Justice Alan Page to address ’04 graduates at Commencement

By Dennis Brown

Justice Alan C. Page, a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court and 1967 Notre Dame graduate, will be the principal speaker and the recipient of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at Commencement exercises May 16.

Page will be the rare recipient of a second honorary doctorate from Notre Dame; he received a doctor of laws degree from the University in 1993.

We speak in our mission statement of Notre Dame creating an environment that ‘fosters the development in its students of those disciplined habits of mind, body and spirit which characterize educated, skilled and free human beings,’ ” said the University’s president, Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C. “Few of our graduates better epitomize these ideals than Alan Page.

“It is testimony to the tremendous respect we have for Alan that we would invite him to accept a second honorary degree and, this time, speak to our graduating class. We’re delighted that he has accepted and will honor us with his presence.”

The 150th Commencement will begin at 2 p.m. and will take place in the Joyce Center.

With his election in 1993, Page became the first African-American to sit on the Minnesota Supreme Court. He had previously served as an assistant attorney general for the state and, prior to that, practiced law with the Minneapolis firm of Lindquist & Vennum.

Page attended the University of Minnesota Law School while continuing a long and distinguished career in the National Football League, and earned his degree in 1978.

A three-year starter at defensive end for Notre Dame, Page was a consensus All-American and led the Fighting Irish to the 1966 national championship as a senior. After graduating, he was selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the first round of the NFL draft. He played for 11/2 years in Minnesota as one of the famed “Purple People Eaters” and for 3 1/2 years with the Chicago Bears.

A four-time defensive player of the year, Page became in 1971 the first defensive tackle in NFL history to earn the league’s Most Valuable Player Award. He played in four Super Bowls and eight Pro Bowls and in 1988 was elected to the NFL Hall of Fame.

His collegiate career was similarly recognized in 1993 with induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Page and his wife, Diane, established the Page Education Foundation in 1988 to provide educational grants to students of color to attend colleges and universities in Minnesota. As a condition of receiving the funds, Page Scholars must serve as role models and mentors for younger children. To date, the foundation has awarded some 4,080 grants to 1,885 students totaling more than $2.5 million.

Among the many honors bestowed on Page are six other honorary degrees; the 2004 Theodore Roosevelt Award from the NCAAA; the organization’s highest honor, and the NCAAA’s Silver Anniversary Award in 1992. He was inducted into the International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame in 2002 and received the Dick Enberg Award from the Academic All-America Hall of Fame in 2001.

In addition to his previous honorary degree from the University, Page received the Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., Award in 1992 from the Notre Dame Alumni Association for distinguished service to the University. He was a member of the Notre Dame Law School Advisory Council from 1993 to 1999.

Graduate School to offer health insurance subsidy

By Gail Hinchon Mancini

Subsidized health insurance will become part of the Graduate School’s support package for many students beginning in fall.

Graduate students with full stipends who enroll in the University-sponsored health insurance policy from Mega Life and Health Insurance Company will have more than one-third of the almost $1,000 cost of that policy covered by the Graduate School.

Some 950 graduate students are enrolled in the Mega Life policy this year. At least that many are anticipated when the subsidy is offered, according to James Powell, associate dean of the Graduate School.

“This is a critical step toward achieving a competitive position to attract the best graduate students,” said Jeffrey Kantor, vice president for graduate studies and research.

Supporting graduate student health insurance needs is considered key in higher education, where major research universities often underwrite a portion of health care costs. The issue also has been a priority for the Graduate Student Union for at least five years, Powell said.

For eligible students, the subsidy program will cover $300 of health insurance costs in the coming academic year, $350 of total costs in 2005-2006 and $400 in 2006-2007.

Currently, graduate students seeking health insurance can subscribe to the Mega Life policy for themselves and their families, but family coverage adds considerable cost to the policy.

For almost a decade, the Graduate School has supported family health care needs through its Family Medical Assistance Program. The program provides access to St. Joseph Medical Center’s family practice physicians and other providers for basic diagnostic care on a limited basis.

The goal to provide subsidized family coverage was considered and remains a priority, Powell said. For the coming year, the expense of a family subsidy had to be weighed against the absence of clear data on what the new program will cost and concern that some faculty research grants supporting stipends might not be able to bear the subsidy cost.

“We have not lost sight of the importance of the family issue and hope to be able to address it in the future,” Kantor said.

