Research awards exceed $100 million for the first time

Signals progress toward University’s goals

BY GAIL HINCHION MANCINI, INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Notre Dame’s research awards have exceeded the $100 million mark for the first time in its history, fulfilling a goal set by President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., during his 2005 inaugural address.

“This is an important milestone for Notre Dame because it signals progress toward our goal as a premier Catholic research university,” Father Jenkins said. “It shows that our faculty are making valuable discoveries in areas as diverse as nanoscience and conflict resolution.”

The milestone was reached on April 6 with the arrival of a $93,358 grant to Karsten Grove, professor of mathematics, for a study called Geometry and Topology in the Presence of Lower Curvature Bounds. The National Science Foundation awarded the grant.

The $100 million total reflects an increase in the number of grants proposed, an increase in the size of those proposals, and an increase in the number and size of grants that are winning funding, said Robert Bernhard, vice president for research.

“This milestone is due in all respects to the research vision and hard work of our faculty. Their enthusiasm to form teams across disciplines and institutions builds on our strong tradition of individual contributions. The enthusiastic support of our donors also has been vital,” Bernhard said.

Since 2007-08, when Bernhard began to lead the University’s research office, the number of proposals written and submitted has increased by 34 percent, and the size of proposal requests has doubled. By the end of March 2008, faculty had garnered $86 million in awards, compared to the $100 million milestone just reached.

The milestone is a tangible sign of the benefits Notre Dame has begun to realize by initiating a program to provide seed funding for research. Called Strategic Research Investments (SRI), the program has invested $80 million of the University’s own money to advance the scope, excellence and visibility of the research enterprise.

The funds have been used to hire new faculty, purchase cutting-edge research equipment and provide personnel support that frees more time for faculty to pursue research projects. As a result of this support, “Our faculty members can confidently compete against their peers,” Bernhard says.

While the current upswing in successful research reflects the early stages of the SRI investment, the full potential of the program has not yet had time to peak, he said. “When this investment is fully realized, I believe we will see the development of a transformative component of our research programs.”

Certain external factors have helped define 2009-10 as a bountiful year. Among those factors, federal economic stimulus money under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has totaled nearly $30 million. Those funds have included awards such as $18.5 million to Peter C. Burns, Massman Chair and Professor of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences, to establish an Energy Frontier Research Center. The focus is on the materials science of actinides, and the center intends to lay the scientific foundation for advanced nuclear energy systems that may provide much more energy while creating less nuclear waste.

Also noteworthy, a $12.2 million renewal grant from the National Institutes of Health to the Vector-Base project to support the work of biologists Frank Collins and Nora J. Besansky, co-principal investigators, and Greg Medey and Scott Emrich of computer science and engineering.

Ohmer appointed interim director of Hesburgh Libraries

University will conduct national search

NDWORKS STAFF WRITER

Susan Ohmer, assistant provost and William T. and Helen Kuhn Carey Associate Professor of Modern Communication, has been appointed interim director of Hesburgh Libraries. The University is conducting a national search for a successor to Jennifer Younger, who is stepping down at the end of the academic year after 13 years as the Edward H. Arnold Director of Hesburgh Libraries.

As assistant provost, Ohmer is responsible for coordinating efforts to recruit and retain female faculty and for oversight of the libraries and Notre Dame Press, and she serves as the provost’s liaison to the Early Childhood Development Center. Since 2007, she has led the Committee on Women Faculty and Students, which considers policies, practices and the general environment of the University as they relate to female faculty and students.

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1998, Ohmer teaches courses in film and television in U.S. culture, and her research focuses on the history and development of the University as they relate to female faculty and students.

Ohmer’s research focuses on the history and development of the University as they relate to female faculty and students.
Math conference draws hundreds

Showcasing the University's investment in mathematics

By Gene Stowe, for NDWorks

The 2010 Midwest Algebra, Geometry and their Interrelation Conference (MAGIC) at Notre Dame on April 23-25 brought together more than 100 mathematicians from the region and around the world. Notre Dame professors Charles Pauly, A. J. Gilg and Nici Budur organized the event with Alberto Cossu of the University of Kentucky.

