University employees take the lead in fundraising

BY JUDY BRADFORD, FOR NDWORKS

Silent auctions. A pie sale. A Halloween party. A cookbook sale and bowling parties. All those activities are raising money for the United Way campaign—and all are grassroots ideas from employees who want to help. That's the plan, and it's working, according to Dee Dee Sterling, manager of human resources communications and University coordinator for the United Way campaign.

Last year, employees contributed close to $300,000 for local United Way agencies. Sterling and her campaign steering committee are hoping for the same amount this year. With all the departmental and inter-departmental cooperation, that should be attainable. “It’s been exciting to see all the teams get involved,” says Tamara Baker-Inwood, administrative assistant for St. Michael’s Laundry. “We had a subcommittee of five people working on it.” Laundry employees recently raised $892 with a silent auction that included sheet cakes, gift certificates, a hand-painted chair and a football signed by Coach Charlie Weis. They also raised $117 by holding an employee breakfast.

Sterling says it’s important for employees to come up with their own ideas and feel a part of the fundraising effort.

Food Services, for example, is holding a pie sale. You can order pumpkin or apple pies for $8 each or two for $15 and pick them up at the Huddle between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, the day before Thanksgiving. (For more information, call 631-7167.)

Employee Compassion Fund grows

You can make a difference

More than $98,000 in pledges to the United Way have already been received. Return your pledge card to Room 200 Grace Hall by Wednesday, Dec. 23. You may also have a one-time deduction made from your first paycheck of 2010, or make a donation with cash or a check payable to the United Way of St. Joseph County. Five percent of your total pledge can be designated for the Notre Dame Employee Compassion Fund (see page 2). Contributions are fully tax-deductible, and participants will be eligible for prizes including two round-trip airline tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. For more information, call the askHR helpline, 631-5900.
By Monica Hoban, for NDWorks

Notre Dame and Ivy Tech Community College have partnered to offer NDWorks employees the opportunity to earn an associate degree in applied science. The program started in the fall of 2008, as a result of feedback from employees, whether on campus or off campus,” says Kara McClure, human resources manager of learning and organizational development.

The program offers Ivy Tech instruction on Notre Dame’s campus for full-time and part-time regular employees. The accelerated curriculum fits four classes in a regular semester, plus one class in the summer. The University pays for tuition, books and technical fees.

The balance between work, home life and school is a difficult one, says Kim Miller, housekeeper at the Morris Inn. She enrolled not only to prove to herself that she could do it, but also to increase her chances of promotion. “I just love the program. Everyone in it is there because they want to learn,” she says. Miller has maintained a 4.0 grade point average since she started the program as a summer student in 2008. Michelle LaCose and Vicki Rendar, both in development donor services, agree that the program is tough, and they have lots of homework. They feel that their supervisor and teachers are very understanding. “It helps home with the kids—they see me studying and they get it,” LaCose says.

Miller, LaCose and Rendar all consider this the first step toward completing a bachelor’s degree, and highly recommend that other employees consider taking the challenge and enrolling in the program. The associate degree in applied science is one of many Learn at Work programs offered through Human Resources. For information on this and other Learn at Work programs, visit hr.nd.edu and click on the Learning and Development tab, or call the HR help line, 631-5900.

Classes offered on campus

NDWorks, Notre Dame’s faculty and student newspaper, is published by the Office of Public Affairs and Communications.

The views expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the views of ND Works or the administration. NDWorks is produced on a volunteer basis. Articles may be distributed but must give primary credit to NDWorks.

The deadline for stories is 10 business days before the date of publication.

Send story ideas, questions and comments to monica.hoban@nd.edu or contact Carol C. Bradley, 631-0445 or bradley.7@nd.edu.

Buy a pie and support the United Way

Anonymous donors to NDWorks have agreed that the program is tough, and highly recommend that other employees consider taking the challenge and enrolling in the program.

