

irish

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alum can't stay
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Hard art

Hard work and art
get together in one
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Alumni notes

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*Mike Kastler, MSF
NDHS, Class of 1975*

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IRISH is a magazine devoted to the alumni and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory, Notre Dame, Oakland Catholic, Pontiac Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick schools. It is distributed free of charge. For more information, please see the alumni section of Notre Dame Prep's web site at www.ndpma.org/alumni.

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ON THE COVER:
Hard work and art get together in one determined teacher, former Notre Dame art instructor Kirby Smith. See page 30.

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A WORD FROM YOUR ALUMNI DIRECTOR

As we begin a new school year, I look back on all that we accomplished last year and I am so proud of the work we have done. We have engaged more alumni than ever! Attendance at alumni events has reached an all-time high!

We are connecting with alumni on our social media platforms and just love hearing from so many alumni! The restructured alumni board is in great shape and ready to expand! Board Chair Scott Lockhart '98 (NDP), has completed his term as chair and has stepped down from the board. We want to thank Scott for his countless years serving on the board and his two-year term as board chair. We are hoping to fill the board chair role as well as a few more spots on the board. We are looking for representatives from not only Notre Dame Prep and Notre Dame High School, but Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic, St. Fredrick and St. Michael. If you are interested in joining the board please contact me. It's an exciting time to be a part of what's happening on campus!

The fall is a very busy time here on campus and we invite you back to participate in one of the many upcoming events. Join us on Sept. 30 for Oktoberfest in the main gym. Enjoy dinner, dancing and cocktails! The Advancement Office will be sponsoring two tables for alumni; if you are interested in attending, please email me at bcampbell@ndpma.org. We will be providing free tickets for the first 20 alums.

Homecoming Weekend is set for October 6-7. Festivities begin on Friday night as we invite alums to the Fr. Colin house for a pre-game

tailgate and premier parking at the lower division at 5 p.m. Stop by with your families and enjoy a beverage and some appetizers before heading to the alumni tent at 6:30. The game starts at 7 p.m. Early the next morning, the alumni association will again host the Notre Dame 5k Fun Run beginning at 9 a.m. in the lower division parking lot. Cost is \$20 per runner and new this year we will be having a costume contest! Come join the fun by registering at our website at www.ndpma.org/nd5k.

Finally, we are excited to offer an alumni theatre night on opening night of the upper division's fall musical, Cole Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella, on Nov. 17 at Avondale High School. Again, we will provide free tickets for the first 20 alums interested in attending. Please email me at bcampbell@ndpma.org by Nov. 1 to reserve your ticket. Following the show, the alumni office will be hosting a cast party backstage for all alumni.

We hope that at least one of these upcoming events piques your interest. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Beth Campbell

Beth Campbell
Director of Alumni Relations, Notre Dame



NDP once again named best Catholic school in the state

For the second time in three years, Notre Dame Preparatory School was named the top Catholic high school in the state of Michigan, according to Niche, a national organization that annually ranks colleges and K-12 schools across the country. Niche also rated Notre Dame Prep the 6th best private high school, religious or non-religious, in the state and 65th best Catholic high school in the entire country.

In 2016, NDP also was named the #1 Catholic high school in Michigan by Niche.

For this latest round of rankings, Niche named Notre Dame Prep #5 of the best college prep high schools in Michigan (public or private).

For K-12 private schools in Michigan, Niche rated NDPMA 3rd best, with Cranbrook and Country Day ranked one and two, respectively, on the list.

According to Niche, the 2018 Best Catholic High Schools ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall experience at a Catholic high school. This grade takes into account key factors such as the strength of academics, school culture and diversity, as well as student and parent reviews, in an

attempt to measure the overall excellence of the school.

"Not only is Notre Dame the #1 best Catholic high school in Michigan, but it's within the top 100 in America (out of over 1,100)," said Jessica Hair, Niche's marketing outreach coordinator. "Our rankings really strive to capture the entire experience of attending a school, so Notre Dame's great ranking represents excellence among all aspects of the student experience – from great test scores and high college enrollment rates to student and parent satisfaction with the quality of education."

Factors used in the ranking include average ACT/SAT composite scores; "college scores," which means the average score of colleges that students are most interested in or go on to attend based on Niche's best overall college rankings; four-year matriculation rate, which is the percentage of seniors who go on to four-year colleges; and student-teacher ratios.

Parent and student surveys of opinions on the overall experience at each school also are part of the rating process. Data and statistics also obtained by the U.S. Department of Education, says Niche. ■





HOMECOMING

Notre Dame Homecoming Weekend: October 6-7, 2017
Pre-game tailgate, alumni tent, football game, 5K Fun Run

Friday, October 6

Pre-game tailgate at the Fr. Colin House: 5 p.m.

Tent opens: 6:30 p.m.

Varsity football vs. Waterford Kettering High School: 7 p.m.

Kozyra Alumni Field, Notre Dame Prep, Pontiac

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALUMNI AND FAMILIES!

Alumni from Notre Dame Prep, Notre Dame High School, Oakland Catholic, Pontiac Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick are invited to attend.

Friends and family welcome. Visit the alumni tent for complimentary food and beverages.

Saturday, October 7

Fourth Annual Notre Dame 5K Fun Run

Registration 8 a.m. • Run begins at 9 a.m.

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THE NDAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Notre Dame Alumni Association's current board of directors:

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Notre Dame's IB diploma success rate again far surpasses U.S. average



Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced in early July that 95% of those enrolled in the school's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) had successfully received an IB Diploma. That number nearly matches

last year's outstanding IB-Diploma Program graduation result of 97% and is far ahead of U.S. average pass rates.

According to figures released in late August by the International Baccalaureate to Notre Dame Prep, in 2017, the U.S. average was 67.04%.

Kim Anderson, who is an IB Diploma program coordinator at NDPMA and a Spanish teacher, said that the results were "awesome."

"Our kids did an amazing job and I could not be more proud of them," she said. Thanks to all of our NDP teachers who taught them over the past four years. We are so blessed to have such a fantastic teaching staff."

Anderson also noted that in the past seven years, Notre Dame has not had any student in its IB Diploma program fail the Theory of Knowledge course or the extended essay, two very critical components of the program.

Notre Dame Head of School Andy Guest said this year's results are terrific.

"I am very proud of the hard work put forth by all of our IB Diploma Program students and faculty," he said. "Each of these 42 students could have chosen a less rigorous academic path, but they all chose to push themselves to achieve a higher level of college preparedness. They will certainly benefit from their efforts both in college and in life. Congratulations to them all."

Notre Dame announces new trustees, including alum

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced that Elizabeth Brisley and Fabian Fregoli have been named school trustees. According to school officials, the new trustees were approved by the board on August 16, 2017.

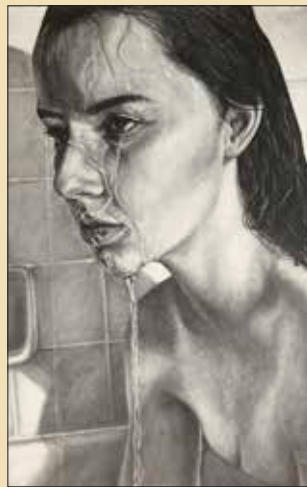
Daron Gifford, chair of the school's Board of Trustees, said Brisley and Fregoli are great complements to an already robust group.



"Liz and Fabian represent so well the future of our great school," Gifford said. "They are strong advocates of Notre Dame's central mission and their impressive resumes will bring wonderfully diverse viewpoints to our board."

Fr. Paul Frechette, s.m., who is provincial superior of the Society of Mary, U.S.A. Province, which sponsors Notre Dame's Catholic identity and mission, also approved the two new trustees.

Notre Dame alum's art is displayed in D.C.



Gretchen Altenberger, who graduated from Notre Dame in May, has been honored with the year-long display of her 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Gold Key drawing titled, "Drained," within the offices of the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Altenberger was among student-artists from Notre Dame who earned 45 awards in the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition for the Southeastern Michigan region.

