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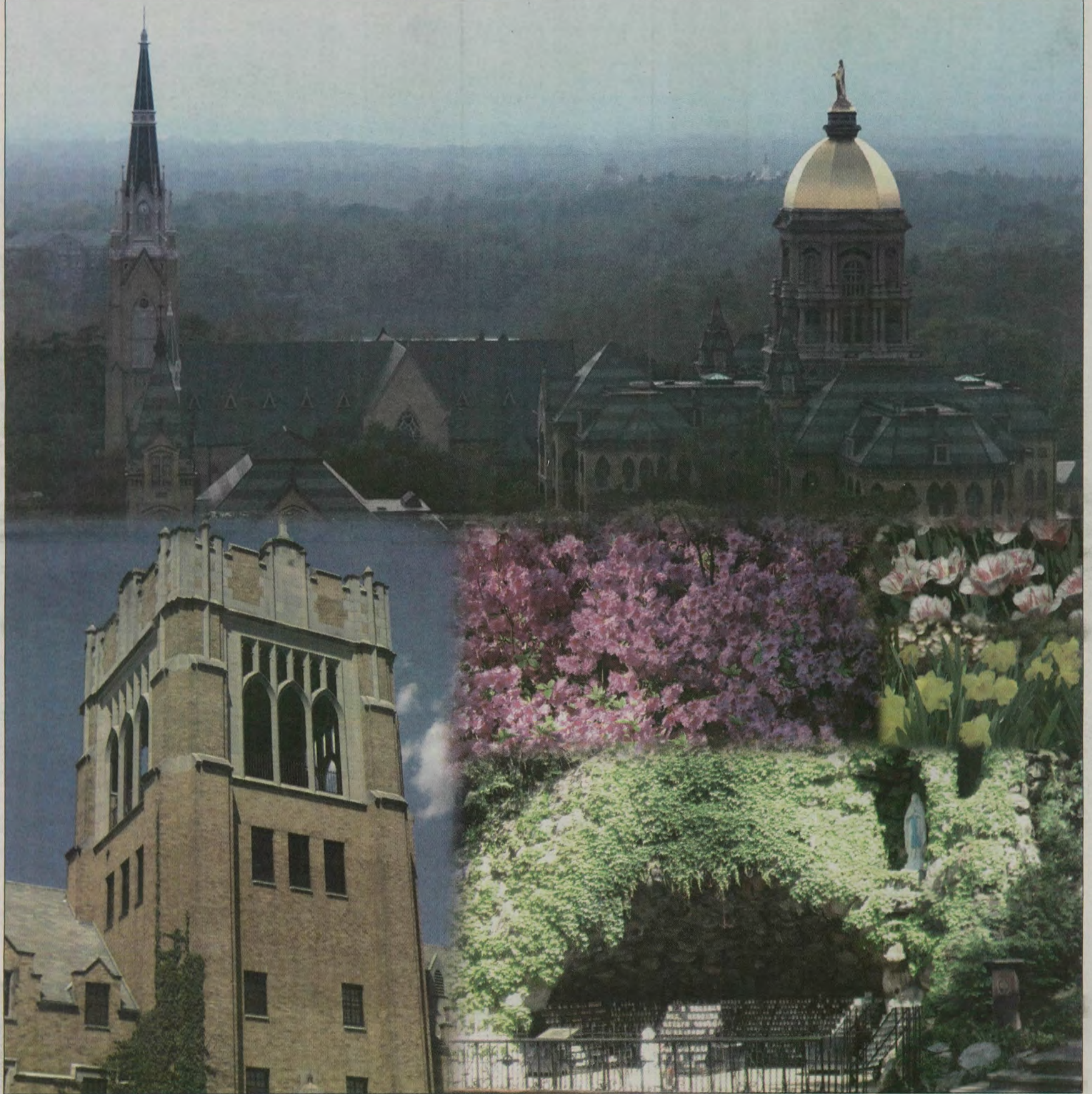


Photo illustration by Graham Ebetsch

Transition at the top

After 18 years under the direction of University President Father Edward Malloy, Notre Dame will step into a new era of leadership July 1 when University President-elect Father John Jenkins assumes the presidency.

Malloy's tenure was marked by impressive University strides in diversity, academic reputation, campus expansion

and size of the faculty and the endowment.

The presidential transition between Malloy and Jenkins is just Notre Dame's second in the last 53 years, but both men and University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh said the values and mission of Notre Dame provide a vital link between leaders.

SEE "MONK MALLOY" INSERT

Rectors leave ND

This week on campus is the last not only for the graduating seniors, but also for several University rectors. Seven rectors will not be returning to their positions in the fall, according to the Office of Student Affairs.

Kathleen Brannock of Howard Hall, Rebecca Davidson of Breen-Phillips Hall, Sister Patricia Dearbaugh of

Cavanaugh Hall, Heather Rakoczy of Pangborn Hall, Beth Skinner of McGlinn Hall, Father J. Steele of Morrissey Manor, and Sister Patricia Thomas of Walsh Hall will no longer be rectors.

The Office of Student Affairs has already started accepting applications and interviewing candidates to fill the positions.

SEE STORY PAGE 16

INSIDE COLUMN

What I learned

Forget about graduation. I almost didn't end up at Notre Dame.

Caught up in the high school mindset of believing majors were more important than the college experience, I only applied to Notre Dame when the application deadline got pushed back two weeks in January 2001.



Matt Lozar

Editor in Chief Emeritus

Looking back, it doesn't make sense (especially when my major changed two months into freshman year).

I was the first person in my family to attend Notre Dame, so the only way I learned about the traditions and aura came through books I received for Christmas presents. All I really knew was football, thanks to NBC.

Four years underneath the Golden Dome taught me so much more.

It taught me Notre Dame is about a lot more than football, and not just because our four years — minus an eight-game Return to Glory — were about the worst football sequence in school history. Yes, it's the reason Notre Dame became the national school it is today, but the academics, service and faith take this place to a whole level where other universities can't compete.

It taught me college is, despite what the parental units might say, about a lot more than grades. Think back to the freshman opening that dorm room door on Frosh-O weekend and compare it to the senior opening that door to the real world. Both are scary endeavors. Now we're a lot more prepared because of what encompasses a Notre Dame education, not that history test you didn't study for freshman year.

But most importantly I learned what Notre Dame is truly about.

It taught me Notre Dame is about the people.

It's hard to realize that until you're here — interacting with students, professors and employees on a daily basis. You can't comprehend why so many alumni, who you've never met before, will go out of their way just because you went to the same school.

Everyone has their own memories of taking road trips, partaking in football weekends, staying up until 4 a.m. on a Monday night for no reason, closing down the local watering holes, making midnight LaFun runs and doing other random funny things you and your friends will laugh about at future football games, weddings and class reunions.

This weekend when we move that tassel, turn around our rings and walk up the steps of the Main Building, we close the most formative chapter on our lives and move on to one that won't affect us as much. It's difficult to do, because the reason these four years have shaped our lives so much is because of the people we've met.

Nobody wants to say goodbye to the friends who doubled as neighbors for four years. Nobody wants to stop doing things only college students do. Nobody wants to leave the bubble.

Nobody wants to turn that page this weekend.

Unfortunately we have to.

And when we do, it's going to be tough.

The tears flowed while saying goodbye to my family on that August morning four years ago because I didn't know what was awaiting me at Notre Dame.

Throughout the weekend and as I pull away from Keough Hall on Monday they'll flow again.

This time for a different reason.

Matt Lozar is the former editor in chief of The Observer and is graduating with a degree in management information systems. This summer he will be an intern at the Baseball Hall of Fame before going to graduate school in Buffalo, N.Y. at Canisius College and studying for a degree in sports administration. He thanks his friends for the countless memories and shenanigans. He thanks the staff at The Observer for their endless hours and unmatched dedication. Finally, he thanks his mom, dad and two younger brothers for always believing in him, no matter what.

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

Commencement Weekend Events

Friday, May 13

5:30 p.m. Commencement Band Concert, DPAC, Leighton Concert Hall

8 p.m. Liturgical Choir Concert, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Graduation Dance, JACC North Dome

Saturday, May 14

9 a.m. - Noon ROTC Commissioning, JACC South Dome

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. President's Reception, Eck Center

4:30 p.m. Academic Procession, JACC South Dome

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Commencement Mass, JACC South Dome

6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. Graduation Dinner, JACC North Dome and North Dining Hall

9 p.m. Glee Club Concert, DPAC, Leighton Concert Hall

Sunday, May 15

12:30 p.m. Distribution of Diplomas, JACC North Dome

1:30 p.m. Academic Procession, JACC North Dome

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Commencement Ceremony, JACC South Dome

Friday, May 13

1 p.m. Nurses Pinning Ceremony, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

4 p.m. Baccalaureate Liturgy, Angela Athletic Facility

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Baccalaureate Dinner and Senior Reception, Student Center

Saturday, May 14

8:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Graduation Brunch, Noble Family Dining Hall

Noon Commencement Ceremony, Court of LeMans Hall

4:30 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass, Regina Chapel

Sunday, May 15

9:45, 11:15 Sunday Mass, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

SOURCE: University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College Web sites

GRAHAM EBETSCH/The Observer

Murray to receive University's Laetare Medal

By **KATE ANTONACCI**
Associate News Editor

Fifty-one years ago, Joseph E. Murray became the first surgeon to perform a successful organ transplant, removing a kidney from one brother and giving it to his identical twin brother. For this and his many other accomplishments, Murray will receive Notre Dame's 2005 Laetare Medal at Sunday's commencement ceremony.

"Human lives and hopes have been wonderfully invigorated by Joseph Murray's 1954 medical triumph," University President Father Edward Malloy said in a press release. "The genius, erudition and skill he brought to bear in the surgical arena are all gifts from God which this good doctor has made gifts to humankind."

In addition to his many scientific contributions, Murray is a man of deep Catholic faith, something the Laetare medal recognizes.

In 1962, Murray performed the first successful kidney transplant using a kidney from a donor unrelated to the patient. For the developments made in lifesaving organ and tissue transplant techniques, he won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1990.

"Dr. Murray's vision of medicine as a means to serve others, and his

deep faith in God made him an excellent candidate. His faith is what provides the context for his work and has shaped his life," said Father Peter Jarret, counselor to Malloy.

The award was created to recognize the contributions of men and women whose faith energizes their work, Jarret said.

"A candidate for the Laetare Medal must be a practicing American Catholic who is said to have made a distinctively Catholic contribution to his or her intellectual or professional life. Ideally, the person's professional life would be one of service to others," Jarret said.

The recipient of the Laetare Medal is selected by a committee comprised of representatives from different academic disciplines within the University, Jarret said on behalf of the committee.

"The committee generally solicits names from all the faculty and staff at the University, and then narrows down the field to two or three candidates. The officers of the University then vote based on the recommendations of the committee," Jarret said.

The Laetare Medal is a unique University award — it is nearly always presented to someone out-

side the University, Jarret said. "By honoring this splendid generosity, we mean to thank his benefactor, who is ours as well," Malloy said.

Established in 1883, the Laetare Medal is one of the oldest honors given to American Catholics who have made contributions to the arts and sciences in particular. Past recipients include President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day and death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean.

"There are many people — poets, artists, musicians, scientists, scholars, statesmen, priests, religious, etc. — whose professional lives are animated by their Catholic faith and who seek through their professions to make the world a better place and to give glory to God," Jarret said.

Murray, who was born in Milford, Mass., graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., with concentrations in Latin, Greek, philosophy and English. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1943. After completing his surgical training at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Murray served as a surgeon at the U.S. Army's Valley Forge General Hospital in Philadelphia from 1944-47.

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"Human lives and hopes have been wonderfully invigorated by Joseph Murray's 1954 medical triumph."

Father Edward Malloy
University President

"His faith is what provides the context for his work and has shaped his life."

Father Peter Jarret
Counselor to the President

CLASS OF 2005 FROM AROUND THE NATION



SOURCE: Department of Institutional Research factbook

GRAHAM EBETSCH/The Observer

ND brings Gregorian to speak

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

A leader, an author and a native Iranian, the multi-faceted Vartan Gregorian will address Notre Dame's 2005 graduates Sunday at the University's 160th commencement exercises.

Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation and former president of Brown University and the New York Public Library, will be the principal graduation speaker. This wide variety of high-ranking positions makes him an ideal selection, University President Father Edward Malloy said in a press release.

"In all his many roles in public life, Dr. Gregorian has displayed extraordinary leadership," Malloy said. "I know that his remarks will be an ideal capstone for [our graduates'] educational experiences on our campus."

Gregorian has served at the helm of New York's Carnegie Corporation since 1997. The corporation, which was founded in 1911, seeks to carry out founder Andrew Carnegie's vision of philanthropy, which Carnegie said should aim "to do real and permanent good in the world." Awarding

grants in four areas (education, international peace and security, international development and strengthening U.S. democracy), the corporation expects its fiscal year 2004-2005 grants to total over \$80 million.

From 1989 to 1997, Gregorian served as the president of Brown University, where he taught freshman and senior history seminars and a course on Alexis de Tocqueville. In addition, he led capital campaigns that helped triple the endowment there.

Prior to that, Gregorian served for eight years as president of the New York Public Library — a system that has four research libraries and 83 circulating libraries. He is credited with pulling the library out of financial crisis. Gregorian was born to Armenian parents in Tabriz, Iran. After receiving his elementary education there and his secondary education in Lebanon, he enrolled at Stanford University in 1956. He graduated with honors just two years later.

In 1964, he earned a doctorate in history and the humanities, also from Stanford.

Gregorian taught European and Middle Eastern history for eight years at San Francisco State College, the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Texas. He then joined the University of Pennsylvania faculty. In 1972, he became the founding dean

of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences there; in 1972, he became the provost.

Notre Dame has welcomed other academic officials in the past, such as former Yale University President Kingman Brewster, Jr. in 1972, former Harvard University President Derek Bok in 1987 and Stanford Provost (now Secretary of State) Condoleezza Rice, a Notre Dame alumna.

Father Peter Jarret, counselor to Malloy, said Notre Dame's emphasis on intellectualism in choosing commencement speakers reflects the University's values.

"Given Notre Dame's academic reputation," he said, "that's the type of person that would come here."

Gregorian has received myriad accolades and grants during his career, including honors from U.S. presidents. In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded Gregorian with the National Humanities Medal; last year, President George W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Gregorian is the author of "Emergence of Modern Afghanistan: Politics of Reform and Modernization, 1880-1946," "Islam: A Mosaic, Not a Monolith" and his autobiography, "The Road to Home."

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Squires returns to SMC to address graduates

By NICOLE ZOOK
Assistant News Editor

Not for the first time, graduating Saint Mary's seniors will hear words of wisdom from a fellow Belle during commencement.

Honorary degree recipient Janet

Endress Squires, a physician and 1972 graduate of the College, will deliver the 2005 commencement address tomorrow. Squires joins a list of notable Saint Mary's women

who have returned to their alma mater to give such a speech, including author and 2003 speaker Adriana Trigiani and last year's speaker, Xerox Vice President Diane Daly McGarry.

Commencement Committee Chair Susan Dampier, said Squires was chosen following a nearly year-long selection process.

"We send out requests for names, and they are solicited from the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff and students," she said. "That's the first step. Then the president's office reviews [candidates] and verifies their credentials."

Verified candidates are referred to the College's academic affairs council, trusteeship council of the Board of Trustees and then the full Board for further review.

Any names approved are added to a list of potential speakers for the year. However, this does not necessarily ensure an honorary degree. Names on the list remain active for up to five years, and award recipients are selected yearly by the College's president.

Dampier said Squires was "recommended many times" for her deep commitment to education and remains a "really prominent woman" and alum of the College.

Marketing Communications Director Nick Farmer said he believes Squires is an excellent choice for graduation speaker and will greatly add to the ceremony.

"Saint Mary's is proud to welcome Dr. Squires back to campus," he said. "She's a prominent physician, an educator and a strong voice for children, and I think she'll offer an inspiring message to the Class of 2005."

Squires is the director of the division of child advocacy for the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and a professor of pediatric medicine at the Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

She has been recognized nationally for her work with abused children and children with HIV after serving as director of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's pediatric HIV clinic, program for Referral and Evaluation of Abused Children (REACH) and division chief of the University's General Academic Pediatrics.

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Gregorian



Squires

THE OBSERVER

Expresses its deep *Thanks* to the following *seniors* for their hard work and *dedication* over the years.

Mary Allen
Anikka Ayala
Julie Bender
Chuy Benitez
Christie Bolsen
Andrew Borys
Andrea Brault
Jessie Cisewski
Jim Coulter

Meghanne Downes
Mike Flanagan
Teresa Fralish
Carrie Franklin
Rick Friedman
Mike Harkins
Joe Hettler
Katie Knorr
Matt Lozar

Kelly Nelson
Katy Onstad
Angela Saoud
Becca Saunders
Justin Schuver
Chad Silker
Matthew Solarski
Maria Smith
Kenyatta Storin

And wishes them the

Best of Luck
in the years to come

Eschenauer, Adams graduate at top of SMC senior class

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

For the first time in 17 years, two Saint Mary's students have been named co-valedictorians for a graduating class.

Seniors Dawn Eschenauer and Julia Adams topped the Class of 2005 rankings, which includes 368 students, with identical GPAs to the fifth decimal place. Both will deliver speeches on commencement day.

The co-valedictorians were notified about the honor several months ago, but the official announcement was made to the College community May 1 during Honors Convocation.

Eschenauer called walking up on stage during the honors ceremony, where she was also awarded the creative writing prize by the English writing department, a bit overwhelming.

"It was such a blur, I don't even remember," Eschenauer said.

A native of Corunna, Ind., Eschenauer said as a senior in high school, Saint Mary's offered her exactly what she was looking for in a college.

"I guess I just liked everything I read about it," Eschenauer said. "I liked the idea of going to a women's college, and I liked that it was small."

The philosophy and English writing major said as a first year student, she never expected to become her class valedictorian and she is very excited about the honor.

"I see it as a responsibility," Eschenauer said. "I want to represent my class really well."

As a Saint Mary's student, Eschenauer was a member of the collegiate choir and worked as a volunteer for Reading Corps.

She will begin a graduate program in philosophy in the fall at the University of Chicago.

"[I am going to miss] all of the people," Eschenauer said. "I have met the most wonderful people here, both professors and students."

Adams, a biology major and a chemistry minor, is well known among faculty and students on campus not just for her academic excellence, but also for her prowess on the golf course.

The Peoria, Ill., native is a four-year member of the Saint Mary's golf team and helped lead the team to eighth- and fourth-place finishes at the national championship in 2004 and 2003, respectively. She is also this year's MIAA low medalist and is currently competing at the national championships with her teammates in North Carolina.

Maintaining perfect grades while simultaneously competing as an athlete on the highest level required carefully balancing studying and training.

"It took a lot of discipline on my part," Adams said. "I just work to try and do my best at everything. I can never really settle if I know I can do better."

Weekends spent traveling during the spring season left Adams with what she described as a "stressful" weekday schedule of homework and studying.

"The teachers were really supportive of me missing class and doing makeup work," Adams said.

Like Eschenauer, Adams said she never anticipated being named co-valedictorian but was extremely pleased.

"I guess it just sort of happened," Adams said. "I didn't even think about it until I got the letter in the mail a couple of months ago. My parents were

excited, probably more excited than I was. They are very proud."

Adams begins medical school in the fall at Loyola of Chicago and intends to spend time abroad during service work in the medical field.

"There is a lot I am going to miss [about Saint Mary's]," Adams said. "I am definitely going to miss competitive golf. And I am going to miss the beautiful environment and my friends. ... It has been great."

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ERIN VRANISH AND CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Dawn Eschenauer, left, and Julia Adams, who carry identical GPAs to the fifth decimal place, will both deliver speeches at the College's commencement ceremony Saturday.



(Even ALL of Mom's.)



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Schaerer selected to give ND's 2005 valedictory address

By KATE ANTONACCI

Associate News Editor

Researching alone in the basement of Malloy Hall, senior Enrique Schaerer "just about got up and did a dance" upon reading the e-mail notifying him of his selection as the University's 2005 Valedictorian.

"As you can imagine, I was beside myself with joy," Schaerer said. "I thought to myself, 'Wow! This is one of those truly big moments in life! 'Thrilled' would be an understatement."

The political science and finance double major boasts a perfect 4.0 G.P.A., a reflection of his dedication to his academic career over the last four years.

"It's funny, people sometimes get the impression that I study all the time. Nothing could be further from the truth," Schaerer said. "Needless to say, I do work hard in school. I take my studies very seriously. But I'm one of those 'work hard, play hard' kind of guys."

Schaerer was chosen from an original pool of 16 other exemplary students, some of whom chose not to compete. The group was narrowed down to the top three candidates, and following a process he described as "rigorous, albeit straightforward and well organized," Schaerer was chosen.

Candidates were invited to

participate in the nomination process just before spring break and all résumés, letters of recommendation and speeches were required to be submitted by the first week of April, Schaerer said.

"I am very excited about my speech. It is not your typical valedictory address. I think it celebrates Notre Dame while challenging the University to strive for great excellence and more inclusiveness," Schaerer said. "The speech speaks directly to my own values and beliefs, so it did not take me too long to write. It sort of flowed organically from my own experiences."

Schaerer said the main themes of his speech are community and diversity.

"I really hope to move some hearts on Sunday," he said.

As the son of 1981 immigrants to America, Schaerer was the first member of his family to attend Notre Dame.

"Truth be told, I wanted to be valedictorian more for [my family] than for myself," Schaerer said. "I think my achievements are a testament to my upbringing, to the discipline and love with which my parents raised me. They were the ones who first taught me to dream big dreams."

While at Notre Dame, Schaerer was involved in numerous extracurricular activities. As a freshman and sophomore, Schaerer held Class Council positions, was active in the Student

International Business Council and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. In his senior year, he served as Resident Assistant in O'Neill Family Hall. An avid runner, Schaerer hopes to compete in his fourth marathon next spring.

"I also held two research assistant positions in philosophy/biology and political science," Schaerer said.

For his philosophy and biology work, he was advised by Professor Kristin Shrader Frechette. Professor Anthony Messina served as his thesis advisor.

Schaerer was recently awarded the Helen Kellogg Prize for best senior thesis in the field of comparative politics for his work on immigration and political extremism in Spain.

Schaerer was also involved with service work through the Center for Social Concerns, which helped him become a mentor to disadvantaged children at the local youth center, La Casa de Amistad.

Following graduation, Schaerer will head to New Haven, Connecticut, where he will begin Yale Law School in the fall.

"The people there are amazing, and I am very much looking forward to this next step in my life," Schaerer said. "My political science and finance background will serve me well in law school, since my interests are so eclectic — interna-



FRANCESCA SETA/The Observer

Schaerer, whose speech will focus on the themes of diversity and community, will attend Yale Law School in the fall.

tional, corporate, labor relations, civil rights and immigration law."

Though excited about beginning a new chapter in his life, Schaerer said he will miss Notre Dame, the school he originally chose for the "close-knit community with a good sense of balance."

"I will miss the people the most. I have met some remarkable people here at

Notre Dame over the past several years," Schaerer said. "Here, people encourage active participation in not only academics, but also athletics, social events and spiritual activities. This is the right place to grow as a whole person, to become a well-rounded human being."

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu



Congratulations Lewis Hall Class of 2005



Danita Altfillisch
Gabby Anchondo
Kelly Anderson
Stacy Arbogast
Melissa Asher
Jalana Ballen
Donna Bauters
Jessica Beguin
Erin Blondel
Erin Boedeker
Gale Bowman
Kate Broum
Allison Buckley
Megan Buller
Lindsay Clark
Kathryn Colarco
Erin Cox
Jennifer Crawford
Blair Daus
Sheila Dawes
Margaret Doig

Catie Dunn
Jenny Eck
Danny Elson
Alejandra
Fabrega
Cara Farr
Petula Fernandes
Teresa Fralish
Erin Fox
Jessica Freeman
Stephanie Garza
Holly Gilbertson
Patricia Guzmán
Bridget Harrington
Diane Heilmann
Katie Hench
Ana Ibarra
Amy Isenberg
Meredith
Jakabowski
Jill Joehl
Jeneya Johnson
Meg Jones

Best of Luck! We'll miss you!

Nicole Kennedy-Villafañe
Meredith Kenney
Amy Kern
Kasey Kincaid
Ashley Koger
Catherine Lam
Jennifer
Liebenauer
Eileen Magno
Erica Martin
Keri Matwick
Kelsi Matwick
Melissa McGrady
Caroline Meehan
Ashley Merusi
Cassandra Meyer

Christine Mingione
Jane Mitsch
Kristen Mizzi
Beth Monteleone
Kate Musica
Amanda Murillo
Beth Murphy
Brenda Natzke
Maggie Nolan
Ashlee O'Donnell
Sarah Paulson
Patte Phan
Jacqueline
Pimentel-Gannon
Rachel Polinski
Paulina Presa
Beth Riesterer
Christine Rochel
Katie Rokosz
Corinne Roman
Mary Ronan
Kate Rumsey

Vanessa Sunshine
Meredith Sweeney
Lynn Tedesco
Hillary Schwarb
Sarah Sheehan
Rashelle Simpson
Deanna Sortino
Katie Solan
Cara Spicer
Latasha Kaye
Steele
Annelise Sucato
Eli Tefel
Janette Theis
Lindsay Till
Arianne Watkins
Cara Williams
Jacque Wilson
Claire Wissler
Lisa Wohl
Evangelica Woo
Dayna Vayhinger



Four-star general Martin to swear in new ROTC officers

By NICOLE ZOOK
Assistant News Editor

While many graduating Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students have dedicated the next year of their lives to service, a select group of young men and women will be undertaking four or more years of a completely different kind of service after graduation — military service.

Eighty senior members of the Notre Dame Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps units will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants or ensigns Saturday in a public, tri-military ceremony. Air Force Major William Zimmerman said the ceremony is "steeped in tradition."

"It's a great ceremony for family and friends to recognize all the hard work they have done for the last four years," he said.

Air Force ROTC will commission 35 new Lieutenants, while Army ROTC will commission 19 and Navy ROTC will commission 24 ensigns, the first officer rank. The Marine Corps plans to commission two Second Lieutenants Saturday. Their names have not yet been released.

During the joint ceremony, seniors entering all four branches of the military will take their oath of office together, which Naval Lieutenant Tim Joyce said will firmly place the responsibility of protecting the nation on their shoulders.

"A commission is a commission of an office conferred upon the individual," Joyce said. "[It's] not accepting an honor, but freely accepting the responsibility of that office. You're serving the greater good of the [military] itself."

Four-star General Gregory S. Martin, commander of the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, will swear in the new officers. Martin graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1970 and earned his master's degree in business management from Central Michigan University.

During his extensive military education, Martin completed Air Command and Staff College, National Security Management and the National War College. He is a master parachutist and command pilot, having flown in 161 combat missions and commanded the 67th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 479th Tactical Training Wing and 33rd and 1st fighter wings.

Before assuming his command at Wright-Patterson, Martin served as commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Allied Air Forces in Northern Europe. He is highly decorated, having earned the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Distinguished and Superior Service Medals, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Medal of Commander of Order and Valor, Gold Medal of Merit, Legion of Honor, Cross of Merit and NATO Meritorious Service Medal.

"[Martin] will officiate over the ceremony," Army Major Gary Masapollo said. "The

general will raise his right hand and swear all four service branches in together."

Cadets and midshipmen will then walk across the stage individually to shake Martin's hand and have their branches and first assignments announced.

According to Masapollo and Zimmerman, assignments could include everything from pilot training to reserve duty, sending graduates to climes as varied as Hawaii, South Carolina, Kansas, Alaska, England and Japan.

Graduating Notre Dame senior Midshipman Chris Heck said he is eagerly anticipating beginning his assignment at Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida for flight school.

"I am looking forward to serving my country, as well as starting my aviation career," he said. "All I've ever wanted

to do was to fly, and what better way than through the Navy, where you get the world's best training while making a positive difference in the world?"

Saint Mary's senior Michelle Stanforth, also in Navy ROTC, will train at Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer school in San Diego in June before heading to her first station in Pearl Harbor. She called the commissioning ceremony a "transition" for graduating seniors and said she understands the responsibility it will confer upon her classmates.

"It's honestly overwhelming. I think the best word for it is anxious," she said. "I am excited to move on, to be a commissioned officer, to be able to head on into new and exciting experiences, yet I'm nervous for all that awaits in

this transition — the reality that we are at war, that my job is one that greatly affects the lives of others, and that it means moving away from all that I have been familiar with."

Stanforth also said she feels that attending Saint Mary's for the past four years will have a significant positive impact on her new role as a military officer.

"It has been at Saint Mary's that I have better developed confidence in myself — not just as a person, but as a woman. I have come to better know who I am, what I stand for and in what direction I want to continue to grow in," she said. "I have been blessed here with the Saint Mary's/Notre Dame community in that I have been surrounded by not just fellow students, but a family, one that has inspired me to discover myself and grow through relationships with others. It is this confidence, these relationships and this sense of family that will stay

with me and make me a stronger leader."

Stanforth, ranked third female midshipman in the nation, is just one example of the Notre Dame ROTC program's stellar servicemember production.

"[Notre Dame is] one of the top 15 percent of the nation," Masapollo said. "Our individual students are a reflection of the figures."

Joyce, a 1999 Notre Dame graduate, said Notre Dame students possess the qualities necessary to become excellent military leaders and that they are taught the idea of service extends to the military.

"From all the schools around here [Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Valparaiso, IUSB and Bethel], we obviously get the best and the brightest, and it leads that our cadets are going to do great things," Zimmerman said. "I could see some of these people reaching stars."

Contact Nicole Zook at zook8928@saintmarys.edu



GALA-ND/SMC

THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AND SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

The Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College

Congratulates

all the lesbian, gay, bi and transgender graduates of 2005,
and their graduating friends and supporters...

and Welcomes

you, your family and friends into our strong and growing alumni organization.

GALA-ND/SMC (Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College) is an educational non-profit membership organization with nearly 1000 members representing alumni, faculty, staff and families of the University and College. GALA-ND/SMC has no official affiliation with—and receives no financial support from—the University or College. Our strength and support comes from our membership. To receive your welcoming first-year membership packet and for more information about our organization, visit our web site at: <http://galandsmc.org/> e-mail us at: administrator@galandsmc.org or write us at: GALA-ND/SMC, P.O.Box 1651, New York, NY 10185-1651

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FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 13, 2005

The top 10 Observer news stories from the 2001-05 academic years

page 7

1



Campus responds to terrorist attacks

September 11, 2001

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's responded in a dramatic fashion to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania.

Classes were cancelled mid-session as representatives from the registrar's office visited individual classrooms. Seven thousand students and faculty attended a Mass on South Quad at 3 p.m. on the day of the attacks, which was concelebrated by all campus priests and Auxiliary Bishop John D'Arcy. Throughout the day, students streamed to the Grotto and students

took advantage of free cab service to donate blood.

Phone lines and Internet connections at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's were overwhelmed as students called home to check on their families and friends.

Like all athletic events nationwide, Notre Dame's football game against Purdue on the following Saturday was cancelled as the nation mourned the loss of thousands of citizens. At the Sept. 22 home football game against Michigan State, the entire stadium paused as University President Father

Edward Malloy said a prayer and fans raised printed American flags into the sky in an event televised nationwide by NBC Sports.

Four alumni were killed in the attacks: Robert Ferris, class of 1962, who worked on the 102nd floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center; Army Lieutenant Colonel S. Neil Hyland Jr., class of 1977, who worked at the Pentagon; and Peter Batacan, class of 1983, and Dora Marie Menchaca, class of 1977, who were killed on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon.

2

Malloy steps down as president



University President Father Edward Malloy announced at the spring Board of Trustees meeting that he intends to step down June 30, 2005 after serving his 18th year as president. The Board chose Father John Jenkins from among several candidates to succeed Malloy as the University's 17th president.

April 30, 2004

3

Mooney chosen to succeed Eldred



The Saint Mary's Board of Trustees selected Notre Dame vice president and associate provost Carol Mooney as the 11th president of the College on Dec. 26. College President Marilou Eldred announced her retirement in March 2003, which launched a nine-month search process for her successor.

December 26, 2003

4

New alcohol policy unveiled



Father Mark Poorman introduced sweeping changes to the alcohol policy including a ban on hard liquor, a cancellation of in-hall dances and a revision of the tailgating policy to allow of-age students to host tailgate parties in specified lots. The decision sparked much controversy amongst students and within student government.

March 18, 2002

5

Dome scaffolding provokes uproar

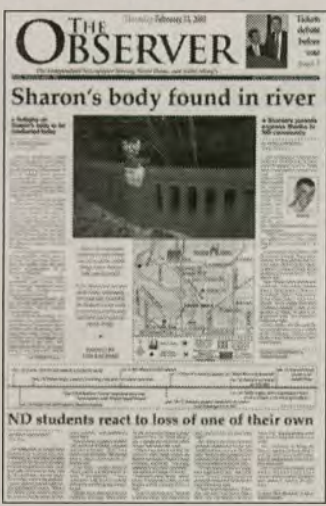


On March 7, the Golden Dome began to undergo its first regilding since 1988. A rift between seniors and the administration grew, but was lessened when Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves agreed the scaffolding could be partially removed for graduation.

March 30, 2005

6

Freshman's death stuns University



Chad Sharon, a freshman from Fisher Hall, disappeared Dec. 12, 2002 after attending a party on Corby Street. Following an extensive two-month search headed by Notre Dame Security/Police, construction workers found his body floating in the St. Joseph's River under the Angela Bridge.

February 12, 2003

7

Boat Club busted by excise police



Police raided The Boat Club early in the morning Jan. 24. More than 200 citations were issued to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. The bar was known as a popular underage drinking haven for students on both campuses. Many of those who were cited were also sued by the owner of the club.

January 24, 2003

8

Elam convicted of sexual battery



Abram Elam, one of four football players accused of sexual assault in March 2002, was found guilty of sexual battery on Aug. 30. However, he was acquitted of conspiracy to commit rape and criminal deviate conduct. Donald Dykes was found not guilty on all charges and the other two players' suits were dropped.

August 30, 2003

9

Scully resigns as executive VP



Executive Vice President Father Timothy Scully resigned May 2 due to an apparent power struggle in the University's leadership. A report investigating Scully's behavior, including his confrontation with a reporter, was to be delivered to trustees and would have cleared him of wrongdoing.

May 3, 2003

10

'Gay? Fine by Me' held on campus



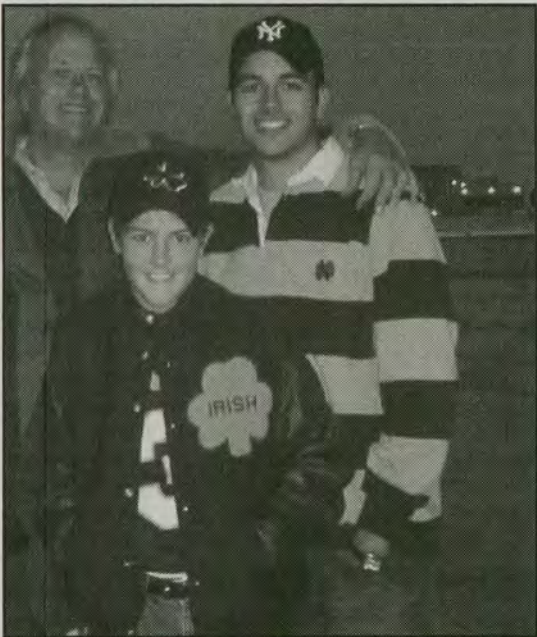
On March 18, approximately 1,700 blaze orange T-shirts with the message "Gay? Fine by Me" were worn by students and faculty members. Distributed in demonstration of solidarity with homosexual members of the Notre Dame community, the shirts prompted campus-wide debate.

March 18, 2004

Muslim professor's visa revoked. Ebersol, dad hurt in plane crash, brother dies. Provost to leave for Wake Forest.

The Year

2004 ♦



By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
News Writer

Tariq Ramadan's visa revoked

Tariq Ramadan, a prominent but controversial Muslim scholar scheduled to teach at the University last fall, had his visa revoked by the State Department July 28 and as a result did not come to Notre Dame.

Ramadan was hired in last spring to raise the profile and diversify the curriculum of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and was initially granted a visa after passing a thorough investigation by both the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department.

Dean Boyd, Homeland Security spokesman, did not comment on the specifics of the decision made about Ramadan, a Swiss citizen, and University spokesman Matt Storin said he did not know why Ramadan was not allowed in the country.

Ramadan had been accused by Jewish groups in France and the United States of spreading anti-Semitic and Islamic militant ideas. Kroc director Scott Appleby said it seemed as though the visa revocation was a last-second political move by Ramadan's opponents.

University President Father Edward Malloy expressed frustration about the situation. Notre Dame was not given a reason for the denial of the visa, and Malloy said Ramadan was not informed either. However, a senior government official was anonymously quoted in The New York Times, saying that the recommendation to revoke the visa was not based on Ramadan's beliefs, but on "his actions." Storin said he did not know what actions the official was referring to.

The scholar reapplied for a work visa to teach at Notre Dame after he was encouraged by the University to do so, but he never did teach at Notre Dame this year, as he resigned from the faculty Dec. 13 with no word from the State Department with regards to his visa.

SafeBus plan does not come to fruition

Despite student government's efforts, SafeBus, a key component of then-student body president Adam Istvan and vice president Karla Bell's administrative plans, did not materialize.

The proposal was that a University-sponsored bus, SafeBus, would shuttle students to and from off-campus locations. Initially, the proposal called for the bus to run from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. on 30-minute intervals and make approximately 10 stops at campus and various bars and apartment complexes.

Istvan and Bell took this proposal to the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees, where it was met with harsh criticism. The Board questioned the timing, feasibility and logistics of the SafeBus plan, saying that Istvan and Bell should not have broached the topic with trustees before pursuing the plan through usual student

government and University channels. Trustees also said the proposal sounded too much like other van systems that failed in the past at Notre Dame. They cited concerns of student behavior on the buses as well as the question of who would staff them, saying that the University and Notre Dame Security/Police could not tolerate underage drinking.

After the Board of Trustees meeting, Istvan and Bell took the Board's suggestion to pursue a contract with a private bus company, contacting Transpo, which currently provides bus service to students. However, this never materialized and SafeBus fell by the wayside mostly due to liability issues.

Ebersol family involved in plane crash

Notre Dame senior Charlie Ebersol survived a November charter plane crash that killed his youngest brother Teddy, 14, and two crewmen and injured his father, NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol.

The crash happened during takeoff in Montrose, Colo., as the Ebersols were returning to South Bend Nov. 28 after a gathering at the Notre Dame football game that Saturday against the University of Southern California, where son Willie Ebersol, 18, is a freshman. The family had stopped in Colorado to drop off Dick Ebersol's wife, actress Susan Saint James of the 1980s television series "Kate and Allie."

The private jet, carrying six people, crashed during takeoff from Montrose Regional airport, which is located approximately 185 miles southwest of Denver and serves the Telluride Ski Area.

The plane skidded sideways after impact, ripping off the cockpit and one of the wings, an eyewitness told the Associated Press.

Teddy Ebersol was ejected from the plane and died instantly, Montrose County Coroner Mark Young told the Montrose Daily Press, and Dick Ebersol was pulled out of the wreckage by Charlie Ebersol.

Teddy Ebersol's body was found the Monday after the crash underneath the wreckage following an extensive search of the wooded crash site, Young said.

Charlie Ebersol, 21, played a vocal role in Notre Dame student government, twice running for student body president and losing by narrow margins in 2003 and 2004. During the 2003-04 term, he served as manager of the Student Union Board and was a member of the Council of Representatives.

Dick Ebersol, 57, became president of NBC Sports in 1989, and most recently worked with Notre Dame football to nationally televise home games on NBC. In December 2003, he, athletic director Kevin White and Malloy worked to a sign a contract extension through 2010.

Notre Dame makes controversial football coaching change

For the first time ever, Notre Dame fired its football coach before his original contract expired, ousting Tyrone

Willingham after three seasons at the helm of the Irish Nov. 30.

Willingham, the first black head coach in any sport at Notre Dame, was fired by Notre Dame's senior leadership after a 21-15 career record.

The firing of Willingham sparked much debate on campus, including a protest by approximately 30-40 ethnic minority students on the steps of the Main Building. They carried posters reading "\$ cost ND its integrity," "Never before, never again" and "We want Ty back."

Chandra Johnson, assistant to Malloy, shaved her head to protest the firing, saying she would remain bald until the Irish win a national championship. She said the firing process was flawed and that as a result, diversity at the University will suffer. T-shirts critical of Notre Dame and in support of Willingham were also distributed.

Malloy said he was embarrassed to be the president of Notre Dame after Willingham was fired, saying that he did not make the decision to terminate the coach. Malloy and University President-elect Father John Jenkins had a policy in place that decisions that affected Notre Dame post-July 1 (Jenkins' takeover date) would fall to Jenkins.

New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis was hired Dec. 12 to replace Willingham after a widely publicized coaching search. Weis, a 1978 graduate of the University, balanced both jobs until after the Super Bowl, which the Patriots won.

After Weis was hired, Malloy said the new coach had his full support.

Hatch to take over at Wake Forest

University Provost Nathan Hatch, the second-ranking officer in the Notre Dame administration, said in January he will leave the University July 1 to become the president of Wake Forest University.

Hatch, who joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1975, has overseen Notre Dame's academic affairs as provost since 1996. He replaces Thomas Hearn, Jr., who announced his retirement from Wake Forest last April after serving as president since 1983.

Hatch cited the fact that Wake Forest has a similar environment to Notre Dame as one of the factors that attracted him there. The University, located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has an enrollment of 6,500 students, smaller than Notre Dame, but has religious roots, as it was founded as a Baptist institution but became independent in the 1980s.

Hatch served as the associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters from 1983-88 and the acting dean in 1988-89. He was also elected as the University's vice president for graduate studies and research in 1989 before he became provost.

Notre Dame has not named a new provost, and Jenkins, head of the search committee, said it is unlikely Hatch's replacement will be identified before July

Summer 2004 - Notre Dame decides not to renew the athletic department's \$50,000 yearly sponsorship agreement with Taco Bell because of concerns raised by the Progressive Student Alliance.



August 2004 - For the second straight year, Notre Dame tops the Princeton Review's "Alternative Lifestyles Not An Alternative" category.

August 2004 - Due to rising numbers of both seniors staying on campus and accepted female freshman, most women's dorms faced an overcrowding crisis this year. Subsequently, the Office of Residence Life was forced to convert every available study lounge into a livable space and raise many double occupancy rooms to triples.

Sept. 30, 2004 - First Year of Studies Dean Eileen Kolman announces she will retire in June after her third five-year contract expires.

Oct. 7, 2004 - The Board of Trustees harshly questions the timing, feasibility and logistics of student government's Notre Dame SafeBus proposal. The idea was one of the major platforms of the leadership of student body president Adam Istvan and vice president Karla Bell.

Nov. 27, 2004 - Notre Dame's football team is defeated by USC 48-10. It is widely reported that the loss prompted a meeting with University President-elect Father John Jenkins and selected members of the Board of Trustees to discuss the possibility of a new football coach.

2004

July 28, 2004 - The State Department revokes the visa of Tariq Ramadan, a prominent but controversial Muslim scholar scheduled to teach Islamic philosophy and ethics this fall at Notre Dame.



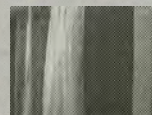
Compiled from Observer reports

Sept. 12, 2004 - Ryan O'Connor, a 2002 Notre Dame graduate, was struck and killed by a car driven by a Saint Mary's sophomore when he ran into the street after leaving a local bar.



Sept. 16, 2004 - A University-issued van driven by a freshman on the Irish men's golf team is hit and totaled by a semi truck on Interstate 80, injuring one of the six team members in the vehicle.

Nov. 8, 2004 - A male is reported to be in Pasquerilla West during the hours of 7 and 8 a.m., apparently vandalizing the dorm with obscenities and frightening several residents.



Nov. 28, 2004 - Notre Dame senior Charlie Ebersol survives a plane crash that injured his father, NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol, and killed his youngest brother Teddy Ebersol, 14, and two crewmen in Montrose, Colo.



Trustee charged with domestic battery. Dome begins regilding, seniors speak out. Monk remembered in last year.

in Review

♦ 2005

1. Jenkins also said that if necessary, the search could extend until next fall with an interim or acting provost filling the role temporarily.

Trustee charged with battery, resigns post

Former Notre Dame football All-American and trustee Dave Duerson was charged with assaulting his wife Feb. 3 at the Morris Inn and as a result resigned his post on the Board of Trustees.

Duerson, a University trustee since 2001, voluntarily resigned his post after the incident and is no longer the president of the Monogram Club, where his term was set to expire in June.

He was charged with two counts of battery and two counts of domestic battery, each a class A misdemeanor.

According to the prosecutor's supplemental affidavit on the case, Duerson allegedly struck his wife, Alicia Duerson, and pushed her out of their hotel room early that morning. She was treated at a local hospital and released.

The Duersons were on campus for the winter Board of Trustees meeting, and Dave Duerson, a member of the Board's Student Affairs Committee and Audit Committee, did not attend either of the trustees' scheduled sessions.

Dave Duerson deferred his initial court date for the misdemeanor assault charges until April 28.

Dave Duerson, a 1983 Notre Dame graduate, is the founder, president and CEO of Duerson Foods, LLC, a high-volume meat processor for major restaurants and retail chains. He got into business after winning two Super Bowls in the NFL with the Chicago Bears (1985) and New York Giants (1990) and earning NFL Man of the Year honors in 1987.

Dave Duerson also received the prestigious Sorin Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association in 2001.

He was well-known on campus for his pointed remarks about Notre Dame football, criticizing the administration for the firing of Willingham. Before that, he was part of the Monogram Club's letter to the University that criticized the way the football program was managed.

Transition occurs at the top of the Church

Pope John Paul II passed away in April after 26 years at the helm of the Catholic Church, and Notre Dame honored his papacy with memorial services across campus. The pope, who was well-known for his World Youth Days, was honored in rosary prayers, Masses and vespers at Notre Dame.

Students from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's who were studying abroad flocked to St. Peter's Square to witness John Paul II's last days.

John Paul II was remembered at Notre Dame for his worldliness and his many travels. Notre Dame professors were featured in major publications as well as on major networks to talk about John Paul II and to ponder his successor as the papal conclave met.

Father Virgilio Eilzondo, a visiting professor in Notre Dame's Latino studies department, recounted his visit with the pope in 1987 in San Antonio, Texas.

Notre Dame had University representatives at the funeral in Rome — the Superior General of the Congregazione Di Santa Croce, Very Reverend Hugh Cleary, his two assistants and Father Carl Ebey, the procurator general of the Congregation.

Eventually, the traditional white smoke arose, and German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was chosen as the 265th pope. Taking the name of Benedict XVI, the new pope was seen by Notre Dame and Saint Mary's professors as a very conservative choice.

Ratzinger was described as a Vatican insider by some professors, and others saw him as an intellectual person and a thoughtful, spiritual individual.

Dome regilding sparks debate

Notre Dame announced the Friday before spring break that the Golden Dome was going to be regilded for the 10th time in school history. The project, with an initial cost of \$300,000, was necessary due to the deteriorating conditions of the Dome, according to University officials.

The fact that the process would not be completed until next fall prompted a severe backlash from the senior class, as many students were upset that the Dome would be covered in scaffolding for their May graduation.

Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves initially said there was no other way to do the repairs, saying that the landmark suffered structural damages and needed immediate attention. Senior class president Darrell Scott met with Affleck-Graves in late March with a proposal to take down the scaffolding one week before graduation day, allowing the Dome to be visible for commencement. Then, the day after, the scaffolding would be rebuilt. Scott estimated this would add two weeks to the process.

However, Affleck-Graves said the contractors estimated it would push the regilding back past the deadline of Oct. 1. Then on April 7, it was announced that the scaffolding would be partially removed in time for graduation so that the Dome itself could be visible in its entirety. As a result, workers will be working longer hours so that an Oct. 1 completion date is ensured.

That compromise was what Scott and student body president Adam Istvan initially requested, but due to a miscommunication, Affleck-Graves thought they wanted the scaffolding removed from the drum of the Dome as well.

He continued to work behind the scenes and eventually came up with this compromise, which Scott, Istvan and the senior class appreciated and welcomed.

After the agreement was reached, NDSP began an all-night guard at the base of the Main Building after it was reported that students were climbing the scaffolding. Officers cited safety concerns as their main reason for doing so.

New Student Center opens at Saint Mary's

After months of anticipation, the new Student Center opened at Saint Mary's the Sunday after spring break.

