAA tournament, where Jackson and Beachem put in performances good enough to make the NCAA's All-East regional squad. Both juniors declared for the NBA Draft following the conclusion of the season; Jackson hired an agent, ending his eligibility, while Beachem pulled himself out of the draft May 1, deciding to return to Notre Dame for his senior season.

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KATHLEEN DONAHUE | The Observer

Former Irish junior guard Demetrius Jackson dishes out a pass around a defender during Notre Dame's 78-47 loss to North Carolina on March 11 at the Verizon Center. Jackson has declared for the NBA Draft.



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NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

2015-2016: A YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPT. 5 Notre Dame blows out Texas, 38-3, in the 2015 season opener.

SEPT. 12 Senior quarterback Malik Zaire leaves Virginia game with right ankle injury, causing him to miss the rest of the season. Sophomore DeShone Kizer steps in to lead the team to 34-27 comeback win.

SEPT. 13 Women's golf takes first place in its first tournament of the year, the Mary Fossum Invitational, winning by a margin of 14 strokes.

SEPT. 22 Men's golf takes first place at the Fighting Irish Golf Classic at Warren Golf Course.

OCT. 3 Notre Dame suffers first loss of the season at Clemson, 24-22, after a failed 2-point conversion attempt in the final minute of the game.

OCT. 6 Women's golf wins the Chip-N Club Invitational by 30 strokes, the Irish's biggest margin of victory since 2005.

OCT. 30 Women's soccer defeats No. 5 Virginia Tech, 3-0, in final regular season game of the year.

NOV. 11 Men's soccer upsets No. 1 Wake Forest, 1-0, in the semifinals of the ACC tournament.

NOV. 14 The Irish take down Wake Forest, 28-7, on Senior Day. The game was highlighted by a 98-yard touchdown run by Josh Adams, the longest scoring play in Notre Dame history.

NOV. 20 Women's soccer falls in second round of the NCAA tournament against UConn, 2-0.

NOV. 21 Notre Dame defeats Boston College, 19-16, in the Shamrock Series at historic Fenway Park in Boston.

NOV. 21 Senior Molly Seidel wins Notre Dame's first individual championship since 1942 at NCAA cross country championships.

NOV. 28 The Irish fall to Stanford, 38-36, on a field goal as time expires in Palo Alto, California.

NOV. 29 Men's soccer falls to Maryland, 2-1, in round of 16 in NCAA tournament at home.

DEC. 5 Women's basketball's undefeated start to the season comes to an end after falling to defending NCAA champions UConn, 91-81.

DEC. 8 Jaylon Smith wins Butkus award as nation's top linebacker, becoming the first player to do so in high school and college since Manti Te'o.

DEC. 10 Hockey pulls off a comeback win against Boston College, scoring three goals in the third period to win 4-3.

DEC. 12 Junior forward Taya Reimer leaves women's basketball team. Reimer recently announced she will transfer to Michigan State.

JAN. 1 The Irish fall to Ohio State, 44-28, in Battlefrog Fiesta Bowl. Jaylon Smith suffers left knee injury before declaring for NFL Draft.

JAN. 29 Head football coach Brian Kelly signs six-year contract extension to last through 2021.

FEB. 2 Men's basketball upsets No. 2 North Carolina, 80-76, after trailing by 11 points in the second half.

FEB. 26 Softball defeats Central Florida, 5-1, giving Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf her 600th career win.

FEB. 27-28 Men's and women's fencing take first place in ACC championships on back-to-back days for the second straight year.

MARCH 4 Women's basketball defeats Duke, 83-54, in the first round of the ACC championship.

MARCH 5 Women's basketball advances to final round of ACC tournament after defeating Miami, 78-67.

MARCH 6 Women's basketball wins third consecutive ACC championship, taking down Syracuse, 68-57.

MARCH 7 Brianna Turner is named ACC Player of the Year. Muffet McGraw is named ACC Coach of the Year.

MARCH 10 Men's basketball comes out on top of a tight game against Duke, winning 84-79 in overtime.

MARCH 10 Divers Lindsey Streepey and Emma Gaboury qualify for NCAA championship.

MARCH 11 Men's basketball faces UNC for the second time on the season, losing 78-47 in the quarterfinals of the ACC tournament.

MARCH 11 Molly Seidel sets a program record after winning the 5,000-meter race of at the NCAA indoor championships, her third NCAA title in under a year.

MARCH 12 Molly Seidel wins another NCAA title, winning the 3,000-meter race at the NCAA indoor championship, just a day after taking the title in the 5,000-meter race. Margaret Bamgbose and Kaila Barber joined Seidel by earning All-American honors at the event.

MARCH 13 No. 1 men's lacrosse endures its first loss of the season to No. 2 Denver in a rematch of the semifinal game of the 2015 NCAA tournament. The Irish fell 9-8 in overtime.

MARCH 18 Men's basketball takes down Michigan, 70-63, in the first round of the NCAA tournament at Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, New York.

MARCH 19 Women's basketball defeats North Carolina A&T, 95-61, in the first round of the NCAA tournament at Purcell Pavilion.

MARCH 20 Men's basketball narrowly survives in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, defeating Stephen F. Austin, 76-75, on a last-second tip-in by freshman guard Rex Pflueger.

MARCH 21 Women's basketball advances to the Sweet 16 after knocking out Indiana, 87-70.

MARCH 24 Justin Plaschka sets new school record in the 50-yard freestyle race at the NCAA swimming championships in Atlanta.

MARCH 25 Men's basketball earns second consecutive trip to the Elite Eight with a close win over Wisconsin, 61-56.

MARCH 25 Stanford shocks women's basketball after defeating the first-seeded Irish, 90-84, in the Sweet 16 in Lexington, Kentucky.

MARCH 25 Hockey falls to Michigan, 3-2, in overtime of the first round of the NCAA championship tournament.

MARCH 25 Softball's 19 game winning streak comes to an end after losing to Syracuse, 5-2.

MARCH 27 Men's basketball's NCAA tournament run comes to an end after falling to UNC, 88-74, in the Elite Eight.

APRIL 8 Men's tennis upsets No. 1 North Carolina on Senior Day at Courtney Tennis Center.

APRIL 12 Women's swimming head coach and interim men's swimming coach Mike Litzinger is announced as head coach for both teams.

APRIL 28 Women's lacrosse defeats Louisville, 12-10, in the first round of the ACC tournament.

APRIL 29 Women's lacrosse falls to Syracuse in the second round of the ACC tournament, 9-5, ending their tournament run.

APRIL 29 Men's lacrosse is eliminated from the ACC tournament in the first round, losing to Duke, 10-9, in overtime.

MAY 3 Matt Landis is named ACC Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. Ryder Garnsey is named ACC Freshman of the Year.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

FOOTBALL MAKES TITLE GAME, LOSES TO CRIMSON TIDE



Irish undefeated in regular season; streak ends Jan. 7, 2013

In Irish head coach Brian Kelly's first two years, Notre Dame turned in a pair of 8-5 seasons.

Despite losing players to the NFL, the Irish were more successful in Kelly's third season, going undefeated against their regular season schedule.

Regular season highlights included a rout of Navy in Dublin, Ireland, a 20-3 upset of Michigan

State, an emotional 13-6 victory over Michigan, an overtime goal-line stand against Stanford, a road victory over Oklahoma and a come-from-behind three-overtime win over Pittsburgh.

The Irish reached No. 1 in the polls after a Senior Day victory over Wake Forest and sealed a berth in the BCS National Championship game with a 22-13 victory

over USC on Nov. 24.

Traveling to Miami to face off against Alabama in the national championship game, the Irish struggled to contain the Crimson Tide's offense, as Alabama rolled out to a 28-0 lead at halftime.

In the end, Notre Dame fell to the Crimson Tide, 42-14, ending the program's first national title run since 1988.

MEN'S SOCCER WINS FIRST NATIONAL TITLE

Dec. 15, 2013



Following a disappointing NCAA tournament in 2012, Notre Dame advanced to the College Cup the next season and bested Maryland in the final, 2-1, to win its first NCAA championship. The victory also marked the first national title for Irish coach Bobby Clark in his 27th season as a college coach.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CONTENDS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

April 7, 2015



A Final Four appearance in 2015 was the fifth in a row for the Irish, and a win over South Carolina gave Notre Dame its fourth championship game berth in five years.

In the title game, the Irish fell to Connecticut for the third year, this time by a score of 63-53 at the Amalie Arena in Tampa.

MEN'S BASKETBALL REACHES BACK-TO-BACK ELITE EIGHTS

March 25, 2016



Following a historic run in 2015, the Irish returned to the Elite Eight after finishing the regular season 24-12 in 2016.

Notre Dame was the only team in the Elite Eight to make it that far each of the last two seasons. The Irish squeaked by Stephen F. Austin in the second round with a last second tip-in.

NOTRE DAME ANNOUNCES CONFERENCE SWITCH TO ACC

Sept. 12, 2012



Notre Dame accepted an invitation to join the ACC in every sport except football, after having been a member of the Big East since 1995.

As part of the agreement, Notre Dame committed to playing five games annually against ACC opponents in football starting in 2014.

CAMPUS CROSSROADS TO RESTRUCTURE STADIUM

Jan. 30, 2014



As part of the largest building project in Notre Dame history, Athletic Director Jack Swarbrick announced Notre Dame Stadium would be expanded. As part of the project, new academic and athletic facilities will be added onto Notre Dame Stadium. The project is set to be completed by the fall of 2017.

MEN'S LACROSSE MAKES TRIP TO NCAA TOURNAMENT FINALS

May 26, 2014



After going 11-5 in the 2014 regular season, the Irish plowed through postseason opponents to capture the ACC title and advance to the championship game in the NCAA tournament.

Playing for the title in Baltimore against Duke, Notre Dame fell, 11-9.

TE'O FINISHES SECOND IN HEISMAN VOTING

Dec. 8, 2012



Senior middle linebacker Manti Te'o finished second in the Heisman Trophy voting behind Texas A&M redshirt freshman QB Johnny Manziel.

Te'o ended with 321 first-place votes behind Manziel's 474. Te'o tied for second-most interceptions in the NCAA with seven and tallied 113 tackles in his senior season.

HOCKEY TOPS CCHA IN CONFERENCE'S LAST YEAR

March 24, 2013



The Irish defeated Michigan, 3-1, to win their third CCHA championship.

Notre Dame then fell to St. Cloud State in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Notre Dame moved to Hockey East after the 2012-2013 season and will be joining the Big Ten starting with the 2016-2017 season.

MOLLY SEIDEL WINS MULTIPLE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 12, 2015



Senior Molly Seidel won the 5,000-meter and 3,000-meter events in March, the NCAA cross country title in November and the 10,000-meter event in the NCAA track and field championships in June 2015.

The 2016 NCAA track and field championships will take place June 8.



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 Paul Coletti *New Orleans*
 Patrick Couch *Memphis*
 Abbey Dankoff *Richmond*
 Josh Dempsey *San Jose*
 Mike DeSalvo *Biloxi*
 Chris DeSapio *Mission*
 Adam Farchone *Tampa*
 Megan Fink *San Antonio*
 Tom Gallagher *Tucson*
 Mark Garcia *Austin*
 Karen Gilmore *Baton Rouge*
 Michael Ginocchio *St. Petersburg*
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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | 32-2, 16-0 ACC

Irish fall short of returning to Final Four

By **BEN PADANILAM**
Associate Sports Editor

Entering this year's NCAA tournament, Notre Dame had been to the Final Four in five consecutive seasons. And after another sweep of ACC regular season and tournament titles, a sixth straight trip appeared inevitable for the Irish.

