



Through *Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*, director Christopher Nolan created a whole new image of Batman. This Batman does what is necessary for the greater good, no matter what it does to his image.  
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New SGA exec hopes to bring athletes and students together and create a better and more diverse community.  
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# The Echo

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## Campus welcomes new chaplain as Strawn departs for California

**Ronna Fisher, Assistant Editor**

Amidst all the changes that are taking place at SNU this fall, the one that will mostly likely affect the students directly is the arrival of the new chaplain/campus pastor, Dr. Blaire Spindle.

Former chaplain Brad Strawn left his position as SNU's chaplain and took a position at the School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in California. His official title is the Evelyn and Frank Freed Professor of Integration of Psychology and Theology.

"This position combines my two great passions, theology and psychology and is a great honor!" Strawn said. "I will be teaching, advising doctoral students, training psychotherapists, writing, researching and bringing leadership to the school's integrative efforts. I will also be able to continue some of my pastoral leanings, as I did at SNU, by creating programs that enhance students' spiritual formation."

For most students, the transition has seemed sudden; some may not even know the change had taken place. The final decision for Strawn to leave SNU did not take place until July. "This was in part because of the pace at which Fuller moved and then I was in a long process of prayer and discernment. There are so many things that go into a decision like this," Strawn said.

Although it is sad to see Strawn go, many students are very excited to hear that Spindle will be the new chaplain; even Strawn is excited for Spindle's future at SNU.

"I believe he will be a great fit!" Strawn said. "He has an excellent reputation in the community, cares about students, is a great speaker and has the heart of a pastor. He will not miss a beat coming into the SNU community, in part, because he knows it so well."

Jason Hubbert, associate in the office of Spiritual Development said, "He seems very

pastoral to me, I think that's his passion. He likes people, he likes talking to people and he seems to go out of his way to see where a person's at."

Jordan Leibold, a sophomore who interned with Spindle at Trinity Nazarene her freshman year, agreed with Hubbert, "I think he's very relational so he'll be able to get on the level of students more than we've experienced in the past."

SNU President, Loren Gresham, was the head of the search process for the new chaplain. He had three criteria in mind; "Somebody who had current local church experience, somebody with an earned doctorate and somebody who was a Nazarene elder and thoroughly committed to the church."

Dr. Gresham added that he was also looking for somebody who had a great track record with youth and young adults. He did not post the new position for a national search, but instead began by interviewing 10 or 12 candidates. Four had met the qualifications he was looking for. Gresham selected two candidates he thought were outstanding, and then involved the other members of his team in the interview process. In order to protect the candidates' current jobs, the interviewers did not know who the candidates were ahead of time. Dr. Gresham has already received a lot of positive feedback that Spindle will be a great fit.

The chaplain's responsibilities will also change somewhat. The position will no longer be the Vice President of Spiritual Development but will focus more on the campus pastoral role. According to Gresham and Hubbert, this change should free up quite a bit of time for the campus pastor.

"Cabinet meetings did take a lot of time, like budget issues which did not directly affect Spiritual Development," Hubbert said.

"The chaplain will also be free of any negative aspects of personnel decisions that may have a negative impact on the campus."

According to Dr. Gresham, "[This will allow him to] focus on ministry without having to keep [his] hand on all of these committees. Let that person be a minister, let that person be a pastor to the campus. That's why the change was made. We will still be involving Dr. Spindle in many, many other things with the administrators. I do not look at this as somehow a demotion of the office, but really a freeing up to being a who and what that person should be."

Although the school is still in a time of transition, Hubbert said that chapel is already scheduled for the fall semester with multiple guest speakers lined up. The theme will be "Divine Mosaic."

Strawn has one last message for the students of SNU; "I have loved my time being the SNU chaplain and it was the students who were responsible for this! Leaving them was the hardest part of my decision. I am so sorry that I couldn't say goodbye in person. I love SNU and the student body, and I will continue to pray for them and hope they will pray for me. We continue to be in the same business – participating with God to bring the Kingdom of God 'on earth as it is in heaven.'"



