PASSPORT FAIR

Notre Dame Post Office, located in Hesburgh Library, is holding a Passport Fair on Saturday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Bring a photo ID and either a certified copy of your birth certificate or proof of citizenship.

An adult passport book is $110, children’s $80; the processing fee for either is $25. A passport card is also available for travel to Canada and Mexico only. An adult card is $30, $15 for a child, with a $25 processing fee for either. Passport photos are $15. Minors 16 and under must be accompanied by both parents. You will receive your passport in four to six weeks.

For information, contact Postmaster Ellen L. Bystrom at ellen.bystrom@usps.gov or 631-0269. Application forms and a list of documents can be found at the U.S. Department of State website, travel.state.gov. Additional information is also available at usps.com/international/passports.htm.

PEOPLE

UNITED WAY NAMES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Jessica M. Brookshire, associate director for public affairs, has been honored with United Way of St. Joseph County’s 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award.

For more than 17 years, Brookshire has been the engine behind United Way of St. Joseph County’s (UWSC) top workplace campaign — the University of Notre Dame’s. “Jessica’s passion for United Way’s work is demonstrated by her involvement in special projects, fundraising, events and committee membership,” said Matt Harrington, president and CEO of UWSC. “We are so grateful for her commitment to our community and her selfless support of United Way’s mission, which is truly inspiring.”

MCCREA WINS BOOK PRIZE

Barry McCrea, the Donald R. Keough Family Professor of Irish Studies and professor of English, Irish language and literature and Romance languages and literature, has been awarded the René Richter Prize by the American Comparative Literature Association for the best book in the past year in comparative literature.

McCrea’s “Languages of the Night: Minor Languages and the Literary Imagination in Twentieth-Century Ireland and Europe” (Yale University Press, 2015) explores how the decline of rural languages and dialects in 20th-century Europe shaped ideas about language and literature and exerted a powerful influence on literary modernism.

KISTLER NAMED DIRECTOR OF NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS AT STAYER CENTER

The Mendoza College of Business has named Robin D. Kistler as the director of non-degree programs at the Stayer Center for Executive Education. Kistler will be responsible for the administration, strategy and promotion of the Stayer Center’s open enrollment, online and custom certificate offerings.

Kistler previously served as director of executive education at Louisiana State University’s E.J. Ourso College of Business from 2008 to present, leading non-degree professional development training in business acumen and leadership development.

PSYCHOLOGIST NAMED FELLOW OF AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Darcia Narvaez, professor of psychology, has been named a fellow of the American Educational Research Association, an honor bestowed on academics with notable and sustained research achievements. Narvaez was one of 22 scholars inducting as fellows at the AERA’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 9.

Narvaez, who joined the Department of Psychology in 2008, has published numerous books and articles on moral cognition, moral development and moral character. She is a co-director of the interdisciplinary Self, Motivation and Virtue project and the Developing Virtues in the Practice of Science initiative. She is executive editor of the Journal of Moral Education and writes the popular Moral Landscapes blog for Psychology Today.

Her latest book, “Neurobiology and the Development of Human Morality: Evolution, Culture and Wisdom,” won the 2015 William James Book Award from the American Psychological Association. The honor recognizes a work that brings together diverse subfields of psychology and related disciplines and demonstrates an essential underlying set of themes that serve to unify or integrate the field.

RICHTER RECEIVES YOUNG INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM GRANT

David H. Richter, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering and earth sciences, is among the 47 engineers and scientists who will be awarded grants as part of the 2016 Young Investigator Program (YIP) of the Office of Naval Research. This award supports junior faculty whose exceptionally creative research holds promise across a range of naval-relevant science and technology areas, from robotics to solar cells.

Honorees, who represent 34 academic institutions, were selected from 280 applicants based on performance, technical merit and potential scientific breakthroughs in areas including active flow control, biofilms, combustion, corrosion, foodborne diseases, metamaterials, ocean-atmospheric interaction and structural dynamics. Richter’s work focuses on developing computational techniques and simulations to better understand the turbulence in the marine atmospheric boundary layer (MABL) — the key mechanism that influences as well as the complex ways in which the air and sea interact and feed off one another.

NOLAN YOUNG NAMED DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Pamela Nolan Young has been appointed to the newly created role of director for academic diversity and inclusion. Young, who received her juris doctor degree from the Notre Dame Law School, brings more than 25 years of experience to the University in the areas of diversity and inclusion, equal opportunity, education and law.

As a member of the University’s Provost Office staff, Young will coordinate the academic diversity and inclusion efforts, with an eye toward enhancing Notre Dame’s faculty climate.

Her work will focus on expanding the University’s diversity and inclusion training for faculty and integrating such training into new faculty orientation. She will also provide leadership to colleges and departments on implementation of diversity and inclusion initiatives, and she will facilitate recruiting efforts for undergraduate and graduate students.

CAMPUS NEWS

EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH KYOTO UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Kyoto University’s Institute for Chemical Research will soon be exchanging faculty, staff, students and ideas, building on a partnership started by Notre Dame and Biochemistry and Kyoto University’s departments of chemistry.

Ken Henderson, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, says an official memorandum of understanding between his department and Kyoto’s institute lays out a template for future collaboration. In addition to enabling student and faculty visits, the agreement lays the groundwork for growing research partnerships and the development of joint conferences and workshops. It is the type of interaction envisioned when Notre Dame International and Kyoto University initiated the institutional partnership two years ago.
Notre Dame participates in Earth Hour for ninth year

BY DANA BAKIRTJY, SUSTAINABILITY

On Saturday, March 19 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., Notre Dame participated in Earth Hour by turning off the lights on the Golden Dome of the Main Building and the “Word of Life” mural on Hesburgh Library for one hour. An international symbol of support for climate change action, this year marked the 10th anniversary of Earth Hour, and the ninth year Notre Dame has participated.

The single-largest symbolic mass participation event in the world, participants included the Empire State Building, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the Parthenon and St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. To celebrate this year’s Earth Hour, the Office of Sustainability hosted a lights-out event with students as a part of the annual Megawatt Madness energy reduction competition. The Echoes, a Notre Dame a cappella group, gave a performance in front of the Main Building that was attended by students, staff and faculty.

“Notre Dame’s participation in this global event for the past nine years exemplifies our strong commitment to sustainability,” says Linda Kurtos, director of Sustainability.

For details about activities taking place on Earth Day (April 22), visit grea.nd.edu.

