



IN THE WORKS



Smoke got in his eyes ...page 2



He learned—here from the masters ...page 3



The power of performance ...pages 4-5



Lost class rings find their way home

By Carol C. Bradley

Associate Registrar Lora Spaulding is the keeper of the rings—lost Notre Dame class rings. Typically, they arrive at her desk through the mail, or she learns about them through a phone call. There's almost always a story involved.

One letter reads, "Dear Sir or Madam: Enclosed is a male's ring from your University. This ring was found at a public pool in Decatur, Ill.... perhaps you can track down this alum and return it. Its return will be appreciated, I'm sure."

"People find them in the oddest places," Spaulding says.

One ring was found on a beach on the California coast. "The girl had been swimming in the Pacific Ocean, and lost it. Years later, it washed up on the beach." Another was found in a riverbed in Maryland, lost when the owner fell in during a whitewater-rafting trip.

In one particularly unlikely case, a ring was found in 2003 on a decommissioned Air Force base in Moses Lake, Wash., by someone wandering around with a metal detector.

"My charge was to find the owner, but the initials were hard to read, DLB or DSB," Spaulding remembers. She still managed to connect with the right person, who confirmed that he'd lost the ring when stationed at the base in 1962.

In a few cases, she's been contacted by the police.

"A 1966 National Championship ring was found in a pawn shop in Indianapolis," she remembers. "It had been stolen from (the owner's) house and pawned." The thief was arrested, and the ring returned. "He'd moved, and things turned up missing. He didn't know it was gone until I called him."

Ring owners are always amazed that their rings have been found. One thank-you letter noted, "*I lost the ring 32 years ago on a trip to Montreal, having only had the chance to wear it a couple of years.*" Now, the grateful owner said, he could eventually hand it on to his grandchildren.

Class rings usually have initials and a graduation year engraved inside. That gives Spaulding some information to work with. A conference room in the Main Building houses the "black books" dating back to 1890. The bound volumes contain each year's bulletin of information, student listings, graduation programs, and (for later years) phone books. More recent student records are on microfilm.

"I go here first," she says. "I check the listings by year, then match initials. But there may be more than one match. That becomes my subject list." Then she starts making phone calls.

If you think she sounds like a detective, you're right. Prior to joining the Registrar's Office 20 years ago, Spaulding was a St. Joseph County police officer.



"I was guarding the (Notre Dame) team during a football game, and thought this would be a good place to work." She'd been in charge of the department records division, so the registrar's position seemed like a logical choice. "No one goes to school to become a registrar," Spaulding says.

In addition to her duties handling the registration process and academic certification for student athletes, Spaulding has managed over the years to reconnect nearly 50 people with their class rings. She's also tracked down owners of a few Notre Dame High School (Chicago) rings that found their way to her by mistake.

The owners she can't track down are the ones that bother her, and right now there are about eight of those. A few rings may never be returned, such as one with the initials buffed out. A couple from Poplar Bluffs, Mo., found it at the Indiana Dunes.

"I have one really curious one," Spaulding says. "I've had the ring about two months. It's a woman's



Associate Registrar Lora Spaulding, above, tracks down the owners of lost Notre Dame class rings such as one, left, belonging to Jake Wolf, class of 1939, found recently in Highland Park, III. Spaulding has been unable to locate his current address. *Photos by Carol C. Bradley.*

ring from 1969, before women were admitted. But there were women who came in the summer and got graduate degrees." In that case, the initials may be of a religious name rather than a given name, or of a given name that isn't in the database.

In the case of FJL '59, the only person with those initials says he never owned a class ring. A ring engraved "Jake Wolf '39" was found recently in Highland Park, Ill. In that case, no current address is available.

One of Spaulding's more memorable successes involves a Notre Dame ring a father had handed down to his son. The son added his initials to the band.

"I had to do a double match," Spaulding says. "I tried to find his address, but he was a flight surgeon in the military." She was able to get in touch with his mother, who cried when she heard the ring was found. He hadn't told his parents it was lost—he'd left it in the men's room at the Atlanta airport.

ND joins world education movement

A group of graduate students hired for the project will transform them into electronic format. Faculty members review the finished product.

Terri Bays, most ently a member of the international studies staff, has joined the OpenCourseWare project as director. It falls upon her to identify appropriate courses and to work with faculty as they submit their materials. With assistance from reference librarian Linda Sharp, she'll oversee clearance issues such as the intellectual property rights issues that may arise over the images and other materials professors sometimes employ. The Kaneb Center plans to take advantage of advancing technology, including such innovations as video streaming of lectures or podcasts. Class discussion questions will be posted online, so learners can interact with others through instant messaging or a blog-like medium called open learning support. The courses will then take on a life of their own, and become part of a world community—a phenomenon Bays calls "social computing."

The end result, Bays says, will be availability of knowledge to everyone, regardless of age, material circumstances, or geographic location.

OpenCourseWare differs from distance learning, which educates via the Web but requires registration and fees, includes interaction with faculty, and often leads to a degree or a certificate.

A seasoned veteran and a seasoned publication ...page 7



Maddie and Claire's excellent adventure ...page 8



By Carol C. Bradley

Notre Dame's mission is mission itself, says Alex Hahn, professor of mathematics and director of the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning. The center's new OpenCourseWare initiative is in keeping with that commitment to service.

The project, funded by a \$233,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, will make materials for 30 Notre Dame courses available on the Web, free of charge, to users anywhere in the world.

Making its first foray into the OpenCourseWare movement, Notre Dame will focus specifically on courses that relate to the human condition—courses in theology, philosophy and peace studies, for example.

The OpenCourseWare project was the brainchild of MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and it's an idea astonishing in scope. What if colleges and universities openly shared their course materials with everyone, everywhere? The result would be a worldwide web of knowledge, serving the greater benefit of humanity.

"It's an international movement," Hahn says.

In addition to MIT, the movement includes the University of Michigan, Utah State (which houses the servers and software for the project), Johns Hopkins, Tufts, and some of the elite universities in Japan and China. Other participating countries will offer mirror sites that translate Notre Dame materials into local languages.

Faculty members will participate by giving the center such course materials as syllabi, lecture notes, reading lists, problems and solutions, and exams.