But then, the unthinkable happened: the No. 1-seeded Irish fell to No. 4-seeded Stanford, 90-84, in the Sweet 16, bringing an stunning end to Notre Dame's season.

Most people would consider such an early exit from the NCAA tournament the spoiler of what could otherwise be considered a strong season. But that wasn't the case for Irish head coach Muffet McGraw.

"Definitely a successful season," McGraw said. "We went through it with just one loss [and] won the ACC tournament and regular season for the third consecutive year.

"... We had some individual successes as well. I can appreciate them looking back on them now, and the fact that we lost earlier than we wanted to in the NCAA tournament doesn't take away from the fact that it was a really good season. We were, of course, really disappointed, and I think it's going to motivate us in a good way for next year."

Despite being a perennial title contender, the Irish (33-2, 16-0 ACC) entered the season with questions due to the early departure of former guard Jewell Loyd — the team's leading scorer the previous season — who would go on to be the top pick in this past year's WNBA Draft. Then, adversity continued to strike the team, as freshman guard Ali Patberg tore her ACL in training camp

and junior forward Taya Reimer left the team just nine games into the season.

Yet, the Irish kept stride, dropping only one game during the regular season, and seemingly turning every obstacle they faced into another stepping stone on its path to another No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

"It had a huge positive impact on the team," McGraw said of the team's early challenges. "I think they handled the adversity better than I thought they would. ... It just seemed like it was one thing after the other, and they just kept on fighting, and I was so proud of the way they handled the adversity."

Perhaps the greatest challenge the Irish faced was playing a stretch of games without its leading scorer and rebounder, rising junior forward Brianna Turner. The eventual ACC Player of the Year suffered a shoulder injury prior to Notre Dame's trip to the Bahamas over Thanksgiving.

Although the injury threatened to require season-ending surgery, Turner would only miss six games. During that stretch, the Irish went 5-1 while playing four games against ranked opponents. They fell to the eventual national champion, Connecticut, 91-81, UConn's smallest margin of victory en route to an undefeated season. The Irish also secured wins over Ohio State, UCLA and DePaul, all of whom finished in the top-20 of the season's final AP Poll.

"It was a fabulous stretch for us, and I thought it gave us a lot of confidence," McGraw said. "In fact, we probably gained as much confidence from that, playing without Bri and winning — I think that's probably what really brought us together. I



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish graduate student guard Madison Cable dribbles past a defender during Notre Dame's 90-84 loss to Stanford on March 25 in the Sweet 16. Cable was the team's second-highest scorer this season.

think we had a really close bond in terms of our team chemistry, and I think they knew that everybody had to be ready every single night, and they were."

That confidence led to a 31-1 regular season, including another perfect 16-0 record in ACC play. The Irish were led largely by their offense, which ranked eighth in the nation in points per game and second and third in 3-point and overall field goal percentage, respectively. But the offense didn't revolve around one player, as it often did last season through Loyd. Rather, the Irish had four players average double-figures in scoring and had seven different players led the team in scoring in at least one game throughout the year, demonstrating the team's ability to come together and replace the superstar it lost in Loyd. "Really, it was that kind of year where you just needed everybody, and everybody played a really good role, so everybody contributed, and we wouldn't have been the same team without any of them," McGraw said.

In particular, the team had to rely upon contributions from players who were thrust into larger roles from the previous season, such as graduate student guard Madison Cable and senior guard Hannah Huffman, McGraw added.

"It was a lot of fun to watch people blossom," McGraw said. "You saw Madison Cable come up and have a year that no one expected from her — to be MVP of the conference tournament, to be our second leading scorer, to be someone who made so many big plays and may not have had that opportunity had Jewell come back. And to see our seniors — Hannah Huffman had a great year. We just had so many people come out and overachieve to replace what we lost, and it was a fun year."

The Irish also had to count on their two freshmen guards, Marina Mabrey and Arike Ogunbowale, to step up and have an immediate impact due to

Loyd's departure and the injury to Patberg, but McGraw thought they more than delivered for the team.

"I think they're very talented," McGraw said of Mabrey and Ogunbowale. "Both of them were McDonald's All-Americans coming in, and again, the departure of Jewell and the unexpected injury to [Patberg] opened up some spots for the guards to play, and they certainly were ready. We told them to be ready back in the spring when Jewell decided to go to the draft, so I think they came in knowing 'A lot is expected of us, so we need to be ready,' and they were. They both had great years, and I was really pleased. We wouldn't have been as successful without them."

And once all those pieces came together into their roles, the Irish rotation was able to find its rhythm and produce all the way through the ACC tournament.

"I think it just happens naturally as you go throughout the season," rising senior guard Lindsay Allen said on March 14 on how the rotation came together during the year. "At first, we're still kinda getting used to how the rotation is during games, how coach is subbing, who's first off the bench, who's the defensive group, who's the offensive group, and kind of just figuring out how each of us fits in the offense. But once you have that settled, it's kind of just like it's a seamless rotation. We're getting on transition, and everyone knows what the other person is gonna do out there on the court. We're running in transition, we're really just flowing offensively and defensively as we grow throughout the season, so it's been great to see."

And that seamless rotation found success all the way until it met Stanford in the Sweet 16. A slow first half defensively put the Irish in a hole that they were unable to crawl their way back out of in the second half, falling just short of a comeback in the 90-84 defeat. Three Notre Dame

players — Cable, Huffman and senior guard Michaela Mabrey — played their final game in blue and gold in the loss, and McGraw said the team will miss what they brought to the court each and every game.

"They were phenomenal, and, honestly, the toughest thing to replace is the intangibles that they brought to the team," McGraw said. "Not just leadership — which was great — but their toughness, their sense of urgency, their poise, their experience and they just knew what to do in every situation and knew how to handle every situation. They just brought all those things to our team, and without them, we're going to struggle in some areas next year. You can replace points and rebounds, but trying to replace the intangibles that they brought to our team is early on going to be difficult and put a lot of pressure on people to get out of their comfort zone."

As the Irish look ahead to next season, they will be returning plenty of talent and bringing in even more with its two top-15 recruits, forward Erin Boley and guard Jackie Young. The key to translating that talent into a winning season, however, will lie in finding players who can bring those same intangibles that they lost in this year's senior class.

"We're hoping it develops in the summer, and certainly [Lindsay Allen] will take the brunt of that responsibility — I mean, she did quite a bit this year," McGraw said. "She will be alone initially, so the question is 'Who's going to step up?', and I think that entire class of [rising] juniors [will] — we've got four really solid juniors who have some leadership potential. I think it's going to be interesting, and we're going to have to guide them and give them some help to bring that leadership out because I think they're all capable of doing some of the work and helping Lindsay."



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore forward Brianna Turner jumps over a defender for a layup during Notre Dame's 90-84 loss to Stanford on March 25.

Contact Ben Padanilam at bpadanil@nd.edu

BASEBALL | 26-20, 10-12 ACC

ND looks to take next step toward NCAA elite

By **ZACH KLONSINSKI**
Assistant Managing Editor

Coming off its first NCAA tournament berth since 2006, Notre Dame entered the 2016 season ready to start establishing itself in the national landscape.

With eight games remaining in the regular season, the Irish (26-20, 10-12 ACC) have established themselves as a consistent presence in the upper tier of the rankings, but they are still searching to crack into the elite ranks, both nationally and in conference.

Notre Dame is just 3-10 against teams ranked in the top 30 nationally, and that record drops to just 1-9 against top-10 opponents. All of those top-10 losses have come at the hands of ACC opponents: The Irish were swept in road series against No. 5 Louisville and No. 6 Florida State before taking one of three from No. 12 North Carolina State. Notre Dame then dropped a game to No. 4 Miami at Frank Eck Stadium.

The Irish have largely taken

care of the rest of their competition, however: Notre Dame is 23-10 against teams outside of the top 30, including a 17-6 mark since March 22.

Even in losses to high-quality competition, the Irish have been close to making the jump to college baseball's elite. Two losses against Louisville were by a single run as was one against Florida State, and the Irish jumped out to a 5-0 lead over the Seminoles in the series finale before being burned by the big inning in an 11-5 loss.

"I think you just compete and try to compete at as high a level as you can on every pitch," Irish head coach Mik Aoki said of working to get wins against top-tier competition. "I think we've had the misfortune of playing teams as solid as Louisville or Florida State or an NC State ... I'm not saying that it's fair or unfair, but we've played them on the road. And in this conference, playing on the road versus playing at home seems to make a big difference when you look at records around

the league.

"... We've gotta understand that you just go play baseball, doesn't matter where it is."

The Irish have also been bolstered by an infusion of youth into the lineup this season, led by freshman jack-of-all-trades Matt Vierling. Vierling has established himself in the clean-up spot in the Irish lineup while hitting .273 with five home runs and 27 RBIs, third on the team. The freshman has also, on two separate occasions, come in in relief in the later innings of a game and then given himself, and his team, the walk-off victory. The first instance was a walk-off home run against Niagara on March 6 in the USA Baseball-Irish Classic, and the second came on a bases-loaded single to defeat Central Michigan on April 20.

Utility player Nick Podkul has also made his presence felt for the Irish after establishing himself as a regular in the lineup. The freshman is batting .295 while reaching base at a .430 clip, good for second among starters.

Sophomore outfielder Jake Shepski has also forced his way into the starting rotation by batting .307 and leading the team with seven home runs and a .561 slugging percentage.

"They've bought into the idea that we just try to be as good as we can from pitch to pitch," Aoki said. "I think they've bought into the idea that your work and your preparation is what gives you confidence to be able to make a transition from high school to college. ... Matt Vierling's been really good, [freshman infielder] Cole Daily's been really good, Nick Podkul has been really good for us. [Shepski] has had a bit of a breakthrough year for us. I think [freshman right-hander] Connor Hock has come on really well at the end of the season."

Second baseman Cavan Biggio has been the stand-out for Notre Dame so far, though. The junior leadoff hitter is batting .331, tied for the team lead among starters and also boasts a .493 on-base percentage — 23rd

nationally — behind a team-high 47 walks, which is more than double the next Irish player's total — Vierling with 19 — and is tied for sixth nationally.

"... My job, obviously, first of all, is to get on base, try and get something going early on, but also try and get the pitcher to throw all of his pitches so guys behind me can see what he has," Biggio said. "... My grandpa always told me a walk's as good as a hit, so getting on base is a big key to winning."

Notre Dame wraps up its regular season by hosting No. 13 LSU on Tuesday and Wednesday during Senior Week, followed by a road series against No. 19 North Carolina on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and then a home series against No. 22 Clemson the following weekend. ACC tournament action begins May 24 while NCAA regional play is slated to begin June 3 if the Irish qualify for further postseason action.

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HOCKEY | 19-11-7, 15-5-2 HOCKEY EAST

Veteran core, youth carry Irish back to NCAAs

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Assistant Managing Editor

Notre Dame thawed out its spot in the NCAA tournament this season, but the team's stay was short-lived as it lost in an instant classic to rival Michigan, falling 3-2 in overtime on March 25.

After the Wolverines jumped out to a 1-0 lead midway through the first period, Irish sophomore left wing Anders Bjork sniped the Wolverine netminder on a 2-on-1 with just under five minutes left in the opening frame.

Notre Dame took a 2-1 lead just 24 seconds into the second period when Bjork set up senior center Thomas DiPauli for a knuckling one-timer from the top of the left circle, and the Irish controlled much of the flow of the game for the rest of the middle period.

Michigan sophomore defenseman Zach Werenski blasted the equalizer from the point midway through the third, though, setting the stage for overtime.