The lights at the Main Building go out for Earth Hour.

Events celebrate work, life of Shakespeare

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY, NDWORKS

This year’s One Book, One Michiana, sponsored by the St. Joseph County Public Library, revisits Shakespeare’s classic “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The Main Library and branches have copies of the book in several formats, and an array of programs and book discussions leading up to a Shakespeare Faire in Leeper Park from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30. For information and a full list of programs, visit sjcpl.lib.in.us/one-book.

Birthday Party for William Shakespeare

At 4:16 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, the Hesburgh Library’s Center for Digital Scholarship celebrates Shakespeare’s birthday and the conclusion of the University’s online Sonnet Fest with cake and Shakespearean frivolities. Enjoy highlights of Sonnet Fest 2016 while exchanging Shakespearean insults and building the Globe Theatre with a 3-D printed model.

Book Discussion: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, Holy Cross Village welcomes readers to discuss “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at Andre Place. Refreshments will be served; registration is required. For more information, call 282-4645. Andre Place at Holy Cross Village, is located at 54515 Indiana 933, South Bend.

Ladies of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s invites new members

BY DAR CUTRONA, NDWORKS

The Ladies of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1934 to “promote the education, social and cultural welfare of its members.” Any woman with a connection to Notre Dame or Saint Mary’s College — except undergraduate students — is eligible for membership. The group’s 233 members come from numerous cultures, speak different languages and are of varying ages, but share the common goal of building community at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s by way of friendship with those new to the area.

Current president Ravini Fernando joined the nonprofit six years ago when she moved here from Arizona with her husband, Harindra Joseph Fernando, the Wayne and Diana Murdy Family Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at Notre Dame.

“It’s a wonderful way to meet people,” she says of the group. When one of her sons got married last summer, her friends from ND/SMC helped her shop for a dress and then celebrated the occasion with her. “I consider them sisters,” she says.

Dues-paying members can participate in the organization’s annual events and those offered by interest groups. Activities follow the academic calendar and include an opening reception, Christmas tea and spring tea. Interests groups encourage reading, exercise and travel as well as organized play dates for moms and their children.

A guest speaker series was introduced this year, with Paquis Kelly selected as the inaugural speaker. Other talks highlighted the service of St. Margaret’s House, a family’s pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and some experiences living in a women’s residence hall as a rector.

The group annually awards scholarships to local women attending Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College. This year four students received scholarships. The scholarship funds are raised through private donations and the sale of remembrance cards.

More information about the Ladies of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s is available at lndsmc.org or by attending the spring tea at the Morris Inn on Sunday, April 24.

Ladies of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s invites new members

The Notre Dame Alumni Association invites you to stop by and celebrate the mothers in your life. Add a special intention to our Mother’s Honor and Remembrance Prayer Wall. Pose for fun pictures in our photo booth with signs that help you express your love and gratitude, and then share them on social media. Enjoy free ice cream and play some games. Students can send out special ND Mother’s Day cards. To explore all the ways the Alumni Association is honoring mothers this year, please visit mothersday.nd.edu after it launches on May 2.
How do we integrate learning with life?

In the classroom I try really hard, but it's usually a chal-
lege, especially at Notre Dame where our students have
things in the system. They wouldn't be at Notre Dame if
they hadn't mastered the game of school.

The system fails to tap the consider-
able capabilities of young people who
in other times and places have assumed
significant roles and responsibilities
in society, from work and warfare to
domestic chores and child care.

"At one point, I began to realize how
incredibly competent
college students are," Blum says.

"Our students show this when they
run clubs or they do sports or they
coach younger kids or they're in band
or they write music. In the classroom
... it seems to be magically wasteful
to have all this ability submerged so
they can passively say, 'OK, tell me
what to do.' The system creates that.

Alternatives to such a system —
which likely contributes to cheating,
depression and suicide among college
students — are difficult to identify.
Experimental learning, such as in-
ternships and service, embedded in so-
ciety, is better. But there's the
extrinsic motive of resume-padding.

"I don't have an easy
answer," Blum says. "I
don't think everybody
should follow the same
curriculum. I would like
to see a lot more hands-on
learning, a lot more integra-
tion into the world outside
of school where students
see what they've learned has conse-
quences in the world.

"You have to begin with curiosity
and a thirst for learning. Our schools
are not set up that way at all. The
challenge is to reinvigorate learning
with life.

In an interview with John
Warner in Inside Higher Ed

anthropologist encourages
more hands-on, real-world experiences

By Gene Stowe, for NDworks

Susan Blum was trying hard to
convince her own students — and
her frustrated school-age daughter
— of the benefits of modern educa-
tion. Live working. So Blum, an
anthropologist who came to Notre
Dame in 2000, joined her profes-
sional expertise with her personal
experience to explore why so many
people chafe at the classroom and
curriculum.

The result is “I Love Learning. I
Hate School: An Anthropology of
College,” published recently by Cor-
nell University Press.

“I loved school,” Blum explains.
I didn't understand why students didn't
love school. It turns out it didn't
work that way for a lot of people.

Anthropology offers some insights
into the mismatch between how
people learn in general and how
the modern industrial-model educational
system tries to teach them.

"Human beings are natural learn-
er's," Blum says. "We have evolved
to learn. We have to learn how to
live our lives because we don't have
enough instincts to guide us. Human
society is dependent on learning that
is transmitted from one generation
to another. In most societies for most
of human history, this has been done
pretty effortlessly by being integrated
with people in their society."

The vital lessons about such things
as food, sex, worship and technical
know-how came through observa-
tion, trial and error and occasional
direction — with immediate and
sometimes fatal consequences for
failure to learn. By contrast, the value
of algebra seems remote.

"With school, what we're saying to
students is, 'You have to learn this,'" she
says. "You don't know why, but we're telling you, you need to do
this.'"

In that environment, the obvious
answer to "why learn?" can become
grades. "The motivation becomes extrinsic entirely," says Blum, whose
earlier book, “My World: Pluralism
and College Culture” (Cornell
2009), dealt with the problem of
plagiarism, possibly exacerbated by the
implied incentive of high
grades, good college and high-paying
jobs.

"Each of these steps is so remote from any-
thing meaningful for life, the only use many
students can see for it is
to get the grades," she says. "I call that
the game of school.

It might as well be
a board game — how many points can I
get? It's not about learning anything beautiful or fascinating.