The three-story building houses more than a dozen offices, including the Shaheen Bookstore, First Source Bank, campus ministry and student government. It is also home to meeting rooms and conference rooms for student groups such as student government, the Blue Mantle and a work area for The Observer. There is also a new women's resource center to supplement the current LeMans Hall space.

Construction began in early 2004 on the Student Center, and work on the interior was almost finished in February. Students now enter the dining hall through the main entrance of the Student Center.

The new bookstore in the Student Center is twice the size of the old one, and as a result, students should expect to see double the merchandise.

The Student Center is also home to a cyber café, where students have wireless Internet access. The café has grab-and-go style meals as well as an outdoor patio facing LeMans.

In addition to these offices, the Student Center is home to the President's Dining Room, which has space for dining with about 60 visiting dignitaries and guests, a preparation area for catering and a terrace.

Malloy was also honored at a farewell Mass April 17, when all dorm Masses were cancelled so that students could attend the campus-wide Mass. More than 3,000 people gathered in the Joyce Center to honor Malloy.

During the Mass, Malloy spoke of the historical significance of the presidential transition between him and Jenkins, as it is only Notre Dame's second in the last 53 years. Student body president Dave Baron paid tribute to Malloy on behalf of the students, presenting three images of Malloy. The first was a gatekeeper, saying Malloy made the campus a welcoming place. The second was a cardboard cutout of Malloy playing basketball for Notre Dame, carried by senior class president Darrell Scott. The final was Malloy's nickname, "Monk," which Baron used as a symbol of his spirituality.

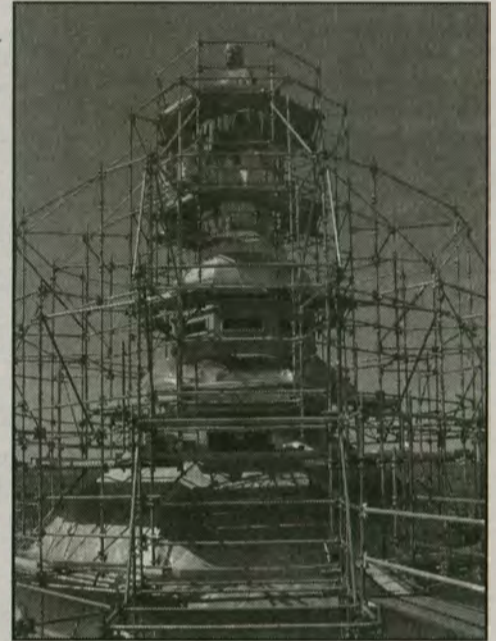
Jenkins takes over as University president on July 1.

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Jenkins takes over as University president on July 1.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



Nov. 30, 2004 - For the first time ever, Notre Dame fires its football coach before his original contract expired, firing Tyrone Willingham after three seasons. The firing of Willingham, Notre Dame's first black head coach in any sport, sparks controversy on campus with students and faculty.

Dec. 14, 2004 - New England Patriots offensive coordinator and 1978 Notre Dame graduate Charlie Weis is hired as Notre Dame's 28th head football coach.

GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

Jan. 14, 2005 - Keough freshman Dan Kish, 19, dies in an Indianapolis hospital after complications during heart surgery to implant a pacemaker.

Jan. 21, 2005 - University Provost Nathan Hatch, the second-ranking officer in the Notre Dame administration, is named president at Wake Forest University after 30 years at Notre Dame.

Feb. 8, 2005 - Student Government launches a free, one-month trial of the College Readership program. The New York Times, USA Today and the Chicago Tribune were made available to students each day in 14 locations on campus.

Feb. 10, 2005 - Notre Dame announces a 7 percent tuition increase for next year, an increase of \$2,622. Saint Mary's will increase tuition next year by 4 percent.

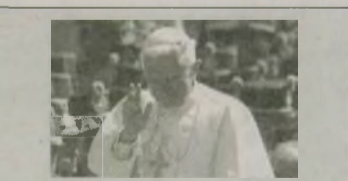
March 4, 2005 - President George W. Bush speaks about Social Security at the Joyce Center in a non-University sponsored event.

Feb. 16, 2005 - Vagina Monologues author Eve Ensler speaks on campus, triggering protests.

April 5, 2005 - Faculty Senate announces the formation of a committee tasked with creating a new mechanism for students to review courses.

April 19, 2005 - Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger is elected successor to Pope John Paul II and takes the name Pope Benedict XVI.

April 2, 2005 - Pope John Paul II dies after a 26-year term as pope. Students abroad in Rome flock to St. Peter's Square, and the University sends representatives to the funeral.



2005

April 22, 2005 - Assistant Director of Notre Dame Security/Police Chuck Hurley is fired by the University for allegedly being untruthful in an investigation in which former Notre Dame trustee Dave Duerson was charged with an incident at the Morris Inn.

GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

ND, SMC to present honorary degrees to 18 figures

By KATE ANTONACCI and NICOLE ZOOK

Associate and Assistant News Editors

In addition to the original 13 honorary degrees to be awarded at Notre Dame's May 15 commencement ceremony, University officials announced that outgoing University President Father Edward Malloy and outgoing University Provost Nathan Hatch will also be honored with degrees.

Malloy has served as University president since 1987. In his 18-year tenure, the percentage of minority students more than doubled, University-administered financial aid saw a 1,000-fold increase, 27 new buildings were erected and 20 others were renovated. On a global level, Malloy was involved in discussions about the implementation of Ex Corde Ecclesiae, Pope John Paul II's 1990 statement on Catholic higher education.

Malloy led the Notre Dame community through difficult times, such as Sept. 11, 2001, a bus accident involving the women's swim team in 1992, which killed two students, and the removal of two executive vice presidents.

Hatch, who first joined the University's faculty in 1975, will become president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., on July 1. Hatch is the third person to serve as provost, the No. 2 officer of the University after the president, since the position was created in 1970.

"I'm just extremely grateful for the close working relationship that I've had with Nathan [Hatch] and the quality of the leadership he's

provided, the people he has hired and attracted to Notre Dame, and I really think he's going to be a superb leader of Wake Forest as the president," Malloy said.

Malloy credited Hatch with a significant portion of Notre Dame's recent successes.

"Let me assure you, if you do a history of the most recent part of Notre Dame," Malloy said, "Nathan deserves a very important role or credit for a lot of good things that have gone on."

In addition to Malloy, Hatch and commencement speaker Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation, Notre Dame will honor distinguished figures — three women and 10 men — for their contributions in fields ranging from business, law and science to medicine, sports and entertainment, said Dennis Brown, associate director of news and information.

Honorary degrees are ways of recognizing and honoring the accomplishments of various individuals. Students, faculty and staff members are all allowed to nominate a person for an honorary degree.

"Each of the colleges submits recommendations for honorary degree recipients, and other suggestions can be submitted by anyone within the campus community," Brown said.

During the process, Malloy and several officers then narrow down the group of nominees. They make the final decisions, which usually consists of 10 to 12 individuals who do not necessarily have a connection to the University, Brown said.

Hank Aaron, the all-time leader

for career runs in Major League Baseball who was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1982, will receive a doctorate of laws.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, a Nigerian who was considered a strong papal candidate before Pope Benedict XVI was selected and has been instrumental in promoting inter-religious dialogue, will also receive a doctorate of laws.

Benjamin Carson, one of the top brain surgeons in the world known for successfully separating Siamese twins joined at the back of the head in 1987, will receive a doctorate of science.

Judge Robert Carter, a U.S. District Court judge for the Southern District of New York known for his involvement in the civil rights movement, will receive a doctorate of laws.

Robert Conway, Class of 1966, a senior director at Goldman Sachs who also serves on Notre Dame's Board of Trustees, will receive a doctorate of laws.

Jack Greenberg, a well-known lawyer who was active in the civil rights movement and has argued 40 cases before the Supreme Court, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, will receive a doctorate of laws.

Joseph Keller, a well-known mathematician who has contributed significantly to the world of engineering and science, will receive a doctorate of science.

Sonia Manzano, a writer, producer and actress who has played Maria on "Sesame Street" for over 30 years, will receive a doctorate of laws.

James Morris, executive director of the United Nations World Food

Program, the world's largest food aid organization, will receive a doctorate of laws.

Anne Mulcahy, the CEO and chair of the board of Xerox, will receive a doctorate of laws.

Steven Sample, president of the University of Southern California and well-known electrical engineer, will receive a doctorate of engineering.

1979 graduate Carol Lally Shields, associate director of oncology at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia who captained the Notre Dame women's basketball team three times, will receive a doctorate of science.

Joseph Walther, a decorated U.S. Army Air Force surgeon in World War II who founded the non-profit research organization Walther Cancer Institute of Indianapolis, will receive a doctorate of science.

In addition to honoring commencement speaker Janet Endress Squires, Saint Mary's will give honorary degrees to Sister Marian Teresa Gomes and Heifer Project International.

Gomes is the former Area VII coordinator for the Holy Cross Sisters and the president of Holy Cross College in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Holy Cross was recognized as the best university in Bangladesh in 2003 under Gomes' direction.

Because it is an organization, the Heifer Project is an unusual choice for award recipient. The humanitarian non-profit agency began in Elkhart in 1944 and has since benefited poor families in 115 countries by giving them livestock, food and agricultural training. Many Saint Mary's students

and faculty have been involved with the program.

Executive Assistant to the President Susan Dampeer called the Project "an extraordinary charity" and said that while the College has never awarded an honorary degree to an organization before, Heifer Project International is certainly a worthy recipient.

"Saint Mary's has a huge commitment to service, and I think that the fact that our students recommended [Heifer Project International] really shows how much we value service," she said.

A special award, the President's Medal, will be given to Sister Jean Klene, a 1959 Saint Mary's graduate who received a master's degree from Notre Dame and a doctorate from the University of Toronto. She will retire at the end of this year.

Klene, an English professor at the College for 35 years who inspired thousands of students and left an indelible mark on the English department with her courses on Shakespeare, was chosen to receive the honor by College president Carol Mooney, who Klene taught as an undergraduate at Saint Mary's.

"The President's Medal is not given every year," Dampeer said. "It is given basically for a lifetime of service to the College. It's a special way for the president to recognize someone who's done extraordinary things for the College."

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu and Nicole Zook at zook8928@saintmarys.edu

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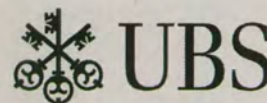


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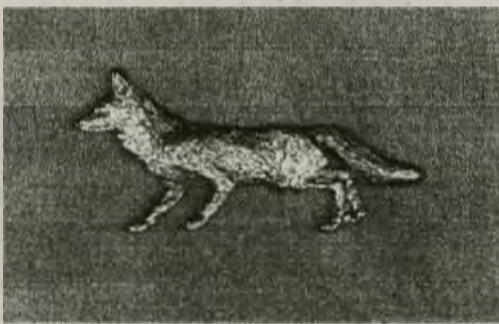
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Graduates commit to service work programs

Teach for America, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps among most popular for departing seniors

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

If someone had asked senior Lyndsey Bergen a year ago what she would be doing after she graduated from Saint Mary's, her response certainly would not have included traveling to Africa for a stint as an English teacher.

Yet just 24 hours short of receiving her diploma, Bergen is committed to two years of service with the Peace Corps and is waiting to hear exactly where on the continent she will be placed.

"I really feel that this is what I am supposed to do," Bergen said.

Bergen is just one of a few hundred Notre Dame and Saint Mary's seniors who have committed themselves to post-graduate service work. According to Liz Mackenzie, director of senior transition programs at the Center for Social Concerns, Notre Dame typically sends 10 percent of its graduating class to service work.

"We have about 150 [seniors] who have registered, saying they are doing post-graduate service," Mackenzie said.

However, not all students register with the CSC, Mackenzie said, and she estimates the number to be roughly 200. While there are dozens of different programs, the most popular are Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), Holy Cross Associates, Teach for America, AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps.

There is a CSC service send-off Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The decision to postpone graduate school or a career and pursue post-graduate service work came to Bergen, a political science major, after studying international politics and world affairs. Bergen said

African nations, still reeling from the effects of colonialism, are particularly needy.

"I was given the choice of Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, and I have been interested a lot in Africa," Bergen said. "I have been studying on what is going on Sudan."

Bergen said a friend at Notre Dame was "tossing around" the idea of joining the Peace Corps, prompting her to research the program. Not practicing any specific religion herself, Bergen was attracted to the secular framework of the Corps.

She began communicating with a recruiter based out of Chicago and completed the long application process in September.

"My dad is not happy," Bergen said. "I called [my par-

ents] when I found out I was nominated, and they were like 'Oh, great.' I don't think it is going to hit them until I leave."

After three months of intensive language training in the United States, Bergen will travel to a country where she will teach English as a Second Language (ESL), girls' empowerment and AIDS prevention. In terms of language, Bergen only knows that she will not be working in a French-speaking nation.

Bergen acknowledges poverty exists domestically but said third world countries lack even the basic resources to

alleviate the extreme circumstances of their poor.

"I don't know how I'm going to change that, but I am going to try, a little bit at a time," she said.

After studying world politics and learning

about the struggles of the poor, Bergen said it would have been impossible for her to do anything else but serve after she completed her schooling.

"I don't want to be able to go on with a regular life," Bergen said. "I've never wanted to work for money, I have always wanted to work for what I want to do, and this is what it is shaping up to be."

Bergen said she anticipates the experience will influence the direction of her life in future years.

"This will help me decide what I am going to do with the rest of my life. I have a feeling that this is something I will do for the rest of my life."

Studio art major and theology minor Alexa

Puscas will participate in Echo, a program

through the Institute for Church Life designed to revitalize catechesis classes in various parishes scattered throughout the United States. Only two years old, it currently has 26

participants.

Puscas will spend two consecutive summers at Notre Dame taking course at the graduate school of theology eventually receiving her masters in theology. During the academic year she will work at a parish in Indianapolis.

Puscas said she felt "very strongly called to serve" and described her decision to do post-graduate work with the program as a continuation of her education.

"In order to complete everything that this University has given to me I feel like I needed to share it," Puscas said. "The Notre Dame experience isn't just for me, it is for everybody."

"I really feel that this is what I am supposed to do."

Lyndsey Bergen
senior

"In order to complete everything that this University has given me, I feel like I needed to share it."

Alexa Puscas
senior

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

Mooney completes first year at helm of Saint Mary's

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

In a year that included a sharp drop in enrollment numbers, an inauguration weekend and the opening of a new \$17 million Student Center, Saint Mary's President Carol Mooney proved herself a capable administrator during her first year at the helm of the College.

Transition to Saint Mary's

A 1972 Saint Mary's graduate, Mooney never strayed far from her alma mater. She attended Notre Dame law school, where she eventually became a faculty member, assistant dean and finally, associate dean. In 1996, Mooney was named vice president and associate provost at Notre Dame.

In March 2003, then-Saint Mary's president Marilou Eldred announced her retirement, initiating a nine-month search process that brought four candidates to campus to meet students and faculty. On Dec. 26, 2003, the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees named Mooney as Eldred's successor and the 11th president of the College.

Although Mooney did not officially take over until June 1, 2004, she faced fulfilling her duties at Notre Dame while simultaneously looking toward her future at Saint Mary's. Once in office, Mooney traveled extensively to meet with individuals connected to the College. She also visited every dorm on campus for meet-and-greet sessions, where she answered students' questions about her four years as an undergraduate and her vision for the College.

Enrollment numbers

One of the most immediate problems Mooney faced in her first year as president was inconsistent student enrollment. Saint Mary's opened its doors in August with a 12.7 percent drop in enrollment, the result of an unusually small first year class, and found itself with empty dorm rooms and a

\$1.5 million budget deficit for the 2005 fiscal year.

In response, Mooney made changes in the structure of the Office of Admissions, creating the new position of Vice President for Enrollment Management to oversee college enrollment numbers.

"The search for the Vice President for Enrollment Management is about to move into the interview stage," Mooney said. "I am told that we have a strong pool of candidates, and we hope to have the position filled before the start of fall semester."

Mooney also expressed the intent to as much as double the College endowment fund in order to reduce dependence on enrollment for financial stability.

Inauguration ceremony

In what was the biggest event on campus in years, Mooney was sworn in as president of Saint Mary's during an official inauguration ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 15. The ceremony was part of a weekend-long inaugural celebration that brought hundreds of alumnae and academic representatives from all over the country.

"The College community extended great hospitality to the many guests who were with us for the events of the weekend," Mooney said. "I was very pleased with the opportunity we had to showcase the academic talent at the College and with the chance to share the Saint Mary's story with multiple audiences."

Mooney's inauguration also included a canceling of classes and an all-day academic symposium in which faculty and staff discussed the academic focus of the College and its obligation as a liberal arts institution. In recent years there has been concern within the Saint Mary's community about its classification as a "comprehensive college."

"The discussion at the symposium, like all academic discussions, was part of an ongoing conversation within a community of interest," Mooney said. "It was neither the beginning nor the end of a conversation

that has been taking place at Saint Mary's for some time one part of which is how best to balance liberal and professional education."

SAGA granted club status

After a week delay, the Board of Governance (BOG) granted club status to the Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA) on March 21, making the club eligible for student government funding.

The decision to officially recognize SAGA left many student government officers concerned about the group's compatibility with the Saint Mary's Mission and the teachings of the Catholic Church on homosexuality.

On Feb. 27, 1998, Eldred overturned a BOG vote to approve a similar group, The Alliance of Lesbian, Bisexual, Straight and Questioning Women of Saint Mary's College (ALBSQ), for club status. Eldred's decision resulted in near uproar on campus as students duct taped their mouths closed and sat outside the presidential office for hours at a time.

There was speculation on campus that Mooney might take similar action and intercede in the vote. According to Mooney, however, the governance manual changed between Eldred's administration and her own.

"At the time of President Eldred's action, the president had authority to override an action of the Board of Governance," Mooney said. "Now, that authority resides in the Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Linda Timm decided that, on the basis of the group's application, she would not take that step."

New Student Center

The 2004-05 academic year also included the opening of the new Student Center, a \$17 million building that now houses the Shaheen bookstore, a cyber café and campus offices including Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Civic and Social Engagement and the Student Government Association.

Open for business immediately following



ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

President Carol Mooney's inaugural year at Saint Mary's concludes this week.

spring break and blessed in an official opening ceremony on April 21, the Student Center has quickly become the center of activity on campus.

"The opening of the new Student Center was a joyous occasion," Mooney said. "The space is beautiful."

Graduation 2005

Saturday, 33 years after she donned a cap and gown and received her diploma, Mooney will help officiate at the Saint Mary's commencement ceremony.

"It has been a wonderful year," Mooney added. "I love my job and cannot believe that a year has already passed. Although I have only known them for one year, the Class of 2005 will always be special to me. Their commencement will cap one of the happiest years of my life."

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

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Hurley is fired by Notre Dame

*NDSP assistant director says he
was let go due to Duerson incident*

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

The University fired Assistant Director of Notre Dame Security/Police Chuck Hurley on April 22 because of allegations that Hurley was untruthful during NDSP's investigation into the circumstances of a Feb. 3 incident involving former trustee and football captain Dave Duerson at the Morris Inn, Hurley said.

Hurley, who contests the University's allegations, said Notre Dame incorrectly evaluated his actions "because there was [a different] officer [involved with the Duerson incident] who was untruthful."

However, Hurley refused to discuss any specifics about the incident, calling it "a police matter, a criminal case."

According to the prosecutor's supplemental affidavit on the case, Duerson allegedly struck his wife, Alicia Duerson, and pushed her out of their hotel room during the early morning of Feb. 3. She was treated

at a local hospital and released, the statement said.

Associate Vice President for Residence Life and Student Affairs Bill Kirk, who informed Hurley of his termination, declined to comment. NDSP Director Rex Rakow and University spokesman Matt Storin also declined to comment because Hurley's dismissal is a "personnel matter."

Hurley said he has been involved in an appeals process and has hired his own lawyer and has met with University lawyers.

"I want a thorough and competent investigation," Hurley said.

He also said he wants to re-obtain his position at Notre Dame.

"That's my ultimate goal," Hurley said.

Dave Duerson, a two-time football All-American at Notre Dame and former president of the Monogram Club, was charged with two counts of battery and two counts of domestic battery following the incident. He and his wife were on campus for the winter Board of Trustees meeting.

Dave Duerson resigned from the Board of Trustees Feb. 4, and Storin told The Observer in March that Dave Duerson's representatives expected him to resign from his Monogram Club position as well, which was set to expire in June.

Although originally scheduled to appear in St. Joseph County Superior Court Feb. 28, Dave Duerson's lawyer had the appearance deferred until April 28.

Hurley expressed frustration with his situation but said he had no hard feelings toward the University.

"There is no way I can be bitter about Notre Dame — it's done so much for me and my family," Hurley said. "There are certain individuals I am upset with because of what has occurred here.

But I could never utter one negative word about the University of Notre Dame."

Hurley, who sent three of his five children to Notre Dame, was also involved at the University as Fisher's interhall football coach at one time.

"The students are outstanding people, the faculty and staff ... the Holy Cross priests are some of the best people you will ever meet," Hurley said.

Hurley said he was recruited by Notre Dame in 1988 and served as assistant director of NDSP for almost 17 years. Prior to working for Notre Dame, Hurley said he served in every rank of the South Bend Police Department for 20 years, the last four as chief of police.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

*"I want a thorough
and competent
investigation."*

**Chuck Hurley
former assistant director
NDSP**

*"There is no way I
can be bitter about
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done so much for me
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**Chuck Hurley
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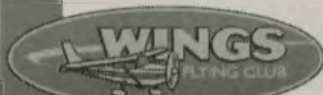
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Seniors reflect on a controversial four years at ND

Sept. 11, 2001, changes in the alcohol policy define the Class of 2005

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

Notre Dame projects an image of constancy, a sense of the perpetual. The Golden Dome has served as a beacon since its addition to the Main Building in 1882, and the Grotto almost always shelters a few weary souls, no matter the hour or weather.

But seniors looking back on their four years under the now scaffold-shrouded Dome have seen a multitude of changes that have shaped their Notre Dame experience for better or worse.

The elimination of the in-dorm SYR and a new alcohol policy

"I think the biggest changes were probably the SYRs and the changes in the alcohol policy," senior Alexandra Holland said. "I think that really affected student life."

Senior Kate Brady agreed with Holland, noting the outrage that resulted from the Office of Student Affairs' 2002 ban of in-dorm SYR dances and hard alcohol.

"I definitely think it affected dorm unity," Brady said. "I know a lot of people who weren't even interested in going anymore."

Senior Eric Tarnowski said the administration greatly impacted the Notre Dame community with the new alcohol policy.

"It changed the face of the University as far as what people

did on campus," he said. "Freshman year we spent a lot more time on campus."

Tarnowski said these changes reflected a preoccupation of University officials with projecting an image.

"The longer I was here the more to me it seemed that the emphasis from the University was more on the image and not on the students themselves," he said. "That's probably what has bothered the seniors the most."

Football coaching carousel

Seniors had a variety of opinions on four years of football, which saw multiple coaching changes. The seniors started with Bob Davie, who was fired in 2001, and then saw George O'Leary get hired and then fired after falsifying his résumé. Most recently, Tyrone Willingham was fired and replaced with Charlie Weis.

"I think it was just kind of disappointing because I didn't feel like we had any continuity," senior Heather Kimmins said.

However, Tarnowski said he didn't mind the changes.

"I personally think that the change from Ty Willingham to Charlie Weis was a good one," Tarnowski said. "I think that the University is sort of just trying to find itself."

Senior Drew Updike agreed and said the campus seems more excited about football during transitions.

"It was kind of exciting when we got Ty. Then we get Charlie Weis, everyone's jumping around about that too," Updike said. "I thought it actually made things more interesting."

A regilded Dome

Students returned from spring break to find the regilding of the Dome underway.

While counting the days until graduation, many also counted the diminishing inches that separated the scaffolding from the Virgin Mary. A current of student unrest directed by senior class president Darrell Scott shook University officials and ultimately drove Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves to strike a deal with contractors in which they partially removed the scaffolding prior to graduation.

"Back in March many of my classmates expressed concerns over the scaffolding situation and asked if there was anything that could be done to alter the situation for the better," Scott said.

Tarnowski drew a comparison between the regilding and other actions taken by the University.

"I really felt that that [scaffolding on the dome] just sort of epitomized the whole outlook of the University," Tarnowski said. "They didn't tell the students about it until after it was too late ... exactly what they've done over the years."

The Notre Dame experience

Seniors were on campus during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and the all-campus Mass on South Quad was one remembered by most.

"I think that was the event that really sort of gelled our class with the University and pulled our class together," Tarnowski said.

Despite the significance of events such as that Mass, many seniors say the little moments are what they will remember the

most.

Senior Leigh Radigan recalled the time when she played "fire soccer" by soaking soccer balls in kerosene and wrapping them with chicken wire.

"We went out to the McGlinn fields and got chased by the cops," she said. "It was awesome — definitely one of my favorite Notre Dame memories."

Senior Maria Padilla simply enjoyed when good weather came along.

"Every day it's warm here is a good memory," Padilla said. "Everyone is outside. Seriously, this place is meant for warm weather."

Predictions for the future

Most seniors said they felt it would be hard to predict the future direction of Notre Dame due to the new changes in the administration, as University President-elect Father John Jenkins is set to take over July 1, replacing outgoing University President Father Edward Malloy.

"I think it definitely seems like the University is starting to head in a direction focusing more on competing with other universities and trying to maintain this reputation it's established as a top university," Tarnowski said. "But I think it is sort of getting away from the things that are uniquely Notre Dame. There are so many small things that make Notre Dame what it is and I think some of those things have been sacrificed over the years."

Updike said he felt as though the University did not always keep students first in its plans and that the administration "neglected" students' concerns.

"It was just one thing after another," he said.

Updike referred to the example of students' inability to obtain University recognition for a student group designed to promote dialogue between gay and straight students.

"I watched how motions would be made in Student Senate, Campus Life Council, then go to Student Affairs and die out," Updike said.

Updike also commented on the conflict between Notre Dame's traditional Catholic foundation and its status as a national university.

"Obviously [Notre Dame] is a Catholic school, but if it wants to stay at the top with some of these other schools, academically and athletically, it has to get its head screwed on about the way you run things," Updike said.

Drawing upon the memory of the Hesburgh years, Brady expressed a vision for the future that would return to the past.

"My hope is that the change in administration will focus more on the school that Father Hesburgh wanted it to be," Brady said. "Hesburgh's attitude was more 'I have trust in the students, I believe you know what the right thing is, that is why we accepted you.'"

But even with this uncertainty for the future, Brady said her passion for the University would never change.

"I still love this school," Brady said. "I will always love Notre Dame."

Contact Maddie Hanna at
mhanna1@nd.edu

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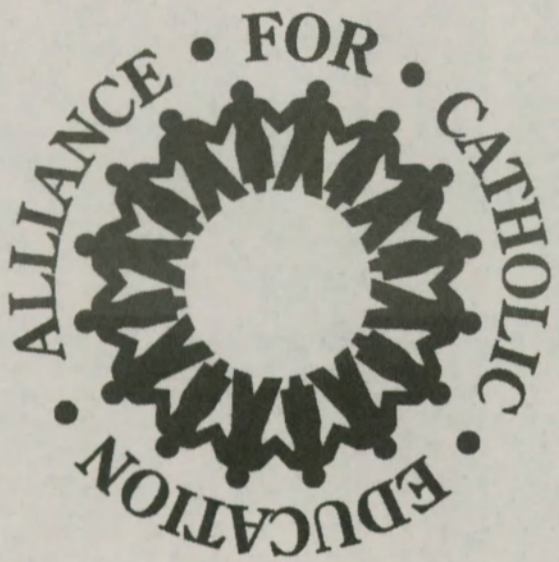
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Courtney Jianas	Brownsville, Texas
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KC Kenney	Mobile, Alabama
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Jim Kilroy	Jackson, Mississippi
Katie Kinner	Dallas, Texas
Jocelyn Landgraf	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
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Seven dormitory rectors opt to leave University posts

By KATE ANTONACCI
Associate News Editor

Seven rectors have notified the Office of Student Affairs that they will not be returning to their posts next fall, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Sister Jean Lenz said.

"They are leaving for all different reasons," Lenz said. "It is really more than usual. I think last year we only had one or two leave."

Kathleen Brannock of Howard Hall, Rebecca Davidson of Breen-Philips Hall, Sister Patricia Dearbaugh of Cavanaugh Hall, Heather Rakoczy of Pangborn Hall, Beth Skinner of McGlenn Hall, Father J. Steele of Morrissey Manor and Sister Patricia Thomas of Walsh Hall will all be leaving.

Three, however, are leaving their positions in the dorms to assume new roles in the University.

"The one thing I know that I think is exciting is that there are three of them that are getting great new jobs on campus," Lenz said.

Rakoczy will be directing the Gender Relations Center, Brannock will be serving as assistant director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing and Steele will be working at the Vocation Center.

Thomas has accepted a position as Director of Campus Ministry at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Conn., a school founded by the Dominican Congregation of St. Mary of the Springs, her own order.

"It made good sense that I would be with my own Sisters," Thomas said. "I did not want to stop working with college-age students, and this new ministry offered me an opportunity to use so many of the experiences I had had during my eight years at Walsh Hall that it was hard to resist."

Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman requires all rectors to notify the University if they plan to continue serving as a rector by February, allowing the University to begin a national

search for a replacement if necessary, Lenz said.

When finding new rectors, the Office of Student Affairs looks for individuals with a depth of experience in ministry, student personnel or counseling, Lenz said.

"We also look for people who have a Masters in education or any related field," she said.

This year, after advertising the open positions, Student Affairs received 92 applications for the seven spots — "a very high number," Lenz said.

After reviewing applications, 12 individuals were then brought in for full-day interviews.

"They meet with members of the senior staff, but also representatives, a couple of current rectors, [assistant rectors], students," Lenz said.

New rectors are chosen based on how well the committee thinks they would fit in with a certain dorm.

"Once [Poorman] makes the appointment of the individual to a specific hall, then he sends information about that hall to the new rector with the names of his or her staff, who the assistants are and who the [resident assistants] are," Lenz said. "I think Father Poorman and senior staff try to put people into where they think will best fit."

The job of notifying hall residents of the change in hall staff is left to the outgoing rectors.

"E-mails and personal visits helped me to get the news out to everyone," Thomas said.

"In telling the WILD Women of Walsh about my decision, I experienced the same kinds of emotions they did. For the seniors, it was just as though we were all getting to start new lives; for the freshmen, it was 'Why us, why now?' It was all very normal. Hard at times, exciting at other times."

While excited about the future, Thomas said she would miss her position at Notre Dame.

"Leaving Notre Dame is hard because I have made so many friends, created so many memories and experienced a richness that I know I won't find anywhere else any time soon," Thomas said. "But Notre Dame is everywhere and reaches out to her students and graduates and family members in ways that no one ever realized were possible until it happens."

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu



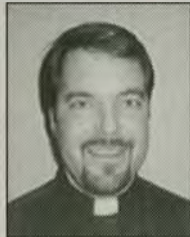
Brannock



Skinner



Davidson



Steele



Dearbaugh



Thomas



Rakoczy



FRANCESCA SETA/The Observer

In honor of Breen-Philips rector Becca Davidson's 40th birthday, women in the dorm showed their affection for her by hanging a sign above the building's main entrance.

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"What lies behind us and what lies
 before us are tiny matters compared to what
 lies within us" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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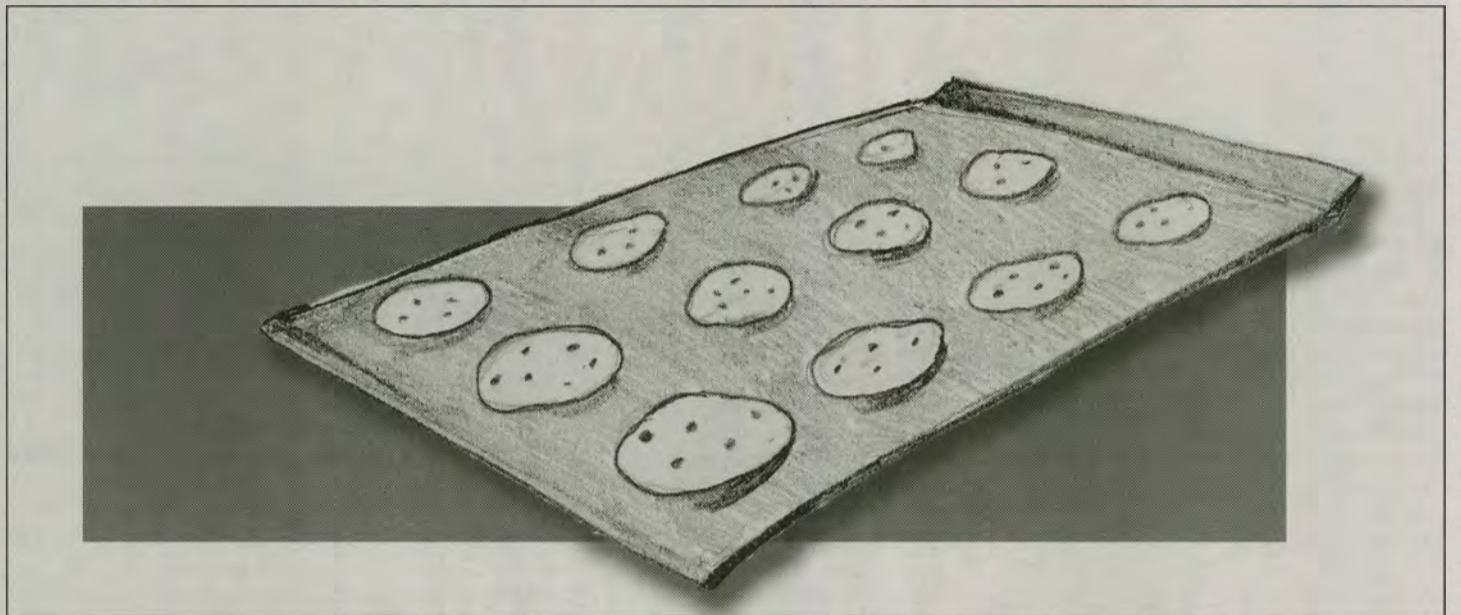
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	Graham Ebetsch



My kindred spirits

Almost three weeks ago, I stood at the front of the Walsh Hall chapel for senior Mass and offered up a baking dish as my senior memory.

Several in the audience were a little perplexed, but really all that mattered to me was the chorus of snickers and ridiculous smiles from a select few. That baking dish represented two things — my passion for everything of the chocolate chip cookie nature and my acceptance into the Notre Dame family. I am an only child who was essentially denied anything that wasn't meat and potatoes (I grew up in an Irish family) and who always longed for — and well, still does — siblings.

I had found my "family" away from home and made lifelong friends beginning one weekend in early September of freshman year when my roommate forced me to eat my first chocolate chip cookie. Dozens of batches and countless conversations later, I had found my kindred spirits.

As I listened to the other memories, I realized we were not just sharing recollections about our friendships. These were memories that in many ways helped shape our journey from being awkward and immature freshmen to confident and prepared leaders. For the most part, we were sharing memories about our closest friends — friends we did not make at a meeting or in class but in our own dorms.

My baking dish was someone else's picture, laundry cart, stuffed animal, scrap book, plaid Catholic school girl skirt or Pizza Hut coupon. They were all reflections of friendships, reinforcing what makes Notre Dame so special, the "family."

Walsh's senior Mass triggered a wave of sadness that the end really was approaching. While I had spent the previous seven semesters looking

forward to being a "second semester senior" and living up college for the last time with my friends, I mostly walked around campus since spring break in denial that I was actually graduating and leaving this place.

In the three weeks since that night, I have come to realize that this is not the end. While college may be over and we may not see our closest friends daily, this does not mean we face the real world Monday with a clean slate or without any support. We will still have those special people that pepper our Notre Dame memories and as a member of the "family" we will still be very much a part of Notre Dame.

It amazes me the power of the Notre Dame "family" to not just build friendships but to unite past, future and subway alumni. Think of the number of times you met a Notre Dame person in the most random of places all because you were wearing an Irish sweatshirt. This family is a truly powerful force. It drives the spirit of this University.

It will welcome us with open arms when we venture back to South Bend. It provides that foundation for those friendships we will never want to let slip away.

I learned early the power of Notre Dame's family when less than a month after moving away from home, terror shook our country. The September 11 memorial Mass on South Quad is an image that will forever remain etched in my mind. This event united our class before any football game could, and it made us realize what we should value and appreciate in our lives. It, like so many other subsequent experiences during these four years, not only united us but taught us how to live.

A Notre Dame education is more than simply an education.

It is an experience. It immerses students in academia, faith, school pride and friendship.

We leave here armed not only with a diploma, but with an academic and moral education, the Notre Dame spirit and the support of our friends.

Notre Dame gave us one of the most valuable gifts we will ever receive — those people on our left or right that we lit candles with last night at the

Grotto, we will sing "Livin' on a Prayer" with one last time together as college students at The 'Backer (a tradition that began in a sweaty freshman dorm party), we will link arms with at Baccalaureate to sway to the alma mater and we will sit next to on Sunday in our caps and gowns.

These people you will stand with this weekend are for the most part the randomly assigned friends who helped you ask that SYR date to the dance, studied with you all night in DeBartolo, danced the jig with you atop the bleachers, partied with you at first The Boat Club and then Heartland and Corby's, listened to you when you were sad, comforted you when you did not know your post-graduation plans, cheered for you at your sports game, celebrated with you when you turned 21, shared their highs and lows with you and, not only survived, but lived these past four years with you.

On Monday I will pack up my room and leave Notre Dame, but I will always have my Notre Dame family, especially my six kindred spirits.

Meghanne Downes is graduating with a degree in political science and peace studies and a minor in journalism. She would like to thank her dad for pushing her to excel and realize her potential, her mom for always believing in and inspiring her, her grandma for giving her both her courage and her stubbornness, Andrew both for pushing her and for his support, Shirley for all those morning smiles, and her friends for their love and for simply being them.

Finally, she would like to thank everyone at The Observer for all the laughs, the late nights, the tears, the arguments, the frustrations, the breaking stories, the friendships, and the pride she felt each morning when she picked up the paper and saw your accomplishments. But most of all she thanks you for the lessons that tested her and made her become a better person.

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



Meghanne Downes

Managing Editor Emeritus

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world."

Tom Brokaw
journalist

"A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success."

Robert Orben
author

Living the dream

His voice cracked, the pitch rising to an unusual level.

I have only witnessed my father cry four times during my life. The first three were at grandparents' funerals. The fourth was on March 30, 2001 — the day I was accepted into Notre Dame.

That day, as he had the past three days, Dad drove from work to the mailbox around lunchtime. I skipped out early from my Honors Anatomy class, with my teacher's permission of course, to anxiously call and discover if the mailman had delivered the verdict. Dad answered my call and I immediately asked the standard questions:

"Is it there?"

"Yes."

Here we go, I thought. "Is it thick or thin?"

"Thin."

Oh Lord, I thought, I didn't make it.

Then my Dad's voice jumped in to rescue my fears.

"But, it says 'Congratulations' on the outside."

"Well open it up and check to make sure!" I barked back.

I could hear him ripping through the envelope before he began reading.

"Congratulations, Joseph, you have been accepted..." His voice trailed off. The consciousness of knowing just how badly I

wanted to attend Notre Dame overtook him, and my Dad, a man who never cried, couldn't help himself. He choked up.

That, to me, is what Notre Dame is all about.

Now, four years later, I'm writing my last column for the last Observer of the year. The past two weeks I went to Corby's, Rumrunners, State and 'Backer with friends for the last time. In the fall I experienced my last set of pushups in the student section after an Irish touchdown. And Sunday night I'll attend the Grotto for the last time in college.

For someone whose nickname is "Johnny Notre Dame," who memorized most of the football media guide by age eight and who, at age six, cried himself to sleep in his parents' bed after witnessing the Irish lose 27-10 to Miami in the 1989 season finale, snapping a 23-game winning streak nonetheless, all these "lasts" have been tough to swallow. Being a student at Notre Dame was my dream. Now it's over. I have often joked to friends or family that if I died tomorrow, I'd be happy because I've accomplished everything I ever wanted in life — I attended Notre Dame.

But through this final semester under the Dome, I've realized there's two ways to look at this whole graduation thing. You can look back on your experience at Notre Dame and be sad because it's over. Or you can be thankful for having the opportunity to attend Our Lady's University.

I choose the latter for more reasons than imaginable.

I've learned so much during the past four years from inside, but mostly outside, the classroom. I've seen the good and bad Notre Dame has to offer.

I've never been prouder of this school as I was at the Sept. 11, 2001 Mass on South Quad, when 6,000 people who hardly knew each other joined together as one family and tried to help comprehend the events that had just transpired.

I've been disappointed too, like when SYRs were taken away from the dorms after freshman year.

But through it all, I've been blessed to meet and befriend more incredible and fantastic people than anyone, especially myself, deserves. I've met people who would take a bullet for me in an instant, people who stick with me despite all my faults and limitations and people who make me proud to be their friend. I've found these friends from places I didn't know existed — like Roanoke or Highland, Ind. — and others I did — like Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Buffalo and Pittsburgh. And I've never taken any of them for granted. Not once.

When graduation ends, I'm doing what's been four years in the making. I'm going to walk over to the Main Building and slowly make my way up the front staircase. I'll turn my class ring around, pointing the Dome outward, and breathe in the moment. It'll be bittersweet, no doubt. But I'm certain I won't be sad. Simply thankful I was lucky enough to spend four years experiencing life with the most wonderful

people I've ever met.

The late golfer Payne Stewart once said "The best thing about having dreams is sometimes you get to live them out." He couldn't have been more right. To everyone who helped me live out my dream here under the Golden Dome, thank you. You will never know how much you touched my life and made me a better person.

Goodbye for now, I hope our paths cross many times in the future. And the next time you're out remembering college and the great experiences you lived through, have a drink for me.

Somewhere, I'll be doing the same for you.

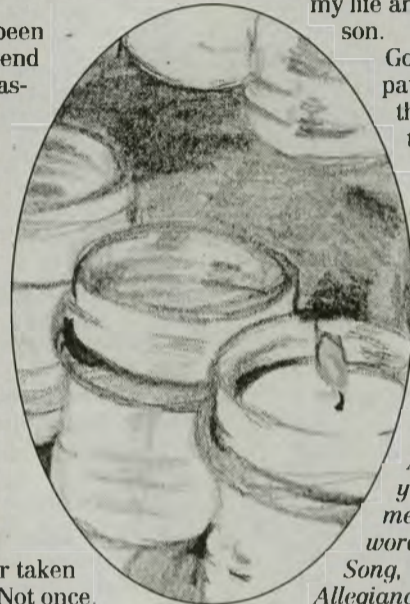
Joe Hettler is graduating with a degree in marketing and journalism and will be living in Alabama for the next two years teaching little elementary school students the words to the Notre Dame Fight Song, instead of the Pledge of Allegiance. After that, he plans on making nickels and dimes writing for a newspaper. He would like to thank everyone at The Observer, especially Meghanne Downes and Matt Lozar, for their patience and help during the past four years. On a side note, he still plans to name his first-born, boy or girl, Knute.

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



Joe Hettler

Assistant
Managing
Editor
Emeritus



Last call for Saint Mary's

Sometimes I wonder how many times I've driven down The Avenue. I can't even begin to imagine how many miles I've walked at Saint Mary's — to Madeleva, to Trumper, to the parking lots and then back to Holy Cross Hall.

I've written paper after paper, survived eight grueling finals weeks and spent countless hours in the dining hall. I've lived in four rooms in Holy Cross, seen two student centers, had five different jobs and been in dozens of professors' classes. And this weekend, all of that is going to come to an end.

And looking at the bigger picture, there is much more than just what we've seen on Saint Mary's campus. We saw the attacks of Sept. 11 from our freshman year residence hall rooms and were immediately bonded together by it. We have had a reelection of a president, new presidents at both Saint Mary's and Notre Dame and the first new pope in our lifetimes. We have seen our classmates and friends adapt to college life, grow throughout it, and are now going to watch them set out into the real world.

But when we start to get all nostalgic about our Saint Mary's experience (which for many of us will start on Monday), we can look back on our time here and be proud of what we have accomplished.

Because the truth is, for all of us who are afraid of the real world, we are already living it. We have balanced a full time job and a social life while managing to pull good grades and have fun. We have gone through some of the most rigorous courses of our lives, all in preparation for this impending real world none of us want to see come.

I too am in that position. I have loved my time at Saint Mary's with all my heart, and

it could be months before I realize I won't be packing up my belongings to come back to campus in the fall. When did it happen? When did college go by so quickly? I don't think I'll ever have the answer.

We have the chance to go out and change the world. We have been given a stellar education, one that will open doors and allow us to truly make a difference in this world. And from the people I have encountered at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame, I know each has the potential to do something wonderful with their lives, and even make someone else's better in the process.

The friendships I have made at Saint Mary's are some of the best and strongest I've ever encountered. And when I walk across the LeMans green on Saturday into my future, those friends will scatter across the country.

At some point throughout college, we have all been students, teachers, friends and counselors. We have left our imprints on the hearts and lives of others and we are better people because of this. Now, we have the chance to go out and change the world.

The saying goes, "Don't cry because it's over... but smile because it happened."

This attitude is what will help us to survive beyond college. Yes, of course it's sad that our undergraduate careers are over. But the memories and experiences we have are going to stay with us forever.

We will always have our memories.

Angela Saoud is a graduate with an English Writing major and a Secondary Education minor who wants to be the best teacher South Bend has ever seen. She could not possibly love Saint Mary's more. Additionally, she'd like to thank her family and friends for all the love, support and kindness they have given her. And a special thanks goes out to her fellow student teachers who pulled her through this last semester — she couldn't have done it without you.

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



Angela Saoud

Saint Mary's
Editor
Emeritus

'Irish Tex-Mex'

Now that all the challenges have been conquered and tests have been taken, I sit back and realize that completing a degree at Notre Dame is probably the best thing that I could have ever done to find my true purpose in life.

In fact, Notre Dame gave me many reasons to keep on living. This is where I found the love of my life, love for my hometown culture and my passion for photography. For helping me find so many ways to enjoy life, I will forever be thankful to this University, and I will always show the utmost pride for being a Notre Dame graduate.

With so many students from so many states and countries, I never could have guessed that I would come to Notre Dame from my hometown of El Paso, Texas and end up falling in love with a girl who also grew up in the Borderlands of Texas. If it hadn't been for her, I think I would have gone crazy from culture shock at Notre Dame.

I am definitely American, but there are definite differences between living on the southern border of the country and living in the Midwest. Being away for four years has made me miss so many things from my home, but since my girlfriend, Anikka, and I are from similar areas, we have been able to reminisce together about good times back on the Texas border and keep homesickness out of our systems.

When I tell people that I am a photography major at Notre Dame, they usually say, "I didn't know they had photography as a major, but that's great." I didn't come to Notre Dame with the intent of doing photography. In classic Notre Dame style, I actually started in Engineering, mostly because my father is an engineer, but that lasted about a month before I fully knew that I belonged elsewhere. My father, however, was still an influence because he is the camera/technology junkie of the family, and was surprisingly supportive

when I told him that I wanted to choose photography as my major.

Today, I could not imagine my life without photography, and I could not imagine my time at Notre Dame without being a photographer and photo editor at The Observer. If there is one good way to experience Notre Dame, working as a press photographer on campus would have to be it. You get the chance to be on the sidelines, behind the scenes with the biggest and most important people on campus, and best of all, it is your job to have a camera on you to catch the moment as it unfolds.

As a normal student, everyday I look around and am amazed by the raw talent that exists on campus, and being able to be so close to the hundreds of leaders at Notre Dame and get to know them on a personal level is an experience that cannot be matched.

My Notre Dame diploma is a sign of my success here at this University, but that piece of sheepskin would mean nothing to me if it were not for the many others who have worked to receive it as well. The many people who have successfully influenced me and motivated me in the past four years also have their partial ownership to my diploma because I would not have wanted any of my success without them. In the future, when I look at my diploma, I won't think about how I changed Notre Dame, but how Notre Dame changed me.

Chuy Benitez is a graduating photography major who will continue on and work for his Masters in Photography at the University of Houston, but will continue to wear his Notre Dame apparel, even while teaching Photo 1 classes. Chuy will also probably go through "Dome view" withdrawal and will have to make a mock-up Dome outside his apartment window to keep him calm. Notre Dame is definitely in his blood, and he will forever feel the need to bubble in "Other" for the Ethnicity section of surveys and write in "Irish Tex-Mex."

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



Chuy Benitez

Associate
Photo Editor
Emeritus

For what it's worth

When I was getting ready to come to Notre Dame, I suspected that it might not be my kind of place. Something about loving the sight of Touchdown Jesus and the Golden Dome didn't quite seem to suit my personality.

