Edward A. “Monk” Malloy, PhD’75, is stepping down as president of the University of Notre Dame after 17 years.

A combination of endurance and flexibility sustained Judge Marilyn Justman Kaman while she served as a member of a five-judge international panel on war crimes in Kosovo.

On the bench in Hennepin County District Court in Minneapolis since 2000, Kaman says her six months in the Balkans in 2003–04 under the auspices of the United Nations gave her a new perspective.

“The intersection of law and culture was intriguing and played itself out in court in ways I didn’t expect,” says Kaman in describing the absence of juries, proceedings in which the judges decide verdicts, and the role of traditions that predetermine acceptable behavior, punishment, and relationships among different Balkan ethnic groups. “Part of the learning experience was how cultural values and norms play an important part in determination of guilt or innocence.”

When not in the courtroom, Kaman was under guard for her own safety. She found the isolation ultimately valuable. “It gave me the opportunity to hone my values. I feel different, grateful for my family and friends who support me and for our justice system,” says Kaman. “For me, this experience has created an appreciation for diversity, of personal and ethnic differences.”
Olympic Luminary

The lighting of the Olympic flame at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Greece was the culmination of a yearlong endeavor and personal journey for Petro Kacur, director of public relations for the Coca-Cola Co.'s sponsorship of the Olympic Torch Relay.

“It’s been the opportunity of a lifetime to be involved in something so close to my heritage,” says Kacur, the son of Greek immigrants who is fluent in Greek.

Kacur and his team escorted the flame, lit in a March ceremony at Olympia, Greece, and safeguarded in a miner’s lantern, through 34 cities and 27 countries. At each stop he assisted with celebrations that included a relay of local people carrying torches lit by the flame Kacur and his team shepherded. Worldwide, there were 11,000 torchbearers representing the unity and inspiration of the Olympics.

To his surprise, the torchbearer selection committee in Greece tapped Kacur to carry the torch in one leg of the relay in his father’s home village of Argos. “It was very moving to be a Greek-American and have the opportunity to do this on Greek soil,” he says. “Thinking of how this honored my family brought tears to my eyes.”

Jay Perry, BE’85, is a NASA aerospace engineer specializing in environmental control for the International Space Station.

Man with a Mission

The past is always present for Robert Perry. A missionary in Africa for 30 years, Perry established a museum for the Church of the Nazarene in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The museum contains letters, pictures, official mission records and other materials. These include books in African languages, diaries of early missionaries, and an extensive pictorial display of the church’s century-long work in the fields of medicine, education and church activities. It is only the second missions museum in Africa; the other features the work of pioneer explorer and missionary David Livingstone.

Perry’s personal link to the denomination’s work is teaching. He returns to Africa to teach every two years. The museum speaks to his early years as a history teacher and to his admiration for his missionary forebears. “I feel a real connection to them,” he says. “We have cars, computers and so many things. Our early pioneers were limited in resources, but not in their passion for their work.”

Perry grew up in the cotton-mill town of Alabama City, Ala., and came to Nashville to study at Trevecca Nazarene University. He later earned a master’s from the University of Alabama and a doctorate in history from Vanderbilt.

Nowadays, he and his wife, Peggy, live most of their time in Florida among some 200 retired missionaries at Bradenton Missionary Village, and Perry also does literary work among the Spanish-speaking residents of Bradenton.

Robert Perry, PhD’86

Robert Perry, PhD’86

Petro Kacur, BA’90

Petro Kacur, BA’90

NEIL BRAKE
Alumni Events continued

The Chattanooga Alumni Club and friends took charge of their health—mind, body and soul—during a program featuring Clif Cleaveland, HO’64, FE’70; Larry Churchill, the Ann Geddes Stahlman Chair in Medical Ethics at Vanderbilt Medical Center; Ira Long, BA’45, MD’48; Alec Taylor, JD’78; and Tom White, MBA’82. The panel discussed the importance of having a living will and durable power of attorney.

The Los Angeles Alumni Club gathered for the “Hey Jude: the Ninth Symphony & Sonnet VIII” presentation by Blair Professor Michael Alec Rose, who also made presentations to the San Francisco Vanderbilt Club preceding a San Francisco Symphony concert and to the Chicago Vanderbilt Club preceding a Chicago Symphony concert.

The Washington, D.C., Alumni Club enjoyed a lecture by Professor John Lachs, Centennial Professor of Philosophy, on “The Enemies of Life,” focusing on a positive outlook and appreciating the right things.

The Nashville Alumni Club and the Alumni Association Board of Directors enjoyed an evening at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. Robert Mode, associate professor and chair of the Department of Art and Art History, gave a presentation about the exhibit “From El Greco to Picasso: European Masterworks from the Phillips Collection” before an exhibit tour. Mode also spoke to the Memphis Vanderbilt Club about the “Masters of Florence: Glory & Genius at the Court of Medici” exhibit, followed by a tour of the exhibit at the Pyramid.
Heidi Lauren Duke, BMus’01, is pursuing a master of fine arts degree in opera stage directing on a full scholarship.

Alumni Association News

Alumni Events continued

The Atlanta Alumni Club enjoyed a discussion with Bruce Lynskey, clinical professor of management in entrepreneurship at the Owen Graduate School of Management. Lynskey discussed the challenges and rewards of coming from the business world and teaching entrepreneurship.

The Dallas Vanderbilt Club enjoyed an evening at the Nasher Sculpture Center in May. Michael Aurbach, professor of art, gave a presentation about the collection and two special exhibitions, “Picasso: The Cubist Portraits of Fernande Olivier” and “Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions,” before a tour.

The Metro New York Vanderbilt Club and alumni from surrounding areas enjoyed a day in Hyde Park, N.Y., at the Culinary Institute of America. John Poirniester, BA’46, MA’48, shared his knowledge about Vanderbilt history and the Vanderbilt family as the group toured the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park.

This election year the Alumni Relations Office showcased history and political science professors, many of whom turned up frequently in local and national media interviews. Professors Tom Schwartz, Bruce Oppenheimer, John Geer, Roy Neel and Mark Dahlhouse traveled and spoke to alumni clubs in Los Angeles, Washington (D.C.), Chicago, Raleigh-Durham (N.C.), Tampa (Fla.), New York and Charlotte (N.C.). Among the lectures were “Attacking Democracy: A Defense of Negative Advertising in Presidential Elections” and “Down to the Wire: Calling the 2004 Election.”

The Alumni Association hosted its inaugural Almost Alumni Affair for the newest alumni—the Class of 2004. More than 500 seniors enjoyed great food, drinks, a hip DJ, and the chance to mix and mingle with alumni while obtaining information about Vanderbilt alumni programs and services. The Class of 2005 is already looking forward to next year’s event to usher them into the alumni ranks.