Scully resigns post

Father Timothy Scully resigned as Executive Vice President on May 2. His resignation came amidst a potential leadership crisis in the University's hierarchy. The Board of Trustees were scheduled to hear a report from a committee formed to investigate Scully’s behavior, including a January incident where he confronted local television reporters. However, Scully submitted his resignation before the Trustees heard the report, which cleared him of wrongdoing. Scully will remain a member of the Notre Dame political science faculty.

SEE STORY PAGE 12

Sorin rector fired

The University removed Father Sam Peters as rector of Sorin Hall for having an inappropriate sexual relationship with an adult female. A representative from the woman’s family informed the Office of Student Affairs of the relationship. The Indiana Province of the Congregation of the Holy Cross issued a statement expressing sorrow for Peters’ actions. Though Peters has not been removed from the priesthood, he is undergoing counseling for his infidelity. Peters is officially banned from Notre Dame's campus.

SEE STORY PAGE 13
Inside Column

Nothing lasts forever

Alarm clocks go off, legs get kicked, curricula don’t last; clocks run out, recurring hymns are sung, seemingly infallible bars get busted, even kids from a creekside town eventually surrender their WB series and this weekend, college careers conclude. Sometimes it seems like we’ve spent most of the last four years trying not to think things. We stayed up all night playing Snood and talking on IM to avoid writing papers, wished spring break would last forever and saved the last Flux point of the semester for candy at LaFortune. It’s all part of our denial as we try to forget that we’re about to be forced into a semester for candy and saved the last thing of the Golden Dome.

Four years passed by too fast, but we don’t want it to just pass us by passively. We participated in our college experience; we learned something in the way. Whether changing majors, political views, life plans or significant others, change we did; and with each change we became a little more ready to do whatever it is we will do after Sunday.

That’s why it’s alright that we’re leaving—even if we’ve been ready for years or never wanted to go. Besides, commencement technically means beginning, not end. And even though we’re supposedly starting over and making new memories, we’re carrying things along the way—a few inside jokes, ridiculous SYR outfits, dangling photographs and best friends.

Though 22 years old feels ancient when reminiscing about our favorite episodes of “Saved by the Bell.” Madonna songs and stirrup stretch pants and fruitjuice just kicked in.

The decades ahead are guaranteed to be different when we look back, as they always are. In fact, post-graduate life should be the fulfillment of what we’ve been working toward since the fall of 1999. Somewhere in between Rallies in the Alley, Red light hearings, the faculty research and road trips, we learned some useful stuff. We learned the stuff that we will need, as well as the stuff that we will never use. We’ll be continuing to make Notre Dame the paradox of conventional and personal change, that it’s always been—while we go out and commence again.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Please contact Kate Nagengast at knagenga@nd.edu.

Events of the Week

Friday, May 16

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

2-4 p.m.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

HONORS CONVOCATION

Washington Hall

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

GRADUATION DANCE

Joyce Center - North Dome

4 p.m.

BACCALAUREATE LITURGY

Angela Athletic Facility

7:30-10:30 p.m.

SERNON RECEPION

Century Center

Saturday, May 17

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

9 a.m.-Noon

ROTC COMMISSIONING

Joyce Center - South Dome

10 a.m.

SERVICE SEND-OFF CEREMONY

Washington Hall

5-6:30 p.m.

COMMENCEMENT MASS

Joyce Center - South Dome

Saint Mary’s College

Noon

COMMENCEMENT 2003 CEREMONY

Court of LeMans Hall

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

ND awards reporter with Laetare Medal

Observer staff report

Peter and Margaret Steinfels will be the recipients of this year’s Laetare Medal, which is regarded as the most significant annual award given to American Catholics and originated in 1883.

The Steinfels are being honored for their lifelong commitment to Catholic life. “Peter and Peggy Steinfels live out and articulate a compelling response to the Catholic vocation.” University President Father Edward Malloy said in a statement. “As married people, as intellectuals, and as children of the Church, their witness to the Kingdom has been splendid and exemplary.”

Father Edward Malloy
University President

ND awards nine figures with honorary degrees

Observer staff report

Notre Dame will honor nine distinguished individuals with honorary degrees. In addition to keynote speaker Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., at Saturday’s Commencement ceremonies, Senator Lugar will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree, as will seven of the nine other recipients.

Those honorees receiving doctor of degrees are: Kathleen Andrews, who is a member of the Board of Trustees, University fellow, and director of the Andrews McMee Universal Foundation; Molly Broad, the president of Notre Dame University, North Carolina; Roland Chambless, a long-time South Bend family physician; Evelyn Hu-DeHart, professor of history at Brown University, Carolin Marcelara, a former ambassador of Honduras, and recognized human rights activist; Anthony Scirica, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and law professor at several law schools; and Paul Yazigi, a highly respected civil rights leader and president of the Hispanic organization National Council of La Raza.

In addition, Allen Mandelbaum will receive an honorary degree of letters degree. Mandelbaum is internationally recognized as an authority on Dante and recipient of the National Book Award.

An honorary doctor of engineering degree will be conferred upon Leslie Robertson, the lead structural engineer for the World Trade Center and internationally renowned expert in structural design.

“By giving honorary degrees, the University seeks to honor a variety of people who have distinguished themselves in their various fields or endeavors,” Dennis Brown, a spokesman for the university, said.

The selection of degree recipients is not as simple as it sounds. “Some people have worked with various members of the University in the past,” said Brown. “But the common point is that they have all made significant achievements in their selected fields.”

ND Seniors: By The Numbers

Source: The Home 2003, Department of Institutional Research.

White 83.9%

Black 2.7%

Asian 4.1%

Hispanic 7.1%

Native American 0.1%

Women 54.1%

Men 45.9%

Non-Resident Alien 1.8%

Where Seniors Studied

London, England

36

Rome, Italy

230

Toledo, Spain

71

Dublin and Maynooth, Ireland

66

Freiburg and Freiburg, Germany

41

Angers and Paris, France

44

Washington, D.C.

40

Innsbruck, Austria

18

Puebla and Monterrey, Mexico

17

Santiago, Chile

16

Auckland, New Zealand

12

Orience, Arizona (Biophysics)

7

Athena, Greece

5

Kanagawa, Japan

2

Moscow, Russia

1
Senator will deliver speech

By TERESA FRALISH  Associate News Editor

Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) will deliver the commencement address to the Notre Dame Class of 2003 this Sunday. Lugar currently serves as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has been an Indiana senator since 1976.

University officials said that in light of recent events they chose Lugar, who will receive an honorary doctor of laws, as the speaker because of his expertise in the area of foreign affairs.

Lugar, who previously served as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1984 to 1986, helped create a bipartisan initiative in 1991 with former Senator Sam Nunn to secure and disarm weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union.

More recently, Lugar has argued for the expansion of the Nunn-Lugar Program in other countries with weapons of mass destruction.

"I think he's got a lot of expertise in international affairs." Trip Foley  senior

"I think he's got a lot of expertise in international affairs," said senior Trip Foley.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Author to address graduates

By ANNEISE WOOLFORD  Saint Mary's Editor

Traveling from New York to Saint Mary's Saturday afternoon will seem like second nature to Adriana Trigiani. However, instead of returning to the campus for a visit or book signing, the author, screenwriter and director will speak to hundreds of graduating seniors, a position she faced not long ago herself.

Trigiani, a 1981 alumna of the College, was selected as the 2003 commencement speaker in late March based on the request of students.

While many students were unaware of Trigiani's nomination until after her appointment, seniors said they looked forward to Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair and former Indiana senator Richard Lugar's commencement address on Sunday.

"I don't really know too much about the senator himself. I was maybe expecting a little higher profile speaker," he said. "I think he'll do a good job."

Despite concerns about Lugar's name recognition, some said Lugar's talk would be relevant in light of current events.

"I think he's got a lot of expertise in international affairs," said senior Trip Foley.

Contact Anneise Woolford at woolf833@SaintMarys.edu

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2003 OBSERVER GRADUATING CLASS

KIMBERLY BELCHER
KURT BOGAARD
LAUREN DASSO
MEGHAN GORAN
VERONICA KELLEHER
BRYAN KRONK
PAT McELWEE
KATIE MCKENNA
KATIE MCCVOY
KATE NAGENGAST

SHANNON NELLIGAN
SARAH NESTOR
HELENA PAYNE
BRIAN PUCEVICH
CHRISTINA REITANO
REBECCA STUMPF
KIFLIN TURNER
LISA VELTE
NELLIE WILLIAMS
BOB WOODS

Thank you for years of friendship, hard work and commitment to the pursuit of quality journalism. We’re going to miss everything you did for us, and The Observer will never be the same. Good luck in the future.
Laracy named 2003 valedictorian

Margaret Laracy, a psychology major from New Jersey, is the 2003 Notre Dame valedictorian.

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

Her commitment to academics may have earned her the honor of valedictorian, but classes are just one aspect of Margaret Laracy's experience at Notre Dame. The psychology major from Jersey City, N.J., has been active in community service and campus life.

Laracy, who earned a 3.97 grade point average, made the Dean's List each semester. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate honors society and Psi Chi, the national psychology honor society, and was named a National Merit Scholar.

"It's an enormous honor," Laracy said, in reference to being named valedictorian. "I just think of all the amazing people I know at Notre Dame. I'm so excited to be addressing my class.

Laracy is scheduled to deliver an address to the student body during Commencement Sunday. She said that her speech will focus on having courage in the face of recent national and international events, especially terrorism and war. She also intends to speak on the anxiety that is characteristic of the transition from college to the "real" world and the fear of not living up to others' expectations.

"I hope to encourage my classmates and myself to really live courageously," she said. "The main focus is not to be fearful.

Laracy has worked to make the most out of her four years at Notre Dame, devoting her time to assisting in the Notre Dame Encounter Retreats, teaching English through a program at La Casa de Amistad, working at the Center for Social Concerns and studying abroad in Chile during her junior year.

"It was really different than a lot of abroad experiences," she said of her semester in Chile. "I got the opportunity to not only live with a family but to do some service in the community. I love Chile and the Chilean people. I could see myself going back to Latin America.

Next year, Laracy will devote time to service, but it won't be in Chile. She plans to volunteer for at least a year through a L'Arche Community program, living in a house that assists people with special needs in Washington D.C.

"It's really an incredible community that has a wonderful philosophy and spirituality," she said.

Eventually, Laracy said she hopes to continue her education in psychology and use what she learns to help others.

"I've always had an interest in working with other people," she said. "Academically it's very interesting to learn about them!"

Laracy, the first Domer in her family, was attracted to Notre Dame because of its sense of community and Catholic identity.

"I think that Notre Dame, among Catholic universities with a good academic program, really seems to value its Catholic identity," she said. "It wasn't just Catholic in name. It seemed like a perfect package for me.

Notre Dame begins the selection process for valedictorian in February when the Register's Office determines the two students in each college with the highest grade point averages. Selected candidates then complete an application process that includes a recommendation from the college's dean and a peer and a draft of their commencement speech. A selection committee then nominates a valedictorian and the second place candidate is invited to deliver an invocation at graduation.

This year, Meredith Runke, a science pre-professional studies major from Batavia, Ill., will deliver the Commencement invocation.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

Robinson No. 1 at Saint Mary's

By EMILY BRAMMER
News Writer

Meghan Robinson said that she is not the type of student who spent all of her time studying in the library, but her love for her studies helped her to achieve a 4.0 grade point average and the title of Saint Mary's 2003 valedictorian.

Graduating with a bachelor of arts in music and a minor in mathematics, Robinson will deliver the valedictory address at Commencement May 17.

"I attribute much of my success to support from my family, especially my parents," said Robinson. "And I found something to study that I really enjoyed. When you study something that you love, it hardly seems like work sometimes.

After graduation, Robinson will serve for The Alliance for Catholic Education, a two-year service program allowing college graduates to serve as full-time teachers in under-resourced Catholic schools across the southern United States in return for a tuition-free master of education degree from Notre Dame.

Robinson will spend two summers studying at Notre Dame and two school years teaching in Nashville. She said she wants to keep her options open after completing the ACE program, and continues pursuing graduate work in music theory.

"I'm more interested in teaching than performing academic research," said Robinson. "I appreciate the value that Saint Mary's places on educating; and, after benefiting from a school where the focus is on teaching, I realized that I also want to be an educator. But I don't want to just teach. I want to be good at it."

Originally Robinson applied to Xavier University, University of Dayton, and Saint Mary's and Notre Dame — all Catholic universities. But after visiting South Bend one summer, she finally made her decision to go to Saint Mary's.

"I really wanted to attend a smaller school," she said. "One of the greatest aspects of the music department here is that it's so small, and as a result there are so many opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten elsewhere. If I could make the decision again, I'd definitely come to Saint Mary's."

Robinson belonged to the Women's Choir and served as a member of the Choir Board. She was elected to represent the music department in the Student Academic Council her junior and senior year and volunteered with Campus Ministry.

Robinson grew up in West Chester, Ohio and attended Mount Notre Dame High School there.

Contact Emily Brammer at bram3501@ saintmary's.edu

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Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu
Four Years in Review

The top 10 Observer news stories from the 1999-2003 academic years

1. **Campus responds to terrorist attacks**
   - September 11, 2002
   - The campus responded in a dramatic fashion to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania.
   - Classes were cancelled mid-session as representatives from the registrar's office visited individual classrooms.
   - Seven thousand students and faculty attended a mass on South Quad at 3 p.m. on the day of the attacks, which was concelebrated by all campus priests and Auxiliary Bishop John D'Arcy.
   - Throughout the day, students streamed to the grotto and students took advantage of free cab service to donate blood.
   - Phone lines and Internet connections at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's were overwhelmed as students called home to check on their family and friends.
   - Like all athletic events nationwide, Notre Dame's football game against Purdue on the following Saturday was cancelled as the nation mourned the loss of thousands of citizens.
   - At the September 22 home football game against Michigan State, the entire stadium paused as University President Father Edward Malloy said a prayer and fans raised printed American flags into the sky in an event televised nationwide by NBC Sports.
   - Four alumni who worked in the attacks: Robert Ferris, class of 1962, who worked on the 102nd floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center; Army Lieutenant Colonel S. Neil Hyland Jr., class of 1977, who worked at the Pentagon; and Peter Batacan, class of 1983, and Dora Marie Menchaca, class of 1977, who were killed on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon.

