Developing the schools of the future

As debate about how to improve education continues across the country, research currently under way at Notre Dame will significantly contribute to the conversation.

Mark Berends, a professor of sociology and education, is conducting two studies that seek to understand instruction’s role in student achievement.

“It’s not just about assessment data, and it’s not only about evaluation,” says Berends. “It’s to help with school improvement efforts.”

The first project, funded by a Walton Family Foundation grant awarded Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI), helps Catholic schools in nine U.S. cities report student achievement data.

The schools then use the data to see levels and growth in achievement over time to assess challenges and opportunities.

Berends says that this is a new approach for some Catholic schools because they aren’t subject to laws like No Child Left Behind that require public schools to report test scores. One of the challenges is the lack of uniform data: Schools choose their own student assessments and data structures, and while comparing institutions isn’t a primary goal, doing so becomes tricky when formats vary.

“We’re excited about the prospects of this because we think that over time this will be a great opportunity for ND and IEI to provide additional services to Catholic schools in this country,” says Berends.

Berends also directs the National Center on School Choice (NCSC), an intercollegiate research center funded by the Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

The center’s What Makes Schools Work project examines student achievement in different types of public and private schools. The study surveyed roughly 2,500 teachers in 100 schools. The point, says Berends, is to understand what’s going on in the schools.

“There have been a lot of studies that looked at overall effects of charter schools versus public schools,” he says. “This really goes deeper to understand the organization, instructional processes, teacher work lives and leadership differences to see if that explains some of the differences in something like test scores.”

Data analysis is currently under way, and findings will inform researchers, educators and policy makers who are interested in school choice—especially charter schools, a focus of the U.S. Department of Education.

If education is moving in the direction of charter schools, says Berends, then we need to know what to consider to implement them well. “If a big part of this project,” he says, “is looking at differences between charter, magnet and private schools compared to traditional public schools to understand where school choice can be effective and where it can present certain challenges.”

As an independent center, the NCSC does not endorse a particular type of school but will inform implementation, he says, but will not provide blueprints for how to create schools.

The project also looks at teachers’ expectations in math instruction.

“When you’re covering a topic in mathematics, what level of cognitive complexity are you expecting of students?” he says. “Is it lower-order simple basic skills, or analytical thinking and making connections?”

Teachers’ responses to objective survey questions help researchers understand the effect instructional differences have in the various types of schools.

When they complete the survey, participants can immediately see how their responses compare in their school, district and state. The survey is so specific that researchers can connect a teacher with a group of their students. That, says Berends, enables the teacher to see whether they need to adjust their course content to better address assessment standards.

Both the Walton Family Foundation and the IES grants enable unprecedented research and knowledge: “This has the opportunity to be really helpful for schools,” says Berends.

Two studies explore student—and school—achievement

BY RENEE HOCHSTETLER, OFFICE OF RESEARCH
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN RAISES MORE THAN $289,000

The University’s 2010 United Way campaign raised $289,493, with 895 individuals pledging. Departmental fundraisers, including Tippin Night, Race to New York, the “Get a Clue” Halloween Family Fun Night and the Food Service pie sale brought in $17,996 of the total.


FACULTY ARTWORK EXHIBITED

Works by Department of Art, Art History, and Design faculty members: Ann-Marie Conrado, Ingrid Hess, Paul Down, Andre Murnieks, Robert Seiflack and John Sherman are on display in Andrews University Art & Design Gallery through Feb. 20. The gallery is located in Smith Hall, 8985 Farm Oval Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. Call 269-471-3278.

FM GLOBAL GRANT BOLSTERS FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS

The University’s fire department received a $1,600 fire prevention grant from FM Global, one of the world’s largest property insurers, to fund fire safety awareness and prevention efforts on campus.

“The grant helped us get the word out to students about safety, and what the policies are,” says Fire Chief William G. Farhat. One of the bigger fire safety issues on campus, he notes, is people ignoring fire alarms. “People shouldn’t assume it’s a false alarm. Evacuating is quick and simple, and keeps people safe.”

Because fires continue to be the leading cause of property damage worldwide, over the past 30 years FM Global (fmglobal.com/grants) has contributed millions of dollars in fire prevention grants to fire service organizations across the globe.

HALF MARATHON

Start training now for the Holy Half Marathon, to be held Sunday, April 10. This year’s events include a 15.1-mile race and a 10K race. The registration fee is $35, with all proceeds benefiting the Center for the Homeless, St. Adalbert’s Elementary School and Michiana Down Syndrome. The 2011 event also features a competition between colleagues, with the winner being the college with the highest percentage of faculty participating. For more information, visit nd.edu/half-holy.

