Meet the Bardy Bunch

It’s curtain call time for Shakespeare's new cast of supporting players at Notre Dame. The recently enhanced and renamed Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival has in full swing with performances by the Young Company of Thomas Middleton’s “The Witch” taking place through Aug. 25 and the Mainstage production of Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” set to take the stage in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Aug. 19 to 31.

Leading the Bard into the 2008 season is a crew of four theater professionals—Jay Paul Skelton, Ryan Producing Artistic Director, Aaron Nichols, director of audience development; Amy Atkinson, company manager; and Scott Jackson, executive director of Shakespeare at Notre Dame.

To say it’s crunch time for this foursome would be an understatement. In addition to heading to the cast of professional “Macbeth” actors on campus for a full schedule of rehearsals, there are also sets to be built, tickets to be sold, and numerous finishing touches to be made. It’s a good thing the Shakespeare staff has been quadrupled this year to keep up with all of the demands.

“I’ve worried less knowing that there are systems and people in place that will support our activities as the best way possible,” says Skelton, the only Notre Dame veteran of the group who previously had been more or less a one-man show, doing everything with only the help of two student workers.

“I was on maintenance,” he recalls. “My big concern was, ‘How can we keep the program going on a daily basis?’”

What a difference three more people can make. The additions were made possible by a reorganization of the entire Shakespeare staff structure that combined previous part-time seasonal positions to create full-time jobs. Skelton’s is the only endowed position; other funding comes from revenue generated by the program itself.

Jackson, who oversees the larger Shakespeare at Notre Dame initiative, of which the festival is a component, says all the barriers that restrained the program are gone. The staff now has “more mind space to think about—collaborative efforts—and opportunities for outreach, such as the wind-up of the new Robinson Shakespeare Company, which gave school kids from the University’s Robinson Community Learning Center the opportunity to perform in their own production of “Macbeth” at Washington Hall earlier this summer.

Keeping the men on track is Atkinson, who often lends a “calming voice” to help the guys through stressful situations as well as serving as the primary point of contact for artists in all productions.

“It’s nice; each of us treats the other to take care of things, and we can do what we do well. Jay, before, had to keep everyone on track; he wouldn’t have time for everything,” says Nichols. “This year has been amazing.”

Tickets and complete schedules for “Macbeth” and “The Witch” are available on the Web at shakespeare.nd.edu.

By CaROl C. BRadlEy

A nation of slobs

Americans don’t know how to dress, says Linda Przybyszewski, associate professor of history—their clothing is too tight, too big, or inappropriate for the occasion. The title of her book-in-progress is a little more blunt: “Nation of Slobs: How Americans Learned—and Forgot—How to Dress.”

A colleague suggested she call the book “What Not to Wear,” she says. “But that was already taken,” by the popular cable TV makeover show. But Przybyszewski (pronounced preh-FAV-ki) does have a lot in common with stylist gurus Stacy London and Clinton Kelly—she goes through life wishing she could make over other people’s ill-fitting outfits.

The book is a bit of a departure for Przybyszewski, a legal scholar whose previous books include a biography of Associate Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan, lone dissenter in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), which upheld Southern segregation statutes.

But Przybyszewski has sewn since she was a little girl and still makes most of her own clothes (“I don’t make sweaters, and I can’t cobbler shoes,” she clarifies). Something resonate when she came across a 1950s home economics textbook, “Clothes for You,” by Mildred Graves Ryan and Velma Phillips—“the dress doctors,” she calls them.

With style gurus Clinton Kelly and Stacy London, Przybyszewski’s book taught young girls both the art of dressing and the art of life—sewing, design and color theory, grooming, budgeting. They’re skills girls have missed out on since the disappearance of home economics from school curriculums in the 1970s, she says.

The textbook inspired both her own new book and the University Seminar she’ll teach this fall, “Fashioning the Self: Identity, Aesthetics, Economics and the Clothing of the Human Form.”

Students live on the other side of two dress revolutions. Przybyszewski notes—the 1920s, when women rebelled against the painful corsets and hourglass figures of the 19th century, and the 1960s, when informality in dress became the norm, and everything fell apart.

There used to be a difference between city and country dress, and between day and evening dress, she notes. People used to dress up for church and for funerals. Employers today have to cope with young employees who can’t distinguish between appropriate attire for the beach and for the office.

