Controlling gene expression to halt cancer growth

Research may lead for therapies for rare cancer

LAURA GOUIN, FOR THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH

NUT midline carcinoma (NMC) is a cancer without a cure, and one that affects all age groups. NMC is a rapid-growth disease with an average survival time of 4.5 months after diagnosis, making the development of clinical trials for potential therapies or cures for this cancer difficult. But difficult doesn’t mean impossible, and Olaf Wiest, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, is one of a group of collaborators who are studying the effects of a specific molecule on the trigger that controls the growth of this form of cancer.

Most people are familiar with genetics and the role they play in our height, hair color and even predisposition to various diseases. “But there is this whole other world called epigenetics that controls which genes are expressed and which aren’t,” says Wiest.

This epigenetic world is made up of three classes of proteins: writers, erasers and readers, collectively the “instruction manual” that tells a gene when to activate and when to cease activation. Writers will create the instruction for the gene while erasers will remove instructions. Readers control the group and issue the start and stop commands for genes to use their instructions.

“The reason NMC is so aggressive is because these cancer cells divide very fast,” says Wiest. This rapid-growth is caused by the protein BRD4, an epigenetic reader that interacts with another protein called histones. Their interaction changes the instructions for the gene and keeps the growth trigger permanently activated.

“The solution is that you have to block that protein,” says Wiest. “That is very difficult in protein-to-protein interactions, because the binding between them is not very strong. Normally when you’re talking to somebody in chemistry and say you’re going to target a protein-to-protein interaction, they think you’re nuts. Of course the way to prove them wrong is to go on and do it,” he says.

There is already a vast amount of information on writer proteins, and a lot of interest in eraser proteins in the research community, because there are two FDA-approved drugs that control erasers. Research into epigenetic readers, however, is relatively new.

Wiest says it wasn’t such a big step for him and his 21 colleagues to move from erasers to readers in their studies. Their recent focus has been on a small molecule called JQ1 that tricks the NUT midline carcinoma cancer cells by disrupting the protein-to-protein interaction. It not only halts the constant growth command but it also makes the cancer cells “forget” their instructions and begin to resemble normal cells.

Wiest’s research showed that the protein is less flexible in the presence of JQ1, allowing it to overcome the weak bindings. Animal studies produced very encouraging results. Laboratory mice transplanted with NMC cells from patients and given JQ1 lived; those that were not given JQ1 died.

Wiest’s hope is that through continued studies on the effectiveness of JQ1, an effective and non-invasive therapy can be found for NMC and other aggressive cancers.

University commemorates
10th anniversary of 9/11

The campus community observed the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks with a Mass of remembrance on the Hesburgh Library Mall, with President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., presiding. View a slideshow of images from the event at photos.nd.edu.

Barbara Johnston
Above, students hold candles before the candlelight procession to the Grotto. Following the Mass, participants gathered at the Grotto for prayer.

Matt Cashore
NEWS-BRIEFS

TEAMS BIKE 46,700 MILES IN BIKE-TO-WORK COMPETITION

A single-member team, “The Burke,” composed of Burke Golf Course Assistant Superintendent Donald Anglin, topped the 2011 bike-to-work competition organized by the College of Science Dean’s Office and the Office of Sustainability. The 165 participants logged 46,700 miles between June 1 and Aug. 15. The competition, organized by Karen H. Keesler, senior administrative assistant in the College of Science dean’s office with support from Erin Hauser and Meredith Roundy in the Office of Sustainability, drew faculty, staff, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students from across the campus.

Competition came from the College of Science, Notre Dame of Chicago, Office of Sustainability, Food Service, Engineering and Science Computing, Burke Golf Course, Burke Golf Club, Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns, Economics, Kellogg Institute, Kroc Institute, Student Life, Law Library, Physical Education, Alliance for Catholic Education, University Relations, Political Science, and Facilities.

Winner Anglin bikes to work six miles each way, sometimes several times a day, to water the golf course. He rides from March until several times a day, to water the golf course. He rides from March until


days before the following publication

NDNews, the faculty-student newspaper, is published by Public Affairs and Communications. The deadline for copy is 10 business days before the following publication dates July 14, Aug. 18, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Dec. 1, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 22, April 19 and May 24.

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

By Rachel Novick, Office of Sustainability

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, the Notre Dame community will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment. The celebration, which has become a tradition at Notre Dame, will be marked by festivities, thought-provoking discussion and opportunities to follow in the footsteps of Francis, who was known for his love of nature and the poor. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Thomas P. Doyle, C.S.C., at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m. At 7 p.m., Matt Ashley, Chair of the Office of Theology, will present “Sustainability and Catholic Theology” in Jordan 101, followed by a reception.

Dinner at North and South Dining Halls will feature a nature-themed dessert buffet in honor of the Feast Day. Table placards will be located at each dining hall where students, staff and faculty can engage in dialogue to better care for nature and the poor through service opportunities and simple everyday choices. This year’s Feast of St. Francis comes at a time of increasing concern for the health of the planet but also of increased awareness and activism, including in the American Catholic community.

Notre Dame’s Office of Sustainability recently collaborated with the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and representatives from Santa Clara University and Catholic University of America to publish “Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration.” This toolkit is currently being disseminated to Catholic colleges and universities across the country to provide guidance and resources that will help them further integrate sustainability into the fabric of campus life.

The publication of the toolkit represents the culmination of a yearlong collaborative process in which the Notre Dame Office of Sustainability was intimately involved,” said Dan Dileo, project manager at the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. “Notre Dame’s Sustainability personnel helped craft the vision, framework and contents of the toolkit by sharing their invaluable experience of ‘doing’ mission-based sustainability at a Catholic school.

“One of the key messages we hope to share is that sustainability isn’t just about reducing energy use. It’s also about fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility for the environment. By working together, we can make a real impact on the planet and help ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.”

The toolkit is built around the Coalition’s St. Francis Pledge, which brings together families, parishes, schools and communities around the country in a commitment to reduce their carbon footprint and advocate on behalf of creation and the poor, said Dileo. “Many students, staff and faculty at Notre Dame have already signed the St. Francis Pledge, and we encourage the rest of the Notre Dame community to go to catholicclimatecommitment.org and do the same.”

Notre Dame’s Feast of St. Francis program is cosponsored by the Office of Sustainability, Student Government, Campus Ministry, the Center for Social Concerns, the Department of Theology and Campus Ministry.

“On the Feast of St. Francis, we recall the words of a saint who told us to ‘pray the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, to use words,'” said Patrick McCormick ’12, student body president. “The true celebration of the legacy of St. Francis will be in the actions that we take in a world that all too often loses sight of the fact that a commitment to ecological justice is inseparable from a commitment to the dignity of the human person.”

**Tip for securing your mobile device**

By Letenye Votava, OIT

Those who use mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets enjoy the convenience features and capabilities, but many are unaware of the security risks.

According to a new study by Juniper Networks, hackers and malware distribution have shifted their focus to mobile devices. Why? Because the majority of users don’t have proper security measures in place.

The study also found that any device with downloadable apps is at a higher risk because the most common way for malware to find its way into a mobile device is through an app. Attackers are also able to gain easy access to your email and social networking information through unsecured Wi-Fi.

Here are some good ways to secure your mobile device:

- Set a password, PIN or security pattern to keep others from using your device. Also make sure your device locks after idling for too long. Remember, the shorter the time, the safer your device.
- Limit the amount of behind-the-scenes communication that may leak data or allow others to remotely connect to your device. For example, most devices allow GPS tracking. This is also used for targeted advertising—an unnecessary feature that exposes your location. It’s a good idea to turn GPS and other similar services (e.g., Bluetooth) off.
- Don’t allow applications or Web browsers to store passwords, and don’t store personal information on your device.
- Be sure to keep the operating system on your mobile device well maintained by downloading and applying patches from legitimate providers in a timely manner.
- Enable remote wipe. If you lose your device, you may be able to remotely erase your data if you have installed the OIT security application or have configured your device with Microsoft Exchange.