ND, IUSM SB NOMINEES

Sought for 1st Source Commercialization Award

Nominees remain open through Feb. 28 for the inaugural $200,000 1st Source Commercialization Award for faculty whose promising research discoveries have successfully moved from the lab to the marketplace. Faculty researchers from Notre Dame and the Indiana University School of Medicine-South Bend (IUSM-SB) who are directly engaged in the successful commercialization of an ND or IUSM-SB technology are eligible.

Nomination information may be found at the Office of Technology Transfer’s website, or.nd.edu/technology-transfer, under the “news and information” button. For further information, contact Richard Cox at the Notre Dame Office of Technology Transfer at rjcox@nd.edu or by phone, 631-4551.

NOTRE DAME AFFINITY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD

Notre Dame® debit card, checking accounts and Visa credit cards are now available online or at Bank of America banking centers across the country.

The affinity banking partnership with Bank of America supports the programs and services of the Alumni Association, including service projects, career development, academic programming and spiritual programs.

Apply online at alumni.nd.edu/creditcard or by calling 800-932-2775 and mentioning priority code UABG0P.

MIKE KLOSIŃSKI HONORED FOR FIFTH TIME BY LAUNDROY ASSOCIATION

Mike Klosinski, director of St. Michael’s Laundry, has been voted the Ohio Valley Chapter of the Association for Linen Management (ALM) Laundry Manager of the Year for 2010. He has been the Ohio Valley Chapter Laundry Manager of the Year three times previously, in 2005, 2006 and 2008. In 2006, he was also named the National Laundry Manager of the Year by the ALM. This year he will compete again for the Heywood-Wiley National Laundry Manager of the Year award, the ALM’s most prestigious honor, at the June “Clean 11” convention in Las Vegas.

Dolly Duffy appointed new executive director of Notre Dame Alumni Association

BY BRENDAN O’SHAUGHNESSY, PUBLIC INFORMATION

Elizabeth “Dolly” Duffy, associate director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association and a 1984 Notre Dame graduate, has been appointed executive director of the association, as well as associate vice president for University Relations.

Duffy, who was selected after a four-month worldwide search, will succeed Charles F. “Chuck” Lennon in July, upon the completion of his extraordinary run of 30 years leading what is arguably the most extensive alumni network in the nation. In cities and towns across the country, the Notre Dame Alumni Association plays a central role in maintaining a strong bond between the University and its nearly 132,000 living alumni. Under Lennon’s direction, the number of clubs has grown from 151 to 276 of which 62 are international.

Since becoming the associate director of the association in early 2008, Duffy has led many of the organization’s major initiatives. She directed the launch of a new online platform and strategy called myNotreDame, designed to help alumni more easily connect with one another and the University. Duffy also led a strategic review of all of the association’s programs and initiatives, and she supported the creation of ND Women Connect with local chapters that assist in the professional and personal development of alumnae.

“I am absolutely thrilled to build on the strong outreach, programs and service that Chuck and this wonderful staff have accomplished over many years,” Duffy said. “It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with our alumni, parents and friends to deepen their connection to Notre Dame.”

2010 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The University’s 2010 Annual Report, including highlights of Notre Dame’s financial performance during the fiscal year, is available online at controller.nd.edu/annual-report/2010. This year’s report includes a discussion of the economic challenges and opportunities that faced the campus during fiscal year 2010. In announcing the release of the report, Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves noted that, “Thanks to the hard work of all on campus, we were able to weather the difficult economic conditions that placed unprecedented pressure on higher education. As a result, we remain financially sound and well-positioned to make further progress on our key priorities.”
Father Jenkins forms Advancing Our Vision initiative to support forward momentum

BY GAIL HINCHION MANCINI, INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

University President Rev. John J. Jenkins, C.S.C., has established a leadership committee to identify 2 to 4 percent of the University’s annual budget that can be permanently reallocated to Notre Dame’s vision as one of the world’s top research universities, while remaining committed to our Catholic mission and an unsurpassed undergraduate education.

Although much progress has been made in recent years toward that vision, Father Jenkins told the campus community Thursday: “It is clear that if we are to continue our momentum, we must invest in new initiatives.”

He is asking the Strategic Funding Committee to undertake a thorough review to identify $20 million to $40 million in recurring expenses that can be redirected to fund these new initiatives. The initiative has been named “Advancing Our Vision;” its progress can be followed at the website AdvancingOurVision.nd.edu.

