University earns 10-year accreditation

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

Notre Dame has received a full, 10-year accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. The final evaluation report portrays the University as both well managed and on track with its mission.

"If any institution can take ownership of the dynamic relationship between 'great university' and 'Catholic university,' it is Notre Dame: The University’s history and proven strengths give it that authority," states the report, which compiled the findings of a 15-member team of peers from such institutions as Duke, Stanford, Northwestern, Stanford and Brown universities and the Catholic institutions DePaul and St. Louis universities.

The evaluation process is being called "very positive" by the internal team that shepherded the process and that included incoming President Rev. John J. Jenkins, C.S.C.

"We not only can build a great Catholic university, we will. Our Catholic mission combined with a commitment to excellence makes in one of the most interesting universities in this country, and we must be resolute in pursing this goal," Jenkins said.

Somewhat like a physician’s "clean bill of health,” a full NCA accreditation means that no intermittent checkups are required over the next 10 years. In contrast, since the 1994 evaluation, the University has had to return to the commission three times to report on its student assessment practices.

"The most gratifying part was winning approval without follow-up for the next 10 years," said Father Jenkins. "We have made progress, and because of the hard work and cooperative attitude of so many on campus we sailed through this one."

The evaluation team also included Maura Ryan, associate provost; Dr. Stephen Shapard, associate provost; Barbara Walvoord, who coordinated the self-study; and Robert Schmuhl, who chaired the team.

Factual communication between doctors and patients is important. But when it comes to communicating with patients, some are ill-prepared and awkward.

"Doctors need to prepare patients for a future that’s a poor excuse," he says. "But when it comes to communicating with patients, some are ill-prepared and awkward."

By Nancy Johnson

When they graduate from medical school, young doctors are confident in their knowledge of physiology and pharmacology. But when it comes to communicating with patients, some are ill-prepared and awkward.

Dr. Rudolph Navari is out to change that. The associate dean of the College of Science and director of the Notre Dame Cancer Institute is now the head of The Ruth M. Hillebrand Center for Compassionate Care. Founded last year at Notre Dame, its purpose is to teach communication techniques to improve relationships between health care professionals and patients.

Late one night, a specialist phoned Hillebrand and bluntly told her she had mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer that has no treatment and no cure, and then he hung up. Hillebrand, a clinical psychologist in Manhattan, was living alone at the time and had no one to comfort her after this shocking surprise. Before she died in 1994, she asked her brother, Joseph Hillebrand, 43, to set up a trust that would fund a program to teach sensitivity to health professionals.

Dr. Navari, who has an oncology practice in South Bend, has already earned national recognition for his research on the benefits of encouraging cancer patients to ask their doctors practical questions about their treatment and expected side effects. "Some say managed care has forced doctors to limit their communication with patients. I think that’s a poor excuse," he says. "Patients want their important questions answered. It doesn’t need a lot of time."

Now, the grant will help his team advance the other side of the coin: teaching doctors to communicate sensitively with patients.

Factual communication between doctors and patients is important. But the way in which information is delivered is equally important, especially when bad news is involved, Navari says. His program teaches students to deliver bad news in person (not over the phone) and in an appropriate setting such as the doctor’s office, allowing enough time for patients to absorb the news.

Doctors need to prepare patients for a shock such as a cancer diagnosis and should always discuss what can be done about it.

The Hillebrand Center is affiliated with the Walther Cancer Research Center and will be housed in the new South Bend Center for Medical Education. Scheduled to open later this year at the southeast corner of Notre Dame and Angela avenues, The South Bend Center is a joint project of the Indiana University School of Medicine and Notre Dame.

The new medical building will have special facilities where medical students and residents will practice techniques using real patients and some actor patients trained to simulate certain medical conditions. The teaching experience is already under way with medical students from U.C. and the University of Chicago. Dr. Navari expects further expansion for the program, which he says is a significant benefit for Notre Dame’s nearly 100 medical students and those in other health professions.

Dr. Navari is pleased that patient-physician interaction skills are gaining in importance. In fact, last year the National Board of Medical Examiners established proficiency in oral communication skills as a requirement for medical school graduation. Such requirements are long overdue, Dr. Navari believes.
When risk management becomes involved, its staff helps employees and students understand how smoke travels. “A lot of people inadvertently stand near the air intakes because they don’t know what’s going on,” Mike McCauslin, assistant director of Risk Management and Safety. Since the policy was enacted in 1992, risk management has fielded a few of these requests. “If there’s smoke infiltration, we’d like to know right away, so we can bring it to the attention of the individual responsible for the area in which the violation occurred.” This could be the department chair or someone in the human resources office, depending on the situation.