2. **New alcohol policy unveiled**
   - Father Mark Poorman introduced sweeping changes to the alcohol policy including a ban on hard liquor, a cancellation of in-hall dances and a revision of the tailgating policy to allow of-age students to host tailgate parties in specified lots. The decision sparked much controversy amongst students and within student government.
   - March 18, 2002

3. **Freshman's death stuns University**
   - Chad Sharon, a freshman from Cross Hall, disappeared Dec. 12, 2002 after attending a party on Corby Street. After an extensive two-month search headed by Notre Dame Security and Police, construction workers found his body floating in the St. Joseph's River under the Angela Bridge.
   - February 12, 2003

4. **Boat Club busted by Excise Police**
   - Police raided The Boat Club early in the morning Jan. 24. Over 200 citations were issued on Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. The Club is known as a popular underage drinking haven for students on both campuses. Those cited are now being sued by the owner of the club.
   - January 24, 2003

5. **NCAA sanctions ND for violations**
   - The NCAA handed Notre Dame its first ever major violation in connection with Kimberly Dunbar's gift to a number of Irish football players.
   - Dunbar's membership in the Quarterback Club made her official University representative, said the NCAA.
   - The University lost two scholarships and received a two-year probation.
   - December 19, 2000

6. **Student alleges gang rape**
   - A 20-year old Notre Dame student alleged that three current and one former football player gang-raped her at an off-campus house. The University expelled the four students and University President Father Malloy denied their appeals. The quartet are still waiting for their criminal trials to begin.
   - April 10, 2001

7. **Scully resigns as executive VP**
   - Executive Vice President Father Timothy Scully resigned May 2 due to an apparent power struggle in the University's leadership. A report on Scully's behavior, including his confrontation with a reporter, was to be delivered to trustees and would have cleared him of wrongdoing.
   - May 2, 2003

8. **Eldred announces retirement**
   - Saint Mary's President Marilou Eldred announced her retirement March 5. She will remain as president until the College completes a search for a replacement. Eldred has been president at the College since 1997. The College plans to form a search committee to choose a replacement by Dec. 2003.
   - March 5, 2003

9. **Bush speaks at commencement**
   - President George W. Bush spoke at Class of 2001 commencement, becoming the fifth President to speak at a Notre Dame commencement. House representative and Notre Dame alumnus helped to court Bush, whose visit was generally welcomed but protested by some who objected to his policies.
   - May 20, 2001

10. **First female pres. elected**
    - Two years ago, Brooke Norton accepted a position to chair the student government and become the first female president in the history of student body. Norton is also the first incumbent vice president to win the role of president since 1973.
    - February 14, 2001
Sea of Green overtakes the Stadium. Assistant rector terminated. Saint Mary's security scandal. Boat gets bust-

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

Sea of Green

The winning enthusiasm and spirit of the Sea of Green flooded Notre Dame last fall. Students, alumni and fans followed the Notre Dame football team as they returned glory to Notre Dame Stadium under Tyrone Willingham's guidance.

At the beginning of the season, several sports analysts dismissed the team and Notre Dame entered many games as the underdog. But Willingham and his players made the Irish a force to be reckoned with and climbed the polls by winning their first eight games before falling to Catholic rival Boston College.

Though the season was a roller coaster of emotions for many fans with careless fumbles, unexpected victories, losses to Boston College and USC, fluctuations in poll standings and the possibility of a BCS berth, the spirit on football Saturdays and weekends did not disappear. Fans donned this year's green as they returned to Glory Avenue and waved their green signs and football players wore green jerseys against Boston College as Willingham requested that the sea of green take the Stadium by storm. As enthusiasm for the season built up, students and fans took the Sea of Green on the road and followed the team to games against Michigan State and Florida State.

As December approached, fans waited anxiously while praying that winter break would include a trip to Tempe, Ariz., Miami, Pasadena, Calif., or New Orleans. However, hopes of a BCS berth were dashed with late season losses. With the team headed to the Gator Bowl against North Carolina State, the spirit seemed to have run out, but loyal fans supported their team and cheered in Jacksonville, Fla. as Irish fell to North Carolina State 28-6.

PW assistant rector dismissed

The abrupt departure of Pasquerilla West assistant rector Cynthia Phillips left many lingering questions for Pasquerilla West residents and other assistant rectors who wonder about their job security.

Sister Sue Bruno, Pasquerilla West rector, asked Phillips to leave in October. Though Bruno declined to comment, Phillips said she was removed after Bruno requested they have a "closer relationship." Phillips maintained she supported Bruno's leadership and never had a conflict with him.

The Office of Residence Life formally removed Phillips as AR in November, following a series of meetings, but she retained her employee benefits.

Phillips, a second-year law student, was honored with the Distinguished Notre Dame Woman Award in April for her contributions to the Notre Dame and South Bend community.

BestLife changed the AR contracts for next year after reviewing the events that occurred in the past academic year, said Bill Kirk, vice president for Student Affairs. The new contracts, which are reviewed by semester and provide a more detailed definition of the AR's role, state that contracts may be terminated with or without cause and disputes between an AR and the University will be settled via arbitration. ARs who are terminated without cause will receive benefits for the remainder of the semester.

Saint Mary's Security

Amidst security department changes and improvements, Saint Mary's suspended security officer Belinda Rathert because her college transcripts were reportedly not on file.

The College suspended and banned Rathert from campus while it investigated whether she misrepresented herself to the College. Rathert questioned the professionalism of the manner in which the situation was handled and maintained that she contacted College officials in order to turn over her transcripts. At the time, College officials stated that Rathert had not turned over her transcripts.

In November, the suspended officer said she filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and intended to sue the College for sexual harassment and discrimination, unequal wages and a hostile work environment.

Police bust The Boat Club

On a chilly January morning, the underage drinking haven for students, The Boat Club, faced a similar fate as Finnigan's Irish Pub in 2000, as Excise Police and South Bend Police busted the bar.

Over 200 Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students waited in line for hours as police, assisted by Notre Dame Security Police officers armed with student directories, verified the identification of patrons and issued citations.

Though Saint Mary's students did not receive punishment from the College, Notre Dame students were fined monetarily and ordered to complete service hours in addition to the fines and service hours they had to complete for Saint Joseph County.

While many cited students believed they had put The Boat Club bust behind them, Millennium Entertainment Inc., owner of The Boat Club, sued every cited student in small claims courts for damages of $3,000. The suits alleged that the defendants misrepresented themselves to the nightclub in order to gain entrance.

In an unrelated bar bust, Excise Police raided The Library Irish Pub in April and issued 51 citations, many to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. The Library was raided two years ago when it was called Finnigan's and has changed ownership since the previous bust. It is unclear whether the owners of The Library will also file suits against cited individuals as Millennium Entertainment did this April.

Freshman dies

Freshman Chad Sharon was found dead Feb. 12 under the Angela Bridge after being reported missing Dec. 12 by Fisher Hall staff because he did not return to his residence hall. Friends said they last saw Sharon around 2 a.m. at a
Freshman drowns. Students participate in protests. Saint Mary's reading day passed. Saint Mary's president retires.

2003

March 22 and 25: Mens and Womens basketball reach Sweet 16 of NCAA Tournament

March 5: Saint Mary's president Marilou Eldred announces her retirement

April

March 22: Notre Dame 2000 grad Dustin Ferrell is injured in Iraq

March 4: Saint Mary's approves Reading Day proposal

March 19: The nation goes to war in Iraq as students voice their opinions

May 2: Father Scully resigns as executive vice president

May 1: University removes Father Sam Peters as Sorin rector due to an inappropriate sexual relationship
Saint Mary's grads continue legacies

Several seniors are following in the footsteps of their mothers and grandmothers

By EMILY BRAMMER
News Writer

By graduating Saturday, 24 Saint Mary's seniors will continue the legacies of their Alumnae mothers and in some instances, their grandmothers as well. One third-generation graduate, Shaun Russell, will carry on an impressive legacy. Russell's grandmother graduated from Saint Mary's in 1941, the same year her husband graduated from Notre Dame. Eight of their children also earned degrees from either Notre Dame or Saint Mary's. Russell will become one of 10 grand­children to have graduated from either of the two schools. Additionally, six of Russell's cousins are currently enrolled, and one more cousin will be starting next spring.

"My grandparents are excellent, but they're the root of the legacy, and they stay so young because of it," Russell said. "My grandmoth­er knows more about football than any sportscaster.

Their family get-togethers are quite the Irish extravaga­nza, and they gather near the Luf­fus Theater to tailgate every home football game. "We're so lucky, because our family's so big, that we have a place like this to get together," Russell said. "And I wouldn't have it any other way."

Bridget Horne is also a third-generation graduate. Her grandparents graduated from Saint Mary's in 1953 and her mother graduated in 1980. The legacy began by her grandmother and mother's desire and the lifelong friends that they shared. Horne had been influ­enced her decision to apply to Saint Mary's. She especially admires her moth­er's lasting relationships with her roommates. They still meet once a year.

"I was looking for somewhere where I would leave with great friendships," she said. "And after seeing how my mother still keeps in touch with her friends, I knew that Saint Mary's was where I would find that."

A daughter of alumnae tell similar stories, but the memoirs of some legacies include a very pivotal time in both Saint Mary's and Notre Dame's histories — the merging of the two schools in 1971.

Saint Mary's senior Meganne Hoffman continues the legacy of her mother who has a degree from Notre Dame but is an alumna of Saint Mary's. Her mother came to Saint Mary's in 1969 and declared her major in modern languages as the unification of the two schools moved forward. Fully embracing and participating in the merger, Saint Mary's and Notre Dame began to consolidate administra­tions and academic programs and departmental requirements.

"My mother understands a lot about my college because she lived it. She can relate to the philosophy of Saint Mary's College and the spirit here."

Meganne Hoffman graduating senior

"I am amazed at the wonder­ful people are here," said Saint Mary's senior Krent Angelova, who is from Su­tra Zagarina, Bulgaria.

Senior Carol Tusha­bhe who transferred to Saint Mary's from Holy Cross College as a sopho­more, said she chose to come to the United States because Holy Cross actively recruited her. Tusha­bhe, who is from Uganda, was attracted to Saint Mary's small size and spirit here.

"Overall, my experience has been good. The students and teachers have been really friend­ly."

At Saint Mary's, Tusha­bhe, a psychology major, said that adjusting to culture differences posed a challenge at first, but she soon began to feel at home at the University. Tusha­bhe participated in foreign student programs through the Office of International Students and Activities and helped plan international student activities. She even taught a math class to other students.

"There's a huge commu­nity. Tusha­bhe worked with a great group of friends and really enjoyed her experience.

"I'm going to miss this close knit community," she said.
Diversity in Saint Mary's seniors

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

Approximately 350 women will make the transition from students to alumnae Saturday, May 17.

While facing an increasingly tough economy, an estimated 70 percent of the class of 2003 are going into the work force full time.

According to Mary Regan-Kubinski, professor and chair of the nursing department, the market for nurses is excellent.

"Our graduates are not only getting jobs, they are getting jobs in the fields that they want to go into," she said.

Of the 14 graduates receiving a bachelor of science in nursing, most either have jobs or are entering the field. Graduates are entering diverse clinical specialties from midwifery to oncology.

The outlook is not as certain for students graduating with bachelor of arts and bachelor of business administration degrees.

"It looks like it will take three to four months for a lot of students to find a job," John Pauley, professor and department chair of communication studies, said.

Many students are moving to the area of the country where they want to relocate and then starting a job search from there. Also, 30 percent of the class is looking to enter graduate or professional schools.

Kerry O'Reilly, one of the 35 graduates receiving a bachelor of arts in elementary education, plans to enroll in Marquette University's top ranked speech pathology program.

"After taking a couple of classes in the speech pathology

Saint Mary's has plan to replace Eldred

By ANNELEISE WOOLFORD
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees outlined its plan April 25 for selecting a replacement for Marilou Eldred, who announced her retirement March 5 but said she would remain as college president until her successor was hired.

The plan, which the Board presented to College faculty, staff and students in a letter in early May, calls for the establishment of a special search committee and sets a December goal for naming a replacement.

The goal of the Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees and the entire College community is to attract an outstanding individual to serve as President," Sister Joan Marie Steadman, the chair of the Board of Trustees, wrote in the letter. "This person should embody the core values of Saint Mary's, a commitment to the mission and its continued growth as a nationally recognized and ranked Catholic, women's, residential, liberal arts college.

At its April 25 meeting, several days prior to the letter's writing, the Board of Trustees approved the search committee's development, along with the process employed to search for a presiden­

The remainder of the Search Committee will consist of five Trustees, one member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, two faculty members, two administrative members (one academic and one non-academic), one member of the student body, one alumna, one member of the Parents Council and one member from the South Bend community.

As stated in the letter, those individuals chosen to fill the positions will operate in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation, focused solely on the best interests of the College as a whole.

"I believe the Search Committee will represent all Saint Mary's constituencies," Eldred said in response to the Board of Trustees' decision. "When I came to the search was not open and I did not have the opportunity to meet many of the candidates. A search that made it difficult for both me and the College.

Once formed, the Committee will attempt to attract a broad range of candidates, both traditional and non-traditional along with qualified graduates of Saint Mary's.

"The search will be proactive, reaching out to possible candidates who are not currently seeking a new position, but who would be excited about leading a nationally ranked college," Steadman said.

Members of the Search Committee are required to sign a confidentiality agreement once appointed. While they will maintain consistent communication with the College community regarding the search process, the Committee's activities, discussions, materials and decisions will be kept confidential.

When at least three candidates have been reviewed by the Board, they will then be invited to campus for the purpose of meeting with key figures of the College prior to the Board of Trustees' appointment of a new president.

The Board will hold a meeting in December 2003 at which time it expects to name a president-elect.

"I think December 2003 is an appropriate schedule, particularly for someone coming from higher education," Eldred said. "If the present president-elect inherits a corpor­ate or institution or is not in higher education, then perhaps it is a more appropriate time to name a new president-elect.

Overall, Eldred is confident in the Board's approach as the search is tak­

Contact Anneleise Woolford at woolf338@saintmarys.edu

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The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS page 9
Student finishes degree in 3 years

**Computer science major took several AP classes in high school**

By ANDREW THAGARD

Notre Dame News Editor

Students often remark that their time under the Dome goes by quickly, but for Dan Brunner, the college years have passed by even faster. The computer science major will graduate with the class of 2003 after just three years at Notre Dame.

