Environmental stewardship moves to the next level

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

The University of Notre Dame is initiating a new department to coordinate environmental and energy policies and initiatives, and has launched a search for a director of sustainability. The new position and department will provide a much-needed place where such activities can be supported, she said.

When it comes to discussions about the term ‘green’ in the current context, the term ‘green’ is a familiar one. “By identifying our efforts in terms of sustainability, we are committing the University to a broad and long-term approach that considers how we can lessen our impact on the climate and natural resources for the good of future generations,” said Lyubot.

By Gail Hinchion Mancini

In December, Carolyn Berzai watched as the Hewlett Packard 3000 mainframe carried out of the Information Technology Center was sold for spare parts after 25 years of service. Berzai, a program manager in the Office of Information Technologies (OIT), had been with the machine the entire time and revealed a memory only a true witness could recall: “It came in through the third floor window of the Main Building in 1982.” First it, then she, ultimately moved to what now is the IT Center.

Berzai, herself, had arrived at Notre Dame and into a Main Building office in 1976 as a program analyst. Then, the main piece of hardware was an IBM, and the IT staff worked with punch cards.

She can recite the names of technology directors dating back to the ’70s, when the University was more about ‘green’ than computing savvy. And she knows all about the hardware and software that has come and gone. Although a real historian, Berzai speaks of today’s strategic, administrative environment in forward-looking, exciting terms. “To be honest, I’m great fan.”

With the latest upgrades that accompanied the decommissioning of the HP—a multilayer project known as Renovare—a large integrated system that fosters what Berzai calls “business intelligence.”

“Renovare was the start of a new way of doing things. It has moved us to where we can begin to do many wonderful things.”

A specialist in creating and adapting software to serve academic administration and business and financial processes (her current position is program manager for the Information Access Program), Berzai’s earliest efforts led a project to develop a registrar’s system on the IBM mainframe. It took support of faculty, classroom assignments and transcript management.

Probably anyone who has been in the information technologies business for an extended period has a saga that goes like hers: “Just as that system was getting fun to do, it was time to mount it on the HP. Human resources, payroll, the registrar’s office, admissions, financial aid, etc., how to get it all to get that all,” she recalls.

“The HP was a good machine. It served the University for 25 years,” she says. But around 2000, the campus learned that Hewlett Packard was discontinuing the system; thus, its ability to be maintained and upgraded would cease.

In launching the Renovare project, the University decided it would not only try new equipment and software, but would find a new way of doing things that would allow data to be more integrated.

“With her background in creating systems to support many different divisions, Carolyn brought to Renovare a rare understanding of how various departments used their data, and how data could be better used to serve our faculty and our students,” explains Gordon Wishon, chief information officer and vice provost and vice president. “The University’s history is proof that change comes in big waves, today she is savoring important advances on how the campus community accesses information. In this area of business intelligence, ‘we’re in the baby stages,’ she says.

ND Alert retest planned for Feb. 1
New text-message protocol is introduced

ND Works staff writer

ND Alert, the campus comprehensive emergency notification system, will be retested the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 1. During this process, many of us will receive text-message notifications to alert us to an important event that we did not receive during the first round of testing in late fall.

The November test revealed that some e-mail messages took just over two hours to arrive. Modifications have been made to local e-mail delivery systems, and the upcoming test will verify the effectiveness of these improvements.

“Safety is of paramount importance, and we believe that time is of the essence in the face of the kinds of emergencies this system will address,” says Gordon Wishon, associate provost, chief information officer and associate vice president of information technologies.

New in this round of testing, every registered cell phone that has not opted out of the text messaging service will receive a test message. In the past, the opposite was true: You only received a test if you opted in. A change recently instituted by the emergency system vendor, Connect-ED, now includes all except those who have opted out. Some employees, particularly those who must pay a per-text fee for tests, may want to opt out of this feature. This may be done by following the instructions at: nd.edu/emergency/sms.shtml.

As with the first test, the mass notification system will distribute messages to student, faculty and employee home and office telephones, registered cell phones, University e-mail accounts and any personal e-mail accounts previously opted in. The University’s cable system will broadcast a test message to any live television in residence hall rooms, common areas such as the LaVonne Student Center and offices. All messages will clearly indicate that the test is underway.

