Pope Francis issues apostolic exhortation

“Evangelii Gaudium” emphasizes responsibilities to the poor, presents practical solutions

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Editor

Pope Francis’s recent apostolic exhortation, “Evangelii Gaudium,” highlighted many of the economic and social justice issues of today’s world and prompted reactions from critics worldwide.

William Purcell, associate director for Catholic Social Tradition and Practice at the Center for Social Concerns, said the pope “is not being an idealist, but a realist with ideals.”

Purcell said the apostolic exhortation’s contents are both prescriptive and intellectual, focusing largely on pastoral theology and how the Church can engage and shepherd people.

“Francis addresses [“Evangelii Gaudium”] to the whole people of God, so not just to the laity, but also to the bishops, clergy and religious,” Purcell said. “He’s talking to the leaders at all levels, including lay leaders … and he’s challenging us to find creative ways to share the key emphasis of God, which is love.”

Many of the critiques of and negative reaction to the text are “short-sighted,” Purcell said, misunderstanding the context of the pope’s statements and its background in Catholic Social Tradition. One notable criticism came from talk-show host Rush Limbaugh, who said Francis’s ideas were “pure Marxism” in intent.

Purcell said people should remember that the pope is writing about theology, not ideology.

“What he’s really talking about is joy — that’s what ‘gaudium’ means,” Purcell said. “He’s talking about how we’re called to evangelize and that nobody likes a grim do-gooder.

“What he’s saying is that we’ve got to be joyful about it, we’ve got to be embracing it. We should attract people by our actions, and so we should be joyful and life-giving.”

The apostolic exhortation is

Prof. studies brain trauma

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

Research professor Mayland Chang is taking to heart the maxim “a mind is a terrible thing to waste” in two ways, as she uses her mind to the fullest by working to develop a treatment for traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Chang, director of the Chemistry-Biochemistry-Biology Interface (CBBI) Program, said she and other researchers have been studying a group of 27 enzymes called Matrix metalloproteinases (MPPs) for more than a decade. She said the team has found a promising use for one of these enzymes, Matrix metalloproteinase nine (MPN-9), in treating TBI.

“We thought that this group of enzymes would be important for many diseases. Not much was known, so we started making inhibitors,” Chang said. “It turns out MPN-9 plays a critical role in the pathology of TBI.”

Chang said every case of TBI essentially can be divided into two injuries, each with different effects.

“You have the primary injury, the blow to the head,” Chang said. “There is absolutely nothing you can do for the brain cells that die in the primary injury. This is followed by a cascade of events, starting with

Alumna named Mitchell Scholar

By EMILY McCONVILLE
News Writer

On Nov. 25, The U.S.-Ireland Alliance announced a 2008 Notre Dame alumna is one of this year’s Mitchell Scholars and will receive a full scholarship to a one-year Master’s program in Ireland.

Molly Hayes, a Kenya desk officer at the U.S. Department of State who graduated from Notre Dame with degrees in English and Arabic, was one of 12 people selected from a pool of 300 applicants. According to her biography on

Students showcase international research

By GABRIELA MALESPIN
News Writer

Eight students who did research in underdeveloped countries, through various University programs, displayed their research projects in the Geddes Coffee House on Tuesday.

Students investigated various topics such as cultural identity, rehabilitation of marginalized populations, education and globalization.

Professor Vania Smith-Oka, assistant professor of Anthropology, was responsible for mentoring the group of students and teaches the course "cultural difference and social change," a three credit course designed for students who have completed a study or research abroad who helps students understand their experience in an academic context.

“The course is an experience for them to make academic sense of what they’ve witnessed. This public presentation is a way for people to get interested in their experiences,” Smith-Oka said.

The projects ranged from examining the relationships between language and cultural identity to health care implementation to investigating the role of masculinity in sex trafficking, among other topics. The locations included Guatemala, Tanzania, Uganda, Mexico and Thailand, among other sites.

Smith said students who engage in this type of research typically take the initiative afterward to undertake in-depth
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What are you looking forward to?

Louann Lopez
senior
“”My 21st birthday at the end of finals.”

Jae Lee
sophomore
Narrant Hall
“Winter break.”

Joyce Choe
junior
Ryan Hall
“Food back home in Korea.”

Katie Gallagher
freshman
Panborn Hall
“Christmas.”

Jessica Creager
sophomore
Lewis Hall
“Going home after finals.”

Amber Watson
freshman
Ryan Hall
“New Year’s Eve.”
University celebrates Advent with Las Posadas

By CHARLIE DUCEY
News Writer

Among the Advent traditions celebrated on campus this season is Las Posadas, a procession that celebrates the journey of Mary and Joseph to the birthplace of Christ.

Three residence halls are hosting the event this week, the final part of which will start at the Grotto at 9 p.m. to the final procession. The final part of which will start at the Grotto at 9 p.m. to the final processional led by Mary and Joseph walking to the Grotto, followed by a

TBI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the blood-brain barrier, that result in the secondary injury. "The secondary injury is linked to long-term problems, including coma and death." MPP-9 contributes to the cascade of events leading to the secondary injury, said Chang. "We have personal reasons for seeking an effective TBI treatment. Her mother passed away as a result of a severe TBI in 1997 at the age of 70, having slipped and hit her head. Chang said she is also motivated by the threat of TBI her son faced as a competitive snowboarder.

Chang said no therapeutics for TBI currently exist because of the difficulty of getting compounds through the blood-brain barrier and because TBI is an acute condition and "big pharma" is not interested in chronic conditions. "Big pharma is not really working on diseases like this," she said. Chang said her research group has been fortunate that the compounds they use effectively cross the blood-brain barrier, something more than 98 percent of drugs are incapable of doing.

“It's very challenging for drugs to cross the barrier and reach therapeutic concentration.”

Mayland Chang research professor

Chang said one of the biggest challenges in her research has been to make the compounds that are water-soluble. "Water solubility enables the compounds to be delivered orally, which is important given that many patients with TBI are unconscious or otherwise unable to swallow." The most recent version of the treatment compound is working in animal models, specifically, mice, in terms of both water solubility and penetrating the blood-brain barrier, said Chang.

“Lodgings” in Spanish, is a Christmas tradition that originated in Spain and is now celebrated annually in the United States and Latino communities in Central and South America. Elaine DeBassigue, rector of Farley Hall, said she grew up with the tradition of Las Posadas in New Mexico and wanted to ensure that the tradition became a part of Notre Dame’s Advent season.

“Notre Dame has held Las Posadas celebrations in years past, but usually it was just one night out of the year, and I don’t think it has been this organized,” DeBassigue said.

In traditional Las Posadas observances, two individuals dressed as the holy couple lead a candle-lit procession to the home of a local family, who hosts a meal and prayer. A priest will normally bless the home and lead the prayer service, which often takes place on nine successive nights leading up to Christmas Eve Mass, with Mary and Joseph walking down the church aisle to meet the Christ Child at the creche.

“The celebration is usually a novena,” DeBassigue said. "Nine families will host the event in community, but we decided it would be easier to have only three dorms host this year.”

Keenan Hall hosted the event Monday night, followed by Howard Hall on Tuesday night. Father Diot shocked the final procession tonight.

The Keenan Hall procession began at the Grotto, followed by a procession featuring traditional Mexican music, sung by the student group Coro Primavera.

Afterwards, Ofelia Juarez, a Keenan Hall housekeeper, and several other family members prepared traditional Mexican tacos for the attendees.

Keenan Hall rector Noel Terranova said Juarez has offered her cooking expertise for such events in the past.

“Ofelia has always been my favorite family,” Terranova said. “She cooked for our Las Posadas celebration last year. She brings her family’s recipes to the event, including her recipes for candies, cookies, and granachildren.”

As part of the procession, freshman Halie Berrigan from Farley Hall dressed up as Mary and freshman Luke Joseph from Siegfried Hall dressed up as Joseph. The two said they agreed to don the costumes for Las Posadas at the request of DeBassigue.

Las Posadas is a Monday night tradition where we have Mass and she feeds us, so she asked if we wanted to be Mary and Joseph,” Joseph said.

Las Posadas was new for many students who took part in the event, including Berrigan.

“I hadn’t heard of Las Posadas,” Berrigan said. “It’s a new tradition for me, and it’s cool to be a part of it.”

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Showcase

Continued from page 1

field work, write senior theses, present at National conferences, or go on to do graduate work.

“You’ve usually been life changing experiences, going from a group project at Notre Dame to being able to witness disparity and marginality” Smith said.