MAGIC is a series of conferences more than a decade old that rotates among Notre Dame, Kentucky, Purdue University, Indiana University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois at Chicago. The meetings, focused on commutative algebra and algebraic geometry, aim to attract young scholars such as graduate students with interest in the field.

Joseph Harris of Harvard University opened MAGIC '10 with a talk on "Uniformity of rational points on curves," exploring some ramifications of Faltings' theorem. The theorem, Gerd Faltings' proof in 1983 of the Mordell conjecture proposed in the 1920s, was one of the leading mathematical accomplishments of the 20th century. Harris discussed possible extensions of the theorem, which says the number of solutions to certain Diophantine equations is finite. Other MAGIC speakers were Valery Alexeev of the University of Georgia, David Cox of Amherst College, Elisa Gorla of the University Basel in Switzerland, Robin Hartshorne of the University of California at Berkeley, Melvin Hochster and Robert Lazarsfeld of the University of Michigan, Jason Kollar of Princeton University, Rosa Maria Miró-Roig of the Universitat de Barcelona in Spain and Andrew Sommese of Notre Dame.

Talks included "Rees algebras and singularities of rational plane curves," "Singularities of paint," "Continuous curves and polynomials on algebraic varieties," and "Recent work in numerical algebraic geometry," presented by Sommese.

Greg Sterling, dean of the Graduate School; Greg Crawford, dean of the College of Science; and Bei Hu, chairman of the Department of Mathematics, welcomed the conference to campus and used the opportunity to showcase Notre Dame's expanded investment in mathematics. The University, which has added a Department of Statistics, provided support for the conference along with the National Science Foundation.

New look for Legends

Updates throughout the restaurant

By Colleen O'Connor, for NDWorks

Perhaps you have noticed the exterior makeover at Legends of Notre Dame, completed last fall. New signage, landscaping, lighting and canopies have given the nondescript, one-story building a polished and upscale look. Immediately following Commencement, renovations will begin inside as well, starting at the front door. You will enter through the first—and only— revolving door on campus!

Once inside, you will notice the biggest changes in the lobby, according to Aron Perri, general manager, facilities and programs. The greeter station, originally located in the restaurant area, will be moved to the lobby where it will be complemented by new leather seating and a flat-screen TV; one of 17 that will be strategically placed throughout the establishment. The area previously occupied by the greeter station will be home to four new dining booths, a trophy case and a merchandise display cabinet.

The pub will have crown molding throughout, new ceiling fans and pendant lighting above the bar. The restaurant will have new carpeting and new lighting consisting of LED cans in the new beveled ceiling panel, ceiling moos, spotlights to illuminate the wall decor, and pendant lighting over the booths. Navy blue paint will cover the walls below the chair rail, and there will be matching upholstery on booths and newly introduced chairs. Seating capacity will increase by 28 seats.

The private dining room will take on a more elegant look, with wainscoting, wall sconces and new artwork. The entrance to the private dining room, currently located off the service area, will be moved to inside the restaurant. There will also be "behind the scenes" upgrades to enhance service, and some changes taking place to comply with ADA standards.

Doug Schlager, Pamela James and Valerie Trammable, director of the Office of the University Architect provided design services for the project. Construction is scheduled to be completed in early June. According to Perri and Rich Jacobs, general manager, food services, there will be new wait staff uniforms and a new look to the menus. The menu offerings will be slightly revised this summer. "There will be no immediate change to operating hours, but expect Saturday and Sunday evening to go into effect sometime in the future," said Perri.

No changes are planned for the nightclub at Legends. It is available for event bookings, such as wedding receptions, at any time other than weekends during the academic year, which are always reserved for student activities.

