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Class of 2014 stands out

Incoming freshmen made cut among biggest applicant pool in history

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Editor

Among the University's largest applicant pool in history, the members of the Class of 2014 stand out.

The University accepted about 29 percent of over 14,500 applicants, resulting in an incoming freshman class that boasts an

average SAT score of 1408 and an average ACT of about 32.

"This is another exceptional class for us," Bob Mundy, interim director of Admissions, said.

Mundy said the Office of Admissions works to create a well-rounded, diverse class and is able to do so by providing as much financial aid as possible.

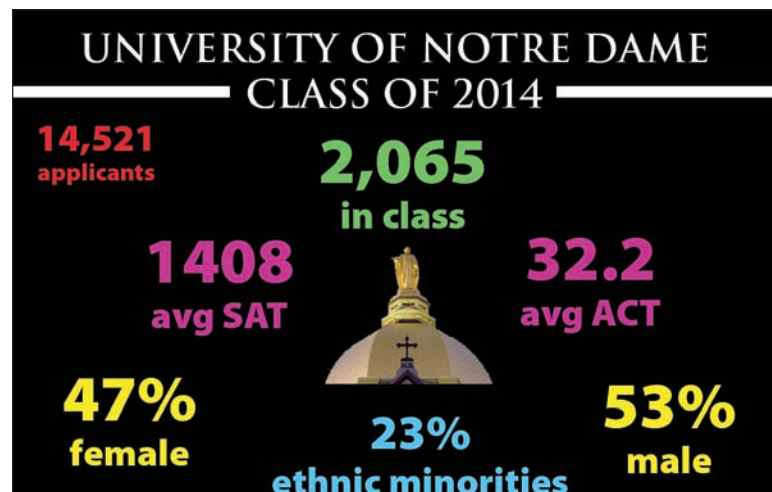
"The University is making a very strong commitment to finan-

cial aid that helps us to enroll a class that is as diverse and talented as we have," he said.

About 48 percent of the incoming class will receive need-based financial aid, with an average scholarship of just over \$25,600, he said.

Mundy said Notre Dame's commitment to providing financial aid

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BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

HOME UNDER THE DOME



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Freshman Rebecca Areaux unloads her belongings outside Howard Hall Friday. After move-in, freshmen attended a picnic dinner with their families in the dining halls.

Freshmen move in; Frosh-O begins

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

Many Notre Dame students will arrive on campus this weekend and spend their time catching up with friends, organizing rooms and preparing for another semester of college.

But for the incoming freshman Class of 2014, the weekend will be a long process of moving into an unfamiliar dorm, meeting new classmates and beginning to participate in the exciting, and somewhat awkward, experience that is Freshman Orientation, or Frosh-O.

With many of the incoming freshmen forming their impressions of their new dorm and the University itself, members of the Frosh-O staffs say they are making every effort to personalize the move-in experience and make the transition as easy as possible for new residents.

"We want to make sure that we welcome every single individual guy and make him feel at home," junior Mitch Speer, Frosh-O commissioner for Carroll Hall, said. "Since we're a small dorm, one individual student is 1 percent of my hall so we try and create a community atmosphere."

Other dorms see the move-in process as the ideal time to

begin fostering relationships between the freshmen and their new home.

"Throughout the move-in process, we want them to feel as comfortable as possible," sophomore Mairin Talerico, Lewis Hall Frosh-O staff member, said. "We want to help them break out of their shells and become a part of this new family."

Several Frosh-O staff members said they understand that their efforts during the first weekend can potentially influence the freshmen's attitudes about their next four years at Notre Dame.

see FROSH-O/page 5

Dean, wife bike from Ariz. to ND for cause

By COURTENAY DEVLIN
News Writer

College of Science Dean Gregory Crawford and his wife Renate have encountered 42 flat tires and a few tarantulas while biking 2,200 across the country.

The couple is raising money to represent the newly-enhanced relationship between Notre Dame and the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation, which united to support research dedicated to finding a cure for Niemann-Pick Type C (NPC) disease, according to the Crawfords' blog documenting their experience.

The couple will arrive at Main Circle on Monday between noon and 1:30 p.m.

In their blog, the Crawfords wrote that they are making the 2,200-mile challenge to raise awareness

about NPC and the new partnership as well as to raise funds.

This partnership will also be a model for future research projects of Notre Dame's Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases.

The Parseghian Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding medical research projects to find treatments and a cure for NPC, a deadly neurodegenerative disease.

Since they began their journey on July 24 in Tuscon, Ariz., Crawford said they have biked in six states and have overcome many challenges. On their longest travel day, the couple rode 120 miles through Texas.

"By far, [the most rewarding part of the trip] has been meeting the Notre Dame family along the way,"

see BIKE/page 5

Female alumni recall transitioning to coed

By TESS CIVANTOS
News Writer

Pink jerseys in the bookstore, nuns as rectors and girls going to class are familiar sights to Notre Dame students today, but women 40 years ago fought for these privileges — and they're not about to let today's students forget it.

A group of Notre Dame alumnae established the "Thanking Father Ted Foundation" to



Hesburgh

thank University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, for admitting women since 1972.

The foundation's book, "Thanking Father Ted: Thirty-Five Years of Notre Dame Coeducation," describes the triumphs and challenges the first women students faced. Female incoming freshmen will receive a copy of the book during Freshman Orientation.

The early years of Notre Dame coeducation were certainly rocky, alumnae said. Anne Thompson, NBC's Chief Environmental Affairs Correspondent and 1979 alumna, remembers the early struggles.

see HESBURGH/page 5

INSIDE COLUMN

Get Involved

Congratulations, freshmen: You’ve successfully moved into your dorm room and are inching ever closer to really beginning your college careers.

Now, you’re probably wondering what your first order of business should be on Sunday afternoon after you say goodbye to the family.

My advice? Join The Observer.

OK, so that was a bit presumptuous. As much as we’d love to have you, I’m not suggesting you all storm our offices as soon as the clock strikes midnight on your orientation weekend. And while I’d like to think many of you will end up working on our staff — and you’re all welcome to give it a shot — I realize the newspaper won’t be for everyone.

So, what I’m really suggesting is that you make it your top priority to get involved and stay involved.

Getting involved means something different for everyone. It can be as simple as eating dinner with your hallmates or as ambitious as starting your own club.

The Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s communities, and especially the people who comprise these communities, have so much to offer — that’s probably why you’re here today. Now, it’s up to you to make the most of those opportunities, and you can start by getting involved.

As freshmen, we were all nervous about our first day of classes. We all wondered how we’d get along with our roommates and our rectors. We were all excited for our first football game as students — yes, even the seniors, who endured a 3-9 record during our freshman year.

These certain uncertainties are part of what make the first few days and weeks of college so exciting. But they can also keep us so occupied that we feel like we can’t do anything else outside those daily commitments.

Surely we’re all here to be students first, but you all have unique interests and abilities that can help you make valuable contributions outside of the classroom. You may know exactly the clubs or activities where you’re going to make those contributions, but chances are you’re like I was, without a clue of what I wanted to do.

I’d strongly recommend going to activities night next Tuesday, where you’ll have the chance to reach out to upperclassmen involved in all sorts of organizations across campus. Sign up for anything that remotely interests you, and try to go to a few meetings or outings of a couple different organizations. Talk to the people in your dorms and ask what they do around campus — anything to expand your network and learn what your options are.

Of course, I hope this leads some of you to our offices in the basement of South Dining Hall for a reason other than trying to find where to get your student ID picture taken.

Either way, now that you’re settled, it’s time to get involved.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AT NOTRE DAME?



Jenna Ahn
Freshman Walsh

“Football games.”



Carissssa Henke
freshman Walsh

“DomerFest and all the fun dorm activities.”



Kevin Stewart
freshman Keough

“Meeting new people.”



Mike Voran
freshman O’Neill

“I’m excited to get back and see the hockey team again.”



Pat McFarlane
freshman Stanford

“Definitely football season.”



Rebecca Moriarty
freshman Dorm

“Living away from my parents.”

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com

ORIENTATION WEEKEND

SCHEDULE

freshman orientation

Saturday, August 21

10:15-11:45 a.m. Introduction to Residence Hall Staff

1:00-2:15 p.m. Official welcome to Notre Dame

2:30 - 3:15 p.m. General session for all first-year students with their advisors, parent orientation

8:00 p.m. Orientation with rectors and hall staff

Sunday, August 22

10:00 a.m. Eucharistic Liturgy

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Spirit of Notre Dame

Monday, August 23

between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Ongoing mandatory computer security sessions

10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., or 3:30 p.m. College HAS issues: Hook-ups, Alcohol and Sexual Assault

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 84 LOW 70	HIGH 70 LOW 68	HIGH 84 LOW 66	HIGH 84 LOW 66	HIGH 83 LOW 65	HIGH 77 LOW 60

Atlanta 85/72 Boston 81 / 60 Chicago 84 / 69 Denver 92 / 65 Houston 96 / 78 Los Angeles 83 / 64 Minneapolis 88 / 69 New York 83 / 69 Philadelphia 87 / 70 Phoenix 107 / 90 Seattle 66 / 52 St. Louis 91 / 71 Tampa 90 / 78 Washington 91 / 74



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Five new rectors prepare to welcome students

By AMANDA GRAY
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame is home to five new rectors this fall. Students in Cavanaugh Hall, Lewis Hall, Pasquerilla West Hall, Sorin College and Walsh Hall will see new leadership in the dorm this year.

Annie Selak, Walsh Hall rector, said her goals for the dorm include helping the community grow within the dorm's walls. "Being able to accompany young women is an honor," she said. "My overall goal is to be present for the students."

Selak, who has lived all her life in California except for a year in Detroit, graduated from Santa Clara University and majored in religious studies and political science. She received her Master of Divinity at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

"[The past few weeks] have been very busy," she said. "We've had training. It's been wonderful to meet people at Notre Dame."

Fr. Robert Loughery, known as Fr. Bob, joined Facebook as part of the effort to lead Sorin College.

"I want to share what I've experienced," he said. "Faith calls service. I would like to somehow invite residents to continue and expand this awareness in the dorm."

He also said the dorm's traditions foster important relationships.

"I'd encourage people to see the entire value of the relationships they build here," he said.

Loughery was born and raised in Indianapolis and graduated from Notre Dame in 1979 with a degree in architecture. He lived in

Sorin as an undergraduate student.

"It feels like coming home," he said.

The new rector of Pasquerilla West Hall, Sr. Mary Jane Hahner, said she ended up at Notre Dame because she wanted to work in ministry.

"We're all different," she said. "We have to work at being an inclusive community. The girls will appreciate being wonderful and created by God."

An internship in spiritual direction during her education at the Catholic Theology University in Chicago changed her life, Hahner said. She also wants to work with Campus Ministry.

She said she cries every time she watches Rudy and enjoys riding an all-terrain vehicle with her nephew while on holidays in her hometown of Pottsville, Pa.

"I always call everyone 'girls,' no matter how old. It's a youthful heart," she said. "We all want that youthful heart."

She said the hardest adjustment has been the college culture and time schedule.

"I thought I was a night person — forget about it," she said.

Maria Hinton, the new rector of Cavanaugh Hall, might have a better idea of the student schedule. A "double domer," she graduated from the Notre Dame Law School in May and was an assistant rector in Lyons Hall for two years.

"I want to make sure to have the strongest community we can," she said. "I want to build upon what we already have here."

Lewis Hall rector Layla Karst also graduated from Notre Dame in May with a Master of Divinity. She said her goal for the year is to



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer
Fr. Robert Loughery is the new rector of Sorin Hall. He goes by Fr. Bob and is a 1979 Notre Dame graduate.

learn about the community of Lewis.

"I want to know who makes up the community and bring out gifts and talents," she said.

She said she loves to travel on breaks. Originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho, she went to Whitworth College — now Whitworth University — in Spokane, Wash. She was an assistant rector in Pasquerilla East Hall for two years before becoming a rector.

"Each dorm is so unique," she said. "It's a whole new set of traditions, people and building."

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu



Karst



Selak



Hinton



Hahner

No structural damage to Grotto after July fire

By AMANDA GRAY
Assistant News Editor

The Grotto is now back to normal after the campus landmark caught fire at the end of July.

A fire started at the shrine July 26 just before the evening rosary, said Fr. Anthony Szakaly, assistant provincial and steward for the Congregation of Holy Cross priests in the Indiana chapter. The group maintains the Grotto.

The Grotto was closed for

just over two weeks following the fire and has since reopened.

Szakaly said the fire began by accident when the candles in its back, left corner combusted.

"It was a warm, humid day with very little breeze," he said. "There were a large number of candles lit for a summer day."

Szakaly said wooden sticks used to light candles may have also been left accidentally in the candles. There was no structural damage to the Grotto, but some rearranging

has taken place.

"There is no rack in the back corner," Szakaly said. "The top tiers of the racks have also been removed, so flames aren't as close to the ceiling. The racks are arranged differently."

Szakaly said candles will now be in glass containers, as opposed to the plastic containers.

"We're looking at what that's going to mean [in terms of cost]," Szakaly said.

The Grotto reopened on August 13 after rigorous cleaning.

"The fire was so hot ... the

granite flaked, almost like peeling an onion," he said. "Workers had to go through the entire Grotto and break off the small pieces."

Szakaly said the fire was not as damaging as the fire in 1985 during the Michigan State football game. These two fires are the only fires in the Grotto's recent history, according to Office of Public Information and Communication.