Senior Rachael Krishnan researched the rehabilitation of sex workers in Kampala, Uganda, and said that the experience enabled her to understand the dynamics between politics and vulnerable populations.

“TBI is not really working on diseases like this,” she said.

Assistant director of SIMS, Bianca Tirado, explained what OrgSync is and how to operate it.

“OrgSync is a way to help students connect with your organization. It’s also a way to create online communication so that it hits a broader audience,” she said.

“The bell tower is the homepage of OrgSync which is accessible to everyone in the SMC community. It’s a great way for you to access your organization portals. If you’re a part of more than one club you can access those additional portals as well.”

Not only is there an internal website, but there is also an external website of OrgSync, which allows students to control what the external world can see. Student organizations can create their own external websites by creating a portal, and every new club can have a new portal on Belle tower.

Students can also register events for their organization on OrgSync, Tirado said. “In order to create an event, a student would need to fill out the event request form under the SIMS portal. This event registration spurs the organization that desires to raise request process as well.

“It’s best you make sure you do have a table (for your merchandise) and do it in a timely fashion,” she said. “If you want to sell something next week, it’s better you get it in as soon as possible.”

Tirado said, when selling merchandise, anything with a French cross symbol has to be approved by the SIMS office as well. The French cross is a religious symbol, so it cannot be obstructed by anything.

SIMS assistant director Graci Marichising said OrgSync is new but has already had a lot of success. She said SIMS hopes to raise awareness about the opportunities OrgSync and their office offer for students.

“The most important thing to remember is we are your advocates, we are here for you guys,” Marichising said. “You can always come and knock on our doors.”

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Francis
continued from page 1
the first thing Francis has written completely on his own during his papacy, and Purcell said it pres-
ents his vision of what the Church is about, speaking from his position as the head of the institution.

“I think it’s exciting because people have been taking notice,” Purcell said. “Some people react to it out of their ideology and not their theology, and people struggle with some of the things he’s talking about.”

Purcell said throughout the document, Francis quotes bishops from across the world, as well as past popes and saints. Because of this, the content “isn’t new, but part of our tradition.”

“His insight comes from talking about these things in a new style, in an uplifting way, so people see the power of what we’re called to do,” Purcell said. “He becomes so welcoming, so charismatic, and he speaks to the common person.

“It doesn’t become esoteric or dense, because he’s speaking to the person in the pew. People can read this and understand it ... and I think they get excited by it.”

The four main themes of the text are joy, poverty, peace and justice, Purcell said. Beyond the thematic theological elements, Francis “becomes prescriptive and deals with real, concrete ways of addressing problems,” he said.

“The beauty of the exhortation is that he writes so well, and he writes so positively and so open-
ly,” Purcell said. “This is a pope who is a Jesuit, so he’s a thinker. There are ideals of things like solidarity and the common good, but he’s being a realist about how we try to address those things.

He gives concrete examples; he names saints or people or particular things so it doesn’t just be-
come words like ‘solidarity,’ but you get the stories and symbols and scripture behind that makes it come alive.”

To best utilize the document’s wisdom, Purcell said parishies need to find a way to break it into parts and find pastoral applications for it.

“It’s too much to swallow all at once, because it’s so rich and there’s so much good within it,” he said. “But it’s fun to look at since [Pope Francis] is just so positive, and he speaks so di-
rectly. He’s prophetic, but not obnoxious.”

William Purcell
associate director
Center for Social Concerns

Mitchell
continued from page 1
the Mitchell Scholars website, Hayes has worked as desk of-
ficer for multiple North African nations, and she was a deputy coordinator for the Egypt Task Force during the Arab Spring.

During Hayes’s time at Notre Dame, the biography said, she founded ND-Aboard, which worked to help students study-
ing abroad and “developed a University Counseling Center support group for students who experienced trauma abroad.”

Hayes plans to study postco-
lonial and world literature at National University of Ireland, Maynooth, according to the biography.

Dr. Jeffrey Thibert, assistant director of National Fellowships at the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE), said the award, which is on par with the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships, will bring prestige to the University.

“These are the kinds of things that raise the academic profile of an institution and really en-
hance Notre Dame’s reputation as a world-class research insti-
tution, and really is providing a world-class undergraduate edu-
cation,” Thibert said. “I think, especially in Molly’s case, it’s a testament to the kind of ... edu-
cation she received here that helped her to achieve such great things in the past four to five years since she left.”

Thibert said the award also raises the profile of CUSE, through which Hayes did research when she was an undergraduate.

“There are a lot of opportuni-
ties here, in part through CUSE, but also through other groups on campus to receive fund-
ning for undergraduate projects, undergraduate research of all different kinds,” he said. “I’ve been at a few other institutions, and I’m amazed at how much support there is for that here, so I would really encourage people to take advantage of that.

(Doing research through CUSE) contributed, in a sense, to her winning this award, but it also contributed to her be-
ing able to get into the kinds of positions she got into with the State Department. And I think that made a really big difference in her application to have these kinds of experiences, which she might not have been able to have if she had not had the op-
portunities she had here.”

Thibert said while some scholarship applications re-
quire University endorsements, the Mitchell Scholars Program does not. He said his office worked with her on other as-
pects of the application.

“We mostly worked on inter-
viewing advice,” Thibert said. “We have sort of a database of information from past years because we’ve had people in-
terviewing for these things and there’s also a fellowship adviser organization that collects infor-
mation on these things. We were giving her some advice on what to expect from the semifinalist interview and then from the fi-
nalist interview.”

Thibert said he also hopes the fact that Hayes won the schol-
arship will raise awareness of the opportunities Notre Dame alumni have, even after they graduate.

“We’re trying to do more to reach out to these alumni to get the word out about some of these awards, because some-
times people think when they graduate, that’s kind of it,” he said. “Even if they know they’re eligible for certain things, they don’t realize they can still work with us, but they can. As long as someone graduated from here, we are happy to work with him (or her).”

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Violence increases in CAR civil strife

Associated Press

BANGUI — More than 500 people have been killed over the past week in sectarian fighting in Central African Republic, aid officials said Tuesday, as France reported that gunman killed two of its soldiers who were part of the intervention to disarm thousands of rebels accused of attacking civilians.

Aid workers have collected 461 bodies across Bangui, the capital, since Thursday, said Antoine Mbao Bogo of the local Red Cross. But that latest figure does not include the scores of Muslim victims whose bodies were brought to mosques for burial.

The government of the predominantly Christian country was overthrown in March by Muslim rebels from the country’s north. While the rebels claimed no religious motive for their assault, they are in the north.

“The mission is dangerous. It’s a drug that is already being used in Uruguay. It’s a drug that is already being used in most countries of Latin America, and many governments, will take this law as an example,” cheered Sen. Constanza Moreira, voting with the Broad Front majority.

The vote was 16 to 13, with the governing Broad Front majority united in favor. The plan now awaits the signature of President Jose Mujica, who wants the market to begin operating next year.

Two-thirds of Uruguayans oppose a government-run marijuana industry, according to opinion polls. But Mujica said he’s convinced the global drug war is a failure and feels bureaucrats can do a better job of containing addictions and beating organized crime, not police, soldiers and prison guards.

“The current situation is the logical result of what former President Bozize set in motion by freeing prisoners and bandits, distributing weapons and war machines to the neighborhoods of Bangui, and inciting tribalism and religious hatred,” Djotodia said.

Bozize was overthrown after a decade in power and his supporters maintained it was the arrival of thousands of rebels who descended upon the capital with arms who created the chaos.

The government of Central African Republic, a predominantly Christian country, was overthrown in March by Muslim rebels from the country’s north. While the rebels claimed no religious motive for their assault, they are in the north.

Five to 10 gunmen opened fire on the French patrol, which returned fire, he said. Two Frenchmen were wounded but died in the hospital. It was unclear whether anyone else died in the clash.

Jaron described “sporadic fire” around Bangui and occasional clashes since the French disarmament efforts got under way Monday. France has described the program as a key part of its bid to stabilize Bangui, a city awash in weapons after years of rebellions and coups.

And France’s defense minister has warned militia groups to disarm peacefully — or French troops will do it by force.

“The launching of the disarmament operation of ex-Seleka in the city is an encouraging first step in the effort to secure Bangui,” said Thibaud Lesueur of the International Red Cross. “From now on, they should move to disarm the Seleka combatants who are in the neighborhoods and find the caches of weapons that are still numerous in the city.”

