Students line up for the 2010 Commencement exercises held May 15, 2010, in Notre Dame Stadium for the first time. The 2011 Commencement will also be held in the Stadium.

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Editor

This year, the Office of the Registrar reported the largest request was 99 tickets in one group, followed by a request for 70 tickets and another for 50.

Students especially enjoyed the walk down the tunnel before they entered the Stadium, Pace said. “We decided it would be so neat at Notre Dame to have the students go down that tunnel and then be seated on the field for Commencement,” Pace said. “It was a great experience to watch the students go down the tunnel. There were so many smiles and so much anticipation from the students as they were waiting to go down.”

The biggest challenge for an outdoor ceremony is the threat of bad weather, Pace said.

He said several options were considered for the ceremony in the event of rain or weather problems.

“What seemed to be a better model for us was to stay outside in the rain,” Pace said. “Only in the event of severe weather will we go inside. We have very specific things we will look for — very high wind, torrential rain, lightning, storms, all those things, would drive us inside. We make that call on Sunday morning.”

In the event of severe weather, Pace said each student receives three severe weather tickets for the ceremony inside the Joyce Center.

Asst. Registrar Laura Spaulding said more graduate students attended the University Commencement ceremony in the Stadium than in past years.

“The graduate business and the graduate law and graduate schools didn’t have many students who came to the ceremony,” Spaulding said. “But last year because of the Stadium, I think, there were lots of those students who came to the ceremony.”

Pace said graduate students typically receive their degrees Saturday prior to the University-wide ceremony, but agreed the Stadium venue drew more to participate Sunday as well.

In total, 2,700 students will attend the Commencement ceremony.

The University will also award 13 honorary degrees Sunday and at least two recipients will be familiar names to students.

“This year we have two of our own where people will know these people getting honorary degrees. Chuck Lennon from the Alumni Association is a real favorite of the students. He’s been at pep rallies, and people know him,” Pace said. “And then Lou Holtz, so people know him not from football in the stadium then from TV.”

Few changes were made from the 2010 ceremony in the Stadium.

Spaulding said. Graduates who line forms outside the Stadium 15 minutes later than last year, but all other details essentially remain the same.

“Last year the students were at Ehrly Quad playing Red Rover because they were there a little early,” Pace said.

“The Stadium ceremony does include traditional features that are meaningful to students,” Pace said.

“It’s always interesting to hear the valedictorian’s speech,” Pace said. “Here is a student, up there in front of everyone, talking about these last four years as an undergraduate. So I always think that is a high point for me, hearing what the valedictorian has to say and hearing their remarks.”

Just as the student body sings “Notre Dame, Our Mother” in unison after each football game, the students will sway together and sing the Alma Mater at Commencement before leaving the stadium.

“When they sing the Alma Mater as a group, we have them turn and face their parents and their guests, and they all were swaying and singing the Alma Mater together,” Spaulding said. “I think it was really a touching moment for the students.”

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu
Students anticipate Gates' commencement address

By SAM STRYKER
News Editor

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates sat in the Situation Room in the White House May 1 as the national security team followed the mission to target terrorist Osama bin Laden in Pakistan. Three weeks later, Gates will stand in the Notre Dame St a d i u m to address the Class of 2011 during the weekend Commencement Ceremony.

Senior and political science major Katie McCabe said the choice of Gates as commencement speaker became even timelier with the recent death of bin Laden.

"I think his presence at our ceremony was incredibly proud of, and I think the unemployment of legitimate patriotism and faith our audience's support of our speaker," she said.

Another member of the Army ROTC program, senior Geralyn Janke, said she appreciated the choice of Gates as the speaker as she prepared to enter the armed forces.

"It's awesome that we get to honor the secretary of defense speak the day after we commission," she said. "Having someone so influential speak to us as we leave Notre Dame is a humbling capstone to my time here."

Gates said he hopes Gates will continue to serve those who serve America in military.

"As the son of a career Army officer, brother of an officer, and now a commissioned officer myself, I vaguely understand the level of commitment and sacrifice it entails," he said. "I'm not sure what they would tell underclassmen besides that, [I] just [want to say no]," Kimberly said. "He is a pretty big official as it is. His involvement, while not recognized at times, should be expected."

While Gates was involved in the background of the bin Laden mission, McDonnell said he did not expect the recent news to affect his remarks from the secretary of defense.

"While it will certainly be interesting as a graduating senior to hear from him after such a historic event, I doubt any of the d r e s s ' s themes relate to bin Laden's death or differ from what would have been if he was not killed," he said.

Gates, who has served as secretary of defense since 2006, announced in 2010 that he would step down from the position sometime this year.

McDonnell said this event is important in regards to what is said during Sunday's ceremonies.

"It is not uncommon for public officials who are stepping down or retiring to have at least one speech where they reflect on the news or events from the secretary of defense."

"Just like us, Gates is embarking on a period of change and transition," McCabe said. "I think that will impart his speech with added genuineness and significance.

Kaitie McCabe
senior

"Just like us, Gates is embarking on a period of change and transition," McCabe said. "I think that will impart his speech with added genuineness and significance.

Contact Sam Stryker at ssstryke1@nd.edu

Senior Kate Callison has something long on her Notre Dame "bucket list" that she does not want to graduate without checking off — and that is to do with "Twilight."

"One thing more on the list is that my life at Taylor Lautner cut-out around campus is the best way to illustrate how much fun locations," Callison said. As their undergraduate days dwindle, seniors like Callison are checking items off their bucket lists and participating in final events activities sponsored by student government. Senior Student Council (SCC) president Kate Clitheroe said her classmates would spend their last week as Notre Dame students attending a free kick-off baseball game, dancing at the Commencement Ball, striking down pins at Chippewawa Bowl, taking a final class trip to the Grotto and heading to Cedar Point.

The seniors also had the opportunity to attend a Chicago Cubs game, which is usually one of the more popular events sponsored by the SCC.

"Every year they do the Cubs game and we sell half the class goes," Clitheroe said.

Sunday’s game in Chicago, however, was another rainy and postponed until June. Some students headed back to campus while others stayed in the city and enjoyed the evening despite the league's disappointment.

This year’s SCC also added new activities to the Senior Week agenda, Clitheroe said.

"We're pairing with OldGold to do a service project. We went to work to have a drop-off location off-campus. It's a combination of giving and being a dance where couples either declare their undying love for each other or break up for good."

"It's been a dramatic and an emotional event in the past, so I'm really looking forward to seeing all of the senior class in one place," she said.

While a last class trip to the Grotto is a longstanding tradition, Casey said SCC added a new piece to the event this year.

"We're doing a booklet take-away," she said. "It's called the Senior Wisdom Project, and it's words of advice about what they would tell underclassmen about their experiences at Notre Dame."

Clitheroe said Senior Week also gives students the chance to explore campus as under-graduates for the last time.

"Seniors go a lot of places they've never gone to like the 14th floor of the [Hesburgh] Library, the [Notre Dame] Stadium press box and the [utility] tunnels," she said.

Clitheroe said she completed the list of items on her buck- et list this year after taking a tour of the utility tunnels with her section in Ryan Hall and visiting every chapel on campus.

"One thing I still want to do is go into the Law Library because under-graduates aren't allowed there," she said.

As senior Matt Peterson looked back on his four years of college, he said he was grateful he was able to travel to the Universities of Southern California to watch the Irish beat the Trojans this year.

"I was also going to do the HSBC Challenge, but besides that, I'll just want to see everyone that helped shape my past four years," he said.

Senior Katie Shircliff said she checked off several items on her Notre Dame bucket list this year, as well.

"One thing I still want to do is go into the Law Library because under-graduates aren't allowed there," she said.

There is still one more item she has to cross off her list before she graduates, though.

"I've always wanted to fly a kite on the quad, so hopefully I'll get to do that over the next few days," she said.

During her last days at Notre Dame, Shircliff said she was most looking forward to the last class visit to the Grotto Thursday.

"I think it will be a special time when we can all come together to celebrate our friendship and the experiences that we've shared at Notre Dame," she said.

Contact Marisa Iatì at miati@nd.edu

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Contact Marisa Iatì at miati@nd.edu
Dear Graduates,

Prayers and best wishes to members of the Class of 2011. On behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for the many and varied contributions you have made to the University as students. By your presence among us, you have enriched this community.

For those of you who are graduating seniors, I hope that your time at Notre Dame has been fruitful, that you are leaving the University not only with a superb education but also with wonderful friends who will be part of your life long after Commencement. I pray also that your years at Notre Dame have allowed you to nurture your relationship with God and created in you the desire to turn your gifts to the service of God’s people. Wherever life’s journey may lead, you are likely to encounter fellow Notre Dame alumni who are working to improve their corner of the world, in every imaginable profession and field of endeavor. We take enormous pride in all of the ways our graduates contribute to and serve their families, the Church, and society, and I am confident that you too will be part of this rich heritage of service.

For those of you receiving graduate or professional degrees, I hope that you will carry with you the best of our traditions as they relate to your discipline. We are certain that you will represent Notre Dame well, not only through your professional accomplishments but also by your commitment to justice and adherence to ethical standards. I wish you much success in all of your endeavors.

A diploma is a public ratification of skills and competencies. Commencement is our ritual sending of the holders of Notre Dame diplomas into the world. You will be sent on missions as Notre Dame graduates. The Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross describe one aspect of our mission as: “The mission is not simple, for the impoverishments we would relieve are not simple. There are networks of privilege, prejudice and power so commonplace that often neither oppressors nor victims are aware of them. We must be aware and also understanding by reason of fellowship with the impoverished and by reason of patient learning. For the kingdom to come in this world, disciples must have the competence to see and the courage to act.” (#14) It is my deepest hope that you take with your Notre Dame degree the confidence that you are commissioned by your University and the Congregation of Holy Cross and the assurance that we will always pray for you while you are away from campus and celebrate when you return.

May Our Lady, Notre Dame, be with you and watch over you always.

In Notre Dame,

(Rev.) Thomas P. Doyle, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs
FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

The top Observer news stories from the 2007-2011 academic years

Friday, May 20, 2011

page 5

Obama speaks at Commencement

May 17, 2009

After months of controversy, President Barack Obama delivered the University's 168th Commencement Address, asking graduates to seek common ground on abortion and other divisive issues facing the country.

Obama acknowledged the controversy surrounding his visit to campus and noted the irreconcilable differences in the abortion debate.

"Your class has come of age at a moment of great consequence for our nation and the world — a rare inflection point in history where the fate and scope of the challenges before us require that we remake our world to renew its promise; that we align our deepest values and commitments to the demands of a new age," he told the Class of 2009.

University President Fr. John Jenkins invited Obama to speak at Commencement and receive an honorary degree in March of 2009 — a decision that sparked protests from students, alumni and groups unaffiliated with the University.

The student group ND Response, formed after Jenkins' announcement, staged demonstrations and submitted a petition to Jenkins criticizing his decision.

Yet a count by The Observer in April showed that out of 345 Letters to the Editor authored by students, 74 percent were in favor of the invitation and 29 percent were against it.

In an interview with The Observer, Jenkins said he was "honored" when Obama accepted the University's invitation.

"Presidents from both parties have come to Notre Dame for decades to speak to graduates about our nation and our world," Jenkins said. "They've given important addresses on international affairs, human rights, service, and we're delighted that President Obama is continuing that tradition."

Seven students die during past four school years

Three students died in unrelated cases in 2008. Connor McGrath, a sophomore in Siegfried Hall from Oklahoma City, passed away Feb. 17 in Dillon Hall.

Timothy Aber, a student in the Law School's London Programme, died at his residence in the U.K. Aber was from Brookfield, Conn. Andrew Bunikus, a junior from Zahm Hall, took a semester off to teach English to Thai students and died in a bus crash in Thailand April 18.

Sophomore Kevin Healey died April 29, 2009 after battling with bone cancer. Healey was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in December 2006. Friends said Healey's courage was inspiring. Aher was from Brookfield, Conn.

Junior Declan Sullivan died Oct. 27, 2010, after the scissors lift from which he was filming football practice fell. Sullivan, a Fisher Hall resident, was a student videographer for the football team. Friends remembered him as fun-loving and outgoing.

Elizabeth "Liz" Seeburg committed suicide Sept. 10, 2010. Friends said Seeburg, a first year student at Saint Mary's, never had a smile on her face.

Sophomore Sean Valero died in April 2011. The St. Joseph County coroner's office ruled his death a suicide. Friends described Valero as easygoing and a dedicated student.

Two students shot outside Club 23

Seniors Matthew Collins and Mitchell Depree were shot by a man in an SUV around 1 a.m. Aug. 21, 2009, following a conversation with the shooter. Collins was shot in the abdomen and leg, wounds that were originally considered life-threatening. A bullet remains in Collins' abdomen. Depree was shot in the leg.

August 25, 2007

Eddy Street Commons opens

Eddy Street Commons opened for business at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Restaurants like Five Guys Burgers and Fries and Chipotle have opened and four more tenants — Kildare’s Irish Pub, Nicholas J. Salon and Spa, Camellia Spa, and an upscale diner called The Mark — are expected to open in the coming months.

August 2009

Business school ranks No. 1 again

For the second year in a row, the Mendoza College of Business was named the top undergraduate business school in the nation by Bloomberg Businessweek's fifth annual rankings. Notre Dame, which was ranked second in 2009, beat out schools like the University of Virginia, the Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania.

January 28, 2010

IOSHA fines Notre Dame

The Indiana Occupational Health and Safety Administration (IOSHA) found Notre Dame guilty of six violations and a half month of penalties following the October death of junior Declan Sullivan.

The Indiana Department of Labor announced March 15 Notre Dame entered discussions with IOSHA to review the investigation’s results.

March 15, 2011

Spike in off-campus arrests causes tension

After a spike in off-campus arrests for underage drinking in fall 2009, the trend to arrest — rather than cite — students for underage drinking caught the attention of both students and the University.

The number of arrests declined after campus leaders began to meet regularly with South Bend law enforcement and educate students about local laws.

August 2010

Students ask to add sexual orientation to clause

Members of the Campaign for Human Dignity petitioned University President Fr. John Jenkins to add sexual orientation to the University's nondiscrimination clause.

The University did not change the clause, which states that it does not discriminate based on "race/ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status or age."

January 28, 2010
Student arrests increase in Fall Semester. SMC first year student dies. Junior Declan Sullivan dies in accident.
Saint Mary's will modernize the Science Hall with new learning and study spaces to encourage students to collaborate with each other. The hall will also house and expand labs, which will help biology, chemistry and physics students and support their work. Updated equipment and technology will also be purchased. Took a direct liking to him." he said. "Every single person that he met seemed to take an immediate liking to him." said. "It's never going to be gone, but I felt really relieved yesterday — a weird kind of peace," Dolan said. "This year's Forum continued in the tradition of focusing on large-scale issues. Panelists from the 2010-11 Forum, "The Marketplaceplace and the Common Good," approached the issue of global economic in many different shapes and sizes. University professors and alumni participated in the panel and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman gave a lecture at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center in November. The Irish coach Brian Kelly suspended Floyd April 2010, Floyd was cited for underage drinking in Minneapolis. Floyd was pulled over by the Notre Dame Security Department of Labor reported the University knowingly exposed its employees to unsafe conditions. The Indiana Department of Labor reported the University was fined $55,000 for this violation. "It's never going to be gone, but I felt really relieved yesterday — a weird kind of peace," Dolan said. "We want to try to transform student government as a way of amplifying students' voices and responding to issues that students care about," he said. "It is our hope that we can build a student government that allows students to chart their own course for the future of Notre Dame." Gans, Zupancic win office "He was a really good guy, and had a really good heart," he said. "Every single person that he met seemed to take an immediate liking to him." At a memorial Mass for Valero, a member of Campus Ministry read a statement written from the Valero family for the members of the Notre Dame community.