Graduate student health insurance is negotiated by University Health Services. The subsidy program grew from ongoing efforts by members of the Graduate Student Union and from the work of an ad hoc committee of the Graduate Council consisting of Laura Carlson, associate professor of psychology; Seth Brown, associate professor of chemistry; Lionel Jensen, chair of East Asian Languages and Literature; Ed Maginn, associate professor of engineering, and Mariquita Post, president of the Graduate Student Union.
21st Century fund spurs University-industry collaboration, innovation
by Gail Hinchion Mancini

An Indiana-based research fund established to spur industries and jobs has created new directions for the work of Notre Dame researchers, and research and job opportunities for their students. Called the 21st Century Research and Technology Fund, the organization has distributed some $14 million to Notre Dame since it was initiated five years ago by then Lt. Gov. Joseph Keman, who now is governor.

This grant motivates you to take a risk you wouldn’t normally have done,” said Joan Brennecke, Keating-Crawford Professor of Chemical Engineering and two-time recipient of 21st Century fund grants. The program, she notes, has encouraged Notre Dame faculty to delve into Indiana in ways they might not have done. “That’s a good thing.”

Brennecke’s project with Reilly Industries of Indianapolis illustrates, in a serendipitous way, the relationships 21st Century funds intend to forge.

Reilly specializes in health, agriculture and performance chemicals and is a player in the field of specialty chemicals markets including pyridine-based ionic liquids. Understanding that her research in solvents might be useful to chemical manufacturers, and that a partnership would be attractive to the fund, Brennecke initiated a relationship with a cold call to Reilly’s switchboard. That step led to a $3.16 million grant from the fund, and opened doors for an undergraduate to spend last summer as a Reilly intern.

Creating highly skilled jobs is another goal of the fund. Two Notre Dame graduate students earned jobs as design engineers at Warsaw’s Zimmer Inc., as a result of a 21st Century grant involving orthopedic implant research directed by Steven Schmid and James Mason, associate professors of aerospace and mechanical engineering and members of the Biomechanics and Biomaterials in Orthopaedics Group. The project works to fashion minimally invasive implants that will revolutionize such surgeries as hip replacements and spinal corrections.

The fund has turned a spotlight on innovations made by Indiana’s orthopedic industry, said to employ some 4,000 Hoosiers. Arvind Varma, professor of chemical engineering, also holds a 21st Century grant for a project with Zimmer to examine the materials from which orthopedic devices are made. “That’s a good thing.” But as Brennecke has noted, the existence of the fund has spurred Notre Dame researchers to examine Indiana’s research resources in ways they might not have considered.

Generally, Notre Dame researchers involved in 21st Century grants are successful researchers with a myriad of grants, many from federal agencies. Frank Collins, Clark Professor of Biology and director of the Center for Tropical Disease Research and Training, is a nationally known expert on vector biology and the transmission of malaria by mosquitoes. His research attracts a two-year, $400,000 grant, which helped him establish the Indiana Center for Insect Genomics, one of the “centers for excellence” created by the fund.

Paul McGinn of the College of Engineering and a two-time 21st Century fund recipient, is lead researcher on a $1.85 million grant to establish the Center for Advanced Fuel Cell Technology. The center will bring researchers from Notre Dame and Indiana University Northwest to the table with representatives of businesses such as New Energy Corp., NiMet Industries, Inc., and Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center to develop microfuel cells for portable electronics. The center is to be a state resource for information about new fuel cell technologies, as well as an originator of those technologies.

Health technologies are a key interest of the fund. A $3.67 million grant to Gary Bernstein, professor of electrical engineering, is supporting his efforts to develop and lead to manufacture a wireless “lab-on-a-chip” that could perform multiple medical tests on a single diagnostic chip.

“…the relationships we’ve built in Indiana through the 21st Century fund have allowed Notre Dame to grow as a resource to the state as its economy shifts from manufacturing and agriculture to technology,” said Jeffrey Kantor, vice president for graduate studies and research, who is a member of the fund’s board of directors.

“This goal of supporting economic revitalization, at the local level as well as the state level, gives purpose to the work we are doing in encouraging the transfer of Notre Dame-initiated research and technology into the marketplace. Furthermore, real world problems and applications are important stimuli for the basic research that has been the hallmark of science and engineering at Notre Dame.”

Notre Dame is distinguished in many ways, with one important area being the quality and prominence of a number of centers and institutes that have been established over the years. The Medieval Institute, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies are among the institutes with long and distinguished histories.

These have been joined in recent years by a number of newer centers and institutes reflecting Notre Dame’s expanding academic vision: the Keck Center for Translational Research, the Krocouugh Institute for Irish Studies, the Institute for Latino Studies, the Center for Tropical Disease Research and Training, the Erasmus Institute, the Center for Nano Science and Technology, the Institute for Educational Initiatives and the Nanovic Center for European Studies. All contribute to the interdisciplinary explosion of important intellectual issues.

