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THE OBSERVER

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

Administration plans ceremony

By KAYLA MULLEN

Associate News Editor

After an Aug. 28 email announced Commencement would be held in the Purcell Pavilion of the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center (JACC) due to Campus Crossroads construction, students were dismayed to learn each graduate would be limited to three tickets each. However, University President Fr. Jenkins announced in a town hall meeting Feb. 17 that a mild winter and faster-than-expected work by the construction crew made it possible to temporarily halt construction for Commencement weekend.

"We know the decision to relocate commencement to the Joyce Center troubled the senior class in particular,"

Jenkins said. "Due to the outstanding hard work of our architectural and facilities team here at Notre Dame and our construction partners and the blessings of a relatively good streak of winter weather, construction is ahead of schedule, giving us a window to make the stadium available for commencement and making it possible for all family and friends of the graduates to attend."

Over 3,000 students are graduating this weekend in 19 different ceremonies, University Registrar Chuck Hurley said. Nearly 23,000 guests are expected to attend the University Commencement ceremony in the Stadium, he said.

"Post-baccalaureate students have their degrees conferred and receive diplomas

on Saturday," Hurley said.

"Undergraduate students have their degree conferred by Fr. Jenkins at the University Ceremony on Sunday morning, then receive their diploma at various College or departmental ceremonies on Sunday afternoon."

Commencement will begin at 9 a.m. in the Stadium on Sunday, while the College and departmental ceremonies will begin at 1 p.m. that same day, according to the Commencement website.

Planning for Commencement is year-round, Hurley said.

"[There are] over 100 commencement-related events this week," Hurley said. "The Office of the Registrar coordinates the commencement ceremonies. Various colleges

and departments plan the academic components of individual ceremonies."

"The Office of Campus Safety oversees the security and safety protocols at events."

In the case of severe weather — defined as lightning, high winds and heavy and persistent rain — the Commencement ceremony will be moved into the JACC, the Commencement website said. Each graduate received three "Severe Weather" tickets; all other guests without a "Severe Weather" ticket will be able to watch the ceremony live, which will be broadcasted in auditoriums in nearby large buildings, the website said.

Contact Kayla Mullen at kmullen2@nd.edu

University of Notre Dame

saturday
MAY 16

9 a.m.
ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

10 a.m.
Graduate School Commencement Ceremony
Mendoza College of Business Graduate Ceremony

12:30 p.m.
Law School Ceremony

1 p.m.
Service Send-Off Ceremony

5 p.m.
Commencement Mass - Joyce Center Purcell Pavilion
(overflow will be in the North Dome)

6:30 p.m.
Graduation Dinner - North and South Dining Halls

8:15 a.m.
Degree candidates assemble for Academic Procession

9 a.m.
University Commencement Ceremony - Notre Dame Stadium

The individual Undergraduate diploma ceremonies are scheduled to begin approximately 1-1:30 p.m

sunday
MAY 17

Saint Mary's College Commencement Schedule

friday
MAY 15

1 p.m.
NURSES PINNING CEREMONY
Church of Our Lady of Loretto

4 p.m.
BACCALAUREATE LITURGY
Angela Athletic Facility

8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
GRADUATION BRUNCH
Noble Dining Hall

12 p.m.
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Court of Le Mans

4 p.m.
VIGIL MASS
Regina Chapel

saturday
MAY 16

Saint Mary's selects valedictorian

By HALEIGH EHMSSEN

Saint Mary's Editor

Editor's note: This article previously ran in the March 19 print edition of The Observer.

Senior Sarah Miller has been named the valedictorian of the Saint Mary's College class of 2015.

Miller, a music major and dance minor, is originally from Carmel, Indiana. Miller has been involved on campus as a member of the SMC Dance Team and has performed in the College's choir, musicals and operas throughout her undergraduate years.

Upon finding out she had received the title of valedictorian, Miller said she was pleasantly surprised, according to a College press release.

"[I] feel so honored to represent women that I have learned so much from throughout my four years at Saint Mary's College," Miller

said.

The idea of writing a speech for graduation is both exciting and daunting, Miller said.

"I am planning to discuss my personal experience at Saint Mary's and the values

rehearsal."

Under the direction of music professor Laurel Thomas, who became Miller's "mentor, teacher and inspiration," Miller said she flourished at Saint Mary's.

According to a College press release, Thomas said Miller is a determined individual with great dedication to the arts.

"Sarah has the personal strength, the patience to continually work toward her goals, the passion for music and learning that is vital to a life in the arts," Thomas said.

Following graduation, Miller said she plans to attend graduate school for vocal performance and is currently in the process of auditioning.

"This is an extremely long and difficult process," she said. "I'm crossing my fingers that I will get into a school next year, but many singers have to wait a couple years to let their voices mature. Many opera singers go to graduate

school in their mid-to-late 20s."

Miller said her decision to attend Saint Mary's was influenced by what she calls the College's perfect pairing of the voice and dance programs, the opportunities to be exposed to science and the sisterhood she experienced during her first visit.

"I absolutely loved all of the girls I met when I toured Saint Mary's and immediately knew it was where I wanted to be," Miller stated in the press release. "The opportunities are endless, and I encourage current and incoming students to not only take advantage of learning in the classroom but also from your peers outside of that environment."

"Finding a balance in college can be difficult, but luckily you will always have the Saint Mary's sisterhood as your support system."

Contact Haleigh Ehmsen at hehmse01@saintmarys.edu

Sarah Miller

Saint Mary's valedictorian



Senior Anna Kottkamp named ND valedictorian

By MARGARET HYNDSS
News Editor

Senior Anna Kottkamp — the class of 2015 valedictorian — learned early on in her college career that success would require a careful balancing act.

A member of the Glynn Family Honors Program hailing from Wenatchee, Washington, Kottkamp has immersed herself in a wide array of extracurricular activities ranging from varsity rowing to the Voices of Faith Gospel Choir to research and service in South Bend and abroad.

Through it all, the environmental science major has maintained a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) and earned a spot on the Dean's List each semester that she has been on campus — a feat she attributes to finding an area of study that fascinated her.

"I started out, as many people did, going into pre-med classes and pursuing a pre-med track," she said. "I thought that was super interesting and maybe something that I wanted to do, but then I worked in a clinic the summer after my freshman year. I quickly realized it just wasn't my passion."

"I had always been interested in natural systems and

the natural world and especially how land use both affects humans and is affected by humans. That was a big turning point, when I switched my majors to environmental science.

"... It was probably one of the best decisions I've ever made, because I just love my classes all the time. I love what I'm learning and think that's one of the most important things for academic success — it's about doing what you love."

Of her status as a varsity athlete, Kottkamp said it had certainly proved a challenge, but a welcome one, especially in her first few months at the University.

"[Being an athlete] makes a difficult transition for

time commitment being in athletics was initially, so it just makes you have to shift some of your priorities. But in some ways, that's a really good thing.

"... It forces you to choose things that you care about, the things that are going to be your priorities, and to pick those involvements and do them very well. There are so many awesome ways to be involved on campus, that I would have just been overwhelmed if I had tried to do all the things that I initially wanted to."

Although she walked onto the rowing team her freshman year without competitive experience, Kottkamp now has a full athletic scholarship and is an NCAA Elite

"It was probably one of the best decisions I've ever made, because I just love my classes all the time. I love what I'm learning and think that's one of the most important things for academic success — it's about doing what you love."

Anna Kottkamp
Notre Dame valedictorian

anyone even more difficult. You come into Notre Dame thinking about being a student first, and then you throw the word 'athlete' on there," she said. "I didn't realize how big of a

89 award winner, Atlantic Coast Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association National Scholar-Athlete and ACC postgraduate scholarship recipient, the



Courtesy of the University of Notre Dame

The University named Anna Kottkamp the class of 2015 valedictorian. Kottkamp is an environmental science major and a varsity rower.

press release said. She is also a member of the athletics department's Rosenthal Leadership Academy.

Off the water, Kottkamp said she had made use of several University programs and grants allowing her to go abroad for her interdisciplinary studies.

"After my sophomore year, I interned in Peru because I'm also studying international development," she said. "That was related to agriculture and being in the jungle ... but it was an awesome first experience internationally, and that led me to my second summer [abroad]."

"[This past summer], I was in Bolivia working for an organization that works with farmers in the highlands. Their situation is inspiring because they face a lot of environmental challenges, and they have to be really resilient and adaptable in the face of that."

Reflecting on her time at the University, Kottkamp said she had relied heavily on her community and her family.

"I'm not perfect at all, and I don't think that's what I'm pretending to be," she said. "I've been really blessed with opportunities and support from others to pursue whatever it is that I love. That's been key, and that takes a lot of hard work that you can't do on your own."

"The availability of mentors and friends in my life that have pushed me and challenged me but also freed

me to pursue those things has been incredible. My parents have never put any pressure on me in that way — they're just proud of who I am, and that has allowed me to go far."

Paraphrasing a quote by writer George Bernard Shaw, Kottkamp said that discovering her passion and actively pursuing it was a key part of her success.

"Honestly, that's been the best thing for me ... realizing that life is about making yourself," Kottkamp said. "And a lot of that comes from taking time to decide what is really important to you and then pursuing what you love day in and day out."

"You can't get tired of it and you can't be disappointed with yourself because you're doing what you love. No matter what happens — if you have a bad test or anything like that — you're always willing to go further and try again."

According to a University press release naming her as the valedictorian, Kottkamp plans to help develop educational programming for fifth-graders at the Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute in Oregon as part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps before pursuing graduate education in environmental science.

Kottkamp will deliver the valedictory address at the University Commencement ceremony May 17.

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

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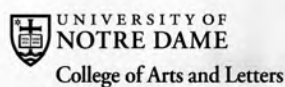
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Neville to receive Laetare Medal

Observer Staff Report

Editor's note: A version of this story ran in the March 16 edition of The Observer.

The University will award Grammy-winning singer Aaron Neville the Laetare Medal at its 2015 Commencement, Director of Media Relations Sue Lister announced Sunday.

The Laetare Medal is the oldest award given to American Catholics, having originated in

Aaron Neville
recipient, Laetare Medal



1883, according to the press release. The University awards the medal each year to a Catholic “whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity.”

University President Fr. John Jenkins described Neville as a man who uses his own strengths to express his faith.

“Aaron Neville proudly embraces and honors his faith through his God-given musical talents,” Jenkins said in the press release. “Through tumultuous times in his life, Aaron turned to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Jude for strength, forgiveness and salvation.

“His example of repentance and devotion shine bright for all who see him perform.”

In his prolific career as a musician, Neville released four albums that achieved platinum status, created four top 20 hits in the United States, won the 1989 Grammy Award for Best Pop Instrumental Performance and Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals and was named a 2015 Grammy Hall of Fame Recording Inductee.

The 74-year-old attended Catholic school in New Orleans as a child and dedicated each of his albums to the apostle St. Jude, patron saint of hope and impossible causes, the press release stated.

In winning the Laetare Medal, Neville joins the ranks of other American Catholics including President John F. Kennedy, Dorothy Day, Walker Percy, Martin Sheen and many others.

The University's 170th Commencement Ceremony will be held May 17 in Notre Dame Stadium.

SMC to confer two honorary degrees

By KELLY KONYA
Senior News Writer

Editor's note: A version of this story ran in the March 25 edition of The Observer.

Saint Mary's 168th commencement ceremony will take place on Le Mans Green in front of the iconic Le Mans Hall on Saturday, May 16, to celebrate the graduation of approximately 350 students who constitute the class of 2015. This year's graduates herald from 30 states, one United States territory and five countries besides the United States — including Canada, China, Mexico, Rwanda and Singapore.

At the ceremony, Sr. Rosemary Connelly, will deliver the commencement speech. Connelly and Terri Kosik will receive honorary degrees from the College. The 2015 valedictorian, music major Sarah Miller, will also address her graduating class.

According to a College press release, president Carol Ann Mooney said both recipients of the honorary degrees are women who have devoted over 40 years of service to their respective ministries, offering education and support to children and adults.

“At Saint Mary's we challenge our students to promote human dignity throughout their lives,” Mooney said. “We are delighted to honor these exceptional women for dedicating their lives to some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

Connelly, who is a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, was

named administrator of Misericordia Home in Chicago in 1969 and is now executive director, as stated in the press release. Misericordia Home provides programs, service and residential care to more than 600 children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

The organization's mission is to ensure that each person is encouraged to achieve his or her greatest potential through educational, spiritual, vocational or recreational outlets. According to the press release, the College wishes to recognize Connelly for playing an integral role in Misericordia Home's development into a loving, challenging and dignified environment to its residents.

Connelly has received numerous awards and honors throughout the years, including seven honorary doctorate degrees from Notre Dame, Loyola University, DePaul University, Lewis University, Marquette University, Dominican University and Lewis University.

Kosik also provides dedicated service to a ministry ensuring educational opportunities to children at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's — the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC).

The ECDC program serves children ages two through kindergarten during the school year and children through age 10 in their summer day camp program, according to the press release.

During her 41 years with the ECDC, Kosik dedicated

herself to promoting quality programs for children, their parents and teachers throughout Indiana. Kosik said the ECDC fits perfectly within the Saint Mary's mission, particularly in terms of religious sensibility and social responsibility.

“[At the ECDC,] we provide unconditional love and acceptance. Our classrooms are positive and full of joyful interactions and support,” Kosik said. “Ages 0-5 are the formative years in brain development, social/emotional development and cognitive skills. So it is important for children of all races, ethnicities and faiths to have high-quality experiences with dedicated and skilled professionals. And that's what we deliver at the ECDC and have been doing for 40-plus years.”

Kosik also teaches a course at Saint Mary's each fall semester that pertains to the early childhood minor, as well as, graduate and undergraduate courses at other institutions.

“What I love most about my job is supporting the development and learning of young children, but almost equally, I love supporting the learning and development of pre-service teachers as they cherish young children and learn the important non-cognitive skills in children's lives — confidence, love of learning, enthusiasm, empathy,” she said.

Kosik said she especially enjoys the opportunity to provide future educators with hands on experience.

“We offer for all the Saint Mary's students from

various majors ... the real-life experience that takes what they are reading and hearing from their faculty members in class,” Kosik said. “They have a chance to come into the environment and observe children learning and communicating.”

Kosik said she was overjoyed upon learning she would receive an honorary degree from the College this May.

“I must say that I was utterly surprised and speechless, and so honored that I would be considered yet alone selected for such a prestigious award from Saint Mary's, where I've spent 41 years on the campus,” Kosik said. “I started at [age] 21 when the ECDC was tiny, and I had these wonderful people mentoring, coaching and supporting me. Carol Ann Mooney's children came to ECDC and so did my children and then my granddaughter.

Senior Audrey Kiefer said she is all the more excited for the commencement ceremony now that these two women will be honored.

“As seniors, we're all readying to go out and use all that Saint Mary's had taught us in order to change the world,” Kiefer said. “Here are two prime examples of women who have dedicated their lives to servicing others and providing aid where its needed.

“I couldn't think of two better people to be honored at our commencement, and I'm really looking forward to it.”

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Patten to give Commencement speech

Observer Staff Report

Editor's note: A version of this story ran in the Feb. 27 edition of The Observer.

Oxford Chancellor Christopher Patten, Lord Patten of Barnes, has been named Notre Dame's 2015 Commencement speaker, according to a University press release.

Patten was slated to deliver the Commencement address last year, but health concerns led to a change of speaker.

“We were very disappointed that Lord Patten was unable to attend last year, and

we are equally delighted that he will join us this year,” University President Fr. John Jenkins said in a press re-

Christopher Patten
Chancellor of Oxford



lease. “He is a highly respected statesman in Great Britain and around the world who has taken on and helped resolve complex international issues, including the transfer of governance in Hong

Kong and policing reforms in Northern Ireland, and he is a leading Catholic who led the planning for Pope Benedict's very successful visit to Great Britain. His experience and expertise are certain to resonate with our Class of 2015.”

Patton, who has been chancellor of Oxford since 2003, has also served as chair of the BBC Trust, the governing body of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and chancellor of Newcastle University. In 2005, he was bestowed the title of baron.

Patton began his career as a desk officer, and later a director, in the research department of the Conservative

Party after his graduation from Balliol College, Oxford. In 1979, he was elected as a member of Parliament for Bath. He served in the position until 1992, when he was named governor of Hong Kong. He served as governor until the territory was handed over to the People's Republic of China in 1997.

Recognized as one of the most influential Catholics in Britain, Patten has worked with Pope Benedict and Pope Francis.

Notre Dame's 170th Commencement ceremony will be held Sunday, May 17 at 9 a.m. in Notre Dame Stadium.

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Alumnae name Rabach as Outstanding Senior

By **MARTHA REILLY**
News Writer

In sixth grade, Kaitlyn Rabach decided she wanted to attend Saint Mary's. Since then, Rabach has remained devoted to the College, and the Alumnae Association Board of Directors named her this year's Outstanding Senior. *(Editor's note: Rabach served as Saint Mary's Editor for The Observer from 2013-2014.)*

Recipients of this award display values of scholarship and leadership, according to Director of Media Relations Gwen O'Brien.

"As the valedictorian represents the mind, and the Lumen Christi Award recipient reflects the soul, the Outstanding Senior embodies the heart of the graduating class at Saint Mary's," O'Brien said.

Rabach, a political science major with minors in global studies as well as gender and women's studies, said Saint Mary's granted her unique opportunities such as working with women from around the world to implement change in their communities.

"Saint Mary's has taught me that helping women is really important and that raising up women is really important," Rabach said. "The president of my college is a woman. That doesn't happen everywhere."

Rabach's devotion to women's leadership is evident through her social justice work, according to her political science professor Sonalini Sapra, who nominated her for the honor. She said Rabach worked well with 20 college students from five countries during the study of the United States Institute (SUSI) on Global Women's Leadership in 2012 and 2013.

"I was the lead faculty for that institute and got to see firsthand the great intercultural leadership and sensitivity demonstrated by Kaitlyn," Sapra said. "She showed maturity well beyond her years."

Rabach has also raised awareness about contemporary slavery by founding Saint Mary's College New Abolitionists, Sapra said. Her passion for seeking justice and promoting women's education make Rabach the



Photo courtesy of Gwen O'Brien

President Carol Ann Mooney poses with Kaitlyn Rabach and her family during the Alumnae Champagne Brunch. Rabach was presented with the Outstanding Senior Award sponsored by the Alumnae Association.

best choice for Outstanding Senior, Sapra said.

"She challenges everyone around her to always think carefully about what they read and say and pushes others to do their best work," Sapra said. "She's a truly gifted, deeply serious and morally decent human being whom I'm proud to have as a student. I can't think of anyone I know who deserves this award more than she does."

Rabach said she plans to move to London in May to pursue a master's degree

in social anthropology. She credited her Saint Mary's education with giving her the ability to pursue the move.

"Saint Mary's has given me the confidence to feel like I can tackle anything that comes my way," she said. "Saint Mary's gave me the tools to tackle all the barriers and obstacles in my way with a positive attitude, and that's something I'm really thankful for."

Rabach said she appreciates fellow leaders within the Saint Mary's community.

"I think that the heart of Saint Mary's is centered on social justice and advocacy, and every day I am surrounded by so many of my peers doing such great work in the Saint Mary's community and the South Bend community and really at the world at large," Rabach said. "To be recognized for the social justice work that I've been doing here on campus is truly honoring and humbling."

Contact Martha Reilly at mreilly01@saintmarys.edu

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ND announces honorary degree recipients

Observer Staff Report

Editor's note: A version of this story ran in the April 6 edition of The Observer.

In addition to commencement speaker Lord Christopher Patten, the chancellor of Oxford University, Notre Dame will award six honorary degrees at its 170th Commencement ceremony

Freeman A. Hrabowski III
president
University of Maryland
Baltimore County



on May 17, the University announced in a press release Monday.

The honorary degree recipients, whose accomplishments span the fields of education, business, medicine and religion, are: Freeman A. Hrabowski III, John E. Kelly III, Jane McAuliffe, Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, Shirley

John E. Kelly III
senior vice president
IBM



Welsh Ryan and Fr. Thomas F. Stransky.

Hrabowski, who has served as the president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County since 1992, will receive a doctor of laws degree, the release stated. A mathematician who grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, during the peak of the civil rights movement, Hrabowski also serves as the chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

Kelly, senior vice president of solutions portfolio and research for IBM, will receive a doctor of engineering degree. He has held several different positions at IBM, beginning in 1980, and helped redesign the semiconductor processing and device fabrication clean room in Stinson-Remick Hall of Engineering,

according to the release.

McAuliffe serves as the director of the John W.

Jane McAuliffe
director
Library of Congress



Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, which gives scholars the opportunity to research and interact with members of Congress, and will receive a doctor of laws degree. She has previously worked as the president of Bryn Mawr College from 2008 to 2013 and as as dean of Georgetown College at Georgetown University from

1999 to 2008. According to the release, McAuliffe is also a scholar of the Qur'an and early Islamic history.

Quiñones-Hinojosa works as a professor of neurosurgery and oncology and director of the brain tumor surgery program at Johns Hopkins Hospital and will receive a doctor of science degree. According to the release, he was born in a small

Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa
professor of neurosurgery
Johns Hopkins Hospital



village outside of Mexicali, Mexico, and graduated

from both the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard Medical School.

Shirley Welsh Ryan
trustee emerita
University of Notre Dame



Ryan, who along with her son Corbett, a 2005 Notre Dame graduate, are the namesakes of Ryan Hall, will receive a doctor of laws degree. She is a trustee emerita of the University and served on the National Council on Disability, which led to the American with Disabilities Act, the release stated.

Stransky, a Paulist priest

and the rector emeritus of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, will receive a doctor of laws degree. According to the release, Stransky contributed heavily to one of the Second Vatican Council's most important documents, the 1965 Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions.

Fr. Thomas F. Stransky
rector emeritus
Tantur Ecumenical Institute



Stransky is also a former president of the Paulist fathers.

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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Seniors receive student leadership awards

By CLARE KOSSLER
News Writer

Editor's note: A shortened version of this article ran in the April 20 print edition of The Observer.

Seven graduating seniors received awards from Notre Dame's Division of Student Affairs at the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet held March 31, according to a University press release.

The press release stated Student Affairs will also honor graduate student Aamir Ahmed Khan at the Graduate School Awards Ceremony on May 15.

"Humbled" was the descriptor of choice for students who received awards.

Senior Matthew Wong, who received the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., Award, said he was "very surprised and honored and very humble for sure."

This year's recipient of the Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence, senior Megan Heeder, said she was "very humbled and grateful for the recognition that I've been somewhat successful in my desire to make a positive impact on the lives of other people here."

According to the press release, each of the eight awards acknowledges particular leadership qualities in students "who have made exceptional contributions to the Notre Dame community."

The Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., Award celebrates a senior who has promoted a spirit of diversity and inclusion during his or her time on campus and was awarded to Wong for his service as chair of the Diversity Council of Notre Dame, according to the press release.

"I think [this award] really shows that Notre Dame is putting diversity and inclusion at the forefront," he said. "It's acknowledging students who are taking steps to making Notre Dame more welcoming, regardless of socioeconomic background, race, gender, ethnicity — whatever it may be."

Wong said the accomplishments of the Diversity Council — which include last year's submission of a 10-point resolution containing recommendations on diversity to the administration — are the result of the combined efforts of the entire board.

"Without them, all of the stuff we've done as a council would have been impossible. There's no way I could have carried all that weight by myself," he said.

The Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence, presented to Heeder for her involvement in the Robinson

Community Learning Center's Youth Development AmeriCorps and the Center for Social Concern's Summer Service Learning Program, honors a student who has demonstrated leadership, athletic ability and a love for the Catholic faith, according to the press release.

Heeder, who participated as a three-sport varsity athlete her freshman through junior years, said she was honored to receive the award because it acknowledged her "some degree of success in creating a positive change in the lives of other people."

"Because if I leave here without doing that, then what was the point of being here at all?" she said.

The Mike Russo Spirit Award highlights a student's service and personal character and was given to former student body president Lauren Vidal for her efforts

"I've been blessed to have free time and to have resources to provide to other people who need them more. Getting to use that for a greater purpose and for an issue that's really important to me — hunger and malnutrition and healthy eating — and getting to pair that up with meeting people from the South Bend community, I think is really cool."

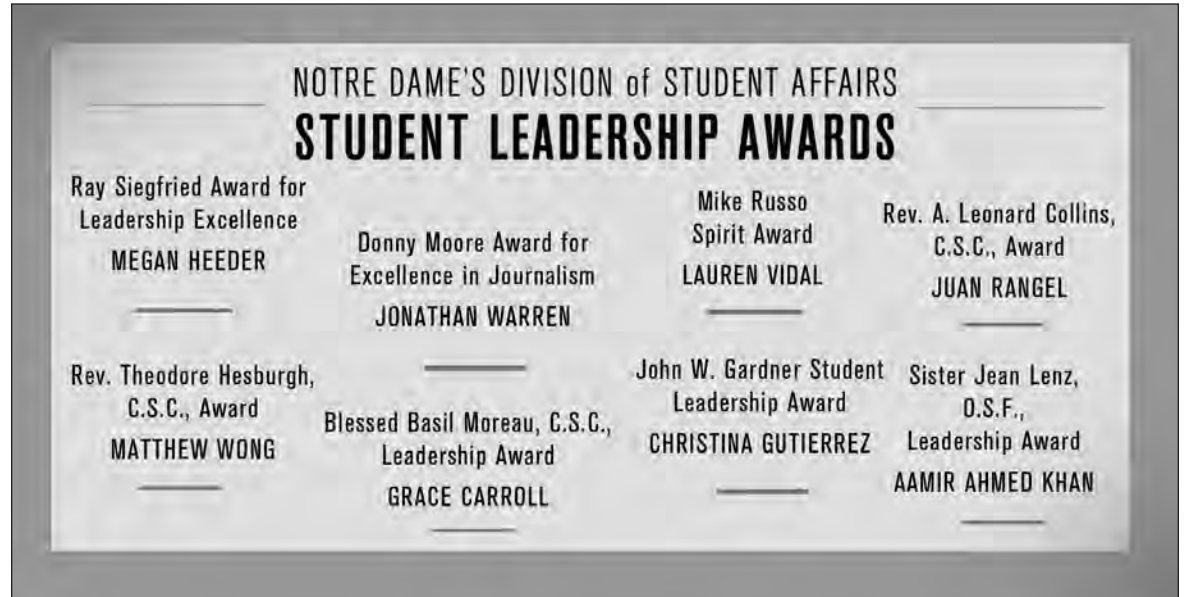
Christina Gutierrez
recipient, John W. Gardner Student Leadership Award

regarding campus safety, mental health awareness and community outreach, the press release stated.

"Having an opportunity to really listen to those around me and speak on their behalf in larger conversations about campus climate or need fueled my efforts each day," Vidal said. "I learned that it is only when you follow the needs of your peers and school, when you put their needs first, that you truly lead in the role."

The Rev. A. Leonard Collins, C.S.C., Award was presented to former student government chief of staff Juan Rangel for his dedication in serving the interests of the student body, according to the press release. Particularly, the award recognized Rangel's commitment to increasing support for students of high financial need and undocumented students.

"I think, especially with us all being college students, it's really easy to become individualistic and think about the needs and necessities that we ourselves have — we need to go to office hours, and we need to get good grades, and we need to find a job," Rangel said. "But there's so many concerns that we have ourselves that we sometimes forget the



KERI O'MARA | The Observer

concerns of others around us."

Rangel, who served as the 2014-2015 Campus Ministry multicultural intern, also co-founded and became president of the Student Coalition for Immigration Advocacy in order to raise

and we find God through service," she said. "I think it's really important that when we're doing service, we're remembering why we're doing it, and I think in Campus Ministry, we're trying to make that connection more intentional."

The John W. Gardner Student Leadership Award recognized senior Christina Gutierrez for her commitment to service in the greater South Bend community, according to the press release. Gutierrez said she specifically received the award for her work volunteering and fundraising for the Monroe Park Grocery Cooperative in South Bend and for her service as president of the Notre Dame chapter of the World Hunger Coalition.

"I've been blessed to have free time and to have resources to provide to other people who need them more," she said. "Getting to use that for a greater purpose and for an issue that's really important to me — hunger and malnutrition and healthy eating — and getting to pair that up with meeting people from the South Bend community, I think is really cool."

Gutierrez said she has been involved with the Monroe Park Grocery Cooperative since the end of her freshman year and that during her sophomore year, she directed a project to design and sell a calendar cookbook which raised nearly \$5,000 for the cooperative.

"It's a great sense of fulfillment knowing that you can engage in a community that you don't necessarily live in, but that you're still more broadly a part of," she said.

The Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism acknowledges a graduating senior who, according to the press release, exhibits exemplary character and writing ability.

The press release stated this year's recipient, Jonathan Warren, was granted the award for his achievements as the former

Editor-in-Chief of Scholastic and for his service as the public relations director for The Shirt Project.

"I think Notre Dame's values, those of educating the whole person and serving others, values I'm told Denny Moore exemplified, really

"I learned that it is only when you follow the needs of your peers and school, when you put their needs first, that you truly lead in the role."

Lauren Vidal
recipient
Mike Russo Spirit Award

lend themselves to a meaningful education in journalism," Warren said. "I've been grateful to work with other students, professors and mentors who have helped me to explore journalism as a practice of empathy and service to others."

"My role with Scholastic has allowed me to meet so many incredible people, and students in particular, whose stories have inspired me. ... Ultimately, I owe so much to the writers, editors and our adviser, Bob Franken, for their help and for giving me the platform to try to deeply explore this campus."

The Sister Jean Lenz, O.S.F., Leadership Award, to be presented to Khan for his accomplishments as the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 president of the Muslim Student Association, distinguishes a graduate student who promotes a welcoming and diverse atmosphere on campus, according to the press release.

"I was very overwhelmed," Khan said, recalling the moment he learned he was to receive the award. "This is undoubtedly the biggest extracurricular recognition that I have ever received throughout my career."

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ND, SMC student body leaders reflect on past year

Vidal/Devine administration focused on community initiatives

By MARGARET HYNDNS
News Editor

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

As their tenure came to a close March 31, outgoing student body president and vice president Lauren Vidal and Matthew Devine reflected on their year in office, sharing in hindsight the issues that proved to be their greatest triumphs and challenges.

In particular, the two said, they took pride in the wide range of programming and initiatives they took on to respond to the diverse opinions and needs of the student body.

"We've been able to meet so many people and to learn many perspectives and stories through all the different things that we've done this year," Devine said.

Highlights

In particular, Vidal said this administration tried to focus on community, both on campus and in the greater South Bend area, by tackling issues such as the Alma Mater policy after football games and the 29 for 29 program, which paired residence halls with needy families from the South Bend community.

"At the beginning of the year, we sat down with the Football Unity Council and looked at the Alma Mater policy and why it was eliminated after home games and then discussed all the concerns in a very honest conversation," Vidal said. "Going forward, we essentially assured that we would be promoting a supportive environment in the stands."

The Football Unity Council will continue to address the Alma Mater policy annually.

Devine said he and Vidal hope the 29 for 29 initiative would go beyond the holiday season and become a permanent fixture on campus. As of right now, a student government focus group has been assembled to review the program, and Vidal estimated that 10 to 15 residence halls are still actively engaging with their assigned families.

"[29 for 29] was a really organic effort to bridge our understanding of how students see the South Bend area but also at the same time develop really strong relationships with needy families around the area and to bring them to campus to be honorary members of the dorms," Devine said. "The goal was to enrich students' understanding of South Bend, but also to develop those personal connections."

Challenges

Vidal said throughout the process of working with the Worker Participation Committee — which addressed the University's

"China Policy" — she and Devine struggled to connect the feelings of the student body with the University's administration.

"We really tried to engage the campus, really giving it my all," she said. "... We did get some pushback after the fact; students were discouraged by the fact that they thought that they didn't have enough of a forum for conversation or input. We understand that a gap between students and the [University] administration has always been present.

"That's something that every [student government] administration has struggled with, trying to bring the two together. What we've learned is that the [University] administration is extremely open to speaking with the students at all times.

"I think there's work to be done building that communication. ... It's just something to maintain and keep healthy."

Moving forward

Although the two are free from nearly all their student government obligations for the rest of the year, they have several lingering commitments, including their Board of Trustees Report and Communiversity Day. Additionally, Vidal will chair the Campus Life Council for the remainder of the academic year.

Looking forward to next year, Devine predicted several key issues would remain at the forefront of the minds of students and community members.

"One of the big conversations we've had is surrounding campus safety, but also with students moving off campus and the considerations they have for campus safety and out in the community as well," Devine said.

