The happiest senior thesis on earth

BY SHANNON CHAPLA

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Further information is available by calling the community relations office, 631-3249.

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From decorating to plumbing, managers handle it all

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

The fun part of her job is the shopping, says Nancy Gillespie, manager of visiting faculty housing. Gillespie manages 40 fully-furnished on-campus apartments for visiting faculty—24 at Fisher Graduate Commons and 16 at the Hesburgh Commons—and typically refurbishes two new apartments a year. That means shopping for new furniture such as sofas and chairs, bedding, towels and silverware.

It’s a great drawing for the University to be able to offer campus living accommodations to visiting faculty, Gillespie says. International visitors don’t have to worry about finding a place to live or bringing along household items. When visitors arrive, they’re told, “All you need to do is pick up a key.”

Managing visiting faculty housing is just one aspect of Gillespie’s job with the Office of Asset Management. Gillespie who handles third-party commercial leasing for entities such as Anthony Travel and the Notre Dame Federal Credit Union. And her responsibilities are only one aspect of the Office of Asset Management.

The department’s most visible projects may be overseeing the development of new housing across Notre Dame Avenue and acting as the University’s liaison to Kite Realty Group, the developer of Eddy Street Commons. But they’re equally involved in managing more than 30 rental houses in the neighborhoods immediately south and east of campus.

Those properties are managed by Jeri DeCola, who joined the University in February.

“Jeri is one of those little-known secrets,” says DeCola. “People say, ‘There are houses? You rent them out?’”

The houses are rented only to full-time faculty and staff. She notes, “And the housing is popular. There’s been a 21-person waiting list,” she adds.

The most frequent question she gets, DeCola says, is “Where am I on the waiting list?” But that’s something of a misconception—there really isn’t no place on the list per se. That’s because the size and location of the houses vary so much, and those on the list range from individuals to families.

“I just depends on the house that’s available,” she says. “It’s the luck of the draw.”

As the University’s landlords, so to speak, Gillespie and DeCola deal with all the day-to-day headaches of property management.


Both love their jobs, because of the variety and the people they get to meet—visitors have included ambassadors of countries and other distinguished guests, says Gillespie.

DeCola thrives on the people contact as well, but what she really loves is houses. “I love houses, going in them and seeing them. It’s cool that I get to do that and get a paycheck at the same time.”

Performance management moves online

BY GAIL HINCHON MANCINI

The performance management review process now exists in all for exempt and non-exempt employees. The process is moving online.

The electronic version will minimize paper and paperwork and help employees and supervisors respond to a cycle that makes performance management a useful experience for clarifying job expectations and developing talents.

The online process will take place on a tool already familiar to members of the University community: eNDeavor (online at endeavor.nd.edu).

The tool, eNDeavor, has served as an online registration tool for Human Resources training and development classes, and it is available to all employees offered by the Office of Information Technologies.

Will the online process be easy to learn? In tests of the tool, several employees who regularly use computers understood it with no training. Beginning May 1, it will be available for all employees. It was tested by a team of Paul Brenner, lead scientist on the project.

For those who would like assistance, HR is organizing several training of May and June round-robin sessions. The training sessions coincide with deadlines for the performance management process. Paper versions of performance management will continue to be used for non-exempt hourly employees whose positions do not regularly involve computer access. Freeman says.

As the tool launched in May, training experiences will be available in several forms.

• Full demonstration sessions with step-by-step instructions and a take-away reference guide (register at endeavor.nd.edu).

• Online help files for those who want hands on training with a subject matter nearby to help with questions.

• An online tutorial you can take at your desk

The new tool will not just be Internet-based, it will involve automatic features that send employees an e-mail message when a phase of the process needs to be addressed. Behind the scenes, ndWorks, Notre Dame’s faculty and staff computing environment, is publishing the Office of Human Resources and HR Systems division.

The most recent version of the tool is available to employees at endeavor.nd.edu.

The performance management process has three distinct phases.

eNDeavor will keep track of which reviews have been completed and which have not.

Here’s how automation will complement the performance management process:

The first cycle is goal setting. This year, employees will receive an e-mail on or around May 1, inviting them to begin this discussion. This phase involves a conversation between supervisor and employee that helps clarify for the employee how his or her job relates to the goals of the division and the University. Some goals may involve ambitious new directions, others may reflect traditional job expectations. The purpose is to foster an understanding of the employee’s job, its fit into the University, Freeman says.

Goal-setting normally is scheduled to take place in March. Those who complete their goal setting this past March should input those plans in eNDeavor.

The second step is a mid-year review that examines progress on goals and provides feedback on behaviors relative to the University’s core values: integrity, accountability, teamwork, leadership in mission, leadership in excellence. An electronic reminder to start the mid-year review will be issued September 1.

Shortly before the mid-year review a second round of training also will be offered, Freeman says. The online and face-to-face review processes are similar, so mastering the tool in September should prepare employees and supervisors to use it again for the final review, in February.