"There is something you can do for us. When you leave here tonight and go home, tell somebody there that you love them and that you appreciate them. And then live that out every day," the statement read.

2011-2012 Forum to focus on education The 2011-2012 Notre Dame Forum, focused on the American educational system, kicked off with a panel discussion April 13 titled "The System: Opportunity, Crisis and Obligation in K-12 Education." The panel consisted of four national experts in education including the Founder and CEO of StudentsFirst, the director of Marquette University's Institute for the Transformation of Learning and the inaugural director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

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Campus reacts to bin Laden's death Hundreds of Notre Dame students celebrated with fireworks while CNN and "USA Today" chanted on campus after learning of terror of Osama bin Laden's death May 1.

For some Notre Dame students, the event had personal significance. Freshman Beau Dolan's father was among the Pentagon employees responding to the World Trade Center attacks in New York when Flight 77 flew into his office window. "We want to try to transform student government as a way of amplifying students' voices and responding to issues that students care about," he said. "It is our hope that we can build a student government that allows students to chart their own course for the future of Notre Dame." Gans, Zupancic win office "He was a really good guy, and had a really good heart," he said. "Every single person that he met seemed to take an immediate liking to him." At a memorial Mass for Valero, a member of Campus Ministry read a statement written from the Valero family for the members of the Notre Dame community.

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Sr. Joan McConnon, left, and Sr. Mary Scullion, right, will be awarded the 2011 Laetare Medal during Commencement Sunday.

University awards 2011 Laetare Medal

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Editor

Sr. Mary Scullion and Joan McConnon, co-founders of Project H.O.M.E. will jointly receive the Laetare Medal, the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics, during the 2011 Commencement ceremonies.

The Laetare Medal is the University’s highest honor and is awarded annually to a Catholic “whose genius has enrolled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity,” a University press release said.

Project H.O.M.E (Housing, Opportunities for Employment, Medical Care and Education) is an organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Philadelphia. Scullion serves as executive director for Project H.O.M.E. and McConnon is the associate executive director and chief financial officer.

“In their work for the homeless in Philadelphia, Sr. Scullion and Joan McConnon have splendidly answered the Gospel summons to brotherly love,” University President Fr. John Jenkins said. “Serving the unsheltered Lord on the streets of their hometown, they have provided an example for others to serve likewise in cities worldwide.”

Scullion and McConnon, both Philadelphia natives, founded Project H.O.M.E. in 1989, according to the release. Project H.O.M.E. began providing emergency shelter for about 50 homeless men and women and grew to a community for chronically homeless men and women. The project provides them with food, clothing, medical care, employment and a sense of dignity, the release stated.

Project H.O.M.E. now includes 480 units of housing and two businesses that provide employment for formerly homeless people. Scullion and McConnon developed the program into a national model for community development in low-income neighborhoods.

In 2010, the creation of inner city vacant lots, economic development, home-ownership initiatives for working poor families and education and employment programs for children and adults.

According to the release, 95 percent of the homeless who participated in their project have not returned to the streets. Project H.O.M.E. is widely credited for reducing Philadelphia’s homeless population by half.

The daughter of Irish immigrants, Sr. Scullion entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1976 after graduating from St. Joseph’s University. She earned a master’s degree in social work from Temple University in 1986.

Joan McConnon graduated from Pennsylvania State University and earned a master’s degree in taxation from Drexel University in 1989. She returned to Philadelphia to work with the homeless after spending six years as an accountant.

The Laetare Medal is named for Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. The University traditionally announces its recipient on that day each year. The University has awarded the medal for the past 41 years.

The University will also award Shirin Ebadi, recipient of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, an honorary doctor of laws degree as an Iranian lawyer and the first woman justice in the history of the Iranian judicial system. Ebadi founded the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran. She received the Nobel Peace Prize for her significant efforts regarding freedom and human rights for women, children and refugees.

Michael Brennan, a leading pioneer in the field of modern anti-corruption.

 contacting Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

Mary Beth O’Brien will be honored with a doctor of laws degree. O’Brien dedicates herself to the work of the Ladies of Charity USA (LSUSA), the American affiliate of an international organization that responds to the needs of the poor. She served as the president of the organization, a representative to the United Nations for the International Association of Charities, a trustee of Catholic Charities USA and a member of the American Housing Foundation. All six of her children are Notre Dame graduates.

John Maler, a co-recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize for physics, will be awarded an honorary doctor of science degree. He is a senior anthropologist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center and senior project scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope. Maler received the Nobel Prize along with George Smoot for developing a satellite project to study the early universe.

French mathematician Laurent Lafforgue will also receive an honorary doctor of science degree. Lafforgue is a professor at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques. He received the 2002 Fields Medal, the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel Prize. Lafforgue is known for his work in areas related to French public education.

The University will award Michael Griffis an honorary doctor of engineering degree. From April 2005 to January 2009, Griffis served as the 11th NASA administrator; he oversaw work on the future of human spaceflight, the fate of the Hubble telescope and the agency’s role in understanding climate change. Since leaving NASA, he joined the faculty in mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

The University of Notre Dame's The John J. Reilly Center For Science, Technology and Values Is pleased to announce that the following students have been awarded the distinction of John J. Reilly Scholar In The Five Year Double Degree Program in Arts and Letters/Engineering Class of 2011

Rosary Shot
Santiago Gárces Escobar
Robert Jones III

The Observer ❄ CAMPUS NEWS Friday, May 20, 2011 page 8
Students honored as 2011 class valedictorians

Wassell’s passion for writing flourished at SMC

By OLIVIA BRACH

Senior Sam Wassell was named the Class of 2011 valedictorian and will speak at her senior writing Honors Convocation May 1.

“Writing is what I most enjoy,” Wassell said. “I do it with a great deal of joy and fulfillment in the creative process.”

Sam Wassell
SMC valedictorian

“I write because I feel compelled to do so and because I find a great deal of joy and fulfillment in the creative process,” she said. “Since graduating, Wassell has increased her zeal for writing and has increased her original work in print.”

Though Wassell is excited about the future, she said she is not immune to the apprehension that comes with speaking in front of hundreds.

“My major is in English writing, not communications,” she said. “The first step is simply getting to the podium without tripping and falling flat on my face. If I can succeed in executing step one, hopefully everything else, minus me, will fall into place.”

Contact Olivia Brach at obracht1@saintmarys.edu

Larkin reflects on years at Notre Dame, looks to future

By ADAM LLORENS

Valedictorian Edward Larkin will address the Class of 2011 Sunday as the seniors congregate in the Notre Dame Stadium for the last time as a whole during the Commencement Ceremony.

As he reflects on his years at Notre Dame, Larkin said passion for ideas is more important than academic scores.

“Students of our generation are defined by numbers—not, class ranks, GPAs, ACTs, SATs—which is how we view our life,” Larkin said. “I think going into the real world, people succeed by clinging to an idea and going out and doing it.”

Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg is an example for this generation, Larkin said, because he did not let those numbers block him from his dream.

“Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard, but he had an idea and stuck with it,” Larkin said. “It is not about our rankings. It is about what we think and do. That is what I hope the graduating Class of 2011 will get out of my speech.”

Larkin, a native of East Lansing, Mich., spent four years on campus in Fisher Hall.

“Between Spring Break, football games and random moments on campus, I look back and realize all of the great times I have had with my friends,” Larkin said. “The most unique thing about Notre Dame is the dorm structure we have.”

Larkin said some of his most memorable moments revolve around the close friendships he made within Fisher.

“After four years, you find that you have a lot of really good friends from inside the dorm. I will be friends with these guys for the rest of my life,” Larkin said.

Larkin, a biological sciences major, will graduate with a supplementary major in classical civilization.

“Something I have really enjoyed doing is writing for The Observer,” Larkin said. “I am really proud of everything I have written and I love the feedback I get from each column.”

The Class of 2011 valedictorian will spend his summer in New York, studying cross-cultural interaction through Harvard University. In the fall, he will begin his year at the London School of Economics to receive a Master of Science degree in philosophy and public policy.

“I want to concentrate on the policy surrounding end-of-life health care,” Larkin said. “As an aspiring neurosurgeon, I believe the cost of end-of-life health care is a policy we seriously need to rethink.”

Through writing and research, Larkin hopes to change the public outlook on health care.

“This is something that really drives me,” Larkin said. “I want to write for a broad audience to aid in the national approach to the future of health care.”

After his year in London, Larkin will pursue medical school. Larkin will decide between Columbia University, Yale University and University of Pennsylvania for his medical studies.

“It was a big moment when I got accepted into medical school,” Larkin said. “For anyone who wants to become a doctor, that moment has to be really special.”

Contact Adam Llorenes at alllorenes@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of Edward Llorenes
SMC to honor former Southwest exec with doctoral degree

By CAITLIN HOUSELY
Saint Mary’s Editor

The former president of Southwest Airlines will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in recognition of his dedication to the student body and Southwest’s Curran Family Center for Ethics and Social Justice.

Colleen Barrett, who joined Southwest Airlines when the company was established in 1971, ended her career in 2011 after 40 years of service. During that time, Barrett assisted graduating students in finding employment and offered job opportunities to current students.

In 2010, 82 percent of the senior class had definite plans for graduate school, service or employment at the time of their graduation, and 98 percent of the senior class had solidified its plans within three months of graduation. According to a 2011 study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, only 24 percent of graduating seniors felt a special connection to the job in hand.

“Choosing the right college is a high-stakes decision for students, and this is especially true for those who have just completed college.” Barrett said.

Class of 2011 graduates enter the job market

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

As current seniors prepare to enter a new phase in their lives, many will benefit from a rebounding economy and join the workforce in a few weeks.

Kevin Monahan, associate director of the Student Career Center, said the job market for the class of 2011 has improved from what it was one to two years ago.

With any year, the timing of hiring depends on the needs of the industry. With a rebounding economy, more companies are looking to hire new graduates with solid skills and a willingness to learn.

In 2011, 95 percent of the senior class had definite plans for graduate school, service or employment at the time of their graduation, and 98 percent of the senior class had solidified its plans within three months of graduation. According to a 2011 study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, only 24 percent of graduating seniors felt a special connection to the job in hand.

“Choosing the right college is a high-stakes decision for students, and this is especially true for those who have just completed college.” Barrett said.

Job Market

85% of students are expected to have definite plans for either graduate school, service or employment (up 3% since 2010)

30% increase in on-campus interviews since last year

19 Target Hires, usually 12-14

41 KPMG hires, usually ~30

19 12-14

41 30

85%

5% 100%

Graduates give College decorative clock for senior gift

By CAITLIN HOUSELY
Saint Mary’s Editor

This year’s graduates will give the gift of time to their alma mater as their senior gift.

The Class of 2011 decided to donate the gift to the Unica lounge as its senior gift. Senior Campaign member Lauren L. said, “The [Spec Unica] clock is a large decorative clock that will be placed in the Sopes lobby to remind Saint Mary’s women that their time is precious and that they should take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to them in the four years they have at SMC.” Lowry said.

Senior Campaign member Julie Laemmel said seniors voted among three options — the clock, a tree to be planted outside of SMC, and a scholarship for incoming freshman. With a majority of the senior class voting, the clock was the class favorite.

Seven members of the Class Gift Campaign, including Lowry and Laemmel, presented the gift to President Carol Ann Mooney at the Alumnae Senior champagne brunch Monday morning.

Laemmel said she used her dedication to the Class Gift Campaign as a way to thank Saint Mary’s.

“I enjoyed being involved in the senior class gift because it is a way to give back to Saint Mary’s and show that I am very fortunate,” she said.

Although some lessons were difficult, stressful and never easy, she said, “I enjoyed the experience and the people I met along the way.”

“I made my class gift because I know how important it is to provide future Saint Mary’s women the opportunity to learn and grow to become as inspirational as the women that have gone before them,” said Laemmel.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

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Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu
Members of Class of 2011 plan to enter religious life

By SAM STRYKER News Editor

Senior Michael Daly submitted an application to medical school, but said he did not feel it was the right path for his future. Daly is the son of a doctor, Daly will enter the St. Paul Seminary in the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul in August.

"I plan to surrender my whole life's work and dream to something so universally recognized, yet glorious and peace-filled," he said. "I need something more than the constant in my life, amongst all the chaos and extreme poverty and illnesses. I relied in the past on the love of the Eucharist in Calcutta."

Daly said his friends and family have been supportive of his decision, though not without some playful responses.

"I do remember some friends visiting me not to be discouraged that I haven't found a girlfriend at Notre Dame. There are wonderful women in the real world," he said. "I also recall all their misunderstanding, because it's not about what I am gaining — love and fulfillment in the way of the Eucharist. I'll be with Jesus, what's better than that?"

Daly explained that Notre Dame were especially instrumental in the decision to follow a religious vocation.

"Notre Dame allows your vocation to be cultivated and harvested in a patient, supportive and gentle manner. The visitation days and non-Catholic universities and I was aware of the lack of Jesus presence," he said. "There is something unique with blessed sister and a chapel in almost every building, Jesus is literally everywhere in the tabernacle."

Daly said he was the only senior pursuing a vocation in religious life after graduation.

"For those entering into a religious or priestly vocation, they will most likely participate in two different components, they will work with a spiritual director, they will be with a vocations director and they will take many of their questions about their future to prayer," Gallagher said.

Senior Christopher Gautsch, who is entering the Dominican Order following graduation, said he felt a strong calling to enter the priesthood after graduation.

"I am entering religious life because I think God is calling me to do it," he said. "Don't get me wrong. I want to do it too, but it all started when I started to perceive God beckoning me towards me." Gautsch made his decision to enter the Dominican novitiate in February and was accepted into the Order for Easter Monday. The decision was not an immediate one for him, he said.

"I went through most of my undergraduate career before making the choice to enter religious life," he said. "If it has been different, though, it is not in some way that theology has grown with the knowledge that I might myself be teaching and preaching the very same things one day."

While his decision was not solely influenced by his experiences at Notre Dame, Gautsch said the University's atmosphere helped him develop his faith life.

"Even though Notre Dame is not without its problems, the community of holy friends and the emphasis on the life of faith that I found here would have been much harder, if not impossible, to find at many other schools," he said. Gautsch, who will spend a year in Cincinnati before beginning his seminary studies in Washington, D.C., said his friends at Notre Dame supported him as he tried to determine his vocation.

"I am blessed to have friends who want me to do what I think God wants me to do and would support me no matter what I discerned that to be," he said.

Charles Gautsch said the next step in his life promises to be an exciting one.

"I definitely want to gain a wider worldview, challenge myself, make myself uncomfortable in this forced displacement because that is how you grow and that is how you push yourself a little bit further." Blanca Fernandez senior

One year in her position, Fernandez will interact with the Hispanic and Daly is not the only senior participating in the Program.

"They are really the only senior pursuing a vocation as they developed their interests."

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Contact Sam Stryker at stryske1@nd.edu

Students to volunteer after graduation

Students applied for Peace Corps

Center for Social Concerns will hold a gathering in their honor Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall

By TORI ROECK News Writer

Over 160 members of the Class of 2011 will pursue post-graduate service work, said Michael Hebbeler, director of the Center for Social Concerns' Senior Transitions Program.

"There's a great culture of service here at Notre Dame and so these students — embody that," Hebbeler said. "They take that into places that are uncomfortable, they are resourceful that do need strong."

"These seniors will pursue service across a broad range of programs, including Teach for America, Alliance for Catholic Education, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Peace Corps and AmeriCorps."

"These students have chosen a less comfortable path and that takes some courage." Michael Hebbeler director Center for Social Concerns

Hebbeler said the Center for Social Concerns will honor these students with a special gathering at 1 p.m. Saturday in Leighton Concert Hall.

The speakers at this year's ceremony will include University President Rev. John Jenkins and Executive Director of the Center for Social Concerns Fr. Bill Lies, Nora Jones Bondi, a 2002 Notre Dame alumna who joined the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago as a graduate student and remains an employee there to this day, will also speak.