"Something that I think will come up a lot next year — and has begun at the end of this year — are students of different socioeconomic backgrounds as well as undocumented students. That's something that's been publicized more recently, but I think that will continue to be something the university talks about."

'An extreme privilege'

Of the team's year in office, Vidal said she was grateful for the ability to speak with and learn from so many of her fellow students.

"This has been an extreme privilege," Vidal said. "Matt and I have really been given a unique opportunity to have input on behalf of our peers and on how the University is moving forward, and we've seen that as a great honor. We haven't taken one day for granted ... we've really tried to give it our all, every day. ... We've learned, truly, what a special place this is."

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WEI LIN | The Observer

McKenna Schuster (left), Sam Moorhead, Lauren Vidal and Matthew Devine worked to enhance community on their respective campuses through the 29 for 29 program at Notre Dame and the SMC card initiative.

Schuster/Moorhead administration aimed to increase student involvement in school activities

By AUBREY CLARK
News Writer

Last February, seniors McKenna Schuster and Sam Moorhead found out they would be the new 2014-2015 student body president and vice president, respectively. Schuster, a business administration major with a minor in psychology, and Moorhead, a chemistry and Spanish double major, had been previous acquaintances, but running together was not the original plan.

"It wasn't something we really planned on," Schuster said. "One day Sam came up to me and said, 'You're running for president? Can I be your VP?'"

The student body president and vice president positions are tasked with many responsibilities throughout their one-year term. Schuster and Moorhead said these tasks were not always what they expected but turned out to be rewarding all the same.

"I expected it to be really busy but really fulfilling," Schuster said. "We knew that other people were going to be counting on us to get things done."

Schuster also said being able to watch various plans come into action was exciting.

"I think seeing what our committee chairs accomplished was really fun, especially Love Your Body Week and Support a Belle, Love a Belle in the fall semester," Schuster said. "Sam and I didn't work on that personally, but those were things we were able to encourage our other members of SGA to get going and be successful with."

Schuster and Moorhead said although they did not

expect to be working with administration as much as they did, it ended up being an enlightening part of the job.

"It was a cool experience to be able to work so closely with them and know things that are going on in our community," Moorhead said.

"It was mostly administrative work and team work," Schuster said.

During their time in office, Schuster and Moorhead accomplished many tasks pre-

"One of our biggest goals was restructuring and formatting the constitution so that it was a more cohesive, concise document and was more applicable to all of the student organizations on campus. ... In a month Sam and I had brought members of SGA together to get that done."

McKenna Schuster
Saint Mary's student body president emeritus

vious administrations had begun work on. One of the achievements they were able to fulfill was a substantial revamp of the Saint Mary's student body constitution.

"One of our biggest goals was restructuring and formatting the constitution so that it was a more cohesive, concise document and was more applicable to all of the student organizations on campus," Schuster said.

"That was a big task that SGA has been working on for the past four years, and it wasn't working. In a month Sam and I had brought members of SGA together to get that done."

Another task the seniors set out to accomplish was the updating of the finance guidelines.

"It will now be way easier for students and organizations to understand how to apply for money, how to receive sponsorships and travel grants and work better with our vice president of finance and administration," Schuster said.

Schuster and Moorhead said they aimed to increase student involvement in activities over the course of the 2014-2015 academic year.

"The SMC cards that we launched first semester were really successful," Moorhead said. "There was a huge increase in involvement in events this year, which is really exciting for us to see."

Their advice for future student government leaders is to stay organized and work together.

"Find someone you work well with," Schuster said. "I could not have done this without Sam at all."

Both Schuster and Moorhead have plans for post-graduate life. In the upcoming year, Moorhead will be working for a company in Indianapolis, and Schuster will most likely be moving to Chicago to discover what's next for her.

"I'll be working through the Orr fellowship in Indianapolis next year for a company called Apparatus," Moorhead said. "That's what I know for now."

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Seniors celebrate last week on campus

Notre Dame Senior Week Committee hosts service projects, trip to Chicago, Commencement Ball for class of 2015

By WEI LIN

Assistant Managing Editor

For Notre Dame seniors, Senior Week celebrates not only the academic achievements of the entire class, but also the lifetime friendships fostered at the University. The class of 2015 will come together for one last time to enjoy each other's presence, appreciate the University that brought them together and participate in numerous activities that highlight the Notre Dame experience.

Hermona Abera, 2015 Senior Week Committee chair, said Senior Class Council president Martin Walsh asked her to spearhead the planning because of her experience coordinating Junior Parents Weekend 2014.

Senior Week began Sunday with two service projects benefiting the South Bend community, the last class Mass and the Class of 2015 Picnic.

"I think that this [was] a really nice way to end the year," Abera said. "I wanted to structure this in a nice thematic way. Starting off with Sunday, in a typical Notre Dame fashion, we go to Mass. We go give back, we reflect and we have a fun picnic."

On Monday, seniors embarked on a day trip to Chicago to see the Chicago Cubs face the New York Mets at Wrigley Field. The class attended their last tailgate at Legends and participated in a night of activities at Strikes and Spares Bowling on Tuesday.

Wednesday was titled as the Day of Lasts, featuring the last dining hall dinner and Grotto trip.

Underground tunnel tours and Hesburgh Library penthouse tours were held throughout Wednesday and Thursday, and the week concluded with the Commencement Ball at Century Center on Thursday night.

"The Commencement Ball is a very unique event," Abera said. "We never had a time at Notre Dame when the entire class — beside the DomerFest, which doesn't really count — when the entire class is together in a nice formal environment. It's almost like a prom. ... It's a nice opportunity for the first and last time we'll have a formal event

as a class. It's a nice way to end the week."

According to Abera, tickets for many of the events sold out within hours of becoming available on the online Student Shop. Technical difficulties further complicated the process, and a number of seniors were not able to purchase tickets before they sold out. Abera explained she underestimated the number of

"It goes by so fast. The mindset in senior year is you want to enjoy every second of it."

Adelle Barte
senior

people interested in attending the events because last year the turnout was less than expected.

"It's unfortunate so many of these events are so limited," she said. "If I had known there was such an interest, I would've tried to find different venues and different events."

"I'm so excited that so many people are so interested in this. We're Notre Dame, so we get very passionate, and we get very excited, and we want to go to all the events."

Senior Adelle Barte said she was as excited as Abera about the Senior Week events.

"I signed up for everything," Barte said. "I'm all in. They're really great deals, and all of my friends signed up for them. I'm pretty easy-going so whatever they were going to do, I was totally cool with doing."

"The Senior Class Council put a lot of effort into putting this together for a reason, and I think it's worth it at the end of the day."

Aside from Senior Week events, Barte said she wanted to treasure this last week with her friends.

"My friends and I have been going out to dinner," she said. "We just lounge around. Last night, we watched a chick-flick before going out. We've just been trying to find time to spend together. ... It doesn't really matter what we're doing. It's the company that matters."

Barte said she was able check one last thing off her

Notre Dame bucket list by participating in this year's Fiestang, the annual Filipino dinner and cultural show.

"It goes by fast," Barte said, reflecting on her senior year. "The mindset in senior year is you want to enjoy every second of it."

Senior Andrew Hosbein said he planned to attend the Chicago Cubs game, but since he and his friends were in Chicago the day before and would be required to return to campus to board the University sponsored buses, they decided to purchase their own tickets to the game.

Aside from the Cubs game, Hosbein also said he planned on attending the Senior Week events on Wednesday and the Commencement Ball.

"I think the [tunnel tours] are the most unique and let us see a part of campus most of us have never seen," he said.

Senior Monica McEvoy also tried her best to enjoy this last week with her friends.

"I don't think you have to make extravagant plans," McEvoy said.

"I just got back a freshmen year letter that I wrote to myself on the first day of orientation, McEvoy said. " ... One thing I really like was that I wrote, 'You're going to make so many great friends that you'll have for a lifetime.' And I think that I did; I definitely did. Like I have a great group of friends — different group of friends, too — that I think are just really special, and I will hold onto those friends as I go on from Notre Dame."

To the seniors, "Class of 2015" carries different meanings.

"It really has become home and a family to me," Barte said. "No matter when I met anyone, there is some sort of connection I have with them. That's always going to be there. So I would definitely say it's a home, it's family, and it's a safe space for me."

"I'm a numbers person, so 'Class of 2015' will obviously just be the year I graduated from Notre Dame," Hosbein said. " ... But I think more importantly I'll remember the specific people — friends, teachers, etc. — who helped make these four years so special."

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Belles end their time at Saint Mary's with scavenger hunt, Yacht Dance

By HALEIGH EHMSSEN and
OLIVIA JACKSON

Saint Mary's Editor and News Writer

At Saint Mary's, Senior Week activities sought to commemorate the tradition and rich sisterhood of the College.

Vice president of the senior class Lauren Osmanski said the week kicked off May 8 with a Yacht Dance in Chicago. The Yacht Dance was a new addition this year because the senior class raised a surplus of money, she said.

After the dance, official events resumed Monday with an alumnae brunch at 11 a.m. in Noble Family Dining Hall. Later in the afternoon, seniors departed for Chicago again to attend a Chicago Cubs baseball game.

Osmanski said the Senior Week activities incorporated some new events and some traditional ones to help seniors say goodbye to the College.

"I hope that the students can end Senior Week believing that they were able to give Saint Mary's a proper goodbye," she said. "Our Senior Week is designed to bring the

"I hope that the students can end Senior Week believing that they were able to give Saint Mary's a proper goodbye."

Lauren Osmanski
vice president
Saint Mary's senior class

seniors to campus and visit all best spots on campus and just enjoy the campus as students before they leave."

Wednesday, Osmanski and the senior class council planned a scavenger hunt on Library Green and field day activities on Dalloway's Green, ending the evening with karaoke in Rice Commons.

Seniors were able to leave a physical mark on campus with handprint painting in the Le Mans tunnel Thursday.

"Every Saint Mary's student has walked through that tunnel, and placing our handprints in the tunnel is a great way to leave Saint Mary's knowing that we are leaving something behind,"

Osmanski said.

The Le Mans Bell Tower was open for seniors to explore Thursday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., and the Opening of the Circle ceremony began at 3 p.m. Closing of the Circle happens during first-year orientation, and Opening of the Circle signifies the way students are sent forth from Saint Mary's campus and into the world beyond after graduation, Osmanski said.

This year at the Opening of the Circle ceremony seniors will be presented with letters written during the Senior Letter Writing Project, Osmanski said.

The Senior Letter Writing Project is a new tradition Osmanski said she hopes will carry on to the future. The project has allowed students, faculty and family members of the class of 2015 to write letters to individuals in the graduating class.

Senior class president Tori Wilbraham said the project began as a way for members of the senior class to show gratitude to one another and to the Saint Mary's community.

"Our hope is that the Saint Mary's community will take a few minutes to say thank you to one another for their presence and influence during their time at Saint Mary's," Wilbraham said. "I think writing letters is such a beautiful way to preserve a feeling or relationship."

Senior Nora Clougherty participated in the project and wrote letters to her peers.

"I have written letters to all of my friends who have impacted my life, even if it was a small memory we shared," Clougherty said. "It has been so great to relive memories and let people know the impact they have made in my own life."

Clougherty said she also hopes other classes adopt the letter writing project as part of their Senior Week festivities.

"This project is a great way for friends, family or professors to let the seniors know what a big impact they have made or to let a senior know how much they mean to them," she said.

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CONGRATULATIONS 2015 STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

GRACE CARROLL

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

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

CHRISTINA GUTIERREZ

John W. Gardner Student Leadership Award

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

MEGAN HEEDER

Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence

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

AAMIR AHMED KHAN

Sister Jean Lenz, O.S.F., Leadership Award

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

JUAN RANGEL

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

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

LAUREN VIDAL

Mike Russo Spirit Award

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

JONATHAN WARREN

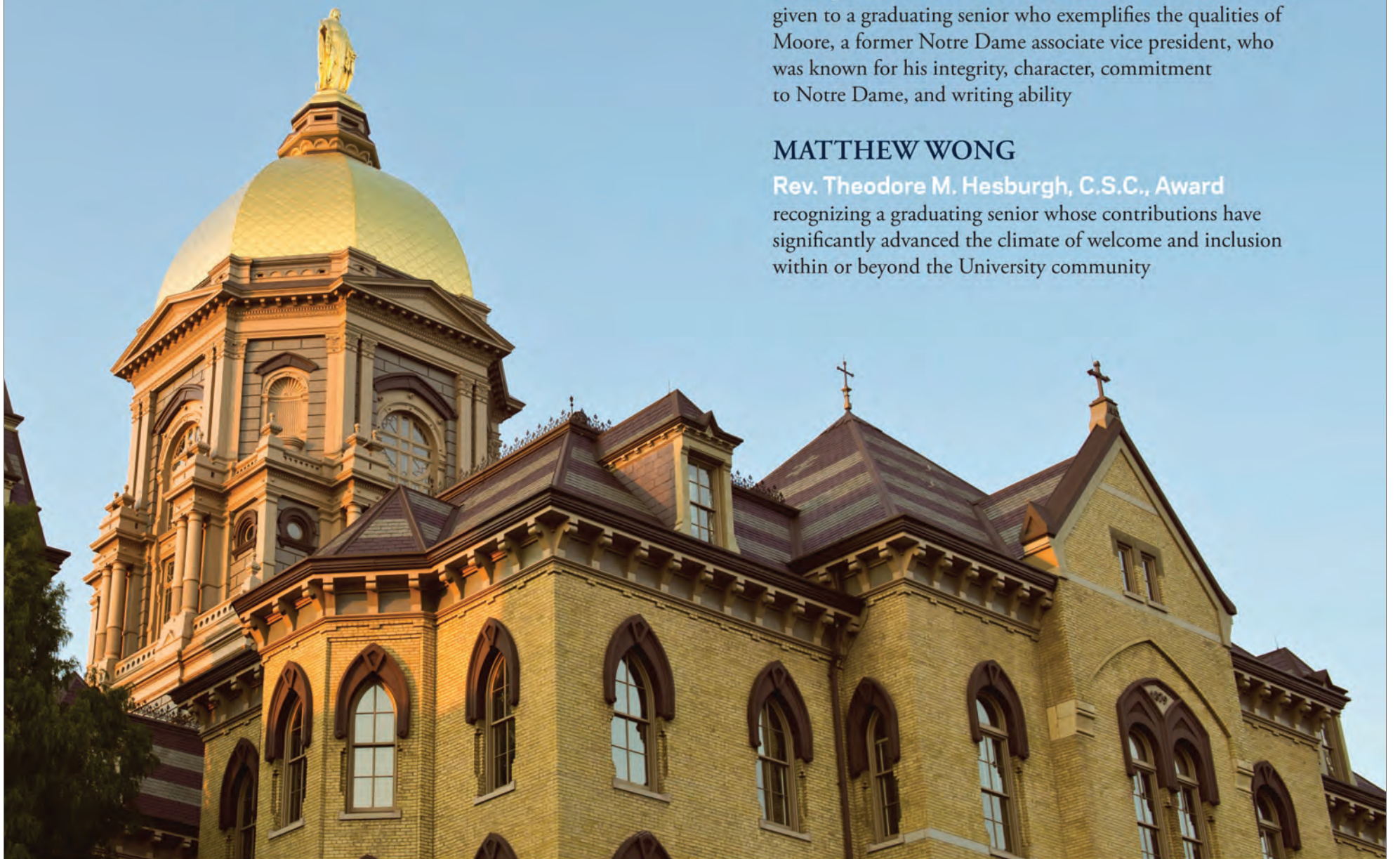
Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism

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

MATTHEW WONG

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

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



Seniors commit to teach with ACE program

By **GABRIELA MALESPIN**
News Writer

As seniors contemplate and prepare for their postgraduate opportunities, a handful have already committed to spending the next two years teaching children in underserved Catholic schools as part of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE).

Founded in 1993 by Fr. Sean McGraw and Fr. Timothy R. Scully, ACE seeks to strengthen Catholic education in under-resourced schools in the country. The organization has sent more than 1,200 teachers to Catholic schools across the United States.

More than 30 members of this year's graduating class have committed to serve as ACE teaching fellows. In addition to teaching for the next two years, they will also engage in intensive studies at Notre Dame during the summer.

Matthew Gelchion, recruiting coordinator for ACE teaching fellows and a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame, credits the tight-knit and formative environment of the ACE community with the relative success of the program. Gelchion said ACE teachers are distinguished by their willingness to embrace challenge and their unique energy and noted how their experience with ACE left them transformed for the better.

Anthony Barrett, a senior from Stanford Hall and English major with minor in education, schooling and society, said he decided to become a teacher after working with ninth graders during one of his summers as an undergraduate. Barrett, who will work in St. Pius X middle school in Denver, Colorado, said his internship at ACE during his senior year motivated him to apply and join the program.

"Working with the other people in the ACE program

was just really incredible, and every person I talk to, whether they've already committed to ACE or whether they're thinking about it, got me more excited about teaching," Barrett said.

Emily Voorde, a senior from Ryan Hall with a major in political science, said she was introduced to ACE by her high school principal and teacher — both graduates of the program — and was drawn towards ACE's intense curriculum and close community. Voorde, who will be teaching second grade at Resurrection Catholic school in Pascagoula, Mississippi, said she hoped to ultimately inspire a love of learning and faith in her students.

"I think I'm really looking forward to the purpose and reward that comes from in-

address some of those systemic problems. Murphy said the program's Catholic nature and focus distinguishes it from other service programs.

"[ACE] is not only Catholic in name but also Catholic in practice, so that's one of the main focuses when we enter a classroom. We don't just want to help the kids learn social studies or history, but we want to help them grow in virtue and as Catholics," Murphy said.

"Once you're invested in Catholic education or Catholic schools in America, you can't leave that behind after two years," Murphy said.

Mary Ostrowski, who will also teach in Texas, said the ACE program is an opportunity for deep and meaning-

"Working with the other people in the ACE program was just really incredible, and every person I talk to, whether they've already committed to ACE or whether they're thinking about it, got me more excited about teaching."

Anthony Barret
senior

fluencing these kids in a positive way," Voorde said.

"I want to be able to look back and say, 'I provided these kids with not only this great academic formation but also just [instilled] in them a confidence that maybe they don't get at home,' and just instill in them a love for their faith and a love for their academics," Voorde said.

Maria Murphy, a senior from Pangborn Hall, said she decided to apply to ACE after examining the systemic problems in the American education system through the University's education, schooling and society minor. Murphy will be teaching in Corpus Christi, Texas, and said she hoped her experience with ACE would provide her with the opportunity to

ful service rather than just a two-year commitment, noting how most students in the program aim to stay involved in education after they finish, whether through teaching or involvement in education policy.

"You hear all the stories of people who have done ACE, and they've just grown so much as a community and have been able to form that network that extends beyond those two years of classroom teaching, as well as learning how to put others (especially students) before yourself. The next two years are going to be a huge growing and learning experience, and I'm really excited," Ostrowski said.

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Thirteen students win fellowships, national awards

By **KAYLA MULLEN**
Associate News Editor

Thirteen students from the class of 2015 have received fellowships this year from prestigious programs such as the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and the National Science Foundation, Dr. Jeffrey Thibert said.

"This success is a testament to the outstanding undergraduate education that our students receive, not only in terms of their academic work but also in terms of the scholarly engagement activities that they pursue beyond the classroom both in the U.S. and abroad," said Thibert, the assistant director of national fellowships for the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE).

"CUSE looks forward to continuing to work with the Class of 2015 as they become alumni — it's never too late to apply for some of these fellowships, and every year, alumni receive major awards like the Rhodes Scholarship, the Gates Cambridge Scholarship or the Fulbright."

Fulbright

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for international research or study projects and English teaching assistant programs, according to the program's website. Nine seniors received Fulbright grants this year, and Notre Dame had 17 recipients as an institution, the most the University has ever had, Thibert said.

Claire Donovan will travel to Togo in West Africa to research "Micronutrient Fortification and Maternal Health in Togo: A Model for Sustainable Aid" on a fellowship.

Christina Gutierrez received the Fulbright/Casten Family Foundation Award to study at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy. Gutierrez is a Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar, as well as a Kellogg Institute International Scholar. (*Editor's note: Gutierrez is the business manager for The Observer.*)

A Kellogg Institute International Scholar, Alexis Palá will be studying in Chile on a Fulbright.

Three students earned English Teaching Assistantship grants from the Fulbright program: Leila Green, Kendra Reiser and Ryan Schultheis. Green will be teaching in South Africa, Reiser in Indonesia and Schultheis in Mexico.

National Foundation

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research

Fellowships provide funding for research-based study leading to a master's or doctoral degree in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math), according to the Fellowships' website.

The program receives more than 16,000 applications for 2015 and awarded 2,000 fellowships.

The three recipients of the fellowship were Ashley Armstrong, a mechanical engineer; Patrick Marino, a physics and mechanical engineering double major; and Annie Stephenson, a physics major.

Udall Native American Congressional internship

Tyler Barron, a sociology and American Studies double major, was awarded the Udall Native American Congressional internship. The internship provides American Indian and Alaska Native students an opportunity to understand the government-to-government relationship between Native Tribes and the federal government, the program's website said. Barron is the first recipient from Notre Dame in the school's history, Thibert said.

Austrian Teaching Assistantship

Two students received the Austrian Teaching Assistantship, which provides graduates with an interest in Austrian students to work at secondary schools throughout Austria, the website said. Eric Donahue and Rachel Ruddick, both majors in biological sciences with minors in German, both declined for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Eric Donahue also was awarded the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, German for 'German Academic Exchange System') Study Scholarship.

CUSE encourages the class of 2015 to continue to apply for fellowships; alumni are eligible to apply for scholarships such as the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships, Thibert said.

"These fellowship opportunities can significantly enhance a recipient's profile while advancing their academic and professional trajectories in unique ways and connecting them to future leaders in a variety of fields," Thibert said.

To learn more about these opportunities, visit <http://fellows.nd.edu/fellowships>

Contact Kayla Mullen at kmullen2@nd.edu

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

Ann Marie Jakubowski

Kelly Konya

Kaitlyn Rabach

Carolyn Hutyra

Rebecca O'Neil

Peter Durbin

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

Class Gift Campaign

— THE CLASS OF 2015 TRIBUTE TO SAINT MARY'S —



Class Gift is the long-standing tradition of giving back to Saint Mary's to show our gratitude for the way the College has changed our lives. Our Senior Gift will go towards the Annual Fund to show our dedication to the mission of our alma mater and supports the Belles who will follow in our footsteps.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Senior Gift. The following seniors made their gifts in honor of individuals who played a special role in their lives and supported their dreams.

Thank you for your gifts to Saint Mary's and good luck in all of your future endeavors.

Just remember, The Avenue will always lead you home.

Once a Belle, Always a Belle!
Nora Clougherty '15 and Emily Hazen '15
Co-Chairs, Class Gift Campaign

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in memofy of Dorothy Dunford

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Seniors to enter religious life after graduation

By MADISON JAROS
News Writer

Like most Notre Dame students, senior Sam Bellafore had an idea of what his future career would be when he was still in high school. But at the time, Bellafore wasn't thinking about becoming an accountant or a lawyer — he was thinking about becoming a priest.

Bellafore, who will enter Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York, this September, said he has been drawn to religious life for

something very deep inside of me that still kept wanting to do this."

That part of him that wanted to become a priest grew throughout his time at Notre Dame, Bellafore said.

"Really from the first day I was here — I met someone in my section as a freshman the first week of class, and we talked about discernment," he said. "People are just in general more open to the idea of someone becoming a priest or religious [at Notre Dame] than you'd find in a lot of other places. So the fact that people were open with it and thought it was an okay thing to do — it makes it a lot easier to think about."

Men that join a seminary can choose either to join an order — like the Congregation of Holy Cross — or a diocese. Bellafore said he considered joining an order, but ultimately decided to join a diocese so he could serve the city where he grew up.

"I was really drawn to serving the people in the place that I'm from, the place that raised me and formed me and helped me become who I am," Bellafore said. "And I want to go back and help people there."

Bellafore said serving the people of his community is something he's looking



Courtesy of Christina Serena

Senior Christina Serena (left) will join the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in August. To her left are Sister Joseph Andrew, foundress and vocations director of the order, and two postulants.

forward to most as he prepares to enter religious life. What will be even more important to him than that, though, will be the Mass, he said.

"If I became a priest, the most important thing in my life — and if I don't become a priest, the most important thing in my life — would be Mass, when God actually continues to take flesh in the world and be with us," Bellafore said. "That would be the most important thing. There's nothing more important than that. But I'm also looking forward to, in seminary and if I become a

priest, just spending time with people, ministering to them, learning from them and bringing whatever I can share to them."

Senior Christina Serena, who will join the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in August, said she is most looking forward to giving her life "entirely to God" after graduation.

"Rather than waiting for that time to test out my vocation, I'll actually get to live it and see it with clearer eyes than I've been able to so far," Serena said.

When she first arrived at Notre Dame, Serena said she didn't want to be a religious sister. But like Bellafore, her love for religious life grew during her time as an undergraduate.

"Through my Foundations of Theology course and through my prayer and getting to know God better in that way, it became clear to me that God was calling me to consider [religious life]," Serena said. "The more I prayed about it, the more I learned about the Dominicans, the more it attracted me. And there just became a point where I fell in love with religious life, and during prayer one morning said, 'Yes, this is what I want to do.' And that's what I've wanted to do since."

By the time she was a sophomore, Serena had decided she wanted to join the Dominicans.

"I don't think I would have been able to discern my vocation without an image of religious life," Serena said. "And the first sisters I ever encountered were from my community, in Spain at World Youth Day. And after [God] introduced them to me it was most natural for me to begin, first of all, discerning with them. And later, meeting other religious orders, I realized that God introduced me first to the order that was right for me. It's a matter of the heart, so

I can't say exactly why I'm called to them."

Serena said there are many reasons she loves the order.

"I love the Dominicans' commitment to study," Serena said. "I love that they're the order of preachers, because I think that's so important, especially with all the people in our culture today who don't recognize Christ. They're also very monastic. I love all the traditional ways of praying, and they wear the traditional Dominican habit. But they're also very young and joyful; their average age is 30 and the average age of those who enter is 21."

"So I'm already over the average. One of the pre-postulants was asking me how I felt about being old," she said with a laugh.

To those discerning their vocation, Bellafore said the most important thing he has learned throughout the process is not to be afraid.

"Fear is not something that comes from God," Bellafore said. "He always speaks through peace. There's also no reason to be afraid because He's totally good and totally in love with you and wants nothing but what's good for you."

Serena agreed.

"I think oftentimes when people are trying to figure out God's will, they think of it as something that God knows and He won't necessarily tell them unless they do everything perfectly, or they really think about it and obsess about it," she said. "But the vocation is something that God has already implanted in you through baptism, and He actually desires for us to know our vocations more than we do ourselves. So as long as you're staying close to God through the sacraments and through prayer, He will reveal your vocation to you at the right time."

Contact Madison Jaros at
mjaros@nd.edu

Sam Bellafore
senior



quite a while, even though there were many times he said he wished he wasn't.

"I started thinking about [becoming a priest] late in high school, and you don't particularly like the idea of not getting married, or not owning very many things or having to spend every day helping other people," Bellafore said. "[Religious life is], on the face of it, not particularly attractive. And I kept finding that, on the surface level, even though it wasn't attractive, there was

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The Tom Milo Big Band

Photo by Peter Ringenberg

The class of 2015 walked onto campus Aug. 21, 2011 without apps like Snapchat, YikYak and Uber on its phones. iWatch was only used in vernacular to say things like "iWatched the Game of Thrones pilot" or "iWatched The Oprah Show finale." Like the students of the senior class, pop culture has changed a lot over these past four years. Sit down, put on some of the jams of the past four years ("Somebody That I Used To Know" seems fitting) and take a look back.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

"GIRLS" — MARCH 22, 2012

Lena Dunham's HBO show has pushed boundaries as a realistic read of four 20-somethings' careers or lack thereof in New York City. The show thrust Dunham into the foreground as a new favorite actress and writer, as well as feminist and Twitter-follow. If you have followed this show throughout your time at college, the plot may resonate more than ever now as you attempt to enter the workplace or are still "funemployed."



"THE HUNGER GAMES" — MARCH 23, 2012

"The Hunger Games" focused on the trials of heroine Katniss Everdeen, but Jennifer Lawrence came out of the film with just as much hype. Her awkward charm, french fry comments and famous falls turned her into her own brand of female heroine.

SNAPCHAT — SEPTEMBER 2011

Snapchat's release solidified the #selfie movement and inspired college kids everywhere to "do it for the story." The app's September release was a coincidental blessing, as it allowed you to send FOMO-inducing selfies to all your high school pals after you had already found some friends. With the app's frequent updates and continued relevance, it is likely most of you will still be using it to document Commencement.



"LES MISÉRABLES" — DEC. 25, 2012

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



"HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PT. 2" — JULY 15, 2011

As you were preemptively packing for college and simultaneously feeling old and nostalgic, another part of your childhood came to a close with the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Pt. 2," the eighth and final film in the series. However, the film ended with a glimpse into Harry and the gang's future, setting an inspirational tone for the class of 2015's venture to the school they picked largely because "South Dining Hall looks exactly like Hogwarts's Great Hall!"



"HARLEM SHAKE" — FEBRUARY 2013

"And do the Harlem Shake." And we did. And it was 2013 and it was great. A true horse-masked, hip-gyrating movement that had 40,000 versions uploaded to YouTube by Feb. 15 (compared to 12,000 just four days prior). Most likely you contributed to at least one of its 175 million views.

56TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS — JAN. 26, 2014

Macklemore and Ryan Lewis walked away with Grammys for Best New Artist, Best Rap Performance, Best Rap Song and Best Rap Album. Their fur-fueled bargain shopping antics somehow eclipsed Drake, Kendrick Lamar, Jay-Z and Kanye West (a.k.a. the Grammys became even more irrelevant).



ELLEN HOSTS THE OSCARS — MARCH 2, 2014

Ellen hosted The Oscars like it was a middle-school sleepover — taking selfies and ordering pizza — and subsequently won the night. Her selfie/carefully disguised Samsung ad garnered 1.2 million retweets in an hour, beating out Obama's election night photo as the most popular tweet ever.



"BEYONCÉ" — DEC. 13, 2013

The album unprecedentedly dropped in the middle of the night and shifted the entire industry of record promotion and release. The album incorporated an audio-visual medium with its short films for each song. The hype carried her to the Super Bowl where she lit up the stadium so much that the power shut off — or was it the Illuminati?



ALS ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE — SUMMER 2014

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



"FROZEN" — NOV. 27, 2013

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



"1989" TAYLOR SWIFT — OCT. 27, 2014

This album converted us all to T-Swift fans. No one is "above" her music now. However, her decision to remove her discography from Spotify in November was detrimental to house party soundtracks everywhere, leaving a "Blank Space" where "Shake It Off" once resounded.



MILEY CYRUS VMA PERFORMANCE — AUG. 25, 2013

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



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

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



Thank you for both homes



Ann Marie Jakubowski

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

Which is a better indicator of how much you love someone: tears and the ache of absence when you leave them, or the ability to pack up and leave joyfully knowing that a perfectly happy and all-around satisfactory reunion will come eventually?

That question has popped up several times during my years at Notre Dame — facing that first yawning, interminable summer after freshman year, feeling as if I had to pack up and leave my friends just as I found my rhythm here. And then, in the middle of August, gathering up all my things again and carting them down to campus just as I remembered how much I love the home I belonged to before I ever heard the phrase “home under the Dome.”

It’s no exaggeration to say this duality between loving my time on campus and longing for more time spent with family has defined my years at Notre Dame. It’s the twin desires to define myself in a new place full of former strangers and the desire to hold on to the identity and sense of direction I owe to my family and community at home. Looking back, I know there’s nothing more important I could say in my last Observer piece ever than a big, heartfelt-yet-perhaps-clichéd thank you to my parents, who offered me the chance to belong to both places.

As a parent, what would it feel like when the acceptance letter tells your child “Welcome Home” in big, exuberant letters, and yet you can’t help but think home is the place your child is leaving, not the place they’re going to? What do you say when your child calls home looking for advice on switching majors from pre-med to English, on studying abroad for a summer or a semester, on accepting an internship across the country? On choosing how to spend the next few years after college?

Remembering all my parents have done for me in each of those times I stumbled in the past four years, what can I possibly say but thank you?

At what point are the words “thank you” not enough to contain my gratitude; when do I need to couple my written platitudes with decisions and the kind of actions that proverbially speak louder? And when that time comes, what could I do that would show you the same love, compassion and support you’ve shown me time after time?