That being said, the backbone of any top university is great departments and stellar faculty. Without departmental strength one cannot expect to attract and retain talented, world-class faculty whose research interests contribute to the establishment of centers and institutes. The strength of certain departments at Notre Dame, combined with the presence of centers and institutes that focus on complimentary fields of study, have allowed us to attract stellar faculty, and contributed to the building of core concentrations in certain fields.

Today, new knowledge is increasingly the result of interdisciplinary connections. This is particularly true in science and engineering. The Center for Moleculary Enginnered Materials within the College of Engineering is an example, with research and faculty encompassing a mix of disciplines from Chemical Engineering and Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering to Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics. Integration of environmental science and engineering is essential to solving many of the major environmental issues confronting society from global warming to contaminated water to exotic species. Notre Dame’s Environment Research Center and the Center for Environmental Science and Technology integrate and connect research and researchers focused on contemporary environmental issues.

The Center for Tropical Disease Research and Training is a wonderful example of Notre Dame’s mission intersecting with cutting-edge research on a vexing human need: tropical infectious diseases like malaria, yellow fever and West Nile virus. The work done by this world-renowned research group is an example of the role that Notre Dame can play in bringing both research and resources together to address an important global health concern. Notre Dame’s centers and institutes are great catalysts for intellectual life, whose work enhances not only their own mission, but that of departments and the University as well.
Riding the storm: 
Streit awaits his return to Haiti, where conflict doesn’t stop patients’ needs

By Bill Gilroy

When the recent political turmoil and violence swept over Haiti, American eyes looked once again at a hemispheric neighbor they often overlook. The pictures they saw seemed disturbing and depressing: abject poverty; a failed government; a corrupt bureaucracy; gangs and thugs terrorizing ordinary citizens, and the worst mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere.

The natural tendency would be to turn away from such sights. But Rev. Thomas C. Streit, C.S.C., a Notre Dame biologist who is director of the University’s Haiti Program, urges one to resist that inclination and embrace a different vision. “Not, but let us turn away from Haiti,” he said. “Now, more than ever, there is an opportunity and a need to build a bridge from what the University stands for to what Haiti needs.”

The Notre Dame Haiti Program has as its goal the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (LF). LF causes the grotesque swelling of the body known as elephantiasis. LF is aggravated by dangerous skin infections whose heat can become so intense it causes second-degree burns. More than 2 million of Haiti’s 8.3 million people are infected with the mosquito-borne parasitic worms that cause LF.

The microscopic filarial worm that causes LF is transmitted by the Culex mosquito. The worm can live up to six years inside the body before the first symptoms of LF appear.

Haitians afflicted with LF suffer social, spiritual and economic isolation due to their terrible disfigurement. A popular belief among Haitians is that LF sufferers have been struck with a voodoo curse.

Streit first became interested in LF a decade ago when he was finishing his doctoral studies under the guidance of the late George B. Craig Jr., Notre Dame’s world-renowned expert on mosquito-borne diseases. After postdoctoral studies at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), he turned his attention to the problem of LF.

“The Holy Cross Order already had a strong presence in Haiti and I decided to turn from pure scientific research to public health,” he said. In 1997, the World Health Council declared LF to be one of only six infectious diseases that can be eliminated. The Notre Dame initiative is part of the Global Alliance to Eliminate LF, an international effort to reach more than 120 million people in 81 countries who are affected by the disease.

Streit started mapping the disease in 1993 to identify areas of concentration. Three years ago, the Notre Dame Haiti Program began distributing Diethylcarbamazine (DEC), a drug that wipes out immature filarial worms in the bloodstream and prevents adult worms from multiplying. To date nearly 800,000 Haitians have received the drug. The prevention program has been greatly enhanced by a $5.2 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Despite these considerable gains, the treatment must be repeated every year for the six-year life span of the worms, and additional high-risk Haitians must begin treatment. The enormous cost of such treatments has led Streit and his World Health partners to seek a less expensive system of medicine distribution. The Notre Dame program and the CDC have proposed fortifying the Haitian salt supply with DEC and iodine, which would dramatically increase the number of people who receive treatment.

The current unrest in Haiti disrupted the Notre Dame program in some areas under rebel control, but Streit hopes it will soon resume functioning at normal capacity. He left Haiti on Feb. 24 at the height of the unrest for a regularly scheduled trip to the United States and hoped to return on March 2. At the time ND Works went to press, he had been unable to return but is confident that commercial air service will resume shortly and he can reenter the country.