Students will also receive journals to fill with reflections during their time of service, Hebbeler said.

Senior Bianca Fernandez will be the first Volunteer Corps after graduation for one year. In her position, Fernandez will interact with the Hispanic and Latino communities in Damar, Wash., through the Northwest Hispanic University, a pro-bono legal services group based in the Pacific Northwest.

Fernandez said her time as a volunteer was significant (RA) influenced my time at the institution.

"I really enjoyed my year here as an RA and being present in people's lives, and that's something that I definitely want to be very conscious of and strive toward in the upcoming year," Fernandez said.

The mission of the University was also a major factor in her decision to pursue service, Fernandez said.

"I've been trying to put my heart in the right place," Fernandez said. "I am grateful for my education here at Notre Dame particularly because it hasn't been solely academic. When I've spoken to professors, they've talked about what God wants me to do and do in class but how I'm doing as a person."

While she is nervous to leave college and begin her post-graduate experience, Fernandez said the next step in her life promises to be an exciting one.

"I definitely want to gain a wider worldview, challenge myself, make myself uncomfortable in this forced displacement because that is how you grow and that is how you push yourself a little bit further," Fernandez said.

"I'm very sad to leave Notre Dame, but I know I need to do it," she said.

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**Football disappoints seniors**

By MEL FLANAGAN

Nora Writer

After witnessing the worst four-season stretch in the history of Notre Dame football, senior Elise Gerspach said winning her final home game against the University of Utah made up for past disappointment.

“It was really important for us because we were so unfazed by losing at that point,” Gerspach said. “Winning the last game made us see that despite the past four years, we can win.”

The Class of 2011 witnessed a 3-5-1 season in 2007, suffering the most losses in a single season in the program’s history. This year’s senior class finished with a four-year stretch of 24 victories and 26 defeats.

Senior Holly Hinz said her freshman year also brought the lowest point of the four seasons. In their third home game, Notre Dame broke its 43-game win streak against Navy, losing in triple overtime.

“After the game the announcer just said ‘And there ends Notre Dame’s 43-year winning streak against Navy’,” Hinz said. “Everyone just thought, ‘Come on, as if we don’t know that already.’”

Although the wins were few and far between their freshman year, senior Christie Gotimer said they were memorable.

“Having the first five games as losses was disappointing but it made that sixth game that we won against UCLA (the University of California Los Angeles) even more exciting,” she said.

Although the game was played in California, Gotimer said students reacted strongly to the big win of the season.

“Everyone rushed out of the dorms and into the fountain and started singing the alma mater,” she said. “Kids were just sprinting everywhere onto the quad, playing music and going crazy.”

Gerspach said the highlight of her freshman year was Notre Dame’s victory over Duke University.

“With the last home game as well as the first win we saw at home,” Gerspach said. “It was nice actually feeling good after a game.”

Senior Tim Sweeney said though the Fighting Irish ultimately finished 7-6 in 2008, their victory over the University of Michigan renewed optimism.

“It was pretty cool, it was raining and it was only the second game of the season,” Sweeney said. “It gave us a little bit of hope.”

Senior Josh Zavilla said the first game of the 2009 season against the University of Nevada provided a sense of optimism.

“We ended up winning 35-0 and that gave us a hope for having a good year that we didn’t really have the year before,” Zavilla said. “That was the first time it looked like we had a football season again, it just seemed like a new year, a new team.”

In their final regular-season game of 2010, Notre Dame beat the University of Southern California (USC), ending an eight-game loss streak to the Trojans. Gerspach, who traveled to Los Angeles for the game, said witnessing the Fighting Irish’s victory was unforseeable.

“That was the real way we ended our football seasons here at Notre Dame,” she said. “It was such a huge moment in our team’s change, especially after winning the last home game.”

Despite attending Notre Dame during the four worst seasons in football history, Hinz said she is able to find humor in the situation.

“I also would not be surprised if we win a national championship the year we leave,” she said.

Sweeney said witnessing so many losses was made easier by doing so in good company.

“Being a Notre Dame fan is the overall experience. You’re with your classmates and everyone is obviously feeling the same,” Tim Sweeney senior said.

**Author Borchard to address SMC graduates**

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY

Saint Mary’s Editor

When asked to address the Class of 2011 at Saint Mary’s Commencement ceremony this year, Therese Johnson Borchard said the opportunity would mean more to her than winning a Pulitzer Prize.

“I think being chosen as the Saint Mary’s Commencement speaker is the highest honor I can think of,” Borchard said in a College press release. “Much of who I am today was formed in my four years at Saint Mary’s. The school is really part of my soul because it was there that I found the courage to be me.”

Borchard graduated from Saint Mary’s in 1993 with a degree in religious studies and she is now an active contributor to the field of psychology. She serves as the associate editor of Psych Central and the author of an award-winning blog called “World of Psychology.”

Catherine Pittman, associate professor of clinical psychology, said she is excited to hear from a speaker with experience in a field relevant to many graduates’ future.

“I am glad to have a speaker who is focused on assisting people as they struggle with issues of depression and other challenges,” Pittman said. “I know that students in the Psychology Department are especially interested in hearing from someone who is focused on assisting people as they struggle with issues of depression and other challenges.”

Borchard’s shared background as a Saint Mary’s woman gives us her students confidence that, like her, they can go out to make a difference in the world, she said. “I know that seniors feel a sense of mastery based on their experiences at [the College.] But they wonder if what they have learned will translate into meaningful opportunities and accomplishments in the real world.”

In addition to her work at Psych Central, Borchard also contributes to the daily blog “Beyond Blue,” a site dedicated to those suffering from depression, according to the press release. She also authored and edited a number of psychology publications related to depression and is a columnist for the Catholic News Service.

Borchard hopes to incorporate the knowledge she has gained from working in her field into her commencement address Saturday, the press release stated. Borchard said she discuses how students can live an authentic life, even if it means facing rejection to share their faith with the world.

Pittman said Borchard’s address should inspire the Class of 2011 as the women leave the College.

“I think [Borchard] will help them feel more confident and empowered as a result of what she has achieved in her work.”

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**Senior ROTC cadets to be commissioned as officers**

By AMANDA GRAY

The Class of 2011 will commission the second largest Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Class in more than a decade, Capt. Dale Nees, a professor of Naval Science, said.

After serving as the commanding officer of the Naval ROTC Corps and the tri-military chair for the ROTC program, Nees said he enjoyed watching the current seniors grow during their four years at Notre Dame.

“I arrived when these ‘kids’ didn’t even have a clue,” he said. “But watching them mature, it’s significant that they’re going to be leaders of this country and of America’s youth. They’ve been very dedicated, and they represent a good cross section of the University.”

The ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday and will be followed by a reception in the Pasquerilla Center. The Army will commission 17 2nd Lieutenants, the Air Force will commission 16 officers, and the Naval ROTC Corps will commission six. The Naval ROTC commission 25 ensigns.

Senior Alex Barbuto, an Army ROTC major, said he entered the ROTC as a freshman because “I knew the military was something I wanted to be a part of, and it’s something I wanted to challenge myself doing.”

As a “triple Domer,” Barbuto said he would miss the commander for ROTC this school year and he coordinated between the three military branches at Notre Dame. He will be commissioned as an ensign Saturday.

“The best thing about ROTC at Notre Dame is the unity between the group of fellow students going through the program. We have been through so much together. I would do anything for them if they needed it,” he said. “I feel they would help me out if I ever needed anything. The leadership and teaching from our instructors is second to none and they have set us all up for future success in the fleet.”

Senior Midshipman First Class Nicholas Geraci said the advisors in ROTC give the program its strength.

“Without a doubt, Notre Dame’s ROTC program pulls in some of the highest caliber military officers to teach, mentor and train us,” he said. “They are experts in their fields and bring various backgrounds and professional experiences to the table. In the course of four years, they have truly been pivotal in transforming us from simply ‘high schoolers’ into military officers and leaders.”

After four years in Notre Dame’s program, senior Cadet James Hanson said members of ROTC learn to be successful officers by example.

“After looking at successful officers and not-so-successful ones, you see that leadership isn’t about yourself. It’s about serving the people you’re in charge of. Those officers and [non-commissioned officers] I respected the most are the ones that cared about us.”

As senior Cadet Louise White prepares to leave Notre Dame, she said she will miss the “college experience.”

“The officer commissioning is just a new chapter in our lives,” she said. “We just learned as much as we can. In a way, we’re still students going in (to the service), even though we’re still graduated.”

While the responsibility of the new positions is intimidating for some, the ROTC seniors said it is also exciting to begin their commissions.

“I am a little anxious, perhaps a little nervous, to set foot on that submarine for the first time and see 15 glowing eyes staring at me thinking, ‘This guy has no idea what he’s doing,’” Geraci said. “But I am also very excited and extremely grateful for the training, education and experience I have received here at Notre Dame.”

Nees said he enjoyed watching the “double D’s” of Duncan, Sam D’Amelio and Michael Eckert, and their “triple Domer” brother, David Howard, prepare for graduation.

“Without a doubt, I will miss the community and brotherhood of Duncan the most. In such a short time the men of Duncan have turned a building into a home we can be very proud of,” Geraci said. “Eckert will move to Goodyear, Ariz., to serve as the pastor of St. John Vianney Parish, where he previously served as a deacon. As a ‘triple Domer,’ Eckert said leaving campus will be difficult.

“Without a doubt, the greatest challenge now is saying goodbye. After being part of such a close knit community and sharing in the lives of the men of Duncan, it will be challenging to step out of that,” he said. “I know that the Highlanders will be in good hands as I move on.”

Fisher Hall rector Fr. Robert Moss spent 12 years among the Fishermen and is the most veteran of the departing rectors. Like Eckert, he said he would miss the sense of community in his dorm, especially in Fisher’s spiritual life.

“I’ve had great staffs every year, great guys in the Hall,” he said. “I’ll miss the people, the guys on Sunday mornings too.”

Moss said the most challenging part of the job was maintaining a Christian atmosphere in a men’s college residence hall.

For Moss personally, it was having the gift of patience,” he said. “The greatest challenge was making the effort to create a Christian community.”

Moss is unsure of his next career, but plans to remain on campus.

“Uh be at Notre Dame, and I am blessed with a lot of opportunities,” he said. The four rectors hail from different backgrounds, but as each prepares to leave Notre Dame, they said they never anticipated serving at Notre Dame as a rector.

However, D’Amelio said she was fortunate to serve in such a rewarding position.

“It’s been an interesting journey. I hope I’ve touched some lives, I know these people have touched mine,” she said. “I was very happy to be a part of this from the beginning to the end.”

Contact John Camerons at jcameros2@nd.edu
Congratulations!

To the class of 2011. As you consider how you will make a difference in the world, realize that your call may be to serve the world with the Congregation of Holy Cross. How do you know?

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Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross

vocation.nd.edu
Hoffman receives Outstanding Senior Award

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary’s senior Emma Hoffman recently received the Outstanding Senior Award for her involvement in Campus Ministry, her studies abroad and her work in the Student Government Association (SGA).

The SGA is the student government representative body of the College and the General Education Committee.

According to the release, the SGA is the most visible student organization and is often responsible for planning events, activities and services on campus.

The SGA also receives financial support from the Student Trust and the Student Government Association Foundation.

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According to the release, the SGA is the most visible student organization and is often responsible for planning events, activities and services on campus.

The SGA also receives financial support from the Student Trust and the Student Government Association Foundation.
Inside Column

Not ‘The End’

I’ve tended to associate the reality of this whole graduation thing with a series of “lasts”: last football game, last final exam, the last of Finny’s. its there really ever a “last” Finney? I don’t think so.

For me, each of these lasts came and went, and reality still didn’t set in. I wasn’t starting to say goodbyes, wasn’t thinking about moving on, and I wasn’t breaking down in every time some- one played vitamin C. “Graduation.” (Just to clarify, vitamin C still hasn’t gotten me, and I’m not sure it will.)

But on Monday, after I signed a lease to move into an apartment in Chicago July 1, something changed. This wasn’t a laundry list of final, almost constant line of impor- tant real-world, grown-up decisions — and it was this “first” that alerted me to how quickly reality is approaching.

For so long, I could only see our grad- uation as the end of Delbartos, 222, The Observer, Corby’s, American Studies and Cubs trips. Graduation represented the immediate conclusion of time that we had from our closest friends and the place we had called home for four years.

When I signed that lease, though, I began to understand that graduation is, as corby said, it also a beginning. Life after Notre Dame had always seemed so distant, so uncertain, and in some ways it still does. But as it gets closer, I’m realizing the reality that away isn’t so far either.

As I look out at my group of friends, I see more than the people with whom I’ve shared countless hilarious nights and a handful of rough mornings. I see incredibly talented 22-year-olds who are ready to change the world (seriously) as doctors, lawyers, teachers, public officials, pilots, journalists and people who could call people the caliber of people with whom I’ve shared this unparalleled four-year adventure is unbelievable, and that’s what makes it hard to leave this place.

But it’s also why I can. Because we know we’re ready.

To view graduation as The End was absolutely terrible for me, but as a beginning, how can we not view it as a thrilling chance to pursue opportunities in new cities and different fields? The real fun of the second and third floors has an excellent sense of humor.

I spent a semester in Angers, France walking down narrow streets to class and up and down the spiritual staircase in my host family’s home. I walked around European cities until my feet ached. I walked between tailgates on football Saturdays. I stormed the field after Notre Dame beat Utah and I lingered there with my friends for as long as possible before walking out of the stadium through the tunnel.

But before saying goodbye to Notre Dame football as a student, I walked around New York City and into Yankee Stadium. A week after that, I skipped and thumbed through out of the Coliseum singing the light song after a win against USC.

This spring, as I realized my days as a college student were slipping away, I did not want to be that senior who took Notre Dame for granted. So I began to take the scenic route to class and made a point of visiting the grotto each day. I even got somewhat strange glances from passersby as I walked around campus alone with a smile on my face. They must have been wondering what was wrong.

In the years to come, I’ll join the throngs of alumni who descend upon campus on football Saturdays, and show their children the places where they used to sleep, eat, study and play.

But it’s not just the beauty of campus itself that makes it home. One Sunday in August 2007, I sat in the JAC with my parents. My father, who had played devil’s advocate throughout my college search process, turned to me and said, “You know the right, Laura. You belong here.” Later that afternoon my mom handed me a small goodbye note in the middle of South Quad, and I walked away.

This Sunday, I will walk onto campus as a student and leave as a graduate. I do not know where I will walk next. But I will never forget the things I thought about and the people I talked to then.

It is time to walk away, but I will never stop belonging here.

Laura McCrystal is graduating with a degree in American Studies, French and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She would like to thank her parents for agreeing that Notre Dame was the right place for her. And many thanks to the roommates, friends, Observer staffers and professors who made the last four years unforgettable. Laura can be reached at lmccryst@nd.edu.

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Quote of the Day

“Stay centered by accepting whatever you are doing. This is the ultimate.” — Zhuangzi, Chinese philosopher

Quote of the Day

“One must not lose desires. They are mighty stimulants to creativeness, to love and to long life.” — Alexander A. Bogomoletz, Russian physiologist and pathologist

Walking away

On Sunday I will walk with the Class of 2011 through the grotto at LaFayette. I’ve heard a break a Notre Dame graduate.

The use of the verb “to walk” in associa- tion with graduation ceremonies seems especially appropriate for four years of college.

I fell in love with Notre Dame when I first walked around campus as a high school student.

Freshman year, I was constantly in awe of campus buildings. As I learned the fastest paths from Pasquerella East to Hawaii Search and every- where else on campus, I remember hoping I wouldn’t take the beauty of Notre Dame for granted for the time I walked across campus as a senior.

I met a classmate who became a sister to me during a walk to breakfast on the first day of Fresh-O. I met roommates who I walked everywhere with — to North Dining Hall, the library and LaFayette, but also along the edge of the Grand Canyon and down the beach in Hilton Head.

