Honorary degrees given

Joining the more than 2,000 undergraduate and advanced degree candidates receiving diplomas at Notre Dame’s 161st Commencement exercises Sunday will be 12 prominent visitors — including Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Harper Lee.

Honorary degrees are conferred in recognition of the accomplishments of various individuals. Students, faculty and staff members are all allowed to nominate a person for an honorary degree. University officers, including University President Father John Jenkins, narrow down the pool. Three women and 10 men, including keynote speaker and President of Ireland Mary McAleese — will be awarded honorary degrees.

SEE STORY PAGE 15

Rectors leave positions

Six residence hall rectors will be leaving their posts at the end of the school year, the Office of Student Affairs said. Last year seven rectors left. Some are leaving to pursue higher positions within the University, while others plan to further their education.

Sister Susan Dunn of Lyons, Anne Napoli of Badin, Katie Winikates of Lewis, Father Peter Jarret of Keough, Mary Ann Munninghoff of Pasquerilla East and Father Tom Eckert of St. Edward’s will all be leaving. Student Affairs.

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

SEE STORY PAGE 12
**Commencement Weekend Events**

**Friday, May 19**
- 5:30 p.m. Commencement Band Concert, DPAC, Leighton Concert Hall
- 8 p.m. Liturgical Choir Concert, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
- 9 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. ROTC Commissioning, JACC South Dome
- 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. President's Reception, Eck Center
- 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Baccalaureate Dinner and Senior Reception, Student Center

**Saturday, May 20**
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m., 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Graduation Brunch, Noble Family Dining Hall
- Noon Commencement Ceremony, Court of LeMans Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass, Regina Chapel
- 9:45, 11:15 Saturday Mass, Church of Our Lady of Loreto

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

**NOTABLE CLASS OF 2006**

- About 95 percent of the 1,935 undergraduates who enrolled at Notre Dame in the fall of 2002 will receive a diploma Sunday (May 21) — a graduation rate exceeded only by Harvard, Princeton and Yale Universities.
- Some 80 percent of the graduates participated in volunteer and service-learning programs in the greater South Bend area and around the world.
- About 10 percent of this year's seniors will continue in volunteer service to society, engaging in a year or more of work in programs such as the Peace Corps, Teach for America, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education and Holy Cross Associates.
- All 50 of the United States are represented in the senior class, making Notre Dame among the nation's most geographically diverse universities.

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**By KATIE PERRY**
Assistant News Editor

Renowned jazz musician Dave Brubeck will receive the 2006 Laetare Medal — Notre Dame's oldest and most esteemed award — at Commencement exercises this weekend.

The honor is given annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrat[ed] the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity." The "composed energy of Mr. Brubeck's art helps us apprehend the fullness of creation," University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement March 30. "His life and his music splendidly interweave the celebration of beauty with the imperative to worship.

The popular pianist has produced a number of popular jazz pieces, including "Take Five" and "Blue Rondo a La Turk." In 1954, the Brubeck Quartet graced the cover of Time Magazine following the release of their album, "Jazz at the College." The magazine called Brubeck "the most exciting jazz artist at work today" and the creator of "some of the strangest and loveliest music in the history of jazz.

Dave Brubeck first aspired to be a rancher — though the musical persuasion did not evade him for long. By age four the young virtuoso had wowed his mother — a classical pianist and teacher — with his advanced keyboarding skills and astonishing memory. He learned with his own unique improvisations.

Brubeck was a major at the College of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., Brubeck met his wife of 63 years while playing jazz on a campus radio program. He graduated from the school in 1942 and was drafted into military service for two years during World War II.

After the war, Brubeck attended Mills College to resume his musical studies. He formed the now-famous Brubeck Quartet in 1951.

Notre Dame announces its Laetare Medal recipient each year on the Fourth Sunday of Lent on the Church calendar.

The medal is inscribed with the Latin phrase, "Magna est veritas et praestat honestas, quam in ipso est, et illa prevalebit." The first Laetare Medal was awarded in 1883.

Previous medal recipients include Notre Dame President Rev. John J. Connell, C.S.C., novelist Walker Percy and death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean.

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

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**News Brief:** Flags will fly at half-staff during commencement weekend as part of a community-wide tribute to slain South Bend Police officer Scott Severns.

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**Claire Heininger Editor in Chief Emeritus**

Claire Heininger is graduating with a degree in American Studies and a minor in Feminism, Ethnicity and Democracy. Her graduation, she will start a reporting position with the Star-Ledger in Newark, New Jersey, and hopes to work in journalism after. She would like to thank her parents and brother for their constant support and for always keeping her at the University of Michigan after she'd fallen head over heels for this place. Always for always, always being there, ever since our first day on campus, and always for always, truly being the three-sisters-for-being wonderful colleagues and friends.

Contact Claire Heininger at ch Heininger@nd.edu

The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
McAleese will speak to grads
Ireland's president to also receive honorary degree at commencement

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Editor

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, will be the principal graduation speaker and an honorary degree recipient at Notre Dame's commencement ceremony Sunday.

"As an attorney, journalist, scholar and now president, Mary McAleese is an inspiring model for women, a fierce champion for peace and a passionate voice within the Catholic Church," University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement. "The theme of her presidency is 'building bridges,' and she has done just that while staying true to herself."

The choice of McAleese as commencement speaker was finalized "a ways back," Senior Executive Assistant to the President Jim McDonald said Feb. 7 from Dublin, but she needed permission from Ireland's Parliament before arrangements could be finalized.

McDonald, Jenkins and other University officers were scheduled to dine with McAleese Feb. 7 in Dublin. "She's a wonderful woman, accomplished lawyer and politician," McDonald said. "She'll be an excellent speaker."

McAleese is Ireland's eighth president and the first from Northern Ireland. She was elected to the Irish presidency in 1997 and ran unopposed for a second term in 2004. McAleese has been welcomed by both Protestants and Catholics during her frequent visits to Northern Ireland, despite predictions that her presidency would cause further division.

Born into a Catholic family in Belfast, Northern Ireland—a predominately Catholic city—McAleese has been an advocate for the Catholic Church, serving as a member of the Catholic Church Episcopal delegation to the New Ireland Forum in 1984 and as a church delegate to the North Commission on Contentious Parades in 1996. She was also a delegate to the 1992 White House conference on trade and investment in Ireland.

She studied law at Queen's University in Belfast and graduated with honors in 1973. McAleese was a professor at Trinity College and later worked as a reporter for the national television network of Ireland, RTÉ, for two years.

In 1981, McAleese returned to Trinity and six years later moved back to Northern Ireland to become the director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at Queen's University. She was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor there.

Her husband, Dr. Martin McAleese, received an honorary degree from Notre Dame in 2004.

As an attorney, journalist, scholar and now president, Mary McAleese is an inspiring model for women, a fierce champion for peace and a passionate voice within the Catholic Church.*

Father John Jenkins
University president

McAleese is not the first foreign head of state to speak at a University commencement. An Irish prime minister, two Canadian prime ministers and a president of El Salvador have all served as the commencement speaker during the past 50 years.

Last year's commencement speaker was Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

U.S. Appeals judge will address SMC seniors

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Editor

Ann Claire Williams, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals, will be the commencement speaker at Saint Mary's graduation ceremony Sunday.

Williams was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by Ronald Reagan in 1985, making her the first African-American woman to sit on the bench and one of the youngest federal appointees at the time.

Williams also became the first African-American woman to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit when President Bill Clinton appointed her to the position in 1999.

As the third African-American woman to serve on any appeals court in the country, Williams originally began her career in education. She worked as an elementary school teacher in her hometown of Detroit before graduating from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1975.

Although Williams did not graduate from Saint Mary's, senior Kathleen McMorrow said she believes Williams' ties to Notre Dame indicate her knowledge of the College's high reputation. "She is an excellent choice."

McMorrow said, "It is great to bring a woman with high credentials to a school that places such value on education."

Williams began her legal career as a clerk with Judge Robert Sprecher and she tried felony cases as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago from 1976 to 1985.

She has also worked to create programs to aid scholars who wish to follow in her footsteps. In 1997, she co-founded Minority Legal Education Resources, which assists minorities in their quest to pass the Illinois bar exam. In 1993, Williams co-founded the Just the Beginning Foundation in an effort to increase diversity in the legal profession through celebrating the work of African-American federal judges.

"Ann Claire Williams is an example of commitment, perseverance, and excellence," Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney said in a statement. "Judge Williams epitomizes the servant leader. She uses her professional expertise and her wisdom in service of her country and all of its people. Her careful analysis, encompassing vision, and moral courage have earned her widespread respect."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeehan@ saintmarys.edu

THE OBSERVER

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

Pat Leonard
Maureen Reynolds
Megan O'Neil
Jennifer Kenning
Nick Guerrieri
Damian Althoff
Paula Garcia
Heather Van Hoegarden
Jim Kirihara
Nicole Zook
Molly Griffin
Mark Bemenderfer
Mary Squillace
Matthew Smedberg
Aya O'Connor
Sarah Vabulas
Geoff Matteson
Kirsten Hoelmer
Sofia Ballon
Sam Pandolfo
Maureen Malloy
Joe Blatt
Claire Heninger
Claire Kelley

And wishes them the
Best of Luck
in the years to come.
Dear Graduates,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my prayers and best wishes to the members of the Class of 2006. 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,

(Rev.) Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs
ND valedictorian to graduate with 3.94 overall GPA

Distler will deliver address at commencement, attend Johns Hopkins University to pursue career in medicine

By MAUREEN MULLEN

During the week of spring break, senior class students enjoyed a vacation from academic rigor — senior Catherine Distler did not. Every free moment of her time was spent writing her valedictory address. As one of more than a dozen exemplary opportunities to give the class of 2006 commencement speech, Distler said each nominated student was given three and a half weeks to submit a valedictory address. On April 24, Distler learned her speech had been selected as the address for Sunday's graduation ceremony.

"I was thrilled to find out, but it's also a very humbling experience," the University's 17th president is due to be inaugurated later this month. "I think it's something that's been on my mind for a long time. It's incredibly a difficult decision. It's a big responsibility.

"A new president is probably the biggest transition that the University has faced since I was here," senior Ryan Finlen said. "I think it's probably more so than anything else."

Finlen said he remembers being around Jonathan M. Nelson during his freshman year in Sorin College. "He used to sit down on the floor in one of the senior rooms where I used to watch some of the away games," he said. "A couple of years later, I was [University president]."

"I think that the administration has done a great job," senior Sarah Sibley said. "When I first came on campus, I was a little bit apprehensive about what I would find. But everyone was so welcoming, so friendly and welcoming. It's like a community."}

"We switched from a coach who was here three years ago and then it was someone different. I think the biggest changes were some of the new things that stuck out in my mind. The expansion of the campus, and that's something that's going to continue in the future," she said. "Even with the Jordan Auditorium, the [Guglielmo] Family Complex and the road work on Dunnix [Road], campus has just gotten bigger."

"Senior Sarah Lysinski said that some of the most defining transformations at Notre Dame were already in place for his class. "A lot of the changes they made were right before I came, like the alcohol policy, and I think campus became a lot more diverse," he said. "A lot more people went off-campus because Notre Dame had a successful war on fun." Sibley said Notre Dame is currently engaged in a number of projects that she perceived to be "something new." "The university is extremely concerned with our national image and how that might affect alumni contributions and national ratings," she said.

"I think that Jenkins will keep it interesting," she said. "He's somebody who I know who is an underclassman seems really cool, so I hope it won't get any more exciting."

"I think we will win the National Championship [in football] next year," Ryan Finlen said. "We have the ten-year plan and talk of new dorms and a college town."}

"The Michigan game my freshman year was a highlight, we won on like a last second play," he said. "My worst memory in the Boston College game freshman year."

"Last weekend was like a perfect weekend, all except the last seven seconds of the game," he said. "The game actually lived up to the hype."

"I think we are going to expand campus a lot and really increase our interactions with the community," she said. "I also predict, when they emphasize on national ratings, we're going to increase our graduate programs and PhD programs."

"I've made the best of my life here who will stick with me until my dying day," senior Sarah Sibley said.

"The big changes are important but the little things, like the extra effort that all the faculty give students here, are going to have a huge impact," she said. "I think that's why people choose Notre Dame — for the little things.

"According to Botta, Notre Dame was not without its faults, but it will leave a positive impression.

"I loved it, but no place is perfect," she said. "It was really cool and I think the atmosphere ..." She paused to think about what kind of person she was.

"Finlen said the most important things he has experienced away from Notre Dame are the friendships.

"I've met a lot of good people here and I've kept in touch with as many as I could," he said. "Those are people that are going to be around for the rest of my life.

"I think that the administration has done a great job," senior Sarah Sibley said. "When I first came on campus, I was a little bit apprehensive about what I would find. But everyone was so welcoming, so friendly and welcoming. It's like a community."}

"There used to be this thing called craft corner that [Student Union Board] had when my friends and I were freshmen," she said. "We would tie-dye T-shirts and random stuff that was so, so funny." Lysinski described seeing her dorm room for the first time as a "terrifying experience," but said Notre Dame offered her some unique opportunities, such as studying abroad in Hungary.

"There's been a lot of change on campus in the last few years," he said. "We have the ten-year plan and talk of new dorms and a college town."
SMC valedictorian exhibits appreciation for family support

Senior Carrie Korf to graduate at top of class with degree in business administration, minor in mathematics

By LISA GALLAGHER
News Writer

With the motto “work hard, play hard,” Saint Mary’s senior and class valedictorian Carrie Korf will be graduating Saturday, May 6, with a double concentration in business administration and management, and a minor in mathematics.

“I feel honored and blessed,” Korf said of being named valedictorian.

While she did not seek out the honor, the two-time president of the student body, Korf said she wanted to get the most out of her education “in an effort to show appreciation to my parents for the sacrifices they have made so that I could attend a private liberal arts college.”

It is evident Korf has strong family ties. In fact, she said she has only grown closer with her family that lives 500 miles away in central Minn., calling this her greatest accomplishment throughout the past four years.

“Life is short,” she said. “Stay in touch with those you care about.”

The exalted product of “a town so small it defines the term,” Korf said she attributes her decision to affiliate with her strong sense of values and work ethic, both of which are evident in her past accomplishments and her plans for the future.

“After working for a few years, I aim to get an MBA at a top tier business school,” she said. “My long term goal is to head a profit and loss business unit, start my own company, or be the president of one.”

But first, Korf said she looks forward to relaxing and job searching. She said that Saint Mary’s has helped her become more open minded and also taught her valuable and practical experience.

What will she miss the most?

“My friends,” said Korf, adding that her favorite memories are those that involved road trips with her roommate and Tuesday nights at Corby’s Bar.

Contact Lisa Gallagher at lgallah@stmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s College valedictorian Carrie Korf said she feels “honored and blessed” to graduate at the top of her class.

Board of Trustees visits Washington D.C. for meeting

Members pass a resolution expressing confidence in President Jenkins, discuss alumni-student relationship

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Editor

In an effort to establish a higher profile for the University in the nation’s capital, the Board of Trustees (BOT) convened in Washington D.C. May 4-5 for their spring meeting where some members shared coffee with President Bush and attended a reception with several Congressmen.

The BOT’s Student Affairs Committee also heard from former student body president Dave Baron and former student body vice president Lizzi Shappell, who presented a report examining student-alumni relations at Notre Dame.

“We took a look at the structures by which students and alumni relate, and offered suggestions on ways we can improve those.”

Dave Baron
former student body president

The BOT’s Washington D.C. meeting comes after the their winter gathering in Rome, where University President Father John Jenkins—who sits on the Board—with Pope Benedict XVI and Trustee members met with various Vatican officials.

Typically the BOT meets at Notre Dame, but this year was different as the BOT used its meetings to better establish itself in the universal church and in the national political scene.

In Washington, the BOT passed a “vote of confidence” in Jenkins’ April 5 closing statement on academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame. Jenkins’ decision to not preach “The Vagina Monologues” came after 10 weeks of fierce debate on the interplay between Catholic teaching and controversial campus causes that appear to conflict with it.

“The Board of Trustees... passed a motion expressing its confidence in Jenkins and its intention in principle with the policies and the process developed for the evaluation of events at the University which touch upon the Catholic character of the student union to say what the student body has been doing throughout the year,” Shappell said.

