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News for Notre Dame faculty and staff and their families

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OPAC launches innovative video channel

BY JULIE HAIL FLORY

Move over, YouTube, there's a new small screen in town.

The Office of Public Affairs and Communication (OPAC) has launched the Notre Dame Video Channel (video.nd.edu), a place to watch stories, lectures and other content on your computer, straight from the

Notre Dame Web site, and a way for the University to archive and organize its rapidly growing video library.

"We knew going in when we designed our new Web site that video was key to the future of communications," says Todd Woodward, associate vice president for marketing communications. "Since that time it's only expanded, and we always had planned that the next

logical step would be to have a home for videos where people could come and learn about the University."

Utilizing the latest Web technology and sporting a sharp, edgy look, the video channel prominently features a sliding selection of spotlight videos and also offers smaller tabs that categorize content by topic, most recently added and most viewed clips, and collections, such as the "What Would You Fight For?" commercials that air during football broadcasts. Visitors also can search for specific titles or see videos listed by college or school.

Notre Dame has been in the video business for several years, but seriously ramped up its efforts with the introduction of the new nd.edu and its rotating video "carousel" in 2007. Since that time, material has been available in various locations on departmental pages and through a number of external services, most notably the University's YouTube channel, NDdotEDU, but there has

been no central clearinghouse for video on the Notre Dame site.

The intention of the video channel is not to replace YouTube and other sites; video still will be shared across campus and some content likely will be posted on more than one Notre Dame page at a time. Rather, the idea is to add to the suite of options available to audiences who want to watch and learn about Notre Dame.

"There are tons of distribution outlets for video," explains Chas Grundy, director of interactive marketing at AgencyND, the OPAC group that designed and developed both nd.edu and the video channel. "We wanted our own that we could maintain and where we could develop the quality that we demanded and meet our own needs, rather than trying to fit into the noise of YouTube."

The video channel is an important item to have crossed off the OPAC "to do" list, but it is only the beginning, says Woodward, who already is looking ahead to the upcoming launch of Notre Dame's iTunes U channel and other new avenues for



Grundy

Carol C. Bradley

sharing video down the road.

In the meantime, he is pleased with what is fast becoming a valuable tool and an important step forward for Notre Dame's multimedia enterprise.

"We're excited to be one of the few universities to have its own video channel," Woodward says.



The new Notre Dame Video Channel features a rotating selection of spotlight videos, as well as archived content.

Design professor's latest children's book teaches faith and diversity

BY KATIE LOUVAT

Ingrid Hess was 6 years old when she sent her first illustration to a publisher for consideration.

"Needless to say, it was rejected," said Hess, a visiting assistant professor of graphic design at Notre Dame who has "wanted to make children's books for as long as I can remember."

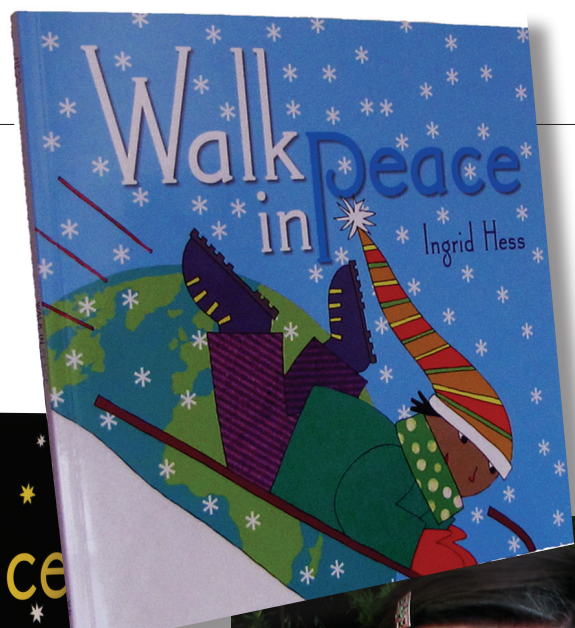
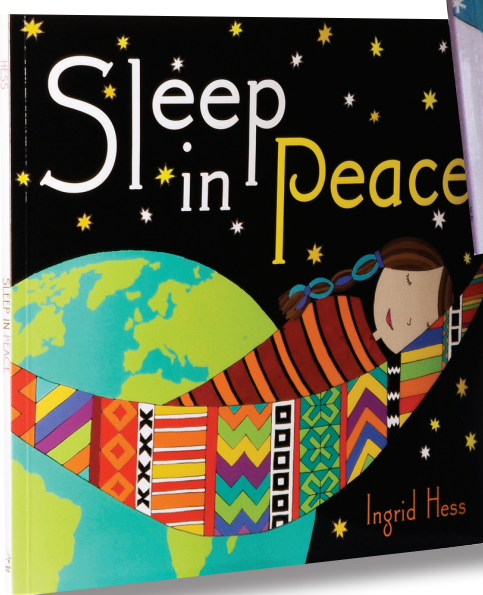
With the recent publication of her second children's book, Hess has clearly realized her early aspirations. A companion to her first book, "Sleep in Peace," her newest book is titled "Walk in Peace." Following children through the simple activities of their daily lives, the colorfully illustrated poem reminds them that God loves them always.

Hess spent her formative years living and traveling abroad and

draws on this experience in her visual work. She employs a variety of techniques, including cut-paper and drawings she does with a computer, to illustrate characters and settings that represent many ethnicities and cultures.

"I'm hopeful that when kids learn that all children are loved, they will be more accepting of those who are different from themselves," explains Hess, whose first book received the 2008 Rodda Book Award for promoting spiritual development.

In addition to nurturing faith and embracing diversity, Hess hopes to use her talents as an artist to address social issues more directly. She is now working on her third children's book, this one about fair trade.



Visiting assistant professor of graphic design Ingrid Hess is the author of two children's books.

Photos: Katie Louvat



Focus groups lead to program planning

BY GAIL HINCHION MANCINI

More than 160 members of the University community contributed their voices to a series of focus groups in May that delved into employee satisfaction. As a result, plans are under way to provide better training and preparation for supervisors and to encourage departmental practices that foster respect and fairness.

"I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to those who attended these sessions and spoke so honestly and frankly about issues that we want to address," says John Affleck-Graves, executive vice president. "This exceptionally helpful input will directly impact new initiatives to improve Notre Dame's work life."

The discussions were planned to get a deeper understanding of issues identified by results of the employee

satisfaction survey ND Voice. Affleck-Graves attended the 10 focus groups as an observer, listening as Kara McClure of the Office of Human Resources facilitated the discussions. Every staff level was represented, from one to 18.

One area examined was the ND Voice finding that supervisors have a difficult time dealing with poor performance. Feedback on this topic revealed that supervisors might be equally poor at acknowledging exemplary performance.

Participants noted that few avenues exist for employees to make recommendations that could lead to an improved work environment or to give feedback on their supervisor's performance. Meanwhile, some supervisors who participated said they would welcome such input and asked that the University encourage "360 degree" performance reviews, which seek information from supervisors, peers and the employees they supervise.