I rushed around campus trying not to spill my coffee and still make it to class on time. Sometimes I succeeded.

I learned that after spending hours in the basement of South Dining Hall producing The Observer, there was no guessing what weather would be when I left to walk home in the middle of the night.

I enjoyed studying in LaFayette because we needed a break. I loved walking around and talking to people I knew.

While friends wanted to avoid the dining hall at its most crowded times, I looked forward to walking around, getting my food and try- ing to make my tray balanced amidst hordes of hungry students.

Then there was the time I started to walk into the boys’ bathroom in Delbartos at class change time. The person who made the location the men’s and ladies’ rooms opposite on the first floor seemed to have a way of being on the second and third floors has an excellent sense of humor.

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Matthew Gamber

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

Welcome to the land of snow excess. McGlinn Hall, home of the Shorocks and the “but dance.” Disneyland as a pregame warm up before heading into the Frozen Five. The Observer’s news editor emeritus will help you make your way. And if the events of Senior Week and who we want to be when we grow up is about to begin as we figure out what cities and different fields? The real fun of the second and third floors has an excellent sense of humor.

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Matthew Gamber

Emeritus

The View

Laura McCrystal

News Editor Emeritus

Crank me up. Snowpocalypse 2011. Riding the elevator with Father Hesburgh, who apparently has never heard of Gummi Works. When I see an open high way, it’s... just... it’s...I can’t be printed in this newsletter.

Being Boss’s 11-A. Snow. It’s official. Duck Island. Alexandra, you are amaz-

Jordan Gamble

Scene Editor

ing to keep my tray balanced amidst hun-

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zhouzhi@nd.edu

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The Observer

The graduation speech I never got to give

Madeline Buckley
Managing Editor

The University recently asked me if I learned something in the past four years.

Part of the long list of pre-graduation tasks seniors included a short survey about the academic experience here at Notre Dame. I rolled my eyes at the pointlessness of trying to sum up four years at an academic institution in five or so multiple choice questions. I indicated that, yes, I did learn something.

After four years and $200,000, I sure hope so.

I learned that a coupon for a free bagel is literally and figuratively priceless if it allows me to sit in Einstein’s for hours talking to my friends.

I learned that leaving Finny’s for 10 minutes to use the bathroom at C.J.’s or O’Sullivan’s will save about 40 minutes of that pizza line.

I learned to fix finicky computers at 3 a.m. to love my beautiful dysfunctional Observer family. I never quite learned how to explain to skeptical people what my major in American Studies is, except that it is in fact the best major at Notre Dame.

I learned that life can be rough at times, but I also learned that chocolate from Mr. Feeney, Harry Potter or a Spill Canvas song, of course, if I were writing this speech as a college senior, more intellectual and sophisticated, etc., I would definitely quote John Wooden, St. Augustine or Barbra Streisand.

Clearly, this speech would have been hilarious, not to mention moving and perfect at explaining just how everyone feels at this point in their senior year.

Everything this week has been the last of something, and the conversations have turned to regret (I‘ve‘re‘ca‘me‘to‘believe‘it‘made‘me‘) to the depressing ("Now, we’re going to get old") to the absurd ("I’m going to miss singing along to the Spice Girls at the Backer") — that last one was me.

As John Wooden said, on the sheet of the quote-a-day-calendar I tore off the day I wrote this, "It’s not so important who starts the game but who finishes it." If I or a person graduating this weekend is the same as the one who started here four years ago then it all worked out as planned.

Now, like the girl who couldn’t stay a mermaid, we have to leave those conversations and those experiences for a bigger, more difficult world. I can’t point out to me the other day that it doesn’t matter that we’re leaving.

We’ll always have our Notre Dame education and everything that comes with it, from logical thinking to surviving the real world. He told me we’d all be the people Notre Dame made us to be. Four years ago, I was most upset because I wouldn’t get to deliver the perfect sign-off. "So congratulations, Wawenoch High School Class of 2007. Make a splash." Which, of course, makes no sense considering I just told them to get out of the water. But back in 2007 I thought I was really clever. I guess one thing hasn’t changed.

So congratulations, Notre Dame Class of 2011. Make — no, I can’t say it. There’s no way this ending’s going to be that easy.

Coming soon to a couch near your living room, Laura Myers is graduating with a degree in economics and no ideas on how to improve on the $11.19 in her checking account. She made some stockes once.

We want to thank Dad for the Sports Illustrateds and Mom for teaching for how to play Scrabble week before it got cool (but with both for a million other things). She would also like to thank the Hydronate Release Spray for always having her back, and Deb for being Deb. Laura can be reached at hyerst2@nd.edu

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It’s 1:30 a.m. in the wee-hours of Friday morning, the last day of this last finals week, and I’m setting in far, far, my last all-nighter. Of the love that I have in "LaFun Run" return trip to Riley Hall from picking up my last night last Venit half-sweetened iced coffee from Starbucks, I had a realization that I have never experi- enced in recent memory, a realiza- tion which, perhaps I simply hadn’t had the time to slow down to feel, understand or really reflect upon. The realization, that despite all my friends being out at Fever. Finningan’s/Finnies/Finny’s, Oyster Bar or another questionable local establishment, despite a week packed full of exams and anticipa- tion for the future and despite the impending 10 a.m. deadline for my last undergraduate Industrial Design presentation looming ever closer, I was, well, content. I might not know what my next step in life is, or that uncertainty means for the next week, month, year or decade, but somehow, that’s OK.

I liked to pretend that Notre Dame is a different place for me. That growing up here in South Bend as a townie, being immersed in the Notre Dame culture since birth (including blue and gold colored braces) makes Our Lady’s University mean so much more to me than everyone else here. However, the recent news that my family would be leaving Notre Dame alongside me was a somewhat sobering moment. That my relationship to Notre Dame before four years ago didn’t make me any different than anyone else here.

I had assumed, somewhat naively, that leaving Notre Dame wouldn’t really be leaving, that I would always be back, that home would always be the same golden place it always has been. But now, somehow, it had seemed, my only connection was the blue-stoned, gold finished monon- gram Notre Dame on my right ring finger.

On my computer monitor at home, I have a fortune cook- ie paper taped to it that reads, “Affirm it, visualize it, create a SparkNotes version for The Observer. I hope to take all that I’ve learned here, from professors, from friends, from classmates, and use it all. As I graduate and go out into the world, I want to be driven to do well, but also to do good. As Notre Dame graduates we carry a responsibility to help others less fortunate. Let’s work hard, but let’s also remember we only know so much and there will be times in my life I don’t really know what comes next.”

While all these changes are intimidating, I also know that, deep down, I am ready to embrace the unexpected and the unknown. My time at Notre Dame has prepared me well for the new reality of the working world and I know the relationships I’ve made here will sur- vive the challenge of distance. Next year, I will miss the freedom of a student’s life — the long pauses in a course college schedule, the after- noon naps and of course Thursday nights at Feve. I will miss the exquisite and comforting sight of Notre Dame’s leafy quads. On the other hand, I look forward to new freedoms and new views.

In a few short weeks, I will be trading God Quad for Times Square, the Golden Dome for the Empire State Building. A cubicle in the 48- floor Conde Nast building will replace my desk at The Observer in the basement of South Dining Hall.

This year, my friends and I live within walking distance of each other. Next year, we will each be far flung, from New York and Boston and Chicago, to Atlanta, Dallas, even the Cayman Islands.

In short: I’m scared. I know it’s natural to be, not only because I will be leaving my comfortable, predictable life, but because for the first time in my life I don’t really know what comes next.

The Observer would like to thank the following seniors for four years of late nights, missed deadlines and flawed stories.

Madeline Buckley, Ashley Charnley, Blair Chemidlin, Joe Choi, Lilian Civantes, Tess Civantes, Coleman Collins, Steph DeFrez, Patty Fernandez, Matt Gamber, Jordan Gamble, Mike Gotimer, Katelyn Grabarek, Sofia Irbude, Dan Jacobs, Melissa Kaduck, Casey Kenny, Claire Kiernan, Megan Loney, Michelle Maizt, Laura McCrystal, Laura Myers, Eric Prister, Pat Sala, Karlyn Smith, Meaghan Veselik, Sam Werner.

But instead, we thank you for lots of laughs and even more great memories.
I am Roman-Catholic, pro-life and middle-upper class citizen with strong leanings toward the Republican Party. Oh, and one more thing. I am ecstatic that the President of the United States is coming to speak at my graduation Commencement. Within hours of the big announcement on Friday, I was receiving infiltrating e-mails from my fellow pro-lifers calling for the immediate repeal of President Obama’s invitation to Notre Dame. “We must stand against evil,” said one message. “He supports gay marriage, which is an affront to the family,” read another. “He should not be given this opportunity to confuse our youth.” One message went so far as to compare Obama with history’s most hated villain. The email read, “The German people supported Hitler because he was dynamic and promised jobs and food. There is more to a man than his charisma.” There is also more to a man than his views on the simple issue of abortion. Such rash and radical comments not only fail to promote the end of abortion, they undermine the entire pro-life movement.

In an emergency press release issued by the Pro-Life Action League, National Director and Notre Dame alumnus Joe Scheidler made the following statement. “Over the first two months of his administration, Barack Obama has established himself as the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history. My alma mater should not be providing a platform for this president.”

Barack Obama cannot expect pro-life Catholics to stand back and allow the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history to make a mockery of Notre Dame, the University that he calls “my second home.”

It is our responsibility, not our commencement speaker’s, to continue to cultivate our Catholic identity and apply it beyond graduation. There is a difference between wanting to welcome college graduates into the real world, arm them with knowledge of complex and evolving issues, and inspire them to be passionate and influential citizens of a pluralistic and complex society.

Pro-life Catholics to stand back and allow the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history to make a mockery of Notre Dame, the University that he calls “my second home.”

As a recent alumnus and member of the 2006-07 Student Senate, it is disheartening to witness the actions of the administration on the part of this reckless pursuit of one. The world will not stop turning for the abortion issue to be resolved. We as Catholics are therefore called to be passionate and influential citizens of the world that we are to silently pray for our country, as I have done the past two months of President Obama’s administration, as a responsible citizen of a Catholic identity. “As a pro-life myself, I understand where Scheidler is coming from. I, too, am concerned for the pro-life movement under the Obama administration. I simply cannot agree, however, with the notion that Notre Dame, one of the finest academic institutions in the nation, should deny the President of the United States a platform to speak solely because of his views on abortion. Obama is not coming to Notre Dame to speak about abortion, nor is his speech supposed to play a pivotal part in the formation of our Catholic identity.

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Movies

For “Harry Potter” – and our childhoods – the end is near

“Toy Story 3” brings even college kids to tears

The British monarch with the stammer steals the world’s heart, and all its gold statues

“The Social Network” defines the Facebook generation

“Inception:” the movie that rocked Hollywood and continues to blow our minds

Television

Michael Scott leaves a void that cannot be filled

TBS stands with Team Coco for new Conan show

Thanks to “Glee,” Gwyneth Paltrow owns TV

New judges reinvigorate “American Idol”

“The Voice” discovers new talent on reality TV

Campus

OK Go shows Notre Dame some love

The Keenan Revue makes its triumphant return to campus

Augustana closes the year with a concert at Legends

For more on the year’s events, visit...
Guster hit off the year at the B1 Block Party

SUB rocks Stepan Center with Chiddy Bang and O.A.R.

Student theater brings viral videos to campus

High: The Royal Wedding brings a fairy tale to life

High: Sandra Bullock handles Hollywood scandal with dignity

Low: Charlie Sheen stops #winning and sinks into delirium

Low: Ark Music and Rebecca Black prove talent isn’t necessary for success

Low: Even after growing up, Taylor Swift keeps whining

Music

The Year’s Best Party Songs

1. “Blow” — Ke$ha
2. “Till the World Ends” — Britney Spears
3. “F**k You” — Cee Lo Green
5. “Teenage Dream” — Katy Perry
6. “We R Who We R” — Ke$ha
7. “Stereo Love” — Edward Maya & Vika Jigulina
8. “I Like It” — Enrique Iglesias
9. “Raise Your Glass” — P!nk
10. “Yeah 3x” — Chris Brown

visit ndsmcobserver.com/scene
By MATT UNGER
Sport Writer

This season has been another feather in the hat for Irish coach Bobby Bayliss. The team finished second in the Big East and earned a berth as a No. 2 seed in the 64-team NCAA tournament for the 20th time in 21 years.

Team depth and versatility allowed the Irish to produce a senior class to their squad to the NCAA tournament. Bayliss brings with it a few credentials.

Seniors Perry and Brovsky lead NCAA tourney run

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sport Writer

The arrival of fall at Notre Dame has meant the program will graduate four freshmen, bringing with it a few certain facts — the games will get shorter; the temperature colder; the leaves will change color and Bobby Clark will lead his Irish squad to victory.

The 2010 year was business as usual for the Notre Dame coach, as the Irish (10-6-4) rode the goal scoring of senior forward Steven Perry and the leadership of a deep senior class to their 10th straight NCAA appearance under Clark. Perry and Brovsky in 2010 to Dartmouth on a golden goal in extra time during the second round of the tournament, Clark said the bitter defeat at the hands of a familiar foe — Clark coached at Dartmouth for nine seasons — came at the end of a well-played season.

"I always say it’s a good season to reach the NCAA tournament, and a great one if you can advance and reach the College Cup," Clark said. "We had the overall seed out of 200 teams in college soccer that’s the top five percent. That’s where we want to be. We needed to have taken full advantage of our good placement, however. If you look at professional soccer, the best team rarely wins in a cup format."

Coming off an 11-8-4 campaign in 2009, Clark and the Irish had to replace the production of the Big East’s lead goalscorer Bright Dike, who currently plays for the Major League Soccer team the Portland Timbers. But the senior duo of Perry and midfielders Sara and Kristi Frilling have," Rafael said. "I am going to miss playing with them every match," Frilling said. "I am going to miss playing with them every match," Frilling said. "I am going to miss playing with them every match."
Saint Mary's: Year in Review

Soccer

Mike Joyce faced a daunting task in his first year as the Belles' coach. After going 3-16-1 (1-10 MIAA) in 2009, the cupboard seemed bare. But in those tough seasons, joy was derived during the season, Joyce discovered young talent despite a tough schedule. He was proud of the results and confident for a solid 2011 season.

Sophomore Maddie Meckes said although the team did not register a number of wins, the players never lacked heart.

"This season was very much a rebuilding year for us because we lost nine seniors, and we had to integrate several freshmen into our starting lineup," Meckes said. "As in any rebuilding year, we had a lot of ups and downs."

"One of our biggest strengths is our tenacity. We always work hard until the very end of the game, so we never felt like we had a bad second half."

Transferring to soccer for Saint Mary's (4-16-1, 1-7 MIAA) was the emergence of freshman Mallorie Valencia, who, along with junior Katelyn Tundo-Steel, led the Belles with eight points on the season and was named to the all-MIAA second team.

Meckes added that she thought one of the toughest things about playing on a young team was getting to a game and thinking, "I think our biggest weakness was playing consistently for an entire match," she said. "In many of our games, we started off a little slow, and we would lose the goals in the first half, leaving us with little hope for the second half."

"Although the Belles will have another challenging schedule next year, they hope to mature as a team and make a run at the MIAA title in 2011-12.

"Our outlook for next season is very promising," Valencia said. "We have many top quality recruits coming into the fold, and our returning players are starting to mature. We definitely have a good showing in our conference and making it into the playoffs."

Volleyball

During opening their conference season with a victory over Albany College. Oct. 10 in their first conference match of the season. Junior setter Dani Drnka started in the match, serving three aces, accumulating 30 assists and earning All-MIAA Academic Athlete of the Week. But Brink's season cut short just a few weeks later when she suffered a season-ending injury in a match against Calvin College, dealing a serious blow to a Bellas squad that was already short on veterans.