Another feature of the event will be a live and silent fundraising auction. All proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association. Live auction items include an extreme makeover kit with teeth whitening, makeup and hair styling, and a ruby and diamond “Go Red” fence piece designed by a local jeweler. Participants in the silent auction can bid for such prizes as lunch for four with football Coach Charlie Weis or a dinner cooked in your home by Notre Dame Executive Chef Don Miller.

The American Heart Association’s Go Red campaign intends to draw attention to the fact that cardiovascular disease claims the lives of more women than the next seven causes of death combined. Nearly 500,000 women a year die each year from cardiovascular-related incidents.

Accreditation
Continued from page 1

• More attention needs to be given to the goal of increasing student, faculty and administrative diversity, to improving the presence of diversity issues in the curriculum, and to better integrating women and members of other underrepresented groups who might feel disenfranchised.

• Funding for the library remains inadequate, as clear priorities need to be forged on how limited funds should be allocated.

Besides examining the institution’s plans for its future, the team reviewed the University’s progress on concerns cited in the 1994 accreditation. The evaluation team’s interest was not that problems have been solved, but that they have been adequately addressed and that progress has been made.

Such was the case with six of the seven concerns noted in the 1994 evaluation. The 2004 report deems as整改 as those processes that make the votes of minorities less effective

Although the evaluation team chose to deem this area one of continued concern, Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., vice president for student affairs, said he believes the dialogue between the administration and students has improved significantly in the last decade, and will continue to do so.

“Take very seriously the concerns raised by the NCA in this regard,” Poorman said. “Clearly, administration across the University always need to be attentive to how they can improve communication with students. At the same time, I see many more structures and opportunities for meaningful dialogue today than were in place 10 years ago.”

In response to the evaluation team’s concern about communication with students, the University prepared an addendum to its original self-assessment report, providing further detail about the structures that have been put into place in recent years to facilitate better communication between students and administrators, including student membership on a wide variety of University committees relating to academics, student life, and business operations.

The report also includes notes on areas the team found worthy of high praise. The list of 23 high points includes steady progress in building a research program. The team also gave high marks to the residential life program, information technology, human resources, institutional research, the Kroc Center’s support for teaching, and the senior level administrators,” the report states.

Q: It’s getting warmer, and as we open our office windows, cigarette smoke is flowing in from smokers taking a break outside. Does the University’s smoking policy address this kind of secondhand smoke issue?

A: The University smoking policy specifically prohibits smoking in most public buildings on campus. (The policy is spelled out on the IRB website at http://www.nd.edu/~hr-policy/manual/Institutional_Policies/sm_c.html.) While smoking is permitted outside in most locations, the overall principle of the University’s policy is captured in the following excerpt: “The rights of nonsmokers to a smoke-free environment always take precedence over the desire of smokers to smoke.”

The policy prescribes how violations should be handled: “Complaints about violations of this smoking policy should initially be brought to the attention of the individual responsible for the area in which the violation occurred.” This could be the supervisor of the building where the problem is being experienced. If you don’t know who serves as your building supervisor, check with the facilities operation department. In addressing the situation, the supervisor can contact Risk Management and Safety, whose staff will review the problem, then determine if restrictions or changes are required.

Since the policy was enacted in 1992, risk management has fielded a few of these requests: “If there’s smoke infiltration, people will call us,” says Mike McCauslin, assistant director, who attributes some of the problem to people not understanding how smoke travels. “A lot of people mindlessly stand near the air intakes because they don’t know what they are.” McCauslin says.

When risk management becomes involved, its staff helps employees and building supervisors identify spots away from the building where people can smoke without disturbing others. Smokers who wish to quit can find assistance from the Office of Human Resources’ Work Life program. Contact Jessica Brookshire, manager, at 631-5829 or brookshire.4@nd.edu.

Contributed by Dan Skendzel, director of administrative services, and Mike McCauslin, assistant director of Risk Management and Safety.
ADVANCING RESEARCH

Regional partnership supports discovery of new materials

By Bill Gilroy and Gail Hinchion Mancini

The recent discovery of a new class of materials by researchers at Notre Dame and Argonne Laboratories exemplifies the University’s ability to advance scientific research through regional partnerships with state- and federally-funded agencies.