Brunner managed to shave a year off of his undergraduate education by taking a heavy load of advanced classes during high school. In total, he enrolled in 13 advanced placement courses that resulted in over 50 hours of college credit when he arrived at Notre Dame in the fall of 2000.

The large number of college credit hours afforded Brunner several options, including more leeway in his semester schedules and more choices in the classes he could take. He also had the possibility of declaring a second major. Brunner, however, opted to graduate early instead.

"I knew computer science was all I wanted to do," he said. "I wasn't interested in another field or another major."

But that doesn't mean that Brunner hasn't taken the time to enjoy his years at Notre Dame. The Knott Hall resident played inter-half soccer.

Brunner said that his advisers were supportive of his decision.

He said that his parents were also pleased with the choice, especially because the early graduation will save the family over $30,000.

While he is happy with his decision, Brunner said he will miss his friends and the Notre Dame experience.

"I'm planning on coming back for all the football games next year and hanging out with my friends," he said.

Over the summer, Brunner will work for a small consulting firm in Cincinnati.

During the internship, he will primarily focus on designing web pages. Next fall, Brunner may continue to work for the same company full-time or search for a different job.

"I'm not sure what I'll be doing long-term but I've got the internship lined up for right now," he said.

Contact Andrew Thagard at andrew@nd.edu

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Two rector's leaving residence halls

**Rectors of Zahm Hall and St. Edward's Hall departing**

By MELISSA LOU

The Notre Dame community is bidding farewell to two residence hall rectors who will not return in the fall, Father Tom Bednar of Zahm Hall and Father Tom Bednar of St. Edward's Hall.

Father Mojzisek, a Notre Dame alumnus, leaves St. Edward's Hall after one year there.

He said that although he has enjoyed his experience, his heart is in counseling and teaching. He plans to return to Baltimore, his hometown, to continue work in these areas.

"The students have been very supportive of my decision," he said. "They are exceptional young men who are creative and very energetic."

Mojzisek will also leave his position with the Masters in Divinity Program where he taught pastoral counseling, and his job as a leader in the Notre Dame Encounter retreats.

Bednar of Zahm Hall will also not return next semester after three years there. He is unsure of his assignment for next year.

"It's been a great experience here," said Bednar of his time at Notre Dame and Zahm Hall. "There's a great sense of community and service among the guys."

The Office of Student Affairs has named Daniel Parrish as Bednar's replacement.

Contact Melissa Lou at melou@nd.edu

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- CANDACE, KATIE AND "THE FAM"
University cuts force colleges to look at budgets

Admissions increases and construction project cuts among options for colleges

By KATE NAGENGAST
Senior Staff Writer

Since the University Board of Trustees called for budget cuts in March as a result of losses to the endowment and a down economy, each college is now working to finalize its 2003-04 budget and determine the effects of a 5 percent cut to academic and student life expenditures mandated by the Board.

Although the cut represents only a small portion of the University's estimated $640 million in annual expenses, it's significant at Notre Dame where the Board has not curtailed spending in nearly two decades.

Coupled with a 6.5 percent tuition increase, which will bring 2003-04 tuition and room and board costs to $34,100, University budget cuts could affect student life — though University officials said they aim to avoid changes that would have a direct impact on students, especially student finances.

"There's been a rigorous attempt to hold down tuition increases with wise decision making in the budget," said Matt Storin, University spokesman. "We want to arrive at a budget figure that will do the least damage to our University missions."

Storin said preserving financial aid at its current levels is among the University's highest priorities. But the endowment, which provides financial aid for students, ranks 16th among U.S. colleges and universities and is the largest at any Catholic institution, dropped $200 million last year.

"The budget cuts are not entirely based on the endowment drop, there have been additional rising costs ... but the economy certainly affects things on the revenue side adversely," said Storin.

More than half of Notre Dame's operating budget revenues and roughly 81 percent of the educational and general revenues come from tuition and fees, according to the strategic plan, thus even a small percentage increase in tuition or in the number of enrolled students assists with budgeting — and in 2003 the University plans to attempt both.

Notre Dame plans to admit 25 more students, making 1,960 the target size for the class of 2007.

Eileen Kolman, dean of First Year Studies, said her office will plan for 1,960 students, however, she also questioned Notre Dame's continued ability to attract a surplus of students during an economic downturn.

"I think the economy is in a bad way and Notre Dame is expensive — so we may not see the confirmation rate of past years again," Kolman said, in reference to the class of 2005 enrollment swell of over 2,000 students.

First Year Studies was also asked to make a 5 percent budget cut, but Kolman said that could be accomplished through fewer summer mailings and relying more on Internet communication, without adversely affecting students.

According to Ava Preacher, assistant dean in the College of Arts and Letters, Arts and Letters will increase the number of transfer students it admits and decrease the number of student leaves of absence it grants, a scenario she believes will be problematic.

Preacher said Arts and Letters typically admits 60 to 70 sophomores and junior transfer students per year, but for 2003-04 it has been asked to admit 90 students.

"It means we'll have to look at compromising quality," said Preacher. "With 90 students accepted you may actually be taking students who won't fare well in the classrooms here."

Arts and Letters will also allow only 16 leaves of absence in 2003-04, roughly eight per semester, after allowing up to 40 this year. This cut could hinder study abroad opportunites for students who want to take a leave of absence to travel through programs outside of Notre Dame's International Studies and London Program offerings and want to receive credit for their time away.

Preacher said her office would now prioritize leave request based upon whether applicants had already had an abroad experience and if they were interested in participating in programs where Notre Dame had no existing offering, such as Africa.

Preacher said increasing enrollment through the combination of larger incoming classes, more transfer students and fewer leaves of absence could increase class size, limit course availability, or even risk students' ability to graduate in the expected four to five years with a semester abroad and mounting scheduling conflicts.

The College of Science and the College of Business typically offer larger classes and encounter fewer scheduling dilemmas, but nonetheless find themselves with contracting budget limits.

According to accounting professor Bill Nichols, the Mendoza College of Business will have little trouble maintaining their required budget cuts for 2003 by reducing their publications, entertainment and alumni relations budgets.

"We approached the budget cuts with the objective to retain faculty slots, maintain course offerings and maintain funding for faculty research," Nichols said.

These goals are similar to those set by the College of Science, but the College of Business results are enviable for Marvin Miller, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Miller said his department likewise prioritized faculty retention and therefore allowed for a 1.5 percent increase in faculty salaries to "keep morale up."

"To cut faculty and staff salaries would be imprudent," said Miller. "The worst thing we could do is lose faculty to competing academies or industry. The last thing we want to do is make it attractive for them to leave."

But, according to Miller, 90 percent of the Chemistry and Biochemistry budget is salaries, thus forcing its supply budget to take a 30 to 35 percent cut to meet next year's University budget requirements.

Miller said he has been double digit inflation in the cost of scientific supplies, but his department budget has not increased in five years.

"Teaching science is relatively expensive," said Miller. "My biggest fear is that come February or March of next year, we'll walk into the labs and have to tell the students, 'Sorry, we're out of supplies.' Needless to say we'll be frustrated in our teaching efforts without supplies."

Various campus construction projects have also been delayed or halted as a result of budget restraints, Jim Lipbrot, vice president for business operations, told The Observer in April. Delayed projects include a new science and learning building to be built north of the Joyce Center for $70 million, a new post office and security building near the Stepan Center, and improvements to the Luthof Center. Projects that were completed or are still on schedule despite cuts include the Marie P. Debartolo Center for Performing Arts, the Stepan Chemistry Hall, O'Shaugnessy Hall renovations and Nesbitt Library renovations.

Preacher said an additional faculty concern related to building projects is parking as teachers will for the first time be charged for parking beginning in the fall of 2004.

"The University is tightening the budget and in many ways they've needed to do it," said Preacher. "Every move now and then it seems the University should cut back on certain luxuries. You look at the grounds and wonder when they lay down and tear up sidewalks repeatedly. Money seems to flow to some places more than others."

Contact Kate Nagengast at knagenga@nd.edu
Scully resigns as executive VP

By ANDREW SOUKUP

The University’s third-ranking official announced his resignation Friday, following a year-long search for a successor. Scully was acting as executive vice president but remains a member of the faculty.

Father Edward Malloy, who informed the University’s Board of Trustees that his resignation would take effect June 30. The Trustees met on May 2 to discuss an executive vice president search and scheduled to include a report from a four-person committee formed to investigate Scully’s behavior, including a Jan. 16 confrontation with two local television reporters and a cameraman.

However, University spokesman Matt Stori said Scully’s resignation was tendered to the Board before the report was discussed. The report, Stori said, cleared Scully of wrongdoing.

A South Bend Tribune report on May 3 said Scully’s resignations averred a possible crisis in the upper echelon of the University’s leadership, according to unnamed sources in the University’s administration quoted by the Tribune.

A majority of top administrators, including University President Father Edward Malloy — wanted Scully out, according to the Tribune, which also cited sources as saying Malloy was prepared to resign if Scully remained.

In a preparatory statement, Scully did not provide a reason for his resignation. Malloy, in the same University-sponsored statement, said, “His tenure has been marked by his creative thinking, his wise business sense, and his commitment to the University community.”

A position that the Board of Trustees will seek a load to find Scully’s successor, but Stori said he did not know when the Board of Trustees would name Scully’s successor.

Scully’s successor, “has been an honor and a privilege to serve as an officer of the University for the past nine years,” Scully said in his statement. “My first love has always been teaching, research and pastoral ministry. I am excited at the prospect of returning full time to those pursuits.”

Neither Scully nor Malloy were available for comment, and the only official University response came in the form of a statement that cited many of Scully’s achievements. “The statement largely spoke for itself,” Stori said.

“I have been willing to accept the demands of higher education as performance has continued. I will have an ongoing relationship with the University in a continuing role,” he said. “I have been willing to accept the demands of higher education as performance has continued. I will have an ongoing relationship with the University in a continuing role.”

In a voice mail message left with The Observer Tuesday, Scully said he looks forward to the challenge of returning to teaching and research full time.

A member of the political science department, Scully is one of the political science department called an administrative leave. Typically, when professors go on leave in the faculty ranks, they can receive at least one semester off from teaching. No students were affected by the decision to cancel class because permission was required to register, and Scully did not approve any students before the class was cancelled.

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Father Sam Peters was fired as rector of Sorin Hall after allegations surfaced that he had engaged in an "inappropriate sexual relationship."

Father Sam Peters fired, was named in University spokesman Matt Starin, who declined to comment on whether the woman was a student.

"The family has requested that we do everything possible to protect the privacy of this woman," Starin said. "We are deeply sorry and apologize for the betrayal of the trust that the People of God place in those whom we ordain for sacred duties."

Congregation of Holy Cross statement

"It will be important for him to reconstrue his life priorities and his fidelity to them." The statement said Peters agreed to the Province's offer of professional assistance to help him in his assessment.

Father Mark Poorman, director of Student Affairs, officially notified Sorin residents of Peters' dismissal May 6. A replacement for Peters has not yet been named.

Sorin Hall rector fired for 'sexual relationship'

+ Father Sam Peters dismissed following allegation

By MEGHANNE DOWNES

The rector of Sorin Hall, Father Sam Peters, was fired after University officials said he had an "inappropriate sexual relationship" with an adult female, a school spokesman said May 7.

The Notre Dame chapter of Phi Beta Kappa congratulates and thanks the following members of the class of 2003:

- Miss Katherine Anne Higgins
- Mr Nicholas Gaston Hovaty
- Mr Daniel Scott Hoople
- Ms Amanda K. Horvath
- Ms Megan Elizabeth Horvath
- Mr Jarred Christian Jordan
- Mr Matthew Sweeney Johnston
- Miss Elizabeth Anne Kahlen
- Mr Charles Stewart Kamen
- Miss Ann Kellog
- Ms Lauren Claire Kelly
- Ms Maura Elizabeth Kelly
- Ms Erin Lynn Kennedy
- Ms Patricia Ann Keepel
- Ms Elizabeth Anne Kessler
- Mr Jason Andrew Klocke
- Mr Elias J. Kolopoulos
- Ms Kirstin Frances Krueger
- Ms Margaret Rose Laracy
- Ms Mary Mary Laraja
- Ms Beth Ann Lewinski
- Ms Ashlee Mary Logan
- Ms Rebecca Lucy Luckett
- Mr Michael Charles Madigan
- Miss Lori Kathryn Madlinger
- Ms Katherine Marie Malmquist
- Ms Amy Kiyoko Marshall
- Mr Jason Scott Mathias
- Mr Patrick Melia McElwee
- Mr Donovan Clark McFeron
- Mr Luke Anthony McLaurin
- Mr Michael Melconn McElwee
- Ms Rebecca Lucy Luckett
- Ms Rebecca Lucy Luckett
- Ms Stephanie Ann Zabela

The statement said Peters agreed to the Province's offer of professional assistance to help him in his assessment.

Father Mark Poorman, director of Student Affairs, officially notified Sorin residents of Peters' dismissal May 6. A replacement for Peters has not yet been named.

Father Sam Peters was fired as rector of Sorin Hall after allegations surfaced that he had engaged in an "inappropriate sexual relationship."

The Notre Dame Magazine — the University's alumni magazine — profiled Peters' journey to the priesthood in its Spring 2003 issue, at one point likening him to a Holy Cross recruiting poster.

"The family has requested that we do everything possible to guard the privacy of this woman."

