

FYS NewsNotes

Monthly News from the First Year of Studies

February 2008

Message from the Dean

Dear First Year of Studies Students:

The Spring 2008 Semester has gotten off to a great start and I trust that you are finding your classes challenging and rewarding thus far. Our First Year of Studies (FYS) advisors report that final schedule adjustments were made with little difficulty. My conversations with many of you indicate that there is much excitement about the courses, lectures, and other academic events being offered this term.

I encourage you to take full advantage of these and other opportunities to engage new ideas, acquire new skills, and explore new intellectual horizons. By so doing, you will establish a solid foundation for future learning. You will also reinforce those disciplines of the mind and heart that will make it possible for you to be effective stewards of the knowledge you acquire and help to create.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to complete the self-assessment exercise mentioned in the most recent Dean's Blog: http://fys.nd.edu/Deans_Blog.html. By taking stock of your growth and academic progress thus far, you pave the way for continued development in the weeks ahead. Your responses should be sent directly to your FYS advisors by e-mail.

The rhythm of the spring semester is somewhat different from that of the fall for first-year students. The compressed time frame within which decisions about intended college and/or major must be made (i.e., by the end of March 2008) is a major factor contributing to this.

Over the next few weeks, FYS faculty advisors will be working closely with you to plan the next stage of your academic journey at Notre Dame. It would be wise to set aside a few moments each day to think about your options and, perhaps most importantly, to consider which areas fire your imagination and are consistent with your vocational aspirations.

This discernment process is an essential part of the first-year experience. The most remarkable and fulfilling days of your FYS pilgrimage lay ahead. We look forward to sharing them with you.

Sincerely,

(The Rev.) Hugh R. Page, Jr., DMin, PhD
Dean, First Year of Studies
Walter Associate Professor of Theology
Associate Professor of Africana Studies

Major's Night

The Student Senate Committee on Academic Affairs will present **Majors Night**. Representatives from departments and other academic units within each of the University's colleges will be present at this event. It is hoped that students will use this opportunity to explore the range of disciplinary options, majors, and minors available to them.

This event is open to all members of the Notre Dame community and will be held in the **Joyce Center concourse on Thursday, February 7, 2008, from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

Spotlight Programs

From now until the Spring break various college representatives will present **Spotlight Programs** designed to help you answer the question, "*Which college is right for me?*"

The undergraduate programs and events that will be available are listed on page 6 of this newsletter. For additional information see this website: <http://fys.nd.edu/spotlight.html>.

School of Architecture -
Forum (February 11)

Pre-Professional Studies -
Preparation for Career in the Health Care Professions (February 12)

College of Arts and Letters -
Career Opportunities (February 20)

Current College Program Information

It is important that our records reflect the correct intended college program. Soon you will receive an email from FYS that will indicate your intended college program. This email will be **for your information** only. It will not require you to respond.

Mardi Gras 2008

Are you thinking about majoring in the visual or performing arts?

Then, come to
"Mardi Gras 2008 - A Celebration of the Visual and Performing Arts"
Monday, February 4, 2008
6:30 pm, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

This event is sponsored by the Departments of Film, Television, and Theatre, Art, Art History & Design, and Music and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

FIRST YEAR HONORS CONVOCATION

*Tuesday, February 5, 8:00 p.m.,
Concourse, Joyce Center
(Dean's List students only)*

First Year of Studies Student Awards

During the Honor's Convocation, Tuesday, February 5, outstanding first-year student work will be recognized through the announcement of the following awards:

AMC Programming Contest

On November 9-10 a team of Notre Dame students traveled to the University of Michigan for the annual computer programming contest sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery. Challenged to program a computer to solve problems ranging from anagrams to origami the Notre Dame team finished fifth in a field of thirty teams. The First Year of Studies would particularly like to honor the first year class student who took part in this exciting international event.

First Year Participant:

Raymond LeGrand

First Year Class Council President

The new president for your class council:

Kathryn Clitheroe

Notre Dame Forum Award

The First Year of Studies Forum Awards are designed to recognize first-year students' essays or works of art that focus on the Notre Dame Forum topic. Students and professors are invited to nominate works, but the essays or art works need not be connected to class assignments. A committee from the First Year of Studies select the winner of this award based on the depth and carefulness of thought as well as creativity and over all quality of the work.

Notre Dame Forum Award Winner:

John Miller

McPartlin Writing Award

Established in 1992 by the Stephen E. McPartlin family, the MacPartlin Awards recognize outstanding essays written by first-year Notre Dame students. Professors of University Seminar or First Year Writing classes may nominate essays for the award and a committee from the First Year Composition Department makes the selection. Papers may focus any topic and must be well argued, clear, and gracefully written.

Award Winners:

First Place:

Nick Bosler and Laura Comana (co-authors),
www.nd.edu/~nbosler/finalphotoessay.wmv

Second Place:

Rodolfo Disi Pavlic,
<http://unreform.blogspot.com/>

Third Place Tie:

Michelle Gaseor
Jessica Shaffer

Putnam Examination

The Putnam Examination is a century old, day long, grueling event that gives students from all over the world a chance to test their math skills against one another. The Putnam Exam is also used to identify rising stars in mathematics and the mathematical sciences. Although the final standings won't be known until April, the First Year of Studies wishes to honor the very talented first-year students who trained and participated in this prestigious event.