Meanwhile, there’s another, even broader discussion going on across campus. A growing community of faculty, staff and students is convening for collaboration and coordination on the subject of fostering a sense of global citizenship.

This discussion, complementing Notre Dame’s mission to make a difference in the world, is not an online program. It’s a structure of on-campus human interactions—lectures, coffeehouse conversations, materials to be read and discussed—that has an online component.

The Center for Social Concerns, one of the University units leading this initiative, offers an online introduction to the topic, complete with a recent guest lecture that outlined today’s educational challenges. Hear the recording of that lecture by going to socialconcerns.nd.edu and clicking on the links at “Summit on Global Citizenship.” The website’s description of the “learning community” that is growing around this topic also lists the many University units collaborating in the process.

NZWorks, Notre Dame’s faculty and staff newspaper, is published by the Office of Public Affairs and Communication. The views expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the views of ND Works or the administration. NZWorks is produced seasonally during the academic year when classes are in session, and weekly during June and July.

Online stories and photo posts of NZWorks can be found at nd.edu/ndworks. Submit story ideas, questions and comments to ndworks@nd.edu or contact Carol C. Bradley, 631-0445 or bradley.7@nd.edu.

The deadline for stories is 10 business days before the following 2009-2010 publication dates: July 23, Aug. 13, Aug 20, Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 5, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20 and June 17.

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Psychologist explores effective treatment options for children with autism disorders

Earlier interventions mean better outcomes

By Susan Guibert, Office of Public Relations

When one out of every 100 children born in this country is diagnosed with autism, treatment for those children requires as much attention as the diagnoses.

"Ten or 20 years ago, we were lucky to diagnose a child by age 3 or 5," says Joshua Diehl, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Notre Dame, who specializes in developmental disorders, with an emphasis on autism spectrum disorders and dyslexia. "Now we're able to reliably diagnose as early as 18 months, with some studies trying to pinpoint it within six months. Our ability to diagnose earlier—regardless of the treatment—means earlier intervention and better outcomes," says Diehl.

As with many developmental disorders, the diagnosis of "autism" can mean something different for each child. Autism disorders fall within a spectrum of behaviors, some more serious and difficult to overcome than others. "The signature characteristic for all children with autism is difficulty communicating. Many of the children desire to be social, but comprehension is a barrier for them. They don't always understand social conventions or norms," Diehl says. "Helping children with autism break through those barriers and communicate more effectively is the focus of Diehl's current research projects and therapies, all of which are behavior-based. "In a simple conversation, there are gestures, facial expressions, words and voice inflection—all of which come naturally for most people," Diehl explains. "Children with autism can accomplish these behaviors individually, but putting them together is difficult for them. These intuitive behaviors need to be taught to them."

In therapy with children with autism, Diehl focuses on breaking down those individual behaviors and teaching communication piece by piece. One method is through the use of "Nao," a robot that is programmed to understand and mimic communication behaviors such as gestures and facial expressions, and teach children with autism how to use and understand them. "The most important part of social interaction is understanding what's being said and being able to be understood," Diehl explains. "If we can bridge this social gap, it will open up so many doors for children with autism and help them in all aspects of their lives."

Most current research studies are focused on early intervention, but there's still a need for intervention for older children with autism. "We need to focus on services and therapies for children beyond the first few years of life," Diehl says. "What can we do for a child with autism who's 11, 12, even 18? These parents are still looking for ways to help their children."

One of Diehl's studies is geared toward older children and adolescents with high-functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome, and focuses on language comprehension. "We are trying to understand how children with autism spectrum disorders perform on a range of tasks measuring language comprehension abilities, and compare them with typically developing children and adolescents."

Diehl stresses the importance of continuing research in order to know what works for which children, and how to use that information for effective treatment plans. "In an ideal scenario," according to Diehl, "children would receive individualized treatment for areas in which they're struggling, and have those tailored treatments continue throughout their lives."