As a result of the input, creating and implementing an improved supervisory training program is a high priority. Affleck-Graves says he also will explore ways for employees to provide feedback to supervisors.

"There is a positive lesson to be learned from this input," says Affleck-Graves, who plans to identify initiatives to address these problems in Town Hall meetings Sept. 16 and 17. "We all could be better prepared to have engaging, two-way conversations about the work we need to accomplish and how to do it better."

Participants also noted that occasionally they are made to feel unimportant, possibly because of their job status. In some cases, this was because of a hierarchy on who receives information about key University and departmental issues, and who does not.

Among potential solutions would be the institution of regular staff meetings and a protocol on what

should be communicated at those sessions.

Ultimately, Affleck-Graves and HR are working toward an environment in which employees feel free to speak up, challenge tradition and recommend innovations. At least in the focus group setting, this was an achievable goal.

A common sentiment expressed by focus group members was

appreciation that their opinions had been sought. As participant Jill Donnelly of Development explains, "I felt privileged to participate in the ND Voice focus group with John Affleck-Graves." "Inviting employees to voice their opinions and concerns in this fashion illustrates the University's commitment to each and every employee."

Participants expressed a willingness to continue helping, McClure adds. "Some even volunteered to help out on committees that would address these issues. They really seemed to care and provided very thoughtful input."

Contributing during difficult times

Over the past several months, members of the faculty and staff have inquired about how to make an individual contribution toward University priorities and critical needs during these difficult economic times.

In response to these inquiries, a Web page has been developed for faculty and staff who would like to make such a contribution. It can

be found at supporting.nd.edu/make-a-gift/payroll-deduction/.

The fact that we received inquiries of this sort is a tremendous testament to the generous spirit and devotion of the Notre Dame community. For this and the countless other ways in which you support Notre Dame and further its mission, we are sincerely grateful.

A new *insideND*

BY MOLLY GORDON

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) launched an updated *insideND* on June 8—the first major overhaul of the site in three years. In planning the upgrade, the OIT gathered input from faculty, staff and students through focus groups and direct feedback.

"During our focus groups, many people highlighted a need for more content, with less clutter and easier-to-find information," said Jack O'Brien, OIT's portal manager. "We addressed this with more interactive channels that the user can expand as needed."

The result is improved content, organization and functionality, presented in a cleaner, more attractive and user-friendly layout. The Home page features new channels with new content, along with familiar ones from the previous version.

At the top right of the Home page are colorful buttons that lead directly to frequently used applications. Buttons for WebFile, Concourse and

OWA (Outlook Web Access) appear alongside Groups, Help, and Logout buttons. At the top left, a Customize button takes you "backstage" to allow virtually unlimited customization of any page, including the ability to add, move, edit or remove a tab, a channel or a column.

The customary tabs still appear across the top of the Home page, but the content of each is more task-based and better organized, so visitors can find resources they need all in one place. Tabs are tailored to an individual's role at Notre Dame, with channels designed specifically for those roles. Everyone has Home, My Resources and Campus tabs. Both faculty and administrative staff also have an Administrative Tools tab. Faculty have an Academic tab, while students have Student Academic and Student Life tabs, and if they are freshmen, a First Year of Studies tab.

In addition to Personal Announcements, Quick Links and Directories, the Home tab now features a Group Studio Activity channel where you can quickly view new content in your groups without

browsing to each group to view it. You can customize the information you see in the Group Studio Activity Channel to view only specific groups and only specific information within a group.

The Campus tab has a new Event Planning Resources channel with rooms, calendars and contacts for advertising, catering, printing, maps and parking. The ND Restaurants and Cafes channel lists campus restaurants, with specials and menus, and features a 3-D map showing their campus locations. The former Movies channel is now ND Community Events, with on- and off-campus categories and the various ND calendars. The Academic tab (for faculty) has a Research channel, and a new Hesburgh Libraries channel appears on both the Academic and Student Academic tabs.

In its new incarnation, *insideND* is truly a portal, expanding "single sign-on" functionality—the ability to access applications directly through *insideND* without having to login to an application a second time. The Concourse course management system, Domer Dollars and Flex for students, UltraTime for timekeeping, and OWA are among the resources directly available through the portal without a second login requirement.

Department reviews begin for Improve ND results



BY GAIL HINCHION MANCINI

Notre Dame has a genuine culture of service in which the friendly, personal interactions between one another are highly regarded and appreciated, according to findings from the customer service survey Improve ND.

Improve ND findings have been presented to the deans and officers, who are using the summer to identify opportunities for improvement. Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves is expected to discuss those plans, and the directions that Improve ND identified, in fall Town Hall meetings Sept. 16 and 17.

Affleck-Graves commissioned Improve ND as a means of tracking improvement on the University's goal to cultivate a culture of continuous improvement. The survey, taken by both faculty and staff, is expected to be offered every two years.

More than 55 percent of the University community took the survey in March. Results are providing many departments with specific feedback on managing services from classroom space to student course packets to the quality of professional development programs.

Besides addressing management issues, survey results also provided feedback on processes, such as how the Office of Human Resources goes about hiring and recruiting newcomers or how financial services handles the budgeting process.

The five areas to draw the most favorable responses were safety, at 85 percent; accounting processes, at 84 percent; sustainability and basic Office of Information Technologies (OIT) services, both at 83 percent, and Registrar office services, at 82 percent.

Areas that received the least favorable results include the way the bookstore handles student course materials, accessible parking, the performance management process and special OIT projects. Results also showed that while faculty and staff believe the quality and service of food services and catering to be high, they question whether the prices of those services are too high.

On questions that touch the lives of all employees, feedback identified, as strengths:

- A strong conviction that this is a safe campus with well-maintained grounds and favorable working environments
- A strong awareness of the University's recycling program, including what can be recycled
- An strong appreciation for our computer networks access and other basic OIT services
- A strong appreciation for the people who manage services, from food services restaurants to St. Michael's Laundry to the bookstore.

"We deeply appreciate the time everyone took to help with this survey," says Affleck-Graves. "We look forward to instituting the changes that will address these issues."

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Welcome to insideND!

insideND provides convenient access to Notre Dame Web services for students, faculty and staff. With more than 100 content channels, the information you need is at your fingertips. Log in with your NetID to get started. If you are unable to log in, please contact the OIT Help Desk at 574-631-8111 for assistance.

insideND

Username: <input type="text"/> Password: <input type="password"/> <input type="button" value="Login"/>	Trouble logging in? Forgot your password? insideND FAQs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Always log out	Announcements New Version of insideND launched. More information is available on the Home tab after you log in!
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Offering support for job-hunting alumni

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

“There are jobs out there, but they’re much harder to come by,” says Kevin Monahan, associate director of alumni career programs. “We’re working with alumni to help them be more proactive about the job search than they’ve had to be in the past.”

Monahan works with graduating seniors and those up to three years post-graduation. The past few years, recent graduates enjoyed a hot job market, he notes. Companies came to campus to recruit, and it wasn’t unusual for students to receive multiple jobs offers.

