SIBC reopens membership to all majors
Sponsorship of largest student organization switches from Mendoza to Career Center

By JACK ROONEY
Associate News Editor

After beginning the year under the purview of the Mendoza College of Business, and therefore being open only to Mendoza students, the Student International Business Council (SIBC) recently moved under the advisorship of the Career Center and will reopen its membership to students of all majors and all college affiliations, which we saw as the most important change so far,” Anderson said. “Beyond that, we’re still working through some of the other structural changes in terms of bylaws and organizational aspects.”

Career Center director Hilary Flanagan said the new partnership with SIBC, the largest student organization on campus, came about after discussions between student members of SIBC and University administrators.

“After considering some recent feedback from and discussion between students involved in SIBC, Deans, and the Division of Student Affairs, the decision was made to transition SIBC from a student club to a student organization,” Flanagan said in an email. “Like other student organizations on campus, SIBC already functioned with a University employee appointed to advise the group.

Saint Mary’s juniors win study abroad scholarships

By ALEX WINEGAR
News Writer

Two Saint Mary’s students, juniors Christine Germann and Victoria Michel de la Maisoneuve, received the Gilman Scholarship to participate in a study abroad program or career-oriented international internship this academic year.

Germann won an $8,000 grant because she is studying Swahili, which the Gilman Program designates as a critical language. Germann is also the first Saint Mary’s student to win the program’s Critical Need Language Supplement Program Scholarship in addition to the primary scholarship, which offers up to $5,000 for any kind of study abroad. Germann will study abroad in Iringa, Tanzania from January through May, she said. She will join a group sponsored by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) at a program focusing on language, culture and development. “We will take five courses,” she said. See SIBC PAGE 4.

Factory produces The Shirt, benefits community

Panelists from Alta Gracia Apparel and The Shirt Committee discuss the positive community impact of the factory that produces The Shirt.

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Society of Women Engineers advisor earns fellowship

By BIANCA ALMADA
News Writer

Catherine (Cathy) Pieronek, associate dean for the College of Engineering, director of the Women’s Engineering Program and faculty advisor to the Notre Dame chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), was named a SWE Fellow in October at the national society’s annual conference in Los Angeles.

“We are all very proud of Cathy for her recognition,” senior Jillian Montalvo, president of the Notre Dame SWE chapter, said. “Cathy is a huge advocate for women in engineering, and she has been an extremely active member in SWE. … Her success reflects highly on the Notre Dame section and it brings even more attention to the University’s dedication to increasing the number of female students in STEM.”

See SWE PAGE 4.

Design for Social Good

Tell Their Story With Show Some Skin

12 Days of Classes

Men’s Basketball

Women’s Basketball
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What do you want for Christmas?

Have a question you want answered? Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com

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Mary Green
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Hunters McDaniell

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Emily Dunbar

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Corrections

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Wednesday
MFA Student Reading Series
Hammes Bookstore
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
Purcell Pavilion
7:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
ND vs. Michigan State.

Thursday
South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra
Morris inn
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Holiday entertainment.

Interdenominational Fellowship (ISI)
Coleman-Morse Center
10 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Student worship.

Friday
Christmas Cookie Decorating
LaFountaine Student Center
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Free for students.

ND Chorale
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Featuring Handel’s “Messiah.”

Saturday
Women’s Basketball
Purcell Pavilion
3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
ND vs. Connecticut.

Men’s Basketball
Purcell Pavilion
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
ND vs. Fairleigh Dickinson.

Sunday
Classic Film: “It’s a Wonderful Life”
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Free for students.

Advent Lessons and Carols
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Features all choirs.

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Have a question you want answered? Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com

Junior midfielder Patrick Hodan was recently named a semifinalist for the 2014 MAC Hermann Trophy. The highest individual award in college soccer, the MAC Hermann Trophy is awarded by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

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ND physicists research traffic

By ANDREA VALE
News Writer

Note Dame researchers, including professor of theoretical physics Zoltán Toroczkai and graduate student YiHui Ren, recently completed a model that will predict traffic patterns based on physics principles and published their work in the journal “Nature Communications.”

“The motivation of this work is twofold, intellectual inquisitiveness and practical application,” Ren said. “By observing a complicated system, [physicists] always wonder whether there is a simple fundamental underlying principle driving this system. Human mobility on road networks is such a problem. It is also an old problem.”

Ren said the desire to design a model to predict traffic patterns was born out of dissatisfaction with previous models.

“We found that most researchers [used] gravity laws to study traffic within urban areas,” he said. “We found this to be unsatisfactory. … An urban area is not a closed system, and traffic could come from outside of the city. [Dissatisfaction] is a good thing; it indicates there is room for improvement.”

Improvement was made through what Ren described as a long and complicated but ultimately rewarding research process in which he collaborated with and received advice from both Toroczkai and fellow physicist Dr. María Ercsey-Ravasz of Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. The result was a model that can predict traffic values on a road network based on the network structure and the geographic distribution of the population. The model, Ren said, accomplishes three major milestones.

“The first is the first-principles nature of our model, which enables its usage on any roadway network without knowing traffic data,” Ren said. “The second accomplishment is high accuracy. By comparing with the empirical data, our model can yield a high linear correlation coefficient around 0.75, which is a validation of the correctness of our model.”

“The third is high computation efficiency. … It can reduce a 24-hour computation to several hours … but still keep a good result.”

The model takes into account the unpredictability of humans as they choose their destinations and the routes to those destinations, according to a press release.

“The factoring in of one’s choice of destination was based on an earlier traffic prediction model developed by Filippo Simini and Marta González that ‘takes into account the reasons why people travel, such as commuting to a job. That study is coupled with a model of the cost considerations people use to choose which path to take, such as favoring a quicker interstate route over a shorter but slower road.’”

Ren said his research is “significantly meaningful in … real world practice” and has a practical application when considering, for example, damage to road networks caused by events such as earthquakes. After such events, populations relocate, and the construction of new roads is necessary to mitigate damage.

Predicting traffic patterns more accurately could help “evaluate road construction” before costly plans are drawn up and initiated, Ren said.

“Our model is ideal for this purpose,” he said.

Contact Andrea Vale at avale@nd.edu

Design students fight HIV/AIDS in South Africa

By KATIE GALIOTO
News Writer

Robert Sedlack, associate professor of visual communication design, and a group of students from Notre Dame’s Department of Art, Art History and Design are creating a campaign to help HIV victims in South Africa by designing resources to inform and educate local communities.

“We’re in a class called ‘Design for Social Good,’” senior Colleen Hancuch said. “The idea is that design can be an effective communicator and the ideal method for education and problem-solving. The big project we’re all working on now focuses on the task of creating an overarching campaign to address the issue and stigma of HIV/AIDS in South Africa.”

Sedlack said the relationship between Notre Dame’s design program and Johannesburg, South Africa, was first established in April 2011 in response to xenophobic attacks. Since then, Sedlack has led two groups of design students on spring break trips to Johannesburg.

“Last spring break, one of the things we realized was that the current HIV/AIDS situation in South Africa is not unlike HIV/AIDS was in the United States in the early 1980s,” Sedlack said. “The assumptions once someone gets HIV are really misguided. “Many people think being HIV positive is a death sentence. The population just doesn’t have access to the information that, in my opinion, they should have access to.”