Details are available at it.nd.edu/security/mobile-device/index.htm.

Paperless conflict of interest disclosure system launches

By Carol C. Bradley, NDNews

Consistent with federal guidelines, the University’s Conflict of Interest Policy requires that each employee in a position to influence or commit Notre Dame resources complete and file an annual conflict of interest disclosure form.

A new paperless submission form will make the process much quicker and more efficient, says Angela Knoblock, policy specialist in the Office of General Counsel.

The University’s conflict of interest disclosure policy applies to all faculty and exempt staff, says Knoblock. The new paperless system will be rolled out next fiscal year, via email in early October.

Everyone who receives the email notification is required to complete the form, she emphasizes. “The new system is easy to use, and required both by federal law and institutional position responsibilities and goals.”

What constitutes a conflict of interest?

“Conflicts arise when there is a perceived or actual conflict between a university’s interest and an individual’s private interests. The Office of General Counsel has a duty to protect the University’s interest and to ensure the integrity of the research, administration and individual position responsibilities.”

The new electronic form submission system is simple: Follow the link in the email, fill out the form and click “submit.”

Forms go to one of approximately 30 designated reviewers. The vast majority of submissions will reveal no conflicts, allowing reviewers to focus on those with actual or potential conflicts. Those situations, Knoblock says, may require a more-in-depth conversation with a reviewer, and the development of a management plan to address any issues.

“We have an effective system in place to enable those covered by the conflict of interest policy to comply in a timely manner,” says Knoblock. “It protects our interests. Our goal is to be a partner, to allow all of us to do our jobs without the risk of our integrity being questioned.”

For more information, visit conflictpolicy.nd.edu. The site includes a summary of the policy with a link to the entire policy, contact information and frequently asked questions.

St. Francis and sustainability

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Town Hall meetings provide updates on Advancing Our Vision

By BRENDAN O’SHAUGHNESSY, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A new wellness center on campus, a staff early retirement option, and the protection of jobs and benefits were notable results of the Advancing Our Vision initiative presented in the Faculty Address and Town Hall meetings held last week.

President Rev. John J. Jenkins, C.S.C., announced that the Strategic Funding Committee, he created in February had reviewed the budget and identified $30 million in recurring or potential revenue that could be redirected to fund top University priorities. He said this represents about 3 percent of the total budget and will help Notre Dame continue its momentum during a period that has caused many other universities to scale back their plans for growth and face layoffs off employees or cut pay and benefits.

He also told capacity crowds of faculty and staff members that the generosity of Notre Dame benefactors and the sacrifices of tuition-paying families mean “we were obliged to take a hard look at ourselves to see if we could find resources to advance the vision of Notre Dame, even if this demanded somebody else of us.”

Father Jenkins said the committee’s goal was to protect jobs, salaries and benefits, instead of some perks unique to Notre Dame will end. These include a 20 percent discount on the purchase of football tickets and cell phone plans that have had few restrictions. He pointed out that employees still have the option to buy season tickets and do not have to pay a seat license or minimum contribution like other season ticket buyers.

Father Jenkins rejected a recommendation from the committee to impose a general fee for parking. But he did say that fees are likely once it becomes necessary to build a structured parking facility sometime in the next five years. There will also be reserved spots on campus available for a fee.

Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves, who joined Father Jenkins for Town Hall meetings, said early retirements will not be fully replaced, requiring some reorganization and some employees to pick up extra duties. He also said each division can decide how to reorganize to accommodate the losses.

“We heard from your recommendations on the website was that there are things we could stop doing because they are unnecessary,” Affleck-Graves said. “We will all have to pick up some slack but we also have to ask ourselves what we can do more efficiently.”

Many of the questions related to the announcement of a new wellness center for employees and their families. The facility, which is scheduled to begin construction soon and open next July, will be located in the northeast area of campus at Wilson Avenue and Bulla Road. Hours of operation are expected to be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Affleck-Graves said the new facility is not intended to replace an employee’s primary care physician, but it will offer convenience that can save time compared to an off-campus trip to a busy doctor’s office and pharmacy. The center will offer services ranging from the diagnosis and monitoring of common health maladies, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and depression, to physical therapy and a pharmacy.

Father Jenkins said the committee also focused on process improvements. Programs such as the online TravelND and the new VoIP phones show how new technology can offer better service while also preserving the University’s resources for top priorities.

Father Jenkins said the committee identified the money for reallocation; he will consult with Affleck-Graves and other Tom Burns about specific decisions on where to invest these resources. Broadly, Advancing Our Vision will fund new faculty positions to further strengthen teaching and research, provide financial aid to meet the growing needs of students; and enhance staff support, libraries and infrastructure to accomplish Notre Dame’s academic mission of teaching and inquiry.

Students benefit from smoother process

By JULIA SAMA, OFFICE OF CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT

The General Services department knew it could deliver better customer service to the campus community, and recently it set out to do just that.

The General Services team completes approximately 4,500 work orders per year, with jobs ranging from setting up tables, chairs, stages and podiums for campus events to installing posts and signage on campus and moving offices from one space to another.

When data was collected and analyzed, it was discovered that 30 percent of work orders required additional work (known as “rework”). Sometimes work order forms had missing or inaccurate information. Access to the person submitting the request and/or the space was limited. Often, additional requests were made of General Services upon workers’ arrival for the current order. General Services staff—and their customers—were spending more time than necessary on each request.

Another big challenge for General Services is that the workload varies significantly depending on the time of year. Services are in much higher demand when there are special events such as football weekends and Commencement.

The department needed a better way to manage peaks in demand without overtaxing resources.

Mary O’gren, associate director of warehouse, delivery and transportation, knew that improving the accuracy of work order requests and balancing demand and capacity wouldn’t just help General Services—it would positively impact a lot of other departments on campus.

O’gren completed Green Belt training offered by the Office of Continuous Improvement and, with support from the Continuous Improvement team, worked with the General Services team to better understand its processes and pinpoint potential areas of improvement.

Bruce Harris, an adjunct instructor in the Mendoza College of Business who also develops Microsoft Excel business tools, created a scheduling system for General Services that was critical in addressing the challenges of matching its capacity to demand. Together, the team looked at the work order process and examined the reasons why there was so much rework involved. To address those causes, it developed solutions that were implemented in May.

General Services launched the new scheduling system and a weekly summary report that lets team members compare internal capacity to customer demand every day. Best of all, they can manage and adjust the schedule as needed. “We better understand when we need to make calls to adjust services, and when we need to hire temporary help,” says O’gren. “Overall, we have gained a better understanding of our customer demand versus our labor capacity. We now have data to inform our strategy and actions.”

Now, during peak times, General Services uses temporary employees in a more strategic way and during slower times, team members can be assigned to assist other departments in the division.

To address the rework issues, General Services calls customers to confirm appointments the day before the work is scheduled to be completed. This extra step has significantly reduced its time spent later in the process.

The team set a goal to reduce the number of work orders requiring rework from 30 percent to 5 percent or less per month. After just six months, the average rework rate is down to 6.64 percent. In the most recent three months, rework has decreased to 1.57 percent of all transactions—a remarkable achievement.

General Services is now spending less time on rework and the administration of work orders, and more time on the work itself.

says O’gren. “We are no longer on demand service; we are a scheduled service. And our customers are benefiting from a smoother, clearer process.”