When he does, he will continue his practice of working closely with the government in power to attack LF. “When we started this effort, some other humanitarian organizations told us they refused to work with the government because it was so corrupt,” he said. “However, I think we have a moral obligation to work to build an infrastructure of clinics and hospitals that will remain in place regardless of who’s governing.”

Haitians working in the Notre Dame program tell Streit that the recent unrest has been like a “storm.”

“It’s as if the thunder and heavy rain have passed and, while some rain might still be coming, it will be clearing soon,” he said. He’s anxious to be there for the clearing. “Our ultimate goal is to work ourselves out of a job,” he said.

American Studies professor wins national book award

Thomas A. Guglielmo, assistant professor of American Studies, has been awarded the 2004 Frederick Jackson Turner Award by the Organization of American Historians for his recent book “White on Arrival: Italians, Race, Color and Power in Chicago, 1890-1945.”

Tracking the mass Italian immigration of the late 19th century through the first half of the 20th century, “White on Arrival” explores the profound implications that perceptions of Italians’ race and color had for Chicago’s racial hierarchy, and the impact of racial classification on immigrants’ abilities to gain opportunities in America. It is published by Oxford University Press.

Guglielmo, who received his master of divinity degree in 1997 from Vanderbilt University and his doctorate in American history from Chicago in 2001, said his book is a re-examination of the Italian-American experience between the two World Wars.

The Frederick Jackson Turner Award, named in honor of the renowned frontier historian, is given annually by the organization for an author’s first book on some significant phase of American history.

Of Note __

NCA meetings open to staff and faculty

Staff and faculty members are invited to participate in open meetings with the visiting team from the Higher Learning Commission’s North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

The team will be on campus March 22 to 24 for the University’s periodic accreditation evaluation.

Faculty who wish to give input can participate in a session at 2:30 p.m. March 23. Staff members may participate in a session the same day at 3 p.m.

The back-to-back sessions are in the McKenna Hall auditorium.
Study of Irish language flourishes

By Michael O. Garvey

It may safely be assumed that everyone at Notre Dame knows the old saying, “Dá gcaillfí an Ghaeilge, chaillfí Éire” (“Should Irish be lost, Ireland would be lost.”), but surprisingly few people know that it was coined by the Irish nationalist and poet Patrick Pearse not long before he was executed for leading the uprising against British rule in 1916. The lamenting of such deficiency in cultural knowledge is commonplace among Irish Americans on St. Patrick’s Day, and the University’s Keough Institute for Irish Studies has spent the last 10 years doing something about it.

If Pearse were still attending to the plight of Ireland and its language, he would have a lot to worry about: In the last century and a half, Ireland has become a sort of motherland with some 75 million offspring. These once-Irish-speaking people, scattered by starvation, oppression, and lust for adventure, are now strewn through nearly all the countries, cultures and languages of the world. There remain some 5.5 million people in Ireland, of whom, according to recent census figures and conventional expertise, at least 10,000 and at most 21,000 people use Irish as a primary language. Most of these people live in the remote “Gaeltacht” or Irish-speaking regions in the west of the country, which is widely agreed upon as the best place to go to study and learn Irish.

While not exactly a Gaeltacht, Notre Dame runs a close second. There are 86 undergraduate students enrolled in the four introductory and intermediate Irish language courses taught by faculty of the Keough Institute. All students who wish to complete the requirements for the increasingly popular Irish Studies minor must demonstrate proficiency in Irish. Among the reasons so many Notre Dame students are drawn to this challenging study is a growing awareness that it is impossible to understand Irish culture, literature, politics and religion while ignoring the language spoken by the vast majority of the Irish people for the vast majority of their history.

It may seem little was lost as Irish disappeared, since most sentient English-speaking human beings agree that the finest fiction, drama, poetry, wit and wits宽敞 available in the English language are Irish products. Nevertheless, as Seamus Deane, Notre Dame’s Keough Professor of Irish Studies, argues, language is so important to the Irish because they’ve lost theirs.

In addition to learning how to participate in simple conversations about oneself, others, family, home, weather, work, and the remarkable aspects of everyday life, many of O’Riordain’s students gather in the Keenan/Stanford Chapel every evening at 5:30 p.m. to pray the Rosary in Irish. Notwithstanding the temporary absence of Rev. Ernan McMullin, O’Hara Professor emeritus of philosophy and possibly Notre Dame’s only Irish-speaking priest, students also are planning a Saint Patrick’s Day Mass that will include prayers in Irish.