Matt Starin, University spokesman

Contact Meghan Dowes at mdowes@nd.edu

The Notre Dame chapter of Phi Beta Kappa congratulates and welcomes its new members of the class of 2003:

- Miss Kathryn Elizabeth Anderson
- Ms Kimberly Jane Berg
- Mr Richard Tobias Biebl
- Mr Daniel David Birk
- Mr Andrew Adam Borden
- Ms Tanya Marie Boyd
- Mr Zachary Neal Burkhart
- Ms Molly Corinne Bymes
- Mr Timothy James Callan
- Ms Margaret Anne Cambry
- Mr Joshua Francis Coleman
- Ms Stephanie Diane Collins
- Ms Gina Marie Cora
- Ms Jessica Lee Daues
- Miss Julie Lynn Davis
- Mr Geoffrey Georges, Ill
- Mr Leonard James Delorenzo, Ill
- Miss Lisa Charlotte Demidovich
- Ms Catherine Mary DiSipio
- Ms Ann Therese Effinger
- Mr Todd Randall Engstrom
- Ms Christine Therese Ferrara
- Ms Jennifer Jean Fitzsimmons
- Miss Margaret Ann Fitzpatrick
- Mr John Joseph Foley, Ill
- Ms Mary Colleen Garner
- Miss Amy Katherine Gnaster
- Mr Eric William Gobel
- Ms Annette Marie Gonzalez
- Ms Jennifer Diane Guenther
- Mr Jason Jeffrey Halvorson
- Mr Kevin Michael Hansen
- Ms Jessica Clare Higgins

Mr Adam Michael Nicholson
- Ms Kelly Rose Nimmo
- Miss Christina Rose Noflezel
- Mr David Andrew Nordin
- Mr Matthew Joseph O'Rourke
- Ms Stephanie Franca Pascali
- Miss Rebecca Marie Reilly
- Ms Elynn Elizabeth Rideout
- Ms Meredith Anne Runke
- Mr Nicholas Edward Salazar
- Mr Joel Robert Schaffer
- Miss Amy Beth Schrock
- Ms Amy Marie Schill
- Mr Daniel Benjamin Schmid
- Ms Jessica Marie Schmidt
- Mr Patrick Edward Sluka
- Mr Brian Thomas Smith
- Miss Marilyna Ann Soenneker
- Ms Kathryn Louise Soliz
- Ms Jennifer Suzanne Spanbauer
- Mr Robert Peter Stachek
- Mr Albert Brian Staub
- Ms Maggie Marie Strecker
- Mr Glenn Loyd Strycer
- Ms Carolyn Alicia Tampe
- Ms Jennifer Josephine Theis
- Ms Alexandra Vanessa Torres
- Ms Allison Christine Troy
- Ms Meghan Christine VanDeventer
- Ms Erica LaMonaca Walter
- Miss Allison Louise Werner
- Mr Matthew Gerald Wysoczynski
- Ms Stephanie Ann Zalbela

The Notre Dame chapter of Phi Beta Kappa congratulates and welcomes its new members of the class of 2003:
Dear Graduates,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my prayers and best wishes to the members of the Class of 2003. I also want to express my gratitude for the rich contributions you have made to the University during your time here.

For those of you who are graduating seniors, I hope that we have achieved our goal of providing you with an education that your commitment to your faith in God and to the service of God's people match your dedication to your chosen vocation and profession. We have high expectations of our graduates. The tremendous contribution that our alumni make to society and to the Church is a testament to the importance of these high expectations.

For those of you leaving with graduate and professional degrees, I hope that you will carry with you the best of our traditions as they relate to your discipline. If you bring to your chosen field a strong set of ethical convictions and a commitment to justice, you will represent the very best of Notre Dame.

May Our Lady, Notre Dame, continue to watch over you in the years ahead. We are blessed to have you as members of the Notre Dame family.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Poorman, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs
Adding up a year at ND

- Meals eaten, classes taken, Masses celebrated, it's all here by the numbers

Special to The Observer

Another academic year is ending at Notre Dame. Most students have packed up and gone home. Seniors are enjoying their last days on campus before Commencement.

There is no way to quantify what Notre Dame has meant to them, but they will leave some statistical footprints.

For example, the Registrar's office reports that 6,837 classes were taught during the past fall and spring semesters, including graduate, undergraduate and independent study courses.

About 180,000 textbooks were purchased at the Hammes Bookstore on campus.

Research grants totaled $43,902,214.

Students and visitors eating on campus consumed 1.5 tons of chicken strips, 60,000 gallons of milk, 88 tons of bananas.

There were 2 million meals served in the various dining halls, snack bars and restaurants, including 70,000 in the Morris Inn.

As anyone who visits the campus in autumn knows, it is hard to miss the Notre Dame Marching Band, either in performance or practice, but there are many other orchestras, bands, choirs and choral groups. They combined for 301 concerts and 115 band performances.

Some of those band performances were at the University's 183 athletic contests, not counting tournaments that are under the supervision of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Fans attending those events totaled 865,591.

That makes for a few dirty uniforms. But they were just part of the story at the St. Michael's Laundry, which many students patronize. It processed 1.5 million tons of soiled fabric.

The spiritual side of Notre Dame is immeasurable, but Campus Ministry pegs the number of Masses, including those at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the crypt and residence hall chapels at about 2,000.

It's an incomplete list. There were kilowatt hours of electric power generated, gallons of water supplied, medications applied, acres of grass mowed, and so on.

After Sunday's Commencement, the campus will be quiet for a few weeks before the summer session and various visiting groups will bring it back to life.

But, finally closing the school year, there are still about 2,700 undergraduate and graduate degrees to confer.
Congratulates
all the lesbian, gay, bi and transgender graduates of 2003, and their graduating friends and supporters...

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

GALA-ND/SMC (Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College) is an educational non-profit membership organization with over 850 members representing alumni, faculty, staff and families of the University and College.

Our user-friendly organization has no official affiliation with—and receives no financial support from—the University of Notre Dame or Saint Mary’s College. Our strength and support comes from our membership and our growing numbers.

To receive your welcoming first-year membership packet and for more information about our organization visit our web site at: http://galandsmc.org/
e-mail us at: galandsmc@aol.com
or write us at: GALA-ND/SMC
P.O.Box 257703
Chicago, IL 60625
Now, I realize

It was Freshmen Orientation 1999 and I was strolling on God Quad with my roommate. We stumbled upon an upperclassman that had inspired someone I knew in high school. After I told the student about my influence on my old acquaintance, the upperclassman asked, "Is she hot?"
And so my true college experience began.

Notre Dame has a mystique that draws people to the campus like students to South Dining Hall when it serves chicken strips. Though Notre Dame is arguably the No. 1 Catholic institution in the country and the dining halls were supposedly No. 2 when we entered the University as freshmen, the rankings, the prominence and the "ohls" and "shibs" can be deceiving. This is how I felt when the awes-inspiring student flippantly replied to me and my roommate.

Even so, the world is full of people, places and situations that seem inconsistent. As insuppressible as the upperclassman was to a high school teenager, he was also a typical 20-year-old guy. Yet, his off-the-cuff remark did not destroy Notre Dame’s reputation in my eyes. I’ve learned in these past four years that inconsistencies and obstacles will inevitably appear to complicate life, but there is always a chance to find a positive outcome.

It takes more than one silly remark or a more serious incident to shatter the dreams that we have tried to pursue at this institution. And the same way we entered Notre Dame with goals and ideas about positively shaping our lives and the world, we can reenter postgraduate lives with the same determination and optimism.

Helena Payne
Senior Staff Writer

Notre Dame is unique because we have made it that way. All of our dreams of traveling the world, becoming president, empowering the poor, building a multinational firm, curing the sick or creating a masterpiece, seemed that much more possible when we stepped foot on this green campus. The University is skilled at easing our transition into the lifestyle of this Indiana oasis.

When Notre Dame’s blue skies turn gray and the green grass is covered in white, it’s easy to question whether our dreams are worth the obstacles, but this Commencement Weekend—the celebration of an end and a beginning—should remind us that we made the right choice.

College graduates represent about one-fourth of the population. I had a political science professor consistently remind my class of that fact this semester, pointing out that attending an elite institution puts us in a smaller group. I will represent the roughly one percent of the population comprised of African-American female college graduates according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

While I know that I deserve a degree on Sunday after all the papers, tests and sacrifices I have made on behalf of my health in attempts to study ridiculously late hours after a day of responsibilities, I must remember that celebration is not the only must-do after I turn my tassel.

Being a college graduate is more than a ticket to a high-paying job or a prestigious graduate school. Many Notre Dame students demonstrate this each year as they prepare for jobs in the Peace Corps, Teach for America and other programs available to those who want to build up the society in which they live. Being a college graduate is about understanding that you have a responsibility to continue in your pursuit of knowledge and experience. It’s about knowing that even if you have been blessed with a great opportunity after school, you will not let your idealism vanish at the slightest barrier, but you will recognize it as a new challenge.

Helena Payne is a graduating senior and the former News Editor of The Observer. She will report for the Associated Press until she decides to try a new adventure and she would like to thank the Payne family for their unconditional love and support.

The verses expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Finding my feministic side

Sarah Nestor
Senior Staff Writer

I didn't want this column to be just one more in a long list of columns about saying goodbye. Despite the sad attention it brings, my memories are full of lasts. I'm not offering ideas for scrap books or photo albums. Instead, I'm offering a suggestion of how to hold onto your old memories and make a few new ones. So, here goes.

U.T.P. is about holding onto memories.

U.T.P. isn't about sappy recollections of the Notre Dame I love. It's about learning how to be allowed to say the last time we'll all be together. We're prepared for them.

Yes, our memories are full of lasts. The last day, the last time we'll pull an all-nighter to get that paper finished on time. The last time we'll all be part of a learning community together.

For the two big RVs with some recent grads wandering around the tailgate lots, look in your memories. I'm not offering ideas for scrap books or photo albums. Instead, I'm offering a suggestion of how to hold onto your old memories and make a few new ones. So, here goes.

U.T.P. is about holding onto memories. I probably don't need to read about this anymore. You probably don't need to read about this anymore.

So, instead, I've decided to offer a suggestion of how to hold onto your old memories. I'm not offering ideas for scrap books or photo albums. Instead, I'm offering a suggestion of how to hold onto your old memories and make a few new ones. So, here goes.

U.T.P. is about sappy recollections of the last three years.

It isn't about sappy recollections of the last three years. It's about being allowed to say the last time we'll all be together. It's about saying goodbye.

For the two big RVs with some recent grads wandering around the tailgate lots, look in your memories. I'm not offering ideas for scrap books or photo albums. Instead, I'm offering a suggestion of how to hold onto your old memories and make a few new ones. So, here goes.

U.T.P. is about saying goodbye.

It's about saying goodbye. It's about saying goodbye to the challenges of graduate school and the move into professional life.

It's about saying goodbye to the challenges of graduate school and the move into professional life. It's about being allowed to say the last time we'll all be together.

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It's not quite as bad or scary, right? Since the definition itself is so ambiguous, people can take feminism and mold it to fit many different causes, not all of which are representative or supported by all those that call themselves feminists. For example, major differences exist between feminists and the issue of abortion. Today, it seems that feminism is much more a part of academic, with books on feminist theory and the feminist movement. Of course books aren't bad and if these books can open your eyes to new ideas, that's great. But it is really necessary to read a paper written. The last time we'll all be together. It's as if we're encouragement by it. We've made a lot of friends, the last three years. But this time, when we were freshmen and were still trying to adjust to the changes at Notre Dame.

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**VIEWPOINT**

What our education can—and should be

A Notre Dame education, as with any reputable undergraduate education, encourages students to grow curious, to inquire, to test old axioms and to confront the pressing moral issues of our time. I can say that Notre Dame continues to do this, despite the growth of a trade school mentality in some circles, because any student who sought out a real education here could have found it.

During the past four years, this perpetually manicured campus has given us a semi-retreat from the harsh realities of the world—an environment where moral, scientific and philosophical discussions could take place free from the weighty concerns of political correctness and career advancement.

I am worried, though. I am worried about how many Notre Dame students find the time to learn, challenge and explore. I am worried about the death of the foreign language requirement in four out of the University’s five colleges. I am worried about racist overtones in comments about Arabs, political statements torn from my bedroom door, and a general unwillingness to question the status quo and even to dissent in its immoral consequences.

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**EXCERPTS FROM PAST ISSUES**

**Four years in review: Students react to campus issues**

*Campus responds to Sept. 11*

With today’s tragedy comes much frustration and anger. Americans feel vulnerable; reality macks us hard and we recognize that we are not as safe as we once believed.

The unclearness of evil that has happened, blatant acts of evil occurred and innocent people died. Fathers, wives, nieces and friends were unjustly taken from us. I watched today’s tragedy unfold, I questioned world peace... In the midst of such evil, thousands of people gathered at South Quad together as one. This is no time for complacency. The past four years have been pinpointed as a turning point on a global scale. Rather than binding together in mutual understanding, the world is searing itself apart with hate and violence. Terrorists turned peaceful air-planes into weapons, targeting thousands of American, French, Muslim, Mexican and other victims in two of the tallest buildings in the world. The American government has responded with two full-scale invasions that killed and maimed at least as many innocent people—whether or not those wars were justified, the dead must be remembered.

Indeed, this semester, the American government, unprovoked, invaded a potential oil-rich Third World country, weakened by 12 years of civilian sanctions and almost daily bombing. The justifications given by our government were flimsy and certainly inappropriate targets of informed moral inquiry. Yet, although the Pope, the U.S. bishops, other churches and public opinion outside the United States, Britain and Israel denounced the war, the infamous weapons of mass destruction have not been found and the “liberation” of Iraq is occurring even as the United States prop up equally undemocratic regimes throughout the world, many students have opted that it would be inappropriate to question the American president at a time like this. This certainly reflects the mood of the country and of Fox News, but I worry that it has come to characterize the otherwise wisely moralistic inquestive campus of Notre Dame.

Now is the exact time when those who benefit from an education such as ours should take up their ears, pay attention to U.S. foreign policy and demand that such grave actions be taken within a rational, moral framework. Unfortunately, I worry that the dominant mood at Notre Dame has been dismissive of dissent. But, I may be wrong.

There are some indications that I am. For one thing, many students have experienced the force of Catholic Social Teaching through classes, late-night rap sessions or service-learning activities with the Center for Social Concerns—perhaps the most laudable institution on campus. The Catechism leads us to challenge any economic system that fails to provide dignified work, the right to collective bargaining and a just wage. In fact, it has inspired some students and campus workers to question publicly why workers at this University are denied a just wage. Others have joined with the Coalition of Immokalee [Farm] Workers in Florida in asking Taco Bell to pay for a wage increase for tomato pickers—a real education.

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**Questioning revised alcohol policy**

*What (Father Mark) Poorman’s policies tell us is that the University does not see students as adults, but as unformed youths that must be monitored and controlled in every way, shape and form. Instead of approaching us as adults, seeking our input (and I’m not talking focus groups possibly made up of sophomores, it has inspired some students and campus workers to question publicly why workers at this University are denied a just wage. Others have joined with the Coalition of Immokalee [Farm] Workers in Florida in asking Taco Bell to pay for a wage increase for tomato pickers—a real education.