However, I remembered hearing at many points in my life that if you "put a good face on things" and "have the right attitude," things will work out. So I tried to put the best face on football games, dorm parties and a couple of SYRs and see if having the right attitude could make them work for me.

The problem with trying to live by nondescript pieces of general advice seems to be that you usually don't understand exactly what they mean until you've already figured it out for yourself anyway. I suppose, to stretch an analogy, that living by clichés is a little bit like learning by Cliffs Notes — they really only help to remind you of things that you've already learned on your own.

Suffice it to say, trying to have a good attitude did not help me enjoy anything just because I thought I ought to enjoy it. Many of the "Domer" things that I did freshman year, and a few other things that I've done since, will remain emblazoned in my memory as a big fat waste of time.

I'm not saying that any of the Notre Dame traditions that failed to inspire me were a waste of time for anyone else. Everyone finds meaning in different things and different places, and sometimes I still feel like I missed out on something that would have let me enjoy Thursday night at the Boat Club. But in the meantime, I would like to thank the people who helped make my career at Notre Dame meaningful.

Thank you to everyone who understands the pain of picking up *The Observer* after working a seven hour shift, getting home at 3:30 a.m., yet again missing your 9:30 a.m. class and finding a typo in your headline. I am still not sure how, or even why, we all put in the time to get this newspaper out every day, but it has been an experience

unlike any other.

Thank you to every professor and student who made the Program of Liberal Studies possible. I had no idea coming into college that something like PLS existed, but in retrospect it was exactly what I wanted to study. The experience of finding a thought that you've often had, but never quite been able to articulate, sitting in the pages of a text written 50 or 700 or 2,000 years ago is extraordinarily exhilarating, and it means a lot to me to have had a community to share that. I doubt I would ever have slogged through hundreds of pages of Plato, Aquinas or Kant without the PLS professors to guide me, or more often push me, through the texts, but I'm very glad I did.

I sense a few people out there rolling their eyes at the flaky non-Boat-Club-loving PLS major, but if I've somehow missed out on the joy of having pitchers of beer poured on me, at least leave me my books.

Thank you to everyone who understands what it's like to stand on a mountainside in India peering through the clouds for a glimpse at the Himalayas, or to bicker over 20 cents on the price of a rickshaw ride. (To this day I'm not sure why we thought it was important to bicker over 20 cents on the price of a rickshaw ride, but there it is.) The world has never looked the same since that semester as it did before we left.

Thank you to everyone who helped me learn a little bit about what it means to be Catholic. This is not my faith, and it meant nothing to me before I came here, but the Catholic Church will never be meaningless for me again.

Last but not least, thank you to all my friends who put up with me when I was cranky, tired, bratty, thick-headed or forgetful and trusted that I really meant well.

Good luck and God bless to everyone in our class as we move on from Notre Dame.

Maria Smith was the Scene Editor of The Observer for two years. She hopes to spend the next two years doing service in the Peace Corps.

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



Maria Smith

Scene Editor
Emeritus

Never seemed so good

I couldn't do it — I couldn't bring myself to write about our time at Notre Dame like it was a gentle, emotional ride of sentimental hand-holding and Victory March singing.

It was more like a rollicking, top-speed, one hand clutching a \$3 pitcher and the other clinging on for dear life, yelling at the top of our lungs at four in the morning and coming home with shredded jeans and muddy feet but not recalling why kind of ride. And that's how I'll remember it.

Oh, I'll remember you putting your arms around me and swaying as glory's mantle cloaked us, but I'll cherish the time we found you in a ditch with a guy at our freshman Rally. It's the silliest, least noteworthy times that are charging into my memory, times when we're waking at ungodly hours to boxers-clad serenades on South Quad or convincing ourselves that we really do like the taste of White Lightning.

I can still see those starry nights weaving endless loops around us with books, drinks and "relations," ranging from lapsed-judgment, avoid-awkward-eye-contact-in-the-dining-hall meaningless to changed-your-life, want-to-print-his-name-in-your-last-column meaningful. Then there are sunlit golf mornings with the impossibly enthusiastic Coach O, urging me once again to "go get some beautiful balls!"

Now there's rampant debauchery as we're running amok in the streets of D.C. and abroad, then a darkened boxing ring where our classmates are becoming modest Bangladeshi heroes. We're walking from Boat to Zahm in the summer rain because no cabs come on Tuesdays; I'm thinking I'm cool the first time we hang out in a guys' dorm, — B008 Fisher to be exact. I thought college was going to last forever.

It's like we've been running out of time all along, but I just didn't realize it. Time socializing on the second

floor of the library, time on the Backer dance floor watching 10 guys "dancing on the ceiling" with each other, time with inventive, non-SUB-sponsored toasts — which I think translates into "midday pong is not alcoholism until after graduation."

I'm sorry I can't say this all better. I've spent four years deriving nerdy pleasure from pursuing the right words, ones that exude perfection when describing what you saw, what you did, how you felt. But right now, I have no words that could describe what the people I've met here have meant to me. All I want is to keep remembering each and every one of you like this, in these random and seemingly insignificant moments that mean everything to me.

I'd like to stay here a little longer watching these scenes play out, flickering memories with the same deceptive sense of permanence as those rows and rows of white candles. Just like so many other nights, trying to make that ephemeral space of time between last call and the end of the night last forever.

But instead, I hope that we at least put up a rowdy fight, refusing to leave until the lights come on and we have to be bodily removed from the premises, dragging our feet and still singing a noisy rendition of "Piano Man" until the very end.

And when it's finally time to go home, I hope you remember this night, these years, our friends, me ... because I'll sure remember you.

Christie Bolsen is a graduating political science and philosophy major with a journalism minor, and former Assistant Scene Editor of The Observer. She loves everyone, but especially her wonderful family, Glenna Joyce and every single friend who transformed her in four years from a nerd to a nerd with cool friends. A special thanks to Lyons girls, who were there for her on the saddest day of her life, and who taught her everything important she knows. She is looking forward to being the slow learner in law school next year ... somewhere.

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



Christie Bolsen

Senior Staff
Writer

One more picture

When I received my acceptance letter four and a half years ago, the same picture kept running through my head — graduation day, standing by the steps of the Dome, feeling lucky to be holding my Notre Dame diploma, showing it off to everyone in my family.

So you would think, with graduation just days away, that picture would once again be replaying in my mind.

Although I do have all kinds of images running through my head, they're not images of the graduation that is soon to come, but of the countless memories I've made since I took my first step upon this campus as an official Notre Dame student.

My freshman year included so many memorable moments. Everyone can picture that great moment from Frosh-O week. The time when you serenaded

another dorm with some ridiculous song or dance routine — for me it was singing "I'm a Little Teapot" followed by "Baby Got Back." Or when you first met that guy or girl that is now your best friend. Or maybe the first time you got completely obliterated with the people you now call your brothers.

The one freshman year moment that stands out for me is the week after Frosh-O week. My RA and the guys from my section took me to a nice birthday dinner at South Dining Hall, only on top of the strawberry cheesecake for dessert, they decided to pick me up and carry me over to do a yo-cream stand. I swear I threw down yo-cream for about 30 seconds, and probably picked up all of my Freshman 15 in the process.

Then there was the party near the end of my junior year at a friend's house. With several "root beer floats" in my system and a huge cups victory over the cocky defending champs under my belt, a couple of my friends decided I had reached the point where I was having too much fun and gave me a ride back to my dorm.

Apparently they underestimated my resilience — because five minutes later I

somehow dragged my inebriated self into a cab riding back to the house (after first stumbling into my friend's room, who was in the middle of RA shadowing, and entertaining him with what might be the worst Dance Dance Revolution routine ever). Casually strolling back into the party, I tapped my friend on the shoulder and she gave me the craziest look in return. The performance was one I will never forget.

One moment that sticks out from this year is when I cut my leg badly during a soccer game at Rolf's. The cut was so deep that I had to first get an NDSP escort to Health Services, and then another one over to St. Joe's Hospital. After two hours of sitting in the waiting room alone and then eventually getting stitched up, I left the checkout desk ready to call a cab, only to run into Father Doyle, my rector in Dillon. His response, in his thick Virginian accent, was simply "I'm here to pick ya up." Right then, it

really hit me just how unique this place really is.

At Commencement, the picture that I had in my head four years ago will finally become a reality, only that picture will be a little bit different from four years ago.

I didn't fully realize then that I would have so much more family, the Notre Dame family, standing with me as well.

Mike Harkins is a graduating with a degree in management information systems and is the former Graphics Editor of The Observer. He would like to thank everyone that helped him along the way — friends, family and especially his parents. In June, after cheering the Pistons to another title, he will begin working for Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin.

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



Mike Harkins

Graphics
Editor
Emeritus



EXCERPTS FROM PAST ISSUES

Four years in review

Faith sustains students after Sept. 11

I do not write editorials. Most times I don't write because it takes too much time to do it. This time I must make an exception. Today I saw one of the most frightening and most amazing things in my life. In one day I saw how evil and terrible humans can be and the way we can group together in a time of crisis.

I myself did not realize what happened until I walked into my first class. I saw hugs being given out and people talking with a tone I haven't heard before as I walked to DeBartolo Hall. I stepped into my classroom to be greeted by the words "America Under Attack" written on the screen.

My America? The land of the free and home of the brave? This great country which I have come to grow up in and feel connected to?

The rubble was all over the screen and the smoke filled the sky. I turned around and proceeded quickly to return to my dorm. In my dorm as I once again saw destruction and death, a sense of sadness came over me. I quickly felt pain for everyone who was hurt, was killed and knew people that had their lives taken away.

At the end of the Mass, I witnessed from the choir risers one of the most uplifting scenes in my short life. As the whole campus sang the Alma Mater with arms around their neighbors, the sense of community radiated out and blew me away.

This is what Notre Dame is all about. The togetherness and unity in our University cannot be matched anywhere else.

I don't know why I am writing this. I have no controversial opinion, no topic that needs to be discussed. It seems as though I don't know much today.

All that I thought was safe and a constant in my life has suddenly been questioned. The only thing I can do is to turn to my Lord. In this time of trouble and turmoil, the Lord is the one we must turn to. He is that one that can shine light into the darkness. He did not cause this destruction — humans did through free choice, but He can bring great things out of it.

Paul Sifuentes
 Alumni Hall
 freshman
 Sept. 11, 2001

Dome worth fighting for

Haggling for an extra commencement ticket is the only thing I thought I'd be negotiating with the administration for during my final days at this great school. Ironically, however, with massive support from classmates, I find myself enmeshed in talks of much greater significance. On March 24, the distinguished and genuine Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves wrote in *The Observer*: "Unfortunately, there is no way it [the Dome project] could be avoided." I could not agree more.

However, the question is not whether the Dome should remain broken and unfixed. Rather, the question that fellow classmates have asked me is whether there is a way to restore the Dome for our posterity, yet still allow graduates a picture-perfect view of the most recognized university landmark in the world.

In a meeting with Affleck-Graves last Wednesday, Adam Istvan drafted a compromise that we believed would allow for the weather-contingent aspects of the Dome project to be finished by the absolute Oct. 1 "frost-deadline" and still allow for the Dome to be unfettered graduation weekend.

The compromise allowed for continued work on the dome so as not to lose vital time in April that is needed to complete this time's more extensive project. We hoped it

would take away at most two or three weeks, which would place the entire project's completion date right at the end of September.

Regrettably, Affleck-Graves called me March 24 to say the arrangement would actually add an extra four weeks to the project; thus the last scaffold would not come down until mid-October — two weeks too late.

If I were a multi-millionaire, I'd give several hundred thousand dollars to Conrad Schmitt Studios to hire more workers and tools to be able to make the compromise arrangement work. Alas, I am not rich — I am just one student with a lot of loans. Nonetheless, when people accuse me of wasting my time, I emphatically disagree.

Each of us has that special loved one who can't wait to see Notre Dame. Thus I will continue working with fellow seniors, student government folks and the administration to make the best of this situation. Nonetheless, I just wish that 12th person who has been there all of the way can experience that same awesome sight that we have had during these past four years — shining in the heavens, gleaming gold and blue.

Darrell Scott
 senior class president
 March 28, 2005

In gratitude for solidarity

I would like to thank all who participated in "Gay? Fine by me" and attended the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Issues forum last week. As a student leader from a peer institution, I was delighted to be a part of such a great series of events. I believe that both "the shirt" campaign and the forum represent something that many at your University are willing to begin talking about. This truly is a wonderful starting point that will allow the University to first serve those who need it most.

I would also like to congratulate Joe Dickmann, members of the panel and the GLBT/Allied community for their commitment, hard work and love that was put into these events. All who participated have truly strived to make the spirit of inclusion a reality when others have lost sight of its goal. I

believe that open discussion events like the forum will help make your university a meeting place where all can feel welcomed.

As I stated in my address, acceptance is found in recognition. As members of the Catholic community all should look to the teachings of Christ and tradition of the Catholic Church as the foundation. From this support and love of all, especially to the least of those among us, acceptance can become a reality. Only through you, as members of the student body, can true inclusion be realized. Thank you again for your warmth, compassion and hospitality.

Michael Yaksich
 Director of GLBT Issues
 Boston College
 March 21, 2004

Questioning revised alcohol policy

Student Affairs, wake up.

Guess what students are going to do on those weekends when they would have been dancing, drinking and spending time with friends at in-hall dances?

Drinking. A lot. Probably even more, out of spite of their social lives being robbed from their shot-glass holding hands.

Alcohol does not run the life of your average Notre Dame student. But it can add to the flavor of his or her social life. And Notre Dame students are not alcoholics (or, at least, not the majority of the drinking population). Notre Dame students do enjoy drinking. And the majority of those who drink do learn — albeit, some, the hard way — where to find the balance, clear the blur between having fun and having your stomach pumped.

Canceling dances is not going to stop students from drinking, or even dancing. Parties will proliferate. Students just won't need to dress up or buy silly little gifts for dates. And some dorms, as *The Observer's* March 19 editorial noted, will lose out on their most planned, most fun events of the year. For an institution so in love with tradition and its sense of community, Notre Dame is doing the ironic feat of killing two birds with one stone.

Notre Dame students' definition of tailgate: pre-game bonanza of music, food, fun and yes, drink.

Notre Dame administrator's definition of tailgate: pre-game bonanza of debauchery of crazed, alcoholic students out to puke and oh, probably have sex later. It must be stopped.

And congratulations; once you

make legal-age students register for the tailgating, that's exactly what will happen. All the legal students (whom will have moved off campus, rightly so) will spend Saturday mornings in their apartments chugging beer and all the hard alcohol they'd like. Some of my greatest football memories come from tailgating with friends and I can only pity those poor kids who will never know the pure joy of the 12 o'clock shotgun.

Take away our dances, our tailgates and what do you have? Thousands of embittered students looking for something to do on those often boring spring weekends in South Bend. Overanxious rectors ready to jump down the throats of students who might otherwise be sending vodka the same route. And, of course, thousands of alumni like myself who are grateful they graduated before the storm.

You've not only taken away dances and tailgating, you've stripped away freedom and a sense of responsibility. How do you expect your students to grow, mature and make their own informed judgments without giving them the opportunity to do so?

Notre Dame students and administrators alike have always boasted a feeling of "family." And while this is a very special aspect of Notre Dame, you are not our mothers and fathers. College is where we become adults and learn to decide for ourselves. Don't decide for us.

Christine Kraly
 class of 2001
 Washington, D.C.
 March 19, 2002

Approximately 9,000 other voices

Thousands of students, faculty and staff from Notre Dame, Holy Cross and Saint Mary's did not sign a petition opposing a potential U.S.-led war with Iraq. The petition appeared yesterday as an ad in *The Observer*, included the signatures of approximately 600 people superimposed over the phrase, "Hear Our Voice."

The approximately 9,000 students, faculty and staff who did not sign the petition opposing war with Iraq might cite the just cause tenet of Catholic just war theory as a primary motivating factor in their decision to abstain from endorsing the petition. They could mention that "The Challenge of Peace; God's Promise and Our Response," a United States Catholic bishops' pastoral on war and peace, endorses war "to protect innocent life, to preserve conditions necessary for decent human existence and to secure basic human rights."

The approximately 9,000 students, faculty and staff who did not sign the petition opposing the war with Iraq could combine this 1983 Catholic Pastoral teaching with CIA-generated facts concerning human rights abuses under Saddam Hussein including Hussein's use of mustard gas in Panjwin in October-November 1983 leaving 3,000 Iranian and Kurdish casualties, his murder of another 2,500 Iranians on Majnoon Island in February-March 1984 by the same method, his April 1987 mustard-gas attack that left 5,000 Iraqis dead or wounded in al-Basrah, his deployment of tabun and mustard gas against some 3,000 Iraqis at Hawzah Marsh in March 1985 and 5,000 more at al-Basrah in April 1987 and his use of sarin and mustard gas against 3,000 Iraqis in October 1987 at Sumar/Mehran.

The approximately 9,000 students, faculty and staff could also take into account Hussein's Stalinist purges of his Ba'ath party, chemical attacks on Kurds in Iraq, his documented chemical experimentation on Iraqi jail inmates and his tyrannical political oppression of any semblance of an opposition party.

The approximately 9,000 students, faculty and staff who did not sign the petition opposing the war with Iraq heed the words of Fadel Sultani, President of the National Association of Iraqi Writers, who stated in response to peace protesters, "Did they not realize that oppression, torture and massacre of innocent civilians are also forms of war?"

The approximately 9,000 students, faculty, and staff who did not sign the petition opposing the war with Iraq may have considered Saddam Hussein's flagrant human rights atrocities, his contempt for the 17 UN security council resolutions passed in order to limit his destructive capabilities and his close ties to terrorism and thought to themselves, "Hear our Voice."

Timothy Bonadies
 junior
 off-campus
 Feb. 26, 2003

Reflections at Notr

What was the most memorable thing about living in South Bend?



Brian Donnelly
Los Angeles,
CA

"The culture!"



Joe Gintu
Newbury Park,
CA

*"Nice people,
fat squirrels,
lovely
ethanol. SB
for ever ..."*



Kathleen Kilcline
Washington DC,
VA

*"Ethanol
smell."*



Nicole Rogers
San Antonio,
TX

*"Too much
snow."*



Ryan Romanowski
Tom's River,
NJ

*"Endless
winters and
frantic
weather."*



Jess Smith
Spartanburg,
SC

*"Wind
tunnels and
snowstorms
in May."*

Describe your college experience in three words.



Tony Jannazo
Ft. Walton
Beach, FL

*"Fisher,
friends,
football."*



Kevin Leary
Willimantic,
CT

*"Beer, sports,
women."*



Patrick Mickel
Springfield, OH

*"Bookstore
Basketball
tournaments."*



Ryan Rogers
Blacksburg,
VA

*"Rock 'n'
Roll."*



William Torres
Ilo, Peru

*"Heartland on
Thursdays."*



Stephanie Vieron
Memphis, TN

*"Beef, buns,
beer."*

on a lifetime e Dame

What was your best experience during college?



Michael Bell
Chagran Falls,
OH

*"The
undercover
cops at the
tailgates.
They were
the best!"*



Pat McMorrow
Kalamazoo,
MI

"Tailgating."



Kevin Rycyna
East Amherst,
NY

*"Being held
down by the
administration
for four years,
thanks."*



Linda Skalski
Plymouth, MI

*"Late night
chocolate
waffles with
our very own
SDH waffle
iron."*



Annie Tilton
Minneapolis,
MN

*"The best
experiences
were the
ones I don't
remember."*



Marla Welch
Hannibal, MO

*"Walking
across frozen
St. Mary's
Lake."*

What do you plan to do after graduation?



Dan Ballantine
Mount Airy,
MD

*"Keep on
rockin' in the
free world."*



Meredith Burns
Michigan City,
IN

*"I'm gonna
be a doctor."*



Nick Hackett
Middleton, OH

*"Go to Rome
and resurrect
the Holy
Roman
Empire with
Pope Benedict
XVI."*



Jen Jeffers
Ontario, NY

*"Go to grad
school and
get married."*



Annie Rohrs
Simsbury, CT

*"Take a bite
out of the Big
Apple."*



Chris Tilton
Excelsior, MN

*"Live large
and in
charge."*

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish exit tournament early after stellar regular season

Batteast and Duffy earn All-American honors for stellar play

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

After losing just three of their first 26 games, the Irish lost three of their last seven en route to a disappointing second-round exit in the NCAA Tournament — a bitter end to a season that began with much promise.

Notre Dame, which finished second in the Big East and 27-6 overall, saw a strong start end with a 70-61 loss to fifth-seeded Arizona State in the NCAA Regional in Fresno, Calif. on March 21.

"We looked tired mentally," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said after the game. "It seemed like we hit a wall, and mentally we just couldn't get over it."

But at the beginning of the year, the Irish looked to be a top team. Ranked in the top-10 for most of the season, Notre Dame started off on the right foot with

a Preseason WNIT championship that included wins over then-No. 6 Duke and then-No. 10 Ohio State. Against Duke, freshman Charel Allen came up big with 16 points, the first of many big games for the first-year. Senior Jacqueline Batteast was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, leading the Irish with 32 points against the Buckeyes.

The Irish went on to win their next three games against Colorado State, USC and Valparaiso before losing to Michigan State at home. The 82-73 overtime loss snapped Notre Dame's 25-game home winning streak, which dated back to last season.

However, the squad soon got back on track, winning its next six games, behind Batteast, point guard Megan Duffy and sophomore Crystal Erwin.

Erwin scored 24 points on 9-for-9 shooting on Dec. 11 against Washington while filling in for the injured Courtney LaVere. Batteast hit the game-winning 3-pointer against Marquette Dec. 19 on the road, and Duffy continued her consistent play as the team's leader.

Notre Dame's winning streak was snapped Jan. 9 in its third

Big East game with a 59-54 loss at Villanova. At that point, the Irish were ranked No. 4 in the country and seemed to be on their way.

But following that game, the Irish were outplayed at home by Connecticut, losing 67-50 to the Huskies, the eventual Big East Tournament Champions.

At that point, McGraw thought the team's season was at a make-or-break, and along came Purdue.

Notre Dame destroyed the Boilermakers, dominating at home, 86-69. Duffy led the Irish with 17 first-half points, and Batteast added 21.

After the win, the Irish went on a tear, winning their next nine games, including a victory against Rutgers at home on Jan. 23 and at Connecticut Jan. 30. Against the Scarlet Knights, the Irish overcame a 31-20 halftime deficit, using a 23-0 run fueled by Batteast to win 63-47.

Against Connecticut, Notre Dame dominated in the paint, and the win snapped the Huskies' 112-game Big East home winning streak.

Notre Dame finished the season second in the Big East after falling to Rutgers on the road Feb. 19. The Irish earned the

No. 2 seed in the Big East Tournament, where they defeated West Virginia and then fell to No. 3 seed Connecticut.

The Irish received a surprising No. 4 seed in the NCAA Tournament and received one of the toughest draws in the field. They escaped UC-Santa Barbara and star Kristen Mann 61-51 in the first round but fell to Arizona State in the second round.

"We met and watched the film and really, I wanted them to take the pain with them," McGraw said. "I wanted them to remember the pain they felt in the locker room after the game and not to ever want to go through that again. It's all a mindset, it's an attitude that you have to have, and we just didn't seem to have it in the beginning of the second half of that game."

The Irish lost Batteast, the team Most Valuable Player and third team Associated Press All-American who was drafted by the Minnesota Lynx and center Teresa Burton to graduation. However, despite the fact that only two seniors are gone, they leave big shoes to fill.

"It's really going to be hard to replace them because they

scored and rebounded," McGraw said. "Jackie, we wanted her to have the ball in every clutch situation, so we're going to have somebody else to do that."

However, Duffy, an honorable mention Associated Press All-American returns, as does Allen, who suffered a torn ACL, and MCL against Arizona State. These two along with forward Courtney LaVere will be the leaders for the Irish next season.

"These seniors have left a great legacy," McGraw said. "They really raised the bar for us."

Note:

Megan Duffy accepted an invitation to the USA Basketball Women's National Team Trials, set to take place May 19-22 in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the United States Olympic Training Center. This is Duffy's first time at the USA Trials.

Duffy is trying to earn a spot on one of the 12-member teams that will represent the United States at this summer's World University Games and Under-19 World Championships.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

High expectations not met as team loses in NIT opener

Program's 100th year ends with first-round loss to Holy Cross

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Two years ago, Mike Brey lost a solid portion of his team's core, and Notre Dame needed time to rebound.

Shooting guard Matt Carroll and small forward transfer Dan Miller had graduated after leading Notre Dame to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament, leaving Chris Thomas and Torin Francis as the primary returning players to cope with a 2003-04 season that resulted in an NIT berth and a third round exit.

This past year, however, Thomas was a senior. Francis was recovered from a back injury. Arizona transfer Dennis Latimore was eligible to join Francis in the frontcourt, and

the program was celebrating its 100th season.

Expectations rose, which is why a second straight NIT bid and a first round exit qualified as a severe disappointment.

"I was prepared for the NIT, and that's how I prepared the team," Brey said after his team was denied an NCAA bid for the second straight season. "We probably made a [heck] of a run at that bracket, but it wasn't enough ... It would have been more of an unbelievably pleasant surprise if we got in."

Holy Cross ended Notre Dame's season at the Joyce Center on March 15 before a crowd of only 2,517 fans. The Crusaders (25-6) managed a 78-73 victory over the Irish, who played without shooting guard and second-leading scorer Chris Quinn (bruised clavicle).

Notre Dame finished 17-12 overall and 9-7 in Big East play, the fifth straight season Brey's Irish had a winning record in conference play.

Though the team made a push

in its most difficult stretch of the Big East schedule and had control of its own destiny, the Irish dropped three of their last four, including home losses to UCLA (75-66) and Pittsburgh (85-77) and a first-round exit from the Big East tournament.

Rutgers, who the Irish had defeated exactly a week before, dashed Notre Dame's hopes at Madison Square Garden in a 72-65 decision. Ricky Shields led the way for the Scarlet Knights with 21 of Rutgers guards' 38 points on the night. Notre Dame guards scored just 21 total points.

Prior to the late-season collapse, during which Brey described his team as tired and lacking energy, the team showed flashes of cohesion but was defined by inconsistency.

Notre Dame opened the season with a 12-3 record, including four wins in its first five conference games. The first two Irish losses came in a crucial three-game stretch early in the season. Michigan (61-60) and DePaul (84-73) humbled Notre Dame on

national television, while the Irish were able to steal a victory in Bloomington, Ind., from Mike Davis' Hoosiers in between. The win was the first for Notre Dame at Indiana's Assembly Hall since 1973.

Meanwhile, whether at home or on the road, the team's self-declared leader — senior point guard Chris Thomas — set program records and led the Irish in scoring but could not lift his team over the top.

Thomas (14.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg) played his best basketball in the season's most difficult stretch, a four-game nightmare against Connecticut, Syracuse, Boston College and Pittsburgh in which the Irish survived with a 2-2 record. He also became only the third player in Division-I basketball history to notch 2,000 points and 800 assists, joining Gary Payton and Sherman Douglas in an elite category.

Thomas, however, struggled throughout the season and did not receive enough contributions from his supporting cast, either.

Though Colin Falls emerged as a primary scoring threat (12.6 ppg) and Quinn remained steady, the frontcourt disappointed coaches and fans. Center Torin Francis notched 21 points in the tournament loss to Rutgers, but he also averaged less than 10 points per game. Transfer forward Dennis Latimore averaged only seven points, showing flashes of brilliance against Michigan and Connecticut but playing inconsistently enough to force Brey to use a deep bench.

Rick Cornett, Omari Israel and Russell Carter all saw significant minutes, with freshman Rob Kurz turning in an 11-point, seven-rebound performance against Holy Cross.

Brey said next season will see more of a youth movement, with four recruits headed to South Bend in Ryan Ayers (Pa.), Zach Hillesland (Ohio), Kyle McAlarney (N.Y.) and Indiana Mr. Basketball Luke Zeller.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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PERSONALS

Matt, Meghanne, Joe and all the seniors who spent hours, weeks or years in the basement of South Dining Hall, thank you for your dedication to The Observer — the paper and the people. The paper would not be what it is and we would not be who we are if it wasn't for your guidance. Best of luck, and thanks for the memories. Love, Claire, Pat, Heather, Mo, Sarah and the staff

Meghanne — I hate you. I love you. But most of all, thank you. —Claire

Have you heard about Joe Hettler? He's kind of a big deal. And Lozar's senior night speech might top CT's.

ND SOFTBALL

After Big East title, Irish ready for postseason

Weekend sweep of Rutgers clinches Big East championship

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Ten titles, five seniors, one goal.

After wrapping up their tenth consecutive Big East regular-season title, the Irish softball team is far from finished.

"They expect to win the Big East, and that's a given," Notre Dame coach Deanna Gumpf said. "That's just common knowledge about the team — that's just the way it is here."

A pair of lopsided victories over Rutgers sealed the title for the Irish and ensured their top seeding for the Big East Tournament. The wins left the Irish with a record of 41-11 and a conference tally of 16-2. Although the dominating performances ended conference play on a positive note, Gumpf said the real culmination was the last home game against Syracuse in front of a large home crowd.

Gumpf attributed much of this season's success to the senior class — Megan Ciolli, Steffany Stenglein, Carrie Wisen, Liz Hartmann and Nicole Wicks.

"There are so many things

that these girls do that make this class special. ... These girls are just a great group," she said.

Ciolli, the team captain, was named All-American last year. According to Gumpf, the team looks to her for leadership.

"We didn't come to play well today at practice," Gumpf said. "Someone needs to say 'it's not good enough,' and Megan is really that person. Megan is not afraid to say anything to anybody, and I think that's been a good thing for this team ... to have it come from somebody else other than the coaches."

Another key component of the team has been Stenglein, who is averaging 12 strikeouts per game.

"She has turned it on the last half of the season," Gumpf said. "... she's just nasty right now. She's a tough pitcher to hit, and she's dominated the Big East ... her stats are awesome."

Despite a nagging leg injury, Wisen has also been a major contributor this year.

"She's really fallen into the DP — designated player — role," Gumpf said. "She has had some clutch hits ... just watching her hit is so fun, and the whole team loves to watch her hit. She's one of those players — anything you throw at her, she can hit it."

Injuries also affected Hartmann's time on the diamond.

"She's really had a great career at Notre Dame," Gumpf said. "She's a great third baseman and a clutch hitter."

Wicks, who transferred to Notre Dame after her sophomore season at Washington, was the final piece of the senior jigsaw puzzle.

"She's taught the young girls so much about baserunning," Gumpf said. "She's one of those players that understands the

game so well, and she's a great teacher of it."

The five-some has determined much of the team's drive for success, Gumpf, who believes that the senior class determines the team's chemistry, said.

"This senior class realized that and decided, 'This is how I want our team to be.' They've made the decisions on how this team is — the good and the

bad, but there's a heck of a lot more good," she said.

The season is not yet over for the Irish. One goal remains — to make the College World Series, a feat never before accomplished by Notre Dame.

"That's the ultimate," Gumpf said. "There's nothing bigger or better."

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu



Irish second baseman Sara Schoonaert tags out an Akron baserunner during the game on April 21. Notre Dame has posted a 41-11 record and won the Big East regular season title this season.

BETH WERNET/The Observer

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Aldridge becomes sixth commitment

Indiana running back rated in top 5 by several services

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

The number of Irish verbal commitments has grown to six. Running back recruit James Aldridge declared his intention to play for the Irish to Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis May 2.

Aldridge, who cannot sign a binding letter of intent until February, rushed for 2,067 yards on 281 carries and scored 20 touchdowns as a junior last season at Merrillville (Ind.) High. He is listed as one of the top 100 players in the nation by Rivals.com.

"The kid is definitely one of the top three running backs in the entire country," Mike Frank of Irisheyes.com said. "He's a rare combination of size and speed and has the ability to make people miss. He's a big body but has the ability to break the long ones."

Aldridge (6'1", 215) agreed with this assessment of his talents in a statement released on Irisheyes.com.

"A lot of people don't expect me to be as fast as I am for my size, but I'm real quick," Aldridge, who runs a 4.6 second forty-yard dash, said.

Recruited by some schools as a linebacker, Aldridge is expected to suit up at running back for the Irish. Besides his success running the ball, Aldridge caught 11 passes for 290 yards and two touchdowns.

"He's just an absolutely huge signing for Notre Dame," Frank said. "He's a featured back. He's a 'hoss.' He's a guy who can

dominate a game."

In the days leading up to his decision, he narrowed his list of schools to Notre Dame and Oklahoma State. He received offers from numerous other programs including USC, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Virginia, Missouri and Purdue.

"I just got a real good feeling when I was [at Notre Dame]," Aldridge said to Irisheyes.com. "I felt confident about what I could do at Notre Dame, and it's just the right place for me."

"I've got great vision because a lot of the stuff that I do when I run the ball, for some reason, I don't remember actually doing it ... I always leave room for myself to improve and get better."

Aldridge grew up outside St. Louis, Mo., where he was a childhood friend of fellow Irish running back recruit Munir Prince, until his family moved to Indiana before his junior year of high school.

He joins a relatively large crop of Notre Dame recruits, considering national signing day is nine months away. The other players to give their verbal commitment to the Irish include Prince, wide receiver Barry Gallup (Mass.), quarterback Zach Frazer (Penn.), defensive end Kallen Wade (Ohio) and tight end Paddy Mullen (Mo.).

One of the most highly touted players being recruited by the Irish is Morgan Park (Ill.) quarterback Demetrius Jones. He is a member of the Rivals.com top-100 and Scout.com lists his interest in Notre Dame as 'high'.

"I think [Jones] likes Notre Dame a lot," Frank said. "There's a good possibility that he'll sign with Notre Dame in the end."

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

ND TRACK AND FIELD

Both teams take second in Big East

Rutgers wins men's division, Pittsburgh takes women's title

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

Thanks in part to stellar performances from sprinters Selim Nurudeen and Maryann Erigha, the Notre Dame men's and women's track and field teams both finished second at the Big East Championships May 5-8 in Piscataway, N.J.

Rutgers won the men's title, besting Notre Dame 192-143.5, while Pittsburgh took home the women's trophy by totaling 176 points compared to Notre Dame's 113.5.

Assistant coach Tim Connelly said the result, while disappointing, was not unexpected.

"You're never happy with second place, but when we looked at it, we saw that that was probably going to happen."

"You're never happy with second place, but when we looked at it, we saw that that was probably going to happen."

Tim Connelly
Irish assistant coach

Connelly said. "[Rutgers and Pittsburgh] are very good. They're talented and very deep."

According to Connelly, the Irish needed to step up across the board to compete with the Scarlet Knights and

Panthers. Unfortunately, while some athletes recorded personal bests, the team as a whole had a typical meet.

"A couple people ran awesome meets, but most of the team was pretty much average," the coach said.

Connelly said the Irish may have been tired following a grueling exam week.

"I think just having exams hurt us," he said. "Exams are tough, you really beat yourself up. I think our team is more tired after exams than during study days."

Despite Connelly's disappointment, the Irish competed well at the meet.

They finished 26.5 points ahead of third place Pittsburgh in the men's competition and 31.5 points ahead of third place West Virginia in the women's division.

Leading the way for the Irish men was star sprinter Nurudeen, who won the 110 meter hurdles championship for the fourth time in his career with a time of 13.65 seconds, his best mark this season.

Erigha turned in her usual impressive performance for the women, winning the 100 meters and finishing second in the 200.

"She's just a great sprinter," Connelly said.

"A couple people ran great meets, but most of the team was pretty much average."

Tim Connelly
Irish assistant coach

Another important event for the Irish was the men's hammer throw, where Chip Roberts, Kyle Annen and Garet Koxlien all finished in the top six and earned a combined 19

points. Notre Dame dominated the men's steeplechase, where Ryan Johnson finished first, followed closely by Irish runners Jake Watson and Todd Ptacek.

The Irish distance runners showed their strength in the men's 10,000 meters, scoring 13 points by placing four runners in the top eight. Kaleb Van Ort paced the Irish with a third place finish. The 192 points scored by the Rutgers men tied a Big East record, matching Connecticut's total in 2002. The Pittsburgh women almost set a record of their own, finishing one point behind Villanova's 1984 record of 177 points.

Next up for the Irish is the Georgia Tech Invitational today in Atlanta, a tune-up for the NCAA regionals May 27 and 28.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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FENCING

Irish dominate competition en route to title

ND edges Ohio State 173-171 in National Championship meet

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Things couldn't have been much better for the Irish this season — as the team ended another dominating year by winning the NCAA title in dramatic fashion.

By the standards the program has built, Notre Dame's start was sub par.

While the then-No. 4 men's team went 3-1 at the NYU Duals, the women's team — ranked no. 2 at the time — dropped two of its first four matches of the season, ending their 41-match winning streak.

The women promptly began another streak, going 6-0 at the Notre Dame Duals.

This avenged their loss to Ohio State while starting what would become an 18-match string of wins to end the season, while the men's only defeat of the weekend again came against the Buckeyes.

After qualifying 11 fencers out of a possible 12 for the NCAA finals, the Irish were confident in their chances for another title. It was an

opportunity on which they would capitalize.

Notre Dame trailed until the very last bout but came from behind to edge Ohio State 173-171.

After the men concluded their competition on the second day of the four-day event, Notre Dame was in second place, 24 points behind Ohio State, and a comeback appeared difficult.

However, partly because Ohio State qualified only five women to Notre Dame's six, reversing the numbers from the men's field, and partly because of top-4 individual performances from many members of the team, including senior Alicja Kryczalo, sophomores Valerie Providenza and Amy Orlando and freshman Mariel Zagunis, Notre Dame was able to slowly erase the deficit.

The team cut it to 13 after the first day of the women's competition before clinching at least a share of the championship when Alicja Kryczalo won her final bout, a title they would gain outright when Ohio State's Metta Thompson lost to Katia Larchanka of St. John's.

Notre Dame ended with nine All-Americans including seniors Michal Sobieraj, Alicja Kryczalo and Andrea Ament, who all ended their

careers as four-time All Americans, as well as sophomores Matt Stearns, Patrick Ghattas, Valerie Providenza and Amy Orlando and freshman Mariel Zagunis.

Sobieraj won the men's foil national championship while Kryczalo finished as a runner-up in the foil. Ghattas and Zagunis finished second in the men's and women's foil, respectively, and Orlando took second place in the women's epee.

Kryczalo ends her career as a three-time national champion and senior Kerry Walton walks away with a national title, having won in 2002 in addition to finishing second in 2004, the same year that sophomore Valerie Providenza won the sabre title. Ament will end her career with two runner-up finishes, losing to Kryczalo in the finals both in 2002 and 2004.

The title gives the Irish two NCAA championships in the past three seasons, a feat the program has now accomplished three times.

Notre Dame now has seven total national titles — three men's, one women's and three championships since the NCAA combined men and women into one division in 1990.

Contact Eric Retter at cretter@nd.edu



Diego Qulonez competes during the Notre Dame Duals on Feb. 26. The Irish won the national championship a few weeks later, clipping second place Ohio State by two points.

Observer File Photo



*The Notre Dame Alumni Association and
The Student Alumni Relations Group congratulate the Class of 2005,
And also
recognize the following recipients of the 17th Annual Hall Spirit Award:*

History of the Hall Spirit Award

The Hall Spirit Award was established in 1989 to recognize the importance of community as evidenced in Notre Dame's residence halls. The Hall Spirit Award is voted by the residents of each hall to recognize the senior who has most exemplified the spirit of Notre Dame through his or her personality, character, and actions. In addition, the recipient is the person who, in the eyes of the hall's residents, has made the dorm a better place to live, work, play, and study. The Alumni Association sponsors the award as part of its outreach to students and hopes to share its goals of service to God, community, and Notre Dame. The association congratulates the 2005 Hall Spirit Award recipients and thanks them for their commitment to the University of Notre Dame!

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Dillon Hall	Galen Loughrey	Albuquerque, NM	Reverend Paul Doyle, C.S.C.
Farley Hall	Nicole Parker	Urbana, IL	Sister Carrine Etheridge, IHM
Fisher Hall	Joseph Guintu	Newbury Park, CA	Reverend Robert Moss, C.S.C.
Howard Hall	Charleen Vinalon	Tampa, FL	Kathleen Brannock
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Pangborn Hall	Courtney Jianas	Kansas City, MO	Heather Rakoczy
Pasquerilla East	Emily Gorman	Kansas City, KS	Sister Mary Ann Mueninghoff, OP
Pasquerilla West	Anna Kate Milburn	Harrison, AR	Sister Sue Bruno, OSF
Saint Edward's Hall	Brendan Barrett	Sayville, NY	Reverend Thomas J. Eckert, C.S.C.
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BASEBALL

Irish steadily improving, still hoping for 40 victories

Team turned season around, remains optimistic about year

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

To Irish coach Paul Mainieri, the first 42 games of Irish baseball in 2005 have been a tale of two seasons.

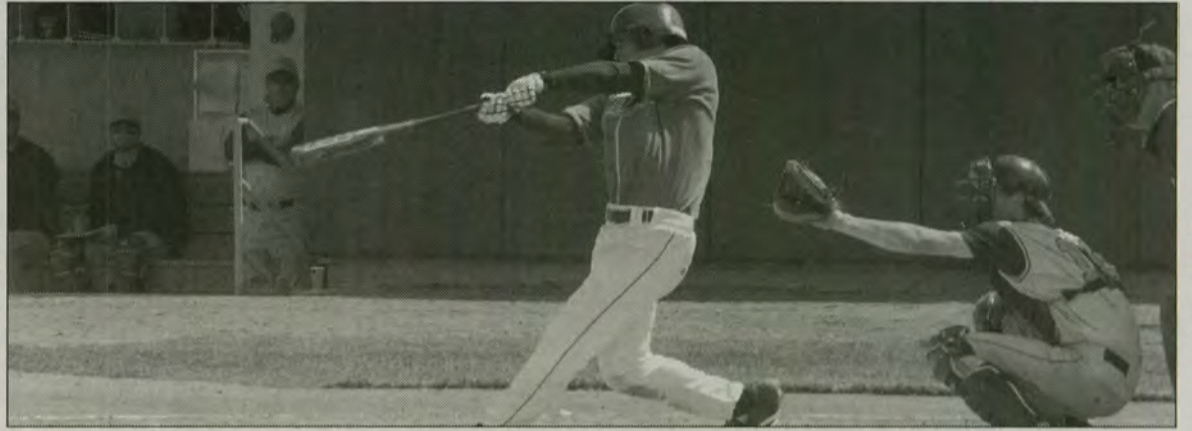
"I look at the season like we've had two seasons, so in a 56-game schedule, if you look at the first half of the season, being 28 games, we were 14-14," Mainieri said. "In the second part of the season we're 13-1-1."

"We'll just continue to empha-

size that 'second season' and hope that we can keep it going."

Notre Dame (27-18-1, 10-7-1 Big East after last weekend's series at St. John's) played its first 16 games on the road. The Irish packed their bags for Florida, Arizona and Texas road swings. In addition to the road woes, the Irish had numerous injury problems.

Sophomore right-hander Jess Stewart, who won seven games as a freshman standout pitcher, was out for most of April with a knee injury, while fellow sophomore right-hander Jeff Manship and senior right-hander John Axford have also been slowed in comeback efforts from reconstructive elbow surgery. The threesome — expected at the beginning of the season to play



Junior shortstop Greg Lopez takes a swing during a doubleheader game against Villanova on April 25. Notre Dame won game one 9-4 and tied the second game 7-7.

vital roles on the Irish pitching staff — have thrown a combined 23.1 innings.

In early March at the Alamo City Irish Baseball Classic, the hometown team, Texas-San Antonio, sent the Irish to their fifth straight loss — the first time in the 11-year Mainieri era the Irish have dropped five games in a row.

Things looked bleak.

Notre Dame went 10-8 in the next 18 games.

But, due to some shakeups in the lineup, better defense and some home games, the Irish have turned their season around — drastically.

"We've still got a shot at winning the [Big East] regular season title," Mainieri said. "I think we're a much better team here at the beginning of May than we were at the beginning of March; we'll see how far we can take it."

"When we flip-flopped Brett Lilley to third base and Ross Bresovsky to second base, particularly Brett Lilley has made us a better team by being at third base," Mainieri said. "He's making the plays at third that we weren't making for the first half of the season, and combined with Greg Lopez at shortstop, we now have a very solid left side of the infield defensively. It's allowing our pitchers to pitch with a lot more confidence."

The Irish have pulled their usual April and May magic. In Mainieri's 11 years at Notre Dame, his teams have combined to win 80.3 percent of their April games.

The team ERA has dropped to 4.50, while the fielding percentage has risen to .957. Lilley leads the squad with a .372 batting average and a .523 on-base percentage. And, most importantly, the Irish are 18-3-1 at home.

Despite the slow start to the season, the Irish always expected success.

"Our goals have not changed, necessarily, because our goal is still to get in to the NCAA tournament," Mainieri said. "This year it's been a little bit of a struggle in some ways. If we finish strong, we still could accomplish the things that we're used to accomplishing around here."

Those accomplishments are no easy tasks. On the line is the 16-year 40-win streak. With the Big East tournament in reach, its preservation is more than possible.

However, the streak, the Big East championship and the NCAA tournament are not just about winning and losing.

They're about pride.

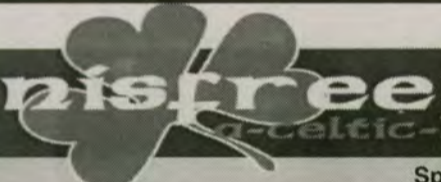
"We've had some veteran players that have struggled a little bit," Mainieri said. "But we still have 13 games left to go in our season, plus hopefully the post-season, and if these kids can really regroup and make a strong push to the finish, then I think that will be their legacy — that a lot of people that counted this team out early in the year when we were 14-14, everybody said, 'Well this team does not have it this year; it's going to be a bad year,' but here we are now 27-15-1 with 13 games remaining, and we still have a great opportunity to accomplish everything that we'd want to accomplish in a season."

"I think that would be a tremendous legacy of this team."

Can the 2005 Irish baseball team leave a legacy, or will it end 16 years of 40 wins? Mainieri knows it's up to the players themselves to finish the tale.

"The story is not finished yet," he said. "We'll have to see how the story finishes."


Contact Tom Dorwart at
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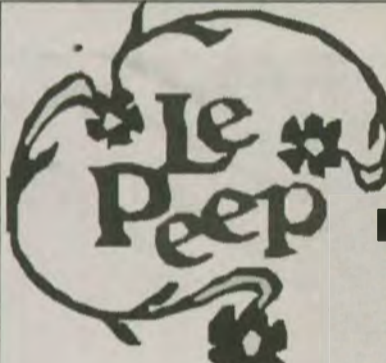


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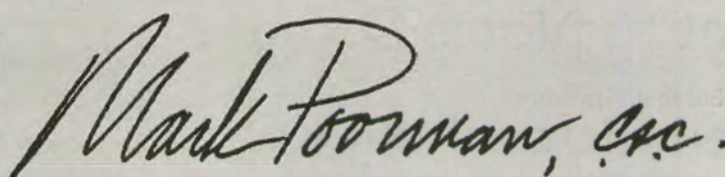
Prayers and best wishes to members of the Class of 2005. On behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for the many and varied contributions you have made to the University as students. Your presence among us has greatly enriched this community.

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

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

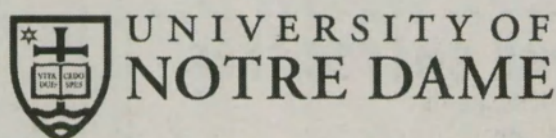
May Our Lady, Notre Dame, be with you and watch over you always.

In Notre Dame,



(Rev.) Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C.

Vice President for Student Affairs



ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Irish beat UCLA for second ever national championship

Notre Dame wins title on penalty kicks over Bruins in final

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

This was a celebration. This was a mission. This was a game that needed double overtime and penalty kicks to pull out the win.

But for the Irish, the NCAA championship victory was the highlight of an impressive 24-1-1 record this year.

The team got off to a strong start early in the season, with a 7-2 victory over Baylor on August 27. Forward Katie Thorlakson had a stellar performance, as she was a part of all seven points, tying a Notre Dame record. Other notable performances in the win included forward Amanda Cinalli, who scored the first two goals of the contest, and Candace Chapman, who also scored two goals for the team.

Despite the victory, Irish coach Randy Waldrum still expected more from the team.

"I didn't think we were sharp the whole night," Waldrum said to und.com after the win. "Now, we scored some fantastic goals, but I didn't feel like we ever controlled the tempo of the game like I expected us to against them."

However, when it came down

to critical Big East matchups such as Connecticut on Sept. 17, the team allowed little room for error. In the close 1-0 win, the team looked upon senior defender Kate Tulisiak to make an assist to Cinalli for the goal. This was Tulisiak's first point for the Irish, a player who missed last season because of nagging injuries. The victory impressed Waldrum because of how well the team performed as a unit.