Whether or not Ireland is ever lost, if Irish is ever lost, it won’t be Notre Dame’s fault.
Irish Institute at 10: The best, but not good enough

By Michael O. Garvey

Christopher B. Fox, professor of English and director of the Keough Institute for Irish Studies, has been blessed with many gifts, but contentment is not conspicuous among them. His scholarship in 18th century Irish and English literature is universally celebrated, his reputation among his colleagues on Notre Dame’s faculty is sterling, and the institute he directs is increasingly acknowledged as indispensable to any serious study of Irish culture and life.

“When we consider that the program in Irish Studies didn’t exist on this campus 10 years ago, it is astonishing to think about how far we have come,” Fox admits. Astonishing gets it about right. Established by a gift from Donald R. Keough, chairman emeritus of Notre Dame’s board of trustees, and endowed by the initial leadership of Seamus Deane, the renowned Irish intellectual and general editor of the landmark “Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing,” the Keough Institute quickly attracted a team of exceptional scholars and teachers from Ireland and the international Irish diaspora.

Today some 776 undergraduates are enrolled in Irish Studies courses, and more than 40 of them are Irish Studies minors. The Institute’s graduate program, directed by Luke Gibbons, Keough Family Professor of Irish Studies, earns consideration as the best in the United States for its faculty, the placement of its graduates in teaching positions and its rapidly growing research resources.

With the 1998 opening of the Keough Centre in Dublin’s historic Newman House, Notre Dame has established a unique academic presence in Ireland as part of a cooperative agreement with that country’s two foremost institutions of higher learning, University College Dublin and Trinity College.

But Fox is far from satisfied with these and the Institute’s other accomplishments. “It is amazing to consider how far we still have to go,” he says. “Despite their continuing interest in the Northern Ireland crisis, Notre Dame students still can’t take courses in Irish politics. They can’t take courses in Irish music despite the fact that the Hesburgh Library contains the largest collection of Irish music in the world. They can’t study the history of the Irish in America on any advanced level, which, given the history of this university is particularly ironic.

“Seeing how far we have come, however, I have confidence that these and other lacks will be addressed in the next few years and that we will solidify our position as the top program in the world.”

From the “Book of Kells” to a new republic’s postage stamps—library measures among best for Irish Studies resources

All facets of Ireland’s cultural history can be experienced through the collections of the University Libraries.

A crucial resource for the Keough Institute faculty and students is the Smurfit Collection in Irish Literature. Established by a gift from Michael J. Smurfit, chairman and former CEO of the Dublin-based Jefferson Smurfit Group, the collection, almost as much as the Institute’s internationally respected faculty, has played a significant role in establishing Notre Dame as a major center of Irish Studies.

The reputation of the Smurfit Collection recently enabled the University Libraries to expand their Irish Studies holdings through the acquisition of the Loeber Collection of Irish Fiction.

This incomparable repository of 18th through 21st century works by the best and least-known Irish novelists and short story writers includes some 1,900 titles and 500 reprints. It was assembled over several decades by two members of the University of Pittsburgh’s medical faculty, Rolf and Magda Loeber, who have done pathbreaking psychiatric research on juvenile delinquency. This collection has served as the basis of their cherished project, a detailed bibliography of Irish fiction.

The Loeber Collection is now housed in the recently renovated Rare Books and Special Collections Department in the Hesburgh Library.

Rare book lovers and admirers of things Irish also can view “The Book of Kells” in colorful facsimile. The original of this most renowned and most beautifully annotated 9th century book of gospels remains in Trinity College, Ireland.

Books aside, University Libraries houses maps, postage stamps and pamphlets. The David J. Butler Collection of Maps of Ireland includes 80 early printed maps from the 16th to the 18th centuries, and the Thomas C. and Helen G. McGrath Collection of Sea Charts of Ireland, includes 11 charts printed during the same era.

The O’Neill Irish Music Collection is made up of more than 1,000 volumes relating to Irish studies, most which relate to Irish music. The collection includes first editions of O’Neill’s own works, notably “Music of Ireland,” now a classic in the field.

The Wolf Collection of Irish Postal Stamps houses examples of most postage stamps used in the Republic of Ireland since its independence in 1922 as well as overprints, commemoratives, coils, errors, booklets, postcards, and first-day envelopes.

A complete list of Irish Studies resources in the library is available online at http://www.nd.edu/~colldev/subjects/irish/irish_studies_re sources.shtml.
Staff Advisory Council tackles issues large and small

Some 60 Notre Dame employees are enrolled in area colleges and universities this academic year under a tuition reimbursement program brought to the table by the eight-year-old Staff Advisory Council.