In addition, three student-alumni picnics are planned for certain football weekends next fall where students can “network and socialize and share stories with alumni returning back to campus.”

“It’s a concern for everyone,” Shappell said. “There’s an obvious disconnect with generational differences but if we claim to be the Notre Dame family, we should try to foster as amicable a relationship between students and alumni as possible.”

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

Above, University President Father John Jenkins speaks in Washington D.C. Below, Jenkins, Board of Trustees chairman Patrick McCartan, far left, and Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) pose at a reception.

Saint Mary’s College valedictorian Carrie Korf said she feels “honored and blessed” to graduate at the top of her class.
Jenkins replaces Malloy as president
September 23, 2005

University President Father John Jenkins was inaugurated as the University’s 17th president Sept. 23, 2006. Inauguration activities spanned two full days as afternoon classes were cancelled in order for students to attend an academic forum Thursday afternoon featuring Tom Brokaw as the moderator and a mass Friday morning.

Featured speakers at his inauguration included Board of Trustees chairman Patrick McCartan, Fort-Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D’Arcy and Alumni Association president Timothy Brady.

At his inauguration ceremony Jenkins recalled the legacy of Notre Dame’s founder, Father Edward Sorin, and spoke of his desire for Notre Dame to strive to be a top Catholic university in the 21st century for research and learning. Jenkins called for a “bigger and better than ever University.”

His promise to promote academic excellence and religious faith as “two indispensable and wholly compatible strands of higher learning” proved to be pillars of his presidency just months after he took office when he questioned the presence of controversial events like The Queer Film Festival and “The Vagina Monologues” which launched a power struggle in the University’s helm.

Jenkins replaced University President Emeritus Father Edward “Monk” Malloy who served at the University’s helm for 18 years. University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh who served as president for 35 years, preceded Malloy.

Freshman’s death stuns University

Chad Sharon, a freshman from Fish­er Hall, disappeared Dec. 12, 2002 after attending a party on Coral Mooney as the 11th president of the College on Dec. 26. College President Marilou Eldred announced her retire­ment in March 2003, which launched a nine-month search process for her suc­cessor.

Dec. 26, 2003

Mooney chosen to succeed Eldred

The Saint Mary’s Board of Trustees named Notre Dame Vice President and Associate Provost Donald Dykes as the new president March 12, 2003, which launched a nine-month search process for her suc­cessor.

January 24, 2003

Boat Club sunk by excise police

Police raided the Boat Club early in April 2003. More than 200 citations were issued to Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s stu­dents. The bar was closed on both campuses.

The bar was closed on both campuses.

January 24, 2003

Ordinance stirs controversy

The South Bend Common Council’s July 25, 2005 pas­sage of a disorderly house ordinance amendment spurred campus backlash as students returned to Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s in the fall.

The revised ordi­nance significantly increased the risk of eviction for students living off-campus.

August 25, 2005

Scully resigns as executive VP

Executive Vice President Father Timothy Scully re­signed in May 2003 due to an apparent power struggle in the University’s leader­ship. A report investigating Scully’s behavior, including his confrontation with a reporter, was to be delivered to trustees and would have cleared him of wrongdoing.

May 2, 2003

Elam convicted of sexual battery

Abram Elam, one of four football players accused of sexual assault in March 2002, was found guilty of sexual bat­tary on August 24. More than 200 citations were issued to Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s stu­dents. The bar was closed on both campuses.

Many of those who were cited were also sus­pected of the owner of the club.

August 30, 2003

Jenkins questions ‘Monologues’

In a series of three speeches, Jenkins appeals to the Notre Dame community for feedback on the inter­play between academic freedom and Catholic character. Vigorous camp­us debate followed. Ten weeks later Jenkins announced “The Vagina Monologues” would not be prohib­ited at Notre Dame.

January 25, 2006

New Student Center opens at SMC

After more than year of construction the long awaited Student Center opened on Saint Mary’s cam­pus, which connected to the newly construct­ed Noble Family Dining Hall. The build­ing serves as the cen­ter of campus life, contain­ing many student organization offices, the college bookstore, an Internet cafe and a ball­room.

March 15, 2005

‘Gay? Fine by Me’ held on campus

On March 18, approx­imately 1,700 blaze orange T­shirts prompted campus­wide debate.

March 19, 2004
Hurricane Katrina ravages Gulf Coast. Jenkins inaugurated as University President. Trustees travel to Rome.
Campus debates academic freedom and Catholic character. CLAP demands living wage. 'Monologues' not prohibited.

2006

Events in light of Catholic teaching. Jenkins asked for continued dialogue on the issue before a formal policy announcement by the University. Jenkins said events sponsored by the University were not the same as academic departments — that they are deemed to conflict or appear to conflict with Catholic values, Jenkins said, should not be allowed at Notre Dame.

Underscoring the importance of the issue was an advisory panel of experts on campus in five consecutive years as part of the anti-violence against women V-Day campaign. Though Jenkins praised the play for its goals, he criticized the "graphic" ways it attempted to address the issue of sexuality — as part of an effort to address concerns like Jenkins'.

The wave of response to Jenkins' speech — which he said was intended to open dialogue on the subject, and not be a final word on anything — was massive, flooding dorms, classrooms, publica- tions and student and faculty govern- ments.

An e-mail account was opened for the questions. A petition to remove the play's new academic freedom and Catholic character debate. Jenkins' decision gave department chairs and College President John J. Nance did not prohibit.

Two weeks after his open address on academic freedom and Catholic charac- ter, University President Father John Jenkins released a statement announcing its presence as an internationally recognized academic institution.

"The Vagina Monologues" — the controversial play at the heart of the discussion — would not be prohibited on cam- pus, Jenkins said, but like any other per- formance, would undergo approval every year. He also praised the play's new academic setting as appropriate, and suggested it would serve as a model for other such performances.

Jenkins emphasized the importance of balancing Notre Dame's traditions with its mandate to remain a "vital" academic institution. Jenkins praised the play for its goals, he said, but criticized the "graphic" ways it attempted to address the issue of sexuality — as part of an effort to address concerns like Jenkins'.

Several loud dissenters disagreed with the conclusion, however, including law pro- fessor emeritus Charles Rice — who called for Jenkins' resignation — several of whom acknowledged the opposi- tion saying the University benefits from a strong, two-sided debate.

Trusted Cowen in Rome

Jenkins praised the play for its goals, he said, but criticized the "graphic" ways it attempted to address the issue of sexuality — as part of an effort to address concerns like Jenkins'.

A large number of students expressed their satisfaction with Jenkins' conclusion — though the most enthusi- asm came from approval of the University President's open dialogue throughout the decision-making process.

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Class of 2006
Family Commencement Dance

Joyce Center Fieldhouse
Friday, May 19th
9pm - 12am

Stop by after dinner and enjoy dancing, drinks, and desserts. A photographer will be present to take portraits of the graduate with their friends and family.
ROTC seniors prepare to accept military duties

Major General Scully will commission officers

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

After four years of service to God and Notre Dame, 64 ROTC cadets will be commissioned as officers Saturday and begin to directly serve their country through the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

The tri-service ceremony will take place Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Joyce Center. The senior cadets will say an oath of office and then receive a certificate of their commissioning. University President Father John Jenkins is expected to attend the ceremony.

Captain Amy Bellenbaum, the commandant of cadets for Air Force ROTC has supervised the training of this year's graduation class. She said the ceremony is marked by tradition.

"At the end, they all do three cheers and they get to throw their hats up in the air," Bellenbaum said.

The graduating cadets will be commissioned with a first officer rank. The Air Force will commission 19 second lieutenants, the Army will also commission 19 and the Marine Corps three. The Navy will commission 23 ensigns.

Lieutenant David McCaffrey worked closely with this year's graduating cadets in the human resources department for ABN AMRO. He is responsible for the human resource services for the LaSalle Bank's Commercial Lending and Corporate Staff. He is currently a member of several community organizations, and he serves on the Notre Dame Alumni Board.

The graduating cadets will be sent to their respective assignments to learn their specialties. Army Captain Tom Nagorski said whether a student gets their first choice of assignment depends on how high they are ranked on a national merit list. Dukeman said the Army ROTC is in the top 15 percent of programs nationally, and this year's graduating class continued the tradition and scored well nationally.

"Almost all of them got pretty much what they wanted to do, which is a credit to Notre Dame, with academics being number one here, because we definitely had some really intelligent students coming out of this program," Dukeman said.

Scullcby ROTC cadet Captain Patrick Nagorski received his first choice of assignment — in June he will enter the Michigan National Guard. Nagorski will also attend Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Nagorski said being a member of the ROTC at Notre Dame was a rewarding experience and the best thing he did in college.

"While most people do service here and there, you are training for four years to serve everyone in the nation," Nagorski said. "You give not just of your time, but you also give of yourself, your energy, your own personality and your dedication to the service."

McCafferty said the Navy graduates also overwhelmingly received the assignments they listed as their first preference. He said 91 percent of the seniors received their first choice of assignments, and 100 percent received their first or second choice. McCafferty said the Navy ROTC program, which historically commissions more officers into the Navy and the Marine Corps than any other service beside the Naval Academy, sends graduates well for their leadership position in the Fleet or in the Corps.

"The reputation of Notre Dame naval officers in the Fleet is second to none," McCafferty said. "There are not as many naval officers as admirals commanding ships over in the Gulf right now, maintaining a great name for Notre Dame and the ROTC unit right here."

Graduating senior and Navy ROTC cadet Bryan Krcller also said he has observed a difference between the Notre Dame cadets and cadets from other programs.

"Based on what I've seen from the people that I've met from other units ... around the country, the people in my class are a cut above," Krcller said. "Keller will be attending Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, S.C. this summer to prepare for submarine service.

Bellenbaum estimates 16 of the 19 graduating Air Force ROTC seniors received their first choice for their career and location. She called these students "the cream of the crop," referring to their involvement in extracurricular activities beyond the demands of school work and ROTC duties.

"Even after graduation, the newly commissioned officers will fill the three branches will be heading to places like Virginia, South Carolina and California to begin their specialized training or to continue their education, Nagorski said the leadership experiences he has had at Notre Dame have prepared him for his upcoming responsibilities.

"I could not ask for better preparation," Nagorski said. "It has challenged me in ways that I didn't even think I could be challenged."

Contact Kaitlynn Riedy at kriedy@nd.edu

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Six residence hall directors opt to leave University posts

Turnover deemed normal as some take on higher positions at Notre Dame, others decide to pursue further education

By KAITLYNN RILEY
News Writer

As the 2005-06 school year comes to a close, six rectors will be leaving their responsibilities for their respective residence halls to take up new positions at the University, pursue further education or explore different job opportunities.

Administrative vacancies at SMC leave room for change

College has yet to name replacements for former vice presidents Timm and White; Vihitel will fill void for fall semester

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Just weeks apart this past January, two of Saint Mary's top administrators announced they would be resigning from their position at the College to head other academic institutions, leaving a major void in the hierarchy and a marked opportunity for change.

At the start of the spring 2006 semester, vice president of student affairs Linda Tirmann announced she would be leaving Saint Mary's to serve as president of Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis. The second announcement of position vacancy came from Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White, who announced Jan. 28 that he would depart Saint Mary's at the conclusion of the spring 2006 semester to begin his presidency at University of St. Mary College in Caryfowado, Ind. The resignation of these two administrators has given College President Jill Vihtelic the opportunity to meet with the three candidates — who, Mooney said, did not necessarily exhaust the College's options.

Although Mooney has not met with his three goals for naming a new vice president and dean of faculty by the conclusion of the spring 2006 semester, he has recently confirmed that the search for the acting vice president and dean of faculty until a replacement is named.

"The successful candidate must support our distinctive mission as a Catholic college and as a women's college. It is a position that have a thorough understanding of the goals of a liberal arts education." — Carol Ann Mooney, SMC president

search committee Dan Meyer said even though the search is taking place over the summer, students would still be involved in the process.

"Since most students are no longer on campus, it is much more difficult to solicit nominations from students from the local market and those who are participating in summer courses," Meyer said. "We have five exploratory candidates recommended for interviews [with the candidates]."

On Wednesday, May 17 Meyer announced the creation of a search committee for vice president of student affairs Linda Tirmann. As of Monday, the search committee had two candidates for the position of vice president of student affairs, Mooney said.

"I think the students are going to like what I'm thinking about this and what I'm going to do in this world," he said.

Mooney said that the students are going to like what I'm thinking about this and what I'm going to do in this world, and that's why I was brought on because it attracts people and I have some more privacy, but it's not necessarily an unusually large dorm.

"It's a unique place and the challenge is learning how things worked... there's a great support system." — Katie Winikates, former rector

When you're on campus, Tuesday night you can't just wander down the halls and talk to someone to talk," Mooney said.

Winikates remains undecided about her plans after finishing her duties at Notre Dame. She has applied to some jobs on campus, but has also been accepted into a position at a Catholic college and as a distinguished high school art teacher.

Mooneying has been the position for the last four years and is leaving to take an administrative position at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill. as the promoter of mission and ministry for the University.

Winikates said her service to Pasquerella East for over a decade has been an honor and a privilege, but also an exhausting experience.

"It's all about walking with me and my class through the hall, which is the best job a rector has. There's a great support system." — Katie Winikates, former rector

Winikates said that the University has not an unusually large dorm. "It's a unique place and the challenge is learning how things worked... there's a great support system." — Katie Winikates, former rector.
**New statue reflects spirituality, education**

**By MAUREEN MULLEN**

A new campus icon is soon to join the ranks of Touchdown Jesus and First Down Moses. The "In Celebration of Family" statue — unofficially titled "The Holy Hand-off" — was scheduled to be erected Thursday behind the Coleman Morse Building, building manager Tony Vargo said.

The bronze sculpture — which has been in the works for three and a half years — depicts a portion of Holy Family and is nearly nine feet tall. The sculpture was commissioned by the Bruto family of Chicago and the Bruto Family Foundation, a foundation which supports philanthropic endeavors, particularly those relating to issues of education and spirituality. Though the foundation does not usually commission works of art, "In Celebration of Family" combines aspects of educational and social concerns along with the notion of family, Bruto family, said A. Walsi, who has created a number of religiously themed sculptures, worked with Bruto to create the piece of art. His accomplishments include a larger-than-life bronze bust of Christ, which he created as part of the Vatican collection of the late Pope John Paul II.

"In Celebration of Family" presents an intimate composition of the Virgin, Christ Child, and Joseph. Mary is the prominent figure in height, Jesus is at the center and Joseph expresses paternal support and loving devotion toward both, Bruto said.

The director of the Snite Museum Charles Loving and a committee of several others have been closely involved in sanctifying the sculpture and bringing it to Notre Dame. Bruto dealt with various representatives of the University regarding the approval and the commissioning of the statue and said it was the shared goal to "capture a private family moment" and to invite all who see the sculpture to share in reflective appreciation of society's core element: the family.

Bruto said the sculpture is one in which every Notre Dame parent or Notre Dame student-parent-to-be, for that matter, will be able to relate to on some level.

The aim of the sculpture is to communicate the idea that "Mary and Joseph not only shared Jesus as their beloved son, but loved him as their very own," Bruto said. He said it only seemed appropriate for such a sculpture to stand on Notre Dame's campus.

"Notre Dame has always inspired people," Bruto said. "This sculpture is one more thing to relate to on this magnificent campus."

Rudolf Bruto

Family Foundation

"Notre Dame has always inspired people. This statue is one more thing to relate to on this magnificent campus." — Rudolf Bruto

**Seniors enter post-graduate service**

Over 130 graduates will begin volunteer work after leaving Notre Dame

**By JOE Piarulli**

A few months ago, senior Tommy Hayes said he would choose to go to puerto Rico after graduation. Hayes isn't going there for vacation, but for a new career. He's not going to visit friends or practice his Spanish.

In fact, he doesn't speak any Spanish.

Hayes is going to Puerto Rico for a year to teach and tutor Spanish as part of the Puerto Rico Community Service Program. He is one of many graduating seniors going into post-graduate service.

According to Liz McGinnis, director of senior transition programs at the Center for Social Concerns, usually 10 percent of Notre Dame's graduating class will commit to a year of post-graduate service. This year, 126 graduates, including from the CSC, that will be going into a service program. But that number is only slightly above the estimated 70 percent that will go through the CSC.