These few column inches are a shoddy start, but I want to say — with the witness of anyone else who stumbles upon this piece in print or online — thank you. Thank you for years of effort preparing me to make my way through college and, alas, make my way out of it this weekend. Thank you for saying yes to everything good in my life and for helping me say no to the opposite. Thank you for teaching me that there is a difference between right and wrong, and that the right is always within reach.

Notre Dame has become a second home for me, a home you sent me away to instead of a home you built up around me. Thank you for both of them.

Ann Marie Jakubowski is graduating with majors in English and Spanish and a minor in the Gallivant Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She would like to thank Shakira, Taylor Swift and her roommate for four years of entertainment. For book or recipe recommendations, email annmarie.jakubowski@gmail.com

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

It’s time to say goodbye



Mike Monaco

Senior Sports Writer

It’s time.

I’ve put off this one last contribution to The Observer long enough, unfairly prolonging the Senior Week days of our underclassmen working in the South Dining Hall basement.

It’s a writer’s block in a different way, equal parts not knowing how and not wanting to say these things, a fear of finality that becomes all the more real with each intermittent keystroke.

It’s time to say goodbye.

Goodbye to the most incredible group of people by which I’ve ever been and might ever be surrounded.

In high school, college is hyped up as this four-year objective, the ambiguous endgame of SATs, ACTs, AP exams, guided tours and info sessions. Then you arrive on campus, settle in, make friends and go to class, and college is more than the place you’ll spend “the best four years of your life.” It becomes your life.

Weird as I am, I’ve had those big-picture moments when I try to contextualize what we’re doing here. Tucked away in northwest Indiana, there are 8,477 undergraduate students, plus all the professors, staff and faculty, working toward goals — learning, serving, teaching. I’ve had those moments when I’ve thought I’ll never be around as talented a group of people.

But as the years went on, my thinking changed. I’ll never be around a better group of people. Yes, the talent of everyone here is remarkable. But it’s the overall quality of person that continually strikes me.

An overworked senior who carves out time to send well-wishes to a sick dining-hall worker. An underclassman who organizes uplifting messages and gifts for the family of a student that just lost a parent. A graduate who stays connected and stays available for a local fatherless teenager. A professor who pores over and questions every

word in every paper, prompting us to be better. A South Bend elementary school teacher who extends his days with rowdy students so they can receive extra tutoring.

It’s time to say thank you.

Thank you to all these wonderful people and so many more. To my parents and grandparents, who’ve given me the chance to live here and who’ve supported my every move, read my worst articles and remained my loyal (and sometimes only) broadcast listeners. To my sister, who’s always just a phone call away, whether she was living her own college years in Pennsylvania or starting her new life in the working world in Boston.

Thank you to my friends, for an endless dropbox of memories, laughs, smiles, pick-up games at the Rock, late-night conversations of opposite extremes of seriousness and walks to the Grotto. Thanks for the dorm-room radiators, Wednesday night river races, tabletop tears, unending support and understanding (I swear this is my last bit of work for The Observer).

Thank you to my co-workers and professors, and thanks for changing those labels to simply friends. Thanks for the late-night YouTube clips (Cousin Terio, looking at you) in the Observer office and the should-be-out-right-now investigative reporting (Bruno’s Night Blackout, great timing). Thanks for giving me chances, challenging me, questioning me and showing me.

It’s time. And that’s sad. That’s exciting. That’s scary. That’s fulfilling. That’s regrettable. That’s rewarding.

But there’s comfort in knowing these friendships, these memories and these years defy time.

Mike Monaco is graduating with a degree in film, television and theatre, as well as minors in the Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and business economics. He will remain a Chiptole addict and proponent of the number 42. He can be reached through jmmonaco.com

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Who I have become



Samantha Zuba

Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

I like to distance myself from the high school version of me.

She knew a lot less, balanced her life a lot less, was a lot less confident. And I don’t like that.

My fiancé wrote a column the other day though, “Four years and one lifetime ago” (April 22), that got me thinking maybe I’ve been wrong.

He reread and reflected on his college entrance essays and offered this advice: “Change in ways that would make that optimistic high school senior proud. I can only pray that my former self would approve of my new answers and who I have become.”

My first thought: “Wow, I’m glad I said ‘Yes’ when he asked me to marry him at the Grotto. He rocks.”

My next thought was that I have spent so much time disapproving of my former self that I have forgotten to wonder if she would approve of me.

When I came to Notre Dame, I was wildly optimistic about what I could accomplish. Some of it I got around to. A lot of it I didn’t. There just weren’t enough hours. But at the end of the day, I’ve learned to be proud of who I am, and I like to think the high school senior who thought I could do anything would be too.

I think she’d be proud because of what I consider the best thing I learned.

I’m the type of person who likes to plan her day down to the minute, checking off as many things as possible. I’ve learned, though, that what’s more important than how many things I get done in a day is doing every one of those things I check off with joy and my whole heart.

I’m not sure I would have received that lesson so clearly somewhere else, and that’s why I love Notre Dame.

My favorite part of my career here is that I enjoyed

fully every one of the things I did accomplish. I had professors, friends and classmates who encouraged me to think this way, to love what I invest my time in. Singing in the Women’s Liturgical Choir and working for The Observer helped too.

I’m incredibly thankful that Notre Dame encourages this kind of education of the heart. Without it, I would be much less prepared for whatever comes after my time at Notre Dame.

I know now to take 15 minutes to stop at places like the Grotto, to listen to a friend’s story about a squirrel outside the dining hall or to grab quarter dogs with my roommate. I know to invest in these moments and love each one of them.

I was always happier for it. My work came out better too. It always seemed like I had accomplished more than if I had finished my assignment a half hour earlier.

I’m glad high school me thought I could accomplish so much. I’m happy she was motivated and arrived at Notre Dame hoping to learn from anyone and anything she encountered here.

I’m just as hopeful about my future after Notre Dame.

I hope that in three years, when I graduate from law school, I can look back on the Notre Dame senior who was so hopeful and know she’d be proud.

Samantha Zuba is graduating with a degree in English, as well as a supplementary major in German and a minor in the Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She would like to thank her parents for making it possible for her to attend Notre Dame, her sister for making her laugh and her fiancé for always making her want to be a better person. In the fall, she will attend Georgetown Law and can be contacted at the email address she created as a middle-schooler, canthelpsing2@comcast.net

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

Thank you, Saint Mary's



Kelly Konya
Saint Mary's Editor Emeritus

I'll admit, it took me a while to appreciate the "all-women's school" eccentricities, which first appeared to me mostly as foibles. Everyone always talked about the "sisterhood" and the value of being a "Belle," though I saw these things as abstractions for much of my first two years as an undergraduate. But sometime in the mix, I developed a deep and unexpected passion for Saint Mary's, and as I reflect back on these four years, I can only attribute my bond to the College to the people who revealed its value and inspired the person I've become. As they say, it's always the people who make the place, and since I'm a fan of lists, I want to dedicate my last column to all those who I will forever appreciate and who made my four years the best possible:

To the friends who became my sisters — our maps would never have crossed if it weren't for this place, as we hail from distances as far-reaching as New Jersey and Los Angeles. But now, we share the Avenue, which will always lead us home, and I couldn't be happier to have shared

this road with you.

To the professors in the English department who became my mentors and scholarly family — you all have inspired me more than words, in all of their power and beauty, can describe. If I grow to be half the professor any of you are, I know I'll be doing just fine.

To my Rome girls — there's nothing like experiencing la città eterna with new friends by your side, and I wouldn't have wanted to share cappuccinos, cornettos, God Squad and Scholars with anyone else.

To the Observer staff, and especially my Saint Mary's editorship predecessor Kaitlyn Rabach and successor Haleigh Ehmsen — journalism will simply never be the same, and I'm eternally grateful for the dedication and organized chaos that harmonized in our South Dining Hall dungeon.

To the Sorin Otters of 823 Notre Dame Ave. — thank you for being great friends and even greater representations of what it is to be Notre Dame gentlemen; I'm already looking forward to seeing you all again for reunion tailgates and endless jokes.

To my parents — you have always been my

biggest fans and sent me all the support (and care packages) I could ever wish for, and I love that you love Saint Mary's as much as I do.

And lastly, to everyone else that made this place so meaningful in big or small ways: my favorite cabbie, Ollie; all of the wonderful librarians; the Queens Court girls; the staff and contributors for Chimes, our literary journal; Gwen O'Brien, our director of media relations; and Fr. John Pearson and Regina Wilson in campus ministry.

It's been a wild, sometimes stressful, busy, fulfilling and, all in all, fun four years, and I just want to say thank you to everyone who's been there through it all. Being a Belle would mean nothing without all of you.

Kelly Konya is graduating with a degree in English literature and writing. She'll continue to feed her love for poetry, fish & chips and the "craic" while studying at Trinity College Dublin next year. Any and all care packages of ramen or peanut butter are appreciated. If you want to visit, be pen pals or chat books, e-mail Kelly at kmkonya01@gmail.com

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

From hate to love: My Notre Dame story



Kevin Song
Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

I hated Notre Dame.
That's right, I said it. I hated Notre Dame at one point. Here's my story.
These aren't the words that traditionally adorn these pages of tearful, emotional and heartfelt reflections from our newest batch of college graduates, but I'm not ashamed to say them. College is filled with emotion — the links of brotherhood and sisterhood that hold us together are bonded together by our memories of failed exams, late nights in LaFun eating quarter dogs that we live to regret, heartbreak, failures on the gridiron, and yes, all of the victories too.

My first year here, I felt out of place and lost. I skipped out on Frosh-O, choosing to keep high school alive with a trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival instead. I wasn't Catholic. I hated many of my classes. Dining hall food was terrible, with few options for outside nourishment. I didn't particularly care for football. I couldn't help thinking to myself: have I made a huge mistake coming to this middle-of-nowhere place?

After a few months of feeling forlorn, I started to feel down, like I didn't belong. Everyone talks about the "Notre Dame family," and I didn't think

I was a part of it. Even the famed residence hall life felt empty and soulless to me. I've only confided this in two people before, but I spent much of my freshman year contemplating a transfer to another school and shed more than a few tears in the process. I'll spare you the details.

Soon, that all changed.

My sophomore year, I decided I was too cowardly to transfer. I moved off-campus with a few friends. I took the classes that I wanted to, not ones my First Year of Studies advisor put me in. I became more involved with The Observer and Asian American Association and immersed myself in joining new clubs and meeting new people. I told myself I was just doing this to distract myself from being unhappy, that this was just immersion therapy.

But something strange happened — I made new friends and started to actually enjoy being in South Bend. I felt happy for the first time in ages and, for the first time, felt a bit of the "Notre Dame family."

So for anyone who's reading this that feels lost at Notre Dame or anywhere else, I encourage you to try new things and find your place because everyone has one. Maybe it's not all about reaching out to your support network but sometimes about finding the right support network.

After some time, I finally found mine. And for that, I'm sorry to report that I'll need to return to the sappy traditions of these storied places.

To the friends I've made over the past four years, thank you for believing in me. To the awesome people at The Observer, whom I am eternally grateful for all I've learned and experienced, thank you for everything. To the photo department at The Observer, where I grew up, you guys are awesome, and thank you for memories.

To my wonderful girlfriend, Amanda, thank you for making me the best version of myself and staying by my side through the thick and thin, no matter what. I couldn't have done it without you.

And finally, thank you to the famed Notre Dame family that I've come to know and love.

Without each and everyone one of you, from my closest friends to people I've never met before, this wonderful place would not be the same without you.

In words that I believe in now more than ever, love thee, Notre Dame.

Kevin Song is graduating with a degree in finance, a supplementary major in computer applications, as well as a newfound love for tigers. He would like to reassure everyone reading his column that he really does love Notre Dame. If you'd ever like to chat, he will probably be somewhere up in the air on a plane at any given moment, but can be reached at hello@ksong.me

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

FR. THEODORE HESBURGH

"Notre Dame can and must be a crossroads where all the vital intellectual currents of our time meet in dialogue, where the great issues of the Church and the world today are plumbed to their depths, where every sincere inquirer is welcomed and listened to and respected by a serious

consideration of what he has to say about his belief or unbelief, his certainty or uncertainty; where differences of culture and religion and conviction can co-exist with friendship, civility, hospitality, respect and love; a place where the endless conversation is harbored and not foreclosed."

—From "The Endless Conversation" video, 1975

What makes Notre Dame special



Brian Hartnett
Managing Editor Emeritus

What is it about Notre Dame that makes this place so special and so beloved?

This is a question I have grappled with for years. It started when I was applying to colleges, and deep down, I knew Notre Dame was the place I wanted to go, even though I hardly mentioned it to others, and my visit there was far from ideal (snow in April will tend to do that).

It's a question I asked as I struggled through my freshman year, seeking to find if I would ever fit in here, and as I became more comfortable in my sophomore and junior years, to the point where I'd dread leaving the University even for just a few days.

And it's a question I was recently asked as I showed a prospective freshman around campus. He later committed here, but I don't think it was my scatterbrained answer that convinced him. And it got me thinking all over again.

Now, I could simply answer this question with Lou Holtz's quote about the mystique of Notre Dame, but that would be a Notre Dame cliché, and my attempts at being a journalist the last four years have taught me that clichés drag down a story.

Therefore, I will appeal to the investigative reporting side of journalism and provide potential solutions — ok, anecdotal evidence — that might tackle this question.

What makes Notre Dame special is what partially drew me to the University originally

— the culture, particularly in regards to campus life, is different. Where else can you live in the same building for four years surrounded by people of all different years, majors and backgrounds? Sure, there are drawbacks to residence life here, but there's also a unique sense of camaraderie and identity that results, particularly when you live on the fringes of Chicago's eastern suburbs — shoutout to Carroll Hall.

Similarly, I'll never know what human or computer decides the living arrangements at Notre Dame, but I must say they do a pretty darn good job. It never ceases to amaze me how groups of 18-year olds randomly thrown together end up developing what promise to be life-long friendships.

What makes Notre Dame special is what caused me to look up some transfer applications my freshman year — the people here are accomplished, and I got a much-needed dose of humility that year. As I went along, however, I found that many of these same people are down-to-earth and willing to lend a hand. Despite my freshman rationalizations, I also found that there is a niche here for everybody — finding it comes in the form of a class you'd never thought you'd enjoy, feedback from a professor or editor or even a compliment from a classmate.

What makes Notre Dame special is what helped me feel more ingrained in the community as I became an upperclassmen — it offers so many opportunities. From walking through Trafalgar Square every day on my way to class

in London to reporting on the improbable men's basketball run to the Elite Eight this season to making a presentation before the former president of Ireland in my last undergraduate class, I went some places and experienced some things I never expected.

And these were just some broad categories that covered my life at Notre Dame. I could go on and on about the little things — walking past the Dome, visiting the Grotto in the snow, late-night trips to Steak n' Shake, playing sand volleyball on Carroll's lawn, attending some incredible sporting events — that really do encapsulate what life is like at Notre Dame.

I fully realize that the reasons why I find Notre Dame to be special are probably not universal. My experience is different from that of the person next to me, and there are over 2,000 different stories that could be told this senior week.

But these stories, as varied as they may be, had the combined effect of making this campus a home. And perhaps that is what most sets this unique place apart.

Brian Hartnett is graduating with a degree in marketing, as well as a minor in the Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. After being a resident of Carroll Hall for four years and spending most of his free time in The Observer office the past year, he's looking forward to actually seeing the sun and having a shorter commute to work. Tweet all questions, comments and concerns to @BrianGHartnett

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

The best years of my life, so far



Isaac Lorton
Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

I didn't want to write this column. It felt too much like I was writing an obituary of my time here at Notre Dame. How do I want to be remembered?

Isaac Lorton was a 22-year-old man (child), from Prescott Valley, Arizona, who attended the University of Notre Dame. He majored in the Program of Liberal Studies and minored in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. He liked to read, talk about ideas and argue about little things for the hell of it. He is preceded by 172 Notre Dame senior classes. He is concurrently passing on to the next life with a great gang of friends and a bunch of other people he wishes he had the time to meet. He is survived by The Observer staff, the Native American Student Association, future PLS majors and about 6,000 students, 2,000 of whom will endure the same fate as him next year. He was something. He had a love-hate relationship with Notre Dame; he loved his major and minor and actually began to feel some love towards South Bend near

the end of his time here. It was kind of like Stockholm Syndrome. He would like donations to go to his roadtripping-around-the-world fund. He accepts all payments. Graduation is a ticketed event, but all are welcome to attend the memorials leading up to that day.

So that's how my obituary would read, but my time here was much more than what an obituary can convey. Yet, I don't know how to put my four years here into words well either. That's about the best I can do.

They say that college covers the best years of your life. I don't know who "they" are, but they aren't necessarily wrong, yet. I have had some amazing times at Notre Dame, in Keenan Hall, at The Observer. I'm grateful for the fantastic experiences I have had, the people I've met and the friends I have made. I don't regret sleepless nights in The Observer office, all-nighters looking out a Club Hes window writing a paper or trying to run a club without any funding. I don't regret any of my experiences here because they have been the best four years of my life up to this point. But my biggest advice to anyone crazy enough to get this far into this column is to not listen to these omniscient generalizing

"they."

I say "yet" because I hope people will go into everyday and every new year thinking this is the best year of their life. Nostalgia can be fun, but regret or living in the past can be crippling. How am I able to pick out my favorite memories when time hasn't had the opportunity to erode away the memories that matter now but won't matter in 40 years? Of course there are things that stand out in my four years, but only with time will I know if these are actually memorable memories. Maybe I am afraid my memories later in life won't be the best years of my life, but that doesn't matter because right now they are the best years of my life, and for that and for all the people who have made them so great, I am utterly grateful.

Isaac Lorton is graduating with a degree in the Program of Liberal and a minor in the Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. He would like to thank coffee and wants everyone to know it is a legal performance-enhancing drug. In the future he can be reached.

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



Congrats, Seniors!



Special thanks to graduating columnists
Alexander Caton || Austin Hagwood || William McMahon

That island of misfit toys in the centerfold



Allie Tollaksen
Scene Editor Emeritus

When I started at Notre Dame, I was convinced I was going to be a doctor. If not a doctor, I told myself, then a public health specialist. If not a public health specialist, I insisted, I'd be a success story in some other noble health-related profession. This was how I got through two years of chemistry labs.

This story is not a new one. Many of my friends have similar tales of dropping their pre-health major or abandoning engineering dreams. Notre Dame students come into this University and are told we're smart enough and disciplined enough to do anything we want. And if we can do anything we want, we think, we should do what will make us most successful, helpful or charitable.

This is all great. But what we're not told is that pasting a collage of respectable careers on the wall and blindly throwing a dart at one is probably not the best way to discern your future.

That's how I got to be a sophomore at a dorm gathering who, after struggling through a day of studying organic chemistry, decided the best

use of her time was to engage in one-sided conversations about movies and films with uninterested classmates. Picture girl walking around a dark common room touting pop-culture advice and opinions at anyone who would listen, which was no one in particular. That was me.

Finally, a brave stranger decided to give me some advice: stop barraging unsuspecting partygoers with your interests and instead find an outlet. This stranger bestowing advice, I soon learned, was The Observer's scene editor at the time. He suggested Scene as an outlet. (Thank you, Kevin.)

Two-and-a-half years later, The Observer ended up being not only a channel for my pop-culture opinions but a huge part of my life at Notre Dame. It was, at times, a service for my mental health, allowing me to say the things I couldn't yell at parties. To be fair, at other times, it proved to be a tax on my mental health, when dropped stories lead to late nights and frantically-written emails.

It was also a place to meet people interested in the things I was and be inspired by students who thought about and wrote things infinitely better than I could. And The Observer was where I found not just something I could do

but something I wanted to do. While there are more than a few articles I'm sure I won't look back on proudly (I may or may not have written a defense of Justin Bieber once), my time at The Observer set me on a path I'm excited to continue exploring after graduation.

I didn't have anything close to a typical Notre Dame experience, but being a part of Scene — that island of misfit toys in the centerfold of the newspaper — brought me closer to the University than anything else in my four years. Writing, editing and getting thrown into the chaos of a daily newspaper was an education I never anticipated as a bright-eyed, pre-health major freshman, but it's one I've come to appreciate and am thrilled to put into practice.

Allie Tollaksen is graduating with a degree in psychology and a minor in poverty studies. She would like to thank her parents, her professors and everyone who wrote for Scene, even if it was just one article she talked you into signing up for. She will be spending the next year as an au pair, writer and living cliché in Paris, but can be found on Twitter at @allietollaksen and reached via email at aktollaksen@gmail.com

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An unexpectedly rewarding experience

Keri O'Mara
Graphics Editor Emeritus

While studying in Dublin during the fall of junior year, I received an e-mail from the Graphics Editor at The Observer, expressing her interest in my joining the graphics team for the paper. I knew people that had worked at the paper in that mysterious room in the underbelly of South Dining Hall, but still felt a sense of strange sense of wonder toward the idea of becoming a part of this behind-the-scenes journalistic crew.

Joining The Observer felt like the opportunity to get an inside look at Santa's workshop, where elves were nightly editors, and instead of toys, they produced papers. So, out of curiosity and a desperate desire for some cash, I decided I'd join the graphics team upon my return to Notre Dame in the spring semester. Little did I know at the time, I would be interviewed and asked to be the new Graphics Editor only two weeks after my start at the paper. This was as much of a surprise

to me as anyone. Even more surprising, I said yes.

However, this abrupt evolution of my involvement with The Observer didn't intimidate or overwhelm me. I felt honored to be so wholly accepted and embraced into this community, despite being an inexperienced newcomer. I felt challenged to live up to the enthusiasm and hard work of prior and fellow editors. I felt excited to be able to contribute my own personal vision to the paper, to be a leader among this community and to use this role in order to understand and influence the role of graphics in the news.

Being Graphics Editor was so much more than simply sitting at a computer and making art to go along with stories. Being Graphics Editor meant late nights of deadlines and technological frustration and stress-eating gummies. It meant convincing everyone I was a real-life wizard whenever using Photoshop. It meant spending hours in a conference room conversing ideas with people dedicated to sharing voices and stories with truth and accuracy.

A year later, I can say that my somewhat impulsive acceptance of the role as Graphics Editor turned out to be one of the most unexpectedly rewarding experiences from my time at Notre Dame. A simple description of my job would be that I sat at a computer and made art to go along with stories. But the reality is that I became a part of a bigger community. A community of talented, passionate, hardworking people who are dedicated to not only to producing a newspaper, but also making it the best possible daily source of news. I feel lucky to have been a part of this community, to have had the shared experiences only those brave enough to wander into that mysterious basement office will ever be able to understand.

Keri O'Mara is a graduating senior BFA in visual communication design. If you want to share any corgi-related media with her, or just pictures of dogs in sunglasses, send it over to @keriomara on Twitter.

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

QUOTES OF THE DAY

“A college degree is not a sign that one is a finished product but an indication a person is prepared for life.”

Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C.
University president emeritus

QUOTES OF THE DAY

“Education is the guardian genius of democracy. It is the only dictator that free men recognize, and the only ruler that free men require.”

Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar
Texas politician, poet, diplomat and soldier



Congrats, Seniors!



Special thanks to graduating columnists
Christopher Newton || Amanda Peña || Timothy Scanlan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

On hearing you might transfer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We write as Notre Dame faculty members to say your struggle is our struggle. We will stand beside you, and we will denounce all forms of hate speech as intolerable and unacceptable. We wish you everything good as you consider your bright future, and we offer you our support.

Sincerely,

John Duffy
English professor
Jan. 18, 2015

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

No regrets, one request

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

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

Andrew Nachman
alumnus
Class of 1997
Jan. 16, 2013

SMC at the BCS

I found it incredibly disheartening to read the article, "Championship ticket tension" and the comments that have arisen from it. I'm a proud student at Saint Mary's, and I've been so blessed to attend the school that I do. However, I've also considered myself blessed to have Notre Dame right across the street. These two institutions have such a strong history, and it's sad that instead of this historic season bringing the communities together, it's tearing them apart.

As a Belle, I've cheered Notre Dame onto victory, along with the rest of you, and I've taken advantage of many opportunities that Notre Dame has provided through clubs and activities. These comments from Notre Dame women that I'm "only from the sister [school]" make me question whether my contributions to the Notre Dame community and the contributions of my fellow Belles go unnoticed.

Saint Mary's women are members of the Notre Dame marching band and

cheerleading squad, take pictures for The Observer and hold leadership positions in clubs and activities. Both schools boast of the great relationship and community between the two, but that community seems to fall flat in reality.

I could argue about how the ticket lottery system is fair or unfair, but in all honesty, I don't care that much about it. It's disappointing to find out that all of the contributions from Belles, both past and present, go unrecognized by members of the Notre Dame student body, as we're referred to, yet again, as "just" Saint Mary's students. Why don't we all focus on the hard work and effort that our football team has put forth and celebrate as one community with them as they head to Miami? Go Irish!

Linsey McMullen
senior
Le Mans Hall
Dec. 4, 2012

A call to remember

If you drive around my suburban, north Chicago neighborhood around Christmastime, you see a wonderful assortment of lights and decorations. You get the icicles, the beautiful wreaths, the big, bright colored bulbs, but then every few houses or so you see something different. Warm pink lights, wrapped around a bush or two, contrast the typical reds and greens of the seasons and piqued my curiosity back in 2010 when they first began to appear. I asked my Mom why all these houses had pink lights, to which she solemnly responded, "They're for Lizzy."

I write this article due to the recent statements by Prince Shembo, a former linebacker for Notre Dame, claiming himself innocent of the alleged sexual battery of a Saint Mary's student named Lizzy Seeberg in fall of 2010. Ten days after the events, she committed suicide. Lizzy lived and grew up in my hometown of Northbrook, Ill., which is why I heard the story in the first place. I never knew Lizzy, but I did know some of her relatives through my school and my community.

The death of this young woman and following inquiry into the events left my community devastated and heartbroken. I'm sure some were wondering how this could've happened, why Notre Dame was being portrayed in such a bad light, what texts like, "Messing with Notre Dame football is a bad idea" mean in the context of a girl's life.

And here's the truth: I don't know. I don't know the details. I can't and won't pass judgment on Shembo, on how Notre Dame should have handled the issue, what the culture of football at this University means, who said what, what the big story is. All I really know is that Lizzy is gone, and this tragic fact is the only thing that matters in the end.

But the reason why I'm really concerned is this: I was talking with a few friends the other day, and someone in conversation said something along the lines of, "Oh, did you hear that they found out more about the football player involved in the sexual assault a few years ago?" I responded with an "Oh, really?," didn't give it a second thought and moved on with my day. Only later when I found out that this was Lizzy Seeberg in question did I care to give it a second glance.

Am I that quick to forget? I clearly remember the details as they occurred back in 2010, I remember how distraught the community was, and I remember thinking about how close to home the whole situation felt, despite my obvious distance from the events. I heard what my friend said about a football player and threw it away like it was nothing. I strongly feel this is not something our community as a whole can simply forget, but I didn't care until it directly related to me. But what about people who this didn't relate to? Is our community as a whole so numb to alleged forms of violence such as this?

I'm referring not just to athletes and the football program, but the campus as a whole after several sexual assault incidents this year. I would hope that for the amount we talk about the Notre Dame family we actually support this claim when people's lives and dignity are at stake; this suicide is not something we should forget. The "One is Too Many" movement is an excellent start and is something that I fully put my weight behind. But it doesn't change the fact that any kind of disregard for these events is a crime against the victim and her family and is something of which I myself am guilty.

No, I never knew Lizzy Seeberg or Prince Shembo, and maybe this article is just a useless reminder of a terrible tragedy from which Notre Dame and the Seeberg family would like to move on. But right after reading Shembo's statement, I remembered the pink lights that I saw this year and that I will see every time I return home during Christmas. I have a reminder of Lizzy. What will it take for Notre Dame to remember as well?

Danny Martin
sophomore
Knott Hall
Feb. 26, 2014



The Alliance for Catholic Education is proud to welcome its twenty-second class of Catholic school teachers.

We give thanks for their gift of service to America's Catholic schools. Please join us in congratulating the following 2015 graduates of Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame.

Welcome ACE 22!

Alexaundria Barnes
Serving Oklahoma City

Anthony Barrett
Serving Denver

Madeline Basil
Serving Peoria

Brendan Bell
Serving Sacramento

Alexander Boehm
Serving Indianapolis

Joseph Brogan
Serving Mission, Texas

Grace Carroll
Serving Biloxi

Erin Celeste
Serving St. Petersburg

Marissa Cirillo
Serving Denver

Ashley Currey
Serving Los Angeles

Emily Frydrych
Serving St. Petersburg

John Fuller
Serving Memphis

Olivia Furman
Serving New Orleans

Grace Girardot
Serving Los Angeles

John Groden
Serving Dallas

Timothy Hankins
Serving Memphis

Emma Henderson
Serving San Jose

Edward Jurkovic
Serving Tucson

James Kelly
Serving Peoria

Theodore Korolyshun
Serving Chicago

Rebecca Kudija
Serving Mobile

Erin Lavin
Serving Oklahoma City

Kathryn Moran
Serving Indianapolis

Maria Murphy
Serving Corpus Christi

Mary Ostrowski
Serving Dallas

Margaret Prakel
Serving Tucson

Mikaela Prego
Serving Denver

Joseph Rhee
Serving Los Angeles

Anthony Springmann
Serving Fort Worth

Emily Voorde
Serving Biloxi

Cassidy Whidden
Serving Dallas

Mary Wickert
Serving Indianapolis

Saint Mary's seniors receive service awards

By **NICOLE CARATAS** and
STEPHANIE SNYDER
News Writers

Four Saint Mary's graduates from the class of 2015 were honored with unique C.S.C. awards for service in a variety of disciplines. The C.S.C. awards are given by the Office of Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) to students who are devoted to community-based learning and volunteering.

The mission of the College is to discern needs and respond, and each award is a tribute to the mission of the founders of Saint Mary's, according to a press release. Appropriately, five of the seven C.S.C. awards are named for Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Sister Christine Healy Award

The Sister Christine Healy, C.S.C. Award for Service with Women was awarded to political science major Kaitlyn Rabach. *(Editor's note: Rabach served as Saint Mary's Editor for The Observer from 2013-2014).*

According to Laura Elder, assistant professor of global

Kaitlyn Rabach
political science major



studies and intercultural studies, this award is given "to honor Saint Mary's College Students who provide significant support to women in the community."

Rabach began serving women as soon as she came to Saint Mary's, Elder said.

"Just after she arrived [on campus], she was interested in human trafficking and organized a series of sessions on what you can do here on campus and at the international level," Elder said. "She volunteered at three different organizations throughout her time here. What she was doing was citizenship classes, language classes and general support for women and children."

Even with her heavy course load and extracurriculars, Rabach was dedicated in everything she did, Elder said.

Elder also included Rabach's dedication to The Observer in her nomination.

"I consider that service to women as well which is education, information, and thoughtful articulate dialogue," she said. "It's getting the word out there."

Rabach said she was honored to receive the award.

"I was really honored

to get this award because throughout my time at Saint Mary's, I really focused on this idea of a feminist education," Rabach said. "A lot of my service work as well as my course load has been tailored towards women's issues ... and helping others find their own agency."

"This award was really meaningful to me in the fact that my work has been recognized as having some sort of impact on women's issues in both the South Bend and the larger global community," she said. "It was a great honor to have two of my professors recognize the work I've been doing over the past four years."

Sister Olivia Marie Hutcheson Award

Nursing major Sarah Hossfeld received the Sister Olivia Marie Hutcheson, C.S.C. Award for Service in the Health Field.

Associate professor of nursing Annette Peacock-Johnson said she believes Hossfeld deserves the award because of the service she provided through raising awareness and creating programs regarding healthy body image for young girls at St. Margaret's House in South Bend. Hossfeld organized events for the Girls' Club and engaged young girls in activities to give positive reinforcement and good role models as they grow up.

"Sarah is a true trailblazer," Peacock-Johnson said. "She did not wait for others to come forward and create a program where she could volunteer. Instead, Sarah identified the need and created a program in outreach to the local community."

Associate professor of nursing Ella Harmeyer said Hossfeld's drive, initiative and expertise were evident

Sarah Hossfeld
nursing major



and obvious in her nursing clinicals.

Additionally, Harmeyer said it was an honor to present her with this award because of "Sarah's well-rounded science knowledge base in nursing, her compassionate care of patients and families and especially her vision for what is public health nursing at its best."

Hossfeld said she was humbled to win the award.