Are Notre Dame faculty members concerned about, in effect,

Continued on page 2



Terri Bays oversees the OpenCourseWare project, a new assignment for her. *Photo by Carol C. Bradley.*

Reviewing the impact of the proposed smoking ordinance

By Carol C. Bradley

Although Notre Dame's prohibition on smoking in campus buildings has been in place since 1992, a new St. Joseph County ordinance would nonetheless have some impact, says Bob Zerr, director of risk management and safety.

The ordinance was passed on January 17 by the St. Joseph County Council, but later vetoed by county commissioners. As this issue went to press, the council was voting on whether to override the veto.

"The Environmental Issues Committee is following it closely. If it does pass, we will implement changes to University policy to follow the ordinance," Zerr says.

Notre Dame's smoking policy is more restrictive than the county ordinance, Zerr points out. On campus, smoking is prohibited in enclosed areas, with very few exceptions. That includes the bar areas of Legends and the Morris Inn, where smoking would otherwise be permitted under the ordinance.

The measure also permits hotels and motels to designate up to 25 percent of rooms as smoking; the Morris Inn only has three dedicated smoking rooms. While the law does not regulate smoking in private motor vehicles, no smoking is allowed in any University vehicle.

Notre Dame can choose to be more restrictive than the ordinance, but not less so, Zerr says. Under the new ordinance smoking would be prohibited in the football stadium altogether. Currently smoking

is permitted in the upper and lower outer concourses. The real concern, Zerr says, is enforcement of the policy in the stadium. If the ordinance becomes law, security would make recommendations for enforcement, which the Environmental Issues Committee would then adopt.

Channels already exist for handling complaints regarding smoking in campus buildings or offices. If a complaint is received regarding a faculty or staff member smoking, Zerr says, "It goes to the department first, then to risk management and safety. If compliance is still not achieved, the complaint goes to the provost or executive vice president." Letters have been sent, he says, "But it's never gone beyond that. I'm really pleased with how well everybody has complied with the policy."

Zerr suspects that some smoking still goes on in offices, but absent a complaint, the policy is difficult to enforce. These days, he says, most complaints involve smokers congregating around doorways, or smoke drifting into open office windows. Although smoking is permitted outside, "We can move people away from air intakes, or from certain locations close to buildings, so secondhand smoke doesn't enter the building," he says.

Zerr would prefer to handle complaints internally, but under the proposed ordinance, an employee could file a complaint directly with the St. Joseph County Health Department, which would be obliged to investigate. The ordinance also provides for a \$50 fine for individuals guilty of smoking infractions, subject to appeal. "Fines are certainly not in our policy," Zerr says.

One other potential issue with the ordinance is that,

Want to quit?

The Work Life unit of the Office of Human Resources offers Life Sign Smoking Cessation Monitors that can help smokers gain control over their smoking habit. The monitor records a user's tobacco use, then creates a withdrawal program that proceeds at a gradual, easy pace.

The program typically takes two to five weeks. For information, contact Jessica Brookshire, manager of Work Life, at 631-5829. The Work Life Web page also includes a link to a list of smoke-free restaurants in the area: http://www.healthecommunities.org/restaurants.asp.

while smoking is prohibited around the entrances to smokefree buildings, no specific distance is specified. A specific number would make the law easier to implement, he says.

Overall, though, Zerr supports the ordinance. "Any measure that reduces exposure to secondhand smoke is positive. Making it more difficult for smokers may eventually have a deterrent effect," he says. Over time, Zerr predicts, smoking policies will only become more restrictive.

In the old days, faculty meetings were thick with smoke

By Carol C. Bradley

We're so used to a nonsmoking environment on campus that it's hard to remember a time when things were different. But back in the old days, says Jack Duman, Gillen Professor of Biological Sciences, "At the end of our two-hour hour faculty meetings, you could hardly see across the room because of the smoke from cigars, pipes, and cigarettes. We didn't think anything of it. But people were becoming aware that they didn't have to put up with secondhand smoke, burning eyes and smelly clothes, to say nothing of the real health risks."

residents over time. Today, smoking is not allowed in any enclosed space on campus.



Robinson Center celebrates fifth anniversary

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

A reception and awards ceremony Friday, Feb. 24 will observe the fifth anniversary of the Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC), the community-driven education center sponsored by Notre Dame.

An open house will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the center, 921 N. Eddy St., South Bend. The RCLC staff will honor community volunteers and Notre Dame faculty, staff, and students whose efforts support the center's programs.

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, and South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke will be among guests. A performance is planned by the I Believe I Can steel drum ensemble and light refreshments will be served.

Opened in 2001, the RCLC was organized to involve the University and local residents in supporting the nearby Northeast neighborhood. Initial programming included health education and screenings, GED and English-as-a-Second-Language classes, children's activities, youth tutoring, and after-school programs. The center also has featured a Computer Teaching and Learning Center that provides residents with instruction and free Internet and e-mail access.

Today, some 500 residents and volunteers participate each week in on-site programming. As many as 250 students, faculty and staff volunteer with center programs. Some 35 distinct University departments and residence halls are involved in RCLC partnerships, says Jay Caponigro, RCLC director.

Although conceived as a neighborhood resource, RCLC programming soon began to reach throughout the city. "The shift has come from being really focused in the Northeast neighborhood to an understanding that we can play a role with the larger community," says Caponigro, who has been director since RCLC opened its doors. "The population we work with is mobile. Having partners throughout the city helps us provide additional resources to participating youth and their families."

RCLC partnerships prove solid and tend to experience rapid growth. The Take Ten program addresses school violence by teaching children how to work out their differences. Take Ten launched five years ago in two South Bend schools with five volunteers. It now is offered at 17 sites including schools, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and the RCLC, supported by 110 volunteers.

The Youth Justice Project matches volunteers with young people who have committed criminal offenses as a means of diverting them from the juvenile justice system toward a fulfilling educational and career path. Started two years ago, the program has grown from an initial 40 cases to some 140. The RCLC staff also has been instrumental in supporting the community-wide anti-violence program CeaseFire.

Robinson programming also includes a financial literacy program taught at the center and at Washington High School in conjunction with the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

The center provides traditional literacy training through Reading Corps, which trains and supports nearly 150 tutors at four sites. Caponigro says last year's assessments demonstrated that children in the program are showing greater growth in their language arts skills than students who do not have tutoring, and greater gains than are typical of grade school children in general.