The next Saint Mary's victories came at the Manchester Invitational, where the Belles won three matches on the first day. The squad had two more conference victories over the course of the season, defeating the Britons for the second time at Albion College and prevailing over Adrian College in a five-set thriller. The season ended in the first round of the MIAA tournament as No. 6 Hope College defeated the Belles in three sets.

Despite a disappointing record on the court, the Belles still had several notable accomplishments.

Junior libero Megan Monchero surpassed the 1,000 digs mark in her third season. The senior setter Ellen Huelsmann finished her career with 71 service aces, 82 assist sets and 368 kills.

"Huelsmann was the recipient of the team's Impact Player and Coach's Attitude Award for the entire season," Belles coach Toni Kuechel said. "She is the glue that prevents the players with at least three errors of the players with at least 300 attack attempts. [She is] this year's recipient of the Saint Mary's College Athletic Leadership Award winner."

She also earned a 4.0 grade-point average during the fall semester and earned a 3.48 grade-point average overall.

Cross Country

Saint Mary's enjoyed immense success during the 2010 season, finishing in fifth place in the MIAA for the fifth straight season. Members of the team set 39 different personal and records, and sophomore Julia Kenney became the fifth runner in program history to become one of the all-MIAA team and the youngest member of the program to earn all-MIAA honors.

Proud of her team's accomplishments, Belles coach Dale Bauters said her players were not limited to success on the course.

"Going into the 2010 season the team had one major goal — to finish third in the conference," Bauters said. "Outside of athletic performances, they also wanted to maintain the highest team GPA on campus. This year they were able to achieve both of those goals."

Breaking the Belles' top-three was a first for the Belles in its program history. The team also reached its academic goals with flying colors — as a team, the runners went into the fall semester with an average grade point average for the fall semester, a feat Bauters was particularly proud of.

"Academically, the team has continued to amaze me. We are all proud of our young seniors who are so proud of them. To see them obtain such success [academically and athletically] this season is truly what Division III athletics is all about."

Unfortunately, we are graduating a large, talented senior class. We will miss them and all the gifts they have brought to our program for the past four years. It will be challenging to fill their shoes overnight, but hopefully the mindset is in place and our returners can pass on their experience to our incoming class."

Swimming

The 2010-11 season saw the Belles break new ground in multiple areas as the squad ended the year on a high note, giving hope for next season.

First year coach Mark Benishke led Saint Mary's to a fifth-place finish at the MIAA championships, breaking the school record for the first time. The Belles also placed two swimmers on the all-MIAA team for the first time in program history.

Junior individual medley and breaststroke swimmer Audrey Dalrymple and sophomore distance swimmer Ellen Watson earned the post-season honors.

Benishke said his first year went better than he could have hoped. "We had a great finish to the season and exceeded all expectations," he said. "We definitely had one of the smallest rosters in quite a few years, and to have that kind of result — you don't ask for a better first season as a coach."

"Saint Mary's lost only one senior, Jami Nelis, to graduation. Benishek said the return of a number of rising juniors in the fall after studying abroad, coupled with a new class of incoming freshmen, will help the Belles continue to improve next season.

"You've always got to continue to improve as a team," he said. "We have a great young group with a strong future."

Softball

Saint Mary's ended its season on a five-game winning streak, turning a rough mid-season into a successful finish. The Belles finished the season with a record of 20 wins, 13 losses. The Belles ended the season fourth in the MIAA championship. The Belles' season was cut short just a few days later when she suffered a season-ending injury in the conference tourney, where the Belles won the conference championship.

"Winning the MIAA championship as a sophomore class has compiled an impressive 2011 success," Campbell said. "We had some pretty tough setbacks in the middle of the season, but we stayed confident, played within ourselves and finished our season on a positive note by winning six of the last eight games."

The Belles had a tough season in terms of playing conditions, suffering seven game postponements due to weather. But the Belles had an opportunity to establish itself as a national power with another NCAA tournament bid.

"What is exciting about this golf season is how we have been successful in so many different areas," Bauters said. "This is the first time in the Saint Mary's College Athletic Leadership Award."

Though they had a disappointing season, the Belles are already looking toward next season and have set a number of goals they are determined to meet.

"Personally I think, and I'm sure my teammates would agree, the goal is to make it to the conference championship," Campbell said. "We've proved that we really are a talented team that deserves to be at the top of the MIAA."

Looking to build on already strong winning tradition with great expectations for this spring, Saint Mary's looks to establish itself as a national power with another NCAA tournament bid.

The No. 8 Belles’ spring season started with a series of top finishes at prestigious national tournaments. The team started off on a high note, as evidenced by their championship-shattering 66 score posted at the Invitational. The Belles coach Mary Kate Boyd at the season-opening George Fox Invitational. That score was the result of a total of 12 birdies, five strokes, and behind it Saint Mary's rallied to a second place finish.

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ND WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Season falls short of expectations

Irish coach Debbie Brown has high expectations for her team each and every season, making the 2010 campaign a significant setback in the recent success of the program.

“It is our goal to win the Big East championship and make the NCAA tournament every year, so this year was certainly a disappointment,” she said.

Although Notre Dame’s 2010 run was labeled a disappointment by Brown’s standards, the team’s season was fraught with individual and team successes. During the campaign, Brown earned her 450th win as head coach, senior middle hitter Kelly Sciacca recorded her 1000th kill and freshman outside hitter Andrea McHugh was named the region’s most outstanding freshman.

The Irish finished the season with a 19-13 overall record and an 11-5 mark in Big East play. The young Notre Dame roster showed promise and resolve throughout the season, but struggled when facing top competition.

The Irish lost a talented senior class at the end of the year. Kelly Sciacca and libero Angela Puente were key players for Notre Dame this season, while outside hitter Stephanie Slatt and defender Megan Dunne also made key contributions to the team.

Brown had nothing but kind words to remember the senior class by.

“I think the young players improved a tremendous amount this season,” Brown said. “I had several freshmen and sophomores on the floor each match. The experience they gained was very valuable and the seniors did a great job bringing them along.”

Amongst the talented young Irish nucleus, McHugh excelled during the 2010 campaign. McHugh earned not only the Big East freshman of the year award, but was voted the Northeast Region Freshman of the Year by the American Volleyball Coaches’ Association.

“Andrea was amazing this season and earned some great accolades,” Brown said. “We knew she would be a significant contributor to the team, but didn’t necessarily foresee that she would perform at such a high level.”

Looking to next season, the Irish restocked their lineup with a talented triumvirate of high school stars. Toni Alugbue, Jeni Houser and Meg Vonderhaar are set to enroll at Notre Dame in the fall and should make an immediate impact on the Irish roster.

“We really are pleased with our recruiting class,” Brown said. “We have three really strong freshmen who will add considerable depth. They are all great offensive players, which is an area we really need to improve in. They are great competitors, all from great club programs, and we expect to see really good things out of them.”

Brown said that the returning players have already made great gains this spring to set up the Irish for a successful run in 2011.

“The returners have been working all spring to prepare themselves for the fall,” Brown said. “We are pleased with our offseason workouts and conditioning. We have improved everyone’s vertical jumps, which was a big goal for our team.”

Thanks to a strong offseason and an incoming crop of talented freshmen, Brown believes the team is poised to contend for a title next year.

“We always want to be in a position where we win Big East championships,” Brown said. “That will really never change and with the talent we are bringing back for next year, we think that is a very realistic goal.”

Contact Michael Todisco at mtodisco@nd.edu
In the history of Notre Dame's 43-year tenure at the Joyce Center, the 2010-11 season will go down as the twist ending no one saw coming.

With a roster featuring 12 freshmen and only 13 returning players coming off a disappointing 2009-10 campaign, Irish coach Jeff Jackson's team posted a 25-14-5 record, finished second in the CCHA and advanc ed through the NCAA Northeast regional to make the program's second Frozen Four appearance before bowing out to eventual champion Minnesota-Duluth.

The final season at the only arena Notre Dame varsity hockey has ever known represented a turnaround not even Jackson could predict.

“We kind of went into the season with open eyes. We knew we were going to be young, but we didn’t know what kind of an impact those young players would have on our team,” Jackson said. “We knew we were going to be young, but we didn’t know what kind of an impact those young players would have on our team.”

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Jackson could predict.

“The summer bridge program definitely helped our guys in a couple areas,” he said. “They got an idea of what college hockey was all about academically and then the other part of it is they got to spend a lot of time with their future teammates.”

Though the dozen newcomers brought a fresh look to the Joyce Center ice, the roster also featured four seniors, three of whom remained from the 2007-08 team that produced the program’s first Frozen Four run and title game appearance.

Though left wing Calle Ridderwall, right wing Ryan Getzlaf and center T.J. Tynan were all program veterans, defenseman Joe Lavin was chosen as the team captain despite being with the program just a year after joining from ringing from Providence last December.

Jackson said the choice spoke to Lavin’s leadership ability on and off the ice.

“Lavin as a captain may have been the biggest surprise in terms of knowing they could be one of the leaders. Joe came in halfway through his junior year and gained a lot of respect right away,” he said. “He’s an adult, and he does the things right way on the ice, off the ice and in the classroom.”

The season started with the Irish rattling off five wins in their first six games, highlighted by a 2-1 home defeat of then-No. 1 Boston College in which Ridderwall lit the lamp twice and sophomore netminder d Mike Johnson stopped all but one of Boston College’s 29 shots.

Jackson said the victory gave the young team confidence moving into the bulk of the CCHA schedule.

“At the time I think they thought it was a huge upset, and at the time maybe it was,” he said. “I think it was a real boost to their confidence in terms of knowing they could play with a top team in the country. There were points of our season that made them more confident, and also some setbacks that made them realize that they would have to get better.”

The emergence of Lee and Tynan among scoring leaders helped the Irish move into first-place in the CCHA standings heading into a 17-day Christmas break, breaking a tradition of the most inconsistent parts of our season that made them terms of knowing they could play with a top team in the country. There were points of our season that made them more confident, and also some setbacks that made them realize that they would have to get better.”

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Following the graduation of seven seniors, junior AllAmerica defenseman Ian Cole left for the St. Louis Blues of the NHL.

Freshman right wing Kyle Palmieri and Notre Dame signee and defenseman Jarred Tinordi soon followed suit with the Anaheim Ducks and Montreal Canadiens, respectively.

The high turnover of players allowed for an influx of 12 signees to join the team, among them blue-chip recruits in defensemen Stephen Johns, left wing Anders Lee, center T.J. Tynan and goaliekeeper Steven Summerhays. The class began among them 12 on a week-by-week basis until the last night of the season, when the Irish found themselves one point ahead of Michigan with only a Saturday night game against Western Michigan remaining on the slate for the CCHA title.

Two first-period goals from the Broncos put the Irish in a 2-0 hole they would not recover from, and Michigan’s 5-0 victory on the same night handed the Irish a second-place finish.

The loss, coupled with two decisive team losses in the CCHA tournament, meant the senior leadership needed to right the team’s mindset heading into the NCAA tournament.

“I think they realized that they were too amped up at times,” Jackson said. “We wouldn’t say there wasn’t a time when we didn’t play up to our potential, but we didn’t realize that we had to control some of that.”

The team wasted no time responding to the series of defeats, emerging from the NCAA Northeast regional as a No. 3 seed with wins over Merrimack and New Hampshire, two teams playing less than an hour from their respective campuses.

In the regional final, the Irish played arguably their most complete game of the season, highlighted by a Regional MVP performance in goal from Johnson, who made 37 saves.

“I thought we got out of the gate well right away,” Jackson said. “The game against New Hampshire was probably our best game of the season in terms of overall play, with the puck and without the puck. The strong play from the regional brought Notre Dame to the Frozen Four in Saint Paul, Minn., to face off with another team playing in its own backyard — Minnesota-Duluth. Freshman left wing Jeff Costello got the Irish on the board in the game’s opening minute, but three power-play goals and an even-strength goal gave the eventual NCAA champion Bulldogs an insurmountable lead over Notre Dame, who fell 4-3.

Jackson said the game ultimately exposed a weakness in the Irish special teams.

“We took too many penalties early in the game,” he said. “That played into one of our most inconsistent parts of our game, our special teams, which were an issue all season. I think we played our hand poorly in that game by taking penalties.”

Though they fell just short of an additional title, the final scene at the Joyce Center saw plenty of positives for the future of Irish hockey at the newly constructed Compton Family Center.

The campaign featured the emergence of two national standouts in Tynan, and Lee, who finished first and second, respectively, in scoring among all freshmen nationally. Tynan, selected by many media outlets as a consensus national freshman of the year in college hockey, came to South Bend instead of spending a year in junior hockey after the late departures of Tinordi and Palmieri — a fact that made his 54-point campaign even more remarkable.

“T.J. is a competitor,” Jackson said. “He’d make plays in front of the net, but he’d also make plays before he’d get to the net front. I think he’s the type of player that he’s probably more of a skilled, dynamic type of player.”

Lee, who chose hockey over football after being recruited by a number of college programs to play quarterback, leveraged his size and strength to become a physical presence on the wing and led the Irish with 24 goals.

Anders is dominant from a physical perspective,” Jackson said. “He gets deep in the offensive zone. He has a great release, great shot and is always in the crease area. But I think next year, more than just Tynan and Lee, I think all of the players in that class can increase their numbers and be key for us.”

The scoring duo of Tynan and Lee may headline the Irish, but they are just a part of the young nucleus of the team that will open up one of the premier hockey facilities in the country in October with the raising of a Frozen Four banner.

What a way to close the book.

Contact Chris Allen at cal1en10@nd.edu
"We're all really leveled physically and emotionally because we invested so much. It's hard for me to frame the season right now."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

"People are going to see an offensive side this year that Notre Dame hasn't seen in awhile."

Ben Hansbrough
senior guard

By DOUGLAS FARMER

Losing the all-time winningest class in program history – Tony Jackson and Luke Harangody – was supposed to cripple this year’s Irish. Instead, senior forward Ty Nash claimed that title for himself, running his total to 96 wins after earning 27 more this season.

In fact, the Irish won eight of those before losing their first, marking the best start in Irish coach Mike Brey’s tenure. Notre Dame leapt from unranked to the top 25 after winning the Old Spice Classic in Orlando, Fla.

"I learned something about my team that I knew I would down here," Brey said after d e f e a t i n g G e o r g i a . California and Wisconsin. "You hope to learn while you’re winning, certainly that’s helpful. But for us right now, this team is very confident."

The difference was only slightly tempered when the Irish traveled to Louisville to face Kentucky on a neutral court — neutral only by the strictest of definitions as Freedom Hall was filled with tens of thousands of Wildcats fans.

A brilliant first half from senior forward Ben Hansbrough, eventually named Big East Player of the Year, led to a tie for a share of the Big East title, eventually named Big East Player of the Year, leading to a tie for the American and Big East Player of the Year.

"I think the first thing you have to do is expect things of yourself before you can do them."

Ben Hansbrough
senior guard

By the end of the season, Hansbrough’s trophy case had doubled and redoubled in size. The guard was named Notre Dame Monogram Club MVP, a John Wooden Mid-American, a Second Team Associated Press All-American and Big East Player of the Year.

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In the second half, losing 72-70 in the top-10. Three days later, though, on the road against No. 9 Syracuse, Notre Dame fell 70-58, crippled after senior forward Carleton Scott suffered a hamstring injury in what was a close game’s final minutes. As Scott nursed the hamstring back to health, Atkins started Notre Dame’s next five games, playing 29 minutes in crucial Big East victories over No. 8 Connecticut and St. John’s.

The transfer from Mississippi State finished his second and final season playing for the Irish with 18.4 points per game, shooting 41.5 percent from the arc, including hitting eight of 12 threes on Senior Night in a 93-72 victory over No. 19 Villanova.