According to Sandy LewAllen, Notre Dame's art chair, earning 45 awards tops the number of awards ever won at Notre Dame Prep.

"I am so proud of all our art students and their efforts," she said in January after learning of the awards, which included 16 Gold Keys, 16 Silver Keys and 13 Honorable Mentions.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have an impressive legacy dating back to 1923. Over the years, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have grown to become the longest-running, most prestigious program for creative teens in the U.S., and the nation's largest source of scholarships for creative young artists and writers. A noteworthy roster of past winners includes Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, Joyce Carol Oates, Stephen King and John Updike.

Altenberger, who is attending the College for Creative Studies this year, received one of only seven full scholarships from the prestigious art school located in Detroit.

Christian, upright, academic

When Notre Dame Prep senior Mitchell Ballew got to West Virginia in July to help with rebuilding efforts after a June 2016 flood devastated the southeastern portion of the state, he wasn't quite prepared for what he saw.

"It was an eye-opening experience to witness the destruction caused by the flood," he said. "I was glad I was able to help some of the families who were most severely impacted."

Ballew and a high school youth group from the Clarkston



United Methodist Church traveled to Rainelle, West Virginia, to assist with the Appalachia Service Project's long-term recovery effort to help rebuild the community, which was the epicenter of last year's deadly flood.

One of the worst in state history, the flood destroyed more than 1,000 homes statewide and 23 people lost their lives.

Rainelle was devastated, including 90% of the homes near the downtown area. Five people in Rainelle did not survive the catastrophic flood.

Ballew was joined by 36 other hard-working youth and adult chaperones in Rainelle a little more than a year since the flood damaged or destroyed more than 300 homes in this small Appalachian town. Ballew and crew partnered with Tennessee-based ASP, whose mission is to make homes warmer, safer and drier across the Appalachian region.

For Mitchell Ballew, he was glad he was able to assist those who were in very desperate circumstances. And he looks forward to getting back if possible to continue that work.

"I learned a lot and hope to help again any way I can," he said.

Olympian signs on to head Notre Dame swim team

The Notre Dame athletic department announced this summer that Nimrod (Nim) Shapira Bar-Or, a two-time participant in the Summer Olympics, has been hired to coach girls swimming and diving at the school's upper division.

A member of the 2008 and 2012 Israeli Olympic swim team, Shapira Bar-Or currently heads the AQUA Swim Club based in southeast Michigan, named one of the top 200 swim clubs in the U.S. He has been a member of the national team of Israel since the age of 15 and has competed at all international levels including the Maccabiah Games, European Championships, World Championships as well as the Olympics.

"We are excited to welcome Nim to our coaching staff," said Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director. "Nim brings a variety of experiences with him that I believe will translate well to our program. He is the total package: He embraces the mission of the school, supports multi-sport athletes and has an overall astounding passion for swimming. I think Nim will

quickly connect with our community and fit nicely into our girls swim program."

For Shapira Bar-Or, he said he's honored to have the trust of the Notre Dame athletic department in leading the girls swim team.

"Swimming is my life passion," he said. "And my philosophy is to build a supportive swim community for all swimmers at all levels. Very excited for fun and fast swimming at NDP!"

A native of Jerusalem, Israel, Shapira Bar-Or attended high school in Florida where he was named Times-Union Florida All-First Coast Swimmer of the Year. He graduated from the University of Arizona where he was a silver medalist at the NCAA Championships at College Station, Texas, as part of the Wildcats 800 free relay team (6:11.82). In 2010, he was a bronze medalist in the same event in Columbus, Ohio. He was named All American 12 times at Arizona.

At the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, Shapira Bar-Or earned a spot in the semifinals in the 200-meter freestyle.

He also served the Israeli military, redshirting his senior year, then returning to the Wildcats after serving his country.

In Olympic competition, Shapira Bar-Or competed on behalf of Israel at the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, China, where he swam to a 100-meter freestyle Israeli national record. In the 200-meter freestyle, he swam a 1:47.78 (also a national record) in the first heat, and a 1:48.16 in the semifinals, becoming the first Israeli swimmer to compete in an Olympic semifinals. He also competed on behalf of Israel at the 2012 Summer Olympics, which were held in London.

2017 grad gives speech, receives award at DAR Continental Congress in D.C.

Chase Glasser, who graduated from Notre Dame in May, presented a speech about his love for America in late June in front of more than 3,500 members of the Daughters of the American Revolution who had convened in Washington, D.C., for the 126th Continental Congress, the latest gathering of the longstanding service organization's annual meeting.



Please see IRISH News, page 14

Certified public alumnus

Alum and U-M nuclear engineering grad says he was ‘young, dumb and naïve’ back in high school. But even though his life has had a few twists and turns since then — including some very heartbreaking — he still believes he’s ‘blessed,’ in large part because of Notre Dame.



Left to right: Lauren and her husband, Tony Jakuszeski; Anthony LaRocca; Mike Locricchio '70 (NDHS); Alexandra (Ali) LaRocca; Michael (Mikey) LaRocca; Locricchio's late wife, Christina; and Anthony LaRocca (Ali's husband). Missing in the photo is Christiano LaRocca, who was born after the photo was taken.

Mike Locricchio, a 1970 graduate of Notre Dame High School, co-owns Metzler Locricchio Serra & Company, P.C., a CPA firm that specializes in closely held entities and their owners. It will celebrate 34 years in business in November. But if you told Locricchio 47 years ago at his graduation from Notre Dame that he would one day make a good living in accounting and finance, he likely would have said you were bonkers.

Yes, he always was good with numbers — math was a favorite subject in high school — but his career goals skewed toward engineering.

First of all, as Locricchio pointed out during a recent interview with the Notre Dame Alumni Association, despite an excellent education at Notre Dame, he considered himself to be “young, dumb and naïve”

when he finished high school. But he also thinks that if he wasn't young, dumb and naïve for nearly half his life, he wouldn't be where he is now.

“And I wouldn't have made as many of those crazy twists and turns,” he said.

NUCLEAR NEOPHYTE

After graduation from Notre Dame, Locricchio entered Western Michigan University and got into its pre-engineering program. He eventually transferred to the University of Michigan after two years at WMU.

“I still wasn't sure which engineering program to get into even after two years of college,” he said. “At U-M, I was going to room with my NDHS classmate Paul Fessler for the next two years, and I remember him saying to me that he was in the nuclear engineering program and

that I should give it a try. So I did. Remember, I was young, dumb and naïve.”

It may seem like a stretch to call someone like Locricchio, who finished near the top of his class at NDHS, “dumb” by any measure. He himself acknowledges that Notre Dame did provide him with an extraordinary education that prepped him very well for his post-secondary education as well as a career afterward.

“Many of the teachers I had at ND I still remember well,” he said. “They most certainly prepared me for college: Mr. Raymond, Mr. Cackowski, Mr. Schram, my algebra teacher, Roy Johnson. However, Jim Berch pushed me the most. I had him for calculus I and II and computer programing and I can still remember it like it was yesterday. I vividly remember Mr. Berch approaching Fessler and me to get involved with some kind of special project.”

Locricchio graduated from Michigan in the spring of 1974 with a degree in nuclear engineering. His buddy Fessler also graduated with a nuclear engineering degree and went on to obtain his master’s in nuclear engineering. Fessler currently works as a senior vice president and chief nuclear officer at DTE Energy.

“I was hired by Consumers Power (now Consumers Energy) as a staff engineer at their Palisades nuclear plant on Lake Michigan,” Locricchio said. “My first day on the job, however, didn’t start out so well. I entered a containment vessel with a senior engineer to crawl around and take a look inside. When I came out, they said I couldn’t go back in for a few days because I had a ‘little bit’ of an overexposure to radiation. I actually didn’t think it was a big deal. Remember, young, dumb and naïve!”

ON TO LAW SCHOOL

Locricchio was at Palisades for about four months when he found out he was accepted at the University of Detroit School of Law.