In the fall of 1990, when Duman was associate dean of the College of Science, he was asked to chair a task force considering a smoking policy for Notre Dame. The committee met with people from all over campus, including faculty, administrators, staff, dorm rectors, graduate and undergraduate students.

"We met for a long time," Duman recalls. "Within the committee, most thought a ban should be initiated, but others did not." But by the end of the task force's lifespan, the consensus was tending toward eliminating smoking on campus.

One problem that had to be considered was how a smoking ban would be enforced, in public areas such as the Joyce Center and the stadium, and in private offices and dorm rooms.

In fact, Duman says, some people argued at the time that students might not apply to Notre Dame if smoking was banned. Other options were considered and rejected, such as separate smoking rooms for staff.

"The only way to do that is to have a place that has absolutely separate air handling. From a cost standpoint, that wasn't going to happen."

Restrictions prohibiting smoking in campus work spaces were instituted by the Environmental Issues Committee in 1992. Smoking in dorm rooms, graduate residence halls and other private living spaces was voted out by Jack Duman served as chairman of the 1990 task force that eliminated smoking in campus workplaces. *Photo by Carol C. Bradley*

Continued from page 1 Kaneb Center

giving away their course materials?

"Many of us write textbooks," Hahn points out. "We don't do it to get rich, but to get our message out." OpenCourseWare offers a way to get the message out on a worldwide scale.

In general, faculty members are responding positively and have been very generous with their ideas, says Bays. "One or two were skeptical. They were concerned about the time commitment. But it helps them realize the potential of their courses on a much larger level. We've all been inspired by a magnificent teacher. The thought of reaching that many more people, and potentially inspiring them, is very appealing."



ND Works is published for the faculty and staff of the University of Notre Dame. It is produced by the Office of Public Affairs and Communication in conjunction with the offices of Human Resources and Business Operations and the Provost's Office. ND Works is produced semimonthly during the fall and spring semesters when classes are in session and once during summer session. Spring semester publication dates: Jan. 19; Feb. 2; Feb. 16; March 2, March 23; April 6, April 20; May 8, May 25; June 14.

EDITOR IN CHIEF Gail Hinchion Mancini ASSOCIATE EDITOR Carol C. Bradley LAYOUT EDITOR Wai Mun Llew-Spilger

Comments should be forwarded to:

ndworks@nd.edu or to NDWorks, 538 Grace Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

Page 2

PROFILE

Passing on enduring lessons of leadership

By Mary Hamann

Back when he was an undergraduate in the late 1960s, Leo Burke and his buddies would sometimes make a late-night excursion up to University President Rev. Theodore Hesburgh's office in the Main Building. As Burke recalls, "We would talk a few minutes with Father Ted and then he would say something like, 'I've got to go now because I'm translating this document for the pope' or, 'A report is due tomorrow for the Atomic Energy Commission."" To Burke, Father Hesburgh communicated an extraordinary breadth of vision.

During his senior year, Burke managed operations on the sidelines as head football manager for Coach Ara Parseghian, noticing how much harder Parseghian drove himself and his coaches than he did his players. To Burke, Coach Parseghian was the kind of leader who was charismatic and fair, who could empower people to move well beyond their self-imposed limitations.

Exposure to strong leaders inspired Burke back then and fueled a passion for discovering and teaching the principles of executive leadership that continues today. In 2001, Burke left a lucrative corporate position as the director of strategy at Motorola University, which was then one of the world's most extensive corporate education enterprises. He returned to Notre Dame to lead the Executive Education programs of the Mendoza College of Business.

Since joining Notre Dame, Burke has espoused a high-growth vision for Executive Education that his team has embraced. The program has more than doubled its revenues, bringing in needed funds to support College initiatives and Mendoza faculty research activities. Program highlights include:

• In January 2002, Notre Dame launched an Executive MBA program in downtown Chicago. More than 120 students are enrolled in the program this year, and it has already grown to the third largest Executive MBA program

Academic freedom discussion draws interest to the Web

ND Works staff writer

A new president's Web site launched late last month that hosts the content of Rev. John I. Jenkins' addresses on academic freedom instantaneously became one of the University's most highly visited Web sites.

"The level of traffic was unlike any we've seen for a new Web site launch," says Matthew Klawitter, director of ND Web in the Windy City, behind Northwestern and the University of Chicago.

• The South Bend Executive MBA program has continued to grow. The program rose to 20th in BusinessWeek magazine's biennial survey of 241 programs worldwide. The current class includes students who commute to South Bend monthly from Colorado, Kansas, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Switzerland.

• A new signature program—Executive Integral Leadership-has drawn 575 business executives and EMBA students to campus for one-week sessions on principled resolution of complex strategic issues. Custom, international and executive certificate programs round out the many Executive Education offerings.

Reflecting on the success of the program, Burke points to the hard work of Mendoza faculty across all disciplines. He also credits his staff for showing creativity and initiative and building a positive team culture. Burke says, "What is critical is to try to create a spirit of collaboration and trust so that people have the oxygen to flourish, if you know what I mean. So when we run into issues, like budget issues, they're everybody's issues and not just one person's. One person may have the problem but we problem-solve together on how to resolve it.

"At Motorola, I was very fortunate to be a part of many successful teams. But this is the best team with which I have been associated," adds Burke.

Burke remembers anti-war protests on campus when he was a Notre Dame student in the late 1960s and reflects on how much he was influenced by the tremendous winds of political and cultural change that swept across America. Burke also views today's business environment as one of great change and points out that as corporations become more intricate, with international networks and affiliates, their ethical obligations are more complicated and



Leo Burke's path to lead the Executive Education program took shape when he was a Notre Dame undergraduate. Photo provided Mendoza College of Business.

involve many more people.

"Part of our vision at Exec Ed is to be the voice of Notre Dame to the world of business," says Burke. "Having an executive education platform gives us a forum for communicating the values that Notre Dame holds dear to businesspeople who are looking for, searching for, better and new ways of engaging in the world of commerce in a time that is just getting more and more complex."

Strong study abroad program getting stronger

By Shannon Chapla and Gail Hinchion Mancini

Applications for 2006-2007 academic-year undergraduate international study indicates that Notre Dame's reputation will remain strong as one of the nation's research universities most dedicated to fostering study abroad experiences.

