THE OBSERVER
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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

NOTRE DAME AND SAINT MARY'S
STUDENT GOVERNMENT 2007-2008
Women fill upper tiers of government

Student body president, vice president, chief executive assistant and six of nine Senate chairs are female

By KAITLYNN RIELY
In Focus Writer

The election last spring of Liz Brown and Maris Braun marked the first time the Notre Dame student government presidency and vice presidency had both been filled by women. The University community and especially female alumni celebrated the historic election, a moment they suggested showed how far the University has come since becoming coeducational in 1972.

Liz said she was aware there was “a lot of hoopla or hype” when they were elected.

“I and Liz started from the beginning that we hoped our gender was the least interesting thing about us,” she said.

They said they wanted their peers and the administrators and faculty at Notre Dame to focus on their qualifications as leaders rather than their gender. Brown said they were initially greeted with comments about the historic nature of the election, however, she and Braun have felt their performance has been judged based on their leadership, without consideration to their gender.

Most of the attention to their gender continues to come from the University’s female alumni, Brown and Braun said. The fact that two women are the representatives of the student body means less for current students than it does for women who were at Notre Dame shortly after it became coeducational, Braun said. For them, the fact that two women are at the helm is a huge accomplishment.

“The Notre Dame they experienced was that women weren’t the majority, and having a female president and vice president was unheard of, so that feedback is still overwhelmingly positive,” Braun said. “It’s still wonderful.”

Since Brown and Braun assumed office last April, they have selected many women to the top-tier positions of student government. Sheena Plamonti became their chief executive assistant, the No. 3 position under Brown and Braun. Michelle Zaldana and Kadeja Gaines serve as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Carol Hendrickson, Brenna Doyle, Ninny Wan, Mariana Zaldana and Kadeja Gaines serve as committee chairs. Braun said, “It’s still wonderful.”

When I first sat down in the room with everyone, I was like, ‘Wow, we’re the only three girls here,’” Secviar said, referring to Patrick Tighe and Colin Freehan, the two other male Senate committee chairs.

“I find it very refreshing,” she said.

But Secviar said he didn’t think gender made much of a difference, instead pointing out the strong leadership skills of the female executives.

“It’s nice to see that people are putting it in the back of their minds when they are voting — they are not seeing a split gender ticket or a two female ticket,” he said. “They are seeing who this candidate can do for the student body, and I think that’s the right direction.”

Senior Carol Hendrickson is the Senate Academic Affairs committee chair, and has served on student government in some capacity since she was a freshman. She said she thought it was simply chance that most of the top-tier positions were filled by women this year.

“I think it’s great that we’ve overcome that barrier of not having two women or three women as the executives,” she said. “But I really think it’s important to have a balance.”

Brown said she and Braun were selecting Senate chairs and their chief executive assistant, they were not looking for a certain male to female ratio or to fill quotas, but were seeking the most qualified people.

“I think hopefully we are in an era now where gender is not a top issue anymore, and it’s really who’s the most competent and the most qualified,” she said.

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Office of the Student Body President and Vice President

Leaders respond promptly to student issues

Brown, Braun win broad confidence by smoothly handling unexpected problems, like party permit ordinance

Brown and Braun could let themselves be cast by the Common Council and local press as angry students defending their right to party without concern for neighbors.

Instead, the pair displayed professionalism and grace in multiple meetings with Council members, listening intently to all sides of the issue. Their goal was to remove the permit process from the ordinance and seek other ways to address concerns about disorderly parties.

Changes warned that their behavior at off-campus parties would determine their bargaining power with the Common Council. Through Student Senate meetings and a letter to The Observer, she asked students to be respectful of their South Bend neighbors. In coming weeks, Council members cited an improvement in behavior. On Sept. 24, they passed a revised ordinance that did not enact a permit process, though it included language for possible future implementation.

The passage of the revised ordinance was a major success for Brown and Braun. The alacrity they showed during the ordinance debates has been characteristic of their approach as Braun recognized this when she and Brown spoke recently with The Observer.

"A lot of how I would rate Liz's and my success is how we've responded to unforeseen events," she said. "We've been able to think on our feet, and I think that helped us a lot, as things have arisen that were not planned for.

Moving on would have been easy for Brown and Braun to become complacent after the successful outcome of the ordinance exchange.