'You're being trained to learn
something not for its intrinsic merit but because somebody will reward you for it. If somebody has to re-
ward you for it, obviously you're
doing it for them, not for yourself.

Education has to be for the learner.

Transcripts, diplomas now available online

Same-day service, protection against identity theft

By Gene Stowe, for NDworks

A collaboration between the Of-
cice of the Registrar and the Alumni
Association has heightened security
and accelerated delivery of student
transcripts and diplomas. The pro-
cess, with applicants authenticated
through Alumni’s myNotreDame
portal to guard against identity theft,
provides same-day service for elec-
tronic transcripts.

"For decades, alumni could only
order transcripts by completing a
paper form on our website,” said
Registrar Chuck Hurley (’93, ’01,
’07). "It was not the
most elegant solution.
We were really inter-
ested in trying to col-
laboratively construct a
secure application with
our friends over at the
Alumni Association
and increasing services
to alumni."

The transcript ser-
cvice came online in late
2013. Once the system was in place,
the process for requesting diplomas
was implemented last fall. Both
systems automatically fill out the
request form with most of the per-
son’s information. For diplomas, the
applicant can choose sheepskin (for
graduates up to 2011) or
paper, delivered by Fed-
eral Express.

"By collaborating on
transcripts, that laid the
foundation for integrat-
ing the Registrar system
with myNotreDame
portal," Hurley says. "All
the pipes were essen-
tially there. We just had
to hook them up, so to
speak. We do not receive that many
diploma requests in comparison to
transcripts.

The office processes a few hun-
dred diploma requests a year com-
pared to some 50,000 transcript requests — about half from seniors
applying to jobs or graduate schools,
half from alumni who are changing
jobs, returning to school or fulfilling
requirements for visa, background
checks and other processes that in-
volve such documentation.

"Most people want the transcript
sent from the registrar’s office
to the receiver directly — to
the grad school, to the law school,
to the employers, to the person requesting
the background check," Hurley says.

"They want to remove the oppor-
tunity for potentially tampering
with the transcript. We have a secure
electronic PDF transcript that we
send to those recipients directly.
In the majority of instances, electronic
delivery and receipt have become the
expectation for alumni, and we are
pleased to provide such a service."

Hurley initiated the move to a
new transcript request process
in 2012, partnering with Mark Welch
(’94), Alumni’s director of informa-
tion technology. Assistant Registrar
Paul Ulrich (‘88), App Integration
Architect Brandon Rich, Alumni
Association Interactive Specialist
Paul Weikle and Senior Associate
Registrar Amika Micou helped es-
able it. Government Services Special-
cords Specialist Amy Jennings (’95)
helped add the diploma service.
Innovative approaches to solving real-world problems

Using design to do good in the world

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY, NDWORKS

Imagine you’ve got one arm tied behind your back to help understand what the daily life of an amputee feels like. How would you squeeze toothpaste out of a tube to brush your teeth?

Assistant Professor of Design Ann-Marie Conrado’s first- and second-year course Design Matters, a gateway course to the Department of Art, Art History & Design’s new Collaborative Innovation Minor, considers questions such as this and looks for solutions.

“It’s an empathic, human-centered approach,” says Conrado. “How do we open our students to the potential to make the world a better place?”

Design Matters is divided into three primary areas of focus: insight, ideation and implementation.

During the insight stage, students work to identify and understand a problem by researching users, their needs and the context, developing empathy along the way. In the second stage, they generate ideas and rigorously evaluate each one. The last stage is implementation — how can the idea for a product, invention or service be brought to life?

In previous semesters, students in the course have collaborated with various commercial organizations and social entities in the U.S. and abroad.

Conrado, born in Las Vegas, is a 1993 BFA graduate of Notre Dame. After working as a product designer (“burned out and working really long hours”) she decided to spend a year traveling the world and fell in love with Nepal. “It struck me as a unique and welcoming place. I volunteered there for another six months. Learned the language. Started a charity.”

Her charity, Hope for Nepal (hopefornepal.org), is an international nonprofit working to utilize design thinking to address humanitarian concerns in developing countries. In addition to scholarships for education in Nepal, the group established HOPE House, a home for orphaned children in Kathmandu, and the Design for Fair Trade Initiative, which teaches crafts for the creation of fair trade products — both for sales and to continue the country’s crafts heritage. Nepalese handicrafts are sold on campus every year at Badin Hall’s Conscious Christmas event.

Since a magnitude 7.9 earthquake devastated Nepal on April 25, 2015, the focus has been on rebuilding efforts — one Notre Dame MFA student, she notes, traveled to Nepal with a template for a shelter that utilizes local materials and is designed to be carried by a single person.

“We don’t need a new shelter design. You can’t transport them. When students arrived on the ground two months after the earthquakes, people were still living under tarps tied to trees. What they needed was knowledge. But why not educate local people in the problem solving inherent in design thinking? Isn’t it time we taught them how to fish instead?”

Collaborative Innovation Minor aims to change the world

The Minor in Collaborative Innovation, will launch in fall 2016, offers students an opportunity to engage in process-based, cross-disciplinary learning across University departments.

Students begin with an introductory course, Design Matters, which uses lecture- and case study-based learning followed by hands-on exercises and team projects.

Declared minors then take an additional four courses introducing them to skills in areas including research methods, visualization and entrepreneurship.

The program culminates in a fifth capstone course, Collaborative Product Development, which brings the students together with design majors. Working in teams with corporate partners, students have the chance to solve a variety of real-world problems.

The 2016 BFA/MFA Candidates Thesis Exhibition continues through Sunday, May 15, in the Snite Museum of Art’s O’Shagbanyey Gallery. The exhibition is comprised of the culmination thesis projects created by students graduating with a BFA or MFA degree from the Department of Art, Art History & Design. Above, Kevin Phaup presents his design for a shelter construction template to provide housing after natural disasters.
Hesburgh Libraries: Preserving the materials that connect us to knowledge

As new formats develop, preservation will continue to change

Grant allowed review and assessment of challenges

BY TARA O’LEARY, HESBURGH LIBRARIES

In keeping with the University’s commitment to advance research and scholarship, the Hesburgh Libraries acquires, stewards and maintains distinguished rare and unique collections to support world-class research and academic programs. These efforts, combined with the University’s growing commitment to sustainability, inspired Julie Arnott, then head of preservation, and Liz Dube, conservator, to seek grant funding for a thorough assessment of environmental storage conditions within Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC). In 2014, the Hesburgh Libraries were awarded an assessment grant from the National Endowment for Humanities’ Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program, which “helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration and prolong the useful life of collections.”