More encouraging than total numbers, the demand for three programs that encourage a bilingual experience-yearlong and semester programs in which students are likely to return proficient in the native language of their host country-also is up.

Julie Douthwaite, assistant provost in charge of international studies, is seeing increased demand for Notre Dame's programs in Nagoya, Japan; Innsbruck, Austria and Angers, France. Demand for study abroad experience remains strong in other programs, she says.

Studies and the Office of International Studies is providing summer language grants for summer study

Last week, the University learned that it has the fifth-highest percentage of students participating in study abroad programs among American research universities, up from sixth last year. The finding was part of a report from the Institute of International Education (IIE).

In 2003-2004, the most recent academic year for which statistics are available, 53.6 percent of Notre Dame students participated in study abroad programs. The University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., ranked first in the report with a 61.6 percent participation rate.

Group, whose team created the site.

President.nd.edu received more than 16,500 visits in its early days, according to a statistical tracking program used by Web Group. Visitors to the site clicked quickly to the academic freedom content link offered on the president's homepage. In all, the pages received almost 50,000 visits from this early traffic.

The site allows visitors to read the text of the address and to view a streamed-video of his talk to either the faculty or the students. Many visited the video site, but only briefly; visits to the text site represented the most popular way to experience the event, with almost 9,000 visiting that page.

The site also allows alumni, faculty, staff and students to submit a feedback form. More than 1,000 forms were submitted from this site; about 4,000 visited the pages with the feedback option.

The pages continue to receive visits, but traffic analysis software indicates that the greatest and most intense interest occurred in the week immediately following the speeches.

The increased interested in Nagoya and Angers is unexplained, but probably due to dynamic faculty who nurture natural student interest.

But the increase in Innsbruck most likely is due to a shift of focus in that program that has adapted it to the changing face of Europe's geopolitics, Douthwaite says. The shift began with a change in the program's name, from the Innsbruck program to the Central European Studies Program in Innsbruck.

"Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Soviet regime, there's this great curiosity and desire to learn about countries in the former Soviet bloc," she says.

The Innsbruck program, which remains a German-language program, had been building ties to several of these countries. In recent years, the program had included a component in which students and the director travel to one of the new member-states of the European Union, to meet other university faculty, students and cultural luminaries. Trips are organized to such countries as Russia, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia and the Baltic States.

In May, for example, students in the program will travel to Zagreb, Croatia, to the University of Zagreb. A reception at the Austrian Embassy and lectures at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, are included.

"Because of the great location of Innsbruck in the center of Europe, the program is poised to be our open door to central and Eastern Europe.'

Study abroad is likely to increase as well with a new effort to enroll students in summer foreign language programs. A collaborative venture including the Colleges of Arts and Letters and Business, the Nanovic Institute for European

Notre Dame offers international study programs in 19 nations worldwide: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Spain and Uganda.

The IIE's report, titled "Open Doors 2005," showed an overall 9.6 percent increase in students participating in international study programs from the previous year.

As it has been for many years, Europe is the most popular destination for American college students. The leading destination for Notre Dame students is London, with some 130 participating each semester at the University's facility next to Trafalgar Square.

THE POWER OF

Theater and controversy have walked hand-in-hand for centuries. The upcoming production of one of Shakespeare's most controversial plays will illustrate the ability of performance to illuminate uncomfortable

discussions.

ArtsFest to focus on anti-Semitism

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

Peter Holland has a poignant recollection about a student/faculty discussion that took place last year, not for what was said, but for what was ignored.

The discussion centered on the release of Mel Gibson's controversial "The Passion of the Christ," a film that provoked emotional reaction among many groups for the way it touched on deeply-held religious beliefs.

"Michael Signer argued strongly that the film was anti-Semitic," recalls Holland, chair of Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT), about the contributions of Signer, a theology professor, rabbi, and expert on Christian-Jewish relationships.

"What was striking is that none of the massive audience seemed to care," Holland recalls.

During the week of February 20, FTT, the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts, and other groups will join forces to explore the persistence and effects of anti-Semitism in our culture. Titled "Shylock: A Heritage of Hate," the Spring ArtsFest event will blend performances of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," a one-man show called "Shylock," and several films with academic panel discussions.

Holland says he and John Haynes, director of the performing arts center, "wanted to make people aware of what has become a central issue in the thinking of 'The Merchant of Venice' and a crucial issue in our culture: anti-Semitism."

"At a time when people get horribly confused about whether being anti-Israel is anti-Semitic, we need to think about what it means to treat Jews differently," says Holland, who is himself Jewish. "We're very sensitive about how we treat racial minorities; sometimes we're not sensitive about how we treat Jews." Actors From The London Stage will present "Merchant of Venice," which has historically been used either as a propaganda tool—under Nazi Germany it was widely performed to convince people how evil Jews were—or as an "issues play," Holland says, "which has become a humanitarian plea for tolerance."

Shylock is the famed Jew of Venice. An accompanying theater piece, "Shylock," a one-man play written and performed by Gareth Armstrong of the Royal Shakespeare Company, will examine anti-Semitism throughout the ages. Armstrong also will join the academic discussions.

The films selected illustrate the subtle nature of anti-Semitism. They include Joseph Vilsmaier's "The Harmonists," Hugh Hudson's "Chariots of Fire," Marc Levin's "Protocols of Zion," Elia Kazan's "Gentleman's Agreement," Aviva Kempner's "The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg," Woody Allen's "Annie Hall," and Barry Levinson's "Liberty Heights." (A complete list of performance times and ticket information is available on the Web at **http://performingarts.nd.edu** or by calling 631-2800.)

The Holocaust will not be a focus. But panelists will infuse the discussion with an exploration of the recently raised issue of academic freedom. The Nanovic Institute for European Studies is sponsoring a faculty forum on the subject, called "Engaging the 'Merchant of Venice': Academic Freedom and Anti-Semitism." It will take place at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the Philbin Theatre. Nanovic director James McAdams describes the focus as "in the spirit of carrying on the discussion about academic freedom that (University President) Father Jenkins is trying to promote on campus.



Gareth Armstrong of the Royal Shakespeare Company portrays the character Shylock of Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," examining anti-Semitism in Shakespeare's day and in more recent times. *Photo provided.*

That Notre Dame is a Catholic institution in no way makes the faculty, staff and students less susceptible to insensitivity or to anti-Semitism. Yet this discussion is essential to Catholicism, Signer adds. "John Paul II said it's not enough to stop anti-Semitism, Christians should come to know the living Jewish community. That's hard to do on a campus like this."