General Services moves from ‘on-demand’ to scheduled service

Customers benefit from smoother process

IN MEMORIAM: TINA DURSKI, 51

The campus community is saddened by the loss of Tina Maria Allen Durski, 51, who died Sept. 7. Durski was senior administrative assistant to the Notre Dame Band, and in that position was responsible for handling all board-related arrangements. She had planned to travel to Wales, Europe, the Sugar Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl and many other away games. Prior to her position with the band, Durski worked in Food Services administration for eight years.

says Ken Dye, director of the band. “Tina was a dedicated, energetic administrative assistant. She took personal pride in the band’s accomplishments and always had a lively spirit of humor. She is missed by her colleagues and all the band students that knew her.”

Affleck-Graves gave other updates at the Town Halls:

• The Morris Inn will be expanded from 92 to 137 rooms with more space in each, an exterior consistent with the campus and an indoor ballroom that can host events all year. The renovation is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2014.

• Summer tuition is expected to increase over the next two years to match peer institutions.

• Employees were encouraged to save money by using Google for procurement and networking printers that serve several offices.

• The evacuation of the stadium during lightning storms underscored the importance of creating a culture of safety on campus.

• The Compton Family Ice Arena will open in October and the Shay Center for Executive Education is scheduled for completion in 2013.

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University donates used lab equipment to boost science education

Program also includes instructions for scientific experiments

BY GENE STOWE, FOR NDWORKS

In its first year, ND LIGHTS—Notre Dame Laboratory Instrumentation Giving Hope To Students—collected some $275,000 worth of donated laboratory equipment on campus to help boost science education at underserved schools.

In addition to providing equipment, the program includes step-by-step instructions for scientific experiments, as well as a kit containing the supplies and accessories necessary to conduct them.

“The one thing that sets apart this lab donation program is the fact that we develop high school lab experiments to go with each of the pieces,” says Michelle Joyce, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, who administers the program in collaboration with Procurement Services and the Office of Sustainability.

“When we train the teachers on how to use the instruments, we take them through the experiment that has been designed for them,” Joyce says, “and send them off with the instrument and a son of reagents and accessories so the burden is not on the school to figure out how to use it or how to get the lab accessories needed to do the experiment.”

Faculty members donated the equipment, such as an optical microscope, two rotary evaporators, pH meters, a volumetor and glassware. VWR, the global distributor of scientific supplies that is Notre Dame’s preferred vendor, donated used lab equipment.

The company’s sales representative, Renée Weldon, and on-site coordinator, Dan Tusa, have offices in the Jordan Hall of Science and got support from VWR regional manager Colin Wilson and Chris Lopez, vice president for education and research.

“They fully supported gifting all the accessories and reagents to go along with the equipment,” Joyce says. “Chris liked the outreach component to it. It’s something he felt VWR really wanted to support.

“It was a huge gift for us because it allowed for that special component to the program that really sets us apart from other donation programs.”

The rotary evaporator, for example, comes with reagents and accessories to extract and separate pigmentation from leaves that students collect in their high school course. That allows them to compare leaves from different species and leaves from the same species in different seasons.

The donations are especially important at a time when budget cuts strain schools’ ability to buy laboratory supplies and equipment. Most schools receiving the donated equipment in the first year are in the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program, and students in ACE were trained to use the equipment while on campus for their summer studies.

Next year, local high schools will be included, says Joyce, who hopes to expand the program with donations or grants that would support training teachers, refurbishing equipment and shipping instrumentation to schools.

“I feel this is part of our mission—to transfer the tools of scientific discovery,” she says. “If we have instrumentation and we’re not using it, we should definitely pass it on.”

A pure mathematician

Research focuses on mathematical foundations of string theory

BY GENE STOWE, FOR NDWORKS

Katrina Barron, associate professor of mathematics, fell in love with math two years after she earned an undergraduate degree in physics at the University of Chicago.

When an ankle injury interrupted her professional dance and theater work, she decided to tutor. The job opening was for abstract algebra and group theory—not her favorites as an undergraduate—but rather than physics.

“I always liked math, but even at that time I didn’t understand what a research mathematician might do,” she recalls. “When I saw the subject of abstract algebra again, I saw it as absolutely beautiful, like poetry.”

Some of her former professors who had gone to Rutgers University encouraged her to pursue a doctorate in mathematics there, with the option of switching to physics if she changed her mind. She stayed with math.

Today Barron, who came to Notre Dame in 2001, teaches linear algebra and differential equations to second-year engineering undergraduates, and abstract algebra and group theory to first-year graduate students.

Her research focuses on the mathematical foundations of string theory, and she recently returned from a 13-month study at the Max Planck Institute in Bonn, Germany, where she interacted with others in the field from around the world.

“I consider myself a pure mathematician,” Barron says. “It so happens that this physical theory that might be a model for the universe has deep and rich meaning mathematically.

“Whether or not it models the universe, it has very important implications for many branches of what we might call pure mathematics—mathematics you might study even if it does not have foreseeable applications in the real world.”

The potential convergence of abstract beauty and physical reality is a best-of-both-worlds opportunity for Barron.

“Not only are you constructing new mathematical structures that relate number theory, group theory, representation theory of infinite objects and understanding symmetries of objects, but it might also be a model for how our universe works,” she says.

“It’s such a broad and intricate area involving so many different aspects of mathematics. There are so many people working on this.”

Experience gives her a perspective that bridges algebra and geometry, helping students are different approaches to the same problems.

“Although I pursue the pure mathematical aspects of the physical theory of string theory, much of what I do has applications to areas of physics,” says Barron.
Food Services receives high marks in benchmarking study

Student satisfaction with retail outlets exceeds that of regional and institutional peers

BY COLLEEN O'CONNOR, FOR NDWORKS

Envision Strategies, an international food services consulting firm, was hired last year to review Notre Dame’s current retail food services offerings and catering operations. Quality, variety, service, consistency, price/value, distribution and convenience, along with financial performance, were assessed. The scope of the review also included identification of opportunities for operational, organizational and facilities improvement as well as guidelines for sustainable growth.

Eleven peer institutions were selected for benchmarking Notre Dame’s retail food services. They are Boston College, Cornell, Dartmouth, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, Princeton, Purdue, Syracuse, University of Virginia and Villanova. Several criteria were considered in selecting the comparable schools, including highly selective and competitive admissions procedures, research capabilities, heavily residential campuses, and well-developed, popular student dining programs.

Key findings from the study were that Notre Dame’s retail food services program is performing well with regard to quality, variety, service, distribution, convenience and financial performance. It highlighted the outstanding culinary talent and resources found here and indicated excellent distribution of outlets relative to population and traffic patterns. Finally, it indicated stable satisfaction among students that exceeds regional and institutional peers.

Opportunities for improving the retail program include addressing the gap in distribution on the north side of campus near the Hesburgh Library, redeveloping LaFurture options to improve variety and capacity, and developing a stronger program around sundries and convenience items.

Price/value was expressed as a concern, particularly among staff. National surveys indicate this campus trend is reflective of a national trend, and that Notre Dame’s satisfaction level is higher than regional and institutional peers. The benchmarking indicated that Notre Dame pricing is at or below local market and is in line with peer campuses. Price was found not to be the primary impetus for success on Notre Dame’s campus.

Key recommendations include development of a strong café concept near the Hesburgh Library; expansion and redevelopment of LaFurture food services; rebalancing of Huddle brands; expansion of carryout food options; creation of a residential convenience store for on-campus residents; and development of a viable value campaign.

Similarly, Notre Dame catering operations were benchmarked by Envision Strategies, who found the catering services at Notre Dame to be the largest campus catering program in their experience. Menus and policies were compared with menus from six local caterers who were identified as competition. In addition, Notre Dame’s catering policies were compared with policies from 10 peer institutions to gain a broader perspective of the norm in similar environments outside the local area.