"Kate made a great read to intercept the ball, and we all are so happy for her. She has been such a hard worker and really has come on during the last six months," Waldrum said to und.com after the win. "Our depth was a key tonight because of the tempo of the game. We felt comfortable with putting so many players into the game, and that can make all the difference."

Another consistent and key performer for the Irish this season was midfielder Jen Buczkowski. On Oct. 16, Buczkowski made her second last-minute goal to pull out the 1-0 win for the Irish over No. 20 Boston College, the first coming against Georgetown on Oct. 10. The assist came from defender Kim Lorenzen off of a pass from midfielder Ashley Jones. However, the strong performances from defenders Melissa Tancredi, Gudrun Gunnarsdottir, Christie Shaner and Lorenzen, were not only key in this match but throughout the entire season. This win



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

The Notre Dame national champion women's soccer team celebrates its Dec. 5 title-game victory over UCLA. The championship was the team's first since 1995.

extended the team's victory total to 53 games against Big East opponents at home and claimed the Big East regular season title for Notre Dame

The only loss this season came during the Big East championship game against Connecticut on Nov. 7. The only goal for the Irish in the 2-1 defeat came from Jones, the first of her career.

Despite the loss late in the season, it did not stop the Irish

from making a run in the NCAA championships as the No. 4 seed in the tournament. The Irish defeated Eastern Illinois, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Portland and Santa Clara to reach the championship game against UCLA on Dec. 5 in Cary, NC.

After trailing 1-0 in the second half, surviving a penalty kick off a save from goalie Erika Bohn and getting through double overtime, Notre Dame still

managed to get the 1-1, 4-3 penalty-kick victory over the Bruins.

After Thorlakson missed the first of seven penalty kick attempts by the Irish, goals from Sarah Kalpenny, Buczkowski, Annie Schefter and Jill Krivacek and a miss by the Bruin's Lindsay Greco clinched the win for Notre Dame.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

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HOCKEY

Poulin resigns following season

Former Islanders' assistant Jeff Jackson becomes new head coach

By **BOBBY GRIFFIN**
Associate Sports Editor

After a 5-27-6 season which resulted in Irish coach Dave Poulin stepping down as head coach to take a front office position, Notre Dame has responded by going in a different direction.

Jeff Jackson was named as Notre Dame's head hockey coach on May 6, becoming the fourth head coach in the modern era of Irish hockey.

Jackson brings an impressive resume to South Bend. Jackson coached Lake Superior State to three straight trips to the NCAA Championship game from 1992-1994, winning the title in 1992 and 1994.

During his time at Lake Superior State, Jackson also took his team to six consecutive NCAA tournament appearances.

Jackson moved on to the professional ranks after his time at Lake Superior, coaching the Guelph Storm of the Ontario Hockey League. He coached there until two seasons ago, when he became an assistant coach for the New York Islanders.

Jackson takes over a team that appeared in the NCAA tournament in the 2003-2004 season. However, last year the Irish had trouble scoring goals all season and finished last in the CCHA. The team was winless in the last 19 games of the season.

Irish players are already excited about Jackson and his previous experience coming

into this season. "I think its great," rising junior forward Josh Sciba said. "He's coming from a tremendous background so there's nothing that we can complain about at all."

In his press conference, Jackson was very direct about his expectations for turning around the Irish program — noting that he has to examine where the team is before taking the next step and giving respect to those who came before him.

"I need to evaluate where we are and what we need to do," Jackson said to und.com. "I sincerely believe that there's a tradition here stemming back from the days of Coach [Lefty] Smith and Coach [Ric] Schafer, and I think when the CCHA entered Notre Dame back into their league and Dave Poulin came here, I think it took another step."

Jackson stressed that discipline and hard work are keys to having a successful hockey team. It is that attitude the new coach will bring to his young players.

"I really believe it's all about work ethic and discipline," Jackson told und.com. "You have to get the players here who can play, but then it's all about work ethic and discipline. The old saying is 'search for eagles and then teach them to fly in formation.'"

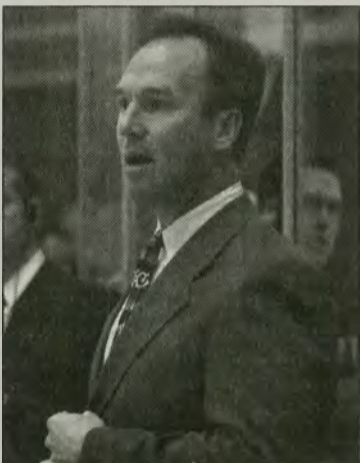
Players agree that hard work will be needed to turn around the Irish fortunes next year, and Jackson has already addressed this in his one meeting with the team.

"Before we left, [Jackson] had a meeting with us," Sciba said. "He wants us to work on our conditioning and basically be prepared for when we come back in the fall. We can be a contender in our league again and not be in the basement of our league again."

"From the time he came out, everybody was in awe and in shock. His demeanor is very serious, upbeat ... passionate about his job. Everyone liked the way he responded and acted in that meeting."

The new coach will inherit a team that is young, only graduating three seniors this season. Captain Cory McLean, Joe Zurenko and goalie Morgan Cey will graduate this weekend.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu



JOANNA PAXON/The Observer
Former Irish hockey coach Dave Poulin reacts to a penalty during Notre Dame's Nov. 5 tie with Bowling Green.

Young Irish struggle from start to finish

Rebuilding team wins only five of 38 games and nets just 60 goals

By **BOBBY GRIFFIN**
Associate Sports Editor

Coming off an NCAA tournament berth, the Irish knew it would be difficult to repeat their success with a young team that graduated a good amount of their talent.

However, a five-win season was not exactly what the Irish players, coaches and fans were expecting.

On February 12, the Irish were tied with Ferris State at three goals each when the puck got loose in the near corner.

With the Irish pressing, trying to score a go-ahead goal, a 3-on-2 break ensued on the other end, leading to a game-winning short-handed goal with 53 seconds remaining.

It was this type of head-shaking play that defined Notre Dame's hockey season.

Rising senior Mike Walsh spoke about the frustration that began to build as the struggles continued with each game.

"Everybody is looking at one another wondering when that next bounce is going to go our way," Walsh said.

Unfortunately, the Irish never got those lucky bounces.

Following a 2-1 win over Rensselaer on January 2, the Irish proceeded to go winless in their last 19 games of the season — including two losses to Michigan in the CCHA playoffs.

The 5-27-6 finish was enough to force head coach Dave Poulin to step down from his position and take a development job in the front office.

"Obviously for every individual and in terms of their goals, it was a disappointment," Walsh

said. "As well as a disappointment for the team collectively."

Walsh credited his old coach for preparing the team each game, placing responsibility on the shoulders of himself and the rest of his teammates.

"They gave us the game plan, and it's our job to go out and execute it," Walsh said. "We were never ill-prepared for anything."

"It comes from the leadership on down. As an assistant [captain], it was my job to better prepare everyone."

The season was not a complete loss for the Irish, as goalie Morgan Cey kept the team in every game in which they played.

Cey was outstanding all season, and Poulin praised him all year for his excellence and his leadership, even when the team was struggling.

In the squad's final game against Michigan, Cey held the Wolverines to just one goal — saving 43 shots in the overtime loss.

Next season, Jeff Jackson will be the Irish head coach — and he brings with him an impressive reputation.

Jackson coached Lake Superior State to three straight national title games, winning in 1992 and 1994. Jackson

has been an assistant coach with the New York Islanders for the last two seasons.

While being careful not to show any disrespect for his former coach, Walsh expressed that having a new coach in charge has already provided a spark for next season.

"Everybody's excited. It's a breath of fresh air within the program," Walsh said.

"Everyone is eager to show [Jackson] that last year was not who we are as a team or as players."

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

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MEN'S GOLF

Irish win two tournaments in best season in decades

Kubinski leads team to victories in Tulane Invitational and Big East Championship, as well as strong finish in Augusta

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

A new coach and a new beginning for the Irish this winter not only salvaged Notre Dame's season, they helped propel the team to its best year in decades.

The Irish now have a chance to reach the NCAA Championships with a strong showing at the NCAA Central Regional May 19-21. The team will have a distinct advantage, as Notre Dame's Warren Golf Course will play home to the event.

"We're really excited [for the regionals]," first-year head coach Jim Kubinski said. "I think all the guys on our team have been playing really well."

To qualify for the NCAA Championships, to be held in Baltimore June 1-4, the Irish must finish tenth or better at the Regional. Last year's team came in as the No. 24-seed and finished 12th. This year's team is seeded only four spots higher, but has momentum on its side after a tremendous spring.

The defending Big East champions played lackluster golf in the fall, with the team's best finish a fifth-place showing in the year's first tournament, the Inverness Intercollegiate.

By the end of the fall stretch, the Irish had experienced ups and downs, and head coach John Jasinski went on administrative leave within two weeks of the

team's final fall tournament.

Less than a month later, he resigned.

After an extensive search, which included a subcommittee of Irish golfers interviewing a "short list" of four candidates for the head coaching position, the Irish hired the former Duke assistant Kubinski.

Nominated for the 2004 Golf Coaches' Association of America Assistant Coach of the Year award, Kubinski brought high expectations for himself and the program, along with an enthusiasm that appealed to team members.

The Irish shot up the polls this spring with two wins and a gratifying seventh-place finish in the Augusta State Invitational, a tournament in which the field consisted of over a dozen NCAA qualifiers. However, Kubinski says he has "only accomplished about 20 percent" of what he wants to achieve at Notre Dame.

"I think the guys have had to go through a lot this year," he said. "They made an adjustment to a new coach. For where we are ... I couldn't be happier."

Where they are is two-time defending Big East champions, preparing to host the Central Regional.

And the turnaround from the fall was evident in Notre Dame's first spring tournament.

Traveling to the Bayou to compete against thirteen teams in the Nokia Sugar Bowl/Tulane

Invitational, the Irish beat UNC-Wilmington on the first playoff hole to capture a surprising victory. Nearly every other team in the field had competed in a previous tournament, while Notre Dame struggled just to get in practice rounds because of the South Bend weather.

But the Irish played exceptionally well, led by Cole Isban's 221 (73-71-77).

The Irish continued their strong play, capturing fourth place in the Irish Springs Invitational in Florida and second in the Gen. Jim Hackler Invitational in South Carolina.

After the Augusta State Invitational, Notre Dame came home to face Texas Christian University in a dual match.

A poor 299 by the Irish in the final round allowed TCU to come from behind to win, but the highlight of the match was Irish golfer Mark Baldwin's opening round seven-under 63. The score set not only the Warren Golf Course record, but it also beat the 40-year-old Notre Dame team mark by a stroke.

Kubinski said that Baldwin and Isban have each played like MVPs this spring.

"Cole came into the spring as the No. 1 player with high expectations, and he met them," Kubinski said. "But I think Mark beat his expectations. He's just had a great spring."

The Irish hit a bump in the road at the Texas A&M Invitational,



DUSTIN MENELLA/The Observer

Irish No. 1 golfer Cole Isban takes a swing at the Notre Dame Invitational/Central Regional Preview on Nov. 17. Isban led the Irish this spring with a 74.33 stroke average.

finishing a disappointing 14th in the competitive tournament, and Kubinski accepts responsibility for the last-place showing.

"I take the blame for that [tournament]. I didn't stress enough how strong that that field in Texas was," he said.

The team was able to move on quickly, coming back home the next week to win a snow-shortened Big East Championship. It was the team's fifth Big East title in the ten years they have competed in the conference.

And for the second straight season, the Irish earned an automatic spot in NCAA regionals by winning the conference title. Because the Big East only gained an auto-

matic berth into the NCAA tournament five years ago, Notre Dame's last appearance in the tournament before 2004 was in 1966.

Now, the team looks to get one step past the regionals, by advancing to Baltimore.

Kubinski is confident in his team's ability.

"There were 18 teams in Augusta, and probably 15, 16, 17 of those 18 are going to be in the NCAA tournament. Beating the Dukes and Wake Forests and Clemsons ... shows what we can do."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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FOOTBALL

Season plagued by inconsistency ends in disappointment

Turbulent year includes blowout losses to Purdue and Southern Cal, leads to Willingham's firing and Weis' hiring

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

In the 2004 season, time simply ran out on Tyrone Willingham.

After three seasons as head coach, Willingham became the first Notre Dame head football coach to be fired before his original contract expired.

Willingham led the Irish to a 6-6 record in his final season, earning some significant victories but also suffering several blowout losses.

Though Notre Dame bested No. 7 Michigan and No. 9 Tennessee, the Irish lost badly to Purdue (41-16), USC (41-10) and Oregon State (38-21).

"Usually what happens is the team that is most consistent makes a few more plays that given day than the other team, and they win," Willingham said. "And in some cases, they make a lot more plays."

Notre Dame was inconsistent from play to play and from game to game, beginning with a season-opening, 20-17 loss to BYU in Provo, Utah.

Irish quarterback Brady Quinn completed 26 of 47 passes for 265 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown screen pass to wide receiver Rhema McKnight. Quinn later finished the season with 2,586 yards passing and 17 touchdowns. The loss to BYU, however, set the tone for a rough, up-and-down season.

Notre Dame rebounded to roll over Michigan at home, 28-20. Freshman running back Darius Walker, one of a couple consistent bright spots for the team,

ran for 115 yards on 31 carries and two touchdowns.

"Our guys did something significant, but it was still one win," Willingham said following the game. "We can't get ahead of ourselves. Tomorrow we have to start all over."

The Irish remained levelheaded in disposing of Michigan State on the road the following week, 31-24. Notre Dame's defense forced six turnovers, including a 75-yard fumble return by safety Tom Zbikowski. But the defense became the most serious area of concern throughout the year.

Though the Irish then dominated a struggling Washington squad, 38-3, the following week Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton lit up the Notre Dame secondary. Orton threw for 385 yards and four touchdowns, including a 97-yarder to wide receiver Taylor Stubblefield, who pumped his fist all the way down the field at Notre Dame Stadium. Notre Dame gave up an average of 281.2 yards passing per game to its 2004 opponents, including a total of 23 touchdowns through the air.

The team earned wins in its next two games against Stanford and Navy, moving to a No. 24 national ranking, but on Oct. 23 Boston College humbled Notre Dame for the fourth consecutive season. Eagles quarterback Paul Peterson threw a 30-yard touchdown pass with 54 seconds remaining to top the Irish, 24-23.

Notre Dame never recovered. The following week Willingham managed to rally the troops and steal a 17-13 win at Tennessee, but what then fol-



Notre Dame safety Quentin Burrell, left, chases Boston College quarterback Paul Peterson during the Irish's 24-23 loss to the Eagles Nov. 23. The win was the Eagles' fourth straight over the Irish.

lowed were a heartbreaking, 41-38 loss to Pittsburgh and an embarrassing, 41-10 blowout at the hands of rival USC.

Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko became the first quarterback to throw five touchdown passes against Notre Dame. USC quarterback Matt Leinart matched Palko's touchdown total the next week, also throwing for a career-high 400 yards.

And though Notre Dame played Oregon State in the Dec. 29 Insight Bowl, Willingham's

time ran out on Nov. 30 when the University fired the head coach.

Notre Dame hired New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis on Dec. 12 and held a press conference the following day.

"We simply have not made the progress on the field that we need to make," athletic director Kevin White said in an initial statement.

Meanwhile, whether players were pleased or disappointed

with the move, the pervading sense surrounding the program called for a change of leadership.

"There's so much talent here," senior linebacker Derek Curry said. "There's a lot of young guys who can do a lot of great things with the new system coming up. And I hope those guys really play like they can play. They'll be fine."

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Independent of the University

Nurudeen

continued from page 44

bering racing his siblings during his childhood. He played soccer and basketball in addition to running track in his hometown of Friendswood, Texas.

Nurudeen began his track career with the 400-meter dash.

"I have the stamina for it — I don't really have the speed of a 100-meter runner," Nurudeen said. "Then my coach, he decided to put me in the 110 hurdles."

The former runner had found a home among the hurdles. When his times started to drop, Nurudeen decided to stick with the new event.

After focusing on the hurdles, Nurudeen began to attract the attention of colleges. When the time came to select a college, he was recruited more heavily for track than basketball — motivating him to work even harder in track.

"I took the opportunity, and I've been getting better ever since," he said.

Although Nurudeen first looked at schools based on the caliber of their track programs, academics were an important factor, as well.

"The academics at Notre Dame ... that part was a no-brainer," he said. "It's not a super-elite track team or anything, but I was talking to my dad, and he said 'It's not where you go, it's what you do where you're at.'"

Notre Dame has proved to be a great fit for Nurudeen.

"He was an excellent high school hurdler," Piane said. "Did we expect him to win four straight Big East Championships? No. Only five

people have ever won four in a row ... We thought he'd run well, but there was no way to expect this."

This year, Nurudeen took the hurdling title with a time of 13.65 seconds, a season best by .20 seconds and placing him among the nation's Top 10 times. He also placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.11 seconds.

"The biggest thing that sticks out to me was getting All-American in the indoor hurdles this year," he said. "This put me where I needed to be amongst the other elite hurdlers, and it showed me I was getting better and improving and where I needed to be."

In his junior season, Nurudeen set the school record in the 60-meter hurdles and won that event in the Big East championships in addition to notching his third gold in the 110-meter hurdles.

However, a significant change for Nurudeen was in the classroom, when he changed from a pre-med major to industrial design.

"I've always drawn. This is my number one passion, so changing to industrial design, it's opened so many doors for me," Nurudeen said. "I got second in a national design competition ... it's completely changed my life. It's made things so much easier, not only in the classroom but also in track."

Piane said the student-athlete combination in Nurudeen was an

important contribution he made to the team.

"He is an All-American indoors and probably, we hope, an All-American outdoors this spring," Piane said. "He works very hard and is a very good student."

Another important event of this year was running in the Olympic trials.

"It was interesting running against that caliber of hurdlers," Nurudeen said.

For the next Olympic trials, Nurudeen plans to work harder to prepare for the event, noting that his preparation time was more limited than that of other competitors.

Piane said the Olympic trials illustrated more of his development as an athlete.

"He's improved pretty significantly," Piane said. "The big thing he's learned is to compete. He used to be a good hurdler — now he's an excellent hurdler.

"He was an excellent high school hurdler. Did we expect him to win four straight Big East championships? No. Only five people have ever won four in a row."

**Joe Piane
Irish coach**

He's not intimidated when he gets into a race, and he competed in the U.S. Olympic trials."

Being a track runner has played a significant role in shaping Nurudeen's Notre Dame experience. He has worked to build relationships with coaches and athletes and balancing school and sports.

"Coach-athlete relationships can get rocky, but [my coaches] have helped me out so much to get me where I am," Nurudeen said. "It's been really helpful and a really great relationship and one I'll definitely have once I



BETH WERNET/The Observer

Selim Nurudeen clears a hurdle at the Mayo Invitational at Notre Dame on Feb. 5.

leave here."

Aside from individual accomplishments, what the track team has accomplished together has been important to Nurudeen.

"A positive thing is that we're doing well, we've won a few Big East indoor and outdoor championships," he said.

He also considers his teammates to be his closest friends.

"Traveling with the team, getting to know the different guys ... it's been really interesting, training with everybody," said Nurudeen. "You're not only getting yourself better but you're also getting each other better."

Nurudeen said he spends most of his time with his teammates, doing normal college activities. Despite enjoying his senior year, Nurudeen remains extremely driven.

"I definitely want to win

nationals — that's my number one goal," he said. "It's going to be tough, but that's what I want to do."

He is unsure of where next year will take him.

"There are so many options for me right now," Nurudeen said. "I am not even sure — I am looking into grad school, and there are a few different jobs, but I'm not ruling out running professionally ... I just don't want to leave any stone unturned and make sure I don't regret anything."

He has no regrets from his time at Notre Dame, though.

"We've had some real outstanding athletes here, and he's been one of them," said Piane.

And his career isn't over yet.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Congratulations Seniors!

Come enjoy your first game as alums in Pittsburgh and cheer Charlie Weis and the Irish Onward to Victory!

September 3, 2005

Heinz Field, Pittsburgh, PA

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- Pep Rally at the Heinz History Center

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- ND v. Pitt @ Heinz Field

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Information and tickets for the club events can be obtained through the ND Club of Pittsburgh.

alumni.nd.edu/~ndc_pitt/

Or contact Alex Saksen '97 at phally5@yahoo.com

Kryczalo

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not 100 percent sure [that I will be able to]. I'm still waiting for permission, I have to apply," she said. "It's called Optional Practical Training (OPT), and I applied for it, and I have to wait like two months."

Since she cannot return to her native Poland while waiting for OPT permission, one option Kryczalo has in the interim is to continue her training, with the goal of competing in a World Cup event in Las Vegas in mid-June.

"I will try to do my best to keep on practicing, keep on going to competition, but we'll see," she said.

However, despite being a member of the Polish national team, Kryczalo has found it difficult to gain backing from her home country for her competitions in the United States.

"I'm representing Poland everywhere," she said. "If I were to be representing United States it would be [a] different story, but in [a] different country, when representing Poland, they don't want so much to support me when I'm abroad, so it's really hard."

At the beginning of May, she had an opportunity to compete in Poland under the full sponsorship of her Polish team, returning to her native city of Gdansk for an event.

"In general, it was really nice travel for me, because it was in my home city ... and I got to see my family and friends, so it was very nice," she said. "I didn't do very well as I was expecting to, but it's OK, I knew it was not a good time for it."

New Interests?

While Kryczalo plans to continue fencing, it is clear she would define her own schedule.

"Well, I still have to find some things, instead of fencing, I'm really excited about that, because I have been practicing for 12 years, so for those 12 years I didn't have time for other things in my life," she said.

A few things she will try to do more of will certainly include her creative artistic endeavors, a pursuit for which her availability has not always matched her passion.

"I was always interested in art, and I like to paint and write," she said. "I was painting more before — fencing kind of took it away from me — but with writing, I'm still writing. I used to write poems, some stories. I'm still doing this; maybe I will have more time for it."

Additionally, Kryczalo may consider submitting her work, especially her writing, into the public sphere.

"I tried; my teacher one time sent one of my poems, in Poland," she said.

"It was long ago, for the contest, and I got not the first [place] award but an award in Poland. I will try to do that."

Ultimately, Kryczalo — who is fluent in English and Polish, conversant in Spanish and taking German classes — aspires to travel the globe and work as an interpreter after going to graduate school.

"I love languages ... I would like to have [a] nice job, but that's why I also want to be interpreter/translator because I don't want to have [an] everyday job," she said.

"I would like to travel sometimes and do my stuff, with kind of more free time."

Looking Back

Although she is ready to move

on to the next phase of her life, Kryczalo definitely feels like she is leaving a part of herself behind as she leaves Notre Dame and the team she has helped lead the past four years.

"I feel like my life will change totally. ... Here I would say [life] was very trouble-less. I was just concentrating to study and to fence and to meet new people and enjoy my life."

Many of her memories center around the NCAA finals, an event where she had great success in her career. She won the NCAA individual title in 2002, 2003 and 2004 before finishing as the runner-up this past season. She was also an integral part of two national championship teams, in 2003 and 2005.

"Each year, all my practices, the goal was NCAA championships, so I remember each time we were fencing," she said.

Each year, she says, the experience was a little different.

"The first time, I didn't know what to expect, I was really, really stressed out because I wanted to show what I can do, and I didn't know, actually, what I can do," she said. "I know that the format is hard, and I was really, really prepared, and it really went well for me. I just remember I was really, really happy when I finally won. There was a lot of joy."

The next three years, the tournament was different, as she entered as the defending champion and favorite.

"I was defending my title, so I was more stressed out, but on the other side, I knew more what to expect," she said. "The second year when we won as a team, it was the first time I won with my team, so we could share this joy, and I was double champion, which was even cooler."

Saying Goodbye

By her final season, the team aspect had grown to be an even greater part of her identity in NCAA fencing, and it was Kryczalo's performance in her final round-robin bout that clinched the title for the Irish.

"The three first years, its more individual, even the team tournament. I more remember individual. The last year, I remember the team winning, because it was such a great experience for me when I had my last my bout and everybody jumped at me after that," she said. "I didn't even expect that we [would] win, because we were losing a lot after two days. And then I saw the joy in our coaches, who I appreciate so much and like so much, and I know they put so much effort into this ... It was really a great feeling. I had tears in my eyes. It was so much sweeter; it took away this bitterness that I didn't win [the individual title]."

Ultimately, it is the team moments and teammates that she will miss most as she begins to move on.

"All the people on my team I really like in one or the other way ... All of them are very, very nice and interesting people," she said. "It's hard to find such a wide circle of friends as easy as I found here."

She feels perhaps her closest bond with fellow senior foilist Andrea Ament especially, who was a four-time All-American along with Kryczalo, twice falling to her in the finals.

"She was really an amazing teammate, and because I was so lucky to have such good results, somehow I think she's sometimes getting lost in this," she said. "She was kind of the spirit of our team, too, and really a good friend as well, so I definitely would like to say I will miss her, because I will never find such a

good teammate."

She will also be saddened walking away from her two coaches, Janusz Bednarski and Zoltan Dudas, who gave her a much different type of coaching than she received in Poland.

"I really prefer the way I was coached in ND, when I could talk with coaches and they were understanding. They really, really were with me, so when I was losing, they were consoling me. They were never angry; they were standing on my side," she said. "Both of them are not only

concerned about fencing, they are also interested in our lives and what we are doing after [fencing]."

No matter where she goes, a part of Kryczalo will always be home in Poland.

"I have kind of a double life now, and my life in Poland is losing because I'm staying here more of the time, so it hurts me," she said.

At the same time, Kryczalo, a psychology major, relishes the opportunity to meet new people as she begins her post-student

life in the United States.

"I like to meet new people. I think they can bring a lot of new life, you can learn from them," she said. "I always think that people create places for me. That's why, when people are saying some places are boring, I always say, 'Yeah, but its not about the place, its just about the people,' so if you have good people there, then it's the best place."

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

The University of Notre Dame's Science, Technology & Values Program

in the

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Is pleased to announce the following graduating students for the
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Jacqueline M. Dammann

Brian D. Donnelly

Michael Gibek

Jennifer L. Jeffers

Brian E. Kadera

John W. Kaveney

Michael B. Koehler

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You will always be in

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to O'Neill!

O'



Observer file photo

The 2005 captains of the Saint Mary's golf team take a break from a day on the links. They are, from left, Stefanie Simmerman, Chrissy Dunham and Julie Adams.

Title

continued from page 44

helped her develop into a more complete golfer.

"[My improvement] has a lot to do with Mark and his joining of the team," Simmerman said.

"He has a lot of confidence in me. He can tell me what I'm doing with my hands, at what point I am swinging. He knows my game probably better than I do."

Under his tutelage, Simmerman has continued to drop strokes from her scorecard and post low rounds.

She finished her junior spring with an 82.5 scoring average and was set to defend her title at the national championships in Green Lake, Wisc. After a three-day total of 238 (78-82-78) left her within

striking distance of the lead, Simmerman struggled on the final day of the event, but still managed to tie for twelfth place.

But that didn't meet Simmerman's own expectations.

"I was disappointed with a twelfth-place finish, but taking twelfth place at the national championships isn't all that bad," she said.

"I had more planned for myself — I thought I could have done better."

Nevertheless, her four-round total of 328 led the Belles to an eighth-place finish in the team competition. That goes a long way, even if it falls short of expectations of a national title.

"Bringing Saint Mary's name up in the rankings [is important to me]," she said.

That she has done, as she became the first Belles golfer

to earn All-MIAA honors in four consecutive years by finishing second in this year's scoring average race.

Even though she's only one spot higher than she was as a freshman on the conference list, the drastically-improved quality of golfers has made her climb and the ascension of Saint Mary's all the more evident.

The team is averaging scores in the double-digits lower than it did when she first arrived. Additionally noteworthy, her scoring average alone this year is more than eight strokes improved from her stand-out freshman season.

"Just to see how much we've improved and how much I've been a part of it means a lot to me," she said.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles to challenge for national awards

Senior captains lead team to title rounds

By ANNA FRICANO
Sports Writer

For the third year in a row, Saint Mary's has earned one of ten bids to compete in the NCAA Division III Championships this week in North Carolina. Led by seniors Stefanie Simmerman, Julie Adams and captain Chrissy Dunham, the team has recently completed another highly-successful season, which helped to earn them a fourth place ranking, the highest seed the Belles have ever achieved in the tournament.

Coach Mark Hamilton and his team hope that this will propel the Belles to their first-ever national title.

For Simmerman, Adams and Dunham, this week will be their third and last attempt to bring home the national title. All three women have been with the team throughout their time at Saint Mary's and have traveled to the two previous NCAA tournaments with the team. Simmerman won the individual title in the 2003 tournament and helped the team to a fourth place overall finish, the highest that Saint Mary's has placed in the national tournament.

The Belles had just as successful a season in the MIAA last fall, again capturing the conference title. The team placed first in three out of four conference tournaments in the fall, coming

in second to Olivet only once. At the conference championship in early October, Adams came in first place, earning the 2004 conference medal.

Adams, Simmerman and Dunham were all named all-MIAA First Team. Juniors Megan Mattia and Nicole Bellino also gave strong showings for Saint Mary's, earning second-team honors within the conference.

The national tournament will be one last opportunity for Saint Mary's to beat DePauw this season, who have eluded the Belles so far this spring. DePauw represents Region 2 at the tournament along with the Belles. Saint Mary's would also like to knock Methodist, who is hosting the event, out of their top spot. Last year, Methodist won their seventh consecutive NCAA tournament, finishing 2 strokes ahead of Mary Hardin-Baylor, who will represent Region 5 again in this year's championship. DePauw came in at third place in the tournament last year and Wisconsin-Oshkosh finished fourth. Saint Mary's, who finished eighth in last year's meet, will have to face all of these teams again this week in order to capture the title.

In the national rankings Saint Mary's remains in third place, behind DePauw and Hardin-Baylor.

The NCAA Championship began Tuesday and concludes today.

Contact Anna Fricano at africa01@saintmarys.edu

NFL DRAFT

Tuck, Collins among 10 Irish players signed by pros

Tuck's third-round selection leads Irish signees in the NFL

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

It is no secret that Justin Tuck and Jerome Collins will soon be suiting up on Sundays, as the two Irish seniors were picked in last month's NFL Draft.

However, several other Notre Dame players have extended their football careers as well, being signed by various teams over the last couple of weeks.

Justin Tuck was taken in the third round of the NFL Draft on April 23 by the New York Giants with the 74th pick overall.

Tuck was expected to be a late first or second round pick, but slipped into the early third round. The Giants looked at Tuck in the second round, but ultimately decided to go with LSU cornerback Corey Webster.

Tuck was coming off an injury, and his statistics as a senior were reflective of that — making him a later pick than his talent warrants, according to Giants coach Tom Coughlin.

"Probably because of his senior year when he was coming off the injury, [Tuck was a late pick]," Coughlin said to Michael Eisen of giants.com. "He had flashed in

games. He probably didn't have the kind of year that he normally would have had. He had 13 1/2 sacks as a third-year player and then came into this year with, I believe, [six] sacks. ... But we are glad it happened and worked out that way."

Tuck is motivated to show that teams made a mistake by not selecting him earlier.

"Every coach I came in contact with here at the Giants told me 'You have to play with a chip on your shoulder,' and that's what I plan on doing," Tuck told Eisen.

Collins, a tight end for the Irish who had been moved around a lot during his collegiate career, found a home when St. Louis drafted him in the sixth round with the 144th pick.

Collins is already listed on the St. Louis Rams Web site as being the third string tight end behind Brandon Manumaleuna and Roland Williams — meaning he is slated to be used in goal line situations.

Listed as both a tight end and an outside linebacker on the St. Louis Rams Web site, the Rams are hoping that his blocking ability and special teams play will make him a quality addition to their roster.

Other than the two draft picks, Irish linebacker Mike Goolsby, running back Ryan Grant, wide receiver Carlyle Holiday, defensive back Carlos Campbell, defensive back Dwight Ellick, tight end Billy

Palmer, linebacker Derek Curry and defensive tackle Greg Pauly were picked up by NFL teams.

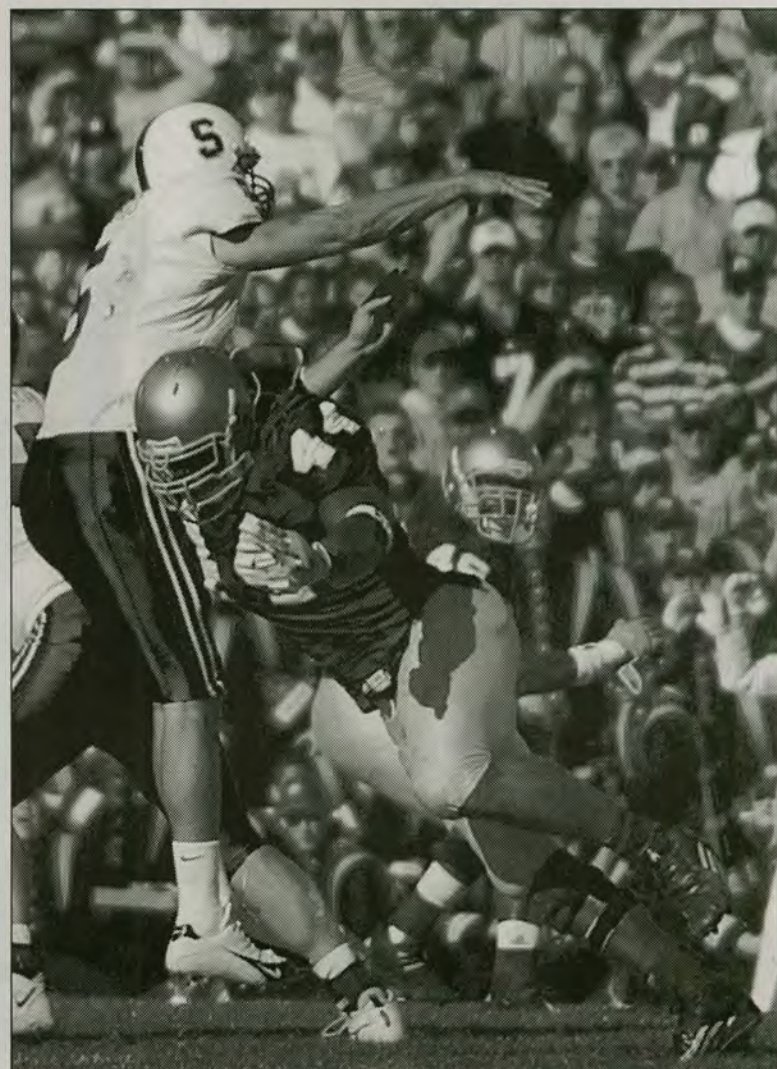
Goolsby was signed by the Dallas Cowboys, Grant by the New York Giants, Holiday by the Arizona Cardinals, Campbell by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Ellick by the New Orleans Saints, Palmer by the Washington Redskins, Curry by the Miami Dolphins and Pauly by the Chicago Bears.

What the Cardinals will do with Holiday should be interesting to monitor. Initially a quarterback at Notre Dame, Holiday was moved to wide receiver and saw significant time as a punt returner in his senior season.

Ryan Grant will be joining a New York Giants team that released Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne this off-season. He will battle for playing time behind starter Tiki Barber and second-string back Mike Cloud, with running backs Derrick Ward and rookies Brandon Jacobs and Mike Jemison.

Ellick will be joining a New Orleans defense that has been among the worst in the league for the last few seasons. Last season, the Saints gave up 243 yards a game in the air and 25.3 points per game — and had the worst ranked overall defense in the league.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriff3@nd.edu



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Justin Tuck, a third-round draft pick for the New York Giants, sacks Stanford quarterback Trent Edwards on Oct. 9.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

1



Irish move in different direction: Willingham fired, Weis hired

November-December, 2004

The news stunned a grey Notre Dame campus on the morning of Nov. 30, as head football coach Tyrone Willingham was fired after three seasons with the Irish. Willingham started 8-0 but finished his tenure at Notre Dame with a 21-15 record and three thirty-one point losses to USC. There was a large outcry in the media and on campus about the removal of Willingham having racial implications. After rumors that Irish athletic director Kevin White was close to hiring Utah coach Urban Meyer, Meyer spurned Notre Dame for Florida — leading to the eventual hiring of New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, and four-time Super Bowl winner, Charlie Weis on Dec. 14. Weis has already brought a new spark of intensity to the football program, even though he has not coached a game yet. Weis has also settled criticisms that he might not be able to recruit players by signing six recruits already for the class of 2009.

2 Davie axed; leads to coaching fiasco



After Notre Dame fired Bob Davie, the football program was taken on a rollercoaster ride. George O'Leary was introduced at a Dec. 9 press conference, but it took only five days to catch him lying on his resume. Stanford head coach Tyrone Willingham was then hired on Jan. 1, 2002 replacing O'Leary.

December 2001

3 Women's soccer wins national title



After an impressive regular season that saw the women's soccer team finish with a 24-1-1 overall record, the Irish won the National Championship against UCLA on Dec. 5. It was the first national title since 1995, one that came after two overtime periods and penalty kicks.

December 5, 2004

4 Willingham leads Return to Glory



In his first year as head coach, Tyrone Willingham led the Irish to an 8-0 start. His 10 wins were the most by a first-year Notre Dame football coach.

The season's top wins included a defeat of No. 6 Michigan at Notre Dame Stadium and a win at No. 11 Florida State.

Fall 2002

5 Irish go to CWS, first trip since '57



It took an improbable victory over No. 1 Florida State at Tallahassee, but the Irish found a way to reach their first College World Series since 1957.

The team played well in Omaha, beating Rice on a walk-off home run and losing twice to a tough Stanford team. They also won 50 games, a new team record.

June 15-18, 2002

6 Brey-coached Irish find Sweet success



As the five seed in the West Regional, Mike Brey led the men's basketball team to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1987.

Brey took over as head coach in 2000 and has steadily improved the basketball program. Under his guidance, his teams qualified for three straight NCAA Tournaments.

March 2003

7 Fencers champs twice in three years



In 2003, Notre Dame won its first National Championship since 1994 — after finishing second or third every year since then.

In 2005, they proved victorious again, winning their second title. Since 2002, Irish fencers have won individual national titles, with senior foilist Alicja Kryczalo winning three.

March 20, 2005

8 Coaches exit SMC in revolving door



In a two and a half month period, three Saint Mary's coaches resigned.

The athletic department, which could barely pay its head coaches \$6,000 a year, was unable to attract and retain quality coaches. Bobby Johnson, John Ganeff and Theresa Pekarek all left Saint Mary's during the spring.

Spring 2002

9 Hockey earns first ever NCAA bid

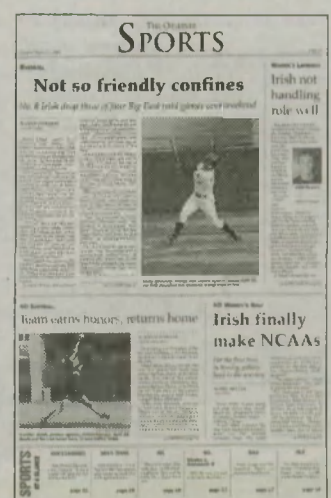


As the No. 4 seed in the Grand Rapids regional, the Irish advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time in the program's 36-year history.

Coach Dave Poulin's team played a difficult schedule during the regular season to earn the at-large bid, including a win over then-No. 1 Boston College.

March 2003

10 Women's golf makes NAAs



For the first time in the 16-year history of the program, the Irish advance to the NCAA tournament.

The Irish received the No. 19 seed at the Central Regional at Illinois State by winning a school-record four tournaments during the regular season, including their second consecutive Big East Championship.

April 26, 2004

Notre Dame:

Women's cross country team finishes fourth in NCAA championships, men's

Observer Staff Report

Men's soccer

Despite an early exit from the NCAA Tournament, the Irish saw success on team and individual levels this season.

"The big thing this year was winning the Big East regular-season title for the first time," coach Bobby Clark said. "I think that was a tremendous accomplishment because it was one of the toughest soccer conferences in the country."

The Irish clinched the league title against Rutgers with one game to go in conference play.

Notre Dame was eliminated on penalty kicks by Seton Hall in an 8-7 Big East tournament quarterfinal loss. It received a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament but was upset by Ohio State, 2-1, in a hotly-contested second-round game and finished the season with a final record of 13-3-3.

Individually, Chris Sawyer was named Big East Goalkeeper of the Year, and Jack Stewart was the conference's Defender of the Year. First-team accolades went to Kevin Goldthwaite, while Clark and his fellow coaches were named Coaching Staff of the Year.

Sawyer was named an All-American, and Stewart and Goldthwaite were semi-finalists for the Hermann Trophy, collegiate soccer's most prestigious award.

Men's cross-country

What started out as a great year for the Irish was tainted slightly by an 11th place finish in the NCAA championships,

when they were No. 5 nationally heading into the meet. However, the Irish still had a lot to be proud of at season's end.

Notre Dame ran well all year as Kurt Benninger, Tim Moore, Kaleb Van Ort and Sean O'Donnell led a group that was successful all season.

Notre Dame won the National Catholic Championship on Sept. 19 and took the Big East Championship on Oct. 29.

The Irish also compiled a slew of second-place finishes in the Notre Dame Invitational, the Pre-National Championships and NCAA Great Lakes Regional.

The squad also received an award on March 8 by the USCCA for their academic performance, finishing with one of the top team GPAs in the country.

Women's cross-country

The Notre Dame women performed well all season and culminated the year with a fourth-place finish in the NCAA Championships.

Stephanie Madia was the first Irish runner to cross the finish line in that race, finishing 25th overall with a time of 20:58.

Notre Dame's success started early in the season.

After winning the National Catholic Championship at Notre Dame, the Irish went on to finish second in the Pre-National Championship, the Big East Championship and the NCAA Great Lakes Regional.

Notre Dame also took third in the Notre Dame Invitational.

Madia led the Irish all year, providing consistency and excellence all season. Sunni

Olding came into her own with an impressive first season, often running with Madia in order to make each other better.

Kerry Meagher, Molly Huddle and Lauren King also were successful for the Irish — contributing all season towards the team's success.

Women's golf

The Irish turned in a mostly successful 2004-05 campaign, winning four tournaments. The team faltered down the stretch, however, placing third in the Big East and finishing 18th out of 21 in the NCAA central regional.

Katie Brophy led the Irish all season, finishing with a team-low 78.00 scoring average, good enough for second in Notre Dame history.

Noriko Nakazaki also played well for coach Debby King this year. Known for her consistency, Nakazaki has shot under 76 in 22 of her 36 career rounds.

Stacy Brown was the most accurate player for the Irish this season, finishing 10th in the nation with an 88.7 fairways-hit percentage.

Jane Lee burst onto the scene in her freshman year, shooting a two-under-par 70 at the St. Croix Collegiate Classic in the U.S. Virgin Islands and appearing regularly in the Irish lineup.

The season was rolling along well for Notre Dame until the Big East Championships April 23 and 24, when inclement weather and bad luck relegated the heavily-favored Irish to third place.

The disappointment continued in Lubbock, Texas at the

NCAA Central Regionals, where the Irish collapsed on day two and finished third from last - 10 places out of advancing to the NCAA finals.

Men's swimming

The No. 22 Irish were nothing short of impressive this season, as the team won its first Big East Championship and sent two individuals to the NCAA Championships.

Sam Stoner finished 28th in the three-meter diving competition and 17th in the one-meter portion in the NCAA Zone C Diving Championships as the first freshman to take part in the competition since 2000.

Tim Kegelman also represented the Irish in the NCAA Championships, placing 39th in the 200-yard individual medley and 37th in the 200-yard butterfly. He is the first Notre Dame swimmer ever to receive an invitation to the national meet.

The Irish recorded a 10-2 record in dual meets, registering their only losses to No. 14 Northwestern and No. 22 Brigham Young.

Notre Dame faced such intimidating opponents with poise and confidence as the team upset No. 17 Pittsburgh, 155-145, in one of its more impressive wins of the season on Nov. 12.

Later in the year, the Irish knocked off the eight-time defending Big East champion Panthers once again with a 275-point victory in the conference meet.

Most of the team will return to competition next year, with

the exception of seniors captain Matt Bertke, Frank Krakowski, David Moisan and Drew Pittman.

Women's swimming

Another year, another Big East Championship.

For the ninth consecutive season, the Irish won the conference championship as they picked up their sixth top-25 finish during the nine-year stretch and recorded the third-highest point total in program history at the NCAA Championships in West Lafayette, Ind.

Compiling a 6-3 dual record, the Irish headed into the Big East meet as the favorite.

Tied with Pittsburgh at 72 points apiece at the end of the first day, the Irish pulled away during the second day of competition, winning three of five events en route to a 53-point advantage over the second-place Panthers. Notre Dame locked up first place on the third and final day of the championships, winning three events for a three-day total of 503 points; Pittsburgh and Rutgers tied for second with 399 points each.

Sophomore Katie Carroll and senior Meghan Perry-Eaton paced the Irish at the NCAA Championships.

Carroll took home All-American honors for her sixth-place finish in the 400-yard individual medley at the national meet while Perry-Eaton was also named an All-American for her fifth-place finish off the one-meter board.

The Irish will be under new leadership next season. Head

Sept. 11 - Coming off an opening-day loss to Brigham Young, Notre Dame football rebounds to upset No. 7 Michigan, 28-20.



Nov. 2 - Irish golfer Cole Isban finishes second at the competitive Prestige tournament at the PGA West golf course in La Quinta, Calif.

Nov. 21 - Notre Dame women's volleyball beats Pittsburgh in straight sets to capture the Big East Championship. The Irish finish the regular season 20-8.

2004

Nov. 23 - Irish men's soccer falls to Ohio State 2-1 in an upset in the second round of the NCAA tournament. The Irish finish the year 13-3-3.

Dec. 4 - Irish women's volleyball falls to Wisconsin in straight sets in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Dec. 7 - Men's golf head coach John Jasinski resigns for personal reasons after a disappointing fall in his third year with the program.



Dec. 14 - Irish goalie Chris Sawyer earns first-team All-American honors.

Jan. 12 - Three Irish soccer players are drafted in the first two rounds of the annual MLS draft. Midfielder Jack Stewart was the first Irish player selected, at No. 10 by the Chicago Fire.

Jan. 29 - The Notre Dame men's tennis team picks up its 1,000th victory in program history with a 5-2 victory over No. 18 North Carolina.

Feb. 8 - Men's basketball hands Boston College their first loss of the season after 20 straight victories, 68-65. Colin Falls scores 23 to lead the Irish.



Nov. 17 - Jacqueline Batteast scores 17 points to lead the No. 11 Irish women's basketball team to a 76-65 upset win over No. 6 Duke in the semifinals of the Preseason Women's NIT.

Oct. 23 - Boston College beats Notre Dame in football, 24-23, for the Eagles' fourth straight victory over the Irish.



Nov. 30 - Three days after the Irish lost to USC by 31 points for the third straight year, athletic director Kevin White announces the school has terminated its contract with head football coach Tyrone Willingham.

Dec. 12 - After a "nationwide search," Notre Dame names New England Patriots' offensive coordinator Charlie Weis as its 28th head football coach.



Dec. 5 - Notre Dame women's soccer captures its second national title in the past ten years, beating UCLA in penalty kicks.

Feb. 20 - Women's swimming wins its ninth consecutive Big East Championship. Coach Bailey Weathers wins his sixth Big East Coach of the Year award.

Feb. 5 - Irish sprinter Kurt Benninger posts a sub four-minute mile time of 3:58.75 at the indoor Mayo Invitational.



Jan. 28 - Jim Kubinski, Duke's assistant men's and women's golf coach, is named Notre Dame men's golf head coach after a two-month search to fill the vacancy.

Year in Review

lacrosse struggles, and volleyball draws the No. 17 attendance in the country

coach Bailey Weathers resigned after ten years at the helm of Notre Dame women's swimming. Weathers was named Big East Coach of the Year six times during his tenure at Notre Dame. His replacement is yet to be named.

Volleyball

Notre Dame ranked No. 17 nationally in home attendance this season — and with good reason.

The Irish finished the year with their eighth Big East Tournament title, an invitation to the NCAA tournament and a 21-9 record after a season of matches that kept fans on the edges of their seats.

The year was characterized by ups and downs as the team struggled in its earliest games with establishing a consistent offense.

But with their upset of No. 14 Utah Oct. 20, their triumph over Pittsburgh for the Big East Championship Nov. 21 and the first ever win over Long Beach State on Nov. 28, the Irish demonstrated just how much potential they possessed.