Peter Burns, chair of Notre Dame department of civil engineering and geological sciences, has been the lead researcher in the discovery of materials called actinyl peroxide compounds. The materials self-assemble into nano-sized, hollow cages that could have useful new electronic, magnetic and structural properties important to the emerging world of nanotechnology.

He is one of a dozen Notre Dame scientists and engineers doing groundbreaking research with Argonne, a Department of Energy institute that explores the basic science of molecular interactions involved in the transport of nuclear materials in the environment.

The multiple collaborations between the institutions involve a breadth of interactions, including radiation physics, nuclear physics, astrophysics, environmental research, materials research and high-speed computing, according to Tony Hyder, associate vice president of graduate studies and research. Collaborations date back many decades and grow exponentially, with Notre Dame and Argonne now partnering to build extremely high-speed data exchange systems over the Internet and to construct a billion-dollar accelerator.

In addition to granting access to research equipment that would be unaffordable to a single institution, the relationship gives Notre Dame graduate students “access to great scientists and engineers both here and on our faculty,” Hyder says.

In Burns’ case, research on the compounds began in Notre Dame’s Environmental Molecular Science Institute (EMSI) in Fitzpatrick Hall.

Aspects of the project moved to Argonne’s DuPage County, Ill. facility because its chemistry division has hot labs that enable research on neptunium to be performed safely. Argonne’s Advanced Photon Source, the hemisphere’s most brilliant source of research X-rays, was also used analyze the solution.

Burns’ work, with Argonne chemist Lynda Soderholm, continues and portends important future findings. “No one has ever seen anything like these,” says Burns. “These very small nanoscale aggregates of actinides in solution could play an important role in actinide transport in the environment.”

Actinides are the radioactive elements that constitute the bottom row of the periodic table. The chemistry of these elements is drawing increased interest from scientists.

“Since there are no historic examples, there is a huge void in understanding, so we are investigating virtually any situation we think could be found in nature related to nuclear materials interacting with the environment,” adds Soderholm.

Burns and Soderholm feel that these actinyl-nanospheres may form in alkaline mixtures of nuclear waste, such as the high-level nuclear waste tanks found at a Hanford, Wash. site. Hanford’s nine nuclear reactors produced plutonium for four decades, leaving more than 50 million gallons of high-level liquid waste in 177 storage tanks and billions of gallons of contaminated groundwater.

“If these actinyl-nanospheres are forming at Hanford and other sites, such as the Savannah River plant in South Carolina, we should know about it and understand more about it,” Burns says.

New facility to house biomedical research

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

Groundbreaking is scheduled in May on the north side of campus for a new research laboratory that will support the College of Engineering’s work in biomedical engineering.

The 25,000-square-foot building will be located in a narrow area between the Hessert Laboratory for Aerospace Research and the Maintenance Building. The structure’s $8.3 million cost is funded by congressional budget mandates and administered by the U.S. Department of Energy, says Robert Cunningham, director of budgets and operations in the College of Engineering.

Completion is expected in summer 2006.

The facility will house the work of a multidisciplinary team studying biomechanics and biomaterials in orthopedics. The group is comprised of faculty from the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering who apply their understanding of mechanics, materials and design to biology, especially the human skeletal system.

For example, researchers are investigating noninvasive methods of detecting and visualizing microscopic damage that occurs in bone tissue using contrast agents for micro-computed tomography.

Ryan K. Roeder, assistant professor and principal investigator on the team, is looking into the accumulation of micromodamage with activity, aging and disease that can result in bone fractures. People undergoing intense physical activity, such as athletes and military recruits, experience stress fractures; at the other end of the spectrum, the elderly experience fractures as a result of fragility.

“Unfortunately, physicians do not currently have the means to assess micromodamage. In the long term, we hope that our research might change that,” Roeder says. In short term, noninvasive methods for measuring micromodamage in bone will certainly enable researchers to better understand the effects of microdamage on bone strength and fracture risk,” Roeder says. This project is supported by the National Institutes of Health.

The group also collaborates with the local orthopedics industry, located in nearby Warsaw, Ind., on a variety of projects. Glen Niebuhr, who partners with Roeder on the bone tissue project, is working with J.J. DePuy Orthopedics, a Johnson & Johnson Co., to develop scaffolds that hold engineered tissue into traditional orthopedic implants. Steve Schmid and Jim Mason have led a collaboration with Zimmer, Inc., aimed at creating less invasive surgical procedures for the repair of hip and vertebral fractures. The group is also working to develop new orthopedic implants and synthetic bone substitutes that, when introduced into the body, respond mechanically and biologically like natural bone.