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**Vagina Monologues degrade women**

The last time I checked, rape and child molestation were not women’s empowerment issues. They were considered violence against women issues.

I consider myself a feminist. I worked at a feminist organization over the summer, Feminists for Life of America. None of the women I have ever met, around town or on the job, would willingly support such an event. The Vagina Monologues” as great women’s empowerment literature.

The shows final result is that it has pardoned and glorified rape, child molestation, pornography and prostitution.

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Father Mark Poorman claims 30 focus groups were consulted before this decision was made, but declines to specify who they were and what was said. He later makes references to percentages, numbers and comparisons to other schools, yet does not include these statistics and assumes we will simply take his word. Perhaps if students had better access to the results of this study, we could better understand how this decision was made. If the situation is really that bad, then the evidence will be right there for all to see.

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**The Observer**

*Pat McElwee, Senior Staff Writer*

Friday, May 16, 2003

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By ANDREW THAGARD and MARIA SMITH
Scene Writer and Scene Editor

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's seniors are graduating this weekend, but what are they doing next?

While a few may hit up Walt Disney World in the coming week, their long-term plans are more varied.

Former Notre Dame football center Jeff Faine, for example, will suit up in a Cleveland Browns uniform this fall while Andrew Serazin, a senior biology major, will travel to Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar.

Anne Traynor (top right) poses with fellow Notre Dame students Colleen Moore and Rachel Rutzeley while on a trip in Mexico assisting youth. Traynor will spend the next two years teaching in Micronesia.

At center, Phil Tribble and Allison Troy pose before a dorm formal. The couple recently announced their engagement after dating since freshman year.

Students from both schools with a variety of majors will begin the climb up the corporate ladder as their peers head back to the classroom, enrolling in medical and law schools and a variety of other graduate programs. Other Notre Dame and Saint Mary's graduates will volunteer for a year or two through service programs in domestic and international locales and seniors in Army, Air Force and Navy ROTC will fulfill their commitments to serve the country. Students from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are engaged and a few plan to tie the knot in the coming months.

Indeed, the post-graduate plans of this year's two classes are as diverse and varied as the students who compose them.

Called to serve

Students from both schools are continuing a long-standing tradition of giving back after graduation.

Anne Traynor, for example, will pack her bags and head to Micronesia this fall through a Jesuit Volunteer Corps program. The science education major will dedicate two years to teaching biology and chemistry.

"Since high school I've known I wanted to do some service either field work or education," she said. "I've done a lot of service in high school and college. I feel I learned a lot from it. I've had an opportunity to grow in my faith here and I'd love to expand on that."

Traynor is not alone. Andrea Smith Shappell, director of senior transition programs at the Center for Social Concerns, said approximately 10 percent of this year's graduating class are committed to service programs. Between eight and 10 percent of Saint Mary's graduates also plan to volunteer for the next year or two, said Sister Linda Kors, director of the SURV Center.

Popular programs for Notre Dame seniors include Holy Cross Associates and the Alliance for Catholic Education, both of which are based on campus. Many Saint Mary's students are volunteering through the Peace Corps and Jesuit Volunteer Corps, though graduates from both schools are committed to a variety of different programs.

According to Kors and Shappell, students pursue post-graduate service for a variety of reasons. Many volunteer extensively during their time at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's and want to continue assisting others. Some cite a desire to grow in their religious faith as a motivating factor.

"It felt like I was getting stuff constantly throughout my years of education," said Rory Dippold, a history major who will teach middle school children in Mobile, Ala. through ACE. "I wanted to give back. I wanted to do service through teaching."

Despite the economic situation, few students said they elected to pursue service because of problems securing a job. Recent events in the Middle East have also not deterred graduates from pursuing international service programs. In fact, the percentage of students traveling abroad for service at both schools is the highest in recent years.

Back to the books

Even though some students are too tired of books to continue with more education after four years of college, others jump right back into academia, pursuing various graduate programs. In the past, anywhere from 13 to 17 percent of seniors have gone on to continue their studies after graduation.

Many Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are headed on to prestigious programs or are recipients of well-known academic honors.

Senior Maura Kelly will spend 13 months in Brazil on Fulbright scholarship next year studying democracy, income equality and social policy in the cities of Curitiba and Porto Alegre. The program offers up to 10 awards for lecturing and research each year to students with high academic and extracurricular qualifications.

Kelly applied in September of the past year at the encouragement of many of her professors and heard back from the program on May 5.

"It's a very humbling experience to go through your senior year knowing that what you want to do is in the hands of other people," said Kelly. "The encouragement I've received is an affirmation of the presence and community that exists at Notre Dame and that I think a lot of the students feel."

Law school is another popular destination for graduating seniors, attracting as much as eight percent of the class in past years. Although law school is most popular among students in the College of Arts and Letters, students from every school except architecture go on to study law every year.

Senior Veronica Berger plans to attend either Notre Dame Law School or the law school at Cornell University.

"I'm excited to get on my own two feet for once, and do something that I'm really interested in," said Berger.

While approximately 14 percent of Arts and Letters graduates go on to law school, almost 40 percent of science graduates go on to medical or dental
Bringing in the bucks at Notre Dame or Saint Mary's, 2002 was a good choice. Given the economy, it's a good option. The economics of being Notre Dame and Saint Mary's seniors are forever behind. Whether it's the Peace Corps, Columbia law, wedding vows or medical research, the graduates of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are headed for a variety of bright and exciting futures. Wherever the graduates end up, there will be four good years wasted together to look back on.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith@nd.edu or Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

Danielle Ledesma sews dolls during an international service convention in August 2002. Ledesma is awaiting placement in an Americorps program.

Photo courtesy of Mark Scaccabate
ND WOMEN'S TENNIS
Season comes to an end in second round of the NCAAs

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

A successful season came to a tough end for the No. 23 Irish as they fell 4-0 to No. 15 Vanderbilt in the second round of the NCAA Tournament May 10 in Nashville, Tenn.

No. 1 seeded Notre Dame, who finished the season 16-9, began the match by losing the doubles point and then both the first and third singles matches.

Playing without the services of senior captain Katie Connelly, Notre Dame enjoyed only one victory against Vanderbilt. The doubles duo of freshman Lauren Connelly and junior Alicia Salas topped their second ranked opponent in two days as they defeated Sarah Riske and Aleke Tsubouanov.

For Connelly and Salas, it was their 12th win in 16 matches.

Unfortunately, the team as a whole was not able to achieve back-to-back victories in the NCAA tournament. The Irish began the route to the national championship by defeating No. 38 Missouri 4-1 in the first round May 9.

Connelly and Salas got the Irish off to a promising start with their upset of the No. 15 doubles duo of Urska Juric and Katica Savkivova. Their win at No. 1 doubles clinched the point for the Irish and it marked the 12th time in the last 15 matches the Irish have done so.

Lauren Connelly’s younger sister, sophomore Sarah Jane Connelly, also had success in doubles. Paired with freshman Kristina Sastony, the Irish pair succeeded at No. 2.

Junior Caylan Leslie and freshman Jennifer Smith fell at No. 3 doubles, and the challenge continued for Leslie who fell to No. 36 Juric in singles.

The Juric singles victory was the only point Missouri would earn though, and No. 94 Salas, Stastny, Sarah Jane Connelly, and Smith all contributed to the Irish win.

Overall, the season was a storybook one for the young Irish team, which saw many successes including an upset of No. 20 Miami in the Big East Championships on the Marquette home courts. That win was especially pleasing for the Irish who had finished their regular season down in Miami, but with a 6-1 loss to the Hurricanes.

The title match of the Big East conference tournament between the Irish and Hurricanes included a doubles match that Irish coach Jay Loudermilk termed an “instant classic.”

The No. 2 doubles team of Sarah Jane Connelly and Lauren Connelly fought a scrappy Miami duo to triumph 6-4 in a match that had truly come down to the wire. Stastny and Connelly had reached a 7-1 lead, but Miami’s Iga deVilliers and Abby Smith put up a strong rally to surge within reach of the Irish pair.

In the end the Irish won, and the Notre Dame claimed the Big East title.

An important moment of the season for both the team and especially for Connelly was the Ace for the Cure event, during which the then-19th ranked Irish defeated then-No. 13 Texas 6-1.

The event was held to raise funds and awareness for colon cancer, which was the cause of the death of Connelly’s mother last year.

Notre Dame’s record may not entirely reflect the team’s successful season given that the Irish faced each of the nation’s most powerful teams. However, they will be losing the leadership and services of Connelly, the team returns all of the key players, many of whom will still only be sophomores next year.

Fortunately for the Irish, those sophomores will already have NCAA tournament experience after the belt, and the prospects of continuing this season’s success should remain high.

Contact Joe Lindesly at lindesley@nd.edu

WOMENS TRACK AND FIELD
Irish fall just short at Big East Championships, finish 2nd

By HEATHER VAN HOFEGARDEN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women’s track and field team could not overcome Miami’s dominating presence as the Irish placed second in the Big East Championships by scoring 126 points to Miami’s 166. Miami won individual championships in the 100 meters, 200, and 400 meters.

Pittsburgh, Villanova (70), Louisville (62) and Georgetown (62) rounded out the rest of the top six.

In the distance events, Molly Huddle was the Irish high light, as she won the 5,000 meters easily (15:58.51), finishing seven seconds ahead of second-place finisher Mary Callan of Providence. In the same race, Jennifer Handley took fourth.

Meanwhile, in the field, Emily Loomis won the individual championship after finishing in the top three at the last three conference meets. Loomis added the honor to her first team all-Big East volleyball and Big East Most Outstanding Player award given to volleyball players for three years.

Also in the jumps, Tameshia King won the long jump. She continued the trend in the distance disciplines, good enough for all-Big East honors.

However, the 4x100 meter relay team’s effort to three-peat was thwarted, as they took third in 45.80. The team of Tanya Cheatham, Kristen Dodd, Ayesha Boyd and Kymia Love was good enough for all-Big East honors.

Lauren King also earned all-Big East honors in the 1,500 meters, as she was edged by Georgetown’s Tenriere Cleem at the finish. Cleem finished in 4:18.57, while King ended up with a time of 4:18.85.

However, the season is not over yet for the team. A final outdoor tune up, the Georgia Tech Invitational is scheduled for two weeks later, May 30 and 31, and that meet will feature several NCAA qualifiers. The NCAA Championships begin June 11.

Contact Heather Van Hooglearden at hvhoog@nd.edu

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Kate, Thanks for everything you did for The O Impact. I don’t know who touhn to come the shopping next year, and Sharron is going to be very lonely. I’m the re. Deal. We miss you too. — Andrew and Scott

Michael and Karen, You might want to plant some flowers this Spring and time again, but we’re glad you stuck it out. And if you ever want to work another night... The Observer Sports Staff

Kate and Lauren, Sports Cup triumphs over all! Athens and Chris

Hello, Good luck in Boston this summer! The Observer News Staff

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 404 South Dining Hall. Deadline is one hour prior to publication. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without request.
Big East Champs looking to qualify for first World Series

By MATT LOZAR Assistant Sports Editor

In an eight-team regional featuring the fourth-ranked team in the country, the defending national champion and a host team seeded third, one would think Notre Dame coach Deanna Gumpf and the fourth-seeded Irish (36-15) would be most concerned about one of these 15 teams.

But it's Notre Dame's first round opponent that is worrying Gumpf.

"I am not too worried about the three top 15 teams, but I am worried about Missouri," Gumpf said. "That is all I care about. They beat a lot of top teams and are going to be very tough. While a case could be made for Gumpf attempting to keep her team focused on its current opponent — or that Notre Dame has never beaten Missouri in five previous meetings — Missouri does bring an impressive resume to this weekend's Region VII Tournament at the University of Michigan.

The fifth-ranked Tigers (31-18) dropped both of their games in the Big 12 Tournament but collected some major wins in the regular season in Missouri, making its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1999, split doubleheaders with Oklahoma, currently ranked fifth nationally, and Nebraska, currently ranked No. 11.

The awards and impressive performance in the Big East Tournament has Gumpf feeling good, but not too good, about her team heading into this weekend.

"I think we are not playing perfectly, but very well," the second-year head coach said. "We are playing together and that is important going into the regional. We can't make mistakes in these types of games."

One major difference for the Irish heading into this year's regional is the experience of its pitching staff. While Booth (19-8, 1.86), who has been Notre Dame's most consistent pitcher this year, is a freshman, the other two Irish hurlers have experienced the pressure the regional tournament provides.

Carrie Wisen (7-3, 1.78) has been used primarily as a reliever and Gumpf is not afraid to go to Wisen in tight, late-game situations. The one area of concern has been Steffany Stenglein (0-4, 3.76) who struggled through most of the season.

Over her past six appearances, Stenglein has rebounded, allowing six hits, giving up two runs, walking eight and striking out five in 12 2/3 innings pitched.

"If we could get even more hitters to become hot...we are going to be a tough team to beat," Andrea Loman, Irish senior pitcher said.

Notre Dame catcher Mallorie Lenn gets a start at second base.

Last year's Irish varsity eight eight received its first invitation to the NCAA Rowing Championships, where it placed 16th. But this year, the senior rowers have focused on team eligibility.

From the start of the 2002-03 season, it was clear that these seniors would be excellent role models for underclassmen both on the water and in the classroom. In 2002, Warren became the first freshman in the program's history to be named a Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association All-American and was also a second-team all-region honoree.

Last year, rising seniors Natalie Ladiné and Cassie Markstahler were named to the CRCA National Scholar-Athlete team. The seniors have consistently led the team to impressive performances this season, where they placed fourth in the races in the invitation-only Windermere Cup on Lake Washington in Seattle.

The No. 24 Irish raced well against several high-caliber teams this season. The Irish defeated Harvard, Washington, Washington State and Oregon State crews, who joined over 100,000 fans to commemorate Washington's centennial year of rowing and to mark the opening of Washington's yacht season.

The Irish varsity eight placed third in its race, the second eighth finished fourth in their race and the varsity took third. Notre Dame finished second in the NCAA Championships after 4:20:40 on Lake Washington in Seattle.