But Braun and Brown have not shown any sign of their attentiveness to student concerns. Through their own initiative and with collaboration from Student Senate committee chairs, they tackled the downsizing of the student ticket exchange program and the jump in the price of course packets. Their student government made progress on both, and Brown and Braun said they are confident changes to the exchange program and the course packet distribution and pricing system will be implemented.

Brown said it appears the student ticket exchange program will be open to more games than this year, when students were only allowed to exchange tickets for the Notre Dame-USC game.

Student Senate Academic Affairs committee chair Carol Hendrickson said course packets for Arts and Letters classes will not be sold at the bookstore next semester. Other course packets will still be sold from the bookstore, she said. Hendrickson had been told that there will be changes next semester regarding course packets still sold through the bookstore, but she was not sure what those changes would be. Hendrickson also spoke with the Hesburgh Library about increasing use of reserves. The library said it will be able to accommodate an increase in reserves in January.

Brown and Braun are attentive to the opinions and interests of the student body, as they demonstrated this fall, when they suggested that students wear green on a designated day in support of the football team. Though the gesture did little to improve the team's fortunes, it showed that Brown and Braun consider variety when determining their constituent interests in University issues.

Brown and Braun first demonstrated their ability to respond quickly and thoughtfully after the university administration cut credit for students who move off campus.

"I think we still have a lot of work to be done," Braun said. "I think my concerns are that we'll run out of time. I don't really see that happening, since we've put a lot of work this semester. Maybe our successes won't be as blatant next semester as they were this semester, but we are still pursuing good initiatives. There's a lot left to do.

Brown and Braun said they will continue to address community relations concerns in the spring. They are working with the Campus Life Council to prepare a report on the future of community relations for Father Peter Soroka, vice president for student affairs. They are also working on the Student Senate Affairs office on a good neighbor guide for students who move off campus.

Moving from dialogue to action

They have also taken steps to unplug unexpected problems that have taken up much of their time.

Brown and Braun have still acted quickly to fulfill their campaign promises.

Brown said she was excited about the emergence of student group Green and plans to support its objective to make Notre Dame a more environmentally friendly campus.

Sen. Braun is a lead writer on numerous other initiatives, many of which seem likely to come to fruition before the Brown-Braun administration ends in March.

Should any urgent issues emerge during their final months in office, Brown and Braun's record suggests they will address it with speed and confidence. If they can bring that same drive to mundane matters of governance, they will conclude a successful run as student body president and vice president.

Campus promises in review

Delivered

Pending

Unsuccessful

Contact Kaitlynn Riedy at kriedy@nd.edu

Grade: A

Brown and Braun have tackled the issues that have arisen this year with alacrity. The party permit ordinance was an obstacle they could not have predicted when they took office, but they took it in stride and won the confidence of the student body through their negotiations with the South Bend Common Council. Their challenge now is to maintain their momentum into the spring semester.

Maris Braun, left, and Liz Brown stand in the student government office on Sept. 4. The leaders were busy this semester negotiating with the South Bend Common Council about the party permit ordinance.

By KAITLYNN RIELY
In Focus Writer

Brown and Braun emerged victorious, but without the strong backing of a majority of students. They did not let this deter them.

"Since it was such a close election, that's motivating to me," Brown said in April. "We have to step up on our game and prove that our tight decision was made in the end."

The test

In August, Brown and Braun were still immersed in summer jobs and internships, the pair took action on an issue of undeniable relevance to their constituents: an ordinance proposed before the South Bend Common Council that would require residents of boarding houses to notify the city before hosting an event at which more than 25 people would have access.

The ordinance defined a boarding house as a building in a residentially zoned area in which more than two non-related people live. Its requirements would have affected the many upperclassmen who would find themselves unable to host events.

The student body president and vice president sent an e-mail to all students Aug. 4 to notify them of the proposed ordinance and state their intention to fight it.

Student response to the ordinance flared on Facebook and other online message boards. As students began their return to campus, the issue dominated campus discussions and the editorial pages of The Observer.

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Senators begin engaging in productive dialogue

By KAITLYNN RIELY
In Focus Writer

The 28 representatives who sit on the Senate have made progress in their three leaders and the nine committees in produc-
tive dialogue and effective resolu-
tions.

Get rid of objects that make a success-
ful Student Senate are vocal about their ideas and how they think about issues, student body president Liz Brown said last week.