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Why Notre Dame:
Education:
B.A., University of Chicago; M.A., (junior seminar); Field Research Methods

Megan Andrew
College of Arts
poet, Dante Alighieri; it thus seemed more than
as an academic studying Catholicism’s major
I have spent most of my life (nearly 40 years)
international center for the study both of Italian

Why Notre Dame:
Recent position/institution:
Assistant Professor, Art, Art History, & Design

Catherine Carezini
Assistant Professor, Art, Art History, and Design

Anjali Chakravarty
Assistant Professor, Philosophy

Laurea, University of Milan; Ph.D., University of Chicago

Megan Andrew
College of Arts

Why Notre Dame: There are many reasons
Why Notre Dame: I am very excited to join a
group of interdisciplinary scholars working on
Africa at the Kellogg Institute. I was attracted to
Notre Dame commitment to human development
and social justice.

Catherine Carezini
Assistant Professor, Art, Art History, and Design

Why Notre Dame: It’s an honor to teach at Notre Dame and well
suited to the distinct character of our community.

Elizabeth Gibbons Capdeville
Assistant Professor, Political Science

Why Notre Dame: I feel at home at Notre
Dame. The high esteem in which the value of my
course is made for me by the Notre Dame mission
statement, which defines all of us at Notre Dame
as being trained to learn how to live in public
justice. My course teaches that excellence in writing
and rhetoric will demand that we give voice to other’s
values and interests, along with fidelity to the
truth. Good writing humanizes writers and readers alike.
I fell in love with a Catholic, I fell in love with a Notre Dame.
This is the place to be!

Celia Deane-Drummond
Professor, Theology, College of Arts and Letters and College of Science

Why Notre Dame: My interest in utilizing the
theories and promises of theological social
theory to address social and humanitarian concerns
reflects the highest ideals of Notre Dame’s mission
and Catholic social teaching. Being able to both
prepare students to meet the demanding technical and
creative proficiencies of our industry while
enabling their energies toward serving society’s
most disadvantaged is combined uniquely suited to the
distinct character of our university. It’s an honor to teach at Notre Dame and well
warting leaving industry for the opportunity to do so.

Francesca Bordogna
Associate Professor, Sociology

Why Notre Dame: I am very excited to join a

Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame is home to the
catholic theology in the context of scientific
knowledge; scientific modeling, representation and
taxonomy; courses: Truth, falsehood

Anjan Chakravarty
Assistant Professor, Product Design

Why Notre Dame: I came to Notre Dame
because I wanted to be a part of a dynamic
institution continuing to develop in our research
mission. There are a lot of resources here to
conduct my research, not least of which are the
great faculty and the Center for Research on
Educational Opportunity.

Catherine Carezini
Assistant Professor, Art, Art History, and Design

Recent position/institution:
Chair, Philosophy

Why Notre Dame: My office is
very near the spectacular
campus, a pleasure to teach. The
teaching and research environment
and potential at Notre Dame
is unique and unparalleled.

Assistant Professor, Romance Languages
and Literatures

Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame
because of the courses and opportunities to
pursue ambitious and interesting research,
teach challenging and interesting
courses, and participate in a vibrant academic
community.

Assistant Professor, Philosophy

Why Notre Dame: As a jointly funded
position between the College of Science and
Arts and Letters, this was the perfect
opportunity to develop my research and teaching
interests in the philosophy of physics and

Why Notre Dame: I am very excited to join a
group of interdisciplinary scholars working on
Africa at the Kellogg Institute. I was attracted to
Notre Dame commitment to human development
and social justice.

Assistant Professor, English

Recent position/institution:
Assistant Professor, English

Why Notre Dame: When you enter Notre
Dame, you are immediately hit
with its deep commitment to philosophy and so

Why Notre Dame:
Education:
B.F.A., University of Notre Dame;

Assistant Professor, Political Science

Why Notre Dame: I am very excited to join a

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Professor, Theology, College of Arts and Letters and College of Science

Why Notre Dame: My interest in utilizing the
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warting leaving industry for the opportunity to do so.
Declan Kiberd
Donald and Marilyn产
Declan Kiberd was a professor of Irish Studies. His research interests included Irish literature, folklore, and cultural studies. 
Recent position/institution: Enda King
American Literature, University of Texas at Austin

Assistant Professor, Art, Art History, & Design
Interests: Narrative painting that utilizes written texts and appropriated images to address notions of working-class masculinity
Courses: Multilevel Painting; M.F.A. independent studies

José E. Limón
José E. Limón is a prominent dancer and choreographer known for his contributions to the field of modern ballet. 
Recent position/institution: Professor, Department of Sociology
University, Complutense de Madrid; Ph.D., Georgetown University

Education:
B.A., Trinitas College Dublin; M.A., Ph.D., Stanford University

Why Notre Dame: I chose Notre Dame because of my desire to be in an intellectual environment offering unparalleled support and enthusiasm for research while maintaining a strong emphasis in teaching and service. When coupled with the superior caliber of faculty and students, the resources available on campus, and Notre Dame’s strong liberal arts tradition, the decision was an easy one to make.

Amy L. Langenkamp
Assistant Professor, Sociology
Interests: Processes of inequality within schools, especially how inequality is replicated or diminished across school transitions
Courses: Understanding Societies

José E. Limín
Assistant Professor of American Literature
Interests: Mexican-American literature and culture
Courses: Cultural Studies; Mexican-American Literature; Literature of the U.S. South, American literary Traditions; Latinos, Leadership and Literature

Recent position/institution: Molly C. Beanbright Regents Professor of English and American Literature, University of Texas at Austin

Education: B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Why Notre Dame: I have wanted to be at Notre Dame since I was a child. One of the opportunities finally came to join such a distinguished and Catholic institution. I am delighted to be here.

Amaya Martín
Assistant Professor of English
Interests: Arabic linguistic analysis
Recent position/institution: First- and Second-Year Arabic
University of California, Los Angeles

Education: B.A., University of Kent at Canterbury; Licenciatura, Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Ph.D., Georgetown University

Why Notre Dame: After my visit to the campus, I realized that Notre Dame was the best place to develop both as scholar and as human being. I felt that Notre Dame University that would get the best academic results, for professors and for students, working both at the intellectual and at the personal level.

Elizabeth Alicia McIntosh
Assistant Professor, Sociology
Interests: Gender, family, partner selection, sexuality
Courses: Marriage and Family

Recent position/institution: Ph.D. candidate, Stanford University

Education: B.A., Princeton University; M.A., Ph.D., Stanford University

Why Notre Dame: This is my dream job. I felt great to be part of a cohesive and growing Sociology department. Notre Dame students are a joy to teach and as a department we are able to provide excellent support for both research and teaching.

Erie Metz McDonnell
Instructor, Sociology
Interests: International comparative governance and development, with a special focus on Africa and Oceania
Courses: Governance in Africa; Development and Human Well-being

Recent position/institution: Doctoral candidate, Northwestern University

Education: B.S.Ed., Ph.D., Northwestern University

Why Notre Dame: When visiting Notre Dame, I quickly realized it possessed a unique blend of world-class scholarship combined with a warm community of scholars and students deeply invested in the work of human well-being. Notre Dame is a university with a mission and a vision; I want to be a part of continuing that momentum.

Terence E. McDonnell
Assistant Professor, Sociology
Interests: Culture and media
Courses: Telling Stories about Society: Media, Representation and the Sociology of Knowledge

Recent position/institution: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Vanderbilt University and the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy

Education: B.A., University of Virginia; Ph.D., Northwestern University

Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame’s sociology faculty have established what may be the fastest-rising department in the country, especially for cultural sociology. I’m thrilled to join a department with such energy and potential. In addition, I’m excited about joining 30 students with a real commitment to social justice.