In the Windermere Cup, the Belarus boat won in 6:44:45. At last year's 2002 World Championships in Seville, Spain, three of Belarus' rowers finished fifth. The two-time defending national champions Washington crew finished second in 6:47:61, while coxswain Cassie Markstahler, Natalie Ladiné, Warren, Casey Buckstaff, Rachel Polinski, Alice Bartek, Meghan Boyle, Katie Chernew and Danielle Protasiewicz led Notre Dame's boat to a third-place finish in 7:00:62.

On May 17 and 18, the Irish will race at the 2003 Central Regions in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where they placed fourth in the team competition last year. A strong finish will hopefully position Notre Dame towards another berth in the NCAA Championship.
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Friday, May 16, 2003

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Not the full story

Watson’s accomplishments in the 2002-03 season are the whole story of the excellent year the Irish men’s track and field team to first-place finishes at the NCAA Championships on June 12 will provide the stage to accomplish another goal on his list. "Individualy, the goal is to win an NCAA title," Watson said. "This is a really tough year, and I think a really good one. I’d put me in the top three or top five, and I’d be fairly satisfied with that, but I’m still looking for that NCAA title, because that’s the one thing I haven’t done in my time here.”

Out of the shadows

Even with his seven All-American titles in track and cross country, Watson has had a difficult time coming forward as the top athlete on the Irish track and cross country program before this year.

Running alongside 10-time All-American and national champion Ryan Shay, Watson often ran in the shadows of the elder Shay.

Together, they helped the Irish cross-country team to a sixth-place finish in 2001. Watson even beat Shay at the championship meet, earning a fifth-place finish to Shay’s sixth. The two Irish runners often felt some friendly competition between them, as the drive to be the top runner in the nation often caused one to have to beat his teammate.

"As far as competition, yeah there definitely was competition, because we both wanted to be the best guy in the nation, and do that, we had to have competition on the team," Watson said."Inherently, there will be competition in that situation.”

But the drive to outdo each other pushed the pair to new limits. They often worked together, increasing their training and coaching each other new ideas to improve their running.

"I think we certainly helped each other out in that when you’re doing these really long training runs and these really long integral workouts on the track, it’s really hard to do by yourself," Watson said. "I think it’s been really great to have someone like [Shay] just to trade leads with in workouts and things like that. I learned how to run more mileage and how to become a stronger athlete from him, and I brought some speed to the table, so hopefully that helped him along the way.”

When Shay graduated in 2002, Watson remained as the premier runner for the Irish. Even though he had used up his eligibility in cross country, Watson still had one year left in track in 2003, after sitting out his junior track season due to a knee injury.

When the 2003 track season rolled around, the pressure was on Watson to be the leader of a strong, but young, Irish distance team.

"I don’t really feel there was any more pressure, because I basically looked at myself in that light and I expected myself to be the premier athlete on the team," Watson said. "I kind of wanted to be that top athlete since freshman year, and I’ve been right there since sophomore and junior year, so this year wasn’t much different.”

Looking to the future

Even as Watson’s eligibility runs out at the end of this track season, the fate of the Irish cross country and track programs appears to be on the right track from the impact that the senior has had.

Watson has helped take a young and inexperienced Irish distance team and make it one of the best in the history of the program.

"I think we were at a high point in 2001 in cross country," Watson said. "This year, we came down form a little bit with a young squad, and even the older guys on the squad didn’t have a lot of experience in cross country. But I think they matured so much through that cross country season and into the early indoor track season, and I think they’ll be even better next year.”

Watson helped young, talented runners such as freshmen Tim Moore and Vincent Ambrico and sophomore Eric Morrison develop from high school standouts into serious collegiate threats.

"I think a coach can only tell athletes so much, and the rest they have to pick up on their own," Watson said. "If you can even make the top 10 list, you know you’re among some great company, and I’m very proud to be a part of that.”

Contact Chris Federico at cfederici@nd.edu

Notre Dame senior Luke Watson has earned seven All-American honors in his career with the Irish.

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Ryan

continued from page 40

made more of a difference than just playing high school tennis.”

Three years of success
Ryan entered her freshman year as a two-sport athlete, making both the basketball and tennis team. However, after practicing both sports three times a week for four hours a night, and at least one of the two sports three other days during the week, Ryan b e c a m e exhausted and decided to quit basketball after the season ended.

“I couldn’t just quit during the season, so I waited until it was over,” Ryan said.
Ryan returned to tennis the next season focused and refreshed. She won the conference title at No. 6 singles and at No. 3 doubles and helped lead the Belles to their first of three conference titles.

During her junior year, Ryan moved up to No. 5 singles and won the conference title and added her second MIAA title at No. 3 doubles. The Belles won another MIAA title as well.

But when her opponents couldn’t slow her down, the ulna bone in her right arm did. Ryan was diagnosed with a medical problem, similar to the one that ended professional tennis player Jimmy Connors’ career. The ulna bone in Ryan’s right arm was longer than normal and caused her problems when gripping the tennis racket.

By the time her senior year arrived, many of the ligaments in her wrist were damaged and Ryan had to undergo surgery last September to correct the problem.

Ryan couldn’t play tennis until January and the layoff put Ryan behind her teammates and opponents. Plus, Ryan was unsure whether she would be able to play at both doubles and singles.

But when the season began, Ryan was there, playing both No. 5 singles and No. 2 doubles. This kind of determination is one of the biggest assets Ryan brought to her Belles teammates.

“She’s very intense and has a never-give-up attitude,” Stevenson said. “She always set a good example of how to work hard on the court for her teammates.”

But her opponents couldn’t slow her down, the ulna bone in her right arm did. Ryan was diagnosed with a medical problem, similar to the one that ended professional tennis player Jimmy Connors’ career. The ulna bone in Ryan’s right arm did.

Ryan finished her senior year by winning at No. 2 doubles and second at No. 5 singles at the MIAA tournament. She compiled a 12-1 singles record and a 10-4 doubles record during the regular season.

Rewarded for her work
At the conclusion of the season, Ryan received her team’s PHDA award, an honor given to a player that demonstrates the most pride, hustle, desire and attitude. It was Ryan’s first time receiving the accolade after getting the Most Dedicated award during her first three years on the team.

But the PHDA honor was small in comparison to the MIAA award Ryan received soon after. The Sue Little Memorial Award is given to an MIAA senior tennis player who showed the highest sportsmanship during her four years in college.

Ryan was surprised she received the award, but said she always strived to uphold the etiquette of tennis.

“Personally, I’m shocked I got it,” Ryan said. “There’s a whole part of etiquette that goes along with tennis that I feel is a crucial part of the sport.”

Ryan was only the second Saint Mary’s player to receive such an honor.

Ryan also picked up Saint Mary’s Improvement Award for her dedication and play over the last few years. The honor was just another one for Ryan, whose Belles career ended with the team’s third straight MIAA championship a few weeks ago.

Stevenson said it will be difficult to replace a leader like Ryan, especially one that has been so consistent over the last four years.

“We’re definitely going to miss her next year,” Stevenson said.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetler@nd.edu

Elisa Ryan looks towards the ground during a recent match. Ryan overcame an injury to win 12 of 13 matches at No. 5 singles for Saint Mary’s this season.

Elisa Ryan glances to the side during a match earlier this season. The Minnesota product helped the Belles win the MIAA Championship in tennis this past season.

Elisa Ryan looks towards the ground during a recent match.

Ryan, whose Belles career ended with the team’s third straight MIAA championship a few weeks ago.

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Women surprise country with tournament upsets

Women surprise country with tournament upsets

Senior guard Alicia Ratay dribbles against Arizona in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Ratay averaged 12.1 points.

Irish reach fifth Sweet Sixteen in last seven years

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

All the trials and tribulations the Irish faced during the 2002-03 season finally paid off when the games counted the most.

Left for dead after an up-and-down regular season, Notre Dame upset No. 6 Arizona then shocked No. 3 Kansas State at home in the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament to advance to its fifth Sweet Sixteen in the last seven years.

The loss snapped Kansas State’s 22-game home winning streak and sent Notre Dame to Dayton, Ohio where they lost to No. 2 Purdue, 66-47.

But reaching the Sweet Sixteen seemed nearly impossible after the kind of season Notre Dame endured.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw played five sophomores and two freshmen with regularity throughout the season and had a player quit the team midseason. That lack of experience and a difficult schedule made this season a trying one for McGraw and her team.

The Irish opened the year winning seven of their first eight games, before being blown out by Tennessee in Knoxville, 77-61, Dec. 28. The late-December loss sent the Irish into a rough month of January where the Irish lost all four of their home games, including a 72-53 defeat to eventual national champion Connecticut. In all, Notre Dame went just 3-5 in January where the team fell to Purdue on national television, 71-54.

"The Purdue game was the lowest point of our season," McGraw said weeks later.

But Notre Dame bounced back in February to collect a pair of victories over Big East foes, West Virginia and Georgetown, before falling to a tough Virginia Tech team on the road. The Irish continued their solid play by winning five of their last six Big East games to finish the regular season at 19-10. The NCAA selection committee rewarded the team with an 11-seed for the tournament and a trip to Kansas State to face Arizona and either host Kansas or Harvard.

The Irish raced past unsuspecting Arizona thanks to the shooting of senior guard Alicia Ratay. Ratay, who had one of the most illustrious careers in Irish women’s basketball history, scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds, on a night when neither team could make shots, to lift Notre Dame to a 59-47 victory. Notre Dame held Arizona to a mere 23.3 field goal percentage for the game.

Things didn’t get any easier for the Irish in their second round matchup against the purple-clad Wildcats. Kansas State had lost just four games all season, none at home and had the potential to advance deep into the tournament. Notre Dame made sure that didn’t happen with, arguably, the biggest upset of the 2003 tournament.

Behind another stellar defensive performance that held Kansas State without a field goal for more than 12 minutes in the second half, 17 points from junior guard Le’Tania Severe and clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch from freshmen Megan Duffy and Courtney LaVere, Notre Dame ended the Wildcats season, 59-53.

"Coming into the game, I thought we got off to a great start," McGraw said after the win. "We tried to take the crowd out of the game early on and tried to limit them to 3s. I thought we did a really good job of that in the first half. I was so pleased with our defense. I thought that’s how we won the game, a great defensive effort." After the season, forward Jacqueline Batteast was named to the second-team All-Big East, averaging 13.9 points and 8.3 rebounds per contest. LaVere made the freshmen All-American team and Ratay was selected as a finalist for the National Scholar-Athlete of the Year as well.

Ratay ended the year hitting 46.3 percent of her 3-point attempts (50-for-108) and scored 12.1 points and grabbed nearly five rebounds per game. She ended her Notre Dame career with the highest 3-point shooting percentage in women’s college basketball history, connecting on 47.6 percent of her 3-pointers. She also holds the mark for most 3-pointers made in Notre Dame history.

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BASEBALL

Irish eye Big East tournament, return to CWS

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

Last season, the Irish began their memorable run to the College World Series by winning the Big East Tournament for the first time in the program’s history in its first six years in the league. Notre Dame had often been the regular season leader, but struggled to find its groove in the post-season tournament.

But that all changed last season as the Irish pulled off a 3-2, 10-inning victory over Rutgers to capture the Big East crown and catapult into the NCAA post-season tournament.

"That tournament has always been a tough tournament," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "Last year was the first time we’ve won it in seven years. It’s always a tough tournament. You’ve got some underrated teams that are playing pretty close to home."

This year, capturing that elusive Big East Tournament title could be even more important if the Irish are to make a run at returning to Omaha, Neb., for the College World Series.

"The Big East Tournament has always been a real dog-fight for us, and this year should be no different," Mainieri said.

After beginning conference play 13-2, the Irish have struggled lately, losing four of their last six Big East games to two very tough teams in West Virginia and Rutgers, who currently sit first and second, respectively, in the conference standings.

It appears unlikely that the Irish will be able to capture the Big East regular season title, as they have in the three of the last four years, so the Irish will hope to take the conference tournament title to impress the NCAA selection committee enough to award Notre Dame its third consecutive year hosting an NCAA regional.

Winning the tournament would also lock up an automatic bid for the Irish in the NCAA Tournament.

"The automatic bid goes to the winner of the tournament, so if you want to make sure you’re in the NCAA tournament, you’ve got to win that thing," Mainieri said. "If we win that, we’ve won the regular season title.

"It’s really hard to gauge what the selection committee is going to do," Mainieri said. "There have been years when we’ve finished as low as third in the regular season and received an at-large bid, and there’s been years when we’ve won the regular season and received the automatic bid."

Mainieri hopes that factors such as his team’s tough schedule and recent history in the tournament will influence that bid for an at large spot.

"I’m hoping that if we can get over 40 wins and with the history of what we did last year, that might carry some weight with the selection committee," he said. "If we do get an at-large bid, we will have to have a good showing out there and probably win at least a couple of games in the tournament."

But right now, the Irish have another fierce opponent on their hands in the last weekend of conference play, as they must travel to Blacksburg, Va. to take on fourth-place Virginia Tech (32-19, 14-9 in the Big East).

"Coming off a tough 19-inning loss to Rutgers last Sunday, Mainieri hopes his team will bounce back against the Hokies and ride into the Big East Tournament on a winning streak."

The Irish coach knows the importance of getting hot at the end of the season, and he hopes his team will catch that fire as the regular season yields way to the NCAA Tournament.

"If we’re able to go on a run and ride into the regular season yields way to the NCAA Tournament."

Mainieri hopes his team will bounce back against the Hokies and ride into the Big East Tournament on a winning streak."

"There’s an awful lot of teams that are going to be in the running for those at-large bids. So the more games that we can win this last week plus the Big East Tournament can help."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

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~Archbishop Romero, Martyred March 1980 in El Salvador

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**MENS TRACK AND FIELD**

**Team looks toward May 20 NCAA Regional**

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN Sports Writer

Since one Big East Championship was not enough for the mens track and field team, the Irish decided to repeat their indoor accomplishment — by winning the Big East Outdoor Championship.

The Irish won the Big East Outdoor Championship by a slim margin over Connecticut, 139 to 136.5 to become the first Notre Dame mens track team to win both the indoor and outdoor Big East Championships.