*New campus pastor Dr. Blair Spindle delivers the message at the NSI dedication service on August 19, 2012. (Photo by Kyle Pierce)*



## New roles, familiar faces with summer reshuffling of SNU Cabinet

**Brad Crofford, Editor-in-Chief**

The summer has brought significant changes to the top leadership roles at SNU, but the people filling those positions have remained virtually unchanged.

It was first announced to campus staff and faculty that Donna Nance, then VP for Financial Affairs, had tendered her resignation and would be moving on to another university. Dr. Scott Strawn, VP of Student Development, was selected to fill the newly-vacated position.

Dr. Mike Redwine, VP of Enrollment Management, was tapped to replace Strawn in student development. Dr. Linda Cantwell, Associate VP of Enrollment Management, was chosen to replace Redwine.

### Spiritual Development

One other change affecting the Cabinet is the modification of the Cabinet level position for the VP of Spiritual Development. This change is reportedly intended to free up time from administrative tasks to focus on serving in more of a pastoral role.

“We didn’t eliminate the spiritual life position; it just got moved off the Cabinet. We still have a spiritual life,” Dr. Mary Jones, provost and chief academic officer, said.

Members of university administration have been quick to point out that this move is not meant to de-emphasize spiritual development.

“It’s my opinion that this is not some

kind of slippery slope where we’re de-emphasizing the spiritual life of campus. It’s really a strategic move that we give our campus pastor a chance to be that,” Redwine said.

### Effect on cabinet

With this change, the number of people serving on the Cabinet will change from seven to six. A hypothetical impact of this change is that an even number of members could create tie votes and complicate decision-making. Several Cabinet members consider this scenario unlikely.

“We rarely have close votes. Most of the time we work through issues to the point where if it’s not a unanimous vote, it might be one negative or one abstention. I don’t foresee that [tie votes-ed],” university president Dr. Loren Gresham said.

With these changes, the only person actually joining the Cabinet will be Cantwell. The new Cabinet will be composed of Gresham, Jones, Strawn, Redwine, Cantwell, and Dr. Terry Toller, VP for University Advancement and Church Relations.

“I suppose that Dr. Gresham always has one more vote than however many there are of us; he has seven votes if there are six total,” Redwine said. “If we’re ever at a point where we did run into the 3-3 tie, it’s probably an issue that we really need to step back and have some more information.”

### Strawn shift

While Cantwell and Redwine both have rel-

evant previous experience at other universities, Strawn’s transition to Financial Affairs is less obvious, at least at the level of credentials. Unlike Nance, Strawn is not a CPA nor has he had any formal training as an accountant.

“There is no question he lacks some of the experience and the credentials that we had in Donna Nance,” Gresham said. “Her predecessor was not a CPA and going back they were not CPAs.”

Gresham notes that the administrative team made this choice based on their observations of Strawn’s grasp of finance and budget during the four years he’s been here.

In the transition, Strawn told Gresham, “I know our business. I know our budget. I know how to do capital projects. I know a lot about what we do and what I want to try to accomplish for the strategic planning in the CFO job, but the mechanics, some of the stuff that’s really important that you get right (audits, accounting, etc.), some of those things I’m going to need some time to grow into.”

When interviewed by The Echo, both Gresham and Strawn were highly complimentary of the Financial Affairs staff and their potential to help Strawn during the transition. In addition, a mentor/coach for Strawn has been arranged.

“I will be and have already arranged to have a mentor/coach for him who is a CPA, MBA, CFO of a savings and loan company, and a CFO of Point Loma [Nazarene University] for about fifteen years,” Gresham said.

Strawn will assume his duties on September 1.



Dr. Mike Redwine, incoming VP for Student Development, speaks to students during the annual LEAD dinner at the Greshams' home. (Photo by Brad Crofford)

## Peterson as new HR Director, future of Career Center yet to be announced

**Brad Crofford, Editor-in-Chief**

This article is part of a series covering changes in personnel during the summer of 2012.

In June 2009, Chris Peterson began his role as Director of Career Services and Student Employment. On August 14th, he started his new role as Director of Human Resources (HR). With this change, details about the future of the Career Center remain to be announced.

