Party formula perfected: 88 degrees, sun, food and friends

By Gail Mancini

Note to Rick Murphy, one of the chief organizers of last Friday’s staff picnic: next year, let’s have an ice cream truck.

It was the only thing found to be missing at “Return of the Staff Picnic,” the revival of an event that was phased out five years ago in favor of a banquet-style lunch of linen napkins and award videos. Since the picnic was canceled, staff members kept up a steady call for its return. Finally, this spring, the word came down: Let them eat brats!

It was the only thing found to be missing at “Return of the Staff Picnic,” the revival of an event that was phased out five years ago in favor of a banquet-style lunch of linen napkins and award videos. Since the picnic was canceled, staff members kept up a steady call for its return. Finally, this spring, the word came down: Let them eat brats!

Vicky Rodebush has worked at Notre Dame for 25 years, and has been assigned to the engineering dean, the electrical engineering department, microbiology and the Lobund Laboratory. Now with the Provost’s office, she had positioned herself under the shade of a tree at a point where she could see anyone arriving or leaving. “This just gives me a chance to see people I used to work with.”

Because tables were set up inside Stepan Center and outside to the south and the east, everyone seemed to have plenty of elbow room.

“It’s great, just being outside,” said Julie Ettl, business manager for Notre Dame Magazine, liked the absence of hierarchy as everyone, dressed informally, hunkered down over plastic plates: “Some things just need to be down-home.”

New Department of Africana Studies established

By Susan Guibert

The University has established a new Department of Africana Studies, effective July 1. The new department will replace the existing African and African-American Studies Program (AFAM) and will enhance the University’s efforts to promote diversity and multiculturalism.

Housed in the humanities division of the College of Arts and Letters, the Department of Africana Studies will offer an interdisciplinary curriculum in which undergraduates study the African-American experience; the histories, literatures, political systems, arts, economies and religions of the African continent; and the African diaspora—the global dispersion of people of African descent.

“The Catholic Church is growing faster in Africa than in any other part of the world, and a department dedicated specifically to the interdisciplinary study of Africa and the African diaspora is at the heart of the University’s Catholic mission,” said Mark W. Roche, I.A. O’Shaughnsey Dean of Arts and Letters. “The research, teaching and service initiatives of the new department will build upon Notre Dame’s deep and longstanding ties to countries such as Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.”

Richard B. Pierce, the Carl E. Koch Jr. Assistant Professor of History, has been appointed chair of the Africana studies department. Pierce specializes in African-American, urban and civil rights history, and examines social and political protest in urban environments.

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1996, Pierce previously served as associate director of the former AFAM program and is a fellow in the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

He will hold a joint appointment in the Department of Africana Studies and the Department of History. Faculty members affiliated with the former AFAM program will continue teaching in the new department, and a search for additional faculty will continue.
Q: Your son David has just completed a year as the National Spelling Bee Champion. In honor of Father’s Day, Sunday, June 19, would you describe what it was like to be the parent of a child thrust into the national limelight?

A: What’s really been fun is getting a chance to meet so many people we wouldn’t have had a chance to meet. David accepted almost every invitation he received—to speak with the media, to say a few words to civic groups, to speak to students. We’ve met a lot of extraordinary people. A year like this helps you realize what a great community this is!

Winning the spelling bee is one thing. Being the winner is quite another. Hundreds of people from all over the country write to David. They would send letters to Edison School, or just to “David Tidmarsh, National Spelling Bee Champion.” Somehow, the post office would figure out how to deliver them. People sent him paraphrases, clipping and gifts. David has tried to write a personal answer to each letter or gift. The very first gift he received was from Monk (President Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C.). David won a Thursday. On Friday, Monk mailed David a book, “Quidditch Through the Ages,” by Eric L’Homme, and a wonderful letter. Somehow Monk must have known that David loves to read fantasy novels.

David has been interviewed by 40 or 50 radio stations and dozens of newspaper reporters. At first, when he won, the phone would ring, we’d answer and hang up, and it would ring again. We thought that attention would end, but he was still getting calls up to the end—even from an Australian reporter the day the 2005 bee began.

The biggest challenge has been trying to keep the family in balance. Our four children are all hard workers and good students. The difference with David is the celebrity part of it. We’ve had to do a lot of appearances around the area, around the state, or elsewhere in the country. That has meant that either my wife, Jan Pilarak, or I have had to go along, which isn’t always easy for everyone else. But the kids have been troopers. We’ve tried to make family vacations or excursions out of some of the events, and also tried to make sure the other kids are still getting to do what they want.

In many ways the year has changed David, and in many ways he is still the same. He grew to tolerate, and maybe even to enjoy, the attention. He was about 5 feet when he won the spelling bee and he’s almost 5-foot-8 inches now. He sounds much more mature and confident to me. But he’s still a pretty humble, down-to-earth kid. He’s thinking about starting a business. He’s trying to put together a few of his interests and see if he can make something of it.