The Grotto is a one-seventh scale of the original Grotto in Lourdes, France, constructed on campus in 1896, according to a University website dedicat-

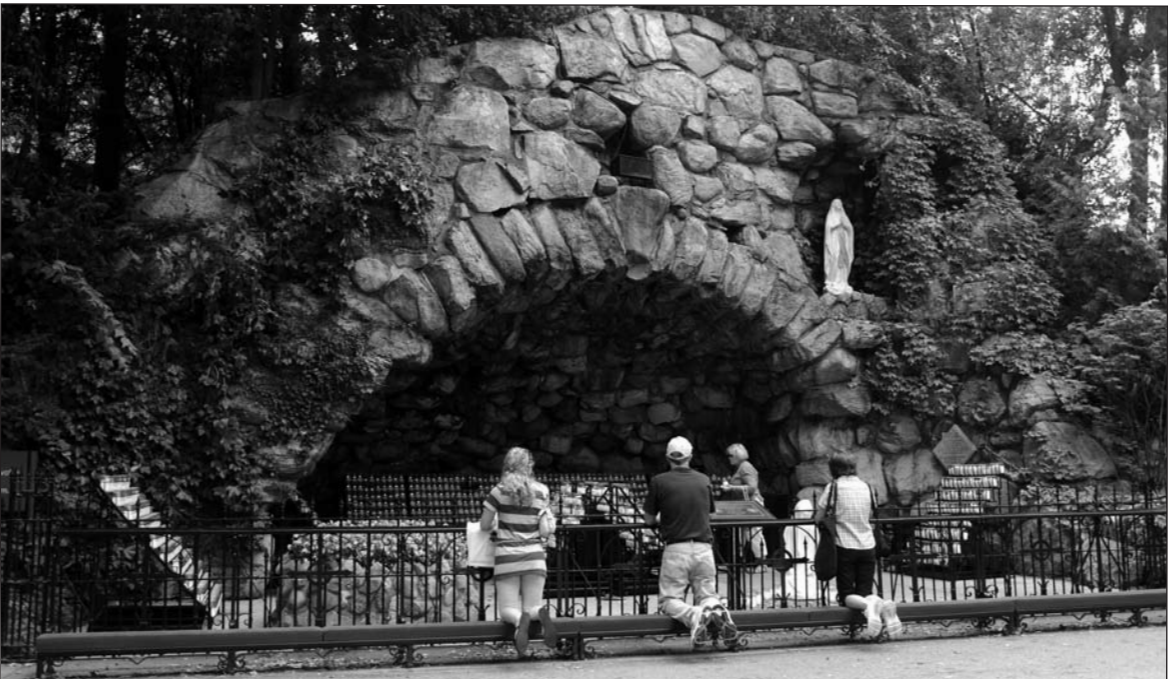
ed to the landmark.

"People need to be aware that those lit candles are fire, and anytime we're dealing with fire we have to be careful," he said.

Szakaly said he was most touched by the outpouring of concern for the condition of the Grotto by members of the Notre Dame community. He said the Grotto acts as a place for spirituality, God and prayer.

"It shows how important the Grotto is," he said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer
Visitors pray at the Grotto earlier this week. The Grotto caught on fire July 26, but sustained no structural damage. It has been open again since two weeks after the fire.

Write News.
E-mail Sarah at
smervosh@nd.edu

STATS

class of 2014

- 8 percent served as student body or class president
- 15 percent were the editor of a publication
- 43 percent were involved in dance, music or drama
- 75 percent lettered in one or more varsity sports
- 41 percent were the captain of an athletic team
- 5 percent were Eagle Scouts or earned the Girls Scouts Gold Award

BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

2014

continued from page 1

has been crucial.

“With the economy, many colleges are literally scrambling to find ways to spend less money. Fortunately, we remain committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all of our students,” he said.

For those who didn’t make the cut for need-based scholarships, this year marked the first time that students had the opportunity to apply for the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholarship, which is merit-based.

The program awarded 25 members of the class of 2014 a scholarship based on academic achievement, leadership, moral character and commitment to service. The scholarship totals at \$25,000 per year, per student.

“They are outstanding. They are absolute leaders in their high schools and communities,” Joan Ball, associate director of the scholarship program, said.

The class of 2014 is made up of about 2065 students — 53 percent male and 47 percent female. Twenty-four percent of the class is children of Notre Dame alumni.

The class has a similar ethnic make up to last year, with 23 percent of the class coming from minority groups.

Last year, the Admissions Office expressed disappointment in the percentage of black students in the Class of 2013. The group now makes up a slightly larger percentage of this year’s incoming class — jumping from 3.5 to 4.3 percent.

Asian Americans make up 7.3 percent of the class, and Hispanics account for 10 percent. Native Americans make up 1.5 percent of the incoming freshman class.

The international population increased slightly from last year’s freshman class. The Class of 2014 is made up of 4 percent international students, a 1 percent increase from last year.

This year’s international students come from 25 different countries. The largest group of students comes from South Korea, followed by China.

“We have 20 more international students in the class this year, and that group of students was up pretty significantly in their applications as well,” Mundy said.

Mundy said the Class of 2014 was “very strong” in extracurricular participation as well.

“We’ve got some exceptional stories of students committing to and completing some tremendous volunteer work, some statewide and national honors,” he said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Frosh-O

continued from page 1

“We want to give the best impression of Notre Dame so that they start their first days of college with a positive attitude,” junior Kathleen McKiernan, Howard Hall Frosh-O commissioner, said. “It’s important that we give them a feeling of a place they want to be — their ‘home away from home.’”

New Howard Duck Lily

“So far everyone’s been really helpful and welcoming.”

Matt Hickey
freshman

Rodgers said when she walked up to register at her new hall that “everyone knew my name and who I was, which was really cool.”

Throughout the weekend, many of Notre Dame’s newest students have similarly felt welcomed to campus despite the chaos that surrounds the initial move to college.

“So far everyone’s been really helpful and welcoming,” Morrissey Manor freshman Matt Hickey said. “The hall staff’s been outgoing and introducing themselves, but it’s still been pretty crazy trying to move everything in.”

Freshman Andrea Rosado, a

new resident of Pangborn Hall, said she “definitely” sees herself at home in Pangborn Hall and said her Frosh-O staff was very friendly.

“The transition has been really easy,” she said. “I’m not nervous at all,”

Easing the transition to Notre Dame requires a lot of time and effort on behalf of the Frosh-O staffs on campus, but most coordinators agree that the easiest way to make the new students welcome is to reach out and be a friend to the new freshmen.

“We just try and be ourselves,” Speer said. “Our staff was picked for a reason. We put on a happy face and get these guys in the dorm and just make sure they enjoy themselves.”

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

Bike

continued from page 1

Crawford said.

Cindy and Mike Parseghian, both 1977 graduates of Notre Dame, established the foundation in 1994 because of the diagnosis of NPC for three of their four children.

“It has been wonderful working with Cindy and Mike Parseghian, Coach Ara and the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation,” he said. “They turned their hardship into hope for so many others.”

The foundation currently funds 25 labs researching NPC, according to Notre Dame’s College of Science website. It has been a sponsor of medical breakthroughs including the identification of the gene responsible for



Courtesy of the Office of News and Information

College of Science Dean Gregory Crawford and his wife Renate will arrive on campus Monday afternoon after biking from Arizona.

NPC1, and the discovery of cholesterol pathway that occurs in all humans.

After already biking over 2,000 miles, the Crawfords have hit the home stretch. Crawford said they have confidence in achieving the 2,200-mile goal.

“We will succeed because of our common vision and

direction, our unity of purpose, our sense of camaraderie and cooperation and our spirit of commitment to the values and vocation that have always guided the College of Science,” the Crawfords wrote in the blog.

Contact Courtenay Devlin at cdevlin@nd.edu

Hesburgh

continued from page 1

“My dad went to Notre Dame and he raised all four of us kids to believe we could do anything,” she said. “I went to Notre Dame believing that, and I encountered for the first time the belief that I couldn’t do something because of my gender.”

Even after she graduated, Thompson fought the assumption that a girl could not be a Notre Dame graduate.

“I spent 10 years telling people that I didn’t go to Saint Mary’s,” Thompson said.

Even a few years later, women at Notre Dame were not yet completely at home in the male-dominated school.

Anne Giffels, the foundation treasurer and a 1981 alumna, took a number of classes where women were in the minority.

“You were very aware that you were a woman,” she said.

The transition to a coeducational Notre Dame was rough on administrators as well as students.

In an interview published in the “Thanking Father Ted” book, Hesburgh described how he took criticism for nearly every decision he made, from not merging with Saint Mary’s College to insisting on single-sex dorms.

“I wanted women to have some downtime of their own,” Hesburgh said of that last decision. “As I see it, there are

times when women want to get in their PJ’s, sit on the bed and talk women talk.”

Hesburgh’s understanding of “women talk” came from growing up with three sisters. Their influence was one reason he made Notre Dame co-educational, Hesburgh said.

“My life is a lot richer because I was not just formed by my mother and father but by [my sisters],” Hesburgh said in the book. “I didn’t have to have a big picture drawn for me to know that if Notre Dame had one big failing, it was the fact that it was only addressing half of the Catholic Church.”

After the integration of women at Notre Dame, Hesburgh made a point of making Notre Dame’s new daughters feel welcomed.

Giffels said she would often go the Grotto late at night and would see Hesburgh.

“He would stop to chat,” she said. “It made me feel very much a part of the Notre Dame community.”

Giffels was also confident that despite the criticism, Hesburgh made the right choice.

“Having women at Notre Dame has really made it a better place,” she said.

Thompson, meanwhile, said she thrived as a student, in spite of some initial prejudice. She found professors who believed in her and drove her to succeed.

“My ability to get into Notre Dame provided me with tremendous opportunities I

wouldn’t have had otherwise,” she said.

As director and treasurer of the Thanking Father Ted Foundation, with accounts of their Notre Dame years appearing in the “Thanking Father Ted” book, Thompson and Giffels share their love for their alma mater while reminding today’s women students of just how lucky they are.

“It doesn’t even occur to the female students today that someone would not take them seriously,” Giffels said. “And I think that’s a very good thing.”

Thompson said today’s campus dynamic is what Hesburgh had in mind 40 years ago.

“Female students are not there to fulfill a quota system but because they are the best and the brightest,” she said.

Today, Thompson is still reaping the benefits of her Notre Dame education.

“Your Notre Dame education gets better every day after graduation,” Thompson said. “I appreciate it more now than I ever did then.”

And Thompson knows who she has to thank for that opportunity. Her work with “Thanking Father Ted” is her chance to give back to the man who gave her — and all Notre Dame women — a chance to be a part of the University.

“I could spend the rest of my life saying ‘Thank you,’” Thompson said. “And it wouldn’t be enough.”

Contact Tess Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu



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Transfer students adjust to life at Notre Dame

By TESS CIVANTOS
NewsWriter

As some 2,000 freshmen swarm campus for Freshman Orientation, another group of students will also take their first steps as Domers — but they're not freshmen and they might not even live on campus.

They're transfer students, part of the 150 students who are newcomers to campus this weekend, ready to enjoy a miniature version of Freshman Orientation known as "Transfer-O."

This year's transfer students come from schools all across the nation, junior Catherine Hicks, who is on the Transfer-O committee, said.

The students from Southern universities might be unpleasantly surprised by their switch to South Bend's colder climate, but Hicks said bad weather is not the worst problem transfer students will face. They might find themselves with no place to live on campus.

"Half the incoming transfers each year don't get housing," Hicks said. "The Notre Dame dorms suffer from overcrowding."

Whether they live on campus or off, the transfer students have a busy few days ahead of them.

The Transfer-O agenda includes a welcome Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, a scavenger hunt, learning Notre Dame football cheers and a trip

to the Indiana dunes.

Though Transfer-O is similar to Freshmen Orientation in many ways, its focus is different.

"Frosh-O is a lot more about dorm bonding," Hicks said. "Transfer-O is about quickly getting adapted to Notre Dame."

There are also a few hidden perks to entering Notre Dame with a year of college already under the belt.

"Transfers don't have to go to Domerfest or take the swim test," Hicks said.

Senior Megan Osterhout, who transferred from Saint Mary's College two years ago and is a Transfer-O commissioner this year, said Notre Dame made her transition smooth.

"I have honestly never felt a more welcoming experience in my life," she said. "Transfers are my best friends now."

Other transfer students said they enjoyed a similarly smooth transition — in spite of concerns they had about transferring.

"Transferring is like jumping into a game at halftime. You're looking at everything through the eyes of a freshman, but you're not a freshman," Senior Ian Heraty, who transferred Notre Dame from University of Illinois Springfield, said.

Like most new students, Heraty said he was nervous coming to a new school and going through the orientation process.

"I was nervous going into it," he said. "But it turned out to be a total blast."



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Transfer students participate in a game of "Family Feud" Thursday as part of Transfer-O. Earlier this week, 150 transfer students moved to campus to begin orientation activities.

Heraty is sharing his transfer experiences with this year's newcomers as the leader of a "Transfer family" in Transfer-O.

The transfer families, groups of about 10 students, will com-

pete in a game of "Transfer Family Feud" and will help each other adjust as they transition to a new school.

For those new to campus this weekend, Transfer-O committee members urged all new stu-

dents — transfer and freshmen — to dive right into campus life.

"The thing with transferring to Notre Dame is that it's what

Contact Tess Civantos at
tcivanto@nd.edu

Student government offers city bus tour

By JOHN CAMERON
NewsWriter

To counteract students' tendency to stay within the Notre Dame campus "bubble," student government is offering a bus tour of South Bend.

The bus tour, which has been offered for the past five years, will leave from the flagpole between the Joyce Center and the stadium at 5 p.m. Monday.

The tour is meant to provide students an opportunity to see the city of South Bend as more than just home to the University.

Junior Claire Sokas, chair of student government's Community Outreach Committee, said students, especially freshmen, have much to gain from becoming better acquainted with the community outside the campus.

"It will give them a better idea of the opportunities and activities off campus," Sokas said. "I hope it gets them to get off campus a lot more than I did my freshman year."

Transpo, South Bend's bus service, provided the buses and collaborated with student government in planning the event.

"I hope it helps [students] realize how easy it is to get off campus with Transpo, and how many things

there are to do, especially in downtown South Bend which is really thriving," Sokas said.

The bus tour will highlight the city's shopping and dining areas — from the stores and restaurants along the campus's perimeter at Eddy Street Commons to those at the center of downtown South Bend.

The tour will stop downtown at the Morris Plaza for pizza and a brief presentation with Mayor Stephen Luecke before returning to campus, Sokas said.

While incoming freshmen are especially encouraged to take

advantage of the bus tour, all students are welcome to take part, and there should be enough space on the buses to accommodate all interested students.