The position of Director of HR became available when former director Rick Powell opted for the university’s Voluntary Transitional Retirement (VTR) plan. Powell will continue to work up to half-time for up to three years, ensuring a smooth transition as Peterson settles into the role.

Peterson comes in with some previous experience in HR.

“When I first got out of college, I worked in HR. I have had some HR responsibilities in all my jobs,” Peterson says.

## Student leaders prepare for NSI by planning, training, ziplining

**Kira Roberts, Layout Editor**

When freshmen and transfer students arrive on campus, they might not realize the amount of work put into their NSI experience.

Before SNU was swarming with new students, student leaders engaged in almost two weeks of planning and training. They arrived early on campus and began team building exercises, attended leadership training sessions and planned with their specific committees.

Marian Redwine, Director of Community Life, said, “The planning for LEAD retreat and NSI is all the time. We’re constantly trying to come up with good ideas for a game, a talk, a theme— some way to get a point across or to build relationships.”

The students who arrived early included Student Government Association members, Resident

Peterson applied as an internal candidate when a public search was made to fill the position and was interviewed in late June. He had already earned Powell’s high regard by that point.

“Several months ago Chris came to me and asked about this position. I truly got excited when I told the administrative officer that he was interested in transferring. There is no one I would recommend more than Chris to be taking my place. He has already earned the respect of the campus. He has proven integrity, and he is a proven leader,” Powell says.

A university-wide search committee selected Peterson unanimously, incoming Vice President for Financial Affairs Dr. Scott Strawn says. Peterson served under Strawn while in Student Development and will continue to do so as a result of Strawn’s new role.

As the director of HR, Peterson will be responsible for a broad portfolio, including hiring, ben-

efits, firing, payroll/compensation, employee orientation and training, grievances and complaints, and the new wellness/health program.

“He will really help our employees...and students want our employees to be happy because happy employees do better work, so he’ll do a great job,” Strawn says.

With Peterson switching to HR, the future of the Career Center has yet to be announced.

“It would be great to have [the position of director of Career Services and Student Employment] filled fast for the benefit of our students and businesses,” Peterson says.

Peterson says that though employers can currently post jobs directly, this does not replace the position. Though plans have been formulated, few details have been announced.

“We’ve got some plans. When I say we, certainly it’s Mike Redwine’s [incoming VP for Student Development] plan at this point, and he’ll be making some announcements



Chris Peterson speaks with a student during an annual Job Fair in 2009. (Photo provided courtesy of MST.)

about this in the near future. We’re working on a way to cover some of those responsibilities in the interim, and we feel pretty good about that. But, I think we’ve got some exciting plans,” Strawn says.

“What I feel comfortable saying at this time is that Chris Peterson’s position will be filled, but the job description is likely to be reconfigured as we work to complete the overall transition in Student Development,” Redwine says.

Advisors, NSI Mentors, Echo and Arrow staff and student-athlete representatives. These students participated in several days of planning and LEAD Retreat.

LEAD Retreat took place on campus, in and around Oklahoma City, and at the Fin and Feather Resort at Lake Tenkiller. The first day involved a service project and ropes course at Shiloh Camp.

Kenzie Redwine, senior English education major, said, “The service project is fabulous. It’s a little hot but we’re having fun!”

While many students thought a service project was a fitting way to start LEAD Retreat, there was not enough work to keep approximately 150 student leaders busy.

“The first team that had to do the cleaning had to do most of the cleaning because when I went in, the second team really didn’t do that much,” said Samuel Ortega,

senior Latino ministries major.

On the second day, students headed to the Fin and Feather Resort at Lake Tenkiller for the remainder of LEAD Retreat. Activities included team-building exercises, reflection, time on the lake, worship led by Snowbarger RD, Anthony Puryear, and sophomore Curtis Hahn and more.

This schedule involved a few changes from previous years, including an additional day of NSI on the front end and the service day at Shiloh Camp during the first day of LEAD Retreat.

