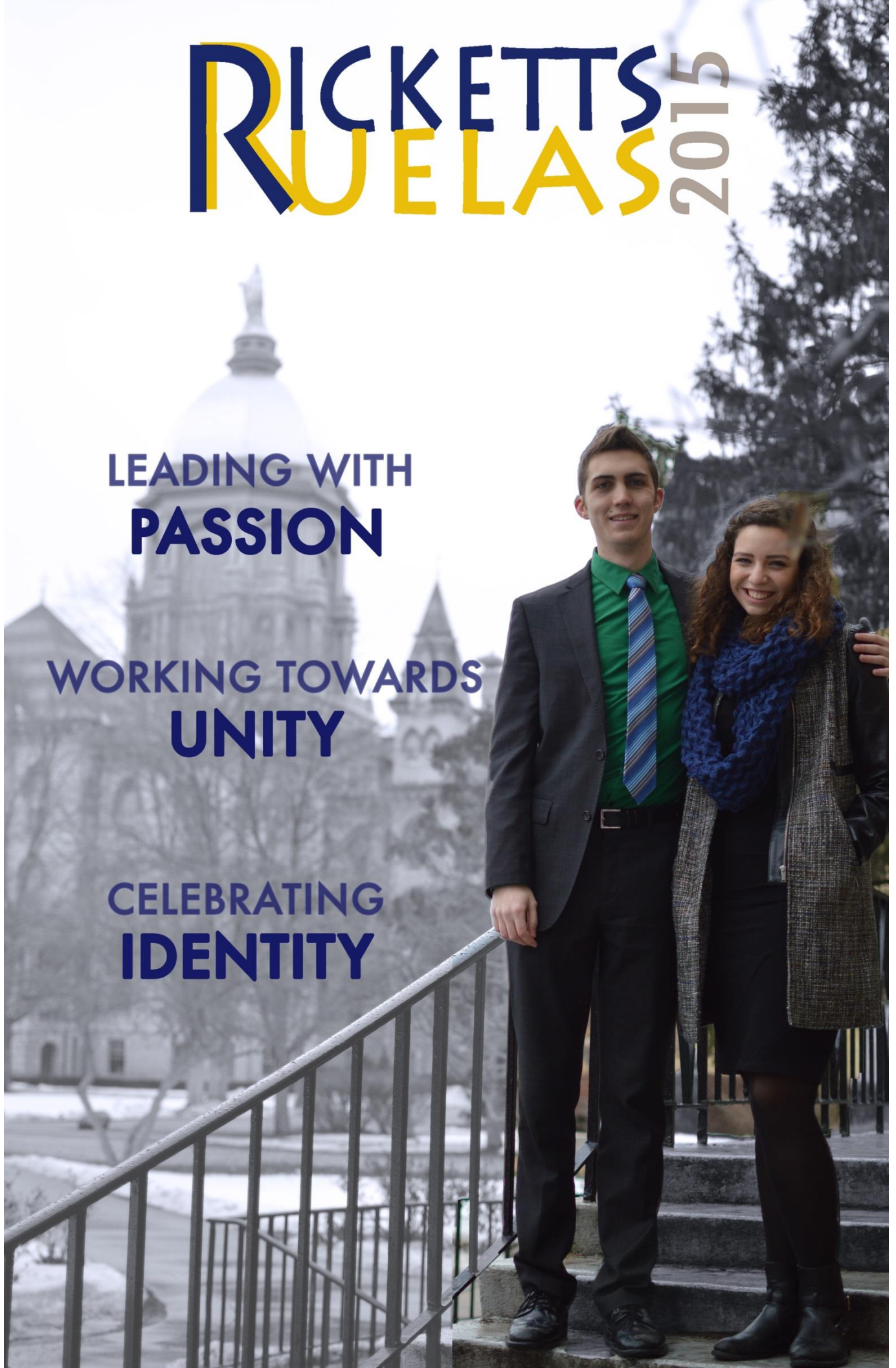


RICKETTS WHEELAS 2015

LEADING WITH
PASSION

WORKING TOWARDS
UNITY

CELEBRATING
IDENTITY



“Excellence can be attained if you care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible.”