Primary among strategic priorities are resources for financial aid to meet the needs of undergraduate students and improve the undergraduate experience, for new faculty positions to further strengthen teaching and research, for graduate student support to make our packages more competitive with our peers, and for enhanced staff support and infrastructure for our educational mission.

“We recognize that one of our greatest assets is the loyalty of those who work at Notre Dame, and so we do not foresee involuntary layoffs as the result of this process,” Father Jenkins wrote.

“I am mainly proud of Notre Dame and of you. We must not, however, let that justifiable pride give rise to complacency,” he wrote.

“Rather, drawing confidence and inspiration from our successes, we must build on them to make the next five years even more exciting for Notre Dame.”

His letter adds that ongoing economic pressures played a role in the committee’s formation, as revenue sources are static. Tuition increases are being kept to a minimum, donor giving and endowment income have not returned to pre-recession levels, and all of higher education is bracing for a downturn in research dollars as the federal government grapples with the deficit.

“So, rather than look outward at this time, we must for the immediate future look inwardly to identify resources that can advance our aspirations,” he wrote.

Father Jenkins has asked Provost Thomas Burish and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Greaves to co-chair the Strategic Funding Committee. They are expected to present their recommendations by the end of the academic year. Other members of the committee are:

- Robert J. Bernhard, Vice President for Research
- Janet M. Botz, Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications
- Gregory P. Crawford, Dean, College of Science
- Rev. Thomas P. Doyle, C.S.C., Vice President for Student Affairs
- William N. Evans, Executive Committee of the Academic Council
- Thomas A. Gerlak, Faculty Senate
- Peter Kilpatrick, Dean, College of Engineering
- Ronald D. Kraemer, Vice President and Chief Information Officer
- Michael N. Lyckens, Dean, School of Architecture
- Christine M. Maziar, Vice President and Senior Associate Provost
- Scott C. Malpass, Vice President and Chief Investment Officer
- Rev. James E. McDonald, C.S.C., Associate Vice President and Counselor to the President
- John T. McGreevy, Dean, College of Arts and Letters
- Robert K. McQuade, Vice President for Human Resources
- Louis M. Nanni, Vice President for University Relations
- Nell Jessup Newton, Dean, Law School
- John A. Selidak, Vice President for Finance
- Jack B. Swarbrick, Vice President and Director of Athletics
- Carolyn Y. Woo, Dean, Mendoza College of Business
- Linda Kroll, associate vice president for the Office of Budget and Planning, and Drew Pafos, associate vice president and controller, will provide staff support. Similar work has been done by several of the nation’s most prestigious universities, including Brown, Dartmouth, Duke, MIT and Princeton. Most face the challenge of solving budget deficits. “At Notre Dame, we are in the fortunate position to undertake this exercise not to meet a crisis and survive, but to continue our momentum and thrive,” Father Jenkins said.

What’s Next?
The Strategic Funding Committee begins its work next week. Staff Town Hall meetings March 8-10 will review the initiative and provide an opportunity for questions and answers. John Affleck-Graves, executive vice president, and Tom Burish, provost, and will identify between 2 and 4 percent of current budget dollars to further support our core mission.

What instigated this initiative?
Since assuming the presidency nearly seven years ago, Father Jenkins and the University’s leadership have worked to define the University vision and direct our energies toward realizing our future. This has influenced such decisions as whom we’ve hired, the building construction we’ve undertaken and the types of students we’ve recruited. This initiative examines how we use our resources in support of our strategic goals, and how we can do that in a sustainable way.

What is the timeline?
The committee has been asked to submit its recommendations by semester’s end. Father Jenkins will review the committee’s work and, in consultation with Tom Burish and John Affleck-Graves, decide on a course of action.

How will this impact jobs at ND?
This is not an exercise to cut jobs or freeze hiring. We recognize that the loyalty of those who work at Notre Dame is one of our most valuable assets, and we do not foresee involuntary layoffs as a result of this process.

Does this initiative mandate across-the-board budget cuts?
This is not an initiative to cut the budget. We expect the Fiscal Year 2012 budget to be slightly higher than the FY 2011 budget of more than $1 billion. This work is to reallocate existing funds with a goal of identifying between 2 and 4 percent of dollars from current departmental budgets that can be applied toward new initiatives that will advance the University.

What’s the difference between making cuts and reallocating funds?
Cuts imply a reduction in the total amount spent. In this case, it’s not that the overall budget will decline, but that a portion of it will be allocated to initiatives aligned with our vision and goals.

Spring Town Halls are scheduled
Six Town Hall meetings are being scheduled for Tuesday, March 8 through Thursday March 10.