When the Brown-Brann admin-
istration began in April, the sena-
tors seemed hesitant to challenge
ideas proposed by the top three administrators, the committee
chairs. Brown said wariness on the part of the senators is typical at the beginning of a new year.

Last April, Brown made the first of three State of the Student Union addresses requested by the University Body Constitution. She told sena-
tors to move from dialogue to action. She and student body vice
president Mark Braun set the time for this meeting in their first Senate meet-
ing this year, when they announced their dangerous goals had already been met — the introduction of Dormers into the University dormitories.

Frivolous discussion about meaningless or ill-prepared resolu-
tions is indeed a waste of time. But Brown and the senators must remember that senators need to engage in an act of democratic will to stimulate new ideas and discussions.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Senate Brown stated the committee chairs to actively support Senate resolutions. I encourage you to always voice your point of view, no matter what the discussion. This will create a very open atmosphere for everyone to create new ideas and to share their opinions.

Senators have moved from their initial hesitation to ask questions and request follow-up and to allow engagement in dialogue and debate, to the benefit of the entire Senate. When Academic Affairs chair Carol Heidrickson first presented a resolution that urged faculty members to increase use of elec-
tronic reserves, in place of more traditional paper packets, many senators opposed the resolution, mostly because of language that was unstructured and mentally confusing. Many students had expressed concerns over the electronic reserves, they argued.

Brown was able to collect enough feedback from senators to draft a revised version of the resolution that omitted reference to the envi-
ronment. The resolution’s passage was an improvement of the original, improved the resolution’s effective-
ness.

Stretching dialogue again pro-
tected tangible results when Brown introduced the amendment to the resolution, allowing sponsors to address large parties with the city. The LCAC is intended to foster dialogue about problems between colleges and the wider community. Notre Dame’s student presi-
dent and student body president is part of a joint committee of other univer-
sities to create new ideas and discussions.

A resolution was placed well on the table and filled a void in the Student Body Constitution, but it contained strong language that dictated exactly what the university would only interact with the LCAC and what it or she should report back to the Senate.

Many senators and chairs spoke against the specificity of the resolution. Ultimately, the Senate Oversight chair Ian Serricchio, Senate president and the committee presented it to the Senate a second time. The sena-
tors’ dialogue allowed revisions and resulted in a resolution that restricted the student body president’s actions. The resolution passed.

Since August, several senators have strengthened their participa-
tion in Senate meetings. Some, like Fisher Hall’s Stephen Bunt and Lyons Hall’s Christopher Lutes have presented resolutions on course packets and on University divers-
en efforts on behalf of the chairman, but not consistent, senators. Senate is to be effective, senators must talk deep personal interest. Senators must be pressed to overlook merit and a committee chair or any other member.

Perhaps the goal to be addressed by committee members and chairmen by bringing resolution to a detailed and accurate area. They should also begin to tell the public any issues that are dis-
cussing in their dorms, as some senators have started to do in the last few meet-
goals. If they continue this next semester, they can help student government better address the concerns of its constituents.

The committee chair has done well taking up Brown’s call for action. They have created pass-
able resolutions and organized student events. Secviar and Braun have been meeting with representatives of the Senate.

Democratic Alden community this past semester has been a success. The Senate has taken on a diverse and wide-reaching set of issues, leading to a very open dialogue when discussing resolutions. The committee’s work has been impressive.

The committee’s proposal to the Senate will still be a part of the resolution this year. The resolution to the Senate is about waste of time and the value of the efforts the Senate.

Some, like Braun and Secviar’s resolution, will still be a part of the resolution. The committee has also begun the process of reviewing the Senate’s proposed resolutions and the Senate’s continued support for its new initiatives.

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dents and faculty members during the Senate’s meetings. She said she plans to launch an initiative to help students build a better campus for all students.

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COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members weigh in on ticket exchanges, voter turnout

Brown’s advisory board discusses endorsing pro-immigrant U.S. Senate bill, apathy in student government elections

By JOHN TIERNY
In Focus Writer

Members of the Council of Representatives (COR), an advisory body whose president Liz Brown, has thought outside-the-box in football ticket exchanges and hopes to encourage student willingness to stand up against identity theft, met on Oct. 20, with Vice President Maris Braun.

The Council has advised Brown throughout the semester, pushing for the creation of a more efficient ticket exchange system for home football games.