Program helps employees complete their education

Compassion Fund benefits ND employees

Designate 5 percent of your United Way contribution to benefit the Notre Dame family

By Monica Hoban, for NDWorks

This year employees once again have the option of designating 5 percent of their total United Way contribution for the Employee Compassion Fund, set up to help members of the Notre Dame family with emergency or catastrophic needs, says Dee Dee Sterling, manager of human resources communication.

One recipient was going through a divorce when her car was broken down, and she was not able to pay for the repairs. The had to rely on friends and family for rides to work and to school for her young children. “The compassion fund was able to pay for her car repairs and in turn gain back her independence,” Sterling notes. “The fund was also able to pay for a new mattress for an employee whose apartment had burned down this year.”

So for all Compassion Fund requests for aid for catastrophic issues have been granted. These payments are made directly to the creditors on behalf of the employee. Payments from the fund are not taxable or reportable as income, and the employee is not responsible for repayment of any benefits from the fund.

To date the money raised for the Compassion Fund has reached $23,000, and Sterling believes that because of the fund, employee donations to the United Way campaign have gone up in the past two years.

To contribute to the Employee Compassion Fund, simply check the box on your United Way Campaign pledge card. To apply for the benefit, forms are available under the HR Web site's forms tab at hr.nd.edu. All donations to the United Way and the Employee Compassion Fund are tax deductible.

United Way

Buy a pie and support the United Way

Notre Dame Food Services is selling pumpkin and apple pies—just in time for Thanksgiving—to support the United Way. Pumpkin and apple pies are $8 each or two for $15 and must be ordered by Friday, Nov. 20. Pies can be picked up in the Huddle from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25. To order, call Christine Coleman, cooleman@nd.edu or 631-1767.

FLU SHOTS

As soon as University Health Services receives doses of the H1N1 vaccine, nurses schedule a distribution clinic in Stepan Center. Here, nurse Gayle Szechkovich administers flu vaccine to student Laurenne Feber. Because the vaccine has arrived in small shipments, UHS has distributed injections to highest risk groups first, through a process mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Eventually, UHS expects to receive enough of the vaccine for all faculty, staff and students who want it, regardless of their age or health status.

NEWS BRIEFS

POTTERY SALE

The women’s volleyball team won 3-1 against Seton Hall Saturday, Oct. 31 in the first event held in the newly renovated Joyce Center Purcell Pavilion. The $24.7 million facelift to the 58-year-old facility includes chair-back seats, a stadium/club hospitality area, additional women’s restrooms and seating for disabled guests.

The Berlin Wall remembered

“Wallstories,” a work by photographer/dancer Nejla Yaktik, Artist in Residence in the Department of Film, Television and Theatre, premiered in Washington, D.C. in October. A native of Berlin with Turkish ancestry, Yaktik grew up in the shadow of the wall. Yaktik’s work, noted Washington Post writer Sarah Kaufman, “evoked the denial and the physical and emotional suppression of the times.” For more information on the project, visit berlinwallproject.com.

James McAdams, the William M. Scholl Professor of International Affairs and director of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, reflected on the fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years later in an interview at newsinfo.nd.edu/news/13806.
Notre Dame launches iTunes U channel

Knowledge for those on the go

BY JULIE HAIL FLORY, NEWS AND INFORMATION

You may know iTunes as a place to download music, TV shows or other materials. What you might not realize is that it has another side—one that focuses not on entertainment, but rather on education.

It’s called iTunes U, created by Apple to become “the world’s greatest collection of free educational media available to students, teachers and lifelong learners,” and it offers thousands of audio and video files—all for free—to anyone who would like to get their knowledge on the go.

Notre Dame joins the ranks of other top institutions on iTunes U as the University launches its channel this month. You can find it by visiting http://itunes.nd.edu on the Web and clicking on “Launches iTunes U.”

(You will need to have iTunes loaded on your computer.)

On the Notre Dame channel, you’ll find material representing academics, research, campus life, athletics and faith, including a collection dedicated to ND Prayercast, where you can download sacred music, scripture and homilies to enjoy at your leisure. There also is a section for alumni, parents and friends.