Study seeks adolescents ages 13 to 17

Research centers on language comprehension in typically developing teens, those with autism spectrum disorders

Assistant professor of psychology Joshua Diehl's Language Comprehension Study is seeking adolescents ages 13 to 17 in a research project that aims to understand how typically developing adolescents and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders perform on a range of tasks measuring language comprehension.

The study involves two to three hours of language and social activities designed to be both fun and engaging. Participants will receive a stipend of $45. For more information, call the E.U.N. lab (Laboratory for Understanding Neurodevelopment), 631-9358, email funlab@nd.edu or visit nd.edu/~jdiehl1/home.htm.

Latin site surprisingly popular

Kevin Cawley started a Latin grammar and dictionary website in 1996.

A senior archivist and curator of manuscripts in the University Archives, Cawley sometimes works with manuscripts and church documents written in Latin. "I attribute it to my own deficiencies in Latin," he says. "I wanted to create something for others like me—those who had some Latin, but needed help."

The Latin Dictionary and Grammar Aid site, archives.nd.edu/research/dictionary.htm, is a help to those who don't know the dictionary form of Latin words they encounter in their reading—within the site, they don't need to know the dictionary form. Cawley says. The site works well to serve the needs of its many users, with the high hit rate attributable to users looking up many words at a time. "It's the people who know nothing at all who tend to call Cawley for translation help," Cawley says. "It might be useful for those with some knowledge of Latin, of less use to those who know nothing at all.

It's the people who know nothing at all who tend to call Cawley for translation help."

Latin tattoos are a strange phenomenon, he says. "People don't want to learn Latin anymore, but it still has cultural cachet. Maybe they should stick to English."
Douthwaite article honored
Research reveals precursor of Shelly's 'Frankenstein'

BY LISA WALENCUS, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

The editorial board of the European Romantic Review and the executive committee of the North American Society for the Study of Romantics have chosen an article by Julia Douthwaite, professor of French in Notre Dame's Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, as the winner of their Best Article of 2009 award. "The Frankenstein of the French Revolution: Nogaret's Automaton Tale of 1790," written by Douthwaite with former graduate student Daniel Richter, was selected for the prize based on its merits in scholarship, originality, quality of writing, and significance for romantic era studies.

"A preeminent scholar in the field of French and francophone literature and culture, Julia Douthwaite is nationally and internationally recognized for her path-breaking discoveries in 18th- and 19th-century literary and cultural history," Ted Cachey, department chair and professor of Italian, says. "Her commitment to graduate education and the quality of her mentoring are also well illustrated by this prize-winning essay she co-authored with Daniel Richter.

Mary Shelley first published Frankenstein, now a classic in the genre of horror stories and films, in 1818. Shelley claimed that she had gotten the idea for the Frankenstein story (the name of the scientist, not the monster) from a nightmare she experienced on a stormy night. Douthwaite, however, believes that Shelley’s idea for the story was actually inspired by a conversation with her father, the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. A team of six writers and researchers in the fields of literature and history examined thousands of documents, including letters, manuscripts, and printed works, and concluded that Shelley’s inspiration for the novel came from a conversation with her father about a dream he had had the night before.

Douthwaite is the author of three books and numerous articles on the history of 19th-century French literature. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Council for the Social Sciences, and she has been awarded fellowships at the American Philosophical Society and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Notre Dame experts examine proposed National Broadband Plan
Offering an opportunity for public engagement

BY WILLIAM G. GILROY, OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently unveiled an ambitious National Broadband Plan aimed at bringing superfast broadband service to all U.S. residents by the end of the decade and making the United States a leader in high-speed Internet access to improve commerce and productivity.

Nicholas Laneman, associate professor of electrical engineering and director of the University of Notre Dame's new Wireless Institute, and Barry P. Keating, Jesse Jones Professor of Finance in the University's Mendoza College of Business and a member of the executive committee of the institute, recently weighed in on the significance of the proposed plan.