“We wanted to be sure we had some team-building exercises somehow,” Redwine said. “We can do that down at Tenkiller, but then we have to create it, so why do that if it’s already built? So that’s what we ended up doing.”

Though students seemed to enjoy the ropes course, the

reduction of the number of days at Lake Tenkiller was less popular.

“There is a lot of difference between what one day can do,” Ortega said. “Last year when a lot of us spent another day, we got to know each other more... We got really cool with each other, but I don’t see it this time.”

Beyond the event planning and team building activities, the different groups learned about their individual strengths and how each team fit together. It was a time of growth and self-realization that will, in turn, affect the majority of the student body as everyone begins to interact when school starts.

Student-athlete representatives not only participated in leadership activities, but also began pre-season practices with the rest of their team. Most teams arrived on Saturday, the 11th and have set a tone their hard work and team bonding.



## Serving and being served (SNU Haiti trip May 2012)

Ronna Fisher, Assistant Editor

Before our nine-student mission team left Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to reach our project site in Chemin-de-Granges, our site-coordinator told us, “We are going to build a church, and if we have time we will build a building.”

This perspective flavored the entire experience of our Southern Nazarene University mission trip in May to rebuild a Nazarene church that was destroyed during the major 2010 earthquake. The church in Chemin-de-Granges is the last of the denomination’s church buildings in Haiti that needed to be rebuilt.

When the earthquake shook the region, the corners of the church’s roof began cracking and crumbling, and the congregation, which runs 250 members, not including children, felt unsafe meeting in the building. For the past two years, they had been meeting in someone’s home for worship each week.

Although I never saw her, our leader told us that as we drove into Chemin-de Grange he saw a woman dancing on her porch at our arrival. That is how excited she was to finally have a completed church building.

I take my church for granted every Sunday morning. I expect a big, air-conditioned building with cushioned pews, but the people living in this village had waited two years for the resources for a small, one-roomed, concrete building with a tin roof.

Before we had planned our trip, the unstable building had been torn down and new walls and foundation were built. So our team completed the work by painting the building, constructing pews, and topping it with a tin roof.

More important than working on the church, however, we built relationships. We became friends with children, adults and each other. We worked alongside each other. We laughed and made, what I hope will be, lasting memories.

One teenage boy who I befriended told me, “I will remember you for life. Will you remember me for life?” It did not matter that we spoke different languages; we spoke a greater language

of friendship through Christ.

One night during a team meeting, someone mentioned how he just kept thinking about how he would see and worship with all of our new friends in heaven one day. By entering into this other culture we partook of God’s kingdom. We built eternal friendships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. They made an impact on us, and I hope we made an impact on them as well.

Almost everyone who comes back from a mission trip will say they feel they have been served rather than being the one who did the serving. This trip was the same. The servant hearts of the people of Chemin-de-Grange’s humbled me.

When we arrived at the work site, women and men were lined up to help the team unpack all of the supplies. I would have to wait a long time for a chance to carry something, and as soon as I had something in my arms I would turn around just to have it taken by someone else.

The women had gone to great lengths to fill up large buckets of water for us so we could have water and showers – something that is rare and precious in Haiti.

They carried bucket after bucket of water on top of their heads from the well for us. Men shoveled rocks to create showers for us and hung sheets so we would have privacy. The women worked all day with our cook so we could have a big, warm meal when it was time to eat and clean dishes to use each time. They allowed us the private use of their church’s bathrooms and then cleaned them everyday.

On the last day at the work site, the team went to the beach. The church was pretty much done, but many adults kept working inside the church, sweeping and cleaning. While I played with kids and the rest of the team enjoyed the ocean, the congregation members kept working. The pastor talked of our sacrifice, but they sacrificed for us. They served us. They touched our hearts.

If I were honest with myself, what I miss most about Haiti – more than the beautiful views, the mountains and oceans, the people,

or the county – is who I was while there. I felt beautiful, strong, brave and loved. I felt at peace with who I was. That is what God sees when He looks at me. That is who I really am. I do not have to be in Haiti to be me. And no one has to go on a mission trip (although I highly recommend it) to be a part of God’s kingdom.