With our four children, Jan and I encourage them to find an interest and then we try to support it. David became interested in spelling bees just before third grade, after seeing one depicted in a Charlie Brown movie. But in sixth grade, he stopped for a year. We thought that attention would end, but he was still getting calls up to the end—even from an Australian reporter the day the 2005 bee began.

By Julie Titone

When churchgoers are asked every year to contribute to Catholic Relief Services, they know they’re helping meet the basic physical needs of people around the world. What they might not know is that, in the last five years, more of their money has gone to meet another need: peace.

They’re helping in South Africa, where the end of apartheid didn’t end the need for nonviolent social change. They’re helping in Nigeria, where reformists want to change a constitution that promises tension among cultural groups, and in Pakistan, where the seeds of improved Muslim-Christian relations have been planted.

“Building a culture of peace is basic to development,” CRS executive Joan Neal said recently at Notre Dame. “People who feel their lives are in danger will find it hard to feed and educate their children, she added.

Neal is vice president for U.S. operations at the agency. She was speaking at the Summer Institute on Peacebuilding, held May 22 to 27. Three dozen church leaders, CRS partners and CRS senior staff members from 20 countries gathered for intensive training, discussion and strategizing. The sessions were designed to improve their ability to resolve conflict and promote reconciliation.

This was the fifth such institute that CRS cosponsored with Notre Dame’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. Gerard Powers, the institute’s director of policy studies and coordinator of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network, organized the training for the Kroc Institute. He was assisted by Kroc staff member C. J. O’Shea, and a recently retired Peace Corps volunteer. Kroc faculty who participated included John Paul Lederach, Scott Appleby, Rashid Lobo, and George Lopez. Two Catholic bishops from Pakistan, as well as archbishops from Burma and Senegal, were among participants at the 2000—a mandate strengthened after Sept. 11, 2001.

CRS has peacebuilding projects in about 60 of the 99 countries in which it operates, and more than 500 individuals so far. This year’s summer institute included two bishops from Pakistan, as well as CRS regional directors from around the world attended, as well as senior executives from headquarters in Baltimore.

Bishop Anthony Lobo of Pakistan said the summer institute classes, led by Kroc Institute experts, provided an almost overwhelming amount of information. “My mind is all stuffed!” Lobo said. He especially appreciated the chance to reflect on the peacebuilding work already under way in his Muslim-dominated country, where the president recently declared a “Year of Interfaith Dialogue.”

Lobo won applause at Notre Dame when he announced that a new Catholic college, set to open in Pakistan, will incorporate peacebuilding into all courses of study.

CRS staff members in Islamabad are already working with the Muslim schools, called madrassas, to institute curriculum reform.

“Terrorists are brainwashed into hating. This is not education,” Lobo said. “We need to create lots of people who are tolerant.”

Bishops from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland have created a new peace institute named after Bishop Dennis Hutley, known for his pastoral letters decrying apartheid. Institute director Allison Lazuais, who attended the Notre Dame meeting, said the emphasis will be on faith-based negotiations. Secular conflict-resolution groups strongly support the effort, and the bishops have already responded to requests for peacebuilding assistance from the Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda.

“There is a long history of this work,” Lazanus said. “It’s just that the vehicle is new.”

Father Patrick Eyinla of Nigeria also is looking for ways to strengthen work under way in his native land. Eyinla oversees church operations in Lagos that deal with social issues: justice and peace, health, family life, HIV/AIDS and charitable work.

Eyinla’s interests range from environmental justice—helping residents of the Niger River delta whose lives have been damaged by oil company operations—to political reforms (amending Nigeria’s constitution to remove cultural bias).

“When I go back, I will look at how to apply peacebuilding to the entire nation,” Eyinla said as the summer institute drew to a close. “I have a responsibility not just for my church, but for my whole country.”

CRS is one of the world’s largest and most respected development agencies. In recent years, it has also become a leader in developing programs to build peace in the many areas of conflict in which it operates. The Kroc Institute, based at Notre Dame, conducts research, education, and outreach programs on the causes of violence and the conditions for sustainable peace.

Contributed by Jay Tidmarsh, professor of law.
High schoolers get a Summer Experience to remember

By Judy Bradford

High school students expect to travel to foreign lands to have a Summer Experience. But for some students, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will include a trip to the Middle East. Beginning June 26, some 200 Summer Experiencers will converge on campus for two weeks. In addition to the off-campus activities, they’ll take classes in one of eight subject tracks: business and entrepreneurship, film, life sciences, literature, policy/diplomacy/public speaking, psychology, pre-law, or theology.