"I thought that Michigan game, we certainly could have won that game, and I was just happy with the way we played that game," Irish head coach Jeff Jackson said in the hockey office at Compton Family Ice Arena on May 4. "We should have won it. We had two or three chances to score in the third period and in overtime that we just couldn't finish, and it took a great play by one of their guys to finish the game."

The Wolverines boasted the top offense in college hockey last season, highlighted by the CCM line of forwards juniors JT Compher and Tyler Motte and Hobey Baker finalist freshman Kyle Connor, but Jackson said

his team did a great job keeping them in check all game.

"I thought DiPauli and his line with Anders Bjork and [senior center and team captain] Steven Fogarty did a great job against — they matched up against the top line the whole game," Jackson said. "It wasn't my matchup, it was [Michigan head coach Red Berenson's] matchup, but they did a great job against them. They scored a couple goals, and they didn't get scored on until the very end."

In the end, though, the CCM line made the winning play as Compher sent a no-look backhand pass to Motte in front of a wide-open Irish net 8:19 into the overtime period.

"Frankly, the last game of the year to me, even though we lost it, I thought we played Michigan toe-to-toe," Jackson said. "... It was probably the one game that gave me hope going into next year that we finally figured it out. We did things the right way. I'm talking not tactically necessarily, but we knew how we had to play, and that was encouraging for me. We played against the team that had the best line in country, best offense in the country, best power play in the country. We stayed out of the penalty box. We kept our shifts short. I thought we did a really good job of containing their top line without doing it with intent, necessarily. We just did it by the way we played."

The showdown was the first meeting between the two schools since a 3-1 Irish victory over the Wolverines in the final CCHA championship game in 2013, and the first in the NCAA tournament since Calle Ridderwall sent the Irish to the national championship game in 2009 with his overtime tally to lift Notre Dame to the 5-4



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore goalie Cal Petersen searches for the puck during Notre Dame's 5-1 win over Maine on Feb. 13 at Compton Family Ice Arena. Petersen posted a .927 save percentage on the season.

victory.

Irish sophomore goalie Cal Petersen made 32 saves in the game, including four big ones late in the third period or overtime to keep his team in the game.

Jackson said walking into the locker room after the last game of the season is always hard knowing the seniors are taking off their jerseys for the last time, but he said talking to this year's group was particularly difficult.

"Those kids were very close, and I think it was almost a cumulative effort — although Steven Fogarty did a great job of kind of batting down the hatches as far as getting our culture back in line — but I think it was the group as a whole, with [senior defenseman] Andy Ryan and [senior left wing] Sam Herr, [senior left wing] Mario Lucia and DiPauli," Jackson said. "Those five guys did a really good job of controlling the young team that we had. They got those young guys to buy in, and, once they bought in, I thought that's when we really turned the corner. They did a good job of keeping even-keeled, and, at the same time, they did a great job for us on the ice."

After missing out on national postseason action in 2014-2015, Jackson said his team entered this season hungry to return to the national stage. The momentum actually started building down the stretch of last season, Jackson said, when the Irish closed the regular season with a 5-2-2 stretch and then bounced back from a loss against Massachusetts in the longest college hockey game in history to win the next two games and clinch the win in the opening round of the Hockey East tournament.

"That was probably when that sophomore class — the freshman class at that time — really started coming into their own a little bit of that time of the year," Jackson said. "They started developing confidence and that's what you happens with young

guys. ... I think it caught up to us a little bit from a fatigue standpoint ... but even so, I think it left a little bit of a bad taste in their mouth because they had been playing pretty well. That's probably what got us off to at least the right mindset going into the next year."

Bjork led the youthful charge for the Irish. The sophomore won a bronze medal with Team USA at the IIHF World Junior championships in Helsinki in late December and early January. The Mequon, Wisconsin, native tallied three goals, including two in Team USA's bronze-medal win over Sweden.

Bjork scored in five straight games when he returned to campus en route to amassing a 10-game point streak and establishing himself as a centerpiece of the Irish offense.

Bjork's return also helped fuel a 12-game unbeaten stretch from late November to late January where the Irish went 9-0-3. After a 4-0 loss to Boston College ended the streak, Notre Dame rattled off four straight wins to push it to a 13-1-3 record over 17 games that vaulted the Irish as high as No. 7 in the polls.

"I thought, like when Anders Bjork came back from the national junior team, I thought that he was on fire for probably about a month," Jackson said. "But a lot of the other guys, the young guys on the blue line especially, and then some of the sophomore forwards — guys like [center] Jake Evans, [center] Connor Hurley, along with Bjork — I thought they started having real solid years for sophomores."

Bjork led the Irish with 35 points on the season — 12 goals and 23 assists — while Evans (8-25-33) and DiPauli (14-18-32) helped complete the balanced Irish attack.

Defensemen sophomore Jordan Gross tallied 31 points on nine goals and 22 assists to lead the offense from the blue

line while junior Justin Wade and freshman Luke Ripley established themselves as physical presences in the defensive zone.

"I think that we turned the corner this past year after losing that game to Harvard [4-1 on November 27]," Jackson said. "That was a good measuring stick for us as far as the elite level teams that we were going to see throughout the year. But that's when we started that streak too, to where the confidence of the team got better and Cal got into a real good streak in goal. I think that's where it started."

Petersen started every game in net for the Irish this year, posting a 2.20 goals against average and .927 save percentage and one shutout. Senior walk-on goalie Nick Stasack also made a save in two appearances totaling 4:57 to finish his collegiate career with a perfect 1.000 save percentage.

Notre Dame announced the hockey program will be leaving Hockey East for the Big Ten at the end of the 2016-2017 season just two days before the Michigan game. The Irish will join the Wolverines as well as Michigan State, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Penn State in the conference. It will be the first program from Notre Dame to ever compete in the Big Ten.

Jackson said this season bodes well for the future of the program, but he added it will be hard to replace the senior class.

"We were still two-thirds of an underclass team, and now those guys are going to be expected as juniors and sophomores to elevate," Jackson said. "Although the biggest hole is going to be replacing that senior class, and almost more from a locker room perspective than on the ice. ... The void in the locker room is going to be the big question mark going into next year, from a leadership perspective."



KELLY VAUGHAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore left wing Anders Bjork skates around the defense during Notre Dame's 3-2 overtime loss to Michigan on March 25.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

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SOFTBALL | 39-10, 13-7 ACC

Young players impress as Irish head to postseason

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Editor

Irish sophomore right fielder Bailey Bigler stepped up to the plate late in the afternoon on April 3. There were two outs in the bottom of seventh and final inning against then-No. 9 Florida State, and the scoreboard read 4-4.

Junior infielder Kimmy Sullivan stood on second base as Bigler waited for the 1-1 pitch. Sullivan took off sprinting as Bigler lofted a ball to shallow center field. The Florida State defenders could not catch up to the bloop single and Sullivan scored, giving Notre Dame (39-10, 13-7 ACC) a 5-4 walk-off victory.

“Beating a team like Florida

State, it just reminds you, ‘You know what? When we play well, and when we’re doing things well, we can beat anybody,’” Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said. “It doesn’t matter who we play. That’s been our M.O. all year: When we play well, we can beat anybody.”

The victory gave Notre Dame its 26th victory of the season, and it remains the Seminoles’ only ACC loss to date. The next weekend, the Irish beat Pittsburgh; Two weekends after the Florida State win, the Irish swept ACC rival Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, to catapult themselves to third place in the conference.

“[We had] great pitching and, honestly, hitting when we needed people to step up,” Gumpf said of

the Virginia Tech sweep. “We had big hits in those games, big two-out hits. So we were able to put runs on when we needed to and pitchers who kept us in the ball game.”

Before their ACC slate, the Irish started the season with a string of tournaments in Arizona, California and Florida, often playing five games in the span of three or four days. In their first 19 games, the Irish went 16-3, including a resume-building win over then-No. 8 UCLA on February 20.

“That time of the year is supposed to give us confidence ... and [help us] to know what we’re capable of doing,” Gumpf said. “When we’re behind, knowing we’re capable of coming back — we did that a lot early. When we’re rolling, being able to shut the door. Playing that strong schedule early, that’s what it’s all about.”

During the opening slate of games, Gumpf also reached a personal milestone, notching her 600th career victory on February 26 against Central Florida.

The early season success ignited the Irish to a 19-game winning streak from late February to late March. Leading the way for the Irish during the winning streak was junior center fielder and co-captain Karley Wester.

Wester currently leads the Irish in batting average and hits at .447 and 80, respectively. Gumpf said Wester is a big reason the Irish are currently ranked No. 19 in the nation.

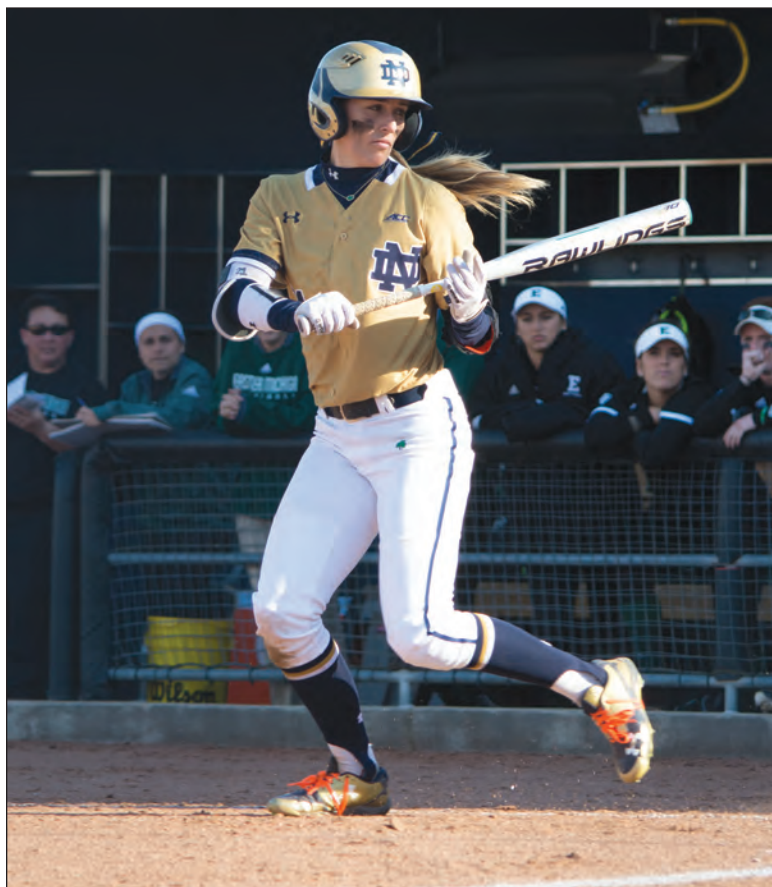
“Karley Wester was an All-American her freshman year,” Gumpf said. “If she’s not having a great year, then we’re scratching our head. It’s just what she’s capable of. She can do so many different things, she’s three dimensional, she has so much speed and grit. I love watching her play the game.”

However, Karley is not the only Wester on the team. Joining her sister in her first season at Notre Dame is freshman second baseman Ali Wester. Ali headlines a strong group of freshman for the Irish. Four freshman — Wester, designated player Caitlyn Brooks, third baseman Melissa Rochford and catcher Maddie McCracken — have stepped into the starting lineup for the Irish this season.

“We’ve had very few games where haven’t been able to depend on them,” Gumpf said. “When you’re a freshman and you’re that dependable, it really shows what you’re capable of and who you can grow to be on this team.”