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Clockwise, from top left: senior linebacker Kerry Neal celebrates after beating USC; Ryan Guentzel and Sean Lorenz celebrate a goal en route to a Frozen Four appearance; sophomore midfielder Steve Murphy shoots for the No. 4 Irish; sophomore Skylar Diggins celebrates after the Irish defeated perennial power Connecticut in the Final Four; the women’s soccer team celebrates its 1-0 victory over Stanford in the national title game; senior and Big East Player of the Year Ben Hansbrough shoots the ball against Marquette Jan. 22.

Clockwise, from top left: senior cornerback Darrin Walls reflects on Notre Dame’s overtime loss to Michigan State; the Irish leave the court after losing 76-70 to Texas A&M in the national title game; senior libero Angela Puente goes up for a block during a difficult season for Notre Dame; sophomore Zeke Motta surveys the action during Notre Dame’s 35-17 loss to Navy Oct. 23; the Irish watch the end of their second-round loss in the NCAA tournament to Florida State; freshman T.J. Tynan reflects after the Irish lost in the Frozen Four.
Aoki improves program in first season as coach

By ANDREW GASTELUM

With a new coach and a young team, but no excuse for anemic offense and poor run support early in the season.

But the Irish (21-25-1, 12-11 Big East) are starting to peak at the right time after winning consecutive series against Seton Hall and Rutgers — two of the three teams vying for the final spot in the Big East Tournament. Notre Dame capped off its recent success with a three-game sweep of South Florida last weekend.

The story of Irish coach Mik Aoki’s first season has been his young squad’s considerable progress, guided by the senior leadership.

“The one thing that I have been really impressed with and thankful for is our seniors who have really bought in and done an exemplary job of leading the team throughout the year,” Aoki said. “There have been some positives going into the course of the year. “It is not a very good season but I wish I had a few more wins,” Dupra said. “I think we have some pieces of the puzzle to go forward and get going to make the season that much better. But it is just amazing pitching Friday nights — that’s what you come here to do. It’s been awesome, and I’ll remember coming in games knowing that you’re going up against the best and having to bring your best as well.”

Meanwhile, the Irish may have witnessed the birth of a future star in freshman first baseman Troy Mancini. The first-year slugger leads the Irish in nearly every offensive category going into the last week of the season, including batting average (.342), home runs (7) and RBIs (28).

The highlight of his year thus far came in a crucial 5-4 comeback win against Seton Hall May 1, when Mancini cleared the left field fence with a two-out, three-run home run to give the Irish the lead for good.

“College baseball is a 55-1 season, so you can’t go in down on yourself when you have one bad game,” the first baseman said after his game-winning blast. “You have just got to keep going, stay positive and wait for the right pitch to hit.”

With a spot in the conference tournament four of the past five years, the Irish are looking ahead to the NCAA tournament, which begins this upcoming week with regional play. The team will look to rebound like it has all season. “(The loss) definitely lit the fire for us to get ready for regionals,” Clay said. “I’m anxious to see how we do. I really think we can pull it off this year.”

Notre Dame begins NCAA tournament play May 20.

Contact Kelsey Manning at kmanning3@nd.edu

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ND advances to NCAAs

By KELSEY MANNING

ND senior infielder Katie Fleury takes a cut against Louisville on April 17. Fleury has six home runs and 20 RBIs this season.

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Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu

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The Observer ♦ SPORTS

Friday, May 20, 2011
Slow start leads to first missed NCAA tournament since 2007

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

Despite avoiding the Big East tournament championship game, Notre Dame failed to earn a berth in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2007.

“It’s really important to know that we need to work to earn our victories,” Irish coach Tracy Coyne said.

The Irish (10-9, 6-2 Big East) still played five players on the all-Big East teams, including senior midfielder Shaylyn Blaney. For Blaney, her selection to the first team marks the third year in a row she has earned the honor. Blaney, who led the Irish with 35 goals this season, was also named a second-teamer as a freshman.

Joining Blaney on the first team are senior defender Jackie Doherty and junior attack Maggie Tamasitis. Doherty ranks third nationally with 2.42 caused turnovers per outing. She also scooped up a team-high 56 ground balls on her way to her second consecutive all-Big East selection.

Meanwhile, the all-Big East selection was the first for Doherty. Tamasitis notched career highs in goals (21), assists (40) and points (67) while falling just two assists shy of the national leader. Perhaps even more impressive, Tamasitis continued and extended her point streak to 37 games, the second longest streak in program history.

Senior midfielder Kaileen Alt and freshman midfielder Kaidyn Broso garnered second team honors for the Irish. Alt finished a stellar career by piling up 26 goals, 11 ground balls and 20 draws controls this season. Broso, the first freshman to be named all-Big East since Blaney, racked up 32 goals and 8 assists in her rookie campaign. She fell three goals short of being the first freshman in program history to lead the squad in goals.

The Irish faced a tough early schedule on their way to a 3-5 opening that included three one-goal losses.

“The team had a lot of character. Losing can bring out the worst in us, but it brought out the best in us,” Coyne said. “We stayed together, stayed committed and fought hard.”

Notre Dame rebounded in conference play, playing off a four game win streak before being stopped by Loyola (Md.) in the Big East championship. Notre Dame also knocked off Big East regular-season champion Georgetown twice during the campaign on its way to a 10-win season and one straight-time.

“The best part of the year was playing for a Big East championship title and defeated Georgetown at home on Senior Day,” Coyne said. “It was also a memorable experience.”

Notre Dame will wave goodbye to three seniors in the program’s history. The graduating class won a Big East title and featured two all-Americans in Blaney and Brosco.

“The seniors are amazingly talented. They’ve played in two Big East championships and three NCAA tournaments,” Coyne said. “They have embraced the new talent that came while they were here.”

Despite losing this group of players, the Irish look to rebound next year. Returning for Notre Dame are Tamasitis and Broso, along with sophomore goalie Ellie Hilling and sophomore midfielder Jenny Granger.

“I don’t think he’s had a bad season and we have a great recruiting class coming in and a lot of talent coming back. I’m going to miss these guys, but we have to get right back to work,” Coyne said.

Contact Matthew DeFrank at mdefrank@nd.edu

Irish earn first No.1 ranking

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

Afer falling to Duke in the 2010 National Championship game, the No. 4/5 Irish returned stronger in 2011 and established themselves as one of the nation’s elite teams.

Captained by senior midfielders Zach Brennenman and David Earl, senior long stick midfielder Andrew Irving and senior defense Kevin Ridgway, Notre Dame (6-0, 4-0 Big East) entered the season ranked in the top 10. After rattling off nine straight wins, the Irish gained control of the top spot in college lacrosse on April 18 for the first time in program history.

The road to No. 1 began with Notre Dame’s 12-7 win over then No. 5 Duke, after which the Irish continued to capture victory after victory, running their record to 10-0 by late April. During that stretch, Notre Dame ranked first in scoring defense as they held opponents to under six goals per game.

The Irish defense that year’s title run continued to dominate despite having lost two stars. All American and Most Outstanding Player of the 2010 NCAA Championship game Scott Rodgers. Stepping in between the pipes for Rodgers was sophomore John Kemp who has maintained a .607 save percentage.

“Kemp’s been great all year. I don’t think he’s had a bad game,” Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. “I think he’s done a great job, he’s grown as a leader through the year and he’s done a great job of stepping up and being a big boy in helping them through the games.”

The Irish finished the year with two straight losses: 8-11 at the hands of No. 1 Syracuse (14-1, 6-0) and 8-9 (OT) to No. 10 North Carolina (10-5, 2-2 ACC). The losses served as jarring reminders that the Irish will have to bring their best to the battle against the country’s top teams.

“We just didn’t play Notre Dame lacrosse — 60 minutes of good offense, smart transition, a successful defense,” Irving said. “When we win, it’s do or die.”

The losses have not affected Notre Dame’s confidence, and the Irish still appreciate how successful their regular season was.

“I think this was obviously a successful regular season,” Earl said. “We finished fourth and couldn’t have gotten further from last season.”

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

Men’s LACROSSE

Tamasitis. Doherty ranks third

Doherty and junior attack Maggie

Tamasitis. Tamasitis notched

during the campaign on its way to a 10-win season and one straight-time.

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“The seniors are amazingly talented. They’ve played in two Big East championships and three NCAA tournaments,” Coyne said. “They have embraced the new talent that came while they were here.”

Despite losing this group of players, the Irish look to rebound next year. Returning for Notre Dame are Tamasitis and Broso, along with sophomore goalie Ellie Hilling and sophomore midfielder Jenny Granger.

“I don’t think he’s had a bad season and we have a great recruiting class coming in and a lot of talent coming back. I’m going to miss these guys, but we have to get right back to work,” Coyne said.

Contact Matthew DeFrank at mdefrank@nd.edu

Irish earn first No.1 ranking

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

Afer falling to Duke in the 2010 National Championship game, the No. 4/5 Irish returned stronger in 2011 and established themselves as one of the nation’s elite teams.

Captained by senior midfielders Zach Brennenman and David Earl, senior long stick midfielder Andrew Irving and senior defense Kevin Ridgway, Notre Dame (6-0, 4-0 Big East) entered the season ranked in the top 10. After rattling off nine straight wins, the Irish gained control of the top spot in college lacrosse on April 18 for the first time in program histor

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THE OBSERVER ◆ SPORTS
page 29

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SPORTS
The 2010-11 season was expected to be a transition year for the Irish — the program graduated three of its top five scorers in 2010, and was depending on a few inexperienced players to emerge in more prominent roles.

After a regular season in which they were consistently ranked in the top-10 followed by an appearance in the Big East tournament championship, the Irish went on a run to the NCAA championship game with signature victories over Tennessee and Connecticut on the way.

Not bad for a transition year.

“It was an amazing run,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “The team really exceeded expectations of anyone. We were ranked No. 9 or No. 10 before the Final Four run. The team had an incredible drive to succeed.”

The Final Four victory over Connecticut, which advanced Notre Dame (31-8, 13-3 Big East) to its second ever national championship appearance was a defining moment for the team’s campaign. The 72-63 victory eliminated the Huskies and sent the Irish to their first national championship berth in 10 years.

“I think it was the feeling of ‘finally we did it’ after beating Connecticut,” McGraw said. “After losing to Connecticut (three times, the players) went in believing they could not beat us like they did in the Tennessee game.

The Irish had to advance to the Final Four with a 73-59 win over Tennessee March 28.

The victory was especially important for the team, as the program was 0-20 all-time against the Volunteers and their legendary coach, Pat Summit. The performance transformed a team that was previously regarded as very talented, but not elite, and propelled it into the upper echelon.

Irish sophomore guard Skylar Diggins sparked Notre Dame throughout the tournament. She became the team’s primary point guard this season after an impressive freshman year.

The South Bend native scored 24 points in the win over Tennessee March 28 in the winning effort against Connecticut and concluded her tournament run with 23 in the title game loss to Texas A&M.

“She played big on the big stage,” McGraw said. “She really did great and handled herself with poise, had tremendous will to win — she was not going to lose. She pushed herself, scored a lot of points, made good decisions and led us a long way.”

The nation took notice of Diggins’ efforts, as the sophomore stole the spotlight from Connecticut’s Maya Moore and became a household name. She was honored as a member of the all-tournament team after the championship game and will be on everyone’s short list for national player of the year when the season begins in the fall.

“In a way I’m just living the dream,” Diggins said during the tournament run.

Notre Dame succeeded in the tournament against consecutive No. 1 seeds, largely due to the daunting regular season schedule it encountered. The Irish lost three close non-conference games in the regular season to strong opponents — an 86-83 loss in overtime to UCLA Nov. 18, an 82-74 loss to No. 9 Kentucky Nov. 21 and a 76-65 loss to No. 2 Baylor Dec. 1 that was more competitive than the score indicates.

In Big East regular season play, the Irish only lost three times — twice to two-time defending national champion Connecticut and once in the regular season finale to No. 12 DePaul, 70-69.

“Not only did the Irish redeem themselves against Connecticut, but they also avenged the DePaul loss by beating the Blue Demons in the Big East tournament semifinals, 71-67 March 7. With both teams consistently among the best in the Big East and their recent matchups being so competitive, Diggins thought the win meant even more to the squad because of the budding rivalry.

“Their being close to us and being such a good team — we know when we play them it’s going to be competitive,” she said. “We’ve got players from (Chicago) so it’s just a competitive game and everyone’s going to be up for that game.”

The special run by the Irish ended in the championship game April 5 at the hands of Texas A&M, 76-70. Aggies forward Danielle Adams proved to be too much for the Irish to handle, scoring 30 points and recording nine rebounds.

“We did not find an answer for her,” McGraw said. “She’s just a great player. She’s got a big body, we couldn’t get around her.”

Adams’ physical presence drew several fouls throughout the contest, leading to freshman forward Natalie Achonwa’s departure with five fouls. Senior forward Devereaux Peters missed crucial minutes down the stretch because she was in foul trouble as well. Aggies guard Tyra White sank a 3-point shot with two seconds left on the shot clock and one left in the game to put Texas A&M up by five.

“That was a knife right in my heart. That was the game,” McGraw said after the game. “It was an unbelievable shot.”

Senior forward Becca Bruszewski will be the squad’s only departure heading into next season. She served as the team’s emotional leader and captain and will be difficult to replace.

“The team always continued to fight and had some great leadership because of Becca,” McGraw said. “Everyone rose to the occasion.”

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By CHRIS MASOUD
Assistant Managing Editor

Notre Dame finished the 2010 season in championship form, capturing the program’s third national title, and their second under Irish coach Randy Waldrum.

While a lone victory in early December will do little to dictate the outcome of the 2011 campaign, junior defender Jessica Schueller believes the desire for a consecutive title will prevent any Irish player from sitting on her laurels.

“We know what it’s like to not finish first and not finish on top,” Schueller said. “Now, having won and knowing the feeling of what it’s like to be part of a championship team, that is motivation in itself.”

While most teams wait until the preseason to begin shifting the focus from celebratory championship to preparing for another run, junior forward and 2011 Honda Sports Award winner Melissa Henderson said the adjustment began on the trip back to campus.

“I remember driving on the bus and talking with a couple of the girls on our way to the airport,” Henderson said. “We just kind of looked at each other and it was just like, ‘This is probably the greatest feeling I’ve had in my life.’”

“We’re done, or if it was the conversation of teammates and coaches alike,” Waldrum said.

“[Waldrum] is one of the greatest coaches I’ve had because I was so fortunate to have a successful career. I’m so fortunate to have Schueller, Waldrum’s first and not last,” Schueller said. “We had to make that work. One is we were willing to lose. Waldrum’s first and not last, the Irish blanked Oklahoma State 2-0 in front of a hostile crowd of 2,660 fans. Suddenly, Notre Dame had a legitimate title contender. As evidenced by Notre Dame’s flawless 6-0 record in the NCAA tournament, the gutsy move was a complete success.

Prior to the position rotation, Waldrum had experimented with a similar lineup in the preseason, but met challenges. Nevertheless, Waldrum said, “We had to make that work. One is we were willing to lose. Waldrum’s first and not last, the Irish blanked Oklahoma State 2-0 in front of a hostile crowd of 2,660 fans. Suddenly, Notre Dame had a legitimate title contender. As evidenced by Notre Dame’s flawless 6-0 record in the NCAA tournament, the gutsy move was a complete success.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles complete best season in team history

By JOSEPH WIRTH Sport Writer

Although the Belles did not finish the season they way they wanted to, the 2010-11 season will go down as a landmark season for the program and one of the best in SWC history.

The team was led by a trio of seniors in forward Kelley Murphy, guard Paty Mahoney and guard Maggie Ronan. Each averaged over 10 points per game, and Murphy led the way with 15.5 points per game. Murphy was also a force on the glass, averaging nearly 10 rebounds per game.

“We accomplished a lot this season,” Murphy said. “We broke school’s record for steals and scoring, as well as accomplished team goals. We broke the school’s record for most wins in a season with 18.”

The Belles started the season strong with four straight wins, including road wins over Aurora and North Central to claim the North Central Tournament title.