This semester, Sedlack assigned the 13 students enrolled in “Design for Social Good” the project of using design to better inform the people of South Africa about HIV/AIDS and help change societal misconceptions about the virus.

Senior design students Holly O’Hara, Keri O’Mara and Samantha Lessen designed their project to focus on antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), the medication given to individuals diagnosed as HIV positive. (Editor’s note: Keri O’Mara is Graphics Editor at The Observer.)

“In order for this medicine to be effective, people are supposed to continue taking it for the rest of their lives,” O’Mara said. “Problems occur when people run out of their medication and never go to refill it. In South Africa, the ARVs are free, so it really comes down to the initiative to go and get more pills.”

O’Hara, O’Mara and Lessen said they are trying to address this problem by designing a wallet-like accessory in which HIV positive patients can carry their daily doses of medicine in calendar-style pockets.

“According to our contact, right now South Africans use plastic bags to carry around their phone, money, and other important things,” Lessen said. “The design we’re currently focusing on is kind of like a wallet that will have a foldable calendar with zippered compartments for ARVs. We hope it will allow people to carry everything that’s important for their lives — such as money or a phone — in one place. Because the ARVs would be carried with these other essentials, we hope people would show their value as something that’s important for the rest of their lives.”

The students in Sedlack’s “Design for Social Good” class said the curriculum helps integrate their design skills with social concerns.

“People go along with everything that Notre Dame tries to instill in its students,” O’Hara said. “Get an education, learn your skills and then use those skills to better the world.”

Two other groups’ projects target the elimination of gender in South Africa by designing and implementing after-school programs for elementary and high school-aged female students.

Another group is working to make a booklet to hand out to people once they are diagnosed with HIV.

“Hopefully our campaigns will give an element of hope and the possibility of continuation of life, which I think is a lot of people struggle with upon diagnosis. We’re hoping our actions can help minimize that fear,” Samanatha Lessen, senior design student, said. “That’s really the point of this whole class: to expand that idea and get us to think that we can do so much more with design.”

Contact Katie Galioto at kgalio@nd.edu
in engineering.”

Pieronek received the accolade for her “dedication to the SWE mission, for a lasting and positive impact on engineering education and for illuminating public discourse on gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields,” according to a College of Engineering press release. Her award of Fellow Grade is the society’s highest category of membership.

“What the award recognizes is my contributions toward helping SWE become a national leader in the discussion of how to make engineering education more accessible to women,” Pieronek said.

Pieronek also has served as Title IX lead and chair of the society’s Government Relations and Public Policy Committee, helping shape SWE’s position on how Title IX should be applied to engineering and science programs. She also has served as president of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and established the Women’s Engineering Faculty in 2002.

“Although Notre Dame SWE is a student organization and completely student-run, it owes a huge amount of success to Cathy,” Montalvo said. “With her guidance, our membership has seen a dramatic increase in the last few years … and it doesn’t look like this trend will change anytime soon.”

SWE serves as a resource for female students to find ways to make a traditionally male-dominated profession work for them, Pieronek said.

“Our goal is to make sure that women never feel pushed out of engineering, but that they choose to stay because they know that they can thrive here,” she said.

Contact Bianca Almada at balmada@nd.edu

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SIBC
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Being recognized as a student organization and moving forward with that recognition seems like a very positive outcome that will address important student feedback and benefit all who participate in the organization.”

Senior Alessandro DiSanto, also an SIBC co-president, said the move stemmed from a mutual desire from Mendoza and SIBC to find the best home for the council.

“I think because of the immediacy of the decision that was made over the summer by the College of Business [to have control over SIBC], we were not able to fully discuss how the transition would work with Mendoza,” he said. “And once those discussions started taking place, there was a feeling of maybe this should go in a different direction.

“Just given the circumstances that both [Mendoza and SIBC] are in, perhaps both organizations could meet their missions better if the SIBC was located in a different home that allowed for a more expansive impact on campus.”

DiSanto said he was pleased to see the University respond to the council’s needs in an effective and productive way.

“It was very heartening to see the Office of Student Affairs realize the level of independence the SIBC is capable of in order to function at a healthy state,” he said. “And we’re very excited to work with the Career Center, whose mission very much aligns with ours — providing a diverse set of educational experience while maintaining an impact in both the local and global communities.”

Andersen said the administration listened to student concerns regarding SIBC membership and prioritized the best interest for the council in its response.

“Everyone was very impressed about, ‘How can we best find a home for the SIBC?’” she said. “I think everyone was trying to find the best interest for us, including Mendoza and Student Affairs.”

Though SIBC has essentially completed its projects for the fall semester, DiSanto said the council looks forward to opening its membership to all students in the spring semester.

“Our projects are coming to the end for this semester, so it’s kind of the end of our cycle, but starting immediately, we are open to everyone from all educational backgrounds and are excited to welcome all of our new members and old members back at the start of this coming semester,” DiSanto said.

He also said the move to the Career Center will provide new and exciting opportunities for SIBC and its members, though the details of these opportunities are still in the early stages.

“We’re still in preliminary discussions with the Career Center, but you can certainly see how there may potentially be some synergies on some of our international internships programs, whether that be through parallel funding sources or amplifying relationships with companies,” he said.

Flanagan said she and her staff at the Career Center were pleased to be consulted early on about the possibilities for the new relationship with SIBC.

“Time will certainly tell, but I think there are some great opportunities for our office to provide some coaching to students within SIBC to further their aim to promote peace through commerce,” she said. “We look forward to coaching the student leadership of SIBC, as well as the general membership as they strive to gain experience in various career fields through interaction with employers.”

This is a brand new transition for all of us, and I think this new collaboration will be great for student members of SIBC. Being recognized as a student organization and moving forward with that recognition seems like a very positive outcome that will address important student feedback and benefit all who participate in the organization.”

Contact Jack Rooney at jrooney1@nd.edu

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A cheerleader displays The Shirt 2014 at its unveiling April 11 at the Hammes Bookstore.

A child stands at a childcare center in Altagracia, Dominican Republic.

A children's room has been able to see the children and one grandchild of a factory worker with five children is able to take care of them.

The Altgraia factory represents a model of garment production that allows for human dignity but also profit.

Vargas said that the Alta Gracia factory represents a model of garment production that allows for human dignity but also profit.

The Altgracia company allow for work engagement and a hands-on practicum on-site at a rural non-governmental organization for four weeks at the end of the semester," Germann said.

Germann said she hopes this experience will aid in her goals of pursuing a career in international development or humanitarian aid work, specifically in Africa.

I am a Global Studies major with a concentration in international development, so this program fits my goals nicely," Germann said.

Germann started studying Swahili on her own last summer to be better prepared for her semester abroad.

“The program includes intensive study in that language as well," Germann said. “My impression is that the immersion process will greatly enhance comprehension too.”

Maisonneuve won a $5,000 grant to study abroad in the CIEE China Shanghai Business Culture and Language program.

“This scholarship will permit me to learn about a country and culture that I do not have much knowledge on and broaden my international education,” Maisonneuve said. “I start the process of learning Mandarin while in China, which I hope to continue once I come back to school.”

Germann said faculty at Saint Mary’s encouraged her to pursue the opportunity the Gilman Scholarship presented.

“I heard about the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship from the Saint Mary’s study abroad advisor, Alice Yang," she said. “She has much experience guiding students to the often necessary funding options for study abroad programs and has actually been on the Gilman review board in the past.”