"The Big East is a different meet from all the other meets," Notre Dame distance runner Eric Morrison said. "When you go there, you go there to do well individually, but the one thing that is always clear in your mind is to win the title as a team. In other meets, you might try to get a good time, or your mind is to win the title. Not here, you go there to do well individually, but the one thing that is always clear in your mind is to win the title as a team." Contributing to Notre Dame's team victory was the stellar performance of three individuals, who all garnered individual championships. Highly-acclaimed senior Luke Watson won both the 3,000-meter steeplechase and the 5,000-meter on consecutive days. Selim Nurudeen won the 110-meter hurdles for the second year in a row (13.95 seconds). Finally, in an upset, Godwin Mbawu won the triple jump with a 15.32 meter effort.

However, the Irish athletes were not the only ones being recognized. The Irish coaching staff was named the 2003 Big East Outdoor Coaching Staff of the Year. The staff consists of Joe Piane, Tim Connelly, John Millar, Scott Winstor and B.J. Linnenbrick.

This staff led a talented squad that used a team effort to attain the conference championship. Ryan Hurd earned three points, finishing sixth in the 100 meters (21.59), while Ryan Postel added three of his own, taking sixth in the 400 meters (48.02).

Meanwhile, in the distance realm, Morrison earned his second all-Big East honor of the year (indoor mile run), as he finished third in the 1,500 meters (3:50.65). Kevin Somok took sixth in the same race to give the Irish a combined nine points from the two.

Despite the fact that Watson brought in 10 points for the Irish in the 5,000 meters, four other runners combined for 21 points in the event. John Keane took fourth (14:29.75), Tim Moore, fifth (14:35.09), and David Alber, seventh (14:38.83), respectively.

Also scoring for the Irish was Mark Barber, who finished sixth in the 110-meter hurdles. The 400-meter hurdle group scored big for the Irish, as Napoleon Suarez finished third to earn his first outdoor all-Big East honor, Barber took fourth and Roberto Garcia took sixth.

Finally, in the relays, the 4x100 team (Nurudeen, Postel, Hurd and Barber) finished third to earn all Big East honors, the first Notre Dame relay to do so since 2000. Also earning all-Big East honors was the 4x800 relay, who finished third.

"The Big East meet is neat because everyone rallies together and puts together all the work they have put in the whole year," Morrison said. "That is basically what the Big East is all about."

The Irish travel to the Georgia Tech Invitational next weekend for a tune-up before the NCAA Regional in Columbus, Ohio on May 30 and 31. Following the regional, the NCAA Championship begins June 11 in Sacramento, Calif.

"After winning the Big East, we feel good, we feel confident going into the Regional," Morrison said.

---

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FENCING

Team attitude leads fencers to first title since 1994

Irish score 182 points to edge archrival Penn State by three

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

First-year head coach Janusz Bednarski did something former coaches Aurel couldn't do in his seven years in leading the Notre Dame fencing team — win a national title.

The goal of winning the program's first national title since 1994 started from the beginning of the season. It became a truly evident when the second-ranked Notre Dame squad hosted No. 1 — and defending national champion Penn State — at the Notre Dame Duals.

Before that dual match showdown, Bednarski gathered his team in a big huddle for a pep talk. What was important wasn't the result of that dual meet, but setting the foundation for a team to win the national title seven weeks later.

"We are trying to build a team during the season. They responded very well. They started to work as a team," Bednarski said. "There is no position they are in where they only care about fencing for themselves. They care about the team.

The mens team defeated Penn State 15-12 and moved up to the top spot in the country for the third straight year while the womens team lost 16-11.

At the Midwest Regional Championship, the Irish automatically qualified 11 fencers and had to wait for Maggie Jordan to earn an at-large bid in womens sabre to let the Irish qualify the maximum 12 fencers.

A major blizzard in Colorado forced the NCAA Championships to be condensed into a two-day event at the Air Force Academy. As Saturday's action concluded and the day went on Sunday, one thing became apparent — it was going to be a very close finish.

In the last round of the womens sabre competition, the Irish were ahead by less than five points and were facing Penn State's Austin O'Neill in the final round. Backed by the largest and loudest cheering section, Jordan and Destanie Milo came through with two critical wins to put the Irish on the brink of completing their mission.

"That was incredible because Notre Dame was cheering so much for me and I didn't even hear Penn State cheering for the other girl. I just blocked them out," Milo said after her 5-0 defeat of O'Neill. "Their cheering helped me, kept me going and kept my adrenaline going. I don't know if I could have done it if I didn't have the team helping me out."

Then, the Irish went to their strength and called on the "A-Team" of Andrea Ament and Alejca Kryczalo to finish the job. Kryczalo, who won her second individual national title in as many years, defeated Stanford's Iris Zimmerman to clinch the title for the Notre Dame and start the long-awaited celebration.

Besides Kryczalo's national title, the Irish had a school-record 11 All-Americans. Michal Sobieraj finished second in mens epee, Ozren Debic was fourth in mens foil and Ament took third to earn first-team All-American honors. Debic and epeeist Jan Viviani became four-time All-Americans.

After the disappointments from finishing second or third every year since 1994, this year's team set itself out on a mission from the beginning not to join those other Irish fencing teams who underachieved and failed to win a national title.

This year, they got the job done.

"Coming into this year, I knew that like any other year we were going to end up in the top three," Debic said. "If we put our heads together, we could get it done."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu
**MENS BASKETBALL**

**Solomon accepts Bonnies' job**

*Irish assistant coach heads to St. Bonaventure*

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

When St. Bonaventure started looking for someone to clean up the mess of an ugly basketball scandal, it turned to a Notre Dame assistant coach. Anthony Solomon, formerly a three-year member of Mike Brey's staff and a 15-year assistant coach, was named head coach of the Bonnies' beleaguered basketball program May 6.

"St. Bonaventure is a tradition-rich program that really excites me," Anthony Solomon, former Irish assistant and current St. Bonaventure coach, said.

"St. Bonaventure is a tradition-rich basketball program that really excites me," Solomon said. "With my 15 years of experience in the coaching profession, I feel that I have prepared myself for this opportunity at Notre Dame. Solomon coached the guards and head coach of the Bonnies' beleaguered basketball program.

"He's hungry, well-connect ed and, most importantly, well-respected," Brey told the Associated Press. "I can't emphasize enough how the Solomon family will be such a positive for the Bonavventine community."

Solomon replaces Jan van Brenda Kolff, who was fired in April after the Atlantic 10 Conference learned Bonnies center Jamil Terrell was ineligible because he violated junior college transfer rules. The A-10 Conference then ruled St. Bonaventure had to forfeit six league victories and banned them from postseason play. In response, those players voted not to play their final two games of the season.

Both St. Bonaventure president Robert Wickenheiser and athletic director Gohard Lane resigned in addition to van Brenda Kolff's firing.

But St. Bonaventure's new athletic director, Paul Grys, had high praise for Solomon, who takes over a team that finished 13-14 last year. "Anthony Solomon has the leadership experience and character that are critical to St. Bonaventure," Grys said.

The appointment is Solomon's first college head coaching job. He is also the first black head coach of any sport at St. Bonaventure.

**Notes:**

* Former Arizona forward Dennis Latimore will transfer to Notre Dame and can begin playing for the Irish in 2004-05.
* A 6-foot-8, 240-pound player with two years of eligibility remaining, Latimore must sit out an NCAA-mandatory one year before he can play for the Irish.
* The Irish landed their first verbal commitment of the class of 2008 in 6-foot-8, 210-pound forward Robert Kurz.

The Philadelphia high school junior visited Notre Dame's campus a bit over a week ago and decided to verbally commit to the school. Brey cannot comment publicly on Kurz until he signs a National Letter of Intent in November.

But the 6-foot-8, 210-pound Kurz is considered one of the top 100 prospects in the nation because he is a strong forward who has a solid medium-range jumper.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

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**Brey leads team to Sweet Sixteen bid**

*Irish reach third round of tourney for first time since '87*

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Mike Brey will have a hard time forgetting what transpired on his 44th birthday.

In the bowels of Indianapolis' RCA Dome, in front of a throng of screaming Irish fans, in the national television spotlight, Notre Dame advanced to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 1987 — the latest step taken by a basketball program slowly emerging as one of the nation's best.

"Tonight, I was probably going to have a beer anyway," a giddy Brey said in the post-game interview. "Now I might have two."

Sure, Arizona_trounced the Irish in the round of 16. But the Irish showed how far they can truly be considered. Arizona had to forfeit its last seven games of the regular season after a pair of blowout losses to Pittsburgh and Kentucky.

But after Notre Dame beat Pittsburgh in the second-round game on Feb. 9 in the first meeting of top 10 foes in the Joyce Center in over a decade, Brey appeared to run through South Bend.

That's when the Irish train started to derail. Initially able to control their destiny in terms of their Big East fate, the Irish lost four of their last seven games of the regular season and lost in the first round of the Big East Tournament.

So in between the first-round exit and Selection Sunday, the Irish hunkered down in try to figure out what their problems were. And whatever they found, they appeared to fix.

The first sign something had changed came the day before the NCAA Tournament began. When every Irish player shaved his head in a sign of unity. Grinning with enthusiasm in the RCA locker room, Notre Dame's players displayed none of the tightness that characterized their final month of the season.

Still, the Irish, seeded fifth in the West Region, survived a major scare in No. 12 Wisconsin-Milwaukee, who missed a layup with two seconds on the clock. Instead of getting upset, the Irish squeaked into the second-round with a 70-69 win.

The second-round game against fourth-seeded Illinois, however, went much easier. The Irish relied on a commitment to defense and a sensational 3-point shooting performance to erase the Illini in 31.

"Everybody said we couldn't win because everything was so new, we should have been upset," Chris Thomas said. "But since we got away from the Big East, we have a new mindset. It's a new season."

A 32-7 loss to a red-hot Arizona team showed how far the Irish still have to go before they can truly be considered. Few doubt that Notre Dame's long-term future is bright. Its short-term future, however, is still in question, especially after Carroll and Miller's graduation and Thomas' declaration that he'll depart early for the NBA Draft.

But then again, that's what everybody thought a year ago, too.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

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A true captain
The list of awards Loman has captured is seemingly endless. Four-time All-Big East first team recognition. A two-time Big East Championship Most Outstanding Player. The Big East Rookie of the Year. A third-team All-America.
And just eight days ago, Loman became the third consecutive Notre Dame player to be named the Big East Player of the Year.
At last weekend's Big East Championships, Loman hit .500 with five RBI and hit a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth to give the Irish their second straight conference tournament crown.
But of all those personal accolades, Loman says nothing that other people say really matters to her. "It's the voice of her teammates that means the most." Being named captain this year just shows the respect you have earned," Loman said. "It's a mutual thing that you have for them as well and it's just a great honor." When the Riverside, Calif., native does acknowledge her numerous awards, she passes the recognition to anyone but herself.
"They pay tribute to all those who have helped me get to where I am today, my parents, my family, the coaches have been the keys to me getting here," Loman said. "I never lose sight that I have so many people to thank."
When the Riverside, Calif., native does acknowledge her numerous awards, she passes the recognition to anyone but herself.
During each of Loman's three previous seasons, the Irish have qualified for the NCAA Regionals and failed to move on to the Women's College World Series. In 2001, Iowa upset the top-seeded Irish and last year, the Irish were also eliminated on the last day of the regionals, this time by Nebraska.
Loman's won the awards and accomplished just about everything a player could want. The only thing she hasn't done, is get to Oklahoma City, Okla., and play in the Women's College World Series.
This weekend is her last chance.
"You have been working hard your past four years and coming up a game short almost every year. We are looking to have a good regional tournament this year," Loman said. "It is definitely going to be tough and a challenge for us. I think we have some people fearing us, which is good.
That's the one place where Loman wants to separate herself from Myers and the rest of the great players in Notre Dame softball history.
Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu
MENS BASKETBALL

Thomas declares himself eligible for draft

Coach Mike Brey said.

"It's something that's driven me for four years. He maintained throughout the season that he wasn't considering the NBA Draft - "It would take me two years from my team," he said - but when the Irish lost to Arizona in the Sweet Sixteen, Brey said he was going to help Thomas explore his draft options.

So Brey, Thomas' parents and Thomas buckled down to evaluate the guard's draft potential. Thomas also spoke with his friend Jared Jeffries, a former Indiana player who left after his sophomore year as drafted by the Washington Wizards, to glean more information about the draft process and life in the NBA.

In the end, Thomas, who averaged 18.7 points and 6.9 assists a game last season and earned All-American honorable mention honors, decided to declare based on the success Notre Dame would be one of the top-20 teams now that Thomas has declared for the NBA Draft in June, but did not hire an agent. He said he would return if he is not going to be a top-20 pick in the first round.

If Thomas stays in the draft, Notre Dame would be one of only a handful of schools with a chance to have three first-round picks in as many years. Last year, Ryan Murphy was drafted 19th overall by the Utah Jazz and now plays for the Memphis Grizzlies. Thomas has until June 19 to withdraw his name from the draft. The deadline will be spent evaluating where Thomas could be drafted on June 26.

"This has been a dream of mine. I'm excited at the prospects and am glad the opportunity has come so fast." - Chris Thomas, guard

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

With a broad grin on his face and his parents proudly looking on, Chris Thomas declared Monday night he would forego his final two years of college eligibility and enter the NBA Draft.

But the 6-foot-1 guard left the door ajar for a possible return to the Irish for his junior season. "This has long been a dream of mine," Thomas said. "I'm excited at the prospects and am glad the opportunity has come so fast."

However, Brey said Thomas would not return if he is not going to be a top-20 pick in the first round.

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Mens Cross Country
At the senior class meet at Terre Haute, Indiana, Notre Dame did not do what it had done in previous years, which was to win the Big East Conference Meet. The Irish did not win the meet, but they did reach their full potential. Coach Todd Mobley running in the team's No. 2 position was the most prominent of the Irish performances, reaching the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Mens Soccer
The Irish soccer team continued its marked improvement during the tenure of coach Bobby Johnston, who led the team to their fourth straight year on the heels of an at-large bid, Notre Dame, finishing the season 12-8-2. The Irish went 9-3-2 in the BIG EAST, the highest finish for the Irish at the national level since 1997. The Irish defeated Saint John's and Saint Mary's with a 2-0 scoreline.

Womens Cross Country
2002 was a successful season, a young Irish squad capped off their season with an improved score. Noel Adams, Simmerman, Mattia, and Liz Hanlon and Mary's then followed up with their third consecutive season of success, marked the third consecutive BIG EAST Conference title.