Brown’s advisory board consists of 16 members who unanimously suggested student-run lottery systems, similar to the USC lottery system for人居环境, as a potential solution. This year, however, more hesitant to agree on how to distribute unused tickets than in previous years, but a second e-mail encouraging students to exchange their tickets in a way that would prevent, or at least limit, the student body’s ability to scalpel their tickets.

The excessive scalping of unused football tickets was previously cited as the cause for the discontinuation of the Ticket Office's ticket exchange program earlier this year. A single exception was made last year, as many students would be leaving campus for fall break.

COR members suggested printing the name of the person to whom the ticket is sold on the ticket itself and placing age limits on ticket buyers as methods to combat scalping.

COR members kept the relationship between the student body and the ticket office in perspective, as most of them are only students and not members of the Notre Dame ticket office does a lot more for students than ticket office workers or universities.

Another football-related item that made its way to the COR agenda this semester is the Shirt Solidarity Day.

The Council cited a lack of awareness of voting procedures as a possible cause for low football ticket turnouts in previous years but failed to consider the possibility that the minimal student participation in the elections may be attributed to the students’ lack of faith in the elected officials’ efficiency in improving student life.

The Shirt Solidarity Day was rescheduled for Sept. 20, became the center of a small controversy after Brown and Braun sent an e-mail to the student body encouraging students to wear the green T-shirt in support of the football team.

After many people told them their request conflicted with a national campaign, the University Council decided on Nov. 6 solidarity day with the “Jena 6,” a national move to support the Jena 6, the latest in a series of cases that made news in recent years but failed to correct.

While the oversight was corrected, The Shirt Solidarity Day was rescheduled for the following day, the error made Brown, her advisors and Brad LeNoir — president of The Student Project board — seem out-of-touch and unaware of current events.

The Council again talked about The Shirt in November when it had to approve Jason Gold, the new president of the project and discuss the potential national expansion of the The Shirt Project.

During its most recent meeting, COR members discussed a campaign to increase voter turnout at the next student body presidential elections on Feb. 10. The Council cited a lack of awareness of voting procedures as a possible cause for low voter turnouts in previous years but fail to consider the possibility that the minimal student participation in the elections may be attributed to the students’ lack of faith in the elected officials’ efficiency in improving student life.

The Council’s continued oversight suggests that student government is not the domain of student government, but Brown and Braun insisted that the university government to support projects that stand for what is right even if they are not directly related to the University and without regard to the opinion of the student body.

Some members pointed to clubs on campus that could support the DREAM Act and said those organizations exist at Notre Dame as a resource for students who wish to support those specific causes.

But Brown and Braun remained steadfast in their belief that supporting the DREAM Act is a right thing to do. They cited the example of University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh and his support of the civil rights movement as precedents at Notre Dame for taking action in a similar context.

In other meetings, COR members also approved parlementarian Tyler "T.J." Smith Oct. 2 and held closed-door budget discussions on Oct. 17 and Dec. 4. Besides its role as Brown’s sounding board, COR is also responsible for approving student government, resolutions and any changes to the Student Union budget.

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STUDENT UNION BOARD

Home games, scheduling issues thwart lectures, concert plans

By MARCELA BERRIOS
In Focus Writer

Scheduling conflicts kept the Student Union Board (SUB) from bringing big-name musicians and speakers to campus this fall, but SUB sold-out concert, Ross said.

Before deciding to provide the student body with social and cultural programming, Ross, a senior communications major, was having a slow year with few guest speakers, few small-to-medium-sized shows and a lack of events.

Old staples like SUB movies and Acoustic Cafe seemed to be the only SUB events happening this semester.

Ross said the lack of events was beyond SUB’s control. An intense home schedule game is to blame.

With only six non-football weekends to work with before Thanksgiving, Ross said SUB was unable to book a major musical act to perform on any of the open nights.

Last year, SUB brought singer Ringo Starr and the singer he and his colleagues expect that such a change in 2008. They’re still in talks with some of the speakers that felled this fall, Ross said, and they’re looking into new ones as well.

With an election year around the corner, Ross said SUB has considered focusing on political speakers, which have been popular by the SUB and the Student Union Board.

In the end, the group focused on bringing artistic speakers to campus for the Notre Dame Literary Festival, which featured a poet, a novelist and a writer for Newsweek.