"The tour is open to anyone, but geared towards freshmen," Sokas said. "Last year's turnout was really good, so we're

hoping this year's is too."

There will be a table set up at Domerfest tonight where freshmen can get more information about the tour.

The tour is expected to take less than two hours and students can expect to be back on campus before 7 p.m. Monday.

Contact John Cameron at
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RAs prepare for year of duty, new student arrivals

By MEGAN DOYLE
NewsWriter

As many students packed boxes of clothes and shopped for dorm furniture this weekend, a handful of seniors in each residence hall prepared themselves for another side of dorm life on campus. The resident assistants (RAs) for the 29 dorms on campus arrived days before the rest of the student body to learn to address their specific concerns for the upcoming year.

"I always looked up to the RAs as good examples of a Notre Dame student," Zahm Hall RA Tim Woodward said. "I liked having relationships and friendships with them because I have always felt they are cool guys."

The training process began two weeks ago when the RAs moved into their dorms on Aug. 8.

Senior Liz Davis, an RA in Lyons Hall, described the training process as multifaceted and said the future RAs spent time not only with the rest of Notre Dame hall staff discussing general policy, but also on a more direct level with only their dorm staff.

"My expectations for the training were mini-lectures, hall staff dinners, late nights and great chats," Davis said. "All were met."

She said her past experiences with RAs in Lyons moti-

vated her to reach out and provide the same guidance to younger students.

"I want to be that RA that not only sees the change but is the change," Davis said.

Hall staff training provides not only insight into handling possible situations inside dorm life but also a network of people to respond should an individual RA not directly understand how to act, Davis said.

"Everything is great in theory but the practice is really what defines our job," Davis said. "You cannot predict what will happen."

Senior Rebecca Sharbaugh said she met an RA during her freshman year in Pasquerilla East who helped her transition to life at Notre Dame, and this first taste of dorm life inspired her to apply for the position herself to help students "through the highs and lows of their year here."

"The first part of training included all the RAs in all the halls," she said. "And we basically heard a lot of talks about the resources on campus, how those resources can help and how we can encourage students to use those resources."

The training process was broken into discussions on general policy and conversations within each residence hall staff, Sharbaugh said.

"We also went through exercises where we did role-

play and acted in difficult situations that we might encounter," Sharbaugh said. "It gave the confidence to go into a situation when I do not know what to expect."

Senior Jim Maslar applied for an RA position in order to be a "big brother" to the undergraduates in his dorm.

"[ORLH] did a good job of addressing the diversity of the students in our sections," he said. "We talked about how to make people feel comfortable and make our sections welcoming."

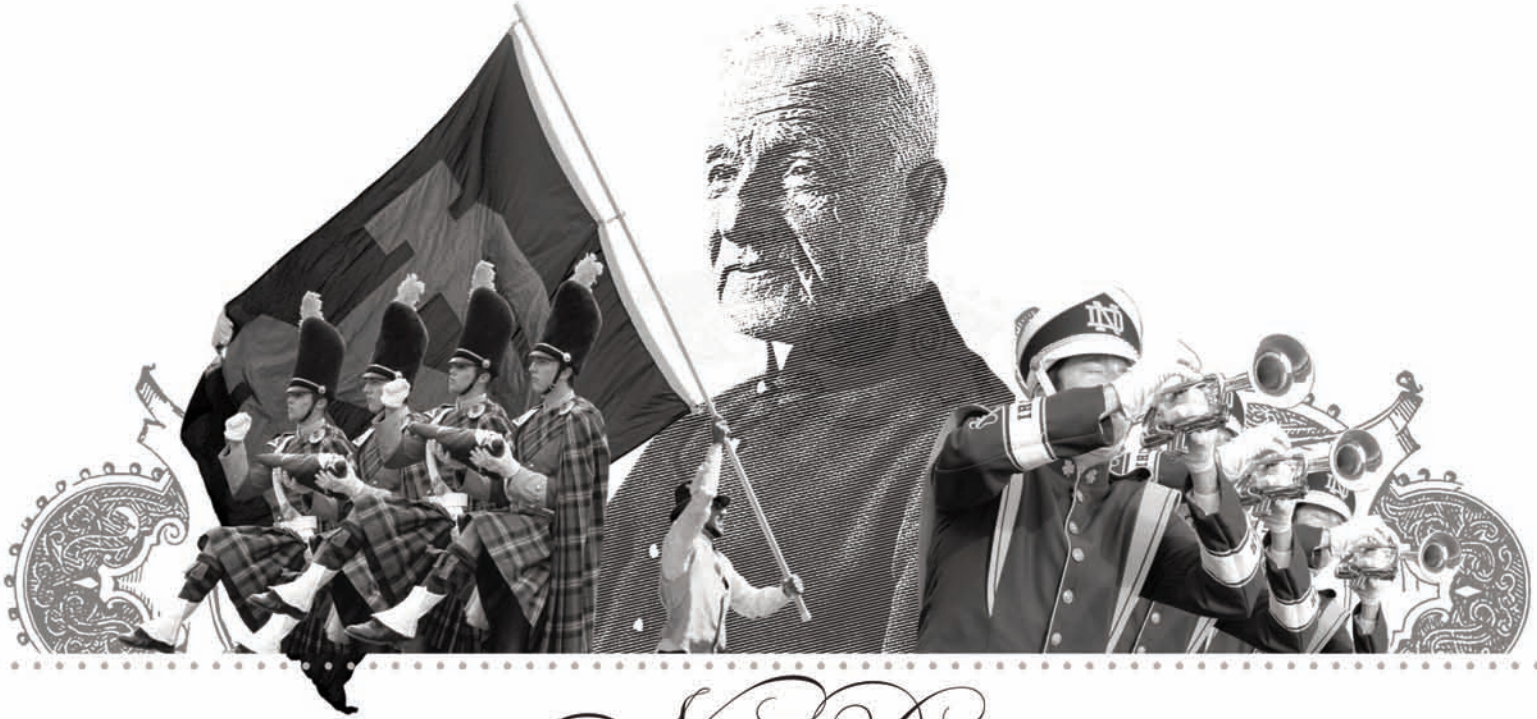
Nick Mancinelli said he spent his freshman year in Morrissey Manor living in a section of upperclassmen, but his RA was critical in getting him involved with the other freshmen in the dorm.

"I thought before we went into the training that it would be more about how to bring in someone feeling left out in the group," Mancinelli said. "But the training in reality was much more serious than that."

Mancinelli cited suicide prevention, homosexuality, gender relations, fire safety and CPR training as issues that were among the wide range covered during the training.

"I can really make or break their experience," Mancinelli said. "I am excited for that responsibility."

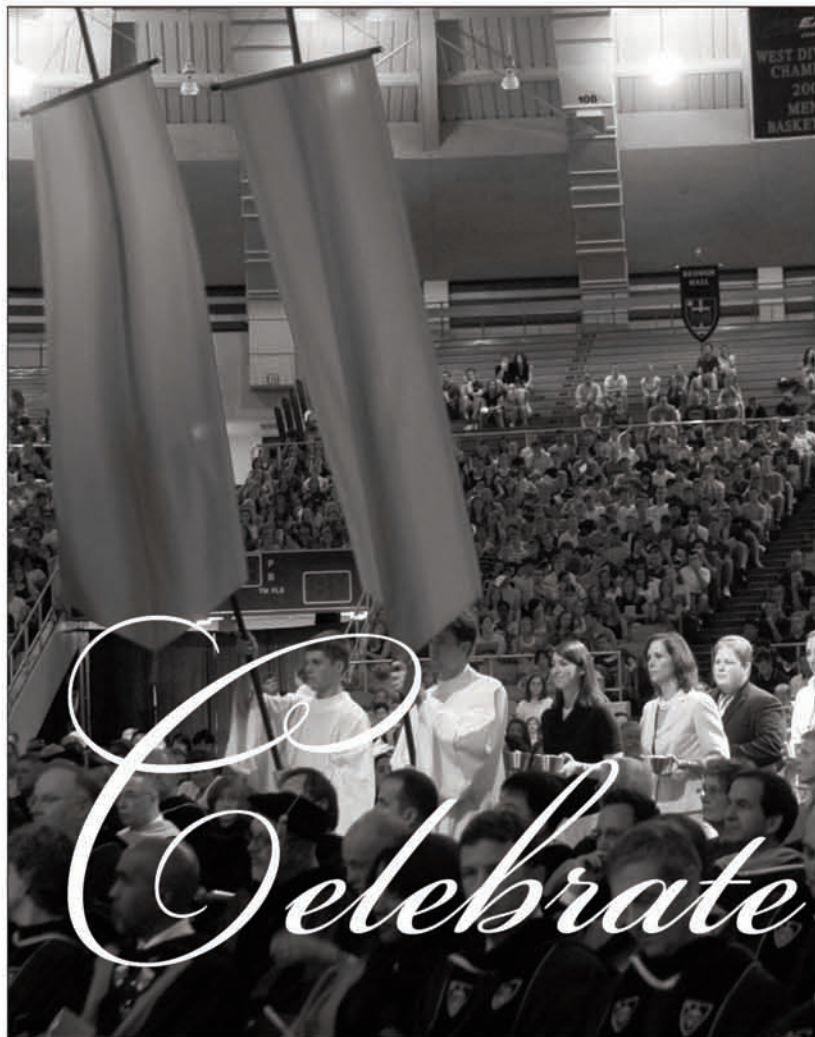
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mndoyle11@nd.edu



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Saint Mary's Board of Trustees elects 10 new members

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

During the spring meeting, Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees elected 10 new members, Susan Dampeer, assistant to the president of the College said.

The Board also elected a new chair, Mary L. Burke. Burke will serve a three-year term. She has been a member of the Board since 2005.

According to Dampeer, the Board elects new members each year.

"[The Board members] are on [the Board] in such a way that some rotate off every year," Dampeer said.

The new trustees are: Michael E. Cahill, Nancy Dobson, Thomas P. Fitzgerald, Catherine Frischkorn, Sr. Judith Hallock, Beth Veihmeyer, Joan LeSage, Sr. Rose Anne Schultz, Linda Kawecki and Emma Hoffman.

Cahill acts as president and

chief operating officer of The Options Clearing Corporation in Chicago. He is also involved in a variety of organizations including Boy Scouts of America, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Financial Markets Working Group and the Notre Dame Club of Chicago.

Dobson works as the executive vice president of Uniland Development Company in Amherst, N.Y. Dobson is a member several boards including Claremont Housing for the Elderly, People Inc. Foundation and the Kenmore Mercy Hospital Foundation.

Fitzgerald also is active on several boards. He sits on the Loyola University Health System and Leaders Bank boards. He also works with the American Cancer Society. Fitzgerald is currently a capital partner with the law firm Winston & Strawn LLP.

Friskorn serves as a board member and volunteer for the Crossroads Foundation. She

also acts as vice president of the Saint Bernard Parish Conference of the Pittsburgh Society for Saint Vincent de Paul.

Though Hallock is currently on sabbatical waiting for a new ministry assignment from the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, she has previously served as the area coordinator of North America for the Sisters. She also worked with Saint Ignatius, Martyr, Parish in Austin, Texas.

Veihmeyer serves as a board member for the Providence Hospital Foundation in Maryland as well as Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR). She previously worked as a public relations consultant for Rand Construction Company. Veihmeyer also served on the Saint Mary's College Alumnae Association Board of Directors previously.

LeSage works as the assistant general counsel for Commercial and Environmental Law for the Southern California

Gas Company.

Schultz previously served as the vice president for mission at the Center for Spirituality at the College. Currently, Schultz is on a year-long sabbatical.

Kawecki is currently serving as the new president of the Saint Mary's College Alumnae Board. She is a corporate financial executive and has previously worked as the director of financial analysis at Tenet Health Systems. Kawecki will serve the Board as the Alumnae Board Representative during her term on the Board of Trustees.

Dampeer said Emma Hoffman, a senior at the College, was elected to act as the student trustee. Hoffman will serve a one-year term.

Hoffman is a biology major who has been an active member of the Student Government Association. Hoffman has also been involved in the Biology Club at the College and is a peer minister.

"The student representative

is a full voting member of the Board of Trustees, equally responsible. There is nothing that separates her from the full Board," Dampeer said.

The new members were invited to visit the College in June for the Board's annual retreat. The retreat is a two-day event held each summer to allow the Board to discuss issues further in depth, Dampeer said.

Dampeer said the new trustees will become official members during a meeting this October.

The Board holds three regular meetings during each academic year.

"[The Board] sets policy, monitors the mission and selects the President," Dampeer said.

Dampeer said the Board is also responsible for making decisions about tuition fluctuations.

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College sees low enrollment

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's Class of 2014 is the College's most diverse class yet, Gwen O'Brien, director of Media Relations, said.

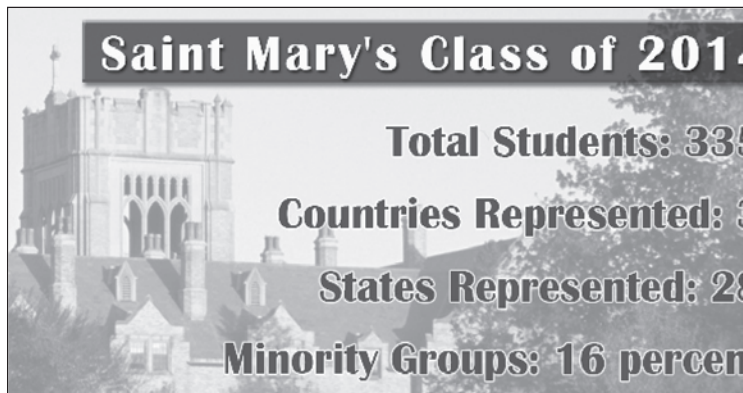
O'Brien said 16 percent of the class is a member of a historically underrepresented group.

In 2007, Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney committed to increase the diversity of the student body in the Strategic Plan.

"In regard to the student body, her goal over five years was to increase the enrollment of students from historically underrepresented minorities to at least 15 percent," O'Brien said.