"I love all the work I did in the community, and I think it's safe to say that, in most

cases, I learned more than I taught other people or gave back to the community," Hossfeld said. "I think I gained a lot from my experiences. I felt very blessed that the nursing department and those who nominated me felt that what I had done was important enough for this award."

Hossfeld said winning the award gave her a sense of validation in knowing her work made a difference in the lives of other people.

"Service work is just so needed," she said. "It's something that I hope to continue to do in my life, whether I'm recognized for it or not."

Sister Olivette Whalen Award

The Sister Olivette Whalen C.S.C. Award for General Service was awarded to Jaclyn Voltz, a biology major. This award is given to a Saint Mary's student for her exemplary service involvement in the areas of civic engagement, environmental concern, animal welfare, criminal justice, hunger, homelessness and community development.

As the president of the ser-

Jaclyn Voltz
biology major



vice club, Circle K, at Saint Mary's, and a resident advisor in Le Mans Hall, Voltz has experience serving the community both on and off the Saint Mary's campus.

"I make sure girls get to have the opportunity to leave the Saint Mary's bubble and go to South Bend to do service," Voltz said.

Amy Gillan, assistant professor in the education department, and Kimber Nelson, newly-appointed Circle K president, both nominated Voltz for the award.

Gillan met Voltz in her secondary education science methods course this past fall. They worked together, along with two Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) secondary science education students, in support of the local Green Bridge Growers social justice initiative to create a curriculum on aquaponics — a water purification system intended for autistic students.

During this time, Gillan said she was able to see Voltz's devotion to the community as well as her desire to get others involved.

"I am impressed with

Jaclyn's boundless energy when it comes to sharing her strengths and passions with those in the Saint Mary's community and beyond," Gillan said. "Jaclyn clearly thrives on serving others and reflects leadership and optimism in doing so."

After Voltz's two years as Circle K president, Nelson will take over for the 2015-2016 school year. Before leaving, Voltz had a significant role in helping Nelson create a plan for the club next year, she said.

"I have super huge shoes to fill; Jackie has been awesome all year," Nelson said. "I definitely look up to her."

Voltz said she did not expect to receive the award at all.

"I was very surprised," Voltz said. "Doing service is more of a fun stress-relieving activity for me; I was surprised to receive an award."

She attributed her achievement to her Saint Mary's education.

"Saint Mary's definitely gave me the confidence to pursue these leadership roles," Voltz said. "I don't think I would've been able to do this without my Saint Mary's education."

After graduation, Voltz will be headed to Komga, South Africa, to work with 57 children in a home that was started by Notre Dame alumni. She will be there for a year to work on starting an after-school tutoring program for the children.

While she is in South Africa, Voltz is hoping to stay in touch with Nelson to begin a pen pal program for the children with the help of Circle K, Nelson said.

Sister Maria Concepta McDermott Award

Senior education major Angelina Lazovich received the Sister Maria Concepta

Angelina Lazovich
education major



McDermott, C.S.C. Award for Service in Education.

Lazovich was nominated by Dr. Nancy Turner, the chair of the education department, for her work with the new organization Students Supporting Autism at Saint Mary's.

Lazovich has been working with Turner since the end of the 2013-2014 school year to establish the club. According to Lazovich, it was Turner's idea to begin the club at Saint Mary's. Turner asked for volunteers

to help, and Lazovich was eager to join.

The mission of Students Supporting Autism is to spread awareness of autism to the local community and to raise funds for two local autism organizations.

"I loved the idea of spreading awareness to the campus community and raising funds that would go to local centers to support families," Lazovich said.

Turner, Lazovich and Students Supporting Autism managed to raise over \$1,300 for those affected by autism in the first year of the club.

"It is very important that people be educated on the topic and that we do what we can to help families who might not know much about autism yet themselves if they have a family member who is just being diagnosed," Lazovich said. "I think Dr. Turner and the College recognized our efforts to increase awareness and raise funds for the families in the community and gave me this honor because of the work I was able to do with the club this year."

Lazovich said her long-term goal is to get her master's degree in special education and become a special education teacher so she can directly help students with autism. Until she can attend graduate school, she hopes to continue to spread awareness.

"I hope to inspire my students in the same ways that Saint Mary's has inspired me, by teaching them that their dreams can come true," Lazovich said. "I also want to continue to spread awareness about autism and teach my students to be respectful and accepting of everyone."

Lazovich attributed her achievement to both the education and opportunities Saint Mary's provided her.

"Saint Mary's has helped turn me into a better leader, listener, student, teacher, friend and overall person," Lazovich said. "I am so grateful to the College for their support in our endeavors all year."

Lazovich said she is proud of everything Students Supporting Autism has accomplished.

"I wish that I could share the award with all of the members, because without them, none of our success would have been possible," Lazovich said. "I am so sad to see my time here end, but I will keep all of the lessons that I have learned here in my heart forever."

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ND ROTC commission next year's officers

By **ANDREA VALE**
News Writer

The new Army ROTC officers for Notre Dame's upcoming 2015-2016 academic year have recently been announced and will be commissioned during a ceremony Saturday.

"It's been a fantastic academic year, and the seniors did a great job leading the Fightin' Irish Battalion and mentoring the underclass cadets," Lieutenant Colonel John Polhamus, Notre Dame's professor of military science, said, "This past year the cadets participated in many activities including ... the Military Appreciation Football Game, a Veteran's Day vigil and ceremony,

multiple field training exercises, a military staff ride to Gettysburg, participation in Father Ted's funeral activities and an Army Ball."

The newly announced officers include cadets from several nearby colleges and universities; Notre Dame, Holy Cross College, Saint Mary's College, Bethel College, Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) and Valparaiso University,

Although some of the cadets do not attend the University, they are all a part of the Notre Dame ROTC program, Polhamus said.

"Our ceremony is a joint commission ceremony for all services and all schools," he said. "All other schools provide a representative leader



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

University midshipmen (left) and cadets (right) line Saint Mary's Road to honor the life of Fr. Hesburgh during the funeral procession March 4. Many students, faculty and staff joined the procession.

to participate in the ceremony as part of the stage party — [University Executive Vice President] John Affleck-Graves is Notre Dame's representative. Even though some of the cadets go to other schools ... we hold one big commissioning ceremony."

According to Polhamus, 13 cadets are being commissioned to Second Lieutenants.

From Notre Dame, the following cadets will be commissioned:

- Eric Peace, who will commission into active duty and become an Infantry Officer.
- John Pearl, who will commission into active

duty and become a Field Artillery Officer.

- Colin O'Shea, who will commission into active duty and become an Infantry Officer.
- Chris Croushore, who will commission into active duty and become an Infantry Officer.
- Catherine Hogan, who will commission into active duty and become a Signal Corps Officer.
- Connor Rademaker, who will commission into the National Guard and become a Quartermaster Officer.
- Michael Loftus, who will commission into active duty and become a Field Artillery Officer.

From Valparaiso University, the following cadets will be commissioned:

- Angelina Goheen, who will commission into the Army Reserve and become a Medical Service Corps Officer.
- David Ramer, who will commission into the Army Reserve and become an Ordnance Officer.
- Nicole Maenza, who will commission into the National Guard and become a Transportation Officer.

From Saint Mary's, cadet Meghan McVeigh will commission as an Active Duty Nurse.

From Bethel College, cadet Chelsea Ward will commission into the Army Reserve and become a Military Police Officer.

From IUSB, cadet Ray Donovan will commission into active duty and become an Armor Officer.

All 13 cadets will be commissioned during a ceremony Saturday at 9 a.m. at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The ceremony will be held by the Tri-Military Notre Dame ROTC and presided over by Lieutenant General David Halverson, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Installation and Management Command.

"As their professor of military science for the last four years, I'm very proud of the class of 2015," Polhamus said, "I'm very confident that they will be outstanding military officers, and I'm excited to hear about their future successes. They are fit and ready to join the Army team, and I wish all of them the best of luck in their careers."

Contact Andrea Vale at
avale@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

University President Fr. John Jenkins shakes hands with junior cadet Peter Noell at the annual Pass in Review on April 15.

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SMC senior chronicles life of South Bend resident

Observer Staff Report

Graduating senior Morgan Carroll will remember Saint Mary's for her education and experiences, but most especially her connection with South Bend resident Sheila Muhammad.

The interaction between Carroll and Muhammad started because of Muhammad's desire to leave a written legacy for her family about her challenges and triumphs since she was first diagnosed with AIDS 25 years ago, according to a press release from the College.

Muhammad expressed her wish to share her life's story, her longtime friend Holy Cross Sister Linda Bellemore said. Bellemore then reached out to the College and assistant professor of communication studies Marne Austin, who taught a class about chronicling oral histories.

When Austin told the class there was an opportunity for someone to document Muhammad's story, Carroll and Faye Kennedy of Stillwater, Minnesota, who graduated in 2014 with a degree in business administration, volunteered.

Muhammad lost her sight in 1995 due to CMV, or cytomegalovirus, which she may have contracted because of her compromised immune system. Muhammad said in the press release she wanted to leave a legacy for her three children and six grandchildren, as well as other people battling AIDS.

"I wanted to leave something for my kids about my life and help others who have the virus and are dealing with the struggles I went through," Muhammad said.

Muhammad said a positive attitude keeps her going each day.

"I try to keep positive. I put one foot in front of the other. My motto: 'Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something.' I try everything. I am a fighter," Muhammad said in the press release. "I've been employed by Sodexo at Holy Cross College for 12 years — I wash dishes. I try to be as normal as I can be. Losing my sight does not mean I lose my ability to work."

Carroll felt the desire to talk with Muhammad because of her own personal experience with vision problems. According to the College press release, Carroll was born with a condition that could have left her blind, if not for surgeries at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

"This experience has put my personal situation into perspective and helped me appreciate the vision I have been blessed with. Sheila is truly a role model in the way she lives her life despite the many challenges she faces," Carroll said in the press release. "I deeply appreciate all that she has [taught] me."

According to the press release, the project of chronicling Muhammad's story left an impact on Carroll.

"Each time I left Sheila's house, I got a deeper understanding of how amazing she is. Her inspiring attitude and outlook lifted my spirits. She is one of the biggest inspirations in my time at Saint Mary's," Carroll said.

Bellemore remembers the moment when Carroll and Kennedy presented Muhammad with the finished product, according to the press release.

"Witnessing Sheila's excitement that her greatest wish for her anticipated short life was fulfilled, and hearing her expressed gratitude for a task that she had been unable to accomplish herself, confirmed for me that the mission of Saint Mary's College is alive and impacting our world," Bellemore said in the press release. "Indeed, these women were prepared to make a difference in the world, and they already are."



Photo courtesy of Gwen O'Brien

Sister Linda Bellemore (left) introduced South Bend resident Sheila Muhammad (center) and SMC senior Morgan Carroll. Carroll recorded and transcribed Muhammad's life story for Muhammad's children.

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COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND 2015

Dear Graduates,

Prayers and best wishes to members of the Class of 2015! On behalf of the University, thank you for the many and varied contributions you have made to this community. I hope that your time at Notre Dame has been fruitful and complete with opportunities to enrich not only your mind, but your heart. Today, we join in celebration of your accomplishments.

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

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

In Notre Dame,



Erin Hoffmann Harding
Vice President for Student Affairs

YEAR IN REVIEW

AUG. 25, 2014: FOOTBALL TEAM VOTES TO SING ALMA MATER AT HOME GAMES REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME

ON AUG. 25, NOTRE Dame football players voted to join their peers in singing the Alma Mater after every home game, win or lose, for the 2014 season.

Unity Council of the Notre Dame football team met with members of student government to finalize their decision, which the council had been discussing with the football team for several weeks, according to sophomore receiver Corey Robinson. Robinson also served as the athletics representative to student government.

The Football Unity Council will revisit the decision at the start of each season, according to student body president emeritus Lauren Vidal.



OCT. 9, 2014: NOTRE DAME, SAINT MARY’S EXTEND BENEFITS TO SAME-SEX SPOUSES OF EMPLOYEES

ON OCT. 6, THE U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear appeals of decisions striking down bans on same-sex marriage, making same-sex marriage recognized under Indiana law.

In accordance with this decision, Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s extended benefits to all legally married spouses, including same-sex spouses. While the University endorsed a Catholic definition of marriage, it would follow the relevant civil law, the University announced in an email to staff on Oct. 9.

“Apart from these questions and any legal obligations, however, we recognize an urgent call to welcome, support and cherish gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, who have been too often marginalized and even ostracized, and many of whom bear the scars of such treatment,” University President Fr. John Jenkins said. “At Notre Dame, we have undertaken initiatives to support and welcome gay and lesbian members of our community. These efforts must not and will not flag.

“Our abiding goal, rather, is to learn better how to love one another and together build a less imperfect community of love,” he said. “That is the mission of Notre Dame, and we remain committed to it.”

JAN. 15, 2015: ESPN FILES A LAWSUIT AGAINST NDSP

ESPN FILED A LAWSUIT against Notre Dame on Jan. 15 after Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) refused to grant ESPN reporter Paula Lavigne’s requests for incident reports related to student-athletes on two separate instances. ESPN claimed the University’s refusal to release campus police records violated Indiana’s Access to Public Records Act (APRA).

A verdict was issued in Notre Dame’s favor by St. Joseph Superior Court Judge Steven Hostetler on April 20. The case hinged on whether or not Indiana law considered NDSP to be a public agency.

In his ruling, Hostetler wrote the Court considers Notre Dame and other universities that appoint campus police officers to be “state actors,” not public agencies.

Indiana Public Access Counselor (PAC) Luke Britt issued two separate opinions, in October 2014 and January 2015, stating that he considered NDSP to be a public agency and subject to APRA. Britt’s opinions differed from previous opinions issued by Indiana PACs in 2003, 2009 and 2011.

Hostetler wrote that he shared discomfort with Britt about the notion of a private party exercising police powers without having to provide its records to the public. However, he said the current version of APRA cannot be interpreted to apply to private colleges and universities.

FEB. 17, 2015: COMMENCEMENT TO BE HELD IN STADIUM

IN A TOWN HALL meeting on Feb. 17, University President Fr. John Jenkins said the Commencement ceremony location change comes due to a relatively mild winter, which led to better-than-expected progress on the Campus Crossroads project.

“Campus Crossroads won’t be finished,” Jenkins said of the project. “There will be a little inconvenience, but I’m sure it will be minimal, and it will be a great Commencement.”

Jenkins said he “can’t speak definitively” on the location of the 2016 Commencement, but did not rule out the possibility of having the event in Notre Dame Stadium.

FEB. 26, 2015: UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT EMERITUS FR. THEODORE HESBURGH DIES AT 97 YEARS OLD



UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT EMERITUS FR. Theodore Hesburgh, whose unprecedented 35-year tenure as president of Notre Dame revolutionized the University, making him one of the most influential figures in higher education, and whose dedication to social issues brought him world wide recognition, died Feb. 26. He was 97.

When Hesburgh became the 15th president of Notre Dame in 1952, the University was comprised of all males. Notre Dame was owned and operated by the Holy Cross Order with an endowment of \$9 million and yearly student aid to tuition at \$20,000.

When Hesburgh retired in 1987, Notre Dame’s student body included both men and women, with a total enrollment of 8,477 in 2014. He transitioned the school’s governance to a combined board of lay and religious trustees that still operates the University today. The endowment had grown to \$350 million over 35 years and student aid hit \$40 million.

His presidency transformed the school into the top-tier educational institution it is today. But Hesburgh was, first and foremost, a simple priest.

“I would say if there is one thing that my whole life has been dedicated to, I’ve been a priest now for about 70 years, and I would hope they remember me as a priest,” Hesburgh told The Observer in May 2013.

“‘Fr. Ted’ is the best title I have. Not ‘former president of the University of Notre Dame.’”

APRIL 10, 2015: NOTRE DAME, SAINT MARY’S SHOW ‘THE HUNTING GROUND’ ON CAMPUS

IN SPRING 2015, CNN released “The Hunting Ground,” a documentary on campus sexual assault that featured Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s among other prominent universities. Both the University and the College hosted screenings of the film followed by panel discussions addressing sexual assault on both campuses.

SMC President Carol Ann Mooney hosted a closed conversation April 28 with students and announced a Presidential Taskforce that will include students, faculty and administration to discuss how to properly handle and address sexual assault on the SMC campus.

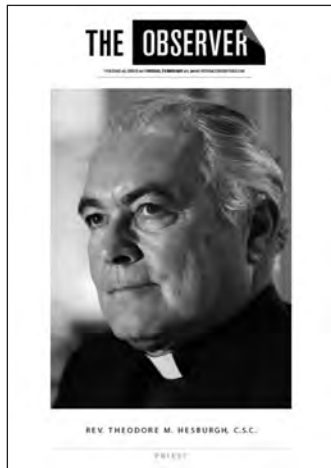
Notre Dame showed the documentary April 17, followed by a panel discussion.

The University held a second panel April 20 to hear about the “University community perspective on the film,” director of the Gender Relations Center Christine Caron Gebhardt said.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

The top Observer news stories from 2011 to 2015

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh dies at 97



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

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

reflections at the memorial service for Hesburgh on March 4 in Purcell Pavilion.

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

Martin W. Rogers, class of 1988; former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and former Pennsylvania Sen. Harris Wofford.

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

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

evaders, third-world development and immigration reform.

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

Eight ND, SMC students lost in four years

Fifth year student Xavier Murphy died Oct. 11, 2011 after a battle with leukemia. Murphy was a student manager for the football team. His story caused the men of Zahm to start the "Raise an X for X" campaign and hold blood drives in his honor.

Two students died in unrelated cases in 2012. Saint Mary's sophomore Ziqi Zhang died on Oct. 18, 2012 from injuries caused by a collision between her bike and an SUV

outside of Saint Mary's entrance on State Road 933. Zhang was a dual-degree student at Saint Mary's who also took engineering classes at Notre Dame.

First year master's student Michael Thigpen, aged 23, died on the morning of Nov. 13 at his off-campus residence. Thigpen was professional musician who is remembered by his loved ones for his caring nature and desire to help people.

In 2013, Connor Sorensen died on Dec. 20 after a lifelong battle with lung diseases among other health-related issues. Sorensen, who graduated early despite his deteriorating health, was described by his friends as relentless and motivated to find cures for diseases due to his personal experiences.

In 2014, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's lost two students. Akash Sharma, a third year Ph.D. student in chemical and biomolecular

engineering, died Jan. 1. Sharma was from India and served as a teaching assistant.

Saint Mary's first-year Madelyn Stephenson died Jan. 3 when her car was hit on the driver's side by a semi-tractor. Friends and family described her as a shy, smart girl with a passion for learning Arabic.

In the spring of 2015, Notre Dame lost two students. Sophomore Daniel Kim was found dead in his off-campus residence on the

afternoon of Feb. 6, 2015. Kim, a New Jersey native, was a business student and former fencer. His friends remember him as humorous and academically involved.

Senior and finance major Lisa Yang died on March 3, 2015 after what was ruled a suicide by the St. Joseph County Coroner's Office. Yang was a resident of McGlinn Hall. Friends said Yang had a distinctive laugh and was naturally good at anything she tried.

Notre Dame initiates suit over HHS mandate

Aug. 24, 2012



On May 21, 2012, Notre Dame filed a lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate that requires employers to provide contraceptive services in their minimum health insurance plans.

The Supreme Court remanded the case to the court of appeals on March 9, 2015.

University recognizes LGBTQ organization

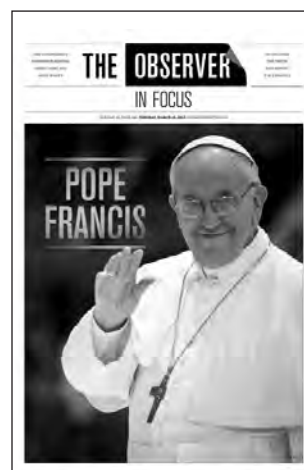
Dec. 5, 2012



On Dec. 5, 2012, the University released a formal statement informing the public of the result of a five-month review process that resulted in increased administrative support for students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning, including the recognition of the student organization now known as PrismND.

Students abroad witness papal election

March 19, 2013



On March 13, 2013, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now known as Pope Francis, was chosen to succeed Pope Benedict after two weeks of deliberation by the conclave of cardinals. Pope Francis is the first Pope from Latin America and the third consecutive non-Italian to hold the position. Many Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students abroad were for his holiness' historic selection.

University unveils Campus Crossroads

Jan. 24, 2014



The University announced the "Campus Crossroads Project" on Jan. 24, 2014. The \$400 million undertaking is a large renovation to the stadium which will include the addition of new classrooms, recreational facilities, meeting rooms, and a new student center. The project is meant to bring every element of campus life together in a central location.

Mendoza ranks No. 1 for fifth consecutive year

April 9, 2014



For the fifth year in a row, the Mendoza College of Business ranked No. 1 among undergraduate business schools by Bloomberg Businessweek.

Mendoza dean Roger Huang said the continued success speaks to the Mendoza's commitment to equipping graduates new skill sets that help them in the global marketplace.

ESPN sues Notre Dame for record access

Jan. 22, 2015



On Jan. 15, 2015, ESPN filed a lawsuit against Notre Dame claiming NDSP officials violated Indiana's public records law by refusing to release campus police records. On April 20, 2015, a judge ruled in favor of Notre Dame in the lawsuit stating that Indiana's Access to Public Records Act does not apply to private universities that appoint police officers.

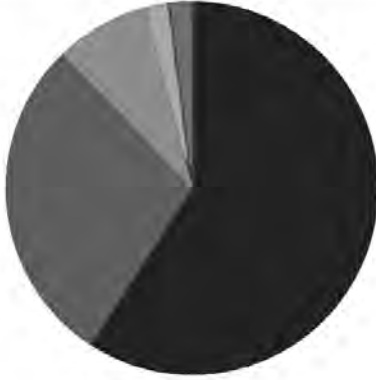
ND, SMC seniors to volunteer, enter workforce

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME POST-GRADUATION PLANS

From post-graduation survey of the class of 2014

- 58% full-time employment
- 28% graduate or professional school
- 8% service programs
- 2% military
- 2% still seeking employment

(results for the class of 2015 will not be available for several months)



ERIN RICE | The Observer

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE POST-GRADUATION PLANS

From post-graduation survey of the class of 2015

- 274/320 responded – 85.6%
- 52.6% entering the workforce
- 26.6% graduate school
- 10.1% internships and externships
- 6.1% service
- <.5% going into military

ERIN RICE | The Observer

58 percent of Notre Dame seniors secured full-time employment in 2014; numbers expected to stay the same for 2015

By **EMILY McCONVILLE**
Associate News Editor

This August, computer science major Tera Joyce will head to Seattle. She'll be a software developer for Microsoft, writing code for the Office 365 platform.

"I think the position will be really exciting but testing," she said. "I am definitely excited for the new adventure but nervous about the challenges I am sure I will have to face."

Joyce is one of many Notre Dame seniors entering the workforce after graduation. Nationally, the job market is friendlier — employers are 9.6 percent more likely to hire new college graduates than they were last year, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, and this is no different for Notre Dame graduates, director of Notre Dame's Career Center Hilary Flanagan said.

Each year, the Career Center and the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research conduct a "First Destination" survey on what members of each class do after they graduate. Data for the class of 2015 will not be available for several more months, but Flanagan said she does not anticipate any major deviations from previous years.

58 percent of 2014 graduates, for example, secured full-time employment after graduation, according to the survey, though percentages vary widely from college to college. Nearly 28 percent chose graduate or professional school, eight percent participated in a service program, two percent went into the military and two percent were still seeking employment. Flanagan said Notre Dame graduates differ from college graduates nationally both in terms of what they decide to do and where they decide to do it.

"We tend to have a greater percentage of students who commit to service experiences as their first destination than the national average," Flanagan said. "I would not anticipate a change on that data point. Our graduates also tend to spread out geographically and throughout industries in more diverse patterns than the national average. This would also

likely stay the same this year."

Many seniors seek the help of the Career Center's services, Flanagan said.

"Typical results in the senior survey conducted by Institutional Research show that over 80 percent of seniors use the Career Center for their job searches," Flanagan said. "Of course, the majority of seniors connect with our services in some way, whether they are conducting a job or graduate school search."

Joyce said the hiring process with Microsoft began at Notre Dame with the Career Center's Engineering Industry Day in September.

"I applied for the position there and got my first interview on campus a few weeks later," she said. "After the local interviews, I flew out to Seattle to do an on-site interview with the team I will be working for."

Other graduating seniors plan to pursue a postgraduate degree in order to improve their job prospects. Jiatai Zhang, who majored in accounting and mathematics, will attend a three-semester Master of Science in computational finance program at Carnegie Mellon University.

Zhang, who is from Shenzhen, China, said he chose the program partly because of its strong placement rate in the financial services industry, but also because he will apply for an H-1B visa after he graduates. The temporary visa allows people to work in the U.S. in "specialty occupations" like science or technology if an employer sponsors them, and those with graduate degrees have a better chance of getting a visa.

"Due to the H-1B lottery process, only 25 percent to 30 percent of international students who found jobs will be able to work in the U.S.," Zhang said. "The odds are better for students who have Masters or PhDs, due to [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] policies. The fact that the program falls into the STEM category — science, technology, engineering, mathematics — also helps with the visa process."

Zhang said the program will help him both find and keep a job.

"The program has an established brand name among

financial services professionals, so that part really helps," he said. "Also, the skills taught through the program are very practical and used in the real world. In other words, you won't find a course useless when you start working in the real world."

While Zhang is going to graduate school in order to get a job, others are getting jobs in order to prepare for further education. Brenna Gautam, who majored in history and peace studies, said she will work for the geopolitical consulting firm Wikistrat for the next year while she applies to law school. Gautam said she found out about the organization, which bills itself as a "crowdsourced consulting" company, while she was working in Washington, D.C. last summer.

"It was very much word of mouth," she said. "After that, I read up on the company, reached out to them online and started finding out more through one of their recruiters."

Gautam said she will edit policy recommendations and analyses, as well as participate in "crowdsourced simulations," which help government agencies predict and plan for various political, economic and military scenarios.

"Participation in the simulations requires researching the issue and contributing written analyses, which are then aggregated into a final analysis," Gautam said. "So it will change on a day-to-day basis, depending on what the geopolitical issue being examined is."

She said she will apply to law schools this fall, and she is considering working with the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement to apply for a Fulbright scholarship to go to Kosovo. Her goal is to go into international law.

"I'm very interested in space law and cyber law and have been speaking to advisers and mentors about post-law school opportunities in these fields," she said. "Ideally, a dream job would be legal advising in those fields through the U.S. government."

Contact Emily McConville at emcconvl@nd.edu

Saint Mary's office of institutional research conducts post-graduate survey; more than 52.6 percent employed

By **HALEIGH EHMSSEN**
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's Office of Institutional Research conducted the annual "Graduation Destination Survey" to find out what students are doing after graduation.

According to the survey, of the 320 women in the class of 2015, 274 responded for a response rate of 85.6 percent.

The data showed that 52.6 percent of the class of 2015 will enter the workforce, 26.6 percent will go on to graduate school, 10.1 percent will participate in externships and internships, and 6.1 percent have committed to voluntary service. Director of Career Crossings Stacie Jeffirs said compared to last year's survey, the number of students pursuing voluntary service is just about the same. She said the number was 6.1 percent this year and 6.8 percent last year, which is the equivalent of about a two-student difference.

The results showed that 4.3 percent answered "other" to the survey. Jeffirs said the other category includes fellowships, continuing at Notre Dame to obtain an engineering degree, starting a business or entrepreneurship and other plans.

The survey revealed less than .5 percent will go on to military service.

Jeffirs said the survey data is representative of Saint Mary's mission.

"The College prepares students to go out and pursue wherever their passions may lie, whether this is a workplace setting through employment or post-grad internships/externships, graduate/professional school, military service or voluntary service," Jeffirs said.

After graduating, senior Marissa Pié will work at

Southwest Airlines corporate headquarters in Dallas, Texas. Pié interned with Southwest last summer.

"I've accepted a job in the marketing department on the Customer Segment and Engagement team," Pié said. "After such an incredible internship experience with the company, I could not be more excited to get to work."

Pié said Saint Mary's has gone above and beyond in terms of preparing her for the workforce.

"It was at Saint Mary's that I discovered my confidence, learned how to effectively communicate and maintain relationships and pushed myself to reach my full potential," she said.

Before Saint Mary's, Pié said she lacked self-confidence and was afraid to speak her mind.

"Saint Mary's has equipped me not only with technical and professional knowledge, but a sense of self-assurance that I am sure will transcend into the workplace," she said. "Receiving a liberal arts education pushed me, but also made me realize I could do anything with a little bit of hard work."

Pié said professors at Saint Mary's have become friends and confidants. The whole college community supports and encourages growth of students, she said.

"Everyone here wants you to succeed and will go that extra mile in order for that to happen," she said. "Additionally, Saint Mary's taught me the importance of taking risks and leaving my comfort zone. After returning from a semester abroad in Seville, Spain as a mere sophomore, I could tell my perspective and world view would be forever changed."

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FOOTBALL | 8-5

Irish end 2014 with bowl victory after late woes

By **MARY GREEN**
Assistant Managing Editor

A single play does not dictate how an entire season will go, but one play did seem to serve as a turning point of sorts in 2014 for Notre Dame, which started 6-0 but finished the season with a final 8-5 mark.

Back on Oct. 18, the then-No. 5 Irish were down four and faced fourth-and-goal against No. 2 and undefeated Florida State with 17 seconds left. Senior quarterback Everett Golson fired a short pass to a wide-open Corey Robinson for what would have been the go-ahead and game-winning touchdown, but junior receiver C.J. Prosise was whistled for a controversial pass interference.

The call allowed the Seminoles to pick off Golson the next play to freeze the score at 31-27, and Notre Dame left Tallahassee, Florida, with its first tally in the loss column.

"You gotta take the belt from

see FOOTBALL **PAGE 31**



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish junior offensive lineman Ronnie Stanley celebrates with the Music City Bowl trophy after Notre Dame's 31-28 win over LSU.

MEN'S BASKETBALL | 32-6, 14-4 ACC

ND reaches first Elite Eight since '79

By **ZACH KLONSINSKI**
Sports Editor

After a pair of free throws, Jerian Grant flew up court while thousands held their breath. Working his way to the corner in front of the Irish bench, the senior guard pulled up and let fly a desperation 3-pointer. Nervous fans clad in blue exploded as the shot sailed past the rim, and Kentucky moved on to the Final Four, surviving Notre Dame's upset bid, 68-66.

"The one thing I did tell them, I said, 'When we walk out of here, man, we're champions now, we're going to get championship rings' — this group won a championship, and hopefully it's something to build on," Irish head coach Mike Brey said during his postgame press conference.

As painful as the ending was — Brey said it would "still be a little raw until tomorrow" — the group that walked off the court in Cleveland more than earned its spot in Notre Dame lore.

Although Irish have reached the Final Four before, in 1978, no team has compiled a more impressive résumé than this year's squad.

The team's 32 wins were the most the program accumulated since the 1908-1909 season, when it went 33-7 under head coach Bertram Morris.

Their ACC tournament title was the first-ever postseason tournament championship in the 110 seasons of Irish men's basketball. The only previous conference championship of any sort came in 2001, when the program won the Big East regular-season crown.

This squad claimed three wins against the four teams that eventually made it to the Final Four. One came in overtime against Michigan State on Dec. 3 at Purcell Pavilion, the venue that also witnessed Jan. 28's 77-73 upset of Duke, the first of two Irish victories over the Blue Devils.

Notre Dame won six games

see M BASKETBALL **PAGE 33**

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Leadership, not accolades, define seniors

Two-sport star Pat Connaughton delivers final run with team to Elite Eight, place in Irish history

By **ZACH KLONSINSKI**
Sports Editor

Sitting on his bed late one night during his senior year of high school, Pat Connaughton made a decision that shaped the rest of his life. He was supposed to be making his official visit to UCLA that upcoming weekend, but instead he signed up to become "a Notre Dame man."

"I just decided it was the place for me," the senior guard/forward from Arlington, Massachusetts, said of the moment at the men's basketball team's year-end banquet April 13. "I don't know what it was, if it was a thought or recollecting on it, but that's just what happened."

Four years later, it's hard to argue with his choice.

Playing three years with the Notre Dame baseball team, Connaughton amassed an 11-11 record and 3.03 ERA in 32 appearances, 30 of which were starts. He was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in the fourth round (121st overall) of

the 2014 MLB Draft and pitched for the Aberdeen IronBirds for a couple of months this summer. Out of high school he had been drafted in the 50th round by the San Diego Padres but came to South Bend instead.