Despite losing three of the first five conference games, the Belles rallied to finish in the top three in the conference with an 18-8 record, with 11 of those wins coming in the MAC.

Belles coach Jennifer Henley explained this season’s significance for the Belles.

“. . . that year is especially meaningful because of our No. 1 ranking, but also because recently we have always seemed to finish second or third,” Bednarski said. These seniors were competing for the last time. There was so much depth. We will be losing a lot of great fencers.”

The Irish cruised through the NCAA regional, qualifying the maximum 12 fencers in each discipline and earning a berth in the NCAA championships at Ohio State. Once there, both the men’s and women’s teams held off familiar foes Penn State to easily return one of the most talented groups since I have been a part of the program. I think we have the personnel to do many great things for the 2011-12 season.”

—Contact Joseph Wirth at jwirth@nd.edu

FENCING

Irish reclaim national crown

By CONOR KELLY

Sports Writer

Following a close defeat to Penn State at the 2010 NCAA championships, the 15 Irish seniors set a goal in the off-season — get back to the championship match, but this time win it.

Ranked No. 1 in the country from the beginning of the year, the Irish throttled the competition at the Temple Open in Philadelphia, the first match of the season and ever looked bound for victory on their way to winning the eight-team championship in Notre Dame history and its first since 2005.

Though the Irish were favorites from the beginning, they faced plenty of adversity along the way, the most serious being the loss of top men’s fencer junior Gerek Meinhardt to injury during a training session in December. Just the month before, Meinhardt took bronze at the World Championships in Paris, the best result in American foil in the history of the discipline.

“Gerek is truly a world-class fencer,” Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. “To lose him was definitely a great loss, but this was a great team with great cap- tains and great coaches. One may have been lost, but the team was still fighting. Meinhardt’s injury really mobilized the team.”

Faced with losing his top fencer for three months, Bednarski attributed his team’s resiliency to the leadership of his seniors, who kept the group on an even keel despite the immense pressure associated with being national championship favorites.

“The pressure was great because of our No. 1 ranking, but also because recently we have always seemed to finish second or third,” Bednarski said. These seniors were competing for the last time. There was so much depth. We will be losing a lot of great fencers.”

The challenge to replace the outgoing seniors, including a number of All-Americans, will be made all the harder by the departure of at least four Irish fencers next year as they train for and compete in Olympic qualifying competitions. They will return the following year in spite of qualifying conflicts with NCAA competition, but for one year the Irish will have to do without their services.

“Losing those fencers to Olympic competition will certainly present a challenge to us, but as evidenced by our freshmen this year, we have every confi- dence in our ability to reload,” Bednarski said. “We expect to compete next year.”

—Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

Swarbrick continued from page 40

set of assets than Texas.

“Texas’s plan is based on the remarkable passion for that school in a geographic area, so it fits over a cable footprint. I have interest everywhere, but not a concentration in it or one place.

Thus, while Swarbrick has plans for a potential Notre Dame-Texas, the Big Ten Network or Oklahoma, the recent past, though he noted there may be a piece or two missing, “It’s really incumbent on Notre Dame to be able to make the case at the end of the year that it’s played the toughest schedule in the country,” he said. “There will be a strong presumption in favor of the [Bowl Championship Series conference champions].”

“If we want to be there, we better be able to make that argument that no one in the country played a tougher schedule, and so that’s how we’re going to build them.”

For example, the 2012 schedule includes a game against Navy in Dublin, Ireland, as well as matches against Miami, USC, Stanford, Michigan, Michigan State, Pittsburgh, BYU and Oklahoma.

“Who formed that schedule?” Swarbrick joked. “Who did that?”

You know, that year is especially meaningful because of our No. 1 ranking, but also because recently we have always seemed to finish second or third,” Bednarski said. “Losing those fencers to Olympic competition will certainly present a challenge to us, but as evidenced by our freshmen this year, we have every confidence in our ability to reload,” Bednarski said. “We expect to compete next year.”

—Contact Joseph Wirth at jwirth@nd.edu

Sports Editor Allan Joseph con- tributed to this report.

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PAGE 32
Friday, May 20, 2011
Friday, May 20, 2011 page 33

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Editor-in-Chief

After opening his Notre Dame career with an 8-5 season and a bowl victory, all Irish coach Brian Kelly could talk about was year two. "We still have more things that we have to get done, especially now that we're going to have our players for a full year of weight training and conditioning," Kelly said after Notre Dame toppled Miami 33-17 in the Dec. 31 Sun Bowl to close the season. "You're going to see a big jump from our football team, relative to their work volume and what they're able to do for us. You're going to see a huge difference in year two." Irish fans saw a "huge difference" in year one, though, as Kelly snapped an eight-year losing streak to Southern California, beat a ranked opponent for the first time in Notre Dame's last 11 attempts and won a New Year's Five Bowl game.

Kelly's first "first" came in September with his first victory coaching Notre Dame, a 23-12 win over Purdue Sept. 4. "It was a good way to start the season, obviously," Kelly said following his debut. "There's a lot of firsts here today: first walk from the Basilica, first pep rally. There's a lot going on. At times I wasn't certain if we were going to get lined up for stretching today the right way." The Irish not only lined up and stretched properly, but also executed both offensively and defensively, jumping to a 20-3 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Junior quarterback Dayne Crist completed 19 of 26 passes for 205 yards and a touchdown, and the Notre Dame running game tallied 153 yards. Following the encouraging win, the Irish dipped into a bit of a tailspin, losing the next two games: 28-24 to Michigan, 34-31 in overtime at Michigan State and 37-14 to Stanford.

What do you believe in after a loss like this?" Kelly said following the overtime defeat by California, beat a ranked opponent for the first time in Notre Dame's last 11 attempts and won a New Year's Five Bowl game.

"You're going to see a huge difference in year two." Brian Kelly
Irish coach

"If you don't believe, then these are times when you start to see teams pull apart. So, it's all about belief at this point." The losses to Michigan and Michigan State certainly challenged Irish fan belief, both coming in last-minute, heart-wrenching form. After Wolverines quarterback Denard Robinson torched the Notre Dame defense all afternoon — finishing with 502 total yards — Crist and junior tight end Kyle Rudolph linked up for a dramatic 95-yard touchdown with less than four minutes remaining to give Notre Dame its first lead of the day. The scamper proved costly, as Rudolph injured his hamstring, effecting his performance in the first round. His college career, Rudolph later declared for the NFL draft, and the Michigan State Spartans selected him in the second round.

The biggest play of Rudolph's college career was quickly forgotten, though, as Robinson unflinchingly put together a 72-yard drive in only 3:14 to retake the lead and the game, with only 27 seconds remaining.

A week later, Michigan State and Notre Dame traded touchdowns for four quarters before Irish senior kicker David Ruffer gave Notre Dame a three-point lead in overtime. A few minutes later, the Spartans lined up for a field goal to win — or to instead fake it, running a play known as "Little Giants," for a 29-yard attempt.

During the slugfest, Crist threw 35 passes, completing 32 of them for 369 yards and four touchdowns, while Michigan State talled 203 total rushing yards.

"I think [the offense took another step this week]," Crist said. "I think that when we watch it tomorrow, that will be one of the positives. But we're always going to look back and think, 'What if we made a play here or there, or executed a little better, what would have happened?'"

To close September, Notre Dame took a few steps backward at one point trailing Stanford 34-6. "Stanford deserved today's win," Kelly said. "That is a fine football team."

"When you have a tough disappointment dropped the Irish to 1-3, the tide turned, to the tune of a three-game winning streak: 31-13 at Boston College, 42-40 over Pittsburgh and 44-20 against Western Michigan." "Happy. Happy. happy," Kelly said following the Boston College victory. "Everybody's happy in Notre Dame land. Our boys wanted to win badly. They worked hard at it, and I'm happy that they got a win. We're not there yet, but we're going to keep working, the Irish will continue to work on those things to get better." The Irish defense held the Eagles to a total of five rushing yards, while forcing two turnovers and 12 Boston College penalties. Yet, Kelly wanted more out of his team.

"Mental and physical toughness, we have to do it," he said. "That's our weakness right now ... It's got to be tended to immediately, and our guys are understanding that, and we'll continue to build it." Continue to build it they did, hardly struggling with the Panthers and rolling right for 203 yards and three touchdowns in the game, which brought the Irish record to 2-3.

"It's great for the seniors to go out with a win over USC." Tommy Rees
Irish quarterback

Junior quarterback Dayne Crist drops back in a 31-13 win over Boston College Oct. 2. Crist threw for 203 yards and three touchdowns in the game, which brought the Irish record to 2-3.

"Each win seemed to exorcise another demon for the Irish, both for the fans and for the team." "The seniors needed it as much as the seniors needed it," Kelly said. "When we talk about that at certain times, you can go in one of two directions at 1-3. You can fall off the cliff and have a disastrous season or you can work toward 9-3."

Working toward 9-3 became a dream rather than a reality one week later, as Navy gave Notre Dame a clinic on the triple-option en route to a 35-17 victory at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Midshipmen ended the day with 373 rushing yards on 60 carries, led by fullback Alexander Teich with 210. Quarterback Ricky Dobbs added 90, and only attempted two passes, completing both for a total of 73 yards, including a 31-yard touchdown to Teich.

To close October, Notre Dame fell to Tulsa 28-27, and suffered perhaps an even tougher loss as Crist tore his ACL and joined Rudolph on the sideline for the rest of the season.

But that would be the last of the losses for Notre Dame in Kelly's inaugural season, which closed with a four-game winning streak: 28-3 over No. 15 Utah, 27-3 over Army at Yankee Stadium in New York City, 34-17 over Western Michigan, and 37-13 in the bowl game.

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Junior wide receiver Michael Floyd hauls in a pass during Notre Dame's season-opening 23-12 win over Purdue Sept. 4.

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Junior wide receiver Michael Floyd hauls in a pass during Notre Dame's season-opening 23-12 win over Purdue Sept. 4.
1. Weis fired after five seasons; Kelly hired

December 1, 2009; December 12, 2009

After leading Notre Dame to the most losses in a three-year span, Charlie Weis was fired on Nov. 30, 2009, and a mere 11 days later, Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick named Brian Kelly as the 29th football coach in Notre Dame history. Notre Dame capped a difficult season by snapping an eight-year losing streak to USC with a 20-16 victory over the Trojans in Los Angeles. The rivalry win did not come without drama, as senior Harrison Smith intercepted a Mitch Mustain pass on the final one-yard line in the last minutes to seal the long-awaited win.

Nonetheless, two home losses to Navy and consecutive Senior Day defeats to Syracuse and Connecticut spelled the end of the Weis’ time leading his alma mater.

A secretive coaching search resulted in the hiring of Kelly, who was fresh off an undefeated regular season at Cincinnati in his third year with the Bearcats.

Previously, Kelly was the head coach at Central Michigan for three seasons, leading the Chippewas to a Mid-American Conference in 2006.

Kelly began his head coaching career at Division II Grand Valley State, tailing a 118-35-2 record over 13 seasons.

Kelly’s first season had its highs and lows. Though the Irish dropped heartbreaking losses to Michigan, Michigan State, and Tulsa, Notre Dame closed the season on a four-game winning streak. The defense led the Irish past No. 13 Utah on Senior Day, Army in Yankee Stadium, USC in Los Angeles and Miami in the Sun Bowl to close the season.

2. Football finally defeats USC

Irish Insider
Victory!

Nov. 27, 2010

Notre Dame capped a difficult season by snapping an eight-year losing streak to USC with a 20-16 victory over the Trojans in Los Angeles. The rivalry win did not come without drama, as senior Harrison Smith intercepted a Mitch Mustain pass on the final one-yard line in the last minutes to seal the long-awaited win.

3. Women’s hoops falls just short

IRISH INSIDER
Victory!

April 5, 2011

After a scintillating tournament run that included a historic Elite Eight victory over Tennessee and a Final Four win over perennial powerhouse Connecticut, the Irish fell just short of the national championship. Notre Dame lost to Texas A&M 76-70 in front of thousands of Irish fans, who made the short trip to Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The Irish gave up an early goal in overtime but were proud of their historic run to the title game.

4. Women’s soccer wins national title

IRISH INSIDER
Champions!

Dec. 5, 2010

Despite being unseeded in the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame rode a stalwart defense through seeded teams to a berth in the championship game. The Irish and Blue Devils played the lowest-scoring title game in NCAA history, finishing 1-0 with a historic shutout.

The Irish gave up an early goal in overtime but were proud of their historic run to the title game.

5. Hockey reaches two Frozen Fours

IRISH INSIDER
Victory!

April 7, 2011

The Irish reached the first Frozen Four in program history in 2008, falling in the national title game. The freshmen on that squad were seniors on the team that reached the 2011 Frozen Four, the seniors shepherded an exceptionally young team (loaded with 12 freshmen) to another Frozen Four berth, capping their record-setting careers.

6. Swarbrick takes over AD position

IRISH INSIDER
Victory!

July 16, 2008

On June 1, 2008, Kevin White, then-director of athletics, announced that he would be leaving Notre Dame to assume the same position at Duke.

Six weeks later, Swarbrick was hired as the 12th athletic director in the school’s history. He was previously a lawyer instrumental in the Indianapolis sports scene.
“Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.”

—MICAH 6:8

The University of Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns wishes to honor the following graduates of the Class of 2011 who have committed a year or more to full-time postgraduate service. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go forth.

ACADEMY PREP
Kathryn Mullaney

ALLIANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Steven Alignia
John Andrews
Joe Augustsirsky
Stacey Biantott
Blair Carolin
John Clark
Juliane Concio
Emily Crosby
Meghan Crowley
Jamie Cunningham
Katie Dufner
Dominic Fawell
Ann Marie Ferry
Mary Fox
Tomas Gallegos
Kaita Garcia-Fuenra
Dominic Gibb
Patrice Grant
Jeffrey Grant
Paul Hotovy
Scott Janie
Arty Carman
Kevin Kimbel
Carolyn Leavy
Mary Kate Lyons
Tracy Lyons
Vickey McBride
Meghan McClelland
Brendan Meehan
Nicole Miller
Megan Osterhout
Megan Otero
Nick Read
Israel Rehman
Chris Rhodebaugh
Coren Rogers
Greg Rice
Katie Schierle
Ryan Schirblick
Elizabeth Shady
Lane Stiteler
Francesca Sudkiss
Jared Vranantos
Michael Wagner
Tim Woodward
Caitlin Wiberg
Theresa Yariko

AMATE HOUSE
Nicole Ashley
Anna Mayer
Erica Sozorzon

AMERICORPS VISTA
Katie Snyder

ANNUNCIATION HOUSE
Elisabeth Rumaan

BEN SECOURS VOLUNTEER MINISTRY
Sarah Coponsi

CASA
Marianella
Bridget Faires

CENTER FOR HOSPICE
Michael Iver

CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS SEMINARY
John Ahearn
Michael Arthady
Matthew Hovde
Karlo Leonor
James Madura
Michael Palmer
Ryan Petrocar\o

DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOL
Lauren Turchin

DOMINICAN VOLunteers USA
Alexandra Sajewski
Mara Selzer
Laura Simons

ECHOS
Lauren Bostick
Joe Sheehan

FARM OF THE CHILD
Erin Rider
David Rivera

FRANCISCORPS
Molly Boyle

GOOD SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS
Catherine Scepan
Nicole Walking

HOLY CROSS OVERSEAS LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM
Michael Hogan
Bridge Mullins

HOLY CROSS OVERSEAS LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM (Uganda)
Annagrace Clarke
Cody Eckert
Shane O’Heen