“Now, companies aren’t coming to them,” Monahan says. “There are fewer opportunities.”



Monahan



Burdell

Encouraging alumni to be proactive means helping them update their résumés and other marketing materials. Monahan has also started a LinkedIn site for Notre Dame alumni. The online site gives alumni the opportunity to network with each other nationwide. In just a few months, the number of participants has increased to over 10,000.

LinkedIn is phenomenal for career exploration, Monahan says. “A young woman joined recently—she’s looking for contacts in the publishing industry. Other alumni can give her tips about what she needs to have on her résumé, what’s going on in the industry, and what she needs to know to prepare for an interview.”

By using LinkedIn to reach out to other alumni in the field, he adds, she might end up with seven to 10 other alumni who know she’s looking for a job. When a job opening comes up, they might be in a position to pass her resume along.

“I’d rather have my résumé passed along than submitted online,” Monahan says. “So many jobs are filled by referrals, not advertising.”

One thing he emphasizes to alumni who have lost jobs due to the economy is that “this won’t be the last time you lose a job, or change jobs, or relocate. Developing a good circle of contacts will help.”

The Career Center and the Alumni Association see part of their job as just

being there for alumni. Monahan does distance counseling, and takes a lot of phone calls and emails.

“We’re part cheerleader,” he says. “We offer an empathetic ear when doors are being closed in their face. They know there’s somebody on campus here for them. That goes a long way. We can’t get them a job, but we’ll be there to assist.”

The Alumni Association is offering a number of new programs to help alumni in their career development, says Marc Burdell, senior director of academic and professional programs.

“In the fall of last year we started getting a lot more phone calls from alumni,” Burdell says. “What could we do to help them with job hunting and to develop their careers?”

In response to the highest unemployment rate in decades, the Alumni Association—over a period of just 60 days this spring—developed and launched Onward, a new site designed to help alumni with career development strategies. The site offers exclusive access to job postings, employment resources, networking opportunities and educational seminars.

Developed in conjunction with the

Career Center, the Mendoza College of Business and the Law School, the interactive Web site, accessed through Irish Online, offers users access to resources such as Career Catalyst, a program designed by the Mendoza College of Business.

“It’s a career development tool that helps you manage your entire career,” Burdell says. Career Catalyst takes users from creating a vision of their motivators, skills and interests through marketing and the development of strategies for moving a career forward.

The site offers alumni a dedicated phone number and email address, with a response guaranteed within eight business hours. Users will be able to share stories, post jobs, offer advice and provide resources for other alumni.

The Alumni Association is also offering career resource seminars in seven cities across the country, as well as Webinars—interactive Web conferences on topics such as recession-proofing your job and steps to take in the event of a layoff.

Onward, Burdell adds, will be successful if alumni help each other, “and take advantage of the greatest alumni network out there.”

2009 Commencement DVDs available

DVDs of the 2009 Commencement ceremonies, including the Baccalaureate Liturgy and main Commencement ceremony, are available for purchase through OIT. Other ceremonies, including the Law School diploma ceremony and the ROTC commissioning ceremonies, are

available as well.

Go to oit.nd.edu/gradvideo/ to place your order online. Click on the “Online Ordering” link and follow the instructions. You can also print a PDF copy of the order form and drop it off with your payment by check at the Notre Dame Computer Store, 103 IT Center.

Job market for 2009 grads better than expected

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

2009 has turned out to be a better-than-expected job market for recent graduates, says Lee Svete, director of the Career Center.

According to a survey conducted annually during graduation week by the Office of Institutional Research, 29 percent of the Class of 2009 have accepted employment, while 20 percent are still looking.

Median starting salaries ranged from \$50,000 for arts and letters graduates—an increase from the 2008 figure of \$48,000—to \$66,000 for engineering graduates, up from \$63,000 in 2008.

The number of students planning to attend graduate school held steady at 33 percent, while the number

pursuing service opportunities increased by two percentage points to 12 percent. The percentage of those planning on military service was unchanged at two percent.

The job market ground to a halt nationally after Christmas, Svete says. “In February and March, it was scary. I was not sleeping.”

Considering the market, Svete notes, 20 percent still seeking employment is a low number at the college level. “But by Notre Dame standards of the past five or six years, it’s high.”

One positive for Notre Dame graduates is that only six students had job offers rescinded—at one Big Ten university, Svete notes, 106 had offers rescinded.

The Career Center also has noted a dramatic drop in the number of paid internships companies are offering. “At

the Career Fair, 132 companies yielded one or two paid internships each, versus five or six previously.”

In response, the Career Center developed an “externship” program, Svete says. “Businesses said they couldn’t take any internships. We said we would fly the students in and give them \$300 for expenses. Will you give them a project? A lot of alumni stepped forward on that. This year, 25 externships were funded. Next year, we hope to double that.”

The Career Center has also seen a dramatic increase in the number of advising sessions for students, from 4,700 to 5,800. “More students are being aggressive about their job search,” Svete says. “The ones who worked the hardest found opportunities with smaller companies.”

The Career Center continues to be proactive in helping students find employment. “I think we’ve weathered the storm,” Svete says. “We’ve been very resilient in dealing with what the market has thrown at us. 2010 will be the real test.”

Leadership program aids post-volunteer transition

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

This year 12 percent of Notre Dame’s graduating class will postpone a career for a year of service.

“Leaders in Transition,” a new certificate program offered by the Mendoza College of Business Masters of Nonprofit Administration (MNA) will help those who serve with organizations such as Holy

Cross Associates or the Peace Corps transition into the workforce on their return.

Tom Harvey, director of the MNA program, notes that many returning volunteers have served in impoverished or war-torn regions of the world.

“It’s a big cultural transition,” he says. “How do you plan your career, dress for success, and take the skills you gained as a volunteer and transfer that to the workplace in the United States?”

The program, which is open to anyone nationwide who has completed a year or more of full-time community service within the last 12 months, will be held from Aug. 9 through 14. Other than a \$25 application fee, the program is free to participants, and includes a \$250 stipend for meals and expenses.

“Leaders in Transition” is presented in collaboration with the Center for Social Concerns, the Alumni

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A view of the boathouse and St. Joseph Lake from the ice house, taken sometime in the 1890s.

Association and the Career Center. The five-and-a-half-day program is funded by a grant from the Arthur Foundation, which has made a commitment to enhancing the quality of leadership among nonprofit managers nationwide, Harvey notes.

The first day of the program will include an informal debriefing session, giving participants the chance to network and share their stories. Based on evaluations from 2008, there will be more self-assessment tools offered, says Marc Hardy, director of nonprofit executive education.

“A lot of people are confused about what they should do next. They often go through an angry period, coming back here where people have

so much,” he says.

In 2009, participants will use three different personal and professional assessments to discover their strengths and weaknesses, fields they might want to look at and positions within those fields.

“How can you keep the passion that led you to voluntary service alive in the workplace?” Tom Harvey asks. “That’s why we call it ‘Leaders in Transition.’ If someone was motivated enough to put off their career for a year, they’re already leaders. We want to accentuate the qualities they’re already demonstrating.”