After pitching for the months of June and July, Connaughton returned to campus in time to practice with his basketball teammates before their trip to Italy this summer.

"He flat out had his hand on the pulse of this thing as soon as he got back from the Orioles' rookie ball and in Italy," Irish head coach Mike Brey said to the sold-out crowd at the banquet. "He had the whole thing handled, and it was amazing to watch. It's one of the greatest displays of leadership we have ever had at this University, and maybe in the country."

Coming back for his fourth year was never in doubt, Connaughton said. It's always been more about the people.

see CONNAUGHTON **PAGE 30**

American record-holder Emma Reaney departs Notre Dame as program's most decorated swimmer

By **BRIAN PLAMONDON**
Sports Writer

After becoming Notre Dame's first-ever swimming national champion in 2014, Irish senior Emma Reaney faced a daunting task trying to live up to her past exploits. She did just fine during the 2014-2015 season, garnering three more All-American scrolls at the NCAA championships.

Reaney's career ended at the championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, in late March, when she took home All-America honors in the 200-yard individual medley (fourth place, 1:55.13), 100-yard breaststroke (third, 58.43) and 200-yard breaststroke (fourth, 2:07.10). In the 100 breaststroke race, Reaney was part of a photo finish at the wall, where four swimmers clocked in within .21 seconds of each other.

Those honors bring her career total to a program-record 13 All-America or honorable mention All-America citations in addition to her national championship last year in the 200 breaststroke, which also set an American record that still stands.

"It was really important [to build off last year's success]," Reaney said. "It kind

of solidified in my mind that I was good enough, that I can be the best. I didn't feel like a ton of pressure going into this year from anyone other than myself really. Using the confidence from last year was definitely something that I did to stay motivated this year."

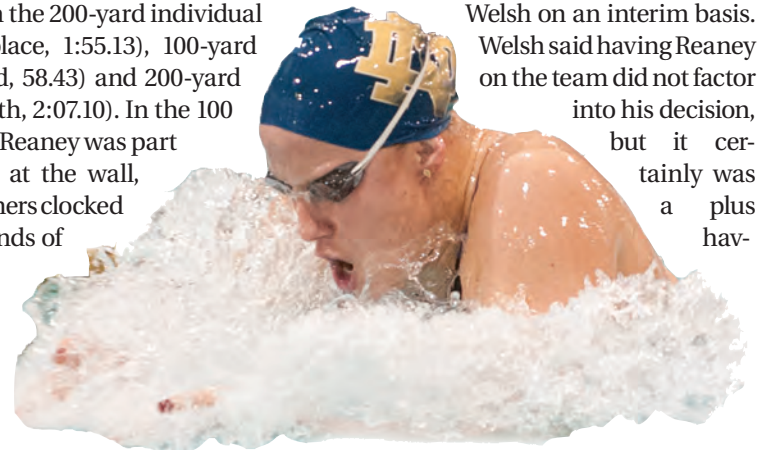
Reaney began this season without the familiar face of her coach, Brian Barnes, who abruptly resigned to spend more time with his family in September. Barnes was replaced by longtime Irish men's swimming and diving coach Tim Welsh on an interim basis.

Welsh said having Reaney on the team did not factor into his decision, but it certainly was a plus having

ing her on the roster.

"Having that chance to coach her was a bonus," Welsh said. "Emma is a spectacular person, wonderful role

see REANEY **PAGE 30**



Connaughton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

"I love the two sports, obviously, they're my life, but I think the most important thing to me are the people I surround myself with, whether it's family [or] friends ... that are family to me because I was an only child," Connaughton said. "The people enjoyed it. To put a smile on people's faces because of something you're fortunate to be able to do [was great]."

The St. John's Prep product said he and senior guard Jerian Grant were in contact over the summer about returning for one last ride.

"It was something we were always kind of leaning towards," Connaughton said. "As the season came to an end and as the draft came to an end for me, I was able to work through and get the deal where I could come back and not have to worry about it. We talked, and I knew he was coming back at that point."

"He always made the joke that if I wasn't coming back, he wasn't coming back, and we kind of knew we were in it together, and we wanted to make sure we accomplished things together."

Under the pair's leadership this season, the Irish won the ACC championship and reached the NCAA tournament's Elite Eight for the first time since 1979, coming a mere two points from shocking then-undefeated No. 1 seed Kentucky and advancing to the Final Four for only the second time in program history.

"Pat, this season I wouldn't be

where I am without you," Grant said while addressing those gathered at the banquet. "You helped me lead. You helped me become a better person on and off the court."

Grant also recalled Connaughton asking him to be a captain with him for the post-season run, bringing Grant with him to the referee meeting at center court before each game.

"I don't know if that was allowed, but we did it," Grant said. "My whole career here at Notre Dame, I've never been able to go up there with the captains, so for him to ask me to do that meant a lot to me."

Despite standing only 6-foot-5, Connaughton bulled his way all over the court into leading the team in rebounds (7.4 per game) while also averaging 12.5 points per game, good for third on the team behind Grant and junior forward Zach Auguste.

"That's a skill that you've got to give him a lot of credit for," Auguste said at the banquet. "Not a lot of [6-foot-5] guys can lead the team in rebounding, let alone be up there in the conference."

Connaughton was quick to point out this was one of the closest teams he had ever been a part of, which made his job as team captain much easier.

"Obviously on the court, everyone just had the desire to win," he said. "Personal goals come second. But most importantly as we grew was the off-the-court stuff: we were genuinely friends, we were genuinely family, and that was the most important thing because I didn't really feel



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

(Left) Connaughton delivers a pitch during a 2-1 win over Clemson on May 9, 2014. He went eight innings, giving up one run on three hits. (Right) Connaughton swings after a dunk against Stetson on Nov. 10, 2013.

that the three years prior to this. Obviously you feel it with some guys, but I've never felt it with all 13 guys, and that's what eventually put us over the top."

In his four-year basketball career at Notre Dame, Connaughton appeared in all 139 games the Irish played, starting 123, including the last 120 games of his career. That streak started with one of Connaughton's favorite memories, a 67-58 win over undefeated No. 1 Syracuse at Purcell Pavilion on Jan. 21, 2012.

"To beat the No. 1 team in the country that was undefeated was the true meaning of court storming," Connaughton said. "You see them do it now for every little thing, but that was the true meaning of one, and to be a part of it was awesome."

Reflecting on his senior year

on the hardwood, Connaughton said it was only a "stepping stone" for the program.

"Jerian and myself wanted to right the ship, so to speak, and leave a program that deserves so much success in a place where it can attain success on a consistent basis," he said.

However, Connaughton said Notre Dame had a much larger impact on him than he did on it, teaching him how to be "a Notre Dame man."

"It's a phrase that really rings true in this community," he said. "Being from the Boston area, you don't hear anyone say, 'You're a BC man.' It just doesn't sound as good. You're a Notre Dame man, and that's something Jerian and myself have learned throughout the four years. I think you come in and you think, 'Well, I'm at

Notre Dame now, I must be a Notre Dame man.' As you continue to go through you realize you have to go through the four years to learn that."

As he moves to his post-Notre Dame life, Connaughton said both baseball and basketball are still very much open to him.

"I think for me it's day-by-day. ... Both are an option as the summer comes along," he said.

Whatever the future holds, the senior's impact will be felt long after he receives his management-consulting degree from the Mendoza College of Business at graduation. His coach summarized it best:

"I don't know if we've had a student-athlete like this."

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Reaney

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

model, and having her as a member of the team strengthened everything we did."

Although Reaney may not have put up the gaudy numbers she did last year, this year was undoubtedly a success. Heading into the NCAA championships, she was seeded 12th in the 200 IM and fifth in the 100 breast; when all was said and done, she came in well ahead

of those marks. Welsh said he attributed Reaney's success to three points about her character.

"The first thing about Emma is her focus," Welsh said. "She never takes a sloppy stroke. She's focused on doing an excellent job in everything she does, and she's focused all the time on becoming better."

"The second thing is that she's very trusting, which makes for an interesting combination. She trusts her coaches, her teammates and the program. She's able to give

herself to the program because she trusts it."

"The third thing about Emma that makes her so special is that she's very practical and realistic. She puts everything she has into every practice and every race until it's over. She doesn't obsess about them though, and to do that is a talent, and she has it."

Reaney has dominated on the NCAA level, but she also has helped establish Notre Dame's credibility as a new member of the Atlantic Coast Conference. This

year at the ACC championships in Atlanta, Reaney won her second consecutive ACC title in the 100 breaststroke. She placed second in the 200 breaststroke as well, bringing her two-year ACC championship total to four individual championships, a runner-up finish and five all-ACC scrolls.

"All of her accomplishments while she's been here establish at the highest level that this is a program on the rise and that wants to compete at the top," Welsh said.

Reaney has been a force to reckon with all year. In January, at the Shamrock Invitational, which doubled as Senior Day, Reaney came away with three individual wins, four relay victories and four pool records (two individual, two relay).

Further, at a nonconference meet in mid-January, Reaney went three-for-three in individual events against swimmers from ranked programs Wisconsin and Indiana. In that meet, she dominated the 200 breast by close to six seconds. Still, Welsh said one of the greatest traits he notices in Reaney is how she is much more than just an accomplished swimmer.

"She's a team player, a role model ... [and] you can't coach that. [so] having the chance to coach her is just a wonderful joy," Welsh said. "She's just an amazing person, and that's something she'd have even if she couldn't swim a stroke. But she swims a lot of them,

and really well, too."

Reaney will now train to swim professionally, a journey that begins in August in South Korea at the World University Games. After, Reaney will train with her club team in North Carolina, with the end goal qualifying for the 2016 Olympic Games at the U.S. National Team trials next June. Reaney said she will use this season as motivation moving forward.

"[The ending] was bittersweet," Reaney said. "I'm sad that my Notre Dame career was over. I was sad that I got fourth [in the 200 breaststroke at the NCAA championships]. I was also really proud of what I had been able to do."

Reaney said her last race was emotional, especially experiencing it with her senior teammates. After a stunning career, she will go down as the greatest swimmer in Notre Dame history, and she credits her environment with helping her get there.

"I really didn't think I'd find a place that I could call home more than my actual home, and Notre Dame has been able to do that for me," Reaney said. "I want everyone to know how awesome this place is, and how much I love it. If I can do that through my swimming, then I've been successful."

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Observer File Photo

Reaney swims in the freestyle portion of the 200-yard individual medley during the Shamrock Invitational on Jan. 31, 2014 at Rolfs Aquatic Center. Reaney finished in a then-pool record 1:58.95 on her way to the win.

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

the champion," Irish head coach Brian Kelly said the day after the game. "You can't leave it up to a decision that's made at the end."

However, that defeat at Doak Campbell Stadium kicked off a downward spiral for Notre Dame that lasted the rest of the regular season.

The 2014 slate began with a promising start, an unblemished record sustained until the trip to Tallahassee in Golson's long-awaited return to South Bend.

The senior lit up the stat sheet and showed he was better than ever in his first game back at Notre Dame Stadium, a 48-17 beat down of Rice on Aug. 30. Golson threw for 295 yards and two touchdowns and ran in three more scores, only the third time an Irish quarterback has tallied three touchdowns on the ground in a single game.

"Obviously, the story of Golson was electric," Kelly said after the win. "And I thought he did that today extraordinarily well. He came back today and I think really showed the kind of player that he can be."

Will Fuller paced the receiving efforts with four catches for 85 yards, an early start to a breakout season for the sophomore. He led Irish receivers with 76 receptions

and 1,094 yards, averaging 84.2 yards per game, more than double the average of Robinson, Notre Dame's second-most prolific receiver.

The Irish rolled into their most anticipated game of the season the next week, when they hosted Michigan on Sept. 6 for the final scheduled time. Notre Dame's defense made the difference in the rivalry matchup, picking Wolverines quarterback Devin Gardner off three times and keeping the visitors off the scoreboard as the Irish steamrolled Michigan, 31-0.

The shutout was the first in the series since it was renewed in 1978 and the first time the Wolverines have failed to score since 1984.

"We wanted it bad," Golson said. "I think that we wanted to just be successful every time we step on the field. I like to think that it added a little bit extra motivation being the last time we played them."

The Irish cruised to consecutive wins over Purdue, 30-14, and Syracuse, 31-15, the next two weeks on the road before heading back home with a 4-0 mark to face Stanford and the nation's No. 1 defense.

Notre Dame trailed by four, 14-10, with 69 seconds left in the game, and it faced fourth-and-11 on the Stanford 23, looking to make a late effort to keep its record perfect. Golson hit a falling target,



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish sophomore receiver Will Fuller goes airborne to snag a pass during Notre Dame's 31-28 victory over LSU in the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl on Dec. 30. Fuller grabbed five passes and a score.

senior tight end Ben Koyack, in the back corner of the end zone for the score, and the Irish earned their first comeback win of the year.

Notre Dame's defense allowed the team to stay in the game, with sophomore cornerback Cole Luke grabbing two interceptions — he and senior cornerback Matthias Farley tied for the season-high with four apiece — and the unit forcing eight Cardinal punts while giving up just 205 yards of total offense.

"We prepared so great this week," sophomore linebacker Jaylon Smith said. "We all knew going into the week, Stanford week, it was going to be physical. They are going to try to hit you in the mouth, and we just had to match that intensity, and penetration was key."

After a 50-43, shootout victory against North Carolina at home, the Irish headed down to Florida to take on Florida State and reigning Heisman Trophy recipient Jameis Winston in the country's marquee matchup of the weekend.

Notre Dame got out to a quick start, never trailing until the 7:39 mark of the fourth quarter, and limited Winston to 273 yards and two touchdowns, while Golson outdueled him with 313 yards and three scores.

After the Seminoles' go-ahead score in the final minutes, the Irish had two final drives to overcome the deficit but couldn't find the end zone, forced to punt on the first and called for the decisive pass interference on the second.

After that point, Notre Dame was hit by the injury bug and struggled for the rest of the regular season.

The Irish lost senior linebacker Joe Schmidt to a broken and dislocated ankle the next weekend in a close 49-39 win against Navy, when they encountered their annual problem of containing the Midshipmen's option offense.

After that game, injuries began to pile up on defense, and Notre Dame was forced to play inexperienced freshmen who did not expect to see time on the field in their first seasons.

In the secondary, senior safety and captain Austin Collinsworth,

hampered by MCL and shoulder injuries, dressed for just five games, graduate student Cody Riggs missed the Arizona State (Nov. 8) and USC (Nov. 29) contests with a stress reaction in his foot, and freshman safety Drue Tranquill's early emergence was cut short by an ACL tear suffered Nov. 22 against Louisville.

On the line, junior captain Sheldon Day sprained his MCL against Northwestern, missing the losses to Louisville and USC, while fellow junior Jarron Jones suffered a Lisfranc injury against Louisville and was sidelined the rest of the season.

After the victory against Navy, Notre Dame did not taste another win until Dec. 30 in the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl against LSU, with losses to Arizona State and USC on the road and Northwestern and Louisville at home.

Notre Dame fell behind early Nov. 8 versus the Sun Devils, trailing by as many as 31, before making a late push and cutting the deficit to 34-31 in the fourth quarter. However, it gave up three touchdowns in the final five minutes, including a pick-six off Golson, whose struggles to hang on to the ball became a trend in the second half of the season.

"If you look at it really closely, we turned the ball over five times. You can't turn the ball over. Our guys were ready to play, and you can't play sloppy like that," Kelly said after the game, referring to it the next day as "the debacle in the desert."

The Irish failed to rebound the next weekend against Northwestern, allowing the Wildcats to kick a field goal to tie the game at 40 with 19 seconds left. Senior kicker Kyle Brindza missed a three-pointer in the extra period, and Northwestern responded with a make to hand Notre Dame a second straight defeat.

The Irish missed a key opportunity to put points on the board in the fourth quarter, when Kelly decided to go for two instead of kick an extra point after a touchdown. The conversion attempted failed, letting the Wildcats stay within reach.

"I went for two when I should

have kicked the extra point," Kelly said three days after the loss. "... I'm not getting paid to make stupid decisions like that. You fall into that. I can't let our players fall into that."

Similar heartbreak ensued the next two Saturdays, with a close, 31-28 loss to Louisville on Senior Day at Notre Dame Stadium and a 49-14 pounding at the hands of rival USC on Nov. 29.

With a 6-0 start ending in a 7-5 regular season, the Irish accepted a bid to the Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tennessee, on Dec. 30 to face LSU.

With Golson's struggles late in the season, especially hanging on to the football, Kelly named sophomore Malik Zaire the starting quarterback against the Tigers, though he and Golson split drives during the game. They switched off on the afternoon's final drive, which set up a game-winning field goal from Brindza as time expired to halt the losing streak and end Notre Dame's season on a high note.

"Coming off the losses we had, I think it was important that we took advantage and did whatever it took to win, and when we focused on winning, this team came together, and we got the job done," Zaire said after the game.

Until last week, the only significant losses for 2015 the Irish faced to graduation were Koyack, Riggs, Brindza and running back Cam McDaniel, with nine players planning to exercise fifth-year options at Notre Dame.

However, Golson announced May 7 he would transfer to another university for next season, making Zaire the nearly clear-cut starter in 2015.

"We, of course, have approached our preparations for the upcoming season with this possibility in mind," Kelly said in a statement. "The emergence of Malik Zaire, based on his performance in the Music City Bowl win over LSU, and throughout spring practice, has given our staff supreme confidence that he can lead our team to great success in 2015."

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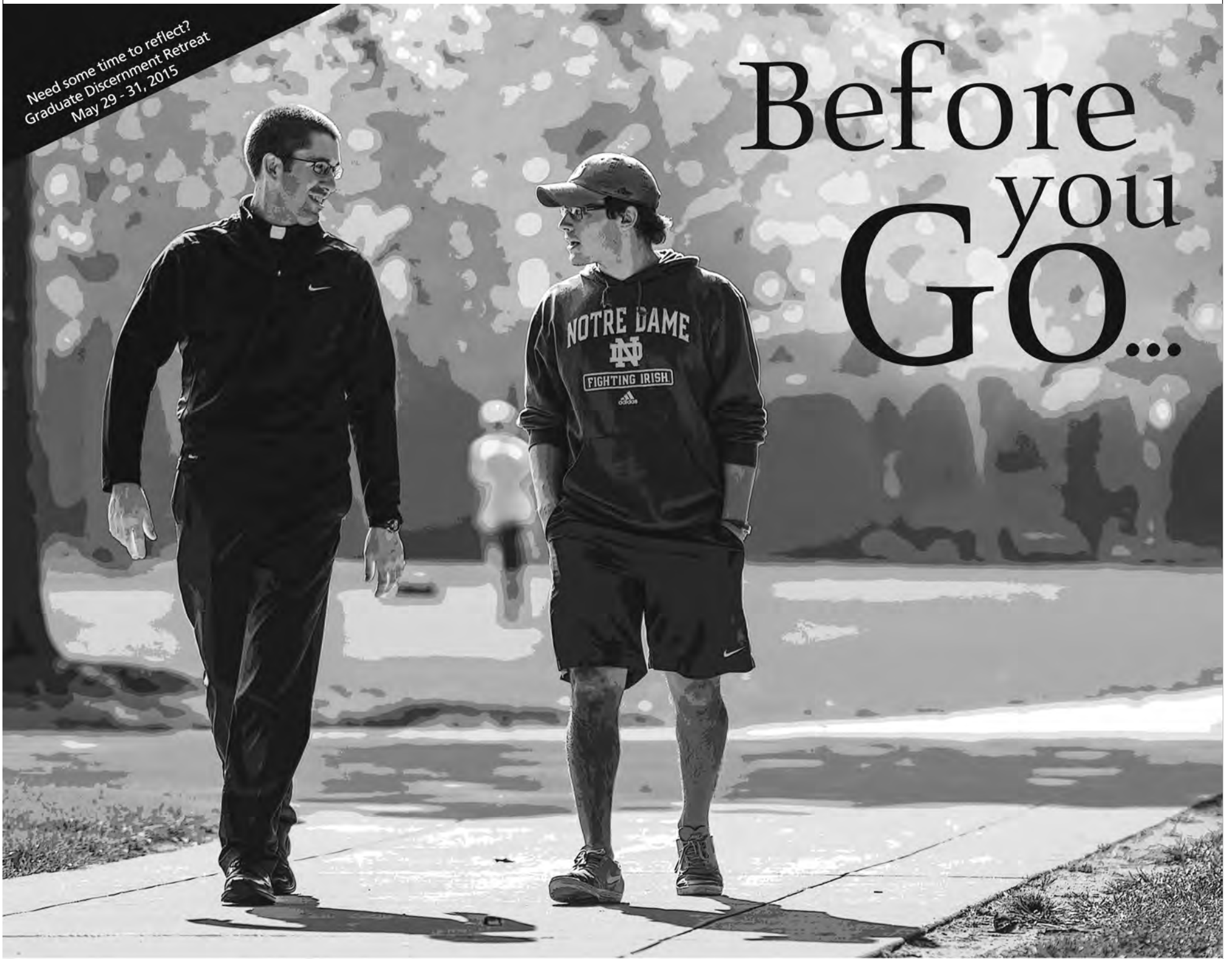
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M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

overall in the postseason: three in the ACC tournament and another trio en route to the Elite Eight. After an early test from Miami (Fla.), the Irish rattled off commanding, back-to-back wins over perennial ACC powerhouses Duke and North Carolina in Greensboro, North Carolina, just miles from their respective campuses. The Irish took their second from the Blue Devils by 10, 74-64, and then outgunned the Tar Heels, 90-82, in a title game that's final score was only close because of a late Carolina surge.

In the NCAA tournament, the Irish shook off an early test from Northeastern, then eliminated Butler in overtime two days later to advance to the Sweet 16. Once there, Notre Dame breezed past Wichita State behind shooting 75 percent from the field in the second half.

This set up the dance with Kentucky in what many called the best game of the 2015 tournament, a game in which neither team held a lead larger than six, and Notre Dame led for almost double the time the Wildcats did.

Not bad for a team that finished 15-17 and missed the NCAA tournament altogether the year before.

Yet for all the accolades, there was one common refrain heard throughout the Notre Dame locker room all season.

"One thing I definitely remember is being on the court with all 12 of my brothers," junior forward Zach Auguste said after the Kentucky game.

"The biggest thing [a win] would mean for us is we'd get to keep playing together. We have

so much fun playing together," sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson said before the Butler game.

The team chemistry was evident all season, a mesh created before the season even started.

"It started in Italy," Auguste said after the season came to an end. "We had a great trip, and we built something that was really special that this program hasn't scene in a long time."

The team traveled to Italy during the summer, spending nine days playing exhibition games, sightseeing and bonding in what Brey said from the beginning "was a great advantage."

"It comes at a great time for our program with the year that we had, Grant coming back, some you guys that we need to do more this year, to get those 10 practices, those four games and to kind of be together in game mode," Brey said Oct. 15.

While the trip allowed players like Jackson and Auguste to mature and play with the starters, it was even more important for what was the team's biggest question mark coming into the season: Grant's return from an academic suspension that sidelined him for the spring semester in 2014.

To say the senior quieted his critics would be an understatement.

The guard from Bowie, Maryland, led the Irish in scoring (16.5 points per game), assists (6.7 per game, seventh nationally), steals (63) and minutes per game (37.1, 18th nationally), but Irish fans will remember a number of highlight-reel plays from the year as well: the final minute during the first Duke win, when he lost the ball going up for a 3-pointer, recovered it and hit a floater over a Blue Devil defender



KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant floats in the lane looking for a pass during Notre Dame's 68-66 loss to Kentucky during its Elite Eight matchup March 28. Grant finished with 15 points and six assists.

to give the Irish the lead; then the drive and kick to a wide-open sophomore guard Steve Vasturia for 3; and finally a block on the defensive end to preserve the lead. There was also the dunk against Georgia Tech, where he skied so high he touched the rim to his stomach.

Grant's classmate and guard/forward Pat Connaughton made his share of big plays as well, including the block at the end of regulation against Butler that helped the team to the NCAA tournament win.

"We're going to overtime to win this game," Grant said of his thoughts after Connaughton's

block. "It was a big play our captain made, and now we can go win it in overtime."

Yet it was in his leadership the team captain made his largest impact. Just before Connaughton made the resounding block against Butler, Auguste double-dribbled while the Irish were trying to break the Butler press, handing the ball back to the Bulldogs with a chance to win the game. Auguste, visibly upset with himself, began walking back with his head down. That's when Connaughton swooped in.

"I said to him, 'Hey, that's dead and gone. There's nothing we can do about the mistakes we made. The beautiful thing about it is we have complete control over the outcome of this game,'" Connaughton said.

Connaughton said at the season-ending awards banquet he and Grant, who shared the team's MVP honor, wanted to change the perception of Notre Dame men's basketball.

"We just wanted to make you guys proud," he said to the crowd. "We wanted to make our teammates proud. They've done so much for us. The coaching staff, everybody in this community has done so much for us. We came back this year, talked about it before we came back, and we wanted to not just change the culture but change it so you guys were proud and so that you guys had something to write home about."

Jackson, a highly touted recruit and the heir apparent in the Irish backcourt, also exploded onto the scene following a freshman season that failed to live up to expectations. The guard was suspended by Brey and missed a pair of games last spring before becoming one of the team leaders this season, averaging 12.4 points a game and trailing only Grant in steals while operating the Notre Dame

offense and establishing himself as one of the best defenders in college basketball.

Jackson also provided a few highlight-reel moments of his own: dunking over Purdue's seven-foot-two sophomore center Issac Haas at Bankers Life Fieldhouse and going behind his back on a dribble before feeding a no-look pass to Auguste for a slam during the NCAA victory over Northeastern.

Auguste and Vasturia, for their parts, each averaged double-figure scoring totals, 12.9 and 10.4, respectively. Auguste played strong inside in the NCAA tournament, highlighted by his seemingly constant put-back dunks on the way to putting up 20 points against Kentucky after dealing with his own academic issue that caused him to miss the game at Georgia Tech in mid-January. Vasturia found himself hitting crunch-time buckets as the season progressed, perhaps most notably his corner 3 in the first win over Duke.

With the returning core of Jackson, Vasturia, freshman forward Bonzie Colson and sophomore forward V.J. Beachem, Brey said after the Kentucky game he couldn't help peeking at next season.

"I think I was in denial because walking down the hall [to the interview room], I had Auguste and Vasturia, and I was talking about next season; that was my way of thinking ahead a little bit," Brey said.

Still, next year has a tough act to follow.

"It's a team that captured the nation," Brey said at the awards banquet. "Certainly it captured our fan base and fans. ... But it captured the country. What a fun and energizing group of guys to be around."

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KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Irish junior forward Zach Auguste swings on the rim after dunking for two of his 15 points during Notre Dame's 81-70 win over Wichita State in its Sweet 16 game. Auguste also pulled down six rebounds.



NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

2014-2015: A YEAR IN REVIEW

AUG. 15 Notre Dame announces it is investigating suspected academic dishonesty by four members of the football team. None of the four play in the 2014 season while a fifth, Eilar Hardy, is added to investigation but later cleared.

SEPT. 6 Football shuts out Michigan, 31-0, in the last scheduled game of the series between the traditional rivals.

SEPT. 13 Football routs Purdue, 30-14, in the Shamrock Series at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

SEPT. 14 Women's golf begins its season by winning the Mary Fossum Invitational. It is the second time in five years the Irish won the Invitational.

SEPT. 25 Women's soccer upsets No. 2 Virginia Tech, 2-0, to snap the Hokies' 10-game winning streak.

OCT. 10 Men's soccer outlasts No. 16 Louisville, 3-2, in overtime with junior midfielder Patrick Hodan's golden goal.

OCT. 18 Football loses to No. 2 Florida State, 31-27, on a controversial offensive pass interference call against Notre Dame.

NOV. 22 Women's cross country finishes 29th out of 30 teams in the NCAA championships. Junior Molly Seidel earns All-American honors.

NOV. 22 Football loses on Senior Day to Louisville, 31-28.

NOV. 23 Women's soccer is defeated by No. 5 Texas A&M, 2-1, in the round of 16 the NCAA tournament.

NOV. 29 Football falls to USC, 49-14, to finish its regular season with a 7-5 record.

NOV. 30 Men's soccer is upset by No. 16 Virginia, 1-0, in the round of 16 of the NCAA tournament.

DEC. 4 Notre Dame announces head volleyball coach Debbie Brown will not return to the team in 2015 following a 19-41 record in her last two seasons.

DEC. 6 Women's basketball falls to No. 3 Connecticut, 76-58, despite junior guard Jewell Loyd's then-career-high 31 points.

DEC. 28 Hockey defeats No. 6 Miami (Ohio) in overtime, 3-2, in the Florida College Hockey Championship.

DEC. 30 Football beats LSU, 31-28, in the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tennessee, on senior Kyle Brindza's game-winning field goal.

DEC. 30 Men's basketball beats Hartford, 87-60, to finish the month of December with a perfect 7-0 record.

JAN. 5 Men's basketball squeaks by No. 18 North Carolina, 71-70, to improve to 15-1 on the year.

JAN. 24 The men's and women's track and field teams finish second and fifth, respectively, at the Notre Dame Invitational.

JAN. 28 Men's basketball topples No. 4 Duke at Purcell Pavilion, 77-73.

FEB. 16 Karen and Kevin Keyes donate \$5 million to mark the women's head basketball coach as the first endowed Notre Dame coaching position.

FEB. 16 Women's basketball takes down No. 10 Duke at home, 63-50.

FEB. 26 Women's basketball defeats Pittsburgh, 87-59, to clinch a share of the ACC regular-season title.

FEB. 28 Hockey claims 3-1 victory against No. 9 Boston College as freshman goaltender Cal Petersen makes 55 saves.

FEB. 28 Women's track finishes third in the Indoor ACC championship. Molly Seidel is named meet MVP.

MARCH 2 Head football coach Brian Kelly adds former All-Americans Todd Lyght and Autry Denson to the football coaching staff, along with Mike Sanford and Keith Gilmore.

MARCH 3 Jewell Loyd and freshman forward Brianna Turner named to All-ACC women's basketball first team.

MARCH 8 Women's basketball cruises past No. 7 Florida State, 71-58, to win its second straight ACC tournament. Jewell Loyd was named the tournament MVP.

MARCH 13 Eight track athletes earn All-American honors at the Indoor NCAA championship. Junior Margaret Bamgbose finishes sixth in the 400-meter dash, and Molly Seidel finishes sixth in the 5,000 meters.

MARCH 14 Men's basketball defeats No. 19 North Carolina, 90-82, to win the program's first ACC tournament. Senior guard Jerian Grant is named the tournament MVP.

MARCH 15 Hockey ends season with a 6-4 loss against No. 14 UMass Lowell in the Hockey East tournament quarterfinals.

MARCH 21 Senior swimmer Emma Reaney places fourth in the 200-yard breaststroke to earn All-American honors for the third straight year.

MARCH 26 Men's basketball beats Wichita State, 81-70, to advance to the Elite Eight for the first time since 1979.

MARCH 28 Men's basketball falls to No. 1 Kentucky, 68-66, to finish the season with a 32-6 record.

MARCH 29 Women's basketball defeats Baylor, 77-68, to advance to the Final Four for fifth consecutive season.

APRIL 7 Women's basketball falls to Connecticut, 63-53, in the national championship game in Tampa, Florida.

APRIL 7 Women's lacrosse downs No. 7 Syracuse, 12-11, in overtime on senior midfielder Caitlin Gargan's game-winning goal.

APRIL 8 Jewell Loyd announces she will enter the WNBA draft and forego her final season of eligibility at Notre Dame. The Seattle Storm would select Loyd with the first overall pick in the draft April 17.

APRIL 10-12 Baseball sweeps No. 7 Florida State to notch an eight-game winning streak.

APRIL 18 Men's lacrosse comes out victorious against No. 2 North Carolina by a 15-14 margin to clinch the ACC regular season title.

APRIL 24 Men's lacrosse is defeated by No. 6 Duke, 13-8, in the ACC tournament semifinals.

APRIL 26 Men's golf finishes eleventh in the ACC championship tournament.

APRIL 26 Softball loses to North Carolina, 7-3, to snap a 24-game winning streak.

MAY 1 Senior rower Anna Kottkamp – an environmental science major and ACC scholar-athlete of the year – named valedictorian for 2015 commencement ceremony.

MAY 7 Quarterback Everett Golson announces he will transfer to another school to complete his collegiate career.

MAY 8 Men's tennis loses 4-1 to Vanderbilt in the first round of the NCAA tournament to finish the year with a 14-12 record.