After winning two out of three games against North Carolina State last weekend, the Irish will compete in the ACC championship’s opening round Thursday against Virginia Tech in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish junior outfielder Karley Wester watches a pitch in Notre Dame’s 10-2 win over Eastern Michigan on March 22 at Melissa Cook Stadium.

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ND VOLLEYBALL | 7-25, 2-18 ACC

Irish make progress but struggle to find footing

By **ELIZABETH GREASON**
Sports Writer

The 2015 season was undoubtedly a difficult one for the Irish.

Notre Dame (7-25, 2-18 ACC) struggled against almost every opponent in the fall. Irish head coach Jim McLaughlin acknowledged that the season was a disappointment, but also an important learning experience.

"Did we meet our goals? No," McLaughlin said. "Any time you win seven matches, it's a difficult year. But you learn from it. As bad as it was, the girls kept fighting and working to get better. We made progress — there's just a lot more to make. You've got to become good before you become great. But it was a very, very tough year."

The Irish had a strong spring season and made major improvements, which sheds some promising light on what is to come next fall. According to McLaughlin, the spring season provided an opportunity for the team to work as a coherent unit.

"We made a huge jump in the spring," McLaughlin said. "The team is changing and the girls are changing. More wins are going to come. For some reason, things started to click — we started to get a return. When that happened, the girls started working even harder. In 27 years as a head coach, this was one of the best springs in terms of where we started and where we finished. We were able to push the kids harder, and they wanted that."

"We started to play volleyball the way you should play volleyball here at Notre Dame. The girls were committed at a higher level. We became a better volleyball team. We say this all the time — great teams talk during the play, not in between the plays. The conversation has started to become more meaningful. You've got to get the vibe right, which is about saying and doing things that make each other better. That area is as important as anything we do technically and tactically."

As a whole, McLaughlin considers the team's ability to reduce mistakes one of its most significant improvements.

"When you're a better team, you make fewer errors," McLaughlin said. "You can never play the game perfectly, and the girls

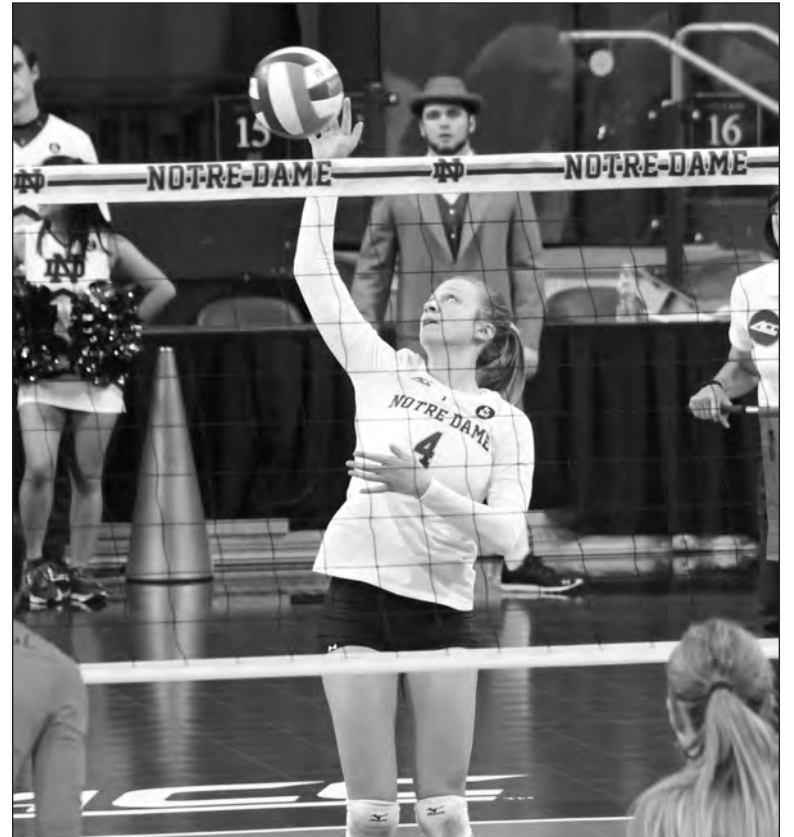
understand that now. But we are learning at a better rate, so we've reduced the number of errors. We are playing a cleaner brand of volleyball. We are a team that can play for longer rallies and not make as many errors. That puts a lot of pressure on the opponent."

Looking forward, the Irish have set their eyes on the prize. With the improvements his team has made, McLaughlin considers his goals plausible as long as the Irish keep progressing.

"The goals are lofty and the expectations are rising,

and we have to validate those expectations every day by improving and getting better," McLaughlin said. "But, we want to win the ACC. That's the deal here. And we want to get to the final four. But, to get there, we've got to improve today. And if we keep doing that and moving forward, we're going to get down the road and look back, and we're going to wake up and we're going to have won the ACC."

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GRACE TOURVILLE | The Observer

Irish freshman libero Ryann DeJarld tips the ball back over the net in Notre Dame's 3-2 loss to Syracuse at Purcell Pavilion.

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FENCING

ND men's and women's squads win ACC titles

By MAUREEN SCHWENINGER
Sports Writer

Promise is one word that Irish head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia uses often when describing this past year's squad.

The men's and women's squads went 32-3 and 35-0, respectively, and they won many medals at ACC championships. Notre Dame team did not, however, come out on top in national competition as it had hoped. Overall, Kvaratskhelia said this year's team was unique and hard to compare to others.

"I think talent-wise, we were as good as anyone," Kvaratskhelia said. "But we still have to have enough bouting, enough years of experience to compete at a high level. It's hard to differentiate this team from my others, other than that lack of experience. The entire theme was to get them to the point to learn the ropes of the NCAA competition and set the stage for the next few years."

Highlights of the season included the women's team

going undefeated, led by senior epeeist Catherine Lee and freshman standout foilist Sabrina Massialas, both of whom garnered individual conference titles. The Irish also won three individual men's crowns in ACC competition, and the men's and women's teams defended their conference championship title for the second consecutive year. Kvaratskhelia said he was disappointed with Notre Dame's 5th-place finish in the NCAA tournament but feels confident that there is room to grow.

"From the get go, we knew that the team was really young and inexperienced," Kvaratskhelia said. "Having a majority freshmen ... and sophomore lineup, we knew that we would have some consequential problems down the road."

"Those were amplified by the Olympics. We had three Olympic hopefuls taking a year off, and one of them was a three-time national champion [junior Lee Kiefer]. That's a huge loss, along with



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish freshman foilist Sabrina Massialas lunges at her opponent during the ACC championships on Feb. 27 at Castellan Family Fencing Center. Massialas went on to win the individual foil title.

[freshman] Amanda Sirico and [junior] Hazem Khazbak. Missing the upperclassmen with that caliber of athleticism and knowledge of the sport really hurt us at the end."

Five current or former Irish student-athletes will represent Team USA in the Rio Olympics this summer, including Kiefer

in foil. Kvaratskhelia said he looks forward to Khazbak, Sirico and Kiefer returning to the Irish squad this fall.

"There's a really huge hope for next year, with the addition of a great recruiting class and the return of our Olympians," Kvaratskhelia said. "I think we will be one of the favorites

to win the NCAA title, granted that everything goes well and injury does not occur. This team will have a talent and experience now we didn't have before to contest for the highest medals in competition."

Contact Maureen Schweningen at mschweni@nd.edu

ROWING

Irish look to finish season on high note

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By ALEX BENDER
Sports Writer

For Notre Dame, the mindset has been constant the entire season — focus on getting better and continue to put in effort.

All season Irish head coach Martin Stone has told his team to not worry about how other teams performed because he wanted his team to focus on what it could control, he said. Sticking with this motto is paying off at the right time, Stone said, because the team is beginning to hit its stride as it heads into the biggest

stretch of the season with ACC and NCAA championships coming up.

The Irish have faced tough competition all year and they have performed well, climbing to No. 15 nationally. Stone said he is not surprised by his team's performance, however, noting his team's drive towards constant improvement.

"I expected we were going to be in a good place coming into the season," Stone said. "The fall indicated to me that we had some speed on the water and we put in tremendous effort all year long. We continued throughout the season to continue to push ourselves to get better, so I feel upbeat and positive about the team as we head into this stretch."

The team is coming off a strong finish in the Dale England Cup in Bloomington, Indiana, where the Irish came from behind in the afternoon session to claim first by tie-breaker over Duke and No. 14 Indiana. For many members of the team, this served as a real standout performance and has them confident heading into the back end of the season.

Senior Ellen Gleadow said she was proud of her team for coming back despite a rocky start to the day.

"The race that stands out

to me is the second race on Saturday at the Dale England Regatta in Bloomington," Gleadow said. "My boat had lost to Indiana in the morning session by 0.3 seconds. Indiana was ranked a few places above us going into the race and they clearly thought that they had proved themselves. We had another chance to beat them in the afternoon, and we were pretty mad about losing by such a small margin."

"The boat really rallied together and we ended up beating them by about two seconds. At the end of the day, the teams were tied for points for the overall trophy and the [first varsity 8-boat] margin was the tie breaker. Being able to bring home the cup just added to the satisfaction of beating [Indiana] after they had beat us."

As the team moves forward, they will look to build of the success of the Dale England Cup and turn it into strong performance at both the ACC championships as well as the NCAA championships. The ACC championships will be held this weekend in Clemson, South Carolina, while the NCAA championships will take place at the end of May in Sacramento, California.

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ND CROSS COUNTRY

Seidel wins title, Clevenger leads men's squad

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Editor

Led by a strong freshman class and senior All-American Molly Seidel, Notre Dame raced to its best finish in over a decade as the Irish women finished eighth in the nation at the NCAA championships.

"I think that's the goal of any coach at Notre Dame, to put your best team on the course," Irish associate head coach Matthew Sparks said. "Women's cross country and men's cross country are programs we feel can compete on a national level here. We finally got to where we'd like to be year in and year out."

In leading the women's team to the eighth-place finish, Seidel won the individual championship, giving Notre Dame its first national champion in cross country since 1942.

Joining Seidel atop the leaderboard was freshman Anna Rohrer, who finished sixth after leading the pack with Seidel for most of the race. In the last thousand meters, however, Seidel pulled away from the rest of the competition.

"I went into it with a mentality of I wanted to run from the front and just be aggressive," Seidel said. "Until you cross the finish line, you never know whether someone's going to be coming up, you never get lax, you never get complacent, but I was definitely feeling confident throughout that race, and I felt very in control of the situation. That gave me a lot of strength to go hard and just push hard from the front."

From the start of the season, the women's team faced high expectation as the Irish brought in a highly-touted freshman class which was ranked the top class

in the nation, per FloTrack.

"We had the roster from the start of the year, and everybody just had to do their jobs day in and day out," Sparks said. "That's what put us where we wanted to be — everybody taking care of themselves, knowing what they needed to do from day one. The neat thing about that is we were such a young team with three or four freshman in our top-seven. Those freshman came in with lofty goals, and we were able to work towards and achieve those goals."

The Irish started the season close to home as the team's first three meets took place in Indiana, including the National Catholic Championship and the Joe Piane Notre Dame Invitational held at Notre Dame Golf Course. Sparks said he liked having two home meets earlier in the season to give his younger runners a chance to get

acclimated to the college racing environment.

"That's a big component of our schedule," Sparks said. "It gives the younger kids on the team a chance to start the year off within the friendly confines of basically walking across campus to your home course. Especially with the younger girls and guys we had ... it's still a comforting factor to know it is on your home course, the same place we run two or three days a week."