Reviewing accomplishments achieved during her four years on the council, former president Melodie Wise points to the tuition reimbursement benefit as a SAC idea that ultimately benefits all University employees. Another is the right of all employees to buy season football tickets. SAC made the request at a timely juncture—the opening of the expanded stadium in 1997. Before that, only administration and faculty were invited to buy season tickets, says Stephanie Maenhout, current council president.

The Staff Advisory Council is the official voice of non-administrative staff. The job of its roughly 30 members, representing districts from across the campus, is to advise the administration on all matters affecting the staff. Staff includes hourly wage earners and employees who are salaried but receive overtime after 40 hours.

The council tackles issues some of us may never consider. One ongoing debate concerns how to reward those who must work during snow days—security, landscaping, and food service crews—while most others get a day off.

Wise says it’s productive to view SAC concerns as those of “a small city.”

“This is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week university. There’s always someone working in food service, in athletics, in security. You can’t have solutions that just fit an 8-to-5 organization.”

Wise, who is marketing coordinator for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, stepped down as president in January, passing the mantle to Maenhout, who works in the Registrar’s office.

Mamhout’s agenda will look similar to Wise’s. Having successfully gained improved long-term disability benefits in 2004, SAC will continue to call for short-term disability for all employees. The Other Colleges & Universities Tuition Benefit for Children currently extends to four-year accredited institutions. Mamhout would like it to also include two-year accredited institutions such as Ivy Tech.

Former Executive Vice President Rev. William Beauchamp, C.S.C., established SAC in 1996 during a period when staff members were unhappy that they had little say in their benefits and compensation packages. Shortly thereafter, the administration undertook a market survey on area salaries and introduced the concept of leveling Notre Dame salaries with similar positions in the community.

Mamhout believes some of SAC’s most significant input occurs when its members are assigned to University-wide committees to tackle complex issues affecting all employees. A committee to review the University’s policy on drug testing was one such instance.

Though the topic was multifaceted, some aspects of SAC’s recommendations became part of the current policy.

Mamhout said she would happily volunteer to study the equally complex problem of how position descriptions are written and associated with the promotion process. Although the process will always be somewhat subjective, SAC members believe it can be more equitable and less arbitrary, she says.

The SAC committee also has what Maenhout calls its dream list: issues she doesn’t expect to see tackled soon, but are always worth mentioning. Among them, Maenhout suggests staff be able to carry over sick and vacation days from year to year, or to contribute those days to a bank to be used by others in need.

Although now relieved of SAC duties, Wise would like the University to revisit the market references for jobs. “Since we’ve had such small raises over the last few years, it would be useful to know if we’ve fallen behind.”

What if the study shows that, given a soft local economy, salaries actually are even or better than others in the area?

“Then we’ll just tout the fact that we’re paying better than everybody else.”

WHAT THEY WERE DOING

John Haynes, right, and Kevin Dreyer, settle a point on the location of lighting in the Concert Hall of the new Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The project is on schedule for Haynes, director of the center, and his staff to move in by May and Film, Television and Theatre faculty such as Dreyer to move in during the summer. Performances begin in September. Photo by Lou Sabo.

New members sought for Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate does not have a single election day. It’s more like election month, and Faculty Senate election month is now.

The almost 50-member advisory group officially represents the faculty as the University updates or develops new policy, and it is the vehicle through which faculty can influence University governance. A revision of the bylaws in 2002 created interrelationships between the senate and the Academic Council, the body of administrators, faculty and students that recommends University academic policy to the president.

One-third of its seats turn over every year, according to Seth Brown, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry and chair of the senate.

Seats are held by representatives of every department, by at-large representatives from engineering and sciences, and by theemeriti faculty, professional specialists and librarians. This year, the senate has been discussing adding a seat for research faculty, who represent a small but nonetheless excluded part of the senate.

Members of the departments whose seats are turning over know who they are, Brown says, and they have been asked to hold departmental elections by early April. New members assume their seats in May.

One of the ongoing issues under study is whether to recommend that Teacher Course Evaluations be published. These evaluations are requested from every student in every class at the end of each semester. Students have requested that TCES be made available to help them in their course selection. Both the Faculty Senate and the Academic Council are examining the issue.

Staff Advisory Council 2004

In addition to Stephanie Maenhout, Staff Advisory Council officers for 2004 are Susan McGomigal, athletics, vice president, and Lisa Yates of the American Studies program, secretary, treasurer.