These are top students in their high schools, says Ball. “We aim at students who could become students here. That means looking at their grade point average, their ranking in their class, their test scores and the rigor of their program. And, we have become more selective every year.” The program started the summer of 2000, with prompting from University Provost Nathan Hatch. “The University wanted to start some academic programs for outstanding high school students,” says Ball. “There were already so many summer sports programs on campus.”

The program is so much more than going to class. Film students make their own short films. Business students visit the Mercantile Exchange in Chicago. Students can learn in a separate workshop, how to become “highly effective teenagers.” There are also just-for-fun activities like bowling or rafting down the East Race.

The students come from all over the U.S., and this year there will be 12 from foreign countries including Italy and the Philippines. The primary source of marketing is the pre-college program website (http://precollege.nd.edu). “About 60 percent of our students have found us on the Internet,” says Ball. “I have never done a printed brochure.”

During a three-week period in July, Pre-College Programs will also welcome another 120 students to its three Leadership Development Seminars. Each seminar helps 40 high schoolers confront issues with a Catholic social perspective.

The Global Issues seminar (July 24-31) will explore the prospects for Christian-Muslim dialogue, and the challenge of living in a post-9/11 world. The director is George Lopez, professor of political science who is a Senior Fellow of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

The other two leadership seminars are the African American and Latino Community Leadership Seminar (July 10-17), which includes a trip to the Diocesan Museum of African American History in Chicago; and the Latino Community Leadership Seminar (July 10-17), which includes a trip to The Resurrection Project, a Latino community-building project in Chicago.

Skelelon collection gives clues to ancient civilization

By Susan Guibert

They arrived at Notre Dame packed in 600 beer cartons and Xerox boxes—the charred and broken skeletal remains of some 200 inhabitants of one of the world’s earliest walled cities, settled more than 3,000 years ago in southern Jordan, near the Dead Sea. The bones, housed and studied at Kansas State University for the past 20 years and transferred to Notre Dame’s anthropology department a year and a half ago, were acquired by anthropologist Susan Sheridan through a series of professional connections. Undergraduate anthropology students conducted the initial work of washing, numbering and sorting the thousands of bones, preparing them for study.

“This is an extraordinary collection. It’s one of the first groups we’ve seen settling down in cities and building walls around themselves,” says Sheridan, Nancy O’Neill Associate Professor of Anthropology. A specialist in biological anthropology, she is one of the lead researchers for the Dead Sea Plain Project—an ongoing excavation that, for the last 40 years, has investigated the way people lived and died in these settlements.

“We’d like to know why they needed to build the walls—what kind of conflicts they faced that left them with so many injuries and the skeletal remains of so many children,” says Sheridan of the burned and broken bones.

In the eastern Mediterranean region, people built the first walled cities during a period archaeologists call the Early Bronze Age (EBA, 3500-2000 B.C.). In the EBA on the Dead Sea Plain, people began burying their dead in extensive cemeteries, and eventually, built cities next to these cemeteries. One settlement, called Bab edh-Dhra, established a way of life that we read about in the Bible, and Notre Dame’s newest skeletal collection was excavated from a cemetery near this city.

By analyzing the bones of these 230 people of Bab edh-Dhra, Sheridan and a group of inquisitive students will piece together biological clues and identify what the inhabitants ate, what diseases they suffered from, what kind of work they performed, and perhaps, what violence befell them.

“Since our biological analysis of the remains is done in concert with the written and material culture discoveries of the Bab edh-Dhra site, we are able to make connections between cultural practices and the biological effects they had on people,” according to Sheridan. “It’s impossible to divorce culture from biology.”

Archaeologists from around the world have been excavating the Bab edh-Dhra site since the 1960s in different waves, focusing primarily on the artifacts of this early culture. The current Dead Sea Plain excavation project, directed by Notre Dame archaeologist Meredith Chiesa, involves scholars from Notre Dame, Yale, the Smithsonian Institution and the Carnegie Institute, who have unearthed thousands of pottery vessels, metal weapons, stone bowls and other objects that offer insight into how the society was divided into different groups—similar to modern day economic classes.

These artifacts, together with written historical sources like the Hebrew Bible, will contextualize Sheridan’s biological findings.

“The concentration in the Middle East has been on artifacts, but American archaeology takes a more holistic approach—and with this broader view, we hope, within the next five years, to gain an understanding of just who these people are, and how they lived and how they died.”

PROFILE

Skeleton collection gives clues to ancient civilization

Joan Martel Ball is expecting 200 high schoolers get a Summer talking in a dorm room. close Chicago is with all of its opportunities for learning.” director of Pre-College Programs, “and part of that is realizing just how want. But they get so much more from the Summer Experience program.

“We want them to have the whole experience,” says Joan Martel Ball, In addition to taking classes from professors, they also visit the University’s nonprofit community partners, like the Center for the Homeless and Robinson Community Center. One-day field trips to Chicago are also de rigueur.