“The iTunes platform has had incredible success as a tool for sharing information,” said Todd Woodward, associate vice president for marketing and communications in the Office of Public Affairs and Communications, which worked with the Office of Information Technologies to build the Notre Dame channel. “iTunes U provides a great opportunity for us to share Notre Dame stories with our audiences, and to give the world a glimpse into our vibrant intellectual community.”

Protect your privacy on social networks

Avoid embarrassment by limiting access

BY LENETTE VOITIYA, OIT

In your family part of a social network like Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn or Twitter? If so, have you taken the necessary precautions to protect your privacy and minimize embarrassing personal and professional situations? Here are some Facebook guidelines that can help you gain control of your personal and private information.

• Know your friend lists. By grouping your friends into categories (e.g., Friends, Family and Professionals), you can avoid exposing inappropriate information to the wrong group.

• Remove yourself from search results. Set up privacy settings to control the visibility of your public search listing in the social network, Google and other search engines.

• Limit access to information or images. Modify your privacy settings to keep all tagged photos and information you post private to avoid personal embarrassment. You may want to add a separate friend list to provide access to close contacts.

• Protect your albums. Just because you uploaded your photos doesn’t mean that they’ve tagged every photo correctly. Go to the photo privacy page to configure the visibility of each album.

• Protect personal and application stories. Any personal information you post may show up in your friends’ news feeds. And when you use many applications, their news feeds are immediately published to your profile. Use the privacy settings to limit access.

• Keep your contact information private. This information should be storable only by close contacts. Modify your privacy settings to limit access.

• Keep your friendship private. Your friends may not want their lives made public. Modify the visibility of your friends to others with your privacy settings.

• Use these as general guidelines for other social networks. For additional information on maintaining adequate privacy on social networks, go to secure.nd.edu.
Notre Dame Scholar Debunks Myths about Jesus

**By Josh Stowe, College of Arts and Letters**

Professor John P. Meier continues his work to correct common misconceptions about what Jesus thought and taught.

This year, the Notre Dame theology professor published the fourth volume of his larger work, "A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus." In this latest volume, Law and Love, Meier explores Jesus’ relationship to Mosaic law.

Meier argues that Jesus rejected the law as a faithful Jew, not as someone opposing or seeking to overturn the law, although he notes that in some cases Jesus’ words marked a departure from individual rules. "My latest work addresses the old misconceptions—and facile opposition—that claims Judaism is a religion of fear and dreary legal observance, while Christianity is a religion of love, freedom and joy," says Meier, who holds the University's William K. Warren Foundation Chair in Theology. "That is an absurd caricature that ignores the importance of love and joy in Judaism and the importance of obeying God’s commandments— as taught by Jesus—in Christianity.

Jesus’ Explanation of Law

In his new book, Meier highlights instances where Jesus is commonly thought to be merely repeating Jewish legal tradition, whereas in reality he is employing a sophisticated analysis of that tradition. He cites Jesus’ dual command to love God and neighbor as an example. "In fact," Meier says, "no other Jewish teacher before, during or immediately after the time of Jesus ever explicitly joined together these two specific separate commands and interwove that they are, respectively, the first and second commandments of the Mosaic Torah."

This leads Meier to an interesting observation: "Jesus’ skill in interpreting the Scriptures raises the question of whether he had received more formal education than is generally supposed," Meier also points to what he calls Jesus’ "startling and laconic" command to love one’s enemies. Although the substance of this command appears in some Old Testament laws, he says, the exact wording does not: "Nowhere in Judaism before the time of Jesus do we have this precise, sharp and concise expression of the command."

Quest for the Historical Jesus

Meier’s work is the latest in a series of noteworthy volumes. Previous volumes have examined Jesus’ background, analyzed the influence John the Baptist had on him, and explored both Jesus’ central message about the kingdom of God and the way in which he fit into first-century Judaism. Meier’s ongoing scholarship has produced significant critical acclaim. A 2007 survey placed "A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus" among 100 great Catholic books. The same year, a book by Pope Benedict XVI described it as one of the most important recent books about Jesus, citing it as "fundamental to understanding the historical-creative genius of this year, America, a national Catholic weekly, devoted in Oct. 19 cover article to Meier’s most recent volume.