The group’s research facilities include a biomaterials processing and characterization lab; a design automation lab; a nano-mechanical characterization and tribology lab; a solid mechanics lab and a surface science lab.

All are currently squeezed into Fitzpatrick Hall of Engineering, says Cunningham. The new facility will provide the infrastructure required to support the group’s work, as well as active graduate and undergraduate research experiences.
Teaching character is central to ROTC training
By Gail Hinchion Mancini


Among Notre Dame’s Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC ranks, Jordan distinguishes himself as the commander with a doctorate, in military history, and a penchant for educational theory that he likes to back with intensive research.

In 2000, when the Army announced it would reorient training in the face of global warfare, Jordan became key in saving components of traditional junior officer training. The Army had wanted to shift resources from its traditional captain’s training program to training for lieutenants and majors. Burying himself in military history documentation, Jordan emerged with a paper on the history of captains’ training that painted it as one of the bedrocks of the Army’s success.

By 2003, as Jordan was settling in at Notre Dame, his former commander informed him that the Army had decided to retain the tradition and find separate resources to enhance other officer training programs. He has since revised the curriculum and the mission statement for those programs, instilling both with a means of gauging strong leaders.

The notion that the ROTC program trains leaders, not warriors, is shared by the occupants of Pasquella Center’s second floor, where the Army, Navy and Air Force have offices for some 32 officers and other staff, overseeing about 325 cadets. Here, the reality of war means that seniors of two years ago may well be in Iraq. “With the war, there’s a heightened urgency. A seriousness,” says Col. Michael Zenk, commander of the Air Force detachment and chief administrator of its-military coordination.

As a program that trains officers, Notre Dame ROTC faces pertinent ethical questions such as, “Could Abu Ghraib have been prevented?” Zenk insists, “If we had placed one lieutenant in the right position at Abu Ghraib, we could have prevented that. We teach moral leadership.” The better moral integrity we can instill, the better off our military will be and our country.”

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

Seeing peace through teaching
By Gail Hinchion Mancini

Dr. Tom Arendshorst looked around one day, close to his 30th anniversary as a practicing ophthalmologist, and drew an unusual conclusion. “It became my perception that I was becoming progressively de-educated.”

“You spend all day talking with people about a particular kind of problem. In the process, doctors talk relatively little about community issues, social concerns, world events. Most of us become more narrowly expert and more globally de-educated.”

As an early step toward warding off that feeling, Dr. Arendshorst began bringing his skills to Honduras for medical missionary work. But such volunteerism did not quench his gradually increasing concern about social justice and integrative components of social welfare. “I got to the point where I wanted to learn to be a more effective advocate for social justice.”

He also got to the point where he left his practice and, at 58, enrolled in the Kroc Institute’s master’s degree program in international peace studies. Although unaware until recently that such a course of study existed, Dr. Arendshorst sees very clearly certain philosophies on teaching peace.

Peace is not, as he learned during a childhood in the 1950s and 1960s, merely victory in war.

The peace studies program is about strategic approaches to peace building,” he says. “That includes everything from individual relationship responses and ways in which people create peace in the way they relate to others, and understanding and ideas that can be employed to help integrate groups of people better. It’s about treating one another with tolerance.”

In the classroom, Dr. Arendshorst says, “You become armed with more than opinions. This kind of peace studies program provides the student with the framework to intelligently articulate his or her and understand other viewpoints.”

Dr. Arendshorst is one of only three U.S. applicants who were accepted into the program this fall, the first year that the program educates soldiers, the Kroc and Kellogg institutes examine peace. These stories provide snapshots of a University seeking solutions for a trolley program educates soldiers, the Kroc and Kellogg institutes examine peace made by effective economic and political policy.

Though Notre Dame’s combined programs do not represent the largest tri-military ROTC program in the nation, the University is believed to capture the highest number of military ROTC tuition dollars in the country. The tuition cost at Notre Dame might be high, but the quality of graduate officer justifies the expense.

Over the past 15 years, each ROTC program at Notre Dame has been rated number one in the nation. Most recently the Army ROTC program was ranked in the top 15 percent in the nation for outstanding performance. The recognition supports an extensive body of research showing that, as Jordan notes, “Elite private college officers outperform every other ROTC product.”
In a world riddled by war and terrorism, how do you teach peace?