The team's hard work also earned some of its members the praise of volleyball officials. Freshman Adrianna Stasiuk was named Big East Rookie of the Week two weeks in a row. Junior Lauren Brewster also earned the titles of Big East Player of the Week award on two separate occasions. Junior libero Meg Henican also won the Big East Player of the Week award, only the second libero to ever receive the honor.

Brewster, senior Emily

Loomis and junior Lauren Kelbley also gained All-Big East honors for the third year. Following the Big East Tournament, Brewster was named tournament MVP and AVCA All-Northeast Region, with Loomis and Kelbley also gaining honorable mention all-region. Brewster was named AVCA Third-Team All-American.

Fueled by the confidence they gained with their impressive victories and accolades, the Irish took on the NCAA Championships. Henican led the Irish in their opening match against Valparaiso with a tournament-record 27 digs for a 30-21, 20-30, 30-28, 30-20 victory. Despite their promising start, Notre Dame fell to 14th-seeded Wisconsin 36-34, 30-16, 30-16.

The Irish return everyone but three seniors — Kelly Corbett, Loomis and Leah Nedderman — next season.

Men's tennis

Five underclassmen helped buoy a men's tennis squad facing plenty of challenges this year. But the regular season results were indicative of anything but youthful missteps.

Finishing the season with their second consecutive and fifth overall Big East Championship, the Irish earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

As they prepare for their first round match against No. 33 Louisville, they'll have a chance to draw from plenty of experience against nationally-ranked opponents. Over the course of the regular season, they faced

three top-ten foes in No. 8 Duke, No. 5 Illinois and No. 2 Virginia, coming within a single match victory of upsetting the Cavaliers.

The Irish were led by senior co-captain Brent D'Amico, who was named Most Outstanding Performer at the Big East Championships.

Irish coach Bobby Bayliss also earned his fifth Big East Coach of the Year accolade in a season that also featured the program's 1,000th career victory, becoming just the sixth Division I school to reach that plateau.

The Irish finished the season ranked No. 32 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association national rankings, peaking at No. 16 on March 15.

Women's tennis

Equipped with a newfound sense of confidence following their Big East victory, the Irish are looking to impress at the NCAA Championships.

No. 23 Notre Dame's 4-0 win over Syracuse at the Big East Championships on April 23 secured the team an automatic bid in the NCAA competition. The team (14-9) will travel to Northwestern's campus to take on its first opponent, No. 46 Iowa, today in the tournament's first round.

In addition, sophomores Catrina and Christian Thompson each earned individual invitations to the NCAA Championships May 23-28. Ranked No. 44, Catrina will first take the courts to compete in the singles tournament before teaming up with Christian as the other half of the No. 6 dou-

bles team.

The team conditioned itself with tough competitors throughout the season in preparation for the post-season. After nearly upsetting No. 5 Duke, 4-3, and No. 9 North Carolina, 4-3, earlier in the season, Notre Dame's rigorous schedule paid off, as the team bested No. 16 William and Mary 4-3 on April 9.

Notre Dame will return all of its starters, with the exception of senior captain Sarah Jane Connelly.

Men's lacrosse

Despite being ranked as high as No. 10 at the beginning of the season, Notre Dame struggled down the stretch and missed out on its goal of reaching the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish finished the season 7-4 overall and 3-2 in the Great Western Lacrosse League but were disappointed after starting the year 5-1 with wins over then No. 21 Penn State, then No. 10 North Carolina and then No. 13 Hofstra.

The downturn began with a 10-9 loss at Dartmouth. The Big Green scored two goals in the final three minutes to give the Irish their first of three losses in the final five games.

The defeat at Dartmouth was followed by a 9-6 home loss to fellow GWLL member Denver.

The season ended on a good note with a 16-5 win at Ohio State. Freshman goalie Joey Kemp totaled 16 saves against the Buckeyes, solidifying his role as the top freshman on the team.

Attackman Pat Walsh led the

Irish in points and assists and was nominated for the Tewaaron Trophy, awarded to the country's top player. Walsh and D.J. Driscoll both were invited to try out for the 2006 US National Team at the end of the season.

Women's lacrosse

With the weight of a program-record 10-0 start to the 2004 campaign squarely on their shoulders, the Irish struggled to meet expectations in 2005, compiling a 3-11 overall record (1-4 in Big East), including a five-game losing streak.

The Irish kicked off the season on the right foot, knocking off Ohio 16-10 on Feb. 27.

From there, however, it was almost all downhill.

Plagued by slow starts that often left the Irish in large deficits by halftime, Notre Dame dropped its next four games to Northwestern, Cornell, Vand-erbilt and James Madison, before getting back in the win column with an 18-8 home victory over California.

Losses to a pair of conference rivals in Boston College — the second overtime loss of the season for the Irish — and Connecticut followed the victory, jeopardizing the squad's conference hopes.

The Irish knocked off Rutgers in their next game for their last victory of the season. Since defeating the Scarlet Knights, 12-9, at Moose Krause Stadium at the beginning of April, Notre Dame dropped six straight to Duke, Stanford, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Syracuse and Ohio State to end the year.



March 20 - Fencing wins its second national championship in three years, The women post a 44-10 record and close a 24-point gap with Ohio State on the final day of competition to win, 173-171.

March 11-12 - Irish hockey finishes season on 19 game winless streak, getting swept by Michigan in a three game series in the first round of the CCHA playoffs.

March 1 - Notre Dame men's golf wins its first tournament of the spring, capturing the Nokia Sugar Bowl/Tulane Invitational in a playoff. Jim Kubinski becomes the Irish's first golf coach to win his inaugural event since 1961.



April 23 - Notre Dame's Warren Golf Course hosts the men's and women's Big East Championship. The men defend their crown with a five-stroke victory, while the women finish in third place.

April 23 - The Irish men's tennis team repeats as Big East champions, beating Rutgers 7-0.

March 29 - Women's swimming coach Bailey Weathers resigns after ten seasons and nine Big East Championships. The Irish posted an 86-20 record in dual meets during his career.



May 10 - Four members of the Irish women's lacrosse team selected to All-Big East teams. Crysti Foote is a unanimous first-team selection.

May 7 - Notre Dame softball captures its tenth consecutive Big East title. The team has won every conference championship since joining the league.

Feb. 20 - Men's swimming wins its first ever Big East Championship, scoring a meet record 902.5 points and topping second place Pittsburgh by 275.

March 9 - Men's basketball is upset by No. 11 seed Rutgers in the first round of the Big East Semifinals, 72-65. The loss effectively ends the team's quest for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

March 15 - Relegated to the NIT after losing to Rutgers, men's basketball ends its season with a 78-73 first round loss to Holy Cross in front of a sparse Joyce Center crowd.

March 21 - Women's basketball upset by Arizona State, 70-61, in the second round of the NCAA tournament. The Irish finish the season with a 27-6 record.

April 12 - Notre Dame pitcher Tom Thornton earns his third career Big East pitcher-of-the-week award

April 15 - Dave Poulin resigns as hockey coach just a year after leading the program to its first appearance in the NCAA tournament. The Irish finished the 2004-2005 season with a 5-27-6 record.



April 25 - Pat Walsh is one of 16 players nominated for the Tewaaron Trophy, recognizing the nation's best male lacrosse player. It is his second year in a row being nominated for the award.

May 6 - Jeff Jackson hired as hockey coach to replaced Dave Poulin. Jackson had been an assistant coach with the New York Islanders.

May 8 - Irish sprinter Selim Nurudeen wins his fourth consecutive Big East Championship in the 110-meter hurdles.



May 8 - Irish sprinter Maryann Erigha wins the Big East championship in the 100 meters with a time of 11.69 seconds.

2005

Saint Mary's Year in Sports

Belles achieve team, individual success in golf; other sports work to rebuild for future

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE 2004-2005 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

BASKETBALL

The Belles posted their highest win total since joining the MIAA in 1998 with record of 11-15. In addition, outstanding athletes Bridget Boyce and Emily Creachbaum were named all-MIAA players.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Belles placed 22 out of 26 in the NCAA Division-III Great Lakes Region Championship meet but fell short in their bid for the NCAA Tournament.

GOLF

In a stellar season, Saint Mary's achieved ranking of No. 3/4 nationally. Stefanie Simmerman plans to defend her 2003 individual title at the Pines in Pinehurst, N.C in May.

SOCCER

The Belles notched a 10-win season as they challenged for the MIAA title. Jen Concannon, a two-time All-MIAA senior, was honored along with Katie Taylor for the first-team all-conference.

SOFTBALL

The Belles snapped a 20-game losing streak on the season's final day. Despite starting 5-3, Saint Mary's could not continue their early-season success.

SWIMMING

After finishing seventh in the MIAA tournament, Saint Mary's was also honored with the 11th highest team GPA in the country among Division III schools.

TENNIS

The Belles finished the season 8-9 with a 9-0 win over Alma. This put the team in fifth place in the MIAA and kept postseason hopes alive.

VOLLEYBALL

Placing seventh in the MIAA with a record of 6-19 (5-11 MIAA), the Belles dropped 11 of their last 13 matches despite strong leadership by seniors Michelle Gary, Elise Rupright and Stacey Stark.

Observer staff report

Cross-country

Saint Mary's closed out the 2004 season with a sixth-place finish in the MIAA conference, tying the program's highest finish in 2003.

Although they had a chance to climb to fourth at the end of the season, the Belles fell short in their bid. The team only had two conference competitions in which to perform, but sickness and injury seemed to be in their way during the most critical times. Unfortunately, Saint Mary's was not able to beat Kalamazoo and Alma during the championship meet in order to secure the fourth spot.

The Belles will graduate six seniors this weekend from their 24-member team: Elizabeth Commers, Sarah Dunn, Ashley LaLonde, Aubrey Szanzy, Kristen Zaininger and Risa Zander. Commers and Zander were named captains for the 2004 season.

The outlook for the team is positive for the coming years, with several freshmen and sophomores performing well for the Belles. Freshman Megan Gray and sophomore Megan Murphy have consistently had top finishes and should help give the team another opportunity to be strong competitors in the fall.

Soccer

With all but three of their players returning for the 2004 season, including two-time first team all-MIAA senior Jen Concannon, the Belles looked forward to a second season with a winning record in the conference. For the first time since it joined the league, Saint Mary's felt it was strong enough to challenge for the MIAA title and hoped to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The team looked poised to make a title run when it started the year 4-0-1, but problems arose when the Belles were unable to win on the road. They lost 4-1 at Olivet College on Sept. 26 but rebounded in their next game to defeat Hope 2-0, handing the eventual MIAA champion its only conference loss of the year.

The team then lost four of their next five on the road and could not capitalize on chances against top conference teams Calvin, Kalamazoo and Albion. Although it missed the goal of the MIAA title, the team still managed to close the season with a winning record in conference, finishing 9-6-1 and recording 10 wins overall. Concannon and fellow senior Katie Taylor were honored with spots on the all-MIAA first team.

Softball

After winning five of their first eight games during the team's spring trip to Fort Myers, Fla., the Belles did not win again until the final day of the season.

Saint Mary's pitched and hit relatively well to begin the year, but the team was hobbled by poor defense during a 20-game losing streak that began on March 10 and lasted until April 28. In 16 league games, the Belles committed 44 errors, allowing 48 unearned runs.

Opponents took advantage of the Belles' catchers, stealing 22 bases on 24 attempts.

Saint Mary's could not shift the negative momentum during the streak, as the team was swept in eight consecutive double-headers, including losses to conference foes Tri-State, Albion, Adrian, Calvin, Hope, Alma and Olivet.

After going more than a month without a win, the Belles' final matchup of the year came against Kalamazoo at home. By beating the Hornets in both games, Saint Mary's earned a tie for eighth place in the MIAA, rather than finishing alone in the cellar. The Belles finished the year 2-14 in the conference and 7-23 overall.

Swimming

Seniors Ashley Dyer (freestyle sprint) and Michelle Stanforth (breaststroke, individual medley) co-captained the Saint Mary's swim team for the 2004-2005 season, which provided a combination of ups and downs for the Belles.

The team posted a win early in the season, defeating Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and achieved their first conference win in over a year against Alma on Jan. 15.

However, at the conference meet in February, the Belles were unable to come out ahead of Alma after maintaining a slim lead over the Scots the first two days of the meet. Saint Mary's finished the MIAA competition in seventh place, five points behind Alma.

Sarah Nowak, who led the Belles at the conference meet by setting three team records throughout the course of the weekend, earned her first MIAA all-conference honor. Saint Mary's was also honored with the eleventh highest team GPA in the country among Division III schools.

Basketball

The 2004-2005 season was a roller coaster ride for the Saint Mary's basketball team. Season sweeps of Kalamazoo and Tri-County provided excitement, but a five-game, early-February losing streak doomed a promising season as the Belles finished 9-15 (6-10) and sixth in the MIAA.

Seniors Katie Boyce, Maureen Bush, Emily Creachbaum and Deidre Mangan each made a valuable contribution in their final season.

Bush anchored the middle for the Belles, scoring 10.3 points per game and grabbing 5.3 rebounds. She exploded against Tri-County on Jan. 24 for 31 points on 12-20 shooting.

Creachbaum completed her fourth year as the Belles' starting power forward. She led the team in scoring and rebounding her senior year, averaging 13 points and 6.3 rebounds per game.

The Belles played .500 through the month of January, but disaster struck as an early stretch against the conference's top teams resulted in four straight blowout losses. A game against Alma looked to be an opportunity to right the ship, but the Belles suffered their fifth straight loss when Boyce's 3-point shot for the win rimmed out at the buzzer.

Tennis

A young Saint Mary's squad improved dramatically as the year went on, winning their last four matches and finishing with an 8-9 record, good enough for fifth in the MIAA.

The Belles started the season slowly, winning just four of their first 13 matches. Then, beginning with a 5-4 victory over Bethel College on April 21, they cruised over four straight opponents. The winning streak included 9-0 victories over conference opponents Alma and Olivet and a 5-4 road win over Aquinas.

Kristen Palombo anchored the first singles position for the Belles, compiling a 9-10 record.

On the doubles side, Caile Mulcahy and Kelly McDavitt posted the best record of any Belles pair, going 11-8 playing in the number one spot early in the year and then shifting to number two just before the late season hot streak.

McDavitt also posted the best singles record on the team, going 14-5 in the three and four spots.

The future looks bright for the Belles, who lose only one major contributor, No. 2 singles regular Miranda Mikulyuk.

Volleyball

The Saint Mary's volleyball team had a difficult rebuilding season this year, as a tough conference schedule culminated in an early exit from the MIAA Tournament.

The Belles finished the season seventh in the MIAA with a record of 5-11. Overall, Saint Mary's concluded the season with a record of 6-19. After beginning the year 0-5, the squad gained momentum and at one time was as high as fifth in the league and challenging for the fourth spot. However, they were never quite able to pull it all together and finished the season 2-11 in their final 13 matches.

The seniors leaving the Belles include captains Michelle Gary, Elise Rupright and Stacey Stark. The trio of athletes played an important role for Saint Mary's and will be difficult to replace next year.

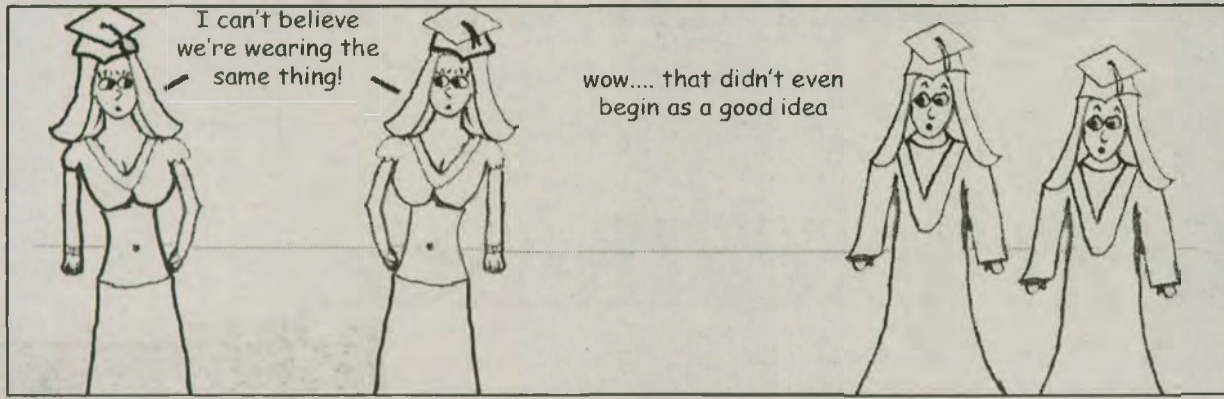


Observer File Photos

Saint Mary's sports this year featured, from top, Julia Adams of the golf team, softball catcher Sarah Miesle and guard Bridget Boyce.

JOCKULAR

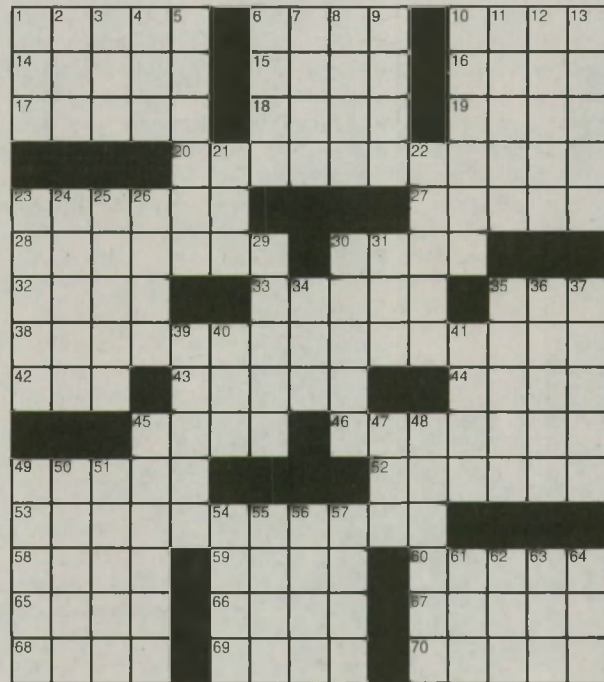
ALEK WHITE AND ERIC POWERS



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cousin of a cockatoo
 - 6 Read on the run
 - 10 Lip
 - 14 Sultanate citizen
 - 15 Shower square
 - 16 Fall preceder
 - 17 Informal head cover
 - 18 Housing
 - 19 First name in architecture
 - 20 One who gets a piece of the pie?
 - 23 Kind of sauce
 - 27 Religious commemoration
 - 28 Fearful
 - 30 Baltimore partner
 - 32 Ticked off
 - 33 Allude
 - 35 Copy
 - 38 Borderline logic?
 - 42 Ring site
 - 43 Cockamamie
 - 44 Roll
 - 45 Sing the praises of
 - 46 Kind of ring
 - 49 Bee-related
 - 52 Ally in movies
 - 53 "Stay away from the swamp grass"?
 - 58 Poe product
 - 59 Bridge
 - 60 It may be well-taken
 - 65 Pastry chef's aide
 - 66 2003 A.L. M.V.P., familiarly
- DOWN**
- 1 In style
 - 2 Start of a Latin conjugation
 - 3 Elevator part
 - 4 Baptist leader?
 - 5 Passamaquoddy home
 - 6 Formal accessory
 - 7 Double checker
 - 8 Rival of Bjorn
 - 9 Parcel
 - 10 Sound setup
 - 11 Final Four site
 - 12 Horse fathers
 - 13 Wear
 - 21 Poetic conjunction
 - 22 Combusted
 - 23 Try a tidbit
 - 24 Luau greeting
 - 25 Not so common
 - 26 Palm, e.g.
 - 29 Huge worry
 - 30 Did in
 - 31 Part of H.M.S.
 - 34 Many millennia
 - 35 To the left or right
 - 67 Displaced person
 - 68 Some M & M's
 - 69 Bank (on)
 - 70 Durable fabric



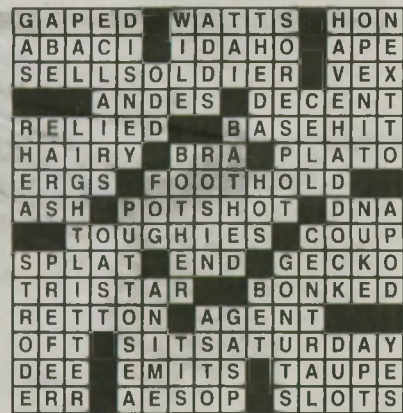
Puzzle by Richard Silvestri

- 36 Put forward
- 37 Diary note
- 39 "Cheers" role
- 40 Savanna sight
- 41 Tissue additive
- 45 Some brews
- 47 Key abbr.
- 48 Masticated
- 49 Moving
- 50 Sign of the 1960's
- 51 Sat around
- 54 Open a bit
- 55 Scale start
- 56 Old fiddle
- 57 Dr. Jones, to friends
- 61 Fire truck accessory
- 62 Canterbury can
- 63 Elm City collegian
- 64 "Stand" band, 1989

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



*May the road rise to meet you,
 May the wind be always be at your back,
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 The rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
 - Irish Blessing*

JUMBLE

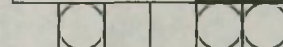
HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

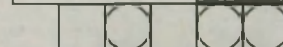
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VAINE

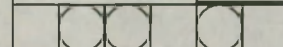


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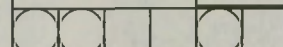
YANER



SOUNIC



GOTSDY



Ans: " " " " " "

Yesterday's | CAPON EJECT FINISH DEFINE
Sent to the showers, the hurler remained -
OFF "PITCH"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natasha Richardson, 42; Louis Farrakhan, 72; Mort Sahl, 78; Jonathan Jackson, 23

Happy Birthday: Everything you do this year will make a difference to your future. Financial gains can be made, but only if you are willing to do something unique. If there is something you want, realize that you will have to fight for it. This can be a great year -- but it will require effort on your part. Your numbers are 5, 18, 27, 34, 36, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Traveling to a destination that is inspiring and creative will get you moving in a whole new direction. Communicating with people in the know or who have experience you lack will help you make a decision. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The more you look back at your goals and aspirations from the past, the closer you will come to turning some of your dreams into a reality. Just because you may not be able to do exactly what you had planned doesn't mean you can't be a part of that industry, organization or culture in some way. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Things are heating up in your world. Stay calm and make the most of some good opportunities that are present. Plan some form of entertainment that will allow you to mix business with pleasure. A passionate evening is in order. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be feeling a little restless today. Make some changes to your surroundings. The more you can do to spruce up your living space, the better. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This will be a hectic day. You will be involved in a wide variety of projects. It will take organization and patience to get everything done the way you want. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let things get to you today. Being overly concerned about a problem you think you are having will cause the situation to escalate. Avoid being judgmental; listen and observe without taking over. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have some interesting ideas about your future and how to make changes leading to a better life. Personal alterations will turn out better than you expect. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's time to collect old debts and to clear up money matters. Once you start the ball rolling, you will feel much better about your future. A tighter budget or a solid investment will get you moving in the right direction. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Just when you think you've figured everything out, something will happen that will change your mind. Love is prominent, but make sure you stick to one person. Spreading yourself around or leading someone on will come back to haunt you. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your nose out of everyone else's business and you will do much better today. Arguments will not solve problems. Pushing your will on someone will lead to opposition. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your generosity may be welcomed and appreciated, but it may leave you feeling cash-poor. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may have the discipline to get things done, but you are likely to cause ill feelings with someone if you go about things without getting approval. **

Birthday Baby: You are changeable, versatile and very interested in everything and everyone. You are a good student and a wonderful teacher. You are inquisitive, competitive and always looking for a challenge.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential

THE OBSERVER

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OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Consistent excellence

Selim Nurudeen takes home four top finishes in Big East hurdles

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Selim Nurudeen is used to having obstacles in his path.

After all, for a hurdler, obstacles define the road to success — and Nurudeen has seen phenomenal success in the 110-meter hurdles, taking the Big East title in the event for four consecutive years.

"He is a quiet leader, and he does what he has to do to be great," coach Joe Piane said. "If you see the best kid on the team doing everything — not cutting corners — for the younger kids, it motivates you."

This leadership and four years of excellence with the Irish track team are the reasons why The Observer has named Nurudeen the 2004-2005 Senior Male Athlete of the Year.

"We've been running since we were little, competing against each other and everything" Nurudeen said, fondly remem-



Alicja Kryczalo used foil to find success at nation's elite levels

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

For the first time since she was about 11 years old, Alicja Kryczalo is unsure how she will fill her time.

Kryczalo, a three-time NCAA champion in the foil who has been fencing year-round at the highest level for the past dozen years, is ready to have free time and to discover new interests.

"To be honest, I'm very excited, because I feel like I can now create my life, because it was always shaped by fencing," Kryczalo said. "I was so lucky to have [fencing], but now I feel I'm ready to create something with my life."

Next year, Kryczalo plans on working as an intern for the Culver Academy, an elite college-prep boarding school in Culver, Ind., about 40 minutes from Notre Dame.

"I'm sure I want to do the internship next year ... [but] it's

Selim Nurudeen and Alicja Kryczalo have been named The Observer's 2004-05 Outstanding Notre Dame Senior Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

see NURUDEEN/page 36

see KRYCZALO/page 37

Simmerman looks for second national title



Excellence is par for course with former national champion

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

It didn't take long for Stefanie Simmerman to make her mark.

Just two years into her collegiate career, the then-sophomore won the individual national title for Division III women's golf. The achievement was momentous — her title was the first national championship in any sport in the history of Saint Mary's athletics.

"It means more to me that the school is recognized [with a champion] than I am individually," she said.

For this reason and for her

continued excellence on the golf course, the senior has been named the 2004-05 Saint Mary's Athlete of the Year.

As a sophomore, Simmerman shot 315 (76-82-77-80) for four rounds at The Links of Green Lake, Wisc., to win the 2003 individual title.

"The school has done so much for me," she said. "Bringing back that title to represent the school is just my contribution."

But Simmerman made an impact well before being crowned national champion.

As a freshman, she led the Belles and finished third in the MIAA in scoring average, earning her first of four consecutive All-MIAA First Team honors. She is the first Saint Mary's golfer to ever accomplish that feat.

"Starting off that well, I thought it could only get better from there — and it has," she said. "If I didn't play that well my freshman year, I don't think I would have enjoyed the success I have the past three years."

Simmerman steadily improved from her 88.4 scoring average in the fall of 2001 to 82.8 in the fall of her sophomore year. That season, she captured second place in the MIAA for conference scoring average, finishing at 81.4 for MIAA events.

Her average stayed virtually unchanged in the lead-up to her championship that spring, but fell further the next fall. She finished the conference-heavy schedule of fall 2003 with an 82.0 stroke average and won MIAA medalist honors with the lowest scoring average in the conference.

As Simmerman has improved, so has the competition. "I remember freshman year, girls were happy when you broke ninety," she said. "Now it's a couple over par."

She credits the increasing level of competition with much of her success but gives even more credit to Saint Mary's head coach, Mark Hamilton.

Since taking over coaching duties in Simmerman's sophomore year, Hamilton has

see TITLE/page 38

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

FOOTBALL

Willingham fired after 6-6 season

Irish win big games, but inconsistency dooms head coach.

page 35

MEN'S GOLF

Jim Kubinski turns team around

Squad wins program best two tournaments and is confident for NCAAAs.

page 33

HOCKEY

Dave Poulin resigns as head coach

Team suffers through a 5-27-6 season, and the Irish coach moves on.

page 33

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Irish win national championship

Penalty kick victory over UCLA caps 24-1-1 year.

page 31

FENCING

Irish take second national title in three years

Michal Sobieraj wins individual title as team edges Ohio State.

page 27


TRACK AND FIELD

Teams finish second in Big East

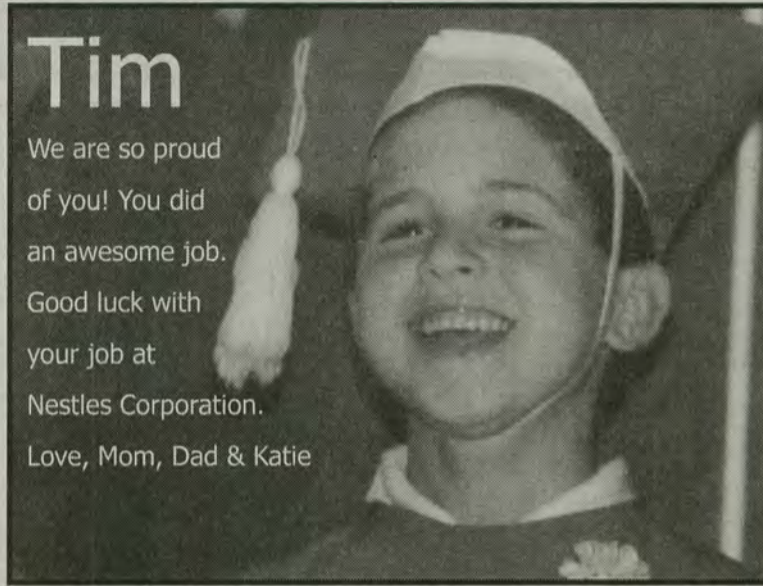
Selim Nurudeen and Maryanne Erigha lead Irish to strong finish.

page 26


*Congratulations
Kristen,
our future vet.
Dreams do
come true.
Love, Mom,
Dad & Jeff*




Tim
We are so proud
of you! You did
an awesome job.
Good luck with
your job at
Nestles Corporation.
Love, Mom, Dad & Katie



A DOMER!!!!!!
Kimberly, Congratulations!
May you be blessed
with health and
happiness and may
the luck of the Irish
follow you always.
Love, Mom, Dad, and Zack



**Congratulations
Taylor!**
Love you always,
Mom, Dad, Gayle,
and Carolyn



Congratulations Shay Baby!
Next year we'll both
be tailgating alumni!
Love, Shannon



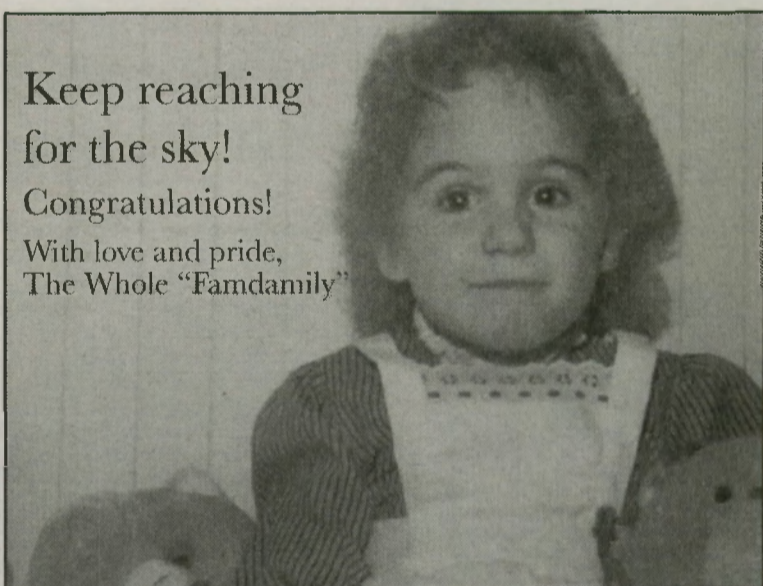
**Congratulations
Tanny!**
Love, Paley



**Elizabeth to Mary: "Oh, how happy is the woman who
believes in God, for his promises to her come true"
(Luke 1).**
Congratulations! Mom and Dad




**Keep reaching
for the sky!**
Congratulations!
With love and pride,
The Whole "Famdamily"



*Ready for your next
adventure.
Congratulations Emily
Love,
Mom, Dad and Michelle*



**Congratulations
AnnaKate!**
We wish you much
continued success at
LSU.
May all your dreams
come true!
We love you,
Dad, Mom, and Matt



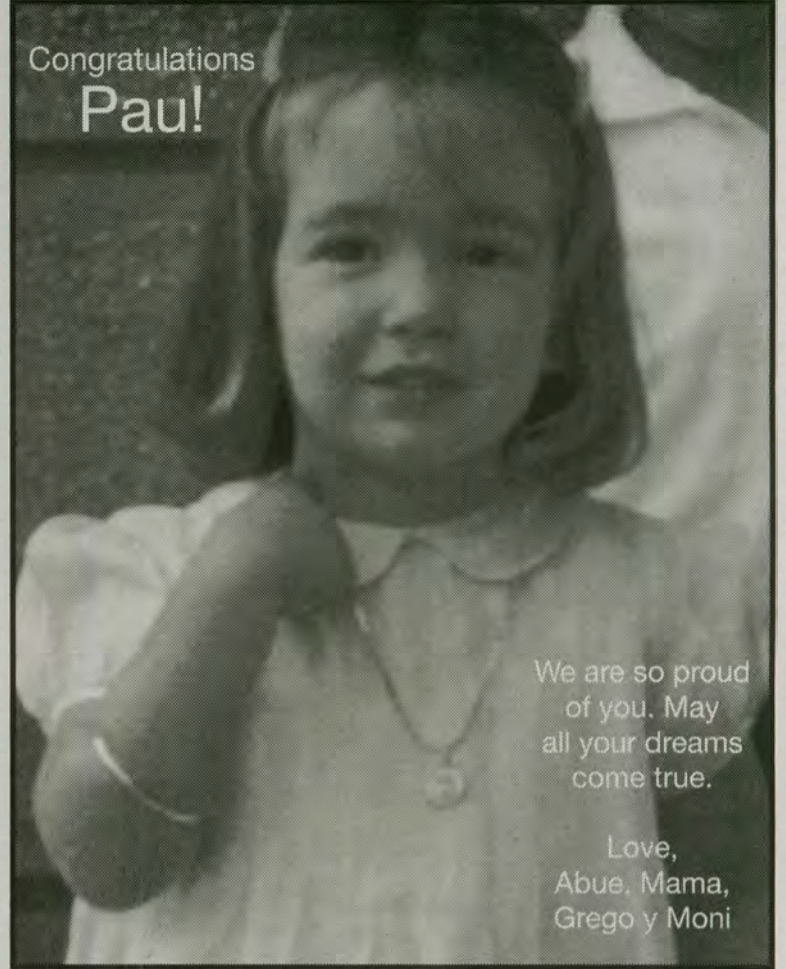
CONGRATULATIONS!



P-B, with great respect, love and admiration for the person that you are and for your many accomplishments. You are our joy and our treasure.

Love always,
Ma and Dad

Congratulations
Pau!



We are so proud
of you. May
all your dreams
come true.

Love,
Abue, Mama,
Grego y Moni

Born to be Irish
Congratulations Ryan!



Love, Mom, Dad and Girlzies



Emily, you have been "Irish"
from your first day of school.
We are so proud of you!
We love you bunches!

Dad, Mom, Pete, and Hattie



Congratulations to
Michael Christopher Duda
and your 2005
Notre Dame classmates.
Little did we know you were
riding on to Notre Dame.
Best of Luck!
Love, Mom, Dad, Leigh Ann,
Lendy, Fritz Jr. (87), Jim,
and Lindsey





We are proud of you J.R.!

*Love,
Mom, Dad,
Tara, & Sandy*

Go IRISH!



Congratulations Brian!

We always knew you were on the ball!

Love, Mom, Dad, Susan, Laura, and Tess



Your smile is God's love in action! We love you and are proud of you Margie! Mom, Dad, Bobby, JM, Claire & Beth



Congratulations Tricia on your graduation from Saint Mary's and your new job.

It's just in time. We're running out of money!

Love, Mom, Dad and Michelle



Congratulations Scuba Steve!
Always follow your dreams.



Congratulations!
We are very proud of you Meghanne.
*Love,
Mom & Dad*





CONGRATULATIONS WELSH FAMILY WOMEN!!




Congratulations Steve!
You're #1 in our hearts!
Love,
Dad, Mom, Dan and Mark



PROUD OF YOU,
PONCHIN.
LOVE YOU, YOUR FAMILY

Erin Kathleen Brooks
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Kelli, and Kevin



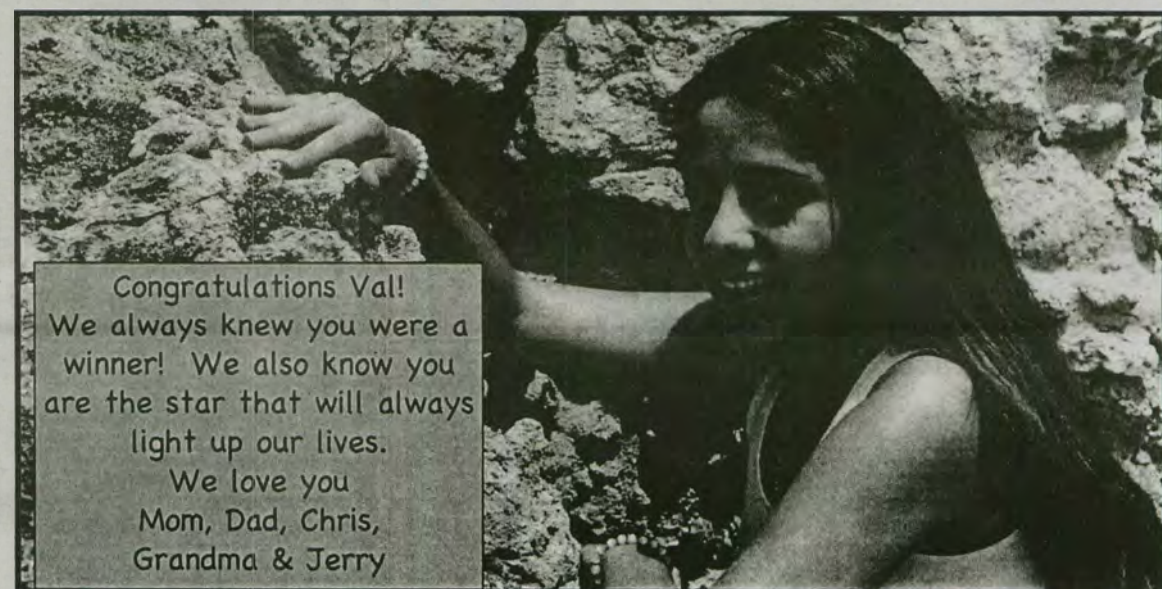
**Congratulations,
Betsy!**

Our "Belle" of St. Mary's.
Love,
Dad, Mom, Mary, Ryan & "the boys"




*You'll
always be
our little
girl*

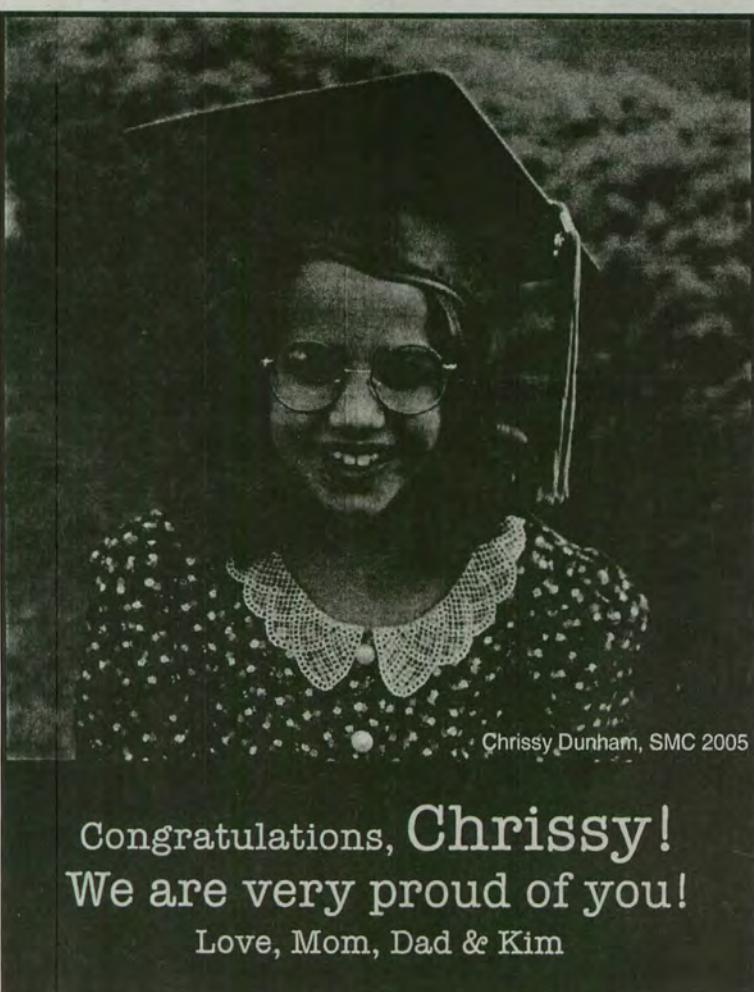
Congratulations!



Congratulations Val!
We always knew you were a
winner! We also know you
are the star that will always
light up our lives.
We love you
Mom, Dad, Chris,
Grandma & Jerry




Linds,
We're so proud of
you! You've always
been first class.



Chrissy Dunham, SMC 2005

Congratulations, **Chrissy!**
We are very proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad & Kim

Congratulations!
I love you Lindsey...
Tommy





Congratulations Allison!

We love you and couldn't be more proud of you. We hope that you continue to "shake down the thunder" in all you do.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Liz



CONGRATULATIONS MIKE D!



To:
Coina Marie Skubick,

You'll always be my "baby girl". You have made me very proud.

Congratulations on all your achievements!


Love,
Mom




Dear Casey:

CONGRATULATIONS! We are so proud of you. Thank you for fulfilling Granpa's dream. Go Irish!

We love you,
The Gomez and Alvarez Families



"I can see the acceptance letter to Notre Dame now Ann"

COULD NOT BE ANY PROUDER OF YOU
LOVE MOM, DAD & KATE



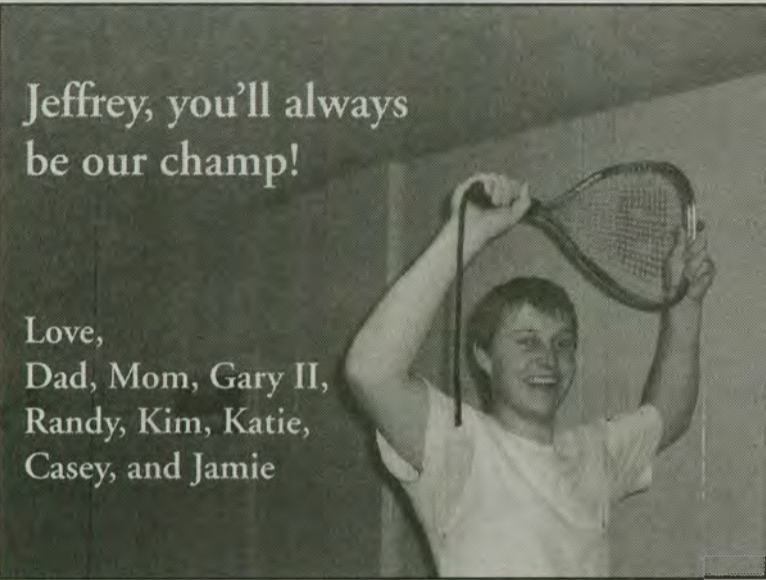
Love & Congratulations, Suzy! You've made us very proud!

Mom, Dad & Tom



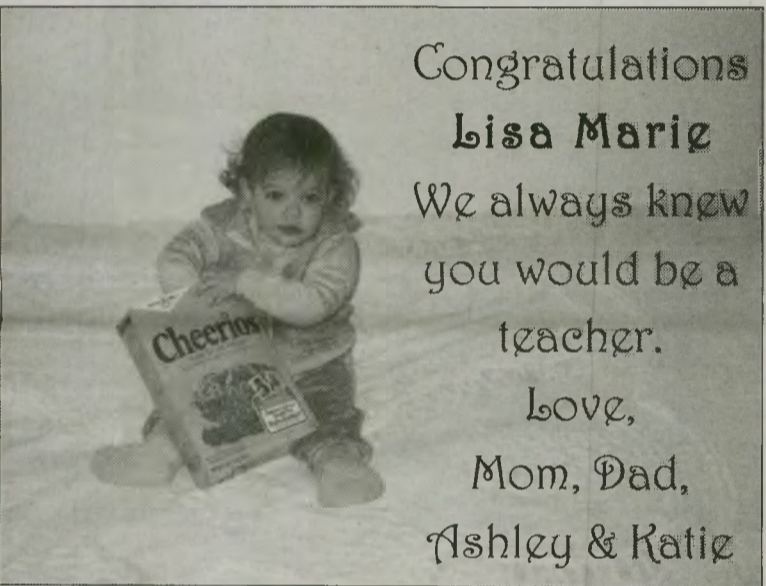
We're all smiles too!
Congratulations
Dan!
Love, Mom,
Bob & Alex

Congratulations Ben. Thanks for the Memories



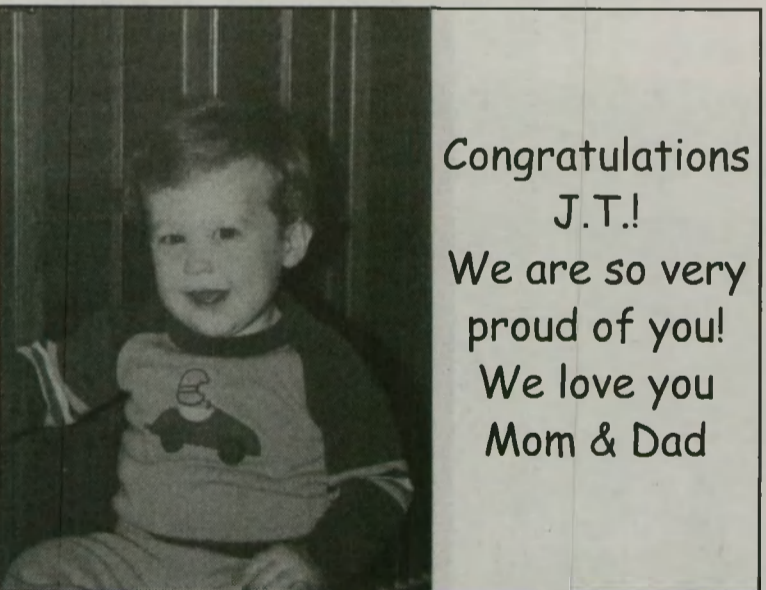
Jeffrey, you'll always
be our champ!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Gary II,
Randy, Kim, Katie,
Casey, and Jamie



Congratulations
Lisa Marie
We always knew
you would be a
teacher.
Love,
Mom, Dad,
Ashley & Katie

Karen
Clairmont- You
ARE a
champion!
Congratulations!
Love,
Mom, Dad &
Steve



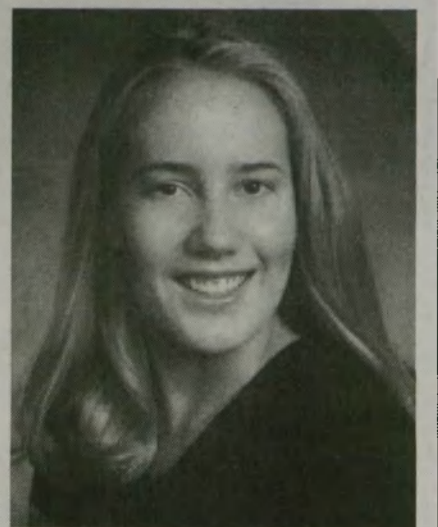
Congratulations
J.T.!
We are so very
proud of you!
We love you
Mom & Dad



"I've got to graduate, Monk. It's alright. I'm not afraid. Sometime, Monk, when the Irish are up against it, when things are wrong and the breaks are beating us, tell them to go in there with all they've got and win just one for Erin. I don't know where I'll be then, Monk, but I will hear about it, and I'll be happy."

Congratulations Erin. Hard work pays off.
"Erin Marie McCoy, B.S., Notre Dame, 2005"
-has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

Mom, Dad, Megan & Danny



Congratulations!
Lori and Lindsay

from bonnets to mortarboards
you're now Dopers for life

Love,
Mom and Dad and Ryan



Congratulations Laura

SMC '05

*We knew you could do it and
we are so proud of you!*

With Love From All Your Family,
Dad and Mom
Natalie
Georgia and Oscar
Grandma O'Rourke
Grandpa and Grandma Losurdo
And all your uncles, aunts and cousins



THE WEARING OF
THE GREEN



A NATURAL FOR THE
ND SKI TEAM



LOVE THAT BLUE & GOLD



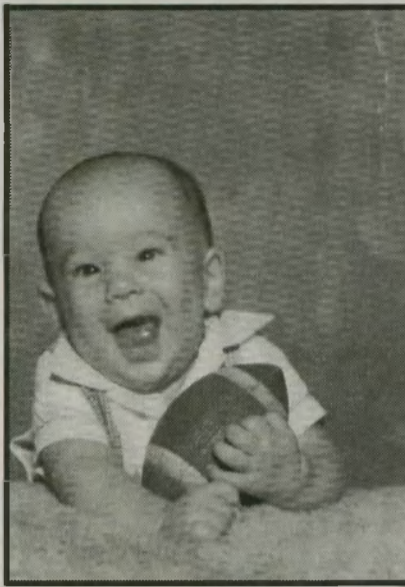
MAKES FRIENDS EASILY



**KIMBERLY
BARNETT**
YOU WERE
MEANT TO BE A
DOMER!
CONGRATULATIONS

LOVE,
MOM & DAD

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations,
Joe!