MAY 9 Women's golf finishes in eighth place at NCAA regional tournament and misses a chance to advance to the NCAA championship by six strokes.

MAY 9 Men's lacrosse defeats Towson, 12-10, in the first round of the NCAA tournament to advance to the quarterfinals for the sixth straight year.

MAY 8-10 Baseball sweeps No. 20 North Carolina, highlighted by junior Kyle Richardson's walk-off home run in the third game.

MAY 10 Women's lacrosse suffers a season-ending, 16-11 loss to Northwestern in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

MAY 10 Softball receives No. 16 seed in the NCAA tournament and will host the NCAA South Bend regional.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

FOOTBALL MAKES TITLE GAME, LOSES TO CRIMSON TIDE



Irish undefeated in regular season; streak ends Jan. 7, 2013

In Irish coach Brian Kelly's first two years, Notre Dame turned in a pair of 8-5 seasons.

Despite losing players to the NFL, the Irish were more successful in Kelly's third season, going undefeated against their regular season schedule.

Regular season highlights included a rout of Navy in Dublin, a 20-3 upset of Michigan State, an

emotional 13-6 victory over Michigan, an overtime goal-line stand against Stanford, a road victory over Oklahoma and a come-from-behind, three-overtime win over Pittsburgh.

The Irish reached No. 1 in the polls after a Senior Day victory over Wake Forest and sealed a berth in the BCS National Championship Game with a 22-13 vic-

tory over USC on Nov. 24.

Traveling to Miami to face off against Alabama in the national championship game, the Irish struggled to contain the Crimson Tide's offense, as Alabama rolled out to a 28-0 lead at halftime.

In the end, Notre Dame fell to the Crimson Tide, 42-14, ending the program's first national title run since 1988.

MEN'S SOCCER EARNS FIRST NATIONAL TITLE

Dec. 15, 2013



After a disappointing NCAA tournament in 2012, Notre Dame advanced to the College Cup the next season and bested Maryland in the final, 2-1, to win its first NCAA championship. The victory marked the first national title for Irish coach Bobby Clark in his 27th season as a college coach.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CONTENTS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

April 7, 2015



A Final Four appearance in 2015 was the fifth in a row for the Irish, and a win over South Carolina gave Notre Dame its fourth championship game berth in five years.

In the title game, the Irish fell to Connecticut for the third consecutive year, this time by a score of 63-53 at the Amalie Arena in Tampa.

MEN'S BASKETBALL REACHES ELITE EIGHT

March 28, 2015



In 2013-2014, the Irish finished with a 15-17 record in their first year in the ACC.

Just one year later, Notre Dame rebounded with one of the most successful seasons in program history, winning the ACC tournament and reaching the Elite Eight before falling to top seed Kentucky, 68-66.

NOTRE DAME ANNOUNCES CONFERENCE SWITCH TO ACC

Sept. 12, 2012



Notre Dame accepted an invitation to join the the Atlantic Coast Conference in all sports except football after being a member of the Big East since 1995.

Notre Dame agreed to play five football games annually against ACC teams and joined the ACC's non-BCS bowl package.

CAMPUS CROSSROADS TO RESTRUCTURE STADIUM

Jan. 30, 2014



The largest building project in Notre Dame history should be completed in 2017. Athletic director Jack Swarbrick said Rolfs Sports Recreation Center would be converted into practice space for the basketball teams.

The 2015 Blue-Gold game was moved to LaBar Practice Fields as a result of the stadium construction.

MEN'S LACROSSE MAKES TRIP TO TOURNAMENT FINALS

May 26, 2014



After going 11-5 in the 2014 regular season, the Irish plowed through postseason opponents to capture the ACC title and advance to the championship game in the NCAA tournament.

Playing for the title in Baltimore against Duke, Notre Dame fell, 11-9.

TE'O FINISHES SECOND IN HEISMAN VOTING

Dec. 8, 2012



After a standout season, senior linebacker Manti Te'o finished second in the Heisman Trophy voting behind Texas A&M redshirt freshman quarterback Johnny Manziel.

Te'o ended with 321 first-place votes, and Manziel received 474. Te'o tied for second-most interceptions in the NCAA with seven and tallied 113 tackles.

HOCKEY TOPS CCHA IN CONFERENCE'S LAST YEAR

March 24, 2013



The Irish defeated Michigan, 3-1, to claim the CCHA title in the final year of the conference's 42-year existence, as it was disbanded after the 2012-2013 season due to conference realignment. Notre Dame moved to the Hockey East conference.

Notre Dame went on to fall to St. Cloud State in the NCAA tourney.

COMPTON FAMILY ICE ARENA OPENS

Oct. 21, 2011



Thanks to a \$15 million donation from the Compton family, the Irish hockey program had a new place to call home — the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Notre Dame had played all of its hockey games in the Joyce Center before moving to the new facility. The Irish opened the building with a 5-2 win over RPI.

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¹ Refers to Deloitte member firm network, ranked by revenue

² www.bloomberg.com/bschools/rankings#5

³ www.bloomberg.com/bw/articles/2013-05-20/the-best-undergraduate-b-schools-for-ethics

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | 36-3, 15-1 ACC

Irish 'overachieve' in championship game run

By GREG HADLEY
Editor-in-Chief

To the casual observer, it was the same old story for Notre Dame this year. Another dominant regular season. Another conference title. Another Final Four berth. And ultimately, another defeat to Connecticut on the biggest stage.

But after losing Natalie Achonwa, Kayla McBride and Ariel Braker to graduation and still posting a 36-3 record and 15-1 mark in the ACC, Irish head coach Muffet McGraw doesn't view things that way.

"I'll be proud," McGraw said when asked how she will remember the 2014-2015 campaign. "We lost three starters and two All-Americans. We overachieved. I thought maybe we were a year away from the Final Four."

Entering the season, McGraw said her goal from the team was a national championship following four straight semifinal appearances. But she also kept things in perspective. With an entirely new frontcourt and no senior starters, she was fairly certain a fifth straight Final Four would not be as easy as in years past.

"We're going to take some lumps early, and we're going to have a lot of games that could go either way, and we'll see what happens," McGraw said Nov. 12.

However, the Irish started the season with eight straight wins, rising to a No. 1 ranking in the USA Today coaches poll and topping opponents, including a Maryland team that would end up in the Final Four, by an average of 43.5 points.

Notre Dame then welcomed No. 3 Connecticut to Purcell Pavilion on Dec. 6 for the Jimmy V Women's Classic. The meeting between the Huskies and the Irish marked a rematch of the 2014 NCAA title game, when Connecticut ran away with 79-58 victory.

Similar to the championship game, Notre Dame entered the contest without its star frontcourt player. Last year, forward Natalie Achonwa was out with a torn ACL, and this season freshman forward Brianna Turner was sidelined with a shoulder injury.

Turner's absence in the post cost the Irish, who lost the rebounding battle, 52-34, and were outscored in the paint, 44-28. But afterwards, McGraw did not blame the loss solely on her frontcourt. She also faulted the inexperience of her players.

"I don't think we're tough enough," McGraw said following the defeat. "I don't think we have the mentality of toughness that the last four [Final Four] teams have had."

"We looked like a deer in headlights. ... When things [went] bad, [junior guard Jewell Loyd] was the only one who really

wanted the ball."

Four days later, the Irish were driven by then-No. 25 DePaul to the brink of their first losing streak in five years. Down six points with 2:50 remaining on the road, Notre Dame turned to Loyd, who responded by scoring 14 of the team's next 22 points, including the game-winning free throws in overtime, to scrape out a 94-93 win.

"She has been amazing all year long, but tonight was just phenomenal," McGraw said after the win. "... I mean, she played the entire game, [had] great defense and did so many good things. She just never quit. We gave her less than a minute's rest, and she was still able to find it in the tank to finish the game."

On the night, Loyd tallied 41 points, tying a program record. On the season, she averaged 19.8 points and finished with 772 total points, four short of Notre Dame's single season record. She was named an AP and WBCA All-American for the second year in a row, voted the ACC's most outstanding player and was a finalist for the Wooden Award, Wade Trophy and Naismith Trophy, all given to the nation's top player.

Loyd was one of three Irish players selected as an AP All-American; Turner and sophomore guard Lindsay Allen were both honorable mentions. Turner was also named the ACC freshman of the year, while Allen was a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, given to the best point guard in the NCAA.

Allen in particular impressed McGraw this season, as she stepped up from a supporting role last year to become a vocal leader and legitimate scoring threat in her own right. She improved her stats from 6.2 to 10.4 points per game and 3.9 to 5.2 assists per contest, and her assist-to-turnover ratio of 2.14 ranked 32nd in the nation.

"Last year, she was able to come in and simply run the team without having to be vocal," McGraw said. "... This year, we asked her to do more. We asked her to score more. We asked her to be more involved in the offense, to be more vocal, to be the true leader of the team."

But while Allen, Turner and Loyd played well all season long, the young Irish squad still experienced growing pains. On the road against Miami (Fla.) on Jan. 8, the trio produced 82.5 percent of Notre Dame's offense, while the rest of the team shot 18.5 percent from the floor in a 78-63 loss.

"You never like to lose, but we're just so darn young sometimes that we needed maybe a kick in the pants to kind of say we need to come out ready," McGraw said following the loss. "I don't know mentally what they were thinking before the game, but we were uncharacteristically bad in the first half."



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Former Irish guard Jewell Loyd drives against UConn junior guard Moriah Jefferson during Notre Dame's 63-53 loss to the Huskies in the national championship. Loyd finished the game with 12 points.

Sophomore forward Taya Reimer did not even make the trip to Miami with the Irish. Midway through the season, she missed two games for unexplained reason, but McGraw said she came back renewed and reenergized in her return against North Carolina on Jan. 15.

"She really came on strong," McGraw said. "She made a conscious decision to lay it all on the line. ... She took over some leadership of the freshmen and really stepped up like a veteran."

The Miami defeat was Notre Dame's first conference loss as a member of the ACC, but the Irish followed it up with 14 straight wins to end the regular season, including a six-week stretch between Jan. 15 and Feb. 23 in which they defeated four top-10 opponents: No. 10 North Carolina, 89-79; No. 5 Tennessee, 88-77; No. 10 Duke, 63-50; and No. 8 Louisville, 68-52.

"We came through undefeated," McGraw said. "So it was sometime in early February we really started to think we had a chance [to reach the Final Four]."

For the second straight year, the Irish claimed the regular season ACC championship, then traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina, and claimed the tournament title as well. In the championship game against Florida State, Notre Dame owned the boards against the third-best rebounding team in the country, grabbing 39 to the Seminoles' 27.

With an automatic berth and No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame hosted its first two games, handling Montana and DePaul by double-digit margins. Then, in the Sweet 16, the Irish stormed by No. 14 Stanford in Oklahoma City.

In the Elite Eight, Notre Dame and Baylor faced off in a rematch of last year's regional final. Behind a career-best 28 points from Allen, the Irish emerged on top for their fifth straight

Final Four appearance, joining a group of three other programs to advance to that many in a row.

"I'll tell you, this one was the hardest," McGraw said. "... I think we played the toughest schedule in the country, so we learned a lot through it. ... But this one is incredibly satisfying, to see what this team was able to do together."

In Tampa, Florida, McGraw and the Irish were far from just happy to be there but did adopt a more light-hearted approach than in years past.

"We were trying to have fun," McGraw said. "We just wanted to enjoy the experience and play loose. Especially with a young team, they don't need to feel any pressure. They just need to play their game, and that's when they play their best."

Facing No. 1 seed South Carolina in its first ever Final Four appearance, the Irish took 12-point leads in both the first and second halves, only to have the Gamecocks battle back. Finally, with 1:12 left to play, South Carolina took its first lead of the game on a layup from freshman forward A'ja Wilson.

Loyd, who led all scorers in the game with 22 points, missed a jumper with 21 seconds left, but senior guard Madison Cable came in unboxed for a quick rebound and layup to give the team the lead.

On the following possession, senior guard and two-time SEC Player of the Year Tiffany Mitchell tried to break past junior guard Hannah Huffman but was denied, sealing the victory for Notre Dame and marking their fourth title game appearance in five years.

"I was just amazed," McGraw said immediately afterwards. "I think Maddie makes a great play, and then we get a great defensive stop. So yeah, I was pretty happy after that one."

For the fifth straight Final

Four and second straight championship, Notre Dame and Connecticut faced off. While Turner was healthy for the Irish this time around, they still could not find a way to solve the Huskies, falling short once more, 63-53.

Notre Dame and McGraw have not won a national title since 2001, but she said she does not feel as if there is any mental block the team needs to overcome.

"There are probably 350 schools in the country that would love to be in the position we're in, so we don't look at it in those terms," McGraw said. "We look at it as being incredibly successful to get to the Final Four five years in a row. ... Certainly we come in every year with the goal of winning it all, and we just need to shoot the ball a little bit better. It comes down to some pretty basic things."

In the immediate aftermath of the loss, McGraw reiterated her goal of reaching a sixth semifinal next season and trying to knock off the Huskies, who have now won three straight titles and 10 overall.

However, about an hour after the defeat, Notre Dame's hopes for the 2015-2016 campaign were dealt a serious blow when Loyd informed the team she would be forgoing her senior season to enter the WNBA draft. A week later, she was selected first overall by the Seattle Storm.

With the loss of Loyd, the Irish will have to replace nearly a quarter of their offensive production. Still, a small piece of good news has emerged for Notre Dame this spring: Cable, who sat out her freshman season due to injury, will return for a fifth year. McGraw called Cable the "best sixth man in the country" this past season.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu

HOCKEY | 18-19-5, 10-7-5 HOCKEY EAST

Youth proves problematic early for Notre Dame

By **ALEX CARSON**
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's 2014 campaign followed the arc of the stereotypical young team: inconsistent early with a few veterans carrying the team before hitting a groove as the season drew to a close.

The year started out rough for Irish head coach Jeff Jackson's squad. With 10 freshmen on the roster, the Irish lost their exhibition contest to Waterloo before falling twice at the Ice Breaker Tournament at home. But then they came back and won five straight, pushing their record back above .500 early in the year.

It was a false dawn for Notre Dame, however, which won just five of its next 20 games, placing it outside the NCAA tournament conversation by the end of January.

For the Irish, the right mix just wasn't there.

"You know, we started off very inconsistent," Jackson said.

Perhaps that inconsistency was on display best at the Florida College Hockey Classic.

With seven minutes to play Dec. 28 in Estero, Florida, Notre Dame trailed rival and then-No. 5 Miami by a 2-0 margin.

In the blink of an eye, it all changed. Freshman forward Jake Evans ignited the Irish, assisting on a goal to bring the deficit to one before tying the game up with 23 seconds left to send it to overtime.

There, he scored the winner.

The next night, it seemed a foregone conclusion for the Irish; they faced Lake Superior State in the final, a team which ended up winning one nonconference game all season.

That game was that night in Florida, against the Irish.

But after Notre Dame's 5-2 loss at New Hampshire on Jan. 30, which dropped it to 10-14-3, the team figured something out. The Irish lost just five more times over the season's remaining 15 games, soaring to a fifth-place finish in Hockey East on the

heels of victories over eventual national champion Providence, runner-up Boston University and then-No. 9 Boston College, when freshman goaltender Cal Petersen made 55 saves in a 3-1 win.

For Jackson, with a young team, he saw his team's progression as a positive to carry forward.

"The most important thing is that we got better as the season progressed," he said. "... To some degree, you expect freshmen to step up and have the opportunity to prove themselves, especially with the amount of time they played and they certainly did a good job for us as the season progressed.

"They got some experience, gained some confidence. Whether it's the goaltender, the defensemen or the forwards, they all made improvements and certainly helped us in the second half."

After reaching the Hockey East quarterfinals following a first-round series victory over Massachusetts, the Irish bowed out on the road in Lowell, Massachusetts, eliminated by UMass Lowell, 2-1.

The win in that series though meant the Irish knocked off each of the four teams that finished ahead of them in the final standings; Providence, Boston University, Boston College and UMass Lowell, in the final month of the season.

The catalyst for much of that success was Petersen, and while a 55-save performance would often be the hallmark one for a goaltender in a season, it wasn't for the freshman; he set the NCAA record with 87 saves in the longest game in college hockey history, a 4-3 quintuple-overtime loss to Massachusetts in the first round of the Hockey East tournament.

Petersen was far from the only freshman to have a significant impact for the Irish; defenseman Jordan Gross tallied 28 points from the blueline in his rookie campaign, while forwards

Anders Bjork, Evans and Connor Hurley all reached the double-digit mark in points on the year.

Despite the impact his freshmen had, Jackson said there is strong room for improvement moving forward.

"Maybe with one exception, I think they all had good years, not great years," Jackson said. "And I think that bodes well for them to be motivated going into the off-season, and I think that most of them finished with a fair amount of confidence, knowing what to expect from college hockey, and I think they'll be better prepared coming in as sophomores."

While Jackson expressed concern over a "sophomore slump," he said he felt his newcomers could have added more this year, and that should help them push forward next season.

"I think sometimes sophomores, for so many of them, expectations get in the way, and they don't have the kind of year that they probably should," he said. "But it's a lot easier for them going into their sophomore year if they didn't really achieve their expectations in the first year. So my thoughts are that they'll be better for it and more geared towards having a real good year [next season]."

It is likely the Irish will need further contributions from their youngsters next year, after the team's two leading point-scorers from this season, senior defenseman Robbie Russo and sophomore center Vince Hinostroza, who were both named first-team All-Hockey East, departed the team.

For Russo, it was a story of redemption in his senior year. The defenseman was suspended midway through the 2013-2014 season and returned to the team in the fall with one year of eligibility left.

He made the most of it, sharing the lead for all defensemen nationwide in goals scored (15) and finishing second in points tallied (41).

"I think he responded really well to some personal adversity from the previous year," Jackson said. "I think he took a big step, especially with such a young defense, playing with a freshman [Gross] all year."

But for everything Russo did in the goalscoring category, Jackson pointed out his leadership growth; the senior was named a co-captain prior to Notre Dame's series with Providence on Valentine's Day weekend.

"He did a great job leading back there, not just with his production but his overall demeanor and his approach to the game," Jackson said of Russo. "He had a great year offensively, but I thought he did a really good job on the defensive side of the puck as well."

Russo capped off his 2015 honors by earning a spot on CCM's All-America team.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior defenseman Robbie Russo tries to corral a loose puck in the offensive zone in Notre Dame's 3-3 tie with Connecticut on Jan. 16.

While Russo's departure was expected, Hinostroza's was a little less so; the sophomore signed a professional contract with the Chicago Blackhawks on March 21.

The center led the Irish in both points scored (44) and assists (33), and Jackson said he was most upset Hinostroza would likely not have the ability to finish his degree at Notre Dame.

"You certainly like to see every player be in a position to earn their diploma from the University of Notre Dame, and this will probably make that an impossibility leaving this early," Jackson said in an interview March 22. "That's my biggest disappointment."

Jackson, however, did get a boost May 8, when junior forward Mario Lucia announced he would return to school for his senior season.

The Minnesota Wild draftee was Notre Dame's leading goalscorer this season, lighting the lamp 21 times, improving on his 16 goals the prior year.

Jackson said he is excited to have his team's most-prolific scorer back but indicated the junior's leadership off the ice may be more important than his play on it.

"We're thrilled that he's coming back," he said. "Mario's an important part of our team; I think he's grown a lot over the last two or three years, both as a player and as a young man, and he's certainly going to make a big difference in our lineup and, more importantly, in our locker room."

Jackson attributed many of his team's struggles to a lack of depth—the Irish often struggled to get consistent performances from their third and fourth lines—and he said looks toward next year's freshmen as players who

can fill those roles for his squad moving forward.

"I felt like at times we weren't a good four-line team, and that's always our game, so I'm pretty confident that our depth will be better [next year]," he said. "We'll have more production from four lines, as opposed to two or three, and with the growth by some of the young defensemen and Cal Petersen and Chad Katunar, that we'll be better coming out of our own zone and playing in our own zone. That's a good starting point to build on."

"I'm excited about the potential of this class coming in. We've got a couple of guys who are pure offensive guys, and we've got a couple of guys that are more power-type forwards. We're gonna have more balance with the type of players we bring in."

He also thought his team could improve at home, where the Irish went just 10-10-3 this season.

"I want to make sure that we do better at home, play more consistent at home," Jackson said. "I think our nonconference record is going to have to be better, and it'll be another challenging year within the conference; we always want to get to the point where we can get to [TD Garden for the Hockey East semifinals]."

Jackson said to reach the team's goal of hoisting the hardware in April, it must focus on these short-term goals first.

"Everything else takes care of itself," he said. "The end result, making the NCAA tournament, is a precursor to winning an NCAA championship, and that is the long-term goal for this team. ... We always aspire to reach that pinnacle. But we have to look at staying focused on what's important in the short term."

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish freshman goaltender Cal Petersen and junior center Steven Fogarty track the puck in Notre Dame's 2-0 loss to Boston College.

BASEBALL | 33-18, 15-12 ACC

Irish rebound, look to add to postseason history

By MARY GREEN

Assistant Managing Editor

Above the right-field corner of Frank Eck Stadium stands a board listing each year Notre Dame has earned a bid to the NCAA tournament, with the most recent trip in 2006.

The Irish won't know for another week if "2015" will be printed on that board when they open their season next year, but head coach Mik Aoki is keeping his team's success in 2015 in perspective, no matter what the postseason holds.

"It's like I told our guys going into this thing is that, look, one year ago today, we were completely eliminated, and we were sort of playing out this stretch, and the way that we had played the first 48 games dictated that that was the case," Aoki said. "This year, the way that we had played the first 48 games dictated that we've changed that."

One year ago, Notre Dame struggled in its first season in the ACC, when a prolonged winter kept them from competing at Eck until May 9. The team toiled to a 22-31 record, picking up just nine of those wins against conference opponents.

It's safe to say the second time

around in the ACC has been the charm for the Irish, who surpassed last year's win total with an April 11 victory over Florida State and have compiled a 33-18 record headed into this weekend's series at Boston College.

"To a certain extent, I think there's a breaking-in period with this conference, especially when you go from the Big East, which, rightly or wrongly, isn't really perceived as a baseball power conference, going to a place like the ACC, which is perceived as a baseball power conference. To make that transition, I think there needs to be a little bit of a level of familiarity," Aoki said.

Notre Dame has proven it can keep up with the perennial powers of its new conference, collecting 15 wins against ACC teams this season, including three-game sweeps of then-No. 7 Florida State, No. 20 North Carolina and Pittsburgh and series wins over Clemson and North Carolina State.

Aoki said he attributed the turnaround from last year's difficulties to this year's success to a complete culture change within the program, stemming from its veteran players.

"Our kids are excited about coming to the field on a daily

basis, and I think that a lot of that has to do with the way the seniors have led us and kept it loose and kept it fun, and they've shown some of these younger kids who have made such a major contribution to our team the right way of sort of going about the process, so I think this is a great reward for them," he said.

The Irish kicked off the season by taking 10 of their first 11 games, including two on the road against Oklahoma. Aoki said that hot start validated the hard work Notre Dame had put in during the offseason more than boosting its confidence.

"I think we, to a certain extent, redefined where confidence comes from, and confidence comes from the work we put in, the way in which we control the process of trying to be good," he said. "... I think our confidence doesn't go up and down with the ebbs and flows of the season. We should, if we're doing it right, our confidence should stay at a pretty high level because we've paid the price to be successful."

A few months after those first few weekends of competition set the tone for Notre Dame's rebound season, the Irish closed out their home season last weekend with the sweep against the



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish right-hander Cristian Torres delivers a pitch during Notre Dame's 8-3 win over Central Michigan on March 18 at Frank Eck Stadium.

Tar Heels, capped by a walk-off home run from junior center fielder Kyle Richardson in the series finale.

Aoki said being able to practice and compete for the entirety of the season on the one-year-old FieldTurf of their stadium has allowed the Irish to put in that work and build their confidence.

"The playing surface is the same today as it will be in July, if we're fortunate enough and Mother Nature cooperates and

we can get out in December," he said. "... So this thing has been an absolute, 100-percent game changer for us."

Notre Dame wraps up its regular season this weekend with a series against Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, before heading to Durham, North Carolina, for the ACC tournament, beginning May 19.

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ND SOFTBALL | 40-13, 17-6 ACC

Historic win streak highlights ND's season



CHRIS COLLINS | The Observer

By MIKE GINOCCHIO

Sports Writer

Heading into the 2014-2015 year, the Irish looked to build on a highly successful 2013-2014 season.

They did not disappoint.

Notre Dame finished the regular season with a record of 40-12, a conference record of 17-6 and a near-perfect 18-1 record at home in Melissa Cook Stadium.

As senior third baseman Katey Haus viewed it, the added experience transitioning from last year to this paid major dividends.

"I think our experience has shown this year," Haus said. "We know what it takes to get the job done, and we've made sure we've taken care of business."

Haus was one of six Irish named to the ACC All-Conference first team, along with senior ACC Player of the Year and two-time All-American center fielder Emilee Koerner, sophomore All-American left fielder Karley Wester and junior All-American first baseman Micaela Arizmendi. Sophomore right-hander Rachel Nasland and freshman shortstop Morgan Reed capped off the Irish presence on the list by making the

All-ACC second team.

It is the large core of successful players, as well as the length of time that they have played together, that Haus said fuels their success.

"I think a big component of our success is our team chemistry," Haus said. "We feed off one another, and if someone is struggling, someone else is there to pick her up."

After losing to Florida State on March 14, Notre Dame put together a streak of 24 straight victories. During that time, the Irish outscored their opponents by a staggering 204-39 margin, and at one point, were a perfect 17-0 at home.

Yet Haus said the streak barely registered on the team's radar.

"Honestly, the streak wasn't a huge factor for the team," Haus said. "We always focus on taking one game at a time, regardless of what happens the game before. The team as a whole has stepped up. One through nine has gotten their jobs done, and it has really shown as the season progressed."

Overall, the Irish have compiled an impressive season, with several key performers standing out. On the mound, Nasland went 16-7 with a 2.79

ERA and 161 strikeouts in 165.2 innings pitched, while junior lefty Allie Rhodes led the team in wins (19-5) and ERA (2.76) while also striking out 113 batters in 121.2 innings.

At the plate, two Irish broke a .400 batting average, with Wester hitting a team-high .432 and Haus coming in second with .409. Haus was also tied for the team lead in home runs with Arizmendi, each cranking out 11 over the course of the regular season. Haus and Koerner also cracked 50 RBIs on the season, with the former leading the team with 53 and the latter coming in with 50.

It has been these individual performances that fuel Haus' confidence as the Irish head towards the rest of the playoffs.

"I think we are looking good," Haus said. "The team is excited to get into the postseason and make things happen."

After losing to Pittsburgh on May 7 in the ACC quarterfinals by a score of 8-1, the Irish earned the No. 16 seed in the NCAA tournament and will host Ball State on Friday at Melissa Cook Stadium.

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Irish senior outfielder Emilee Koerner waits for a pitch during Notre Dame's doubleheader against Georgia Tech on March 21.

MEN'S LACROSSE | 10-2, 4-0 ACC

Irish rebound after 2014 championship loss

By MANNY DE JESUS
Sports Writer

All season long, the Irish tried to bounce back from being just a couple of goals away from hoisting the program's first national championship in 2014. Notre Dame responded to that defeat in a big way, winning the regular season ACC title and capturing the first No. 1 overall seed in program history in this year's NCAA tournament.

In their second year in the ACC, the Irish (10-2, 4-0 ACC) have handled the pressures of arguably the nation's top conference by beating Virginia, Syracuse, Duke and North Carolina. Those teams are seeded seventh, second, fifth and fourth, respectively, in the NCAA tournament.

Looking at the improvements from last year's team to this year's squad, Notre Dame faced a completely different challenge, sophomore goalie Shane Doss said.

"This season has definitely been different because last year we really dug ourselves a hole and had to win a couple big games just to make the NCAA tournament," Doss said. "We've been more successful early on this year which is obviously good but does present unique challenges in staying focused and

not letting our egos get too big."

Notre Dame's win over Syracuse midway through the season cemented the Irish as the top program in the nation. In a matchup that pitted the country's top two teams against each other, the then-No. 2 Irish defeated the then-No. 1 Orange in a double-overtime thriller. Notre Dame was rewarded with the No. 1 overall ranking after the win.

In the following game, the Irish traveled to Durham, North Carolina, with redemption from their last loss to Duke in the 2014 national championship game in their mind. Dominating the scoreboard early and limiting the Blue Devils' offense, the Irish came away with a convincing 15-10 victory on the road. However, Notre Dame lost to Duke, 13-8, in the first round of the ACC tournament.

In the final game of the regular season, Notre Dame was faced with another No. 1 vs. No. 2 battle when North Carolina visited Arlotta Stadium. From start to finish, the Irish and Tar Heels were neck-and-neck until three Irish goals in the game's last 75 seconds overcame a two-goal deficit and gave Notre Dame a 15-14 win.

"It was a great season to

really learn about ourselves," Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan said. "We played most of the best teams in the country, and you learn a lot about yourself because every one of those teams present a different challenge to you."

This year's squad was more balanced than last year's, which was carried by junior attack Matt Kavanagh's 42 goals and 33 assists. This season, Kavanagh, a finalist for the Tewaarton Award, which recognizes the best player in the country, was supported by a cast of offensive weapons including sophomore midfielder Sergio Perkovic (24 goals, six assists), senior attack Conor Doyle (24 goals, 17 assists) and freshman attack Mikey Wynne (32 goals, 3 assists).

Several other players on the team have stepped up this season to give Notre Dame an extra push, Doss said.

"Our captains Jack Near, Conor Doyle and Jim Marlatt have done a great job leading us on and off the field," Doss said. "Near is really the emotional leader of the team, and it shows in every game, but other guys always step in when we need them to. Matt Kavanagh is another guy who leads by example and is always fighting no matter what, which has kind of been the



EMILY MCCONVILLE | The Observer

Junior attack Matt Kavanagh escapes a North Carolina defender in a narrow 15-14 win over the Tar Heels on April 18 at Arlotta Stadium.

identity of our team all year."

Corrigan believes the balance of the team has made Notre Dame one of the most potent offenses in the country.

"We're a harder team to prepare for because if you're just preparing for Kavanagh, you're going to be in trouble with some of our other guys out there," Corrigan said. "We have experienced guys all over the field that have helped us with several roles as well."

The Irish are not looking back at what happened last season or even at what lies ahead in the remainder of the NCAA tourney, Corrigan said.

"We're trying to make sure that our guys have fresh legs

and understand who we are heading into the tournament, but we're not worried about long term. We're totally one game at a time and focusing on strictly learning about how to make ourselves a better team," Corrigan said.

In the first round of the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame rallied past unseeded Towson at home to win 12-10, and advance to its sixth straight quarterfinals. The Irish will play Albany on Saturday in Denver with a return to the Final Four on the line.

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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE | 11-9, 3-4 ACC

Wins at Virginia highlight 'roller coaster' year

By RENEE GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

This year was a season of firsts for No. 17 Notre Dame en route to an 11-9 overall record and 3-4 finish in ACC play.

Notre Dame upset No. 8 Virginia twice, both times on enemy turf. The program's first ever win over the Cavaliers (11-6, 4-3 ACC) on April 4 kicked off a three-game win streak during which the Irish also took down No. 3 Syracuse in

overtime before suffering a narrow, 10-9 loss to No. 9 Northwestern.

"This group came out and said, 'We want to be part of something new here; we want to do things for the first time,' and they did," Irish head coach Christine Halfpenny said. "Beating Virginia for the first time ever in the history of the program, and not only beating them but beating them away on their home field, added an exclamation point to it."

The second win over Virginia

came in the first round of the ACC tournament. The Irish advanced to play No. 2 North Carolina, the conference's top seed, and lost, 18-4. Earlier in the season, the Tar Heels escaped an Irish upset with a 9-8 win at Arlotta Stadium.

The 19-day span in which the Irish defeated Virginia twice and Syracuse once marked the first time Notre Dame beat three top-10 teams in a single season.

The Irish faced a challenging schedule, taking on four other top-10 teams on the road in the first half of the season. All were losses, as they fell 12-10 to No. 10 Stanford, 17-3 to No. 6 Duke, 15-6 to No. 6 Boston College and 9-5 to No. 4 Stony Brook.

"You have to look at the entire picture and say we play one of the hardest schedules in the country," Halfpenny said. "We weren't just coming up against teams that were rollovers. Every single time out we were tested, both in conference and out of conference, especially down the stretch."