Last year, for example, 160 students registered with the CSC. But in the fall, it was found that 211 students were interested in post-graduate service, in the amount, the actual number for this year is probably over 150.

Mackenzie said there are two Spanish classes run by two students choose service after graduation from the graduating class of 99.

"A lot of folks, when they come talk to me, they talk about how they want to give back to the community and how they've had so many opportunities and they want to give something back for others," Mackenzie said. "Others want to get some experience, or do something a little bit different before the next step." On May 20, those going into post-graduate programs will be honored at Notre Dame's annual Senior Service Recognition Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

University President Father John Jenkins will address the seniors and their families. Every participating senior and the ceremony, and each will receive a journal with quotations and advice from members of the Notre Dame community.

This year, Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and Teach for America are the largest post-graduate service programs with nearly 40 students each.

Senior Laura Feeley is one of five Notre Dame students who will travel to Houston, Texas in June as part of Teach For America's two-year program. She said she already knows all of her future coworkers.

"There are actually a lot of Notre Dame students that get in to Teach for America which is a testament to us because it's a very competitive program," she said.

Feeley will be paid a teacher's salary. She said Teach for America as a great way to gain professional experience while helping a cause.

"The focus on service here is so huge... it just kind of seems like a natural way to give back after four years," she said.

Senior Kathy Peterson will be teaching English at a high school in Biloxi, Miss. starting in August for ACE. Classes for ACE are taught, and the teachers are held at Notre Dame over the summer before the individuals depart for their teaching sites.

Peterson said she had an interest in the two-year program the second year and has received nothing but positive feedback about her post-graduate plans.

"I know a lot of parents are kind of wary of their children doing service programs because they think it's a waste of time or doesn't pay well... my parents are very supportive, and since I'll be earning a Master's in education," she said. "My friends are very supportive too and in fact I have a lot of friends who are doing the ACE program." Peterson will be living with six other ACE teachers, two of whom are from Notre Dame.

According to Peterson, her interest was two-fold. One reason why ACE seemed like a good fit for her.

"ACE gives me the opportunity to do service while gaining professional skills," she said. "We'll do teaching if teaching is the profession for me, but even if it isn't, I don't think it will be time wasted." After ACE and Teach for America, the largest programs are as follows: Americorps (nine reported students), Peace Corps (eight), Echance for Justice Volunteer Corps (five), and the Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns (five).

Traditionally, more women go into post-graduate service programs than men. And this year is no exception with 91 women (72 percent) and 35 men (28 percent) committing to service after graduation. 2001 was the last year the percentage of women was less than 60.

Mackenzie said she isn't sure why the numbers are so skewed.

"There might be some external factors, when it comes to post- graduate service," she said. "When it comes to Puerto Rico-bound Hayes is in the minority. Not only is he male and there are a lot of other relative small program, but also he's the only one of the five Notre Dame students going to Puerto Rico without any knowledge of the Spanish language.

"I will be picking it up from scratch which should be interesting," he said.

Hayes said his parents are very enthusiastic, especially since his mother had to work to pay for food and other necessities.

Hayes said he sees the program as an opportunity for reflection and a way to off his time and skills.

"For a lot of these people it's kind of a once-in-a-lifetime thing... they leave the upper crust of their education... one more simple life style."

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Top seniors earn prestigious fellowships, scholarships

Peter Quaranta, Patrick Longenbacker, Julia Fitzpatrick and Mark Thomas selected for major national awards

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Several members of the class of 2006 have received prestigious fellowships and scholarships that will allow students to obtain graduate degrees and gain career experience as they pursue their passions after they leave Notre Dame.

Senior Peter Quaranta received the Marshall Scholarship for Political Science and Peace Studies and will be spending two years studying in the United Kingdom. During this time, he will attend the University of Bradford which has the world’s largest center for peace and conflict studies.

When asked what his goals were for the future, Quaranta said that his work in the Center for Social Concerns and the Kroc Institute has been influential during his four years at Notre Dame.

"Without the remarkable communities of people at the Kroc Institute and CSC, I would not be on the track that I am today," Quaranto said.

Senior Patrick Longenbacker received the National Flagship Language Initiative (NFLI) scholarship and will spend two years studying at Ohio State University and traveling to Qingdao, China. The National Flagship Initiative helps students gain proficiency in foreign languages so that they can work in federal government agencies.

Longenbacker will be continuing his studies in Chinese through the NFLI. "U.S.-China relations are becoming more and more important," Longenbacker said. "There is a great need for people in the U.S. to understand China."

Longenbacker will be focusing his studies on international relations and once he is finished with the program he hopes to find a job in government involving U.S.-China relations.

While some seniors only offer graduate study programs, others prepare recipients for careers. Senior Julia Fitzpatrick received the Scoville Peace Fellowship, which will allow her to spend six to nine months in Washington, D.C. working for Outreach of Global Solutions. She said she will be doing research on U.N. reform and helping lobbyists who are trying to gain congressional support on international peace and security issues.

"This will be a great first step in learning how policy is formed," Fitzpatrick said. "I will enter as a full-time staff person — not as an intern — which means I will be given a lot of responsibility right away."

Fitzpatrick said her involvement in the Kroc Institute at Notre Dame and supportive professors have prepared her for work in Washington.

Senior Mark Thomas, who will graduate with a joint-major in philosophy and political science, received the Javits Scholarship which provides him with full tuition and a stipend for his graduate study at Boston College. Thomas plans to earn a Ph.D. in philosophy, focusing his studies on continental philosophy of religion. He hopes to pursue an academic career after his graduate studies.

Thomas said that his professors at Notre Dame helped him pursue his advanced career and sparked his interest in philosophy.

Other fellowships that graduating seniors have received include French Government Teaching Assistantships, Fulbright Teaching Assistantships, Simon Fellowship for Noble Purpose, Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Contact Becky Hogan at bhogan2@nd.edu

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies Announces the Winners of Research and Travel Grants for 2006-2007

Congratulations to undergraduates:

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Michael Bednarczyk (Poland, language study)
Molly Hayes (England)
Catherine Kent (The Netherlands)
Kristine Nugent (Ukraine) The Katie Murphy McMahon Grant for Russian and East-Central European Studies
Stacey Vanderhurst (Ireland) The R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett Family grant for best proposal

And to graduate students:

Marlene Daut (Haiti)
Melinda Grimsley-Smith (Ireland)
Andrew Irving (Italy)
Glen Ryland (Namibia)

Graduate fellowship winners:

Sean Brennan (The Dominicana and Frank Annese Fellowship in Graduate Studies)
Kate Hennessey (The Paul G. Tobin Dissertation Fellowship)
ND, SMC award honorary degrees

Leaders to receive diplomas at weekend commencement ceremonies

By AMANDA MICHAELS and KELLY MEEHAN

Joining the more than 2,000 undergraduates who will graduate this weekend, 157 candidate receiving diplomas at Notre Dame's 161st Commencement Exercises Sunday will be 12 prominent visi
tos. The Pulitzer Prize

Longtime philanthropist

of the

serves on the boards of several

Exchange and the chair of the

Family Foundation with

injured, will receive a doctor of

professor emeritus at Notre

dehre founded Ecumenical

of Hurricane Katrina,

and influential novel

Notre Dame-founded Ecumenical

and chief executive oflicer of the

higher education whose many

entertainment offered Saint

Mary's.

Before embarking upon her

law career, Cote taught American history, black history and world

history at the Community

Herald in Manhattan.

Williams, who will also

address graduates at the May 20 ceremony,

serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of

for the Northern District of Illinois and the first

black woman to sit on the

U.S. District Court for the

Fifth Circuit.

All three recipients were cho

en through a nomination and selection proce

ss, in which candidates are identified as "great

women" who "do the most to advance women of

outstanding talent and achievement in the

city, state or world."

Nominations must be suppor

ted by significant prior achieve

ments and then pass several reviews by

College committees before the final decision is made by the

College president.

Dumpee said it is "a great

honor" to have all three recipi

ents together.

According to the selection proce

dures, recipients must exhibit significant achieve

ments marked by "recognized intellectual and public accom

plishment," "significant contribution to knowledge and

understanding in one's chosen field," "activities in the city,

state or world" and "outstanding talent and achievement in

the city, state or world."

Contact Amanda Michaels at

smicha@nd.edu and Kelly

mehnn1@notredame.edu

Deloitte & Touche USA LLP congratulates the University of Notre Dame

Class of 2006 and welcomes our new hires and summer interns!

Gil Loecher, political science

professor emeritus and Notre

dame Sole and survivor of the August 2003 burning of the Olympic Games

in Athens, commented that it would be an insult to the victims of

Baghdad, which left him badly

injured, to receive a doctor of

laws.

Francis Oakley, the president

emeritus and a veteran of the

College and prominent medieval scholar, will speak at the

Mass.

Karen Rauenhorst, a

Minneapolis-area community

leader and philanthropist who

serves on the boards of several

Community organizations, will

open the Mass and Karen Rauenhorst

Foundation with husband

Michael Rauenhorst.

Joan Givens, the retired chair of the Chicago Mercantile

Exchange and the chair of the

ndia's endowment committee,

Securities, will also receive a doc

tor of law.

Archbishop Michael Sheehan of the

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My mom made me do it. My mom forced me to apply to Notre Dame and then when I was accepted, she convinced me it was the right place for me, despite the awkward visit I had as a prospect.

Sure I was a Notre Dame football fan—I wore number 44 in sixth grade basketball because I liked Irish fullback Marc Edwards—but I never thought I would go to school there. But I did.

And so this weekend things have come full circle. Sometime in the last four years, I fell in love with Notre Dame. I fell in love with the campus, the traditions and the people. And I will always hold my experiences at Notre Dame close to my heart. Everything from winning a football game in Notre Dame Stadium to working for The Observer to falling in love for the first time to playing every intramural sport I could fit into my schedule—I will treasure them all.

Maybe your experiences are different. Maybe you were friends with the bouncer at Corby’s, maybe you will graduate with honors. Or maybe you won’t remember anything at all. But the one thing remains — these experiences are Notre Dame experiences.

Not everyone understands us Domers. They don’t understand why we can walk in a room, be introduced to someone who is an alumnus and instantly ask, “Where did you live?” and suddenly have a new friend.

Our Notre Dame experience has come to a conclusion. This week has been a celebration — “last call,” as everyone says. For the last time we do the things we always do about Notre Dame. We’ll say our goodbyes and go to a place where most will not fully understand our college experience.

For me, the past four years have been everything I’ve ever wanted and more. If you would have told me this is what Notre Dame was, I wouldn’t have believed it. I didn’t believe my mom at first when she told me Notre Dame was the place for me. After all, why would I want to go to the place my mom wanted me to apply?

Maybe you knew all about this place and so it fulfilled a dream. Maybe you are the first in your family to go to college and before you, a university the caliber of Notre Dame was an illusion. Or maybe you just stumbled in as a confused freshman like myself.
I've been told Kenny Chesney said it best: "Fear a while, we had it all. We never dreamed it wouldn't last." But let's be honest. We knew one day, sooner rather than later, it would be over. Why did I spend Monday night and Tuesday morning with the students, the faculty, and the staff? I could not wait to tell them, so I will miss driving down it on crisp fall days, with leaves slowly falling to the ground. I will miss meeting with the convent just to talk to them, so I will miss driving down it on crisp fall days, with leaves slowly falling to the ground.

Of course I had those moments when I took this place for granted; five finals in four days doesn't exactly engender nostalgia. Neither does trudging to class in winds strong enough to knock you to the ground. But for the most part, I tried to remember that never again would I live 50 feet from my best friends in a place that can even look majestic in the worst weather.

And if not for Notre Dame, I wouldn't have met my amazing friends. These are the girls who chatted encouraging messages onto the sidewalk in front of my dorm and DeBartolo so I would see them on my way to take the LSAT, the ones who could run a trip to the dining hall an adventure, who can make me laugh when all I want to do is give up and who were never too far when I needed anything at all. They do all this and more because they know they would do the same for them in a second.

For not Notre Dame, I would not have grown nearly as much in faith and confidence. It was my many trips to the Grotto that made me realize prayer actually works. And the dual nature of this University as a place of higher education and as a center of faith encourages extensive soul searching, which allowed me to fully comprehend my abilities and envision my dreams for the future. For this and so much more, I am deeply thankful.

This is why Notre Dame students are different. We know exactly how fortunate we are to be part of this family. We know how much we have been given and how much we have given each other. And we know that it really doesn't end here.

"For a while, we had it all." It's true. But it will last forever because we will always be a part of this legendary Notre Dame family, and we will never forget the bonds we forged or how this place and the friends we made us better people. We are the lucky ones because we can continue the relationships we have begun and the lessons we have learned. We get to carry Notre Dame memories and the new, exciting adventures upon which we've all embarked.

We have it all, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

I'm a firm believer in the fact that people come into our lives for a reason and change us forever. And I can honestly say that in my four years here at Saint Mary's, I was deeply changed in so many ways by so many people. Saint Mary's has been my home and I will miss it dearly. This campus is the most beautiful and serene place in the world. Too many times I took it for granted and failed to absorb the beauty of it. Many of the building, "The Avenue," is not just the beauty of this place, but the spirit that my school — Le Mans Hall, Hall of Most and of the convent just to name a few. The Avenue is gorgeous and I will miss driving down it on crisp fall days, with leaves slowly falling to the tree-lined asphalt as I glide over them, so they float free once again.

While I will miss walking campus at all hours of the day and night, seeing Le Mans tower standing tall against the frigid winter winds and thick falling snow, I will miss the people I've met more.

It's always been difficult for me to say goodbye to people I love. People light my heart on fire — this amazing community accomplished this well throughout the last four years. Truly, I have been altered intellectually by my high-gifted professors, spiritually by this wonderful Catholic community, but, best yet, personally by my friends — the best friends I could ever call my own.

To my professors: Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the education that helped motivate me to work harder. While much learning occurred inside the classroom, much also occurred outside the classroom. There have been many times I have been able to apply what I learned from you in a classroom to the real world. That gift alone makes me smile. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To my classmates: In each of my classes, you never ceased to amaze me with your intelligence and wisdom about things I would never imagine a college-aged person would have. But I believe that is the beauty of Saint Mary's — we are unique women who have had unique life experiences and we come together to form a family. Thank you for promoting my education with your life experiences. Know that you aided in my education just as much as reading any assigned book.

To my friends: I cannot find one word to describe the love and respect I have in my heart for each of you. We have been through so much together. We have supported one another, commend­ed one another and loved one another. I will treasure our friendships for the rest of my life. Thank you, my friends for good times — and even the bad. Part of a college education is forming lifelong friendships and I know I found countless ones and I am so grateful. May you have many continued blessings in each of your life. I will miss you.

There are so many stories to tell of moments here — both highs and lows. But at the end of the day, I have been changed by each of these moments. I have been transformed from a starry-eyed, would-like-to-think-she-knows-it-all young girl into a more intelligent, more worldly woman. So as I walk across the Court of Le Mans Hall and receive my diploma, I will remember each of you that have touched my life. For all of you, I am physically leaving this place, it will forever have my heart.

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

Sarah Vabulas is a graduating communication studies major with a religious studies minor and former Assistant Managing Editor of The Observer. She thanks her parents for the wonderful opportunity to attend her dream college. She will miss looking at Le Mans tower and the Golden Dome as well as visits to the Grotto. She would like to thank The Observer and the many life lessons in leadership and struggle as well as the laughs and friendships. She has never been prouder to be a member of a hardworking and outstanding group of friends. But most of all, she will miss the randomness that goes along with college friends and welcomes you to visit her in Atlanta. She can be contacted at svabulas@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
As it happens, a few thousand of us are gathered here to receive awards from the Academy. Not the Motion Picture Academy, of course, but some of the comparison stand. Where we go from here is a question with as many answers as there are people, but judging from the tables populating Notre Dame's career fair, it would seem that the Academy is most interested in as many of us as possible working at national or multinational corporations—and finding satisfying and sizable remunerations back to South Bend. This, I say, is our way of thanking The Academy for giving us the tools to succeed.