For information or to apply, visit nd.edu/~socconcn/postgraduate/leaders_transition.shtml.



Harvey



Hardy

American Midland Naturalist marks 100 years

Famous as a chemist, he was also a botanist

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

He's been called Notre Dame's most distinguished research scientist of the early 20th century.

Rev. Julius A. Nieuwland, C.S.C., is most widely known as the organic chemist whose work on the catalytic polymerization of acetylene in the 1920s resulted in the development of Neoprene, or synthetic rubber, by DuPont—a material still used today for items such as cable insulation and wetsuits. His pioneering research is credited with helping the Allies win WWII, after the Japanese gained control of 90 percent of the world's supply of natural rubber.

But Father Nieuwland was also a noted botanist, founder of both the University's Greene-Nieuwland Herbarium and its oldest scholarly journal, *The American Midland Naturalist*, which marks 100 years of publication this year.

"I like to think his biggest contribution was the journal," says biologist Bill Evans, editor of the publication since 2001. Father Nieuwland, Evans notes, was an avid plant collector and a pioneer in the area of plant ecology.

Father Nieuwland originally intended a career in botany and had planned to study under famous botanist Edward L. Greene, then a professor at Catholic University. But Greene left the university for the Smithsonian in September 1904, just as Father Nieuwland was arriving to begin his graduate studies.

Biology instructor Ken Filchak, assistant editor of the journal and a distant relative of Father Nieuwland, notes in an essay for the centennial edition of the journal that Greene's departure left Father unexpectedly without a faculty advisor. But he quickly found another mentor, Rev.

John G. Griffith, who specialized in organic chemistry.

"This seemingly small shift in vocation would have long-reaching implications for Notre Dame and the United States," Filchak writes. But the Second World War was still many years in the future when Father Nieuwland returned to Notre Dame, Ph.D. in chemistry in hand, and was appointed—much to his surprise—to a position as professor of botany.

It was at the suggestion of Greene—who would remain a lifelong friend—that Father Nieuwland, in 1909, founded *The American Midland Naturalist*.

Father Nieuwland believed that there was a gap in the publication of scientific findings for the "Midland" states.

He became a professor of chemistry in 1914, but served as editor of the journal for 25 years—continuing to say Mass for the Flemish-speaking Belgians, Filchak notes, in addition to his duties as an academic.

Father Nieuwland brought his friend and mentor Edward L. Greene to the University in 1914, but Greene died just a matter of months later—bequeathing to Notre Dame his 67,000 plant specimens and his 4,000-volume collection of rare botanical books and manuscripts. The Greene-Nieuwland Herbarium honors the legacy of both Greene and Father Nieuwland, who died in 1936 in his old research laboratory at Catholic University, where he'd gone to conduct experiments.

One hundred years after its founding, the journal he established lives on, publishing basic research from across North America and the world in areas such as ecology, mammalogy, animal behavior and plant physiology. In 2005, the journal added a subtitle: *An International Journal of Ecology, Evolution and the Environment*.



Father Nieuwland in his chemistry laboratory. Open before him is a volume of the journal he founded, *The American Midland Naturalist*.

In a preface to the centennial edition of the publication, President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and Provost Thomas G. Burish note that since its founding, the journal "has been a unique Notre Dame contribution to scientific understanding of the earth, its creatures and natural systems."

Of *The American Midland Naturalist*, Ken Filchak says, "It is Notre Dame's history—its past, and its future...from one of our own sons. It couldn't be more personal to the University."

Historic photographs provided by Elizabeth Hogan, Notre Dame Archives



Father Nieuwland with his two young plant-collecting apprentices, George Hennion and his sister, Helen.



A young Julius Nieuwland, at left, in class as a Notre Dame student. He graduated with a B.A. in philosophy in 1899, and was admitted to the Novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross the same year by provincial Rev. John A. Zahm, C.S.C.



Father Nieuwland's chemistry lab, where a young George Hennion often observed his work. Watching changed his life forever, Hennion would later remark. According to Ken Filchak, Father Nieuwland was a Knute Rockne to the lab for a snack of blood sausage.



Ken Filchak's portrait belongs to portrait han



of publication

A family affair

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

The American Midland Naturalist is a something of a family affair for Ken Filchak.

Filchak, assistant editor of the publication and a lecturer in biological science, is also a distant relative of the Rev. Julius A. Nieuwland, C.S.C., who founded the publication 100 years ago this year.

Father Nieuwland was a cousin of Filchak's grandfather George Hennion—also well known in Notre Dame scientific circles.

Hennion studied chemistry under Father Nieuwland and later joined the Notre Dame faculty. Hennion, who began his 40-year teaching career at Notre Dame in 1935, had the honor of being appointed the first Nieuwland Professor of Chemistry.

"Nieuwland brought his cousin [George] to his lab as a little boy. That's how he got interested in chemistry," Filchak says.

Family photographs show a different side of the scholarly Father Nieuwland—collecting plants in the field with a young George Hennion and his sister Helen—with George wearing the scout uniform Father purchased for him—and at the dunes, teaching the children to swim.

Interestingly, Hennion and Father Nieuwland aren't Filchak's only family ties to Notre Dame.

When Notre Dame's Grotto was being constructed, the builders couldn't make it stand, Filchak says. "There is some evidence it collapsed more than once."

Local architect Robert Braunsdorf, who had built South Bend's landmark Tippecanoe Place of fieldstone, was called in to solve the problem.

Braunsdorf, Filchak's great-great grandfather [grandfather of Filchak's grandmother Alice Hennion, George Hennion's wife] redesigned the stonework, and the rock arch held.



with a portrait of Father Nieuwland, inscribed "To George," that his grandfather, ND chemistry professor George Hennion. The photos in Filchak's office in Jordan Hall of Science.

Carol C. Bradley



Barbara Hellenthal, curator of the Greene-Nieuwland Herbarium and herbarium director Richard J. Jensen examine some of the thousands of plant specimens collected by Father Nieuwland.

Carol C. Bradley

Greene-Nieuwland Herbarium a resource for scientists across the globe

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

The Greene-Nieuwland Herbarium, founded by Rev. Julius Nieuwland, C.S.C., more than 100 years ago, is important to Notre Dame—and to science—on a daily basis, says curator Barbara Hellenthal.

The collection of pressed and dried plant specimens is in active use by scientists worldwide, as well as by graduate and undergraduate students at Notre Dame and other institutions.

Father Nieuwland did everything he could to build up the breadth and depth of the collections, Hellenthal notes—and one of the ways he did that was by letting people pay for their subscriptions to American Midland Naturalist with herbarium specimens.

"The people who did that were the large museums and herbaria in Europe," she says. "They wanted information on American natural history," and were happy to trade duplicate specimens from their own collections.

In addition, the entrepreneurial Nieuwland made teaching slide sets on plant anatomy, which he sold to other institutions, using the money to purchase additional specimens.

"It's much more than a collection of Midwest flora," Hellenthal says. "It's a world-wide collection of plant specimens that date back to the 1700s."