The University’s Rare Books and Special Collections houses more than 175,000 volumes and about 6,000 linear feet of manuscripts, maps, posters, ephemera, and other unusual formats. These holdings provide students, faculty, visiting researchers and the public access to rare and unique materials. These materials offer a multitude of perspectives that encourage users to contemplate and critically evaluate evidence, challenge preconceptions and enhance their understanding of and appreciation for the past. Premier collections provide primary research materials for areas such as Catholic studies, Irish studies, Italian studies, medieval studies and sports research. The two-year grant, which wraps up in June, has thus far enabled the University to partner with specialized consultants from the Image Permanence Institute (IPI) to perform a painstaking assessment of RBSC storage conditions to comprehensively analyze the mechanical systems serving these collection spaces and to identify and exact low-cost but high-impact modifications. IPI consultants have visited campus two times, with a final visit scheduled for April, each time meeting with a broad-based Notre Dame team that includes library staff responsible for preservation, special collections and facilities; architects and utilities staff from campus Facilities Design and Operations; and the director of the Office of Sustainability.

“Managing collection storage and display environments for long-term preservation requires knowledge of the effects of temperature and relative humidity on diverse collection materials, an understanding of the complex mechanical systems that serve collection spaces, and the ability to develop customized strategies to improve collection longevity while maximizing energy efficiency,” says Arnott.

Dube adds, “The ability to convene a team with broad-based expertise from across campus, with expert facilitation from IPL, has enabled tremendous progress on our ability to understand the issues and identify strategic means of sustainably enhancing the life of the Libraries’ most unique and valuable collections.”

Over the course of the grant, the team has gathered extensive data about collection storage conditions and taken action to attempt to mitigate some of the most significant concerns. Most notably, additional DACWIR is being supplied in order to enhance air circulation in RBSC in an effort to improve storage conditions. During its final meeting, the project team will review the full 20 months of compiled data, including a preliminary assessment of the impact of recent mechanical systems upgrades. The team will then discuss remaining challenges and begin to articulate next steps toward sustainable preservation of collections. At the conclusion of the grant period, IPI will identify successes and challenges, and provide a prioritized listing of strategic opportunities for the future. Looking forward, the Libraries may develop a follow-up request to National Endowment for Humanities for matching implementation grant funding through its Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections Program in order to advance these critical preservation and sustainability goals. One thing is certain: As new knowledge formats continue to rapidly emerge, the work of preservation will continue to flex with the changing times. Regardless of material format or treatment approach, the goal of preservation and conservation is to support the Libraries’ mission of “connecting people to knowledge” by ensuring meaningful access to library resources. This project paves the way for the Libraries to approach future preservation solutions in an environmentally sustainable way.

To learn more about these collections and RBSC’s other holdings, visit 102 Hesburgh Library or online at rarebooks.library.nd.edu.

Conservators play vital role in preserving collections

Rare book conservator Sue Donovan holds a rare herbal book by 10th-century German physician and botanist Leonhart Fuchs, part of the Edward Lee Greene collection. In 2012, it was discovered that the book had spine linings of parchment manuscript waste used to bind the book, including an extremely rare medical text by Constantinus Africanus (Constantine the African), an 11th-century physician and Benedictine monk from North Africa who spent the last part of his life in Italy. Conservators discussed with the curators what to save and how to save it. The parchment pieces have been removed and photographed for documentation, and the book will then be reassembled. “It’s been a wonderful project — the fragments have value, so we photographed them, put them back and documented the process,” says Donovan. There are three different texts represented in the parchment found in the book.

Rare books curator David Gura, “It’s essential to have a top-notch conservation staff to preserve our collections for posterity, keeping them usable and accessible. We’re very fortunate to have the conservators here.”

Donovan completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago and holds a master’s in conservation from the Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She joined the University as a Samuel H. Gross Fellow in 2015 and was recently extended as a rare book conservator through July 2017.
Making circulating materials backpack-proof

Above, Tosha McComb, conservation technician for general collections, restitches boards with torn Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. The paste is stable, alkaline and reversible in water. Modern resin-based adhesives are also used in repairing items in the circulating collections. Conservation staff members pick up general circulation materials flagged as damaged or in need of repair weekly, and the books are triaged by the type of repairs needed — the case may be falling off, or the spine needs to be replaced. “We recreate custom spines and covers as well,” says conservator Sue Donovan. “We batch the circulating collections repairs to provide efficient and robust standardized treatments.” Other tasks include making book pockets to contain loose papers or errata that must stay with the volume.

Other jobs include mending, making protective boxes, making CelLibri covers — a trademarked system for making protective plastic covers for books — and sewing pamphlets into folders. The goal, Donovan says, is to make the circulating materials backpack-proof. “They get a lot of wear and tear.” Overall, the conservation lab strives to keep as much of the original book as possible, while strengthening and stabilizing the volume for use. Conservation technician Diane Sikorski makes boxes for special collections. “We make our own alkaline card stock and cloth-covered clamshell boxes,” she says. She also makes plastic crates to safely display books and other items for exhibitions in the gallery of Rare Books and Special Collections in the Hesburgh Library.

Back to the roots: Liz Dube

Preserving library collections — and old-time music

BY MAGGY SMITH, FOR NDWORKS

Preservation follows Liz Dube around.

Dube wasn’t sure what she wanted to do with her English major until she started working at a library. “I volunteered in the collectionsdevelopment department to see what it was like, and the conservation lab was right next to them behind a glass wall. I always found myself peeking over, thinking ‘What’s going on in there! That looks really interesting!’ Eventually her fascination took her to graduate school for preservation in Austin, Texas, and then to the Hesburgh Libraries Conservation Lab. Originally she just planned to stay there for five years, but 17 years later she’s still here, and still preserving Notre Dame’s collections.

“It’s a good fit here,” she says. Living in South Bend has also opened other doors for her. In 2008, a banjo showed up in her life, and she started teaching herself how to play it. “It was a new challenge, something to do,” she recalls, “and then after a year I was looking for a teacher. I met an old-time banjo player at Fiddler’s Hearth, so I went up and asked him if he knew of anyone teaching, and he said, ‘Well, you should come here if you play the banjo, on Tuesday nights; we have an old-time music session then.’ I said ‘I’ll come listen.’ So I did, and I kept coming back, and they kept saying ‘Bring your banjo!’ I finally got up the nerve and played in the back of the group. Slowly but surely, I kept coming closer to the front. And now, I’m there every week.”