- Anonymous

We strive for excellence. As students at this University, we all come from distinct and original origins, each arriving with our own personal aspirations. Growth and understanding are the pillars we must learn to adopt to embody the principles of justice, solidarity, and compassion. In the mission of this Catholic university, excellence drives our desire to build relationships, commit to different ideals, and to work incessantly in our quest for knowledge and meaning. It is with conviction that we invent and reinvent ourselves to forge who we are.

Currently, 8,453 undergraduates attend Notre Dame. 8,453 different ideas, different stories, different lives, all packed into two square miles of Indiana ground. Our proximity to each other in an environment of learning promotes an exchange of our ideas, a melding of our stories, and an intertwining of our lives. Yet we leave 8,453 distinct persons.

During our time here, we remain our own individuals because we engage in the process of building our selves within a framework that is entirely our own. We strive to live and embody the present with an investment in our future. To look freely within ourselves in prayer, reflection, and meditation. To, with honesty, ask the most difficult questions in the deepest corners of uncertainty within. Integrity guides our journey. With integrity we ask ourselves who we are so as to continue to cast ourselves from a mold that changes. We experience rebirth time after time until we learn where the road of life leads us. It is integrity that allows us to enter this institution knowing ourselves, and leave with an even stronger knowledge of our person.

During our time here at Notre Dame, we raise ourselves to be present in our actions and live forth our own missions and passions in a place where growth, excellence, and integrity become our tools for a better world, society, and life.

As student leaders, we seek to emulate these values and carry the traditions that have made our University rich in history, identity, and character. With this vision in mind, passion will drive us to blaze new trails as we confront some of the most challenging topics and issues of our time. Unity will ground us as members of the Notre Dame family as we seek to guide it in a positive and meaningful direction. Identity will bring us purpose and ambition as we keep moving forward.

Leading with **passion**.

Working towards **unity**.

Celebrating **identity**.



Community

- Support all students, faculty, and staff in proactive efforts to *take a stand against sexual assault*
 - Continue the message of the It's On Us Campaign through initiatives that promote bystander intervention and encourage reporting and the use of counseling services
 - Address sexual assault with an active bystander intervention campaign during the first six weeks, the period during which students are most at risk
- Provide a supportive environment to survivors of sexual assault
 - Hold frequent and regular prayer services to increase visibility and create consistency in our community's support and healing
 - Effectively communicate the process for reporting a sexual assault to increase the transparency of the process and reduce stigma
- Assist the Division of Student Affairs in the reform of *First Year Orientation* (Frosh-O)
 - Promote mentoring of freshmen students by upperclassmen
 - Emphasize the need for a selective and defined Frosh-O staff application process
 - Propose an earlier staff application process, increasing efficiency and communication
 - Work with the newly selected Program Director for New Student Engagement and student leaders during the implementation of the new First Year Student Program
 - Develop ways to engage and connect with first year students throughout the year in the First Year Student Course

- Evaluate and improve programs tailored to specific identities of first year students
 - Continue the evaluation of the First Year Experience to foster continual improvement
- Integrate the values of diversity and inclusion into the program in an effective manner
- Evaluate the *mental health* resources available through the University Counseling Center and McDonald Center to ensure all students are supported
 - Evaluate current training on mental health issues for Hall Staff
 - Work with the new McDonald Center for Wellness and University Counseling Center to continue to develop and distribute resources on prevention and support
 - Acknowledge all types of mental illness, including stress, and provide appropriate resources to students and staff
 - Support the continuation of Irish State of Mind Week
 - Develop programs and policies that remove the stigma surrounding getting support for mental illness and stress
- *Engage with the South Bend community* in a positive and constructive manner
 - Continue to endorse and hold Quad Markets throughout the term
 - Bring support and recognition to initiatives that engage students and the South Bend community alike
 - Partner with local businesses and restaurants to continue to publish the coupon and directory section in the annual University Student Planner to be made available to all students
 - Promote the knowledge of where and when to obtain these planners and always have a surplus stock available at the SAO and student government offices