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a congressionally-funded program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and is administered by the Institute of International Education, according to the scholarship program’s website.

The Gilman Program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study and intern abroad as well as the countries and regions to which they travel by supporting U.S. undergraduates who might otherwise not consider these opportunities due to financial constraints, the website stated.

Germann said the application process was lengthy and included several informational sections focusing on topics like student demographics and the program for which an applicant applied.

“The most labor-intensive part was the statement of purpose essay and the follow-on service essay,” Germann said. “The statement of purpose essay is straightforward listing why you chose the program and what it holds for your future. The follow-on service essay is where the student describes how they will promote study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship upon their return.”

Germann said she would encourage all students to seek out the best experiences for themselves.

“Do not limit yourself,” she said. “If there is something that you think you will assist in your personal growth, such as international education, seek information and put yourself out there.”

Contact Alex Vinegar at awineg01@saintmarys.edu

Michael YU | The Observer

Molly Howell, vice president of The Shirt Committee, speaks at a panel discussion Tuesday.

Howell said The Shirt committee’s partnership with Alta Gracia has been largely positive experience.

“They came to us in 2012 and really impressed us,” Howell said. “It’s been a great collaboration. They do so much for the people in the Dominican Republic, and the social aspect of that really stood out to us.”

“They’ve been incredibly accommodating in terms of design, and they allowed us to change the fabric this year. In addition to being this amazing company that does so much good for the people entrepreneurs in their own hometowns … actually employing other people in their community. It’s such a powerful ripple effect.”

Yenny Perez, a single mother of five daughters, is a worker at the Alta Gracia factory. She spoke about her experience with the company as Taber translated.

“Since I have started working at Alta Gracia, my life has made a huge change for me," Perez said. “We have the saying in Spanish that it is the difference between heaven and earth. I have been able to go home and take time to do things with my children.

Before I worked at Alta Gracia, my oldest daughters were enrolled at school in our local economy in Altgracia.”

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Contact Alex Vinegar at awineg01@saintmarys.edu

in the Dominican Republic, they also have a really solid business model.”

Rachel Taber, community education coordinator for Alta Gracia, spoke about the company and served as translator for the two women visiting from the Altgracia factory.

“Alta Gracia is the first-ever, living-wage college apparel project,” Taber said.

“Sometimes people think of a living wage as a family wage because it is enough to support a family of five.

“It is more than three times what your average Dominican garment worker would be making otherwise. This has a really profound impact on this community, as many people in this room have been able to see themselves.”

The factory’s policies have greatly impacted the community, Taber said. These higher wages provided by the company allow for workers to engage in opportunities that would otherwise be impossible.

“Kids are going to school where they weren’t able to before for lack of resources like school supplies,” she said. “The children of garment workers are now enrolled in college, pursuing their dreams, and even the workers themselves (can pursue an education). People have access to medical care; people have become...
Equal to our tasks

Matt Miklavic
The Maine Idea

I’m not a huge prayer guy. I believe in God. I think. Well, at least I want to. I guess I’m still working on that.

I like to think I’m decently religious, though the fact that I just used “decently” as a modifier and “I think” in relation to my believing in God probably speaks to a relationship with religion that leaves something to be desired.

So, in short, I’ll pray at Mass and on the off-chance I end up at the Grotto. But even then, I’m “praying” as much to chat with myself as to anyone above. I struggle with the idea that the world around me is changed upon our petitions, that we can save those things and people who we ask to be saved and others will be left to fend for themselves. I’d like to think that beyond this, any God has better things to do than a lot of the stuff that gets tossed in his direction in prayer.

As I navigate my way through my Catholicism, I’m not exactly looking to add another religion. I do my best to avoid proselytizers walking door to door, but once in a while, one sneaks through. In my defense, when you’re waiting to board a flight, there’s not much room to escape. So I took her little piece of paper — my new bookmark for the trip — smiled, and went on my merry way to my seat.

As I opened my book, I snuck a look at the handout, which asked what I’d pray to change about my life. Interesting enough.

I didn’t think about it much until I came across a discussion of John F. Kennedy a few pages in. My mind wandered back to the piece of paper and to something Kennedy had once said.

“Do not pray for easy lives,” he counseled, quoting an Episcopal Bishop, Phillips Brooks. “Pray to be stronger men.”

According to him, women, I assume, should figure something out.

My book suddenly held less interest. I started thinking of ways I could be a better person, a stronger one. I came up with some hopes — I guess you could call them prayers — about how I would want to live.

I’d hope to live up to the chances I’ve had — to those whom much is given, much is expected. I’d hope to live up to the expectations of those who have sacrificed for me and mentored me. I’d hope to live in a way to make them proud. I’d hope to work as tirelessly as my dad and to love as unequivocally as my mom. I’d hope to have as big a heart as my grandparent. I’d hope to be as dedicated as my brother and as kind and compassionate as my sisters.

I’d wish to be as supportive, spontaneous and outright awesome as my friends. I’d wish to leave as big of an impact on others’ lives as they have left on mine. I’d wish to help kids find their way just as my teachers and coaches did for me. I’d wish to inspire the same fire and passion for learning.

I’d aspire to be as unapologetically optimistic as Christmas time is. In a season of unmatched giving, I’d aspire to give more freely in support of friends and strangers.

Selfishly, I’d want to be a freshman again, to have four more years in this land of intellectual curiosity and unlimited capacity for good.

I’d dream for the humility of the Brothers and Fathers and Sisters that roam Notre Dame, for the wisdom they have shared, for the help that they have given and will give. I’d dream to live my life even half as well as those students around me, the ones I am inspired by daily, do.

I’d yearn for a heart that knows right from wrong and for the strength to pursue right’s cause. I’d yearn for eyes that could see the world’s problems, ears that could hear victim’s ills and a mind that could help find solutions. I’d yearn for the courage of those who protest peacefully in the face of a system they view as unjust and of those who walk the streets day after day to keep communities safe.

I’d hope for the ability to do a fraction of the good that those across the globe and throughout the country do. I’d hope for the chance to stand with the servicemen and women, doctors and volunteers, development workers and clergy, to fight the fires of famine and disease where they rage, to fight tyranny where it stands and to help the suffering where they lay.

Finishing his quotation of Brooks, Kennedy continued, “Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.”

In a world inundated by fear and suffering and immersed in a conflagration of pain and anguish, I would dream for the powers to help in some manner, to aid in some way. I would hope for the powers that allow me to help set back the tide, to calm the flame and to face the tasks that I and we all, face. And for that? For that I will pray.

Matt Miklavic is a senior from Cape Elizabeth, Maine studying political science and finance. He’s the loving father of Siegfried 4B, which apparently got a section Tinder. He can be reached at mmiklav@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Tell their story with “Show Some Skin”

Like many of you, we have sat in the audience at a “Show Some Skin” performance, and we know first-hand how powerful the show can be. Both of us were inspired to get involved in the show, so we auditioned to be actors.

For those who have not seen it, “Show Some Skin” is a performance of anonymously submitted monologues about identity and difference. The purpose and mission of “Show Some Skin” is to give voice to the unspoken stories that exist on this campus. It cannot be done without the bravery and open-heartedness of the actors. The opportunity to act in the “Show Some Skin” performance was one of the most life-changing and memorable moments of our Notre Dame experience. We would like to share the stories of myself and our director, Lucas Garcia, in the hopes that you will take a leap of faith and participate in this project.