The incoming class will be made of 335 first years, down from last year's class of over 400.

The applicant pool was less competitive than previous years, and Mona Bowe, vice president for Enrollment Management said



she believes this could be due to "timing."

About 25 percent of the student body is from Indiana, Bowe said, and in the past two years the state has reduced aid for students from a maximum of just over \$10,000 to \$7,000," Bowe said.

Over 90 percent received higher than a 3.0 GPA while in high school, and 70 percent were in

the top 25 percent of their class.

The Class of 2014 also represents 28 states and 3 countries: Mexico, Bolivia and Peru.

"We're looking at our data to understand why the College didn't get the level of first year commitments anticipated," Bowe said.

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SMC voted 'Best in the Midwest' for 2011

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's has made it into the The Princeton Review's top 100 on their list of "2011 Best Colleges: Region by Region" for the eighth time.

The College was also named one of the nation's "Best Liberal Arts Colleges."

"We are very pleased to once again be included among The Princeton Review's 'Best in the Midwest,'" Carol Ann Mooney, president of Saint

Mary's College, said in a release.

Saint Mary's was selected out of 152 institutions to receive the honor.

Mooney said it is the students and alumnae that truly

"Our commitment to an excellent intellectual and academic experience for our students is unwavering."

**Carol Ann Mooney
president
Saint Mary's College**

bring the positive feedback and recognition to the College.

"Our commitment to an excellent intellectual and academic experience for our students is unwavering," Mooney said. "Our graduates are our best recruiters. Their accom-

plishments speak volumes about the quality of the educational experience they received here."

Saint Mary's has received the honor since the Princeton Review began the rankings.

"We're pleased to recommend Saint Mary's College to users of our site as one of the best schools to earn their undergraduate degree," said Robert Franek, The Princeton Review's senior vice president of publishing.

Franek said the rankings are based on the quality of academic programs at each institution as well as first-hand knowledge of the school's value.

"The institutions we name as 'regional best' colleges are mainly chosen for their excellent academic programs," Franek said.

He also said feedback from students is a factor in the decision.

"We also take into account what students at the schools reported to us about their campus experiences at them on our 80-question student survey for this project," he said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at
acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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Campus leaders welcome Class of 2014

Dear Students:

With the beginning of a new academic year, I extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students of the University of Notre Dame. In particular, I wish to congratulate and welcome our freshmen and transfer students. We are excited and grateful that you are here, and it is our intention to help you achieve all of your goals and ambitions.

Over the course of your time at Notre Dame, I encourage you to make the most of each moment. Be open to engaging new friends, those who may have very similar or very different personal stories and perspectives. Embrace each classroom experience as an opportunity to expand your knowledge, hone your talents and share your ideas. If you live in a residence hall, explore the multiple ways that you can contribute as a leader. When you face challenge, know that you are not alone and do not hesitate to seek support from those around you. Finally, in all that you do, take a few moments each day for personal reflection to refresh your spirit.

One of the primary objectives of Notre Dame, as a Catholic university, is to develop young minds that are prepared to make positive contributions to the world and help solve society's challenges. We are confident that you possess the talent and desire to make meaningful and lasting contributions to the university community and to the world.

Once again, welcome to Notre Dame. May you soon come to feel at home on campus, and to love this place, as do so many graduates of past years. I hope to meet you in person over the course of your time, and throughout that time, I will keep you in my prayers.

In Notre Dame,

Fr. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
University president
Aug. 19

Carol Ann Mooney
College president
Aug. 19

Welcome Class of 2014!

We hope that you've enjoyed your first few moments here on campus and have had a stress-free move in! We are lucky enough to have been elected as your student body president and vice president. Student government at Notre Dame is made up of many branches which you can learn about at Activities Night and get involved in within the next few weeks.

Student government is the link between the students and the administration, presenting student voice and opinion on a variety of issues. This year we are working on projects as large as the Rent-A-Text program in the Bookstore and as small as the introduction of Roasted Red Pepper Hummus in the Dining Halls. We help plan Pep Rallies; have created "The Wall," a spot in LaFortune to check out events for students; and sponsor the Freshman Bus Tour (which is this Monday at 5 p.m.!). We also work on long-term initiatives such as revamping the main lounge in DeBartolo, creating an Off Campus Discount Program, coordinating a campus-wide social justice movement focused on fighting hunger and working with the local community to promote good neighbor relations and a positive connection to South Bend. We also do simple things such as provide free DVD rentals in our office, free newspapers in the Dining Halls and other campus locations, and the Transpo 7A Midnight Express on the weekend nights.

Ultimately, our primary role is to serve you as a student here at Notre Dame. We are fortunate enough to have the resources and respect from the community to make changes, give student input and work with our peers to create a better experience for us all. Please feel free to contact us with ideas, suggestions, questions, concerns, etc. We would love you to join us as we work for our University. There are two great opportunities for freshmen to get involved in student government, feel free to visit studentgovernment.nd.edu to learn more about them!

As for us, you can find us practically 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in our office in 203 LaFortune. We would love for you to stop by to talk, complain, tell us a joke or bring us candy from the Huddle.

Also, if you're lost on campus, want someone to talk to (or your parents want someone to talk to), need to ask a question, etc., look for a Student Government member wearing a blue "Ask Me" name tag. They will be happy to help!

Enjoy your first few days on campus! To keep it brief, here is our one line of advice as you begin these unforgettable years here at ND: Be open, be excited, embrace it all and be yourself!

We are so happy to have you here! See you at the first pep rally!

Go Irish!

Catherine Soler
Notre Dame student body president
Andrew Bell
Notre Dame student body vice president
Aug. 19

Welcome, Class of 2014! Your moment has finally arrived: the moment that you embark upon a journey of self-discovery, independence, and growth. As you settle into your new surroundings, you will begin to see what parts of your college community best fit you. While discovering your new campus, be sure to take note of your student government. It will serve as a model organization as a catalyst for change; take advantage of all that it has to offer. Do not be afraid to challenge and be challenged. The more you venture into the unknown, the more you will learn. Be adventurous and daring, but never lose sight of who you are.

While you are here, you have a unique opportunity to be a part of a Catholic community. Unlike any other, it is one that will offer camaraderie, strengthen your faith, and expand your thinking. The people around you will become your family, and you will come to rely on and trust in them through the years.

Live the next four years to the fullest, and take in every opportunity, every moment, and every tradition. Your time here may be short, but it will become a part of you for all the years after.

Going along with all these opportunities, Saint Mary's Student Government Association is here to serve you as your advocate. If you have an ambition, if you need resources, or when you need an ally, Student Government is here for you, and we are here because of you.

Our Student Government Association office is located on the second floor of the Student Center, and there is always a friendly face waiting to greet and learn more about you. On behalf of Saint Mary's Student Government Association and all of your new Saint Mary's sisters, welcome home.

Test your limits. Take risks. Dream. Discover.

Rachael Chesley
Saint Mary's student body president
Laura Smith
Saint Mary's student body vice president
Aug. 19

For 168 consecutive years, the University of Notre Dame has opened its doors to welcome new students. For those serving here, we approach this year with as much zeal and optimism as you our first-year, transfer, professional, and new graduate students bring to campus. The University's legacy is long and its traditions are deep, but your presence renews and will enliven this storied Catholic institution. On behalf of all of us who serve in Student Affairs, we welcome our newest members to campus, but most importantly, to our community.

The Division of Student Affairs, in concert with our colleagues throughout campus, strives to facilitate your intellectual, spiritual, and personal growth. The integration of these essential human dimensions is one hallmark of a Notre Dame education.

The University offers a variety of valuable resources to assist you. Our 29 undergraduate residence halls and two graduate and family residence facilities help to create the sense of community that is one of our most distinctive features. Student service departments in the Division of Student Affairs are experienced in supporting both specialized needs and integrative approaches to your development. You will find ready partners among the dedicated staff of Campus Ministry, the Career Center, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the Counseling Center, the Gender Relations Center, the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education, University Health Services, the Office of Residence Life and Housing, Student Activities and Notre Dame Security Police.

As you enter into this community I encourage you to keep your "eyes high" as you walk about campus — so that we might greet one another personally, and as a way to consider the long horizon of your life when contemplating the individual decisions and countless opportunities awaiting you.

Please know you have the very best efforts and wishes of the Student Affairs Division, and that you are lifted in prayer daily by me and my brothers and sisters of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Fr. Tom Doyle
vice president for Student Affairs
Aug. 19

Submit a Letter to the Editor at ndsmcobserver.com

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for the Viewpoint section,
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THE OBSERVER

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber

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Freshman year myths

This weekend three years ago, I learned all my dorm cheers, played an awkward version of soccer where one of my legs was tied to the leg of a boy from Carroll and sat through a few skits about the hook up culture in college.

After two days of constant Frosh-O activities, the action subsided into a quiet Monday, the day before classes started. That Monday was when the homesickness set in.

My parents left the previous day, and I had finished unpacking and gone for a run around the lakes. I didn't know what to do with the rest of the day, and the lack of activity allowed for too much thinking. I missed my friends, family and my house.

In nearly every orientation activity, administrators, rectors and hall staff stressed that Notre Dame is a family, but I didn't feel at home in my dorm surrounded by strangers.

Weeks went by, and every time someone asked me if college was the best time of my life, I nodded with a bright smile. "Yep, college is awesome," I always said.

But the truth was, I didn't feel at home at Notre Dame until a few

months had passed.

And so with this story, I want to debunk the freshman year myth that every new student is immediately enamored with Notre Dame and no one gets homesick. Chances are, some of your peers that smile and exclaim that Notre Dame is the best thing that ever happened to them are secretly still trying to adjust and find their niche.

Anyone who had trouble falling asleep the first night in the dorm or thought DomerFest was uncomfortable to say the least, this column is for you — because it's just going to get better.

One thing you can count on during your first month of school is being constantly busy. The weeks flew by, and suddenly, I realized I finally felt at home at Notre Dame. Life in Breen Phillips Hall offered a unique bonding experience.

The girls who I watched a nightly episode of Gilmore Girls with became the people that helped me hobble home with a severely bruised toe one night after I thought it would be a good idea to jump down some porch stairs at a house party (thanks guys), and then they became some of my best friends.

Through dressing up as ballerinas to play Bookstore Basketball, celebrating a wonderful 21st birthday Fever-style and thousands of late-night futon talks, I found my Notre Dame family — sorry for the cliché —

and you will too.

Stay busy, meet as many people as you can and study hard but try to relax a little too. Another Notre Dame myth I will try to discredit: that it's not okay to get a B. Take it from someone who has gotten a few. Although this might not actually be a myth, as I have had several annoyingly perfect roommates who have never gotten a B.

The bottom line is, everything you hear about Notre Dame being an indescribably special place is true.

For me, it took time to grow into it, to have those experiences that create a bond with a person or a place. And with three years of serious and silly, sometimes angry or tearful talks in a small dorm room with my best friends, I have created a home at Notre Dame, which leads me to my final conclusion that just recently hit me like a bolt of lightning.

Enjoy it because it will be over in the blink of an eye.

Madeline Buckley is a senior American Studies and Spanish major with a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She is from a Chicago suburb, just like 98 percent of the students you have met so far at various Frosh-O activities, and can be contacted at mbuckley@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Education has for its object the formation of character."

Herbert Spencer
English philosopher

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained."

James A. Garfield
20th president of the U.S.

The ultimate thing to remember

I got into my car a few weeks ago, sunglasses in hand on a beautiful California morning. That day's commute was about 30 miles — to the beach. But as I shifted into drive, my only thought was how great it would be if I were instead beginning the 2,200-mile journey back to Notre Dame.

Welcome to a new kind of mindset, where nothing beats the end of summer.

You're probably used to certain rituals before the first day of school. You buy the right supplies, make sure your uniform still fits, attend a few bonfires. Then you head to homeroom math and try to remember all those equations you'd learned the year before.

This year, it's best you forget.

Maybe not the math, but everything else.

Forget Rudy, the stories your parents or siblings have told you and anything else you may have heard. From DomerFest to finals week and beyond, Notre Dame is a collective experience — you'll learn that next Saturday — but it is also profoundly individual. Your journey here will not be like anything you've seen or heard. Sure, you will forge well-worn paths in your many trips to the Grotto, DeBartolo and the Backer. But there's



Laura Myers

Assistant
Managing
Editor

a part of those events that are yours, and just yours.

Forget what you've done in the past. Again, not the math. Trust me. But forget your ACT score and your high school GPA. Forget your favorite classes, and how special you may have been in the twelfth grade. You can't get by with only a name, or a smile or the ability to guess correctly on standardized tests.

Forget your prejudices. The Notre Dame campus still has along way to go on the diversity front, but it does have students of all backgrounds, whose ideas and beliefs may be very different from yours. Maybe you've never encountered or considered what some people have to say, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't listen. More importantly, it doesn't mean you shouldn't think. Not just about what you've been told in the past, but about the reasoning behind an issue. This is a challenging place; be ready for it.

Of course, there are some things you should always remember.

The first is a bike lock.

Mine broke once, in my sophomore year. I left my bike outside regardless; and the next morning it was gone. I was already behind on homework and didn't have the time to go running around campus in my pajamas. But I did anyway. About half an hour into my ultimately fruitless search, I had to stop for a passing tour group in front of the

statue of Fr. Sorin on God Quad. The group was a bunch of children on a field trip; I glared at them, annoyed that I couldn't continue.

The last two boys in the group were straggling a bit, and as I moved to go around them, one had a question.

"You go to Notre Dame?" he asked.

"Yes..."

"That is so cool."

After that I turned around and walked back to Cavanaugh, the search abandoned. That, right there, was the ultimate thing to remember. Even when you're stressed out studying, don't achieve a goal or have to endure negative-degree weather. Even when summer ends and you have to pack up all of your stuff and leave home for a year of hard work.

You go to Notre Dame. That is so cool.

For reasons she still can't articulate, Laura Myers is an economics major. She just realized she wrote a column about Notre Dame without explicitly mentioning football or Catholicism, the two most important things on campus (order depends on who you ask). She can be contacted at lmyers2@nd.edu, but only if you need a fourth for a game of euchre.