The results of the 2010 ND Voice will be discussed. John Affleck-Graves, executive vice president, also is expected to give an overview of the state of the University’s finances and the newly announced “Advancing Our Vision” initiative.

Each division will be given a designated meeting time. But staff members who cannot make the designated time are encouraged to attend another session.


What is the purpose and proposed outcome of Advancing Our Vision?
Father Jenkins has established a Strategic Funding Committee of campus leaders to consider how to best apply our financial resources to support our vision of becoming one of the top research universities in the world while remaining fully committed to our Catholic mission and an unsurpassed undergraduate education. The committee will be chaired by John Affleck-Graves, executive vice president, and Tom Burish, provost, and will identify between 2 and 4 percent of current budget dollars to further support our core mission.

These are a sample of Questions and Answers that are available on the website AdvancingOurVision.nd.edu.
Heroic efforts by staff get the students fed

BY MIKE COLLINS, FOR ND WORKS

The University and the students.

storm was a full gale, got hot meals too.

Security officers who came in T uesday night, when the

a meal got one.

and no one was turned away—everyone who wanted

within its borders. One way or another, those students

campus where the vast majority of the students live

the University was closed due to a snow emergency:

dining hall on Wednesday, Feb. 2, and offers his praise to

with a four-wheel-drive vehicle to get him to work at

ID checker at the South Dining Hall. He paid someone

Dame football and hockey—works three days a week as an

home for a snow day!

"Thank you for feeding us." That sure beats staying at

couple of students stopped and walked over and said,

walked the South Quad toward the circle to get a ride

next six hours shoveling around the dining hall. His

drive him to work a little after 5 a.m. He spent the

native Vietnam. On Feb. 2, he woke up his father to

7 a.m.

A year and a half ago, Trung Nguyen was in his

story is the story of dozens of other people.

When we closed at 2 p.m. Tuesday night, when the

storm kept their cell phones by their beds for a call

to come in early the next day. Four South Dining Hall

staffers were in at 5 a.m., by 6 a.m. and 30 by 7 a.m.

A year and a half ago, Trung Nguyen was in his

native Vietnam. On Feb. 2, he woke up his father to

drive him to work a little after 5 a.m. He spent the

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Early Continuous Improvement project
a win for all

HR group solves problems by identifying fresh approaches

BY MARY FEDERICO, FOR THE OFFICE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

When the 2009 ImprovND survey results came out, Tammy Freeman knew she had to act.

Hiring managers said open positions took too long to fill, the process was too time consuming, and the timing was unpredictable: A position could take from one to six months to fill.

Freeman, director of talent management for the Office of Human Resources, understood that these problems affected the entire University. But her team of four had in hands full processing applications—18,000 in 2009, and 2010 promised to be as busy. She needed a solution that didn’t add more staff or cost more money.

This dilemma crystallized just as the University was introducing the Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI), a group with expertise to help departments solve problems by identifying fresh approaches.

Their mission: to use that expertise to help campus units meet department and University goals.

Beginning in January 2010, the HR hiring process became one of OCI’s earliest projects. Freeman lead a cross-divisional team comprised of HR staff and four managers to improve the process. Team members included Brandon Burke, Susan Hlade, Kara Palment, Erin Putt, Kate Telesca and Lisa Yates. Mike Davy of Food Services and Bill Mountford of OIT represented hiring managers, and Shannon Cullman and Julia Sama provided OCI support and guidance. “Our office helps teams like Tammy’s examine their work in a new light. But the real solutions come from the teams themselves,” says Castline says.

Six months later, the team had accomplished three important changes:

• They freed up hiring managers’ time, in part by taking on tasks previously done by those managers.

• They improved the quality of candidates passed on to hiring managers by modifying the screening process.

The change has been a relief and a revelation to hiring managers.

“Previously, I saw myself, the hiring manager, as the bottleneck to the hiring process,” wrote Charlie Castline, assistant director of student accounts. “I would review every application—sometimes as many as 150—before narrowing the field. Today, an HR hiring manager prescreens applications and presents Castline with a narrower field of qualified candidates.

"It was unbelievable the amount of time Erin Putt took off of our (hiring managers’) plates, and she brought tremendous expertise to the process,” Castline says.

The summer project, team members also learned how to use new process improvement methods and tools, which they now apply to other HR process challenges. Tammy calls these techniques her team’s “secret weapons,” and she fulfilled a personal goal by becoming certified in their use.

OCI has since partnered with several campus units working toward similar measurable successes. Several examples are on the OCI’s website at continousimprovement.nd.edu, as is information about using OCI’s tools and techniques.