Well, in my own case, the foreseeable future doesn't promise a job which will allow me to offer The Academy much money beyond my basic salary. However, I am looking forward to the day that will leave having been challenged and, if we afford to confront our ideas, we do not need them; indeed, the educational and scholarly goals of the University would be undermined by their presence.

Jenkins has demonstrated to my satisfaction that he intends Notre Dame to be a place he'd do by not refusing to identify the voice of the teacher or department with the institutional voice of the University. He did so by inviting to view the instructors and students during the academic freedom debates and, rather than what many feel is the standard and art history major from Columbus, Ohio. She would like to thank the fifth year English professor who taught her, as she has let me see Notre Dame from the top to bottom (literally) and around the world. Assignments have allowed me to climb the scaffolding of the Dome when it was being built, and I remember my father saying, "What a wonderful world, no monthly bills to pay, meals ready given me. I'll have happy memories of my time in college that he will remember as carefree, lots of time to have adventures abroad and some of the most hilarious and some of the most heartfelt conversations I had as an undergraduate. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Our study-abroad advisor from Notre Dame, who lived in Cairo this past summer, has mentioned that there have been numerous letter-writing campaigns by the Old Guard about what it believes is unfair for students studying abroad. Also, the office in Hurley Hall has received many phone calls and e-mail complaints about the word "homosexual kids" in the different programs.

In an interview with friends, I'm asked how I'm holding up and how safe I feel, but I wish I could bring all those people here to see what it's really like. My friend and fellow delegator, Aaron and I, are doing just fine in Egypt. We've been here for two and a half months, and it's just as true is still the same true for all the students abroad elsewhere.

On the streets, when people ask me where I am from, I refuse to hide and say I am from Canada. My response is always that I am an American. I hope, too, in several months to have that same pride. Usually this leads into a discussion about Iraq. Yesterday, outside the mosque of al-As-As, I chatted in Arabic with three white old Egyptian men about the grave situation in the Middle East. They told me how they loved American people, and I told them how I loved Egyptian people. After this next week we ought to gather again outside the mosque and invite Saddam Hussein and the president of Israel to talk about their differences. Not once did I feel uncomfortable.

Not once have I ever felt threatened by watching or worrying, even in a so-called "homophobic Cairo," whose name would probably scare many who have never visited because it is foreign to be the only threat. I do not claim to have been in Cairo, Baghdad, I know, but Baghdad is not too far, nonetheless. I do not claim to have more perspective than anyone else at home. However, this experience inexplicably shaped my perspective.

I hope some time to meet Aaron's two roommates who are from the Gaza Strip and maybe find out what life is like as a Palestinian. I enjoy getting increased exposure to the different kids from in Baghdad and who probably in a sense is different from kids in Baghdad and who probably do not have the sense of tolerance and understanding of the film festival's mandate for the abusers.

In his letter, D'Arcy claims homosexuals "belong in the mainstream of our Catholic life, not snubbed." After his continual efforts to keep homosexuals from the priesthood and his current condemnation of the Queer Film Festival, this call for inclusion is most certainly a hollow one. While D'Arcy, in his role as defender of the Church's teaching, has focused on the opposition to homosexual acts, he has remained largely silent on the issue of respect and understanding toward homosexuals.

He has offered superficial words of acceptance to homosexuals but has neglected to support in a meaningful way the importance of Church teaching on respect, compassion and understanding toward them. We only wish D'Arcy would have the same zeal in accepting homosexuality according to Church teaching as he does in condemning it. Our faith is marked by Christ's love, and we must show that love in our acceptance and caring for all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

Unbelievable. Notre Dame realizes after three years of mediocrity that it doesn't have the coach that can get the program where it needs to so it fires him. All of a sudden, according to all the so-called NCAA football experts, Notre Dame "panicked." Notre Dame "didn't give him a chance," the firing was "racially motivated." Notre Dame was exposed as "no different than all the other football factories." That's reflective of the number one issue in America today — no one wants anyone to be held accountable for their actions or results (much less themselves). Poor performance is always someone else's fault, or can be blamed on one's abusive parents, broken home or ethnicity.

Coach Tyrone Willingham knew exactly what he was doing and exactly what was expected ... put a consistent winner on the field. If he didn't think he could do it, he shouldn't have taken the job. Neither should Urban Meyer or anyone else take the job now and claim three, five or 20 years from now that the coaching environment at Notre Dame is brutal. Brutal schedule, brutal academic requirements, crummy weather, demanding alumni, etc., etc., blah, blah, blah. If you aren't up to the challenge, don't take the job. Notre Dame is going to worry about the situation, don't take the job.

Unfortunately, Willingham was not doing the things that needed to be done to achieve the aforementioned objective (put a consistent winner on the field). He was getting blown out of games as an unprecedented rate. He wasn't recruiting enough impact players. He couldn't win over the hearts of the alumni, students, etc. He lost to teams he clearly should have beaten. Worst of all, there was no momentum in the program ... no success trajectory ... things were not obviously getting better. Willingham was fired for the same reasons every- day Americans in challenging jobs get fired — not because he is a bad person, not because he is black, not because he can't be successful somewhere else. Because he couldn't get it done at Notre Dame and there was no convincing evidence that things were improving.
What was your favorite experience at Notre Dame?

Jenny Maccagnano
Chicago, Ill.
"Studying abroad in Rome."

Amanda Kelly
Chicago, Ill.
"Entertaining ten Navy boys all at once... I was just doing my American duty."

Kelly Snyder
Celina, Ohio
"Mock Trial's Team Ramrod — you wrote it in the paper."

A.J. Lindburg
Albany, N.Y.
"I probably don’t remember it."

Kathleen Kudia
Schaumburg, Ill.
"Assisting my friends with their bratwurst stand on game day."

Rachelle Gatecki
Concord Township, Ohio
"All of my very convincing fake names."

Describe your college experience in three words.

Danny Gibbs
Salt Lake City, Utah
"Drink, drank, drunk."

Ryan Hutchinson
Marion, Ind.
"I made it."

Cameron Raines
San Diego, Calif.
"What was college?"

Bill Klobasa
Willowbrook, Ill.
"I’m not drunk."

Karen Daniels
Sioux City, Iowa
"I’m not sober."

Nick Kramer
Zionsville, Ind.
"Lack of memory."
What was your favorite class and who was your favorite professor?

Sarah Wright
Chula Vista, Calif.
"Human Ethology with Prof. McKenna, because I like monkeys and babies."

Amy Yahn
Santa Rosa, Calif.
"Professor Whitman's Autism Class, because it helped me find my passion."

Cecelia Hilliard
Chicago, Ill.
"Aerospace design, because I got to build an airplane and work with her."

Erin Ainsworth
Houston, Texas
"Aerospace design, because I got to work with her and build an airplane."

Stephanie Rosales
Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.
"Clive Neal – physical geology, because he’s a crazy British man."

Stephanie Smith
Hollister, Mo.
"Professor Yang, because he’s a crazy Chinese man."

What are your plans after graduation?

Bobby Seus
Medford, Ore.
"I'm running the mountain gorilla exhibit in the Chicago zoo."

Brandon Harris
New Orleans, La.
"Going to LA, taking film scoring lessons."

Brendan Delaney
Hauppauge, N.Y.
"I want to orchestrate the merger between UNICEF and Smith & Weston."

Brian Rodmond
St. Louis, Mo.
"Scaling Mount Everest."

Greg Boschert
St. Charles, Mo.
"I'm touring Europe and will come back to try to be an acrobat."

Joe McCarthy
Novi, Mich.
"Working in the ever downward spiraling economy of Detroit."
Irish swashbucklers fourth at NCAA finals

Zagunis wins national title in women's saber; Ghattas lands second place in men's saber in second year in row

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame failed to follow its 2005 national title with a repeat performance, as the team finished fourth in the NCAA men's and women's fencing championships. The Irish had individual honors for many of its top fencers and impressive regular-season records, but the season's success fell flat.

The men's and women's teams finished the season with identical 29-1 records and finished behind Harvard, Penn State and Ohio State in the championship held from March 16-19. The Irish fell 13 points shy of repeating their title.

"This competition showed the place we hold in the nation in reality," Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski said after the championship. "During the season we competed well in the school of three fencers per weapon but when you have to compete with two fencers, we had some weak points."

In the NCAA's only two fencers competed per weapon format, foil and sabre — whereas the Irish had competed with three to a weapon throughout their season.

Sophomore Mariel Zagunis won the national title in the women's saber over Columbia's Emily Jakobowicz, a former teammate on the U.S. National Team. Zagunis was the runner-up in women's saber in 2004.

"I knew exactly what I needed to do to beat (Jakoberic) and I didn't give her any room to breathe and just went out, ahead from the start and kept the lead," Zagunis said after the match.

On the men's side, senior Patrick Ghattas finished as runner-up in the second consecutive year. Ghattas was the seventh senior Irish fencing coach.

"I had talked to the team about this earlier — how hard it is to win a national championship and how to repeat," Ghattas said after the Championships. "You saw that this weekend. There are so many good teams now and they all felt the pressure to try and win."

The Joyce Center played host to the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships during the weekend of Feb. 26 and 27. The men's and women's teams used a home court advantage to capture second-place finishes.

Freshman Emile Pro was the lone individual to repeat, earning the conference championship honors in the men's foil. The Irish captured five victories in dual competition during the season and on the year, lost only once during the regular season as both the men's and women's side lost to No. 1 Ohio State at the NYU DuT4u. The team swept the Northwesterns, Ohio State and San Diego State. The Irish defeated four opponents — Duke, Northwestern and Chicago — in their home tournament at the Joyce Center Jan. 28 and 29.

Notes:
- **Notre Dame assistant fencing coach Zoltan Dudás has left the Irish program to take the head-coaching job at Princeton. Dudás was an All-American in his fourth season as the assistant coach and a key part of Bednarski accepting the position and is a specialist in the foil and epee events.**
- **Dudas graduated from Juhasz Gyorla Tamas National Training College in Szeged, Hungary and spent seven years teaching physical education and entering fencers before coming to Notre Dame in 2002. He was a part of both Irish national championship teams and is credited with coaching his epee and foilists to 30 NCAA appearances out of a possible 32 and helping to mold 26 All-Americans.**

Contact Kyle Cassilly at kcasilly@nd.edu
Squads send 32 to regionals with championship hopes

By CHRIS KHOREY
Assistant Sports Editor

With 32 athletes headed to the NCAA Regional meet in Knoxville, Tenn. May 26-27, Irish head coach Joe Piane is ready to cap off an already successful track season with an appearance at the NCAA Championships. "Thirty-two is a very good number," Piane said. "Last year we had seventeen. I think we can send off an already successful season with a very good showing at the NCAA Championships.

This season, Madia took third in the 3,000 meters at the Big East indoor championships, and fourth in the 5,000-meter event. Piane said it is rare for one runner to be successful at all three distances.

"Bennington has very good leg speed," Piane said. "There isn't another guy in the 2,000 that can run the 800 as fast as he can.

Bennington was also one of Notre Dame's top cross country runners, finishing eighth at the seventy-fifth NCAA championships with a 10,000-meter time of 29:50.2.

"You pick an event, he can run well in it — from the 800 to the 10,000," Piane said.

On the women's side, senior Stephanie Piane will look to cap off a stellar career by advancing to the NCAA championships. This season, Madia took third in the 3,000 meters at the Big East indoor championships, and fourth in the 5,000-meter event. Piane said it is rare for one runner to be successful at all three distances.

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**WOMEN’S LACROSSE**

Irish drub Cornell to advance to NCAA quarterfinals

Attacks Foote and Byers belittle Big Red defense with four goals each; Notre Dame set for rematch with G'town

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is having the best season in the program's ten-year history — and it's not over yet.

The No. 7 Irish (14-3, 4-1 Big East) beat Cornell 16-8 behind a strong effort by attacks Crysti Foote and Jill Byers Sunday for the second time this season to improve to 14-3 and advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament.

Byers and Foote combined for 12 points, netting four goals and two assists each against the Big Red. The Irish also benefited from 12 saves by senior goalie Carol Dixon.

Foote has scored over 100 points for the second year in a row, shattering Notre Dame single-season records with 68 goals and 34 assists.

Byers and Foote belittle Big Red defense with four goals each; Notre Dame set for rematch with G'town

Overall, part of the success of the Notre Dame team has been coach Coyne — the only coach the program has ever had.

The Irish rode their fourth best scoring offense in the country at 14.29 goals per game to win their first seven games this season, including dramatic conquests over No. 18 Cornell 17-15 and No. 16 James Madison 12-11, in which they overcame a five-point deficit.

Notre Dame's only three losses on the year came against No. 1 Northwestern, No. 3 Duke and No. 4 Georgetown. The mid-April defeats to both the Blue Devils and the Hoyas came in back-to-back overtime.

Notre Dame will get a chance to avenge Georgetown Saturday in the NCAA quarterfinals.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@nd.edu

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**SMC GOLF**

MIAA champion Belles snubbed from NCAAs

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

By the standards of almost any other program, it was a successful season. But despite five tournament victories during the regular season and an MIAA championship, the Belles were not selected for the NCAA Tournament, a snub head coach Mark McGinley termed a "major disappointment."

"We played the second toughest schedule in Division III golf and we had the third most tournament wins," Hamilton said. "We traveled all over and played. We played who we had to play and beat who we had to beat, but unfortunately we didn't get selected."

Two teams from each of five regions are selected by a committee to compete in the Division III championships each year. The Belles lost the Division III bid to DePauw and Southwestern.

"The Belles faced the Tigers head-to-head once this season, in the Illinois-Western Spring Fling, DePauw won the tournament, finishing 27 strokes ahead of third-place Saint Mary's. The Belles and Pirates did not face each other in the regular season. Belles senior Megan Mattia qualified for the national tournament as an individual, finishing her Saint Mary's career with a three-round score of 328 and a No. 18 finish.

'Saint Mary's won the MIAA Championship Oct. 8 at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club in Grand Rapids, Mich., beating second place Olivet by 36 strokes and reaching a goal set early in the season by Hamilton."

"Our goal for the fall is always to win the MIAA and begin to put ourselves in position to qualify for the NCAAs," Hamilton said.

Saint Mary's faced stiff competition throughout their season, facing mostly Division I teams in the Notre Dame Invitational at Warren Golf Course Sept. 10-11 and the Shamrock Invitational in Tega Cay, S.C. over spring break March 18-19.

"It was a great honor to be invited to the Notre Dame tournament, so we had to play in that," Hamilton said of the decision to play in tournaments with larger schools, "As for (the Shamrock), over spring break you need to find the right tournament in the right location at the right time."

Hamilton said he liked the challenge of playing such tough opponents.

"You get better by playing with better players," Hamilton said. "You can't get better playing lesser opponents. Our attitude is that we'll go anywhere and play anyone."

Besides the sheer difficulty, there was another downside to the schedule. Hamilton said he was told that playing so many non-Division III opponents hurt the Belles when the NCAA selection committee met.

"I think it actually hurt us a little in our selection process," Hamilton said. "I'm not really sure why, but that was the word on the street."

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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Charlottesville. But it was not

Cavaliers
cleared its way to a school-record
game-high four goals to propel the

Tournament, the Irish challenged
Ward-the No. 17 rated scorer in
this season.

this country - netted two of his
four with three minutes left in the

lead. In the second quarter, the
Irish offense saw several good

goals, we'd have a chance. We just
didn't capitalize down the stretch."

However, Virginia freshman
Daniel Glading netted the second

three of six first quarter faceoffs en

Walsh found freshman

sunglasses in loss

five-goal third quarter.

Then, against Charlie Grazer, who ranks
sixth in the nation in faceoff per-

Clagett,

won

an automatic NCAA birth and

Delaware to upset No.

climbed the score from 3-0 to 3-1 first quarter

and Kemp.

VIrginia in

sixth in the nation in faceoff per-
cence selections with five: Walsh,
Kemp.