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

Steps of Saint Mary's

Welcome, Class of 2014, to the greatest place on earth. (Notice there is no bias in my "voice.") Okay, so I may be a little biased. However, I think once you've watched your first three years speed by, you'll be envying the position you are in now.

Granted, your current perspective makes it seem like getting through the remainder of this weekend, let alone the academic year, will be tricky. I'm hoping I'll be able to help break through your nervous, apprehensive point of view and make you realize you are about to begin some of the best years of your life.

So, I'll do it with an extended metaphor that, with any luck, makes sense.

College is like a giant flight of stairs. (Bear with me, please.) When you are a first year at the bottom, you look up the steps and it looks daunting, exhausting and almost unattainable to get to the top.

There is one piece of optimism, though, which will help you take that first stride; it's only uphill from here.

I'll be the first to admit, that you will get tired as you climb the flight to your degree. This fact will never change. What does change as you ascend the steps of higher education here at Saint Mary's is that the first step is the last one you will ever take alone.

I won't lie to you and say this will be a breeze. No college will ever just let you waltz through it. I can think of a thousand positive things to say about Saint Mary's, but easy will never be one of those. It's made for young women looking for a challenge.

As I said, every place of higher education will challenge you mentally in one way or another. What sets Saint Mary's apart is the community you encounter as you begin your battle to reach the top. There will always be days when you reach the landing and want to quit. While at Saint Mary's however, there will never be a day when you hit that point and have nowhere to turn.

This won't only come from the friends

you make in the residence halls and classrooms. It will come from your professors as well. While you are on campus, they will learn your name, take an interest in your education, and more than that, they will work with you to ensure that you are doing your best every day. It isn't just a career for them. The professors at Saint Mary's see you for who you are, and not just another student who will be moving out the door come graduation.

A good challenge, good friends and good professors make Saint Mary's a good school. In my personal experience though, it's the Sisters of the Holy Cross that make it an excellent school, and a college experience you quite literally could not replicate anywhere else.

During my time here, I have been fortunate enough to spend time with the Sisters at the convent. Without those Sunday brunches with my favorite women on campus then I am positive my journey up the "stairs" would have been far more overwhelming.

It has always been a refuge on the days when you simply just need to escape everything. On the days when you can't do anymore work, you can't deal with anymore drama and you just need to relax in the company of amazingly impressive, intelligent women.

It is within this smaller community that the larger community of Saint Mary's has found its heart and purpose. Without the Sisters, it would be a pleasant place to pass the four years rather than the life-changing one it is now.

So, as the small twinge of doubt starts to creep up your spine and you hover over that second step that will lead you into your first year of college, just remember, this is the only time you'll move alone. This is the only choice you'll make without another mind to guide you. It is also one of the few choices you make that I can almost guarantee you will not regret.

Take the step. It's only up from here...

Ashley Charnley is a Communications Studies and English writing major at Saint Mary's College. She can be contacted at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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Ashley Charnley

Saint Mary's
Editor

Defining your time here

About four years ago, when I was on one of my many college visits before my senior year of high school, I saw a mother helping her daughter move into her apartment. I overheard the mother say something like, "I can't believe this is the last time I'm going to help you move into college."

As I walked by, trying to forget everything the ultra-perky tour guide had just told us, the thought that I could someday be moving into college for the last time seemed totally incomprehensible. It was just something that was never going to happen to me.

In a related story, I moved into college for the last time this week. Funny how things like that work.

The point of that story is something that will be repeated to you freshmen about 3.2 million times over the next week or so: These next four years will go by faster than you could ever imagine.

Apparently, just because I signed up for The Observer at activities night three years ago means I'm qualified to give advice to the entire freshman class. I don't really have anything groundbreaking to give you, but I'll do my best to try and say something you haven't heard before.

The best piece of guidance I can give you is to try and find your niche. Maybe your thing is student government, maybe it's writing for the newspaper (we'd love that). Whatever you enjoy doing, do it.

As a former — and current — sports writer, I would be neglectful if I didn't at least mention football. As you may have heard, Notre Dame has a fairly well known football team.

Even if you're not really a huge sports fan, football games will at least in some way define your time



Sam Werner

Assistant
Managing
Editor

here. As the past three years have taught me, you don't need to actually win many games to make them memorable. Home games in the Notre Dame student section are really an incredible experience, and it's tough coming to grips with the fact that I only have seven left.

Probably the best advice I ever got my freshman year was as follows: at some point this semester, you're going to be overloaded with work and plan to do some before a football game one Saturday. This is a mistake. It takes virtually super-human abilities to do work on a football Saturday, and planning to do so will only set you further behind.

People are going to tell you tons of ways to be successful academically at Notre Dame. But, honestly, if you were smart enough to get in here, you're probably smart enough to navigate these waters by yourself.

The one thing I will recommend in this field is to get to know your professors. Almost all of them have done something incredible in their lives to put them in the position to teach at Notre Dame. They will be invaluable contacts once you enter the real world. Even if you don't need them in that regard, most of them just have really good stories to tell.

Your four years here will go by faster than any four years in your life. I know it doesn't seem like it, but one day you'll wonder where the time went as you move into college for the last time.

Sam Werner is a senior American Studies major with a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. He was also pursuing a pre-med major until this year, when he decided that a future in journalism is much more secure than a career in medicine. He can be contacted at swerner@nd.edu

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Campus events



Observer File Photo

- 1. Keenan Revue
- 2. Bookstore Basketball
- 3. Carroll Christmas
- 4. Dillon Pep Rally
- 5. Farley’s hall decorations for Pop Farley week

Off-campus eateries



JORDAN GAMBLE/The Observer

- 1. Lula’s Café
- 2. Bruno’s pizza
- 3. Studebagels
- 4. JW Chen’s
- 5. Elia’s Mediterranean Cuisine

Infamous dorm dances



Photo courtesy of Sara Taylor

- 1. St. Ed’s Yacht Dance
- 2. Alumni’s The Wake
- 3. Zahm’s Decade Dance
- 4. Fisher Funk
- 5. Lewis Crush

Hot topics in Viewpoint



Observer File Photo

- 1. Things that endanger the Catholic character of Our Lady’s University, such as breaking parietals or changing the school song
- 2. Miley Cyrus’ musical talent
- 3. Merits and failures of various ND athletic teams
- 4. Saint Mary’s stereotypes
- 5. Gender relations — or lack thereof

Things to pray for at the Grotto



ADRIANA PRATT/The Observer

- 1. The football defense will learn to make a tackle
- 2. You’ll get the hot TA in freshman bio
- 3. The person you broke parietals with will call you back
- 4. You’ll be able to pay off your student loans
- 5. No one recognizes you in the Zahm Bun Run



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for links, vide

Human Five



For balance
the Dome
erver.com/scene
eos and stories

Things to avoid on campus



Photo courtesy of English-Country-Garden.com

1. Ravenous squirrels that stalk students leaving the dining hall
2. Seeing your RA at an off-campus party
3. Agonizing football loss to inferior teams on Senior Day
4. 24-hour lounges after parietals
5. Room-pick drama in the spring of every single year

Things to do around 'The Bend'



Photo courtesy of Derek Jensen

1. Visit the College Football Hall of Fame (before it leaves for Atlanta)
2. Watch a South Bend Silverhawks baseball game
3. Go bowling at Strikes and Spares on Grape Road
4. Kayak at the East Race Waterway in South Bend
5. Check out InTheBend.com for more city events

Must-visit websites



1. thingsnotredamestudents-like.com
2. ndnation.com
3. weather.com
4. ndtoday.com
5. ndsmcobserver.com

Campus eateries



JORDAN GAMBLE/The Observer

1. Waddick's in O'Shag
2. Greenfield's in the Hesburgh Center
3. Café Poche in Bond Hall
4. Recker's
5. Dorm pizza kitchens

Domer flicks

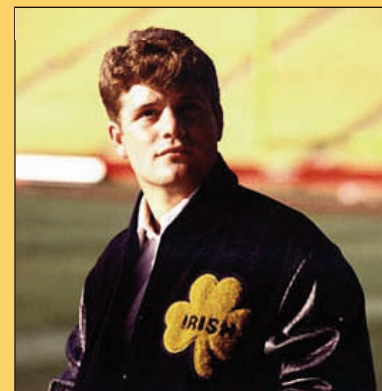


Photo courtesy of imdb.com

1. "Rudy"
2. "Boondock Saints"
3. The "Harry Potter" series
4. "Shrek"
5. Anything Disney

Notre Dame: Year in Review

Cross country falls at NCAAs after season-opening wins; men’s golf falls by one stroke in conference championship

Observer Staff Report

Cross Country

Although both the men’s and women’s cross country teams started out the 2009 season with back-to-back first places in their first two meets, the end of the season produced different results for the two squads.

The Irish competed in seven meets last fall, including two at home — the National Catholic Invitational and the Notre Dame Invitational. The two squads mirrored each other several times during the season, finishing in first place at the National Catholic Invitational while falling to sixth at the Big East championships.

A first-place finish at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional meet clinched a spot for the women to race at the NCAA Championships, where the Irish finished 23rd out of 31 teams.

“Our goal every year is to get to the NCAA meet, and from that perspective it was definitely a successful year,” Irish women’s coach Tim Connolly said. “The highlight of last season was winning the regional meet.”

Senior Lindsey Ferguson finished 30th overall, earning All-American honors.

Including Ferguson, a total of five seniors graduated, leaving behind quite a legacy for the underclassmen to carry on. Beth Tacl, Molly Sullivan, Analisa Sandoval and Dominique Taylor moved on from Notre Dame, passing their leadership to the four juniors on the team.

“I think that we are all feeling very excited about the team [this] year,” freshman Jessica Rydberg said. “If we are able to keep everyone healthy ... then the outlook for the next cross country season looks great.”

A seventh-place finish for the men’s squad at the Great Lakes Region was not enough to qualify for a spot at the NCAA Championships, a meet they had been preparing for all season. Nevertheless, senior Jake Walker qualified for the individual competition with a ninth-place finish and all-region honors. Walker finished 129th at the NCAA meet.

Along with Walker, Blake Choplin, Daniel Clark, Cameron Eckert, Jack Howard, James Notwell and Brier Steenberge graduated.

The seven seniors led the Irish to season opening victories at Valparaiso and in the National Catholic Invitational.

“It was an average year at best,” Irish men’s coach Joe Plane said. “We performed pretty well, especially at the National Catholic meet where we dominated, but beyond that it was somewhat of a disappointing year. We’re not pre-

pared yet because of track, but we will be when the time comes.”

Men’s Golf

After losing the Big East tournament and their bid to compete in the NCAA Tournament by one shot last season, the Irish are working to make sure they will qualify in 2011.

“Last season was one of both great joy, heartbreak and deep disappointment all wrapped into one,” Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. “We got off to such a good start and ended up winning two tournaments on the season, something we had not accomplished since 2006.”

Despite the strong start, the Irish were disappointed at the season’s end for not reaching their central goal.

“Losing the Big East by a single shot, after battling for three days, was heartbreaking,” Kubinski said. “We had talented players who worked very hard over our eight-month season. It was a tough way to finish.”

On top of the pressure associated with wanting a NCAA qualifying spot, five seniors on the 12-man team graduated last spring. Though this seems like a tough loss to handle, Kubinski said he feels otherwise.

“I think we’ll actually enjoy improved results this season,” Kubinski said. “It sounds funny after losing five seniors, nearly half our team but I do expect we’ll be better this season.”

The Irish will welcome three freshmen to the team, and Kubinski said he expects prospective starts for each of them this season.

“[Freshmen] also comprise thirty percent of our roster,” Kubinski said. “That’s a big difference from last season, when we had a lone freshman on our 12 player team. That dynamic alone, knowing they’re a significant part of our team from day one, should allow them to feel comfortable and expect to compete.”

The Irish will begin their season on Sept. 13 at the College of Charleston Invitational in Kiawah Island, S.C., followed by their highly anticipated home meet at Notre Dame’s Warren Golf Course, the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic, on Sept. 27.

“Whether it’s our first event at Kiawah Island because that’s where our season begins or our trip to historic Firestone or to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula and on through our schedule, each event is a great opportunity for us and one to get excited about,” Kubinski said. “They’re all very competitive fields, offering great tests for our team.”

In order to avoid a similar end to this season as to last, the Irish have already identified

multiple areas in their game, both physical and mental, to focus on improving.

“Our key focus areas, from a physical standpoint, will be continuing to improve our short iron play and, as always, putting,” Kubinski said. “From a mental perspective though, we’ll be working on making good decisions, improving our focus and finishing off rounds. The strides we make on the mental side, will determine how far we can go.”

Women’s Golf

The Irish completed a season laden with challenges, but despite the adversity, managed to put together some strong finishes against top competition. Notre Dame ultimately finished 17th at the NCAA Central Region last Saturday, but still has a season of highlights to reflect upon.

The Irish finished strong in a tough stretch of tournaments during the spring, making the squad the team to beat entering the Big East championships.

Although the Irish would end up finishing in third place, they still managed to earn an at-large bid into the NCAA Central Region competition.

Notre Dame was able to stay in contention during the conference tournament in large part due to excellent play from senior Annie Brophy. Brophy was one of the most consistent players on the team throughout the season. While at the championships, Brophy finished in second place, just short of her first-place finish a year before.

Sophomore Becca Huffer also rose to the occasion to lead the Irish.

“The two players that have shown up on a consistent basis are Annie Brophy and Becca Huffer,” Irish coach Susan Holt said. “They’ve both done their part. Becca and Annie have pulled their share of the weight.”

The success began for the Irish at the start of the fall season, as they had one of their best finishes by tying for third at the rain-shortened Bettie Lou Evans Invitational in Lexington, Ky.

While at the tournament, junior So-Hyun Park led the Irish with a 1-over 72 on the final day of play, which earned her a share of eighth place for the overall individual title. This marked the first of many top individual honors for the Irish.