Three years ago I never knew that I would become a producer of “Show Some Skin.” I auditioned for “Show Some Skin” in my sophomore year because I felt lost. I no longer could find a sense of purpose in the work that I did and I was trying to understand who I was at Notre Dame. In the spring of 2013 I joined a cast of 20 actors who, in their own ways, were passionate about making a difference in regards to issues of diversity and inclusivity. I received two monologues and for six straight weeks, I pored over them. While I may never know who wrote the monologues, I tried to understand my writers. They taught me about what it feels like to be ignored, different and scared to be one’s self in ways that I experienced in my own life and in ways that I do not. Even now, I think about their stories, and they stay with me. Performing in “Show Some Skin” was a unique experience that I am grateful for every day.

Current director Lucas got involved with “Show Some Skin” as a freshman. He was confused and felt like he had to start making decisions about who he was and who he wanted to be, and he found that who he wanted to be didn’t fit in at Notre Dame. He recalls, “I felt like I didn’t belong here. After I was cast, I met an incredible group of people from many racial and ethnic backgrounds, majors and graduating classes, all of whom wanted to make a difference. They wanted ND to be a place where whenever someone had a question about themselves, about who they wanted to be, they would feel and be safe, no matter what the answer. They all wanted to make Notre Dame a place where people could feel like they belonged. Getting to know them and to know Notre Dame through these anonymous stories changed my life and that experience helps me every day in becoming who I am and who I want to be.”

As the executive director and executive producer, respectively, of the upcoming show in spring, Lucas and I invite and encourage all students to audition for “Show Some Skin: Tell Me More.” We are looking for a diverse group of actors; no previous experience on stage is necessary. Acting for “Show Some Skin” is unique because it’s not a fictional script. Each monologue has a real voice behind it and it can be a student sitting in your class, your professor, a staff member or even your roommate. That’s the beauty and the power of the production.

We have selected 30 outstanding monologues for the February 2015 production of “Show Some Skin: Tell Me More.” We are looking for a new batch of actors to come into community with one another and present the stories that we believe campus needs to hear.

Auditions will be held Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 7 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 4 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. in Andrews Auditorium of Geddes Hall. For questions please email s.someskin@gmail.com

Deandra Cadet
executive producer
“Show Some Skin: Tell Me More”
Dec. 1

Luca Garcia
executive director
“Show Some Skin: Tell Me More”
Dec. 1

End Neglected Tropical Diseases

When I told my mom I was doing something called Camp Kesem at Notre Dame, she was a little confused. She had never heard of such an organization, and while the idea was a good one, it seemed a little unrealistic for a college student with a full-time summer job to spend his one week off with a bunch of kids. In short, why should I spend so much time away from my classes and job for something so idealistic?

Allow me to explain: Camp Kesem is a week-long summer camp for children affected by a parent’s cancer. We take local kids ranging in ages from 6-16 to YMCA Camp Storer in Jackson, Michigan for a week of classic summer camp activities and bonding, including kayaking, capture-the-flag and campfires. Camp Kesem Notre Dame is one of 62 college chapters across the country that provide life-changing experiences for thousands of kids each year. We give them the chance to just be kids for once, instead of worrying about their mother’s latest chemo treatment or how they’ll answer awkward questions at school. Kesem is magic for the kids and counselors alike and embodies something that can’t be easily captured in words. To quote former Irish head coach Lou Holtz, “If you’ve been there, no explanation is necessary. If you haven’t, none is adequate.”

At Notre Dame, we pride ourselves for being more than just a university. Character and service follow hand-in-hand with academics. As Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, said in his 2013 commencement address, “Notre Dame is about not just a career but a call, not just what we’ve gotten but what we’re giving — not just the ‘I’ but the ‘we.’”

We are taught not only to eye the bottom line, but to always work for the greater good. And it is the sense of purpose pervades our time here; our educations are not just of the mind but also of the heart and soul.

During my three and a half years here, I have not found something more Notre Dame than Camp Kesem. Kesem is about bringing people together and empowering each other with shared experiences and love. Like Notre Dame, Kesem challenges us to live for more than just ourselves and reminds us of the life-altering power of love, of entering into relationships with each other. No other time at camp exemplifies this better than our Empowerment Ceremony, the one time during the week when we discuss why we are all there: cancer. I do not exaggerate when I say that the high point of my life was when a nine-year-old, with tears in his eyes, told me that while he may have lost his dad, he had found a family at camp.

Despite the convergence of our missions, Camp Kesem is still, for the most part, unknown on campus. Ask any 10 people on South Quad if they’ve heard about Camp Kesem and maybe two have, describing it as “that thing my friend does with all the weird songs and nicknames.” During the year, our student volunteers plan fundraisers and make signs to advertise us as one of the most active clubs on campus so that we can ensure our camp remains 100% percent free for our campers and their families. If we achieve our goal of raising $72,000 this year, we will be able to serve more than 80 kids this year, not only at camp but also by providing support all year at their soccer games, reunions and all too frequent funerals.

Our goal is to bridge that gap, to bring together the amazing children Kesem serves and the extraordinary students Notre Dame cultivates. As we grow our program, we need more money and counselors. We are having our monthly all-camp meeting tonight (Wednesday, Dec. 3) in 129 DeBartolo Hall at 8 p.m. Come and see for yourselves what Camp Kesem is all about. All are welcome.

To answer my mother’s question today, I would say that Kesem is for the same reason the rest of us do: purpose. In the abstract midst of job searches, paper deadlines and an unending pile of reading, Camp Kesem allows us to make a tangible sense of fulfillment that corresponds perfectly with Notre Dame’s mission. Remember, if you change a life you change the world, and we still have 80 amazing kids this year.

Do it for the kids.

John Groden
senior off-campus
Dec. 2

Make a difference with Camp Kesem

Trachoma. Elefantiasis. Snail Fever. River Blindness. Roundworm. Whipping Screw. Leishmaniasis. Mycobacteria. Many of you are probably thinking to yourselves, “What are those things?” These are seven of the most common diseases found in developing countries across the world. This may be a surprise considering that you know them and to know Notre Dame through these anonymous stories changed my life and that experience helps me every day in becoming who I am and who I want to be.”

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Finally, it’s that time of year again; Thanksgiving is over, December has begun and the weather is oh-so delightful (or not so delightful if you are opposed to below-freezing temperatures and frostbite). Dec. 1 marked not only the first day you were able to open the first door in your Advent calendar and find a surprise inside; it also marked the start of the famous 25 Days of Christmas on ABC Family. This means that every day for the next three and a half weeks, ABC Family will air a classic Christmas movie to get everyone in the holiday spirit. It’s like they knew it was finals season and that Notre Dame students would be looking for any and every reason to procrastinate, how kind of them.

Here are the must-see movies playing over the 25 Days of Christmas on ABC Family; set your DVR because you won’t want to miss a single one.

**“Elf”**

This one pretty much speaks for itself. I mean, is it really December if you haven’t watched “Elf” yet and quoted every single line? Bonus points for acting out scenes (the mall elevator, “SANTA’S COMING!”, spaghetti with syrup, etc.). Perhaps consider investing in a Buddy the Elf costume for your next Christmas-themed party.