In exploring the rules of the art of dress from previous eras, she realized that you have to know your clothing tailor, or make it yourself, to apply the rules—you won’t find the right color, the right fabric, the right fit in off-the-rack merchandise.

“Dressmakers feel sorry for people who don’t sew,” she says. “Most people are dependent on ready-to-wear sizing—they don’t realize their clothing could be made to fit.”

This summer, Przybyszewski and niece Ursula Adams are busy sewing muslin copies of women’s dresses and loungewear from different fashion eras for her upcoming class.

Her students will likely be easy to spot on campus this fall—one assignment will be to dress in typical 1950s-style student dress—tweed jackets and ties, poodle skirts and ruffles with sensible oxfords and the like—and report back on the reactions they get.

The class—and the book—will be a lot of fun, Przybyszewski adds. “I’ve sewn my whole life and loved it,” she says. “I’ve learned a lot. I never thought I would be using two very different parts of myself—sewing, and history and research.”

And for those who would like to have better-fitting clothes, she does have a tip: Think separates. “Buy for the body— it’s easy to fix the waist,” she says. “You can take things in, but there’s no room in the fabric to let things out. If you can’t do alterations yourself, find a tailor.”

Sewing is not that hard to learn, she adds. “People think it’s hard to sew, but they’ll spend hours miserable in the mall looking for something to wear.”
Sustainable kickoff to the academic year
BY ERIN FLYNN
It’s not just the library quad that will be green this year’s opening picnic.
You and your family will be able to place locally grown vegetable credits on your 100 percent recycled paper plates. And when you’re finished with your cans of fizzy soda, you’ll be able to view one of many stations to recycle them.
The picnic traditionally follows the annual opening Mass. Both take place the first Tuesday of fall semester, Aug. 26, with the Mass starting at 5:20 p.m. The picnic follows on the quad in front of the Hesburgh Library.

For supervisors, the nonexempt evaluation process will include tools that encourage bosses to keep regular notes on specific accomplishments—the food service employee who discovers a cache of expired milk, a housekeeper who stops to help a visitor find her way—so a body of observations can be used to guide the annual evaluation, McClure says.

Half-day sessions have been held for the new performance management process being phased in for nonexempt employees. The content is similar to last year’s. Exempt Performance Evaluation effect and leadership in these sessions, and those who attended them do not need to sign up for one of these sessions.

Supervisors may still sign up for sessions; two are planned, from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 22, or from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26 in the basement training room of Grace Hall. Sign-up for a session is available by contacting and at ndhr@nd.edu.

Training sessions are being developed to introduce nonexempt employees to the new process, McClure says. All performance management processes are based on the University’s values of accountability, teamwork, integrity in leadership and in mission. They intend to help us achieve the goals: to become a premier research university, offer an outstanding undergraduate education, ensure that the Catholic character of the new initiatives of the University, create a culture of service and communicate effectively to internal and external audiences.

Preparing for a new evaluation process
BY SHANNON CHAPLA
The University’s leading scholars will discuss topics including the upcoming presidential election, the mortgage mess and the cultural icon Peter Pan.
The talks comprise the eighth annual Saturday Scholars Series of football weekend lectures.
Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the series features scholars of a scholarly dimension to a weekend roster of athletics, pregnancy and fine arts performances. They begin three-and-a-half hours before kickoff and take place in the Anderson Auditorium of the Notre Dame Mellon Auditorium. Topics are:

- Sept. 6—“Faith Taking Shape Early Christianity and the Arts,” with Thomas Noble, professor and chair of history.
- Sept. 13—“Peter Pan as a Cultural Icon,” with Susan Ohmer, William T. and Helen Kibbe Carey Professor of Modern Communication.
- Sept. 27—“ Elections 2008: Race, Religion and the Performing Arts,” with David Campbell; John Cardinal O’Hara, C.S.C., Associate Professor of Political Science; Darren Davis, professor of political science; and Christine Wlodarczak, professor of political science.
- Oct. 4—“The Sub-Prime Mortgage Mess and Federal Reserve Policy,” with Christopher Walter, Gilbert F. Schaefer Professor of Economics; Christopher Waller, Gilbert F. Schaefer Professor of Economics; Darren Davis, professor of political science; and Michael Ganners, professor of economics.
- Nov. 1—“Catholicism and Evolution: Old Tensions and New Directions,” with Phillip Sloan, professor of liberal studies.
- Nov. 8—“Before and Beyond Modern Art as Art,” with Charles Barber, professor of the fine arts; art history and design.