“So, of course, I decided to attend law school. Yep, young, dumb and naïve. . .”

Locricchio took every tax course that the law school offered and was planning to practice tax law. In April of 1977, he graduated from U-D Law and passed the bar later that summer.

He recalls one of his tax professors at U-D saying that he should try to get a job at one of the “big eight.”

“I asked him who or what that is,” Locricchio said. (‘young, dumb and naïve’) “He said I should go to one of the big eight ‘accounting firms’ and work in their tax department. So I opened the Yellow Pages and sent a resume to all eight, a move that eventually landed me a job at the Detroit office of Touche Ross & Co, now known as Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.”

During his time at Touche, Locricchio earned his CPA and continued to work there for another five years before he and two other CPAs from Touche decided to venture out on their own. In 1983, Metzler Locricchio Serra & Company, P.C., opened an office first in Birmingham and then in Troy, its current location.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS FIRST

“While working at Touche, I also was handling the tax and accounting work for my dad’s many businesses on the side,” he said. “But I felt I needed to leave the company in order to give me more time with my family. It was a struggle for the first five to seven years and I probably wouldn’t have done it if I knew it was going to take that long to see daylight. My wife was always supportive with whatever I decided to do no matter what. Remember, I was young, dumb and naïve, and she knew it!”

But this would be the last time he was young, dumb and naïve, he said.

A year after Locricchio started his own firm, his 3-year-old daughter, Lauren, was diagnosed with Wilms tumor cancer, a cancer of the kidney

that primarily affects children. Lauren had her kidney removed and then went through radiation and chemo for the next three years.

“I am very happy to say she is still with us and will turn 36 next week,” Locricchio said. “She actually is a supervisor at my firm and has been working for us for almost 15 years.”

Locricchio and his wife have two daughters: Lauren, and Alexandra, who will be 35 in December. “They are to the day 18 months apart — and all the credit for how they’ve turned out goes to my wife, Chris,” he said. “I wasn’t the disciplinarian in the family — I wore the white hat and my wife wore the black hat.”

Locricchio said he dated his wife for five years before they were married in 1977. Then, sadly, after nearly 39 years of their marriage, Chris passed away on April 6, 2016.

“Wow, do I miss her! I was with her for almost 45 years. She was diagnosed in the summer of 2014 with scleroderma, which is an autoimmune disease that attacks the lungs and heart, and after almost two years of struggling with her breathing, she passed away.”

Now blessed with three grandchildren, Locricchio, who lives in Clinton Township, remains busy with work and with family and friends, many of whom go back to his Notre Dame High School days.

“My memories of NDHS are endless,” he said. “It would probably take another hour or two to go over all of them. From the M-80 that Danny Giangrande threw outside the drafting-room window to graduation night, which I won’t go into, to the parties on Sunday after football games, and on and on.”

STAYING CONNECTED

Locricchio said this interview also got him thinking of all the clients he currently serves who are fellow NDHS grads. “From the Class of 1968, about five to eight alums,” he said. “From 1969, about five to seven; from the Class of 1970, at least 20 to 30, from 1971 through 1980, probably 20 to 30.”

“Plus, at least once a year I still see about 15 to 20 Notre Dame alums,” he said. “Budd Scheele, Greg Sadowski, Paul Fessler, Jim Sheridan, Joe Mazzenga, Bill Lantzy, Rick Schanta, Jim Hewson, Terry Miller and his numerous brothers, Tim, Tom, etc., Chris Marzolf’s widowed wife and son (Chris passed away in 1976), Frank Migliazzo, Terry Bulgarelli. Well, enough of that for now. . .”

“I feel pretty blessed to have a career that allows me to keep in touch with all those guys. They all are great, very supportive friends! How much more blessed can a guy be!”

Locricchio reiterated the fact that he believes NDHS most certainly gave him the initial educational chops to succeed and to obtain the successful career that he now enjoys.

“But,” he said, “the friendships that I made during my time at Notre Dame is the best part of graduating from that school. Especially over the last year or two with my wife’s passing, all my Notre Dame friends have stepped up and given me the support and love that I really need at this time. Besides my family, it’s those guys from NDHS who mean the most to me now!” ■

Metzler Locricchio Serra & Co. P.C. is located at 1800 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 100, Troy, MI 48064-3531. Website: mlscocpa.com; Phone: 248-822-9010; Email: info@mlscocpa.com



Locricchio founded Metzler Locricchio Serra and Company, P.C., in 1983.

Season of the Bees

The 22nd season for Notre Dame robotics turned out to be one for the ages.

Notre Dame's Killer Bees, the school's award-winning robotics team, is getting ready for a new season. Jim Zondag, an engineer at FCA Chrysler and team leader for the Bees, checked in shortly after the end of last season to define and explain how the team ended up with its third state championship along with a host of other wins and accolades during the 2016-17 season.

His first word was "wow," which is a pretty good summation of the season and of the Bees. "It was another great season for our team," he said. "And it was our 22nd year of competitive robotics."



Members of Notre Dame's Killer Bees robotics team are flying high after winning their third state championship.

According to Zondag, the game challenge prescribed by FIRST Robotics at the beginning of the season was called "SteamWorks." It's a highly interactive three vs. three robot game involving gathering and scoring large plastic gears, shooting plastic whiffle balls into a goal, and climbing a rope with the robot, which was how teams could gain bonus points at the end of the each game.

"Our team of 41 students worked very hard to design and build another great robot," he said. "The mentors and students worked together every day in January and February to create CAD models, fabricate parts, write software, install electronics, assemble systems, perform testing, and train for competition."

Zondag said his team typically builds two robots each year, and this year both of the Killer Bees' machines were completed on time well before the Feb. 21 project deadline.

"These robots were very fast and very capable, and we had high hopes for the new season," he said.

Key members of the team were also chosen before competition began, and the Bees tabbed as its "competition team" Notre Dame seniors Adam Calvaneso (driver), Cory Ness (operator), Mary Riss (pilot) and Laura Lund (human player). So it was all systems go for the Bees, who were very anxious to get the robot rolling in real competition.

SEASON BEGINS IN SOUTHFIELD

The season started with the Southfield district competition. Zondag said the first event is always the hardest, but he believed both the robot and team were ready.

"We came out strong, going 11-1 in qualifying and getting ranked as the #1 seed after 12 rounds," he said. "We formed an alliance with Birmingham High School and Brother Rice High School for the playoffs, and won the event setting a state-high score of 397 points. We also won the 'Industrial Design Award' for best robot design. This was actually the seventh year in a row that our team had won a season-opening event. The new season was off to a great start!"

Two weeks later, the Bees went to their second district event of the season, this time in Waterford. And once again, the team performed very well, scoring even better than Southfield.

"This event was much more competitive, with numerous big-name teams from the area competing," said Zondag. "The Killer Bees were the #1 draft in the alliance selection and were chosen by the legendary Team 67 from Milford. Our teams swept through the playoffs, but an unfortunate electronics failure caused us to lose in the finals, and we ended up in second place at the end of the event."

The Bees did not go home empty-handed, though, as they won the "Innovation in Controls Award" for having the best software controls of all the robots. So with one gold, one silver, and two major awards in hand, the Killer Bees finished their official two Michigan district events ranked 6th overall in Michigan out of 451 teams. This put them in a great spot when they eventually got to the state championship, according to Zondag.

HEADING ACROSS THE BORDER

During the last season, robotics in the province of Ontario, Canada, moved to a district robotics tournament format similar to Michigan and this change meant that there are now opportunities for inter-district play between the two regions (and countries). The Notre Dame team took advantage of this and



The Bees pit crew is hard at work on this year's FRC robot.



Notre Dame's robot performed very well during the 2017 season. Its tasks included gathering and scoring large plastic gears, shooting plastic whiffle balls into a goal, and climbing a rope.

arranged to play its third district event for the season, but this time in Windsor.