Faculty and staff who have not registered emergency contact information such as personal cell phone numbers or non-University e-mail addresses are encouraged to do so. Registration is available through the My Resources tab of InsideND or inside.nd.edu.
Irish sociologist visits America, finds roots

By Carol C. Bradley

“I felt there was something fated about it,” says Mary P. Corcoran about the invitation to serve as a visiting fellow in the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the fall semester. The invitation afforded her the opportunity to teach her specialty—immigration and social change in Irish society—at Notre Dame, and participate in the institute’s October conference “Race and Immigration in the New Ireland.”

But her sojourn in America also gave her something quite unexpected—the opportunity to uncover the history of her own Irish immigrant ancestors.

Corcoran, a professor of sociology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, knew before she arrived that her great-uncle, Brother Ephrem O’Dwyer, C.S.C., had an association with Notre Dame and had been awarded an honorary doctorate in 1976. In the course of her research, she discovered that O’Dwyer, who had been recruited by the C.S.C. in Belfast in 1909, had a long and distinguished career as an educator and administrator at Notre Dame, and had served as University treasurer for two years in the 1930s.

“I wrote to Father Hesburgh, and he very kindly agreed to meet with me,” Corcoran says. “He knew Brother Ephrem for 30 years or more, and said that (Brother Ephrem) was fiercely loyal to his brothers, but was undoubtedly their leader. It was really nice to meet him. (Father Hesburgh). He gave me a lovely blessing as I was leaving, and asked me lots about Ireland and that.”

Corcoran’s paternal grandmother, Brigid O’Dwyer, was Brother Ephrem’s sister, she notes, and of her grandfather’s ten brothers and seven sisters, seven migrated to America from their native County Tipperary. In the course of her genealogical research here at Notre Dame, Corcoran was surprised to learn that Brother Ephrem’s sister Marianne had joined in Ireland, and spent her life as a nun at Saint Mary’s.

Corcoran lives in Dublin, where her husband, Alex White, is a Labor Party senator. Corcoran’s children Maeve and Fintan White (ages 15 and 12) accompanied her to Notre Dame for the semester, and attended Adams High School and Edison Middle School.

“They really had a wonderful experience,” she says. “They’ll treasure their memories. Their knowledge of the American school system was from television. Beverly Hills 90210. Multi-cultural classrooms are well-established in America, something new in Ireland.”

Ireland is grappling with the same sorts of issues of immigration and assimilation that Americans are debating, she notes.

“We have to decide how to develop a pluralistic model of society. How do we deal with the question of undocumented immigrants? How do we integrate children within the education system?” Corcoran is planning a book based on the lectures she gave in her course “Ireland in Transition: From Emigration to Immigration.”

Over the years, Corcoran has taught Saint Mary’s students who spent their semester abroad at Maynooth. “I never realized the connection with my great-aunt,” she says.

Before they returned to Ireland and home, Corcoran and her children visited the cemetery and left flowers on the grave of Marianne O’Dwyer—sister Columbus—in Our Lady of Peace Cemetery on the Saint Mary’s campus.

“It was a very moving moment for them,“ Corcoran says. “I know no one in my family had ever visited that grave.”

The Governor’s Council made its selection on the basis of the number of drunken and impaired drivers apprehended and the number of patrol hours committed to the task force, the visibility of officers and the number of sobriety checkpoints organized.

NDSP Officer Rick Kazimierzak and Officer George Heeter worked many of the actual task force hours, says Phillip Johnson, director of security police. However, an effort like this succeeds because of teamwork and involves so many more than the officers who work on the task force, he adds.

“This targeted enforcement for safety demonstrated teamwork with other agencies and within our department, too,” he says, counting officers from the city and county police, offenders, who handled the extra dispatch responsibilities, and who managed the recordkeeping and payrol for the project.

Notre Dame’s involvement was supported in part by a grant from the Governor’s Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving.

March 18 – 19 and Oct. 7 – 8.

The 5-day Project Management program covers all aspects of project management, including planning, executing, controlling, closing and professional development. Project managers or individuals who are responsible for managing projects or teams of 20 percent or more of their management programs being offered this year.

The Certificate in Executive Management provides a core of business management topics for managers, business owners and entrepreneurs. It meets Monday evenings for 10 weeks in the spring and 10 weeks in the fall beginning March 3.