Rebecca Tito McKeen
Assistant Professor, History
Interests: Latin America
Courses: United States in the World; The Gilded Age and Progress Era

Recent position/institution: Visiting assistant professor, Southern Connecticut State University

Education: B.A., Barnard College; Columbia University; M.A., Ph.D Yale University

Why Notre Dame: The academic excellence associated with the University and the prospect of working with both talented students and accomplished scholars were reasons enough for me to choose Notre Dame. Pursuing this scholarly life at a community of scholars made it moral and spiritual orientation realizable—this was an opportunity I could not refuse and one that I heartily embrace.

Francesca Jean Murphy
Assistant Professor, History
Interests: African history, imperialism and colonialism, youth in Tanzania
Courses: Africa to 1810; Modern Africa; A First-Year Seminar, Political History of an African Rebellion

Recent position/institution: Visiting Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame

Education: B.A., University of Michigan; M.Phil., Oxford University; Ph.D., Princeton University

Why Notre Dame: As a Kellogg Institute visiting fellow last year, I got to know Notre Dame a little and was absolutely blown away by the campus. I was impressed by the ethos of Notre Dame students to learn about Africa and travel there for research and service. Finding a university eager to invest in you and a student body interested in what you study is an unattainable combination.

Emilia Jasthy Powell
Assistant Professor, Political Science
Interests: International relations, international law, international organizations
Courses: International Law, International Organizations

Recent position/institution: Assistant Professor, University of Alabama

Education: Master’s Degree, Law, University of Nijmegen; PhD, University of Maastricht; Diplomand from Jean Monnet Center for European Studies, Tiran, Poland; M.A., Ph.D., Florida State University; Tashkent University

Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame because of its commitment to upholding the highest standards in education, and to Catholic identity.

Ricardo Ramirez
Associate Professor, Political Science
Interests: Political behavior, state and local politics, immigration politics and policy, and race and politics
Courses: Latinos and the U.S. Political System

Recent position/institution: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Southern California

Education: B.A., Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina; M.A., Stanford University; Ph.D., Stanford University

Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame because of the University’s commitment to social justice and the established and growing reputation of the political science department. In particular, I could not pass up the opportunity to take part in the vibrant community of faculty and students who comprise the Honey Center for the Study of American Democracy.

Brett Robinson
Assistant Professor, History
Interests: African history, imperialism and colonialism, youth in Tanzania
Courses: Africa to 1810; Modern Africa; A First-Year Seminar, Political History of an African Rebellion

Recent position/institution: Visiting Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame

Education: B.A., University of Michigan; M.Phil., Oxford University; Ph.D., Princeton University

Why Notre Dame: As a Kellogg Institute visiting fellow last year, I got to know Notre Dame a little and was absolutely blown away by the campus. I was impressed by the ethos of Notre Dame students to learn about Africa and travel there for research and service. Finding a university eager to invest in you and a student body interested in what you study is an unattainable combination.

Dennis Robinson
Assistant Professor, Program of Irish Studies
Interests: Renaissance humanism, history of philosophy, philosophy, rhetoric and textual criticism
Courses: Philosophical Inquiry and Seminar II at the Program of Liberal Studies

Recent position/institution: Ph.D. candidate and Charles S. Singleton and Gilman Fellow, Johns Hopkins University

Education: B.A., University of Chicago; B.A., Johns Hopkins University; Warburg Institute, London, England

Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame in order to work in a highly caliber Catholic university
College of Engineering

Areez Ardakani

Rev. John Cardinal O’Hara, C.S.C., Assistant Professor, Aeronautics and Mechanical Engineering

Interests: Fluid mechanics, non-Newtonian fluid dynamics, multiphase flows and complex fluids

Courses: Thermodynamics, Complex Fluids and Multiphase Flows

Recent position/institution: Shapiro Postdoctoral Fellow, MIT

Education: B.S., Sharif University of Technology, Iran; M.S., Ph.D., University of California, Irvine

Why Notre Dame: I decided to come to the University of Notre Dame because of its commitment in advancing science and engineering, and also, its strong community in my interest area of fluid mechanics.

Sadegh Babiri

Assistant Professor, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Interests: Plasma, combustion, hypersonics, scramjet engine

Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral Associate, MIT

Education: B.S., Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China; M.S., Ph.D., University of California, Irvine

Why Notre Dame: I came to Notre Dame because of its excellence in fluid mechanics, understanding and its strong area of community

Hyunghak Do

Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering

Interests: Wireless communications and devices

Courses: Random Vectors, Detection, and Estimation

Recent position/institution: Vice-president, systems engineering, Recem Communications (start-up in Silicon Valley)

Education: B.S., Swarthmore College; M.S., Duke University, M.A., Ph.D., Yale University

Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame because of its collegial atmosphere and its commitment to excellence in scholarship.

Scott S. Howard

Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering

Interests: Photonics for medical imaging and diagnostics

Courses: Electromagnetic Fields and Waves I, Fundamentals of Modern Optics

Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cornell University

Education: B.S.E.E., University of Notre Dame; Ph.D., Princeton University

Why Notre Dame: I believe in Notre Dame’s mission in being a leader in both basic research and undergraduate teaching. The incredible new facilities, collegial faculty and staff, and talented students create a productive and enjoyable work environment. My research interests will complement existing initiatives such as NDnano, ADF, and the NDHIE.

Daniel Kim Kron

Research Assistant Professor, Civil and Geophysical Engineering

Interests: Wind effects on structures; modeling; simulation of extreme winds; mitigation of wind hazards; structural health monitoring; Web-based e-technologies

Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Civil and Geophysical Engineering, University of Notre Dame

Education: B.S., Yonsei University, S.S., Ph.D., Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Why Notre Dame: Having spent years at Notre Dame, I have felt very comfortable to continue my research owing to great environments in various aspects provided by the University, distinguished colleagues and talented students.

Paulo Miron

Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering

Interests: Analysis and control of wireless communication systems

Courses: Information Theory

Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral scholar, University of California, San Diego

Education: B.S., Politechnic of Turin, Italy; M.S., University of California, Berkeley; Ph.D., University of California, San Diego

Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame is a great place to do research and teaching. I am inspired by the engineering department has top researchers working in the field of wireless communications.

William J. Phillips

Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Interests: Fabrication, design and characterization of next-generation Swiss membranes for chemical separations at the water–emerging nexus

Courses: Chemical Engineering Laboratory II

Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Yale University

Education: B.S., University of Notre Dame; Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Why Notre Dame: As an alumnus, I understood the commitment Notre Dame has to undergraduate education. As a researcher, I recognize the exciting science and technology developments occurring at Notre Dame. I believe a faculty member allows me to contribute in both of these missions.

Lukir Beth

Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering

Interests: Robotics, social signal processing, assistive technology

Recent position/institution: Research Assistant, University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory

Education: B.S., Carnegie Mellon University; Ph.D., University of Cambridge

Why Notre Dame: I am thrilled to participate in the mission of “engineering for the greater good,” and to join Notre Dame’s vibrant research and teaching community.

Robert Santelle

Instructor, Computer Science and Engineering

Interests: Software engineering, programming, autonomous vehicles

Courses: Data Structures; software engineering

Recent position/institution: Research Assistant at Georgia Institute of Technology

Education: M.S., Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

Why Notre Dame: I chose Notre Dame because of its academic excellence, human quality and culture of service in society. I also appreciate the Catholic nature of the University and its imprint on the work and growth of students, staff and faculty. I view Notre Dame as an excellent place to educate future leaders in computing, in the context software engineering as a rigorous science based on my industrial and academic experiences, and to serve the community while exploring the rich interdisciplinary culture at this university.

Fabi Semprini

Assistant Professor, Astronomy and Mechanical Engineering

Interests: Structural health monitoring and structural dynamics

Courses: Aerospace System Dynamics

Recent position/institution: Research fellow, University of Michigan

Education: M.S., University of Rome “La Sapienza”; Ph.D., Princeton University

Why Notre Dame: During my first visit to Notre Dame I was impressed by the research and teaching environment offered by the University. I am very excited to be joining the aerospace and mechanical engineering department, which counts many talented faculty and outstanding students.