Paul M. Dockery
Mary Ann Jentz
Stephen E. Schwall

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Undefeated No. 1 Virginia overcomes Notre Dame pressure to win first-round battle; Kemp snags 20 saves in loss
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Congratulations Class of 2006
Irish go to Big East tourney, hurt by close losses

Quinn leads team in season comeback

By BOBBY GRiffin
Sports Writer

Following Notre Dame’s Feb. 4 heartbreaking 89-86 overtime loss at Louisville after Cardinals guard Taquan Dean buried a 25-footer, the Irish dropped to 1-8 in the Big East. The defeat was devastating. With the strength of the Big East and just seven games remaining on the conference schedule, the team’s postseason prospects looked bleak. Notre Dame coach Mike Brey admitted later he would have been surprised if the Irish would be a position to make the Big East tournament one month later given the team’s league record.

“If you would have told me after the loss to Louisville that we’d put ourselves in a position to play on senior day to get to New York, I would have thrown up a parade.” Brey said following Notre Dame’s March 4 win over DePaul.

But Notre Dame found the strength to finish 6-10 in the Big East (16-14 overall), en route to the Big East tournament — the same event Brey stressed as the team’s major goal at the beginning of the season.

The No. 12-seeded Irish ended up losing their Big East game 67-63 to No. 5-seeded Georgetown and would later drop its second round NIT game to Michigan 87-84, after defeating Vanderbilt in its first round contest.

It also failed to reach the NCAA Tournament for the team’s third consecutive season after advancing to the Sweet 16 in 2003. But considering where the team was in early February, the resiliency it showed in putting together a strong finish (5-2 in its last seven games) and impressive individual season performances — the year was not a complete failure.

“We didn’t hang a banner or play in the NCAA Tournament, but I truly feel this group was representative of this university,” Brey said April 12 during the team’s post-season banquet.

In order to reach the Big East tournament, Notre Dame beat Rutgers, South Florida and Seton Hall, before dropping consecutive games to Connecticut and Marquette.

The Irish responded with wins over Providence and DePaul. Irish guard Chris Quinn was a huge reason for the team’s turnaround. The senior point guard finished the season with 17.7 points per game (50th in the Big East), 6.45 assists per game (first in the Big East) and 42-percent shooting from 3-point range (second in the Big East).

Quinn’s statistics and overall leadership were enough to make him a first team All-Big East selection.

“A lot of teams might have faded away,” Quinn said in a March 6 press conference after being selected for the All Big East team. “Over the season, there have been tough times when we’ve really been down as a group, but we’ve had to battle back and get ready for the next game.”

Some of the more memorable moments of the season came from Quinn as well. He scored 37 points in Notre Dame’s 100-97 overtime loss to Pittsburgh, nailing 3-pointers down the stretch to force an overtime in a game where the Irish trailed by nine with under a minute.

Notre Dame forward Russell Carter also emerged as a legitimate scoring threat during the 2005-06 season, using his explosiveness as a change of pace in Notre Dame’s predominantly 3-point shooting offense.

Carter averaged 15.5 points in 28.7 minutes per game. He led the team in scoring in the team’s last three regular season games against Marquette (20 points), Providence (21) and DePaul (22) — propelling the Irish offense to their postseason berth.

Notre Dame also got strong productions from freshman point guard Kyle McAlarney, who will likely assume point guard responsibilities next season following Quinn’s graduation.

McAlarney averaged a Notre Dame-freshman high 6.6 points in 22.4 minutes per game.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriff33@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame bows out in first round of Big East

Senior point guard Megan Duffy leads Irish all season, freshman shooting guard Lindsay Schrader ready to take torch

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

After starting the season with six straight victories, the Irish struggled for much of the rest of their schedule before losing to Boston College 78-61 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in West Lafayette, Ind.

Senior point guard Megan Duffy led Notre Dame all season, averaging 15.6 points, 4.1 assists and 3.9 rebounds in 38.4 minutes per game.

Notre Dame finished the year 18-12 (8-8 Big East). The NCAA Tournament loss marked the team’s fifth straight defeat in the Big East. The team lost 70-61 to Arizona State in the second round in 2005.

“Obviously, this isn’t the way I wanted to go out, and this isn’t acceptable for the Notre Dame program,” said Duffy, who finished with 18 points and six rebounds, but also committed four turnovers.

“Obviously, this isn’t the way I wanted to go out, and this isn’t acceptable for the Notre Dame program,” said Duffy, who finished with 18 points and six rebounds, but also committed four turnovers.

Two-thirds of the way through the season, Notre Dame was still fighting for a spot in the NCAA Tournament. After losing three games in a row to Villanova, DePaul and Connecticut by a combined 48 points, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the team needed to play with more urgency.

Notre Dame responded and secured a No. 9 seed by winning its last three regular-season contests and ending Florida in the first round of the Big East tournament in Hartford, Conn., before losing to the Huskies in the quarterfinals.

The winning streak began Feb. 25 in Cincinnati when they won 74-65 over Xavier.

Down 57-55 with 2.4 second left, Tulyah Gaines caught a tip from Schrader off Courtney LaVere’s inbound pass, drove to the lane, elevated and hit the leaning layup as the buzzer sounded.

That’s a play we practice a lot when we go through game situations,” Gaines said after the game. “Lindsey did a great job of finding me (after) Courtney threw a great pass.”

But Notre Dame’s run ended with two straight defeats.

In the first and NCAA Tournament loss, Irish freshman guard Lindsay Schrader scored 29 points on 12-for-23 shooting. Duffy said her performance marked a transition in the offensive leadership of the team.

Two months after the season ended, Schrader was one of 37 players invited to participate in the trials for the USA Under-20 national team.

Duffy was selected by the Minnesota Lynx in the third round of the WNBA Draft April 5. The Lynx will announce their roster for the upcoming season May 22.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu
FOOTBALL

Weis brings new offense and success to Irish

Brady Quinn sets all major season passing marks in 9-3 campaign

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame ended the season with a 34-20 Fiesta Bowl defeat at the hands of Ohio State.

But first-year Irish coach Charlie Weis furthered his reputation as an offensive guru as Notre Dame broke dozens of offensive records on its way to a 9-3 season and the program's first BCS berth since the 2000 season.

Even so, the season highlight might not have come in the Arizona desert — where Ohio State sprinted past the Irish for the win — but in mid-October, when defending national champion and then three-time Southern California faced the Irish in Notre Dame Stadium.

The campus presence of ESPN shows College GameDay and Cold Pizza, as well as a Friday Night pep rally in the stadium that drew over 45,000 fans, hyped a game that lived up to immense expectations.

The then-No. 9 Irish — spurred by a Tom Zbikowski punt return touchdown and a game plan that gave Notre Dame a 17-minute, time-of-possession advantage — almost upset the Trojans.

But USC quarterback Matt Leinart snuck over the goal line with seconds remaining to cap an epic final quarter and give the Trojans a 34-31 win.

Notre Dame opened the season Sept. 3 with a 42-21 rout over Pittsburgh at Heinz Field. Quinn set the season's tone by tossing a pair of second-quarter touchdowns — one to running back Darius Walker and the second to junior wide receiver Jeff Samardzija, who was named a consensus All-American after making 77 receptions for 1,249 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Samardzija had only 24 catches — none of them for touchdowns — in his two seasons under former Irish coach Tyrone Willingham.

Weis joined Knute Rockne as Notre Dame's all-time leading pass catcher.

The Irish then entered their home opener Sept. 17 ranked No. 10 in the nation. But the optimism in South Bend was temporarily halted as Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns to defeat Notre Dame 44-11 in double-overtime thanks to a 19-yard, game-winning touchdown from Jason Teague on an option pitch. The Spartan quarterback flipped a 21-point comeback by the Irish as well as four 487 passing yards and a then-school-record five touchdown passes by Quinn.

Notre Dame sailed through its next two contests in both the road — defeating Washington 36-17 on Sept. 25 and Purdue 49-28 on Oct. 3.

The team then had a bye week prior to the Oct. 22 tilt against USC. Quinn avoided any possible hangovers with USC when the Trojans a week later as he threw a school-record six touchdown passes — four to senior wide receiver Maurice Stovall — as the Irish trounced USC 41-10 in a safety Chinedum Ndukwu — held the USC offense in check.

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Notre Dame sailed through its next two contests in both the home and road — defeating Washington 36-17 on Sept. 25 and Purdue 49-28 on Oct. 3.

The team then had a bye week prior to the Oct. 22 tilt against USC. Quinn avoided any possible hangovers with USC when the Trojans a week later as he threw a school-record six touchdown passes — four to senior wide receiver Maurice Stovall — as the Irish trounced USC 41-10 in a safety Chinedum Ndukwu — held the USC offense in check.

"The Irish then battled into Pac-10 in Nov. 12 and Syracuse 34-10 on Nov. 19 to enter their Nov. 25 matchup with Stanford with an 8-2 record. Despite two touchdown receptions and 191 receiving yards from Samardzija, the star of the day was sophomore running back Darius Walker, whose six-yard touchdown run with 52 seconds remaining and subsequent two-point conversion gave the Irish a 38-31 win and catapulted them into the Fiesta Bowl. Weis followed the Cardinal in the conversion attempt, as he called a direct snap to Walker, who trotted into the end zone.

Walker ran for a career-best 186 yards on 35 carries to help the Irish avoid an upset at the hands of a pesky Cardinal squad and ended the season with 1,196 yards on 253 carries and nine touchdowns.

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

New Jersey wide receiver becomes fifth player in 2010 class

By BOBBY GRIFFIN and CHRIS KHOYER
Sports Writers

After the Tampa Bay Buccaneers drafted wide receiver Maurice Stovall in the third round of the 2006 NFL Draft, Irish head coach Charlie Weis needed an eventual replacement — and he might have found his man.

Duval Kamara, a 6-foot-4, 190-pound wide receiver according to Scout.com, from Hoboken, N.J., verbally committed to Notre Dame May 11 on ESPN News.

"He's a tall guy who can get up and make some of the miraculous, circus-type catches that Stovall made so many of last year," Mike Frank of Irisheyes.com said.

Frank also praised Kamara's quickness, which he said is better than Stovall's, and his ability to block downfield.

Kamara's high school (Hoboken High School) is primarily run-dominated offense and Frank said the 6-foot-3 receiver displays an aggressive defensive mentality when it comes to blocking in run formations.

Kamara had 43 catches for 939 yards and 12 touchdowns last year as a junior for Hoboken High School. Frank said that while the wide out may compete for playing time his freshman year in 2007, he will have a lot of competition from his classmates and the wide receivers that will already be on campus.

Weis has also extended offers to 2010 scholarships offers to wide receivers Arrelius Benn (6-foot-2, 205 pounds, Washington D.C.), Greg Little (6-foot-3, 205 pounds, Durham, N.C.) and Dezunte Thompson (5-foot-11, 186 pounds, Belle Glade, Fla.).

Some of these three have given verbal commitments to Notre Dame.

"When it's all said and done, you're going to see three outstanding receiver prospects in this class," Frank said. "In any other class, Duval might come in and play right away, but in this class you're going to have a lot of competition from the other members of his class plus the guys who came in last year.

Kamara becomes the latest verbal commitment in a class that already tight end Zach Rhagone (6-foot-5, 230 pounds, Gloucester, N.J.), linebacker David Gonsoulin (6-foot-2, 230 pounds, Pennsauken, N.J.), tight end Michael相关内容。
ND SOFTBALL

Irish squeeze out Big East tourney championship

By CHRIS KHOREY
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite an up-and-down season and a frustrating three-game losing streak late in the year, Notre Dame rebounded to win the Big East tournament and earn a berth to the NCAA Tournament, which will begin today against UC-Santa Barbara in Evanston, Ill.

The Irish (40-19) won the conference championship with a 1-0 victory over No. 18 Louisville Sunday at Ivy Field. Notre Dame scored the only run of the game in the first inning on a suicide squeeze by catcher Mallorie Leen that drove in center fielder Stephanie Brown.

"We set goals throughout the year, but one of the biggest goals we set is to win the Big East tournament, because if we win that we get to the postseason," Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said. "The Cardinals had beaten the Irish in two regular season meetings in Louisville, 10-3 and 2-1. Those two games, a doubleheader on May 1 and a 6-4 upset home loss to Loyola-Chicago May 2, formed a stunning losing streak that Gumpf said forced the Irish to "think a lot more in time for the postseason."

"It was very frustrating because it was at a crucial time in the year, but I think it made the girls realize how easy it is to lose focus and control of games," Gumpf said. "They worked their tails off to regain confidence and get control of the games again."

One of the players who refocused was starting pitcher Heather Booth. The senior won three games in the Big East tournament, allowing just two hits along the way. Booth became Notre Dame's ace in April of 2005, going 23-8 with a 1.59 ERA her junior season and 25-10 with a 1.39 ERA her senior season.

"April of her junior year was Heather's turning point," Gumpf said. "She's been on a mission to get us to the College World Series ever since.

"Offensively, the Irish have been led in 2006 by Brown, Lenn and senior first baseman Meagan Ruffrauth. The three have combined for 26 home runs, 100 RBIs and 90 runs scored. Brown leads the team with a .396 batting average off her leadoff spot."

"They're seeing the ball well, they're having good at bats, and when you do that, good things will happen," Gumpf said of the three sluggers.

Freshman infielder Linda Kohan has also been a force at the plate in her first season, hitting .287 with five home runs and 27 RBIs. Freshman pitcher Brittany Harper has also made a big impact with a 10-3 record and a game going 15-9 on the season with a 2.99 ERA. With the Big East title in hand, Notre Dame will begin its quest for another trip to the College World Series Friday with a three game series against the Gauchos. The winner will play next week in the opening round of the CCHA.

"I wouldn't necessarily say it was a specific series (that sparked a turnaround)," Wallace said. "Right after Christmas break everyone seems to get into their role and everyone was on the same page."

A 4-3 win and a 5-2 loss against Northern Michigan the second week of the season — the first time the Irish came from behind to win — gave Jackson a better view of his team's progress.

"In general I think our players probably had time to go back and reflect over the break," he said. "They responded in a positive way when they came back. They showed they could play with the top teams on our one-on-one." Despite the winning second-half record Notre Dame rode into the playoffs, it was not enough to earn a second round berth as the Irish lost to No. 5-seeded Alaska-Fairbanks. The Irish challenged Nanooks goalie wires but ultimately could not finish. Rogers made 61 saves in two games and set a personal record.

After a season in which coaching staff and players spent time adjusting to one another, it is necessary to take a look towards the future. The freshman class consists of eight players — one goalie, three defensemen and four forwards. A majority of the class verbally committed to the Irish prior to Jackson's hiring in May of 2005. Goalie Tom O'Brien (Mokena, Ill.) and defensemen Brett Blatchford (Temperance, Mich.), Stewart Carlin (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and Kyle Lawton (New Hudson, Mich.) will join Notre Dame.

O'Brien had a 2.93 goals-against average and a .920 save percentage for the Bridgewater Bandits of the EHL last season. The other forwards are Andrew (Gig Harbor, Wash.), Dan Kessel (Gordon, Minn.), Dan Kuiper (Brooklyn, Mich.) and Kevin Minella (Aurora, Colo.) and Ryan Thang (Edina, Minn.).

Deel, a junior player for the Green Bay Gamblers of the USHL last year, and Roddy Barger (Evanston) and Stas Giron (Best, Kan.) returned from a season with 20 goals and tallying 34 assists — the second most points on his team and good enough for 12th overall in the league.

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HOCKEY

First-year coach earns confidence of team, more victories

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame earned eight more victories than its five-win 2004-05 season — finishing 13-14-4 after a 3-1 and 1-6 sweep at the hands of Alaska-Fairbanks in the first round of the CCHA playoffs, marking a distinct improvement in a one-year period.

Notre Dame compiled an 11-13-4 CCHA conference record — after winning just three conference games last season. The Irish secured home-ice advantage in the playoffs with the eighth best record in the CCHA.

"Perhaps the most noticeable change for the Irish this season was behind the boards. Those men were first-year head coach Jeff Jackson, new associate head coach Paul Pooley, returning assistant coach Andy Slaggert and fresh-from-the-pros volunteer assistant coach Jim Montgomery.

"There's not a better staff in college hockey," Irish senior alternate captain Mike Walsh said. "There could be a comparison between [Jackson] and [Irish head football coach] Charlie Weis in commitment and being educated about the game and expecting a lot from his players."

Jackson joined the Irish after stints with the New York Islanders and U.S. National Development Team — after a successful tenure with Notre Dame's CCHA rival Lake Superior State, during which he won two Division-I national titles.