James Sterba, professor of philosophy since 1973 and Fellow of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, has his own formula: Ask a lot of questions, anywhere and to anyone you can.

Following the September 11 attacks, Sterba was the first scholar to assemble philosophical essays on the topic of terrorism, according to his publisher, Oxford University Press. Titled “Terrorism and International Justice,” the book explores the questions: What is the nature and rhetoric of terrorism, who are the terrorists and why they do what they do, and what is a morally justified response to terrorism?

“Terrorism is a conceptually challenging term,” Sterba explains. “It is a powerful idea; a group of academics who have some faith that the world will be a better place.”

Sterba finds that teaching peace is a day-to-day process with Notre Dame students. “One key, he says, is at first keeping his own views out of the discussion so that students can learn to state their own views. Again, questions are at the heart of the teaching and learning process. How should we understand the terrorism that the U.S. opposes? Is terrorism always wrong, or are there morally justified terrorist acts? Is it a morally defensible response to the terrorism of 9/11?”

Sterba aims to help students sort out the issues, evaluate all sides and come to conclusions they can defend against opposing views. He recalls once presenting competing essays on a topic and not wanting his students to know which side he favored. “I said the author of one essay was Paul James, the reverse of my first and middle names. Eventually I had to level with them. They always wondered how I knew the views of Paul James so well.”

“They will do badly in the class if they just go along with what I say. They have to zero in on the strongest objections, look for good arguments. Sometimes their views change from the first paper they write to the second,” he says.

“In discussions, I always say, ‘What do you think?’ Asking for an evaluation. That’s typical of a philosopher. You don’t take anything for granted.”

As he was finishing “Terrorism and International Justice,” Sterba reached out to an audience of local kindergarten through 12th grade teachers who were participating in the professional development program Teachers as Scholars (TAS) Among questions explored by these adult students: Is terrorism something only our enemies have employed or have our allies and we also engaged in terrorist acts?

Sterba addressed these issues last month when directors of the national Teachers as Scholars program held their annual meeting on campus. It was the first time the group met off the campus of Princeton University, headquarters of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, which provided the initial grants for TAS programs around the country.

Sterba found himself addressing a mature, well-educated audience, ready and willing to express their views, consider new ideas, and even change their minds.

That’s the way world leaders should act as well, Sterba believes, if they are interested in peace.

“Truth emerges from conflict, and you have to be willing to give, up your view in the face of devastating criticism,” he says. “If you get enough people talking, you will find common ground.”

In applying, he stated no end goal. “I’m trying to be open to God’s call. God knows, there are enough needs,” Doctors without Borders, which delivers emergency aid to victims of armed conflict, epidemics and disasters, might be a good fit—he cut his class in January for his seventh medical mission to Honduras. But the placement in aid to victims of armed conflict, epidemics and disasters, might be a good fit—he cut his class in January for his seventh medical mission to Honduras. But the placement in aid to victims of armed conflict, epidemics and disasters, might be a good fit—...
By Catherine McCormick

Potholes are a nuisance this time of year. Even civil engineer Theresa Harrison finds them irritating as she drives to her office in South Bend or her classes in DeBartolo Hall. “Sometimes I think I’m more frustrated than others. I know what causes and how to avoid or fix a pothole, but I can’t just jump out of my car and do it,” she says.

Instead she focuses on designing pothole-resistant roads and educating future engineers who might someday solve the pothole problem altogether. As an engineer at Lawson-Fisher Associates, one of her current projects is to widen Douglas Road between Main Street and Fir Road.

In January, Harrison became an assistant adjunct professor, teaching Introduction to Transportation Engineering. This is Harrison’s first venture into teaching, and a beneficial one for the College of Engineering and its students. As vice president of the Indiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, she brought the group’s annual meeting to campus last month.

About 200 engineers from around the state attended, and 14 speakers came from in-state and around the country. Topics ranged from storm water quality to the World Trade Center collapse. Members of the student chapter assisted with the planning.

And yes, the engineers discussed potholes.

One proposed solution was asphalt roads, asphalt containing ground-up tires. Conventional asphalt is a combination of oil, rock and sand. It can expand and crack when moisture gets in, which is something rubberized asphalt supposedly prevents.

Harrison is skeptical. “No matter how flexible the surface is, if you get water under the road that cannot drain, eventually the road will fail.”