The volume is the latest major undertaking by a scholar who has written six other books and more than 60 articles for books or journals, served on an international advisory committee for theology and church life, and helped to edit several scholarly publications. This volume in the Marginal Jew series, Meier says, "subordinates the genuine Jewishness of Jesus’—a reality he argues is often overlooked or misrepresented. "It is important to remember," he says, “that Jesus was born, lived, taught, and died as a Jew.”

"Rethinking the Historical Jesus" is the fourth volume in theology professor John P. Meier’s larger work, "The Marginal Jew." In the latest volume, Meier explores Jesus’ relationship to Mosaic law.

Building clever students

**By Julie Hail Flory, News and Information**

College-bound students know they have to be book-smart in order to get into a top school. But when it comes to impressing professors and standing out in the crowd, good grades are only one part of the equation.

A new book by a Notre Dame psychology professor emphasizes the importance of “practical intelligence” and offers advice to college students on how to give their teachers what they really want and get the most out of their hard-earned—and often expensive—college education.

"The Clever Student: A Guide to Getting the Most from your Professors" by Anita E. Kelly, professor of psychology, aims to give students a leg up by offering strategies for top performance in the college classroom.

In the book, to be released this month by Corby Books (corbypublishing.com), Kelly offers strategies to college students on such topics as social intelligence and classroom participation, as well as an insider’s perspective on how professors think. The book also provides practical tips for how to handle missed classes or exams, write a great paper for a demanding professor, and get top-notch faculty letters of recommendation. It also contains a test of social intelligence in the classroom so students can see how savvy they are compared to their peers.

In conjunction with the book’s release, Kelly also is launching a new Clever Student blog, which can be found on the Web at thecleverstudent.com.

“It is my hope that through the book and the blog, I can help students use their social intelligence to get the most out of their professors, including getting very good grades and amazing letters of recommendation,” Kelly said. “At the very least, I hope these tools will help students feel better about confusing or upsetting interactions with their professors.”

Kelly also is the author of “The Psychology of Secrets” and numerous scientific articles on secrecy, self-presentation and self-concept change. Her work on secrecy has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and has been featured in the Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Newsday, Glamour and Health.
Campus Ministry links African-American, Asian-American and Hispanic students to campus resources, community

Fostering personal connections

BY WILLIAM G. SCHMITT, NDWORKS

Notre Dame’s populations of African-American, Asian-American and Hispanic students have already started the academic year with their customary weekend retreats. Campus Ministry staff members who reach out to these groups—and who help host these annual gatherings—say the rest of the year won’t have anything to do with “reverting.”

Through the different events in late August and early September, the students are encouraged to plunge into a distinctive experience of diversity, the campus ministers say. Shunning separation, the students get up to get involved at multiple levels and to welcome the staff and faculty all across campus who want to extend the Notre Dame community’s resources to everyone.

“When we talk about diversity, there’s the whole aspect of hospitality we extend to each other,” said Priscilla Wong, who is part of the cross-cultural ministry team in the Office of Campus Ministry. When students know, across campus, there are all these people who understand and share cultural patterns, says this 15-year veteran of outreach to Asian-American and Asian students.

Wong refers not only to Multicultural Student Programs and Services and other Student Affairs units, but also to rectors and counselors and employees from the First Year of Studies, as well as the DeBarato Performing Arts Center and Notre Dame Food Services, among others.

Linking students to resources is a prime goal of the year-opener retreat, says Wong.

African-American students have labeled their retreat “The Plunge,” says Wong’s colleague, Judy Madden, who heads Campus Ministry’s outreach to Notre Dame’s African-American population. The older students become role models for forgoing ahead with new ideas and questions that confront and break down barriers.

“They lead us,” says Madden of the student leaders in all three retreat groups, especially the juniors and seniors who remain eager to make newcomers welcome. “They have an ear to the ground on what their fellow students need,” so the Campus Ministry staff is happy to let the experienced undergraduates largely plan the retreat’s talks and activities.