Contact Marcela Berrios at anberrios@nd.edu

Grade: A

The Council of Representatives is an advisory body, not a legislative body; therefore, it did not produce many tangible results this semester. However, many council members showed a willingness to think creatively in working with the ticket office and to stand up to their administration in its attempt to stop the DREAM Act: COR members took advantage of their platform to get their opinions heard by Brown and Braun.

Grade: B

Home football games made weekends busy this semester, but SUB could have held other fun events, like last spring’s SNL speaker series, in place of a major concert.
**Task forces yield few results**

*In brief meetings, members ponder green summits, Honor Code*

By JENN METZ

The Campus Life Council (CLC), comprised of three task forces, laid out specific goals for the year, but as the semester comes to a close, the group has yet to pass a resolution.

Though task force leaders claim to be making progress in their individual meetings, so far the Council's biweekly meetings have lasted, on average, just 15 minutes, with the exception of an hour-long presentation by University Architect Doug Marsh.

Results of the task force meetings have yet to be seen.

Chief executive assistant Sheena Plamoottil, who heads the Task Force on Campus Environment, has proposed a series of three green summits to raise awareness of environmental issues on campus.

Though the summits have the potential to be very successful, lack of publicity and coordination of schedules with rhetoric and other crucial attendees have hindered them somewhat ineffectively.

One of the group's only successes so far this year has been Marsh's proposal to stress the Office of the University Architect's Green effort.

The third green summit, currently scheduled to take place Jan. 21, should be rescheduled to avoid conflict. Hopefully Plamoottil will be able to focus on other task force goals, like the amount of food wasted in the dining hall and campus energy efficiency.

Student body president Maria Brown heads the Task Force on Student Development. Three of the group's outlined goals include the creation of a Student Budget Code awareness week, exploring problems of student gambling and fostering better gender relations during Freshman Orientation activities.

The task force is capable of addressing some of these issues. However, after spending the majority of the semester presenting on the honor Code initiative, Brown announced she would be pushing it off to the University Code of Honor Committee because she believed its goals fell under the responsibilities of the Office of the Provost.

Brown and her task force need to start producing results. Resolutions on their initiatives could have potential, but so far, no progress has been seen.

If the Council hopes to make an impact on gender relations for next year's Freshman Orientation, the task force must start taking real action to pursue its goal.

The third CLC task force, the Task Force on Community Relations, works in concert with the Student Senate committee of the same name. Headed by Student body rep. Gea Gori, the task force has been pursuing the creation of a Notre Dame version of the Good Neighbor Guide, a University of Virginia pamphlet highlighting interactions between students and the greater community.

For the last several meetings, Gori has reported that the task force has been making progress on the pamphlet, but at the end of the semester, the content has just been finalized and production has not started.

The Community Relations task force is also looking to improve transportation to and from campus. If tangible plans had been formed this semester, at least experimental changes could have been implemented to improve student satisfaction next semester. However, like the rest of the Council, the task force has spent most of its time in talks.

Gori has done a commendable job conducting research on peer university policies regarding campus relations with the greater community, but the task force needs to step up and next semester CLC members offer a unique perspective on student life with its mix of students, faculty and staff.

But the Council is at the same place it was last year at this time — no resolutions have been passed and matters have been deferred to other committees.

The task force needs to stop talking and start doing.

Student body president Liz Brown needs to use the meetings more efficiently and quickly.

What the Council expects of the CLC is a task force that can work effectively and quickly one task at a time. The Council expects to see results.

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**Financial Management Board allocates funds**

The Financial Management Board (FMB) is a student-operated oversight committee responsible for monetary distribution to various University organizations. The board oversees The Shirt Project, approving all parts of the design and manufacturing phases and ensuring profitability.

The board also organizes The Shirt Charity Fund, which is financed by half the revenue generated from The Shirt Project, not available to Notre Dame students to help pay for clothing interaction between graduate students and the University community.

This year, the group is focused on improving graduate life and career development. One action was the funding of trips to professional conferences for graduate student organizations. The group also hosted numerous social activities, including a charity gala and formal dance.

The Graduate Student Union is an elected body aimed at representing graduate students in the University, promoting educational standards and facilities and facilitating interaction between graduate students and the University community.

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The GSU maintains a presence in the Academic Council, the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate.

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**Hall Presidents' Council promotes pep rallies**

Despite a 3-9 football season, Hall Presidents' Council president Kate Sharkey and Andy Holland of the Sophomore Hall Presidents' Council have seen success with dorms' turnout at pep rallies and student involvement in dorm activities.