Two deaths within days of the operation beginning marks a significant toll compared to France’s mission in Mali earlier this year. A total of seven French soldiers have been killed there since January as a French-led African force routed al-Qaida-linked extremists controlling the north.

French officials have warned of the dangers of the enhanced military mission alongside African Union troops in Central African Republic, authorized under a muscular mandate approved last week by the United Nations Security Council.

MONTEVIDEO — Uruguay’s Senate gave final congressional approval Tuesday to create the world’s first national marketplace for legal marijuana, an audacious experiment that will have the government oversee production, sales and consumption of a drug illegal almost everywhere else.

The vote was 16 to 13, with the governing Broad Front majority united in favor. The plan now awaits the signature of President Jose Mujica, who wants the market to begin operating next year.

Two-thirds of Uruguayans oppose a government-run marijuana industry, according to opinion polls. But Mujica said he’s convinced the global drug war is a failure and feels bureaucrats can do a better job of containing addictions and beating organized crime, not police, soldiers and prison guards.

“Today is an historic day. Many countries of Latin America, and many governments, will take this law as an example,” cheered Sen. Constanza Moreira, voting with the Broad Front majority.

Uruguay’s drug control agency will have 120 days, until mid-April, to draft regulations imposing state control over the entire marijuana market for marijuana, from seed to smoke.

Everyone involved must be licensed and registered, with government monitors enforcing limits such as the 40 grams a month any adult will be able to buy at pharmacies for any reason or the six marijuana plants that license-holders will be allowed to grow at home.

Congress’ lower house approved the bill in late July, and senators rejected all proposed amendments, enforcing party discipline before Tuesday’s debate to assure the outcome.

Former Health Minister Alfredo Solari, a Colorado Party senator, warned Tuesday that children and adolescents will more easily get their hands on pot and that “the effects of this policy on public health will be terrible.”

But Sen. Roberto Conde, a former deputy foreign minister with the Broad Front, said marijuana “is already established in Uruguay. It’s a drug that is already seen as very low risk and enormously easy to get.”

“This is not liberalization of marijuana. It can be consumed within certain parameters established by law. I think it will reduce consumption,” Sen. Luis Gallo, a retired doctor who favored the bill, told The Associated Press.
Finding my voice

Zachary Llorens

I am not a writer, but I love to share stories and capture moments that take your breath away. Working at The Observer has allowed me to do just that. Early in the semester, I heard through the grapevine about the photo department and was compelled to join. I have always been interested in photography but really never had the extra time to go out and shoot as much as I would have liked. Picking up the camera as a part-time job for this newspaper has been a completely liberating experience for me.

While others at the paper share information, messages and opinions through words, our photo staff complements reporters’ stories with ideas of our own, in images. We do our best each and every day to freeze a moment, to make a lasting impression on the viewer.

There is no clean-cut definition for what makes the perfect picture, but there are a few things we look to get out of every shoot. First, we check exposure: Is it too dark, too bright, or just right? It passes that first test, we go on to verify its focus: Is it sharp, and are the faces clear?

Next, we check content. Quite a few pictures that pass the first steps fail to make an impact on the viewer. Really, we look for pictures that elicit reactions from viewers. A diving catch and spectacular dunk can have their deserved place alongside a compelling picture of a diving impression on the viewer.

For some reason, men and women alike often look at me strangely when I tell them I am a feminist. They assume I hate men and the concept of marriage, burn bras, reject future motherhood or advocate for loose morals when it comes to sexuality. They assume I am physically unattractive, bitter about “not finding a man,” or a soon-to-be spinster or workaholic. None of these statements is true about me, nor do they define the majority of feminists. These are common and unfortunate misconceptions about what feminism really is. Feminism, at its core, is the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. The movement’s aim is to advocate for women’s rights on the grounds of political, economic and social equality to men. These principles should not be controversial, and it saddens me to know that so many uninformed individuals hold a false image of such an important movement.

According to a recent, national YouGov poll, only 20 percent of Americans consider themselves “feminists.” However, 82 percent say “men and women should be social, political, and economic equals.” This is preposterous, considering that the two phrases are synonymous. “Feminist” has come to be regarded as an extremist, outlandish view, as people associate it with things that do not, in any way, define the feminist movement. If you believe in equality between the sexes, then you are a feminist. Period. And you should not be afraid to publicize it.

Many people make the terrible mistake of assuming, “So much progress has already been made for women that there is no need for feminism anymore.” I do not deny that American women have made tremendous progress and that they are some of the most privileged women in the world. They are free to vote, own property and sign contracts, enter the workforce in virtually any field, choose their marriage partners and make decisions regarding their personal health.

Despite these advances, the average working woman still makes only 77 cents for every dollar made by the average working man. One in seven women will receive negative repercussions — such as demotion, pay cuts, even termination — for asking for maternity leave. Women make up 50 percent of the population of the United States, but only have an 18 percent representation in Congress. Twenty percent of women are sexually assaulted before they graduate college; 60 percent of those women are too ashamed to report it, and only 1 percent of them see their perpetrator legally convicted. The Equal Rights Amendment never passed. Popular media communicates to young women that they should wait for a charming prince to rescue them, or that marriage and motherhood are the only pathways to happiness and satisfaction.

These statements do not even take into account the extreme anti-female sentiments present worldwide. Forced prostitution, female genital mutilation, honor killings, child brides, legalized physical abuse and restriction from education are only some examples of the institutionalized travesties negatively affecting women around the globe. Worldwide, women account for 66 percent of the world’s labor, receive 10 percent of the world’s income and own less than 1 percent of the world’s property. There is no sane way to argue that feminism, in the truest sense of the word, is not necessary in the modern world.

I received numerous responses from readers after the publication of my article, “Lines are not ‘blurred,’” (Oct. 31) one month ago. In the column, I dissected Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” and discussed how it contributes to rape culture in popular society. Rape culture is created when prevalent attitudes, practices and cultural keystones — such as songs — normalize, excuse and tolerate behaviors related to sexual assault, thus degrading women and referring to them as objects. I would like to share my piece as a feminist article, and my goal was to advocate a society in which the sexual and social equality of men and women is promoted, rather than mocked.

I received substantive feedback, both positive and negative. Every negative email or comment I received on the article, besides the anonymous website comments, was from a male. The standpoint was an anonymous computer user stating, “This is one bitter woman... Get a life, or at least get a date.”

My dating life is irrelevant to the substance of my writing or to the basis of my beliefs. This comment, among others, reflects the common, sexist, societal problem of discrediting a woman’s happiness or identity with her personal relationships with men. And, not that it matters, I have been in a committed relationship with a man for years — one that is based on respect, equality and the revere of feminism by both parties.

The world needs feminism now more than ever. Feminism is not a bad word, and it is not an extremist position. Feminism is about logic, justice and respect, and that is always the right choice.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
What do our professors think of us? We all have experiences where a professor remarks, “Notre Dame student...” or “Notre Dame professors...” from tenured deans to first-year students. The sense of rejection was minor, an elite minor for very smart students. The uniform of campus did not.” We champion the Notre Dame community, but many argue the shadow of this is that campus solidarity makes students reluctant to stand out. We conclude with a vignette to show that these results, while critical, are also hopeful. When teaching a seminar during his first two years at Notre Dame, one professor described a “switch” that turns off with students. The first year, the seminar the next fall to sophomores, however, when teaching the same seminar the next fall to sophomores, the students did not engage. “Something happened that made them listen but not talk,” the professor stated. “That’s terrible... It was my first two years here. I think that’s not an atypical experience.” This anecdote demonstrates our assumption that these tendencies are cultivated, not inherent, in Notre Dame students. We discovered practices to counter these trends, like having an undergraduate ask the first question at visitor lectures, assigning students to Yes/No roles on a diver- sive question to begin a semester and promoting creative thinking through a brief scavenger activity” to end each class. We conclude this is largely not a “people problem,” but a situational problem that warrants small-scale and doable changes.

Now, why should students care? Professors have an outside vantage point into students’ intellectual lives replicated by few others. We compare ourselves to one another, but professors — who have taught at peer institutions from Georgetown to Harvard — provide context. We, students and professors, should cultivate awareness that this perception exists and provoke dialogue about how our Notre Dame community can grow together.