Madden, who is in a mixed-race family, says her own children love to visit “The Plunge and experience the affirmation. She herself has her MBA from the Mendoza College of Business and is in her third year of cross-cultural ministry work.

Rev. Ralph Haag, C.S.C., the St. Edward’s Hall rector who has worked with Campus Ministry on outreach to Hispanic students since 2006, agrees students appreciate the message “there’s a small army of people here at Notre Dame ready to help you succeed.” But he adds that the success is “a two-way street,” re- kindling the wider University community “to appreciate the uniqueness and diversity that Hispanic students bring.”

That mutuality fits with the central, though not exclusive, role Campus Ministry plays in cross-cultural bridge building. That began in the early to mid-1990s, says Wong, who remembers when four Asian students got to know her as a Campus Ministry employee and asked for her help in “being a part of the community.”

“It’s a natural for Campus Ministry to foster personal connections based on mutual respect and to value the individual’s journey with God, says Madden. “It’s part of Notre Dame’s soul to acknowledge the importance of other religions, cultures.”

That spirit has led to a lot of sustained energy within Campus Ministry and within the groups that attend the retreats, which this year drew some of their biggest crowds. Much of the sharing that springs forth has religious content, such as the scheduling of interfaith meetings and samplings of international prayer forms, or monthly Masses influenced by African-American traditions.

“A traveling chapel” of Asian Americans goes to Mass at different residence halls. Father Ralph notes that members of the Hispanic student community gather for weekly Masses and also help the campus to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

Faculty and staff members of all backgrounds are invited to attend multicultural events that may be religious or secular. “It’s very easy,” says Father Ralph. “There are a lot of ways to get involved. Events inviting student and employee participation include an annual Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner and festivals of fashion, dance and music.

For more information, contact Campus Ministry, 631-7800.

TAIZÉ PRAYER

10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, Walsh Hall Chapel

MUSLIM PRAYER

7 to 7:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, 330 Coleman-Morse

JEWISH PRAYER

7 to 7:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, Room 330 Coleman-Morse

Weekly Zen Meditation sessions are held from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Thursdays in the Coleman-Morse Meditation Room.

For more information, contact Campus Ministry, 631-7800.

What is Taizé prayer?

Music, chants and prayers in different languages

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY, NDWORKS

By candlelight, they gather around a cross to sing and pray. A Taizé prayer service combines candlelight, chanting, silence, Scripture readings, music and prayers are sung and spoken in many different languages, to reflect the international and ecumenical nature of the Taizé community.

Taizé prayer originated in the small village of Taizé in the Burgundy Region of France, where Brother Roger founded an ecumenical community for contemplation and the reconciliation of Christians of all faiths.

Sr. Janet Stanikowski, O.F., rector of Walsh Hall, has a familiar face and story to tell. She has been pastoring a peaceless parish in Utah. When two students approached her in 2007 about bringing Taizé prayer to Walsh Hall, she was excited about the idea.

“I am always interested in how we pray together with other Christians and non-Christian communities,” she says. In Walsh Hall, she notes, not everyone is Catholic. “We have Mass, but not too many other experiences where the hall can come together in prayer.”

Taizé is meditative, Sr. Stan. says. “When you repeat the chant, you enter into the prayer.”

The chants and Scriptures are in many different languages—Latin, English, French, Spanish, Italian. “No one is interpreting, but you’re hearing in all different languages. It’s a way of coming together to pray with people of different religions.”

Members of the campus community are invited to take part in an ecumenical Taizé prayer service at 10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, in the Walsh Hall Chapel. For more information, contact Campus Ministry, 631-7800.

Professor invites friends and learners into Quran Circle

BY MICHAEL LUCIEN, NEWS AND INFORMATION

For most students, reading the Quran for an hour sounds like a homework assignment. For Gabriel Reynolds, associate professor of Islamic studies and theology, and the student members of the Quran circle reading group, it is an extra-curricula activity with many benefits.

Established in 2004, the Quran Circle began when a few students and faculty members met informally to improve their Arabic and together to discuss Arabic and the Quran. Today the group includes about five student members, in addition to Reynolds. The group meets every Friday in Reynolds’ office in Malloy Hall. All students with at least one semester of Arabic experience are welcome to attend.