When God looks at each one of us, he sees a story – great potential. The best way I and anyone else can serve Haiti is through the way we live our lives. The humility and servant’s heart that the Haitians have can be emulated within our day-to-day lives.

As Dean Nelson writes in his book, *God Hides in Plain Sight*, “The call on our lives is to give form to the invisible spirit in all that we do.” I am choosing to bring Haiti back with me by believing in who I am and carefully choosing my priorities. I am choosing to be an advocate, not just for Haiti but people—God’s kingdom. I am going to be an advocate—for justice, for equality, and above all, love.

—This article and the accompanying pictures were first published by Engage Magazine in June 2012 and are used here by permission.



## Romney makes wrong choice with VP pick for “America’s Comeback Team”

Brad Crofford, Editor-in-Chief

Presumptive Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has announced his running-mate. Paul Ryan, the chairman of the House budget committee and a member of Congress for over a decade, has been added as the second part of “America’s Comeback Team.”

If you thought Romney was too moderate, then Ryan may seem like a great addition to the team and a sign of good things to come.

Ryan is a favorite among Tea Party types. In his position on the House budget committee, he has frequently advocated for smaller government. While Romney left some conservatives with a bad taste in their mouths because of the appearance of flip-flopping on such issues as abortion and universal healthcare, Ryan has consistently been staunchly conservative.

With this move though, Romney seems to have abandoned moderates and independents in order to energize his base and silence conservative critics. With his private sector business experience being heavily criticized by Democrats, he has doubled down on the economy as his primary issue by selecting a vice-presidential candidate with solid bona fides on the economy (in the form of his budget chairmanship). He has also added a legislator to balance out his executive experience, a Wisconsinite to balance out his northeastern and northwestern ties, and a relatively youthful candidate that will contrast with Vice President Joe Biden in vice-presidential debates.

However, I think selecting Ryan was a bad

“Ryan’s budget ideas are highly controversial and open Romney’s campaign up to further criticism.”

choice for Romney for multiple reasons.

First, Ryan does not balance out Romney’s lack of foreign policy experience. For example, Romney made a highly-publicized international faux pas when he questioned London’s preparedness for the Olympics soon after arriving there. Though Romney may visit England, Israel, and other countries before the election, he still does not have the foreign policy experience, including a crucial grasp of diplomatic nuance and subtlety, that Obama and his administration has acquired over these years.

In this area, two better choices for Romney



Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) addresses CPAC 2011, a conservative conference, in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Gage Skidmore, used under Creative Commons license.)

would have been Jon Huntsman and Condoleezza Rice. Both would have brought legitimacy to the ticket in terms of international experience.

Second, Ryan’s budget ideas are highly controversial and open Romney’s campaign up to further criticism. While his extolling debt reduction and fiscal responsibility may appeal to fiscal conservatives, the elimination or major transformation of such popular programs as Medicare and Pell grants will force the Romney campaign to either: a) distance itself from Ryan’s budget ideas, or b) support them.

On the one hand, if the Romney campaign distances itself from Ryan’s public budgetary ideas from the past, then it waters down Ryan’s importance and Romney gains little value from Ryan’s inclusion on the Republican ticket.

If, on the other hand, the Romney campaign supports Ryan’s budget ideas, then it provides a wealth of potential avenues of attack for the Obama campaign; anything that Ryan has advocated in his budgetary proposals could be used against Romney unless Romney specifically disavows it.

Third, choosing Ryan limits the Romney campaign’s potential attacks on the Obama-Biden ticket. In 2008, a major talking point for the McCain-Palin ticket is that they were “mavericks,” not members of the Washington elites who do not understand the average Joe (or average Joe the Plumber), and thus were willing to make needed reforms and changes.

In this context, it was natural to attack career politicians such as Joe Biden for their long and exclusive service in Wash-

ington. Ryan, however, is also a career politician who has served most, if not all, of his adult professional life on Capitol Hill, first as a staffer and then as a congressman.