Womens Soccer
The Irish turned around a tough 3-2 loss to Ohio State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. They will be joined by five new players.
The Irish finished seventh in the Big East, which was a frustrating 4-7, with all of seven of their losses coming to ranked teams. Four wins later, the Irish ended their season on a high note by earning a winning record by beating Loyola, No. 16 Penn and No. 23 Fordham later in the season. 

Seasoned Pat Walsh emerged as the top point man for the Irish. In 10 regular-season games and three other tournament games, Walsh scored 22 goals and assisted 12. Walsh was named GWWL Rookie of the Year and was named GWWL Newcomer of the Year.

Women's Lacrosse

With four games to go in the season, the Irish were a 5-7-1 team, which was a frustrating 4-7, with all of seven of their losses coming to ranked teams. Four wins later, the Irish ended their season on a high note by earning a winning record by beating Loyola, No. 16 Penn and No. 23 Fordham later in the season.

Senior Day against Rutgers in the Notre Dame records for 13-6 win.

The Notre Dame mens tennis team proved they still had what it takes to be champions in the 2002-03 season.

The conference championships for the Bulldogs featured fresh man Kristen Palombo at No. 1 singles, co-captain Kailliet Culliner at No. 3, and junior Kris Sprigle at No. 4. The team defeated the doubles opponents. At the No. 3 dual meet, co-captain Ellis Ryan won a conference championship, as did doubles partners Sarah and Carmen Cutler.

Senior Day in 2002 (MIAA) was tied for second with Kalamazoo after the dual match season. The team's record was 10-7-1 overall in the MIAA behind the University of Michigan (12-1-1) and Oakland (11-0).

The conference championships for the Bulldogs featured fresh man Kristen Palombo against the Bulldogs. The team's record was 10-7-1 overall in the MIAA behind the University of Michigan (12-1-1) and Oakland (11-0).

Notre Dame posted an impressive 13-5 overall record. Several Belles were named to the All-MIAA first team. Cutler and Palombo were named to the All-MIAA team selections. Ryan was given the Sue Little Sportsmanship Award.

The Belles also dominated the doubles competition. At the No. 3 dual meet, co-captain Ellis Ryan won a conference championship, as did doubles partners Sarah and Carmen Cutler.

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Mens Golf

It proved another disappointing season for the mens golf team in the spring of 2003. The Irish were unable to post a higher finish than eighth in the regular season.

The chance for redemption came in the Big East Championships, hosted by Notre Dame at the Warren Golf Course, but the Irish fell just short of victory and an automatic berth to the NCAA Championships.

Co-captain Scott Gustafson gave a stellar performance for the Irish, finishing tied for second in the old record in the 400 IM with his second-place finish in Big East. The Belles also broke a school record in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1:59.28, won the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:01.02. She also won the 200 IM. Freshman Christal Boursin (54.57) and Laca Garcia (54.90) finished second and third in the 100 butterfly.

Hulick (55.56), Kristen Peterson (56.13), Kara Santelli (56.34) and Sarah Alwen (56.73) finished third, fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 100 backstroke.

SMC Swimming

Sophomore Frank Krakowski set new marks in the 50 free and butterfly. Freshman Jamie Latuke broke the old record in the 400 IM with his second-place finish in Big East. The Belles also broke a school record in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1:59.28, won the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:01.02. She also won the 200 IM. Freshman Christal Boursin (54.57) and Laca Garcia (54.90) finished second and third in the 100 butterfly.

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Humiliating coaching search follows Davie firing

December 2001

On Dec. 2, 2001, after a 5-6 season, athletic director Kevin White fired football coach Bob Davie and the search began for a new coach to lead the Irish back to prominence.

At a public press conference on Dec. 9, over 1,500 fans welcomed new football coach George O'Leary, a man who found his dream job at Notre Dame.

However, O'Leary's tenure with the Irish lasted just five days before he was forced to resign for lying on his resume.

After over two weeks of national embarrassment, another 16-day coaching search finally led White to Stanford and Tyrone Willingham, who White announced as head coach on New Year's Day.
Aug. 31: Notre Dame football coach Tyrone Willingham leads the Irish to a 22-0 victory over Maryland at the Kickoff Classic in his first game as head coach.

Sept. 6-8: At the Notre Dame Classic, the No. 6 Irish women's soccer team fall to score a goal in two matches against nationally ranked opponents losing to No. 13 Santa Clara 4-0 and No. 19 Portland 1-0. Sept. 9: After defeating No. 6 Seton Hall two days earlier, the Notre Dame men's soccer team moves up in fifth in the country and ties its highest ranking in school history. Sept. 14: Coming into the game without an offensive touchdown, No. 24 Notre Dame scores three offensive touchdowns to upset No. 6 Michigan 25-23 at Notre Dame Stadium and jump to No. 12 in the country.

Sept. 14: The Irish volleyball team records its first victory over a top-10 opponent since 1995 defeating No. 10 Pepperdine 3-2 at the Joyce Center.

Oct. 20: The Irish men's soccer team wins their fourth straight match, this time upsetting No. 5 Connecticut 3-1 behind two Greg Martin goals. The victory was Notre Dame's first over the Huskies since 1996.

Oct. 26: Looking to prove the doubters wrong, No. 6 Notre Dame defeats No. 11 Florida State 34-24 at Doak Campbell Stadium. The Irish improve to 8-0 with the win and move to third in the BCS standings.

Nov. 1: The Irish women's swimming team drops the final relay race and loses to Indiana 155-146. The loss broke Notre Dame's 17-match unbeaten streak.

Nov. 12: Scoring a goal with 42 seconds remaining in the third period, the Notre Dame hockey team rallies to tie No. 4 Boston College 3-3 at the Joyce Center.

Nov. 11: Led by the one-two finish of Lauren King and Molly Huddle, the Irish women's cross country team wins its first Big East Championship. The team finished fourth.

Nov. 2: Willingham suffers his first loss as Notre Dame head coach when Boston College hangs on to defeat the Irish 14-7 at Notre Dame Stadium.

Nov. 23: In the third round of the NCAA Tournament, the No. 19 Notre Dame women's soccer team falls just short of its upset bid at No. 10 Stanford 1-0.

Nov. 24: Avenging a loss to the Hurricanes nine days earlier that snapped Notre Dame's 36-match Big East winning streak in volleyball, the Irish defeat Miami 3-1 to win its third straight and seventh overall Big East Tournament Championship.

Nov. 25: Huddle and King lead the Irish again, this time at the NCAA Championships, turning in All-American performances lifting the women's cross country team to a school-best third place finish.

Dec. 2-3: In one of the best weeks in Notre Dame men's basketball history, the Irish knock off No. 10 Marquette, No. 8 Maryland and No. 2 Texas to jump from unranked to No. 10 in the AP poll.

Dec. 8: After an embarrassing 44-13 loss at USC eight days earlier, Willingham and the Irish accept a bid to play in the Gator Bowl after being shutout of a BCS berth.

Dec. 8: Despite having the home-court advantage, the Notre Dame volleyball team loses 3-0 to Michigan State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to end its home winning streak at 36 matches.
Willingham guides Irish back to winning ways in '02

By ANDREW SOUKUP

Willingham guides Irish back to winning ways in '02

Somewhere in between the New Year's Day 2002 press conference where he boldly proclaimed the Irish would win and the celebration at Florida State where the Irish showed they could win, Tyrone Willingham found his groove at Notre Dame.

Few could have blamed Willingham had the Irish continued their mediocre performance from the Bob Davie regime. Few could have blamed Willingham, who became the coach the Irish were left with after they initially passed over for George O'Leary, had he just waited a year for "Resumegate" to blow over.

But, as Irish fans would rapidly discover, that's not Willingham's way.

The signs were there, of course. After all, Willingham concluded his first meeting with a single PowerPoint slide that had "WIN" printed in huge letters.

Not until Willingham's Irish crushed defending ACC champion Maryland 22-0 in the season opener, however, would Irish fans believe.

The success didn't stay in New Jersey. Shane Walton knocked away a 2-point conversion late in the fourth quarter to preserve a 25-23 win against Michigan. Against Michigan State, backup quarterback Pat Dillingham threw a short pass to Arnaz Battle, who magically turned a 6-yard slant into a 60-yard touchdown with just over a minute left to snatch victory — the team's first against the foe in six years — from the Spartans.

"I just want to win," Willingham said after the Irish beat the Wolverines, one of five ranked teams the Irish played in 2002. "I'm sorry it's so simple."

During the stretch, the media's magnifying glass settled over South Bend, yet Willingham didn't wilt. The Irish appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated. "Return to Glory" wasn't just a T-shirt slogan, as national scribes applied the saying to Notre Dame's seemingly miraculous turnaround.

After all, this was a team that had two losing seasons in the last three years. But, almost inexplicably, the Irish still found a way to win. Behind an opportunistic defense — a phrase the unit chased — that forced turnover after turnover to set up a struggling offense, the Irish simply refused to lose.

So by the time the Irish embarrassed Florida State in the Sunshine State 34-24 to earn a No. 4 ranking, fans started to mention the words "national championship" and "Notre Dame" in the same sentence.

Prematurely, as it turned out. A week later, Notre Dame had to mount a fourth-quarter rally to beat lowly Navy.

Then, with the national spotlight fixed brightly on Southern California and a BCS berth hanging in the balance, USC absolutely embarrassed Notre Dame by tallying 610 yards of offense on route to a 44-13 drubbing. Trojan quarterback Carson Palmer won the Heisman Trophy. USC secured a berth in the lucrative Orange Bowl and the Irish were left with a lot of questions and a Gator Bowl berth.

The bleeding didn't end there. Another lopsided loss, this time a 28-6 beating at the hands of North Carolina State on New Year's Day, made an 8-0 start appear a thing of the past.

Yet Willingham and the Irish, who finished the season 10-3 and ranked 17th, weren't deterred. And NFL teams took note of the Irish prospects, as seven Irish prospects — the most since 1999 — were selected in the NFL Draft.

And so Willingham, who maintained as steady a perspective in the latter stages of the season as he did in Notre Dame's hot start, remained confident the Irish could prove the 2002 success wasn't a one-year fluke.

"Someone told me once, "You're never as high as they say you are, and you're never as low as they say you are,"" the coach said at one point during the season. "If we keep our focus on what we have to do, we'll be OK."

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JUMBLE

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Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST


Happy Birthday: Stop putting your own needs on the back burner and start doing what's best for you. It's time to stop being a martyr and start being a winner. This is your year to do what you want to do. You will end up gaining respect from the very people who were holding you back. Your numbers are 3, 5, 8, 23, 25, 31, 37.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll end up in an awkward position if you've been briefly honest and outspoken. Since yourself as opposition is likely if you have been a little caring or harsh.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Act quickly and finish as much as possible early in the day. You will have the strength and the desire to overcome any opposition you encounter.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to save rather than spend money today. You've been too generous with others and too extravagant with yourself. It's time to budget.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will need to talk today. One month you'll be happy and the next you'll be upset. You are likely to take things the wrong way today. Snail dung in your home will be a bad omen.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There is a good chance that someone is just playing with you or someone. If someone can't be trusted properly, be prepared to let him or her out of your life.***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't lose hope. When you get the opportunity to do something wonderful, take a leap. Embark on a group with the same beliefs and standards as you to be in your advantage. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful with what you wish for today. You may be striving to change one thing and you may end something completely different. Focus on money, work and getting ahead.***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expand your knowledge and learn about different cultures and traditions. The more you discover, the better you will understand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Attention to your home will pay off. It may be necessary to help someone you care about with his or her financial or legal problems.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may take too much for granted. If you haven't been treating enough attention to loved ones. It's time to let everything else aside and start the relationships from the very start.***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This will get progressively more exciting. Socialize with friends. If you want to get the news you've heard a lot, but if you want to maintain an existing relationship.***

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Use your imagination and you will accomplish the most things. Being distrustful can cause you to lose a direction that you have only dreamed of the past.***

Birthday Baby: You will always look for the underlying and yourself if there were when no one else was willing to go the distance. You will prove your strength of character and will have the respect that you've earned.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at amiraustin.com, eugenialast.com, wnetwork.com.

THE OBSERVER

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JAPAN/CHINA

JAPAN/CHINA

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38 Early dielographer
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52 Across Shirley's "Goldfinger"
55 Tiny "Cried" (1962 hit)
56 . . . tree falls
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Ryan’s aggressive play results in tennis success

Belles senior helps lead team to third MIAA conference crown

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Elisa Ryan doesn’t think she plays tennis like most of her competitors. That’s probably because she thinks she plays the game like a guy.

“Our way of playing is different than the way of the girls in our conference,” said Ryan. The Observer’s 2002-03 Outstanding Senior Male Athlete of the Year. “It’s a little less accurate, which is negative, but it’s a lot more aggressive. I play like a boy to an extent.”

No matter what style she may play, it has worked for the Saint Paul, Minn., product throughout her career as a Belle. Ryan’s helped lead Saint Mary’s to three straight MIAA championships. She’s won the conference title at No. 6 and No. 5 singles during her career, as well as at No. 3 and No. 2 doubles. A two-time captain of the Belles squad, Ryan has been a difference maker in pushing Saint Mary’s to the top of the MIAA tennis standings every season.

“What I bring to the Belles, I think our team is the most spirit to the team,” Saint Mary’s tennis coach Dee Stevenson said. “She’s the one that goes out and gets people pumped up and enthusiastic every day.”

Learning early

It didn’t take long for Ryan to become interested in tennis. When she could barely hold a racket, Ryan and her family would watch their dad play at the local tennis courts. In between sets, Ryan and her sister would get a chance to grab a racket and hit some balls. As she grew older, Ryan and a male friend would practice and play against each other. This helped mold Ryan’s aggressiveness and athleticism, which she would use to mow down her opponents in college.

“Her eyes are very keen and always with her,” said the Irish look to qualify for their first College World Series. Ryan said. “I play dirty, scrappy, pickup tennis. I play picking, left-handed. I play the game like a guy, but at the same time, I think I’m more well-rounded.”

Ryan credits her intense summer tennis matches as good preparations for high school and college tennis. Each summer, Ryan would travel around the Midwest to play other highly-competitive girls and at one point was ranked as high as No. 17 in the Midwest’s 18-year-old and under division. This competition made Ryan battle-tested for college tennis.

“If you look back at last year’s conference, all the big name players have played on the University of St. Mary’s summer tour,” Ryan said. “It’s...”

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