

Dear Notre Dame de Namur University Student,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to campus for 2011-2012 academic year on behalf of the faculty, staff and administration of the NDNU campus. You are a part of a campus community with great history and tradition, one which is values based and conforms to the Hallmarks of the Notre Dame Learning Communities. These values (Community, Diversity, Excellence, Goodness, Integrity, Justice, Learning and Service) are what differentiates this University from others. I am hopeful that by selecting this institution for your higher education you have chosen to adopt these core values as your own guiding principles and integrate them into your educational experience from this point forward.

To build on these values the faculty, staff and administration is committed to providing programs and services that will encourage and enhance your ability to learn and grow and achieve your academic goals. We provide a variety of curricular and co-curricular experiences to assist in your development as a scholar and citizen. It is now up to you to challenge yourself personally, intellectually, culturally, spiritually and socially to get the most out of campus life. We will do our best to support you in this journey.

This handbook outlines your rights and responsibilities as well as expectations for your participation on this campus. It includes policies and procedures for students on campus as well as the Student Code of Conduct. Please take the time to become familiar with this information. Our community is shaped by the people who are part of it and our communal success is dependent on each person being responsible and responsive. If you have any questions about the content of this handbook please don't hesitate to ask. Best wishes for a successful year. And again, welcome to the NDNU Community!

Jean Grech Condé

Dean of Students  
Student Affairs Office

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS MISSION STATEMENT**

The Division of Student Affairs promotes student success by providing learning experiences and services that develop critical thinking skills and create socially engaged, responsible citizens.

### **WHAT IS AN ARGONAUT?**

The “Argonaut” has been the school’s nickname since NDNU started its athletic program. It is a unique name that stands for adventurous spirit, courageous ideals, and aggressive action. The name stems from Greek Mythology and the story of Jason and his band of courageous men, called the Argonauts, in the quest for the Golden Fleece.

In very ancient times, there lived in Thessaly, a king and queen named Athamas and Nephele. They had two children, a boy and a girl. As time passed, Athamas grew indifferent to his wife, put her away and took another. Nephele suspected danger to her children from the influence of the stepmother, and took measures to send them out of her reach. Mercury assisted her, and gave her a ram with golden fleece on which she set the two children, trusting that the ram would convey them to a place of safety. The ram vaulted into the air with the children on his back, taking a course to the east, until when crossing the strait that divides Europe and Asia, the girl, Helle, fell from his back into the sea. This place was called Hellespont, kingdom of Chochis, on the eastern shore of the Black Sea, where boy Phryxus sacrificed the ram to Jupiter, and gave the golden fleece to Aetes, who placed it in a consecrated grove under the care of a sleepless dragon.

There was another kingdom in Thessaly near to that of Athamas, ruled over by a relative of his. The king, Aeson, being tired of the cares of the government, surrendered his crown to his brother, Pelias, on condition that he should hold it only during the childhood of Jason, the son of Aeson. When Jason was grown up and came to demand the crown from his uncle, Pelias pretended to be willing to yield it, but at the same time suggested to the young the glorious adventure of going in quest of the Golden Fleece. It was well known to be in the kingdom of Chochis, and was, as Pelias pretended, the rightful property of their family. Jason was pleased with the thought and forthwith made the preparations for the expedition. At the time, the only species of navigation known to the Greeks consisted of small boats hollowed out from trunks of trees, so that when Jason employed Argus to build him a vessel capable of containing fifty men, it was considered a giant undertaking. It was accomplished, however, and the vessel was named “Argo,” after the builder. Jason sent an invitation to all the adventurous young men of Greece, and soon found himself at the head of a band of bold youths, many of whom afterwards were renowned among the heroes and demigods of Greece. Hercules, Theseus, Orpheus and Nestor were among them. They are called the “Argonauts,” from the name of their vessel.

College of Notre Dame had its beginnings in the post gold rush days of 1851 in San Jose, the early capital of California. The early settlers, because of their bold spirit and determination were also called Argonauts; and therefore, because the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were part of this time and movement, the Argonaut name represents them as well.

## **NATURE OF STUDENT HANDBOOK**

This Student Handbook, the Catalog and information on the University website (collectively, “documents”) serve as guides to the many student programs, policies, procedures, requirements and resources at the University. These documents do not form a contract with the student. Tuition, student fees, course and course contents, curricular requirements, and other matters referenced or set forth in these documents or otherwise related to students, are subject to change at the discretion of the University at any time, during or after registration or course enrollment, and with or without notice or written confirmation. Please note that only the President of the University may provide authorized final interpretation of the contents of these documents and definite determination of its appropriate application to the particular circumstances of any individual matter.

Additionally, the University assumes no liability, and hereby expressly denies the same, for failure to provide, or delay in providing, educational or related services, due to a reason(s) beyond the control of the University. These reasons include, without limitation, financial issues, power failure, fire, strikes, damages done by the elements, other acts of God and acts of public authorities. While the University believes that the information contained in the Catalog and Handbook is accurate at the time of publication, the University does not guarantee absolute accuracy. Please direct questions to the appropriate administrator in case of doubt or confusion.