"Catholics and Christians need to see how a play like 'Merchant of Venice'—undiscussed, uninvestigated contributed to their looking down on Jews, not being inhibited in acting violently toward Jews. The history of Jewish-Christian relations is not the history of Christians acting like the good Samaritans."

The contrast between the artistic renderings of Catholics and Jews is itself striking, Signer notes. "People who never met a Jew know what a Shylock is. Look at Catholics in film: 'The Bells of Saint Mary's' or 'The Exorcist.' You're either saints, or you're driving out the devil." "The panel will explore how to take great, but potentially offensive, literature and present it at a University. What are the appropriate settings and conditions in which we can expose faculty and students to potentially explosive material, and foster discussion? And how do we deal with the fine line between what is appropriate and what is not? These kinds of decisions and discussions set the tone for the kind of academic culture we wish to promote at Notre Dame."



Peter Holland, left, and Rabbi Michael Signer see value in the production of "Merchant of Venice" when it is accompanied by discussion about anti-Semitic themes. Holland is chair of Film, Television, and Theatre. Signer is professor of theology. *Photos provided.*

Page 4

ND W

PERFORMANCE



Actors From The London Stage, whose U.S. headquarters is at Notre Dame, will perform "Merchant of Venice" as part of ArtsFest. Photo provided.

Cozy Philbin theater magnifique for French productions

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

What a difference a couple of centuries make in taking the sting out of a theatrical work. Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" is now socially relevant. And something by Molière...well, Paul McDowell will tell you it's just a fun time in the Philbin.

"Molière made fun of tight-fisted people, of hypochondriacs, religious hypocrites, social climbers," says McDowell, an associate professional specialist who teaches French. "He made a very good social satirist. His real gift was for identifying the things that make society tick."

And, he was reviled. "He was burned in effigy on the steps of Notre Dame Cathedral," notes McDowell.

McDowell has just retired a wig and lace-adorned waistcoat, the 17thcentury style costumes he wore as a member of the cast of "L'École des Femmes." Performed earlier this month, the play was the 12th time McDowell has directed undergraduates in the French-language production of a classic piece of theater. Molière has been a regular on McDowell's roster.

To his continued amazement, these thespians always perform to sold-out crowds. And while he sees many French students in the audience, "a lot of people come who don't know a word of French."

McDowell's run as producer began when he arrived 14 years ago. He was specifically recruited because of his own background in theater and drama, by Jo Ann Della Neva, associate professor of romance languages and literatures,

and charged with staging a performance.

More than 110 undergraduates have accepted the challenge of participating in the annual production, which earns them but a single hour of credit. Most have attended Notre Dame's year-long Angers, France international studies program. Some are acting for the first time. "It's a great way to restore friendship. They seem to take the challenge just for

The success of the class, and the sold-out audiences, point to the importance of this experiment. "It always drove me nuts as a student to read theater. Theater has to be performed. The students get that," he says.

the love of being together."

The productions have migrated across three venues over the years. The first was in the LaFortune Center ballroom; dress rehearsals had to take place in science labs. For several years, performances took place in the theater lab of Washington Hall. When the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts opened, the play transferred to the Regis Philbin Studio Theatre, also known as the Black Box. It seats up to 100 people and has state-of-the-art lighting, but instead of a stage, performers are level with the audience.

Shakespeare, hopes to see the role of the program expanded. Photo by Matt Cashore.

'Compassionate' Shakespeare heads for more central role through Summer Shakespeare

By Susan Guibert

Jay Skelton's "aha moment" struck in his mid-twenties while he was working in marketing and publicity for Boston's Huntington Theatre Company:

"I would go to rehearsals and watch the actors and listen to the directors so I could get more information about the play in order to sell it better," says Skelton, Notre Dame's new artistic director of Summer Shakespeare and assistant professor of acting and directing in the Department of Film, Television and Theatre.

"At one rehearsal I was about five feet away from a woman playing the servant Paulina in 'A Winter's Tale,' by William Shakespeare, and she was taking the king, Leontes, to task for unjustly banishing his wife. I remember that as a very transformative moment in my life-nothing else existed for me at that moment except the ferocity with which she was screaming at the king. I distinctly remember the feeling of 'I want to be a part of

> creating that, I don't want to just sell it.""

Fast-forward 15 years: Currently, Skelton is so much a part of "it" at Notre Dame that he not only is directing, but he's also teaching, managing and yes, "creating that" in his new role.

After earning an MFA degree in directing in 1993 from DePaul University, Skelton worked as a freelance director, and has written, directed or produced more than 80 shows in the Boston and Chicago areas. He also has worked in administrative roles for Blue Man Group, the Goodman Theatre and Jane Alderman Casting.

Skelton brings this package of skills as well as enthusiasm for theatre in general and Shakespeare in particular to his position, mindful of potential growing pains that many successful programs experience.

"Summer Shakespeare is an organization that has grown really fast in a short amount of time. I

Jay Skelton, new at the helm of Summer



Paul McDowell, center, takes a role in "L'École des Femmes." In the 12 years he has staged French language productions, he often has taken a role to round out the number of male cast members. *Photo by Patrick Ryan.*

"The intimacy of the Black Box cannot be replaced. Even though it sells out every night and people get turned away, I do not want to leave that space."

think my job is to thicken the roots of the organization over the next couple of years in order to more fully support its growth...strengthen our ties with the community, within the University, collaborate with community and arts organizations, and make Summer Shakespeare not just a special event that takes place every summer, but an important part of the University that continues its mission year-round.'

Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame is comprised of three distinct production experiences: The Young Company, formed by Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students who perform their shows at varied venues in the community; Shakescenes, 15-minute scenes performed outdoors by area school children and community acting groups; and the main stage production, the professional production of one of Shakespeare's plays.

"I believe the attention we've lavished in the past on the main stage production can be shared with the other two aspects of the program so our audiences can understand and appreciate Shakespeare in whatever form they wish to choose-hopefully all of them," Skelton says.

Notre Dame is a fitting American home for excellence in Shakespeare studies, Skelton believes, observing that "The Catholic faith is based, in part, on compassion toward your fellow man, and I find Shakespeare to be the most compassionate playwright in the world. He is unmatched in exploring the full measure of humanity and it takes a very compassionate artist to do that."