District representatives are Don Anglin, Warren Golf Course; Karen Casey, Mendoza College of Business; Julann Bauer, St. Michael’s Laundry; Jennifer Bius, Law School; Angela Miller McGraw, Center for Social Concerns; Bobbi McMahon, media resource library;DeBartolo Hall; Joy Schosker, University Libraries; Jane Nielson, landscape services; Jim Glover, Morris Inn; Annette Klimke, development; Sharon Konopka, Nanovic Institute; Lisa Buckland, utilities; Dawn Bell and Kathy Stopczynski, building services; Troy Webb, preventive maintenance; Terrell Ward-Thomas, North Dining Hall; Holly Webb, Food Service Support Facility; Barbara Klouwert, National Institute for Trial Advocacy; Irene Stines, student activities; Bettie Bielewskyj, Kellogg Institute; Terry Oxender, security; Becky delBroy, biology; Maryellen Fetherolf, Student Health Center, and Sharon Harwell, campus ministry.
Five Jesus films that challenged the genre

“You might like to know that nearly 400 actors have played Jesus in movies,” says Peter Holland, chair of the Department of Film, Television and Theatre, in the wake of the release of Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ.”

Films about Jesus’ life are plentiful, and many of them, like Gibson’s, have been very personal works. Some, in their day, faced as much controversy as “The Passion of the Christ.” A few were deemed as blasphemous. Asked which films they would select for a film festival of great movies on Jesus, the FTT faculty choose these:

Pier Paolo Pasolini’s “Gospel According to St. Matthew” (1964)

The Italian, Marxist filmmaker used amateur actors in this straightforward, unsentimental depiction of the first book of the New Testament. Remarkable for its “anti-epic” qualities, the movie presents the life of Christ as seen through the eyes of a believer of the day, depicting Jesus as a crusader against social injustice and repression and his followers as radicals struggling against Roman oppression. Critics have praised Pasolini’s close-ups of Jesus dispensing occasional miracles or preaching against the backdrop of storms as particularly all types of weather. The unconventional approach to Jesus’ life and the film’s crucifixion is treated in a matter-of-fact tone as a painful, but common, event, an effect which seems to magnify the tragedy. This is a curious combination: a deeply religious film, made by an atheist and praised by the Catholic Church.

Denis Arcand’s “Jesus of Montreal” (1989)

A modern allegory of the life of Christ, with Canadian actors. The plot: A priest tries to spruce up his parish’s annual Passion Play by hiring a young actor and his friends. Their interpretation includes numerous conjectures including a suggestion that Christ may have been the illegitimate son of a Roman soldier. It becomes a hit, but also embroils the parish priest and the young actors in a series of troubles. As they cope with secular success and Church condemnation, their lives reflect biblical struggles ranging from greed to persecution. Powerful and moving, “Jesus of Montreal” asks about the meaning of Christ’s suffering in a modern world.

Martin Scorsese’s “The Last Temptation of Christ” (1988)

An adaptation of Nikos Kazantzakis’ novel of the same name, with performances by Willem Dafoe, Harvey Keitel, David Bowie and Barbara Hershey. The film imagines a Christ who on the cross sees another future of quiet domestic normality before he chooses his destiny. Very controversial when released, it looks much less so now. Scorsese makes use of his gift for presenting souls in torment to depict a Jesus in doubt about his destiny, though still a charismatic, fervent leader. The Washington Post described the film as stripping away “the familiar epic trappings to concentrate on Christ’s human dimension.” The view of first-century Palestine with its warring religious factions seems realistic, the performances of the cast of method actors seems less so.

Gareth Davies’s “Son of Man” (1969)

The real inspiration behind this film is not director-producer Davies but Dennis Potter, one of Britain’s most accomplished and often controversial television dramatists. Potter’s script deliberately challenged then-common portraits of Christ by portraying him as a hippie

The University offers its thanks and congratulations to those celebrating employment anniversaries in March. They include: Sharon A. Clancy Orban, Mendoza College of Business, and Lyle E. Comegys, utilities, with 35 years of service.

David L. Kil, registrar, is observing 30 years of service. Giovanna Edwards of information technologies is marking her 25th anniversary.

Celebrating 20 years are Dennis L. Meyers, Campus Ministry; Judy A. Sprio, psychology, and Ladonna R. Weeks, University Libraries.

Thomas M. Blicher, Joyce Center, has been with Notre Dame for 15 years, as have Judith A. Conner, Chris Heerdegen, and Mary M. Sullivan, with 25 years of service. A modern allegory of the life of Christ, with Canadian actors. The plot: A priest tries to spruce up his parish’s annual Passion Play by hiring a young actor and his friends. Their interpretation includes numerous conjectures including a suggestion that Christ may have been the illegitimate son of a Roman soldier. It becomes a hit, but also embroils the parish priest and the young actors in a series of troubles. As they cope with secular success and Church condemnation, their lives reflect biblical struggles ranging from greed to persecution. Powerful and moving, “Jesus of Montreal” asks about the meaning of Christ’s suffering in a modern world.