In a tough conference, the Irish had three players named to the All-Big East team. Through their outstanding performance in the regular season, Brophy, Huffer and junior Katie Conway all proved to be among the best in the conference. Brophy became only the second player in Irish history to be



Observer File Photo
Sophomore Chris Walker launches a shot during Notre Dame’s win at the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic Oct. 6.

selected all four years.

Although a sport often times dominated by individual honors, the Irish attempted to focus all of their efforts towards the good of the team. Regardless of individual honors, the scores matter from every member of the team as they all can contribute to a winning season.

“When it comes to competition, the better the individual is doing then the better the team is doing,” said Brophy.

Brophy reflected on her contributions from an inexperienced rookie to a battle-tested veteran.

“There is no other kind of relationship like the one you share with your teammates,” Brophy said, “And I consider myself very blessed to have been able to share my experience here with them.”

Men’s Track

When it came to Big East titles this season, Notre Dame stepped up to the task, winning both the indoor and outdoor championships.

“This is an extremely impressive accomplishment because the competition within the conference is very strong and many athletes are competing at the national level,” sophomore Kevin Schipper said.

Heading into the final day of competition in the outdoor championships, Notre Dame needed first-place finishes from both Schipper in the pole vault and senior Daniel Clark in the 1,500 meters to jump from fourth overall into the top position.

“We were hoping to win our third straight outdoor Big East meet. We knew it’d be tough,” Clark said. “The team was able to put together enough great performances in Cincinnati to squeak by Louisville for the win.”

Seniors Blake Choplin and Jim Notwell, junior Kevin Labus and sophomore Jack Howard combined to finish second in the 4x800-meter relay, and junior Greg Davis also claimed second in the hammer throw, with sophomore Mitchell Gormley behind him in third.

These performances helped Notre Dame to a narrow victory over second-place Louisville by a score of 123-114.

“With the way our workouts are drawn up, we typically see consistent improvements in race performance throughout,” Clark said. “Individually, winning the Big East meet was a thrill and a sign of good things to come.”

Clark said he saw much maturation out of his teammates throughout the 2010 campaign, his last with the Irish.

“All of the different groups of the team have seen consistent improvement throughout the year and we’re starting to hit peak performances,” Clark said.

Irish head coach Joe Plane and his staff was named the Big East coaches of the year for both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

The Irish coaching staff, led by head coach Joe Plane, was named the Big East’s best for both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

“We have a solid group of athletes that are focused on performing to the best of their ability,” Clark said. “The coaches help push us to maximize our talent. Winning the Big East was a culmination of all of the hard work individuals have been putting in.”

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

WANTED

Barely used Giant Cypress ST1020 19" women's silver green bicycle. Paid \$500. Asking \$275. Call 574-654-3241

Guitar-Jeff Hanneman fret electric \$300 OBO. Call 574-233-2973.

Down duvet comforter with matching pillows \$50. Call 574-654-3241

Part-time photographer, sales associate for JC Penney Portrait Studio, hours flexible, salary depends on experience. Call Jackie 574-277-5638 or send resume to smp0319@lifetouch.com

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4 bedroom 2 bath tri-level in Arlington Heights- 5 minutes from campus

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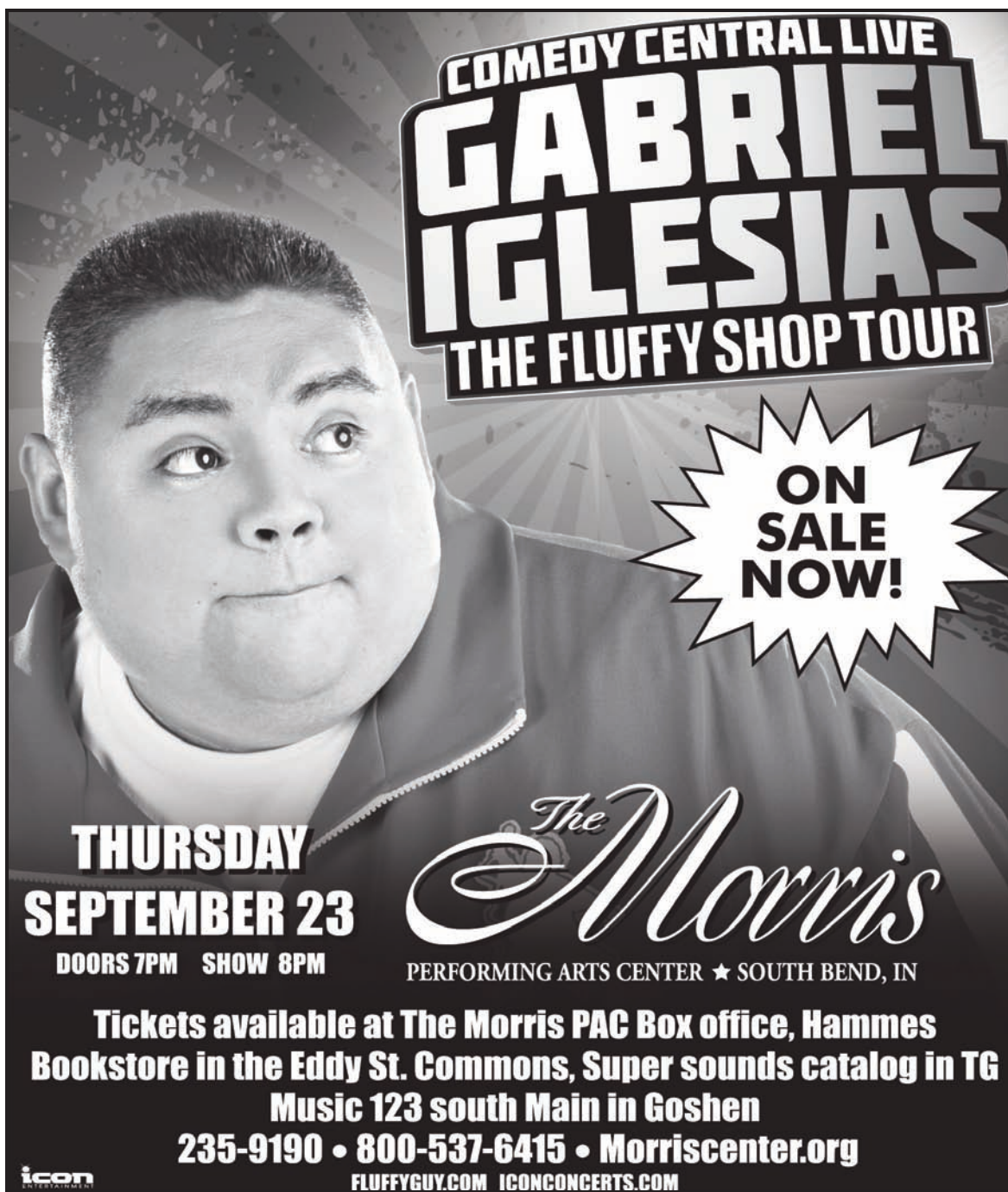
PERSONAL

Wikipedia is the best thing ever. Anyone in the world can write anything they want about any subject.

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I don't get why parents are always complaining about how tough it is to raise kids. You joke around with them, you give them pizza, you give them candy, you let them live their lives. They're adults for God's sake.

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MLB

Clemens indicted for lying about drug use

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal grand jury on Thursday indicted seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens for allegedly lying to Congress about using steroids and growth hormone.

Clemens faces charges of obstruction of Congress, making false statements and perjury.

The six-count grand jury indictment said that Clemens obstructed a congressional inquiry with 15 statements that he made under oath, including denials that he had ever used steroids or human growth hormone. The indictment alleged that he lied and committed perjury regarding the same matters.

The former Major League baseball pitcher and his former trainer, Brian McNamee, testified under oath at a 2008 hearing before a House committee and contradicted each other about whether Clemens had used the banned substances.

McNamee has told federal agents, baseball investigator George Mitchell and the committee that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and human growth hormone from 1998 to 2001.

Clemens has maintained that McNamee was lying.

"As far as we're concerned, it's vindication," Earl Ward, one of McNamee's attorneys, said of the

indictment.

Clemens' attorney, Rusty Hardin, said by telephone from Houston that he had just learned of the indictment and would wait to decide whether to comment.

The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, the judge who presided over the perjury and obstruction trial of Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. No date has been set for Clemens' initial court appearance.

In a defiant appearance before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in 2008, Clemens said, "I've been accused of something I'm not guilty of ... I have never taken steroids or HGH."

Longtime Clemens friend and New York Yankees pitching star Andy Pettite told congressional investigators that Clemens confided to him that he had used human growth hormone. Clemens said Pettite's assertion wasn't correct.

"I believe Andy has misheard" the conversation, Clemens responded. He said he had simply mentioned to Pettite a TV show about three older men who used HGH to get back their quality of life.

On Thursday, former Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, who was the top Republican on the House panel at the time of the baseball star's testimony, called the indictment "a self-inflicted wound" by Clemens.

Snite Museum of Art

Opening Public Reception

Sunday, August 29, 2:00-4:00pm

3:00 gallery talk by Pau-Llosa



PARALLEL CURRENTS

Highlights of the Ricardo Pau-Llosa Collection of Latin American Art

August 29 to November 14, 2010

Museum hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00am-4:00pm
 Thursday through Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm
 Sunday 1:00-5:00pm
 Closed on Monday and major holidays

Information

574-631-5466 or sniteartmuseum.nd.edu
 Also find us on Facebook at Sniteart or ArtsEverywhere.com

This exhibition features highlights of Cuban-American, poet-scholar Ricardo Pau-Llosa's collection of Latin American art.

The accompanying catalog elucidates Pau-Llosa's original model of art criticism which establishes that Latin American art is distinct from parallel currents in Europe and the United States because of the high presence of metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche in its images.

This exhibition is generously supported by the Walter R. Beardsley Endowment for Contemporary Art



Best Wishes

for the 2010—2011 Academic Year

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ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish seek perfection again

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Losing six seniors has yet to slow the Irish down as they enter their season with two returning players named to the all-Big East preseason team, a third-place ranking in the Big East preseason poll, and six highly recruited freshmen who have already made headlines in the volleyball world.

Just over a week into practice, Irish coach Debbie Brown said she has a strong, positive outlook for the upcoming season.

"We're very excited about the new players that we have on our team and think that the returning players are doing a great job," Brown said. "There are definitely different levels of experience and personalities than before but we're liking what we're seeing on the practice court so far."

Notre Dame registered a perfect 15-0 record against the Big East in 2009, finishing the year 21-7 overall for the team's 19th winning season, each of which have been under the direction of Brown. Her peers named her the 2009 Big East coach of the year and the AVCA Division I Northeast Region coach of the year for the third time.

Senior middle blocker Kellie Sciacca and junior outside hitter Kristen Dealy take the reins from their graduated teammates. Both were named to the All-Big East preseason team after their impressive performances on the court last season. Sciacca led the Big East in league play with a .429 hitting percentage in 2009 and was second for the Irish in blocks with a total of 90. Dealy ended the 2009 season second in kills and points for the Irish.

Sciacca and Dealy are only two of the top four leaders on this Irish team. Along with senior libero Angela Puente and junior libero Frenchy Silva, Sciacca and Dealy regularly meet with the team's coaches to discuss the dynamics, goals, strengths and weaknesses of the team. Sciacca and Puente will also be serving as the Irish co-captains this year, though leadership responsibilities fall on all four of the players, as well as other teammates.

Known to bring in strong recruiting classes in the past, the Irish coaches have done it



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Sophomore Kristen Dealy records a kill against Seton Hall during a 3-1 Irish victory on Halloween en route to a perfect regular season.

again as PrepVolleyball.com ranked the six freshman players the 13th-best recruiting class in the nation. The top-15 ranking gave Notre Dame the highest ranking of any Big East member. The six, Maggie Brindock, Samantha Brown, Sammie Brown, Andrea McHugh, Andrea Olsen and Nicole Smith, are a balanced and accomplished group hailing from California, New Mexico, Tennessee and Texas. "With freshmen there's a newness, an energy, about them," Brown said. "They bring lots of enthusiasm to the court, but the returners are doing a great job of that as well."

Despite a very different team, Brown and the Irish continue to have many of the same goals as last season — and then some.

"We want to compete at a high level early and know that's a challenge. It's always a goal to win the Big East and we feel a position to challenge for that from our success last season," Brown said. "We're working towards the championship, but not stopping there. We want to go to the NCAA Championship Tournament and advance farther than last year."

More important than titles or trophies to Brown and her coaching staff is seeing the players grow and improve on the court.

"We're working hard to

make sure we're improving and getting better as the year goes on," she said. "A huge goal is to see marked improvement, individually and collectively as a team."

The Irish will start their season at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 27 when they host Marshall to launch the Shamrock Invitational at Purcell Pavilion with conference play beginning Sept. 24 against West Virginia at Purcell Pavilion.

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NCAA FOOTBALL

WAC commissioner takes parting shots

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Fresno State and Nevada should not expect any parting gifts from the other members of the Western Athletic Conference when the Bulldogs and Wolf Pack leave for the Mountain West.

WAC commissioner Karl Benson said on Thursday the departing schools will have to pay \$5 million to his league and wait until 2012 to move after accepting the MWC's invitation and dismantling an agreement the WAC was on the verge of completing with BYU.

The Cougars were in line to rejoin the WAC in all sports other than football, in which BYU would have become an independent.

Benson called Fresno State and Nevada's decision "selfish."

"In a 12-hour period, the WAC went from having a secure and prosperous future to once again not knowing what the future will hold," Benson said in a conference call.

The WAC had already lost Boise State to the MWC earlier this summer, then on Wednesday both Fresno State and Nevada received and accepted invitations to join the Mountain West—less than a week after WAC members formed a buyout pact intended to keep what was left of the league intact.

Although Nevada did not actually sign the buyout agreement and loyalty pledge,

Benson said WAC lawyers believe the Wolf Pack are still subject to the terms of the deal and will seek the money, due 60 days from Wednesday.

"I recommended (the buyout) to the board. I wish at this time I had made it \$20 million," Benson said.

And because Fresno State and Nevada didn't declare they were leaving before July 1, Benson said both are obligated to the WAC until 2012. Letting the schools go in time for next season will be up to the remaining six WAC schools.