Sharkey said the success at pep rallies was partially due to enthusiasm from dorms.

"We tried to keep the quads together, so there was rivalry in the pep rallies," Sharkey said.

In addition to hosting pep rallies, the HPV allows hall presidents to exchange dorm information, and the council allocates money to dorms' signature events.

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**Graduate Student Union examines teaching standards and student development**

Though members of the Graduate Student Union (GSU) have a broad agenda, the group has yet to pass a resolution.

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When Kim Hodges and Kelly Payne assumed their roles as student body president and vice president, they began the term with a focus on increased communication between students, administrators, and alumnae. Hodges and Payne emphasized that the duo has accomplished all of its campaign promises to some degree.

"In one sense or another, we already accomplished everything in our platform," she said. "We are lucky our boards are so innovative and creative. From the first years to the senior, they have given us so much to work with.

The pair ran on a campaign that included increasing diversity and retention, improving communications between students and administration; altering the format of Board of Governance meetings to make them more focused on specific issues each week; and increased focus on programming and retention. While campaigning, Hodges and Payne put strong emphasis on connecting students to student government, student government to administration, and students to administration. They have done so in almost all aspects of our platform.

"Everything is about connecting important groups on campus," Payne said.

The first annual Career Insights Fair held earlier this semester welcomed alumnae to campus, and various ad hoc committees on general education requirements and dining services worked with the administration.

"I think this year BOG is trying much harder to connect with students to hear their concerns and voice them to the administration," said Sarah Fritzler, BOG chief of staff. "By increasing communication, the BOG can be a more effective tool for students, she said. "We wanted to work with the student body to BOG," Payne said.

The Board consists of 26 commissioners, representing various campus organizations and class boards. Groups represented include the Residence Hall Association, Student Activities Board, Student Dish, College-wide Governance Board, and each of the four class boards. BOG meets weekly at 5 p.m. in the Student Life Center.

The board has been making attempts to give students a way to express their ideas, but the results have not always been what they had hoped for, Fritzler said.

The board is responsible for co-sponsoring events, planning new activities and representing the student body to faculty and staff.

Poor attendance at many BOG-planned events has forced the board to plan less frequent activities and look for new ways to entice students to attend. "We wanted to work with the student body to BOG," Payne said.

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Government in brief...

Residence Hall Association holds events

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) has tried to create new programming this year that will benefit the student body and improve residence life on campus.

The RHA hosted activities like the "Go Belles" tailgate, an event to support Saint Mary's athletics and make people aware of the risks associated with alcohol use. They have also hosted Spirit Week prior to the Duke pep rally, which Saint Mary's hosted. RHA also brought Erin Weed, the founder of the "Web girlsfightback.org, to speak on campus. They created the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), in which students can nominate people they feel have positively affected residence life on campus. There will be a banquet to honor these nominees during the spring semester.

The RHA has many activities planned, including the Saint Mary's All School Formal and Little Sibs weekend.

The Saint Mary's Formal will be held at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend in February. In March, Little Sibs weekend will bring siblings of Saint Mary's students to campus to take part in fun activities.

--Liz Harter

Academic Student Council builds alumni network

The Academic Student Council (ASC) includes a student representative from each major. The ASC's biggest project this year is the student ad hoc General Education Committee, which is working to revise the general education requirements at the College, student body vice president Kelly Payne said.

"Our goals for next semester include a large implementation of service learning within the majors and installing the Alumnae Resource Network on department advisors' computers so they can show their students of the ARN," Payne said.

The ARN allows students to receive effective feedback for postgraduate employment or graduate school.

ASC also sponsors "Major of the Week." This fall, art, history, and sociology were highlighted, and modern language departments have taken part in this event.

ASC is also planning a Dionne with the Dinner for students to meet the deans and discuss concerns about academic life at Saint Mary's. --Katie Kohler

Student Activities Board plans activities

The Student Activities Board (SAB) has already accomplished its main goal of hosting successful and well-attended events at Saint Mary's this year.

The group has planned multi-day events to raise awareness about the struggles of people with different disabilities. The board members hosted a deaf culture class, which about 40 people attended, and an eye and sunglasses drive that "has actually been a really big success," Kelly said.

The success of Disabilities Awareness Week prompted her and the board to plan another awareness week, one dedicated to increasing awareness of global poverty and hunger in general.