At the point where Romney’s running-mate is a career politician, the Obama campaign can reasonably cry foul if the label of “career politician” is used pejoratively toward Biden. Romney could have avoided this by choosing someone who is an experienced politician yet has some distance from D.C., such as Mike Huckabee.

Overall, Romney doubled-down on the economy as the key issue in this campaign, and while this may earn him some votes as the economy indeed remains an important, issue the Obama-Biden ticket will be better bal-

“Romney could have avoided this by choosing someone who is an experienced politician yet has some distance from D.C.”

anced in terms of experience (including that gained over the past three years) and thus be able to engage a broader population of voters on a wider variety of topics in a substantive, authoritative way. McCain’s choice of Palin in 2008 ended up doing his campaign more harm than good, and it seems to me that 2012 may be more of the same for the GOP ticket.



## New SGA exec hopes to bring athletes and students together as one



SGA execs Jared Webster (right) and Jake O'Bannon greet new students at the NSI Fair by offering to read their minds. (Photo by Kyle Pierce)

### Kendra Nixon, Content Editor

The Student Government Association has added a new face to its team of student leaders.

Jared Webster, Athletic Relations Executive, is taking on the new position and hoping to make some changes for the better.

"The purpose of Athletic Relations is to effectively support student athletes through boosting attendance to sporting events while also bringing athletes and students together to create a better, more diverse community," Webster said.

In the past, the relationship between athletes and non-athletes has been troubled because of lack of involvement on both ends. SGA seeks to mend this relationship by setting goals and making plans for the upcoming school year.

Webster said, "We want to raise the average attendance of students to each athletic event, create more school spirit through cheering sections and effectively start to close the gap between athlete and non-athlete."

Webster and class vice-presidents Ethan Fruehling, Joel Frees and Brady Allred are working on ways to accomplish this by communicating between athletics, SGA and the student body. All SGA representatives plan to emphasize advertising and planning. Athletic Relations will serve as a liaison for all of these areas.

In the past, there have been many conflicts between athlete's game schedules and SGA event schedules. Athletes were unable to attend events be-

cause of games and vice-versa.

A more specific plan of action was the creation of a group called the Weathermen. "This group will essentially be the student section/crazy people at games," Webster said.

SGA along with other student leaders are excited to see the outcome of this new addition to the student government position and expect great results. Webster advised students to help with this effort by coming to Athletic Relation meetings, going to athletic events and attending SGA events.

"My goal is to provide multiple outlets for students and athletes to connect," Webster said. "I think eventually we will all just see that the only difference between the non-athlete and the athlete is that one is playing a sport."

**SNU**

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**Athletics**

## Jake's movie review: The Dark Knight Rises, best movie of the summer

### Jake O'Bannon, Staff Reporter

Have you ever been in a church service where the pastor gives away the main point of the sermon at the beginning rather than in the conclusion? Their goal is to put out what they want you to know right off that bat – they want to make sure you know what they are trying to tell you.

Well, I am about to do the same to you, so here it goes: The Dark Knight Rises was the best movie of the summer and concluded one of the Top 5 movie trilogies of all time.

Am I making a decision based on the fact that I am a "Batman-Super-Fan?" Probably. But at least I am admitting that to you up front, right? Don't get me wrong: I have reasons for my obsession with the third installment of the Christopher Nolan Batman series. The reasons come down to three simple categories: casting, writing, and the trilogy as a whole.

Christian Bale (Batman) and Tom Hardy (Bane) alone make for an appealing cast, but when you add Gary Oldman, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Anne Hathaway, Marion Cotillard, Morgan Freeman, and Michael Caine, you have a Dream Team. And speaking of the Dream Team, let's play a game. Think about whom you would pick if you were able to choose each of the characters in The Dark Knight Rises. Seriously, it could be anybody. Nicholas Cage could be your Bane, the lead singer from Nickelback could be Commissioner Gordon – it's up to you!

The funny thing is, when I play that game I cannot think of anyone else besides the actual cast to

fill those spots. I believe that is a testament to how well casted this film truly was. There is no denying that the cast was pretty much made up of an ensemble of past Nolan movies like The Prestige (Bale and Caine) and Inception (Gordon-Levitt, Hardy, Cotillard, and Cillian Murphy), but there is also no denying the power of that crew.