Today, she is very involved in the music scene at Fiddler’s and across South Bend, picking up new skills and instruments as she goes along. She not only has several banjos that she plays in multiple styles, now she also plays guitar and fiddle and even sings. “Singing is a lot of fun,” she says. “I never thought I had a voice, but it turns out everyone can sing. I think you just have to sing yourself through the bad singing and find your voice. Most of this I wouldn’t have seen myself doing.”

In both Dube’s music and her work, one thread runs strong: preservation. Her interest in going back to the roots of a thing also shows through as she talks about her favorite songs and styles. The African influences in Americana music, especially, interest her. It’s those rhythms and beats that fascinate her, and what she listens for in her favorite songs and instrumentation. “Every day, what I do is help preserve cultural artifacts and historical documents, and so my interest in that is perhaps related to my interest in preserving the older music — going back and chancing down older tunes, and bringing them back to life, playing them again, communicating and sharing them.”

As she keeps the old music alive, Dube also finds herself preserving the human connection so inherent in the style. “It’s social music, for sure. That’s what really kept me with it. It’s a way of interacting and sharing. It’s not stage music, it’s not performance music; it’s participatory.”

She loves to play at the South Bend Farmer’s Market and on the streets of South Bend, where she can watch as the people listening catch the rhythms that have caught her. “They’re the perfect setting for our music. I love it when kids start dancing in the street when we play,” she smiles. “You know when you see someone nodding their head to the beat, or tapping their toes, that you’re doing something right. That’s what it’s all about.”

You can listen to Dube play on Tuesday nights at Fiddler’s Hearth in South Bend, starting at 7:15 p.m.
SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The University congratulates those employees celebrating significant service anniversaries in May:

35 Years
Mark Escuewine, Finance and Administration
George A. Rozum, Residence Hall Staff
David T. Tyson, Mendoza College of Business

30 Years
Viola King, Food Services Support Facility
Robert L. Pilutoff, Hesburgh Libraries

25 Years
Douglas A. Franson, Center for Arts and Culture
Mark R. Schurr, Anthropology

20 Years
Eileen D. Brown, St. Michael's Laundry
James M. Bulger, Center for Research Computing
Brian J. Burchett, Teaching and Learning Technologies
Paulo G. Carecza, Law School
Jennifer L. Labert, Internal Communications
William B. Prew, Food Services Support Facility

15 Years
Taraan D. Ball, College of Arts and Letters
Gary E. Belovsky, Biological Sciences
Tatiana A. Combs, Office of Strategic Planning
Kenneth E. Flitkha, Biological Sciences
Beata Frexas, Hesburgh Libraries
Sherry L. Hinegardner, Athletics Business Office
Jeremy M. May, Mendoza College of Business
Craig L. Tillen, Planning, Design, and Construction

10 Years
Jessica L. Colletti, Sociology
Christopher L. Frederick, Customs IT Solutions
Jacqueline Holden, Joyce Center for Entrepreneurship
Amy J. Schell, Annual Giving Programs
John E. Scott, Food Services Support Facility
David J. Veselik, Biological Sciences

NEW EMPLOYEES

The University welcomes the following employees who began work in March:

Luiz G. Alberganti, Food Services Administration
Martin C. Biagi, Clay J. Biggash, Jeffrey Quinn, Football
Martinez A. Cobb and Shannon L. Marion, Notre Dame Research
Eliza M. Collieran, Athletics Digital Media
Nic W. Connolly, University Health Services
Joshua R. Darguzis, University Health Services
Lamanda Fogen, Eddie J. Roemio-Rico, Jeffrey R. Rockwell, Eliza L. Rondon and Merida Tursunovich, Custodial Services
Traci L. Dreda and William G. Kraus, Security
Kristin M. Eichsted, Pamela J. Herron, Thomas R. Meadows, Sydney A. Olliver and Endalia M. Roberts, Morris Inn
Vicky L. Fleshler, Research and Sponsored Programs

Jackelyn K. Franco, Center for Social Concerns
Zoe Gojoa, CUSE
Kenneth J. Hallinami, Center for Ethics and Culture
Michael C. Hannigan, Office of General Counsel
Kangli Han and Reid Johnson, Computer Science and Engineering
Morgan E. Schlarb, Center for Ethics and Culture

Research focuses on impact of agriculture on water quality

BY J.P. SHORTALL, CENTER FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS

Jennifer Tank, Gallia Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and director of the University’s Environmental Change Initiative, has received the 2016 Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D., Community-Based Research Award for working together with Kosciusko County farmers and local conservation staff to reduce nutrient runoff in the Shatto Creek watershed. The award is a $5,000 prize presented annually to a regular faculty member at the University who has completed at least one research project that addresses a need within South Bend or the surrounding area.

The award is funded by local entrepreneurs and philanthropist Rodney F. Ganey, and awarded by the Center for Social Concerns (socialconcerns.nd.edu.). Tank’s research focuses on nutrient and carbon cycling in streams and rivers, and her recent efforts have been to quantify the effects of conservation practices on water quality in the agricultural Midwest.

She leads the University’s Indiana Watershed Initiative Project, funded through the USDA Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which includes partnerships with The Nature Conservancy, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Surveyors and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The initiative pairs two promising conservation practices: winter cover crops and floodplain restoration of waterways. The project will quantify how watershed-scale conservation can improve water quality in an effort to successfully meet national goals for reducing farm nutrient runoff by 40 percent.

The initiative was highlighted in March at a White House Water Summit. The Obama administration, in conjunction with the United Nations World Water Day, hosted the summit to raise awareness of water issues and potential solutions in the United States. The goal of the summit was to catalyze ideas and actions to help build a sustainable and secure water future through innovative science and technology.

The watershed project quantifies the soil and water quality benefits due to the planting of winter cover crops and the installation of floodplain using two-stage ditches in two Indiana watershed, located in Kosciusko and Jasper Counties. For decades, farmers have added fertilizers to their soils to help maximize crop yields and profits. But nutrients that crops do not incorporate eventually run off into surrounding streams and rivers where they can cause serious problems. Excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus can change the character of water, even altering its biology so that it harms freshwater ecology and ultimately becomes undrinkable.

The project pays farmers to implement conservation practices over four years, with the goal of achieving cover crop coverage on 85 percent of cropland acres, and to install the two-stage ditch along the majority of channelized ditches. The research team is focusing on these two practices because they provide a practical solution to prevent nutrient and sediment loss from cropland.