What is it about this group that has students drawn to it for fun!

“The group helps me practice both speaking and comprehending spoken Arabic,” says Notre Dame junior Joshua Calton. The group consists of group meetings is designed to help all participants grow and learn more about Arabic and the Quran itself. Students take turns reading a passage and then translating it. Reynolds assists, explaining new terms, aiding in pronouncing challenging phrases and even teaching on occasion to help students understand the Quran in context.

“Professor Reynolds also makes an effort to improve our grammar and ability to comprehend a complete passage, despite the presence of unknown words,” says Calton. Reading and translating, however, is only a part of the group’s purpose. “The group is meant to challenge students to master the rules of Arabic grammar, but also to be a circle of friends who reflect their interest in the important literary and religious issues connected to both the Quran and the Bible, there is always a topic for group discussion.

Reynolds hopes for the group to grow in the future. “Ultimately I hope for the group to provide a context where students improve their Arabic and participate in a college yet scholarly conversation,” he says. “Thereby the Quran Circle becomes a setting where Muslims and non-Muslims are equal partners in a common intellectual initiative.”

Students of Arabic delve into Quran, its language

BY MICHAEL LUCIEN, NEWS AND INFORMATION

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From left, Judy Madden, African-American student minister; Rev. Ralph Haag, C.S.C., Latino student minister; and Priscilla Wong, associate director for administration and Asian-American student minister.
Members of the Office of Information Technology (OIT) contribute a wide range of expertise and knowledge to keep the technology infrastructure of Notre Dame running smoothly. The skill and talent of OIT staffers was most notably tested over the past year, when, in the summer of 2008, Notre Dame was notified by the vendor of its legacy e-mail service that it would discontinue support for a core component by the spring of 2009, forcing the OIT to identify and implement a replacement service.

A short time earlier, in the spring of 2008, the OIT faced a growing desire among students for institutional support of Gmail and Google Apps. Forming what came to be known as the Email Transition Team, and working closely with a newly elected student government, the OIT developed a plan for the implementation of Gmail and Google Apps. Following that plan, the University signed the Google contract on April 30, 2008, and a short two weeks later the Email Transition Team had 2000 new Gmail accounts in place for all incoming freshmen. The team devoted the remainder of the summer to preparing to move 12,000 existing student accounts to Gmail, which took place all at once, overnight, on the night of Sept. 3, 2008.

At the same time, other members of the Email Transition Team were investigating alternative options for faculty and staff, eventually choosing Microsoft Exchange because of its ability to integrate email and calendar- ing, among other features. Originally planning to implement this switch in email services in the summer of 2009, the Email Transition Team ultimately decided to “go live” with the new service on Jan. 7, 2009, to better meet faculty and staff needs. To accomplish this deadline and to cause as little disruption as possible, members of the team worked long hours throughout the fall and over the Christmas break.

We salute these dedicated professionals today by recognizing them with a Presidential Team Irish Award, which honors exemplary service, teamwork, and commitment. The award program has been designed to provide a special and unique opportunity to publicly recognize teams that exemplify the University’s core values.

Football season is the busiest time of year
BY LISA BUCIOR, NDWORKS

Looking for something? You’re not the only one.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 items are turned in to the Lost and Found office at Hesburgh Library every year. Keys and glass are the most commonly lost items, but the collection also includes coats, cell phones, jewelry, PDA’s and even Rubik’s cubes and baseball mitts.

“Whatever it is, we get it,” says Don Nemeth, staff officer with the Notre Dame Security Police, who manages the Lost and Found along with three other student workers. “Lots of schools don’t even have a Lost and Found,” he says. “We have a nice little program here that actually is among the top of its kind.”

The Lost and Found operates pretty simple: Each building on campus collects abandoned items in a central location, often the dean or building manager’s office. Nemeth employs a few students to collect the “found” items every two weeks and bring them to the Lost and Found center in Hesburgh Memorial Library. The items are tagged and stored, and their description is posted in the online Lost and Found database.