**“Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas”**

Based on the classic Dr. Seuss book, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” this 2000 film starring a very hairy and green Jim Carrey epitomizes Christmas. Between the elaborate, cartoon-like set of Whoville and the adorable Cindy Lou (played by a much younger and much less eye-lined Taylor Momsen), this movie will get you in the Christmas spirit and maybe even bring a few tears (the classroom flashback scene gets me every time).

**“Disney’s A Christmas Carol”**

Now this is a newer addition to the list, as it just came out in 2009 and has yet to reach the list of classics. However, it is telling a classic Christmas story, so it must be included on the list. Jim Carrey is at it again, playing the cranky Ebenezer Scrooge as well as the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

**“The Polar Express”**

This movie will take you back to your childhood; an animated form of the children’s book by Chris Van Allsburg. “The Polar Express” is a heartwarming tale about belief and growing up.

**“Home Alone”**

Every 90s kid knows this story inside and out; the Christmas movie list simply would not be complete without the iconic scene of Macaulay Culkin, screaming as he runs away from robbers (no wonder all kids are scared to stay home alone... don’t think this would fly in our day and age as a children’s movie).

**“The Santa Clause”**

Even though there are two more films in this series, the original is all that really matters. Tim Allen kills it playing the absent, divorced dad turned Santa Claus and hero of Christmas. Didn’t we all want our dads to turn into Santa after this 1994 Christmas classic?

**“Frosty’s Winter Wonderland”**

Now this one goes way back — all the way to 1976, in fact (hence the terrible yet lovable animation). The jolly Christmas tune “Frosty The Snowman” comes to life in this adorable animated “film” (run time of 25 minutes) — a lifetime tradition for the Christmas season.

**“Toy Story 3”**

Ok, I have no idea why this is included in the 25 Days of Christmas, but it simply must be on this list. The tear-jerking finale (well, not anymore because of the proposed “Toy Story 4”) to the beloved Toy Story series might as well be added to the Christmas movie canon; in the least, it is yet another reminder to never grow up and to treat your toys nicely.

**Honorable Mention: The “Harry Potter” Series**

For some reason, these movies always seem to sneak their way into the Christmas season, I suppose for the one Christmas feast scene. Even though they also play at every other time of the year on ABC Family, why not give them another watch while you have the time during finals week?

Contact Maddie Daly at m Daly@nd.edu
By ALLIE TOLLAKSEN
Scene Editor

It’s that time of the year again — no, not the holiday season — that time between Thanksgiving break and Winter break, the three weeks that seem to feel like a whole semester in itself. We students get a tiny taste of vacation and egg nog, then it’s back to the final grind.

One year, during this purgatory we call December, I resorted to listening to Christmas music nonstop, just to motivate myself during the final stretch. This behavior was particularly unusual because of my general distaste for holiday songs and radio stations that play Bing Crosby from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day.

But these last few days of classes don’t have to be miserable. This year, perhaps inspired by bubbling holiday cheer, I’ve resolved to enjoy them instead.

So, here’s a different kind of advent calendar — one with a lowercase “a” — counting down to the arrival of finals week. Treat yourself to the events and all things seasonal on and around campus, and celebrate these last 12 days before exams.

Contact Allie Tollaksen at atollaks@nd.edu

Wed., Dec. 3 – If you haven’t found your way to a Spoken Word ND open mic or poetry slam event, now is your chance. Hear students perform original poetry and compete for a cash prize. Bring your friends and $3 for a ticket to Washington Hall’s Lab Theatre.

Thurs., Dec. 4 – Hit up the Humor Artists’ last show of the semester at Legends at 11 p.m. The student group is putting on “HAccidentally in LHHave,” a “tribute to the music of Shrek,” so dig up those old soundtracks and relive your childhood CD collection.

Fri., Dec. 5 – Cheer on your talented friends and classmates at the signature event “Asian Allure,” this year titled, “There and back again,” put on by the Asian American Association. Incorporating performances and fashion showcasing Asian cultures, the event takes place in Washington Hall at 7 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6 – There’s nothing more comforting in a time of stress than a canine friend, so check out the “Reindog Parade” in downtown South Bend at 11 a.m. That’s right — a parade of dogs will be trotting through the city, followed by a costume contest that includes the category “Best Puppy.” This event can’t be missed.

Sun., Dec. 7 – Get in the holiday spirit by catching the Christmas classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” at 3 p.m. in DPAC. Then call your family and tell them hello in the midst of Jimmy Stewart-inspired sentimentality.

Mon., Dec. 8 – Take advantage of the lull in end-of-semester events today to do something festive, whether it’s baking cookies (or just eating all the ones your RA bakes) or ugly sweater shopping for those Christmas parties waiting just on the other side of finals.

Tues., Dec. 9 – If you haven’t stopped by the Snite yet this year, take advantage of the Snite Salon series at 5 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 10 – In case you missed Sunday’s classic Christmas movie, you can catch another. “White Christmas” will be playing at DPAC at 7 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 11 – Classes are over, and only finals week lies ahead. Celebrate and find your center with Mindful Meditation in Coleman-Morse at 5:15 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 12 – It’s the first day of study days, so do yourself a favor and just sleep in.

Sat., Dec. 13 – What better way to close out your semester than with a concert by the Notre Dame Glee club? The student group will be performing at 12, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m in DPAC.

Sun., Dec. 14 – Finals may be starting the next day, but if you need to blow off some steam, swing by Compton during its public skate time. From 3:45 p.m., bring some friends and skate your hearts out.
I don’t blame Baylor for hiring a PR firm. The school has apparently hired Kevin Sullivan Communications to start the stretch run of playoff campaigning. Interesting. Many websites are suggesting that 10-1 Baylor, No. 6 in the College Football Playoff rankings, hired the firm to enhance its playoff hopes — an entirely allowable move, by the way.

But Kevin Sullivan insisted to FoxSports.com his company wasn’t hired to influence that playoff selection committee. Instead, he said Baylor’s media relations staff was swamped and sought extra help. FoxSports.com quoted Sullivan as saying, “We’re just trying to set up some national interest into the Baylor program.”

“I think the SEC, really, compared to the other Power 5 conferences? Even if you feel strongly on the topic, you can probably blame there’s room for debate and interpretation of game results.”

And that’s the enduring problem. The selection committee looks at stats and results — and then they must interpret these in order to arrive at a decision.

People — you know, the living, breathing, fallible kind — are still calling the shots. We call it a “college football playoff rankings,” but it’s really still a poll, just more mysterious and with a fancier website. Frankly, improving those rankings over time is quite a challenge. Aging, then again, as a student at Notre Dame, I watched my school fail out of the rankings. That’s quite different from finding your school just outside, looking up at those top five teams, heading to the playoffs without you.

Expanding to an eight-team playoff will fuse teams together in some interesting ways. Expecting them to play with the college football playoff ranking system? The school is only playing the game.

The fact that most people assume Baylor hired the PR firm to make its playoff case tells you everything you need to know.

Few trust the human-driven selection system.

Commentators don’t think schools and their athletic directors have reason to trust the fairness of the selection committee’s choices, so they think Baylor must be trying to strengthen its case off the field. Maybe Baylor is. Maybe Baylor isn’t.

The point, is how we talk about the college playoff system demonstrates just how subjective the system really is.