The collection was greatly expanded when Father Nieuwland's friend and mentor, botanist Edward L. Greene, arrived at Notre Dame in 1913, bringing along his 67,000-specimen collection.

Today, the Greene-Nieuwland collection—to which specimens are still being added—includes more than 280,000 specimens.

Richard J. Jensen, director of the herbarium and professor of biology at Saint Mary's College, notes that most people are unaware of the crucial role of the herbarium as a museum of the species—and locations—of plants found in a geographic area.

A major effort is under way to create a database of the collections, "So we can create precise maps showing where each species occurs," Jensen says. Some species may exist only as herbarium specimens, affording researchers a way to track species' extinctions.

The herbarium, as a museum, gives researchers the ability to look at the past, and compare the past to the present.

"You never know when a species will be significant," Hellenthal adds, "like finding a plant-based cure for cancer."



Father Nieuwland collecting plants specimens in the field.



George and Helen Hennion and two unidentified friends with Father Nieuwland, at far right, at the dunes. An avid swimmer himself, Nieuwland taught all the children in the family to swim.



George Hennion as a boy, in the scout uniform Father Nieuwland purchased for him for their plant collecting expeditions.



At right, George as a boy.



the burners and bubbling flasks also known to invite his friend



At left, George Hennion in his office in the early 1960s. Above, the medal Hennion received when he was named the first Nieuwland Professor of Chemistry. The medal would have been worn with academic regalia.

Carol C. Bradley



A specimen of Trillium grandiflorum (white trillium) collected by Father Nieuwland in 1929 at Pinhook Bog in LaPorte County.

Staffers receive awards, scholarship

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

Yuni Hunter, lead housekeeper at the Morris Inn, is the recipient of the 2009 St. Joseph County Hotel/Motel Association scholarship. Hunter will graduate from Purdue University in spring 2010 with a B.S. in organizational leadership and supervision. "It came at the perfect time," says Hunter. "It's lessened my burden, and I will be able to graduate with no student loans. I'm very, very grateful." Hunter has been working on her degree part-time for the past five years, maintaining a 3.79 grade point average while working full-time. "We're just tremendously proud of her," says David Konkey, assistant director of the Morris Inn/ND Conference Center.



Legends general manager Aaron Perri, at left, and program coordinator Christopher Hinsberg

The College of Arts and Letters has recognized two OIT employees, **Sara Exum** and **David Klawiter**, for outstanding service to the college. Exum, manager of the training and documentation team, received the Arts and Letters Outside Award for her "above and beyond" efforts in the migration to Exchange and change management guidance for other initiatives. Klawiter, senior distributed support services systems engineer for the Center for Creative Computing, received the Arts and Letters Unsung Hero Award for his efforts since 2001 in developing a comprehensive, college-wide database. Klawiter also received a certificate of excellence for outstanding performance from the



Hunter

Arts and Letters DCL (Design, Copy and Logistic) Services Group.

The **Legends of Notre Dame** weekly nightclub newsletter *The Beat* has received a national award from Constant Contact, the largest email marketing authority in the world. The

Beat was chosen for its professional and dynamic design, strong viewership rates and responsible management of an email database. The e-newsletter is distributed every Wednesday night during the school year to more than 11,000 Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross College students. Legends general manager Aaron Perri originally developed the publication. Program coordinator Christopher Hinsberg '08, who worked on *The Beat* for four years as a student, now designs and edits the publication as a full-time staffer. The e-newsletter, Hinsberg says, "covers what's happening at Legends for the coming weekend—the marquee acts, news, and fun facts about the bands with links to music." The e-newsletter is typically viewed by 2,000 to 4,000 students every week.



"I really do work as hard as I think I do," says Building Services staffer Jessica Rutledge. Rutledge's pedometer recorded 25,000 steps in just one day of pre-Commencement cleanup.

Walk a mile—or 12—in her shoes

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

They nicknamed her "The Hummingbird."

That's because Building Services custodian Jessica Rutledge never stops moving. She proved it by wearing a pedometer during one of Building Services busiest times of the year—the pre-Commencement cleanup of the dorms.

The Saturday before Mother's Day, 200 custodians clocked in at 11 a.m. and worked until 10:30 p.m., just to get the trash and recycling out of 28 campus residence halls after the students moved out.

You've probably heard this before—that the goal for overall health is to take 10,000 steps a day.

The first day of cleanup, Rutledge clocked a staggering 25,000 steps—the equivalent of 12 miles.

"And that's just the steps, not the lifting, carrying and cleaning," she says. "That's why I was tired. I really do work as hard as I think I do!"

Issuing pedometers to Building Services staffers was part of a program developed for the department by RecSports, says Angela Knobloch, training and development specialist in facility operations.

RecSports staffers trained custodians in safe lifting, stretches and strengthening exercises. The program was designed to help prevent injuries, but also to familiarize staffers with the exercise facilities available on campus.

After the presentations, Knobloch says, "They all wanted pedometers. That really resonated. They do a lot of physical work, and they wanted to see how many steps they put in on the job."

During the week leading up to Commencement, Knobloch recalls, Rutledge stopped by every day to show Knobloch her pedometer. "Monday it was 20,000 steps.

Tuesday, 19,994—I sent her down the hall and back," Knobloch says. "Wednesday was over 16,000. It's close to 10,000 on a regular day."

Custodian Ellen Gunn has worked at Notre Dame for 22 years, 21 of them in Building Services.

Gunn logged over 10,000 steps every day the week of dorm cleanups, but didn't get to see her total for the week—she wears her pedometer on her shoe, and it got wet in the shower and stopped working. But she got another and is sticking with the program.

"I go over 10,000 every day," Gunn says. She lives in the 900 block of Notre Dame Ave., and walks to work every day. "That helps me get my steps in. If I'm not overly tired, I walk home. If I'm tired, I get the bus from Mason Services Center to the Library Circle and walk home from there."

As a result of the success of the pedometer program, Building Services is looking at a stepping contest for summer, Knobloch says.

Chris Hatfield, associate director for Building Services, adds that the division is looking at starting a softball team. "We're trying to emphasize wellness," he says. "We hope what they learn and do here will carry over into their personal lives."

For those interested in improving health and well-being through increased movement, free pedometers are available from the Office of Human Resources, 200 Grace Hall.



Walking to work from her home on Notre Dame Ave. helps Ellen Gunn total 10,000 steps per day.

DISTINCTIONS

The University congratulates the following employees who celebrate significant anniversaries in June, including 25-year employees **Karen I. Anderson** and **Brenda A. Carr**, development; **William E. Archer**, biological sciences; **Caroline J. Domingo**, Institute for Latino Studies; and **Mark Pilkinton**, film, television, and theatre.