You make us
so proud!
We love you!

Mom, Dad and
Annie



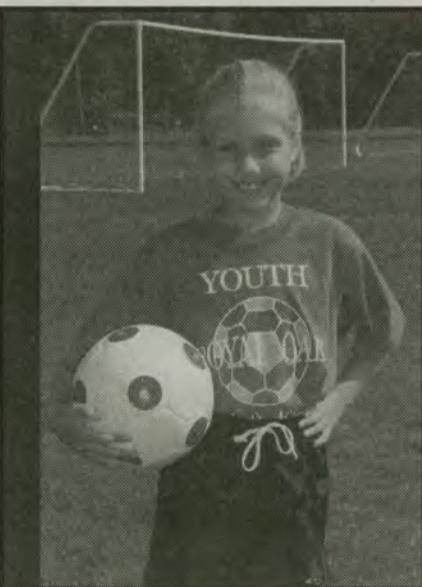
*Auguroni
Tori!
Che Dio ti
benedica.*

*Love,
Mom and Dad*



Life is a
banquet,
Kathleen!
Enjoy it.

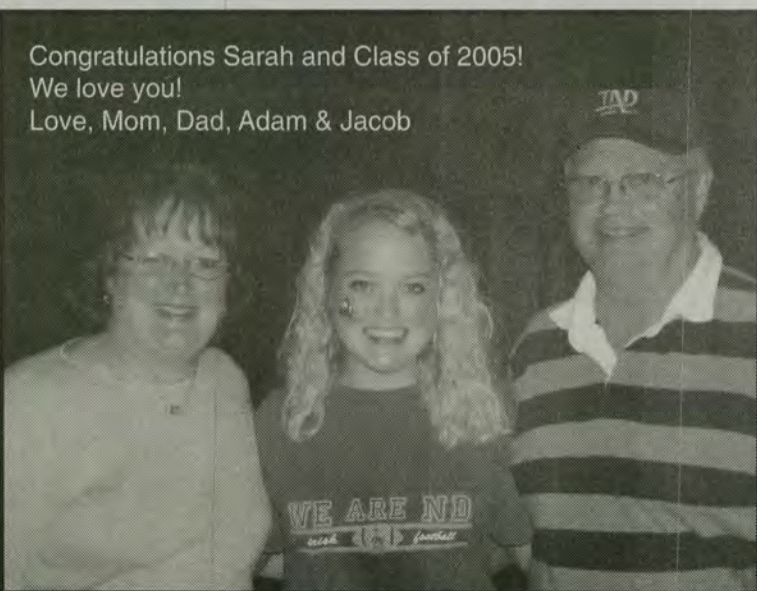
Love,
Gram and
the Other
Aunts



**Dreams
Come True
Shining
STAR**

Love,
Dad, Mom
and Missy

Congratulations Sarah and Class of 2005!
We love you!
Love, Mom, Dad, Adam & Jacob



Congratulations Kim!

**It's time to take a bow.
love. Mom and Dad**



*Erika, our Phi Beta Kappa graduate!
Congratulations, we are so proud!!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Grandma & Grandpa*



Congratulations Caroling!



You are the sunshine of our lives.
Love, your family



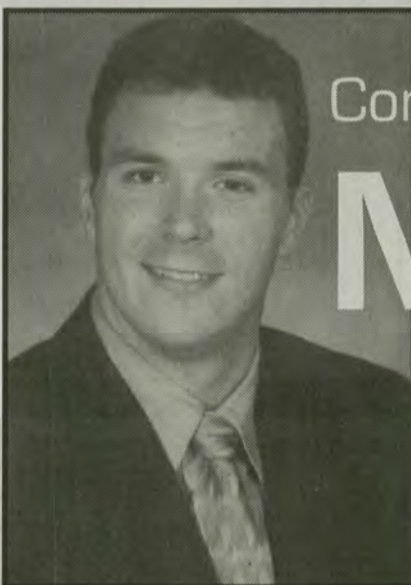
Congratulations,
Dave.

May the luck of
the Irish follow
you to
Cincinnati!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Molly
and Cindy

HERE COME THE IRISH
Notre Dame Football 2005

Congratulations
Greg!
You're the best!!
Love,
Mom, John,
and Peter



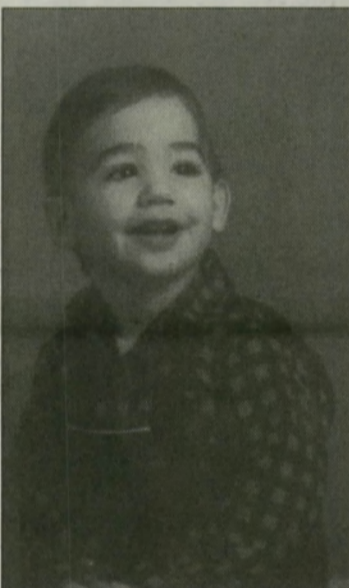
Congratulations
Mike

Love
Mom, Dad,
& Sean

Not even
big hair
has ever
stopped
our
Bean!

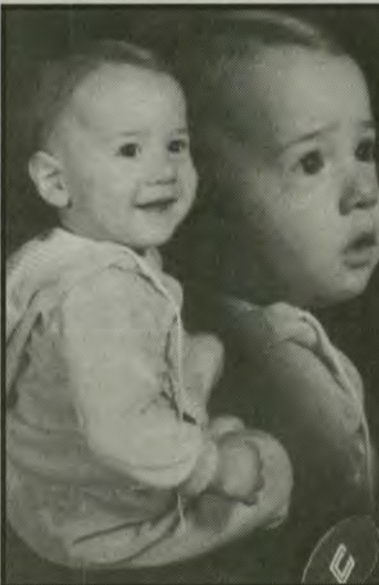


Congratulations-
love, mom & dad & the gang



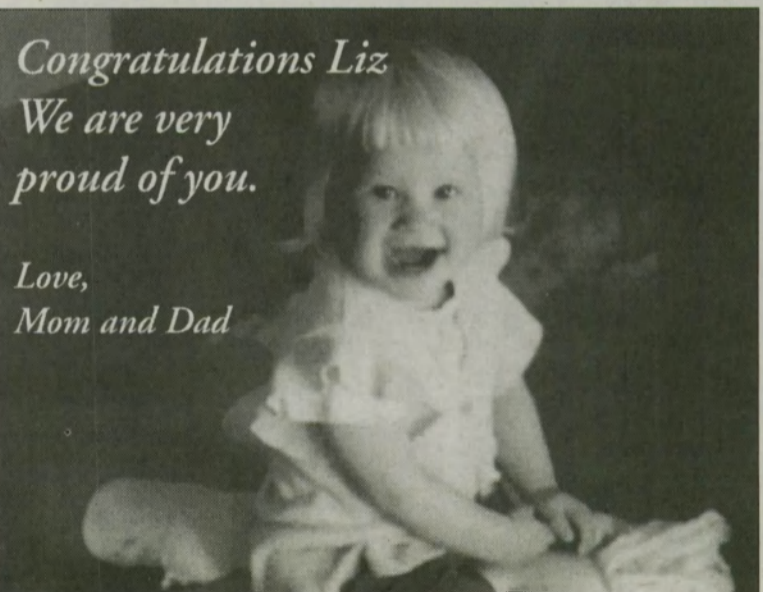
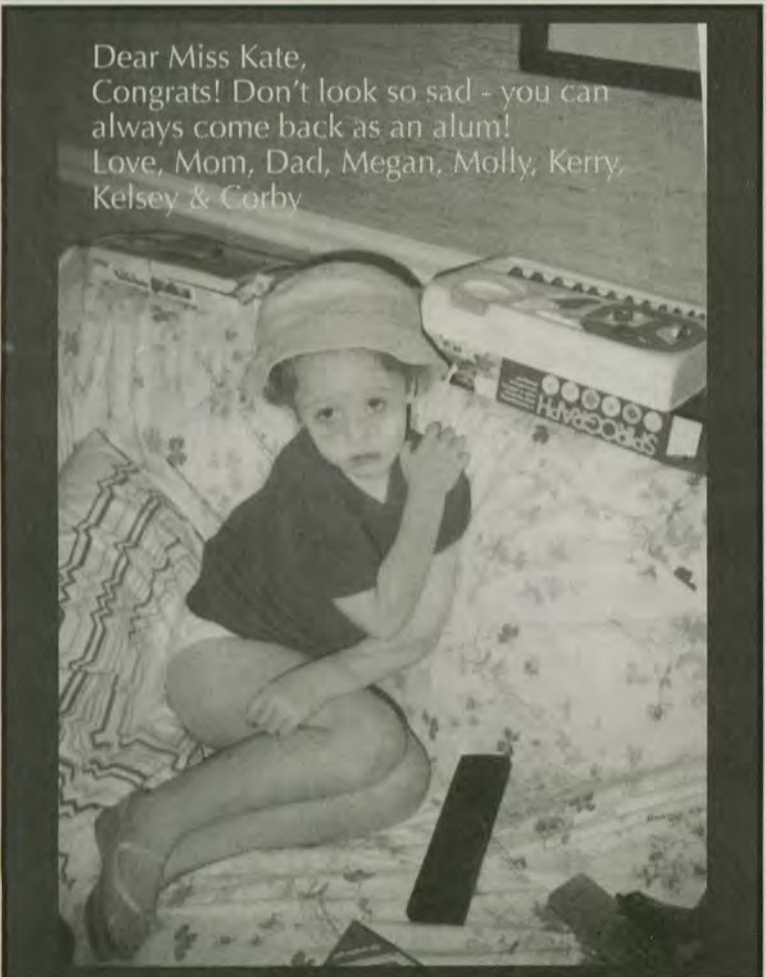
May God continue to
enlighten your mind with
His wisdom, enrich your
soul with His goodness,
touch your life with His
kindness, and bless your
heart with His love.

Congratulations Vinnie.
Love,
Mom, Dad and Gina



Michael,
We could not think of a better
picture to represent the majors you
chose at Notre Dame.
The Theological Major reflected
in your face with eyes raised toward
God who is always there with you
keeping you true to your faith and
conviction.
The Political Major a face smil-
ing and friendly ready to reach out
to the world.
We are proud of you and feel
Blessed that God gave us such a
wonderful son. May God continue
to Bless you with a happy and suc-
cessful life. Congratulations Son!
Love,
Mom and Dad
God, Country, and Notre Dame

Dear Miss Kate,
Congrats! Don't look so sad - you can
always come back as an alum!
Love, Mom, Dad, Megan, Molly, Kerry,
Kelsey & Corby



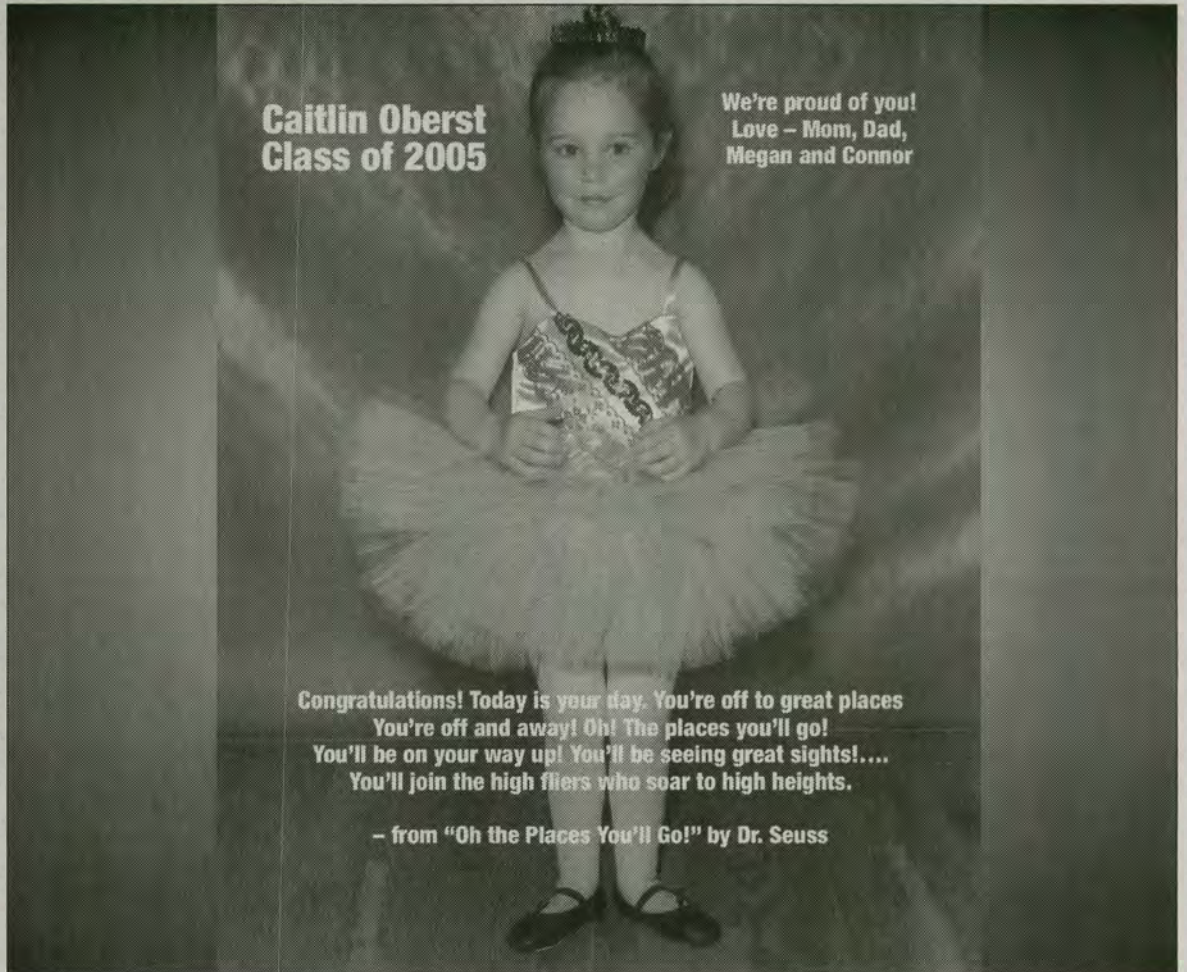
Congratulations Liz
We are very
proud of you.

Love,
Mom and Dad

GLASSBORO COLLEGE CLASS OF 2005



Congratulations to our Renaissance Baby.
"Practically Perfect in Every Way!"
Love
Mommy, Daddy, Dulcinea



Caitlin Oberst
Class of 2005

We're proud of you!
Love - Mom, Dad,
Megan and Connor

Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to great places
You're off and away! Oh! The places you'll go!
You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights!...
You'll join the high fliers who soar to high heights.

- from "Oh the Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss



Congratulations!

Remember to
have a little
fun along the
way.
Love always,
Mom & Dad



Congratulations
Bubba!
We're so
proud of you.
Love,
Mom and Dad



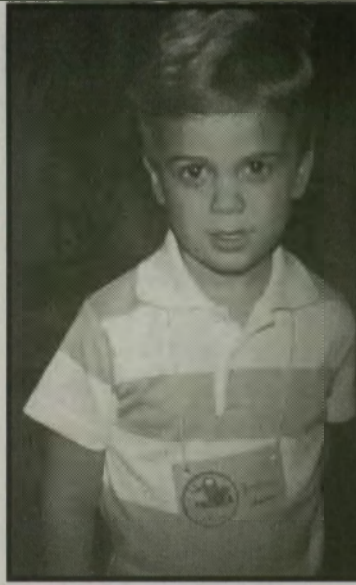
*Lucky stars above you
Sunshine on your way,
Many friends to love you,
Joy in work and play -
Laughter to outweigh each care,
In your heart a song -
And gladness waiting everywhere
All your whole life long.*

Love,
Mom and Dad



*We can hardly believe
that today is the day
to put down books
and go out and play!
Congratulations
Sarah Catherine White.*

*We love you,
Mom, Dad and
John Charles
xoxo*



What, 17 more years until I graduate from Notre Dame!

Joshua,
Thanks for the memories!
Love, Mom & Dad



Congratulations Arianne
May you continue to
soar & reach for the
stars. I am proud of you.
Love, Mom

Dear KT,

I am so proud of you: your many talents and accomplishments, your commitment to your faith, family and community, and the remarkable young woman you have become! Love always, Mom
P.S. I have loved every minute of all your Marching Band and band activities at ND!

Dear Annie,

Congratulations! Now that you are a third generation Domer, let me be one of the first to welcome you to the ND Alumni Club! How about a football game next October? Love always, Dad



Dear Katie,
Congratulations and good luck in law school!
Love, Mike

Dear Katie,
I am so proud of my wonderful granddaughter!
Love, Opa (and Oma)

**Congratulations
Danielle**
on becoming a Notre
Dame Graduate

We love you,
Mom, Dad, Dustin,
and Damon



**Something to smile
about...**

**Congratulations
Eric Doversberger '05!**

M & D



Congratulations
on both your
Aerospace and
Spanish
degrees.

Lots of love,
Dad, Mom, David
and Michelle

FLY HIGH TERESA!

KRISTEN-

YOUR EDUCATION GOES WELL BEYOND YOUR CLASSES AT NOTRE DAME. IT IS THE FRIENDS YOU HAVE MADE, YOUR EXPERIENCES AT ND AND THE FAITH YOU HAVE SEEN ALL AROUND YOU.



YOU ARE CERTAINLY MORE THAN THE SUM OF ALL THESE PARTS. AS YOU HEAD OFF TO SAN DIEGO, TAKE THESE WITH YOU. YOU ARE THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT YOU CAN OFFER.

CONGRATULATIONS AND LOTS OF LOVE,
DAD, MOM, LIZ, AND MARY JO





Sugarplum, you are on your way
This is the beginning of a brand new day
Success is a journey not a destination
You are already there, so congratulations!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Family



Congratulations Tori!



We are so proud of your graduation from Notre Dame and acceptance into the U of Fla Medical School!

Love, Mom, Dad, Kyle & Keegan

Congratulations Craig!
We are so proud of you!
Good luck in New York!

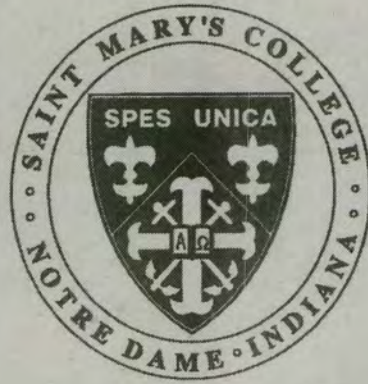


Love,
Mom and Sara



Congratulations to our Irish Officer and Gentleman.

Love, Mom, Dad,
Mike, Carolyn,
Chrissy, Maggie
and Sam



*Congratulations Mary, we are so proud of you!!!
Saint Mary's Class of 2005
Love, Dad Mom Debbie & Brandy*



*You are amazing,
Rozann!
and we are so proud of you!!
God Bless you and we love you--
Mom & Dad*

Her name is Emily!

Congratulations.
Love Mom & Dad



**Raymond, we're so proud of the man you've become.
Always follow your heart and remember how much we love you!
Mom, Dad, Robert & Ryan**

Congratulations Molly—
our life, our sweetness, and
our hope.
We are so proud of you.

Love,
Mombo & Daddy



Jennifer,
You are such a blessing and inspiration to us.
We wish you joy, wisdom, and lasting love.
Congratulations,
Mom, Dad, Jack, and Julie

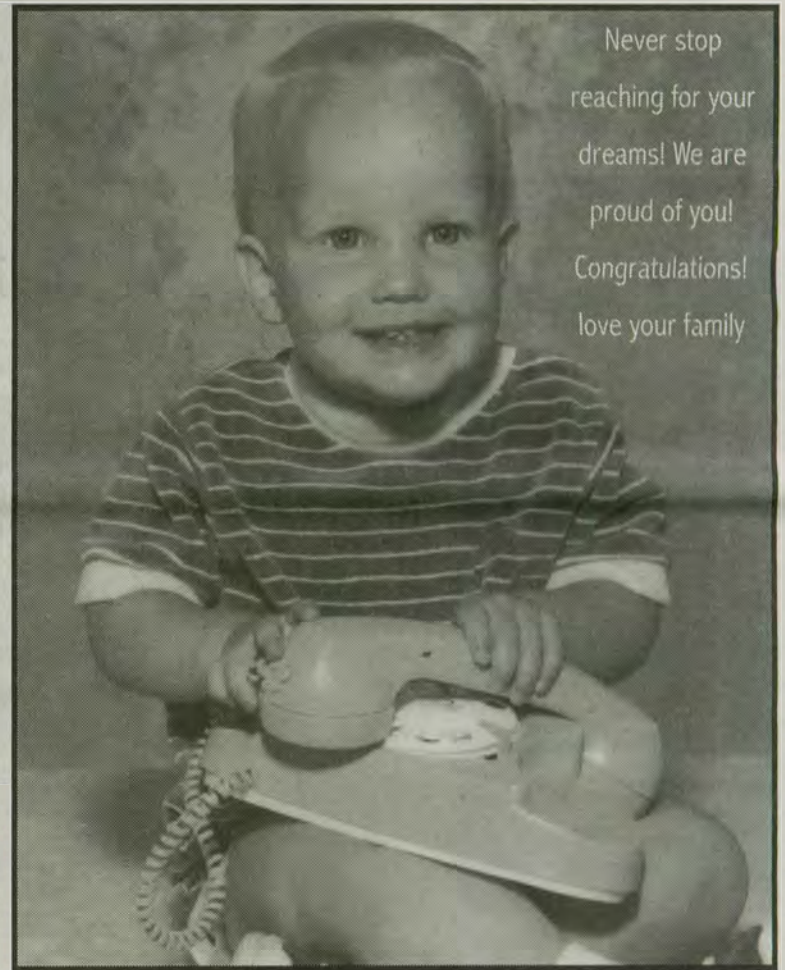


Michele, from the time you were a
little girl you dreamt of going to
Notre Dame. Your dream was
realized and now you are about to
graduate. We are so proud of you
and all your accomplishments. May
God keep you in His care as you go
forth into the business world.

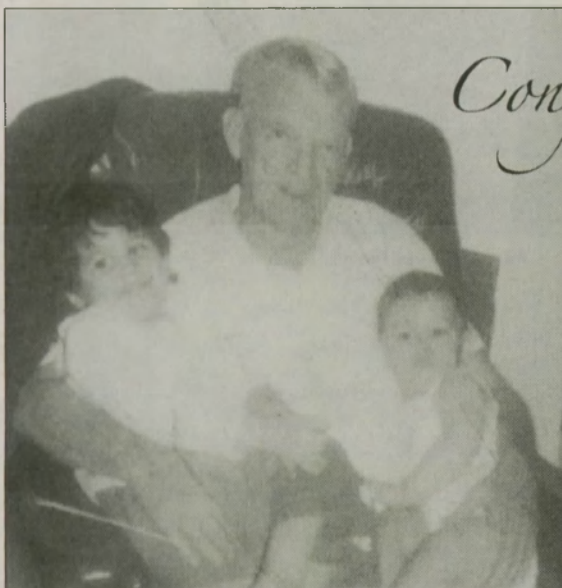
Love,
Dad, Mother, Jen & Jon



Congratulations to the tailgate princesses,
Maria, Katie, Jocelyn, and Erin.
Get a job!



Never stop
reaching for your
dreams! We are
proud of you!
Congratulations!
love your family



Congratulations Gina!

*Grandpa would be so very proud of
you and what you've accomplished.*

Love,
Mom, Dad, Niki and Granny




Congratulations Troy!!
We're so proud of you
& we love you
Love, Mom & Dad



Rob, we're so proud
of you! These four
years at ND have
flown by. Cherish
your ND memories.
Love,
Mom & Dad

CONGRATULATIONS!



Tom,
We're proud of you!
Love,
Mom & Dad


Congratulations Don!



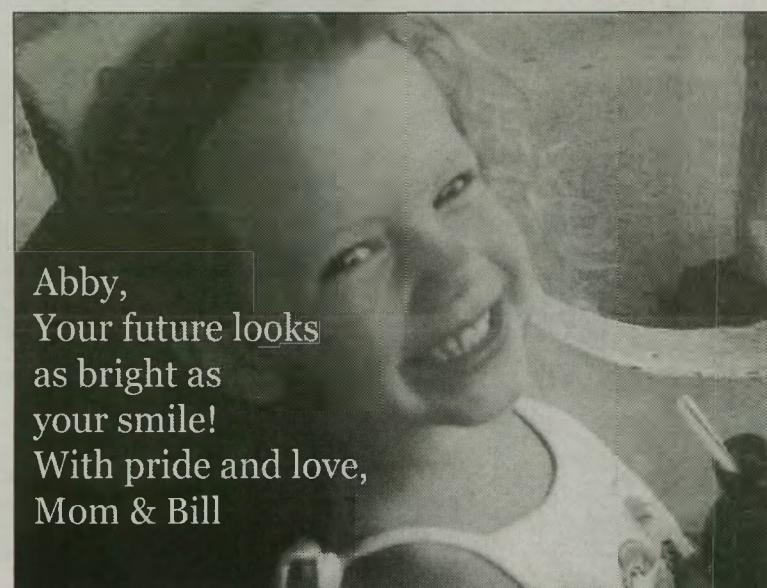
We love you,
Mother, Jack, Dad,
and Lou Anne



Congratulations Patrick!
Love, Mom, Julie, Dan, Tricia,
Jim, Jen, Conner, Emily, Ashley



Brian,
You sang the Notre Dame Fight Song for your kindergarten teacher and told her, "I'm going to Notre Dame!" You have lived your dream and we are so proud of you.
Congratulations!
Love,
XOXO Mum, Dad
XOXO Colleen & Greg



Abby,
Your future looks as bright as your smile!
With pride and love,
Mom & Bill



"Life is not a having and a getting, but a being and a becoming." - Matthew Arnold
We're so very proud of you!
Congratulations with all our love,
Mom, Dad & Jerry



Mark
May friends, family and laughter be your constant companions.
We love you,
Dad, Mom, Nick & Allie

NICK—
YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A "DOMER"



NOW YOU ARE!! GOD BLESS YOU!
LOVE,
DAD & LIZ; MIKEY, GRAMMY



CONGRATULATIONS
Meghan Anne!

You are our
"champion"!
Our pride and joy!

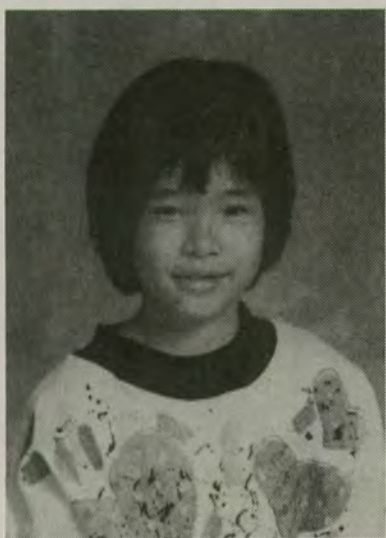
We love you,
Mom and Dad



Congratulations Telis!
You did it again!
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Sister



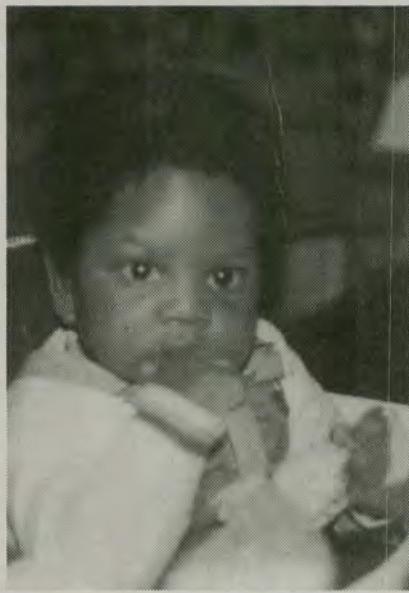
Congratulations
Peggy!



Congratulations Ju-Punkie!
We are so proud you chose to be Irish!
Love, Mom, Dad, Natalie, & Michelle

THE GRADUATES OF 2005

Congratulations Dennis!!



We are so proud of the man you have grown to be.
God Bless you.
We love you always,
Mom Dad Roge Helen

Congratulations Bobby!

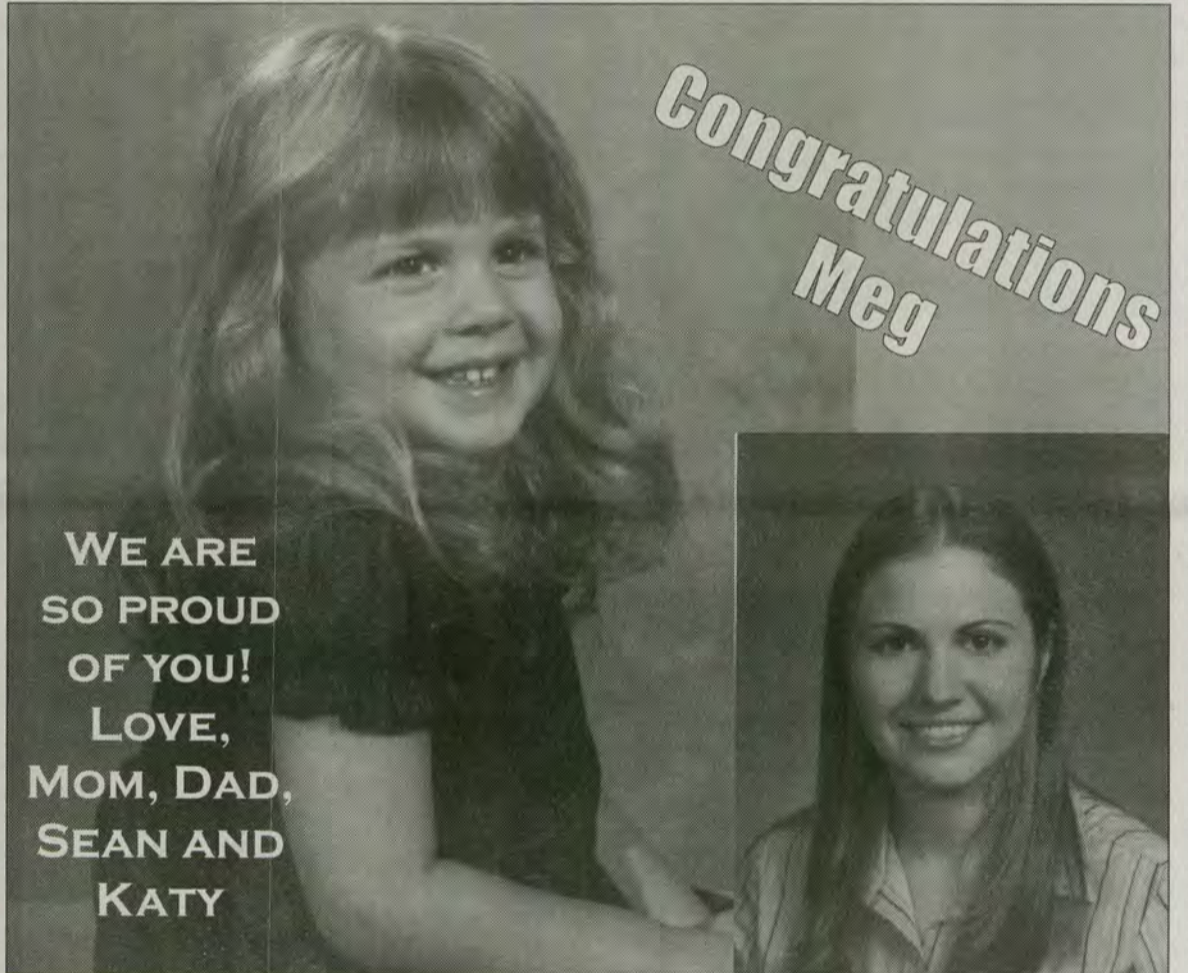


You have made us all proud.
Love, Mom, Dad, Mike & Paul




Your hard work and dedication have paid off. You're "Quacktastic"!
Love, Mom, Dad, Tara & Chompers

Congratulations Mandi!



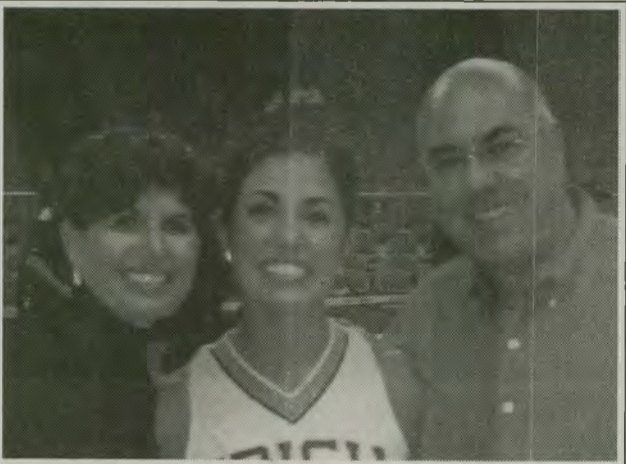
Congratulations Meg

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!
LOVE, MOM, DAD, SEAN AND KATY




Jaclyn

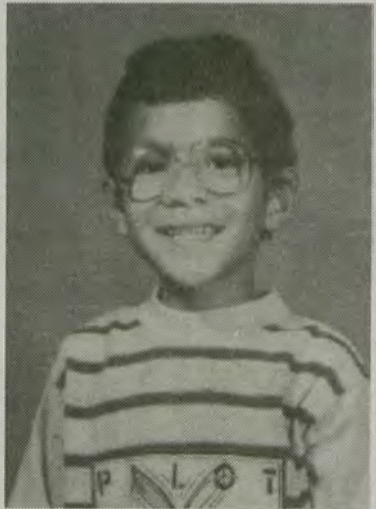
*"To dream anything that you want to dream,
That's the beauty of the human mind.
To do anything that you want to do,
That is the strength of the human will.
To trust yourself to test your limits,
That is the courage to succeed."
Author Bernard Edmonds*



Congratulations Jaclyn!
We are very proud of you!
Your family who always loves you!



CONGRATULATIONS TURKEE!



YOUR DREAM HAS COME TRUE!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!
LOVE, MOM AND DAD



Congratulations DINKY!!

Your family adores
you- we are so
very proud!!

SMIDGE, TARD, E, UNC,
MARY LOU, ABBY, SALLY,
NAN, VIN & PAPA



Great job
Kate!

We love you
like crazy,

Mumsie, Pa,
Becca, Nick,
Matt, George
and Rose



Congratulations
to Katie, our
new domer!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Elizabeth, Julie
and Christine

*Congratulations Joe!
You made it again!*

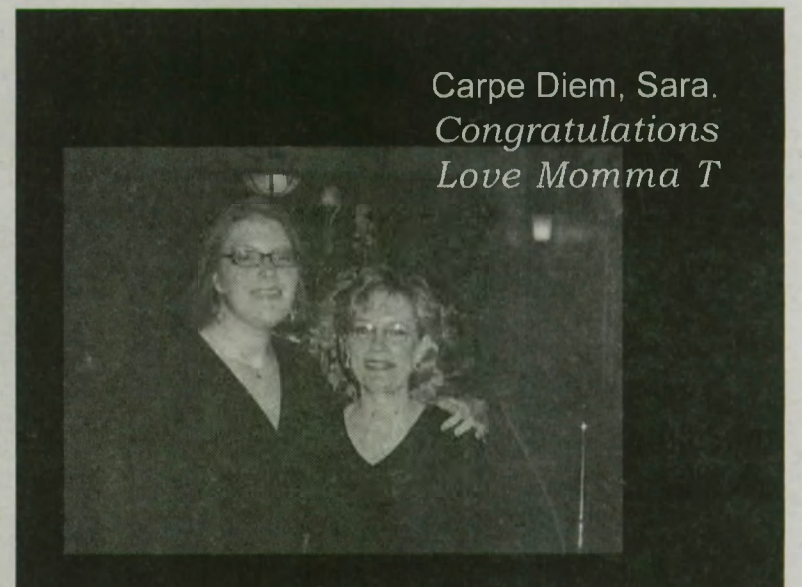


*We are so very proud of
you.*

Love, Mom, Dad, John and family



Congratulations
Ruthie!
We are so proud
of our domer!
Love,
Mama, Dad
and Emma



Carpe Diem, Sara.
Congratulations
Love Momma T

Congratulations Katrina!
From a determined and energetic girl into
a beautiful and caring young woman.
You've earned our respect and admiration.



We love you, "Littles."
Mom & Dad



Congratulations
Katy!
May the "Luck of
the Irish" be
with you as you
Take Your First
Steps into Your
Future!
Love, Mom, Dad
and Tracy!

FROM AN ALL-STAR TO A DOMER

CONGRATULATIONS

"RENO" Shane ALL STARS



CONGRATULATIONS
TERESA!

We are so proud
of your success.

Love Mom, Dad,
Cara & Dennis



Irish all the way-
Maya Noronha
and Bill Kern
Together from Sacred
Heart Preschool and
Grade School to
Charleston Catholic High
School to Notre Dame.

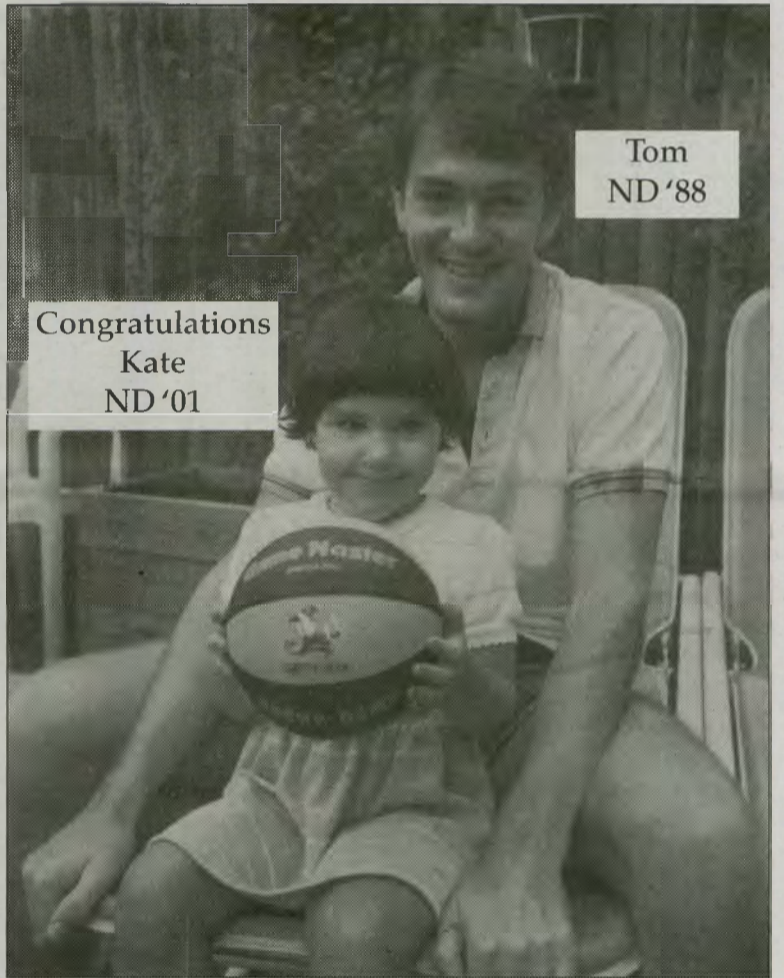
May your future paths
always lead you back
together. We love you.
Good luck and God
Bless you both!
Irish Forever!

(Mom)² + (Dad)² + Adi
+ Katie + Tina



Congratulations
Kate
ND '01

Tom
ND '88



CONGRATULATIONS LAFAYETTE #30!



Thanks for the memories!
Love, The Sterritts

Way to Go Bobbers!



Congratulations from "The Fam"

T-BEAR!



You set your sights and you hit the heights!
Our 3rd generation Domer!
We are so very proud of you!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Elizabeth M. Murphy



Congratulations Beth!
We are so proud of you!
Best wishes to the Class of 2005

Mom, Dad, Jim, John, and Stephen



Congratulations!



In typical Gina form, you have managed to have an incredible 4 years academically and still found the time to take in the full ND experience (which of course includes "Boat" among others). We too loved being part of the "family" even though you said we couldn't. So, CHEERS to our first tailgate of next season.

Love,
Mom and Dad

And of course, GO IRISH!



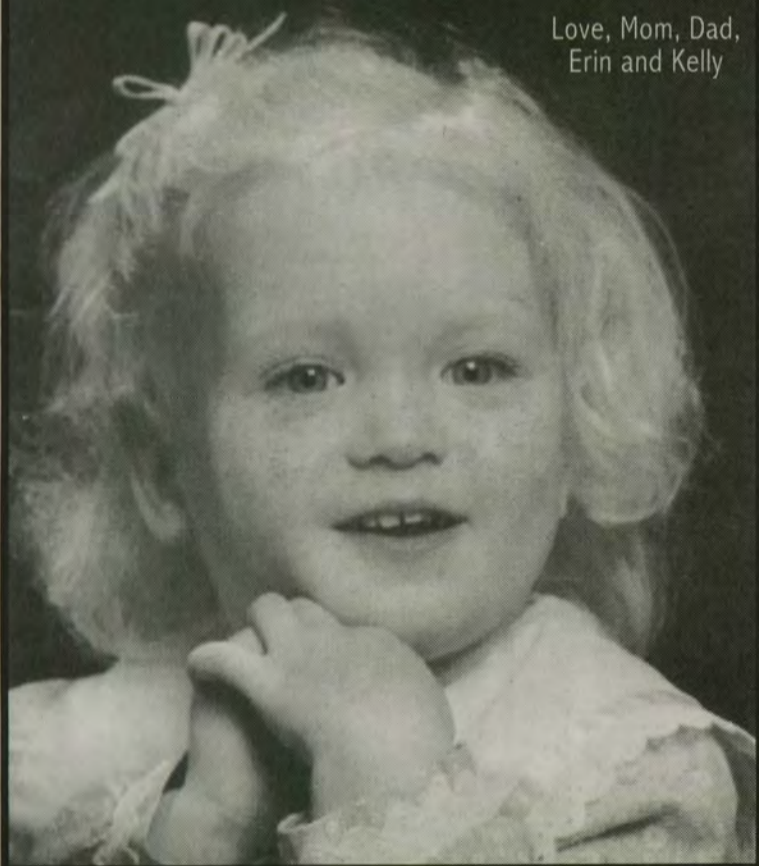
Congratulations Justin!



We are proud of you!
Love Dad, Mom
Jacob, Paige

Meghan, We've always loved your Irish eyes. Keep them smiling. Congratulations.

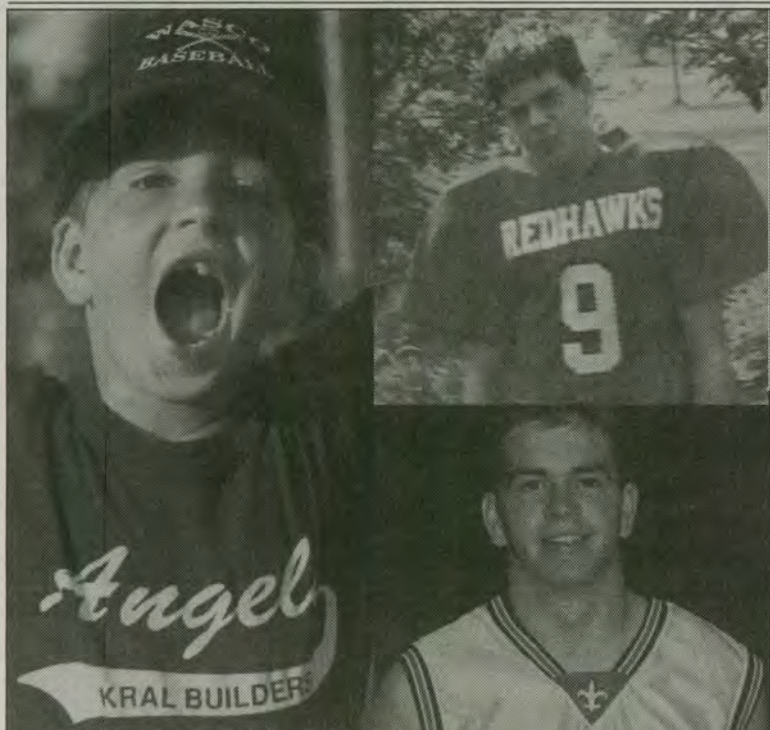
Love, Mom, Dad,
Erin and Kelly



Congratulations Katie!

We are all so proud of you!

Love,
Mom & Dad, Donovan, Devin, and Ryan



First you were an "Angel", then "Red Hawk", then a "Saint"; educated at Notre Dame with the "Fighting Irish." Look out University of Chicago Law. Will is ready for the challenge!! Love Dad, Mom & Lizzy


Congratulations,
Maureen!

A little girl grows up so fast,
And soon we see the years have past.
Young woman, our daughter, our joy and our heart,
You've reached the end only to find a new start.


We're so proud of you!
Love always,
Mom, Dad, Mike & Geni



Congratulations, Kelly



We love you! ~ Mom & Dad



Congratulations Reed! We're all so proud of you!


Love,
Mom & Dad, Ashley,
Shawn & Renee, Niki, Drew,
Kelsey, Trevor

Caitlin-

So very proud of your hard work, accomplishments, and your compassion for others. May God bless you and keep you safe as you take your first steps on life's wonderful journey.

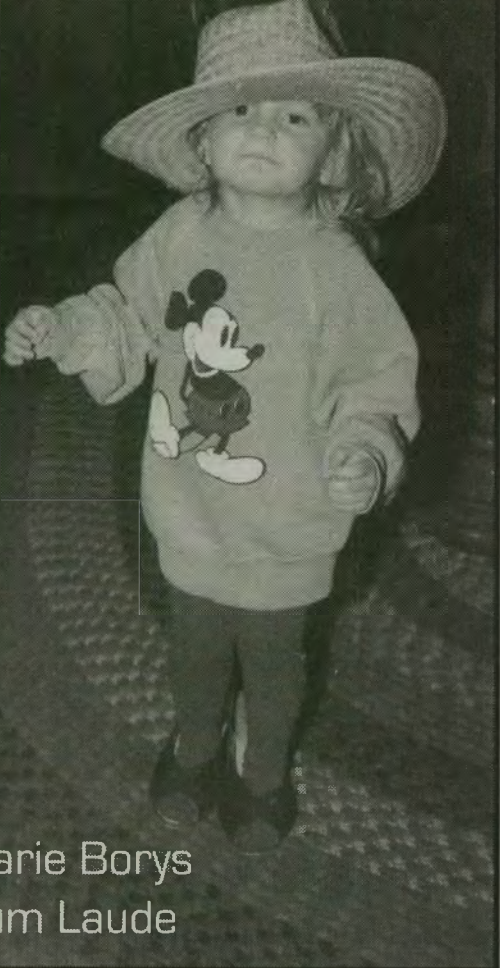
Congratulations!

Love, Mom, Ray, and Dale



You've "grown into" adulthood beautifully!

All our love,
Mom, Dad and Family



Amanda Marie Borys
Summa Cum Laude

CONGRATULATIONS

★ SARAH KATE! ★

We love you so much and are so proud of you!