Martin Scorsese’s “The Last Temptation of Christ” (1988)

An adaptation of Nikos Kazantzakis’ novel of the same name, with performances by Willem Dafoe, Harvey Keitel, David Bowie and Barbara Hershey. The film imagines a Christ who on the cross sees another future of quiet domestic normality before he chooses his destiny. Very controversial when released, it looks much less so now. Scorsese makes use of his gift for presenting souls in torment to depict a Jesus in doubt about his destiny, though still a charismatic, fervent leader. The Washington Post described the film as stripping away “the familiar epic trappings to concentrate on Christ’s human dimension.” The view of first-century Palestine with its warring religious factions seems realistic, the performances of the cast of method actors seems less so.

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confused about his faith yet determined to preach a Gospel of love. Shortly before his death in 1994, Potter described his character as “a model of what human behavior can be like.” The action spans the Gospel accounts from the temptation in the wilderness up to and including the crucifixion.

Franco Zeffirelli’s “Jesus of Nazareth” (1977)

An NBC minidrames directed by Franco Zeffirelli, it features Robert Powell, Anne Bancroft, Ernest Borgnine, James Earl Jones, Laurence Olivier, Christopher Plummer, Anthony Quinn, and Rod Steiger. Widely regarded as a sensitive and reverential treatment, this six-hour film begins with Jesus’ birth and follows the Gospel story through the Resurrection, attending carefully to the corresponding story of the birth of Christianity during a period of intense political and religious conflict. It occasioned some controversy because Zeffirelli depicted Jesus as human rather than a living icon. It is still frequently aired on television during Holy Week.
BACK STORY

ND in the community: Where? Everywhere.

In a one-week period in late February and early March, members of the Notre Dame faculty, staff and student body established their presence in the local community in a variety of venues.

The recently-released report on Notre Dame’s economic impact in the community noted that University representatives contribute some 455,000 volunteer hours per year.

Determining how and where each of those hours is spent—or measuring the University’s impact as the underwriter of a table at a fundraising luncheon or as a donor to a non-profit agency—is a difficult task.

Jackie Rucker, director of Community Relations and Notre Dame’s chief administrator in ND Downtown, knows the frustration of not knowing.

Rucker’s job is to proliferate university-community involvement. Each month “Learn with Us” youth seminars will bring members of the area Boys and Girls Clubs to the Eck Center to learn about paleontology.

On March 22, Rucker and her staff launch “Lunch and Learn,” a new venture in ND Downtown for senior citizens. The first luncheon topic is “Living Wills and Advanced Directives.” The Law School will provide speakers, fulfilling the school’s goal to identify creative new means of community participation.

But as these photographs show, the universes of community involvement are many and varied.

“Every time I turn around, I’m hearing about something else I didn’t know about,” Rucker said “But I need to know, so that as people in the community turn to me for help, I know where to direct them.”

In the coming months, Rucker will work in conjunction with the Office of the President to devise a way of capturing the needed information. Then, the next time she hears, “Did you know the biology department was working with students at Marian High School,” or “Did you know the MBA students tutor in South Bend Schools?”, she can reply, “Yes. And that’s not all we do.”

Accounting students, from right, Kevin Koscil and Mike Lund do taxes for Pat Mitchell as members of the Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s Tax Assistance Program visit the River Park branch of the St. Joseph County Public Library. Alumnus Larry Lackner, a local CPA, lends support.

Dawn Carr shares a story with Muesael School kindergarten student Jada Reed through the MBA program’s School, Inc. Besides tutoring, MBA international students visit the school for “Meet the World,” in which they teach the elementary school students about their home countries. Photos by Lou Sabo

Carnaval 2004

Far left: Greg Downey Jr., Kellogg Institute Faculty Fellow and assistant professor of anthropology, knows how to do Carnaval up right as a researcher whose focus is Brazil. He is pictured here with Lauren Frank, anthropology department research assistant.

Above: The room is packed at Carnaval in the Palais Royale. The annual event is sponsored by the Kellogg Institute and several community partners, as a means of sharing authentic Brazilian culture with the community.

Left: Chicago Samba performed while dancers rallied the Carnaval crowd to rock with the beat. Photos by Lou Sabo

Jackie Rucker welcomes members of the Boys and Girls Clubs to the Eck Center for a program “Learn with Us.” Monthly, youth groups are invited to learn about paleontology.