New campus paper products
promote sustainability

Higher recycled content,
less packaging waste

BY MERRIED ROWLAND AND RACHEL NOVICE, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

In a major step forward in sustainable purchasing, Notre Dame’s Procurement Services has partnered with Kimberly-Clark Corporation to introduce bathroom tissue and paper towels on campus with significantly higher average recycled content and less packaging waste.

“This achievement was the result of a collaborative team effort on the part of Procurement Services, Building Services and the Office of Sustainability with an emphasis on product quality, economic savings and sustainable choices,” said Procurement Specialist Tom Rogers.

“The new coreless bathroom tissue contains more tissue per roll and has no cardboard tube to throw away, resulting in a 47 percent reduction in packaging waste. Paper towels now come on bigger rolls, so they ran out less often and require less packaging.”

Overall, the product changes will result in 545 million BTU of energy savings and $13,000 gallons in water savings annually. That’s the equivalent of more than 2,100 days worth of energy for a typical American household and 25 swimming pools’ worth of water.

“We just received the first truckload of the new products and I’m excited about them for three reasons,” said Chris Hatfield, associate director of building services. “First, we got a tremendous cost savings. Second, we’ve got sustainability improvements in almost every item we use. Third, we’re building in more efficiency for our staff while still providing excellent customer service.

All of the new products are certified either by Green Seal or the Forest Stewardship Council. Green Seal is the largest US-based eco-labeling organization and conducts a stringent life cycle assessment of each certified product’s impact on the environment and human health. The Forest Stewardship Council logo ensures that wood products are sourced from responsibly managed forests.

The new contract with Kimberly-Clark is part of a broader effort to prioritize sustainability in campus procurement. Other initiatives include reduced pricing for Office Depot’s Green Top recycled copy paper, delivery of Office Depot supplies in reusable totes, and paperless expense reporting through the travelND program.

Is Your Mobile Device Secure?

Devices are targets for data thieves

BY LENETTE VOTAVA, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Everywhere you look, you can see someone using a mobile device. From iPads and iPhones to Blackberries, e-readers, and other popular devices, they have quickly become part of our everyday lives.

Many people have their personal information stored on these devices, as well as access to email accounts, online banking accounts and other sensitive data. As a result, these devices are targets for thieves who will use them to feed an underground economy built on stolen data and devices.

Do you know if your mobile device is secure? Here are six simple steps to help secure your mobile device and keep your personal information safe:

• Require a password, passphrase or passcode to use the device.
• Use a password manager to store your passwords.
• Require a password, passphrase or passcode to use the device.
• Set your device to automatically wipe if the passcode is repeatedly entered incorrectly.
• Disable Bluetooth if you don’t use it.
• Set your device to automatically wipe if the passcode is repeatedly entered incorrectly.

This will help protect your mobile device and the information on it.

Instructions can be found on the secure.nd.edu website for iPads and iPhones. Blackberries and and other popular devices, they have quickly become part of our everyday lives.

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• Disable Bluetooth if you don’t use it.
• Set your device to automatically wipe if the passcode is repeatedly entered incorrectly.

This will help protect your mobile device and the information on it.

Instructions can be found on the secure.nd.edu website for iPads, iPhones, Blackberries and other popular devices. If you have an iPhone or iPad and use Exchange, you already have remote wipe capabilities. Simply log into Outlook Web Access at outreach.nd.edu, Select “Settings,” then “Mobile Devices.”

• Set your device to automatically wipe if the passcode is repeatedly entered incorrectly.
• Disable Bluetooth if you don’t use it.
• Set your device to automatically wipe if the passcode is repeatedly entered incorrectly.

This may be an inconvenience if your mobile device ends up in the hands of a small child. However, if it is lost or stolen, your data won’t end up in the hands of someone who wants to steal your identity.

• Enable encryption if your device supports it.

• Disable Bluetooth if you don’t use it.
• Set your device to require you to tell it to connect to Wi-Fi.
• Enable encryption if your device supports it.
• Set your device to require you to tell it to connect to Wi-Fi.

Remember, smart phones and other mobile devices can be easily misplaced, and are often targets for theft. Taking these simple steps can help ensure that your device will not provide identity thieves with your personal information or the sensitive information of others.