Sajzyoti Senpati

Research Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Interests: Micro- and Nano-scale devices for point-of-care diagnostics

Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral research associate, University of Notre Dame

Education: M.S., Kharagpur University, Asansol, India; Ph.D., National Chemical Laboratory of Pune, India

Why Notre Dame: I chose Notre Dame because of the excellent work being done by the staff at the CLE and advance high performance computing (both on campus and nationally) in tackling some of the most challenging problems in scientific research. Notre Dame also provide a warm, family-oriented environment that greatly complements the academic experience.

Ashly P. Tarla

Assistant Professor, Computer Science

Education: B.A., McGill University; M.S., Ph.D., Princeton University

Why Notre Dame: I chose Notre Dame because of the emphasis on classical approaches and cutting-edge research (both on campus and nationally) in tackling some of the most challenging problems in scientific research. Notre Dame also provide a warm, family-oriented environment that greatly complements the academic experience.

Jeremiah Zardinat

Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Interests: Cell and tissue engineering, development biology, growth control, morphogenesis

Recent position/institution: Introduction to Cellular and Tissue Engineering

Education: B.S., University of Colorado, Boulder; M.A., Ph.D., Princeton University

Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame impressed me as a university of excellence in research and teaching. The opportunities and resources available as well...
at the high standards promoted by faculty and students made Notre Dame a very easy choice.

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**

Karen Imgrund Deak  
Assistant Special Professional,  
Division of Technology  
Recent position/  
institution: Parent Agent,  
SNR Denton US LLC  
Education: B.S.,  
University of Illinois  
Chicago-Colorado–Chapel Hill, Ph.D., University of Chicago  
Why Notre Dame: Before coming to Notre Dame, I spent three years at a law firm, working on patent applications at a patent agent. A patent agent has passed the U.S. Patent Office’s examination, and is allowed to practice patent law before the Patent Office, even though she has not gone to law school. I was recruited to Notre Dame to create and teach in a new program that will train patent agents.

James Dillon Delaney  
Assistant Professor,  
Computational and Applied Mathematics  
Interests: Engineering statistics; probability and statistics for risk management  
Recent position/institution: Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Rice University  
Education: B.A., Northwestern University; M.S., Georgia Institute of Technology; M.S., Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology  
Why Notre Dame: Considering Notre Dame’s international reputation for academic excellence and my interest in interdisciplinary quantitative problems, it seemed like the new Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics would be a great place to work on statistics. When I visited Notre Dame, it felt as though I were at home and among family.

Halifong Gao  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Interests: Polymer chemistry and materials  
Courses: Polymer Chemistry and Materials Science  
Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of California, Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Education: B.S., M.S., Fudan University, Shanghai, China; Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University  
Why Notre Dame: I chose the University of Notre Dame because I want to be part of its commitment to academic excellence. This is also a great place for young faculty to develop their careers with balanced family life.

Alin Huetner  
Assistant Professor,  
Computational and Applied Mathematics  
Interests: Statistical analysis of molecular and polymer data  
Courses: Elements of Statistics; Managerial Statistics  
Recent position/institution: Research Associate, ACT Inc.  
Education: B.A., Howard University Chicago; M.S., DePaul University; Ph.D., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame because of its tradition of excellence in teaching and research.

Vlad M. Huc  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Interests: Catalytic systems for activation and functionalization of inert molecules  
Courses: Organometallic Chemistry  
Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral  
Education: B.S., University of Tehran; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame because of the outstanding teaching and research here. I look forward to pursuing my academic goals and in being a part of this wonderful community.

Salya Brytya  
Research Assistant,  
Department of Chemistry  
Interests: Nanomaterials, catalysis  
Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Notre Dame  
Education: B.S., M.S., Chernivtsi National University; Ph.D., Institute of Surface Chemistry, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine  
Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame is one of the best universities in the Midwest.

Jiahui Li  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Interests: Development of statistical methodology and its applications in biological, health, social, business and other scientific domains  
Courses: Experimental Designs  
Recent position/institution: Senior Biometrician, Merck Research Labs  
Education: B.S., Peking University, M.S., Iowa State University; Ph.D., University of Michigan  
Why Notre Dame: The opportunity of participating in building a new department in statistics, the opportunities to work with world-class students, and the opportunity to collaborate with top scientists in various fields.

Edwin Michel  
Professor,  
Biological Sciences  
Interests: Disease epidemiology with focus on mathematical modeling, disease ecology, climate change and intervention analysis  
Courses: Modern Infectious Disease (undergraduate senior level); Global Health Challenges (graduate level)  
Recent position/institution: Senior Lecturer, Imperial College London, UK  
Education: B.Sc., M.Sc., Madras University, India; Ph.D., University of London, U.K.  
Why Notre Dame: I was attracted by Notre Dame ambition to develop world-class research in the area of global health, the University’s commitment to creating an environment for conducting leading-edge interdisciplinary research, and the real desire to use scientific knowledge to better the world.

Miguel A. Morales  
Assistant Professor,  
Biological Sciences  
Interests: Molecular Biology and Immunology  
Courses: Topics in Infectious Diseases  
Recent position/institution: Research Associate, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France; Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Washington  
Education: M.Sc., Ph.D., Complutense University, Madrid, Spain  
Why Notre Dame: I chose to come to Notre Dame because of my previous experience with the outstanding teaching and research here. I look forward to pursuing my academic goals and in being a part of this wonderful community.

Jun Peng  
Research Assistant Professor,  
Department of Chemistry  
Interests: Cancer research using gene knockout and overexpression mouse model  
Recent position/institution: Project staff, Cleveland Clinic  
Education: B.D., Hebei Medical University; M.Sc., Peking Union Medical College and Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences  
Why Notre Dame: I am very proud of being a member of the Notre Dame community. I like to learn from others and contribute my knowledge to fight cancer and make our life more beautiful.

Gregory Riegland  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemistry and Materials Science  
Interests: Evolutionary biology and paleontology of the mammalian skull, feeding apparatus and musculoskeletal system  
Courses: Undergraduate anatomy, graduate seminars in evolution and paleobiology  
Recent position/institution: Professor of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, University of Missouri School of Medicine  
Education: B.A., University of Rochester; M.A., Northwestern University; Ph.D., Northwestern University; Postdoc, Duke University  
Why Notre Dame: Initially, my wife was recruited to be the scientist in residence at the Harper Cancer Research Institute. Upon interviewing at Notre Dame, I became excited about the many campus initiatives and opportunities for collaborative research. I was particularly interested in the opportunity to work with a team of creative investigators from different disciplines.

Matthew J. Ruvva  
Assistant Professor,  
Biological Sciences  
Interests: Evolutionary anthropology and paleopathology of the mammalian skull, feeding apparatus and musculoskeletal system  
Courses: Undergraduate anatomy, graduate seminars in evolution and paleobiology  
Recent position/institution: Professor of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, University of Missouri School of Medicine  
Education: B.A., University of Rochester; M.A., Northwestern University; Ph.D., Northwestern University; Postdoc, Duke University  
Why Notre Dame: Initially, my wife was recruited to be the scientist in residence at the Harper Cancer Research Institute. Upon interviewing at Notre Dame, I became excited about the many campus initiatives and opportunities for collaborative research. I was particularly interested in the opportunity to work with a team of creative investigators from different disciplines.