Over the past few years, I have had the incredible opportunity to express my political views in The Observer. Rather than write about politics, my last op-ed will share the main lessons I learned from Notre Dame. Looking back, the best thing to happen to me at Notre Dame was not getting accepted into the Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) minor, an elite minor for very smart students. The sense of rejection was magnified by the acceptance of four mock-trial teammates. As a result, my confidence was bruised and I doubted my intelligence. To compensate, I started reading random books and articles like never before. During this time, I found some pieces on health care that made me extremely interested in a very important and complex issue. Years later, I think I have found the cause of my life — to promote a better American health care system. I probably would have never realized it if I did not get denied from PPE. So, if you have ever had a door slammed in your face, try to find an open window. You may be amazed where it leads you.

I have learned better than most that unexpected failures and losses happen in life. However, as David Gergen, former advisor to President Clinton, states, “there is nothing in the ‘hugeness, or experiencing times when we find ourselves increasingly lost or confused, enables us to grow into who we are. If we are afraid to be ourselves is an incredibly im- portant trait. I should know. I started as a fi- nance major, even though I knew I loved politics. With all due respect to Mendoza, it was not the right place for me. But I continued on because I thought I could not escape (or find a job after college).” Telling my par- ents during Junior Parents Weekend that I did not belong in business and the subsequent process of switching to political science was one of the toughest things I have ever done. But I am incredibly glad I did it, because it made me stronger and smarter and a better person. It is perhaps a good thing he did, because his name was Abraham Lincoln, and his ability to endure fail- ures and loss is what enabled him to be the most creative and growth-filled years of my college career. Having the courage to exit a bad job, relation- ship, situation or mentality is one of the most important characteristics we can ever have. This was one of many times when I had the courage to embrace my differences from my peers, I have found embracing one’s differences is a prerequisite to happiness, and it has been the determining factor of my experience at Notre Dame.

As I write my final piece for Notre Dame, I come full circle as I re- flect upon the first piece I wrote for Notre Dame — my college application. Specifically, I remember writ- ing about Fr. Jenkins’ quote, “We at Notre Dame must have the courage to be who we are. If we are afraid to be different from the world, how can we make a difference in the world?” I have found being different at Notre Dame is not as easy as Notre Dame’s application suggests. Differences lead to awkwardness, failure and insecurity. Conforming to society is always easier, but it does not provide much fulfillment in one’s life. Thus, the greatest lesson Notre Dame provided me: work to understand your differ- ences, come to peace with them and use them to change the world.

Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com
By DANIEL BARABASI

Christmas carols are something of the far past, a time when our primitive ancestors still plugged away at type-writers. Mariah Carey, you’re no longer all I want for Christmas. Really, it’s time for Christmas to move over. We’re in a new age now: the age of ChRAGEmas (patent pending).

We can thank American DJ Diplo, as well as his Mad Decent label for “A Very Decent Christmas,” for this amazing development. The mix highlights previously released tracks from artists on the label, only now in a more festive spirit. True to the label’s name, the songs blend trap, bounce, moombahton and every other “underrated” genre on the table right now.

Yet, Diplo’s release of “A Very Decent Christmas” isn’t the first time an electronic artist worked self-produced music into the festive spirit. Just a few weeks ago, fellow DJ Kaskade released a “Family. Friends. Freaks.” playlist for the holiday season.

So then why does Diplo get to be the founder of ChRAGEmas? Kaskade released calmer mixes of Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby in order to fit into the soft, festive spirit. True to the label’s name, the songs blend trap, bounce, moombahton and every other “underrated” dance genre on the table right now.

With his “Very Decent Christmas” mix, Diplo continues his crusade to break the EDM brand he often gets lumped under. This is the guy who has Baauer, the artist behind “Harlem Shake,” Riff Raff, allegedly paid in cocaine for performing at a USC party, and Major Lazer, the guy behind “Bubble Butt” on his label. Nevertheless, in an interview this year with The Huffington Post, Diplo ripped heavily on EDM. “Dance music is so interchangeable,” he said. “There’s not a lot of face to it. It’s a bunch of Dutch DJs with the same haircut. That’s going to last very much longer, because kids see that it’s the same s*** every single time.”

ChRAGEmas follows this same theme. With “A Very Decent Christmas,” Diplo blasts preconceptions about what Christmas music sounds like. He argues with his music that we need the basic sounds of Christmas, but this doesn’t mean we need to have a boring Christmas.

In fact, Diplo tells us we should turn down for presents. Sounds like the stupidest thing, but it took Diplo to show us we can rage on Christmas.

The defining mix takes traditional Christmas beats, such as “Jingle Bells” and “Deck the Halls,” up a notch. It’s a lot like an EDM version of “A Very Decent Christmas,” but with a bite. Diplo kicks the bass is about to drop. The next defining song “Rude Guys,” sets the mood for Christmas 2.0. The song uses sleigh bells heavily to set the holiday spirit and underlays it with vocals of “Turn Up” and “Ho! Ho! Ho!” when the bass is about to drop. The next defining song “RODE — OFF 2013” takes a Daft Punk spin on Santa’s reindeer by listing the iconic names, focusing on Rudolph, to the style of “Technologic.”

The rest of the mixes continue with this musical absurdity, except for Mitch Murder’s “Don’t Let Me Spend Christmas Alone.” I actually don’t understand how this song made it on the album, as it sounds like a traditional Christmas melody propagating love and closeness, only with electronic background music. I’m assuming that Murder will soon be leaving the label for this transgression.

With his “Very Decent Christmas” mix, Diplo continues his crusade to break the EDM brand he often gets lumped under. This is the guy who has Baauer, the artist behind “Harlem Shake,” Riff Raff, allegedly paid in cocaine for performing at a USC party, and Major Lazer, the guy behind “Bubble Butt” on his label.

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Essentially, why wait until New Year’s if you can rave at ChRAGEmas?

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Managing Editor

Meghan Thomassen

By now, you all should have at least drafted your letters to Santa, and I have a few literary essentials that you definitely want stuffed in your stocking this year. Here’s a collection of the top books of 2013 that are bound to please that special someone. I know at least half of these will be on my Christmas list (lookin’ at you, Mom). I chose these based on bestseller lists from The New York Times, Publisher’s Weekly and favorites from my own bookshelf.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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By JOHN DARR & MATT McMAHON
Scene Writers

Every year, I hope for a bright and shining album to fill the No. 1 spot on my end-of-year list. Every year, one manages to turn up. As our best-album-of-the-year list series comes to a close, I guess I’d like to leave you with one message. If you really care about art in any form — books, movies, video games, visual or performance arts, music, etc. — go out there and find that No. 1 spot for yourself. If you look hard enough, you’ll find it out there. The search is worth its every step, should you keep stepping until you reach your destination.


4.) “Settle” – Disclosure
By JOHNN DARR

In the first minute of the album, Disclosure unleashes the spirit of “Settle” — innovative, explosive and yet incredibly focused. Managing both a cohesive sound and incredible variety, “Settle” manages to be a rare thing: an album of brilliant standalone tracks, as well as a brilliant album as a whole. Genres like deep house, dubstep, chillwave, European garage and IDM are mixed and mashed throughout the album, allowing for unique sounds using consistent sonic elements. A wide variety of guest singers allows for further variation between tracks; voices range from powerful to soft to sensual to comforting as the album progresses. If you’re into dance music and want an alternative to flashy radio EDM, this is the album for you.


5.) “Shaking the Habitual” – The Knife
By MATT McMAHON

Very few groups employ the tropes of the synth-pop genre in the way The Knife does. The Swedish electro-pop duo first bore their experimental teeth with 2010’s hugely ambitious, but uneven, opera ode to Darwin, “ Tomorrow, In A Year.” Combining their past successes in art pop with the avant-garde experimentalism of that score, The Knife returned with the epic “Shaking the Habitual.” The double album spans 98 minutes of thought-provoking music, while not giving up any of the stickiness.


2.) “Field of Reeds” – These New Puritans
By MATT McMAHON

“Field of Reeds” is a truly challenging work. Best described as a quiet orchestral post-rock record, the sound of the album is warm and welcoming, and yet its form is ambitious and experimental. Acoustic instrumentation, calm tempos and clean production are paired with complex time signatures, unfamiliar chord progressions and unconventional song structures. Sounds that would normally offer straightforward relaxation to a listener instead disorient and even confuse. Hooks are sparse, and major chords few and far between. The arrangements are minimal, allowing for large amounts of space in the arrangement. At first, “Field of Reeds” offers very little for a listener to hold onto.

And yet upon repeated listens, the hidden beauty on each track becomes more and more evident. Transient melodies become rewards that justify and transcend their respective journeys. Seemingly repetitive phases reveal subtle, yet intriguing, evolutions in sound. Each minute holds a thousand secrets waiting to be discovered.