For additional information on how to keep your mobile device secure, visit: secure.nd.edu/mobiledievice/index.html.
Administrative Services promotes team building

‘Core Expectations’ sets the tone for work, relationships

BY COLLEEN O’CONNOR, FOR NDWORKS

In July of 2010, several departments within Administrative Services merged to form a new group called Warehouse, Delivery and Transportation, headed by Marty Ogren, associate director. At that time, four core expectations were developed to facilitate the consolidation of Central Receiving, General Services, Mail Distribution, Recycling, Surplus Property, Warehouse and Transportation. According to Ogren, “This has set the tone for how we work and how we relate to each other.” They are:

GET IT DONE! (Let’s be clear, we are here to do a job!)

HOW CAN I HELP? (We will create a culture of teamwork!)

RESPECT (We will treat each other with respect)

FUN (We will have fun!)

At one of its first team meetings, the newly formed group invited Coach Brian Kelly to speak, and he graciously accepted. The message has spread to other groups within Administrative Services, who have adopted this rallying cry as their own. In fact, interest has moved outside of Administrative Services and even Business Operations. The expectations have been printed on wallet-sized cards and distributed throughout the unit. Anyone wishing to obtain copies of the card may do so by contacting Gayle Wilson at gwilson1@nd.edu.

According to Amy Coughlin, director of administrative services, “The partnership of teamwork and respect has proven integral to the success of all our departments, while the presence of fun enables us to tackle even the most challenging moment in a given day with patience and a smile.”

James Lyphout to retire as Notre Dame’s VP for business operations

Has overseen a remarkable period of campus growth

BY MICHAEL G. GARVEY, PUBLIC INFORMATION

James J. Lyphout, vice president for business operations, will retire from his position, effective June 30.

“The University is immensely grateful to Jim for his quarter-century of service,” said Notre Dame’s president, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. “While we regret the departure of such a talented and devoted leader, we wish him a happy retirement and are pleased that he will always remain an irreplaceable member of the Notre Dame family.”

Elected vice president by Notre Dame’s Board of Trustees in 1999, Lyphout has served for the previous three years as associate vice president for business operations and from 1984 to 1996 as assistant vice president for business affairs.

Lyphout’s responsibilities have included oversight of the campus administration infrastructure as well as the planning and design of all construction projects, including the development of the 2002 and 2008 campus master plans.

He oversees the Office of Sustainability, utilities, custodial services, landscape services, warehouse and delivery services, mail, and transportation, as well as most auxiliary campus operations, including food services, the Licensing Department, the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, ND Marketplace, St. Michael’s Laundry, Cedar Grove Cemetery, the Morris Inn and the Conference Center at McKenna Hall.

Lyphout also manages the facilities of Notre Dame’s remote campuses, such as the Notre Dame London Centre, the Keough-Notre Dame Study Centre in Dublin, and the Hank Environmental Research Center at Land O’Lakes, Wis.

The numerous projects Lyphout has overseen during his tenure include construction of the Delkarsilo Performing Arts Center, Jordan Hall of Science, Harper and Raclin-Carmichael Halls (both in conjunction with Indiana University), and the Eck Hall of Law.

March 2011 OIT Technical Training Courses

PowerPoint 2007: Advanced
Tuesday and Thursday, March 1 and 3, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Excel 2007: Intermediate
Tuesday and Thursday, March 1 and 3, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Word 2007: Preparing Your Dissertation
Wednesday, March 2, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Outlook Calendar
Friday, March 4, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Contribute
Tuesday, March 8, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Software Licensing
Wednesday, March 9, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

View the complete schedule at oit.nd.edu/training/documents/discoverit.pdf and register for classes at endeavor.nd.edu.

Join the training listserv for updated information on courses and schedules. Call the technical training office, 631-7227, or email training@nd.edu.
The professor, the monsignor and Sherlock Holmes

Crowe's new book compiles “Sherlockian” essays of noted Catholic cleric

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY, NDWORKS

Life is full of coincidences that in fiction would seem incredible.

The story of Michael J. Crowe’s new book, “Ronald Knox and Sherlock Holmes: The Origins of Sherlockian Studies” (Wessex Press, $32.95) has a startling number of unlikely Notre Dame connections.

The story really starts more than 35 years ago, a time when there was a local Sherlock Holmes society, “The Solitary Cyclists.”

Crowe, the Rev. John J. Cavanaugh, C.S.C., professor emeritus in the Program of Liberal Studies and an expert in the history of the physical sciences, was a founding member and a dedicated Sherlockian (noun, a devoted fan of or an expert on the adventures of Sherlock Holmes.)