The Irish faced a tough early schedule in 2005-06, including a western road trip against two-time defending national champions Denver and nationally-ranked Colorado College. Notre Dame dropped those games 6-3 and 3-1, respectively, but got its first win of the year two games later against Princeton at the Joyce Center.

Walsh said the team's first win was important as a boost for the younger players, but that the team really started to mesh with Jackson's new systems a weekend later — against CCHA powerhouse Michigan.

"Even though we ended up losing both games, you can ask anybody — we dominated," Walsh said of the 8-5 and 4-2 losses.

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Karen E. Weil
Jessica R. Woesner
Katherine C. Zmolek
**Cooper continued from page 40**

He did when his swing was long. There's not any kind of pitcher that he fears that he can't hit.

The slugger was voted second-team All-Big East his sophomore season and was awarded a spot on the third team last year. His .432 batting average this season seems certain to secure an honor or two.

"I've said it many times that if Cooper isn't Big East player of the year, there should be an investigation," Mainieri said.

Cooper entered 2006 in third place on the all-time Big East career batting average list at .420 (60-for-142). He credits his success to the confidence and discipline Mainieri has instilled in him while at Notre Dame.

"My confidence has grown just being here four years—coming to a program I knew was one of the top in the country and being able to compete with these guys," Cooper said.

"My confidence has grown just being here four years—coming to a program I know was one of the top in the country and being able to compete with these guys," Cooper said.

Craig Cooper Irish first baseman

The hitting streak came into being, Cooper said, when his swing was locked in and he was hitting against some of the country's biggest pitchers.

"I've learned a lot of things about myself," Cooper said. "As a kid I couldn't hit on the wrong side of the plate. It was a mystery to me."

"I've learned a lot of things about myself," Cooper said. "As a kid I couldn't hit on the wrong side of the plate. It was a mystery to me."

"I was afraid to move him out of (leadoff) because you could see the grooves," Mainieri said. "I don't know why he's so comfortable there. Maybe being the top of the order, pitchers don't want to test him. He's a big hitter and they throw strikes."

Cooper had a 21-game hit streak within Notre Dame's record-setting 23-game winning streak and the hits stopped only a game before the win did.

He has secured a hit in all but eight of his 46 games this season and has 35 RBIs, 32 walks and nine stolen bases so far. But with both streaks now behind Cooper and the team, the senior can focus more on guiding Notre Dame deep into the NCAA Tournaments and toward his future beginning with the MLB draft in June.

"With his athleticism, strength, quality of swing, feel, he has a chance to progress to pro ball," Mainieri said. "He has a lot of the ingredients that pro teams look for. It's a tough position to be successful in ball, but I wouldn't bet against Cooper."

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**Baseball**

Recent losses threaten team's strong season

Irish gearing up for Big East tournament after loss to Michigan

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

The 2006 campaign is not yet over for No. 19 Notre Dame — with the Big East tournament and an almost assured NCAA bid ahead — but the team has etched itself a permanent place in the Irish record books.

Starting with a 12-2 win against Georgetown in the nightcap of its two-game doubleheader, the Irish won 23 straight games — surpassing the previous modern record of 18 set by the 1991 team — and took control of the Big East standings. The streak lasted a little over a month and ended with an 11-8 loss at the hands of Bowling Green.

The Irish collided wins over Pittsburgh, South Florida, Rutgers, Purdue and various non-conference foes during the span — including a dramatic 7-5 come-from-behind victory against St. Johns on April 15.

"The guys took turning being the heroes," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said of his team during the streak. "It's something we should be very proud of. That's something they can never take away from us."

One of those heroes on a consistent basis was senior first baseman Craig Cooper, who muscled out a 21-game hit streak within Notre Dame's win streak. His consecutive hit mark was snapped a game prior to the win streak.

Notre Dame (38-14-1, 18-5-1 Big East) still has a firm grip on the Big East regular season title with a final conference series remaining to be played this weekend against Villanova. Villanova holds an 8-15 record in conference play and resides in tenth place.

But the Irish have suffered from a recent string of close defeats, dropping four of their last six Big East games. Three out of the four losses were by a single run.

The losses came on the past two weekends to league rivals Louisville and Seton Hall, and Michigan took a 3-1 decision Tuesday from Notre Dame in a non-conference play.

"We're in a lot of tight games," Mainieri said. "We're winning most of them but we're still playing second-rate teams. That's a 1-3 discouraging at this time of the year — you have to win those games. I told my team, if you want that biggest picture, nobody wins them all in baseball."

But this isn't the first time the Irish have struggled to mine wins from the diamond this season — they posted a 2-1 record on the road at the Service Academies and Dairy Queen Classics to kick off the year. Big East powerhouses Nebraska and Oklahoma delivered two of the losses to Notre Dame, while Memphis, Minnesota and Arizona were responsible for the other three.

"Traditionally we have a lot of players early in the year because not only do we play great teams, but we're coming outsiders for the first time," Mainieri said. "We got out to a little bit of a slow start, but I never worried. Once we get to play on a more consistent basis our talent showed. We had a great game against Texas A&M and it kept going from there."

The big three in the Irish lineup — Cooper, with an almost assured major league shot; left fielder John Goonan, who has combined 19-5 record and have been instrumental in Notre Dame's success thus far; and outfielder Cody Rizzo rounds third base as Notre Dame's 12-1 win over Cleveland State May 2 at Frank Eck Stadium.

Starting pitcher Zach Fogg was solidified an impact on the mound on our bridges the gaps on the parts. In nine starts this year prior to Tuesday's game against Michigan, Korpi boasts a 3-1 record with a 3.99 ERA and 22 strikeouts. Opposing batters have a .184 batting average against Korpi and have only 16 walks in his 57.2 innings as a starter.

"It's one thing to go on the weekend and have your top three pitchers pitch well in league games," Mainieri said. "But then when a guy comes out on Tuesday and Wednesday and pitches a good game, it kind of helps to keep us rolling on the weekends."

The Big East tournament begins May 23 at Bright House Networks Field in Clearwater, Fla. — at the Philadelphia Phillies' spring training complex, NCAA Regional play is slated to begin June 2 at campus sites. The Irish can earn a berth in the NCAA Tournament through an automatic berth via the Big East tournament or with an at-large selection.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu
The Alliance for Catholic Education is proud to welcome its thirteenth class of Catholic school teachers. We give thanks for their gift of service to America’s Catholic schools. Please join us in congratulating the following 2006 graduates of Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame.

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Tyler Smith · Washington, D.C.
Michael Vanden Boom · Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Danielle Webber · Los Angeles, California
Soccer

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became the locker room leader and the force behind second­
semester freshman Kerri Hanks' emergence as the premier young
goal­scorer in the country.

Besides being top­flight players, Thorlakson called the entire team
"really good friends."

"And that's what makes it so special," she said.

Thorlakson finished her career with 35 goals and 73 assists for 183 points.

After a surprising snub to end her junior season, Thorlakson earned first­team All­America honors in 2005. Only Portland's Christine Sinclar kept Thorlakson from collecting the coveted Missouri Athletic Club Hermann Trophy, presented annually to the nation's top player.

Sinclar set an NCAA record with 39 goals while leading the Pilots to the national champion­ship.

But Thorlakson was gracious in defeat.

"Sinclar is the type of player that will make anyone around her better," Thorlakson said after the Hermann Trophy awards ceremony in St. Louis. "She's a world­
class type of player. She can cre­ate something out of nothing
every time."

Now, Thorlakson won't have to compete against Sinclar ever again.

The 5­foot­3 product of Langley, British Columbia, has reigned the

Canadian National Team on which Sinclar also plays.

Thorlakson made her national team debut July 30, 2004, against Japan. She already has accumulated 13 caps for the national team in her international career, including four since finishing her career at Notre Dame. She had 27 international caps for Canada's Under­20 national team.

Thorlakson tore her ACL last week during a practice and is on the mend, but it hasn't affected her excitement to be playing for Team Canada.

"I even look forward to watch­
ing the games now," she said. "I'm just looking forward to get­
ning back and playing with [Sinclar] again."

At the end of the 2005 regular season, Thorlakson said she tried to play as hard and as aggressive as former Irish standout Melissa Tancredi. Tancredi served as the defensive centerpiece on Notre Dame's championship team in 2004 and now plays for the Canadian national team with Thorlakson.

Thorlakson said her youth at Langley kept her removed from the NCAA so much that she had no idea what to expect when she came to Notre Dame.

"I didn't even know what conf­

cernce we're in," she said. "I did­
n't even know we were playing for a national championship."

But watching the upper­class­
men on the team during her freshman season — in which Notre Dame finished 13­1­8 — changed all that. And the national championship two years later changed the status of Notre Dame soccer.

"[2002] was a pretty rough sea­son," Thorlakson said. "The sen­

iors this year paved a pretty hard road that the upcoming freshman won't have to."

She said her favorite memory besides the national champi­
onship was Notre Dame's 5­2 vic­
tory over Santa Clara on Sept. 5, 2004 at Alumni Field.

"It was my favorite game prob­

ably," Thorlakson said. "Notre Dame was so fun. I had never played with that type of team. I had the time of my life."

What Thorlakson did while having the time of her life was to re­establish Notre Dame as a perennial power.

"We're coming back every year with top­10 teams," she said.

"You can't really look at it as a bad year when you lose to the eventual national champions."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Mattia

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later, at the Hope College Jamboree in Holland, Mich.

Mattia carded a then­
career low 160 over two
rounds to lead Saint Mary's to a victory in the three­team tour­nament. She ended the year with an 82.60 scoring average, lowest on the team and better than teammate
eventual national champion
Stefanie Simmerman. In her sophomore year, Mattia posted an 84.60 scor­
ing average in the fall ses­
ter. The Belles returned to the NCAA championships that spring, although this time without Mattia who was studying abroad in Italy for the semester.

Returning to the United States for her junior year, Mattia posted an 84.56 scor­ing average and shot 340 over four rounds to tie for 26th place as the Belles took sixth at the NCAs.

Mattia finishes her career with a personal best of 154 for two rounds. She set that

mark in the spring of 2005 at the Illinois­Wesleyan tournament.

Mattia will graduate from Saint Mary's with a degree in history and psychology.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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Lauren Wilcox
Patty Wolfe
AR: Kristen
Hempstead
plans
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the new hockey facilities. There will also be new offices adjacent to the hockey arena connected to the north dome. "A stand-alone hockey arena is thirty to forty million dollars," White said. "We're looking to spend about 15 million dollars."

Other parts of the plan calls for softball's facility — current- ly Ivy Field — to move to the southeast corner of campus, adjacent on the southern end to Frank Eck Stadium. A new track and field facility is slated for construction just to the west of the new softball field.

Men's and women's soccer, which currently play home games on the easternmost edge of campus at Alumni Field, will have a new 2,000-seat stadium adjacent to the east side of the Joyce Center. The lacrosse teams will have a similar new facility just east of the new soccer field. Both stadiums will include team meeting rooms, a lounge, locker rooms and rest rooms.

The football team's practice fields will be altered as part of the plan so that all things are along the road that separates them from Guglielmino Athletics Complex. Use of the three practice fields will then have artificial turf.

What's more, the outdoor tennis facility will be moved from its current location next to the Eck Tennis Pavilion to the current site of Ivy Field. The men's and women's soccer practice fields will be moved adjacent to Alumni where Alumni Field currently stands.

White said the fundraising for the improvements is well underway, and all but one family have at least one beneficiary in line. He said Notre Dame would not contact or negotiate with corporate spon- sors for any of the building projects. White also touched on a vari-

ety of other issues:

◆ White said Notre Dame is committed to playing seven home games four road games and an "off-site game" contro- 

led by Notre Dame in the future. He said the off-site game will have ticket sales the same way a Notre Dame home game does, and that will increase the success rate of individuals who enter the ticket lottery on a yearly basis.

◆ White also said that the pre- arranged game at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J., will be one of the four "road" games, not the "off-site game."

◆ "In a way, that gives us access to nine games," White said, referring to Notre Dame's large fan base in the New York metropolitan area.

◆ White said the "off-site" game will either be held in Jacksonville, Fla., Orlando, New Orleans or Dallas. He said Notre Dame will not negotiate with the stadiums what teams the Irish will play in those games.

◆ He said the implementation of the off-site game will help national recruiting efforts.

"What we're looking for is to grab the headlines in the area," White said.

◆ White emphasized that this off-site game is just one more way Notre Dame is trying to move "further away" from con- ference affiliation and solidify its place as an independent. "I think over time, we have really behaved like a wannabe conference member," he said. Though he said that he wants to return to the "baro-

ning" era of Knute Rockne, White said that Notre Dame does not need to make its schedule any tougher.

"We need to schedule in a way it puts us in a position to win national championships," he said. "We could have a great football team and schedule our- selves out of a championship. White said that having a top- five strength of schedule is not conducive to realizing the end goal of any football season.

"The last time I checked, the most important thing here is to try to win national champi-

onships," he said. "That's what we're trying to do."

◆ White said he was disap- pointed that radio-broadcasting company Westwood One will not use 26-year veteran Tony Roberts on their radio broad- casts of Irish football games next fall and that Notre Dame played no role in the decision-making process.

Westwood One chose to phase Roberts out of future broad- casts, but Roberts declined to come back after contract nego- 

tiations for what would have been Roberts' final two years failed. "I have great respect for Tony and am very disappointed that that outcome became a reality," White said.

◆ White quelled speculation about possible scenarios in which football coach Charlie Weis would leave Notre Dame. Declining to offer specific num- bers, White called the buyout option Weis' 10-year contract "herculean" and said that no coach at Notre Dame has a "parachute clause" in which they can choose to leave the school for specific other institu-
tions or professional teams.

◆ Addressing the men's bas- ketball team's failure to reach the NCAA Tournament three straight seasons, White said he wants the program to rise to the status of "elite."

"Who isn't frustrated? The guy who is the most frustrated is [Irish coach] Mike [Brey]," White said. "I think Mike is a very good basketball coach and I think we've got a chance to [become an elite program]."

◆ During the meeting, asso- ciate athletic director John Heisler said Notre Dame's foot- 

ball game against Air Force Nov. 11 likely will be televised only on College Sports Television Network because of Air Force's new contract with CSTV that gives the network exclusive rights to all home games.

White said he is concerned that many fans may not have access to the game. He said Notre Dame will consider the television situation in future negotiations to make "return" games after a team plays at Notre Dame Stadium.

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Jorge Schippers
Rena Zarah

Interns

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Erin Diffey
Brian Faint
Jennifer Galano
Cynthia Gulyas
Brad Lancy
Matthew Lynn
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Deegan Reager
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Irish move in different direction: Willingham fired, Weis hired

November-December, 2004

The news stunned a grey Notre Dame campus on the morning of Nov. 30, as head football coach Tyrone Willingham was fired after three seasons with the Irish. Willingham started 8-0 but finished his tenure at Notre Dame with a 21-15 record and three 31 point losses to USC. There was a large outcry in the media and on campus about the removal of Willingham having racial implications.

After rumors that Irish athletic director Kevin White was close to hiring former Utah coach Urban Meyer, Meyer spurned Notre Dame for Florida — leading to the eventual hiring of New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, and four-time Super Bowl winner, Charlie Weis on Dec. 14.

Weis brought a pro-style offense to Notre Dame that shattered every major single-season record en route to a 9-3 season. His impact was felt immediately as the Irish jumped ahead of Pittsburgh 35-13 in the first half of the season. Weis led the team to credibility with a 33-31 loss against then-No. 1 USC.

ND-USC lives up to pre-game hype

College Gameday came to campus as more than 40,000 fans attended the Friday night pep rally before a matchup between the No. 1 and No. 9 teams in the country. The game, watched by an estimated 30 million people, matched the hype as Leinart's touchdown won the contest with three seconds left.

Oct. 15, 2005

Women's soccer wins national title

After an impressive regular season that saw the women's soccer team finish with a 24-1-1 overall record, the Irish won the National Championship against UCLA on Dec. 5. It was the first national title since 1992, one that came after two overtime periods and penalty kicks.