- Promote the existing Around Campus mobile app which includes electronic coupon codes as well as maps

Accessibility

- Employ innovative and creative new ways to connect students, student groups, and administrators in an open and interactive environment
 - Establish a *social media strategy* with the Director of Communications that informs and engages the student body across multiple social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
 - Explore dynamic and interactive avenues of promoting student engagement through videos, surveys, and hashtag conversations
 - *Launch an online forum* that connects students directly to student government departments and school administrators where collaboration provides solutions to student-voiced concerns
- Achieve frequent *personal contact* with students through initiatives that bring student government members to dorms and clubs
 - Enact an open door policy in the student government offices and host events that build relationships with students, leading to future collaboration
 - Continue town hall meetings to involve administrators and student leaders in the discussion of pertinent issues
- Reform the current *DARTing process*
 - Introduce additional search options for DARTing, enabling students to find classes that fulfill requirements, match interests, and improve their college experience
 - Assess and modify the DARTing process to improve fairness and expand student choice by implementing an accessible and transparent process to decrease the uncertainty involved in assigning DART times
 - Solicit student input and feedback in the process of reforming the current DARTing system

- Expand the selection of *one-credit skills-acquisitions courses*, and actively promote the visibility of those that already exist to help students gain practical or technical experience to supplement their education
 - Include skills acquisitions courses involving topics such as financial literacy and the application of computer programs
- Evaluate and strengthen the processes associated with *leadership formation* within student government
 - Foster student engagement through Student Senate training programs in the Department of Internal Affairs that encourage leadership growth in diversity, social media, constituent services, and constitutional procedures
 - Implement a cohesive and structured transition process for Senators and Class Council Boards to build effective student leaders ready to begin their term when transition occurs on April 1st
- Develop ways to connect with *off-campus students*
 - Analyze the effectiveness of electronic and written communications
 - Ensure that off-campus students are notified of important events and housing information
- Support endeavors to bring Notre Dame students and Saint Mary's students together, such as UniversiTEA

Identity

- Encourage students, faculty, and staff to explore and develop their *intersectional identities*
 - Promote student achievements and stories through social media, invitations to speak, and other forms of recognition in an effort to celebrate students' individual identities
 - Hold a faculty and staff speaking series that enables them to share their experiences with others
 - Award a monetary prize once every month to a club that makes a difference in the ND community and beyond, culminating in a grand prize at the end of the year
 - Design a simple, transparent, and fair system of evaluation for this recognition
 - Support the collaboration of student leaders and organizations to encourage the continuity and expansion of these efforts
- Partner with *Multicultural Student Programs and Services and Diversity Council* to support their programming and initiatives
- Advocate for safety, confidentiality, and respect in all conversations and initiatives surrounding *diversity and inclusion*
 - Develop dialogue on all issues and concerns held by students
 - Utilize social media to share the stories and testimonies of students of all races and ethnicities
 - Endorse the implementation of the 21 points in the Diversity Recommendations from Student Affairs
(<http://sadiversityrecos.nd.edu/>)
- Recognize and honor each of the 29 dorms

