When you're watching a disaster unfold, as in the case of the January earthquake in Haiti, that's a story the news media can tell. But Ralph Pennino, M.D., '75, is among those who have seen—and have helped to shape—an even more complicated story: the Haiti recovery effort. He has been telling the story in his own words, in blogs and other reports from his recent trips to Haiti, as seen on the Notre Dame Magazine website and the website of InterVol, a non-profit medical services organization he founded more than a decade ago.

As president of InterVol, a member of the board of the Dr. Tom Dooley Society, and a tireless dispatcher of skilled people and crucial supplies, Pennino has been part of a medical core team that is keeping hope alive in hard-hit parts of Haiti. He continues to help the University’s Haiti Program mobilize a remarkable network of Notre Dame alumni medical professionals and their colleagues. Their immediate and ongoing responsiveness has, among other feats, resurrected rudimentary hospital care in the city of Léogâne, the home of the Notre Dame Haiti Project, close to the epicenter of the Jan. 12 quake.

Now, Pennino is helping to envision next steps, including a commitment to that country’s recovery, which will endure long after the media have moved on.

“We always talk about the Notre Dame family, and it’s never been more apparent than now,” said the prominent Rochester, N.Y., surgeon in an interview on March 1, several days before he began his third Haiti trip since January. “I put together the first few teams that went down there from people I know.” Physicians from all over, whether or not they had been connected to InterVol or Notre Dame, have remained willing to take time off from their practices and travel to Haiti at their own expense in order to offer their talents.

Pennino has been struck at how closely and constantly he has been collaborating with like-minded physicians he had barely known before, and he points to a number of heroes who have contributed countless hours to keep the relief effort robust.

“The ND alumni have taken ownership of this,” he says. “This has become our life for the past several weeks, without anybody asking. You’ve just got to do it.”

Of course, Notre Dame alumni are by no means the only people making a difference, but the ND connection has helped open doors in Pennino’s efforts for Haiti.

“Notre Dame alumni are respected in their individual communities for what they do by people in the corporate world,” he says. “And that goes a long way—it’s the reason I received a ‘yes’ when I asked the CEO of a major company to make his corporate jets available for shipping medical personnel and supplies to Haiti.”

Notre Dame has great credibility in Haiti itself, having been present there for many years through the Haiti Program and the personal work of Rev. Thomas Streit, C.S.C., particularly against the disfiguring, infectious disease of lymphatic filariasis (LF). Ironically, some of the physicians Pennino has been working most closely with since the disaster were scheduled to be on a team going down in February to help with the fight against LF.
Indeed, one of the short-term goals Pennino identified in early March was to resume the Haiti Program for care of victims of LE—“to show we’re not giving up, we’re there, and we want to help the people there.”

Of course, there is much more to do. To the degree that physicians have already addressed the most urgent, earthquake-related emergencies, they now must turn to the long-term care of partially-healed fractures, chronic diseases like diabetes, and everyday health issues like heart attacks and the delivery of babies, all with hospital facilities and supplies that were meager in the best of times.

More grimly, the start of the rainy season in March was heightening the risk that infectious diseases would spread even more widely among a teeming homeless population. “There’s got to be a concentrated, long-term effort for people to be involved in this,” says Pennino. He recalls the estimate that up to 8,000 Notre Dame graduates are doctors of all kinds, “and I would love to see this become their project.” He says, working on this through organizations like the Dooley Society will be on Pennino’s agenda, and he notes that legendary ND chemistry professor Emil T. Hofman is “the flag bearer for this.” A few years ago, Pennino made a trip to Haiti on one of Hofman’s “Haiti Reconnaissance Missions,” and he notes that legendary ND chemistry professor Emil T. Hofman is “the flag bearer for this.” A few years ago, Pennino made a trip to Haiti on one of Hofman’s “Haiti Reconnaissance Missions,” which led to the formation of “Emil’s Army” of alumni volunteers in support of the University’s Haiti Program.

But this Hofman admirer, who is chief of plastic surgery at Rochester General Hospital, says the call for the Notre Dame family to help in Haiti should extend even beyond medical professionals—to alumni involved in so many fields, from food supplies to pharmaceuticals to suppliers of engineering and communications services.

“This is a great opportunity” for people who have been thinking about how they can “give back” in thankfulness for life’s blessings, says Pennino.

The vision of possibilities for a family-wide undertaking was still taking shape as of this early springtime interview. But Pennino was sure of one endeavor beyond the two weeks he was about to spend in Haiti, reuniting with colleagues who had become close collaborators and advancing Léogâne’s facilities into a next phase of medical capabilities.

“I know I’ll be going back, no question about that,” he says. “It’s that sort of thing. You just do what it takes.”

Pennino is returning to Haiti as this newsletter goes to press.

Learn more about Notre Dame’s involvement in rebuilding Haiti and about how you can volunteer by visiting the University’s official website: committedtohaiti.nd.edu.

Making an Impact

An Alum’s View from the Mountain Top:
“Building good” is internal and international
by William Schmitt

Classroom Earth: That’s how a nonprofit organization called Global Explorers describes the international, immersive experiences it offers to help transform young adults’ lives. Go to globalexplorers.org, and you will find descriptions of unusual and challenging group trips, like last year’s expedition climbing the third-highest mountain in Mexico and an upcoming journey into the Amazon jungle. All are designed to help intrepid travelers embrace global citizenship, overcome personal obstacles, and come back energized by new possibilities of leadership and service.

Tom Lillig ‘95, the organization’s board president, can testify to the power of these trips—how his facilitation of these quests for others has been connected to his own “day job” in advertising, to his Notre Dame years, and to his own experiences of breaking down barriers and learning from others.

Lillig, a former marketing manager for the advertising firm Techcorp, spends his days in Chicago. For the most part, he says “the biggest mountains I climb are at the gym on most nights.” But for some reason, he felt called last November to his own mountain climbing. For the first time, he would be part of the Global Explorers’ trek to the 5,000-meter-high summit of Iztaccíhuatl, joining young adults from Mexico and the United States, some of whom were blind or visually impaired. His organization intentionally reaches out to people who face challenges of different sorts—sometimes a physical disability, sometimes economic hardship or other circumstances.

“Being part of that trip really broke down barriers that I had formed in my own life,” Lillig recalls. He says the total undertaking—traveling to another country as an amateur climber on an imposing mountain and learning with others who needed a special kind of assistance and who spoke a different language—was a transformative experience, a time to discover possibilities. But it got even better.

Lillig says that witnessing the courage demonstrated by his fellow adventurers was “an overwhelmingly powerful gift.”

For much of the trip, his climbing partner was a blind young man named José. Lillig helped his partner by tapping on rocks and using words and sounds to offer direction, and he learned of José’s adept responsiveness and his readiness to confront difficulties one step at a time.

Two days after their safe return from the mountain, Lillig was set to attend a Global Explorers fundraiser in Mexico City, where the theme was “Dinner in the Dark.” Upon entering the utter darkness of the dining room, Lillig says he experienced something resembling a panic attack. He had to walk out, retracing into a lit space. When he returned to the darkness, “a person took my hand and said, ‘let me lead you to the table.’”

Moments later, he heard his guide say: “Do not worry, Tom, it is I, José.”

This humbling and inspiring moment was a lesson about how people give their gifts to each other as they share their journeys together, says Lillig.

In my own time of need, José was there to be my eyes through the challenge that I was facing.

The future appears bright for Lillig and Global Explorers. He plans to help oversee (if not participate in) special programs scheduled by the group, including one that will bring hearing-impaired people into the Amazon region. Global Explorers also has partnered with the Travel Channel for an initiative that will bring low-income high school students to Costa Rica.

Looking ahead, Lillig plans to continue promoting the goals and accomplishments of Global Explorers, while also exercising leadership in the corporate world and in family life. He is determined to have an impact on the shaping of a global community, and he’s confident from his mountaintop experience in Mexico that the spirit of solidarity, mutuality, and caring—like the spirit at Notre Dame—can make a difference for the future.

Letter from Chuck Lennon

Notre Dame has a strong tradition of “giving back.” Our students learn early on that service is a part of the University’s unofficial curriculum, and they embrace it as a way of life. Whether participating in the Summer Service Learning Program, taking part in an Urban Plunge, or simply spending a few hours a week tutoring children, Notre Dame students find a way to incorporate service into even the busiest class schedule.

That dedication to helping others doesn’t fade once a student graduates; in fact, it seems to grow stronger. That is one of the many special things that make Notre Dame alumni unique; it’s also one of the things that makes me so proud.

It was not surprising for me to learn that members of the Notre Dame family were among the first responders to arrive in Haiti following the devastating earthquake in January. Our cover story details the experience of Ralph Pennino, M.D., ’75, who, within days of the disaster, helped mobilize an emergency medical network of Notre Dame alumni medical professionals and their colleagues to aid those in the hardest-hit regions.

Then there is Tom Lillig ‘95, board president of an educational nonprofit organization called Global Explorers. As you’ll read in the “Making an Impact” section on page 3, last November Tom joined an unlikely team of blind and visually impaired young adults to embark on a cross-cultural journey of self-discovery, adventure that culminated at the top of North America’s seventh highest mountain, the Iztaccíhuatl volcano. These are just two examples of the thousands of ways the Notre Dame family continues to give back. The volume of service projects we adopt is amazing; the spectrum of causes we help is astounding. As the saying goes, we are judged by what we do, not what we say. And what we do is make the world a better place, one Domeer at a time.

For Notre Dome,

Charles F. Lennon Jr. ’51, ’62 M.A.
Executive Director, Alumni Association
Associate Vice President, University Relations

Tom Lillig ’95 (right) with climbing partner, José, who is blind.
Month of Service Makes an Impact

I began as a way to honor Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., for his 90th birthday; it has grown into a full-blown service bonanza. The Hesburgh Month of Service, now in its fourth year, experienced a 54 percent increase in participation over last year, thanks to the support of the Notre Dame family around the world.

In May, 144 ND clubs and alumni groups participated in 219 different service projects across the globe. The projects encompassed everything from collecting books for school libraries to gathering donations for homeless shelters to performing home repairs for the elderly.

“ar from this year’s Month of Service, and to begin planning for next year’s program.”

To learn more about the Hesburgh Month of Service, visit the website at alumni.nd.edu/chesburghservice.

Clockwise from top left: ND clubs of South Dakota, San Diego, and Sarasota.

ONWARD to Job Resources

You can find the Office of Career and Compliance Services website at alumni.nd.edu/career.

Waiters and baristas to gathering donations for homeless shelters to performing home repairs for the elderly.

“I know Fr. Hesburgh will be honored by these special service projects,” says Katie Zakas ’04, Alumni Association director of service. “I cannot wait to present him with the results of this year’s Month of Service, and to begin planning for next year’s program.”

To learn more about the Hesburgh Month of Service, visit the website at alumni.nd.edu/chesburghservice.

ONWARD to Job Resources

More than 38,000 ND alumni have visited the ONWARD: Alumni Career Development website since it launched in May 2009.

ONWARD is a comprehensive career and networking program created by the Alumni Association, in collaboration with the University’s Career Center, the Mendoza College of Business, and the Notre Dame Law School. The website provides tools for job seekers and those looking to network with other alumni.

The site includes job postings, webinars on career topics, links to articles, and access to the alumni mentor program. In addition, the NOTRE Dame Law School, the University’s Career Center, the Mendoza College of Business, and the website provides tools for job seekers and those looking to network with other alumni.

Since 1986, the Hesburgh Lecture Series has brought faculty to local ND clubs, perpetuating the example of Father Hesburgh as a lifelong learner. For more information, visit alumni.nd.edu/lecture.

New Alumni Board Members Elected

The Alumni Association is pleased to announce the newly elected Alumni Board members who will serve from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2013. The new board members joined existing members on campus in April for the annual Alumni Senate and Spring Board of Directors meeting. Congratulations!

Dialogue on Diversity

The Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Provost Office and the Black Alumni of Notre Dame, has created the “Dialogue on Diversity” program as part of the Hesburgh Lecture Series. The first Diversity lectures took place at the Notre Dame Clubs of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., in November 2009.

Don Pope-Davis, associate provost, and Darren Davis, political science professor, gave a presentation titled “A Post Racial America.”

Dialogue on Diversity lectures also took place in Detroit, Atlanta, Chicago, and Los Angeles this spring. Some of the lectures have featured Professors Hugh Page and M. Brian Blake discussing “Religion, Race and Technology.”

Since 1986, the Hesburgh Lecture Series has brought faculty to local ND clubs, perpetuating the example of Father Hesburgh as a lifelong learner. For more information, visit alumni.nd.edu/lecture.

Young Alumni

Lauren Taylor ’04

Asian-Pacific Alumni

Ronald M. Wong ’53

Native-American Alumni

Eilane Deblassie D’Amato ’82

International Alumni

Pablo Ibarra-Corral ’96

Major:

Accounting

Hometown:

Rolling Meadows, Ill.

What he’s doing now:

Bill is a controller for Continental Automotive Systems, Inc.

Top reason for choosing Notre Dame: Really for two reasons. My grandfather, Bill Ferster, Class of 1900 was a minim and graduated at the age of 16, was Notre Dame’s most enthusiastic fan. Hesburgh. He had a massive antenna on his roof so he could watch the South Bend television stations and any televised ND event, and his basement was an ND shrine. Obviously, his love of ND had an influence on my wanting to attend ND. My other reason, and probably deciding reason, was the that Fr. Hesburgh handled the early spring of 1968 student demonstrations at ND. He respected the students’ right to demonstrate, but also maintained law and order, and I could see that the students respected him.

What made the most significant impact on your life while at Notre Dame?: The strong spirituality that I developed there. There are so many great places to pray, and so many opportunities to perform social service, that over the four years I was able to avail myself of many of these opportunities and I developed a mindset on how to act ethically and responsibly, and found the role of religion in my life.

Did you have a favorite chapel, Mass, or spiritual event?: My favorite place to attend Mass was at the Crypt below the Basilica. I tried to attend Mass as often as possible, and it was always interesting to see who else I recognized there (Digger Phelps was frequently there). The Grotto was my favorite place to pray the rosary for specific intentions.

What course affected you most?: I can’t really say that a particular course affected me most. I was an accounting major, so I wasn’t going to get many “aha!” moments from those courses. Freshman year, I had an excellent biology professor named Kraig Adler, and a very good calculus professor named Milko Jeglic. Both of them were very challenging, and I had to work hard to do well. I think this motivated me to do well for the remainder of my four years.

How did you spend your weekends?: My weekends were pretty ordinary except during weeks with football home games. The pep rallies before the games then were much more exciting than they seem to be now. I was fortunate to be there during the “Era of Ara,” with the teams usually ranked in the top 10 each year. Game day mornings were spent selling burgers and brats for Farley Hall and then usually celebrating after the game. Many Saturday afternoons, I helped out at the Logans. I know we always finished Saturday night at midnight. Sundays were for deep learning, studying, and playing basketball in a Knights of Columbus league.

Top reason for choosing Notre Dame: A lot of people in my family went to Notre Dame. Every year since I was 8 years old, we would go to football games. When I got into high school, I realized it was a great academic institution, and it became my goal to get there. One summer I went to a Global issues seminar that was led by Professors George Lopez and Rashid Omar. That sealed the deal for me.

What has made the most significant impact on your life while at Notre Dame, thus far?: Studying abroad last year.

I went to France in the fall semester of my sophomore year (as part of Notre Dame’s Angus program). It helped me really see life outside the bubble. I still feel pretty sheltered on campus, so it was nice to get out on my own, to travel independently, and to learn a new language and culture. I made amazing friends there.

Do you have a favorite chapel, Mass, or spiritual event?: Last summer I did a summer service learning program through the Center for Social Concerns. I worked at an inner-city school in St. Louis. Throughout the summer, we had readings and reflections that helped us see the spiritual side of service. That was probably one of the simplest spiritual times of my life because I was with five other students who were doing service, and every week we would pray together and discuss what we were doing.

What course has affected you most?: I have taken so many interesting courses at Notre Dame, so it is hard to choose. Last semester I took a class with Prof. Catherine Perry [in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures]. It was a course on contemporary French literature whose authors all had Islamic backgrounds. The authors were all either immigrants in France or from former French colonies. The course combined the literature aspect I’m interested in with contemporary global issues. It showed how literature is not just confined to an ivory tower but can really be relevant to our current issues.

How do you spend your weekends?: It depends on how much homework I have! A lot of times, I have to study. I work on a Scholastic magazine, so we’re in production that weekend. We spend most of Sunday there. In football season, I go to the games, and I love watching the Band of the Fighting Irish play. During spring, I just hang out with friends in our residence hall, and we’ll go out occasionally or we’ll go to see plays showing on campus.

Summer 2010

Claire Reising

Name: Claire Reising

Class: ’11

Residence Hall: Lewis

Major: English and French

Hometown: Rolling Meadows, Ill.

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The Echoes is published by the Notre Dame Alumni Association. For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact the editor, Angela Sienko, at 574-631-6000 or alumpubs@nd.edu. To contact the Alumni Association for matters not relating to this newsletter, send an e-mail to ndalumni@nd.edu.

Through the Years

Name: Bill Reising

Class: ’72

Residence Hall: Farley

Major: Accounting

Hometown: Rolling Meadows, Ill.

What he’s doing now: Bill is a controller for Continental Automotive Systems, Inc.
By the Numbers

5 Number of National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships awarded to ND faculty this year (that makes 42 in the past 11 years—more than any other university)

1 Number of award-winning Notre Dame clubs voted by Coach Brian Kelly this spring

13 Number of 2010 ND graduates who received Fulbright grants and other national fellowships and scholarships

11 Number of times the Fighting Irish football team played against Army at the old Yankee Stadium. On Nov. 20, the two will face off at the new Yankee Stadium

1,829 Number of undergraduates who received degrees at Commencement on May 16, including Katie Washington, the University's first African-American valedictorian

3,000 Number of people who read the prayers on pray.nd.edu each weekday

142,000 The square footage of Stinson-Remick Hall opened in Jan. 2010

1,650 Number of dollars raised by the Cavanaugh Ping-Pong tournament held Feb. 14 to benefit Theologian Center of South Bend physicians who traveled to Haiti as part of a medical mission following the Jan. 12 earthquake

670 Number of teams in the Bookstore Basketball tournament this spring

22 Two will face off at the new Yankee Stadium.

Campus in Brief

ND Appoints VP for Internationalization

This spring, J. Nicholas Entrikin, vice provost of international studies at UCLA, was appointed to the newly established position of vice president and associate provost for internationalization by Notre Dame Provost Thomas G. Burish. In his new role, Entrikin will lead the effort to broaden Notre Dame’s international culture, programs, reach, and reputation through expanded international research, collaborative projects, and strategic relationships with global partners.

At UCLA, Entrikin developed a comprehensive internationalization strategy that involved coordination and innovation along four lines: collaborative research opportunities, student exchange opportunities; corporate, foundation, and government partnerships; and private donor and alumni development.

Entrikin earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in geography from the University of Wisconsin, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in geography from Syracuse University.

University’s Statement on Life

Notre Dame’s statement on the defense of life reads: “This is an important milestone for Notre Dame because it signals progress toward our goal as a preeminent Catholic research university,” Father Jenkins said. “It shows that our faculty are making valuable discoveries in areas as diverse as nanoscience technology and conflict resolution.”

Research Awards Exceed $100 million

Notre Dame’s research awards have exceeded the $100 million mark for the first time in its history, according to a report released by Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., president, during his 2005 inaugural address.

“This is an important milestone for Notre Dame because it signals progress toward our goal as a preeminent Catholic research university,” Father Jenkins said. “It shows that our faculty are making valuable discoveries in areas as diverse as nanoscience technology and conflict resolution.”

The $100 million total reflects an increase in the number of grants proposed, an increase in the size of those proposals, and an increase in the number and size of grants that are winning funding, said Robert Bernhard, vice president for research.

Get Involved

Get Linked to ND Professionals

More than 16,000 Notre Dame alumni have joined the ND Alumni group on LinkedIn, a professional networking site. The ND Alumni group features job postings, career discussions, and networking opportunities—including alumni programs and events. Stay connected! Stay InTouch.

Pray.nd.edu

Pray at Notre Dame from wherever you are, and read daily Gospel readings and prayers from Holy Cross priests at pray.nd.edu. The online spiritual resource includes a daily video and printable prayer cards. You can even subscribe to the site to receive regular updates by email or RSS feeds.

At Your Service

Your resource for staying connected to Notre Dame

Stay Connected

Do we have your current email address? If not, you’re missing out on the latest ND news, career opportunities, special alumni offers, and more. Send us your email at onlinehelp@alumni.nd.edu and we’ll keep you apprised of upcoming networking events, service opportunities, as well as special alumni programs and events. Stay connected! Stay InTouch.

Pray.nd.edu

Pray at Notre Dame from wherever you are, and read daily Gospel readings and prayers from Holy Cross priests at pray.nd.edu. The online spiritual resource includes a daily video and printable prayer cards. You can even subscribe to the site to receive regular updates by email or RSS feeds.

ND email by Google

Alumni can get a free ND alumni email account, powered by Google. The email address takes the form of yourname@alumni.nd.edu. Register for your ND alumni email account at alumni.nd.edu/alumniemail.

Special Savings for ND Graduates

The NDAA has partnered with Liberty Mutual to offer alumni the Group Savings Plus program. This unique program allows you to purchase high-quality auto, home, and renters insurance at low group rates. See how much money you could save with Liberty Mutual compared to your current insurance provider. For a free, no-obligation quote, visit libertymutual.com/undaa.

Connecting ND Women

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Since the Alumni Association launched the ND Women Connect initiative in 2009, the Notre Dame club network has established 17 chapters—including one in Italy—with more on the way. For the past year, ND alumnae have been coming together, bonding over shared experiences, and developing personal and professional growth opportunities.

ND Women Connect is woven into the local club structure and organizes activities mostly, though not exclusively, for ND alumnae. Together, participants are making valuable contributions to Notre Dame, to their local communities, and to the causes that inspire them.

To find an ND Women Connect chapter in your area, visit womenconnect.undgroup.org. Want to learn how to start a chapter in your hometown? Contact Karen Conway, J.D., ’89, Alumni Association director of Academic Programs by email at kconway4@nd.edu.

Alums Celebrate Traditions at Reunion 2010

Every year, Reunion reinvigorates not only those alumni who attend, but also the University they so love. This year’s Reunion theme was “Celebrate Notre Dame Traditions,” and celebrate we did! The Alumni Association welcomed 2,499 alumni and their 935 guests to campus June 3-6 where they reconnected with classmates, visited memory lane, and relived the ND spirit. View the photo gallery from Reunion 2010 by visiting ndtoday.alumni.nd.edu/2010ReunionGallery.

Alums celebrate Mass during Reunion 2010
The Notre Dame Alumni Association looks forward to welcoming alumni at the following events:

**Mid-August**

**Football Weekend Preview**
Learn more about the Alumni Association’s Football Weekend events and Football Ticket Consignment program by visiting alumni.nd.edu/football. The site goes live in mid-August.

**September 4**

**Notre Dame Football Home Opener**
The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame take on the Purdue Boilermakers at the season opener on Sept. 4. Kickoff the Brian Kelly era by visiting gameday.nd.edu—there you will find everything you need to know about the 2010 ND Football experience.

**October 22-24**

**Excellence in Teaching Conference**
Open to K–12 educators from public, Catholic, and private schools nationwide, Excellence in Teaching encourages participants to move beyond teaching as a profession to teaching as a calling. It will motivate educators to teach outside the box to achieve a learning experience filled with rigor, relevance, and relationship. Learn more about the Excellence in Teaching Conference at alumni.nd.edu/eit.

**November 3**

**Notre Dame Forum**
“The Global Marketplace and the Common Good” is the topic for the 2010 Notre Dame Forum. It will examine the inherent demand for an essential moral framework in the quest for human development, a topic that has taken on increased scrutiny in the wake of the global economic crisis. Thomas Friedman, the influential Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist from the New York Times, has been confirmed as one of the panelists.

Visit the Alumni Association’s Facebook page to watch videos, browse photos, test your knowledge of Notre Dame trivia, and find out about alumni news and events. Search on Facebook for: Notre Dame Alumni Association.