When Tank began to research the problems of nutrient runoff in nearby Kosciusko County, she focused on the streams and rivers it affected. She soon realized that the problems extended beyond streams and rivers, and that they would require her to expand the scope of her research well beyond their banks. As Tank put it, “I needed to get out of the streams and rivers and talk with farmers, but farmers didn’t necessarily want to hear from a biologist about what nutrient runoff was doing to freshwater.”

Tank understood the farmers’ skepticism and empathized with them. “Agriculture feeds the world that want to hear from a biologist about what nutrient runoff was doing to freshwater.”

Tank received Ganey Award

Research focuses on impact of agriculture on water quality

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Prediabetes and Diabetes: What You Need to Know

A Q&A with Chronic Condition Manager Maureen Jamieson

Q: What is prediabetes? Prediabetes is just what it sounds like. It is a condition marked by higher blood sugar levels than normal. Prediabetes may be a warning that diabetes may develop.

Q: What is diabetes? Diabetes is a disease marked by the body having a problem with a hormone called insulin. When we eat, our body converts food into sugars or glucose, which provides fuel. Insulin is the key that unlocks the cells of the body, allowing that fuel to be used for energy.

Type 1 diabetes is when the body doesn’t make any insulin at all.

Type 2 diabetes is when the body produces some, but not enough insulin, or the insulin it does produce is ineffective in unlocking the cells and allowing the glucose to enter.

Q: Is diabetes serious? A: Yes, diabetes is very serious. When glucose cannot get into our cells, it builds up in our blood. Over time, these higher levels of glucose can lead to cardiovascular disease, nerve damage, kidney disease, blindness and even amputation of limbs.

Q: What is prediabetes? A: Prediabetes is a warning that diabetes could be ahead.

Q: How do I know if I am at risk for diabetes? A: There are a number of risk factors for diabetes, including family history, age, weight, activity level and heredity. Use the questionnaire below to decide if you should talk with your doctor.

Q: What other resources are available for Notre Dame faculty and staff? A: If you suffer from diabetes and are eligible to use the Wellness Center, the Chronic Condition Management program at the Notre Dame Wellness Center can coordinate with your primary care physician to help you manage your care.

In addition, your generic or preferred blood glucose medications, test strips, lancets and insulin are all available for a co-pay, provided they are ordered at the same time. This Wellness Program pricing can be received by in person pick-up at the Wellness Center pharmacy.

Q: Where can I learn more? Visit the American Diabetes Association online at diabetes.org, or call 1-800-DIABETES (342-2383) for more information.

D I A B E T E S Q U I Z

Test yourself, then take appropriate action:

Are you overweight? [ ] No [ ] Yes

Are you an inactive person? [ ] No [ ] Yes

Are you 45 years of age or older? [ ] No [ ] Yes

Do you have an immediate family member with diabetes? [ ] No [ ] Yes

Do you have high blood pressure (140/90 or greater)? [ ] No [ ] Yes

Are you a member of any of the following ethnic groups? [ ] African American, Hispanic, Latino, Native American, Asian American or Pacific Islander? [ ] No [ ] Yes

For women only, have you ever been diagnosed with gestational diabetes during pregnancy? [ ] No [ ] Yes

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, then talk with your healthcare provider, who may recommend that your blood sugar be tested.

Join the Notre Dame Women’s Golf League

Registration is open for the 2016 Notre Dame Women’s Golf League, now in its 43rd season. The Women’s Golf League is open to Notre Dame employees, retirees and spouses of Notre Dame employees and retirees.

The league plays on Tuesday evenings at the nine-hole Notre Dame Golf Course. Members must tee off between 6 p.m. and 5:44 p.m. in order for their scores to count. There are weekly contests in each flight, as well as prizes for pars, birdies and chip-ins. Players may play with any other league member(s) and are not assigned teams or groups. In fact, playing with different women each week is encouraged.

The regular season runs from May 17 through Aug. 2, with the final tournament and banquet scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 9. Annual dues for all members are $20. Weekly greens fees are $5, payable at the starter’s house prior to tee-off. League members who are retirees or spouses of retirees are not required to pay greens fees. For information, visit recreation.nd.edu/intramural-sports/womens-golf-league or register online via the courses section of RecRegister, recregister.nd.edu.

Fischoff Competition takes place May 6–8

The Fischoff National Chamber Music Association annually sponsors the world’s largest chamber music competition, offering one of the most prestigious classical music prizes attainable today.

The 43rd Annual Fischoff Competition takes place Friday, May 6, through Sunday, May 8, in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The competition attracts talented young musicians from across the globe. This year’s competition includes 49 ensembles from 51 countries.

The competition weekend features quarterfinal rounds on Friday, semifinal rounds on Saturday and final rounds on Sunday. Each round consists of 20 minutes (senior) or 15 minutes (junior) of music per ensemble. Audiences will have 81 performances to select from throughout the weekend.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday competition rounds are free and open to the public. Tickets are required for the Sunday afternoon awards and Gold Medalist Concert. Tickets are available from the DeBartolo ticket office, 651–2800. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for faculty/staff and senior citizens with valid ID. Tickets are $5 for Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students with a valid ID.

For those unable to attend in person, Saturday and Sunday performances will be live-streamed online at fischoff.org.

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Got a storyidea?

Send it to ndworks@nd.edu
MUSIC
Ainsley-Vigneoles Song Recital
Department of Music
2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, 10
International art songs by Gounod, Britten and Schumann performed by two of the world’s greatest recitalists — tenor John Mark Ainsley and pianist Roger Vigneoles. Family friendly, all ages are welcome.

Opera ND Presents “As You Like It”
Department of Music
1:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 21–23
2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24, 15
Opera Notre Dame presents the world premiere of a new opera based on Shakespeare’s comedy by British composer Roger Steepson, with libretto by Lesley Fernandez-Armesto and direction by Leland Kimball. Family friendly, all ages are welcome. Not recommended for children under age 7.

THEATER
Final Performance: Acting for the Non-Major
Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26
Students present final scenes as the culmination of the course “Acting for the Non-Major,” taught by Betoion Ionan. Event includes mature or adult content. This is a free but ticketed event. To guarantee your reservation please pick up your will-call tickets at least 15 minutes prior to the performance. In the event of a sellout, unclaimed will-call tickets will be used to seat patrons waiting on standby.