Take, for example, the biggest question mark of the film going into the premiere: Anne Hathaway. When I saw she was going to play Catwoman all I could think about was the fact that Ella Enchanted was going to be tagging along with Batman. But honestly, she was stunning. She played the role with both ferocity and sensitivity (characteristics of an actual cat, am I right?). The leads were unbelievable as well, with Bale continuing his role of the Dark Knight, and Hardy portraying one of the most haunting villains I have ever seen (though I still give the nod to Ledger's Joker). But my biggest surprise from the film was Michael Caine, who plays Alfred the Butler. Do you ever have moments in a film where you can't wait for a character to make an appearance? This is how it was for me with Caine. Each and every scene he was in brought me to the verge of tears, and his presence alone brought a sense of both calmness and passion to the screen. I cannot compliment the casting and the acting in this film enough.

Listen, I understand that there have been some scattered negative reviews of the film. But how could there not be when it followed one of the greatest movies

of all time (The Dark Knight)? Here is why I cannot give this film any kind of negative review: The Dark Knight Rises cannot be looked at as just one movie because it is the conclusion of a narrative. Through Batman Begins, The Dark Knight, and The Dark Knight Rises, director Christopher Nolan has created a whole new image of Batman. Instead of the confident, somewhat flawless Batman of the past, we find a Batman who is unsure of himself. This Batman is not only the hunter of evil, but the hunted of good. This Batman takes on the role that is necessary for the greater good, no matter what it does to his image.

As far as I'm concerned that's the formula for a true hero – someone who looks outside

himself in order to look out for others. Nolan's Dark Knight gives us an image of that through his trilogy. The movie was fantastic, but the trilogy as a whole was a masterpiece.

I could go on and on about minor details in the film, or how Nolan changed superhero movies forever, but I won't. Instead, I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from the film: "A hero can be anyone. Even a man doing something as simple and reassuring as putting a coat around a little boy's shoulders to let him know that the world hadn't ended."

Let the words of Batman be a reminder that any one of us can be a hero. Are we available to rise up to that challenge?



The Dark Knight Rises features an aging Batman who rises to face a new threat. (Photo by marvelousRoland, used under Creative Commons License.)

## Top 8 Reasons to Join The Echo

- **DISCOVER THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY IN A NEW WAY.** Through your assignments, you will get to know students, organizations, and the administration on a deeper level.
- **HELP OTHERS.** Your news articles and photographs will help keep the student body informed and involved.
- **BE HEARD.** Share what's important to you through an opinion piece.
- **IMPROVE YOUR WRITING.** This is a unique chance to practice your writing skills and get feedback and support from our talented editorial staff.
- **RECEIVE CLASS CREDIT.** You have the option of signing up for the "Newspaper Practicum" course and receiving 1-3 credit hours per semester.
- **BUILD YOUR RESUME.** Not only will you show your dedication through your involvement, you will make others go "Wow" as you do.
- **CREATE A PORTFOLIO.** Writing and taking photos regularly gives you the opportunity to create an impressive body of work, especially important if you're interested in journalism jobs.
- **GET INVOLVED.** Because you only do college once.

## Favorite answers from the NSI fair

**Biggest fear:** "Dementors (haven't perfected my patronus yet)." -Cindy Benton

**A skill I am proud of:** "singing the wrong words to the songs on the radio." -Leslie Davies

**Pet peeve:** "Chip bags being half-filled." -Ryan Hannay

**Biggest fear:** "Fear itself...or snakes." -Taylor Greenhill

**As a child, I dreamed of being:** "The next Britney Spears and a psychologist." -Jordan Sloan

**If I could have lunch with any three people in the world, dead or alive, they would be:** "Hitler (so I shoot him), my past self, the inventor of ramen [noodles]" -Dwayne Powell

**As a child, I dreamed of being:** "An astronaut and lawyer and missionary all at the same time." -Jennifer Wachtel

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