- Develop an annual *Dorm Week* dedicated to celebrating all dorms on campus
 - Unveil dorm specific products such as apparel and other general merchandise to sell in the bookstore and solicit donations from alumni to help dorms raise funds that will strengthen dorm life and programming
 - Encourage dorms to hold open-houses where students and alumni are able to learn about the unique cultures of each dorm
- Foster dialogue and policy that supports *gender and sexual identities*
 - Employ inclusive language that recognizes all gender and sexual identities
 - Continue support for PrismND initiatives
 - Work with the Gender Relations Center to support its programming initiatives
- Partner with Campus Ministry to promote its resources and support its recent initiative to connect with and *welcome all students*
 - Support Campus Ministry's outreach efforts to students that do not identify as Catholic
 - Advertise the availability of transportation for students who wish to attend religious services off campus
- Promote student groups that provide opportunities to *expand faith life*
 - Integrate opportunities to live out faith within our campus initiatives
 - Foster a positive environment for *interfaith discussion and solidarity*

Support

- Promote the assessment and accessibility of *campus safety* services and programs to maximize student comfort and safety
 - Evaluate the use of O'SNAP services in meeting student needs
 - Support the implementation of the soon-to-be-released O'SNAP app, improving accessibility to safety services
 - Investigate supplementary options for digital communication with NDSP, including apps or texting
 - Promote sensibility and understanding in all security protocol to ensure a positive relationship between campus security and students
- Evaluate the current Float for a Single and room picks system to ensure all students have fair access to housing
 - Recommend financial assistance for students who wish to live in a single but cannot afford the additional fee
- Assess the enforcement of DuLac in dorms
 - Implement *medical amnesty* policies which encourage students to be active bystanders
 - Investigate the biases in the enforcement and consequences of policies found in various dorms in order to balance discrepancies
 - Develop strategies to ensure that all students feel safe and welcome in their dorms
 - Emphasize the transparency of the student conduct process
 - Encourage students to view the Office of Community Standards in a positive way
 - Evaluate the visitation hours policy to reduce the potential for negative implications
- Ensure that each dorm has a dedicated 24-hour study space with a printer

- Install a Redbox or similar service that will allow students to access video and game rentals on campus
- Assess *campus food* offerings
 - Explore student food options on campus
 - Assess the effectiveness of the current food plans
 - Work with all on-campus eateries, including Legends, Rohrs, Sorins, and JACC/stadium concession stands, to allow payment with Flex-points
 - Pursue options for *meal-swipe rollover* including the availability of multiple swipes during one meal period
 - Advertise the availability of *healthy dining* options
 - Provide basic nutritional information for each food item served
 - Evaluate the Nutritional Accounting System and ensure calendars are accurate and up-to-date
 - Distribute information about nutrition counseling
 - Develop menus that highlight different cultures to encourage students to explore new types of cuisine
 - Support the continuation of Cinco De Mayo dinner, Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner and expand to include other holidays and cultural celebrations throughout the year
 - Support the continued subsidization of Quarter Dogs
- Evaluate the continuation of 29 for 29 program to maximize dorm involvement
- Encourage University Hair Stylists to hire beauticians who can cut and style all types of hair
- Introduce the discussion on *socioeconomic status* and how it affects student life

- Hold a discussion panel to reveal hidden costs of attendance to understand what these costs represent, bring awareness of any obstacles these costs may bring, and spark a conversation towards addressing these challenges
- Evaluate student loans and the potential costs and issues that arise from them
- Collaborate with other universities to assess the impact of loans
- Offer information sessions and peer mentorship to first generation college students to provide orientation and support in cost management
- Request clear and accurate distribution of information about the resources available to low income students
 - Distribute information about the policies surrounding the Rector Fund in an effective and transparent manner
 - Centralize the information surrounding socioeconomic status and the resources available to low income students to disclose information on possible ways to mitigate any unresolved issues
 - Include information for internship funding assistance and study abroad financial assistance
- Acknowledge that some students stay on campus over break for economic reasons
 - Recommend that one dining hall remain open for Fall and Spring break, under limited meal hours, to accommodate students who stay on campus during break
- Provide *housing options for international students* who cannot return home over breaks
 - Establish a short term host family housing program

- Promote international clubs and organizations and advertise their events to foster discussion of multicultural backgrounds and experiences
- Evaluate resources available to international students upon entering the United States education system and workforce