Dance
Divolto/Architecture in Motion
Presenting Series
7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29
3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30
Divolto delivers an evening of athletic power and human vulnerability shot through with the thrill of danger. Performing a distinct style of “Architecture in Motion,” the company uses abstract and recognized structures to explore the relationship between the danger of our environment and the fragility of the human body. Each work is a journey into exploring everyday movement, ballet, contemporary, acrobatics, gymnastics, martial arts and hip-hop.

METROPOLITAN OPERA
The Met Live in HD: Elektra
1 p.m. Saturday, April 23, 130
live broadcast Director Patrice Chéreau (“From the House of the Dead”) didn’t live to see his great Elektra production, previously presented in As and Milan, make it to the stage of the Met. But his overpowering vision lives on with soprano Nina Stemme — unnatched today in the heroic female roles of Strauss and Wagner — who portrays Elektra’s primal quest for vengeance. Legendary mezzo-soprano Waltraud Meier is chilling as Elektra’s fearsome mother, Klytämnestra. Soprano Adrianne Pieczonka and bass Eric Owens are Elektra’s troubled siblings. Chéreau’s musical collaborator, Esa-Pekka Salonen, conducts.

CINEMA
Cemetery of Splendor
New at the Browning
3 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday, April 23
Directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul
Not Rated, 90 minutes, DCP
Weerasethakul’s beautifully crafted film explores the relationship between the living and the dead as she watches over a handsome soldier with no family visitors and begins a descent into madness as she relentlessly pursues the men responsible. An homage to the master of suspense, François Truffaut’s Hitchcockian neo-noir is both bone-chilling and deeply romantic.

Anomalisa (2015)
New at the Browning
7 p.m. Thursday, April 28
6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, April 29
6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday, April 30
Directed by Charlie Kaufman
Rated R, 90 minutes, DCP
Academy Award Nominee — Best Animated Feature
Michael Stone, author of “How May I Help You Help Them?” is a man crippled by the mundanity of his life. On a business trip to Cincinnati, he checks into the Fregoli Hotel and discovers a possible escape from his desperation in the form of an unassuming Akron baked goods sales rep Lisa, who may or may not be the love of his life. A beautifully tender and absurdly humorous dreamscape from the brilliant minds of Charlie Kaufman (“Synecdoche, New York,” “Being John Malkovich”) and Duke Johnson, this stop-motion animation wonder features the vocal cast of Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tom Noonan and David Thewlis.

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution
New at the Browning
3 p.m. Sunday, May 1
Directed by Stanley Nelson
Rated R, 115 minutes, Digital Projection
In 1965, a new revolutionary culture was emerging that sought to drastically transform the system. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense would, for a short time, put itself at the vanguard of that change. “The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution” explores the Black Panther Party, its significance to the broader American culture, its cultural and political awakening for black people, and the painful lessons wrought when a movement derails. Documentarian Stanely Nelson weaves a treasure trove of rare archival footage with the diverse group of voices of the people who were there: police, FBI informants, journalists, while supporters and detractors, and Black Panthers who remained loyal to the party as well as those who left it. Free admission.

Moving Through Math: Grouping Games for Teaching the Language of Mathematics
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, $15 During Grouping Games, students move around the room, create frozen body shapes and work in groups to represent core concepts in K-6 mathematics. These experiences provide learners with strong kinesthetic, visual and spatial representations of math. Students describe their work using sentence stems to strengthen their correct usage and understanding of mathematical language. For educators of grades K-6.

For tickets to events at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, visit performingarts.nd.edu and create an account or log in to view faculty/staff discounted ticket prices, or contact the ticket office, 631-2800. Ticket prices listed are the faculty/staff rate.
Rosenwald (2015)  
5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10  
Directed by Reza Koppner  
Rated R, 95 minutes, DCP  
Rosenwald is the incredible story of Julius Rosenwald, the son of an immigrant peddler who never finished high school but rose to become president of Sears, Roebuck and Company. Influenced by the writings of Booker T. Washington, this Jewish philanthropist joined forces with African-American communities in the Jim Crow South to build over 5,300 schools, providing 660,000 black children with access to education. Inspired by the Jewish ideals of tzedakah (charity) and tikun olam (repairing the world), as well as a deep concern over racial inequality in America, Rosenwald used his wealth to become one of America’s most effective philanthropists.

Remember (2015)  
8 p.m. Tuesday, May 10  
Directed by Atom Egoyan  
Rated R, 95 minutes, DCP  
English and German with English subtitles  
Zev Goltman (Christopher Plummer) is a 90-year-old struggling with memory loss who is living out his final years in a retirement home. Following the death of his wife, he receives a mysterious package from his friend, Max (Martin Landau). The package includes a letter that details a shocking plan to seek revenge on the sadistic guard responsible for the death of both of their families at Auschwitz.

Phoenix (2014)  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 11  
Directed by Christian Petzold  
Rated PG-13, 99 minutes, DCP  
English and German with English subtitles  
A riveting mystery of identity unfolds against the turmoil of post-World War II Germany in the stunning new film from director Christian Petzold (Barbara). Nelly (Nina Hoss), a German-Jewish nightclub singer, has survived a concentration camp, but with her face disfigured by a bullet wound. After reconstructive surgery, Nelly emerges with a new face, one similar but different enough that her former husband, Johnny (Ronald Zehfeld), doesn’t recognize her. Rather than reveal herself, Nelly walks into a dangerous game of duplicity and disguise as she tries to figure out if the man she loves may have betrayed her to the Nazis.

Labyrinth of Lies (2014)  
8 p.m. Wednesday, May 11  
Directed by Giulio Ricciarelli  
Rated R, 123 minutes, DCP  
German with English subtitles  
During Germany’s economic recovery of the 1950s, a Frankfurt public prosecutor uncovers documents that help initiate trials against members of the SS who served in Auschwitz. Based on the events that led to the historic Frankfurt Auschwitz trials, “Labyrinth of Lies” (Germany’s submission for the Academy Awards) offers a powerful dramatic reflection on the war and its aftermath.

Above and Beyond (2014)  
5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 12  
Directed by Roberta Grossman  
Rated Not Rated, 90 minutes, DCP  
In 1948, just three years after the liberation of Nazi death camps, a group of Jewish American pilots answered a call for help. In secret and at great personal risk, they smuggled planes out of the U.S., trained behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia and flew for Israel in its War of Independence. As members of Machal (“volunteers from abroad”) this ragtag band of brothers not only turned the tide of the war but they also embarked on personal journeys of discovery and renewed Jewish pride.