On Oct. 30, the Irish competed in the ACC championships, with the women placing third and the men placing sixth. Two weeks later, the team moved on to the NCAA regional competition, where the women qualified for the NCAA championships.

The men's team did not make it to the NCAA championship race, but senior Michael Clevenger qualified individually and achieved All-American

status, coming in 38th.

What Clevenger's final time doesn't show, however, is the fact that the Decatur, Illinois, native moved up nearly 25 spots in the final stretch of the race to get the All-American honor.

"I saw him with about a mile to go and he looked pretty stagnant in about 60th place," Sparks said. "I didn't get to see the last five minutes of the race, and I get [to the finish line] and people are telling me he's an All-American. ... I [thought] they were congratulating me on the women's All-Americans. I didn't realize he had geared down and got those guys. He's the toughness factor, he's got the talent factor. He's just a great leader vocally for the men's team. Not a better guy you want leading your squad than Mike Clevenger."

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TRACK & FIELD

Irish men's and women's teams impress

By MOLLY MURPHY
Sports Writer

With the women's team placing fifth at the NCAA indoor championships, this season has been a historic one for Notre Dame.

Leading the women's team to its fifth-place finish was senior Molly Seidel, who collected Notre Dame's first individual track and field national championship in women's program history in the 5,000-meter run on March 11. The next day, Seidel won the NCAA championship in the 3,000-meters.

"[Seidel's] season is definitely one that is historic and for the record books," Turner said. "Last year becoming our first individual NCAA champion and she just kept that going on a roll this year. She is the best distance runner we've had. She's becoming one of the elite runners in the country with big sights on making the Olympic team in the 10,000-meters. She wants to duplicate, and try to double outdoors that 10,000 title and the 5,000 for us. She is the face of the program, she has helped our recruiting, helped bring in Anna Rohrer, the other young lady that we have. I can't say enough about the things that Molly's done not only for our program but for herself and just women's distance running in general. So she's a student athlete we're just blessed to have on our team."

In addition to Seidel, Turner noted the performances of graduate student Kaila Barber and junior Anthony Shivers, who helped the women's and

men's teams to third and seventh place finishes at the ACC indoor championships, respectively.

"Kaila Barber made All-American in the 60-meter hurdles; that has not been her best event traditionally," Turner said. "Her twin sister [Jade Barber] was our school record holder and with Kaila coming out and breaking her school record and becoming a first team All-American that was definitely a big surprise for us."

On the men's side, the thrower Shivers has been commended throughout the season for his breakout performance, making significant strides this year compared to years past.

"I think a big contributor was sort of how I performed last season," Shivers said. "I came out, just kind of disappointed and kind of looking for ways to improve and be better. I knew I had to change something because what I was doing last year wasn't working, so I think it really had to do with little things. I just did the little things a lot better this year, whether it was eating a better diet or rehabbing minor injuries better or just putting that little bit of extra effort at the end of a practice, it really sort of added up."

The Irish will compete in the ACC outdoor championships this weekend, and Turner said he is happy with his team's mental preparation for the conference championship meet.

"I think they grew in the fact that, they come into competitions and they expect to win,"

Turner said. "A lot of times before we were getting better and it was like, 'Ok we know we can beat some of these lower ranked teams and opponents but can we really come in against the top people in


the country and beat them?' I think all the All-Americans we had this year, they just had the confidence to say, 'Hey it doesn't matter who we line up against in the NCAA, I've got a chance to win this if I actually

perform,' and they just come into it with [a] much better mentality this year than years past."


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MEN'S SOCCER | 11-5-6, 4-2-2 ACC

Strong defense pushes Irish to conference final

By DANIEL O'BOYLE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame broke new ground in 2015 with a first-ever place in the ACC championship game. But after falling to Syracuse in that game and Maryland in the NCAA tournament, the Irish failed to win a title of any sort for the first time since 2011.

The Irish looked impenetrable defensively to start the season, winning four of their opening five games. From the end of August to the middle of September, the Irish did not allow a goal in eight straight games, including a 1-0 victory over ACC rival Clemson in a top-10 clash. But a single goal from Xavier was enough to hand Irish head coach Bobby

Clark's side, then ranked No. 2, its first defeat of the season, which was quickly followed by a second defeat to North Carolina, where the Irish defensive consistency came to an abrupt halt in a 4-2 defeat.

A 5-0 victory over Pittsburgh to close the regular season with a 9-3-5 record gave the Irish momentum heading into the ACC tournament, where they made a run to the championship game. A late goal by junior defender Brandon Aubrey ensured the Irish defeated Virginia again, before Notre Dame upset then-No. 1 Wake Forest on the road in front of over 5,000 spectators. But the Irish were unable to find a goal as Syracuse earned a 1-0 victory

in the conference title match. Clark said he was impressed by his team's run to the final and had praise for the Orange.

"I think the second half of that game went very well, but we started a little slowly," Clark said. "I think they played very well, they got the ball into our half, pressured us and worked very hard. They were a great team really, they made the semi-finals of the national tournament so they were very strong at the end of the season. They were arguably the best team in the country by the season's end; they got very unlucky in the semi-final.

"I think getting to the final of the ACCs for the first time really stands out as a highlight of the season though.

To get there, coming into a game against Wake Forest, who were No. 1 in the country, at their stadium in front of a big crowd, that was a real achievement."

In the first round of the NCAA tournament against Tulsa, senior goalkeeper Chris Hubbard was the hero for the Irish. With the sides tied 1-1 after overtime, Hubbard saved each of the three penalties he faced in the shootout to ensure Notre Dame advanced to the round of 16, but that was as far as the team would make it. The Irish fell 2-0 behind to Maryland in the first half, and although a goal just before halftime and a red card for the Terrapins gave the Irish hope, Clark's team could not find the equalizer.

After a Big East championship victory in 2012, a national championship in 2013 and an ACC regular season title in 2014, the empty-handed season was a rare event for the Irish. Clark said he always hoped to win titles but was proud of how his team performed over the course of the season.

"Any year you don't win the national title is always going to be a disappointment, but I felt like this team was close to getting something," Clark said. "After winning something in each of the last three years it's a shame, but I think we were good enough to have taken something home."

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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER | 14-5-1, 6-4-0 ACC

Notre Dame's season blighted by ACC losses

By BEN PADANILAM
Associate Sports Editor

The ACC was the best conference in the NCAA this season, head and shoulders above the rest, placing five teams in the top-10 of the season's final NSCAA Coaches

Poll, prior to the start of the NCAA tournament.

And Notre Dame was one of them.

The Irish (14-5-1, 6-4-0) worked their way to a winning record in nation's best conference this past season, securing victories on the

road over the likes of top-ranked Virginia and eventual national runner-up Duke. But they also did their share of faltering against the ACC's best, going just 3-3 against the conference's ranked teams.

"We got those games

against top-10 opponents, and those games are so close," Irish head coach Theresa Romagnolo said. "They're often separated by one individual doing something special, so some games, that was us and other games, that was somebody else.

"I like to believe that we can win every game that we step on the field to do because of our talent and our preparation, but, in some of those games, they did something special to beat us or we made a mistake and we learned from it going into that next game. The season is about growth, and, over the course of the year, we continued to grow, learn from our mistakes and continued to get batter at a lot of things."

Outside the conference, the Irish cruised to a record of 8-1-1, securing wins over the likes of a ranked Santa Clara team and rivals Indiana and Michigan. Their one loss? To Connecticut, in the second round of the NCAA tournament, bringing an early and disappointing end to what was otherwise a strong season.

"I think it was a good season," Romagnolo said. "At a place like Notre Dame, you always set your sights pretty high, so, at the end, we were disappointed because we hoped we could have gone further in the NCAA tournament. And that wasn't our best game that we ended on, so that can be tough to finish with a game that doesn't represent how good you are."

At many times this season, the team was only as good as

senior forward Anna Maria Gilbertson was. She led the team with 13 goals, 29 points and 110 shots. She ranked first and fifth in shots and goals, respectively, in the conference, which meant her performance often spelled success for the Irish.

"Anna was an unbelievable player to play with out there," junior midfielder Sandra Yu said. "She was pretty special when she was on the ball. She did some pretty incredible things this season for us, but having someone like that on your team, and knowing that at any given moment they can fire a shot and score and having that weapon was incredible."

And although Gilbertson will be one of six seniors — including five starters — who graduates this spring, Romagnolo said Notre Dame grew collectively this year, which is why the team was successful this season and why it will be successful next season as well.

"Over the course of the season, I was really happy with how we played and the performances that we — for the most part — put forth on the field," Romagnolo said. "We grew as a team, and we had some really incredible performances along the way. Some great individuals grew and had great seasons, so on the whole I thought it was a very good season.

"... To be honest, we're all really excited for next season. We saw [this season] that we have a lot of potential."

Contact Ben Padanilam at bpadanil@nd.edu

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MEN'S GOLF

Young ND roster makes strides

By **DOMINIC IANNELLI**
Sports Writer

To finish a season focused on developing a young roster, Notre Dame placed 10th out of 12 teams at the ACC Championships.

Some premier events this spring were the Yestingsmeier Match Play Invitational, National Invitational Tournament, Auburn University Tiger Invitational, Border Olympics and Clemson Invitational.

Overall, Irish head coach Jim Kubinski could not bring himself to call the season a success because the team did not make the NCAA tournament, which is an expectation for his team each year.

"We're never going to call a season when we miss out on the NCAA tournament a success," Kubinski said. "Having competed at NAAs in 2005, 2006, 2011 and 2012 as a team and with NCAA individual players in 2008 and 2014, during my tenure, we feel our place is on the national landscape come championship season."

However, Kubinski said he realized that his team is composed of all underclassmen, while all of his NCAA teams had strong senior leaders.

"Our best teams had great upper class leadership, often seniors who had grown through their years here," Kubinski said. "We had developing leaders this year and, of course, no senior starters. In that light, I do think we accomplished a number of very positive things this season, especially in the last month or so. It's those positives and continued work, which will see us back at NAAs next season."

In addition to the need for the current underclassmen to step up

as leaders next year, there is also a need to bolster the program with top-ranked high school talent. Kubinski said that he has been on the recruiting trail, signing three superior golfers from the 2016 class.

"We're adding three highly ranked incoming players, which means we'll have the most competition for lineup spots come August since our back-to-back NCAA teams in 2011 and 2012," Kubinski said.

Looking back at this season, Kubinski said he especially liked the team's performance at home and said he hopes that the players will gain the same amount of comfort playing on the road.

"Our play at home this season really stands out," Kubinski said. "To win our larger September tournament and the smaller field event here in April, going undefeated at home, gives us a foundation. We need to take this out on the road and, to some extent, we started to see that the last two rounds at ACCs."

According to Kubinski, there is no reason why the Irish shouldn't be in the hunt for the NCAA tournament next season. He said they have all the elements necessary to take the team to the next level.

"There's no doubt our team should be an NCAA contender next season," Kubinski said. "Our goal will be a return to the national landscape. We'll have a great deal more experience, players looking to build on successes from this season, growing and improving players in the mix and three highly ranked freshmen to add to our team."

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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Strong fall season fails to translate for Notre Dame

By **TOBIAS HOONHOUT**
Sports Writer

The Irish were a story of two halves this year, as the team finished with a stroke average nearly four shots better than the program record in the fall, but stumbled this spring and finished 10th at the ACC tournament.

In the fall, the Irish welcomed three new freshmen to the lineup. All three ended up in the starting lineup, and finished the fall as the No. 3 ranked freshmen class in the country, according to Golfstat, and played a large part in the team's success.