Owners can report an item lost—or check the online database to see what’s been found—at ndpolice.nd.edu/lost-and-found. Found items are donated to charities: Clothing items are donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Center and textbooks are donated to the Lions Club and St. Joseph Regional Medical Center and textbooks are also donated to the Card Services Office in the basement of South Dining Hall. Keys to university buildings are given to Locksmith Services. When bikes and other valuable items such as purses or wallets with credit cards and money are lost or stolen, it’s handled through the Notre Dame and incident report must be filled out.

Lost and Found successfully returns between six and ten percent of items collected. Nemeth says lost items are kept for only 45 days because of limited storage space. Many unclaimed items have sentimental value or are important to the owner. Nemeth says, “When it’s time to get something is sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Center, glasses are given to the local Lions Club and St. Joseph Regional Medical Center and textbooks are also sold to the bookstore or donated to the St. Joseph County Public Library. All other items are sold at the annual O’Dell’s campus yard sale, with all funds raised donated to local charities. Nemeth estimates that Lost and Found has raised around $80,000 by selling unclaimed items.

“We try not to throw anything away—we help the South Bend community when we can,” he says.
Con Ganas (With Heart)

Artist’s Day of the Dead ofrenda celebrates her father’s life

BY LAURA MIDKIFF, FOR NDWORKS

California artist Maria Elena Castro visited campus in late October to celebrate the life of her beloved father, Mariano Castro, by creating a Day of the Dead ofrenda (memorial altar) at the Snite Museum as part of the observance of the feasts of All Souls’ Day and All Saints’ Day.

The exhibition “Con Ganas (With Heart)” will be on display in the museum’s Scholz Family Works on Paper Gallery through Nov. 29.

The ninth annual Dia de los Muertos celebration, co-sponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies, included in addition to the exhibition a lecture by Castro and performances of traditional Mexican music and dance by Mariani NB and Ballet Folklorico Bad y On after the Oct. 29 opening.

Castro’s father was a craftsman whose notable creations included the carnival floats paraded in the streets during Mexico’s Holy Week.

Before her arrival in South Bend, Castro collected and sent ahead six boxes of relics, cut tissue paper, wire, yarn and calacas, the skeletons commonly used for decoration during the Day of the Dead celebrations. Calacas are depicted as jests, rather than mournful figures and are usually adorned with festive clothing indicating a happy afterlife. Castro’s exhibit included three calacas representing her two siblings and herself.

She brought with her to South Bend a large suitcase loaded with her father’s effects—photographs, his glasses and favorite baseball cap, rosary beads and his dictionary. “He loved his dictionary,” she recalled. “It’s very old and the cover was falling apart. He fixed it with a wood cover. That was his style.”

Included in her offering was food, an important component of all ofrendas. Pan de muerto (sweet egg bread) graced the altar along with jars of lemon cookies and butter candies—Mariano’s favorites—as well as coffee. The scents, which often include incense, are what draw the soul of the deceased to the ofrenda, says Castro.

Her father, she adds, loved to do “fix-its” around the house. “He was very rough around the edges and he put things together that didn’t look polished. I admired him. I emulated him, and in my work I use found objects that I feel have special value and connect them, juxtaposing things that don’t belong together. That comes from looking at my father’s work.”

The title of the exhibition comes from something Castro’s father always told her: Whatever she was going to do, she was to do “con ganas”—with heart.

Artist Maria Elena Castro’s Day of the Dead altar, a tribute to her late father, included photographs, his glasses and baseball cap, and offerings of sweet bread and butter candies. The ofrenda will be on view at the Snite Museum through Nov. 29.

Upcoming Events

ART

Work by first-year graduate students in the Department of Art Art History and Design will be on display Dec. 3 through Jan. 24, in the Leighton Concert Hall.

MUSIC

Unless otherwise noted, all performances take place in the Snite Museum performance center. More information or to purchase tickets, visit performingarts.nd.edu or call 631-2800. Ticket prices are for faculty and staff, senior citizens and students of all ages.