LOVE,
D + Mom + Dad



Congratulations,
Jeff

We love you - Mom, Dad & Dan

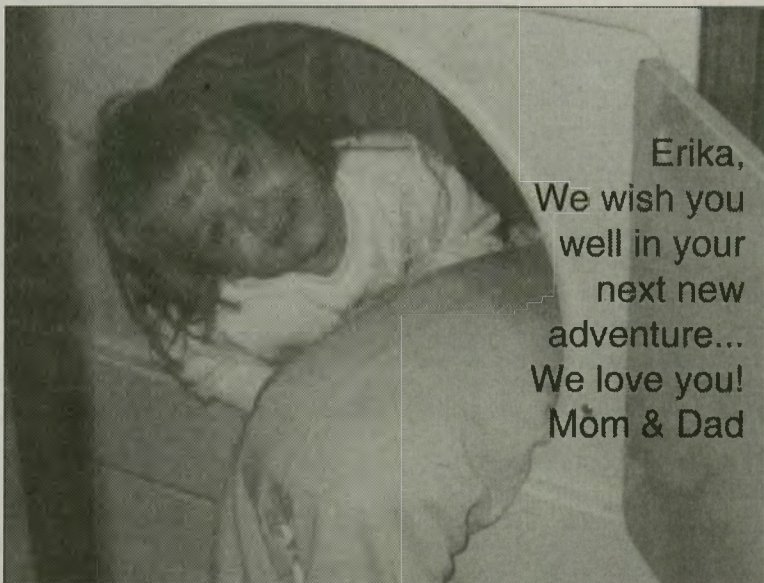
Dear Mom and Dad...here is what 40 grand a year bought you...I mean ME...My Life at Notre Dame

- Irish Football and home game tailgates
- A dorm room on God's Quad
- Life as an Otter
- No Parent Rules...My Room...My Mess
- Sleeping in a box on South Quad...by choice
- Jobs paying Minimum Wage...grading papers and umping girls' softball.
- A semester studying in London...and Paris and the Czech Republic and Italy and Germany, Ireland and SpainI did study...PROMISE!
- A summer internship spending your cash in DC.
- My first road trip...to Ohio
- My second road trip to Georgia
- Spring Breaks in Florida and Las Vegas
- An internship (UNDERC) in Land O' Lakes Wisconsin counting trees, small mammals, mosquitoes, etc.
- An afternoon Fishing with Father Hesburgh
- Completing three majors in four years ...and yes... being on the Deans list... at least once
- Life time friends
- A stronger faith in God, Community, and Self
- Another 3 years tuition at Law School...including room and board? Hey, a man **can** dream!
~Thank you for teaching me to dream so big~
~I Love you with all of my heart ~
Your Son, Steve

P.S. But when I grow up...I still want to be...**a Cowboy!**



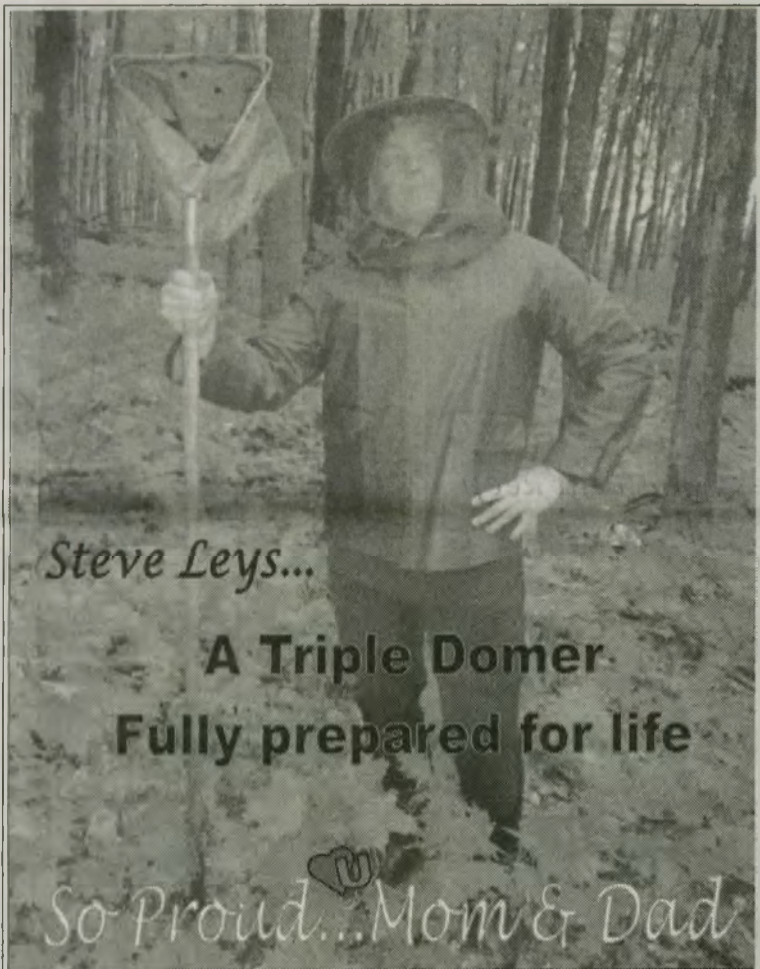
Irish eyes are smiling down upon you Jen!
Congratulations on all you have accomplished.
We love you!
Mom & Dad



Erika,
We wish you well in your next new adventure...
We love you!
Mom & Dad



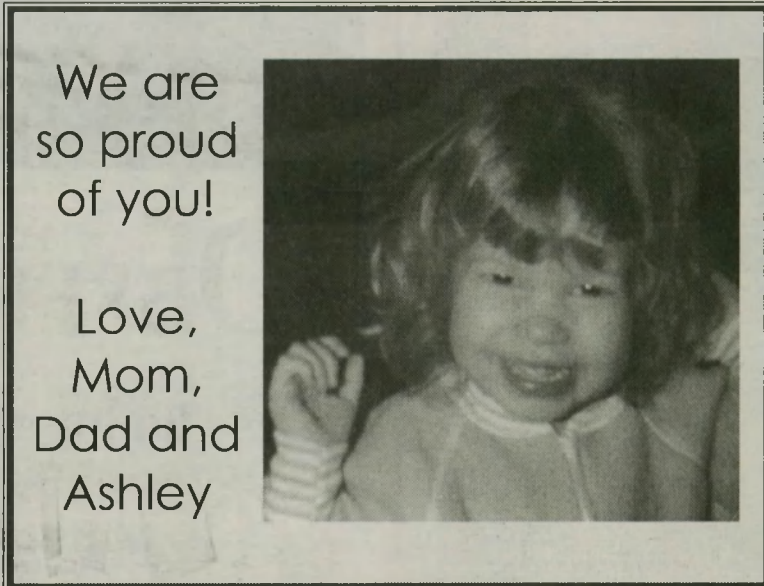
You've **always** made us very **proud.**
Love,
Mom & Dad



Steve Leys...

A Triple Domer
Fully prepared for life

So Proud... Mom & Dad



We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom,
Dad and
Ashley



Congratulations Goose
We knew you could do it.
You d' koolist.
Love Mom, Dad, Tess and The Mer




Congratulations Elena!
We're proud of you!

Love,
Your Family

CONGRATULATIONS!

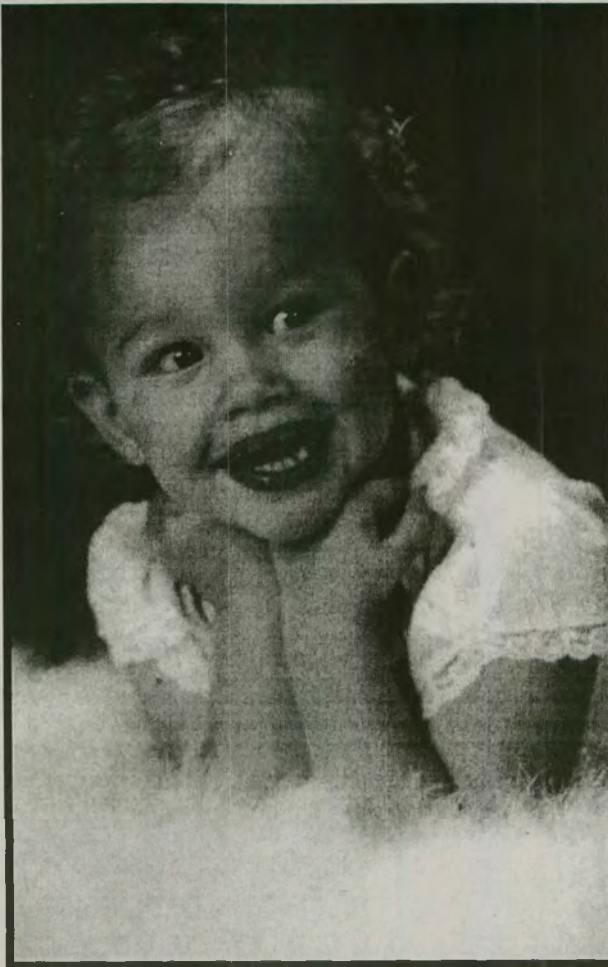
Three Dynamic Domers



22 USA

KNUTE ROCKNE '14, Liam Gruz '05, & Joe Londergan '50

Conaratuations Liam!



**Congratulations
Andrea,**

**Today is your
day, you're off to
great places.
You're off and
away. Oh!
The places you
will go.
Dr. Seuss**

**Love, Mom, Dad,
Erin and Emily**



**Congratulations
Kevin!
We are so proud
of you.
Good luck in
grad school!**

**Love, Dad,
Mom, & Allison**

**Adam Wilson
Irish Hoya 1993**



Do you believe
in destiny?

*Irish 05
Hoya 09*

Congratulations
Mom, Dad,
Sommer & Taylor



Erin, Congratulations
On Your Graduation!
Love, Mom, Dad & Megan



**Congratulations,
Katie.**



*Love,
Mom, Dad
and Saro*



Congrats, Jaim! Love you!

Even when you were a
girl of three, You knew
where you always
wanted to be.

You marched to the
fight song And sang it
out loud. And soon one
day you were part of
that crowd.

The past four
years—they really flew.
And now your time under
the dome is through.

But before you go, we
want you to know, you
shine even brighter than
the golden dome's glow.

**THE
OBSERVER**

**Editor in Chief
2003-2004
Matt Lozar**



**Follow your
dreams...**

**Nowhere else but
Notre Dame!**

**Love,
Mom, Dad,
Ben & Zach**

**HARD WORK + GOD'S BLESSING = GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS
YOU BRING SO MUCH JOY TO OUR LIVES!
ALL OUR LOVE AND CONGRATULATIONS!
MOM, DAD, TOMMY, AND SARAH**



Carrie, Congratulations



*on your
fourth
graduation!
Love,
Your family*

Congratulations Sarah!

You'll always be our little superhero.

**Love
Mom & Dad**

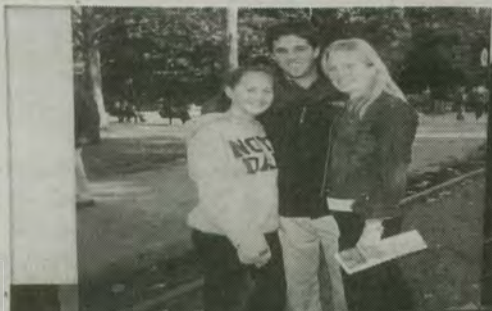


Congratulations Jasmine Brown



*Mommy: Thank you for teaching us to....
Never give up, Never give in and...NEVER NEVER QUIT!
Love, Kai Maliq and Indonesia Angelique
Jas- Be Proud, Be Humble, Be Happy-- Love--Mom, Dad & Quincy*

Dear Brooke,
Congratulations, Notre Dame
Graduate. We love you.
Oceans of Love,
Mom, Dad, Austin & Kaitlin



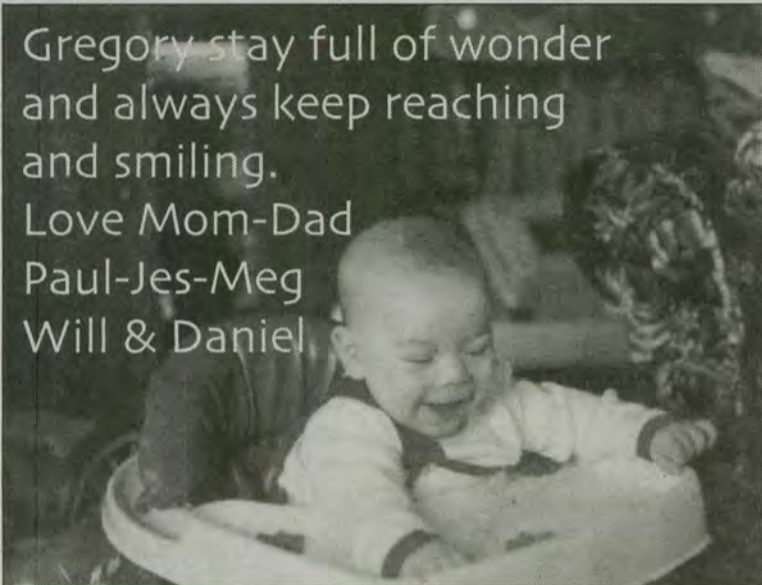
*"I hope you don't mind that I put down in words...
How wonderful life is while you're
in the world!" -Elton John*

Congratulations!
You will always
be our
pride & joy.

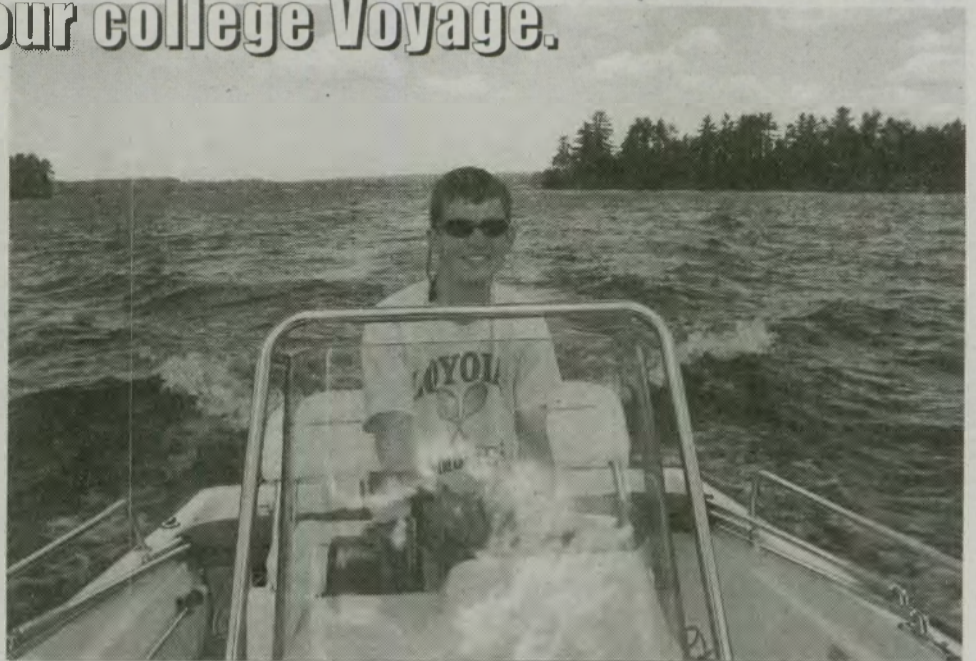
May God bless
you and may all
your dreams
come true.



Gregory stay full of wonder
and always keep reaching
and smiling.
Love Mom-Dad
Paul-Jes-Meg
Will & Daniel



Mike,
Congratulations on completing
your college Voyage.



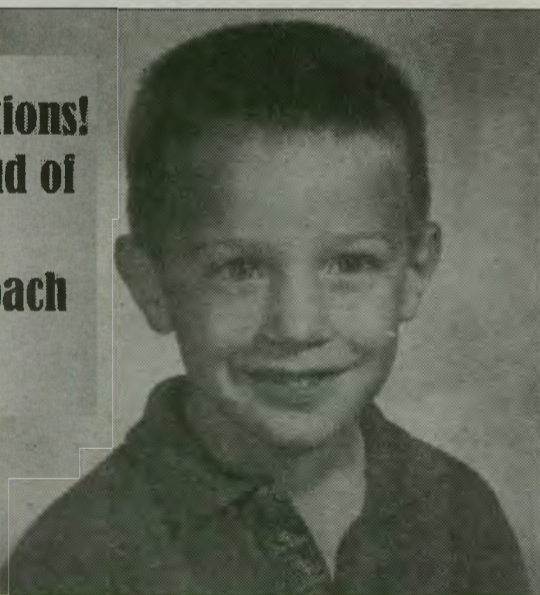
Love, Mom and Dad



You were born to
wear that sweatshirt!
Congratulations Matt-
We are very proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Dan

Congratulations!
We're proud of
you!
The Breitbach
Family



Congratulations Jon!

From a small
town boy to a
"fighting Irish!"

GO JON! CONGRATS!

MR. SONQ I. SADARANGANI

finance major.
Class of 2005

Congratulations
"Domer"



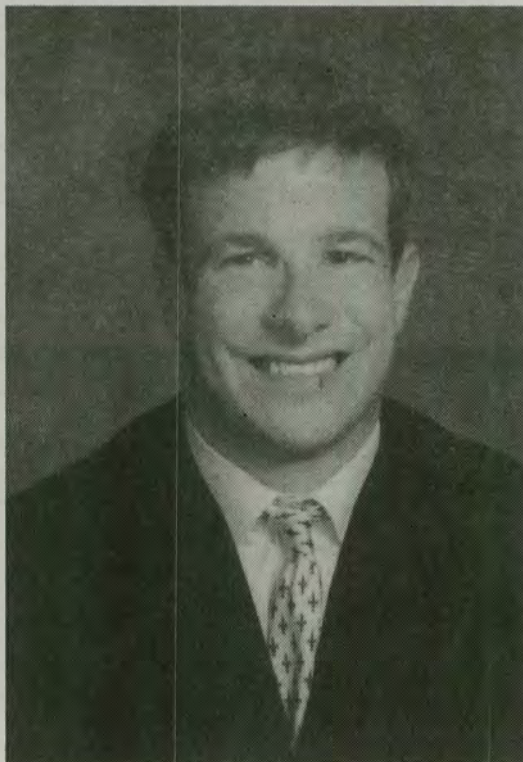
"THEN"

When you first graduated from
pre-kindergarten, we started
dreaming of you graduating
from a university like
"Notre Dame"

"NOW"

Finally the special day has arrived.
"Thank you our darling and loving
son, for making our dreams come
true."

We love you & God bless you.
Mom & Dad



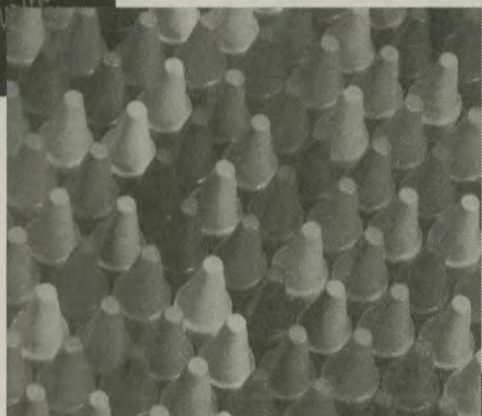
**CORBETT -
Wow!
What a Domer. 3.7!**

Love, Mom & Dad

CONGRATULATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS EMILY



**We know you'll
make your mark
on the world!**

**Love, Mom, Dad
and Christopher**



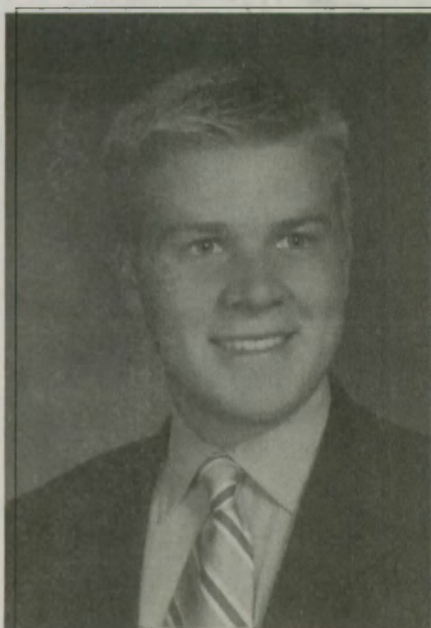
*Daniel, your hard work
and dedication have
made us proud. You did
it! You will soon be
graduating from your
dream college, Notre
Dame! May your faith in
God and love of life stay
with you always.*

*Love, Mom, Dad &
Melissa*

**Congratulations
MISS GARY!
See you in the
classroom.
Love, Mom & Dad
Brendan, Brianne
& Melissa**



**Congratulations
Katy!
We are very
proud of you!
Love, Dad and Mom**



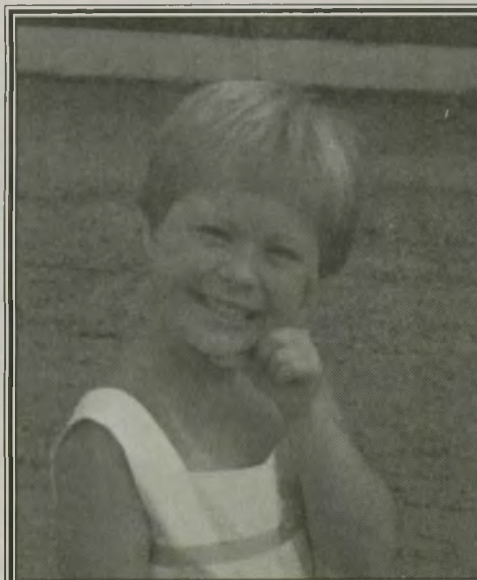
CONGRATS PETE !!!

**We are very
proud of you**

**All our love,
Mom, Dad, Molly, Mike and Ali**



**Congratulations
Brandon!
You've made us
very proud!
Love, Mom,
Dad, & Krista**



*"Gee, I wonder what I will
be like when I grow up?"
We Love You and are so
"Proud" of you!
The Best is yet to Come!
We Love You.
Mom and Dad*

Great Job "Punkin"

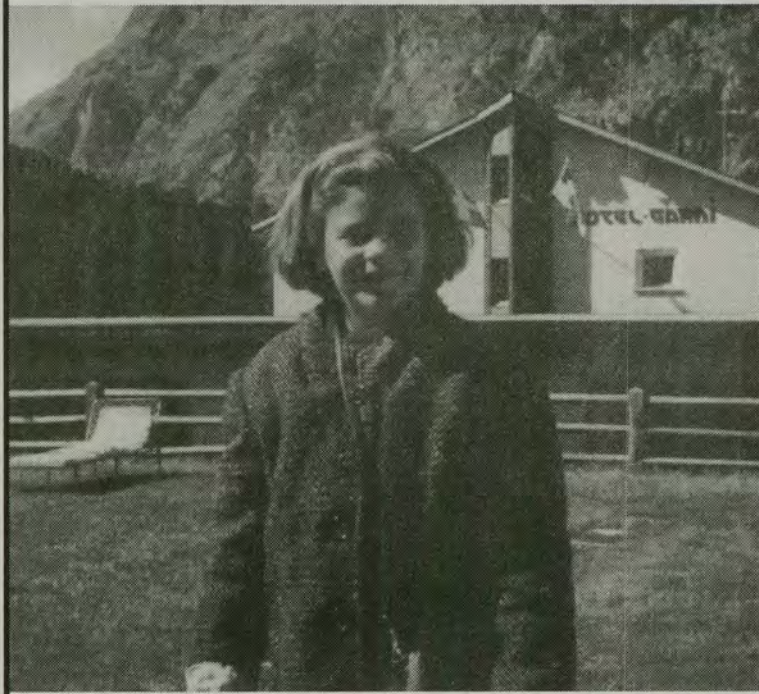
**We are proud of
you!**

**Love, Mom, Dad
and Nathan**

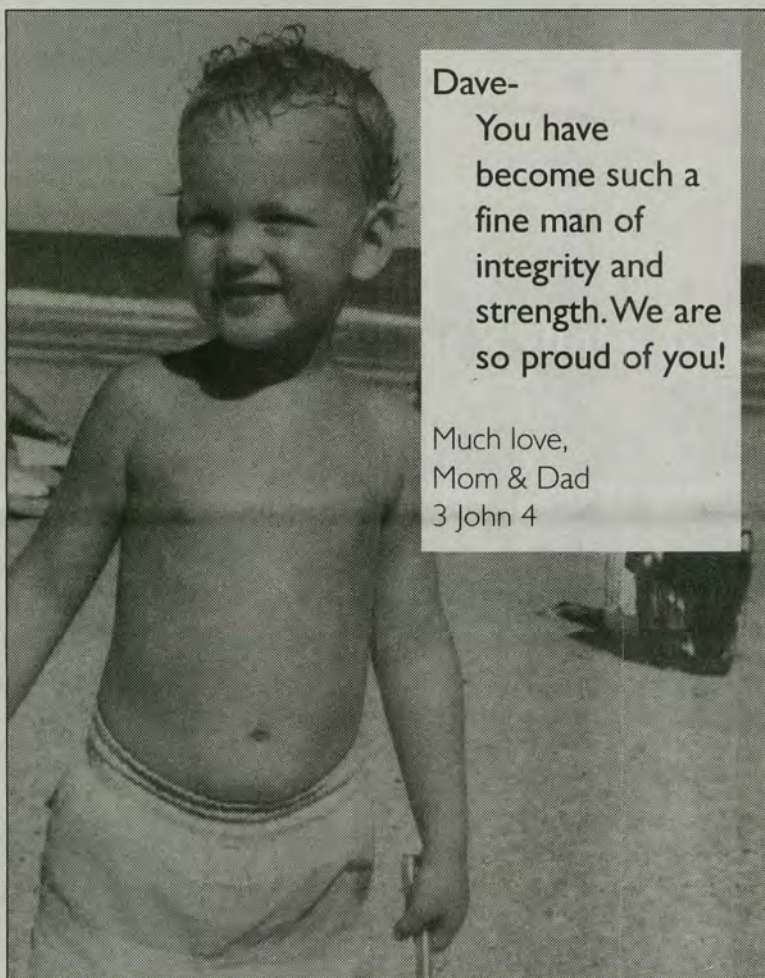


Congratulations!

CHRISTINA, WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



LOVE, YOUR FAMILY



Dave-
You have become such a fine man of integrity and strength. We are so proud of you!

Much love,
Mom & Dad
3 John 4



*Make a joyful noise to the Lord...
break forth into joyous song...
with trumpets- and trombones!- and the
sound of the horn!
...Psalm 98:4 revised
Love, Mom, Dad, and Steve*



Angels most certainly danced the day you were born!

Congratulations Anne Katz, on reaching your goals, achieving your dreams and accomplishing more than we ever anticipated!

May you always dance on air.

Love,
Mom & Dad, Michael, Patrick, Sean, and Megan (and families)



We see your strengths reflected in your eyes
Accept any weaknesses as a sign to try harder,
Your spirit has grown and filled our hearts with love,
You have learned lessons that you can share with others,
Do not follow the road already made—
enjoy making your own path,
Be a man of value and let God's love bring you peace and happiness...
That will make you a rich man.

We love you,
Mom & Dad

Brian C. Mulhall

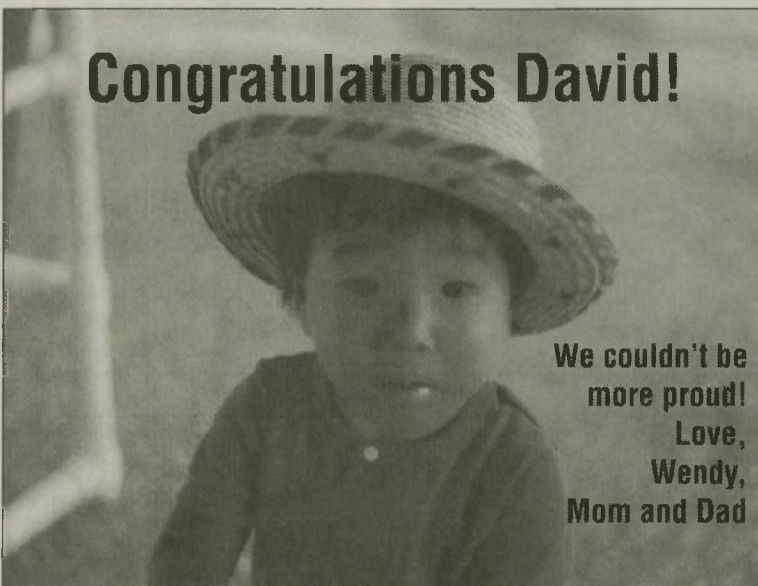


CONGRATULATIONS ADAM!

From your first day of school to ND ALUMNUS...
We are so very proud of you!!!
Love,
Mom and Dad

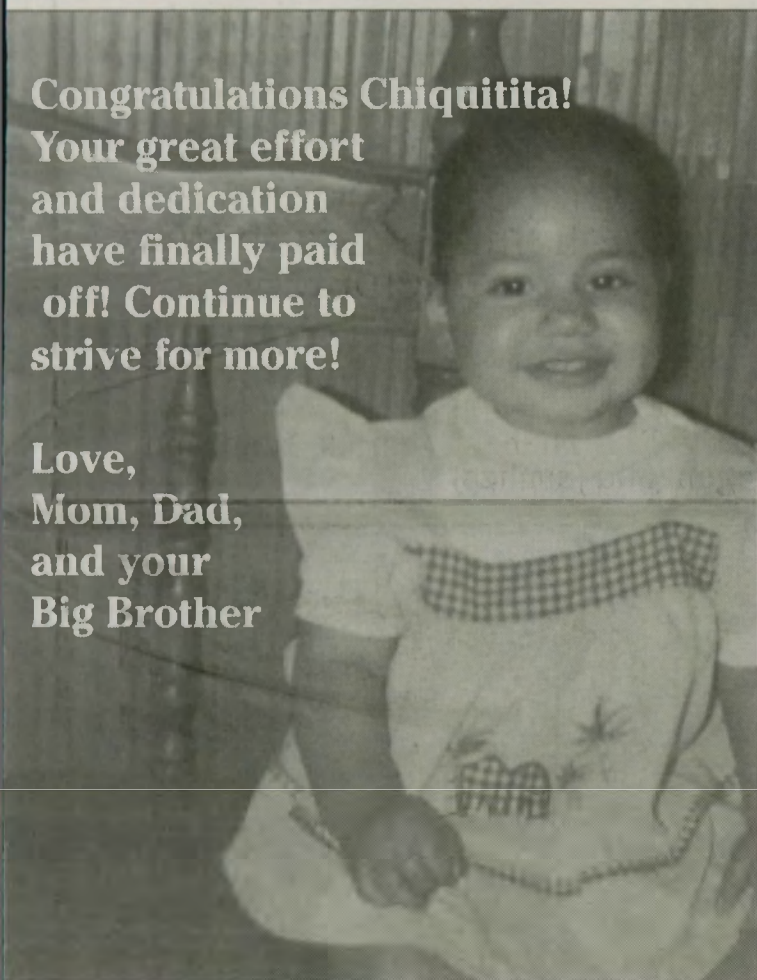


Love,
Mom, Dad, Melissa,
Grandma & Grandpa



Congratulations David!

We couldn't be
more proud!
Love,
Wendy,
Mom and Dad



Congratulations Chiquitita!
Your great effort
and dedication
have finally paid
off! Continue to
strive for more!

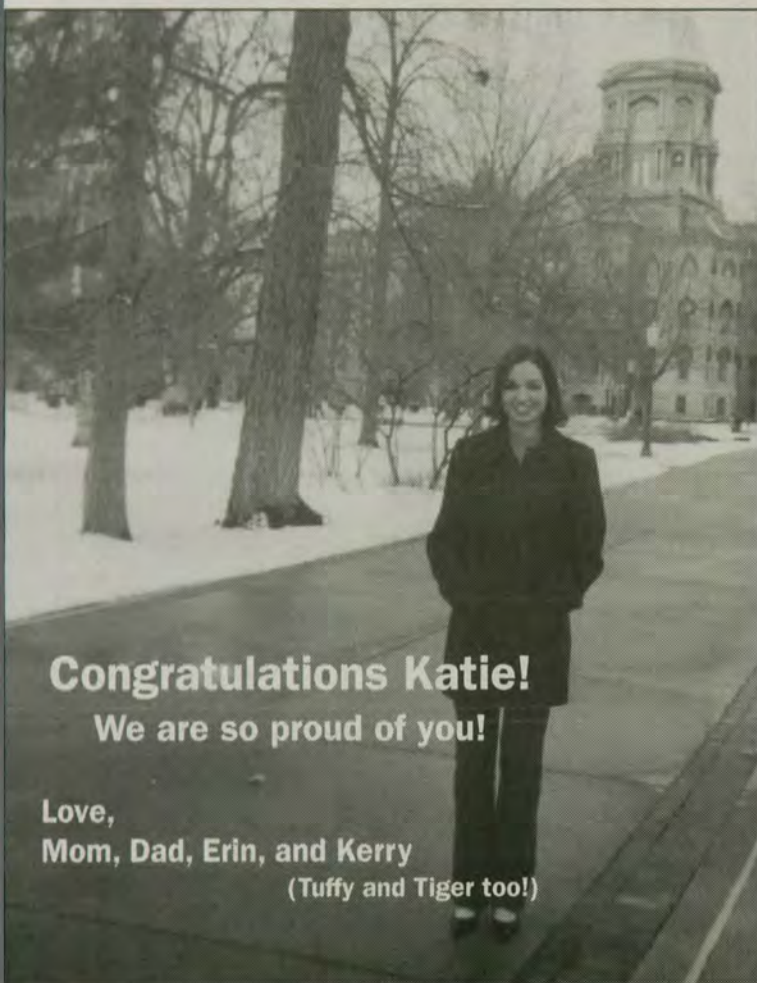
Love,
Mom, Dad,
and your
Big Brother



**Congrats,
Welsh Family RAs!**



Congratulations Diane!
Love, Mom, Dad and Megan



Congratulations Katie!
We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Erin, and Kerry
(Tuffy and Tiger too!)



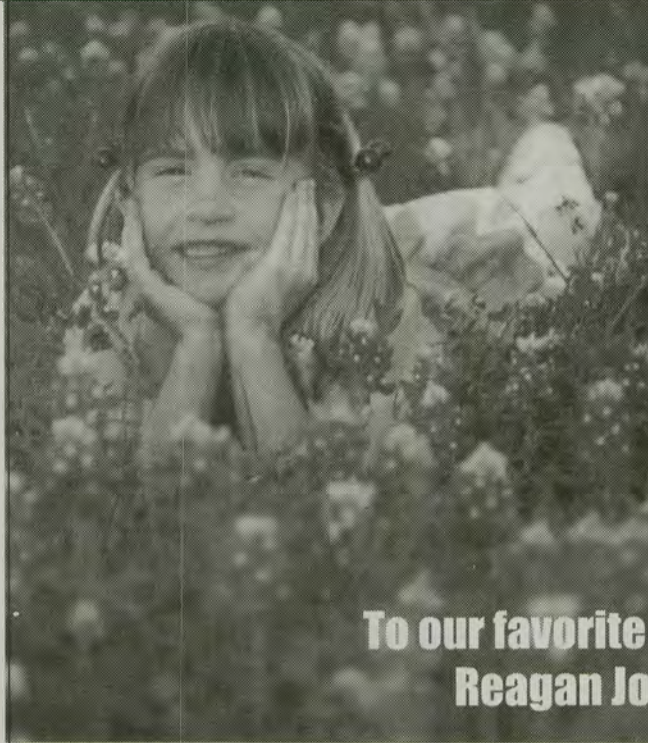
Did this little guy really
become a Notre Dame Grad!
CONGRATULATIONS PATI!
Love, Mom, Dad, Bob, Sara,
Theresa and Rebecca

ND CLASS OF 2005



We thank God for all His Great Mercies and our Lady for all her Blessings.
Congratulations Dolores!

Love,
Your proud Mom and Dad & All the family



To our favorite ND grad,
Reagan Jones

Congratulations on completing your degree in chemical engineering, and best wishes as you begin the next adventure: medical school. We're so proud of you, and we love you!

Dad, Mama, and Sam



CONGRATULATIONS
LAUREN!!!

You're a tough act
to follow!

Love and Hugs,
Megan

Mom, Dad
Cath & PJ



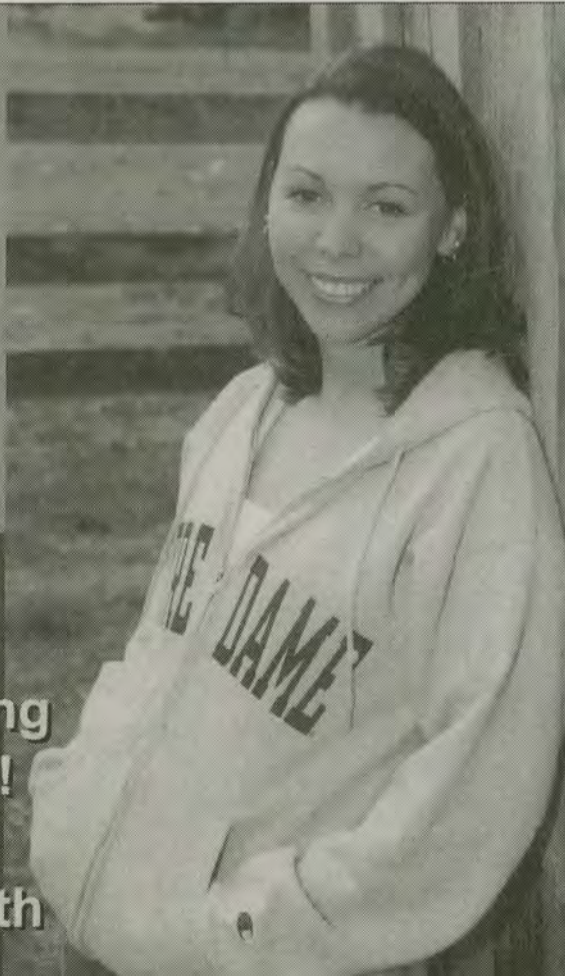
*We're so proud of our St. Mary's girl.
Love Mom & Dad*

Congratulations Kate!

We are so
very proud
of you!
Love,
Mom, Dad
& Michelle



Rachael,
Thank you for achieving
our dreams and yours!
Love,
Mom, Daddy & Meredith





Congratulations Ryan and the class of 2005. We love you and are sooo proud.

Love, Mom, Dad and Matt ('04)



Congratulations, Abigail! We love you. Love, Luke, Mark, and Adam



B. Young, our Brian, you are awesome! Continue to grow in grace and wisdom. We love you so much! Mom, Dad, Patty, Sarah & Michelle



Congratulations Jackie!

We are so very proud of you #24.

Love, Mom and Dad Kaylen and Ashley - Go IRISH!

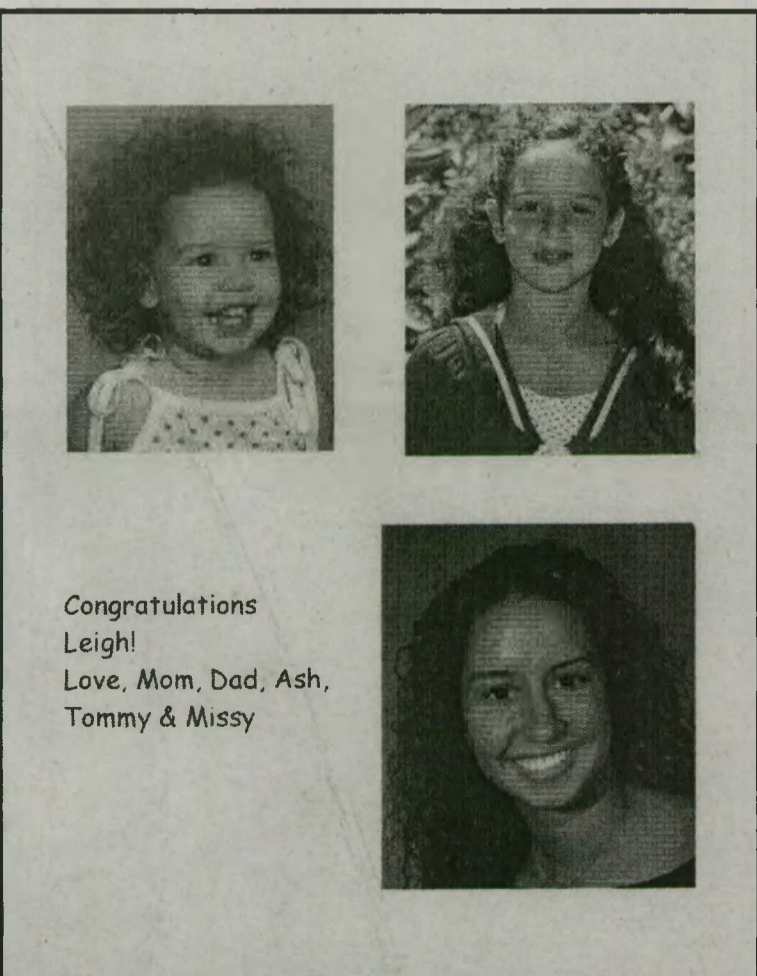
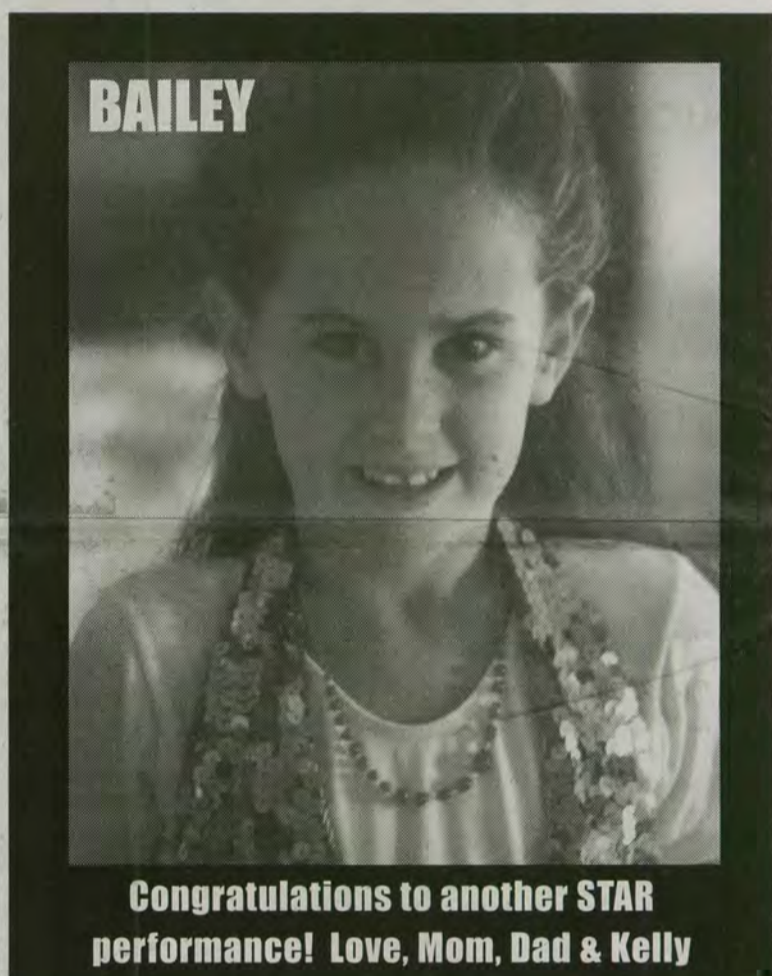
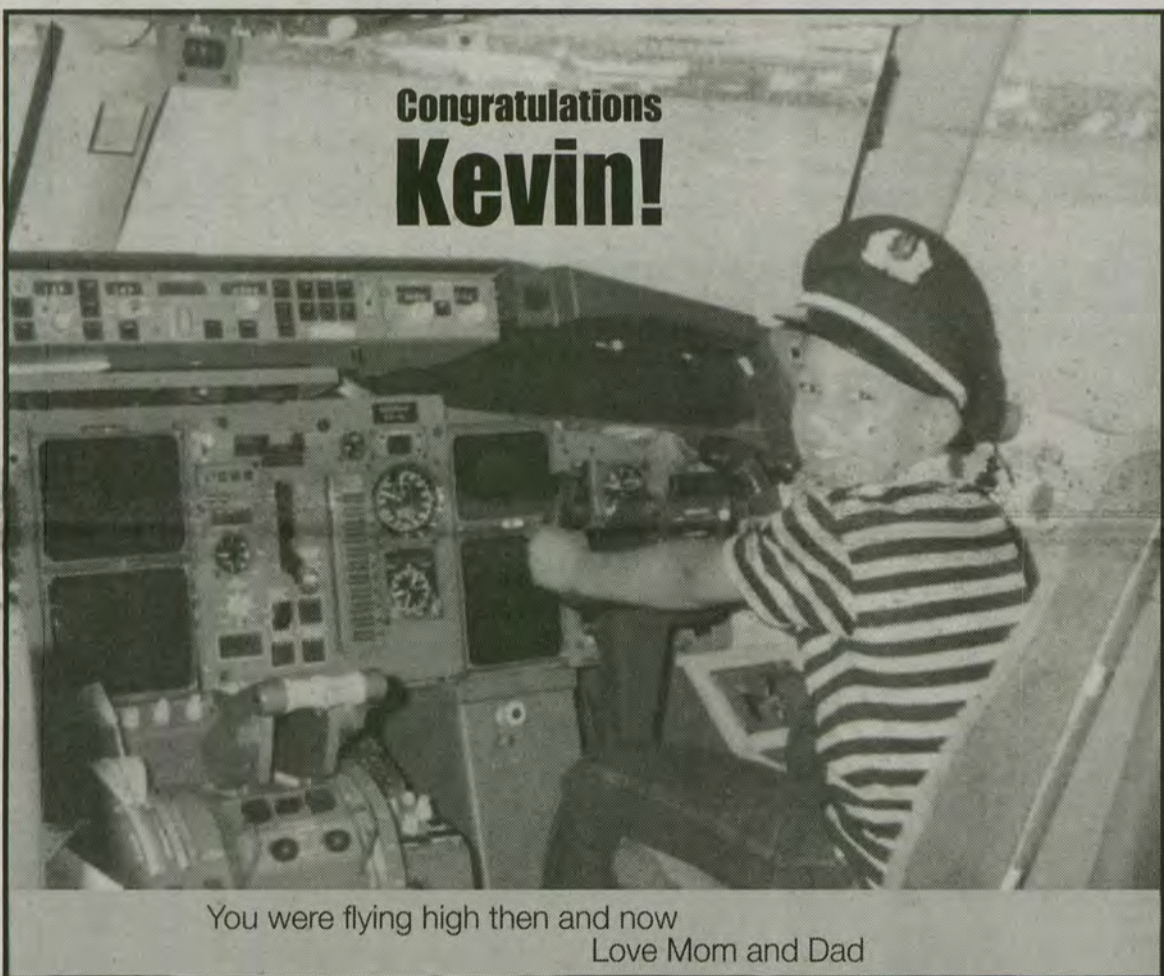
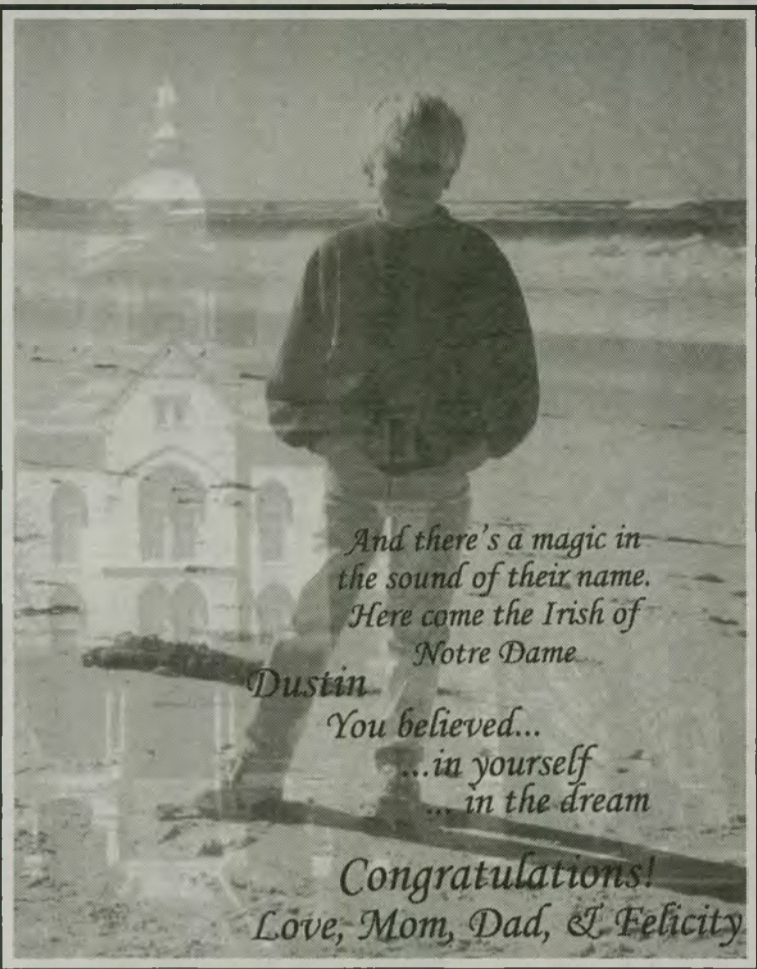


Congratulations Titi

From Super Woman to world traveler

We love you Mom, Dad, Laurie and Eric







CONGRATULATIONS
ASTRID!