"It was a great tournament, with several of the big name Canadian teams attending," Zondag said. "And once again, the Killer Bees were on top of their game. We finished in third place after 12 rounds of qualifying and were the #1 draft again."

The team did well in the Windsor playoffs along with two Canadian partners and finished in second place overall after a very close and competitive finals. The Bees also were awarded the "Creativity Award" for its "innovative design approach" to the game.

ON TO 'STATES'

Next up was the 2017 Michigan robotics state championship, the penultimate competition for robotics teams in the state. This event was moved to Saginaw Valley State University this year and was expanded to become the largest robotics event ever held in Michigan. One-hundred-sixty teams from all over Michigan came to this three-day event, which was broken into four separate divisions of 40 teams.

The Killer Bees were slotted in the Dow Division alongside many other great teams, according to Zondag.

The Notre Dame team's experience definitely paid off as the Bees played better than ever. Ranked #1 in the division after 12 rounds of qualifying, the Bees chose the Bloomfield Hills High School Bionic Blackhawks and the Bloomfield Hills International Academy Las Guerillas to be their alliance partners.

"This was a 'neighborhood alliance' with all three of our schools located within just a few miles of each other," Zondag said. "It turned out to be a great partnership and our teams swept the playoffs, 6-0, taking home the division title. We also won the division-level 'Industrial Design Award' for having the best robot design."

Then, it was on to the big time — the state semifinals, where each of the four divisions would battle for the state title. It turned into an exciting and incredible competition, with 12 of

the very best teams from Michigan facing off against each other.

"Our alliance was not to be denied," Zondag said. "We won the semifinals easily and moved on to the finals to face Kalamazoo Team Strykeforce and their alliance in the finals. We took the finals in two rounds, ending with a 499-205 victory in match two for the event win and the state championship title!"

Zondag said it was an especially impressive win because it came against the very best teams in our state.

"This took the combined effort of our entire team," he said. "And it's the third time the Killer Bees have won the state championship in nine years! We finished the 2017 Michigan season ranked #1 overall in the state!"

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

Finally, the Bees headed to St. Louis, Missouri, for the 2017 World Championships, which were held April 26-29 with 400 of the best teams from all over the world. Going into St. Louis, the Killer Bees were ranked #6 overall on the FRC top-25 world rankings, so the team had high hopes for success. There were many great matches in the qualifying rounds, and the Killer Bees were scoring better than ever before.

"We finished in the #2 spot at the end of qualifying in our division of 86 teams in St. Louis," said Zondag. "We then partnered with teams from Canada, Minnesota, and New York for the playoffs. We played very well, but lost in the semifinals after two very close matches. However, we again were awarded the 'Industrial Design Award' for best robot design, this time at



With Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder after the Killer Bees won the 2017 state title are, from left, seniors Adam Calvaneso, Laura Lund and Mary Riss.

a championship level."

Zondag noted that Team StrykeForce from Kalamazoo, who the Bees defeated in the Michigan state finals, went on to win the 2017 FIRST World Championship in St. Louis, which helped make it a great finish to a great event.

So in summing up the 2107 robotics season, Zondag said it was one of the Killer Bees' best ever.

"I am truly amazed by the ability and dedication of all the students, mentors, and parents who make our team what it is," he said. "A huge thanks to everyone who makes this possible. And now we prepare for next year." ■

Fall open house set for Nov. 5

Open House 2017 to feature Notre Dame's 'world of education' and the number 1 Catholic high school in the state



which helped Notre Dame Prep earn the top ranking of all Catholic high schools in Michigan.

Open house visitors also will discover that Notre Dame. . .

- . . . is building a new science, arts and technology wing scheduled to open in the fall of 2018.
- . . . was the first Catholic school in the nation to offer the International Baccalaureate curriculum from junior-kindergarten through 12th grade (IB-PYP, IB-MYP and IB-DP).
- . . . is the only Catholic school in Michigan to offer all three IB programs.
- . . . is the only school in the state with the International Baccalaureate curriculum from junior-kindergarten through 12th grade (IB-PYP, IB-MYP and IB-DP).
- . . . was named one of the nation's Top 50 Catholic schools four times since 2005.
- . . . has 50+ music, theatre and visual-arts opportunities.
- . . . has earned well more than 200 athletic championships in its 23 years.
- . . . is a CYO-member school (athletics).

In addition, visitors to the Notre Dame campus will learn that Notre Dame graduates are more than well-prepared for success. How do we know that? NDP students are routinely sought after by the top colleges and universities in the nation. **And here are 10 facts to prove it:**

1. Notre Dame students were accepted to 150 colleges and universities in 2017.
2. Notre Dame routinely sees 100% of its graduating seniors accepted to a four-year college and university.
3. Each member of the Class of 2017 on average earned acceptance to four (4) four-year colleges and/or universities
4. Eighty-two percent of the Class of 2017 earned a merit scholarship for college.
5. The 176 students in the Class of 2017 earned more than 500 scholarships.

Join hundreds of interested parents and their children who will be attending Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy's 2017 Open House on Sunday, November 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. They — and you — will experience the school's junior-kindergarten through 12th grades and learn about what the school's lower, middle and upper divisions have to offer in terms of an overall excellent educational experience and the school's rigorous International Baccalaureate program, all of

6. The Class of 2017 earned scholarships to 29 Catholic colleges and universities.

7. The Class of 2017 earned more than \$21 million in merit-based scholarships, which works out to more than a \$124,000 average for each member of the class.

8. Sixty-two students in the Class of 2017 gained acceptance to the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor).

9. Seven students in the Class of 2017 gained acceptance to the University of Notre Dame.

10. The Class of 2017 saw students accepted into 20 of U.S. News & World Report's Top 50 schools.

For more information: check out www.ndpma.org, or

Notre Dame Preparatory School (9-12)

1300 Giddings Rd., Pontiac
248-373-1061
koffer@ndpma.org

Notre Dame Marist Academy (6-8)

1300 Giddings Rd., Pontiac
248-373-1061
koffer@ndpma.org

Notre Dame Marist Academy (Jr.K-5)

1425 Giddings Rd., Pontiac
248-373-1061
koffer@ndpma.org



Princeton power

Busy Ivy Leaguer working on sustainable vehicle propulsion at Princeton says NDP inspired him to always aim high and set big goals



Notre Dame alum Max Schwegman is with the Formula Hybrid vehicle, a high performance open-wheeled race car built at Princeton University to specifications that called for a 0-60 mph acceleration time of 2.9 seconds.

Notre Dame alum and Princeton track-team member Max Schwegman ('14) finished a respectable 29 out of 88 competitors in the men's 60-meter dash in the 2017 David Hemery Valentine Invitational held in early February at Boston University. His time was 7.11, not far from his Princeton best of 7 flat in the 60.

He's a fast runner, to be sure, but running is not the only way Schwegman, now a senior, has been swiftly moving through the university, which has won three indoor and two outdoor Ivy League championships during his tenure at Princeton. A mechanical and aerospace engineering major, Schwegman also has been heavily involved with the Princeton Racing Electric (PRE), a student organization dedicated to advancing and developing sustainable energy drive systems and efficient, high-performance vehicle design.

"As part of Princeton's Formula SAE team affiliated with Princeton Racing Electric, we competed in the Formula Hybrid Competition, April 27-30, at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway and took second place after some unfortunate gearbox



Schwegman and other Princeton student-athletes traveled to Vietnam to volunteer for Coach for College, a global initiative aimed at promoting higher education through sports.

malfunctions," Schwegman said.

He's also been busy with a Princeton student startup that is trying to develop electric outboard motors for small boats. "We've started with the rowing coach boat fleet at Princeton," he said, "but our goal is to push electrification more broadly into what currently is a highly unregulated and environmentally unfriendly marine industry. I am so into electric-propulsion technology, whether on land or in the water!"

All of his work with vehicle propulsion, etc., has not gone without notice as General Motors picked up Schwegman for some summer work. "I will be working full time for the next three months there on vehicle performance."

Another busy summer for sure, but very different from how he spent last year's break.