Anderson

Carr

20 years

Tammy Bergl and **Bill A. Willard**, Landscape Services

Patricia M. Flynn, Center for Social Concerns

John F. Glon, food services

Ruthann Heberle, health services

Paul A. Kempf, business operations

Ava Preacher, College of Arts and Letters

Richard K. Sudlow, Center for Research Computing

Joseph W. Thomas, law library

Dawn M. Verleye, biological sciences



Archer

Domingo

Pilkinton

15 years

Randy R. Benninghoff, central receiving

Thomas R. Cole, power plant

Kim M. Ferraro, library

Cheryl L. Gray, political science

John E. Mackowicz, Landscape Services

Terence M. McCoy, operations and engineering

T. Mark Olsen, biological sciences

Joan Rhoads, East Asian Languages & Cultures

Joel E. Urbany, marketing

Sandra C. Vera-Muñoz, accountancy

10 years

Cheryl L. Barrette, Morris Inn

Lisa L. Berlincourt, science computing

Kathleen J. Canavan, English

Thomas C. Cummings, Institute for Church Life

Alan L. Foust, security

Theodore J. Gramals, St. Michael's Laundry

Carmen L. Leichty, provost's office

Timothy J. Loughran, finance

Kathryn L. Melton, custodial services

Dolores A. Milzarek, payroll services

Juli A. Schreiber, athletic administration

The University welcomes the following employees who joined the faculty and staff in May.

Ramiro Ballesteros, registrar

Guangyan Chen, East Asian Languages & Cultures

Michael Chua, operations and engineering

Mallory B. Davis, physics

Laura L. DeLuca, Enterprise Systems

Kathleen K. Eggleston, Reilly Center

Jeremy N. Friesen, AgencyND

Kerry D. Kemp and **Timothy W. Novak**, RecSports

Kate B. Kovenock, women's swimming and diving

Patricia A. Lawton, library

Kate E. Mueller, SAPC

Jaroslav Nabrzyski, Center for Research Computing

Lindsay R. Poulin, development

Richard P. Sorrentino, ND Integrated Imaging Facility

Katherine A. Taylor, biological sciences



Looking cool in their shades at the '50s-themed employee picnic June 8 are North Dining Hall staffers (clockwise from top) Melissa Bradbury, Eishau Allen and Sheila Gatson. Right: Elvis impersonator Gordy Clemons poses with catering staffer Marilyn Sullivan.

Photos: Carol C. Bradley

Photos: Carol C. Bradley

FYI

ART

Latino Legends in Two Dimensions: Jason Cytacki, Christos Romelia, Joe Small, Brooke Vertin

Through August 21, Crossroads Gallery, Notre Dame Downtown, 217 S. Michigan St.

Expressions of Latino folk legends, ghost stories and fairy tales using the media of printmaking, painting and photography.

Para la Gente: "Art, Politics, and Cultural Identity of the Taller de Gráfica Popular": Selected works from the Charles S. Hayes Collection of Twentieth-Century Mexican Graphics

July 12 through September 13, Snite Museum of Art O'Shaughnessy Galleries Opening reception 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 17, with a 6:30 p.m. gallery talk by Gina Costa, curator of the Hayes Collection

The Popular Graphic Arts Workshop (TGP), founded in 1937, created political prints and posters designed to galvanize audiences in Mexico and around the world, using graphic art as an agent of social change.

PERFORMANCE

Bring blankets, lawn chairs, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages for these free outdoor performances on the Irish Green and Terrace (adjacent to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center's south lawn) and at the College Football Hall of Fame.

University of Notre Dame Concert Band

7 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, Irish Green and Terrace

A patriotic-themed concert featuring Sousa marches and a medley of Motown hits performed by more than 100 musicians, including faculty, staff, current students and community members. Free event; no tickets necessary

The Jazz Ambassadors of the United States Army Field Band

7 p.m. Monday, July 6, Irish Green and Terrace

The United States Army's premier touring jazz orchestra performs big band swing, bebop, Latin, Dixieland and patriotic selections. Free event; no tickets necessary

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival presents "The Deceived"

Outdoor performances 7 p.m. Sunday, July 19, Central Park Plaza, Warsaw, Ind.; 7 p.m. Friday, July 24, Lincoln Township Public Library, Stevensville, Mich.; 7 p.m. Saturday, July 25, Dewey Cannon Park, Three Oaks, Mich.; 7 p.m. Sunday, July 26, Riverview Park, St. Joseph, Mich. Performances continue through August 24—visit shakespeare.nd.edu for more information.

A young Italian woman flees from an arranged marriage and endeavors to win back her one true love in this hilarious Renaissance comedy performed by talented students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and several other universities across the country. Free event, no tickets necessary

Dude Looks Like a Lady: Love and Mistaken Identity in Shakespeare

3 p.m. Saturday, July 25, Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, Mich., 269-756-3879; 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, South Bend Civic Theatre, 574-234-1112. Jay Paul Skelton and the members of the Young Company present a collection of warm and funny vignettes that explore Shakespeare's interest in love and mistaken identity. Viewers will also get a sneak peek at scenes from Summer Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and "The Deceived." \$10 general admission



ShakeScenes



Nathan Gunn



Sita Sings the Blues



ShakeScenes



Political prints from The Popular Graphic Arts Workshop at the Snite Museum

ShakeScenes

2 p.m. Saturday, July 18 and 2 p.m. Sunday, July 19, Washington Hall Grade schoolers, high school students and other members of the community present an assortment of scenes from the works of Shakespeare. All new scenes featured at each performance. Free event, but reservations through DeBartolo Performing Arts Center box office required (631-2800); donations will be accepted at the door.

FILM

Free outdoor film screenings

Bring your own blankets, lawn chairs, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages for these outdoor film screenings on the Gridiron Plaza, College Football Hall of Fame, 111 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend, and on the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Irish Green and Terrace. The films are free and open to the public; no tickets required.

Some Like It Hot (1959)

9 p.m. Friday, July 10, College Football Hall of Fame Billy Wilder's classic comedy, starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe.

Buena Vista Social Club (1999)

9 p.m. Friday, July 17, Irish Green and Terrace Wim Wenders' documentary combines music, artist biographies and a glimpse of modern Cuba.

Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005)

9 p.m. Friday, July 24, College Football Hall of Fame From the Academy Award winning creators of Wallace and Gromit, "Curse of the Were-Rabbit" is one of the most enjoyable family films of the decade.

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)

9 p.m. Friday, July 31, College Football Hall of Fame Returning from settling a lifelong score, Indiana Jones is whisked to the residence of multimillionaire Walter Donovan who has unearthed

a mysterious stone tablet that reveals the location of the Holy Grail, but the man who found the stone tablet (Indy's father) is missing...