"I think the freshmen have adjusted very well to the lifestyle of a Notre Dame student athlete," Irish head coach Susan Holt said. "There are a lot of demands on your time academically and athletically, and they've all travelled and played from day one, so overall, I think they've done a great job with the transition. ... I'm excited where we're at, and I really think this group can take over for sure."

Along with their record stroke average, the team won the Mary Fossum Invitational in September as well as the Nebraska Chip-N Club Invitational by 30 strokes in

October. But the highlight of the season was the last tournament in the fall, the Landfall Tradition, where the Irish finished second amongst a competitive field that included 11 teams in the top 50.

"That is one of the best collegiate fields in the country year in and year out," Holt said. "And, this year, for us to finish second in that field out of 18 teams ... that, for sure, was the highlight, and especially with the fact that, on the last day, we shot seven-under. That round, with what was at stake, was a huge moment for our players and a really nice exclamation point on our fall season."

The team entered the spring looking to build on their record season, but the Irish struggled. The team didn't win a tournament, and ended up 10th out of 12 teams in the ACC tournament.

"I wish we would've just played better," Holt said. "But if you look at our history, spring golf is a challenge for us, and it really is because of the weather. ... [For the ACC championship] we went in there as the five-seed, and we just had a bad first day, and that's been kind of our struggle this spring, to put three rounds together in a tournament, and unfortunately we started poorly.

... But that's behind us now, and you learn from it, and it exposed obviously what we needed to work on."

Despite the disappointing performances, however, a bright spot for the Irish has been senior captain Talia Campbell, who has led the team both on and off the course. Campbell was the highest individual finisher for the Irish at ACCs, where she finished ninth, and became the first golfer in the program's history to finish as the top team member at four consecutive conference tournaments.

"It's not just this year — Talia has been a really steady, solid contributor to our program over these past four years," Holt said. "She's not a flashy player, but she's a very solid and consistent player. She makes a ton of pars, doesn't put herself in a lot of trouble, and is just really really steady. She puts in the effort and puts in the time, and I think for the underclassmen when you have a senior who hasn't checked out [it's a big plus]."

Last weekend, the Irish finished their season, finishing 13th in the NCAA regional in Birmingham, Alabama.

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Senior **Zach Toste** hits from the fairway at the *Battle at the Warren* at Warren Golf Course on April 16. Toste finished tied for eighth.

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Four individuals make trip to NCAA tournament

By RYAN KLAUS
Sports Writer

Notre Dame began a new era in 2015-2016 as Mike Litzinger began his tenure as head coach.

"It was a great experience for my first year," Litzinger said. "The team was craving for some consistency, and leadership that could provide a long term vision. They also developed a fantastic work ethic that will serve them well in the coming years."

Notre Dame's first season under Litzinger began with a victory in the Dennis Stark Relays. In the dual meet portion of their schedule, the Irish topped Michigan State, but fell on the road to Florida Gulf Coast, Purdue, Ohio State, Pittsburgh and Virginia Tech before heading to the Boilermaker Invitational for their last event of the fall semester.

At the Boilermaker Invitational, the Irish placed second, helped along by freshman Alice Treuth's victory in the 200-yard backstroke in 1:56.56

Following winter break,

the Irish returned to action in a loss to Virginia before picking a victory against Northwestern, which, according to Litzinger, was a turning point in the season for the Irish.

"I think for the women, our meet against Northwestern was pivotal," Litzinger said. "We hadn't beaten them in the past four meetings, and on paper, they had the advantage. Our women dove and swam with a real purpose — to compete — and, at the end of the day, wouldn't be denied."

Following the Northwestern victory, the Irish hosted the Shamrock Invitational, where the 400-yard freestyle relay team broke the pool record. On February 13 and 14, the Irish traveled to the Michigan First Chance Meet to conclude their regular season.

At the ACC championship meet in Greensboro, North Carolina, the Irish took seventh overall. Seniors Lindsey Streepey and Emma Gaboury, sophomore Annie Crea and freshman Ella Moynihan all earned trips to the NCAA

championships during the conference meet.

During the NCAA championship meet in late March, Moynihan finished in 50th in the 200-freestyle prelims and divers Gaboury and Crea took 29th and 43rd, respectively, in the 3-meter. In the 1-meter Gaboury took 38th and Streepey placed in 41st overall.

"Emma Gaboury and Lindsey Streepey really stood out qualifying for the NCAA championship meet, which puts them among an elite group," Litzinger said.

Litzinger, who also was named the head coach of the men's program in April, will look to provide stability moving forward for a program that has encountered numerous coaching changes in recent years, he said.

"Our senior women have been through three coaching changes, and it has been difficult for them," Litzinger said. "I believe if we had another year with that group, their experience would have been richer."

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MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Plaschka, relay team qualify for nationals

By RYAN KLAUS
Sports Writer

For the second time in three seasons, Notre Dame welcomed a new coach to the mix when head coach Matt Tallman took an indefinite leave of absence in December.

Tallman was replaced on an interim basis by Mike Litzinger, who himself was in his first season as head coach of the women's program. Litzinger was eventually named the head coach of both programs this past April.

An up-and-down season began for the Irish in October with a first-place finish at the Dennis Starks Relays and a dual meet home win against Michigan State. In November, the Irish traveled to meets at Purdue, where the team placed third and Virginia Tech, where Notre Dame took third place in a tri-dual meet.

In January, the Irish started their spring semester slate at Virginia, where the Irish fell to the Cavaliers. Notre Dame then participated in a dual-meet with Northwestern, where the Irish defeated the Wildcats, before hosting the annual Shamrock Invitational. Notre Dame concluded its regular season slate at Michigan's First Chance Meet.

At the end of February, Notre Dame traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina, to swim in the ACC championships. In the four-day event, the Irish finished in seventh place as a team with 678 points.

Despite having a finish that was Notre Dame's worst in its three-year ACC tenure, the Irish did have a number

of impressive individual performances. Sophomore Justin Plaschka, who qualified for NCAA nationals in the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard freestyle, led the impressive individual showings. Plaschka also was a part of the 400-yard freestyle team that qualified for the NCAA championship.

"For our men, the ACC championship served notice that our future is bright," Litzinger said. "Every athlete had a personal best, and [the team] finishing the meet with a NCAA qualifying performance and Notre Dame record in the 400-yard freestyle relay was quite a statement."

Other members of the relay team who traveled to Atlanta, Georgia were junior Trent Jackson and freshmen Daniel Speers, Tabahn Afrik and Matthew Grauslys. Grauslys replaced injured junior Reed Fujan.

At the NCAA championship meet, Plaschka finished in 41st in the 100-yard butterfly and 38th in the 100-yard freestyle, while the relay team finished in 20th-place overall in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

As the page turns to next season, Litzinger is preparing himself for the challenges associated with taking over the team full-time.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of assembling a great coaching staff, the bringing together of alumni who have been separated since 1995, and making a statement that Notre Dame will be a player on the ACC and NCAA scenes in the future," Litzinger said.

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Saint Mary's sports: year in review

Lacrosse makes program history, tennis has best season in a decade and softball earns postseason berth

Lacrosse

By **ELIZABETH GREASON**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's historic season came to a heartbreaking end after the Belles came out on the wrong side of a tie-breaker for the MIAA tournament.

The Belles (8-9, 4-4 MIAA) were able to achieve the best record of the program's short three-year history but fell short of their ultimate goal of making the MIAA tournament. Despite the way the season came to an end, junior co-captain and goalkeeper Shannon Weyer said she believes the Belles have come a long way.

"The biggest improvement was our overall record," Weyer said. "It has been amazing to see this team get better each year of our program."

Junior co-captain and attack Emilie Vanneste also said she thought this season was a productive one.

"We were able to prove to ourselves and to our conference opponents that we have the talent to be a threat," Vanneste said.

If the team's reason for falling short of the postseason can be summed up in one game, it would be the Belles' 8-7 loss to Kalamazoo on April 28, which Belles head coach Amy Long said was a frustrating loss for her and the team. The Belles tied for fourth place in the conference with the Hornets, but the loss cost Saint Mary's the tiebreaker for a post-season spot.

"That one-goal loss stood between us and making the tournament," Long said. "It is obviously disappointing to come so close and miss achieving our goal by such a small margin."

Vanneste agreed and said the Kalamazoo loss is one that will haunt her.

"Walking off that field and looking up at the scoreboard is honestly a nightmare for me," Vanneste said. "We fought so hard that game and definitely proved that we were the better team; we just struggled to find the net."

The Belles are already setting higher goals for next season, Long said. She believes that her team has what it takes to go all the way in the MIAA, she added.

"Our goal for next year is to win the conference tournament," Long said. "We grew so much as a team this year and gained confidence throughout our conference play that we now see how achievable winning the conference next year is."

Vanneste said she thinks the team's tough end to the season will spur the program forward next year.

"Losing the heartbreaking tie-breaker has truly fueled the team's determination heading into next season," Vanneste said. "We know it's within reach, and I think that if we can all stick to our training schedule and come back stronger, both physically and mentally, we'll be ready for what is to come."

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Tennis

By **ALEX ELLYIN**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's had its best season in over a decade but wound up falling short of a conference title when it lost to Hope in the MIAA tournament semifinals to close out its season.

The Belles (14-6, 5-3) secured 14 victories on the season, the most wins the program has had since 2004. The team, led by senior captain Andrea Fetters, had numerous statement wins on their



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Belles junior captain Emilie Vanneste eludes a defender in the Belles' 10-4 victory over Trine on April 12 at Holy Cross South Field. The attack/midfielder finished third on the team with 30 goals.

schedule, none bigger than its 9-0 sweep against Albion on Senior Day, head coach Dale Campbell said. He also said he knows this team was special and knows even greater success will come in the future.

"I was most impressed with their teamwork and unity," Campbell said. "Our team is fairly young, but they have a great bond with each other already. Our doubles is improving, and we are getting mentally and physically tougher as a team."

The team was young for the most part, as there were only two seniors on the roster. But that experience made a world of difference for the Belles according to Campbell.

"The experienced players have worked well with the younger players, and they all understand the value of [teamwork]," Campbell said. "They have continued to stay focused in a long season, and have prepared for each match individually. They handle what is in front of them very well."

Out of the team's 14 wins this season, six were clean sweeps at 9-0, showing how dominant the Belles proved to be at times. These victories came against the aforementioned Albion as well as Judson, Wittenburg, Concordia, Trine and Bethel.

Campbell also said he is very proud of the fact that after each loss this year, the Belles fought back to avenge the loss in the following match.

"Our team doesn't get down very long," Campbell said. "When they lose, they are upset, but they use that for motivation. We can always use more of that channeling of energy toward higher goals, but this is a fairly mature team in terms of preparation. Our record in close sets is also incredible. We

have won about 80 percent of the close ones."

Following the loss to Hope, Saint Mary's season came to an end. It did, however, mark the third straight season the Belles finished in the conference's top four to earn a spot in the postseason.

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Softball

By **R.J. Stempak**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's ended its regular season with a winning record and finished fourth in the conference before falling to Alma and Trine in the postseason to close out its year.

The Belles (19-18, 9-7 MIAA) worked their way to a second-straight appearance in the MIAA tournament and the eighth appearance for the program since 2004. Saint Mary's highlighted its schedule with a win over nationally-ranked Alma and a sweep of Kalamazoo at the end of the season to clinch a spot in the postseason.

The Belles were a strong offensive team this season, outscoring opponents 209-153 over the course of the year and posting an undefeated 7-0 record when scoring more than 10 runs in a game.