Choice Cuts: “Fragment Two,” “V (Island Song),” “Field of Reeds”

3.) “Sunbather” – Deafheaven
By MATT McMAHON

Uplifting and “beautiful” might not be the first adjectives you expect someone to use to describe a black metal album. Furthermore, many black-metal purists may be very reluctant to even ascribe the label “black metal” to Deafheaven — the album features much cleaner production and far more shoegaze and post-rock influence than traditional black metal. Debates on their genre aside (and really, does it even matter?), Deafheaven has composed one of the prettiest, while instrumentally intricate album of the year. The band’s meticulous construction and attention to detail manages to create equally impressive moments in the tense, quieter instants as it does in the bruising, climactic releases.

Choice Cuts: “Step,” “Ya Hey,” “Hannah Hunt,” “Diane Young”

Addendum: We know, especially in the making of this list, that opinions vary. We love to talk music, and if anyone has a burning stance in it both the highest-risk and highest-reward album of the year. Look for this to become a classic.

Choice Cuts: “Fragment Two,” “V (Island Song),” “Field of Reeds”

1.) “Modern Vampires of the City” – Vampire Weekend
By MATT McMAHON

Everyone knew Vampire Weekend could write an insanely catchy pop song. The evidence is all over their first two albums. But with their third LP, “Modern Vampires of the City,” the band matured into crafting meaningful, thought-provoking music, while not giving up any of the slickness.

Putting aside the possibly pretentious, definitely slight, cryptic Ivy League lyricism — as well as their afro-pop inclinations — for views on spirituality, familial responsibilities and the general concepts that accompany growing up, Vampire Weekend assembled the most cohesive album of the year, thematically and instrumentally. The tracks are just as catchy and more technically sound, and they feature tighter production. “Modern Vampires of the City” showcases the next logical step in Vampire Weekend’s career: adulthood.

Choice Cuts: “Step,” “Ya Hey,” “Hannah Hunt,” “Diane Young”

Addendum: We know, especially in the making of this list, that opinions vary. We love to talk music, and if anyone wants to contact us about the top-20 list, we highly encourage it. In fact, if anyone has a burning stance in support of or against inclusions or exclusions on this list, we might be tempted to write a future article about it.

Contact John Darr at jdarr@nd.edu and Matt McMah on at mcmahon7@nd.edu
Let’s talk about baseball coaches for a moment. You know, those guys who stand in the dugout and wave their hands around, allegedly signaling something to their players. On Monday, three of the greatest Major League Baseball managers of all time were inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Tony LaRussa, Joe Torre and Bobby Cox were selected unanimously by the Hall of Fame’s Expansion Era Committee and will be formally inducted in a ceremony next July. Although a committee voted them into the Hall, public opinion could have just as easily done the job. It is easy to see why these three managers are famously great. They are among the winningest managers in MLB history, and they’ve won nine Manager of the Year awards combined. LaRussa coached his teams to three World Series titles. Torre won four championships with the New York Yankees, and Cox won one World Series with the Atlanta Braves. Sometimes, though, it can be hard to understand the scope of what baseball managers actually do — besides making wacky hand signals from the dugout steps. They don’t call plays like a football coach does, but baseball managers are a different type of coach. We can start with the fact that they’re called “managers” and not “head coaches.” Baseball has base coaches, but managers have more than organize a hierarchy for the coaches, but the manager does more than organize a hierarchy of more specialized coaches. Managers control every aspect of the game. LaRussa was famous for totting around giant binders filled with statistics on opposing teams. He revolutionized the use of the bullpens because he worked statistical matchups in an exceedingly exact manner. LaRussa’s relief pitchers might face only one batter each, but his baseball intellect never flagged. Cox led the Braves to five National League Pennants and 14 straight National League East Division titles. LaRussa, Torre and Cox consistently achieved success by coaching a sport in which a person who succeeds one-third of the time is one of the game’s best players. Managers have extraordinary control over the layout of the field because of baseball’s stop-and-go nature, but there are countless bad ways to call a ball. Each of these great managers had bad breaks in stride and found ways to win at an extraordinary pace. Cheers to the greats.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

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

Arizona jumps Michigan State at top of polls

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Some coaches shy away from a No. 1 ranking early in the season, worried about the impact it will have on their players’ psyche.

Count Arizona’s Sean Miller as one who embraces it. Arizona moved up to No. 1 in The Associated Press’ college basketball poll for the first time since 2003 on Monday, an honor Miller views as not only recognition for what the Wildcats have done this season, but validation for the direction the program has taken in his five years in the desert.

“There’s tremendous satisfaction, no question,” Miller said. “Embracing the fact that we’re No. 1 is something I’m doing, our staff is doing and really our team is doing. It’s an honor a little bit more than anywhere where no matter what happens the rest of the season, at some point we were ranked No. 1 in the country.”

Coming off a hard-fought home win over UNLV, Arizona (9-0) received first-place votes from the 65-member national media panel to earn the No. 1 spot in a season for the sixth time. The Wildcats are the Pac-12’s first No. 1 team since UCLA in January 2006.

Syracuse, which received the other first-place votes, and Ohio State moved up two places to second and third, while Wisconsin jumped four spots to fourth. Michigan State, which had been No. 1 for three weeks, dropped to fifth after losing 79-65 at home to North Carolina.

Louisville was No. 6, followed by Oklahoma State, Duke, Connecticut and Villanova.

The North Carolina Tarheels moved their way back into the poll at No. 18 after a one-week absence. Colorado and Missouri are in the Top 25 for the first time this season. UCLA, Michigan and Dayton fell out of the rankings.

Arizona was sixth in the preseason Top 25 after Miller, known for his recruiting, added another stellar class to a team that reached the Sweet 16 of last year’s NCAA Tournament.

Long, athletic and versatile, the Wildcats already have an impressive list of victories, including Texas Tech, San Diego State on the road and Duke in the championship game of the NIT Season Tip-off at Madison Square Garden.

“It’s no secret that this year our goal is to be playing in Dallas (at the Final Four). This just starts it off,” Arizona junior guard Nick Johnson said. “We’ve done some good things to start our season and we just need to keep it going.”

Arizona’s rise to No. 1 is a culmination of what Miller has done to return a storied program back to glory.

Rookie Te’o still seeking NFL breakout moment

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Manti Te’o says his rough rookie season has nothing to do with the flack he’s faced over getting hooked by a hoax involving a fake girlfriend while at Notre Dame.

The San Diego Chargers rookie linebacker said in his first conference call of the season Tuesday that he has yet to play a complete game in the NFL, but that’s because of his adjustment to the pros and not because he’s distracted in any way by the catcalls from opposing players or their fans.

“I’ve done a good job blocking out the chatter from the stands,” Te’o said.

The Chargers selected him in the second round of the draft after he was slowed by a sprained right foot in training camp and he was inactive for the Chargers’ first five games.

Since then, he’s been steady, collecting 69 tackles and breaking up four passes while playing inside linebacker next to Donald Butler.

Chargers coach Mike McCoy said Te’o is facing the usual growing pains a rookie experiences but “each week he’s got ten a little bit better.”

Te’o, however, has yet to record an interception or a sack or really have a big impact on a game for the Chargers (6-7), who visit the Broncos (11-2) Thursday night.

“I still haven’t had a complete game yet,” Te’o said. “I’ve felt the most growth I would say is the interception or a sack was denied.”

The NFL is still an exotic game (on Nov. 24). There was a different feel to that game, I was comfortable to a level where I could do wrong. ... I’m looking forward to a time when I can have that complete game and I’m constantly working to do that.”
Pacers defeat Heat in first meeting of season

Associated Press

Roy Hibbert threw all the in-side body shots Tuesday night. Paul George finished it off with the knockout blow.

Together, the Pacers’ devastat-ing one-two scoring punch did it again to the champs.

Hibbert finished with 24 points, George made two big 3-pointers during a 15-point second half scoring spree and Indiana rallied from a seven-point halftime deficit to take Round 1 against Miami 90-84.

"It was fun, a real intense game," George said. "Both teams were playing at a high level. You could see an urgency to win this game tonight." While Indiana extended its franchise-record home start to a perfect 10-0 and took a three-game advantage over Miami in the early chase for home-court advantage, this was no ordinary regular season game.

During pregame media availability, Indiana’s Lance Stephenson said this game felt like a championship matchup. Two of Miami’s big three, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade, tried to downplay that sort of talk by explaining this was not a win or go home night.