Putnam Participants:

Bryce Durgin
Jonathan Kwan
John Pardo
Cristina Zhu

Snite Writing Award

The Snite Museum First Year Essay Awards honor essays which integrate ideas from assigned readings with ideas presented in one or more works of art in the Snite Museum. First-year students in University Seminars and First Year Composition classes are especially invited to submit an essay for review. A committee from the Snite Museum of Art determines the winners of the awards.

Award Winners are:

First Place:

Lauren Hoedeman

Second Place

Jason Crotty

Third Place

Kimberly Schlesinger

LECTIO LIVE

**Thursday, February 28, 2008
9 pm**

Come see Dean Hugh Page and his band, Oblates of Blues (www.oblatesofblues.com), perform at the upcoming Lectio Live! LECTIO LIVE honors Black History Month in February. Join fellow classmates and faculty for a night of public readings, music and an open mike (for students and faculty to read literature, poetry, or some of their own writing to a friendly audience). We are always looking for new readers and musicians for the open mike. Free pizza and beverages provided. Location: Co-Mo Study Lounge. For questions, please contact Dawn at Overstreet.4@nd.edu or 631-3923.

Dropping A Course

The deadline for applying to drop courses is **TUESDAY, MARCH 25.**

Thinking of Dropping a Course?

Follow these steps:

- Continue to attend class until you receive notification that the drop is approved by the Dean.
- Talk with your professor about your concerns.
- Talk with your advisor in the First Year of Studies about your concerns.
- Initiate the formal process in the First Year of Studies by filling out a drop request with your advisor.
- Meet with your professor to discuss your drop request.
- Return the signed drop request form to your FYS advisor.

Telling HERstory

A new event sponsored by the First Year of Studies is a monthly luncheon series featuring women at Notre Dame. The series brings together students, faculty, and staff for a fireside chat to hear from women who have a story to tell.

The next speaker for the Telling HERstory series will be Mary Catherine Hilkert, OP, Professor of Theology. The event will take place from 12-1 pm on Wednesday, February 20 in the 1st floor Coleman-Morse Lounge. No need to R.S.V.P. Drinks and cookies provided.

2008-09 Financial Aid Application

All families seeking financial assistance for the 08/09 academic year are reminded of the importance of filing the 2008/09 Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (Renewal FAFSA) and the CSS PROFILE by **February 28, 2008**.

The timely completion of the application process is your key to applying for state, federal and/or institutional aid, including scholarships, grants, loans and work. Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid, 115 Main Building or at the Office of Financial Aid website.

Calendar of Events

Important dates and events for First Year students:

February 4	Mardi Gras 2008 - DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
February 5	Honors Convocation - Joyce Center
February 7	Majors Night - 6-8 pm, Joyce Center Concourse
February 11	Architecture Forum, 7 pm
February 12	Spotlight Program - Preparation for a Career in the Health Professions, 7:00 pm
February 20	Telling HERstory, 12 noon Spotlight Program - Arts & Letters Career Opportunities, 6 pm
February 28	FAFSA Due Lectio Live, 9 pm
March 1 - 7	Mid-Semester Break
March 25	Last Day to Drop a Class
April 2	College of Engineering Open House (tentative date)
March 26 - 28	March College Consultation Program

Spotlight Programs 2008

Be sure to check the website for updated information: <http://fys.nd.edu/spotlight.html>.

Architecture Forum

Monday, February 11

7:00 p.m.

104 Bond Hall
(Pizza will be served)

Forum with:

*Michael Lykoudis, Fr. Richard Bullene
and A Student Panel*

Michael Lykoudis, Dean of the School, Fr. Bullene, Assistant Dean and academic advisor in the School, and Architecture students from various years will outline the 5-year Architecture Program. The session will include a question and answer period with opportunities to interact with upperclass students.

Preparation for a Career in the Health Professions

Tuesday, February 12

7 p.m.

105 Jordan

Joint Presentation by:

Assistant Dean Jennifer Nemecek, ALPP Advisor

Fr. James Foster, SCPP Advisor

Learn about the similarities and differences of the Preprofessional majors at Notre Dame and find out what professional schools look for in an applicant. For students interested in premedical, pre dental, pre vet, or other related health professions. A student panel will also conduct a question and answer session.

Arts and Letters Career Opportunities

Wednesday, February 20

6:00 p.m.

102 DeBartolo Hall

**A Ticket to Your Future: Careers,
Graduate/Professional School, Service and
Computing**

Presentations by:

Ava Preacher: Assistant Dean Arts & Letters

Anita Rees: Associate Director, Career Center

A Student Panel

This presentation will provide you with information on the versatile curriculum and the rich variety of majors Arts and Letters offers to help you become qualified for almost any career. Arts & Letters career opportunities, service options after graduation, resume writing, internships, graduate school, career decision and job searching will be discussed.