"Only if the WAC believes that it would be in the WAC's best interest that there would be an early out, would there be an early out," Benson said.

In the meantime, the WAC is looking for members once again. Since it formed with six teams in 1962, the WAC expanded to the point of two eight-team divisions in the mid-1990s before eight schools departed and formed the Mountain West in 1999.

The WAC has managed to persevere through all the turnover, but Wednesday's departures were a definite setback, especially if the league and BYU can't rework their agreement for the Cougars to come back, albeit without football.

Benson said the arrangement was for BYU to still play four to six WAC teams per season in football and schedule the remaining openings on its own, taking advantage of the exposure on the school's BYU-TV network.

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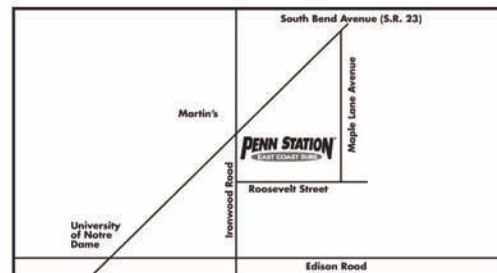
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Saint Mary's: Year in Review

Soccer hires new coach; Slupczynski leads volleyball to .500 record; cross country sets sights on conference

Observer Staff Report

Soccer

Thanks to a stroke of luck, the Belles and new head coach Michael Joyce find themselves looking forward to a bounce-back campaign from 2009's disappointing 4-13-2 mark.

Joyce, who previously coached at Division III Cornell College in Iowa, had moved to the South Bend area with his wife right as the Belles job was vacated.

"When I knew our family was moving to Indiana, I started looking for local college opportunities," Joyce said. "The timing was really incredible, I went on the Saint Mary's website and the job posting for a new head soccer coach had been put up the previous day.

"My vision for the program is to create a community. We have a lot of players who've come through this program and have stayed connected to it, it has meant a lot to them, and they would like to continue to be involved," Joyce said. "I'd like to enhance that tradition and create an environment where the experience of the players here at the school should create a lifelong bond to the school and the program."

Joyce's quest toward building an MIAA powerhouse will begin with an inexperienced squad that graduated starting goalie and team MVP Patty Duffy, as well as the top three goal scorers from the 2009 squad in Katy Durkin, Colleen Ferguson and Micki Hedinger.

The goal-scoring load will now fall on younger players, including sophomore Ashley Morfin, whose two goals last year led the team's freshmen. Morfin and her teammates will have to grow up quickly on a team that features only one senior.

"We're in great shape to move our way up the standings in the short run," Joyce said. "We've got a lot of young talent and will only have one senior on a 25 player roster this year. Over the next couple of years, that presents a great opportunity to vault ahead of the competition.

That being said, we play in a challenging conference and many of the teams are well-run and well-coached; you won't get anything easy in the MIAA."

Joyce will begin his inaugural campaign at the helm of the Belles program on Sept. 1 at home against Aurora College. Until then, Joyce's new leadership

has the Belles thinking optimistically about its potential.

"We've got some work to do building up the level of the program, and a number of small steps we'll need to take to get there," Joyce said. "But our No. 1 goal is to win a national championship."

Volleyball

The Belles climbed to a .500 record after battling through the first half of their 2009 conference schedule, but several key injuries led to an eight-match losing streak to end the season with a 9-17 record.

"[Last] season we were able to play at such a high level with everyone on the court healthy," Belles coach Toni Kuschel said. "We did not end up in the conference where we would have liked. However, we played well as a team."

While the injuries hurt the team's overall performance, it did afford several players the opportunity to gain experience during a tough 5-11 conference season.

"We had a lot of players that were able to step out of their comfort zone and fill big roles on the court when key players were injured," Kuschel said. "We will

be looking for our returners to bring that kind of energy, commitment and dedication into next season. I know they are more than up for the challenge."

The driving force behind the Saint Mary's team last year was the strong corps of veteran leadership, especially from the seniors.

Senior Lorna Slupczynski was named to the first team all-MIAA squad for the first time. She finished her career with the Belles with three consecutive seasons with 300 kills, finishing with 1,360 kills for her career. She also had three seasons with over 300 digs, and had 1,311 digs in her career.

This season, Saint Mary's is healthy and ready to attack the MIAA schedule with a renewed fervor. The Belles return several key players and welcome new additions as well.

"We will also have a solid group returning," Kuschel said. "We will be looking for a few key freshmen to add depth and strength to our offense."

Cross Country

Last season brought the Belles a fourth-place finish in their conference and a 17th-place spot among more than 30 teams at NCAA

Division III regionals. A season highlight came with a second-place finish at the 6K Manchester Invitational, where they edged out Calvin College by a mere two points. Satisfied with those results, the Belles hope to do even better this year.

"I would love for us to break into the top 15 at regionals again and to get third in the conference," senior Clare McVey said. "We have the ability to do it, it's just a matter of actually doing it."

Expected to continue her success this year is sophomore Julia Kenney, who, as a freshman, finished first for the Belles in four races. The Belles anticipate junior Joanne Almond and seniors McVey and Catie Salyer to act as additional leaders throughout the season, after all three of them finished in the top five at multiple meets last season. The team as a whole strives for progression from meet to meet, and especially looks to advance during the summer transition period.

"Each season we do better than the previous and it's becoming a pretty obvious trend with our team finishes," McVey said.

The Belles begin their season Sept. 1 at home, when they will take on Goshen.



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Waldrum

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season and earned Big East midfielder of the year honors in 2009.

“I think that we saw really the coming out last year of a player like Courtney B a r g ,” Waldrum said. “She’s a really key player for us.”

F l a n k i n g Barg at mid-field will be seniors Rose Augustin and L a u r e n Fowlkes, who split time last season between the midfield and backline.

“Lauren Fowlkes I think is one of those key players that would play up front last year and as a defender,” Waldrum said. “I’m not quite sure honestly what we’re going to do with her this year. We’ve

“I really like the team to get tested and find out where we are early in the year. The one thing I always worry about is playing too light of a schedule.”

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

looked at her in both spots in the preseason, so I’m sure we’ll play her a little bit in both places until we settle in on a plan.”

Leading the Irish up front will be junior Melissa Henderson, who has been one of the nation’s top offensive players during her first two seasons, while junior counterpart J e s s Schuveiller is expected to lead the back four on d e f e n s e once again.

Notre Dame has always played a tough non-conference schedule, and this year’s slate is no different, as the Irish will play No. 3 UCLA and No. 9 Santa Clara during their first five games. Despite the daunting challenge, Waldrum’s experience proves that his team needs to face a

challenging slate to set the tone for the season.

“It definitely sets the tone, and that’s why I’ve always liked to play good teams early in our non-conference schedule,” Waldrum said. “I really like the team to get tested and find out where we are early in the year. The one thing I always worry about is playing too light of a schedule and thinking we’re better than we really are and getting into the late part of the year into a tough stretch and not being ready for it.

“Certainly on the road at UCLA, anytime you go west with the time change and the travel and playing a good team is always going to be a challenge for you, and UCLA has certainly had as much of an impact on the soccer world that we’ve had, especially in the last six to eight years, and that’s going to be a good test.”

The Irish began their season Friday against Minnesota at Alumni Stadium.

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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior midfielder Rose Augustin reacts after her shot against North Carolina is deflected during a 1-0 loss in the College Cup.

NCAA

continued from page 24

Princeton by the score of 8-5 and then avenged last season-ending defeat by topping No. 3-seeded Maryland by the count of 7-5. In Final Four in Baltimore, the Irish downed No. 7 Cornell to earn the right to face the No. 5 Blue Devils for the tournament crown. Irish coach Kevin Corrigan was pleasantly surprised by the reversal of fortunes from the 2009 season.

“A year ago we were undefeated going into the tournament and thought that was going to be our fate; we played a really poor game against Maryland and were out before we got started,” he said. “This year, it was kind of the opposite: a crazy, up-and-down year, but couldn’t have played better through the last four games of the season in the tournament.”

The Irish focused on defense throughout the tour-

ney, preferring to slow the tempo of the game and limit their opponent’s time of possession. Facing an explosive offensive Blue Devil duo in Ned Crotty and Max Quinzani, Notre Dame again slowed the pace of the game, leading to the lowest-scoring final in NCAA history. With the score tied at 4 entering the fourth quarter, the Irish took the lead on a goal from sophomore Sean Rogers that was answered by the Blue Devils barely three minutes later, sending the tense contest into a sudden-death overtime. Duke’s CJ Costabile won the extra period’s opening face-off, sprinted down the field, and rifled a shot past Rodgers to give the Blue Devils the championship merely five seconds after the ball had dropped in overtime. The lightning-quick ending came as a stunning blow to the Irish, who had relied on their defense throughout the tournament.

“Everybody was crushed because you don’t get that far

and want anything but the championship,” Corrigan said. “You know when you go to overtime, that’s how the game’s going to end — in the blink of an eye.”

Despite the heart-breaking loss, the Irish came away with a recognition that t h e y , despite being a midwest school in a sport dominated by east coast powers, could compete for a national championship as Corrigan has long believed. In addition, Rodgers was voted the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player in recognition of goalie play that Corrigan called “the best any

goalie’s ever played in the NCAA tournament”; senior midfielder Zach Brenneman and senior defenseman Kevin Ridgway were both named to

the all-tour-n a m e n t t e a m . Corrigan also singled out senior midfielder David Earl for out-standing p l a y , though the coach said the team’s Cinderella run was a team effort.

“We made really, really good decisions down the stretch and played to our strengths as well as we have in a long time.”

After the tournament, the Irish took a team trip to

Japan to scrimmage the Japanese national team, which Corrigan considered a fantastic experience for his players.

“It was a chance for everybody to stay together,” he said. “It was a great trip in a beautiful country, and we couldn’t have been treated better by our hosts. Our guys had just a really neat experience.”

Despite losing one player at every position, including Rodgers, who is now playing in Major League Lacrosse, Corrigan said his team has what it takes to pull off another run at the national championship.

“I think we start over and see if we can’t take all the pieces that we do have back and add the new guys and see if we can’t put together another run,” he said. “I don’t see any reason why we couldn’t — we’ll certainly have enough ability.”

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Aoki

continued from page 24

sonnel can bring the program back to excellence.

“It’s a situation where we’re going to have to change the culture and change the mindset a little bit,” Aoki said. “And obviously get talented kids in there and hopefully get back to the point where we’re winning Big East championships and competing in the NCAA Tournament, and getting to Omaha.”

Despite a losing record, Schrage’s final season still had several highlights, both team and individual.

The Irish opened the season with a three-game road sweep of Mississippi Valley State, including a 19-3 rout in the final game of the series, the first in program history. In addition, the squad posted a 9-3 record during a 12-game stretch in the heart of the conference season, securing series victories over Big East foes Seton Hall and Cincinnati.

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ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Three touted freshmen bring high hopes for ND

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

A freshman made a big impact on a veteran Irish team in 2009. This year, freshmen will take on a vital role following the departure of five seniors.

Notre Dame brought in a recruiting class ranked No. 8 by ESPN Hoopgurlz. Incoming freshmen Kayla McBride and Natalie Achonwa spent their respective summers with the American and Canadian under-18 national teams, while incoming forward Ariel Braker was able to take summer classes and bond with the team at Notre Dame.

McBride, a guard, helped her team to a gold medal in the America’s Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo., in June.

“She had a fantastic summer,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “Started and won the gold medal. The coaches just raved about what a very coachable, hardworking, competitive player she is and just couldn’t say enough good things about her, so we were really happy.”

The new players will help to

fill the void left by the five graduated seniors, including all three captains.

“We’re going to be fairly inexperienced,” McGraw said. “I think that we lost some great leaders. They were just very mature and responsible people. They were great in the classroom, great off the court, great on the court.”

Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins and senior forward Becca Bruzowski are the only remaining starters from a Notre Dame team that made its eighth Sweet 16 appearance in 14 years and finished with a 29-6 record and a No. 7 AP ranking.

Diggins, who led the team in points (13.9), steals (2.6) and assists (3.2) per game and earned honorable mention All-America honors as a freshman in 2009-10, will have an even bigger role this year, McGraw said. Former captain Melissa Lechlitner directed last year’s team, and the point guard duties will now fall to Diggins.

“It’s a whole new role for her,” McGraw said. “Last year, [Lechlitner] really ran the team. Without her, we’ll look for Skylar to step in and be

kind of the general on the floor.”

Six more monogram-winners return for the Irish, including senior guard Brittany Mallory and senior forward Devereax Peters. Both have two years of eligibility left, making Bruzowski the only true senior, but all three will take on leadership roles this year.

“The three seniors will be the ones we’ll look to set the tone and attitude for how we’re going to play this year,” McGraw said.

The team will be challenged from the beginning of the season, with non-conference games scheduled at Kentucky, which finished 2009-10 ranked No. 19, and at Baylor, which finished at No. 14. Much of the non-conference schedule is yet to be announced.

“I think we’re going to learn what our strength and weaknesses are pretty early in the season,” McGraw said. “... We may find out more than we want to know.”

The tough non-conference schedule will help to prepare the team for the Big East season, McGraw said. The Big East had five teams finish in the AP top 25 last season, and accounted for all four of Notre Dame’s regular-season losses.

The Irish will face No. 1 Connecticut, the 2009-10 NCAA Champions, twice in the regular season. The two teams squared off three times in 2010, twice in the regular sea-

“The three seniors will be the ones we’ll look to set the tone and attitude for how we’re going to play this year.”

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Guard Skylar Diggins, a rising sophomore, takes a shot during Notre Dame’s season-ending loss to Oklahoma in the NCAA Tournament.

son and once in the semifinals of the Big East championship. Connecticut, which has won a record 78 consecutive games, took all three contests.

“We like the challenge of playing the best teams,” McGraw said.

Although the season is still months away, the Irish have already picked up accolades.

On July 10, it was announced that McGraw was

selected to the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame and will be inducted at a ceremony in Knoxville, Tenn., in June 2011.