First Annual ANDkids World Film Festival July 23—25

Unless otherwise specified, all screenings take place in the Browning Cinema

Game Changers: Films About Growing Up (2007-08)

11 a.m. Thursday, July 23, 1 p.m. Saturday, July 25

Sometimes ordinary days bring challenges that require grit, good humor and an extra dose of moxie. This collection of short, live-action films introduces you to irrepressible kids who rise to incredible occasions. Free but ticketed

NYICFF Party Mix

1 p.m. Thursday, July 23 A selection of short films for children ages 8 and older, programmed by the NY International Children's Film Festival. Free but ticketed

Azur and Asmar (2008)

3 p.m. Thursday, July 23 The story of two boys raised as brothers who compete in a dangerous quest to free the Fairy of the Djinns. Free but ticketed

The Adventures of Prince Achmed (1927)

6 p.m. Thursday, July 23, Leighton Concert Hall Taken from the "Arabian Nights," the film tells the story of the noble Prince Achmed and his wondrous adventures. Featuring a world premiere score with live musical accompaniment by the Andreas Kapsalis Trio. Free but ticketed

Film Scoring Workshop with the Andreas Kapsalis Trio

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23, Leighton Concert Hall Join the Andreas Kapsalis Trio for a film scoring workshop following the film "The Adventures of Prince Achmed." The 60-minute workshop is for children ages 6 and older. Tickets are not necessary.

Gentle Planet (2007-08)

11 a.m. Friday, July 24 This program of animated films celebrates all creatures great and small—from kids who love pancakes, ducks, bugs and broccoli, to gentle globetrotting elephants. Free but ticketed

Lotte from Gadgetville (2007)

1 p.m. Friday, July 24 Somewhere in Europe by a great sea stands a small village, where inventing all manner of domestic gadgets is held in great esteem. The villagers organize an annual competition of new inventions. One of the best inventors

in the village is Oskar, the father of the energetic girl dog Lotte. Free but ticketed

It's Your World: Films for Kids to Think About (2007-08)

3 p.m. Friday, July 24 A challenging program packed with stories for kids to discuss, debate and dream about. This mostly animated collection of films provides a global perspective on tough issues ranging from immigration to the environment to family life. Free but ticketed

Tulpan (2009)

6 p.m. Friday, July 24 Tulpan is a gorgeous, tender comedy, drama and wildlife extravaganza. Following his Russian naval service, young dreamer Asa returns to his sister's nomadic brood to begin a career as a shepherd. Free but ticketed

NYICFF Kid Flix Mix

11 a.m. Saturday, July 25 Ages 3 to 8, 65 minutes; a selection of short films programmed by the NY International Children's Film Festival. Free but ticketed

The Miracle Worker (1962)

3 p.m. Saturday, July 25, 3 p.m. Recommended for ages 8 and up, 106 minutes Ennobling and uplifting, this inspirational story of courage and hope is one of the finest works of art in the history of motion pictures. Locked in a frightening, lonely world of silence and darkness since infancy, 7-year-old Helen Keller has never seen the sky, heard her mother's voice or expressed her innermost feelings. Then Annie Sullivan, a 20-year-old teacher from Boston, arrives. Actor Sean Astin is scheduled to introduce and discuss the film, for which his mother Patty Duke won an Academy Award for best supporting actress. Free but ticketed

Sita Sings the Blues (2008)

6 p.m. Saturday, July 25 Sita is a goddess separated from her beloved lord and husband, Rama. Nina is an animator whose husband moves to India, then dumps her by email. Free but ticketed

Classical Indian Dance Demonstration and Workshop

8 p.m. Saturday, July 25, Penote Performers Hall Following the film "Sita Sings the Blues," join us for a classical Indian dance demonstration and workshop. Open to all ages, this experience is a fun and engaging way for kids and parents to experience Indian culture. Free event following the film screening

The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD: The Magic Flute (2007)

9 p.m. Saturday, July 25, Irish Green and Terrace A magical and enchanting ride, this opera production was created to appeal to music lovers of all ages. Heading the cast is South Bend native Nathan Gunn as Papageno. Free outdoor event; no tickets required

CELEBRATIONS AND GATHERINGS

American Red Cross Worldwide Refugee Awareness Day

A free event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 20, Notre Dame Downtown, 217 S. Michigan St. Includes guest speaker, music, dancers and food

Senior Citizen Lecture Series: Avoiding Home Improvement Scams

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, June 22, Robinson Community Learning Center, 921 N. Eddy St., South Bend Learn how to avoid scams and scam artists, who often use high-pressure tactics to sell unneeded and overpriced "home improvements" to seniors.

Senior Citizen Lecture Series: Physically Fit

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, July 27, Robinson Community Learning Center, 921 N. Eddy St., South Bend Learn about activities at the Howard Park Senior Center and how to volunteer at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center.

Creating a Community Against Crime: Gang Awareness/Violence

6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, Crossroads Gallery, Notre Dame Downtown, 217 S. Michigan St. Notre Dame and South Bend officers will discuss awareness of gangs in your community

WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES

Even Fridays! family canoe trip

Take a **family canoe trip** down the St. Joseph River from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 26 with RecSports' **Even Fridays!** The fee is \$5 per canoe. Register online through RecRegister at recsports.nd.edu. Other upcoming events this summer include a family beach bash at Notre Dame's St. Joe Beach on **July 10**, a family bike ride on **July 24** and a wrap-up event on **August 14**.

RecSports offers swim lessons, fitness classes

Online registration continues through July 1 for RecSports summer swim lessons Session II (July 6-10 and July 13-17). Registration for **RecSports summer instructional classes** (June 23 through Aug. 7) opens at 7:30 a.m. Monday, June 22. Classes include dance (ballet, Irish step and Brazilian samba) martial arts, sailing, scuba and tennis.

CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009-10 vehicle registration

The **iNDCARS** online parking application can be accessed through inside.nd.edu under the "My Resources" tab. The site offers online registration, as well as access to your current parking citation history and the ability to appeal citations online. You must have your license plate information to register. Paper registration forms will be sent to retirees who currently have an "R" decal. If you have questions regarding retiree or emeriti parking, contact parking services at 631-5053 or parking@nd.edu.

Notre Dame's talented amateur musicians

Mild-mannered associate controller by day...rock star by night

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

Tom Guinan's day job is associate controller. "I supervise the folks who run payroll, accounts payable, grants and contracts, and procurement services," he says.

After hours he has another title: rock star.

"The other stuff pays the bills," Guinan says with a smile.

In his musical life, Guinan goes by the nickname "Steady," as drummer for the Oblates of Blues, a Chicago-style blues band made up of faculty, staff and graduate students—most of whom share a devotion to both theology and the blues.

When he joined the band, they told him he needed a nickname.

"Steady" is a drummer's nickname, Guinan notes, albeit not as flashy as that of lead guitarist and vocalist "Screamin' Maxie J," a.k.a. Max Johnson, professor of theology.

"I didn't know anything about blues when I joined up with Max and the Oblates," Guinan says. "I've always been more of a rock-and-roll fan. But I play along. I figured out the grooves, the shuffles. It's not what I grew up listening to, but I make it my own."

Guinan has been fascinated with drumming as long as he can remember. And yes, he drove his parents—mainly his father—crazy.

"As early as second grade, I was putting together pots and pans to simulate a drum set," he says. "Many rules were put in place about when and where I was allowed to play. Rules were broken."

He saved up money from his paper route and bought his first real drum set in eighth grade, then traded up for another set in high school.

The real challenge, he says, was when he arrived at Notre Dame as a student, "With one suitcase full of clothes," he recalls. His drums, he adds, he missed more than his mother.