"Overall, we got stronger as the season went on," Belles head coach Kelli Zache said. "We met our expectations from the beginning of the year, which was to go to the [MIAA] tournament. Offensively, I feel like we kicked [butt] this season. We were second in the conference overall in batting average. We had eight players throughout the season who had over a .300 batting average, which is not common."

Saint Mary's was lead offensively throughout the regular season by sophomore outfielder Cassie Young, who led the team in batting average (.500), RBIs (34) and slugging percentage (.664).

"Cassie was at the top of the conference with her bat this year," Zache said. "For her to be a sophomore in the 3-4 slot and to handle the pitching she did as a sophomore is phenomenal."

On the mound, sophomore Morgan Raymer provided the Belles with consistent pitching all year. She earned 10 wins in 15 starts with an ERA of just 2.48.

"Once we got into the middle of the season, Morgan Raymer stepped up as our go-to pitcher," Zache said. "She threw in and won both games of the double-header which clinched us to go to the tournament. She's stronger than ever right now, and she has been a big and impactful player all season. She thrives in close games and wants the ball in her hand in those situations."

Saint Mary's opened the MIAA tournament on May 5 with a game against top-seeded Alma and fell in extra innings, 2-1. The Belles then followed that game up with a 5-0 loss to Trine, bringing an end to their season. It was the 11th consecutive year with a winning record for Saint Mary's.

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Golf

By **JOE EVERETT**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's season ended with a second-place finish in the MIAA's automatic qualifier on April 30,



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

SMC senior captain Andrea Fetters hits a forehand in Saint Mary's' 9-0 shutout of Concordia (Mich.) on April 23 at Angela Tennis Courts.

SMC Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

as top-seeded Hope beat out the Belles for the trip to nationals.

The Belles finished their season on a high note, however, winning the final round of the three-round qualifier with a score of 320, a season-best mark for the team. With the team's scoring average almost a 20-stroke improvement from last year, the program has been trending upwards, evident by top-four finishes in both the spring and the fall. Belles head coach Kim Moore said she was proud of the special season she and her team experienced together.

"Overall, I felt that this season was one of the most successful seasons I've had since I've been at Saint Mary's," Moore said. "I felt that throughout this season we had our ups and downs — some players played well in the first half of the season and not so well the second and vice-versa — but overall, I felt our team really came together and played some very competitive golf. Their cohesiveness helped them be themselves, play together and ultimately play for each other. ... Each player was playing for the success of this team as a whole."

Moore said she will look for the team to carry that success into next year's campaign. Although the Belles will lose seniors Katie Zielinski and Sammie Averill, Moore said she expects her returning players to all improve their individual games and help to continue building a strong culture within the program.

"We are going to be missing a few important pieces to the puzzle, but the returners have seen what the cohesiveness of a team can do for its success," Moore said. "I have no doubt that they will take the incoming freshman under their wing and introduce them to the culture we've created. I want our returners to work hard this summer on their short game and mental game ... to use this season as motivation to continue the hard work they have put in so that we can really build on the success we have created."

Although Moore is already thinking of next season, Moore said her team should be proud of this season, too.

"I am proud of all of my players," Moore said. "It is not easy to go through an athletic season as a student-athlete, especially at Saint Mary's. They have proven, athletically and academically, that they have the discipline and dedication to be successful at both. That's the beauty of Division III athletics: Student athletes can really do it all, and my players are prime examples of that philosophy."

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Volleyball

By VICTORIA LLORENS
Sports Writer

Under the guidance of first-year head coach Denise Van De Walle, Saint Mary's succeeded in achieving its second 15-win season in a row but fell short of earning a spot in the MIAA tournament.

Van De Walle said a part of her was disappointed the team came up short, but she was also happy with how far it progressed throughout the season.

"I was new to Saint Mary's," Van De Walle said. "I started my job the day before the season started. I knew the team had lost six seniors from the year before, so I wasn't sure what to expect. So I was pleased with our 15 wins and how well we started the year. However, the competitor in me was disappointed we didn't make the conference tournament."

The Belles (15-13, 7-9 MIAA) started their season by going 10-4 in their first 14 games, including 6-1 in nonconference matches. Two of those early four losses, however, came to MIAA foes Calvin and Hope.

"The toughest competition that we faced this year was Calvin and Hope," Van De Walle said. "Both have won national championships, both have very good teams year in and year out. Their skill level is very high, and they are used to winning."

The next month of play, however, proved difficult for the Belles, as they lost seven times in ten matches. The injury of junior outside hitter Meaghan Gibbons had a huge impact on the team's play during that stretch, Van De Walle said. But Saint Mary's bounced back with wins in two of its last four matches, including a

nonconference win over Kenyon to close out its season.

The Belles graduate two seniors, outside hitter Katie Hecklinski — who was selected by MIAA coaches as a First Team All-MIAA honoree — and defensive specialist Angela Bukur. Van De Walle said both contributed greatly to the team in different ways.

"Katie and Angela were two great seniors who had different roles on the team," Van De Walle said. "Angela was a role player for us. She had limited playing time, was a total team player and was definitely loved by the team for how she gave 100 percent of herself every day. Katie was our captain and the driving force of the team. She was our go-to player. She was the player every team in the conference knew about. She was a First team All-MIAA selection, which tells you how good of a player she was for us."

"You can't replace senior leadership, their understanding of the game and the inner workings of the program. They both had a big impact on the team in different ways."

The rest of Saint Mary's roster will be back next season and continue to train over the summer in order to secure a third consecutive 15-win season.

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Cross Country

By MAUREEN SCHWENINGER
Sports Writer

Despite seeing one its key runners go down early in the season with an injury, Saint Mary's held its own against tough competition and finished in 15th place at its NCAA regional.

Belles head coach Jackie Bauters said her largest preseason concerns involved working with the new freshmen, as six of the 16 team members were competing at the collegiate level for the first time.

"We had a large group of first years on the team, and you never know how the team will mesh or how they will perform in their first season," Bauters said. "But this ended up not being a negative at all but very positive for the team. I think losing [freshman Aubrey Penn] to her injury in late September was one of our biggest setbacks. The team really stepped up their game and everyone contributed, but unfortunately she wasn't able to come back for the end of the season."

Thirteen personal records were set by Saint Mary's runners throughout the season. In NCAA regional competition on Nov. 14, the Belles claimed 15th-place and tied for third among the nine MIAA teams competing. This was an improvement from the fourth-place finish they had at the MIAA championships just two weeks earlier.

"Finishing [fourth] at conference was a great accomplishment, but [it was] also bitter sweet since we were so close to standing alone in third place," Bauters said. "There were many mini accomplishments throughout the year, and individuals had some stellar personal achievements."

Junior captain Brittany Beeler had a historic season, as she was the top finisher for the Belles in every race of the year and the second runner in program history to earn all-MIAA First Team honors. Bauters commended Beeler as a standout athlete among many this season.

"The team as a whole is full of amazing women — best in a multitude of categories," Bauters said. "Brittany Beeler led the charge every meet and has been an exemplary role model for her peers in work ethic, persistence and positive attitude. While she is our top performer, she contributes to the team in other ways that are just as — if not even more — valuable."

Bauters said she is looking forward to the future as the team is poised to return with some of its best talent following a strong season.

"This team was really special," Bauters said. "We had great team chemistry all year, which is not easy. This team was definitely one of my most talented groups as a whole."

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Soccer

By ALEX BENDER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's 2015 season was filled with close matches: 12 of the team's 18 matches were decided by two goals or fewer.

When all was said and done, Saint Mary's finished just 2-15-1, but the tight scores indicate a more positive season than that record indicates.

Perhaps one of the biggest questions at the end of this season will be what could have been had the team stayed healthy. Saint Mary's saw just five members of the eighteen player roster make it through the whole season without missing a game. However, despite a season that saw a number of bumps in the road, the team as a whole stayed positive, said senior captain Maggie McLaughlin.

"Injuries this season were a huge obstacle for us to overcome," McLaughlin said. "We had very few games in which every player was available. ... This, paired with having such a small bench made it difficult to maintain high intensity for 90 minutes. ... The constant injuries and reoccurring losses would certainly be enough to kill team morale, but I was extremely proud of the way our team handled the situation. Many of the scores did not reflect the grit and hustle each and every player displayed on the field day in and day out. As a captain, that is all you ask of your teammates."

There were a number of bright moments for the team as the Belles were able to complete a season sweep of conference foe Trine with a 4-1 home victory on September 17, and a 2-1 win on the road exactly a month later. Additionally, McLaughlin was named second-team All-MIAA. This marked the 15th consecutive season a Saint Mary's athlete has been named to the conference's first or second team. Despite the

number of obstacles faced, the positives are what McLaughlin said she will remember.

"Playing soccer at Saint Mary's the past four years has been one of the best parts of my college experience," McLaughlin said. "I have formed lasting friendships with my teammates beyond the soccer field, and I cannot say enough about their incredible accomplishments and personalities. Although this year we were rebuilding, with upcoming leaders and incoming talent, I know the program will only continue to grow."

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Basketball

By JACKIE BREBECK
Sports Writer

It was a rough season for Saint Mary's, as the Belles came away from the 2015-2016 campaign with only a single victory.

Saint Mary's (1-24, 1-15 MIAA) started the season with a game against North Park on November 17 resulting in a 64-49 loss. The Belles then went into the Wheaton tournament, where they were not able to win either game.

With three losses already, the Belles had a string of five more defeats, including one against Anderson by just two points. The Belles first victory of the season came against Alma on December 9 by a final score of 68-56. This brought Saint Mary's MIAA record to 1-2 as senior forward Krista Knapke lead the Belles with 14 points and seven steals. Senior forward Eleni Shea and freshman guard Erin Maloney also factored into the Saint Mary's victory. Shea contributed 13 points and nine rebounds, while Maloney tallied a season-high 13 points, including a perfect 7-of-7 from the free-throw line.

Looking back on the season, Belles head coach Jennifer Henley said she felt that although it was a trying season, she saw results from the hard work that the Belles put into practicing and improving.

"It was a disappointing seasons as far as wins and losses go," Henley said. "This team worked incredibly hard and got better as the season went along."

Throughout the year the Belles were lead by their four seniors: Shea, Knapke, and guards Maddie Kohler and Sarah Macius. Henley said the graduating seniors will leave big shoes to fill.

"We graduate four great seniors who will be missed," Henley said.

Shea lead the Belles with 12.4 points per game and Knapke was not far behind at 11.7. Shea and Knapke also lead the Belles in rebounds with 157 and 196 respectively.

After their victory over Alma, the Belles went winless the rest of the season and ended their campaign with a 1-24 mark. The Belles did keep five games to within 10 points, including a 72-70 loss to Anderson on November 24 and a 52-49 defeat to Olivet on January 23.

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

SMC senior defensive specialist Angela Bukur lunges for the ball in the Belles' win over Manchester on Sept. 1 at Angela Athletic Facility.

MEN'S LACROSSE | 10-3, 3-1 ACC

Notre Dame pursues elusive national title

By **MANNY DE JESUS**
Sports Writer

There's no denying how impressive the Irish have been in recent history. But despite the plethora of accolades and high rankings, No. 7 Notre Dame is still chasing the one trophy it has yet to hoist — the NCAA National Championship.

In four of the last six seasons, the Irish have made it to the coveted Championship Weekend. The veterans on this year's squad have been close to reaching the promised land in the last two seasons. Notre Dame appeared in the NCAA finals in 2014 against Duke and the semifinals against the eventual NCAA champions, Denver, last season.

The goal heading into this season was no different than the one the Irish had last season or the season before that, and it started off on the right foot as Inside Lacrosse named

the Irish the nation's best team in the preseason.