One of the biggest challenges was the relocation of this relatively low-grade heat production closer to the target application,” says Paul Brenner, lead scientist on the project and recipient of the award on Notre Dame’s behalf. “Our solution was to deploy our groups of computers in small ‘portable data centers,’ a design which is both sustainable and distributable. The small footprint of the installation allowed us to effectively locate the computers close enough to the secondary process to efficiently reuse the waste heat.

A more simply heat generating equipment, stashed in the desert display of the botanical gardens (yes, we mean garden), helped ease the cost of creating the appropriate environment for the plant life.

“We congratulate and honor Notre Dame for its pioneering work in reducing energy consumption in its data centers,” says Kenneth G. Brill, founder and executive director of the Upstate Institute. “These successful initiatives serve as a great example to its industry peers of the realistic impact and feasibility of energy efficiency initiatives.

“Most research that complements ‘green’ or ‘sustainability’ goals focuses on improving the nuts and bolts of computer processing and data center efficiency,” says Devitt Latimer, chief technology officer and co-principal investigator on the project.

The ND project enters new, collaborative territory. “There is virtually no research focused on efficiently capturing and reusing the waste heat generated by computing,” Latimer says.

The botanical gardens project accomplishes more than aiding the survival of a local and government funded entity. “We’ve found a second life for waste heat which reduces carbon emissions by eliminating the need to generate an equivalent amount of energy through burning fossil fuels,” Latimer says. "We want to leverage that concept and apply it to more practical applications like heating parking lots and using the cost savings at the South Bend wastewater treatment facility. We hope to go live with that phase later this fall.”
New logo ‘says it all’ for the Libraries

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

I t began last year when the University Libraries were renamed the Hesburgh Libraries, giving the several different libraries that serve on-campus constituencies a stronger sense of unified identity. Then came the challenge to express that identity in a shared logo.

A library faculty/staff committee, charged with creating a logo, convened and conferred with visual arts and marketing communications experts from DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts and Communication.

Now, the logo is ready to be unveiled, and its meaning is ready to be celebrated.

“We wanted to build an identity around the man whose contribution to the University is unparalleled,” says Smith. “With the library system now named after Father Hesburgh, the choice to use his image seemed not only a logical choice, but more importantly, the appropriate one.”

As president emeritus and as a major figure in the history of American higher education, Father Hesburgh has come to represent the forward-looking commitments to research, excellence and dynamic student life that are lived out every day in the libraries of the campus.

He has also come to represent the complete, interdisciplinary approach to education that Blessed Basil Morea, C.S.C., founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, described as educating the heart as well as the mind. It’s appropriate for Father Hesburgh to be the unifying image for libraries that reach out to varied communities of interest and specialization around the University and contain such a bounty of varied information, beckoning to faculty and students alike.

Even the type font used in the logo design deserved special meaning at this time when the Hesburgh Libraries are honing their identity more sharply and spreading their messages of service and relevance more widely.

The font that was chosen, among three choices provided by Agency ND, is called Perpetua. A principal reason for the choice is close to home. It is a design created by Eric Gill in the 1920s, says Sara Weber, who was also on the Libraries’ Marketing Committee. The Hesburgh Libraries happen to hold a collection of Eric Gill designed materials, including both proof sheets from the design of Perpetua and a copy of the earliest book printed using that typeface.

showing off its “classic elegance” combined with a “more modern appearance” than some other choices, shared Smith.

With the logo’s color choice linking it to the University Mark, the “brand identity” of the Hesburgh Libraries is enhanced by a distinctive and solidarity with the University’s legacy, its values as a learning community, and its appreciation of a “classic” figure whose vision helped to launch the main library building and helped to set the entire library system on a track toward a bright future.

FVI

PERFORMANCE

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in the Main P.D. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit performingarts.nd.edu or call 631-2800. Tickets prices are for faculty and staff, senior citizens and students. For free but ticketed performances, call the box office for reservations.

Notre Dame Jazz Bands and New Orleans Brass Band
7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, Leighton Concert Hall

Performances from Bach, Remsky-Korsakov and Straviski
Visiting Artist Series
318/529-9515

Notre Dame Collegium Musicum
7 p.m. Friday, April 30, DeSantis Center for the Arts

Sacred music of the Renaissance and Baroque
Presented by the Department of Music
318/5/533

Eric Bibb
7:30 p.m. Friday, May 1 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2, DeGrow Mainstage Theatre

International award-winning blues guitarist
Visiting Artist Series
318/529-9515

Pianist Jeffrey Jacob
2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 3, Leighton Concert Hall

The internationally known performer and composer performs Schubert and Beethoven
Presented by the South Bend Symphony Orchestra
574/223/525

La Cenerentola
The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD
7 p.m. Thursday, April 30

A film festival that cultivates and honors future filmmakers as they
Co-sponsored by the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture
Free but ticketed