Halfpenny said while the team struggled in the losses, specifically the lopsided defeat at Duke on March 1, she was proud of how it responded.

"It's a roller coaster ride, those are just the ups and downs of

sports," Halfpenny said. "Every dog has their day, and unfortunately we had one down in Durham. ... The beauty is, we didn't dwell in misery. We basically got right back up, responded and went on that late run where we almost knocked off the No. 2 team in the country, North Carolina. That was a close defeat, but it was a win for our program."

Halfpenny said the team really developed and came together with time, especially with underclassmen playing such a large role on the field.

"We're still identifying exactly where our strengths are going to be, and we're relying on a lot of sophomores," Halfpenny said. "We're led by an incredible group of seniors, three of them are on the field for us. ... You just saw the natural progression of a team that is growing and learning who they are and battling throughout the course of the season."

The Notre Dame offense was led by sophomore attack Cortney Fortunato, who ranks 15th in the NCAA in goals scored with 52, earning her a spot on the All-ACC second team.

On defense, meanwhile, senior captain Barbara Sullivan dominated with 73 draw controls and

34 caused turnovers, putting her in the top 25 of the NCAA for both categories.

Sullivan, who was sidelined for almost all of 2014 with a back injury, won ACC Defensive Player of the Year and was also named a finalist for the Tewaarton Award, given to the nation's best collegiate men's and women's lacrosse players.

Notre Dame traveled to Evanston, Illinois, for the NCAA tournament, where it met up with Ohio State in the first round May 8. Behind a seven-goal run, the Irish defeated the Buckeyes, 13-10, to set up a rematch with host Northwestern (14-6) on Sunday. The Wildcat offense came to life in the second half, scoring nine goals and turning a 7-7 tie at halftime into a 16-11 victory that ended Notre Dame's season.

Before the NCAA tournament began though, Halfpenny praised her team's overall performance this year.

"Watching our team come together, watching our leaders step up, watching our younger kids grow up and give us incredible contributions ... it's been an awesome journey," she said.

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AMY ACKERMANN | The Observer

Irish sophomore attack Cortney Fortunato is pressured while passing during a 10-8 loss to Louisville at Arlotta Stadium on April 19.

MEN'S SOCCER | 12-5-4, 6-1-1 ACC

Tournament loss to Cavs halts title defense

By **ZACH KLONSINSKI**
Sports Editor

It was an all-too-familiar story for Notre Dame.

The Irish dominated another game which they lost, only this

time, it ended their season and the quest to repeat as national champions.

After earning a road draw and a 3-0 win over Virginia in the two teams' prior meetings, No. 1 seed Notre Dame (12-5-4, 6-1-1

ACC) found itself walking off the Alumni Stadium pitch with a 1-0 loss to the 16th-seeded Cavaliers in the third round of the NCAA tournament after Virginia scored a goal in the 82nd minute.

"The game we lost we dominated. That's sport, and that's why you play games," Irish head coach Bobby Clark said.

It was the not the first time Notre Dame was forced to settle for a bitter defeat in a game in which it was the better side. The Irish also dropped a 1-0 decision at home against Kentucky on Sept. 8 and another by the same score on the road Oct. 3 at Boston College.

"The Irish luck kind of somehow deserted us this year, but that's ok. I was very proud," Clark said. "I thought the team responded very well to [winning the title] the year before. ... They certainly didn't rest on their laurels, and they played very, very well."

The Irish controlled the final game against the Cavaliers but couldn't find room to put shots on net against a different defense than they shredded just two weeks before during their 3-0 win in the ACC tournament.

"... I know having spoken to the Virginia coaches, after we beat them they changed their tactics right through the rest of the tournament," Clark said. "... They changed from playing with three defenders to

four defenders, so they actually changed their tactics. That game altered their thinking a lot and quite possibly, as they said, won them a national championship."

The Cavaliers went on to win the national championship, the second time in three years the No. 16 seed has done so — and also the second time it went through a top-seeded Notre Dame en route. Three years ago, eventual champion Indiana left Alumni Stadium with a 2-1, double-overtime win in the third round.

Despite the unsatisfying finish, Clark said he was proud of how the team handled the pressure following the program's first-ever national championship last season.

"Every team you played last year, you got their A-game ... and I thought the team responded to that very well, and I thought they came through that test well," Clark said.

This graduating senior class leaves Notre Dame soccer among the most decorated ever. The team won a national championship, back-to-back ACC regular-season championships and the 2013 Big East tournament title, as well as earned two No. 1 overall seeds and a No. 3 billing in the NCAA tournament while compiling a 55-15-15 overall record.

"The last four years were very successful, there's no

question about that," Clark said. "Arguably, I don't even have to check records, but I think it would be the most successful four years in — we've had a lot of good years, so it could be close, but no team had won the national championship, and then you've won three other major trophies in two of the best conferences in the country."

"They'll all go out and hold their heads very high."

Senior midfielder Brendan Lesch even added a Bengal Bouts championship this spring to the class's long list of accolades.

"That cost me a lot of money," Clark said. "I put him on \$20 a round, so he was on an incentive. I said I would put money into the Bengal Bouts mission fund per round. So he got me there. He stung me there all the way through."

While seniors midfielder Nick Besler (Portland Timbers) and defender Luke Mishu (DC United) will continue their careers in the major leagues, others — such as graduate student goalkeeper Patrick Wall, an aerospace engineer — will make good use of their Notre Dame education.

"We've put over 30 kids into the MLS now, but every one has graduated, which for me is very important," Clark said.

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KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Notre Dame senior defender Luke Mishu winds up for a kick during a 1-0 win over Northwestern at Alumni Stadium on Oct. 14.

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER | 14-6-2, 7-2-1 ACC

Season ends with Sweet 16 heartbreaker

By **RENEE GRIFFIN**
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame suffered only three losses in the months of September, October and November, before a Sweet 16 loss to No. 4 Texas A&M on Nov. 23 ended their 2014 season.

Notre Dame (14-6-2, 7-2-1 ACC) came close to upsetting the Aggies (23-3-2, 9-1-1 SEC) on their home turf in College Station, Texas, but a goal in the game's 82nd minute propelled Texas A&M to a 2-1 win.

"Things didn't go our way in terms of goals that were put in the back of the net, but overall I loved the way we played in that game," Irish head coach Theresa Romagnolo said. "We gave 100 percent of our effort, we executed on the most part on everything that we talked about."

Before that, the Irish qualified for the four-team ACC tournament and fell 3-1 to No. 1 Florida State in the semifinals. The Seminoles went on to win both the ACC and NCAA titles.

"I thought that we showed great character [in the postseason], and I thought that we were playing some of our best soccer," Romagnolo said.

The regular season started off

slow for Notre Dame. After two wins against unranked Illinois and Oakland, the team lost at home to Southern California and No. 14 Texas Tech in consecutive games.

However, the Irish bounced back from there, with the only other regular season losses coming against No. 8 North Carolina in double overtime on Sept. 20 and No. 2 Virginia, who fell to Florida State in the national title game, on Oct. 5.

"It's always interesting to watch a team evolve over the course of the season," Romagnolo said. "There were a lot of different people who stepped up, but as a whole we were becoming more dangerous as the season went on."

After the narrow loss to Virginia, in which the Cavaliers scored the game-winning goal in the final minute, Notre Dame went on a five-game winning streak and closed out the regular season with a 1-1 tie against Boston College.

"We were defending really well at that point in the year," Romagnolo said. "The back four was very cohesive. [Sophomore goalkeeper] Kaela Little can come up with any save on any given day. ... When you look back, most of those games were still 1-0 victories, so it's not like we were a prolific goal-scoring team."



WEI LIN | The Observer

Notre Dame freshman midfielder Sabrina Flores brings the ball downfield during a 1-0 win over Baylor at Alumni Stadium on Sept. 12. The Irish finished the season with a 14-6-2 overall record.

Contributions from a number of different players were crucial to the Irish attack, Romagnolo said. Sophomore midfielder Morgan Andrews, who has since transferred to USC, led the team in points with 17, followed by senior forward Lauren Bohaboy (16 points) and freshman forward Karin Muya (11).

"When I think about our strikers, we had a lot of people who kind of went in waves of being hot and

scoring goals," Romagnolo said. "Lauren Bohaboy had a good season for us, and especially started to peak as we got into the meat of the ACC schedule. [Forward] Karin Simonian had a good year I think as a senior as well."

Romagnolo named players like junior defenders Katie Naughton and Cari Roccaro as important team leaders, while praising freshmen like defender Sabrina Flores for their rapid development.

On the whole, the season went well, Romagnolo said.

"We could have definitely gone further had some things gone our way and had we found the back of the net in that Sweet 16 game," Romagnolo said. "I was really pleased with the strides we made from August to the end of November."

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS | 14-10, 8-6 ACC

Young team deals with injuries, tough schedule



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Notre Dame sophomore Monica Robinson winds up for a hit during a match against Stanford on Feb. 6 at Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Irish fell to the Cardinal, 6-1.

By HUNTER McDANIEL

Sports Writer

Notre Dame's season ended with a 4-2 loss to TCU in the first round of the NCAA tournament, but on the way toward earning its 20th consecutive tournament berth, the team overachieved in a number of ways.

The Irish (14-10, 8-6 ACC) kicked off their spring season in early January without injured top recruit Brooke Broda, who had won three National Open singles titles before coming to Notre Dame.

Head coach Jay Louderback said the resilience his team showed throughout the year after Broda's season-ending injury was crucial.

"I felt like everyone stepped up," he said. "We thought Brooke was going to be in the lineup, but she ended up missing the year with an injury. So everyone had to step up and play to a higher level than we thought, and they did a good job."

It wasn't just the injury to an expected starter that forced the Irish to play differently this season, Louderback said. They also had to overcome a number of personnel changes from a season ago.

"We lost three of our top four doubles from last year and only had one new player come in," Louderback said. "We had so many tight matches, so many 5-2 and 4-3 matches, more by far than any in this team's

history. And especially our doubles had to step up. We hardly lost the doubles point all year, and that turned out to be huge for us."

As the season continued, Notre Dame faced some of the top teams in the country and played them to close matches almost every time. On the year, the Irish had seven matches end with a 4-3 score.

Louderback highlighted one such match that specifically stood out to him.

"The match with Virginia Tech [on April 5] ended up being a huge match for us," he said. "We were on the road, and it came down to [junior] Quinn [Gleason] at No. 1 singles, where she was down to two match points. She came back and won to give us a 4-3 win. Without that win, we would've been on the bubble for the NCAA tournament. Our kids hung in there and gave a huge win when we needed it."

After the victory at Virginia Tech, the Irish found themselves victors of four in a row and six of their previous seven. Unfortunately, they then suffered a four-game skid with losses to then-No. 17 Miami, No. 21 Clemson and No. 23 Duke, as well as a second round ACC tournament loss to Florida State.

The Irish did, however, earn a spot in the NCAA tournament, traveling to College Station, Texas, for the matchup against TCU, which they dropped.

Notre Dame's top doubles

team of Gleason and sophomore Monica Robinson earned a spot in the NCAA women's doubles championship in Waco, Texas, which takes place May 20-25. The 26th ranked duo played to a 14-5 record this spring and a 22-7 overall record going back to the fall.

"They simply had a great season," Louderback said. "Last year Monica was in and out of our doubles lineup, and she had to work on a few things in order to get better, and she did that. As a sophomore and junior, they played great together against some great competition. Without the way they played together this year, we simply would not have won as many of the doubles points. They were huge for us."

Louderback said he is already looking forward to next season, especially with more experienced players and five-star recruit Rachel Chong coming in from Danville, California.

"We didn't have any seniors in our top six [this year]," Louderback said. "We've got a great freshman coming in this year, and we're hoping Brooke will be healthy. We've got so much experience. All our returners got some great experience, [sophomore] Jane Fennelly especially.

"... With all the returners and new players coming in, we think we could be a really special team next year."

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MEN'S TENNIS | 14-11, 6-6 ACC

Irish slowed by ACC opponents

By RYAN KLAUS

Sports Writer

Notre Dame got off to a fast start this season, winning six of its first seven matches. However, as the Irish began their ACC slate, wins became harder to come by.

"I think clearly there's been a lot of growth from a lot of individuals throughout this year," Irish head coach Ryan Sachire said. "We've had a tough time putting our best lineup on the court every time because of injuries and other things like that, but that gave other guys opportunities to step up and play in the lineup when they normally wouldn't or play higher in the lineup than they normally would."

The Irish (14-11, 6-6 ACC) began the season with nonconference wins over Kentucky, Oklahoma State and Northwestern. After a 6-1 start, the Irish dropped matches to highly-ranked opponents Ohio State (currently No. 11) and Illinois (No. 4) before starting ACC play.

Notre Dame's daunting conference schedule included matches against five current top-15 teams: Virginia (No. 3), Duke (No. 10), Wake Forest (No. 12), North Carolina (No. 13) and Virginia Tech (No. 15).

"I think with the ACC, first and foremost, it's clear that it's the best overall conference in the country," Sachire said. "We've played a difficult schedule and challenged ourselves as much as

anyone in the country."

Following an up-and-down second half of the season, the Irish finished with a .500 conference record, which earned them the seventh seed in the ACC tournament. But Notre Dame's stay at the ACC championships in Cary, North Carolina, was cut short after a first round 4-0 loss to Georgia Tech.

Despite the early conference tournament exit, Notre Dame earned an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, where it fell to No. 24 Vanderbilt in the first round, 4-1.

Outside of team accomplishments, three individual Irish players will participate in the NCAA tournament on May 20-25 in Waco, Texas. Junior Quentin Monaghan compiled a 29-6 record as the No. 1 singles player for the Irish and is ranked ninth nationally. Notre Dame's top doubles pairing of junior Alex Lawson and senior Billy Pecor, ranked 15th nationally, also had a standout season, finishing 24-8. The pair earned an at-large bid to play in the doubles portion of the NCAA tournament.

"They've had great years for us," Sachire said of the three qualifiers. "They've been spots that we've been really successful at all year. Our team's played a great schedule and great competition, but certainly the individuals have done the same thing."

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TRACK & FIELD

Runners perform well under new coach

By **ANDREW ROBINSON**
Sports Writer

In their first season with head coach Alan Turner at the helm, the Irish had a year filled with its share of dazzling veteran performances and emerging young stars, despite some setbacks along the way.

Notre Dame got off to a fast start at its own Blue & Gold Invitational on Dec. 5, winning 22 of 30 events.

The star of the first few meets of the indoor season was freshman Jessica Harris, who broke the school record at 1,000 meters in her first race at the Blue & Gold Invitational. She proceeded to nab school records in the 600-meter and 800-meter runs at her next two meets.

“I doubt we’ll see anything like that happen for a long, long time,” Turner said of Harris’s performance.

Another indoor standout was junior Molly Seidel, who won five of her six races inside, took the ACC crown in the 3,000 meters and 5,000 meters and captured an All-American sixth-place finish at the NCAA indoor

championship.

“The highlights are the folks who are doing the things really well for where I want to take the program ... in the ACC and nationally,” Turner said.

Though Turner said she had a shaky start indoors, senior hurdler Jade Barber has put forth an impressive final season, finishing second in the ACC 60-meter hurdles before taking second-team All-American honors. Outdoors, she holds three first-place finishes in the 100-meter hurdles and the fourth-best time in the country.

Junior Margaret Bamgbose won a total of seven indoor races from individual and relay performances and went on to set a Notre Dame record while winning the 400-meter dash at the ACC championships. She also finished sixth at nationals, earning All-American honors.

Turner said he expects that with Seidel, Barber, Bamgbose, senior Emily Morris in the shot put and junior Danielle Aragon in the distance events, the Irish women have a strong chance

of winning the upcoming ACC outdoor championships on May 14-16.

The men’s side has been riddled with injuries throughout the season, contributing to what Turner said was a “middle-of-the-road” season, but still had many strong individual performers.

Senior standout Chris Giesting was as strong as ever, finishing second in the ACC in the 400-meter dash and becoming a second-team All-American indoors. He has the NCAA’s 13th-best outdoor time.

Turner also said it was a good year to build for athletes like junior Michael Clevenger and sophomore Jacob Dumford, both distance runners, and freshman Greg Bombara in the javelin.

After the outdoor ACC championships, the qualifying Irish athletes will travel to the NCAA east regional, followed by the national championships starting June 10.

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior Chris Giesting runs a leg of a relay during the Notre Dame Invitational at Loftus Sports Center on Jan. 24.

ND VOLLEYBALL | 6-23, 3-15 ACC

ND’s struggles result in leadership change

By **BRIAN PLAMONDON**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame’s season did not turn out as it had hoped and, as a result, the team will no longer have a familiar face roaming the sideline during the 2015 season.

Director of athletics Jack Swarbrick announced long-time Irish head coach Debbie Brown would not return in December, with the team struggling to a 6-23 record, including a 3-15 mark in ACC play, this past season. Brown departed after amassing

more than 500 wins, 15 regular-season conference titles and 18 NCAA championship appearances. However, she struggled in the transition to the ACC, going 7-13 in the conference last year in addition to a second-to-last place finish this past fall.

“This last season was definitely a disappointment,” freshman middle blocker Sam Fry said. “Every time we look back on our record, it’s a little bit degrading. But it’s definitely something we’re going to learn from.”

Fry was one of the few bright spots for the Irish, garnering 2014 all-ACC freshman honors while leading the team in total blocks with 107. In addition, Fry was second in points (324.0) and third in kills (242).

“It was definitely a big honor,” Fry said. “I wouldn’t have been able to get that award if it weren’t for my teammates helping me out, and also Coach Deb giving me an opportunity to play and lead the team like I did.”

Fry was not the only underclassman who got a chance to contribute. As the Irish were beset by injuries all year, eight underclassmen (including six freshmen) were called upon to play important roles this year.

“We all experienced what it was like to play at the collegiate level and work hard,” Fry said. “I just think this experience we had, one season under our belt, will help us become better leaders for the other girls coming in.

“It definitely was really helpful getting those reps. You have to be more mentally focused, just because volleyball is such a mental game. ... This past fall we definitely learned how to deal with our emotions, really play mentally tough.”

Even before injuries became the story, the Irish struggled despite a veteran squad with six seniors on the team.

Notre Dame dropped its first six games before earning its first win Sept. 13 against Northeastern. The squad had four losing streaks of at least three matches in addition to its season-opening struggles. After a 3-2 win against Louisville on Nov. 9, the Irish limped down the stretch, dropping their final five games.

Fry said there were multiple areas the team needs to progress in.

“Definitely improving our fundamentals [is one area],” Fry said. “And working on your individual game and

making sure everyone is doing their job on the court. I think another thing to is just staying positive. ... We’re going to be frustrated, but if we’re not frustrated we’re not getting better. ... There is a process.”

The Irish will turn their attention to next year without their six seniors, but they will undoubtedly miss middle blocker Jeni Houser and outside hitter Nicole Smith. Houser, who led the team with 289 kills this season, finished her career with 1,299 kills, good for a tie for eight place in program history. Smith was second on the team with 249 kills. Returning such a young team that already has plenty of experience, Fry said the Irish will use the 2014 season as motivation moving forward.

“This next year we’re going to come in with kind of a chip on our shoulder,” Fry said. “We never want to have feelings like that again.”

In January, Swarbrick announced Jim McLaughlin, former head coach and national champion at Washington, would be the new Irish head coach.

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ROWING

ACCs mark final race for seniors

By **BRETT O'CONNELL**
Sports Writer

Though finals have passed and Commencement looms, the Irish still have unfinished business to take care of at the ACC championships on May 29.

After completing a series of regular season races, the Irish will spend the next two weeks preparing for their first ACC championship meet in Clemson, South Carolina. A conference championship would guarantee the Irish a bid in the NCAA tournament, though a successful performance could also land the squad an at-large bid in the tournament even without a first-place finish.

This postseason will cap what has been an incredibly successful four years for the Irish senior class, who have seen the program become a regular contender for a spot in the NCAA tournament.

Other accomplishments by the senior class include the naming of senior rower Anna Kottkamp as class of 2017 valedictorian and ACC Scholar-Athlete of the year.

"The senior class as a whole has done an awful lot," Irish head coach Martin Stone said. "When they came in as freshmen, [the program] hadn't been to the NAAs in four years. They came in, and quite a few contributed to getting us there and getting us there in subsequent years."

For a team as large as the Irish rowing squad, leadership from within plays an important role in a successful season, according to Stone. The rowing seniors have done a great job in keeping their teammates sharp and prepared for the challenges of a rigorous season, he said.

"Everybody's taken

various roles when something needs to be done," he said. "Whoever is best in their skill set and has had the time to do it, they've taken over. That's kind of how we operate — we have a large team. The seniors the last few years have addressed all of the areas together."

Though the season and the school year have both rapidly come to their respective conclusions, the team's practice routine has remained largely the same.

"There are a few things that we do differently," Stone said. "We're winding down so maybe the volume [of our practices] comes down a little bit. We do a little bit more speed work. Other than that we just continue with the same mindset. We try to make the boats go as fast as we can. There's nothing that much different than what we normally do. Now that school is done, I think gives a little bit less stress on everybody."

The ACC tournament takes place after Commencement, creating a series of emotional events for the seniors of the squad. Stone praised their involvement over the four years they've been on the team, citing their work ethic as a primary impetus for the team's recent success.

"I think the team has done a very fine job this year," Stone said. "The seniors, not only this year, but all through their career have done a phenomenal job to raise the level and speed of our program."

The Irish rowers will practice through Commencement week, celebrating their seniors as they prepare to travel to Clemson for the ACC championships on May 29.

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FENCING | NCAA RUNNER-UP

Irish claim first conference title in transition season

By **BRETT O'CONNELL**
Sports Writer

A year ago, Notre Dame was at a crossroads. The Irish concluded their 2014 season with a sixth-place overall finish at the NCAA championships. Twelve-year head coach Janusz Bednarski had retired earlier that season, handing the reigns to long-time assistant coach Gia Kvaratskhelia. The 2015 season represented a fresh but daunting opportunity for a fencing squad featuring a number of incoming freshmen and a number of questions regarding the team's ability to perform on a national level.

Now, with the season concluded, it is clear the team developed just fine under the direction of Kvaratskhelia. The Irish to claimed the first-ever ACC championship in fencing. The team also dominated conference play, going undefeated and finishing first in every category in conference's inaugural season. Though the season ended with the Irish placing second in the NCAA tournament, falling behind a dominant Columbia squad that earned its 14th national championship in program history, they managed to overcome a great deal of adversity, setting the stage for a continued tradition of success in coming seasons.

Kvaratskhelia said he attributed Notre Dame's season-long success to the willingness of the its senior leaders to set great examples and accommodate the team's complicated needs.

"Last year this time, our former head coach gets sidelined with a serious illness," Kvaratskhelia said. "On top of that, we lose the sabre coach from the staff. We have 21 freshmen flooding the gates as the year starts. Without the senior leadership and those incredible athletes, and the students here, we could not have



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish senior sabre Mary Regan (left) moves toward her opponent at the DeCicco Duals at Castellan Family Fencing Center on Feb. 8.

completed the season with that much success. It speaks of their resilience, their maturity. ... They helped us on a daily basis to move our program forward."

Kvaratskhelia praised in particular the ability of his senior leaders to guide his sabre squad through the first part of the season. In January, the Irish hired assistant coach Samir Ibrahimov to coach the sabres, filling a hole in the coaching staff and creating one of the most formidable and accomplished collegiate staffs in the nation. Prior to January, though, the task of training the team's many sabres fell to the seniors.

"The first part of the season we did not have a sabre coach. The seniors took the load in terms of doing the warm-ups and the drills with the kids alongside the coaches," Kvaratskhelia said. "When we started competing, they were vocal in directing the freshmen and everyone else to their places, giving them

encouragement."

The Irish upperclassmen, headlined by the likes of Ariel DeSmet, Madison Zeiss and Ashley Severson, among others, also dominated the stripe for most of the season, a fact Kvaratskhelia was quick to emphasize.

"I don't want to single anyone out," he said. "It truly was a team effort. We had incredible [performers] like Maddie, Ashley, Nicole Ameli. ... Those were probably the first folks that came to mind because they were such significant contributors. But it was the entire cohesive landscape of the seniors that directed the team to the right place."

The Irish finished second in the national tournament in March. Now they spend the summer recruiting, training and competing internationally before beginning their second ACC season this coming fall.

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WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish senior foil Madison Zeiss (right) battles an opponent during the DeCicco Duals at Castellan Family Fencing Center on Feb. 8, 2014. The Irish women went 5-0 at the meet.

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ND CROSS COUNTRY

Seidel leads women to NCAA championships

By **MAREK MAZUREK**
Sports Writer

In 2014, the Irish overcame the uncertainty of a new coach early in the year to qualify the women's team for the NCAA championships and earn an All-American honors for junior Molly Seidel.

Head coach Matthew Sparks was hired by head track and field coach Alan Turner to lead the distance runners just a few weeks before the fall season started. He said it took him a while to get to know the team and what each runner required from the coaching staff.

"I'd say [arriving late] was the biggest challenge, not just for me, but for the entire squad," Sparks said. "It took probably the first month for us to get to know each other, and part of that getting to know each other process was learning what each individual athlete needed to be successful. Once we got into the championship part of the season, we had a level of comfort with each other that I think really pushed us in the late season."

Though the team chemistry may have been lacking early in

the year, the results were not. The men's team finished first and second at the Crusader Open and the National Catholic Championships respectively, and the women finished first in the National Catholic Championships.

At the Notre Dame Invitational on Oct. 3, the men finished 14th and the women finished third. Seidel said it was a confidence boost for the team to do well on its home course.

"Being able to race well at the ND invite, at our home course, that was a really special race," Seidel said. "For me, my family comes down and you're surrounded by all your friends. It's something really cool to be able to race at home and to do well there. That was definitely a high point in the season."

After stumbling at the Wisconsin adidas Invitational — both teams finished 30th — the Irish rebounded and were able to send the women's team to the NCAA championships in Terre Haute, Indiana for the fourth straight year.

The team finished in 29th place and Seidel finished 19th overall with a time of 20

minutes, 23.4 seconds to earn her first All-American scroll. Despite only earning an at-large bid, Sparks said he thought the team let an opportunity slip by at the championship.

"You always look at things critically," Sparks said. "You always look at things and wonder, 'If this had happened, how much better could we have been?' I think we can always be a little bit better."

Sparks said he was proud of how hard Seidel worked throughout the season to become an All-American.

"It was fun to watch the confidence grow in Molly throughout the three-month cross country season," Sparks said. "Literally week after week, you could see it every day at practice and every competition, the confidence grow."

Though the men's team did not qualify for the NCAA championships, junior Michael Clevenger competed individually and finished 92nd with a time of 31 minutes, 29.9 seconds.

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WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish junior All-American Molly Seidel leads the field during the National Catholic Championships on Sept. 19.

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish overcome coaching change as Reaney shines



WEI LIN | The Observer

Senior Courtney Whyte comes up for air during a meet against Purdue on Nov. 1 at Rolfs Aquatic Center. Whyte finished second in the 200-yard backstroke during the meet.

BY BEN PADANILAM

Sports Writer

In its second season in the ACC, Notre Dame finished sixth in the conference and sent three team members to the NCAA championships.

The Irish (7-9) faced adversity early in the season, as head coach Brian Barnes resigned to spend more time with his family after holding the position for six seasons. Just a week earlier, five-year assistant coach Kate Kovenock had accepted the head coaching position at Brown, leaving the Irish program without a clear leader.

Notre Dame turned to Tim Welsh to take over as interim head coach for the program. Welsh had recently retired as head coach for the men's team after 29 seasons, but despite his experience Welsh said the transition was not always easy.

"All of us had just great support and empathy for Brian Barnes, and he had made a good decision for his family and himself," Welsh said. "All transitions are challenging, and it took a while for us to adjust and the team to adjust, but we eventually did."

In addition to experience, senior swimmer Emma

Reaney said Welsh brought the perfect attitude to practice day in and day out.

"I've never met anyone that better embodies what Notre Dame is about than [Welsh]," Reaney said. "He loves this place and this team. I think having someone that was always there for us, always dedicated to us and made that very obvious was something our team really needed at that time."

By the end of the year, the team was swimming at its best, Welsh said. At the conference championships, the Irish finished sixth. Reaney and Welsh said this accomplishment was something to be proud of.

"Being able to improve in the conference, despite all the difficulties we had this year, was our best moment," Reaney said.

"They held serve, but in order to do that it took a very strong team effort," Welsh said.

While most of the team's season ended at the conference championships, three seniors had the opportunity to compete in one last meet: the NCAA championships. Reaney qualified to compete in both the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke events, as well as the 200-yard individual

medley. Senior Courtney Whyte qualified for the 100- and 200-yard butterfly, in addition to the 100-yard backstroke from the alternate list, and senior Allison Casareto qualified for the 1- and 3-meter dives.

At the NCAA championships, Reaney received three All-American citations, finishing third in the 100 breaststroke and fourth in both the 200 breaststroke and 200 individual medley. Casareto earned an honorable mention, as she placed ninth in the 1-meter dive.

"What a grand finale, to be a senior and finish your career at the NCAA championships," Welsh said.

As the Irish head into next season, they will be under new leadership. Mike Litzinger, who previously served as associate head coach at North Carolina, was hired to fill the head coaching vacancy April 17.

"I cannot be more excited about coach Mike Litzinger," Reaney said. "What our team really needs is someone who can bring us together and get everyone to buy in to what the team is doing, and I have full confidence that he can do that."

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Tallman leads ND to NCAA success

By RYAN KLAUS

Sports Writer

For the first time in 30 years, Notre Dame was led by someone other than head coach Tim Welsh in 2015. Matt Tallman, a longtime assistant, took over the helm after Welsh decided to retire following Notre Dame's 2013-2014 campaign.

Notre Dame's first season under Tallman certainly was eventful. The Irish went 6-6 in their dual meets, including a 5-3 record at home. The wins for the Irish in the dual meet season included victories over Cleveland State, Incarnate Word, Missouri State, Michigan State, Pittsburgh and Olivet Nazarene.

"This first year was certainly different for everyone," Tallman said. "I think we all learned a lot about our abilities, expectations and long-term goals. The program is heading in a great direction."

In the conference championships, the Irish took fifth place, one spot ahead of their placement in their inaugural ACC season. On top of their improved finish, the Irish broke three school records over the course of the four-day event that was held in Atlanta.

"Improving on our team finish at the ACC meet was an important moment this season," Tallman said. "[Sophomore] Tommy Anderson's 400[-yard individual medley] at the Last Chance Meet was a great individual swim for the program. Establishing seven

new university records after a season of setting 18 was also a sign that our student-athletes continue to improve each year they are here."

Three weeks after the ACC championships, Notre Dame concluded its season in Iowa City, Iowa, at the NCAA championships.

Throughout the three-day event, the Irish earned a collective eight points and ended the championships in 32nd place in the team standings. The Irish broke school records in the 200-yard individual medley, 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke and 200-yard backstroke at the meet.

"I thought our efforts at the NCAA meet were tremendous," said Tallman. "I was very proud of the swims we had in Iowa."

Highlighting the class of Irish graduates was senior Zachary Stevens, who finished his college career by breaking three school records; the 100 and 200 breast and the 200 IM.

Additionally, Stephens became the first Irish swimmer to score in more than one event at the NCAA championships.

"The senior class was the fastest recruiting class we had before their arrival and will graduate having accomplished the most as a class while on campus," Tallman said. "We wish them all the best of luck in their futures, and I am sure they will make Notre Dame proud."

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Senior Jonathon Williamson competes in the backstroke during a meet against Cleveland State on Feb. 7 at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

MEN'S GOLF

Young Notre Dame team struggles over course of inconsistent season

By DANIEL O'BOYLE
Sports Writer

It was a difficult year for the young Notre Dame team, which showed flashes of quality but often lacked the consistency to get results.

The Irish started strong, hosting and earning a comfortable victory over IUPUI and Ball State at the Notre Dame Kickoff Challenge. But from there the team struggled, and despite occasional strong individual performances, often found themselves at the lower end of the field.

Many underclassmen saw a large amount of play, including sophomores Matthew Rushton and Blake Barends, as well as freshman Thomas Steve. Irish head coach Jim Kubinski said the team was able to develop over the year.

"We played a lot of young guys," Kubinski said. "We played Thomas quite a bit, we played a couple of sophomores a lot too, and they grew quite a bit and learned a lot of lessons. I anticipate we'll have those guys returning next year as better and more experienced players."

The Irish struggled in many tournaments, finishing 10th out of 17 at

the Gopher Invitational in September and 11th in a field of 14 filled with very strong opponents at the Mason Rudolph Championship in April.