During the summer of 2016, seven Princeton student-athletes, including Schwegman, were selected to travel to the Hau Giang Province in southern Vietnam to volunteer for Coach for College, a global initiative aimed at promoting higher education through sports.

The students taught academics, sports and life skills over the course of three weeks to disadvantaged youth at various secondary schools in Vietnam. The Princeton Varsity Club provided funding for the majority of the necessary expenses associated with the charitable service trip, with the remainder of the funds being raised by the individual participants.

"I have really come to a deeper understanding of myself and my values as a result of my participation in Coach for College," said Schwegman, who added that he hopes to get the opportunity to return as a director one day. "I feel more aware of what's going on in the world around me, and I have learned how to cautiously but with charisma embrace and learn the ways of another culture — which I consider to be invaluable."

With all of this on his plate in college, Schwegman still keeps a soft spot for memories of his time at Notre Dame Prep. The Irish three-sport letter winner and High School Heisman state champ says the school always felt like family to him.

"Through academics and athletics, NDP taught me the importance of aiming high and striving toward goals that may seem out of reach," he said. "With a little support, a bit of faith, and a lot of hard work, many of these ambitions and goals become very achievable. Notre Dame provides its students with community and faith, and in turn, it inspires drive and perseverance that will always be with me. For this, I'll always be grateful, 'and our hearts forever, praise thee, Notre Dame.'" ■



Schwegman is a sprinter on the Princeton Tigers track team.

The keynote speaker for the opening night ceremony was retired NASA Flight Director Eugene Kranz, who also was awarded the DAR Medal of Honor. Additionally, the ceremony recognized retired NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson, also with the DAR Medal of Honor, and California State University Monterey Bay President Eduardo Ochoa with the DAR Americanism Medal.

Glasser received the Dr. Aura-Lee A. and James Hobbs Pittenger American History Scholarship award from the DAR during the festivities at Constitution Hall in D.C.

Glasser was the only high school senior in the U.S. chosen this year to receive the award, which was created to promote the study of American history and government. Glasser is studying American history and political science at the University of Michigan in the fall.

Notre Dame Prep announces new head baseball coach

The athletic department of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy in June named Jason Gendreau as head coach of the high school's varsity baseball team. Gendreau comes to Notre Dame after completing his 10th season last spring as head varsity baseball coach at Eisenhower High School in Utica.

Currently a teacher of business education and technology in the Utica Community School System, Gendreau earned 219 wins as head coach at Eisenhower along with four district championships and finished the 2017 campaign with 30 wins, the most in Eisenhower school history. Before Eisenhower, he also coached baseball at L'Anse Creuse and New Haven high schools.

"The opportunity to coach at Notre Dame is a tremendous honor and privilege," Gendreau said. "Leaving what we built up at Ike over the past decade wasn't an easy decision, but my staff and I are very excited about this new journey with the Irish!"

A graduate of Central Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education, Gendreau also holds a Master of Science degree in education administration from Saginaw Valley State University. In addition, he is a member of the Michigan Education Association, Michigan Business Education Association and the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.



Marist educators conference wraps up in June



A workshop for 38 educators from North American schools owned or sponsored by the Society of Mary wrapped up in mid-June at the Capuchin Retreat House in Washington, Mich., not far from Notre

Dame in Pontiac. The four-day event, which was the fifth such meeting of what Marist organizers are calling the Conference of North American Marist Schools, was designed to provide a

forum to share more information about the Society of Mary and its history and philosophy of education with lay teachers and staff members at our schools.

According to Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., principal of Notre Dame Preparatory School, the conference was a time to meet and share ideas with colleagues from Marist schools in Mexico City and Guadalajara, Mexico, Quebec, Canada, Atlanta and Duluth, Georgia, San Francisco, Calif., and Pontiac.

"In addition to the presentations and discussions, the participants had the opportunity to share information about each school and how we can collaborate for the good of our students," said Hindelang, who helped manage the meeting. "They also were given a tour of nearby Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy by student volunteers." He said there also was time to pray, eat and relax together and take a tour of downtown Detroit.

Topics at the conference included Marist historical themes, the inspiration of Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, Marist spirituality, elements and characteristics of Marist education and lessons learned from Mary as to help the educators go about living a more Marian spirit at their schools.

"There was a positive spirit and participants found it to be an enriching experience," Hindelang added. "It was a wonderful opportunity to share information about the Marist spirit and philosophy of education. Participants from each school discussed plans on how to bring this experience back to their schools so they continue to be places where Mary, the first disciple, is alive through us, still leading people to her Son, Jesus."

Notre Dame student's art goes up in downtown Pontiac

Destiney Sandle, a senior in Notre Dame's upper division and a member of the school's International Baccalaureate art course of study, earned a coveted spot in downtown Pontiac for one of her drawings in a program of public art.

Destiney Sandle is taking art through Notre Dame's International Baccalaureate program.

Sponsored by the Pontiac Downtown Business Association and called "Canvas Pontiac,"

organizers receive entries from all over the country and say their goal ultimately is to bring the program international prominence.

"Last year our call for artists was seen by over 1,000 people," said program administrators. "The contest pulls artists, professional and amateur, from as far away as Florida and Arizona, as well as those right here in our own neighborhoods."

Sandle's artwork, which she calls "Stoic," is rendered with colored pencils and gold leaf. It was reproduced and enlarged into one of 25 eight-foot-by-10-foot canvases that are scattered around downtown Pontiac. Her work also is qualified for one of three grand prizes from Canvas Pontiac totaling \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500 as well as a possible best-of-show prize of \$500.



Please see IRISH News, page 18

Play ball!

Notre Dame secures \$1 million gift for ball fields. Generous donation to support extensive renovations to the school's baseball and softball facilities



PHOTO BY AERIAL IMAGERY WORKS

Among other major renovations to Notre Dame's baseball and softball diamonds, the \$1 million donation will make possible the installation of field turf on both the infield and outfield of the two ball fields.

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced August 22, 2017, that it has secured a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor to support an extensive renovation of the school's softball and baseball fields. The donation represents the largest designated gift to the school in its 23-year history.

"This unbelievably generous gift to Notre Dame and its athletic department ensures that our softball and baseball complex will provide the best possible environment for our student-athlete ballplayers," said Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director, assistant principal and head softball coach. "Coupled with the recent upgrades to our stadium, we believe we will have one of the finest high school athletic facilities in southeast Michigan."

According to Wroubel, the gift will make possible the installation of field turf on both the infield and outfield of the softball and baseball fields, which are located on the northeast section

of the Notre Dame campus in Pontiac. In addition, both backstops and the softball dugouts will be completely replaced and a permanent press box will be built at the baseball field.

Other projects in the renovation plan include completely new bullpens and batting cages for both softball and baseball, baseball dugout upgrades and an improved drainage system throughout the complex.

Jason Gendreau, who recently was hired as the head baseball coach at Notre Dame, is beyond excited about the news.

"We are so grateful for this unselfish and thoughtful gift," he said. "I already was looking very much forward to my first season leading the Irish baseball program. This takes my excitement quotient to a completely different level."

Gendreau said the renovations are expected to be completed before baseball and softball seasons begin in the spring of 2018.

"We are humbled and grateful for the tremendous generosity of the donor fund-

ing the renovation of our baseball and softball diamonds," said Notre Dame's Director of Advancement Gregory Simon. "The completion of this project is a testament to the impact of the Notre Dame experience. We have an extraordinary donor who's passion and generosity lined up with a need on campus. But more than that, the gift is a clear sign of the donor's confidence, dedication and belief in our mission."

Notre Dame Head of School Andy Guest said that benefactors like the one behind this latest gift are truly representative of what Notre Dame is all about.

"We are very fortunate to have such a generous friend who believes so deeply in the value of the mission of our school," he said. "On top of that, our donor's wish to remain anonymous speaks to our Marist charism, which calls on people to do good for others but remain 'hidden and unknown' leaders within the school community." ■

Grounded 89-year-old alu

Graduate of St. Mike's says she's thankful there is a place in the Pontiac area for kids to come for a high-quality Catholic education

Barbara (Croteau) Thomas turns 90 this November, a milestone worthy of celebration and praise. One would think this alum of St. Michael, Class of 1945, would be looking forward to a quiet and relaxing little party with family and friends.