"The heart of the FCC plan to bring ultrafast broadband services to market involves changing the manner in which 'frequency space' or 'spectrum' is used in the United States. From my vantage point as a communications engineer in academia, I cannot think of a more exciting opportunity for public engagement and feedback back that engagement into our teaching and research efforts," Laneman said. "Wireless broadband delivered via the radio spectrum raises a set of critical issues in the plan, which is what grab our attention. I anticipate growing discussion about this plan through the press for many months to come, and I hope that some of the more important aspects of the plan come to fruition. The important question is how?" Congress, in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed in early 2009, required the FCC to create a national broadband plan.

"Too often, and consistently since the 1930s, discussions about efficient and/or valuable utilization of the radio spectrum boil down to a debate between an incumbent and up-and-comer, with the FCC forced to play mediator," Laneman said. "The incumbent offers a set of services on a useful chunk of spectrum for which they already have a license from the FCC. The up-and-comer has a new technology or business model and wants to offer it on either the same band or a neighboring band. In the current plan, the most pressing debate appears to be one between TV broadcasters (incumbent) and the cellular wireless industry (up-and-comer)."

Keating noted, "Following a procedure started in the Clinton administration, the FCC is proposing to auction (i.e., sell) frequency spectrum to the highest bidder; the winning bidders would then use this spectrum as they saw fit to provide services to consumers. The plan is a radical change from the standard method of allocation in which the federal government owns the spectrum and 'allocates' rights to different groups (e.g., television stations, radio stations, cell phone providers, etc.) as it sees fit. These allocations are of limited duration and can be changed at the whim of the FCC. The problem with the current FCC allocation system is that the FCC itself has to decide on every change in spectrum use, and government agencies are not known for either the speed or prudence of their decisions. However, auctioning off large chunks of the frequency space is not the only change the FCC is proposing. Congress will need to approve the approximately 200 recommendations in the National Broadband Plan, and the FCC plans to have a series of meetings over the next few months regarding the details behind the plan. Laneman hopes that the academic community will play an active role in consideration and discussion of the plan.

Entrinkin to lead internationalization efforts
Expanding strategic relationships with global partners

J. Nicholas Entrinkin, vice provost of international studies at UCLA, has been appointed to the newly established position of vice president and associate provost for internationalization.

In his new role, Entrinkin will lead the effort to broaden Notre Dame's international culture, programs, reach and reputation through expanded international research, collaborative projects and strategic relationships with global partners.

"I am very pleased and honored to have been chosen to lead the internationalization efforts at Notre Dame," said Entrinkin, who also has been appointed a professor of sociology. "During my campus visits, I have had the pleasure of meeting members of the campus leadership and have been impressed by their collegiality, pride in the University's deservedly excellent reputation, and confident vision of Notre Dame's future. These are difficult times for many universities, but at Notre Dame I found only optimism and enthusiasm about exploring new opportunities and expanding on existing strengths.

Entrinkin has served as dean of the Paul H. Foster School of Business at the University of Houston and as dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In both capacities, he has worked to increase international engagement in the classroom and in research, and he has led initiatives to enhance international programs, increase study abroad opportunities for students and faculty, and develop collaborative projects with schools abroad.

'Automaton Tale of 1790' wins best essay award

The University Cornet Band poses on the steps of the second Main Building with bearded professor Williams Leers, seated at right.
Answers to your Town Hall meeting questions on position structure and compensation

In Town Hall meetings last month to discuss the University’s new position structure and compensation plan, a number of questions emerged as being of key importance to staff and administrators. They are reproduced below, and are available, along with other Frequently Asked Questions, on a new informational website, hr.nd.edu/compensation. Staffers also heard about a number of new construction projects.

Are the people being hired for positions today being leveled under the new position descriptions and market reference ranges?

As positions are posted, they are placed into the new Compensation Program, and the titles and market reference ranges are used to ensure consistency across campus. Additionally, some new ranges were taken into consideration when making hiring offers.