Another example: When Alabama looked to be in danger of losing to Auburn last weekend and dropping out of the top four, you could almost feel the fear rolling in from the south. “But then which SEC team would make the playoffs? You can’t have a football playoff without the SEC!” I’m sure you heard the disgruntled whispers until Alabama pulled away.

Fall concussion numbers released in Indiana

**NEW YORK TIMES**

Fall concussion numbers released in Indiana

**NEW YORK TIMES**

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**High School Football**

**Fall concussion numbers released in Indiana**

**Associated Press**

Forbes, Jim Pagels wrote about a lot more about college football playoff rankings than most people — you know, the living, breathing, fallible kind — are still calling the shots. We call it a “college football playoff rankings,” but it’s really still a poll, just more mysterious and with a fancier website. Frankly, if we want to make these rankings over time is quite a challenge. Aging, then again, as a student at Notre Dame, I watched my school fail out of the rankings. That’s quite different from finding your school just outside, looking up at those top five teams, heading to the playoffs without you.

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Belles set to open conference play against Alma

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s will face rival Alma at home Wednesday to open its MIAA conference schedule.

The Belles currently hold a 2-3 record after opening their season with three losses, but they have won their last two games against Trinity International and Anderson. Belles coach Jenn Henley said the winning streak is the result of improved team chemistry and simple execution.

“I can’t say that we have been doing anything differently during the last two weeks,” Henley said. “We just needed more time to come together as a team. We started to do more of the little things the right way and found success.”

Henley said the performance of freshman forward Gabby Diamond has keyed the Belles’ turnaround. Diamond is the fourth-leading scorer for Saint Mary’s, averaging 8.4 points a game. “Gabby is doing well for us early in the season,” Henley said. “Her teammates are doing a good job of finding her in the paint the last few games. I am expecting her to continue to contribute to our overall team success as she continues to improve.”

The game against the Scots marks the first game on a competitive conference slate for the Belles.

“We are going to take one game at a time in the MIAA,” Henley said. “Every year, our conference is tough. Our focus is on the little things as we open up MIAA play this week.”

Henley said the key to defeating Alma is taking control of tempo and shutting down the Scots’ star players. “Alma is quick and scrappy,” Henley said. “We have to set the tone of the game early on and maintain it. They are led by senior guard Mallory Pruet, who is shooting 50 percent from the three-point line in four games. She makes them go. Defending her will be key.”

The Belles head into the matchup after a week of rest due to the Thanksgiving holiday, but Henley said she expects her team to recover quickly.

“Long layoffs between games are never good for a basketball team,” Henley said. “Every year, our team tends to improve.”

The Belles tip off against the Scots on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Angela Athletic Facility.

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu

Hickey’s blast lifts Islanders in OT

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, New York — Thomas Hickey set up a third-period goal and scored 3:06 into overtime as the New York Islanders started December just as they ended November, with a victory — 3-2 over the Ottawa Senators on Tuesday night.

The defenseman netted his second of the season with a wrap-around goal to help the Islanders improve to 8-0 in games decided after regulation.

Jaroslav Halak, the NHL’s No. 1 star last week, wasn’t busy but earned his team-record tying 10th straight win with a 16-save performance. Brock Nelson scored in the second period for the Islanders, who have won seven of eight and 12 of 14.

Ottawa had used a crisp play to tie it as Mark Stone, on the goal line to Halak’s left, fed the puck in front to Clarke MacArthur for his ninth goal at 11:14.

The Islanders took a 2-1 lead 1:07 into the third during 4-on-4 play. Hickey tried to jam the puck past Craig Anderson at the right post. It caromed across the crease to Ryan Strome, who stuffed it in on the left side for his fifth goal.

Mike Hoffman, who has scored in the first period, and Anderson made 25 saves for the Senators, who have lost five of six. These teams meet again in Ottawa on Thursday.

It took until late in the second period for the Islanders to get going, and for a brief moment they thought they might have taken the lead.

New York got even when Kyle Okposo forced a turnover and flung a backhand pass behind his back from the center-ice boards that Nelson tracked down in the Senators end. He skated in alone on Anderson and beat him with a shot with 1:34 remaining for his 11th goal.

Then, just as time was expiring in the period, Casey Cizikas fired a rising drive from above the left circle that hit the top corner of the net just as the green light behind it went on to signal time had run out. The officials went to video replay, and before they could announce “no goal,” the crowd groaned as it saw on the big board that the puck was shy of the line when the clock hit 0:00.

Neither team could muster much offense in either of the first two periods. New York had a 15-11 shots edge through 40 minutes. The only two penalty calls in that span came 31 seconds apart in the final minute of the second.
Irish senior defender Luke Mishu dribbles upfield in Notre Dame's 1-0, third-round NCAA tournament loss to Virginia at Alumni Stadium on Nov. 30. Mishu was selected as an Academic All-American this season.

Continued from page 16

which the Irish were the better side. That didn’t make it any easier for this year’s graduating class, either.

After a few minutes back at Alumni Stadium, Brown sat down on the turf on which the Irish went 29-7-4 during his four years in the Irish lineup. This year, the pitch witnessed three Irish defeats, all by a score of 1-0. Yet it also saw plenty of high moments: senior midfielder Nick Besler's header in double overtime against VCU; junior midfielder Patrick Hodan's beautiful strike to beat Louisville in overtime and a 3-0 victory over the Cavaliers in the ACC tournament quarterfinals just three weeks ago, to name a few.

Brown and his fellow fifth-year classmates — defender Andrew O'Malley, goalkeeper Patrick Wall and defender Luke Mishu, along with six seniors who may never again put on an Irish uniform — comprise a class that carried the Notre Dame program to new heights.

Notre Dame reached the ultimate peak last season, of course, by winning the program’s first national championship. The year before, the Irish earned the No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, as they did again this year, with the third overall seed during the 2013 championship campaign sandwiched in between.

The Irish won two regular-season ACC titles as well as the Big East tournament title the year before. Over the last four years, the team compiled a 55-15-15 overall record, including a 13-2-4 record in its first two seasons of ACC play, far and away the toughest conference in all of college soccer.

In addition to the team accomplishments, this year’s senior class racked up individual accolades both on and off the pitch. This season saw Wall named a Senior CLASS Award finalist and Mishu honored as an Academic All-American. The class boasts two NCAA All-Tournament Team selections, three All-ACC Team selections, two All-ACC Academic Team members, one All-Big East Team player and seven Big East Academic All-Star selections.

“These seniors took the program to a level it had never been before,” Clark said Sunday night. “We’ve also been a top-three seed in the NCAA tournament each of the last three years. That’s a phenomenal record for any team. These seniors can walk away and hold their heads up pretty high. I think this senior class can feel good about themselves.”

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zkklonsin@nd.edu

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

Coach Janusz Bednarski

12 Years at Notre Dame

3 Combined National Championships

14 Individual NCAA Champions

5 Olympians, 5 Medals

Gold: 2
Bronze: 3

FENCING

Bednarski retires as fencing coach

Observer Staff Report

Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski, who led Notre Dame to three team national championships and coached 14 NCAA individual champions over 12 seasons, has retired. University Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick announced in a press release Tuesday.

Bednarski will be replaced by associate head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia, who has spent eight years on the team’s coaching staff.