/orks

SHORT TAKES

Franken helps document yearbook's centennial

By Meghan Winger

In the basement of South Dining Hall in a tiny room full of old yearbooks and issues of the Scholastic and Juggler, you'll find Bob Franken, print media coordinator.

Franken's role is to support the students who produce the Scholastic, the Juggler and the Dome, the Notre Dame yearbook. He helps student editors deal with their staffs, helps students manage advertising issues, provides written critiques of each publication's issues, and takes care of all the administrative tasks. "I like to take care of all the little things so the students can focus on the writing," says Franken, who officially is a staff member in the Office of Student Affairs. "The best part of my day is when I get to interact with the students, especially when I get to give advice on the ethical ways of covering stories or anything else related to journalism."

Franken freely admits that the success of the publications is all due to the hard work of students. But it's nice to have the long view of a 40-year communications veteran to appreciate these publications, particularly at the time of a significant anniversary. Franken, a 1969 Notre Dame graduate, began his career in journalism in the fifth grade when he started his grade school's newspaper. He started a community newspaper at 12, acted as editor of his high school newspaper and, as a Notre Dame undergraduate, was news director of the student radio station, WSND. He graduated with a degree in communication arts.

After college, Franken served as a public relations officer in the Air Force for three years, worked in radio news in Wisconsin, and worked for the Colorado Springs Sun for 11 years before moving to Phoenix. In Arizona, he served as an assistant managing editor at the Arizona Republic before taking ownership of a printing company. During his professional media career, his involvement in alumni clubs led to his election as president of the Alumni Association in 1997-98.

No reading between the lines is necessary to conclude that Franken is a passionate Domer. But he's particularly passionate about exploring the University's history through its past publications. Two summers ago, he sifted through reams of Notre Dame history to produce the timeline that decorates the wall of Legends.

Now, he has the privilege of shepherding the Dome through its hundredth year.

This yearbook will include a special 24-page souvenir section looking back on the history of the yearbook. The section will include stories and photos about the first yearbook, notable alumni, sports as reported through the years, campus construction, changes in social life, and year-byyear highlights. It also will feature reflections by former Dome editors and reproductions of historic covers. The volume will be distributed to students for free and available for sale in the LaFortune Student Center for \$29 at the end of April.

Franken credits the administration for its support. The organization received extra funding for the additional souvenir section and Father Hesburgh is scheduled to speak at its annual banquet, also in late April.

Over the past decade, there has been less and less student appreciation for yearbooks on college campuses around the country. Franken, however, does not believe that this is the case at Notre Dame. "We have been producing 7,300 copies of Dome each year since I have been here and they have been in high demand. Additionally, over 90 percent of our seniors have photos taken in the yearbook compared to 50 percent at the University of Southern California. Notre Dame students realize the importance of a yearbook and I think this reflects our sense of community and the students' feelings towards this University," he says.

Franken believes that the

centennial edition of the yearbook shows how important it is to continue to document every year at Notre Dame in a form that we can hold onto. "One hundred years from now, people will be able to open up the centennial Dome yearbook and know what it was like to be a student at the University of Notre Dame in 2006," Franken notes.



Bob Franken, whose responsibilities include supporting the yearbook, is on board for the Dome's 100th anniversary celebration. *Photo by Anya Hershberger.*

WHAT THEY WERE DOING



DISTINCTIONS ____

The University congratulates the following employees, who are celebrating employment anniversaries in February.

Celebrating 20-year anniversaries are:

Debbie Bernhard and Dorothy Snyder, University Libraries

Phillip Corporon, Mendoza College of Business

Daniel Crimmins, food services

Kevin Dobecki, information technology

Connie Montana, National Institute of Trial Advocacy

Kathleen Rand, Educational Talent Search

E. Martin Schalm, engineering graphics

Patti Strauch, mathematics

Leona Strickland, electrical engineering

Michael Swadener, aerospace & mechanical engineering

Holly Webb, Food Services Support Facility



More than 1,200 people, mostly students, participated earlier this month in Late Night Olympics, an annual fundraiser that supports St. Joseph County Special Olympics. The general pandemonium is evident in the shot immediately above, as members of two volleyball teams shake hands at the end of their game. At top, RecSports interns are among a group of Notre Dame players to take on the St. Joe Lions, a local Special Olympics basketball team. The event raised about \$8,300. *Photos by Christopher Mahoney.*

Observing 15-year anniversaries are:

Loi Cao, building services

Jerome Keultjes, security

Sue Mansfield, golf courses

Diane Sabaj, Rolfs Recreational Sports Facility

Anthony Vargo, building management, Coleman-Morse

Celebrating 10-year anniversaries are:

Vicki Armour, Waddicks

Bluthers Casey and Mary Grunwald, building services

Beverly Harbor, Morris Inn

Michael Lund, Food Services Support Facility

Page 6

FYI

Celebrate Brazilian Carnaval

The Kellogg Institute for International Studies will sponsor a celebration of Carnaval at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24 in the South Dining Hall. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature live music of Chicago Samba, traditional costumes and dancing. Professional Brazilian dancers will be on hand to perform and teach dance steps to samba and axé rhythms.

Bengal Bouts sessions scheduled

Tickets are on sale for all four rounds of the 76th annual Bengal Mission Bouts.

Preliminary bouts are set for 6:30 p.m. on both Tuesday, Feb. 21, and Wednesday, Feb. 22; quarterfinal bouts slated for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28, semifinals at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, and the finals at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.

The preliminary, quarterfinal and semifinal bouts are scheduled for the Joyce Center Fieldhouse (enter Gate 3 of the north dome), while the finals will be held in the Joyce Center Arena (enter Gate 10 of the south dome).

Those who can't make the bouts can catch some of the action on CSTV Networks, which will produce a special Bengal Bouts edition of its monthly series "Total Access: Notre Dame."

Their coverage is expected to highlight the best stories from the tournament, and the unique history of the event. It will air at 10 p.m. Sunday, April 2.

"Total Access: Notre Dame" is devoted to Notre Dame athletics and campus life, and is available on CSTV: College Sports Television available on cable and satellite—as well as streaming live via broadband at www.CSTV.com.