INNER-CITY TEACHING CORP
Seann Clark

JESU Alumni Volunteer Program
Lauren McCullough
Elizabeth Young

JESU VOLUNTEER CORPS
John Corgan
Emily Norkal-Salvaters

JESU VOLUNTEER CORPS NORTHWEST
Bianca Fernandez
Eldie Guettler
Jenni Lamm

LARCHES
Kathryn Conroy
Sarah Ruziak

LIFE TEEN MISSIONS
Elizabeth Domett

MAGGINGES PLACE
Emily Lambert
Alison Vander Broek

MERCYWORKS AT MERCY HOME
Mary Pat Brogan

NATIVITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Celia Johns

NOTRE DAME CAMPUS MINISTRY
Rebecca Shanbaugh

NUESTROS PEQUEñOS HERMANOS
Kathryn Difrancesco
Margaret Skinner
Mark Winkler

OPEN ARMS HOME FOR CHILDREN
Ann-Marie Marone
Red Spears

OPERATION TEACH PROGRame
Robert Chavez
Sarah Cooke

OXFAM AMERICA
Carrie Brorsloh

PACIFIC ALLIANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Colin Johnson

PEACE CORPS
Steve Bonner
Kimberly Conroy
Anastasia Fagan
Tracy Fantes
Courtney Danby
Hamik Jackson
Megan Keegan
Elizabeth Nagle
Carla Pick
Marissa Woodward
Maria Lamos

PLACE CORPS
Molly Czerwinski
Erica Ramirez

SACRED HEART NATIVITY SCHOOL INTERNSHIP
Felicia Aguayo

SAINT JOSEPH WORKER PROGRAM
Calvin Nichols

SAINT MICHAEL INDIAN SCHOOL
Carissa Browne
Melissa Cook
Ashley John
Breanna McCarthy
Ben Muskat

SAINT PAUL SEMINARY
Michael Daly

SAINT PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC WORKER
Lousie Bouvet

SPIRITUS
Kelly Weber

TEACH SHREDE
Daniel Wadlington
Kurt Nowick

TEACH FOR AMERICA
Blair Canad
Lillian Dixon-Sudduth
Annice Eismeier
Kathryn Hunger
John Givel
Erica Tinkham
Sofia Turone
Ann Kier
Denna Martinez
John McQueen
Elizabeth Morgan
Justine Monahan
Rachel Rosebery
Jaime Simmons
Gabrielle Tate

TOM DOOLEY INTERNSHIP
Mark Robertson

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
Maria Antonenko

URBAN TEACHER CENTER
Rachel Banks
Mary Domenico
In the swimming预览 content, we read about the endeavors of senior swimmer Kyle Kuhlke and his goals. He spoke about winning six Big East championships, being a part of a Notre Dame sweep, and setting records with his team. "Each of us ran near personal bests, and we continued to get better every day. We wanted to get more people to NCAAs and to score higher at NCAAs."

Overall, the Irish experienced some difficulties at Northwestern, demonstrating their hard work and senior leadership. Training without a coach for an indefinite amount of time can be stressful, Kuhlke said, especially for the freshmen on the team. "We wanted to get more people to NCAAs and to score higher at NCAAs."

Men's Track

Under the guidance of coach Joe Piane, Notre Dame has built a tradition of success on the track. After a year full of all-Americans and national records, the team was looking ahead to the future. "We have great leadership and talent in place next year. Our team keeps improving, and although it's not going to be easy to leave it, I think we still have some to watch this team get better in the coming years," Sullivan said.

Women's Swimming

The Irish endured a chaotic season, as they relied primarily on the freshmen and sophomores. "I thought we could achieve," Kuhlke said. "I have great friends; our bond is strong." The coaches' goal was to have two freshmen and two sophomores on the national level at the USA Diving championships. The Irish failed to win a 15th straight Big East title when they finished second to Louisville, despite the heartbreaking end to the seniors' careers, Kuhlke said. The team members will remain life-long friends and supportive alumni.

"I have great friends; our bond will last forever," she said. "Losing senior year was not something we thought we would happen or something we ever wanted to happen."

Men's Basketball

Winning the Big East championship, finishing in the top 25 in the nation, and achieving a trip to the NCAA championship. The team of seniors and stars enjoyed a run at the NCAA championships. Never before have I been so satisfied with our achievement," Sullivan said.

OIBS

Senior Jack Johnson finishes in top 100 in NCAA cross-country race; dacer Lex secures school record from 3-meter
board; men’s golf wins Big East without injured leader Usher; Rowing wins eighth straight conference title

and the friendships and bonds formed will far outlast the memo- ries of races and races.

“Every time I put on the Irish uniform, I am filled with great memories and emotions,” Veres said. “Over the past four years, our team-mates have made the experience unforgettable. I cannot imagine being a part of any other program.”

Women’s Track

The Irish struggled with an up-and-down season, finishing with mixed results in both indoor and outdoor competitions.

Notre Dame finished near the middle of the conference pack in both seasons at the Big East championships. The Irish came in eighth in the indoor competition Feb. 20 in Akron, Ohio, and followed that effort by earning 10th place in the conference at the outdoor meet held May 8 in Villanova, Pa.

Though the Irish were not one of the conference’s top squads this year, they still succeeded in many ways individually. One of the most accomplished athletes this year was sophomore Rebecca Tracy. A native of Villanova, Pa., at the Big East indoor championships and finished third in the 1500-meter run for the conference on the outdoor circuit. In addition, she posted a time of 4:42.14 in January’s Notre Dame Invitational, which was the sec- ond-fastest time in the country in that race.

Although success in track is often viewed on the individual level, Tracy credits her strong perform- ance to her team. “I got to work with her all spring and the most, especially the senior throwers. Denis Veres (Vares), Greg (Davis) and I think they played a great role for us,” Atang said. “Like siblings, we have been there for each other through ups and downs, but they have continued to inspire and motivate me in more ways than they will ever know.”

Men’s Golf

After a successful fall season, the Irish entered the winter and spring seasons with a sense of what they could achieve. Led by the defending Big East player of the year, the Irish have set a new norm for the program.

Injuries, recalcitrant weather and inconsistent play, however, changed that picture drastically. In the end, the Irish, are where they hoped to be. Big East seniors dearly,” Tracy said. “They have all contributed so much to our success in track.”

Three of Notre Dame’s four seniors are currently competing in the NCAA championships. The final team round will take place next month in Stillwater, Okla., beginning June 1.

“Though success in track is often viewed on the individual level, Tracy credits her strong perform- ance to her team.”
Fowkess continued from page 40
and on the field is my competitive spirit. Fowkess' competitive drive led her to become one of the most versatile midfielders in program history. Recruited as a defender out of the Kansas City suburbs, she could play nearly anywhere on the field. "Lauren's just a very smart player — she's very versatile," junior forward Melissa Henderson said. "She's able to fill in wherever the coach needed her, no questions being asked. I think that was really special about her."

Fowkess spent her freshman year backstopping a College Cup run but moved around the pitch her sophomore year due to a conflict of commitments. The 2008 under-20 World Cup coincided with the NCAA tournament, and when Fowkess joined the national team, she earned a spot in the World Cup gold medal, a hole emerged in the lineup that Waldrum tried to fill up all year.

"When we knew she was going to miss a chunk of the season, that kind of moved her around," he said. "[Center back] is too critical of a position, and if she was going to miss a chunk of the year, I'm going to try and get somebody get integrated back there."

While she moved around both halves her junior and senior years, Fowkess' final position changes may have been her most important.

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Corrigan continued from page 40
and be confident. It's the kind of thing you continually work at as a student-athlete.

With 26 career assists, Brenneman can not only score, but he can also create opportunities for others and visualize effective offensive schemes. Ridersey said he understands defenders' difficulty in guarding the versatile midfielder because he faces him daily in practice.

"[Brenneman] can fit it into tight spaces past the goalie's stick, making him tough to stop. He's a very stubborn dodger who sometimes gets caught by surprise when he releases his powerful shot early. I've told him, 'I mostly guard him when he beats his man, and I have to slide to him when he beats his man, because the way the goalie makes him tough to cover. He is a great player and can make plays all over the field, making him truly tough to guard."

Several of his teammates say Brenneman is a Tewaaraton Trophy nominee because of his outstanding efforts. "He's the type of man who maintains the same mindset every time he possesses the ball on offense, allowing him to strategize and create the play that is best for the team," senior goalie Mike Korona said.

"The ideal situation is me catching the ball 12 yards away and just knowing when I throw the ball and who's going to be in the right spot who I'm dodging. I'm looking first at who's guarding me, and then I'm looking for who's getting ready to slide. Then I dissect the situation from there — do I need to pass the ball quickly in or carry it longer?"

Brenneman credits his shooting skills to his hard work and his drive to be the best. He said Corrigan taught him that even the best players make mistakes, but that doing so can only improve their game and ultimately eliminate the fear of making the wrong play.

"The best lesson that I've learned is that if you make a mistake, you make a mistake at 100 miles per hour. You don't ever want to make a passive mistake — that gets you nowhere," Brenneman said. "This year and throughout my career, I've tried to focus on the next play. Everyone's going to make mistakes, but it's really focusing on the next play and trying to help your team with that."

The Long Island Lizards selected Brenneman with the fifth overall pick in the 2011 Major League Lacrosse Draft. The 6-foot-3, 215-pound midfielder will report to camp as soon as his collegiate career comes to a close. Right now, however, Brenneman is focused on the next play and expects the Irish to achieve the goal they set on day one this season.

"Our goal is to win a national championship," he said. "We've been there. This team is definitely an experienced group that [was] there last year. It's something that's going to help."

Brenneman said he is grateful to Opportunity to play lacrosse for an elite program, while simultaneously receiving a degree from Notre Dame. His hectic schedule might intimidate just about anyone, but Brenneman said his time at Notre Dame taught him how to manage his time properly, allowing him to excel as a student-athlete.

"Don't leave stuff to the last minute. It's definitely a grind, and if you know you've got work, get it done," he said. "When it comes down to it on Friday and you have a test to study for, or it's Thursday and you're tired and beat up, you don't want to do it. I've definitely learned it the hard way, and you've got to get stuff done early."

Brenneman hopes to leave behind a legacy of hard work and dedication that extends beyond the lacrosse field after he graduates. Giving back to the community is important to Brenneman, who participated in a service trip to Japan and Notre Dame's Playing for Peace event, which raised awareness about the conflict in Sudan. Brenneman said his work ethic is evident in community service, lacrosse and academics.

"I'd like to leave behind how hard I worked and how hard the senior class worked to get us where we are today," he said. "I think we all worked exceptionally hard on the field and off the field, and I hope that our beliefs and our demeanor and our work ethic are pushed on to everyone else.

Senior Zach Brenneman looks for a shot during Notre Dame's 8-7 victory over Ohio State March 23 at Arlotta Stadium.

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Senior Zach Brenneman shoots during Notre Dame's 12-8 victory over Villanova April 14. Brenneman netted two goals and an assist in the game.
Brenneman leads lacrosse to previously unseen heights

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

Since signing on as a freshman with raw talent and a heated temper, senior midfielder Zach Brenneman has learned to rely on the next play, ultimately developing into a star of this year's championship team. As a student, Brenneman has developed a work ethic that has earned him the attention of coaches and teammates alike.

Brenneman has played in 60 of Notre Dame's 62 games during his four-year career. With one final shot at a national title, the senior is determined to leave a lasting legacy on the program.

Brenneman is known as the unifying force behind two national titles and two more Final Four appearances in one year. "The one thing I have worked hard to do, and I think our coaches and athletes have really embraced it, is to articulate that the national championship is the goal annually," Brenneman said in a recent sitdown with The Observer. "That's what we're trying to do, and to really focus on that as the objective for the sport."

While Notre Dame rarely sees true droughts in the realm of athletics, this past year brought quite a harvest among Swarbrick's fields: a women's soccer national championship — the first title of Swarbrick's career — a fencing national championship, a women's basketball runner-up finish and an appearance in the Frozen Four from the hockey team.

"We had 16 of our teams get into the tournament, and you can't win if you don't get into the tournament," said the Yonkers, New York, native. "That's the start, really having a consistently large base of teams and individual athletes who make it into the NCAA tournament."

But with that success comes a challenge for the leader of all things Notre Dame sports: attendance across all sports programs. "The good news is we have lots of success," Swarbrick said. "The challenge with that is we have a lot of great programs, but a lot of contests that we have to market and get more people to come to.

A Notre Dame Network?
In theory, a broadcast network consisting solely of Notre Dame athletics could increase the marketing platform, boosting the revenue. University of Texas has already utilized this tactic to the tune of $380 million in a deal with ESPN to form the Longhorn Network.

Yet, the former Indianapolis lawyer foresees Notre Dame going a different direction. "We are really focused on building our digital media capacity," Swarbrick said. "It'll probably take a slightly different form because we work with a different

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Editor-in-Chief

Wikipedia refers to him as America's first sports agent. He holds a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame and a law degree from Stanford University, and once upon a time, Jack Swarbrick convinced the NCAA to up and move the basketball tournament to the middle of Indiana.

But these days, Swarbrick, the director of Notre Dame Athletics, is known as the unifying force behind two national titles and two more Final Four appearances in one year. "The one thing I have worked hard to do, and I think our coaches and athletes have really embraced it, is to articulate that the national championship is the goal annually," Swarbrick said in a recent sitdown with The Observer. "That's what we're trying to do, and to really focus on that as the objective for the sports."

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Four years of success

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Editor

Play defender, midfielder and forward in the national championship game, celebrate a national crown, take final exams — senior Lauren Fowlkes did it all in the space of just one early-December week.

"That was crazy," Fowlkes said with a laugh. "I was just trying to celebrate but then buckle down and get through my last finals."

That week was simply another chance for the Irish co-captain to display her two trademark characteristics: competitiveness and versatility.

"On the field, I think her versatility was really key for her and the impact she had on the program," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "Off the field, it's just the competitiveness she has as a person. She's tough, she's physical, she's fearless — but she takes the same thing to the classroom too.

Fowlkes may have been at her most competitive that weekend in Cary, N.C. With one final shot at a national title remaining, Fowlkes refused to let Ohio State's Megan Fuller push her around. After Fuller tackled Fowlkes near the boundary, the senior let fly in one of the most memorable images of the 2010 NCAA tournament."

Fowlkes named two-time athletic and academic All-American

Old meets new in Lynn family's holiday spread

By PAT COVENEY
Sports Writer

The table is set, the wine is poured, and the Lynn family is gathering for Christmas. But instead of the traditional turkey, the family has a new entrée to add to the spread: their son, Justin Lynn. A former star lacrosse player at Notre Dame, Lynn is now a sophomore on the men's hockey team.

"He takes a beating, but he's a big, physical kid," Corrigan said. "He hasn't missed a lot of time because he understands that that comes with the game and that comes with the way he plays the game."

Brenneman lives off-campus in a house with several of his lacrosse teammates, including senior defensiveman and co-captain Kevin Ridgway.

"Just like Brenneman takes control in Notre Dame's Arlotta Stadium, Ridgway said, he can also be counted on to complete almost any task in his own house. "Zach is Mr. Fix-it around our house," Ridgway said. "He does everything from catching mice to fixing holes in our walls to cleaning dishes. He's very reliable to the point where the other roommates don't clean and then laugh at him because they know he is going to do it eventually. He's also the house cook, but he is not the grill-master — that title belongs to me.

Brenneman said the distance after graduation will not separate him from his teammates. "I can go to these guys with any problem, and I can talk to them. They're kind of just like brothers," he said. "I definitely think I'll stay in touch with my teammates. I will definitely be a supportive alumni, and I will help the guys in whatever way that I can."

Brenneman has come a long way from his arrival at Notre Dame. As a freshman, Brenneman bumped heads with Corrigan on a few occasions because the coach and team captain both shared such a strong passion for making the team better. With time, Corrigan said, they have learned to work together and collaborate instead of clash.

"I think he's a very talented kid and very driven to be good and to be great," Corrigan said. "I think in times where I've had to work with him, it's been a mix of trying to get him to adapt to things I want to do but valuing what he does and giving him the freedom to do what he does best.