How are years of service acknowledged in the new position structure?

The Family, Subfamily, Career Stream and Career Level an employee is placed in will be dependent on the above process and retains their current salary. Their placement in the market reference ranges is based on the salary they were originally paid and the performance merit increases they received.

Do the market reference ranges take into account cost of living increases?

The Compensation Program will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the market reference ranges are competitive with the market. We have not increased or decreased the market reference ranges due to cost of living, our survey data would be reflective of any cost of living adjustments made by employers.

Are there people whose salaries are above the market reference range, and will their salaries be cut?

There will be no salaries reduced as a result of the new Compensation Program. There is a small percentage of employees who are paid above the market reference ranges.

For people whose salaries are below the market reference ranges, will they get raises, and when will that happen?

Departments will be working to adjust those individual salaries that are below the minimum of the market reference ranges. Steps will be made to adjust their base salaries.

Is this new structure impacting an employee’s status as exempt or non-exempt?

During the review process, there were fewer than ten positions that were identified as requiring a change in exemption status. This was based on the review of the position responsibilities as noted in the position questionnaires and how they met the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and not as a result of the new structure.

How does my position in the new market reference range affect my possibility for a raise?

The new market reference ranges will not determine an employee’s eligibility for a pay increase. However, if an employee is above the market reference range, a pay increase may be paid out in the form of a lump sum as opposed to a base pay increase depending on the employee’s performance and how far their salary is above the range.

Which of our titles will match the position descriptions and which will reflect title options more recognizable to the market?

Working titles were determined using the Titiing Guidelines and in partnership with each department’s business manager. The Career Level Descriptor will be used as the standardized name to aid in consistently matching positions to market.

How does the new position structure promote career progression?

There will be an online resource which will allow employees to clearly see the market reference ranges for all positions on campus based on their Family, Subfamily, Career Stream and Career Level. Additionally, employees will be able to refer to the Career Level Guides to determine the necessary requirements for the Career Levels across the University. This will help employees in career planning and development.

What areas of the new structure are open for discussion or appeal, and what of this structure is set in stone?

In the event that there have been changes in a position since completing the position questionnaire last spring, an employee may work with their supervisor to submit a request for reconsideration. Positions will be reviewed concerning the assignment to the Family, Subfamily, Career Stream and Level. Review of working titles may also be requested but must still comply with the new titling guidelines.

Student ImproveND gives us high marks

BY GAIL HINCHION MANCINI, INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

If the ImproveND student customer service survey were a report card, Notre Dame’s staff would be on the honor roll.

Results of the survey presented during recent Town Hall meetings showed that a number of areas earned student satisfaction rates of 90 percent or better. They include satisfaction with the maintenance and upkeep of classrooms and facilities (97 percent); appreciation of the campus grounds (96 percent); a sense of safety (95 percent); satisfaction with the Google Apps technology (94 percent); and appreciation of the Food Services staff (92 percent).

Classroom technology earned an 86 percent satisfaction rate, and 80 percent of students surveyed said they enjoyed the library for study space, public computing and electronic resources.

The bookstore earned an 89 percent satisfaction rate for the quality and value of merchandise. RecSports fitness and instructional classes earned an 84 percent satisfaction rate.

The survey allowed students to suggest where they would like to see changes. More printing stations, particularly in residence halls, topped the list. Students also would like improved cellular reception and processes that make it easier for them to order textbooks or apply for student jobs.

New HR compensation website launched

Visit the new Office of Human Resources website at hr.nd.edu/compensation for access to information on the University’s new compensation system. The website offers employees access to information on various campus positions, including defined criteria for each level and specific market reference ranges for position compensation.
Focus on sports nutrition

Training table something new for student-athletes

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY, NDWORKS

Last fall the Athletic Department added something new—a “training table” for football scholarship athletes. Athletes train so hard during the season that they may have a hard time keeping up their weight, says athletic department sports nutritionist Erika Whitman.