Upcoming workshops address change, time management

The Office of Human Resources is offering a number of professional development workshops in subjects such as managing change and time management. Classes take place in



The Student All-star Big Band will give a free concert at 4 p.m. Friday, March 3 in Notre Dame Downtown. *Photo provided.*

prepared to interview successfully for a new position. The class will address issues such as communicating your accomplishments, developing rapport with the interviewer and answering difficult questions.

Training sessions for those involved in summer hiring

Human Resources plans two Summer Employment information sessions for mangers who deal with summer hiring. A session from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 7 is aimed at managers whose summer employees will deal with minors. A session from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, March 9 is for those managers involved with general summer hires. Topics will include posting positions through the Jobs@ ND online employment site, preemployment requirements and new hire forms. Register at http://iLearn. nd.edu; those without computer access can register by calling 631-8709.

Retirement Counseling Sessions

Representatives from TIAA-**CREF** and Fidelity Investments will be on campus in March for individual counseling sessions. You'll have the opportunity to discuss the right investment mix, investing to achieve long-term goals, and tax-advantaged savings through the University's 403(b) plan. TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus March 8-9 and March 22-24. Schedule an appointment with TIAA-CREF at 877-267-4507 or go to the Web site, www. tiaa-cref.org/moc. Representatives of Fidelity Investments will be on campus March 15. To schedule an appointment, call 800-642-7131.

Parenting classes cover work options, discipline

BEST (Breastfeeding Encouragement Support Team) supports nursing and pregnant mothers at Notre Dame. Meetings are informal and babies are welcome. Bring or buy lunch and gather to meet other moms and discuss topics of interest. Wednesday, March 1 from noon to 1 p.m., BEST will meet in the Café de Grasta meeting room on the first floor of Grace Hall. The topic for the session will be flexible work options. receive concrete suggestions to try at home. To register, contact John Petersen by e-mail at **jpetersen@ egix.net** or by phone, 280-8199.

Join the national bone marrow registry

Howard Hall and Notre Dame will sponsor the sixth annual Bone Marrow Drive on Thursday, March 2 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Sorin and Dooley Rooms of LaFortune Student Center.

More than 3,000 people in the United States need a bone marrow transplant due to life-threatening illness. Registering as a bone marrow donor requires only a small blood sample from donor candidates. By giving a sample, the donor remains in the national registry until age 61.

During the one-day drive, Howard Hall will cover all registration and blood-typing fees, which normally would cost \$65. To pre-register to become a donor, or to volunteer your time, visit http:// nd.edu/~howard/bonemarrow/.

Organizers note that the national registry is particularly in need of minority donors, who are underrepresented in the national marrow bank. For more information on the National Bone Marrow Donor Program and donation eligibility guidelines, visit http://www.marrow. org.

Flutes and bluegrass planned

Tickets are still available for the upcoming concert by **Sir James**

Galway ("the man with the golden flute") and **Lady Jeanne Galway**, performing with the Polish Chamber Orchestra at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 in the Leighton Concert Hall of the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. Ticket prices are \$41 for faculty, staff and seniors and \$15 for students.

The center will present an evening of acoustic bluegrass featuring doublebassist **Edgar Myer** and mandolin, guitar and violin virtuoso **Mike Marshall** on Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall. Tickets are \$31 for faculty, staff and seniors, and \$15 for students.

Tickets may be purchase online at **http://performingarts.nd.edu** or by calling the box office, 574-631-2800.

Learn good eating, exercise habits

Mike Neller, Notre Dame professor of Naval Science and a certified personal trainer, will offer a series of one-hour **health and nutrition workshops** in February and March. The workshops are free, but advance registration is required at **http://iLearn.nd.edu.** All workshops will take place in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune Student Center. Neller will explain how food can affect your emotional state, and how rest and exercise play a part in your health and well being, during a noon workshop Wednesday, Feb. 22.

A session at noon, Wednesday March 8 will discuss herbs, specialty foods and supplements. "Whole Food Nutrition" is the title of the final session, at noon Wednesday, March 22. The last presentation includes lunch, and will explain how whole foods can enhance health and vitality.

Meanwhile, RecSports continues its workshop series **Exercise Basics 101**. Upcoming classes include fitness room orientation at Rockne Memorial on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at noon; exercising with the stability ball on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. in Rolf's Sports Recreation Center (RSRC); and flexibility training at RSRC on Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

From noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, blood pressure and body fat screenings will be available at RSRC. For a complete list of workshops, visit **http://recsports.nd.edu.** The link to Exercise Basics 101 is under fitness programs.

Jazz festival turns 48

An all-star band comprised of musicians from historically black colleges and universities will be among headliners for the 48th annual Collegiate Jazz Festival Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Washington Hall.

The all-star band is formally known as the 2006 African American Jazz Caucus/Historically Black Colleges and Universities Student All-star Big Band. It is comprised of about 20 student musicians from historically black colleges and universities who are selected through a blind audition process.

The festival will feature 12 collegiate jazz bands from across the country. In addition to the University of Notre Dame Jazz Band, also performing will be the Western Michigan University Jazz Orchestra and the Northeastern Illinois University "Mingus Among Us" quartet. Members of the Clayton Brothers Quintet will serve as judges.

For complete information on performers, venues and scheduling, including free events on Wednesday and Thursday, March 1 and 2, visit the jazz festival link at http://www. nd.edu/~sub. Tickets to the Friday and Saturday festival are free for students, and \$10 (price includes both evenings) for faculty/staff and the public.

Community Connections 100% Mammography

Women from Notre Dame insured by North American HMO are invited to register for mammograms as a group with the Memorial Regional Breast Care Center. Group appointments (a minimum of 6 are required to register) are available Saturday, March 4 from 10 a.m. to noon. Evening appointments will be available Tuesday, March 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Mammograms are included in your insurance (please bring your card to the appointment). Other screenings are available for a fee, with payment required at the time of service. For more information or to register, go to http://iLearn.nd.edu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

234 Grace Hall unless otherwise noted. Register at **http://iLearn. nd.edu**; those without computer access can register by calling 631-8709.

Wednesday, March 8— **Resiliency in Change**, 9 to 11 a.m. (\$19) will help participants analyze their reactions and develop strategies for dealing with change. The course is based on a self-assessment instrument, as well as discussion and action planning. Register by Feb. 22 to receive and complete the instrument to bring to class.