M. Sharan Stack  
Professor,  
Biological Sciences  
Interests: Proteinase regulation, tumor progression and metastasis  
Recent position/institution: Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Pathology, University of Michigan School of Medicine, Columbus  
Education: B.S., Clamson University, M.S.; East Tennessee State University; Ph.D., University of Louisville; Postdoc, Duke University  
Why Notre Dame: My position provides a unique opportunity to promote basic cancer research involving the scientific community at Notre Dame and working with local clinical partners. I am thrilled to inaugurale the Harper Cancer Research Institute as an outstanding resource for the world’s integrative cancer research.

Zain Syed  
Assistant Professor,  
Biological Sciences  
Interests: Sensory physiology, behavior, neurogenetics of olfaction  
Courses: Neurobiology of sensory systems  
Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral researcher, University of California, Davis  
Education: B.Sc., Osmania University, India; M.Sc., Aligarh Muslim University, India; Ph.D., University of Neuchatel, Switzerland  
Why Notre Dame: Biological sciences department faculty at the Notre Dame have been at the forefront of studying various aspects of insects, microorganisms and genome sequencing of important species. With my expertise in chemical ecology, sensory physiology and organoleptic behavior, I am looking forward to developing exciting collaborations across disciplines, and offering a great platform for students to develop and translate their ideas.

Gabor Szekelyhazi  
Howard J. Kenna, C.S.C., Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
Interests: Complex geometry  
Recent position/institution: Research Assistant Professor, Columbia University  
Education: B.A., M.A., St. John’s College, University of Cambridge, U.K.; Ph.D., Imperial College London  
Why Notre Dame: I was attracted to Notre Dame because of the great math department and especially the geometry program. Moreover, visiting the Notre Dame campus I really enjoyed the atmosphere of the University as a whole.

Pamela Tamez  
Research Assistant Professor,  
Biological Sciences  
Interests: Molecular interactions between human host and malaria parasite  
Recent position/institution: Research Assistant, University of Notre Dame  
Education: B.A., Southeastern University; Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago  
Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame is investing a great deal of resources to build research excellence.

Dominic O. Vachon  
Director, Ruth M. Hillebrand Center for Compassionate Care in Medicine  
Interests: Psychology and spirituality of caring in the helping professions  
Courses: Medical Counseling Skills; Compassionate Care in the Medical Professions; Spiritualities of Caring in the Helping Professions; Fundamentals of Pastoral Counseling  
Recent position/institution: Director of Behavioral Medicine and Care Training, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center  
Education: B.A., M.Div., University of Notre Dame; Ph.D., Loyola University of Chicago  
Why Notre Dame: The Ruth M. Hillebrand Center for Compassionate Care at Notre Dame is dedicated to laying a foundation of compassion for patients and patient-physician interpersonal skills for students aspiring to medical professions. I am very committed to the field of caring and have used this experience in my work to help others in need. My goal is to continue to develop my expertise in the field of Compassionate Care.

Zhen Yu  
Research Assistant,  
Biological Sciences  
Interests: Sensory physiology, behavior, neurogenetics of olfaction  
Courses: Neurobiology of sensory systems  
Recent position/institution: Postdoctoral researcher, University of California, Davis  
Education: B.Sc., Osmanina University, India; M.Sc., Aligarh Muslim University, India; Ph.D., University of Neuchatel, Switzerland  
Why Notre Dame: Biological sciences department faculty at the Notre Dame have been at the forefront of studying various aspects of insects, microorganisms and genome sequencing of important species. With my expertise in chemical ecology, sensory physiology and organoleptic behavior, I am looking forward to developing exciting collaborations across disciplines, and offering a great platform for students to develop and translate their ideas.
Jodi Clifford  
Associate Professional Specialist and Director, Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic
Recent position/Institution: Patent Attorney at Thompson Hine LLP in Cleveland, Ohio
Education: B.S., The Ohio State University; J.D., University of Virginia School of Law
Why Notre Dame: I was drawn to Notre Dame based upon the quality and character of the institution and the people, and have been tremendously impressed with the faculty, staff and students that I have met here. I will be developing a new clinical law program, designed to provide students the opportunity to apply intellectual property law in a real-world environment. I am excited by the potential and the challenge of creating a program that will allow law students to gain valuable experience working with clients.

Bruce Huber  
Associate Professor
Interests: Environmental and natural resources law, energy law
Courses: Energy Law, Property
Recent position/institution: Visiting Intellectual Professor, Dartmouth College
Education: A.B., Stanford University; J.D., M.A., Ph.D., political science, University of California, Berkeley
Why Notre Dame: I chose Notre Dame because of its commitment to research, teaching and service and because I believe in the mission of the Kroc Institute to be a leader in the field of peace research. The opportunity to help shape the field through creative and managing a top Ph.D. program in the field is an exciting prospect.

James J. Kelly Jr.  
Clinical Professor of Law
Notre Dame Legal Aid Clinic
Interests: Real property and nonprofit law issues raised by community control of land resources, especially title clearing, land banking and community land trusts
Courses: Legal Aid I & II Ethics; Legal Aid II
Recent position/institution: Visiting Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University
Education: B.A., The University of Virginia; J.D., Columbia University
Why Notre Dame: As a teacher of new transactional lawyers, I want my students to learn how to support ventures that create social justice and further the common good. I came to Notre Dame because here the authentic connection with those most vulnerable is at the heart of what we understand to be excellence.

MENDEZa COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Wendy August  
Associate Professional Specialist
Interests: Health information technology
Courses: Business Problem Solving; Commercialization; Analytics; Principles of Management
Recent position/institution: CEO of CapMed Education: B.S., Michigan State University; M.H.A., University of La Verne
Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame embodies value-driven leadership. I am honored to be a part of the Notre Dame family to help shape business for good.

Sikatth Sarathy  
Assistant Professor, Management
Interests: Use of Lean and Six Sigma methodology for process improvement
Courses: Process Analytics (MBA); Process Analytics; Business Statistics
Recent position/institution: Owner of my own company doing engineering services and consulting in Lean Six Sigma and Operational Excellence
Education: B.S., Bangalore University, India; M.S., MBA, Georgia Tech
Why Notre Dame: I have always considered myself a teacher, and so am excited to be at Notre Dame where educating and teaching students is given high importance.

Notre Dame Law School
Judi Clifford  
Associate Professional Specialist and Director, Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic
Recent position/institution: Patent Attorney at Thompson Hine LLP in Cleveland, Ohio
Education: B.S., The Ohio State University; J.D., University of Virginia School of Law
Why Notre Dame: I was drawn to Notre Dame based upon the quality and character of the institution and the people, and have been tremendously impressed with the faculty, staff and students that I have met here. I will be developing a new clinical law program, designed to provide students the opportunity to apply intellectual property law in a real-world environment. I am excited by the potential and the challenge of creating a program that will allow law students to gain valuable experience working with clients.

Randy J. Kazel  
Associate Professor of Law
Interests: Freedom of Speech, legal change, contract law
Courses: Contracts; Freedom of Speech; Recent position/institution: Special Counsel, General Electric Co.
Education: B.B.A., University of Wisconsin, Madison; J.D., Harvard Law School
Why Notre Dame: I came to Notre Dame to join such an important tradition.

Anticharam Ter  
Professor of Law
Interests: My main research focus is the study of competitive and cooperative behaviors in market settings and their legal regulation by the antitrust laws.
Courses: Behavioral analysis of law; antitrust, technology and intellectual property; seminar on corporate governance
Recent position/institution: Senior Lecturer, University of Haifa Faculty of Law
Education: L.B., B.A., The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; M.S., J.D., Harvard Law School
Why Notre Dame: I was attracted to Notre Dame Law School by its unique combination of exceptionally collegial faculty and a lively, research-oriented, intellectual atmosphere.