The hometown fans didn’t care what the Heat thought. They were already in postseason form, boo-ing loudly at the officials, chanting "He’s a flopper" on some contest-able foul calls and eventually ser-erading Miami players with those familiar chants of "Beat the Heat."

But the Pacers (19-3) also un-derstood this was only the start of a season-long quest that could pit the two best teams in the East in the conference finals for a sec-ond straight year.

First, there’s the rematch in Miami on Dec. 18. They won’t meet again until March 26 in Indy, then head back to Miami on April 11 before what most expect to be a third straight meeting in the play-offs. If those games have as much intrigue and pizzazz as Tuesday night’s showdown, they may be the most compelling all season.

And the Pacers can’t wait to show how much they can im-prove — even on a win over the two-time champs and four-time MVP LeBron James.

"It’s just one game," Hibbert said. "We’re going to learn from it. It’s a learning experience. It’s still early in the season. We have a lot more work to do."

To the average fan, it looked a lot like last season’s playoff se-ries, which Miami won in seven games.

Hibbert dominated the middle, scoring nine of Indiana’s first 11 points and making a season-high 10 baskets — most from point-blank range — despite playing in the second half with cotton in his nose. David West added 17 points, nine rebounds and four assists including a left-handed 4-foot runner that gave Indiana an 88-81 lead with 18.9 seconds to go.

James’ defense and Miami’s physical double-teams frustrated George most of the night, but when George finally got free late, he made three big 3-pointers to help the Pacers pull away. George, the NBA’s No. 4 scorer, finished with 17 points, three rebounds and four assists.

"I knew it was going to be a night when I was going to be exploding offensively," George said. "I knew I had to move the ball and share it."

Chasing George all night appar-ently took a toll on James and the Heat (36-6).

While James, the league’s No. 2 scorer did get 17 points, 14 re-bounds and six assists, he was just 3 of 11 from the field with nine points over the final 36 minutes — three quarters when Miami failed to top the 20-point mark and had five turnovers. Wade also finished with 17 points, while Bosh added 12.

in the slot after receiving a tape-to-tape pass from Ju-nior Suzanne Fitzpatrick and fired the puck over the goalie’s glove. With 8:51 left in the game, the Garatoni- Stern-Fitzpatrick line comb-ined again for I passing play that ended in a goal from Stern to seal the 4-1 Irish win. The game marks the first career start and first ca-reer win for St. Mary’s fresh-man goalkeeper Madeline Kramer. The Irish will next compete on the weekend of Feb 7-9, when Michigan State and UW-Madison trav-eling to the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Women’s Club Volleyball

Notre Dame attended the Wolverine Winter Classic in Ann Arbor, Mich., last week-end. Ranked third in their pool, the Irish concluded the tournament with a third-place finish in the 12-team field

Tournament Results

Pool Play


Gold Bracket


Women’s Figure Skating

Notre Dame tied for sec-ond place last weekend at its first competition of the sea-son, the Dr. Richard Porter Synchronized Class in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Irish com-peted against nine other col-lege teams, finishing behind Lindenwood and tying with Minnesota-Duluth. The Irish displayed their new pro-gram, a fun compilation of songs by The Temptations, for the first time this week-ens. The team had two falls in the opening warm-up block before its program be-gan. Once the music started, however, the Irish were able to shake off the nerves and skate clean with lots of en-ergy. The team will continue working very hard to prepare for its next competition, the Mid-America Synchronized Skating Championships in Fraser, Mich. on Jan. 11.

Men’s hockey splits weekend

Special to The Observer

Irish senior forward Juan Carlos Telesz fired a shot through traffic that squeezed under the pads of the Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne goaller with 0.8 seconds remaining in overtime to give Notre Dame a 3-2 vic-tory over the second-place runner in a championship matchup. Two of

Mid-America Synchronized Skating Championships in Fraser, Mich. on Jan. 11.

The hometown fans didn’t care how much they can improve — even on a win over the two-time champs and four-time MVP LeBron James.

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Tournament Results

Pool Play


Gold Bracket


Women’s Figure Skating

Notre Dame tied for second place last weekend at its first competition of the season, the Dr. Richard Porter Synchronized Class in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Irish competed against nine other college teams, finishing behind Lindenwood and tying with Minnesota-Duluth. The Irish displayed their new program, a fun compilation of songs by The Temptations, for the first time this weekend. The team had two falls in the opening warm-up block before its program began. Once the music started, however, the Irish were able to shake off the nerves and skate clean with lots of energy. The team will continue working very hard to prepare for its next competition, the Mid-America Synchronized Skating Championships in Fraser, Mich. on Jan. 11.
Renwick leaps into new season

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

As Notre Dame transitions to the ACC, Irish senior jumper and captain Logan Renwick does not think his team will be behind the learning curve heading into its first indoor season in the conference. “I think we have really high expectations going into this year,” Renwick said. “We’ve always known we have a strong team, and now we get to go into a top-to-bottom stronger conference. We expect to come in and make an impact, and I think we have the athletes to do that.”

For Renwick himself, this season’s expectations will be as high as his. Renwick had a breakout year as a junior, setting a personal record in the long jump, earning all-Big East honors in the long jump and triple jump, finishing 38th in the long jump and 45th in the triple jump, Renwick said the season was still a success, and he hopes to use it as momentum heading into this winter.

In addition to his success in the sandpit, Renwick was also named a captain in the fall by his coaches. “The coaches come together and nominate upperclassmen on the team who they’ve thought have come into that role,” Renwick said.

As a senior, Renwick said he hopes to lead and give advice to athletes from all events, as well as his fellow jumpers. “I’ve taken on that role of leader early in my career here at Notre Dame, and I’ve had great leaders here to grow under,” Renwick said. “I feel honored and humbled to step into that role.”

Renwick began his track career as a sprinter before picking up jumping. In college, Renwick has returned to the track for a few races, including this past weekend at the Blue & Gold Invitational, when he finished the 60-meter event in a personal-best 7.16 seconds. Nevertheless, he said his first love remains the jumping events. “I’m the youngest of four, and we all did track, but everyone else was sprinters,” Renwick said. “I happened to find my niche in jumping from an early age, and I’ve loved it ever since. It’s definitely different from the conventional sense of track, but it’s a very interesting aspect of the sport.”

Just as he branched out from family tradition on the track, Renwick also bucked the trend when it came to choosing a college. “I visited Penn State, Virginia, North Carolina, and Cornell, and my whole family wanted to go to Penn State, but as soon as I took my visit here, as cliché as it sounds, I knew this was where I needed to be,” Renwick said. “The community that you become a part of and all of the values give you such a well-rounded college experience. I couldn’t have picked a better place to spend four years.”

As good as Renwick has been athletically, he has had even more success in the classroom, making Dean’s List every semester of his college career. After last season, he was named to the USTFCCCA All-Academic team and the Capital One Academic All-American Division I Track & Field/Cross Country second team.

“I feel like I’ve played good teams. I give them credit, and I tip my hat to them because they are pretty experienced. So I’m not going to lose sleep on that.”

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant has done his best to step up key jumpers in the final two minutes against Delaware as part of a 25-point performance and pouring in a quick seven points in the last three minutes Monday, en route to a 23-point outing. “We are not going to blow out teams all the time,” Grant said. “So to be in close games, to learn how to execute down the stretch, is good.”

Senior center Garrick Sherman and junior forward Pat Connaughton helped propel the Irish against Bryant, as Sherman logged 14 points, a career-high 13 rebounds and three blocks and Connaughton added 17 points and 11 boards. Brey pointed to the importance of those rebounds totals, in particular, especially considering the lack of size in Notre Dame’s new starting lineup — consisting of Sherman, Connaughton, Grant, senior guard Eric Atkins and freshman guard Demetrius Jackson — that has opened each of the past four games. Sherman leads the Irish with 7.4 rebounds per game, followed closely by Connaughton’s 7.2 boards per game average.

“I’m encouraged by [Sherman’s] rebounding because that’s an area where he can keep getting better, and we’ve got to keep riding the double-digit rebounding from him,” Brey said. “You can’t play small unless [Connaughton’s] doing that. Because he does that, we can play the small lineup long periods of time. He’s just so dependable, reliable.”