But for Thomas, nothing about her past 89 birthdays would suggest quiet and relaxing are part of her M.O. at all. That's because in addition to being a willing participant in a life "well-lived," Thomas has been an advocate of — and participant in — extreme sports for most of her golden years.

"Life is good and I live it everyday," she said recently during an interview with the Notre Dame Alumni Association. "Every morning I thank God and say, 'Good morning, Abba, take my hand and like a child let me walk or fly with you for all of my days.'"

And boy, has He taken her hand! In the past few decades, while her peers have been shuffleboarding and watching daily episodes of Jeopardy, Thomas has been paragliding, parasailing, white-water rafting down the Colorado River, zip-lining through a rainforest, riding on



St. Michael alum Barbara (Croteau) Thomas ('45) is on an ultralight in 2007.

HIGH-SCHOOL HIJINKS

Thomas grew up in the Pontiac area and attended St. Michael, commonly called St. Mike's, a coeducational Catholic high school in Pontiac. In 1967, the school merged with Pontiac St. Frederick High School to form Pontiac Catholic High School, which would eventually become Notre Dame Preparatory School.

She loved her time at St. Mike's — Latin was her favorite subject — even though, she said, her three brothers, who also attended the school, were a handful.

"I can remember one of my brothers dipping a classmate's braids into the ink bottle," she said. "My three younger brothers used to get in a ton of trouble, but I don't think I ever did."

In fact, as an all-A student who demonstrated infinitely more maturity than her brothers, the nuns would ask her to help get her brothers on track. "For a time, I actually hated being related to them."

"Life is good and I live it everyday," Thomas said recently during an interview with the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

She brought up another youthful "indiscretion," but this time her brothers had an accomplice.

"When we were younger, probably not yet in high school, I remember the nuns used

to put their milk jugs outside every week for the milkman," she said. "One time my brothers and I switched all the milk jugs with beer bottles from our dad's store across the street."

Thomas concedes, though, that her brothers weren't all that bad now that she has the benefit of hindsight.

"Our parents owned a grocery store right across the street from the school so they couldn't have gotten away with too much because the nuns would just walk over to the store and tell on them," she recalled.

She also recalled a couple of the priests at the school.

"I remember Father Wenz, who taught religion at St. Mike's, would teach and smoke out one of the windows during the whole class period," she said. "And Father Elmer-Mahoney! He was a young, good-looking priest who would skate on the pond outside of school and all the girls had a crush on him and would just stare out the window and not pay attention in class."

INTO THE WORKING WORLD

After graduation from St. Mike's with about 23 other classmates (she says five are still alive), Thomas got married that July and became pregnant a month later with the first of her four children, Gary.

For the next eight years or so before she



Thomas, above right, after a hot-air balloon ride at 83 years old and below

hot air balloons and sky diving.

"I have to live life to the fullest," she said. "Believe it or not, I was never really a sports person, but it is just so much fun being up in the air and close to God and heaven!"

m can't stay on the ground



Thomas counts skydiving and parasailing as some of her later-years accomplishments. In the photo above, she is 83 years old.

got pregnant with her second child, Thomas worked in town at General Motors' Pontiac Motor Division as a secretary. But, she said, once her pregnancy started showing, she was let go.

"Those were different times," she said.

So she decided to stay home and raise her kids. Later, she worked at her dad's catering company, which evolved from the family grocery store. "We had a pretty large and successful catering business. We specialized in high-end catering."

Thomas divorced at 50 and her daughters, Cheryl, Michelle and Denise, eventually moved to California after graduating from high school, which for them was Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School in Waterford.

So as a divorcee and only 50 years old, Thomas knew she needed to get back into the workforce.

"I went to work at GMC Truck and Bus in the warehouse," she said. "I worked nights — 10 hours a day, 6 day a week — and went to Oakland Community College to get a degree during the day."

Six years later she got a double associates degree and became a secretary in the training office at the GMC plant. She also worked with GM to get her car paid off and in 1981 moved to a condo, where she still lives today.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION 'A MUST'

So after nearly 90 years that so far has included an "extreme" life well-lived, what else could Thomas possibly fit into a daily routine that might include skydiving or parasailing? Believe it or not, Thomas finds time to devote an extraordinary amount of time to volunteer work, which in one case holds special meaning for her.

"I am 28 years now a recovering alcoholic," she said. "And I continue to sponsor other alcoholics and help out at about three AA meetings per week."

Thomas also visits patients at a nursing home, does hospice volunteering (nine years and counting), crochets rainbow blankets for cancer kids (made about 300 or so), she's a greeter at church and conducts once-a-week bible study at her parish.

She was asked by the alumni association to assess the value of a Catholic education in general and she was unequivocal.

"Catholic education is a must," she said. "It made me who I am. And I also think it's great that Notre Dame has picked up the torch in this area. When they closed all those schools, I am so thankful there is a place now for kids to come for a high-quality Catholic education." ■

Sandle's "Stoic" also earned a Gold Key in the most recent Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition.

Notre Dame senior gets grand award at international science and engineering fair

Notre Dame upper-division student Malini Mukherji continued her streak of science and engineering fair accolades on May 19 when she was given a "Third Grand Award" in the best of Energy: Chemical category at the International Science and Engineering Fair, the world's largest international high school STEM event, which was held in Los Angeles.

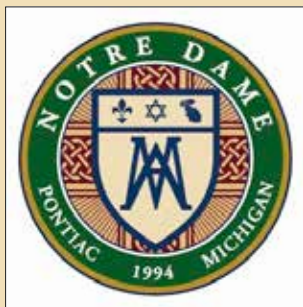
Mukherji also picked up an honorable mention in the "Special Awards" category for her project, which was called, "A Smart Light-Tracker Using Machine Learning and Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells."

The senior's project earned entry into ISEF by virtue of winning a Grand Award from the 60th Science & Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit (SEFMD), held at Cobo Center on March 15.

Mukherji's project was inspired by current world trends that show the reduced utilization of fossil fuels and the renewed focus on renewable sources of energy, such as solar energy. Her project specifically investigated ways to more efficiently collect solar energy by tracking the movement of the sun.

"As fossil fuels and other sources of energy are depleting, the world is turning to green energy," Mukherji said shortly after the Detroit science fair. "A major type of green energy is solar energy and solar trackers provide an effective way to collect the sun's energy by tilting and rotating to follow the sun's position throughout the day. Identifying the position of the sun is important for solar trackers. These trackers often use chronological or passive systems to determine the position of a light source."

2017 grads leave with 'astounding' record of achievement



One hundred seventy six NDP seniors walked across the stage on Sunday, May 21, and received their diplomas after four years at Notre Dame's upper division. Not only did the Class of 2017 leave behind a beautiful campus and a very proud faculty and staff, they leave behind a number of impressive statistics as a group.

According to figures released recently by Notre Dame Prep's counseling department, the 2017 class of graduating seniors earned an astounding total of \$21,842,307 to date in academic scholarships from colleges and universities. That total amount of dollars works out to more than a \$124,000 average for each member of the class, surpass-

ing the average of the last two Notre Dame Prep graduating classes.

In addition, the Class of 2017 averaged 27.2 on the ACT, matching the Class of 2016 and several classes before that. (Note: Last year, the average composite ACT score for all Michigan students was 20.3 out of a possible 36.) The counseling department also said that this year's graduates include 56 who scored a 30 or above on the ACT, which was the same number of last year's class, and averaged a 1226 on the 1600 SAT. Notre Dame's 2017 grads finished the year with an overall grade-point-average (GPA) of 3.81, an improvement over last year's 3.76.