The series continues Nov. 21 with “Political and Social Science in Times of Crisis,” with Anthony C. Lazzaro, professor of political science.
A forum Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Fighting for Social Concerns
BY SHANNON CHAPLA
The University welcomes the following employees who joined the faculty and staff in July.
Nicole L. Alexander, Daniel P. Collaman, Alida M. Ewing and Kurt R. Kudlack, all in operations.
George A. Ambrose and Frederic S. Tripp, both in science.
Andrew S. Annoni, in office of the provost.
Mark A. Benishnek, in recreation.
Jennifer A. Borek, in athletics.
Dawn M. Boulet, in the management of human resources.
Paula S. Casset, in the General Counsel.
Patrick J. Claus, in human resource management.
Jeffrey L. Crittendon and Aaron Wilkey, in athletics.
Matthew P. Emmo, in the management of human resources.
Mary A. Fisher, in the management of human resources.
Howard F. Hass, in human resources.
Dondelle M. Flick, in human resources.

Jennifer L. Forriss, Shelley E. Gladden, Mary Ann Lloyd and Victoria Wood, campus services.

Ricardo Romano-Mendez and Duangpetch Im, in operations.
Adam L. Hett and Denise M. Sherrer, in facilities.
Harold Henderson, in operations.
Anthony C. Holter, in the university’s office of the president.
Wei Zhu, in mathematics.
Carly M. Nace, in the office of the president.
Yun Hau Ng, in the office of the president.
Rachel S. Novick, in the office of the president.
Ryan C. Palmer, in the office of the president.
Roslyn Palouci, Barbara Scherer and Mark L. Spitzer, in the office of the president.
Anthony M. Polden, in the office of the president.

G. Ross Host, in the office of the president.
LeShane O. Satterfield, in the office of the president.
Steven P. Schaaf, in the office of the president.
Jenny H. Shin, in the office of the president.
Cynthia Toms Smedley, in the office of the president.

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Every summer, the University’s physical plant makes notable forward progress. But rarely are the signs as visibly striking as they have been in the past three months. A water tower with a bonnet? The basilica under wraps? As these projects wind down, we mark their passing for the record, including the opening of Duncan Hall, the first new residence hall in 10 years. A complete list of 2008 campus construction projects can be found on the University Architect’s Web site at nd.edu/~univarch/documents/2008CampusRoadConstructionPlan.pdf.

Jeff Shoup, who managed the construction project as director of Residence Life and Housing, helps demonstrate the scale of a Duncan Hall quad, where four men will share three rooms. The new hall has a few rooms with private bathrooms. But the most popular feature appears to be square footage. Each wing has a study room and an entertainment lounge on every floor.

Exterior backlighting will make the stained glass windows of Duncan Hall’s chapel even more dramatic at night. This will be the liturgical domain of Rev. Thomas Eckert, C.S.C., who has been selected as Duncan’s rector.

Mike Fitzpatrick wires the residence hall for cable, telephone and Internet service. Because technology has changed so quickly, Residence Life director Jeff Shoup says the operating principal was “put it where you can get to it” so it can easily be replaced with the next, new thing.

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Earlier this summer, workers prepared a web of scaffolding on the University’s water tower, then sheathed it in plastic so it can be stripped to bare metal and repainted. Work on the 1952-vintage, 500,000-gallon water tower is expected to be complete by the beginning of the school year.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart is expected to be under wraps and scaffolding through October as repairs are made to the exterior. Storms and high winds in May 2007 knocked a spire from the bell tower.

A landscaping project on the southeast side of campus eliminates a vehicular thoroughfare in favor of trees and winding walkways. The project, part of the University’s master plan, emphasizes a pedestrian-friendly environment.

The new “Irish Green”—photographed from the second-floor balcony of the Mohele P. Dallaster Center for the Performing Arts—will provide a park-like transition between campus and the Eddy Street Commons.