In the meantime, Harrison feels the best solution is to avoid the cause of potholes in the first place by building roads with good drainage. If the base under the pavement is controlled to drain water away, potholes are reduced, she says.

“There are roads around here that have potholes, but I can’t just jump out of my car and do it,” she says.

Harrison is skeptical. “No matter how flexible the surface is, if you get water under the road that cannot drain, eventually the road will fail.”

In the meantime, Harrison feels the best solution is to avoid the cause of potholes in the first place by building roads with good drainage.

Patricia Welling, the friendly face behind the front desk at Notre Dame’s Morris Inn, was named Indiana Hotel Employee of the Year at the Indiana Hotel and Lodging Association’s 2005 Hoosier Hospitality Conference last month in Indianapolis.

A guest service associate at the Morris Inn for 17 years, Welling was recognized by department supervisors and then nominated for the state level, which she easily won, according to the competition’s judges.

Welling’s daily duties include taking reservations, checking guests in and out of the hotel, answering questions and giving directions. But rosman manager Sherri Tibbns says she doesn’t stop there.

“Although Pat’s job does not require her to do tours, she is so familiar with the campus that she often volunteers to show guests around on her own personal time. She is extremely professional and courteous and goes above and beyond with every guest she greets.

Her coworkers receive the same kind and courteous treatment.”

Welling will now be a contender for the national award at the American Hotel and Lodging Association’s May convention in Washington, D.C.

Karen Reynolds, door chef for Greenfields International Café, has won the National Academy of College & University Food Services (NACUFS) Midwest Regional Culinary Challenge.

Reynolds earned an American Culinary Federation (ACF) Silver Medal for her recipe of poached loin of lamb in broth with a soft goat cheese polenta and stewed eggplant. She’ll advance to the NACUFS National Culinary Challenge in New Orleans in July. The regional challenge took place at the University of Kansas at Lawrence last month.

Reynolds has been a University employee since 1995 and an employee at Greenfields since 1999. She became floor chef in 2002.

The competition requires contestants to prepare four portions of an original hot entrée, with side dishes and sauces to balance the plate. Unique to this year’s competition was a mandate for all participants to use lamb in their recipes.

Contestants then had 75 minutes to prepare and present their dishes to a panel of ACF judges.

Luther Tyson, associate director for technology at the Robinson Community Learning Center, has received a teacher of the year citation from the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. He will be honored at NFTE’s annual Salute to the Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards Dinner on April 26 in New York City.

As a certified entrepreneurial teacher honoree, Tyson will receive a $1,000 cash award and a scholarship to NFTE’s advanced teachers forum in late June.

Using an online business development program, Tyson works with high school and college-age students who are developing plans for microbusinesses to own and operate. In the past year, he has worked with about 20 students at the Robinson Center and has guest lectured on financial literacy for 35 Washington High School students. Five teams he has worked with will present their plans at the upcoming Invention Convention sponsored by the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies in the Mendoza College of Business.

The University welcomes the following new employees, who joined the staff and administration during March.

In athletics, Jeffrey Burrow and Shane Wuldom are graduate assistant football coaches, and Brian Portus is director of football personnel development. In catering, Steven Widholm is district manager and Terri Ziegler is a staff assistant. Pasqual Serrano is serving at the Morris Inn as a service associate.

Hillary Cravos is vice president of public affairs and communication; Thomas Harrison, executive director of the Master of Science in Administration program in the Mendoza College of Business. Alisa Webb has joined building services and Darshan Powell has joined student activities, both as custodians. New to the Office of Information Technologies are Angela Wutting, administrative assistant, and Patrick Weaver, senior computer operator. Alexis Simon is a laboratory technical at the South Bend Center for Medical Education. Bradley Prestin is a mechanic with the utilities department.

Gina Wiedmann is a benefits counselor in human resources. Luke Edlinger is an administrative assistant in the Kane Center For Teaching and Learning.

The University offers its thanks and congratulations to employees celebrating employment anniversaries for April. Observing 25 years of service are: Martha Anton, technical at the South Bend Center for Medical Education; Bradley Prestin is a mechanic with the utilities department.

Rosalee Davids, chemical engineer; Roberta Perkins, English; and Sharon Struck, information technology, have been with Notre Dame for 20 years.

Chad Gorman, Anne Kolaczyk and David Mastick of information technologies are observing 15 years of service, as are Peter Metcalf, chemistry and biochemistry; and Timothy Rippinger and Donna Sayer, development.

Marking their 10-year anniversaries are: Theresa Banters, University Libraries; Fred Blake, Research and Sponsored Programs Accounting; Charlotte Beule, University Health Services; Anita Garvey, Joyce Center; Jeffrey Guerra, utilities; Mary Anne Houbek and Cynthia Volf, National Information for Adult Education; Rabby Karkiewicz, Career Center; Tracy Mathis, athletics; Judith Morrow, St. Michael’s Laundry; Donald Nemech, security; Scherry Roberts, The Huddle; and Robert Thompson, Hammes Bookstore.

“Maybe the road was good at first, but you can’t control what is put in later and how it is put in that will block the drainage.” Repeated freezing and thawing, like we’ve had this winter, encourages potholes. A sustained freeze keeps them from developing as quickly.

Like all of us this time of year, Harrison’s travels take her past pothole repair crews. She notes that while we don’t want to prevent them, our techniques for fixing them are becoming ever more sophisticated. Cities like Chicago (South Bend, for example, now owns automated patchers that can fix up to 100 holes a day). Preventing them, or knowing what causes and how to avoid or fix a pothole, but I can’t just jump out of my car and do it,” she says. 
Another classic named Emerson

The Grammy Award-winning chamber ensemble Emerson String Quartet will perform in the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 16. Tickets are $28 for faculty and staff, $26 for seniors, and $15 for students.

Formed in 1976 and named in honor of American transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson, the Emerson String Quartet is the 2004 winner of classical music’s coveted Avery Fisher Prize. It is the first quartet ensemble to have done so. The quartet’s repertoire is both classical and contemporary, and the group is known for its recordings of Shostakovich, Bartok, Beethoven, and American composers Barber and Ives.

Ticket information is available by calling 631-2800.

Get your bones moving

Although they are dedicated members of the local arthritic board, Jerry Langley, who teaches finance in Mendoza College of Business, and Roberta Baranowski, assistant director of the Medieval Institute, suffer only the normal assortment of aches and pains. They are not among the 70 million Americans with arthritis.

To expect Langley and Baranowski to establish a hearty gait Sunday, May 1, at the 2005 Arthritis Walk, a one-mile or three-mile free event that begins at 1 p.m. at the 70 million Americans with arthritis.

The event is sponsored by the local arthritis board, and offers on groups at the national Board of Trustees, chairs several committees and works on groups at the national level. “Given that arthritis is the most prevalent disease in America, and a chronic one at that, it’s vitally important that we continue to raise funds and awareness,” he says.

Will it be green?

Release of ‘The Shirt’ approaches

“The Shirt” Project celebrates its 16th year on Friday, April 22, with a noon unveiling outside the Hammes Bookstore. The Shirt is considered the official fan shirt for the upcoming football season.

Over the past 15 years, this student-run fundraiser has raised more than $2.5 million, according to Ryan Wilkerson, assistant director of student activities and advisor to The Shirt Project. This year’s launch date was scheduled to accommodate faculty and staff who might want to purchase the spirit apparel. Football coach Charlie Weiss will join the fans, which will include food, drinks and prizes.

According to tradition, the color and artwork for The Shirt is kept secret until the unveiling ceremony.

And speaking of bones

If you’ve got bone marrow (even the admittedly sparsely among us do), Howard Hall rector Kathy Bromrock would like to see you at the hall’s fifth annual Bone Marrow Drive on Thursday, April 21. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dooley and Snell rooms.

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Ticket information is available by calling 631-2800.

Get your bones moving

Although they are dedicated members of the local arthritic board, Jerry Langley, who teaches finance in Mendoza College of Business, and Roberta Baranowski, assistant director of the Medieval Institute, suffer only the normal assortment of aches and pains. They are not among the 70 million Americans with arthritis.

To expect Langley and Baranowski to establish a hearty gait Sunday, May 1, at the 2005 Arthritis Walk, a one-mile or three-mile free event that begins at 1 p.m. at the 70 million Americans with arthritis.

The event is sponsored by the local arthritis board, and offers on groups at the national Board of Trustees, chairs several committees and works on groups at the national level. “Given that arthritis is the most prevalent disease in America, and a chronic one at that, it’s vitally important that we continue to raise funds and awareness,” he says.

Will it be green?

Release of ‘The Shirt’ approaches

“The Shirt” Project celebrates its 16th year on Friday, April 22, with a noon unveiling outside the Hammes Bookstore. The Shirt is considered the official fan shirt for the upcoming football season.

Over the past 15 years, this student-run fundraiser has raised more than $2.5 million, according to Ryan Wilkerson, assistant director of student activities and advisor to The Shirt Project. This year’s launch date was scheduled to accommodate faculty and staff who might want to purchase the spirit apparel. Football coach Charlie Weiss will join the fans, which will include food, drinks and prizes.

According to tradition, the color and artwork for The Shirt is kept secret until the unveiling ceremony.

And speaking of bones

If you’ve got bone marrow (even the admittedly sparsely among us do), Howard Hall rector Kathy Bromrock would like to see you at the hall’s fifth annual Bone Marrow Drive on Thursday, April 21. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dooley and Snell rooms.

Another classic named Emerson

The Grammy Award-winning chamber ensemble Emerson String Quartet will perform in the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 16. Tickets are $28 for faculty and staff, $26 for seniors, and $15 for students.

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It was Saturday, April 2, about an hour after the death of Pope John Paul II had been announced. Some of us in the Office of News and Information were flipping through the TV coverage. On the Fox News Channel, we saw a familiar face: Prof. Lawrence Cunningham was discussing the Holy Father’s legacy. Then, on ABC, we saw one of Cunningham’s theology department colleagues, Rev. Richard McBrein, doing the same.

In fact, ABC twice during the week set up shop at the Hesburgh Center for live interviews with Father McBrein and Prof. Scott Appleby, director of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, both of whom were under contract to the network as sources on the pope’s death and the naming of his successor.

Not that we should be keeping score on such a solemn occasion, but having two Notre Dame professors on national networks simultaneously is a legitimate way to measure the global role Notre Dame is called to play as a Roman Catholic university. Helping to answer that call is what the staff of News and Information does by trade, but rarely with such an intense level of activity.

Our staff began preparing for the pope’s death well over a year ago. We stepped up our efforts when the first of his recent hospitalizations occurred. Over time, we had chatted informally with our resident experts, such as Cunningham, getting a fix on their willingness and availability. (Larry is one of our favorites, a winner of our first annual Media Legend Award in 2004 for his cooperation with our office and his grace in serving as a public intellectual.)

The pace accelerated Friday morning with the dire news on the pope’s condition, including one erroneous report from an Italian news service that he had already died.

Strange things began to happen. Whereas ordinarily we compete with hundreds of other colleges and universities to “pitch” our experts and achievements, suddenly the media we pursue became our pursuers.

At 3 p.m. The Boston Globe called looking for an op-ed piece. The resulting article by Rev. John J. Jenkins, C.S.C., president-elect, and Prof. John Cavadini, chair of theology, was published in the Globe on Sunday and the International Herald Tribune on Monday. Meantime, we were deluged by interview requests. Jennifer Laiber and Rosanna Arcilla manned the phones and prepared for the many changes that would occur on our website—http://newsinfo.nd.edu—in coming days.

The rest of us—Dennis Brown, Mike Garvey, Bill Gilroy and Shannon Chapla—handled the reporters, editors, news directors and “bookers,” those fast-talking folks who “get” the subjects to be interviewed on network television. (Susan Guibert of our staff was on vacation and Julie Flory is on maternity leave.)

Mike even fielded questions from the South Bend Tribune about the fact that we were in such demand.

Sometimes those calls came at strange times.

Dennis was on his lunch hour Monday when his cell phone vibrated while he was checking out at the local Osco. Between paying for cold medicine and grabbing his bag, he spoke to a producer with the national Fox News Channel about arranging an interview with Rev. John Coughlin, O.F.M., a Law School professor with expertise on all things related to the Vatican.

Five minutes later, while standing in the checkout line at the nearby Martin’s grocery store with a salad-to-go, his phone again vibrated, this time with a call from a CNN producer. CNN was arranging an interview with President Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C., about his memories of the pope. In addition to interviewing Father Malloy, the CNN crew stayed on campus to tape part of the memorial Mass at the Basilica on Monday evening.

Of course, not everything works out the way you would like. NBC twice indicated a desire to have our “live feed” from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for both the 11:45 a.m. Sunday Mass and the special Mass of Remembrance at 5:15 p.m. Monday. Neither made it on the air.

The office is very grateful to all faculty experts who were interviewed. We appreciate their willingness to be interrupted from work and family time. Their efforts helped Americans better understand Catholicism and the significance of this pope, while also reinforcing the intellectual leadership of Notre Dame on these issues.