Twenty-eight graduates filled out this year's valedictory court for the class, which also featured 42 candidates for the prestigious International Baccalaureate diploma. In addition, many of the finest colleges and universities across the country will welcome all of these graduates in the fall, including the University of Michigan, the University of Notre Dame and Columbia University.

And finally, perhaps most important, this year's graduating class logged more than 14,000 hours in community service—once again proving that besides turning out "academic scholars," Notre Dame continues to graduate "Christian people and upright citizens."

Making a difference



Richelle Wilson and Nicholas Durham, who graduated from Notre Dame Prep in May, were awarded "Make a Difference" scholarships from the Alliance Catholic Credit Union.

According to Alliance, which is based in Southfield, the two students each were awarded a one-year \$1,000 scholarship to be applied toward their 2017/2018 college tuition.

The "Make a Difference" program was created to award educational scholarships to students who demonstrate a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others through their volunteer services in their school, parish, and/or community. Finalists were selected based on merit and a personal essay.

Notre Dame junior attains leadership role with Civil Air Patrol

Luke Juriga, a senior in Notre Dame's upper division, has earned the rank of second lieutenant in the U.S. Civil Air Patrol. He is one of the youngest holders of this rank and title, which he earned more quickly than anyone else in the history of his region's squadron.

Juriga joined the Civil Air Patrol as a basic cadet in December 2014 and has progressed through the ranks to second lieutenant faster than anyone in his squadron's history. He was selected to be a flight sergeant at their Michigan Wing Encampment last summer and will return to the leadership team as a



Please see IRISH News, page 20

Through the looking glass

On Labor Day 2017, like many other U.S. citizens, Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., corporate president of NDPMA, found it to be a good day to unwind a bit. He also thought it was a good day to ruminate about Notre Dame: its past, its present and most importantly, the exciting future taking shape on the east side of the school's main campus.

Perspective is everything. Lately, I have been standing in the media center at the main campus watching a busy group of twenty or so workers busily constructing our new science, art and technology wing. Incidentally, our students are doing exactly the same thing — in and out of the media center during change of class and lunch periods — watching and waiting. I said to myself, as I look through the media center windows, how small the project seems to be, and how little progress has been made to date. I wonder if the kids are thinking the same thing.

But this past Saturday, I took a closer look at the project, walking out back on the actual construction site. I was thoroughly amazed at how much has been done and how huge the building footprint is. I stood in the school rooms as plotted out by the concrete footings and



A dedicated robotics lab/room will play a major role in the school's new wing.



In late August, the walls for the new science, art and technology wing began to go up.

imagined our students moving through the corridors of this new wing. I smiled and said to myself how important this new structure will be for our kids and their futures. I walked through imagined collaboration spaces, science labs, art rooms, the robotics lab and, of course, my beloved botanical lab/greenhouse and gardens. I was pleased with the wing's development, and repeated one of my personal mantras: "It's all about the kids."

I have had many such imaginings during my 24+ years at our 1300 Giddings campus and more recently at our 1425 campus. I am content



Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., is overjoyed about the upcoming new wing, which is currently under construction on the school's main campus.

with our progress to date; but there remains, to my mind, a much larger agenda for providing our kids with the best Marist, Catholic education . . . for here and hereafter.

I am very proud of our NDPMA families and their support of our Marist Fathers and Brothers mission here in Pontiac. Here's another

mantra: "To build a great school you must have three elements: constant prayer, hard work and hard cash." We have been blessed with all three. Each night at prayer our Marist Fathers and Brother pray to our Blessed Lady for the success of her school, and we pray for the intentions of our generous donors.

As you may be aware, recently we received a tremendous designated gift for the renovation of our baseball and softball fields. I am so thankful to the kind-hearted donor who stepped forward to help. Again, this is an answer to our prayers, for, as you know, without gifts, no matter how big or small, we could not deliver our mission effectively.

Many good things have happened here at NDPMA, and there is more yet to do. We still need to complete payment for our new science, art and technology wing, and several of us continue to reach out to our families who can help support our building project. Should you receive a call from school personnel asking to meet with you to request your financial and/or gift-in-kind support, please say "yes." And, even if you do not receive a call, please be willing to step forward to invest in future greatness for students now and yet to come. It is in the end "all about the kids and their future success." Is it not? Student success is our heartfelt sentiment; we hope it is yours, too! Please join us in bringing our "March on to Victory" campaign to completion.

Blessings,

Fr. Leon M. Olszamowski, s.m.
Corporate President
Notre Dame

More on the Notre Dame March on to Victory campaign is available online at <http://www.ndpma.org/marchontovictory>.

Alumni Notes & Info

Notre Dame Prep: **(NDP)**; Notre Dame High School: **(NDHS)**; Pontiac Catholic: **(PC)**; Oakland Catholic: **(OC)**; St. Frederick: **(SF)**; St. Michael: **(SM)**

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Michael Dib '88 (NDHS) Moved to Empire, Mich., in June 2016, seven miles east of Lake Michigan in the Leelanau Peninsula. My wife, Carrie, and four-year-old son, Mason, are enjoying living in paradise. Have been working as a pathologists' assistant for 22 years and love my career. Have never attended a class reunion, but am planning to be at the 30th reunion in 2018.

Timothy Timmerman '97 (NDHS)

Celebrating 20 years in radio broadcasting in 2017. Currently at Q102 in Cincinnati. Past stops in Fayetteville, Arkansas and Port Huron.

Eric Ruzala '03 (NDHS) I worked as a teacher and religious education director at Our Lady of Hope Parish/St. Germaine School (St.

Clair Shores) for ten years. Then I moved to San Antonio, Texas, in June 2017 and accepted a position on the theology faculty at St. Anthony Catholic High School. I'm engaged to be married in December 2017.

NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNI

Sarah Burns '07 (NDP) Currently at the Pentagon serving as the Headquarters Marine Corps Aviation Public Affairs Officer.

Paul M. Al-Attar '08 (NDP) Just graduated from the University of Michigan medical school in May 2017. Will start a residency this July at the Southern Illinois University in orthopedic surgery.

Andrew Long '13 (NDP) Notre Dame Preparatory Valedictorian. IB diploma graduate. Graduated from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, majoring with a B.S.E. in chemical engineering. Over my college career, I had internships at Delphi Automotive, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, and NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration. At Delphi Automotive, I was an engineering intern for the Advanced Systems Team. At Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, I was an engineering intern, performing validation testing on the Fiat 500e. At NASA, I was an engineering intern for the Air Revitalization Team and focused on carbon dioxide removal technology development from the spacecraft cabin to allow for astronauts to continue

breathing for long-duration human space travel. I was awarded the "Outstanding Achievement" intern award as well as the "NASA Achievement Award" for my lasting contributions to carbon dioxide removal for future manned missions in space travel such as the upcoming Mars mission. Now, I work full-time at NASA, and I am the lead project engineer for Oxygen Generation for the Air Revitalization Team at Johnson Space Center. My work now focuses on generating oxygen from the resources on Mars (a planet with relatively very low levels of oxygen) for the future astronaut habitat. I also work on creating high pressure oxygen which is necessary for potential medical emergencies as well as spacesuit applications. Additionally, to being full-time at NASA, I attend the University of Houston Law School part-time at night. I aspire to be a patent attorney and have worked in the past as a law clerk for the Dobrusin Patent Law Firm located in downtown Pontiac, Mich.

Michelle Lo '16 (NDP) I'm currently wrapping up my freshman year as a student at Cornell University in New York. I graduated NDP Class of 2016 and am returning to Michigan for the summer to work with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra among other things, including assisting in research with a professor at Oakland University and on a mission trip to Mexico that I

led in August.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC ALUMNI

Philip Deschaine '76 (PC) Recently elected to trustee to the Meridian Township (Okemos/Haslett) Board.