Diggins was named to the watch list for the Wade Trophy, which is given to the Div. I player of the year, on Aug. 4.

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Clark

continued from page 24

championship, the tournament championship, and a national championship.

“The goals are always the same,” Clark said. “I always say we want to be the best team in the country, and that means playing to our potential. The Big East is a very strong conference, but I also feel that it’s well within our grasp to be a champion in the regular season. I think the goals are very difficult goals to get, but you have to have that goal at the start. A lot of teams are excited at this time, but the key is to be excited after.”

Among the returning players from last year’s squad, senior forward Jeb Brovsky is the only player to have recorded double-digit points last season. He finished the season with four goals and four assists for a total of 12 points.

“[Brovsky] is a fantastic player, so [being the offensive leader] goes without saying,” Clark said. “We lost four players to the pros last year after graduation, so we lost some very strong players, but last year we had to deal with quite a few injuries. So hopefully we can stay healthy. A lot of people can score, and [Brovsky] is certainly one of them. Obviously you miss players, but I think there will be players that can step up. I think that’s the challenge.”

Junior defenseman Aaron Maund will also need to make a big contribution for the Irish this season. Despite missing five games while playing for the U.S. under-20 national team, Maund recorded the sixth most minutes last season and started all 18 games that he was available.

Sophomore midfielder Dillon Powers also played on the under-20 World Cup team.

Senior defenseman Greg Klazura has impressed Clark in preseason workouts.

“The one player who has been tremendously exciting... is Greg Klazura,” Clark said. “It’s funny because when we were in Sweden and playing professional clubs, all the pro clubs wanted to know who our left back was. He can play left back and right back, and you’re looking for these guys to start stepping up.”

Senior goalkeeper Philip Tuttle started 11 of 23 games last season in goal, and was the consensus No. 1 keeper this year for the Irish before tearing his meniscus during the offseason. In 13 appearances last season, Tuttle gave up only 9 goals and made 21 saves, recording a team-high five shutouts.

“Tuttle was pretty well going to go the whole way, but he was training with the San Jose Earthquakes and tore his meniscus, and had surgery, so he’s going to be out for the first part of the season for sure,” Clark said. “It’s really tough, because he was playing so well. That opens the door for [junior] Will Walsh, and he’s been waiting in the wings. This is his opportunity, and he’s a good goalkeeper. Willie will certainly get the chance.”

The Irish will kickoff the pre-season with an exhibition game against the University of Illinois-Chicago in a game that will benefit Grassroot Soccer, an organization that benefits AIDS awareness in Africa. The game will be played Monday at Alumni Field, with a \$1 donation requested to help support Grassroot Soccer.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Five seniors lead Irish in post-Harangody era

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Heading into last season, a major storyline for the Irish was the farewell tour of forward Luke Harangody and point guard Tory Jackson, the leaders of the winningest class in program history.

It may not be as easy to attach an identity to this team just yet, but with the return of several starters and key reserves, and the anticipated debuts of a transfer and a few key freshmen, the 2010-11 Irish could surprise some people.

Despite known commodities like Harangody and Jackson leading the way for most of last season, surprise, in the form of a revamped “slow burn” offense, turned out to be a key weapon for Notre Dame down the stretch last year. When Irish coach Mike Brey made the decision late in the Big East season to slow down his typically up-tempo offensive style, it caught Notre Dame’s opponents off guard and propelled the Irish into the NCAA Tournament.

“It came at a good time for us. It was tricky for our opponents,” Brey told reporters

“So this nucleus is good with the ball, including the big guys. That’s the way we play, it’s the style we’ve established.”

Mike Brey
Irish coach

earlier in the summer. “I’ve been here a long time and that was a unique dynamic — all of a sudden, playing differently down the stretch.”

Whether that becomes the new norm for the Irish remains to be seen, but Brey said he hopes to mix elements of the old and new, the fast and slow, to keep opponents guessing.

“Throughout a game, can we do that? Can we change a gear, coming out of a media timeout and play a certain way for four minutes?” Brey said. “All things I think we can do and I’d like to explore.

“There’s no question that we have guys that can get up and down the court. We want to be able to do that and I think we have to start off doing that. But being able to change tempo and change gears I think is something we have to do throughout a game and throughout a season.”

The Irish return their second- and third-leading scorers in senior forward Tim Abromaitis and senior guard Ben Hansbrough, who averaged 16 and 12 points per game, respectively. Abromaitis and Hansbrough were Notre Dame’s two best

3-point shooters last year, as each shot better than 40 percent from beyond the arc.

Senior forward Tyrone Nash started every game last year, and fellow senior forward Carleton Scott’s energy and athleticism gave the Irish a lift when he was inserted into the starting lineup late last season.

Brey also has high hopes for senior forward Scott Martin, who transferred from Purdue and was eligible to play last year before suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in October. Martin sat out the 2008-09 season due to NCAA transfer regulations, but despite not playing in two years, Brey said Martin could be a difference-maker.

“He needs to put a jersey on,” Brey said. “He wants it ... And there is plenty of time to do it because he’s really hungry.”

The Irish will certainly be a different team without Jackson and Harangody, but Brey said he sees a core group with the potential for success.

“So this nucleus is good with the ball, including the big guys,” Brey said. “That’s the way we play, it’s the style we’ve established. But to have that one guy that can initiate the offense, that’s something that we’ll have to develop.”

That’s the role Jackson filled for four years, and Brey said Jackson’s experience will



PAT COVENEY/The Observer
Guard Ben Hansbrough drives to the hoop during Notre Dame’s 68-56 victory over Seton Hall on March 10.

be a challenge to replace.

“He played the position longer than anybody in our program,” Brey said. “That is a position that’s a unique position. I played it, so I can relate to it. You just don’t groom one of those guys.”

For the Irish, that guy could turn out to be freshman guard Eric Atkins. The former Mount Saint Joseph star out of Columbia, Md., is the heir apparent to the graduated Jackson, and Brey said he’ll have a chance to start as a

freshman, as Jackson did four years ago.

“I think one of the reasons he came to Notre Dame was because the opportunity [to start] would present itself. We talked about that, with Tory Jackson walking out the door,” Brey said. “I think he is a kid that we want to really look at, early in the season and number one, get him stronger.”

Contact Matt Gamber at
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Kelly

continued from page 24

but has moved to wide receiver for the upcoming season. Despite the position change, Crist said he was excited about Riddick’s potential.

“I think Theo has a chance to be an incredibly explosive player and one of the nations best,” Crist said. “He’s incredibly explosive in all facets of his game and I think if he continues to execute as he’s been executing thus far in camp he’ll be a very special player for us this year.”

Riddick will be lining up opposite junior wide receiver Michael Floyd. Floyd, a preseason All-American, finished second on the team last year in both receiving yards and receiving touchdowns despite missing five games due to injury. Kelly said that Floyd at times relied too much on his size and athleticism, but has shown a strong work ethic in fall camp.

“I thought Michael Floyd was overhyped,” Kelly said. “I thought he was at times average. But in 20 years, I have not had a player who has worked as hard as Michael Floyd has worked. And I mean that.”

Change is also coming for the Irish on the defensive side of the ball, where they are moving to a 3-4 system as opposed to last year’s 4-3. Along the defensive line, juniors Ethan Johnson and Kapron Lewis-Moore have emerged as the starting ends, with senior Ian Williams as the man in the middle. Defensive line coach Mike Elston said that, as a nose guard, Williams was especially critical to the Irish defense.

“The nose tackle is the middle

of the defense and everything is built around him,” Elston said. “If he has the ability to smash the center and get off the block and make the tackle as well as keeping the center from climbing to the backers, that is going to be the critical part for him.”

While the starters at defensive line seem fairly settled, the linebacker position is in constant flux.

Sophomore Manti Te’o and junior Darius Fleming appear to have a solid grip on starting roles, but senior Brian Smith, senior Kerry Neal, junior Steve Filer, junior Anthony McDonald and sophomore Carlo Calabrese are battling for the other two spots.

Kelly said that Te’o has taken on a leadership role on the defense, and at media day Tuesday, the sophomore linebacker sounded more like a fifth-year senior.

“I just want to help my team in any way I can,” Te’o said. “I just want to help them win and prove to my coaches, more specifically, my teammates that you can trust me, you can count on me to be there when times get hard.”

At the end of the day, Te’o said, the ultimate goal of the 2010 Notre Dame football team will be representing Notre Dame in a positive, and winning, way.

“Coach Kelly has really demonstrated to us and taught us as players that we owe Notre Dame. Notre Dame has done so much for us, provided us with an education, provided us with friends, with great coaching, and we owe them. We have a great tradition here and the least we can do is go out there every day and give it our all.”

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Get Involved in Irish Athletics!

The Media Relations Office is looking for student assistants for the 2010-11 school year. Any students interested in becoming active and involved in Irish athletics should come to an informational meeting on Mon., Aug. 23 at 9:00 p.m. in the Media Relations Office (2nd floor Joyce Center; enter at Gate 2). Students with experience in writing, photography and new media (web sites) are encouraged to attend. For more information contact 631-7516.

FOOTBALL

Here comes the change

A different Irish team enters the 2010 season ready to win

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

The players will still be wearing gold helmets, the end zones will still have diagonal stripes and Tim McCarthy will still start off each fourth quarter with an awesomely bad pun.

At the same time, the team that takes the field Sept. 4 against Purdue will have a new head coach, a new quarterback, a new offensive system and even new uniforms.

New head coach Brian Kelly has brought in several changes since taking the helm in December. On offense, Kelly has been working tirelessly to install his spread offense, which is a stark change from former coach Charlie Weis' pro-style attack.

The man charged with running this new offensive attack is junior quarterback Dayne Crist. Crist saw action in several games last year, but suffered a season-ending ACL injury against Washington State. He said the knee is healed and he's excited to lead the new-look Irish offense.

"The spread is just something that really makes defenses, like it says, spread out," Crist said. "And it just creates a lot of space and matchups that we like to exploit."

Kelly has seemed especially confident with Notre Dame's rushing attack. Senior running back Armando Allen has separated himself as the starter, but senior Robert Hughes, junior Jonas Gray and sophomore Cierre Wood will also see the field.

"I would be very surprised if we were not a solid team running the football," Kelly said.

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DAN JACOBS/The Observer
Junior quarterback Dayne Crist practices, without a knee brace on his surgically-repaired knee, Thursday afternoon.

MEN'S SOCCER

Irish coach reloads, not rebuilds

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

After finishing as Big East runner-up and a second-round exit from the NCAA tournament, and despite the loss of four top players to the professional level, Irish coach Bobby Clark refuses to see the upcoming season as one in need of rebuilding.

"I never look at rebuilding years," Clark said. "I always look to reload. If we do our jobs correctly here, then we should be in a position that players are going to step up. I think every year we've kept very competitive, and I'm excited about what this group has shown so far."

Clark said that the goals remain the same as every year: to compete for the Big East regular season

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BASEBALL

Swarbrick taps Aoki to replace Schrage after rough season

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

A disappointing 22-32 overall record in the 2010 season led to the end of Dave Schrage's four years at the top of the Notre Dame baseball program.

The Irish lost 10 of their final 12 games and posted a 10-17 record in the Big East.

Notre Dame director of ath-

letics Jack Swarbrick announced his decision not to retain Schrage in mid-June after the Irish failed to qualify for the Big East Championships for the first time in 15 years. Schrage compiled a 119-104-1 record during his tenure, including a 36-win season in 2009.

"I appreciate all the contributions Dave has made over the past four seasons to Notre Dame baseball," Swarbrick

said in a June 14 press conference. "Like Dave and his staff and his players, we all would have liked to have enjoyed more success, but it certainly wasn't for lack of effort or commitment."

A full month after Schrage's departure, Swarbrick announced the hiring of Mik Aoki as the new head coach. Aoki, the 20th coach in program history, comes to Notre Dame after leading Boston

College to its second consecutive ACC tournament berth in his fourth year at the helm of the Eagles. The Massachusetts native brings an overall Division I record of 201-248-1 (.448), which includes a five-year stint at Columbia.

"I think the expectations are high at Notre Dame, obviously," Aoki said. "The trip to Omaha in 2002 certainly raised the bar, and you couple that with the fact with Notre

Dame is clearly a university that expects to excel at everything that they do, whether it's academia, or athletics, or community service."

Accustomed to the challenges of winning in a cold-weather environment, recruiting at an elite academic institution, and player development, Aoki believes a change in attitude and the right per-

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish fall in title game OT

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

Competing for the program's first national championship, the Irish fell to Duke in heartbreaking fashion before a crowd of 37,126 in Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium in May.

Led by the red-hot play of goalie Scott Rodgers, competing for the last time in an Irish uniform just weeks after his graduation, Notre Dame surprised many by shrugging off an inconsistent regular season and smothering its opponents on its way to the title game, only to lose the championship five seconds into overtime.

Considered by many to be the "last team in" to the NCAA tournament, the unseeded Irish opened the tournament by toppling No. 6

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JULIE HERDER/The Observer
Scott Rodgers, class of 2012, on left, defends the Irish goal during a 10-8 loss to Rutgers on March 27.

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Near perfection inspires team for new season

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

While a new season may be underway, it's the same familiar story for No. 4 Notre Dame.

The Irish, who have made seven of the past 11 College Cup semifinals, once again enter the season with national title aspirations following a bitter season-ending defeat from rival North Carolina, as Tar Heels midfielder Casey Nogueira notched the game winning tally in the final ten minutes of play in both the 2008 National Championship game and 2009's semifinal.

Fortunately for Notre Dame, Nogueira has graduated and the Irish return many key contributors from last year's team, something that coach Randy Waldrum said has his

team primed for yet another run at a national title.

"I think that the good thing about it is that we've kind of had a history of getting there," Waldrum said. "We've been there I think four years in a row and seven out of the 11 that I've been here, so I think the good thing is that when you go that regularly, the players kind of understand what it takes to get there in terms of the training and the work that they have to put in. I think they get that part of it."

Waldrum said the Irish have a number of core players who will play a key role in helping Notre Dame return to the peak of college soccer this season, led by junior midfielder Courtney Barg, who registered an All-American

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