The favorites to win the ACC, Notre Dame returned three first-team All-Americans in junior midfielder Sergio Perkovic, senior defenseman Matt Landis and senior attack Matt Kavanagh. The team also returned a slew of promising young players, including sophomore attack Mikey Wynne and junior midfielder P.J. Finley.

Behind the myriad of talent on its roster, Notre Dame started the season off 4-0 before facing off in a rematch of last season's NCAA semifinal against Denver at home. Despite scoring four goals in 43 seconds in the fourth quarter to take the lead against the defending champions, the visiting Pioneers managed to push the game into overtime with a late goal. With two minutes left in the extra period, Denver converted the only shot attempted in overtime to walk away with

the win.

Despite the loss, Finley's most memorable moment of the season came from that contest.

"Ironically enough, my favorite moment from the season comes from our loss to Denver at home," Finley said. "We scored four goals in 43 seconds at the end of the fourth quarter to take a late lead — I believe our first of the game. Though we lost the game, I think that minute or so shows what kind of team we are: relentless competitors, never backing down from the moment."

Following the loss, the Irish went on to win five straight games, including overtime wins against Virginia and Marquette and their first ever win at the Carrier Dome against Syracuse. The successful stretch elevated the Irish back to its preseason number one ranking.

But their time atop the rankings was short lived.

The Irish hosted North

Carolina in the ACC regular season finale, and it looked as if the squad was ready to clinch its second straight undefeated conference record and regular season ACC title. However, a 7-0 run late in the fourth quarter by the Tar Heels erased a 15-10 Notre Dame lead and snatched the win away from the Irish.

The next week didn't prove any better for Notre Dame. For the first time since 2014, the Irish lost two straight games as they dropped another ACC game against Duke in the ACC semifinals. In the six days that marked two losses for the Irish, the team dropped from the No. 1 to No. 7.

Despite the two losses, the Irish were given a No. 3 seed in the NCAA tournament and, after defeating Army in the final game of their regular season on Sunday, 13-7, the Irish are confident in their chances of making a deep run in the national tournament. Landis just won his

second straight ACC Defensive Player of the Year award and freshman attack Ryder Garnsey was named ACC Freshman of the Year. With the locker room's confidence riding high as the tournament gets closer, Notre Dame is convinced that it's still the team to beat.

"You can feel the hunger to get back to the championship in the locker room," Finley said. "We want this more than we have wanted anything in our lives. The fact that we have been there before ... only drives us farther every day. We have guys on this team that have played in every possible big game, and I think that experience will pay dividends for us down the road."

Notre Dame will take on Air Force in the first round of the NCAA tournament on Saturday.

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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE | 13-6, 4-3 ACC

Irish struggle down stretch against top teams

By **DANIEL O'BOYLE**
Sports Writer

When the 2016 season started, Notre Dame was no stranger to top-level competition: 11 of 12 starters returned from 2015's team as the Irish set to take on another loaded schedule. The experienced Irish team played their way to a 13-6 record, third place in the ACC and a conference semi-final appearance.

Notre Dame began the season looking like one of the most impressive teams in the nation. It had five wins in its opening five games, averaging 16 goals scored per game and less than five allowed per game. The stretch was highlighted by a 14-4 win over then-No. 9 Boston College, which included a run of 10 unanswered goals to guide the Irish to a victory in their ACC opener. Notre Dame jumped to No. 5 in the polls before a back-and-forth, overtime encounter at Louisville saw the Irish lose their first game of the season.

Irish head coach Christine Halfpenny said the number of players who had started for the Irish before 2016 ensured her team was ready from the start.

"It gave us a lot of experience," Halfpenny said. "Players understood the road that we were about to embark upon, the work we were going to put in and experience as leaders off the field and experience as players on the field. That just catapulted us and, specifically, catapulted the mindset and culture of this year's team."

The Irish had no trouble bouncing back from their first defeat, though, with four more wins, including a 16-4 defeat of then-No. 9 Virginia, pushing the Irish back into the top-5 teams in the country at No. 4. A top-5 matchup with No. 5 Syracuse at Arlotta Stadium gave the Irish an opportunity to make a huge statement, but for the second time in the season, the Irish were defeated in a close game, falling 12-11. From there, the Irish struggled to return to their winning ways as they faced some of the top teams in the country down the stretch, falling to then-No. 3 North Carolina and fighting in a defensive encounter with then-No. 5 USC that ended 5-4 in favor of the Trojans.

Notre Dame closed the regular season with a win before

the ACC tournament, where the Irish exacted revenge over Louisville but could not do the same to Syracuse, as the Orange won 9-5 to advance to the conference final.

2016 was the final year at Notre Dame for graduate student defender Barbara Sullivan. Starting a record 80 games for the Irish since her debut appearance in 2012, Sullivan has become one of the most decorated players in program history. She is second all-time in program history in ground balls and first in both draw controls and caused turnovers. Sullivan holds each of the three highest single-season draw control totals for the Irish and set the single-season caused turnover record this year, tying the single-game record twice. Halfpenny said Sullivan's impact on Notre Dame lacrosse cannot be understated.

"I don't want to even think about her leaving," Halfpenny said. "Barbara has been synonymous with Notre Dame women's lacrosse since I've been here, and she's really left an incredible legacy. To have a top player with top work ethic and top



KATHLEEN DONAHUE | The Observer

Irish graduate student defender Barbara Sullivan carries the ball upfield during Notre Dame's 5-4 loss to USC on April 18.

leadership skills doesn't happen all the time. I don't know if I can quite put into words how much she means to this program and, specifically, how much she means to me. It's been humbling to have the opportunity to coach her."

The Irish will begin NCAA tournament play on Friday when they take on the winner of Northwestern-Louisville at Arlotta Stadium.

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THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS | 14-3, 5-9 ACC

ND weathers season of ups and downs

By **MICHAEL IVEY**
Sports Writer

A trip to the ACC quarterfinals capped off an erratic season for Notre Dame.

The Irish (14-13, 5-9 ACC) performed well at home this season, finishing with an 8-3 record in matches played at Eck Tennis Pavilion or Courtney Tennis Center, but struggled on the road, compiling a record of 6-10 away from South Bend.

When reflecting on this season, Irish head coach Jay Louderback said he liked the way his team was able to put rough matches behind them and focus on the present. He also liked his team's mentality during practice.

"I feel like this year's team did a great job of playing one match at a time and not dwelling on any matches we lost," Louderback said. "They always came out to practice every day and worked very hard."

Notre Dame started its season in January, winning its first match of the season 7-0 against Western Michigan on January 19. The Irish then participated at the ITA Kickoff Weekend Tournament in Stillwater, Oklahoma at

the end of January. The Irish dropped two matches by identical 4-0 scores to Oklahoma State and Arizona State.

After that, the Irish won seven of their next eight matches, highlighted by wins against Big Ten opponents Illinois, Michigan, Purdue and Indiana as well as conference opponents Pittsburgh, Louisville and Boston College. The Irish went on a dry spell after that, however, and won only two of their next ten matches.

Louderback pointed to a stretch the Irish went through back on April 8-10 as the critical point of the season. During that time, the Irish had lost six of their previous eight matches and almost beat conference opponents Clemson and Georgia Tech without one of their best players — junior Monica Robinson.

"I think the turning point of the season was the weekend we lost 4-3 matches to Clemson and Georgia Tech with Monica Robinson out of the lineup with an injury," Louderback said. "I think we realized how close we were to these teams without Monica and when she returned to the lineup we had our best wins of the season."

After those two matches,



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish senior Quinn Gleason prepares to hit a forehand during Notre Dame's 6-1 victory over Indiana at Eck Tennis Pavilion on Feb. 20. Gleason held a 20-12 record, the second best on the Irish squad.

the Irish won two of their last three regular season contests and rode that momentum into the ACC tournament. The Irish won their first round matchup, 4-0, against Pittsburgh and then upset Clemson, 4-1, in the second round before falling to Georgia Tech in the quarterfinals, 4-0.

Louderback said his favorite match of the year was when the Irish beat Clemson in the ACC tournament because of the implications it had for his team in regards to the NCAA

tournament.

"The win against Clemson was my favorite of the year since we had to have the win and they are a top-30 team," Louderback said.

Louderback also said he was proud of the seniors on the team — Quinn Gleason, Julie Vrabel, Alaina Roberts and Darby Mountford — and impact they had on the younger players.

"Our seniors put it on the line every match they played this year, which was a great

example for our younger players," Louderback said.

The Irish will take on No. 25 UCLA on Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Whatever the outcome of the game, Louderback said he will remember this year's team fondly.

"I will remember this year's team as a very hard working group that bonded really well as a team," Louderback said.

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MEN'S TENNIS | 14-12, 6-6 ACC

Irish cap season with victory over Tar Heels

By **TONY ZAPPIA**
Sports Writer

It was an up and down season for the Irish (14-12, 6-6 ACC) as Notre Dame finished in seventh place in the competitive ACC and earned its 12th consecutive NCAA tournament appearance.

Despite finishing in the middle of the pack in the ACC, the Irish produced plenty of highlights this season — most notably, coming off of four straight

conference losses, Notre Dame upset then-No. 1 North Carolina, 5-2, in a historic victory on Senior Night. For Irish head Coach Ryan Sachire, beating North Carolina was one of the best moments of the season.

"Clearly beating [North Carolina] on Senior Night in the fashion we did was incredible," Sachire said. "With all of the seniors contributing the way they did and the way we competed and played, that night was

very special."

Senior Alex Lawson, who clinched the Notre Dame victory against North Carolina, also remembers the match as one of the best moments of the year.

"You can't ask for anything more than beating [North Carolina] on Senior Night," Lawson said. "I didn't know that [my point] would be the deciding point, but I had a feeling that it was important. I knew the team needed the win, and I went out and

was ready to do that."

The Irish got off to a slow start to the season as the team struggled away from home and found themselves unable to compete against the upper echelon of ACC teams. However, after the win over North Carolina and a strong performance in the ACC tournament, it is now clear to Sachire that his team has grown over the course of the season.

"We grew a lot," Sachire said. "We faced some adversity early on and we didn't always play our best. What I tell our guys is that it's all about sticking to the process and working hard. We constantly believed we were a good team, and we just had to find our rhythm. I think lesser teams with lesser guys would have given up but our guys stuck with it, and we grew in terms of confidence, and then finally the wins came."

Despite the slow start to the season, the Irish came on strong by closing out the ACC regular season with the aforementioned win over North Carolina and a 6-1 win over North Carolina State. The Irish carried this late season momentum into

the ACC tournament defeating Duke, 4-1, before falling in a tight quarterfinal match to then-No. 7 Wake Forest, 4-3. Though the season is not over, with the Irish headed to the NCAA tournament, Sachire believes that the team has successfully accomplished its goal of being the most improved team in the country.

"We always talk about process, and, with that, my one goal is to be the most improved team in the country," Sachire said. "I do think we accomplished that goal. Our team feels like a different team now. We're confident in ourselves and in each other."

"Certainly we haven't hit our goal for our position in the rankings yet, but, just like basketball, a lot is riding on our performance in the NCAA tournament," he said. "A lot of our evaluation is yet to be determined, but, in terms of process and culture, we definitely achieved our goal."

Notre Dame faces off against Stanford in the first round of the NCAA tournament on May 14.

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BECKI JEREN | The Observer

Irish senior Alex Lawson serves during Notre Dame's 5-2 victory over Duke at Eck Tennis Pavilion on March 18. Lawson held a 13-16 record overall and a 5-6 record in the ACC for the 2015-2016 season.