Notre Dame will play its third game in five days when it closes out the regional round of the BlackRock Gotham Classic tonight against the Bison. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Mike Monaco at mmonaco@nd.edu
Irish travel to Puerto Rico for training trip

By MIKE GINOCCHIO
Sports Writer

In its final meet of the semester last weekend, Notre Dame powered its way to a win in the Hawkeye Invitational in Iowa City, Iowa, beating three other teams by earning a total score of 1228.5 points.

The Irish (4-4) relied on several standout individual performances, including senior Frank Dyer’s time of 46.92 seconds in the 100-yard butterfly to break the school record in the event. Head coach Tim Welsh said he couldn’t be happier with the team’s performance in Iowa.

“Finishing first is icing on the cake,” Welsh said. “The cake was swimming our best. We went there with the idea of everybody swimming as fast as they ever had in their lives, and we wanted to see how fast we could go this time of year, and the results were just excellent.”

The Irish don’t swim again competitively until Jan. 11, when they face off against Northwestern. But that doesn’t mean the team will be resting on its accomplishments, including senior Frank Dyer’s time of 46.92 seconds in the 100-yard butterfly to break the school record in the event. Head coach Tim Welsh said he couldn’t be happier with the team’s performance in Iowa.

“We train twice a day; we train outdoors. We’ll train in a 50-meter pool, and along with that, we’ll continue to do our strength training and conditioning and our dry land program. It is a training trip, period. … It’s also a very nice place.”

Despite coming off a string of three consecutive meet victories, the Irish have no reason to let up now, Welsh said.

“We can always polish up our fitness,” Welsh said.

“The guys are very focused about wanting to do a good job training.”

Tim Welsh
I Irish coach

“We also want to look very specifically at what our primary events are going to be. We try not to base our success on what someone else does. If we improve based on the clock, we’ll be happy with the outcome. We also want to do as well as we can in our first ACC meet, and we want to advance as many people as we can to the NCAA Championship.”

While they’re in Puerto Rico, the team will be one of many to take part in the exhibition Copa Coqui meet.

“The meet is a bit of a spectacle compared to American meets,” Welsh said of the meet. “They have a buffet, they play music during events and in the exciting years, they have a mariachi band that will come to your team’s tent, and they’ll play a little bit. All this is just to celebrate the excitement of being together and having a swim meet.”

Despite the festive atmosphere, the team will be very focused on its main goals, Welsh said.

“We have been here before,” he said. “We have been to this pool before. The guys were very focused about wanting to do a good job training.”

But Welsh also acknowledged the Irish would have fun on their training trip.

“But they also enjoy it when you come back from a hard practice and you walk out the door and sit on the beach,” he said. “…that’s a good life.”

The Irish will return to competitive racing when they travel to the Northwestern Aquatic Center in Evanston, Ill., to face Northwestern on Jan. 11.

Contact Mike Ginocchio at mginocchio@nd.edu

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Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

and six of the last 15, with seven appearances in the title game over the same stretch. It is arguably the best and most storied league in college hockey. As a displaced New Englander who grew up attending games at the University of Maine and watching future NHL greats like Paul Kariya out on the ice, I was ecstatic to learn in 2011 that Notre Dame would be joining the conference.

But it wasn’t for November games against Merrimack.

The Irish will jump into their second half, New England and Hockey East with both feet Jan. 4 of the new year, as the team plays its second outdoor game in two seasons, this time against Boston College at Boston’s Fenway Park. Notre Dame will play in a series — “Frozen Fenway” — that will feature six Hockey East teams competing on perhaps the most hallowed ground in New England, a ballpark that recently witnessed a World Series championship for the beloved Boston Red Sox.

The game isn’t short on symbolism.

For the first time, Notre Dame will face Boston College, the most successful college hockey team in the last 10 years, not just as a fellow Catholic institution and elite opponent, but also as a conference foe. From there, the Irish will travel to away series at New Hampshire and Providence, while hosting Northeastern, Maine and Boston University. The regular season concludes with another trip to visit Boston College, this time on campus in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

These are the games that got Irish fans excited about the move east. Jackson has said repeatedly that he hopes to establish rivalries with Hockey East teams to replace the old foes Notre Dame left behind in the defunct CCHA, and the second half is when the Irish will make that happen.

Much like an outsider attending an intimate family gathering, the Irish have joined a league that is fierce-ly regional, historic and talented. They will have to fight for a seat at the table.

It should be a bucket of fun.

Contact Connor Kelly at ckekly17@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
loss," Clark said. "We came in as the No. 1 seed and lost in the third round. It was disappointing, so this was a very determined group. We were also entering the ACC for the first time in school history. We knew that was going to be a challenge, so there was a lot of motivation to work during the summer."

Although last season’s early tournament exit motivates this year’s team, the current Notre Dame squad has to make its own mark in the tournament, Clark said. "You graduate players every year, and that means every team is going to be slightly different from the team before," Clark said. "It happens naturally through graduation, so you’ve got to make your own history. How are you going to be remembered?

Still, the 2013 Irish aren’t the first talented team to play for Clark in his tenure at Notre Dame.

In 2006, the Irish heat defending champion Maryland and made their first appearance in the NCAA Championship quarterfinals before a loss to Virginia kept them out of the College Cup. A win against Santa Clara the following season sent Notre Dame to the tournament quarterfinals again, but the Irish lost to eventual tournament champion Wake Forest.

Clark said each team builds on Notre Dame’s past successes.

"I think there have been a lot of good teams," Clark said. "It’s not like this is the first good team. There’s a pile of good teams and some great victories. ... We’ve had good teams very close to being in this position, but it didn’t fall our way. As I said, I think every team grows."

"I think we always talk about teams growing. I think that’s the best way to respect the team that went before you, if you can add a little more shine to the jersey. I think this year’s team can put a little more gloss on it." 2013 could be the year when the Irish reach the heights of their potential.

"As a coach, you want every team to fulfill its potential," Clark said. "I think this team is capable of going the whole way. I think there’s no question about that. That would be their potential, but all four teams in the semifinals will be feeling the same way, so I don’t think anyone will be taking anything for granted."

Clark said Notre Dame has built up its expectations as a program over his 12 seasons as coach. Now that the Irish have built up a successful tournament résumé, they can set their sights on bigger goals, including winning the national championship.

"I think the big thing is the expectations," Clark said. "I think when I arrived here, we had had maybe two losing seasons, back-to-back. We hadn’t been to the (NCAA) tournament in about six years. The expectation is first to get to the tournament. If you make the tournament, I always say that’s a good year. That’s the first challenge, then you can make the Final Four. You take it one round at a time. When you’re in the Final Four, the next goal, obviously, is winning it."

Notre Dame has the right mindset for the upcoming task, Clark said.

"This is a hard-nosed, driven, focused group of guys," Clark said. "That’s something this team has."

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**IN ROOM 329**


With a great sense of purpose, professors Lou Buckley and John Sheehan opened the door to Room 329 in the Administration Building. Inside? Two rickety chairs, an old wooden desk and an exciting idea that would improve the lives of their friends on the staff and faculty at the University of Notre Dame for years to come.

They called it the University of Notre Dame Credit Union. And unlike a bank, this place was devoted exclusively to the staff and faculty.

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Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu

They did this for you

Opponents CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

the team to be in the College Cup, but we aren’t satisfied yet," he said.

"It’s great we have this opportunity, but in the talk going around the locker room, it’s been made clear that we want more."

Before the Irish get ahead of themselves, their first priority is Friday’s semifinal matchup.

"Our focus is fully on New Mexico right now," Irish coach Bobby Clark said. "We’ve watched film, spoke to those who have played them, and are putting the final touches on our scouting.

"They are a very solid all-around team. Without having huge superstars, they are really good in all departments and are a well-coached and well-disciplined team. One person I spoke to said New Mexico is probably the best team they played all year."

The Lobos (14-5-2, 7-1-1 Conference USA) entered the Final Four after a 1-0-1 Conference USA vaccination win over Washington on Saturday. This is the second College Cup appearance for New Mexico, who lost in the national championship game in 2005. The Lobos have not given up a single goal in the first three rounds of the tournament and have allowed only 0.86 goals per contest this season. "New Mexico’s defense is pretty stout, so the biggest challenge for us will be to create good scoring opportunities," Irish senior forward Harry Shipp said.

If the Irish can create those opportunities to score and move past the Lobos, they will face a familiar opponent in the College Cup Final. The nice thing, regardless if Virginia or Maryland wins, is that we’ve played them both before," Clark said. "We are in a position that we don’t have to worry about them at the moment, but we hope to have that problem of focusing on them on Saturday."