Bednarski coached 109 All-Americans across every weapon while at Notre Dame, and his teams finished in the top three at the NCAA championships a combined nine times.

In addition to his success at the NCAA championships, Bednarski also leaves the Irish as the third-winningest coach in any sport in school history, with 623 combined wins between the men’s and women’s programs. He has the 2010-2011 U.S. Fencing National Coach of the Year, as well as the 2013 Midwest Fencing Conference Varsity Coach of the Year.

Kvaratskhelia and the Irish will send several individuals to the North American Cup in Dallas on Friday, but the next team event is not until Jan. 24, when Notre Dame travels to New York City to face St. John’s.
Sports

From home can be huge.
For many teams, it’s the difference between a solid finish in the middle of the pack and a team that challenges for a regular-season championship.

But a team that cannot win at home? A finish in the bottom part of the conference standings beckons.

And at a certain point, a team’s ability to hold leads comes down to mindset as much as it does skill. It is no secret that the Irish are entirely devoid of confidence at the moment — their poor record this month shows that — but a lack of willingness to continue to play hard, to hustle and to do the things that got them an early lead really has little to do with confidence.

Admittedly, this is a young Notre Dame team and in many ways, like their football counterparts, the Irish can point to their inexperience as a source for struggles. In many ways, it is a fair point to make — for many, holding leads in juniors may have been easier and without having learned the lesson enough times, getting too comfortable with a two-goal lead could be an easy mistake to make.

But at the same point in time, it is a Notre Dame team that is carried — or at least should be — by a strong group of veteran leaders that maybe are not quite carrying their weight. A team’s mindset should not influence by its youth, but instead by its leadership. Forwards make up the majority of this team’s veteran core and fundamentally, they have to be the ones to set the table once the team goes up by a pair of goals. Rather than trying to take the rest of the night off, they need to keep playing hard, keep skating and keep generating chances, lest the team’s pair of goaltenders (sophomore Chad Katunar and freshman Cal Petersen) keep having to make 30 saves a night just to keep the Irish from losing the game.

Then again, Notre Dame’s approach could be worse, like it was Saturday night when it got taken to the woodshed by a mediocre-at-best Ohio State team. The Buckeyes entered Saturday with just four wins on the season and got drilled 6-2 by Western Michigan the night before. But they came onto Notre Dame’s home ice and put a 3-1 beatdown on the hosts.

From here! It would be hard to imagine it could be worse. A trip to Massachusetts beckons this weekend, and the Minutemen sit at the bottom of the Hockey East standings, posting a 1-7-0 record so far in the league. In eight conference games, this weekend’s opponent has given up up 42 goals.

While it is a road series, this weekend presents Notre Dame an opportunity to start to turn its season around.

The bad news? A three-week layoff follows for the Irish, making it difficult to carry momentum forward.

Or maybe at this point, that layoff is good news. Maybe it gives the Irish a chance to clear their heads and start from fresh when the second part of their schedule picks up with a holiday tournament in late December.

The Irish have hit rock bottom. This weekend is a great chance to start the slow climb back up towards the top of the totem pole.

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu

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

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Saint Mary’s College is pleased to announce The 2014 McMahon Aquinas Lecture

Normalcy and the Good Life
by Professor Eva Kittay

“Normal” is such a benign word, but only when things are normal. It’s a cutting word when things are not. Why is the desire for normalcy so powerful? Is it possible to have a good life without normalcy? Kittay will address these questions and more, with some unexpected answers.

Eva Kittay is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Stony Brook University. She has published extensively on disability, equality, the ethics of care, and feminist philosophy.

Saint Mary’s College
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Irish senior goalie Chad Katunar waits for the puck to drop against Union at Compton Family Ice Arena on Nov. 28. Notre Dame fell in overtime, 3-2. Katunar made a career-high 35 saves in the loss.
over the past week, and I think we’re anxious to find out re- ally where we are. We haven’t learned enough about our- selves — winning by 30, you don’t really get to learn that much. It’ll be good to be tested and see where we need to get the work in to get ready for the conference season.”

McGraw said there are a number of similarities be- tween Maryland and Notre Dame, especially in their bal- anced approach and depth on the bench.

“Both teams have a lot of balance,” McGraw said. “[Maryland] in particular, re- ally anybody can have a big night for them. They’ve all taken turns getting a 20-point effort, and I think four of their starters are in double figures, so I think there is really good balance on their team. It’s go- ing to be a really tough match- up for us. They play a lot of people, we play a lot of people, so there are a lot of similarities between the teams.”

McGraw pointed to the guard play and post play as strengths of the Maryland team that will create several competitive in- dividual matchups.

“I think the big matchups are going to be (Notre Dame junior guard) Jewell [Loyd] against (Maryland redshirt senior guard) Laurin Mincy and (Irish sophomore guard) Lindsay [Allen] against [Terrapins sophomore guard] Leslie Brown,” McGraw said. “And then we have the inside matchup between [Maryland sophomore center] Brionna Jones and [Irish sophomore forward] Taya [Reimer] or [freshman forward] Brianna Turner, so really it’s difficult. I don’t think we win any of the matchups on paper; I think they’re all going to be really, really tough.”

The problems posed by Maryland keep the Irish from looking ahead to a game against No. 3 Connecticut on Saturday, McGraw said. “We’re really focused on this Maryland game,” McGraw said. “It’s a big rivalry for us, especially for Lindsay Allen, who’s from Maryland. You know, we played them twice — we played them in the Final Four and had a big game at their place. I think this would’ve been a great ACC ri- valry, so it’s a shame they left the league.”

McGraw emphasized the opportunity for improve- ment the game against the Terrapins offers her team. “Living out here in Big Ten country, we get to play a lot of the Big Ten teams,” she said. “We feel like we’re al- ways measuring ourselves against them. It’s interesting that we’re paired with Maryland again; I think we’re starting to have a re- ally good rivalry with them. It’s going to be a great game for the challenge.”

McGraw said the neutral site in Fort Wayne should provide a fun atmosphere for the players. “We’re excited about go- ing to Fort Wayne because I’ve heard so many great things about the venue and the crowds,” McGraw said. “We’re taking buses over there, and I’m sure there are a lot of people in Fort Wayne who are excited to see us play, so it’s a great opportu- nity for us. We’d rather have home court advantage, but that’s the next best thing.”

The Irish take on the Terrapins at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd puts up a shot during Notre Dame’s 104-29 win over Holy Cross. Loyd finished with 17 points.

ACC/Big Ten

Continued from Page 16

head coach Tom Izzo.

“It’s a workmanlike pro- gram,” he said of Michigan State. “[Its philosophy is], ‘We’re going to defend. We’re going to rebound.’”

Brey, who started his head- coaching career the same year Izzo did, said Izzo has been successful by keeping his philosophy simple.

“He’s just a regular guy,” Brey said of Izzo. “He’s one of the good guys in the busi- ness who’s a fabulous coach. Certainly a Hall-of-Fame guy.”

History aside, this year’s Michigan State team has a different identity than Izzo- coached teams of the past, Brey said. The Spartans, who have a victory over Marquette and losses to cur- rent No. 4 Duke and No. 11 Kansas, are shooting 48.6 percent from the field and 42.1 percent from 3-point range, making their offense not too different from that of the Irish, he added.