Hall rector Brother Ed Luther let him bring his drums to campus and keep them in the sub-basement of Fisher Hall. "I became a rare commodity—a drummer who had his own drum set," says Guinan.

He went on to complete undergraduate degrees in accounting and theology and an M.S. in theology at Notre Dame. He also holds an MBA from Columbia University.

Guinan is always drumming along



Guinan

to a song in his head, he adds. He carries a rubber pad and drumsticks in his briefcase so he can practice—quietly—when the mood strikes him.

He's satisfied with his life as a dedicated—but amateur—musician.

"I know my limits. If it became work, I'd probably enjoy it less. It's such a satisfying gift, to be able to make music," Guinan says. "To be doing it when I'm 40, with my day job...music really is the greatest gift."

The Monta family orchestra

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

Anthony Monta, assistant director of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, was born into a musical family.

His maternal grandfather was a multi-instrumentalist, an itinerant musician who traveled all over the countryside during the 1930s, playing his accordion, violin, and trumpet. "That's how he made money during the Depression," Monta says.

His parents were church musicians—mother Dorothy was the organist for St. Mary's Parish, in the little coal-mining town of Forbes Road, in southwestern Pennsylvania. His father Louis, "who had a nice big baritone voice," Monta recalls, was the cantor. "So you can imagine when I was a kid, we were encouraged to take music lessons." Monta played the piano, his brother the violin.

In high school, "when it was cool," Monta took up guitar, later playing as a

sideman for various college bands. He even played guitar in a futuristic rock opera. "It had to do with technological overlords, and at one point featured a guitar 'duel' between the good guy and the villain. I played both parts."

While working on his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he hosted a college jazz radio show ("7th Heaven") and fell in love with jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt.

It was there that he also met and fell in love, he adds, with wife, Susannah Monta, John Cardinal O'Hara C.S.C. associate professor of English.

Susannah Monta, who specializes in the relationships between Reformation-era religious changes and literary culture, is also a talented clarinetist. While living in Madison, the two sang in a church choir together, sparking Monta's other area of interest—church and classical music.

"I guess I like to adapt to whatever musical opportunities come my way," says Monta. While living in Baton Rouge, La., the couple sang in the

cathedral choir—Susannah sings alto, Monta sings baritone and can handle second tenor if need

be—and he also had the opportunity to play with internationally-known hot jazz guitarist Tony Green and his band Tony Green & Gypsy Jazz.

The couple came to Notre Dame two years ago. "Here there are wonderful church musicians," Monta says.

Monta directs the student Schola Gregoriana, a student choir that sings Gregorian chant. He's also been taking private lessons in music composition, and composed an a capella "Ave Maria," as a wedding gift for a friend. "I wanted something fresh-sounding," he says. "I'm doing basic four-part writing and writing vocal music for choirs."

He still plays the guitar, of course, but adds, "I haven't found any jazz folks yet. I'm too busy."

In addition to his job and choir-directing duties, Monta is developing what might be termed the Monta family orchestra.

The couple's oldest son, Andrew,

age 8, plays the violin; middle son, Jonathan, 5, plays the cello. Daughter Caroline, 2, is already banging away on the piano, Monta says. "She sings all the time, and sings herself to sleep at night."

His next goal is to compose some simple chamber music for the family. "They're Suzuki kids, so it won't be long before I can write for them."

A question that might well be asked is this: With his lifelong interest in music, why didn't Monta choose a career in music?

"I was persuaded by my father, who didn't become a musician himself, to do something that would bring stable and gainful employment," Monta says. "He said 'music for you, as it is for

me, can always be an avocation.' And I was persuaded of that, and I'm still persuaded of that."

He didn't want music to become work, he adds. "I am still this kind of passionate amateur. It keeps me exploring and learning, and joyful about it," he says. "If I could find some guys interested in gypsy jazz and play Django Reinhardt music, my life would be complete."



Anthony and Susannah Monta with daughter Caroline, 2, and sons Andrew, 8 (at right) and Jonathan, 5.

A scholar of Japanese popular culture—who sings Irish music

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

Deborah Shamon missed the Fiddler's Hearth/WVPE "Irish-American Idol" contest last year—she saw it advertised, but found out about the Irish music singing competition too late to enter.

This year she was ready. She won.

"Irish music has always been a hobby," says Shamon, an assistant professor in the department of East Asian Languages & Cultures whose area of research interest is Japanese popular culture, literature and film.

She came from a musical family and grew up listening to the folk music her parents played. "We had some albums of traditional music by Joan Baez, and in high school, I started looking around record shops and finding traditional music on my own."

Shamon took voice lessons in high school, and has kept up with music as a hobby—while she was writing her dissertation, she sang with a light opera company in San Francisco.

"When I saw the singing contest

at Fiddler's Hearth, I was excited," she says. "I don't play any instruments, and I'm not in a band. I'd thought about going to open mic night, but it's hard to sing unaccompanied when people are talking. So this was my one opportunity to be heard."

What she liked about the contest was that they were looking for people to sing real, traditional Irish music. "And we had to sing unaccompanied, which is the way the music was traditionally sung. The addition of instruments behind the singers is a 20th-century innovation."

The contest was held in two rounds.

In the first round, Shamon sang the mournful love ballad "Donal Og (Young Donald)" a song dating to the eighth century.

It's one of few songs in the sean-nós tradition of unaccompanied singing that's been translated from Gaelic into English, says Shamon, who doesn't speak the language. "I saw you first on a Sunday evening/ Before the Easter, as I was kneeling/Twas of Christ's passion that I was reading/But my mind was on you, and my own heart bleeding..."

"It was the first time I'd ever sung Irish music in front of a crowd, and I wasn't used to singing into a mic. It's difficult to sing unaccompanied, not so much because I felt alone on stage, but because it's hard to find the note and make sure you're staying in tune."

Shamon was one of three first-round finalists, then took the final round of the competition with another traditional ballad, "The Banks of the Bann."

"The lyrics are 18th century, but the tune probably dates to the eighth century, and has been used for lots of different things, including the hymn 'Be Thou My Vision,'" Shamon says.

As South Bend's 2009 "Irish-American Idol," Shamon won \$200 in dollar coins in a plastic cauldron—a pot of gold, in other words—and sang at Fiddler's Hearth on St. Patrick's Day.

She also got to be in the city's St. Patrick's Day parade, followed by lunch and a ceile (a party with music) at St. Patrick's Church, where she sang the two winning songs. She also made an appearance on WVPE's Sunday night folk music program, The Back Porch.

As for what's next, she'd like to



Shamon

find some other people interested in traditional Irish music to sing with, or who play instruments. "It's like any sport—it takes training and practice to figure out how to use the muscles that way."

Music is an important part of her life, and Shamon is also moving her academic research in that direction, she adds.

She's focusing on Japanese movie musicals from the 1950s—both the movies and the kind of music they're singing. "A kind of hybrid between jazz and traditional Japanese music," she says. "I'm interested in how traditional music had changed and adapted to different musical styles in the 20th century."