Assuming Notre Dame wins its semifinal game, it will face an opponent who gave the Irish trouble during the regular season.

"It’s hard to say who we would rather get another game against," Shipp said. "Virginia is the one team we lost to all season, so obviously it would be nice to get redemption against them, but we also shared the ACC title with Maryland, and the Terrapins won the ACC Championship.

Maryland (16-3-5, 7-3-3) enters the College Cup after a 2-1 victory over No. 4 California in the quarterfinals. Saturday. Notre Dame and Maryland finished in a 1-1 draw Oct. 8, and the Terrapins went on to earn a 1-0 win over Virginia (13-5-5, 4-3-4) 1-0 in the ACC Championship game Nov. 17. Before falling to Maryland, the Cavaliers knocked the Irish out of contention for the ACC Championship with a 4-3 win in penalty kicks after a 3-3 draw in the tournament semifinals Nov. 15. Notre Dame’s 2-0 loss to the Cavaliers on Oct. 26 marks the only loss on the season for the Irish.

“If we do win Friday, then we know how we match up against both teams,” Cicciarelli said. "We know their weaknesses and strengths, and they know ours."

But, as we are as confident as ever right now. We have the best coaching staff, and we are confident in them to come up with a game plan and strategy that will propel us to the National Championship.

Notre Dame is unbeaten in its eight games since the regular-season loss to Virginia. The Irish are 7-0-1 within that stretch and have outscored opponents 21-7. The Irish have also played from behind for only 1-2 in their last eight games, as they only trailed against Wake Forest in the third round of the NCAA Championship.

"We are going to keep doing what we are doing and play any of these games like its any other game,” Cicciarelli said. “We are focusing on what we do best against any of the opponents we face.”

The Irish make their debut College Cup appearance against New Mexico on Friday at 5 p.m. at PPL Park in Chester, Pa.
Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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26 Andean wool source
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16 Cousin... of ’60s TV
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18 Flock formation
19 Pret's with a quiver

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LANDIS

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Simon Helberg, 33; Felicity Huffman, 51; Donny Osmond, 56; Dame Judi Dench, 79.

Happy Birthday! Take your time getting the facts. You will be faced with confusion based on poor information this year if you don't do your research. Change will be necessary with regard to home, family and partnerships. Set reasonable goals and stick to your plan. Letting outsiders interfere will be your downfall. Know what you want and finish what you start. Your numbers are 7, 10, 13, 21, 29, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19):
Don't feel pressured to make a decision regarding your position, status or advancement. Recap what you've done in the past and consider how you can utilize your skills to bring better outcomes. An impulsive decision will not bring good results.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):
You call the shots. Your wisdom and charm will attract people who can offer favors and information that will help you reach your goals. A partnership will turn into a long and profitable connection. Romance is highlighted. Share your feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20):
You'll need discipline to finish projects that need to be wrapped up before the end of the year. Offer suggestions, but do not part with your cash. A service you can offer others will be well-received and bring in additional funds.

CANCER (June 21-July 22):
Concentrate on getting odd jobs finished. Preparation will make your job easier, allowing you more time to spend doing something enjoyable. Make assessments and changes to your life and overall personal look. Plan a little romance to end your day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):
An unique approach or new surroundings will feed your creative imagination. Knowledge and honing your skills will spark an idea that can lead to extra cash. Don't let someone else limit what you can do. Be diplomatic but firm when faced with opposition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
Rethink your financial strategy. If you've been impulsive or emotional when it comes to spending, pull back and cut corners. Help an older relative or friend, but don't take over. Suggestions or physical assistance is one thing; meddling is another.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):
A change at work or with a partnership will come about quickly. Don't act surprised when you should be prepared to move without skipping a beat. Discipline and hard work will pay off. Networking with old and new friends will be advantageous.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):
Get up, get focused and accomplish everything on your to-do list. Using friendly pressure to get what you want will work wonders. Social networking will pay off by introducing you to new people, places and opportunities. Libra is highlighted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
Enjoy doing the things that ease your stress and add comfort to your life. Stick close to home and protect what you cherish. Don't let emotional uncertainty ruin your day. Recognize an unstable situation and act accordingly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
Take on whatever comes your way and you will send an impressive vibe that will help you control what's going on around you. Visiting an inspirational place will have benefits. Make plans with someone you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
What you do for others will be beneficial. Personalize a job you've been given. Someone will recognize your talent and offer you greater stability and hope for the future. A little daydreaming will help you recognize new possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):
Your ingenuity, coupled with insight and reliability, will be your ticket to success. In what you do, not what you say, that will help you get you ahead. Don't be a change there you of course. Accept the unavoidable and keep moving.

Birthday Baby: You are a humanitarian. You have vision and a persistent drive to succeed.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK
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Irish build on history

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Bobby Clark has worked with some talented teams since he started coaching the Irish in 2001, but this season marks the program’s first appearance in the NCAA College Cup.

The Irish (15-1-6, 7-1-3 ACC) entered this season’s NCAA Championship as the No. 3 seed and won three consecutive games to reach the Final Four. In a way, Notre Dame’s postseason run is a continuation of last season’s unfinished business, when the No. 1 Irish lost 2-1 in double-overtime to No. 16 Indiana in the third round of the NCAA Championship.

“They were very disappointed last year, and there are a lot of returning players who remember the (Indiana) third round of the NCAA,” Clark has said. “They jam it in defensively and, like these previous two teams, they are older and more experienced.”

A similarly veteran Notre Dame squad entered this season’s NCAA College Cup.

“Every player, coach and fan eagerly anticipates upcoming matchups in tournament play, and the case is no different for the No. 3 Irish in their race to win the College Cup,” coach Mike Brey calls “the best” of the three regional matchups with the likes of strong opponents and tough potential matchups, junior forward Vince Cicciarella said. It’s a pretty incredible feeling for them to be here.”

Notre Dame looks to establish streak

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

After winning its first two games of the BlackRock Gotham Classic by an average of eight points, Notre Dame welcomes a team Irish coach Mike Brey calls “the best” of the three regional-round tournament opponents when North Dakota State visits Purcell Pavilion tonight.

The Irish (7-2) snuck past Delaware, 80-75, on Saturday and had trouble closing out Bryant on Monday before claiming a 70-59 victory.

“We are playing three teams very similar that can win their league,” Brey said after Monday’s win. “I think [North Dakota State] is better than the two we just played. I think they are the best.”

The veteran Bison (6-3) were picked to win the Summit League, receiving 25 of 28 first-place votes in the preseason poll. Four seniors average double-figure points, including guard Taylor Braun, who leads the squad with 16.6 points per game.

After a 1-2 start to its season, North Dakota State has won five of its last six games, most recently defeating Bryant, 66-62, on Saturday. Braun and senior forwards TrayVonn Wright and Marshall Bjorklund combined for 47 of the Bison’s points in the victory, and the defense limited Bryant to 41.1 percent shooting from the field.

“They jam it in defensively and, like these previous two teams, they are older and they’ve won together,” Brey said of the Bison. “So they are coming in loose.”

A similarly veteran Notre Dame squad enters the matchup after struggling to pull away in its past two games. The Irish led by only one point with 2:09 remaining in regulation Saturday and held a slim four-point mind when they made the move to Hockey East. In all fairness to the aforementioned teams, who collectively have held the Irish to a 3-4-1 record in the first half of the season, good for a solid eighth in the conference, they lack the cachet of Notre Dame’s second-half opponents. Hockey East teams have combined to win 12 total national championships.

Second half to test ND

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

When Notre Dame lined up against Merrimack on Nov. 15 in the first Hockey East matchup at the Compton Family Ice Arena, it felt like an odd debut in the storied conference for the Irish.

Coming from the recently disbanded CCHA, No. 13 Notre Dame lacks the regional ties that unite the rest of the members of Hockey East, though not the conference’s rich hockey pedigree. In a league whose member schools are all in New England, the Irish must travel 886 miles to reach Providence, their nearest conference rival, without a single player from the region on their roster.

Still, early season matchups with the likes of Merrimack, Vermont, Massachusetts-Lowell, Northeastern and Massachusetts are hardly what Irish coach Jeff Jackson and athletic director Jack Swarbrick had in mind when they made the move to Hockey East. In all fairness to the aforementioned teams, who collectively have held the Irish to a 3-4-1 record in the first half of the season, good for a solid eighth in the conference, they lack the cachet of Notre Dame’s second-half opponents. Hockey East teams have combined to win 12 total national championships.