"We figured we'd do an awareness week that the inside awareness leaders are already working on," she said. "We planned on doing an awareness week in the spring, which will be another awareness week, one dedicated to increasing awareness of global poverty and hunger." Details have yet to be worked out, but the Women's Awareness Week is set for March 10-14.

The board is also working on its multi-day event for spring, which will be the Diversity Student Leadership Conference, which will be held Feb. 13-15 and will focus on environmental justice, immigration, and women in business, she said.

The major goal for the conference's organizers this year is "that they want people to realize it's student-led," Kelly said. But they also hope to "Stop it up and get more people involved." The bigger turnout, she said, will help bring more awareness on Saint Mary's campus, she said. "It should be much better than last year. We are hoping for more students this year." The rest of the board's agenda includes two potential service projects for the spring semester, she said. Members are working on a dance that allows a voice opportunity that can get students to work hard-in-hand with people from the local community, Kelly said.

Contact Mandi Stione at astino1@stmarys.edu

First-Year Board

The first-year board has moved slowly this year. Its first event won't happen until Saturday when the freshmen representative hosts a study break in the Branch Lounge in 1 LeMans Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. President Emma Hoffman said.

After winter break, the 13-member board will host the first-year formal, which might be modeled after the Saint Mary's event. Hoffman said.

"This board is put together to do some kind of service project," Hoffman said. "We were thinking hopefully we can do something, but the board has not yet discussed anything." --Mandi Stione

Sophomore Board

The Sophomore Board has focused on fundraising to help children with cancer. The class raised money for "Light the Night" walk for leukemia and lymphoma, which will help the board plan a fundraiser for the fall and plans to hold a fundraiser to benefit Darfur next semester, president Camille Gerbert said.

One of her goals, she said, is to plan events that appeal to more students, like service projects to involve all of her classmates, rather than just those of people on the board. She said it's important for her group to plan and invite everyone in the class to events throughout the year to be able to organize events that appeal to more students. --Liz Harter

Junior Board

The Junior Board used the entire May term to plan its signature event, Junior Mom's Weekend, which happened until April.

But class secretary Katie Putz said the board is looking to spend this year on campus participating in various activities, is not the only thing the board has been working on. The board has already hosted a successful dance for the junior class, and it is presently selling cider-and-games and "dress in the olden days" tickets that ask students to wear "the clothes of the College's 12 Days of Christmas" event to give back to the community. --Katie Kohler

Senior Board

The Senior Board kicked off the year with the second annual "Let Your Sister Pick Your Minor" dance, president Colleen Kirby said.

Another big event for the board this fall was Senior Week, held in October. Senior-week activities included Bette Midler's "Egg Garden Night," a golf outing and "watching ND beat UCLA" at the College Football Hall of Fame.

The board is also selling a Saint Mary's cookbook, for $10 to collect funds for the College's ongoing "12 Days of Christmas" activities.

Senior Board is currently planning the Senior Board, which will be held at the new Hilton Hotel on campus, Kirby said.

--Mandi Stione

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STUDENT DIVERSITY BOARD

Group raises awareness of disabilities, hunger

Spring agenda includes first-ever women's appreciation week, student leadership conference on immigration, green issues

By MANDI STIRENE

In Focus Writer

The Student Diversity Board (SDB) has the ambitious purpose of facilitating understanding and respect for the differences among Saint Mary's students while embracing the different cultures. The group's efforts are aimed at creating an environment that makes each of them unique.

With programming that seeks to address topics like race, gender, disability or not, or pre-immigration, the board strives to put the awareness of the risks associated with the event. The Anti-Poverty Committee, Mary's All Student Government, RIIA also hosted an event to speak on local poverty and hunger, and then related it to world hunger, only to have the board's successes this year be immediately shut down by immigration.

The board is also working on its multi-day event for spring, which will be the Diversity Student Leadership Conference, which will be held Feb. 13-15 and will focus on environmental justice, immigration, and women in business, she said.

The major goal for the conference's organizers this year is "that they want people to realize it's student-led," Kelly said. But they also hope to "Stop it up and get more people involved." The bigger turnout, she said, will help bring more awareness on Saint Mary's campus, she said. "It should be much better than last year. We are hoping for more students this year." The rest of the board's agenda includes two potential service projects for the spring semester, she said. Members are working on a dance that allows a voice opportunity that can get students to work hard-in-hand with people from the local community, Kelly said.

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