We are so very
proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad, & Mervin

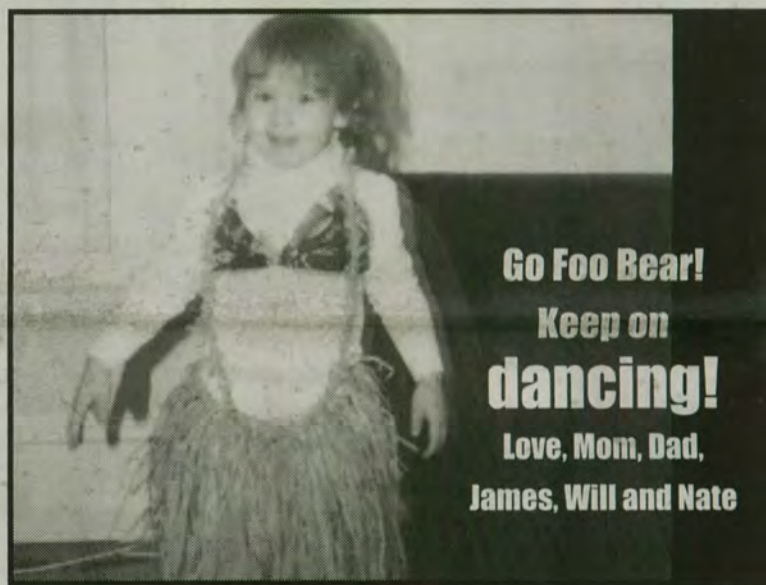
We 're proud of
our new Aerospace
Engineer,
Nicole Yvette Orozco.



You Made It!
Love always
Mom & Dad



Congratulations Dan! First Domer in our family!
Love, Mom, Dad, Laurie and Stefanie



Go Foo Bear!
Keep on
dancing!

Love, Mom, Dad,
James, Will and Nate

Dear Allison,

Oh the Places You've Been...
since setting sail Four years ago !

An amazing ND journey you've had...
incredible people you've met,
awesome things you've accomplished,
and exciting places you've experienced
from SouthBend, Indiana to Athens, Greece!

Today is your day. You deserve it!
Yet... another mountain is waiting.
So get on your way!

We're so proud of you!!

Love always,
Mom & Dad



Ashley Anne Dyer

With the dreams of tomorrow we are celebrating
Ashley Anne Dyer. As we drove down "The
Avenue" Freshman year we were awed by the
beauty and statchiness of the sycamore trees. Now
as we drive down "The Avenue" once again in
leaving Saint Mary's Senior year we are awed by
the person our wonderful daughter has become.
She is a sister who has a sensitive nature, an
understanding heart, a spirited soul, and a
wonderful sense of humor. You are very disciplined,
a strong leader, an excellent student, a lover of art,
a loyal friend, and a champion for women. We
know that you will make the world a better place.
You have many talents...use them well! We wish
you the BEST!!! We love you very much!!!
Love, Lauren Elizabeth, Mom and Dad xxxxxx



Congratulations
Lisa
You did it!
We are so
proud of you!
Love,
Mom, Dad,
and John

CONGRATULATIONS!



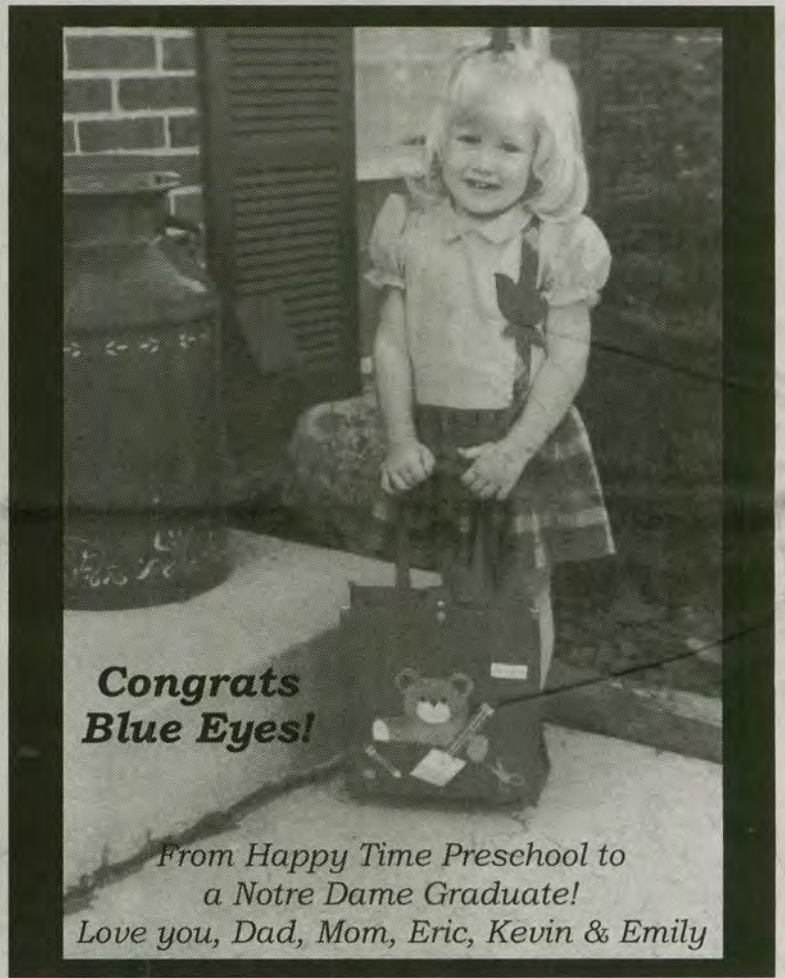
As you set out on your journey may you always travel by "bubble" and remember that black is this year's PINK!
Congratulations Carrie
Love, Mom, Dad, Toye, Chris, & Holland



Holly, You are awesome and a blessing to our family! Our love and prayers always, Dad, Mom, Lisa & Lindsay

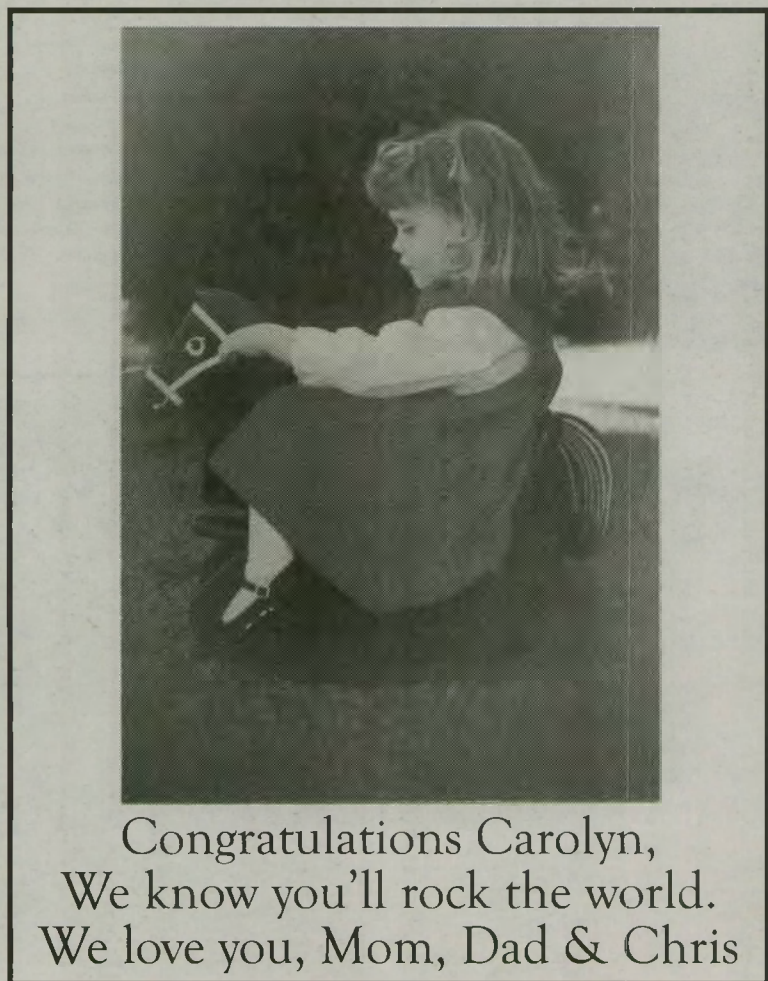


Katie,
May you Always Keep on Dancin!
Congratulations!
Love, Dad, Mom, Danny, Colin, Ryan, Shannon, & Dillon
Sandino
Class of 2005



Congrats Blue Eyes!

*From Happy Time Preschool to a Notre Dame Graduate!
Love you, Dad, Mom, Eric, Kevin & Emily*



Congratulations Carolyn,
We know you'll rock the world.
We love you, Mom, Dad & Chris



Elizabeth,
We are proud of you.
Love,
Mom and Dad

Grandpa, Grandma, Dad, Mom, Uncle Terry, Aunt Nancy, Uncle Frank, Courtney, Pat, Kim and Loyola Academy --

Thanks for Always being there and helping me through it all. Love, Katie Mac



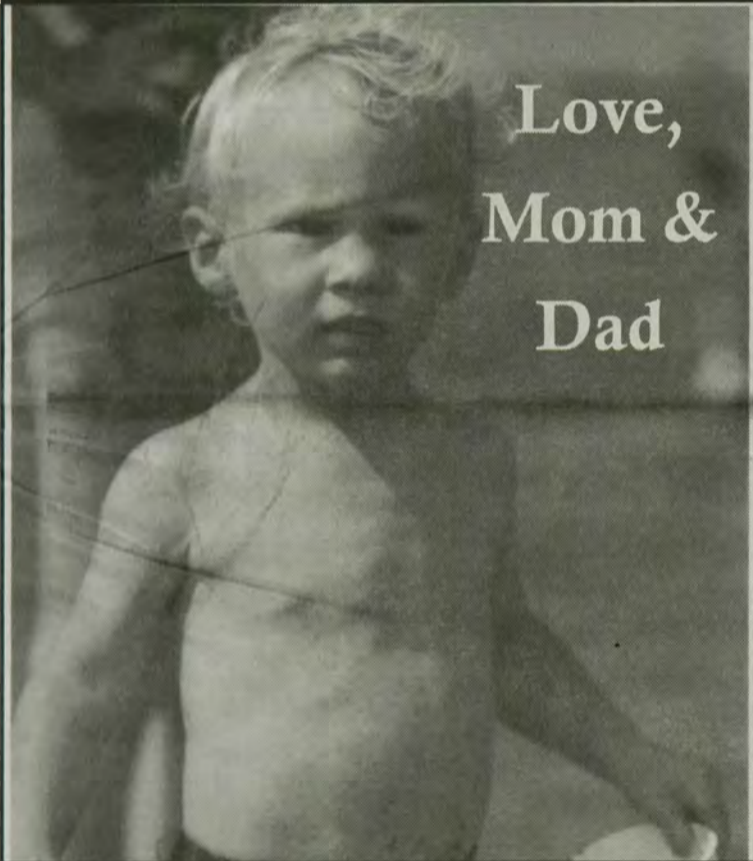
Blessed Mother - Please help me study hard so I can go to ND when I grow up. Love, Katie Maureen (prayers really do get answered!!)



CLASS OF 2005

Congratulations Colin!

Love, Mom & Dad



Future Architect - Patrick Mohan

We are so proud of you.

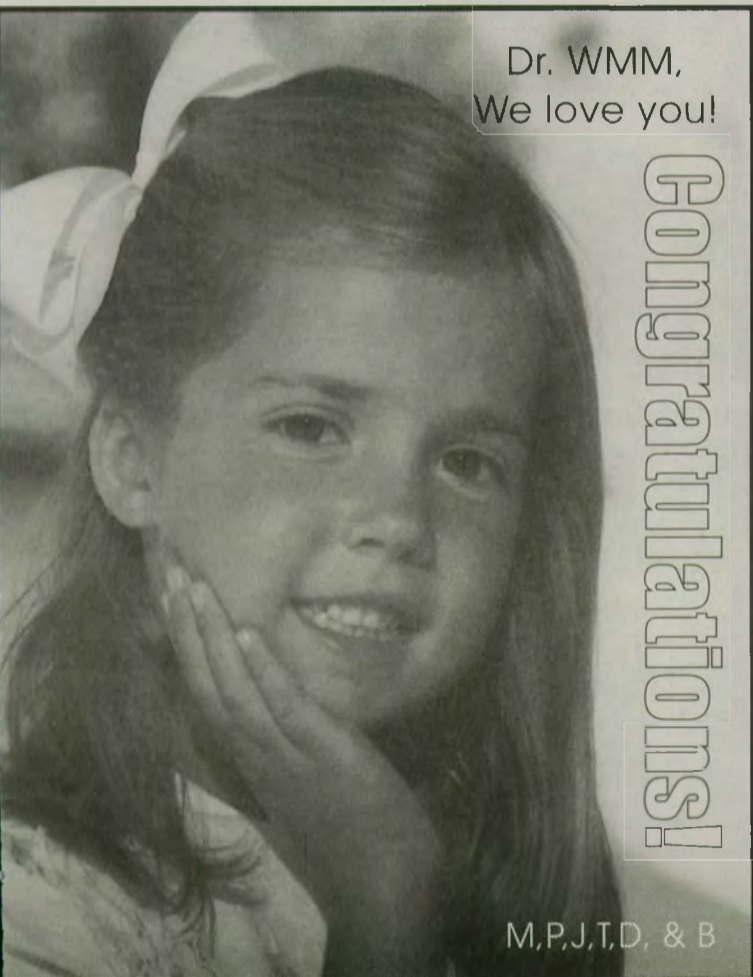
Mom, Dad, and the whole clan:
Stella (ND Class of 91)
David (ND Class of 92)
Bryan (ND Class of 95)
Amber (ND Class of 98)
Elizabeth, John, and Amanda



Dr. WMM, We love you!

Congratulations!

M,P,J,T,D, & B



Yesterday's dream is today's success. Congratulations Chip! We could not be more proud. Love, Mom and Dad





Congratulations,
Courtney.

We are so
proud of
you!

Love always,
Dad and Mom



We saved the
best for last!

Congratulations
Cori!

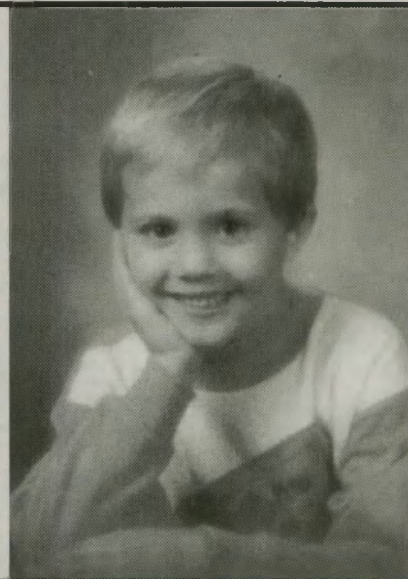
Love, Mom, Dad -
UND '68 & '70,
Cristin - UND '92,
Craig - UND '95,
Kelly - SMC '97,
and Kara - SMC '04

Congratulations, Katie!



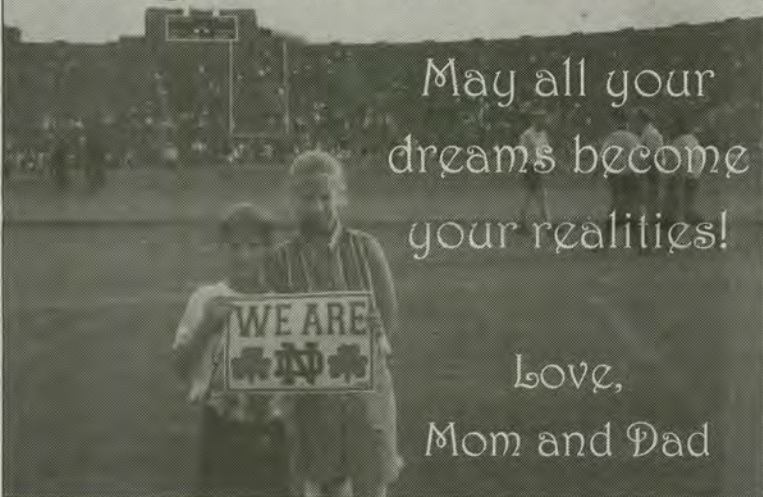
Love, Mom, Dad, & Michael

**YOU DID IT
WOLKIE!
AND WE'RE
PROUD!
CONGRATS.**



**LOVE,
MOM, DAD
NICK,
LAURA**

Congratulations Erin!



May all your
dreams become
your realities!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Congratulations
Amy

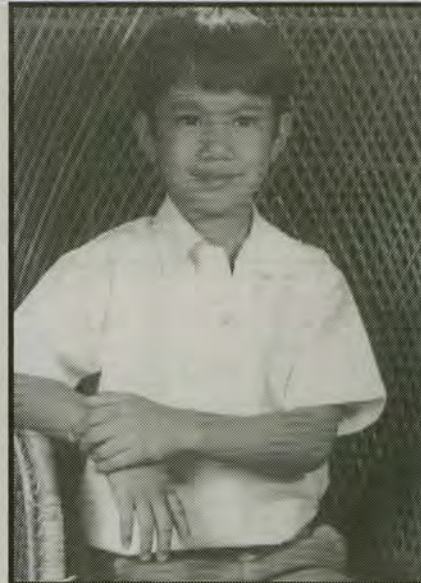
You've
marched
your
way
through
four
years.

Love,
Mom & Dad

**Congrats
Geo majors!
We made it...
we ROCK!**



Congratulations Tim! We're proud of you!
Love your family



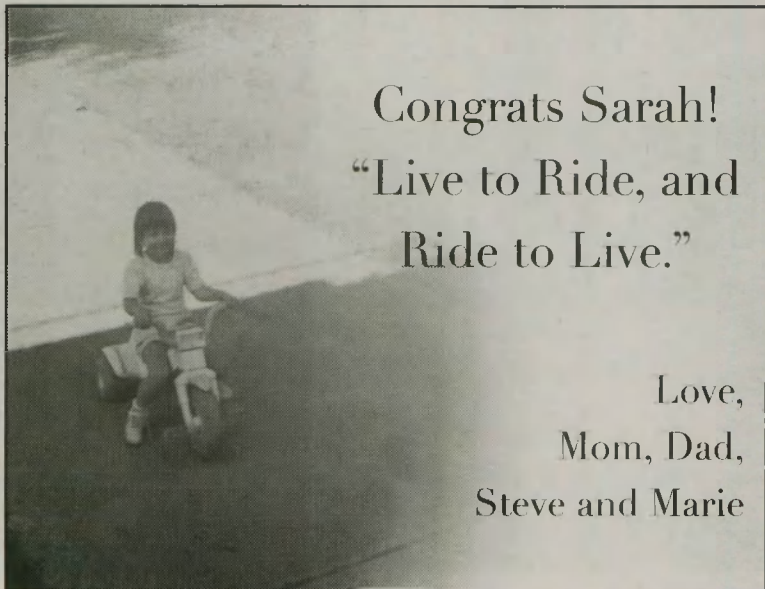
Dear Joseph,
Congratulations!!!

Your love, laughter and
enthusiasm for life have
brought us so much joy.
We are so proud of you
and we wish you
success and happiness in
everything you do.
We love you.

Mom and Dad



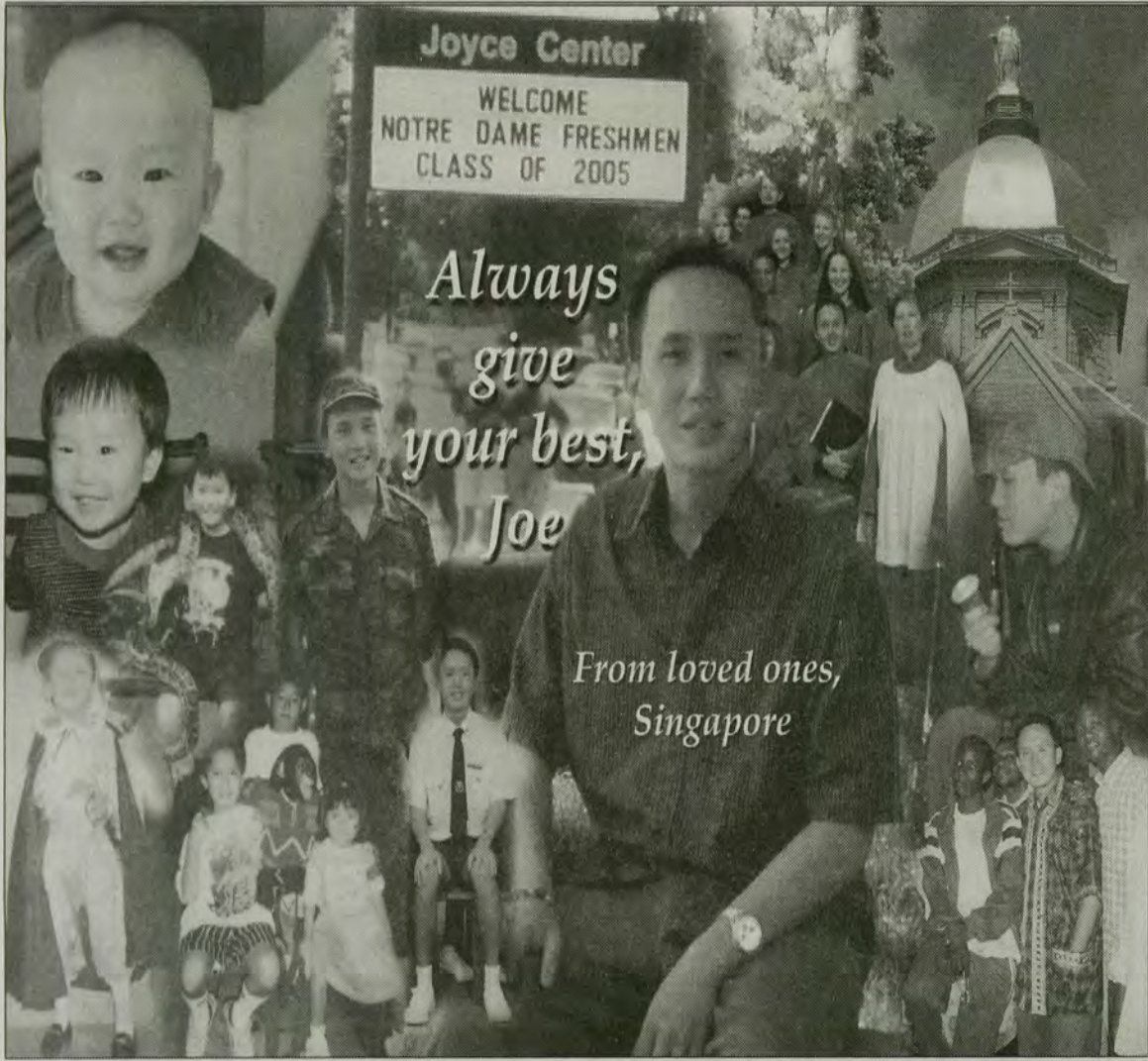
Congrats Sarah!
"Live to Ride, and
Ride to Live."



Love,
Mom, Dad,
Steve and Marie


Congrats Jessi!
Live to ride and ride to live.
Love, Mom, Dad, Wally & Jodi





Congratulations Dani Rose! We're so proud of you Good luck in Medical School!

Love always,
Mom, Dad, Gina, Brandi and Brodie - XO

Way to go, Nick! You've always looked good in a power tie! Love you! Mom, Dad, & Kyle

Congratulations Jim
All our love
Mom, Dad, Jean and Dan

CONGRATULATIONS **KATIE!**

THANK YOU NOTRE DAME!

IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL FOUR YEARS.



LOVE, MOM AND DAD



What a Smile, What a Belle!


Congratulations Squirt!

Love you, Mom & Dad


J.P.
we always knew you would figure out how to play that bone!

Love always,
Mom & Dad



You have always been a great daughter. Congratulations on your graduation. We are so proud of you!


Love,
Mom & Dad, Apol, Peachy, Jesy, Jan and Jerome



Congratulations Rebecca!

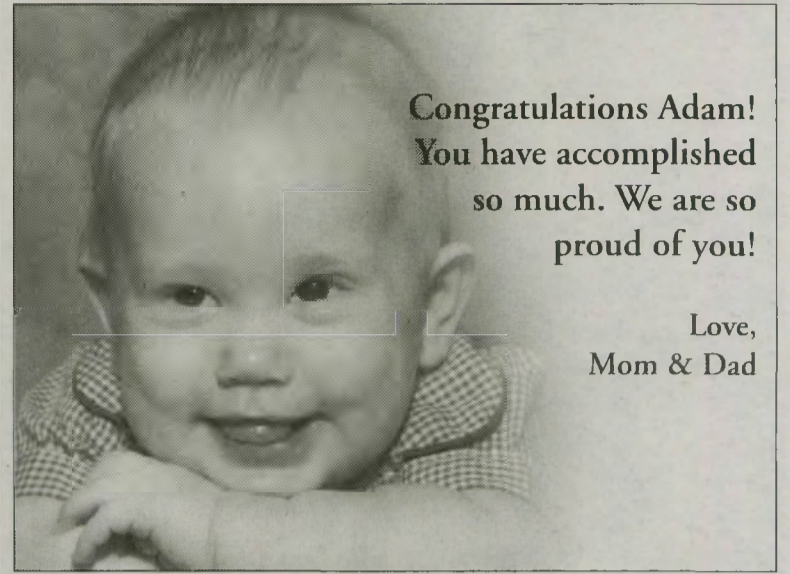
Wow! Guess all that studying sure paid off. We're so proud of you.

love you,
Mom, Dad, & Dan



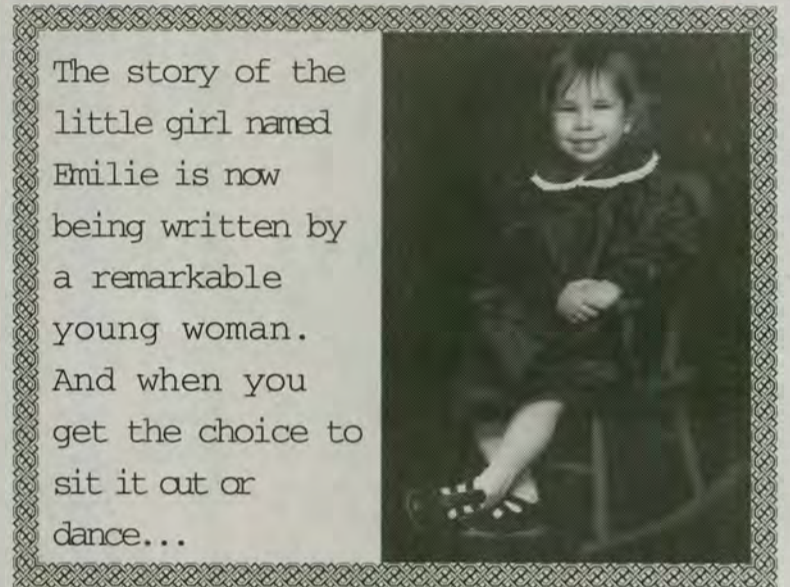


**“We’re Putting the Band Back Together”
 Congratulations, Bob!
 Love, your family**

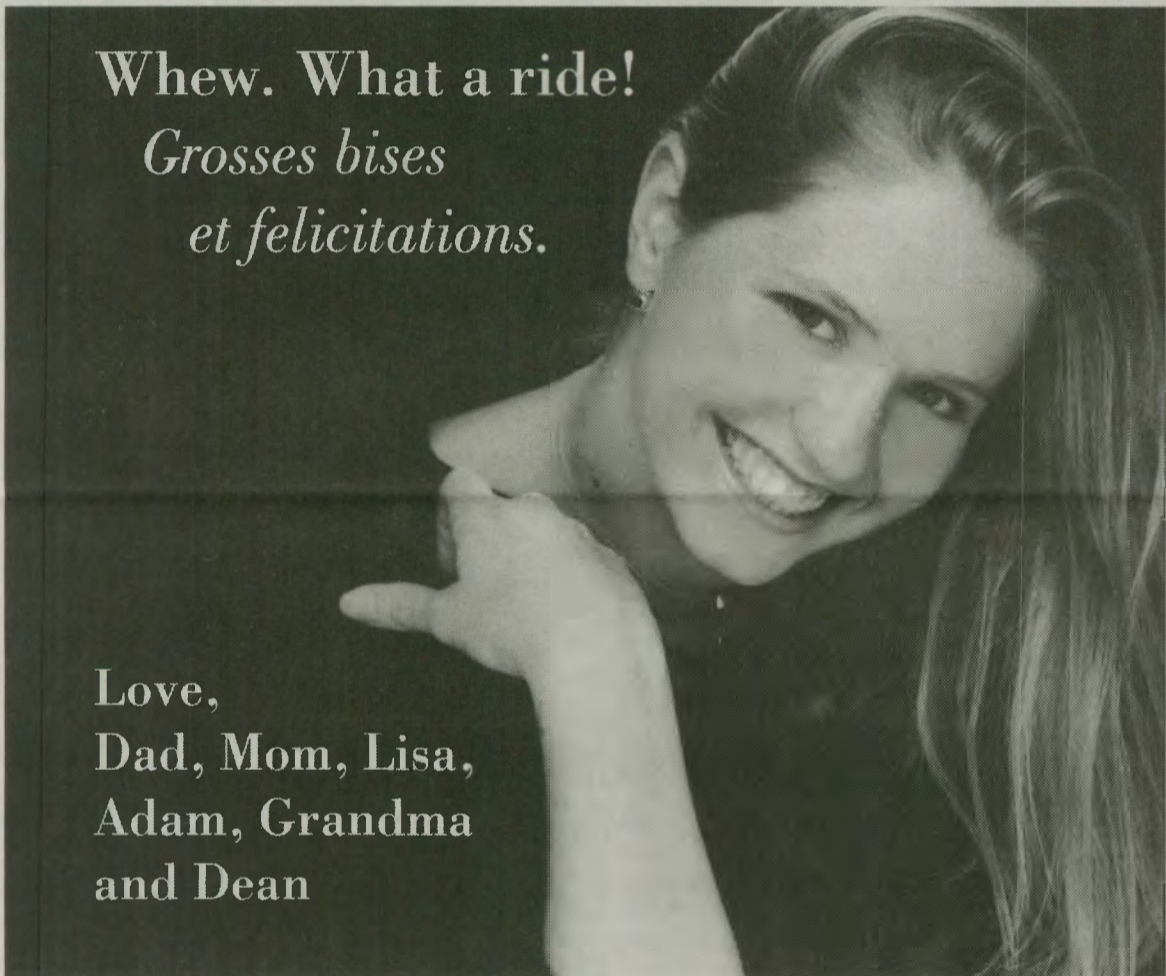


**Congratulations Adam!
 You have accomplished
 so much. We are so
 proud of you!**

Love,
 Mom & Dad

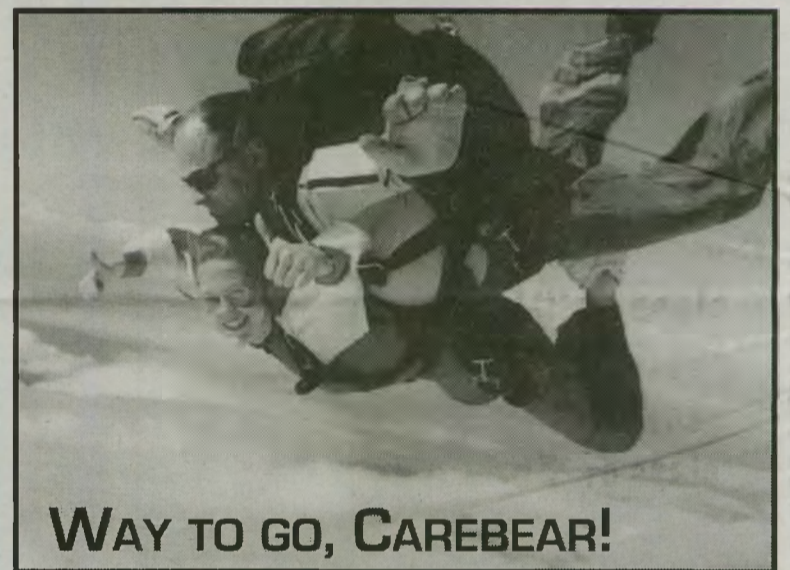


The story of the little girl named Emilie is now being written by a remarkable young woman. And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance...

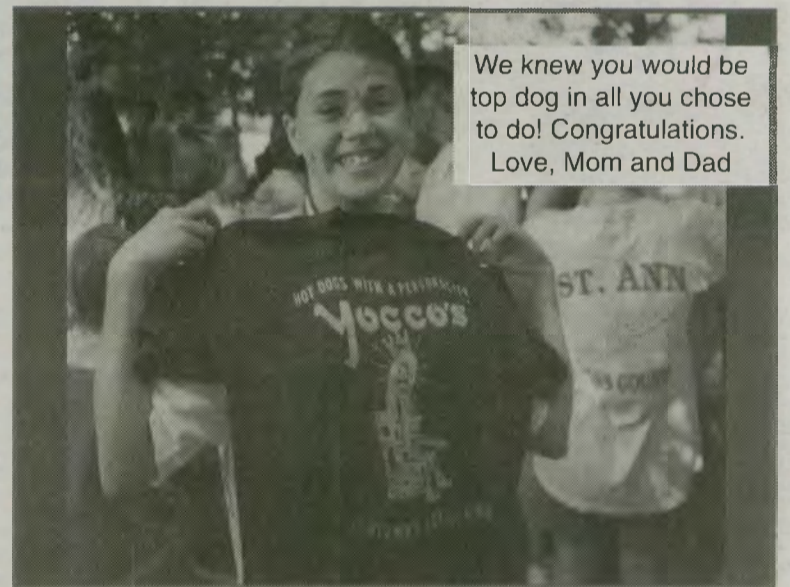


**Whew. What a ride!
 Grosses bises
 et felicitations.**

Love,
 Dad, Mom, Lisa,
 Adam, Grandma
 and Dean



WAY TO GO, CAREBEAR!



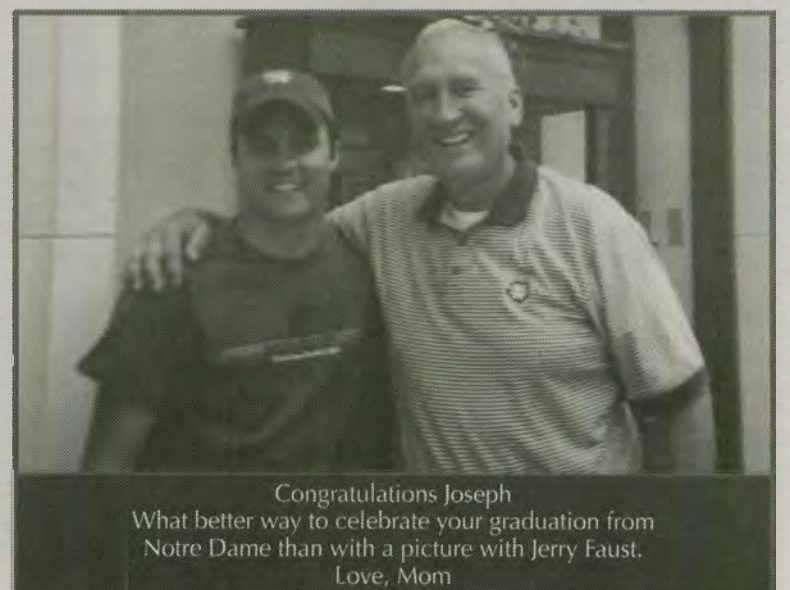
We knew you would be top dog in all you chose to do! Congratulations.
 Love, Mom and Dad



*Congratulazione Annelise!
 Our Irish bella donna*



Love,
 Mom, Dad, Tim, Mark,
 Ceri, Alex, and Riley



Congratulations Joseph
 What better way to celebrate your graduation from Notre Dame than with a picture with Jerry Faust.
 Love, Mom



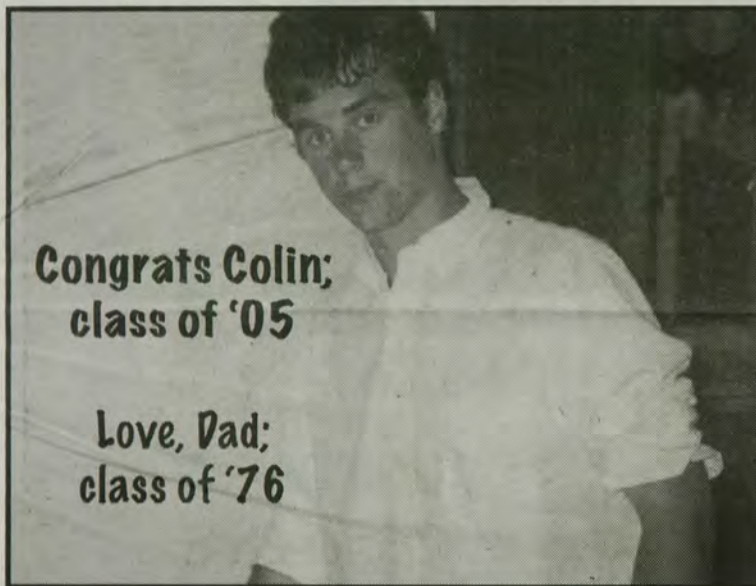
Dear Katydid,
Where have your four years at Notre Dame gone? You have made lifelong friends, traveled the world, and have a degree that you have worked very hard for. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. The future holds great promise for you! Congratulations, Didders!! Much love, Dad, Mom, and Kyle



To my Freshman Quint Sisters,

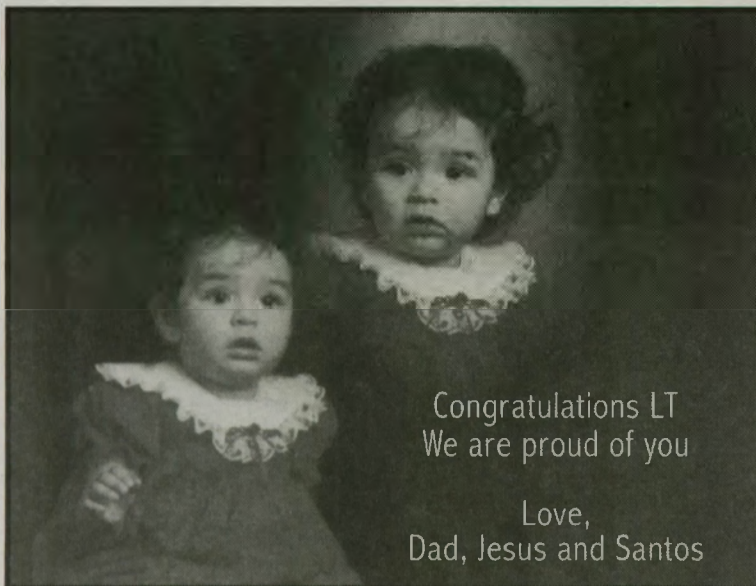
Congratulations! We graduated from the University of Notre Dame.

Good Luck Always, Tori



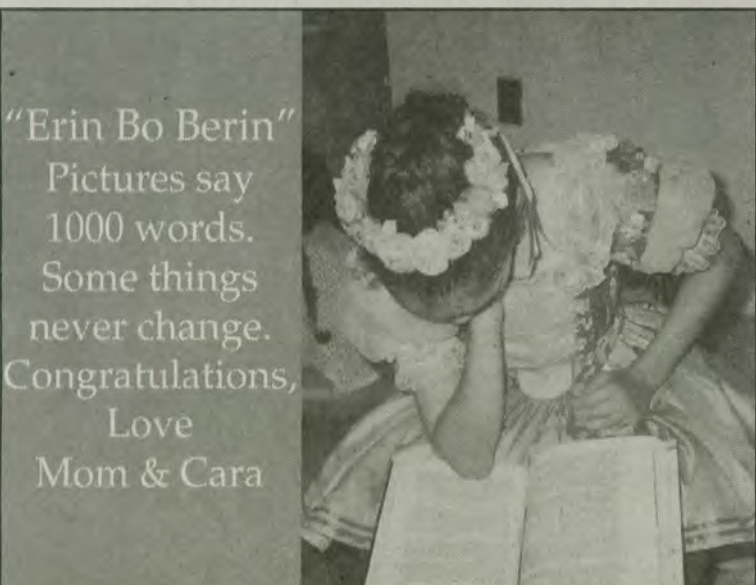
Congrats Colin; class of '05

Love, Dad; class of '76



Congratulations LT We are proud of you

Love, Dad, Jesus and Santos



"Erin Bo Berin"
Pictures say 1000 words. Some things never change. Congratulations, Love Mom & Cara

Dear Lindsey:
Congratulations on your graduation from Notre Dame!
Best of luck as you pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine.

We are always behind you.

Love, Mom and Dad



"...no matter what the costs, we must learn the ways to circumvent a system that sees powerful women as a threat."

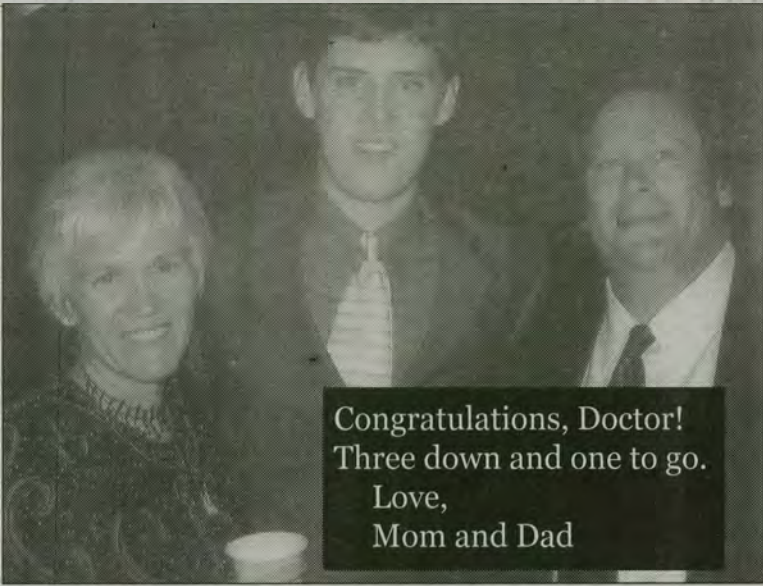
We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Joy and Eric

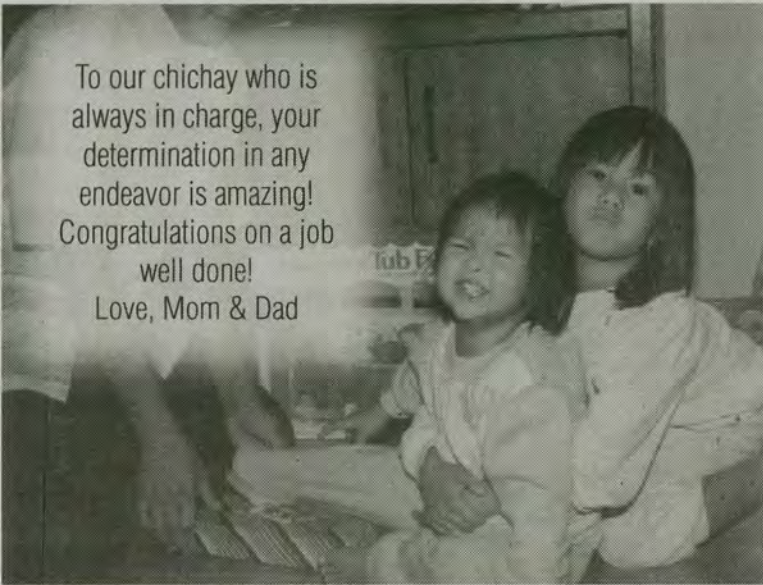


Maree Her determination is already apparent. Each challenge has been conquered decisively. Grade school, high school, and now St. Mary's, are the stepping stones through a river yet uncrossed. We have all watched with love and pride. What glory awaits this budding flower?

Mom, Dad, Ed, Thom, Kristina, Camille, Hal, Edna Rose



Congratulations, Doctor!
Three down and one to go.
Love,
Mom and Dad



To our chichay who is
always in charge, your
determination in any
endeavor is amazing!
Congratulations on a job
well done!
Love, Mom & Dad



May Irish angels smile upon you and bless
you each and every day! Love, Mom and Dad



Like father,
like daughter.
Congratulations
Sabrina,
our newest
domer!



Congratulations
Colleen!
May all your
dreams come true.
Love,
Mom, Dad, and
your Family

A long ago dream is finally realized. We are so proud of you,
"Big Guy"!
Love, Mom, Dad, Kirsten and the Cats



**Becket,
you
always
climb to
the top.**

**We are so
proud of
you.**

**Love,
Mom, Dad,
Alban &
Hannah**



Congratulations
Mike,
your possibilities
are as endless
as your dreams.

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Kali

Congrats Mimi!

We knew you'd glide through these 4 years!

Love,
Dad & Mom



From Southern California
To South Bend
To Indianapolis
You have attained your goal!
We are so very proud of you!



Great job Teresa!

Wow - another Domer!
May God guide you in all your future endeavors.

Love, Mom and Dad

To Erica Bove

"Fill your lives with love and bravery, and we shall lead a life uncommon."

We are so very proud!
Mom, Dad, Francesca, Ernie and Joelle



Congratulations, Maria!
We miss our little girl, but we're proud of you.
Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations to our beautiful redhead!

May the luck of the Irish always be with you!

Love, Mom, Dad,
Laura & Kevin



Wishing you--
pride in your accomplishments,
fulfillment in your career, and success in all you do.
Mom, Ben, and G'ma



Well done Kelsi & Keri!
Sólo Dios basta.

CLASS OF 2005


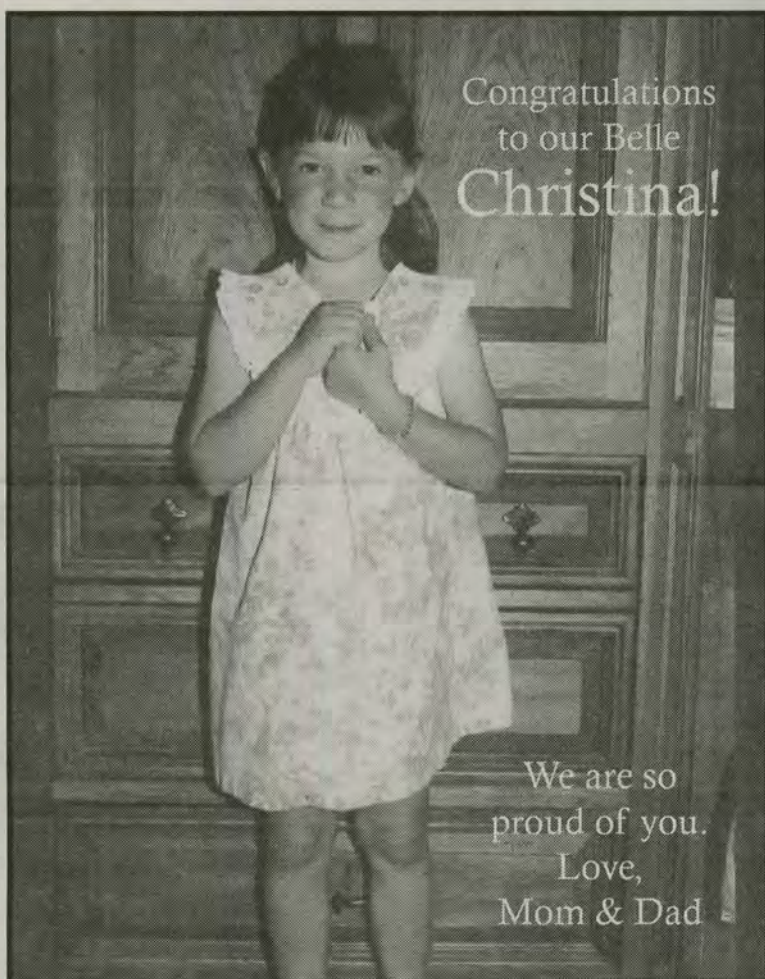


Congratulations David!
God gives each soul an opportunity to find itself!
Congratulations, Love Mom & Dad

CONGRATULATIONS
MOLLY!


We are so proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad,
Brian & Kelly

Congratulations to our Belle
Christina!

We are so proud of you.
Love,
Mom & Dad



Go
"Girlfriend"
Go!
We are so proud of you!


Mom, Shannon,
Shawn and Knox



Erin,

Congratulations on everything you've accomplished, you are a remarkable young woman.
Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations!
Love, the Wilsons



Congratulations Jason!



We always knew you'd make it to Wall Street.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Kristin

Kenna,



We are so Proud of You!
Congratulations to our 2005 Domer!
*Love you Loads,
Dad, Mom, Carli, Tori & Bradley*