East Jerusalem, West Jerusalem (2014)  
8 p.m. Thursday, May 12  
Directed by Henrique Cymerman and Erez Miller  
Rated Not Rated, 80 minutes, DCP  
East Jerusalem, West Jerusalem explores the situation in East Jerusalem is far from peaceful, a hopeful dream of cooperation and dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians through music. During an eight-day recording session, Broza works with a range of artists including Steve Earle, Wyctel Jean and Mira Awad as well as many other American, Israeli and Palestinian musicians. While the situation in East Jerusalem is far from peaceful, a hopeful message of equality and unity arises.
Notre Dame to host world premiere opera adaptation of Shakespeare’s ‘As You Like It’

BY JOSH WEINHOLD, ARTS AND LETTERS

For the first time ever, the University will host the world premiere of an opera: a commissioned production of “As You Like It,” the classic Shakespearean comedy. The four-show run is a highlight of “Shakespeare: 1616-2016,” a yearlong series of campus events commemorating the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s death. The opera features two casts, composed primarily of Notre Dame and Indiana University South Bend students. Presented by Opera Notre Dame in conjunction with Shakespeare at Notre Dame, performances start at 7:30 p.m. on April 21, 22 and 23 — the anniversary of Shakespeare’s death — and at 2:30 p.m. April 24 in the Patricia George Decio Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

“It is rare for a liberal arts program like ours — where most of our undergraduate students, even the music majors, don’t necessarily aspire to careers in music performance — to stage an opera every year, which we’ve done since 2004,” said Peter Smith, chair of the Department of Music and a professor of music theory. “It is doubly challenging to stage a new work — it raises the level of ambition even higher, and our students are surpassing all expectations.”

A comedy of family conflict, mistaken identity and love triumphant over all, “As You Like It” — which has never previously been adapted as an opera — features many of Shakespeare’s most famous lines, from “all the world’s a stage” to “forever and a day” to “too much of a good thing.”

Composed by renowned British musician Roger Steptoe with a libretto by Lesley Fernandez-Armesto, “As You Like It” is staged by veteran opera director Leland Kimball and conducted by John Apeitos, the resident conductor of the National Radio Symphony of Greece. Students involved in the production also received guidance and training from world-famous opera singers Nathan Gunn, a Grammy Award-winning baritone and an artist-in-residence with Notre Dame’s Department of Music; Deborah Voigt, who has performed around the world; and Lesley Fernandez-Armesto, who has performed internationally and been a featured soloist with many of the world’s top opera companies. Gunn, a resident conductor and a professor of music theory, and Fernandez-Armesto aimed to transform dense prose into lines that were light, lyrical and suitable for singing. Shakespeare’s words have not been changed, but the plot has been streamlined, simplified and made more comic and contemporary.

“There are feisty female characters, brotherly conflicts, over-the-top ‘love at first sight’ moments and bucolic feasting,” she said. “It was essential to create something that was tailor-made for Notre Dame, yet will work perfectly should the opera have a life elsewhere.”

Kimball, who has directed more than 70 productions, including in this time as general director of OperaDelaware, has significant experience with world premieres, overseeing debut performances of “A Wrinkle in Time,” “Slaying the Dragon” and “Danse Russe.”

Three productions he directed at Temple University won best U.S. college production awards from the National Opera Association. Steptoe, the composer of the opera “King of Macedon” as well as four concertos and many sonatas, song cycles and pieces of chamber music, is no stranger to adapting Shakespeare. His “Five Shakespeare Songs” premiered in 2012 and his composition of “Four Shakespeare Sonnets” won the Performing Rights Society for Music Foundation Award in 2013.

“Setting Shakespeare’s poems or sonnets to music is one thing — creating an opera is something completely different,” said Steptoe, who has performed around the world and lives in Uzerche, France. “It’s getting the pacing of it right, using the language well, forming the structure, making it lyrical. Music is like cooking — if you put too much salt in a dish, then it’s ruined. It has to be perfect. I truly hope this is an experience that everyone will enjoy.”

Gunn, a Grammy Award-winning baritone and an artist-in-residence with Notre Dame’s Department of Music, spent time during the fall semester with the opera workshop class, which was beginning to prepare “As You Like It.” Having performed in many world-premiere operas, Gunn advised the students on how to create a new role and approach material that has never previously been performed.

“‘As You Like It’ is a comedy and a romance, a day to ‘too much of a good thing.’”

Fernandez-Armesto’s adaptation of Shakespeare’s play, which has never previously been performed as an opera, focuses on the intelligent and witty heroine Rosalind, who disguises herself as a boy and has the chance to fall in love. She encounters the Duke of Althol and his son, Orlando. A subplot follows the Duke of Senior and his daughter, Celia, and their courtship.

“‘As You Like It’ is a comedy of love, chance, mistaken identity and the pursuit of true love,” Fernandez-Armesto said.

Early music provided the inspiration for the opera. The opera includes scenes set in France, so the music includes some French elements, but there is also a lot of music that is more contemporary, a mix of the two, Fernandez-Armesto said.

The opera’s music was composed on commission by Roger Steptoe, a British composer who lives in Uzerche, France. He wrote the music based on Fernandez-Armesto’s libretto, which she wrote at the request of Opera Notre Dame, which commissioned the opera.

Fernandez-Armesto, who is a visiting professor of music theory, has directed several operas at the College of Notre Dame of the Sacred Heart and leads the college’s student opera program. She brought together the students involved in the production to create the world-premiere opera. She said the production process was “exhilarating” and “nerve-wracking.”

For the first time, the production process included a world premiere and a national tour. Opera Notre Dame will premiere the opera at the University and then take it on tour later this year. The opera premiere will be followed by a world premiere in 2017 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a national tour in 2018.

Gunn, who has performed in many world-premiere operas, said the production process was “exhilarating” and “nerve-wracking.”

The opera’s cast includes a number of world-renowned opera singers. Nathan Gunn, a Grammy Award-winning baritone and an artist-in-residence with Notre Dame’s Department of Music, will perform in the world premiere. He will be joined by world-famous opera singers Nathan Gunn and Deborah Voigt.

Opera ND Presents “As You Like It”
Department of Music
Sunday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 21-23, 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 21-23, 7:30 p.m.
Located in the George Decio Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.