Mendoza College of Business

Wendy August  
Associate Professional Specialist
Interests: Health information technology
Courses: Business Problem Solving; Commercialization; Analytics; Principles of Management
Recent position/institution: CEO of CapMed Education: B.S., Michigan State University; M.H.A., University of La Verne
Why Notre Dame: Notre Dame embodies value-driven leadership. I am honored to be a part of the Notre Dame family to help shape business for good.

Sikatth Sarathy  
Assistant Professor, Management
Interests: Use of Lean and Six Sigma methodology for process improvement
Courses: Process Analytics (MBA); Process Analytics; Business Statistics
Recent position/institution: Owner of my own company doing engineering services and consulting in Lean Six Sigma and Operational Excellence
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Why Notre Dame: I have always considered myself a teacher, and so am excited to be at Notre Dame where educating and teaching students is given high importance.

IRISH GUARD

The Irish Guard on the Hesburgh Library Mall. The Guard’s 10 six-foot, full-hearing men march in front of the band, and have duties including raising the American flag while spectators sing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Prints of this and other special-edition football season photos are available, with a 30 percent discount on orders placed through the end of bowl season. See the gallery at photos.nd.edu.

KROC INSTITUTE

Pamira Firew  
Associate Director of Doctoral Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
Interests: Security and development, transitional justice, theories of revolution, Latin America
Courses: Development and Conflict, Peacebuilding 1 and 2 (with Asher Kaufman)
Recent position/institution: Adjunct Research Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota
Education: B.A., Carleton College, M.Sc., London School of Economics; M.A., Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Ph.D., Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
Why Notre Dame: I chose Notre Dame because of its commitment in research, teaching and service and because I believe in the mission of the Kroc Institute to be a leader in the field of peace research. The opportunity to help shape the field through creative and managing a top Ph.D. program in the field is an exciting prospect.

Graduate School

John Lueker  
Associate Professional Specialist, Associate Director of Students, Graduate School
Interests: Professional issues in sport psychology with a special focus on supervision practices
Recent position/institution: Adjunct Professor of Sports and Exercise Sciences and Associate Dean of College of Nursing and Health Sciences, West Texas A&M University
Education: B.A., College of Nursing of Notre Dame, M.A., Ed.D., James Madison University; Ed.D., West Virginia University
Why Notre Dame: As an alumna of Notre Dame, I have the opportunity to give back to the university that has meant so much to me. I am excited to be in a position where I am able to work closely with both graduate students and administrators in achieving the educational mission of Notre Dame.
Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America

Exhibition at Center for History represents 400 religious communities

BY NATAVIE DAVIS MILLER, FOR NDWORKS

“Women answering a need, women leading women they have never been before, women leading women in spirit...” These are the words used by Helen Maher Garvey, to describe both the exhibit and the women featured there at the opening ceremony of “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America.”

The Center for History (808 W. Washington St., South Bend, 574-235-9664) will host the traveling exhibition through Dec. 31. The exhibition was made possible with funding from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s College and the Center for History, and entrance to the exhibition is free for Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s faculty, staff and students with a valid ID card.

“I knew immediately that ‘Women & Spirit’ was an outstanding opportunity to tell a story of national significance, and I am proud and pleased that the Center for History was selected as a venue,” says Randi Ray, executive director of the Center for History.

The exhibit is based on the contributions of women religious in America spanning nearly 300 years. What began with 12 Ursuline sisters, arriving in New Orleans from France in 1727, has grown into a rich heritage of sisters making a difference in people’s lives.

Information, photographs and 70 artifacts from 400 religious communities have been brought together in a beautifully designed modular display featuring printed material on birch walls. The exhibit covers 5,000 square feet of space at the Center for History, and includes an introductory video presentation, oral history listening stations and videos.

Visitors can view a letter from Thomas Jefferson (a replica, because the original is too fragile to travel the country), a small wax figure of the infant Jesus, dated in the 1870s, and letters from mothers who left their children at the New York Foundling orphanage in the same time period. Other artifacts include a Civil War-era medical bag, musical instruments and period women’s clothing.

The exhibit focuses on the work of the sisters in education, nursing, orphanages, and in social justice issues. While it may be surprising to know that some orders own slaves, it may come as no surprise to view a photo of sisters marching at the 1965 Civil Rights march on Selma, Ala.

The national exhibition was made possible with sponsorship from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center.

“One of the best things about ‘Women & Spirit’ is the appearance here in South Bend is the partnership that made it possible,” says Kathleen Sparrows Cummings, associate director, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism.

“The importance of Saint Mary’s is self-evident—it is perfectly fitting that an institution founded and animated by Catholic sisters, a place that has played such a storied role in Catholic women’s history, would be a sponsoring partner. But it is also symbolically significant that Notre Dame joined this partnership, as its investment in ‘Women & Spirit’ underscores that the history on view is not simply about— and important to—women. Indeed, women’s work has been and remains absolutely vital to the work of the Catholic Church,” Cummings also notes that the exhibition brings to light that “the history here is not only about and for Catholics, but as the exhibit proclaims, a truly ‘American Catholicism.’

Events in conjunction with the exhibition include lectures and a film series. For a complete list of events, visit centerforhistory.org.
MorrIS INN
HOUSEKEEPING AND MAINtENANcE

Snap, crackle, pop! It’s not the sound of milk over your cereal—it’s what Morris Inn director Bill Beirne wants to see when he opens the door to a guest room at the Morris Inn. “It’s got to be crisp, it’s got to be clean, it’s got to be sharp,” says Beirne. “It’s the moment of truth in the hospitality industry. It sets the tone for your entire stay.”

The Morris Inn is a full-service hotel with 92 guest rooms. Out of nearly 3,500 guest surveys over a two-year period, the Morris Inn Housekeeping and Maintenance team received an average rating of 4.75 out of 5 for the cleanliness of the rooms and baths. The team takes pride in the quality and consistency of its work, striving to provide an outstanding experience for every guest.

Epitomizing Notre Dame’s core values of teamwork, integrity, accountability, leadership in mission and leadership in excellence, the Morris Inn Housekeeping and Maintenance Team is the recipient of the Presidential Team Irish Award.

Gloria Allen, Barbara Babbs, Pam Borsodi, Sheila Breising, Dora Cabillo, Mike Canto, Lori Caradine, Evelyn Davis, Hardy Jones, Angela Ibarz, Sherida King, David Konkey, Cruz Madera, Herb Maxwell, Jennifer Schlabach, Angelina Simental, Charles Shakes, Fay Smith, Kazumi Smith, William Vandygriff.

STUDENT JOBS TEAM

The development of a new system for managing student employment streamlined a time-intensive, inefficient paper process for managing more than 6,000 student jobs. The efforts of this work team increased accuracy and decreased processing time; reduced errors by automating the system; reduced administrative time and effort by eliminating manual, paper-based systems; and enhanced sustainability by reducing the use of paper and other supplies.

The project was delivered ahead of schedule, and increased beyond the original scope of the project—processing graduate stipends and tuition scholarships—to include the processing of graduate hourly jobs as well as stipend and hourly undergraduate jobs.

This high-performing team, comprising staff from the Office of Information Technology, Student Financial Services and Payroll, came together to benefit students and achieve outstanding efficiency improvements for the University.

Epitomizing the University’s core values of teamwork, integrity, accountability, leadership in mission and leadership in excellence is the Student Jobs Team, recipients of the Presidential Team Irish Award.

Team members: Susan Antonovitz, Sue Brandt, Brian Flaherty, Shelin Mathews, Kate Merkle, Lori Moser, Janet Shulaw, Vicki Toombs, Anne Veselik, Sue Walczewski.

Get Engaged with Irish Health

the annual employee wellness fair

Tuesday, Oct. 18 • noon to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 19 • 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Rolfs Sports Recreation Center

iPad and Kindle DOOR PRIZES!

hr.nd.edu/work-life-balance/healthy-campus

A Notre Dame fabric tote will be given to the first 1,000 visitors!