The Angelus Student Film Festival (2009)
7 p.m. Thursday, April 30

A film festival that celebrates the contributions of students as they
Co-sponsored by the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture
Free but ticketed

The Class (2008)
6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2

French and his fellow teachers face a clash in the classroom, a microcosm of contemporary France
English, Russian, Vietnamese and French with English subtitles

Gomorrha (2008)
6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23

Power, money and blood are the values that residents of Naples and Caserta confront every day
Italian, Mandarin and French languages with English subtitles

Hunger (2008)
6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30

The last months in the life of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands. Directed by Steve McQueen

DISTINCTIONS


The Dockweiler awards annually recognize three members of the full-time faculty or exempt staff who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to undergraduates through mentoring, academic advising or career counseling services.

Winners are Frank Connolly, professor of mathematics; and culturals; Sylvia L. Lin, East Asian language and cultural; Joshua B. Kaplan, anthropology; David K. O’Connor, classics; David F. Ruccio, economics and policy study; William J. Schmuhl Jr., American Women” and “The Father Costume.” A question-and-answer follows.

FVICREATE WRITING PROGRAM

MFA Final Thesis Reading
7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 1
LaFortune Ballroom

The final event of the semester features a short reading by each 2009 MFA recipient

WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES

Blood Drive, sponsored by the Army ROTC through the American Red Cross, 1 to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 27 and 28 in the LaFortune Student Center ballroom. Please sign up online at give4life.org, zip code, 46556 to schedule a blood donation appointment. Bring your donor card or ID when you come to donate.

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

Elida P. Acevedo, sociology
William B. Bressler, golf course operations
Allan Greenberg, School of Architecture
Nalan Guray and Recep Taygun Guran, physics
David J. Jackel, customer support services
Douglas P. Knepper, College of Engineering
Justin Kurtich, utilities
Michael L. Lambrecht, biology
April Nadolny, varding
Amanda Pleksiarski, Catering by Design
Mia Reini, Office of the General Counsel

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Emil’s Army’ on the march

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

Emil T. Hofman traveled to Haiti in March, and he’ll be on his way back the day after graduation.

At 88 years old, Hofman is a man with a mission—bringing volunteer physician support to Notre Dame’s Haiti Program, which, under the direction of Rev. Thomas G. Streit, C.S.C., seeks to prevent lymphatic filariasis, a mosquito-borne disease affecting 25 percent of the population, as much as 50 percent in some areas.

“I was in my 80s when I started this,” Hofman says. “I wanted to do something worthwhile with these final years of my life.”

The Haiti program, supported by multiple grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, focuses on prevention of lymphatic filariasis, Hofman observed.

The epidemic disease causes what’s commonly called elephantiasis, the disfiguring and disabling enlargement of arms, legs and genitals of those affected.

The Notre Dame program lacks the resources to offer formal medical treatment to suffers. But Hofman, dean emeritus of the First Year of Studies and professor emeritus of chemistry, taught an estimated 32,000 students in his career—more than 8,000 of whom went on to become physicians.

Why not invite them to travel to Haiti with him, become involved, and ultimately return to donate their medical skills to treat those afflicted with the disease?

Thus the birth of “Emil’s Army,” groups of physicians and health professionals who have accompanied Hofman to Haiti on what he calls “reconnaissance missions.”

The object of the missions, Hofman says, is to give people a clearer understanding of the people of Haiti, “the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere. And an appreciation of the words of St. Matthew, ‘As you do this for the least of our brothers and sisters, so you do it for me.’”

On trips earlier this year, Hofman filmed surgeries performed by “Emil’s Army” volunteer surgeons, to create presentations for physicians and others interested in the Haiti Program.

“I scrubbed, dressed and shot the film in the room while surgery was being performed,” he says. Most American doctors have never seen anything like the shocking deformity produced by lymphatic filariasis, he adds, “Not even in textbooks.”

Hofman is returning to Haiti in May on a reconnaissance mission with a group of seven physicians. He hopes those who travel with him to Haiti will be moved to support the program with their time and their donations. “We always need funds,” he notes.

His mission trips also perform another important function: passing his zeal on to the next generation. Biology major E. Brennan Bolman, recently named Notre Dame’s 2009 valedictorian, served as a research assistant to Father Streit, conducting fieldwork in Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince.

Accompanying Hofman on other recent trips were grandchildren Courtney, a Notre Dame senior, and grandson Colin, a junior, as well as senior history major (and football team offensive lineman) Chris Stewart.

Hofman taught many students over the course of his career at Notre Dame—including two who were awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine. He’s proudest of those who “followed the example of the Lady on the Dome, and became good mothers,” he adds.

But he wants to emphasize how proud he is of another former student—Father Streit—and the work that Streit is doing in Haiti.

“He is an inspiration to me,” Hofman says. “The teacher learned from his student.”