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Malloy legacy: ‘Calm’ leadership and dedication to diversity

As Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C., steps down after an 18-year presidency, accomplished alums step forward to describe how Malloy inspired them. The University also bids farewell to Provost Nathan Hatch and Eileen Kolman, dean of the First Year of Studies.

We’ll miss you

By Don Wycliff, public editor, Chicago Tribune Adjunct professor, American Studies

I was walking across the campus one evening last fall, headed from the LaFortune Student Center to the Morris Inn, when I heard music of a kind I had never before heard at Notre Dame coming from a room at the Crowley Hall of Music. It was gospel music—black gospel music—complete with rhythmic hand-clapping and even, if I remember correctly, an occasional soulful shout.

My curiosity piqued, I slipped inside the front door of Crowley and followed the music to a large room at the south end. I stood at the door as unobtrusively as I could and looked in. There must have been 100 students ranged around the room in three or four rows, swaying, clapping, feeling the music that they were making. Maybe a dozen of them were white, but the overwhelming majority was black.

The sight and sound of those students sent a chill of excitement up my spine and I felt tears well in my eyes. There were at least four times as many African-American students in that room as there were in the entire Notre Dame student body when I came to the campus as a freshman in September 1965.

All the efforts over all the years had borne fruit. Notre Dame had become a genuinely multicultural university with a genuinely diverse student body. Black students were not just present on the campus, they were adding their voices and talents to the splendid legions who have been privileged over the decades to walk and work in the shadow of Our Lady atop the Golden Dome. So were Hispanic and Asian students in large numbers.

That this happened at this moment in the University’s history was no accident. Racial and ethnic integration in America have always required leadership and commitment. Happily, Notre Dame has had in Father “Monk” Malloy a leader for the last 18 years who was as strongly committed to diversity as any in the country.

Building on the legacy of Father Ted Hesburgh, Father Malloy dedicated himself to making Notre Dame better reflect the American society from which its students spring. He emphasized this was not just a matter of being nice, but of being educationally sound. At Notre Dame, more than at most schools, the informal learning that happens in residence halls and student activities is a crucial part of what makes the university special. That learning must include knowing about people different from oneself.

It was under Father Malloy that Dan Saracino, my classmate in the class of 1969, came back to Notre Dame to run the Admissions Office. Dan has done a tremendous job of recruiting talented minority students and persuading them to choose Notre Dame.

Also under Father Malloy, the minority alumni organizations have thrived and become a vital part of the University.

When I heard the announcement several months ago that Father Malloy would be stepping down from the presidency, I knew I had to write him and tell him how much he had meant to those of us who care about diversity at Notre Dame.

“We miss you already,” I told him in that letter.

But this part of his legacy will, I pray, never disappear from Notre Dame.

Steady hand at the wheel

By Gene Trani, president Virginia Commonwealth University

I have watched Monk’s presidency as an alumnus; as a member, for 10 years, of the Graduate Research Council; and as a university president.

I have been struck with the stability he brought to Notre Dame. How ever- handied he has been—calm, methodical, thoughtful—but always pushing the agenda of Notre Dame as the premier Catholic university in the United States. He’s been very consistent.

I’ve learned a lot from that calmness, that skill of keeping the goal in mind no matter what the problems are. You can have individual problems but you can’t have them distract you.

Obviously, the commitment to undergraduate education remains essential to Notre Dame. It well prepared me for graduate school and my academic and administrative career.

The faculty additions are remarkable. The support of the vice presidents, the support from the donors and the endowment fortify the mission. I wish (outgoing Provost) Nathan Hatch well. He’s done an excellent job, as vice president of research and as provost. For that matter, the University’s rising academic profile is in no small part due to the contribution of female students, and they would have been a major asset when I matriculated in the ‘50s and ‘60s. They are so smart and so committed. You feel the energy there.

I have seen Notre Dame wade into the issue of the role of graduate education and research in a university that has such a strong commitment to undergraduate education. I think a lot of institutions departed dramatically from that commitment as they developed graduate education and research. I think Notre Dame has reached a good balance. I understand that the extraordinary faculty members who have come in—the new endowed chairs—are committed to undergraduate education. That level of commitment overwhelms me.

From seminary student to colleague, an enduring influence

By Rev. Thomas O’Hara, C.S.C., president King’s College

Father Edward Malloy, my fellow Holy Cross religious, has had a pronounced impact on my thoughts and actions as a college president.

My first encounter with Monk was in the classrooms. When I was a seminar at Moravian Seminary, Monk was my professor in a medical ethics seminar. What I discovered then was that he was a scholar—a scholar who was not afraid of open discussion of the toughest medical ethics issues of the day. I really looked forward to that seminar each week because I knew he would influe the class with his insights but would also let us get involved in vigorous discussions. He was and is a scholar willing to address the most critical issues of the day. As president of King’s, I have more semesters than not to be in the classroom.