Mendoza offers employee discounts for management programs

The University’s warehouse and operations will add intercampus bus service as a drop-off point, and organized a new service will add intercampus service. The shuttle will circle from the Busla Road stop to the Hesburgh Library between 6:30 and 8:40 a.m. Almost three hours of service are planned in the evening, beginning at 3:15 p.m. and ending shortly after 6 p.m., with a one-time stop at University Village at 6:10 p.m. At lunch, more than two hours of service are planned. The shuttle will arrive at 11:30 a.m., at a stop at the Red Sofa.

“We’ve approved this program through June 30 and look forward to seeing how it is received,” says Skendzel. Two Web sites carry a revised shuttle schedule: Notre Dame Security Police, at shuttle.html and Transportation Services, at transportation.nd.edu.

Mendoza College of Business offers employee discounts to employees of the University and its affiliates. The University and its affiliates include campus services such as The Morin Inn, Custer Group Centers, the University Bookstore, Hall, Food Services, St. Michael’s Laundry and Library, and Notre Dame Bookstore. The facility operations include Custodial Services, Locksmith Services, Landscape Services and the Sign Shop.

The Office of the University Architect, along with those that could find helpful, Smith says. Dan Skendzel, who manages transportation for Business Operations, identified those that could safely serve as drop-off points and proposed a new shuttle schedule.

The new route will travel from Bully Road and Keough Commons, the Main Building, D6, the Main Building, the College of Business and Hesburgh Library. The shuttle will circle from the Busla Road stop to the Hesburgh Library between 6:30 and 8:40 a.m. Almost three hours of service are planned in the evening, beginning at 3:15 p.m. and ending shortly after 6 p.m., with a one-time stop at University Village at 6:10 p.m. At lunch, more than two hours of service are planned. The shuttle will arrive at 11:30 a.m., at a stop at the Red Sofa.

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There are no prerequisites for these programs. For additional information, please visit the Web site at executive.mendoza.nd.edu or contact Chris Cushman at 631-4314. To register, or to be added to an email list of 30 days prior to the start date, please visit the Web site at executive.mendoza.nd.edu.

March 17, Apr. 4, May 22, June 19.
University extends support during times of death and illness

By Gail Hinchon Mancini

In mid-November, Craig and Karla Sandzey and their three children suffered the death of the Sandzey’s newborn daughter, Mary Claire. Writing via e-mail to more than 100 friends two weeks later, the couple’s thank you comments spoke of the inspired support that members of the Notre Dame family, and their fellow parishioners at St. Joseph South Bend, had lent.

“The prayers, cards, Masses, flowers, phone calls, meals and general support from so many...I can’t tell you how much all of your gestures of support have been. Words will do it justice,” they wrote. “We can’t think it anywhere else like this.”

“It’s a common story among University employees who have experienced illness or death—the grief has been lessened by the kind and loving responses of their friends and family.”

Even if a University employee shares a smaller circle of contacts than do the Sandzeys—he’s an alumn and director of administrative services in Business Operations, she’s a program manager in Pre-College Programs—it is important for University faculty and staff to know about the programs, and the University has structures in place to lend a hand. Moreover, it has very caring people behind these protocols.

One is Krys Montague, officer assistant to President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. Her job is to send a Mass card on behalf of the Notre Dame community to the family of an employee upon the death of an employee or the immediate family member of an employee. She is certain she sends fewer than the number of times of death and illness the University community experiences each year. Montague gets information about the times of death and illness—their grief has been lessened by the kind and loving responses of their friends and family,” she says. “This is when being a University employee is so important.”

“We stress the fact that we’re a family,” she says. “This is when being a University employee is so important.”

Several employees are also celebrating significant anniversaries this month, including Rita Grontkowski of the Office of Human Resources as an administrative assistant to the University’s 20th anniversary this month, Mike Castiglione of the Office of the Provost, and Vicki DeCulley of the Office of Procurement Services.

“For YoUr hEALTh

• Participation in the One Health Initiative grants us the ability to better understand and prevent zoonotic diseases.
• One is Krys Montague, officer assistant to President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. Her job is to send a Mass card on behalf of the Notre Dame community to the family of an employee upon the death of an employee or the immediate family member of an employee. She is certain she sends fewer than the number of times of death and illness the University community experiences each year. Montague gets information about the times of death and illness—their grief has been lessened by the kind and loving responses of their friends and family,” she says. “This is when being a University employee is so important.”

The Universi...