Wednesday, March 15—**Time Management,** 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. (\$89) addresses the daily challenges of setting priorities and long-range goals. Learn to use lists and planners more effectively, reduce clutter and busy-work, and overcome procrastination.

Tuesday, March 14—**Getting the Job, Part 1,** 5:30 to 8 p.m. (no fee) helps participants feel confident and Winning Your Child's Cooperation, a workshop for parents on child guidance and discipline, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on five Thursday—March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30— in Room 13 of Havican Hall, Saint Mary's College. There is a suggested donation of \$30 per family. The workshop will show parents a direct non-coercive and non-violent approach to child guidance, with the goal of reducing power struggles over daily activities. There will be time for parents to discuss their individual family situations and



Once upon a time, bowling ruled as a recreational activity. This picture, taken in 1955, shows a 10-lane bowling alley that once occupied the basement of the old bookstore. Prior to these lanes, a two-lane bowling alley in the basement of Walsh Hall hosted an annual tournament whose popularity rivaled Bookstore Basketball. Students also competed in an intercollegiate bowling league from 1938 to 1961. *Photo and information provided by Elizabeth Hogan, University Archives.*

BACK STORY



Vatican trip nabs Observer photo and report of a lifetime



Claire Heininger, from left, Claire Kelly and Maddie Hanna. ND Works staff photo.



By Gail Hinchion Mancini

It's not unusual to see a member of the faculty or staff grab a copy of The Observer while breezing by one of the many racks that carry the daily student newspaper.

It is unusual to see them stop dead in their tracks and stare at the front page in wonder: Isn't that (Notre Dame President) Father Jenkins? Isn't that the pope? Aren't they in Rome? How did The Observer get this story?

Two young women—sophomore Maddie Hanna and senior Claire Kelly, a veteran of study abroad in Italy—accepted the assignment to spend less that two days in Italy (and almost that much time traveling) to interview Father Jenkins in Rome, attend a papal visit at the Vatican, and observe an academic forum and the conferring of two honorary degrees.

In the process, they got the photograph of a lifetime: a spontaneous and pointed encounter between Father Jenkins and Pope Benedict XVI that may rival the surprise value of the famed "Four Horsemen" photograph of legendary football players.

Proud journalism professors on campus tip their hats to Observer editor in chief Claire Heininger. "I think it was a very heady decision by Claire and has really enhanced the image of The Observer as a serious student newspaper," says Matt Storin, journalism instructor. "I think people on campus sometimes forget that producing a daily newspaper while carrying a An uncropped version of this now familiar photo shows throngs competing for the pope's attention following the papal audience. To the pope's back and right are Vatican authorities and photographers. About four rows behind Jenkins and pressed by the crowd is Frances Shavers, his executive assistant. *Photos by Claire Kelly; courtesy of The Observer.*

full load of classes is a very challenging task for our students."

Adds Walt Collins, "It doesn't surprise me that the Rome initiative occurred under Claire Heininger's editorship. She is the latest in a long string of talented young journalists who have worked at both The Observer and Scholastic in the last 25 years."

Heininger says she believed the University would be best served by journalists who were on the spot. "We started considering what an important moment this was for the University: the change in leadership, the destiny, the identity the University has always had with Rome all very much applied."

The three Observer staff members credit Rev. James McDonald, C.S.C., senior executive assistant to the president, as key to making the trip happen. Without assurances from Father McDonald that they could have access to Father Jenkins and the events of Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, the trip would not have been worth it.

Once in Italy, the student journalists encountered another level of support they had had no idea existed. Neither had ever met Rev. Carl Ebey, C.S.C., general steward of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Father Ebey, who also has served on Notre Dame's business faculty, is assigned to the order's office in Rome. He was instrumental in getting tickets for Hanna and Kelly to attend the papal audience where Father Jenkins and the pope would meet.

Kelly had studied for a year in Italy with the Saint Mary's College program, and called upon its director, Portia Prebys, to help get access to the Vatican. Prebys put them in touch with Thaddeus Jones, a Vatican press agent and 1989 Notre Dame graduate.

According to Kelly, Jones' assistance was crucial to witnessing and documenting the brief encounter. He ushered her up to the official photographers' gallery above the massive papal audience facility. There, she could see exactly how the pope came to seek out Father Jenkins. "He went in a beeline to Father Jenkins," striking a diagonal path across the stage that put him face to face with the Notre Dame president. Father Ebey, who was with Father Jenkins, confirmed that the pope seemed to know exactly who Father Jenkins was.

Hanna experienced the moment more as did the others in the 50-member Notre Dame group. Her view was blocked. "Claire was really the eyewitness," Hanna says. "I kept looking at her to see what she was getting. When Claire gave me the thumbs up, I knew she had the picture. That is one of my favorite memories."

Jones was happy to help. "I was impressed with how enterprising they were in taking the initiative, contacting anyone they knew in Rome and quickly doing whatever they could to report on the event, all in a very short time, and making a really long trip," he says. "They also provided valuable, immediate on-site reporting of the key events, especially the Academic Conference and Convocation. Bravissime!"

Above: The Most Rev. Daniel Jenky, C.S.C., Bishop of Peoria, and the Most Rev. Rino Fisichella, director of St. John Lateran University, chat as each prepares to deliver an address during the Notre Dame forum called "The Contribution of Catholic Universities to the Church and Culture" during the Board of Trustees recent meetings in Rome.

Right: Here, Claire Kelly's photo captures Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., vice president of student affairs, as he greets Shelia Geddes, Carmen and Lou Nanni, foreground, and, background, Mary Lee Duda. They were at the reception following the Academic Convocation at St. John Lateran University.



Over the 48 hours, did they have a minute to enjoy Rome? Indeed, Kelly was able to get Hanna to St. Peter's Basilica, the Pantheon and other favorite haunts. Any shopping? "Maddie bought a dress and I bought a coat," Kelly says.

Their coverage remains accessible on The Observer's Web site. Heininger says she monitored visits to the site during the Rome trip. Exciting as it was, it didn't draw the traffic that football games do.

But two fans from Omaha have weighed in with their compliments. "We just received an e-mail from Father Jenkins' mother and one of his sisters," Heininger recounts. "They praised Maddie's coverage. They praised the columns Maddie and Claire wrote when they got home. They were very appreciative."