December 5, 2004

Brey-coached Irish find Sweet success

As the No. 5 seed in the West Regional, Mike Brey led the men's basketball team to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1987. Brey took over as head coach in 2000 and has steadily improved the basketball program. Under his guidance, his teams qualified for three straight NCAA Tournaments.

March 2003

Fencers win two titles in three years

In 2003, Notre Dame won its first National Championship since 1994 — after finishing second or third every year since then. In 2005, they proved victorious again, winning their second title. Since 2002, Irish fencers have won individual national titles, with senior foilist Alleja Kryczalo winning three.

March 20, 2005

Baseball team wins 23 straight games

First baseman Craig Cooper has a 21-game hit streak in the midst of the most-watched team the team's longest winning streak of the modern era. A streak that started with ways pushed the team all the way to the NCAA Tournament. The streak ended with an 11-8 home loss to Bowling Green.

April 26, 2006

Pilots stop women's soccer repeat hopes

In the 2005 Elite Eight Portland squashed Notre Dame's dreams for repeat titles on route to winning a national championship of its own.

The game, held at Portland's Merlo Field, featured the top two players in college soccer — Pilots forward Christine Sinclair and Irish forward Katie Thorlakson.

Nov. 28, 2005

Hockey earns first ever NCAA bid

As the No. 4 seed in the Grand Rapids regional, the Irish advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's 26-year history.

Coach Dave Poudlin's team played a difficult schedule during the regular season to earn the at-large bid, including a win over then-No. 1 Boston College.

March 2003
Notre Dame: Men's soccer takes down defending national champions, women's

Observer Staff Report

Women's Tennis
With 26-1 record on the season and a matchup with Kentucky in the NCAA round of 16 looming, the No. 2 Irish are still in the hunt for a national championship. The Irish went 16-0 at home this season, with their only loss coming at Vanderbilt March 29, and, going into Thursday, had their second highest win total in program history.

Notre Dame was led by junior All-Americans Catrina and Christian Thompson, who played No. 1 and No. 2 singles respectively for most of the season. Catrina, the No. 30 player in the nation, had a 27-0 record in singles matches heading into the match with Kentucky.

If the Irish beat the Wildcats, they will take the winner of the Miami and Buffalo third-place NCAA match in Stanford, Calif. Friday.

Men's Swimming & Diving
Notre Dame (10-2) capped off a memorable 2005-06 campaign by beating out an 11-team field for its second consecutive Big East championship title on Feb. 18. The Irish got up 89 points during the championships while second-place Pittsburgh tallied 584.

Sophomore Jay Vandenberg captured Big East titles in the 500-yard freestyle and 1,650-yard freestyle. Senior Jamie Lutkus took the 400-yard individual medley crown while Brian Freeman, Ted Brown, Rob Seery and Louis Canadini swam away with the 800-yard freestyle relay title.

I thought we had a strong season with a 10-2 record, senior Tim Stovall said. And I was pleased the team sent the seniors out on a strong note. The second Big East championship title.

The Irish also took home wins during the year over Texas A&M, Pittsburgh, Michigan State, St. Bonaventure, Evansville and Cleveland State. They earned first-place finishes at the Dennis Stark Relays, Notre Dame Invitational and Shamrock Invitational.

Volleyball
Notre Dame compiled a 30-4 record in 2005, sharing the Big East regular season title, winning the conference tournament, and advancing to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament before bowing out to Wisconsin.

Led by senior All-American Lauren Brewer, who averaged 3.84 kills per game, the Irish finished the season No. 9 in the nation. Sophomore Ashley Tarutis was spectacular in her setter role, averaging 12.69 assists per game.

Notre Dame compiled a 13-1 conference record, its only loss coming at Pittsburgh Nov. 6. They shared the regular season Big East title with Louisville, but defeated the Cardinals in both of their meetings, once in the regular season and once in the Big East tournament championship game.

Men's Tennis
No. 18 Notre Dame (19-8) defeated No. 19 Texas A&M (16-11-2) Saturday at College Station, Texas, to advance to the NCAA Tournament’s round of sixteen — the sixth time in school history the team has reached the sweet sixteen.

Junior Ryan Kekley provided the Irish the clinching victory with his 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 victory over Brett Joelson from the No. 4 singles position.

Sophomore Sheeva Parakhshiat out the Aggies’ Women in straight sets from the No. 2 spot, while freshman Brett Hegelson knocked off Matt Bann in similar fashion, 6-2, 6-0. Senior Eric Lagenkamp got the win at No. 6 singles after beating John Nefesh of BYU 6-3 for an account for all four Irish victories.

Doubles action went in the Aggies favor as Kekley and Lagenkamp fell at No. 1 doubles and Stephen Bass and Hegelson lost in the third position.

The Irish now travel to Stanford, Calif., to face off Saturday against No. 1 seed and undefeated Georgia at 6 p.m.

Men's Golf
Notre Dame won its third straight Big East championship April 25 by erasing a 12-stroke deficit in the final round of the tournament in Dade City, Fla., and beating Louisville on the first playoff hole.

Notre Dame earned Golfweek's national team of the week honors after the comeback.

The Irish will compete as the No. 16 seed of 27 teams this weekend in the NCAA East Regional at the Lake Nona Golf & Country Club in Orlando.

In the fall swing, Notre Dame took sixth in the highly competitive Coca-Cola Duke Classic behind Mark Baldwin’s career-best 210 (68-under) at the Washington Duke Invitational and Golf Club.

The team’s success continued in the spring.

After finishing sixth in the NCAA championship the year before, the Irish rose to No. 11th in the 2006 edition of the tournament with a three-round total of 889.

Before the Big East championship, Notre Dame’s best finish was its third place at the Bi-demaker Invitational April 9.

Freshman Josh Sandman and junior tri-captain Cole Iksel tied for second individually in the tournament with a four-over-par 220. Sandman’s finish was the best by an Irish freshman in three years.

Women's Cross Country
A successful fall season culminated in a seventh place finish at the NCAA meet for the Irish.

Senior All-Americans Molly Huddle and Stephanie Mialda and sophomore All-American Sunny Olding, the Irish won the Big East for the second consecutive season and finished in the top 10 at the NCAA’s for the fourth consecutive season. Mialda finished third overall at the national meet, while Huddle finished fifth as a senior.

Freshman Ramsey Kavanagh

Aug. 28 — Freshman Kerri Hanks scores four goals in Notre Dame’s 6-0 win over Vermont in women’s soccer for a total of seven goals in her first two collegiate games.

Sept. 3 — Notre Dame football routs Pittsburgh 42-21 at Heinz Field in the team’s first game under Charlie Weis.

Sept. 17 — Michigan State blows a 21-point lead in football but beats Notre Dame in overtime 44-41 to spoil Weis’ first home game.

Sept. 24 — Weis and former Irish football coach Tyone Willingam meet as Notre Dame beats Washington 36-17 despite allowing 408 yards to the Huskies through the air.

Oct. 1 — The Irish post a 28-0 lead in the first half of the NCAA Championship game in Pasadena, Calif., but Brady Quinn throws for 440 yards.

Oct. 22 — Brady Quinn throws six touchdown passes and Maurice Stovall catches four to set program records in Notre Dame’s 29-23 victory over BYU.

Nov. 21 — Notre Dame’s men’s cross-country finishes third and women’s cross-country seventh at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind.

Nov. 22 — Notre Dame men’s soccer tops defending national champion Indiana 2-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Nov. 8 — Notre Dame women’s golf takes eighth place in the Lady Jaguar Invitational in Augusta, Ga.

Dec. 6 — The Fiesta Bowl selects Notre Dame football for its first BCS appearance since 2000.

Dec. 7 — Chris Trick scores a goal with nine seconds left as Notre Dame hockey beats Minnesota State 3-2 in a double-overtime game.

Jan. 3 — Ohio State wins the Fiesta Bowl 34-20 over Notre Dame in football.

Jan. 4 — Chris Quinn scores 37 points — including 30 after halftime — but Notre Dame men’s basketball fails 100-97 to Pittsburgh in double overtime.
Year in Review

lacrosse turns the corner, men's golf wins third straight league title

burst onto the scene in 2005 as Notre Dame's fourth runner and finishing in the top 15 in four of the five races she appeared in.

Notre Dame finished third or higher in every meet, advancing to the NCAA championships.

Two top-10 finishes were the team's top performances on the season and taking first in four multi-team meets.

The Irish sent three swimmers — juniors Katie Carroll and Julia Quinn and freshman Hammam Burton — to the NCAA championships in Columbus, Ohio.

Overall, the Irish finished third or higher in every meet but the third-place showing at the NCAA championships.

Men's Soccer
Notre Dame went 10-5-4 overall, falling to No. 18 Cornell as the Irish marched into the NCAA tournament.

The team qualified for the NCAA tournament without advancing to the Big East championship.

The Irish capped off a successful season with a Big East title and their highest-ever finish in a regional meet — earning third in the Central-South Regional Championships at Oak Ridge, Tenn. May 14.

Notre Dame's fourth runner and finishing in the top 15 in four of the top 10 finishes included with the 200-meter medley relay and setting a record in dual meets over the course of the season and taking first in four multi-team meets.

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Notre Dame won its 10th straight Big East title in 2006, compiling a 3-2 record in dual meets over the course of the season and taking first in four multi-team meets.

The Irish sent three swimmers — juniors Katie Carroll and Julia Quinn and freshman Hammam Burton — to the NCAA championships in Columbus, Ohio.

Overall, the Irish finished in three events.

At the national meet, Carroll set the school record in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:00.48.

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Basketball
Saint Mary’s proved it could play with the best in the MIAA.
A year after compiling an 11-15 record, including a 6-10 conference mark, the Belles earned their first winning conference record (9-7) and captured the No. 4 seed in the league tournament.

But the off-season for Saint Mary’s has been rocky as the athletic department did not renew the contract of MIAA coach of the year Steve Bender after he won MIAA coach of the year.

After the decision, Saint Mary’s officials declined to comment on the specifics of the move but said they could not discuss personnel issues. A replacement has not yet been named.

The Belles began the season with a 68-51 loss to Hanover but responded with a 65-61 win over Franklin.

Four consecutive losses followed — including losses to conference foes Hope — but Saint Mary’s righted its ship with consecutive wins over MIAA opponents Adrian and Albion to move to 2-1 in the conference.

The Belles went 1-2 in the non-conference Clark Court tournament during winter break and returned to league action in January with a 51-45 win over Tri-State.

Saint Mary’s lost to Olivet and Calvin, Saint Mary’s took their league contests over Kalamazoo and Albion to improve to 5-3 in the conference.

The Belles then lost their second straight to Adrian but won three in a row against Alma, Tri-State and Olivet to move to 8-4 in the conference. Saint Mary’s lost to Calvin and then beat Kalamazoo in its third-to-last regular season game to again win league wins for the first time in history.

But the Belles’ run ended there, as Saint Mary’s finished their final two regular season games — against Albion and Hope — and fell to Kalamazoo in the first round of the MIAA tournament.

Cross Country
The Belles earned their best ever finish at the MIAA championship meet, coming in fifth place at the event.

Senior Becky Feauto and junior Sara Otto led the team throughout the year.

Soccer
Saint Mary’s posted six shutouts en route to another strong season in the MIAA. The Belles finished the year on a three-game winning streak.

Swimming
Saint Mary’s did not win a dual meet in the season but had several swimmers post personal best times at the league championship meet.

Tennis
The Belles finished fifth in the MIAA as Kristen Palombo earned second-team all-league honors after leading Saint Mary’s all season.

Volleyball
Saint Mary’s went 5-12 in conference but had three players earn All-MIAA honors this season.
JOCKULAR

ALEC WHITE AND ERIK POWERS

JUMBLE

HENDY ARNOLD

MIKE ARGIRION

THE OBSERVER

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22 Sea of
23 Death to do so
24 Space bar
25 Six layers of a song
26 Met number, maybe
27 Like arctic winds research

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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The Observer • TODAY

page 39
ND Athletics

White unveils master plan for athletic facilities

By KEN FOWLER Sport Editor

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White unveiled an aerial rendering of what would be a $100 million plan to renovate athletic facilities on the east side of campus Tuesday. White did not announce a timetable for construction of the new facilities, which will complement the Guglielmino Athletics Complex and 10,000-square-foot indoor golf facility slated to open by September as part of a "master plan" for athletic facilities on campus.

The blueprint White unveiled includes a 30,000 square foot addition to the south dome of the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center to be used for ticket offices and a lounge from which fans could enter basketball games, revamped hockey facilities and a redesign of the existing athletic facilities adjacent to the field.

"We think the project we're most excited about is Joyce South," White said in the scheduled informal meeting with the media at Greenfield's Café that became an impromptu news conference. "It will be all state of the art. ... We think this project — a twenty-five million dollar project — is a pretty substantial facelift."

White said the basketball arena will get all new seat-backs for the arena, and the lounge will include a "Stadium"-type area for spectators. The current hockey arena in the north dome will be completely redesigned, according to the plan. White said the new facility will include approximately 4,000 full seats and a smaller lounge than the one planned for the south dome as part of a "boutique, high end" arena. He said the architectural design firm HNTB has already completed the schematics for the new facilities.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Top of their class

Katie Thorlakson led Notre Dame to 2004 NCAA Championship

By KEN FOWLER Sport Editor

Irish forward Katie Thorlakson started 37 of 43 games during her first two years at Notre Dame — but she really made her mark this year as a junior en route to her first two years at Notre Dame leading the team with 23 goals and 24 assists (18 goals, 35 assists) as she started 37 of 43 games during the championship run.

Thorlakson posted 71 points during the season, but "coaches can't take the credit for most of the week she was her self for most of the week," Irish forward Thorlakson said. "I was able to work on my own." MSU's best scorer, she was named to the Mid-American Conference's all-state squad and was runner-up for the MAC player of the year honors from the league's coaches.

Thorlakson was the low scorer for Notre Dame's final 22 goals of the season, which included a 5-2 win over Yale Nov. 18. Right, Irish first baseman Craig Cooper makes a putout in the team's 4-3 win over Pittsburgh April 1.

Golfer Megan Mattia led Saint Mary's to five tournament wins this year

By CHRISS KHOREY Associate Sport Editor

For her entire career, Megan Mattia has been near the top of the leader board. The Saint Mary's senior finished a spectacular career Saturday by competing as an individual at the NCAA Division III championships in Howey-in-the-Hill, Florida.

Mattia shot a 328 over three rounds, finishing tied for 18th.

Belles head coach Mark Hamilton said Mattia, who has only carded one career round that was not in the top two for the day, is one of the best players he's ever worked with.

"Mattia is been solid from day one on campus," Hamilton said. "Without a doubt she's been the most consistent player that I've ever had or that Saint Mary's has ever had."

Mattia's appearance at the NCAA was her third in four years, but her first as an individual. The senior worked out on the course by herself for most of the week leading up to the tournament.

"We played as a team right up until a week before nationals," Hamilton said. "That last week I worked with her a little, but she was mostly on her own."

With the performance, Mattia earned an honorable mention to the All-America team.

She was also named to the All-Region first team this season.

Mattia was the low scorer for the Belles in every tournament they played this season, winning three tournaments, finishing second in another. Mattia was also named the MVP as Saint Mary's won the MIAA championship Oct. 8 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

On March 19, the third day of the Shamrock Invitational in Tega City, S.C., Mattia shot 74, tied for the lowest score ever by a Saint Mary's golfer.

Hamilton said he thought the round was unparalleled in school history.

I feel that that's best round ever shot at Saint Mary's," Hamilton said. "It was a tough golf course and we were the only Division III team there.

Mattia made an immediate impact upon her arrival in 2002. She carded a two-round score of 183 in her first collegiate tournament in Big Rapids, Mich. That score was good enough for fourth on the team.

She had the low score for the Belles for the first time in her career four tournaments.

RIGHT, Megan Mattia of Saint Mary's poses after winning the MIAA championship Oct. 8 in Grand Rapids, Mich.
CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2006
CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations, Allison!

We celebrate your success and we will always treasure the beauty and traditions of Notre Dame!

We love you!
Dad, Mom, Christopher and "Biscuit"

Angel Bunny,
We know you are going to conquer the world!!

We are so proud
Love,
Mom, Rocky & Michelle

Ian: Congratulations !!!!