Additionally, some student-athletes were eating only five or six meals a week in the dining halls, perhaps choosing less-healthy fast food options. “It’s very critical to avoid weight loss during the season. Many Division I schools have some type of enhanced meal plan for student-athletes,” she says. A training table may mean one enhanced meal per day, or a meal that’s a little more expensive or catered to the Guglielmino Athletic Center. The enhanced meals count as a regular meal on the student’s meal plan—if the meal is more expensive, the Athletic Department picks up the difference.

Meals for student-athletes also offer another benefit: the camaraderie a team experiences when eating together. Whitman and the coaches are included in the meals as well—that gives her the opportunity to educate them about nutrition and health.

“When I’m there, I can give them a lot more education about the food they’re putting in their bodies,” she says. And she’s learned a few tricks—vegetables come first in the serving line. “I’m a big fan of fruit and vegetables at every meal. They do respond when I ask them where their vegetables are. We’re setting a good example,” she says. “If we do this for one meal, it will carry over to the meals they eat on their own.”

Whitman works with Catering by Design to ensure balanced meals—vegetables, fruit, lean meat, seafood, whole-grain rice, bread and potatoes are all in one serving line. “It makes it a lot harder to walk by and not take it.”

The training table always includes a salad bar, but only Gatorade, water or milk to drink—no soft drinks. “They can get them at lunch, not on my time!” she says. Dessert consumption is pretty minimal after a good meal, she adds.

While the training table concept is being piloted only with football scholarship student-athletes, Whitman’s services are available to all student-athletes.

At top, sports nutritionist Erika Whitman stocks recovery drinks at the Guglielmino Athletic Center. Energy bars, bonbons and fruit are also available for student-athletes’ post-workout nutritional needs.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

20 years
Anthony D. Clark, security
Donald C. Gard, physics
Nathan D. Mitchell, theology

15 years
Christopher J. Antonucci, risk management and safety
Jessica M. Brookshire, Office of the Vice President—University relations
Vickie R. Garrett, Food Services Support Facility
M. Cathleen Kaveny, Law School
Douglas K. Marsh, Office of the Vice President—Business Operations
JASON L. POPE, Landscape Services

10 years
Linda S. Brady, College of Arts and Letters
Tim Ferguson, Joyce Center
Natalie L. Gedde, College of Engineering
Tom M. Gerhold, licensing
Benjamin J. Hert and Patricia Loghry, Hesburgh Libraries
Thomas A. Klimkiewicz, Integrated Communication Services
Gary L. Maer, utilities
Samuel L. Sanchez, band
Philip L. Shaffer, Office of the Director—maintenance
Yolanda R. Teamor, financial aid
Kimberly K. Warner, St. Michael’s Laundry

RecSports summer classes

Stay active and fit

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, May 20, for RecSports summer fitness classes, including FAST (Faculty and Staff Training) classes offered exclusively for faculty, staff and retirees. Options include cardio, cycle, yoga, aquasize and interval training.

Registration for instructional classes, including dance, tennis, horseback riding, martial arts, sailing and scuba, begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, June 17.

A complete schedule is available online at recsports.nd.edu. Register online via RecRegister or stop by Rolfs Sports Recreational Center to register by computer or with cash or a check.

AVA PREACHER

WEARER OF MANY HATS

AVA Preacher, assistant dean and associate director of the Office for Undergraduate Studies, also is pre-law adviser for all of campus. She recently received a 2010 Congressman Neal Smith Award, in recognition of her “exemplary contributions to law-related education and its mission to promote public understanding of law and the legal process.”

Most pre-law advisers, while trained in the field, don’t have a legal background, she notes. Their mission is to understand what students need to know to get into—and succeed—in law school. A popular annual event for pre-law students is a panel discussion by current Notre Dame law students, “What I Wish I’d Known.”