A chance meeting

One day Crowe got a letter from a 15-year-old boy who wanted to join the group. Steven Doyle’s father was stationed at Notre Dame teaching in the Air Force ROTC program, and Doyle, who received a matched set of the Sherlock Holmes stories for Christmas, wrote a letter to the group’s contact, Michael Crowe. He received a handwritten note from Crowe, addressed to “Mr. Doyle,” inviting him to join—providing that annual dues were $2.

“Then I had a sudden fear—oh gosh, they don’t know I’m a kid,” Doyle recalls. “I wrote again and fished up. He wrote back and said it would be OK.” Doyle doesn’t remember much about that first meeting, only that he wasn’t yet old enough to drive, and his father had to drop him off.

Doyle attended the group for a year or so, until he got a little older, acquired his first car and developed an interest in girls. Doyle’s role in the early part of the tale ends here—but he will return at the dénouement of our story.

Enter the monsignor

At one of those meetings of the now-defunct “Solitary Cyclists,” Crowe had presented to the group a memorable essay he had written on Magr. Ronald Arberthna Knox (1888-1957), a convert from Anglicism who at one time was said to be “the most celebrated Catholic priest in England.”

Today, says Crowe, the only people who have heard of Knox are “over 70, Roman Catholic and well-read.” But Knox was well known in the early 20th century for his translation of St. Jerome’s Vulgate Bible into English, and wrote many works of Catholic apologetics.

Like his peer and friend G.K. Chesterton, Knox also wrote detective novels—several of which (“The Vicar ofpleted Mundle,” “The Footsteps at the Loft”), are still in print. Along with Chesterton, Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers, he helped found the Detection Club, and created a “ten commandments” for writers of detective novels, including: “No accident must ever help the detective, nor must he ever have an unaccountable intuition which proves to be right.”

“Higher Criticism” of Sherlock Holmes

The witty Knox (who, biography Evelyn Waugh noted, was remembered at Eton as “the cleverest boy who ever passed through that school”), and who had been interested in Sherlock Holmes from the time he was a boy, in 1911 wrote a satirical essay “Studies in the Literature of the Sherlock Holmes.”

At the time, “higher criticism” of the Bible was in vogue—a form of literary analysis that focused on the sources of documents. In his essay, Knox mockingly described in the lofty terms of literary criticism the structural elements of a Sherlock Holmes tale: *Every man has daubona (client’s statement of the case)* and *The Anagurist*, wherein the apprehension of the villain takes place.

The essay was read to societies in Oxford and London, and was read by Arthur Conan Doyle himself. Thus Knox is credited—in that 1911 essay—with creating from whole cloth the notion of “Sherlockian studies”—called “The Grand Game” by generations of loyal fans—treating Sherlock Holmes as if he actually existed, and Conan Doyle’s stories as based on historical fact.

Arthur Conan Doyle wrote to Knox in 1912, expressing his amusement—and amazement—at the essay: “That anyone should spend such pains on such material was what surprised me. Certainly you know a great deal more than I do, for the stories have been written in a disconnected (and careless) way, without referring back to what had gone before.”

An essay lost, found—and then published

Michael Crowe’s essay on Knox was never published. Knox submitted an unpublished letter from Arthur Conan Doyle to Knox he didn’t have permission to print. But he did give one copy to friend and Notre Dame graduate John Bennett Shaw ’37, cautioning him that he must never show it to anyone else.

Shaw (1913-1954), who donated the Hewshburg Library Special Collections the 2,000-volume G.K. Chesterton collection and the 2,000-item collection of the works of English engraver and typographer Eric Gill, also amassed one of the world’s largest collections of “Sherlockiana.” The discovery of an unpublished essay by Michael J. Crowe to Knox’s collection at the University of Minnesota led to the recent publication of Crowe’s eight-volume book, “Ronald Knox and Sherlock Holmes: The Origins of Sherlockian Studies.”

Crowe recently spoke to Doyle’s Indianapolis-based Sherlock Holmes group, “The Illustrious Clients.” At the conclusion of the talk, Doyle and Crowe recounted the remarkable history of their contacts.

“Then I had a sudden fear—oh gosh, they don’t know I’m a kid,” Doyle recalls. “I wrote again and fished up. He wrote back and said it would be OK.” Doyle doesn’t remember much about that first meeting, only that he wasn’t yet old enough to drive, and his father had to drop him off.

THE NOTE THAT OPENED THE DOOR

Steven Doyle, left, with Michael J. Crowe. Doyle kept the second letter Crowe wrote to him 35 years ago, inviting the 15-year-old Doyle to join the South Bend Sherlock Holmes society. “The Solitary Cyclists,” a brief note, Doyle adds, “I am eternally grateful to have received.”