“The thing that strikes you is how they’re shooting,” Brey said. “They’re shooting the heck out of the basket- ball. Like us, they’re making nine (3-pointers) per game … so we’re a little similar offensively.”

Senior guard Travis Trice leads the Spartans in scor- ing with 16.4 points per game and assists with nearly six per game. Junior guard Denzel Valentine averages 14.4 points per game, while senior guard/forward Branden Dawson has added 10.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game.

Brey said Notre Dame will have to back in transition and successfully defend the 3-point line to slow down Michigan State’s offense.

“They really get down the floor on makes and misses,” Brey said of the Spartans. “Trice gets deep outlets, and they shoot a lot of their (3-pointers) in transition. They throw ahead and fire. ‘Transition defense and guarding the arc. I think, are the two big defensive keys for us on Wednesday.”

Notre Dame will also try to counter with an aggressive defense that has forced 61 steals, second-most of any ACC program, on the sea- son. Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson has 14 of those steals, and Brey said Jackson’s defense has played a big role in Notre Dame’s early success.

“I think Demetrius Jackson’s ball pressure — that right there makes us a better team,” he said. “I think it’s something that comes very natural with Demetrius. He is an athletic defender.”

“… He knows how impor- tant his ball pressure is, and his teammates continually reinforce, ‘D, your ball pres- sure is really helping us.’”

Notre Dame and Michigan State will meet Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu
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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Crossword

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Enclosed is $130 for one academic year Enclosed is $75 for one semester

Happy Birthday: You’ve got plenty of choices, so think big while remaining realistic. This combination will help you reach your goals successfully. Adaptability is your saving grace, and change will keep you from boredom. Listen carefully do your research and stick to the facts, and you will bypass any unfortunate missteps caused by vaporous conversations. Love is highlighted. Your mane attraction is a solid supporter of your current efforts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get together with people you find mentally stimulating. Enjoy sharing information and you will find a way to make positive changes in the way you live. Don’t let someone you work with bully you. Use your instincts to cool off the situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): To up leave ends. Financial gains can be made if you use your influence well to build on your skills and knowledge and you will be able to apply for a better position. Talking with someone who respects you will lead to a new opportunity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Strive to reach personal goals. Self-improvement will result in compliments. Stand up to anyone who gets in your way. Your knowledge and impressive ways of dealing with others will buy you time. Romance looks promising.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Refuse to let your emotions take over. Listen carefully and take care of your responsibilities. Someone will take advantage of you if you don’t clearly state what you will and won’t do. Put yourself on the line and start being assertive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Add a little excitement to your life. Plan a trip or indulge in something you’ve never done before. Open your mind to learning new skills that can be developed into your primary skill. Love will be coming your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): Get out and meet new people. A partnership will lead to new opportunities. Sharing ideas and space with someone looks favorable, as long as you iron out any kinks at the very beginning.

LIBRA (Sep. 23-Oct. 22): Get out and meet new people. A partnership will lead to new opportunities. Sharing ideas and space with someone looks favorable, as long as you iron out any kinks at the very beginning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Change can be good if it’s built on solid ground. Don’t be a follower or you will have regrets. Take your own unique path and develop what works best for you. Recognition is heading your way, along with new opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Improve your surroundings and start getting ready for the holiday season. You may find financial gain that will help you out of an unfinished business. Concentrate on new beginnings. Love and romance are on the rise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Hold off on any suggestions without feeling the need to make hasty decisions. Don’t fall for the tactics used by someone who wants to manipulate you emotionally. It’s OK to waffle if the cost is high and uncertainty prevails.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Give whatever you do your best shot and head for the finish line. You have more going for you than you realize. A promotion, change of status or recognition will give you the confidence you need to forge ahead. Sudden changes are headed your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Work on creative endeavors that can bring in extra cash or help you save during the upcoming months. Striving for greater stability or financial security will pay off. Good fortune can be yours if you make the right choices.

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and challenging. You are a lover and a crusader.

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**ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Notre Dame, Maryland eye Final Four rematch**

By RENEE GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame and No. 15 Maryland square off in Fort Wayne, Indiana on Wednesday at 7 p.m., marking the second game against a ranked opponent for the Irish this season.

The game is a rematch of last year’s Final Four meeting, in which the Irish (7-0) earned a 87-61 victory over the Terrapins (6-1) to end their tournament run.

Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said the game, part of the ACC/BIG Ten Challenge, will give good insight into the untried and undefeated Irish and that the team is well-prepared for the quality oppponent.

“We’re absolutely ready,” McGraw said. “We’ve had some relatively easy games this time around, the Irish coach Bobby Clark ended in a 1-1 draw and 3-0 Irish win, yet previous games against the Cavaliers, of course; they played a strong game defensively. Yet Clark was again left talking about a loss in

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**Irish dominated by inconsistency**

After the crowd filed out of Alumni Stadium on Sunday, Leon Brown walked back out of the tunnel leading to the Irish locker room. The graduate student forward stopped and crouched at the edge of the pitch, where minutes before, his collegiate career had come to an end after Notre Dame fell to ACC rival Virginia, 1-0.

Sunday night’s loss in the third round of the NCAA tournament was a fitting microcosm of the Notre Dame season. The two previous games against the Cavaliers ended in a 1-1 draw and 3-0 Irish win, yet this time around, the Irish failed to find the back of the net in 90 minutes of play. Irish coach Bobby Clark said after the game that of the three matchups against Virginia this season, this match was the one in which he felt his team played its best.

It was not the first time the Irish dominated a game in which they struggled to find the back of the net. It happened in a pair of 1-0 losses to Kentucky and Boston College but also in the 1-0 double overtime win against VCU and the 1-0 victory over Northwestern.

Inconsistency on offense was a concern all season, especially during the first half of the year. Although they scored three or more goals six times, the Irish were either shut out or managed only a single goal in 10 of their 21 matches. While Notre Dame seemed to find something offensive during the second half of the season, especially during its six-game unbeaten streak prior to Sunday night, the team’s lack of consistent offensive production eventually doomed its playoff run.

This is not to take anything away from the Cavaliers, of course; they played a strong game defensively. Yet Clark was again left talking about a loss in

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**Spartans loom for ND in Challenge**

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Managing Editor

Notre Dame is no stranger to Purcell Pavilion this season, since the Irish have played five of their seven games thus far on campus.

However, Irish coach Mike Brey said he is fully expecting the atmosphere at the arena to be quite different when No. 19 Michigan State visits Wednesday night for the ACC/BIG Ten Challenge, so much so that he has implemented practice measures typically only used before true road games.

“I actually piped in crowd noise before we went to Joe Louis Arena on Nov. 22-23,” Brey said in his Monday press conference. “Usually, you do it before you go on the road. We’re going to use it today and tomorrow because it will be a different atmosphere [Wednesday].”

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**Leadership, finishing absent early in season**

In its last six home games, Notre Dame has jumped out to a 2-0 lead on four occasions. That is ... good. It is what home teams are supposed to do.

But there is an issue at hand — and that’s what transpires after the Irish get two goals up. They get comfortable, crawl into a shell, get massively outshot and eventually, concede a pair of goals to tie the game.

It has so far been without fault as on all four occasions, the Irish have blown the lead. Granted, they came back to win one of those games and held on for two ties but, still, for a team that recorded one win in nine games during the month of November, not winning when up by two goals at home is not sustainable.

Especially in conference play, getting points away