She wears yet another hat as the campus “victim’s resource person,” offering information, resources and referrals for students who have been sexually assaulted.

But most of her days, Preacher says, are spent talking with undergraduate students about their academic advancement.

“I feel really privileged to work at Notre Dame,” she says. “This is a wonderful community, and I’m happy to be a part of it.”

Preacher
Archaeological site receives national historic status

Helping the community preserve our national heritage

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY, NDWORKS

Since 2003, anthropologist Mark Schurr has led archaeological digs on the grounds of Collier Lodge, a 19th-century hunting lodge on the banks of the Kankakee River in northwest Indiana, about 10 miles south of Valparaiso near the small town of Kouts. Now, with Schurr’s support and assistance, the one-acre site, which is maintained by the Kankakee Valley Historical Society, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“A lot of people think historic status applies only to buildings, but an archaeological site can be registered too,” he says. “This marks the first time that the University has been involved in the nomination of a site for historic status, he adds. “It’s a great example of using the skills we have at Notre Dame to help a community organization, and help preserve our national heritage.”

Schurr and more than 60 Notre Dame students have spent the past seven summers excavating the unique site, where humans have lived since 7,000 B.C. “It’s pretty clear why the Potawatomis—and later, Euro-Americans—chose the site as a place to settle,” he says. “It’s a great place to cross the river. We know that people camped there in about A.D. 1400, and that there were trade routes from the mark and threw their garbage away.”

In her research in Ireland and on Irish America, Rotman observes that there’s a lot of the same symbolism on gravestones. Celtic crosses, for example, are seen in cemeteries on both sides of the Atlantic, including Cedar Grove. The symbols used on gravestones illustrate how individuals and families express their Irish-American identities. “The Celtic harp, for example, was very popular in the early to mid-19th century. Shamrocks were popular historically, and continue to be used today.”

One cultural distance us from death, she notes, “Students often tell me they are grateful for having had the chance to think about death in the academic sense, rather than just in the emotional sense.”

Rotman says “Mortuary ritual is about confronting death, but it’s also about celebrating life.”

Left, a monument in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Burials in Cedar Grove parallel the early history of the University. At right, archaeologist Michael Gibbons, Deb Rotman, and ND student Lauren Ploet survey a cemetery on Oney Island, Co. Galway, Ireland.
Designing and building furniture applies to the larger scale of architecture, says Michael Lykoudis, dean of the School of Architecture. “It’s important for students to have the opportunity to design something in two dimensions and construct it in three dimensions,” adds Bob Brandt, who has taught the school’s furniture design concentration since 1992. “Students say, ‘I had no idea it would look like this when it was finished,’” he says. “They also start looking and commenting on interiors and how they should be finished.”

Brandt, an MFA graduate of Indiana State University, is an artist and sculptor who also maintains a personal design studio alongside the wood shop on the lower level of Bond Hall. “It’s important for students to see my work in progress,” he says. “Along with the students, I take a pile of rough lumber to a finished project.”

Brandt is currently working on pieces for the chapel of St. Teresa’s Church in Sugarland, Texas, a renovation designed by architecture faculty member Duncan Stroik.

In addition to concentrations in Furniture Design, Preservation and Restoration and Architectural Practice and Enterprise, a new concentration in Building Arts, taught by School of Architecture graduate Kevin Buccellato, was begun in 2009. The new concentration is a four-course sequence, with all courses involving team projects. The first part of the concentration spans two semesters, with students researching an historically significant building to produce drawings and build a detailed model to scale.

Both the furniture design and building arts courses, says Buccellato, offer students an opportunity to get into the wood shop and have hands-on experience in the material. “It forces them to think about how things actually go together.”

In the third and fourth semesters of Building Arts, the teams design and build a traditional architectural element such as a mantelpiece or stair newel post and balustrade assembly. This semester, students are finishing a corner condition (the three corner columns and corner of the entablature) of the Parthenon.

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