Mr. Trinidad [club president] & I have discussed your fine letter & hope you will be able to join us on the 24th. MJC

Crowe recently spoke to Doyle’s Indianapolis-based Sherlock Holmes group, “The Illustrious Clients.” At the conclusion of the talk, Doyle and Crowe recounted the remarkable history of their contacts.

And here’s another amazing thing—although it took Crowe hours of sorting through his basement to find it, he located and presented Doyle with the “fessing up” letter Doyle had written to him so many years ago.

Doyle says, “Here you are, confronted with your 15-year-old self. You’re a kid, and you go on and live a whole life, and the wheels turn and here it comes again. My life has been so enriched. When Mike wrote back and said ‘Yes, we’d like you to come,’ the door opened. It all started with that letter. I never dreamed I’d be reunited with it.”

The brief letter from Doyle, Crowe pointed out, read, “We hope you will be able to join us.” “I joined,” Doyle says, “and a lifetime of Sherlockian adventure was ahead of me.”
Creating the opportunity for productive community dialogue

As the Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) celebrates 10 years as a University-sponsored community center in the Northeast neighborhood, it is relationships, not place or programming, that the staff considers the center’s crowning achievement. Place and programming are, of course, mainstays. Some 500 residents per month of all ages enjoy after-school tutoring, computer training, continuing education, and wellness activities. The various volunteer opportunities bring an estimated 300 Notre Dame students to the center each year, of these, 100 undertake weekly tutoring duties. Neighborhood children win local, state and national recognition in programs as varied as Lego Robotics, Youth Entrepreneurship and the Robinson Shakespeare Company.

Building relationships was at the heart of the vision articulated a decade ago by then-president Rev. Edward A. “Monk” Malloy, C.S.C., and his then-assistant Lou Nanni. Both were painfully aware of how little the University and the residents of its closest neighborhood had in common. Neighbors had little love for students and a lot of mistrust for the University.

As the center’s staff was assembled, their aim was to make RCLC more than a University-sponsored place where the neighborhood would gather. It was to draw upon the basic tenets of Catholic social teaching to create a focal point of mutually beneficial partnerships. As the staff held true to this purpose, a resource has evolved that cannot be duplicated elsewhere, although many in the community have requested the blueprint. The unique ingredient, says Jennifer Knapp Beudert, RCLC manager, is “a culture of belonging and partnership.”

Peter R. Miller, University of Wisconsin, Madison, professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, saw this as it work in 2006 when he evaluated the program. His report concludes: “It’s apparent the RCLC partnership process has avoided the common hierarchical pitfalls that plague other town-gown collaboratives and effectively developed a horizontal relationship that is rooted in humility, faith in neighborhood capacity, and hope for the future.”

One of the most visible outcomes of successful relationship building has been the partnership among local residents, the University, the City of South Bend and other nonprofit groups that has physically transformed the neighborhood. Eddy Street Commons is framed by Innovation Park, a medical center and cancer research facility, all jewels in South Bend’s revitalization plans. High-end single family houses line Notre Dame Avenue, surrounded by a number of buildings that have been rehabilitated by the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization (NNRO). Across from RCLC on the east side of Eddy Street, land is being prepared for new low- to moderate-income NNRO housing.

As the landscape of the neighborhood changes, relationships have evolved and the center has adapted. Ten years ago, RCLC was created to provide a home base, the Take Ten program has managed to bring a bit of that philosophy into the community. Through participation in the Center for Social Concerns, undergraduates enter partner schools to help students learn conflict resolution skills through this school-based violence prevention curriculum.

The program reaches more than 8,000 students a year in 16 schools, the Center for the Homeless in South Bend, all Boys & Girls Club sites and community centers. Research on the effectiveness of Take Ten indicates its participants internalize the importance of peaceful resolution, and use their Take Ten skills to resolve conflict. With nine years at the helm and a new challenge to create impactful relationships in a larger community area, Caponigro ponders RCLC as a model for productive community dialogue. “How do we do it, and do it right? What do we need to be doing?”

Ten years from now, RCLC’s leadership role last year when original director Jay Caponigro was appointed to director of community engagement. Seeing the center with fresh eyes, she has observed that for every group: adults, aging adults, and Notre Dame and community students, “when someone walks through that door, he or she feels like the most important person here.”

As the Robinson Community Learning Center will celebrate 10 years of service with an open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, with music from Kennedy’s Kitchen. Special guests will include Notre Dame President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.; President-emeritus Rev. Edward A. “Monk” Malloy, C.S.C.; and U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) who will be on hand for the event.