Notre Dame Concert Bands

Game Weekend Concert
3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20
Leighton Concert Hall

The Notre Dame Symphonic Band and Symphonic Winds. Presented by the Department of Music.

$5/$4/$3

Concerts

Stefon Harris & Blackout
2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22
Leighton Concert Hall

Vibraphonist-composer Stefon Harris, “one of the most important young artists in jazz.”

Visiting Artist Series
$22/$22/$15

The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Aida—Verdi
1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4
Browning Cinema

A touching breakup story and epic drama set in ancient Egypt.

$22/$22/$15

The University of Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra: Handel’s Messiah
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5
Leighton Concert Hall

Handel’s great oratorio, conducted by Alexander Blachly.

Presented by the Department of Music.

$8/$6/$3

Boston Brass and All-Stars
Big Band: A Stan Kenton Christmas
2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6
Leighton Concert Hall

The ensemble of all brass instruments features big band arrangements of classics like the Stan Kenton Christmas Carol, Greensleeves and Motown Jingle Bells.

Visiting Artist Series
$25/$25/$15

Collegium Musicum Fall Concert
7 and 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9
Reyos Organ and Choral Hall

Renaissance and Baroque sacred music.

Presented by the Department of Music.

$3/$3/$3

Seventh Annual Christmas at the CoMo Benefit Concert
for the Farm of the Child
December 11, 107 Hesburgh Library Carey Auditorium

Student Christmas Orchestra, Carolers, classical works and popular standards. 4-5 p.m. No cover.

FREE-WILL OFFERING

Notre Dame Glee Club Christmas Concert
4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
Leighton Concert Hall

Carolers, classical works and popular standards.

FREE-WILL OFFERING

Lectures

An Education (2009)
6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, 107 Hesburgh Library Carey Auditorium

Michael Desmond, distinguished adviser, conversion technology, BP America.

Part of the Notre Dame Energy Center’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

Bright Star (2009)
6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5
In London, 1818, 23-year-old English poet John Keats begins a secret love affair with the girl next door.

An Education (2009)
6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10, 11 and 12
Feeling smothered by her adolescence, 16-year-old Jenny meets a man who seems to embody her every fantasy.

LECTURES AND EVENTS

Blood Drive
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24
South Bend Medical Foundation has special T-shirts for Donor donors. No appointment necessary.

Lecture and book signing:
“The Great African War”
6:15 to 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1, CoM107 Hesburgh Center


Lecture: “Future Automobile Fuels: Fill Up or Plug In?”
4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, 107 Hesburgh Library Carey Auditorium

Michael Desmond, distinguished adviser, conversion technology, BP America.

Part of the Notre Dame Energy Center’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

Senior Citizen Lecture Series:
“Holiday Fireproofing”
Noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7
Robinson Community Learning Center, 921 E. Eddy St.

RSVP to Amy at 631-3249 by Dec. 2. Box lunches provided from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Main Building Christmas Open House/Reception
Friday, Dec. 11, afternoon times TBA

All full-time faculty and staff are invited by Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and the Officers Group to an open house on the second, third and fourth floors of the Main Building.

The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Visit recsports.nd.edu and click the Register link.
Notre Dame trounced the Washington State Cougars 40-14 at San Antonio’s Alamo Dome Oct. 31, in the first of a new series of off-site home games. Above, an estimated 7,500 fans filled Alamo Plaza for the Friday night pep rally featuring Alumni Association’s Chuck Lennon and appearances by the Notre Dame Leprechaun, the Notre Dame Cheerleaders and the Band of the Fighting Irish.

Above and at right, Notre Dame fans arrived at the Alamo Dome ready to cheer. In addition to their duties at the pep rally and game, the Notre Dame Cheerleaders paid a visit to wounded veterans at the Warrior and Family Support Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. For more Matt Cashore photographs visit gameday.nd.edu.

At left, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., greets one of 120 volunteers from the Alumni Association and the Notre Dame Club of San Antonio who donated time to help refurbish the Healy-Murphy Center, a San Antonio non-profit that serves as a resource for youth in crisis. The center was founded and is run by the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate.