

# IRISH ROVER

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*It behooves a watchdog to bark. Good, Rover.*

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## McGreedy Appointed to Succeed Roche *New Arts and Letters Dean Faces Old Challenges*

**MARY K. DAIX**  
Campus Editor

ON APRIL 9TH, 2008, the University officially announced that John T. McGreedy, chair of Notre Dame's Department of History, had accepted the appointment to serve as the next of L.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters. Regarding the appointment, Provost Thomas Burish commented that John McGreedy is a talented and recognized scholar, gifted and award-winning teacher, and "an excellent leader." McGreedy will succeed current Dean Mark Roche, who will be leaving the



**John T. McGreedy**

post in June of this year.

"I took this position not because I was searching for a dean-type position but because I want Notre Dame in particular to flourish," McGreedy told the Rover in an April 15th email. And, indeed, it may be that McGreedy,

a highly regarded member of the Notre Dame community, will help to guide the University to that end.

"[McGreedy] is held in the highest regard as a scholar and colleague here at Notre Dame and in the academy, and I am delighted that he has accepted our offer to lead Notre Dame's largest and oldest college," University President John Jenkins has said. Provost Burish seconded such sentiments, saying, "he has an exceptional understanding of and commitment to achieving even greater academic excellence while also strengthening the distinctive Catholic identity and character of Notre Dame, and he is able to articulate this dual mission in clear and compelling terms."

A 1986 alumnus of Notre Dame, John McGreedy returned to Notre Dame's campus as a professor of history in 1997, leaving his Harvard position as Dunwalke Associate Professor of American History and History and Literature. In 2002, McGreedy, who received his master's and doctoral degrees in history from Stanford University, was appointed chair of Notre Dame's Department of History. He has occupied the position since while continuing to teach undergraduate courses in American political and religious history as well as

*Continued on page 5*

## Progressive Student Alliance Advocates for Gay Rights

**DAN AMIRI**  
Production Chief

RECENTLY, THE Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) obtained approval from the Student Activities Office to circulate their petition for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in Notre Dame's existing Non-Discrimination Clause. The clause currently reads: "The University of Notre Dame does not discriminate on the basis of race/ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, or age...."

Mike McCann, senior, is an active member of PSA. Noting the lack of "sexual orientation," he commented in an email to the

# Change in Leadership Renews Discussion of Catholic Hiring

*Continued from Page 1*

a graduate reading course on twentieth century American history. His teaching abilities and accomplishments here at Notre Dame were recognized in 2000 when McGreevy was awarded the Kaneb Center Teaching Award.

In an email to the Rover, current Arts and Letters Dean Mark Roche praised McGreevy, saying, "His teaching has been consistently outstanding, both inspiring and effective. He has been a stellar chairperson, and the History Department has progressed dramatically under his leadership."

In addition to his teaching and chairing duties, Dr. McGreevy is also involved in research on Jesuits of the nineteenth century, investigating particularly the questions of what these Jesuits can reveal about religious controversy, the "Catholic revival," and the transatlantic dimensions of American religion. McGreevy's interests also lie in the study of the intersection of religion and politics in the United States in the second half of the twentieth century.

Professor McGreevy is the author of two books, *Parish Boundaries: the Catholic Encounter with Race in the*

Twentieth Century (1996) and *Common Efforts*."

Freedom: A History. He has also published articles and literary critiques in periodicals including the *Journal of American History*, *Commonweal*, *New Republic*, and the *Chicago Tribune*.

McGreevy as well has been the recipient of numerous fellowships. During the 1992-1993 academic year, he received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Lilly Foundation to teach at Valparaiso University. McGreevy also has received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies (devoted to advancing the study of the humanities and social sciences), the Louisville Institute (focused on a revitalization of American religious institutions), and Notre Dame's Erasmus Institute (dedicated to research related to Catholic intellectual and cultural heritage).

"I'm delighted to accept the position of dean," McGreevy was quoted saying, "I look forward to assisting [the College] from a new vantage point. I know firsthand that I'll be working with a remarkable group of scholars and administrators...and I'm eager to begin collaborating with them on projects that advance our

common efforts."

The news of McGreevy's appointment as the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters brings back again to the limelight the debate of Catholic faculty hiring here at Notre Dame. Described by Dean Roche as a "Catholic intellectual, whose books and well placed essays have been recognized for their excellence," it might seem that McGreevy's appointment could offer some hope to this current and pressing issue.

In a recent email to the Rover, McGreevy said that "hiring for mission is an important dimension" of Notre Dame's role as a "vital experiment in American higher education, a place at once trying to achieve research preeminence, continue and enhance superb undergraduate education, and nurture and develop a distinct religious mission and identity."

While it seems that McGreevy does have an interest in the preservation of Notre Dame's Catholic identity and recognizes the importance of adherence to the University's mission and the role of Catholic faculty therein, concern still lingers.

Last semester, in the fall of 2007, Professor McGreevy wrote an article, entitled "Catholic

Enough? Religious Identity at Notre Dame," that was published in *Commonweal* Magazine responding to a piece written by fellow Notre Dame professor of history, Father Wilson Miscamble, C.S.C., published in the September issue of *America*.

In his article, Fr. Miscamble, who declined to contribute to this article, drew sharp attention to the threat posed by the Notre Dame's failure to hire Catholic intellectuals and scholars. Miscamble particularly emphasized that the adherence to and fulfillment of the University's mission calls for a predominant presence of Catholic members of the faculty. This is in accordance with Ex Corde Ecclesiae, which states "It is the honor and responsibility of a Catholic university to consecrate itself without reserve to the cause of truth."

In response to Miscamble's challenges to the University, Professor McGreevy accused his assessments as being "ungenerous" in their evaluation of other, non-Catholic faculty who are still "enthusiastic about the University's mission."

While McGreevy did assent to Miscamble's claim that "students need the witness of Catholic

intellectuals attempting to live out faith commitments in the modern world," he goes on to say that Miscamble's proposals are "detached from the needs of Catholic students." Rather than defining the Catholicity of a university by the number of Catholics on faculty, McGreevy states that the "test of a serious Catholic university is whether we can cultivate the intellectual abilities of our Catholic students so that they become thoughtful, reflective Catholic adults."

In light of his recent debate on the issue of Catholic faculty hiring, important questions remain as to what will be McGreevy's agenda as dean. It cannot be denied that he has impressive credentials that would recommend him: a particular interest in the role of Catholicism in American history and culture and fellowships with numerous religiously affiliated institutes. Although some questions remain, we are left to trust University president, Fr. John Jenkins, who praises McGreevy's qualifications, saying, "John has been a valued voice on our campus, throughout higher education and in the Church."

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