I also was influenced by his deep sense of civil rights for racial minorities. Growing up in Washington, D.C., he seemed to have a special sensitivity to issues of African-Americans. At nearly 100-percent Caucasian Moravian Seminary, Monk made sure he made the few racial minorities in our midst feel welcomed and accepted.

Following his example and with encouragement, I left Notre Dame for a semester to teach at Notre Dame College in Racine and work with Mother Teresa’s sisters there. It was the first truly cross-cultural experience of my life.

When he became president I admired the fact that he still lived with students in Somm Hall. That has had a direct impact on my choice of residence as president. Though King’s College has a very nice residence for the president, I continue to live in a residence hall. When baffled alumni or parents ask me why, I often tell them of Father Malloy and say, “If Monk can do it at Notre Dame, I can do it at King’s.”

Finally, I feel great influence on my life as a fellow C.S.C. religious. Monk will never hesitate to give advice when asked and he seems to respond not only president to president but also Holy Cross religious to Holy Cross religious. He is a scholar, an advocate for social justice, a friend to students, a capable administrator, but mostly a faithful and dedicated fellow C.S.C. religious.
Following footsteps not always easy

By Thomas Chema

President, Hiram College

In the business world, it’s almost always easier to be the turnaround guy. To succeed following success usually doesn’t work out for CEOs or football coaches—but that’s what Father Monk Malloy, 18 years as president of the University of Notre Dame so special.

Father Malloy followed in the footsteps of a great man, Father Ted Hesburgh. In his own quiet and effective way, Father Malloy improved the University’s academics, smoothed the way for a changing student population, built buildings and found a way to pay for them. It’s unusual these days to find someone who can capitalize on the foundation they’ve given, continue it and deliver results.

I’m a relative newcomer to the world of higher education, but after two years as president of Hiram College, I now have even more respect for the job Father Malloy has done. Our small liberal arts college in Northeast Ohio has 800 undergrads, not the 8,000-plus at Notre Dame. Both institutions must keep a college’s multiple constituencies happy—that means students, parents, faculty, Board of Trustees, alumni and everyone else.

Pushing ahead with strategic plans, building programs and fundraising campaigns while making sure the students get a good education takes a strong, dedicated and focused leader.

It was a thrill for me to march onto the football field last fall with Father Malloy and 17 other college presidents who also graduated from Notre Dame. I love this school, and even since I was in the sixth grade, Notre Dame was the only place I wanted to go. It was the only college I applied to and when my folks dropped me off at Cavanaugh Hall in 1964 with one suitcase, I got it.

A longtime member of the community, Hatch’s move pulls up deep and strong roots. When he was a young man, Hatch’s predecessor as president shepherded the transition. Hatch will be the first president of Wake Forest who is not a North Carolina Baptist.

More than a dozen denominations have active campus ministries, which allow those who need to find a faith community that best fits them or who are looking for a more Americanized religion.

A former student of Hatch’s being Catholic, he was counting on him to discuss religious and ethical issues in the classroom.

The administrator who hired him, Fred Crosson, was not counting on Hatch’s being Catholic, he was counting on him to discuss religious and ethical issues in the classroom.

Hatch and his wife, Julie, remember when they were the only non-Catholic at a Notre Dame function. Yet finding his niche at a religious school gave him a freedom that he believes might not have been possible at a state or secular school.

As a Notre Dame administrator for 16 years, and provost for the last nine, Hatch has become the person who assured that other faculty found a similar freedom. That included periods when he was criticized for academic appointments and administrative decisions that were seen as too secular, and others that were seen as too Catholic.

At stake was the continuation of an education that one can act as a mediator: that can build a bridge between conflicting sources. “We’re in the strange period,” Hatch reflected, during one of his final weeks in his office on the third floor of Main Building. “The world is more secular and more religious at the same time. The high culture of the West is largely secular. But Islam is returning back to what’s called strong religion.”

Hatch believes a Catholic institution like Notre Dame has a better chance of playing the mediator’s role than many secular institutions, largely because those colleges and universities have distanced themselves from their religious foundations.

Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., where Hatch will become president July 1, has not undergone this separation. Hatch’s work as a historian of American religion and his administrative background at a religious school remain relevant and present a fitting match that will allow the Hatches to leave a Notre Dame they dearly love.

Although Wake Forest is a private, non-religious school, it has only recently separated from its roots as a North Carolina Baptist institution. Hatch’s predecessor as president shepherded the transition. Hatch will be the first president of Wake Forest who is not a North Carolina Baptist.

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A former student of Hatch’s being Catholic, he was counting on him to discuss religious and ethical issues in the classroom. And that’s what usually doesn’t work out for CEOs or football coaches.

Father Malloy certainly has done that, and much more difficult to build on success. For Notre Dame was the only place I wanted to go. It was the only college I applied to and when my folks dropped me off at Cavanaugh Hall in 1964 with one suitcase, I got it.

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Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., where Hatch will become president July 1, has not undergone this separation. Hatch’s work as a historian of American religion and his administrative background at a religious school remain relevant and present a fitting match that will allow the Hatches to leave a Notre Dame they dearly love.

Although Wake Forest is a private, non-religious school, it has only recently separated from its roots as a North Carolina Baptist institution. Hatch’s predecessor as president shepherded the transition. Hatch will be the first president of Wake Forest who is not a North Carolina Baptist.

More than a dozen denominations have active campus ministries, which allow those who need to find a faith community that best fits them or who are looking for a more Americanized religion.

A former student of Hatch’s being Catholic, he was counting on him to discuss religious and ethical issues in the classroom. And that’s what usually doesn’t work out for CEOs or football coaches.

Father Malloy certainly has done that, and much more difficult to build on success. For Notre Dame was the only place I wanted to go. It was the only college I applied to and when my folks dropped me off at Cavanaugh Hall in 1964 with one suitcase, I got it.
By Matt Storin

Last summer the Mendoza College of Business needed a picture of John Affleck-Graves, the University’s new executive vice president and a member of that college’s faculty. They asked him to pose on a bench in front of the Main Building. Uh oh! Wrong bench.

The bench where the picture was taken is where the legendary retired dean and professor, Emil T. Hoffman, holds forth almost every weekday, regardless of temperature, wind or snow. (Hofman does not do rain.)

Once he had seen the published photograph, the (former and first) Dean of First Year Studies did not let Affleck-Graves forget that he owed him something for the use of his perch. This bantering went on for months, until Affleck-Graves paid him back in full—and then some.

At 11:30 a.m. on May 17, an unannounced, high-powered delegation approached Emil at the bench, which is on the diagonal sidewalk southwest of the Main Building’s front steps. Among the group were Rev. Monki Malloy C.S.C., Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh C.S.C., Affleck-Graves, Dean of First Year Studies Eldon Kolman, Associate Provost Deanna Jacobs, former chemistry colleagues Jerry Fireman and Tony Trozzo, Rev. Joseph Walters C.S.C., and other friends.

But that was not the only surprise. The previous week, a slat from the bench had been unobtrusively removed so that a small commemorative plaque could be added. A weather-beaten substitute had been put in its place. While a speechless Hofman looked on and Father Ted delivered a blessing, University carpenter Jeff Hopacki worked with a power drill to affix the newly-enscribed slat.

The plaque reads:

Field Office of Our Relaxed Professor of Chemistry and Dean of First Year of Studies
Dr. Emil T. Hofman

Hofman silently shook his fist at Affleck-Graves as if in anger. But the expression on his face told another story.

But maybe he’d like to sit down

ND Works staff writer

We hope Prof. Hofman occasionally invites John Affleck-Graves to share his bench, because the executive vice president may finally have more time, if not the inclination, to sit. Affleck-Graves ran his 100th marathon June 4th, South Bend’s Sunburst may finally have more time, if not the inclination, to sit. Affleck-Graves to share his bench, because the executive vice president

The University congratulates the following employees, who celebrate significant employment anniversaries this month:

30 YEARS
Deborah Hayes, Security

25 YEARS
Beverly Baun, information technologies
John Knoth, accounting and financial services

20 YEARS
Thomas Barkes, performing arts center
Paulette Podlesak, information technologies

15 YEARS
Evelyn Addington, aerospace and mechanical engineering
John Harness, Rockne Memorial
Marcia Hall, information technologies
Lori Cmcc, University Libraries
Judy Zook, athletics

10 YEARS
Christine Cushman, Executive MBA
Raymond Dickson, information technologies
Mary Foley, National Institute for Trial Advocacy
Sheila Holmes, Hammes Bookstore
Timothy Legge, ND Media Group
The University welcomes the following new employees, who began working here in May:

Angela Potthoff, athletics
Jeffrey Jackson, human resources
Robert McQuade, information technologies
Madhuri Kalkarni, information technologies
Matthew Boersma, information technologies
Michele Deck, information technologies
Michael Daly, university architect
Victor Saavedra, university architect
Casey Major, Notre Dame Security/Police

WHAT THEY WERE DOING

Workers at Stanford Hall repair parapet and prepare to replace the roof. Nearby, another construction crew continues gutting the Student Health Center. Just a few yards to the north of the two buildings, a project to extend chilled water mains that support the campus air conditioning system has created a deep ditch that runs along Holy Cross Drive. Other on-campus summer roofing projects are being undertaken at Fitzpatrick Hall, Galvin Life Science Center, Lobund Laboratory, the Loftus Center, and the Morris Inn, where exterior repairs also are under way. Across from the Morris Inn, the front yard of McKenna Hall has been torn up so the tunnel running between the two buildings can be waterproofed. Renovations also are being made to the Decio Hall exterior walls, and on Deke Hall, the former Logan Center is being razed to make way for the straightening of Edison Road. ND Works staff photo.
Furniture design students find masterpiece in Robert Brandt

By Kara Kelly

Robert Brandt just sent Louisville’s Chapman Friedman Furniture a cabinet made from curly-maple wood, cut to show off tiger-stripe patterns in the grain. With its hand-painted panels—replicas of 1920s Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus posters—curved legs, candy-striped awnings and tent-foil tops, the professor pays homage to the Greatest Show on Earth.

“Each piece I do is something new,” Brandt says. “It is not a reproduction of anything that exists. Creativity is key. I am an artist and sculptor before I am a furniture designer.”

Brandt’s personal design studio is in the basement of Bond Hall, along with the woodworking that houses the School of Architecture’s furniture design concentration. Part of Brandt’s agreement when hired in 1992 by former architecture chairman Thomas Gordon Smith was to maintain a professional presence within the school. “It is important for students to see my work progress,” Brandt says. “Along with the students I take a pile of rough lumber to a finished project. In my studio I have got to set an example.”

Furniture design programs are typically part of university art departments, not schools of architecture. Notre Dame is the only university in the nation that exclusively offers its furniture design concentration out of an architecture program, demonstrating to students the relationship between furniture and architecture.

“Thinking three-dimensionally makes students better architects,” Brandt says. “You have to think three-dimensionally when drawing two-dimensionally. For some people it is a God-given talent, for others it is not. You need this as an architect.”

Student design projects use historical precedents, although all work must be of original design. Brandt promotes tried and true techniques such as creating stains by soaking pieces of steel wool or nails in vinegar. “I encourage and use the old processes until I am convinced something new is better,” he says. “I show students the past is relevant.”

The concentration, open only to undergraduates, attracted only a handful of male students in its first two years. Brandt invited female students to take his class and today women make up more than half the students in the program.

And graduates are using their skills in the workplace. Heather Reilly von Mering, ‘10, who now works for The Classic Group, Inc., a Boston-area architectural firm, says. “Residential clients are always asking to have a piece of furniture to match their millwork. I use the construction methods (Brandt) taught me in the design and development of built-in cabinetry and other custom pieces.”

Brandt’s work is on display at galleries not only in Louisville, but also in New Orleans, Connecticut and throughout the Midwest, a showcase for his talent since his days as an undergraduate at the University of Southern Indiana. Though he did not start working with wood until his senior year, he won top awards for his first projects from jurors at major craft exhibitions. It encouraged him to pursue a master’s in wood sculpture from Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

After experiments with deconstructionism and minimalism, these days Brandt’s work reflects the Biedermeier style (clean, simple lines often with whimsical styling seen in mid-19th century Germany) and other forms of the 1820s and ‘30s such as France’s Empire style, England’s Regency style, and this country’s Federal style. One of Brandt’s pieces can cost $7,000 in a gallery, though patrons such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York are willing to pay $10,000-plus for his commissioned pieces.

Robert Brandt, professor of furniture design in the School of Architecture, furnished a cabinet that features a replica of a 1920s baseball card. Photo by Susan Gill.

Brandt encourages shaping wood by hand. He explains, “Students need to use carving gouges, rasps, files. They need to feel the wood to understand.” To view student furniture design projects, log on to architecture.nd.edu/academic_programs/Furniture_design.shtml.

ON CREATIVITY

The role of negativity in the workplace, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, June 29. Learn how to be an “in control” manager in a work setting where negative emotions are affecting the environment. This course is an elective for the Integrating Change, Notre Dame Leadership and Supervisory Foundations Certificate. A $129 fee is charged. Lunch is included.

• Priorities and multi-tasking, 8 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, July 13, promises to reveal the organizational skills necessary to manage myriad of tasks. This is a core course for the Business Professional Skills Certificate. A $99 fee will be charged.

• Essentials of Diplomacy and Tact, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 20, will focus on the creative ways to relate well to all workers despite our hidden prejudices and stereotypes. This is a core requirement for the Conflict Resolution Certificate. A $129 fee will be charged.

• Behavior-based interviewing, 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, July 27 in 234 Grace Hall. This course will help those who need to conduct interviewing and who need a systematic way to rate a candidate’s skills and abilities. There is no charge.

Further details on these courses are available on the Human Resources Web site.
Campus weddings: highly sought after, highly orchestrated affairs

By Nancy Johnson

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a crowd to put on a Notre Dame wedding. University employees ranging from wedding coordinators and catering experts to security staff join forces to stage a flawless ceremony.

Anyone who dreams of marrying at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart has to check in first with Rose Wray, coordinator of weddings and baptisms for the University. Wray tells them about all the requirements, which include being a Notre Dame graduate, student, member of faculty or administrative staff, or member of Sacred Heart Parish. Those who meet those requirements mark their calendar for the first Monday in March, when Wray’s office takes phone reservations for the 100 wedding slots in the following calendar year.

On that day, brides and grooms across the nation wake up early to start dialing. With the phone ringing continually from 8 a.m., it's a demanding but fun day for Wray. "We’ve had some girls cry, they are so excited they got a date," she says.

June and July are the most sought-after months, but weddings take place at Notre Dame all year round, except during Lent, major holidays and big University events.

Weddings are scheduled at 9, 11, 1 and 3 on Saturdays and at 3 p.m. on some Fridays. Staying on time is crucial because the next wedding party is assembled and ready to go at the next time slot. "There is no wiggle room," says Helen Wellin, wedding coordinator for the morning weddings.

Couples meet with a wedding coordinator months before the event to decide on details such as music, and number of attendants. Then comes the rehearsal, when the coordinator and priest who will celebrate the wedding guide participants through the processional and seating arrangements. On the wedding day, Wellin arrives early to make sure the altar is prepared and to check on the flowers, programs, and attendants’ chairs. Then she makes sure the bride has arrived half an hour early and the groom and groomsmen are ready. When it’s time for the big moment, she cues the music for the attendants to start down the aisle.

Lorie Wroblewski, wedding coordinator for the afternoon ceremonies, enjoys helping to smooth over the glitches.

Over the years, she’s seen a few. One time, when the best man forgot the rings, Wroblewski borrowed some from a groomsman and the maid of honor. At another wedding, the ring bearer balked at walking alone, so the boy, the bride, and her dad (the boy’s grandpa) all walked down the aisle together. One bride’s train detached itself from the dress after she made a turn, so the bride’s mother walked up to fix it. Another bride’s mom was so nervous before the ceremony, she begged Wroblewski to tell her a joke. "I told her I recently went on a 30-day diet, and so far I’ve lost 16 days."

When the last photo is snapped, the happy couple often proceeds to a reception on campus.

Lisa Wenzel, assistant director of food services and head of Catering by Design, helps organize wedding brunches, receptions, and rehearsal dinners. Her staff enjoys meeting the challenge of today’s personalized events. One couple—a Notre Dame bride and a USC groom—requested a tailgate theme for their South Dining Hall reception. Another time, Wenzel’s staff transformed the hall into an autumn scene, complete with colorful piles of real leaves supplied by a decorator in California.

The banquet staff does everything it can to make the event worry-free for the family. “We help them decide about the toast, when to cut the cake, when to do the first dance,” says Mary Anne Pryce, banquet manager at the Morris Inn. “Sometimes they worry about when to do these things, but we help with the timing, so they can relax and enjoy it.”

For Notre Dame weddings, “it takes a lot of people to make it all happen,” says Wellin. “That’s why they turn out so beautifully.”

Beach offers tranquil, convenient setting

(Open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weather permitting)

By Cory Irwin

St. Joseph’s Beach is quietly secluded from the hub of Notre Dame, a thin strip of foliage-lined sand running along the east side St. Joseph’s Lake, overlooking swans and willows. A blue heron can be seen most evenings around sunset, resting on a buoy. Out of the woods rises a small white boathouse, and a plank pier stretches into the water a few yards farther ahead. A staff of friendly college-aged lifeguards, names written on a grease board for all to read, stands watch.

Its humble environs not withstanding, the beach will see 1,200 to 1,500 visitors during June and July, according to Dave Brown, assistant director for club sports who oversees the beach operation. The beach remains open through Labor Day weekend.

Clearly marked shallows and deep water areas are available for swimming. Sunbathers are free to stretch out along the sand, the pier, or an anchored raft in the midst of the lake. Several boating options are also present for those averse to getting wet. Kayaks, canoes, and paddleboats can be rented for $2 per hour, a fee which Brown believes has defied inflation and remained static since the 1970s. Summer sailing courses are available for a limited number of participants who register with RecSports on June 21.

Behind the beach’s popularity is an immense upkeep operation. Crews from the golf courses, facilities management and building services tackle everything from raking sand to cleaning restrooms. The risk management staff checks the water quality weekly. Located as it is near Notre Dame’s power plant, which discharges in warm water, the lake is warmer than most, but prone to algae.

A staff of three full-time certified lifeguards has received special rescue training appropriate for murky-type lake conditions, says Andrea Tundale, the University’s head life guard. The lake is within running distance from the fire and police departments, which are connected to the lake by an emergency phone. “Safety is a big concern,” stresses Brown, who says the guards’ “sense of ownership and pride” adds to the facility’s family-friendly environment.

As the tranquility of a Notre Dame summer settles, St. Joseph’s Lake offers a pleasant respite for the monstrous dunes of the Michigan shoreline. Best of all, admission is free to faculty, staff, and students.