Your dream of graduating from Notre Dame is achieved. Hope is the great power that can move you to further success. God will give you the aspiration and enthusiasm to continue achieving your dreams. Hold nothing back to your life projects but give them all you've got.

Love you always, with all the pride that can be had,
Mom and Dad
During the years ahead, when you come to a fork in the road, take it.
Love, Mom and Dad

Diane, We are so proud of all your accomplishments -- from your first dance recital to your last performance at ND, and EVERYTHING in between. Congratulations!
Love, Mom, Dad and Tracy

Congratulations- EAB. Thank you for being who you are!
An awesome daughter & domer.

Class of '06

Congratulations Eddie! Be proud of all of your accomplishments!

To our very own Rudy- Congratulations and may God bless you always.
Love, Mom, Save, Brigitte and Pop*

Congratulations Patrick!
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom Dad, Katie & Meaghan
Congratulations Ryan.

We are so proud of all your accomplishments!

Love, Mom & Dad

You’ve always been our Supergirl.

Love, Dad, Mom, & Katie

Your dream became a reality!! We are so very, very proud of you Laura! We wish you continued success in everything you do.

Love you!
Mom, Dad, David, Brian

Congratulations,
Kathy!

Love,
Mom & Dad

You did it, Moo Moo! We are so proud of you!

Love, Greg, Rita & Michael
Natalie Noelle Cal

Natalie! Congratulations!

We are proud of you. A wonderful world in need of your talents and your heart and your soul awaits you. One day at a time, one person at a time, we know you make a difference.

Love always from
Mom, Dad, Javy and all your family

Snip -
You made the right choice after all!
We are so proud of you!

Love, your family

“The journey is the reward.”

Congratulations Rory upon completion of the first phase of your journey. We wish you success and happiness in the next phase. We are proud to call you our son and our brother.

Much love,
Mom, Dad, Maeve, & Kiera

Congratulations
Tamara Nicole (Tootsy)!

We love and are so very proud of you! You are a blessing from God. We are always excited to see what God has for your future. Our love always and forever. Mom & Dad Prov. 3:5-6
Congratulations Jim!
You made your dream happen!
Love,
Mom and Dad

Your Family Always believed
that you could do it.
Love, Mom, La Sharn, and Laron

Congratulations, A.J.
aka Gadget!
Your creativity and hard work are paying off. March on knowing you have the love and support of your family!
We’re proud of you and your accomplishments!
Love, Mom, Dad, Shawn, Jeannie, Granny, & Papa

Through all the years
we have been so proud of you.
Congratulations Maureen
and the
University of Notre Dame
Class of 2006.
Love,
Dad, Mom, Katie, Patty, Brian, and Mary Beth

DOUBLE DUMPER!
Congratulations Michael!
Love, Mom and Dad

Joe Trombello '06
A true "DOMER" from start to finish. Thanks for fulfilling "OUR" dream.
Hope it was yours too.
CONGRATULATIONS & MUCH LOVE.
Bud (77) & Mom (SMC ’78)
May you feel proud of all you've accomplished at Notre Dame.
May your self-confidence help you meet the challenges of everyday life.
May your determination help you overcome life's obstacles.
May your creativity stay with you forever.
May you find success in all you do.
May life be an inspiration to you everyday, as you are to us.
May you always find happiness and friendship.
May you continue to follow your dreams.

JENNY
Mom, Dad, Jason

Congratulations, Jostyn!
Your dream began at an early age.
We are so very proud of you.
Love, Mom, Dad and Alyssa

OLIAKU IDIGO
Oli Baby, (Mpkulu Mma)
Congratulations on your great achievement.
You have done us proud.

With love from Chinky, Obi, Nna, Mum and Dad.

Congratulations Mike!

Love, Mom, Dad, Sue and Peter

Congratulations Matt!

Thanks for the memories!!

Love, Dad, Mom and Ben
Congratulations, Christine!

You have delighted me with your achievements, impressed me with your insight and amazed me with your foresight. Continue to seek your passion, your journey has just begun! May God richly bless you today and always.

With love and admiration, 
Mom

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."
–Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Our Precious Mary
You are the sunshine of our lives! May God continue to bless you and may His light continue to shine through your life, and your illuminating smile.

Our love and prayers are with you always, Your Most Blessed Family

Your excellent decision and hard work have brought you to this big day. Congratulations on graduating from Notre Dame! We are so proud of you!

Love, 
Mom and Dad

We are so proud of you... congratulations!!

Love, 
Andrea Larsson and Staci McMullin

Finally filled those shoes. Congratulations, Ian!

Love, 
Mom, Dad, and Scott

Bountiful Blessings, Baby ‘Leen! From Home to Dome—What a Trip!

Love From Deep in the Heart of Texas, 
Mom and Papa
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2006!

CONGRATS!

Megan
Colleen
Wysocki,
our Domer
daughter!

Love,
Mom and Dad

Congratulations Sam!

We’re very proud of you!
Go Irish!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
& Kelly

Congratulations Paul!
You continue to make us proud.

Love,
Mom and Dad

CONGRATULATIONS!
Love, Mrs. Christopher
Zachary,  
May God Remember You and Bless You.  
(Psalms 115:12)  

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Phillip and Matthew

Kristin Dormuth  
In 4 short years  
#13 on your list  
became  
#1 in your heart

Love you  
oodles & bunches  
Mom and Dad

Jerry,  
We always knew you were  
destined for  
great things!  
Congratulations  
on you success.  
We love you.  
Dad & Mom

From Church in the Highlands to Notre Dame, you've always been our pride and joy.  
Congratulations Kathryn!
Congratulations
Lamb!
We're proud of you!
We love you!

Mom and Dad

To Kourtney, the apple of our eyes,
Congratulations!

Love,
Mom and Dad,
Kelley and Mike,
Kristen and Alex,
and Brad

Jamie-Boy, CONGRATULATIONS!
We are always so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, Elizabeth and Priscilla

“...it's over, you did it!”
Love,
Mom and Dad

Mi estrellita ya la hiciste!
Gracias por hacer
nuestros sueños una realidad. Ojalá que los
togos también se cumplan.
Congratulations Steve Rzepka!
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations to our Bio Belle!
Bye-O Saint Marys - Hello PhD in Bio. We're very proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, Matt and Dylan

Brenna Mannion
Good Health
Good Friends
Good Family
and now a Good Education!
God loves you
and so do we!
Your family

Congratulations Stephen!
Your future's so bright,
we have to wear shades!!!
Love, Mom, Dad, Marta and Corby

Congratulations Scott!
May your future continue
to be bright!
Love, Mom and Dad

Clare-
“A thing
of beauty
is a joy
forever!”
Love, Mom, Dad, and Mary
Congratulations Alexandra!
We love you and are so proud of you!
Love, Mumsy and Dad

Congratulations Brittny Rose!
We are so proud of you.
Love, Mommy & Daddy

Congratulations Kerrie!
From your first day of school till your last - you've made us so proud.

A domer at last!
Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations, Kim!
We are very proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad & Chrissy

Congratulations Matthew
We are all very proud of you.
Love,
Mom, Dad & Kevin

Congratulations Paul!
Twenty years ago you already knew your destiny was - Notre Dame, sports, and surgical tape! Wishing you peace, love, and happiness as you follow your dream...
Love, Mom and Dad
Congratulations
Amber

You have always made us very proud.

Love, Mom, Dad, Maya, Glenn, Judi, Willy, Jack, Sam and Grandmom and Deda

Congratulations Son!

You are an inspiration to our family.

May God keep you happy, healthy and successful.

We are very proud of you and your accomplishments.

We love you!

–Your family
CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations Erica!

We are very proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Stephanie and Melissa

Congratulations Ryan!

Your Dream Is Now Complete!

Love, Mom, Dad, Stacie and Shawn

Congratulations Richie!

You did great and we’re very proud of you.

Love
Mom, Dad, and Chris

Love, Mom, Dad, Alex and Caitlin

Dressed for the success that you were destined for even then! We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Ephrem, Walter & Epiphany

Love, Mumsy and Dad

Congratulations Courtney! We love you and are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, and Melissa
CLASS OF 2006!

From your first Catholic School Graduation to you most recent Catholic School Graduation, you have remained true to your family, your faith, and your ideals. We are very proud of you! Congratulations on your graduation from The University of Notre Dame!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Stephanie, Jennifer, Uncle Tony, and Mark

May God keep you safe as your dreams come to be. May you remain close to your Mother, and also to me. May your love of life, see you through good times and bad, and may the times you are happy, far outnumber the sad. May each magic moment be full of wonder for you, and most important of all, know we'll always love you.

Congratulations & Love
- Mom, Dad, & Kenneth
CONGRATULATIONS

Christy Tabit is #1!

Congratulations Sarah! We're so very glad to share this important time in your life. We're proud of you and all you've achieved. May God bless you and guide you. May all your days be filled with happiness.

Love, your family.

TO OUR MONTANA COWBOY,

"Choose to chance the rapids, Dare to dance the tide..."

For all you have accomplished we are beaming with pride!

So ride into the future, We're right there by your side!!

God Bless,

Love

Mom, Dad & Katie

Congratulations Andy! You've always loved swords! Your hard work has paid off. Now you have a REAL ONE!

Love, Mom

Dad, Erin

Marci and

CONGRATS!!

Congratulations Karen!

“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord...
to give you a future full of hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart...

William Wordsworth
From cheering for the rams to cheering for the Irish, it has been a Great Ride. We love you and are so proud of you.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Katie, Courtney, Eddie and Elliott

Congratulations Sunshine/Bunk!!
We are so proud of you! May you continue to live your dreams. Always remember to “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”

We love you.
Peace and Love
Momby and Dada

1989

2006

Congratulations, Laur! We are all very proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Brods, Jenni, Zak, Nate, Evan Fedaks, Auntie Ann, and the Mars.
Congratulations Stephanie!  
We are very proud of you.  
Love, Mom, Dad, Brian and Stacy

Amy Leonard-  
We’ve been proud  
since the beginning!  
Congratulations!  
Love, Dad, Mom,  
and Melissa

We are so very  
proud of you!  
Love, Mom & Dad ('75),  
Chris ('04), and Ben!

Kevin,  
We couldn’t  
be prouder!  
Love you,  
Mom and  
Dad

Go Irish!
CONGRATS CLASS OF 2006!

Then I was deep within the woods
When, suddenly, I spied them.
I saw a pair of pale green pants
With nobody inside them!

I wasn't scared. But, yet, I stopped.
What could those pants be there for?
What could a pair of pants at night
Be standing in the air for?

Way to Be, Christopher!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Kathryn

You lived your
dream of the
Fighting Irish.

We love you.
Mom & Dad

University of Notre Dame
Congratulated by the
Congregation of Holy Cross

Congratulations!
May all of your dreams come true. Love, Mom & Dad

Anne Michelle, We're very proud of who you are,
what you have done, and where you are going.
Love, Mom, Ross & Dad

Katie,
Congratulations on fulfilling the dream you had since you were a little girl. We are so proud of your accomplishments. You have become a lovely young woman and we are blessed to call you ours. We love you and may God bless you always!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Sean
GOOD LUCK SENIORS!

You’ve come a long way, baby!

Lynn - You’ve grown into a beautiful person, and we couldn’t be more proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad, Karen, Steve & Nala

Ryan,
You saved the best for last. Now your dreams are at your fingertips. Congratulations!

Love, Mom, Dad, Bill & Jenny

Jordan Thomas Beissel, aerospace engineering

"May God guide your way as you reach for the Stars."

Love, Mom, Dad, Joy (ND '09) and Christopher

Congratulations, Claire...

Keep delighting in reading and writing!

Love, Dad, Mom, and Will

Elizabeth,
We are so proud of you. We love you very very much!

Love, Mom and Dad
CONGRATS

We celebrate your compassion, your intellect, your kindness, your humor, your determination, your loyalty, your adventurous spirit and your ability to ski fast and play the cello with passion. We salute the woman you have become.

Love, Mom, Dad, Joe, Moxxie, Bella and The Bears

Marissa Elizabeth,

Congratulations on all you accomplished and for enjoying to the fullest your four years at Notre Dame. You have given yourself and us many memories to cherish. Always keep that beautiful smile, trust in the Lord and remember your family loves you very much.

Dad, Mom and Amanda

Congratulations Molly!

To Our Favorite

"Nobody Likes A Dumb Blonde"

Your Irish Fan Club,

Ann Acker SMC 1970
Edward Hogan ND 1970
Carol Collins Hogan SMC 1972
Laurence C. Acker ND 1973
John "Cal" Collins ND 1975
Jerome Klingener Berger ND 1977
Mary Acker Klingenerberger SMC 1979
Laurence W. Acker ND 2003
John Collins ND 2006

Congratulations Jen! Always keep your wide-eyed idealism!!

Love, Dad

Justin~

"Delight yourself also in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:4

Love,

Mom & Dad

Look how far you've come!

Congratulations!

I Love You More.

Dad
Class of '06

Meggie—
We are so proud of you!

Love you and Saint Mary’s
Papa & Grandma

Congratulations Mark!
We’re glad you chose ND!

Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations Ashley! Good luck, God Bless, Irish Forever.
We Love You, Mom, Dad, Lauren & Tyler

Congratulations Erin! Cherish everything that your ND experience has brought your way in the past 4 years and keep reaching for the stars.

We’re so proud of you!
All our love, Mom, Dad, Coley, and Ali

Love you! Dad, Mom, Rachel

"To Give Anything Less Than Your Best is to Sacrifice the Gift."
—Steve Prefontaine

They came as the Mustangs from Blue Valley North—They leave as the Four Horsemen from Notre Dame.

Joey, Zan, Kate and Hunter, you make us so proud. Love, Moms and Dads
Congratulations John!

We are so proud of you!

Love, 
Mom and Dad.

Congratulations Miss Cate!

We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom Dad, Will Cal, and Gracie

What do you do when you realize all your dreams have come true.

Congratulations Dee Dee

Love, 
Mom, Dad, Andy, Robby & Blake

GOOD LUCK!

Congrats Jimbo!

We love you! The Fam

When people say dreams don't come true, tell them about Matt.

We Love you Sarah!

Mom, Dad, Mar
CONGRATS SENIORS!

Tim,
Congratulations!

We can’t wait to see what
comes next for you. We
are so proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Anne & Bill

Congratulations Derek, our 2006
Graduate of Notre Dame!

This picture tells it all; athletic, hard worker, scholar, and funny
guy! What’s next? May all your dreams continue to come true.

--Love Ma & Dad

Congratulations, Chelsea and Ryan.
The best is yet to come!

All our love,
Mom and Dad

It seems like only
yesterday...
Congratulations!
We love you!
Mom, Courtney,
Grandma &
Grandpa

Congratulations, Jeannie!
Always follow your dreams.

Love, Mom and Dad

We’re so
proud of you
Britta.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations
Anne Kwiat (’06)

We are proud
of you!

Love,
Mom & Dad
Jim (’09)
Katie (’09)
Mike (’04)
Congratualtions, Stretch!
You lived a dream.
Love, Dad and Mom

Hey Big Brother, Mom and Dad made me do it-

Congratulations!!

Congratulations Kevin!
Touch down by our Special "K".
Love, Dad, Tim, Andy, Meg and Jake
CONGRATULATIONS

KRISTINA

We are so proud of you!
You have become more
beautiful than ever in
Mind, Body & Spirit.
We are truly blessed!
We love you very much.

FELICIDADES

Papi, Mami and your
three brothers
Christian, Ricardo &
Marcos Barrios

Leif, Go For It!

Congratulations Catherine! You
have remained true to the Legacy
of Notre Dame. We are so proud
of you!

Love,
Mom and Dad
Dear Katie:
Congratulations to our loving daughter.
We are so very proud of you!
Love,
Mom & Dad

Kirsten. You stepped out of our home at age 18 a completely independent adult. You must have been so proud. We were.
Dad, Mom, Scott, Kate

The prophecy comes true!
Congratulations, Katie!
Love, the Mom, the Dad,
Lazy J, IWU-D & Rusty

We knew you would go places!
We are so very proud of you.
Look out Texas!
Love,
Mom and Papa

The only place for "MC" was "ND"

Love,
Mom, Dad, Jen, Michael,
Christine & Dominic