However, there were some impressive individual showings. Junior Cory Sciupider led the Fighting Irish Classic after two rounds in September before finishing second, and Rushton tied for second place at the Rod Myers Invitational in October. Kubinski said these results show the Irish could be better next year.

"I think for us as a team we didn't perform as well over the season as we would have hoped or expected," Kubinski said. "I think certain players had good events, certain guys did well at certain tournaments which was nice, but it was really a growing year and a transition year."

In the ACC tournament on April 24-26, Notre Dame finished 11th out of 12, 25 shots from 10th place. Kubinski said the team's poor showing resulted from its struggles in many of the same areas in which they performed poorly in the regular season.

"This year, we just didn't get any momentum going in the tournament early on,"



WEI LIN | The Observer

Senior Patrick Grahek follows through on a drive during the Notre Dame Kickoff Challenge at the Warren Golf Course on Aug. 31.

said Kubinski. "That was something that seemed to hurt us throughout the year; we didn't get off to good starts very often. I think a lot of our guys would press from there instead of relying on the games they've shown in practice or over the summer.

"We've got to get off to better starts, we definitely have some work to do, but the neat thing is that we have some highly motivated guys who want to do the work."

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KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Senior David Lowe drives the ball during the Notre Dame Kickoff Challenge at the Warren Golf Course on Aug. 31. The Irish won the Challenge and Lowe finished a season-best 16-over-par for the tournament and tied for 14th place.

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish miss NCAAs

By SEAN KILMER
Sports Writer

For the past few years, Notre Dame has been ascending the ladder of the women's golf world, and this year the Irish continued their upward trend.

Notre Dame finished in eighth place at the NCAA regional held at Warren Golf Course across the street from campus last weekend, a mere six strokes shy of qualifying for the NCAA championships to be held in Florida later in May. Junior Talia Campbell and sophomore Jordan Ferreira led the Irish by tying for 19th place, both finishing at a five-over-par 221.

The Irish finished sixth in the ACC tournament on April 18. In that event, Campbell, who earned all-ACC honors, finished tied for 11th at one-under-par to lead the team. The Irish fought through rain and bad weather the entire weekend and finished only ten strokes behind third place. The championship marked a breakthrough for the squad, but the players had been showing flashes of potential all season long, Irish head coach Susan Holt said.

"We're excited to be in the ACC," Holt said. "It's a great golf conference. There are six teams in the top 32. If you are winning ACC championships, you're also competing for national championships."

At their first tournament of the season featuring elite competition, the Schooner Fall Classic, the Irish struggled on day one, posting a 10-over-par score of 290. Holt said at the time the Irish were not satisfied with their performance, and they went on to shoot 277 and 279 over the next two days, respectively. Notre Dame finished tied for eighth, but was just four strokes removed from fourth place, and Campbell individually finished tied for 13th at one-under par.

The Irish were also strong from top to bottom this year. Senior captain Ashley Armstrong finished her career by leading the team with seven rounds under par on the season. And while she just missed out on receiving all-ACC honors, she did receive an ACC postgraduate scholarship for after she walks across the stage this weekend to receive her degree in mechanical engineering.

The Irish will certainly look to play against top competition in the future, as Holt said she is a big believer in its benefits.

"I think it's great whenever you can put yourself against top-25 competition," Holt said. "Because that's who we want to be, and if we can put ourselves in those positions and be competitive as a team we're going to be able to get there."

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From Notre Dame's Graduating Student-Athletes:



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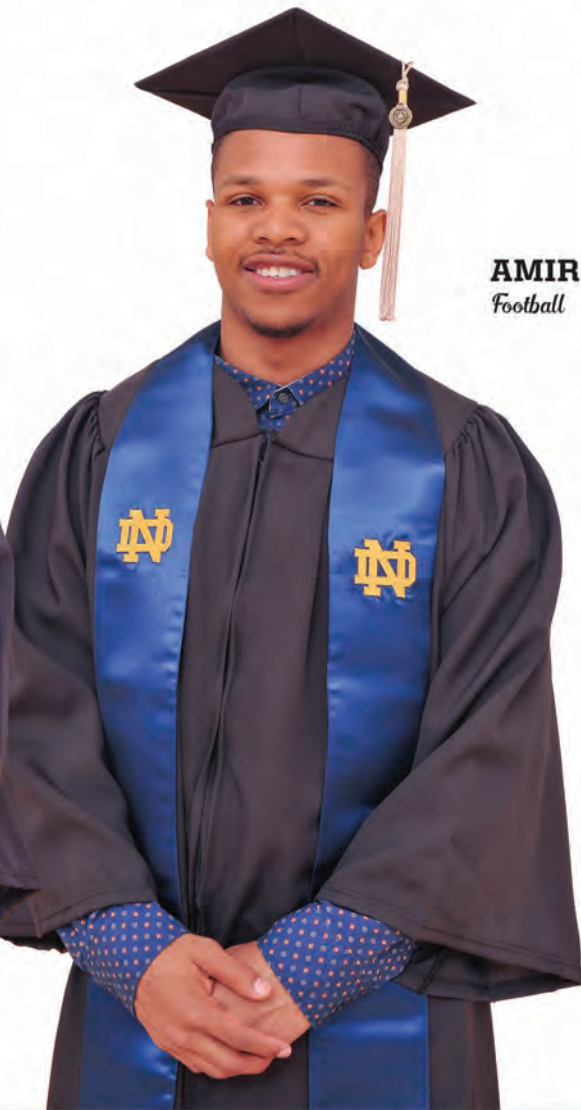
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EMMA REANEY, '15
Women's Swimming



AMIR CARLISLE, '15
Football



SMC: Year in Review

Softball notches best season in decade; golf, tennis squads earn spots in MIAA tournaments

Softball

By **DOMINIC BUSH**
Sports Writer

This was supposed to be a transition year for Saint Mary's. Instead, the Belles rallied behind second-year coach Kelli Zache to finish the regular season 22-12, one of the program's best seasons in a decade.

Zache said her team's record, up from an even 16-16 mark last year, was not much of a surprise to her.

"I wouldn't say we exceed my expectations, because honestly this is where I expected to be," Zache said. "I'm constantly praising this team."

The team's 9-7 conference record was good for fourth in the MIAA standings and qualified it for the conference tournament, the program's first appearance since 2012.

In the tournament, the Belles lost a heartbreaker in the first round to regular-season champion Trine, 8-7, in nine innings. Facing elimination, Saint Mary's overpowered Hope, 7-3, and set up a second-round rematch with Trine again. It was the first second-round appearance for the Belles since 2006. In the end, though, the Thunder struck again, 10-2, to end Saint Mary's season.

Zache said the value of post-season play for her young team was important, despite the outcome.

"It showed promise for us for years to come," she said. "Half of the team is freshmen, and experience like this is huge for them."

Of the 16 players returning for next season, nine were freshmen this season, a continuity vital for a team whose coach cited chemistry as her club's biggest strength.

"The team has really good chemistry, even though they may not be best friends off the field, you couldn't tell that on

the field," Zache said. "It's really important to get along with the girls next to you."

The freshmen trio of short-stop Jamie Young and outfielders Cassie Young and Makenzie Duncan powered most of the team's offense this season. The Young sisters combined for 32 percent (73 of 225) of the team's total runs scored and 30 percent (100 of 332) of total hits. Cassie Young led the team in batting average at a .413 clip, and Jamie Young finished second with a .393 average. Duncan was third on the team at .360 and added five homers, 13 doubles and 28 RBIs.

When asked to describe this year's team in one word, Zache said "perseverance."

"We rose to the occasion at the end of the year," the manager said. "We were up against the best teams, and we kept pushing."

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Golf

By **MICHAEL IVEY**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's earned one of four spots in the MIAA's qualifying tournament this spring, but the Belles were unable to earn the conference's spot in the NCAA tournament.

After six rounds of MIAA play in the fall, Saint Mary's found itself in third place in the conference standings. The top-four finish meant heading into the spring season, the Belles had the chance to compete in the conference's automatic qualifying rounds this spring, along with Hope, Olivet and Trine.

"I was happy that our team made the top four within our conference tournament in the fall," Belles head coach Kim Moore said. "Obviously we are always looking to be in that top spot, but ultimately finishing in that top four gives



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Sophomore defender Emily Rompola lines up a pass during a 2-0 loss to Olivet on Oct. 28 at Saint Mary's soccer field. Saint Mary's finished the year with a 6-11-3 record.

us an opportunity to play for our NCAA bid in the spring. Unfortunately we had a few setbacks with players being gone a semester so that hurt our performance in the spring, but with those players being gone it gave some of our younger players a chance for experience."

The Belles finished in fourth, third and fourth in the three rounds of automatic qualifying play, respectively. Hope claimed the conference's bid to the NCAA tournament after firing a score of 973 over the three-round event, while Saint Mary's finished with a team score of 1,058. Regardless of the finish, Moore said the future looks bright for the Belles.

"I really enjoyed how this team bonded together," Moore said. "These girls became the best of friends and that bond will be extremely helpful for next season. A team that enjoys being together plays for each other."

"... I have no doubt that my players enjoyed getting to know one another and developing the strong relationships that will keep them bonded for life. I think they enjoyed the team trips and bonding they were able to do on those trips. I hope they enjoyed the golf as well."

Janice Heffernan, the team's lone senior, led the charge for Saint Mary's, averaging 84.2 shots per round over her 19 rounds this season.

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Soccer

By **DANIEL O'BOYLE**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's experienced a season of ups and downs this year, ultimately finishing seventh in the MIAA.

After two wins and two losses against nonconference opponents, the Belles struggled early in conference play, losing their MIAA opener to Kalamazoo, 2-1, and four of

the next five games, with a win over Calvin providing their only points. Junior midfielder and captain Maggie McLaughlin said the Belles had difficulty bouncing back from the defeat to Kalamazoo.

"I think the first conference game always sets the tone for the season," McLaughlin said. "We lost a close game to start conference play and struggled to come back from that."

Results did improve, however, as the Belles earned three wins and a tie in the next five games, thanks in part to two late goals. With two minutes to go against Trine on Oct. 4, sophomore forward Liza Felix finished from twelve yards out to give Saint Mary's the 1-0 win at home. At Alma on Oct. 14, after the Scots came back from a 2-0 deficit to tie it up at two, sophomore midfielder Jenn Jarmy scored the winner in the final two seconds.

"It was one of the most exciting goals I have ever experienced," McLaughlin said of Jarmy's goal. "We let them back in that game during the second half so to get that win was a really good feeling."

The Belles' midseason run was not enough to make the conference tournament, though, as two ties and no wins in their final five games put them in seventh place.

"We had hoped to qualify for the conference tournament," said McLaughlin. "Not meeting that goal was pretty disappointing, but we achieved a lot this year."

On March 17, Saint Mary's announced Ken Nuber, former director of coaching for the Junior Irish Soccer Club, had been appointed head coach, replacing Michael Joyce. McLaughlin said she hopes the change can allow the program to grow.

"Next season will bring a lot of changes," McLaughlin said. "New field, new coach,

new team and a lot to prove.

"I think all of us are ready to rise to the occasion. We're looking forward to the opportunity, and learning from Coach Nuber, who has been a great fit for our program."

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Tennis

By **DAISY COSTELLO**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's ended its 2014-15 season with an MIAA conference tournament loss to top-seeded Hope on April 30.

Following the recent end to its season, Belles head coach Dale Campbell reflected on how his team grew throughout the course of the year and how younger players began to take ownership of the team.

"I think we played as a team and worked for each other," Campbell said. "We gained experience with the younger players, and the juniors and sophomores got more time in the lineup in new positions to gain experience."

The Belles (11-10, 5-3 MIAA) started off their season with a 2-3 record going into their week-long spring break trip in early March. Over the break, Campbell said the Belles achieved their best win of the season against a nonconference opponent in beating Coe, 5-4.

Conference play went favorably for the Belles this season, as they finished 5-3 in the MIAA, earning them fourth place in the conference and a trip to the MIAA tournament. The Belles were dominant at times during the regular season, racking up wins against Alma, Olivet, Trine, Adrian and Albion. Campbell was very pleased with the team's conference performance this year, especially against Albion, whom the Belles beat 8-1.

"Our win over Albion in fairly dominant fashion was nice," Campbell said.



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Freshman Cassie Young fields a fly ball during a 9-6 win against Kalamazoo on April 21 at Saint Mary's softball field.

SMC Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

Even though the Belles lost 5-0 to the Flying Dutch in the MIAA tournament, Campbell said he liked what he saw out of his team against a tough opponent.

"I liked the way we played against Hope in the tournament, as we played better despite the score," Campbell said, "They are ranked No. 26 nationally and may be playing stronger than that."

Overall, Campbell said he was impressed with his team's performance on the year.

"This [year] was a success, and most of our goals were accomplished. I think we wished we would have beaten Calvin and gotten the No. 3 seed in the tournament, but our major goal was just making the tournament," Campbell said.

Belles junior Andrea Feters earned second team all-MIAA honors following her performance at the top of the singles lineup and the second doubles pair for the Belles.

On the heels of a successful season, Campbell said his team will continue working on the details of its game so next year the Belles will be more competitive for a conference title.

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Basketball

By DAISY COSTELLO
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's began the season with a young roster and expectations of snagging a conference tournament bid, but ultimately finished far short of that goal.

The Belles (3-22, 1-15 MIAA) went into the season with a roster featuring seven freshmen on a squad of 14 players.

"I think the first season for any freshmen is a huge learning curve," Belles head coach Jennifer Henley said.

The Belles began the season with three tough nonconference losses to Wheaton, North Park and North Central before earning their first two wins of the season against Trinity International and Anderson at the North Central Classic in Naperville, Illinois. The Belles extending the winning streak to three games with a 64-61 win over Alma in their MIAA conference opener Dec. 3.

That was the last victory of the season for Saint Mary's, however; the Belles finished the season on a 19-game losing streak. They were in a number of close games, most notably overtime losses to Adrian and Kalamazoo and a three-point loss to Albion, but the Belles could not pull out another victory. Henley said her team was better than the final record showed, though.

"As the season progressed, we saw signs of improvement along the way that will be valuable for next year," Henley said.

Saint Mary's is losing one senior, guard Ariana Paul, to graduation this spring. Paul finished her Saint Mary's career 11th on the all-time

scoring list, notching 1,011 points in her four-year career. She also finished fifth on the all-time rebounding list with 643 career rebounds and collected 214 steals, fourth in Belles' history.

Paul's offensive production and overall level of play earned her second team all-MIAA honors at the end of the season.

"[Paul] will definitely be missed as she carried us on offense this season," Henley said.

Henley also noted the seven freshmen on the roster will have to step up and take ownership of the team with Paul's departure.

While 2014-15 did not unfold in the way the Belles were aiming for, Henley said she is confident with the fundamentals the team developed this season and hopes the Belles will rebound next year.

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Cross Country

By SEAN KILMER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's started the season with a hole at their number one spot. All-conference performer Jessica Biek graduated in the spring of 2014, and the Belles seemed primed for a drop off. However, sophomore Brittany Beeler came charging through the gates to fill the gap and take the lead.

"I feel like we are on an upward trend," Belles head coach Jackie Bauters said. "We have a really young team, and last year we graduated Jessica Biek, who was really strong. Hopefully next year we can be even better."

Beeler had an up-and-down freshman year, but when she had the chance to grab the spotlight this season, she seized it. Bauters said the sophomore from Spring Lake, Michigan, had a confidence problem this and last year, but pointed to one moment when she thought she overcame it. The NCAA regional meet was Beeler's stage, and she shone, finishing 25th overall and earning all-region honors.

"Watching Brittany race that race at the regional meet was cool because we have been working on the confidence issue," Bauters said. "She's got it there, she just has to trust it, so it was really exciting to watch her make some moves during that race."

While Beeler did have a breakout season, she was not the only runner to have success on the Belles. In fact, the team was strong from the top through its sixth runner this year, and will be returning all but two runners: seniors Samee Chittenden and Erin Knauf, who also captained the team this year.

Bauters said she saw something special in the team at the Benedictine Eagle Invitational on Oct. 10.

"At the Benedictine race ... people across the whole team saw huge personal records and race results, and I think it was just a huge confidence boost, just a feel-good race," Bauters said. "I think that was just really fun to watch from my first kid to my last kid."

The Belles finished fifth at the MIAA championships before finishing 18th at the NCAA regional in



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Belles senior Kati Schneider lines up a serve in Saint Mary's 3-0 loss to Hope on Oct. 31 at Angela Athletic Facility.

Mason, Ohio.

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Volleyball

By BEN PADANILAM
Sports Writer

Following a 2014 season in which it finished tied for fourth in the MIAA, Saint Mary's bid farewell to a deep and talented senior class that changed the culture of the program.

Although the Belles (15-13, 8-8 MIAA) did not qualify for any postseason tournaments, head coach Toni Elyea said her team constantly improved this season.

"It was the highest level of volleyball that Saint Mary's has ever played," Elyea said. "I am so proud of our whole team and all of their hard work and dedication to each other."

It was the first 15-win season for the Belles since 2008, but they ultimately fell short in their quest to play in the postseason for the second consecutive season. They struggled against the conference's top teams, finishing a combined 0-8 against the four teams that placed ahead of them in MIAA play. Elyea said missing out on the postseason will motivate her team for next year.

"It was so difficult not to make this year's tournament," Elyea said. "... We are going to take that to fuel our passion to get better this offseason."

Despite falling short of their end-of-the-season goals, Elyea said she was proud of her team's accomplishments.

"[We had] four starters out at different times during this season, [but were] still able to put a strong team out on the court," Elyea said. "Having so much depth this year and having underclassmen step up was so great to see."

However, Elyea said she was most impressed with the leadership the team's six seniors displayed this season.

"These special seniors have been my family for the past four years," Elyea said. "I am going to miss them dearly. What they have done for our program is far above any expectations that I had. As first-years, we joked about how we were going to 'raise the standards' of what it meant to be a part of our program, and

they have done more than that. They have a combined GPA of 3.75, have earned MIAA honor roll 19 times, and four of them will be graduating as the top student in their major."

Elyea said this class's leadership has paved the way for future success for the program.

"Because of the time and dedication they have put in, our underclassmen have a clear vision of what it takes to compete at their highest level and be the best on and off the court that they can be," Elyea said. "We have a very strong group returning, and we know there are big things in store for their future as well."

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Lacrosse

By TYLER WOJCIAK
Sports Writer

Despite an often an up-and-down season, Saint Mary's improved during its second campaign as a varsity sport.

The Belles (7-10, 2-6 MIAA) earned five more wins than their first season, in which they finished 2-13 overall and 1-7 in MIAA play.

The Belles kicked off their season by travelling to Oregon to participate in a spring break tournament where they picked up their first win of the season against Linfield, 16-6.

Following that victory, the Belles returned home and defeated Defiance in their first regular season game, 14-5. After winning back-to-back games for the first time in program history, Saint Mary's alternated wins and losses for nearly a month.

This pattern lasted until Saint Mary's ran into a rough patch during mid-April, losing four games in a row against the MIAA's top teams to close out conference play. The Belles did, however, finish the season on a high note with an 8-6 win against Dallas at home April 28.

Despite the tough conclusion to the season, Belles head coach Amy Long said she saw a great amount of growth this year.

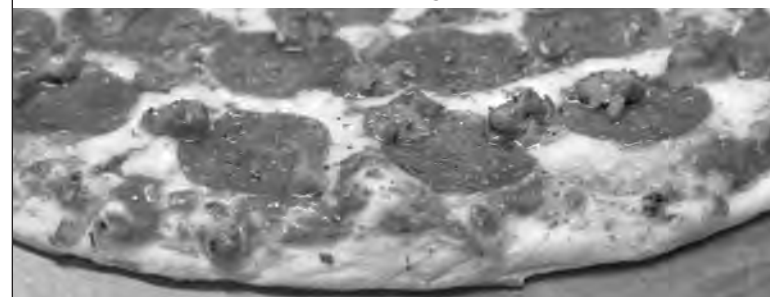
"We have improved significantly in two short years," Long said. "This season was a vast improvement from our inaugural season, and I expect to continue that trend next year. We expect to have a winning season next year and plan to make the conference tournament."

As the program looks ahead to next season, Long said she believes the added depth will be key for the program's continued progress.

"Looking forward to next season, we will be able to add some depth to our team," Long said, "We have eight freshman coming in, and having a larger roster size will be a huge help. We had quite a few unlucky injuries this year and having more players, especially some talented freshman, will help minimize the effect that injuries have on our performance. We had a great, hardworking group this year, and we were able to accomplish a lot of our goals."

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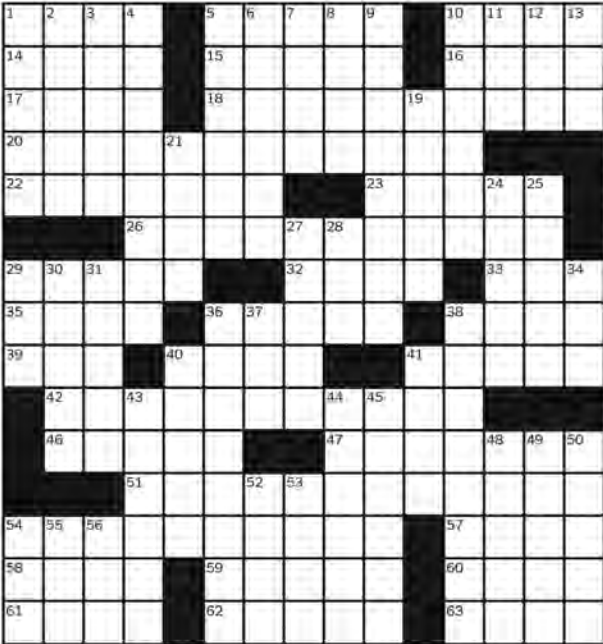
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10 Had more than a feeling
14 Region
15 Central Florida city
16 Singer with a reputation for being self-centered
17 Site for a diet of worms?
18 Wheeling, Cincinnati and Louisville are in it
20 Longtime Nicaraguan president
22 Smoked herring
23 Hollywood's Henry, Jane or Peter
26 Instrument that's played by turning a crank
29 Shaq's game
- 32 Old Italian coin
33 Trio after Q
35 Shoreline flier
36 Adorn with jewels
38 It's not butter
39 Truck scale unit
40 1970s Chevy
41 Track shapes
42 Citrus fruit originally grown in Brazil
46 Director Eastwood
47 Eat away at
51 Plot device used in "Freaky Friday" ... or a hint to the interior of 20-, 26- or 42-Across
54 Womanish
57 ___ breve (2/2 time)
58 Drug unit
- Down**
1 Genre for Smokey Robinson
2 "That's ___ shame"
3 Kind of question
4 Like an appetite that can be fulfilled
5 Car ___
6 Late NPR newsmen
7 "Aquarius" musical
8 Very much
9 Repeating shape on an oscilloscope
10 "Constant Craving" singer
11 Zilch
12 New Year's ___
13 Route
19 Lead-in to phobia
21 List ender
24 Alfalfa's girl in "The Little Rascals"
25 Photographer Adams
27 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
28 Golfer's concern
- 59 Bruce of "Sherlock Holmes" films
60 What a milkmaid holds
61 God with a bow and arrow
62 Utopias
63 Creepy-sounding lake name?

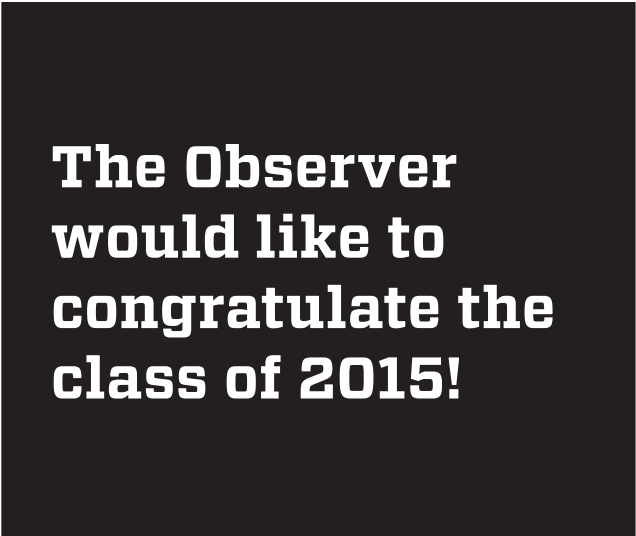


Puzzle by Gregory Philip Butler

- 29 "Wanna ___?"
30 Rodeo buckner
31 One for the record books?
34 How-___
36 Railway encircling a city
37 It may be inflated
38 Think too highly of
- 40 Poison
41 Purple people eater, e.g.
43 Red-eyed birds
44 Winning blackjack combo
45 Dickens's output
48 Physician Sir William
- 49 ___ Lama
50 Thrill
52 Oklahoma city
53 Fury
54 Barely make, with "out"
55 It's green year-round
56 "Alice" waitress

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

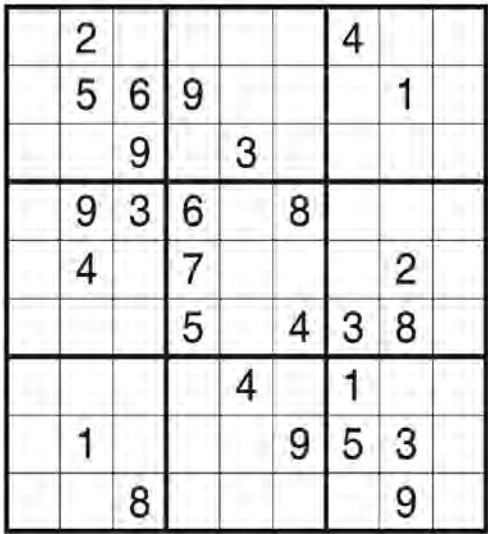


DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4



SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

2/18/13

3	7	4	1	8	9	2	6	5
6	9	1	4	5	2	3	7	8
2	5	8	6	7	3	1	4	9
8	1	3	7	6	5	4	9	2
5	4	7	2	9	1	6	8	3
9	6	2	3	4	8	7	5	1
1	8	6	9	3	4	5	2	7
7	2	5	8	1	6	9	3	4
4	3	9	5	2	7	8	1	6

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Learn from past mistakes and do your best to keep whatever happens this year in perspective. Clearing your mind and witnessing what's going on around you will lead to a humbling but successful future. Don't judge unless you want to be judged. Instead, posture yourself for advancement and reaching your goals. Enjoy each moment. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 21, 32, 34, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't keep your feelings all locked up. As long as you extend warmth, compassion and affection while expressing your feelings, you will come out on top. Work to encourage important partnerships and you will strengthen your position.★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Find out all you can about everyone and everything. The more information you gather, the easier it will be to make a good decision. Someone will discourage you from following your own path. Do what feels right, not what others want. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your life honest and realistic. Sharing personal information will backfire. Focus on self-improvement and keeping a low profile for the time being. A little time spent on yourself instead of everyone around you will pay off. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get fit. Do whatever it takes to improve your health and encourage a new routine that is geared toward looking and feeling your best. You can't put a price on good health. Love is on the rise, but so is temptation. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful as you move forward. Not everyone you work with will be on your side. Arguments will spin out of control if you are too gullible or sensitive. Focus on positive change and stabilizing your position. Don't spend unnecessarily. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep in mind that what you say might be used against you. Strategy coupled with physical work will help you reach the winners' circle. Haste makes waste, so take your time and do things right the first time. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't meddle in other people's affairs or let anyone interfere in your life. Stick to your agenda and don't count on others to help. Use your own skills, knowledge and insight to guide you to the finish line. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't worry about what everyone else is doing. Follow a creative idea to completion and try to get what you want without getting into an argument. Incentives plus diplomacy will help you dismiss outside interference. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Enjoy what you have worked so hard to accumulate, but don't trust an outsider with your cash, possessions or personal information. Talk over any improvements you want to make with a partner and work as a team to bring about positive changes at home. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Accept the inevitable, but don't give in to anyone with a bad idea. Focus on physical activities that will help you blow off steam and put things in perspective. You can make positive changes to your surroundings, but don't go over budget. ★★★

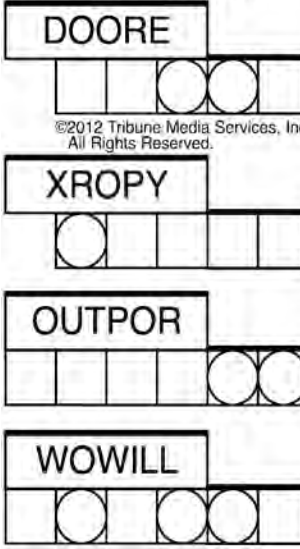
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Say little to friends, relatives and neighbors. Do your own thing and refuse to get involved in any joint ventures. Take time to research a project you want to pursue. Knowledge is the key to becoming successful. Prepare to make positive changes. ★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get rid of any negativity in your life. You are best to focus on who you are and the personal changes you want to make. It's up to you to move forward and leave the past behind you. ★★★

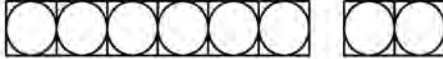
Birthday Baby: You are engaging and imaginative. You are a leader and a crusader. Don't let others hold you back from achieving all that you can, don't be afraid and you will succeed.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print your answer here:



(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CRIMP CHORD SUNKEN UNRULY
Answer: The concert on Mount Rushmore featured this — ROCK MUSIC

WORK AREA



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KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Sophomore Chris Brown breaks a tackle in a 31-28 win against LSU at the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl on Dec. 30 in Nashville, Tennessee.



WEI LIN | The Observer

Former Irish guard Jewell Loyd has her shot blocked by UConn junior forward Breanna Stewart in the Irish's 63-53 loss to Connecticut in the national championship April 7 in Tampa, Florida.



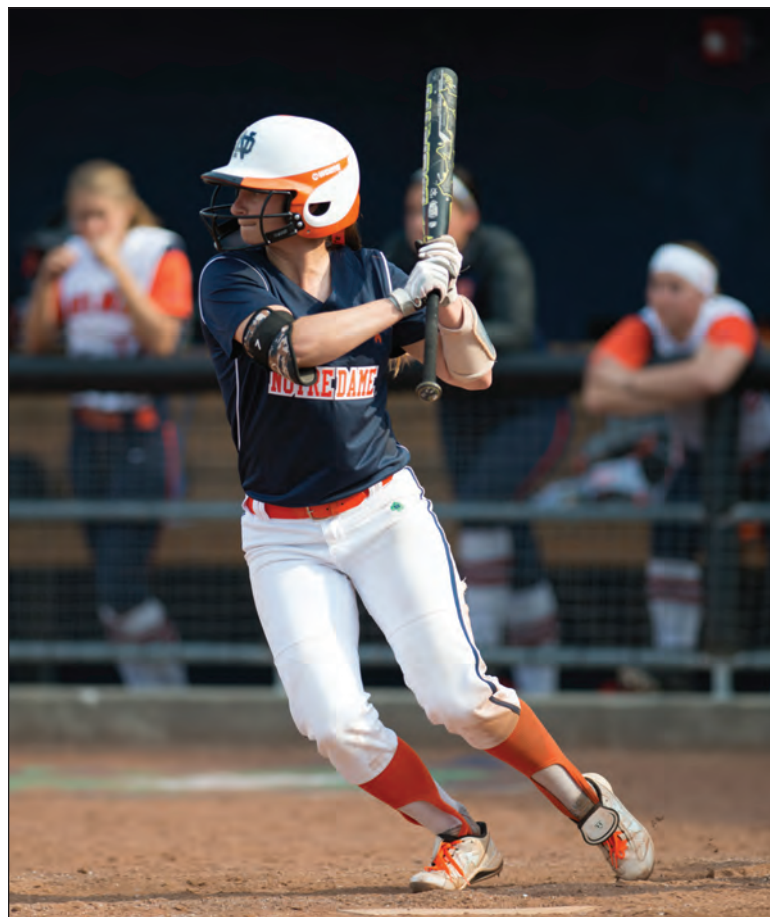
EMILY McCONVILLE | The Observer

Senior attack Conor Doyle circles around the back of the net in a 15-14 win against North Carolina on April 18 at Arlotta Stadium. Doyle has 27 goals and 19 assists this season.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Junior Zach Augustine dunks in a 80-49 victory against Stetson on Nov. 10 at Purcell Pavilion.



CHRIS COLLINS | The Observer

Senior infielder Jenna Simon gets ready to swing at a pitch in a 6-1 win against Georgia Tech on March 21 at Melissa Cook Stadium.

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