



## From The Desk of Gretchen Walsh

The Fall 2007 semester is more than half over and I have received mid-term progress reports on all of our students. We have many students at the top of the grading curve and then we have a few students who are not living up to their potential because of poor class attendance. It reminded me of the following poem by Tom Wayman entitled *Did I Miss Anything?*:

*Nothing. When we realized you weren't here  
we sat with our hands folded on our desks  
in silence, for the full two hours*

*Everything. I gave an exam worth  
40 percent of the grade for this term  
and assigned some reading due today  
on which I'm about to hand out a quiz  
worth 50 percent*

*Nothing. None of the content of this course  
has value or meaning  
Take as many days off as you like:  
any activities we undertake as a class  
I assure you will not matter either to you or me  
and are without purpose*

*This is the last time the class will meet  
before we disperse to bring the good news to all  
the people on earth.*

*Everything. A few minutes after we began last time  
a shaft of light suddenly descended and an angel  
or other heavenly being appeared  
and revealed to us what each woman or man  
must do to attain divine wisdom in this life and  
the hereafter*

*Nothing. When you are not present  
how could something significant occur?*

*Everything. Contained in this classroom  
is a microcosm of human experience  
assembled for you to query and examine and ponder  
This is not the only place such an opportunity has  
been gathered*

*but it was one place*

*And you weren't here.*

I hope you think of this poem the next time that you are tempted to cut class. Remember class attendance is the first and foremost step to getting a college degree. You have paid tuition to gain knowledge from an expert in the field—take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity! Attend class, ask questions, and become engaged!

## Shirley Kurnoff Workshop

By Kathleen Kendel



On Friday, October 12, 2007, Notre Dame College hosted an all-day seminar presented by Shirley Kurnoff, an internationally acclaimed learning disabilities speaker.

Ms. Kurnoff's lecture was entitled "Learning Differences and Dyslexia – A Journey of Discovery." She is the author *The Human Side of Dyslexia: 142 interviews with real people telling real stories.*

Ms. Kurnoff provided important information to parents and educators on how to better serve students with special learning needs. Her talk included inspirational anecdotes, tips for success and coping strategies for K through 8 and college.

The lecture received many positive comments. The audience especially enjoyed hearing about the real-life experiences of those on the parents' panel, and the students, who shared insights into their lifelong struggles with learning differences.

Educators and parents enjoyed the networking opportunities the seminar provided, as well as the delicious lunch. No doubt the audience took away a number of useful tips, which will be helpful in both the home and in the classroom.



## A Curious License Plate

by Dave Curran



Every algebra student would recognize  $Y=MX+B$ . Dave Curran, math tutor, saw this license plate at Highland Park Golf Course this summer.

The owner explained his reason for the plate: "I just love math. And I have fun when people ask me about the Y-intercept equation."

## Introducing New Academic Advisor: Kathleen Kendel

Kathleen Kendel joined the Academic Support Center this fall as an academic advisor. She is a Notre Dame alumna, graduating in 1998. She also has a master's degree in English from John Carroll University.

Kathleen tutored in English for four years in the Dwyer Learning Center and privately at Gilmour Academy. She also spent two years working in the Adult Basic Literacy Education program (ABLE) for the Euclid Public Schools.

She has three daughters and lives in Euclid with her husband Jim.

## From The Desk of Mary Jo O'Neill A Visit from Peggy O'Neill



The Academic Support Center increased awareness of diversity through its presentation of award winning author and speaker Peggy O'Neill.

From the soaring height of 3'8", Peggy used personal

stories, slides, humor and interaction to deliver a HUGE message. She encouraged students, faculty and friends from the community to honor and respect the differences of others. Attendees gained an increased awareness of the impact of their words and behaviors toward others.

In addition to her work as a speaker, Peggy is also the author of an award-winning picture book *Little Squarehead* which tells the story of a young girl who overcomes feeling different by discovering her inner beauty.

Peggy is also the author of *Walking Tall: Overcoming Inner Smallness*, which can be found in our campus bookstore. This highly informative and insightful book encourages teens and adults to become more empowered, confident and optimistic and to express their inner greatness.

Through her skillful means, Peggy O'Neill inspired Notre Dame College students to honor differences in others, communicate with kindness and respect, and to celebrate their uniqueness.

Help others get ahead.  
You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders."

**Bob Moawad**  
Business Leader and Public Speaker

## Visiting Chile

By Katie Caporossi

In January of this year, I got a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go to one of the longest countries in South America, Chile.

I went to Chile to visit my exchange student sister, Valentina, who stayed with my family about three years ago. It was amazing! I got a chance to meet her family and live her way of life for about 10 days. I saw her university, the place where the family skis in Chillian, her city (Concepcion), her farm in Los Caberos, Lebu which has the famous "legend of the bull" cave, and Tome where her relatives live. Everywhere I went was beautiful.

Her family could not be more accommodating and more welcoming. At times, it was actually embarrassing, but that was okay. I loved every second of it and would go back again soon.

## A New Favorite Website [www.studygs.net](http://www.studygs.net)

By Meriah Duncan

Internet technology and the World Wide Web provide an exorbitant amount of information. When researching via the internet, we must be discerning. Some information may be false, misleading, or biased, yet other information may be useful, informative, and helpful.

College students seeking strategies for improving time management, critical reading and study skills should consider using The Study Guides and Strategies web site at [www.studygs.net/](http://www.studygs.net/).

This site, developed and maintained by Joe Landsberger, is a learner-centric educational public service. Study guides and strategies found here cross institutional and national boundaries. The site also provides over 100 links to study guides and strategies for studying, reading skills, writing basics, science and technology, and test taking.

## GOOD JOB!

**These students are making an impact at Notre Dame College:**

Joe D. and Char C. starred in the Notre Dame theater production *Walk Don't Run*.

Nick T. is a member of the men's wrestling team that is ranked 17th in the NAIA.