Carol Biegun '76 (PC) I was married for 22 years (Gooding) and have four children- Christina (1987); Tom (1990); Robert (1994) and William (1997). I raised my family in Paw Paw, Mich., and still own a home there. In January 2017, I relocated to Oakland, Mich., to reside with my elderly parents. I am currently their full-time caretaker. I have five siblings, four of whom did attend and graduate from PC, and many nieces and nephews who have attended Notre Dame Prep. We remain a very close family with numerous gatherings here in Oakland County and in Bellaire, Mich., where we vacation together. My parents enjoy the success of their six children/spouses, 24 grandchildren and 14+ great-grandchildren.

James Bleau '76 (PC) Retired from Michigan K-12 school administration in 2013 after 31 years. Have also served two years in the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa, in the early 1980s. ■

We'd love to hear from you! Send a note to let us know what you're up to: e-mail Beth Campbell at bcampbell@ndpma.org, or visit ndpma.org/update.

NEWS, from page 18

flight commander this summer. He assumes the role of commander for his Rochester Squadron this fall.

Weddings/Engagements

Candace Shankin '02 (NDP) married Forrest Becker at St. Andrew in April 2017. Jared Shankin ('07), Kyle Shankin and Stephanie (Azoury) Shankin ('04), and Lisa Dabrowski ('02) were members of the bridal party.

Births

Zachary Sloan Jackson was born on January 23, 2017 to proud first-time parents Emily (Giacona) Jackson '01 (NDP) and Nickolas Jackson.

Millie Mulhinch and Jack Drake were born on December 30, 2016 to proud parents, Kelly (Cole) Patterson '99 (NDP) and Bob Patterson.

Alumni/staff/faculty rest in peace

David Olewin '67 (NDHS) 5-4-17

Virginia (Gini) Kelly, former staff member at NDHS and wife of Tom Kelly, NDHS faculty member, coach and A.D., mother of Mike '73 (NDHS) and Brian '77 (NDHS). 7-20-17

Robert Grady '47 (SF) 5-26-17

Patricia Sheridan Blust '43 (SF) 5-25-17

Maria Serra Mauro '46 (SF) 5-24-17

Maxine Perkins-Bryson '43 (SF) 5-21-17

Anthony Martin '01 (NDP) 7-15-17

Fr. Joseph Chasse, teacher, dean of discipline, and rector at NDHS from 1956-1971. 8-20-17

NOTE: For a complete list, see ndpma.org/prayers. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. ■

The Notre Dame Alumni Association publishes prayer requests on its website for alumni and family members who are in need of prayer, including prayers for those who have died and those who are sick.

If you would like to request that someone be added to our prayer list, please email Beth Campbell at bcampbell@ndpma.org.

Please be certain that the person(s) for whom you are requesting prayers has approved that his/her name and prayer request be published. We strive to respect everyone's privacy and personal matters.

Notre Dame, times two

Head of a school in San Francisco reflects on his education at Notre Dame High School and the University of Notre Dame.



Andrew Currier graduated from Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods, Mich., in 1999. After undergrad at Grand Valley State University where he also played baseball, Currier went on to the University of Notre Dame and earned an M.Ed. and started a career in education that has led to the top position at a prominent Catholic high school in California.

He recently checked in with the Notre Dame Alumni Association to talk about what he's been up to recently as well as his time under the tutelage of the Marist Fathers at Notre Dame. He also discussed his tenure at the University of Notre Dame where he received his master's degree.

Currier said his Notre Dame/Marist Fathers education served him extremely well in his undergrad and graduate work.

"I came to Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods as a sophomore. My father was the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Air Station on Selfridge Air Base in Macomb County, after he was transferred from Montgomery, Ala., to the Detroit area. I had attended Montgomery Catholic Prep in Alabama for my freshman year, which also was another phenomenal, life-changing place. Montgomery Catholic was co-ed and the southern manners of my schoolmates were more refined and genteel than I was used to.

"Harper Woods Notre Dame was a culture shock, not only in terms of the single-sex nature of the school, but also because of the rough, brotherly way people treated each other. Ultimately, I fell in love with the place and

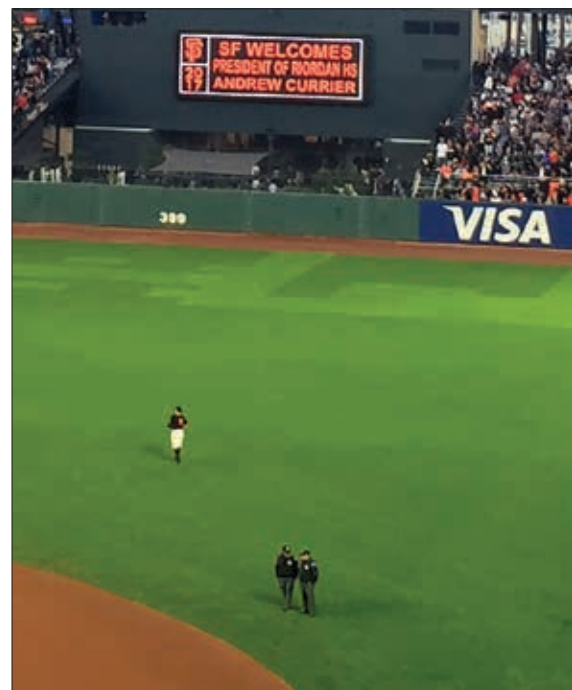
never felt more loved in return by my schoolmates and teachers. My mother actually worked on the capital campaign during that time and I would see her in the hallways from time to time. I had to be on my best behavior as all of my teachers knew right where to find her.

"My Notre Dame/Marist Fathers education served me extremely well, not only in undergrad, but also in my graduate work. I went on to graduate a semester early from college and then taught at a Marist Brothers School in Miami, Fla., called Monsignor Edward Pace, or Pace High School. This was yet another culture shock for me as a young man. The fast paced, rapido, Cuban culture was entirely foreign to me. I also coached baseball in the evenings at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, which is as true an athletic factory as there ever was. We won the Florida state championship that season and the two other coaches were veteran NY Yankees. I was there only briefly as I was accepted into the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) teaching program where I earned my M.Ed. and also taught middle school in South Central Los Angeles.

"The University of Notre Dame teaching program was phenomenal yet challenging in so many ways. Notre Dame is such an incredible place and a true beacon of hope for the faith in our contemporary society. I ended up teaching for a few years, then, at age 26, I was hired as principal for a PK-8 Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Washington – St. Joseph in Beltsville, Md. I was principal there for four years and then decided to move my young family (Sarah, my wife, and our two children, Pauline and Xavier) back to South Bend, Ind., to work for the Holy Cross Fathers as a principal for their mission school, St. Adalbert. It was really a dream come true and I think my five years

at St. Adalbert will be probably some of the most important years. We served a poor population of about 97 percent Latinos at a 96 percent poverty and our school went from utterly failing academically to becoming one of the top performers in the city of South Bend in about three years. It was the incredible work of dedicated, brilliant teachers concentrated in one school."

Editor's note: Check out the Notre Dame website (ndpma.org) for more on Currier in the coming weeks and months. ■



Currier recently was honored by the San Francisco Giants at AT&T Park.

Three for three

Three sisters who graduated from Notre Dame went to the same college and chose to pursue careers in healthcare. Their journeys through high school and college played big parts in what they're doing now in their professional life.

The DiPonio sisters are blazing their own special trails in the healthcare field. All three of them graduated from Notre Dame Prep and University of Detroit Mercy. And while all three of them have jobs that involve helping people stay or get healthy, their paths to becoming a nurse, a dentist and a physician assistant, while seemingly nearly identical, did have some important nuances.

However, all three of them cited the rigorous and challenging academics at Notre Dame Prep as critical to their college and career success. And they also all said that they had a lot of fun in high school, especially during one special week in March.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association interviewed Marisa, Michelle and Vanessa in an effort to get their comments on the journey each of them took through NDP and college on and on what they're up to today.

Notre Dame Alumni Association: What was your college experience like, and do you believe your education at Notre Dame prepared you well for college and beyond?

Marisa DiPonio '12 (NDP): My college experience was very memorable. It was a time where I was able to grow academically and individually. Having attended NDP, I was able to have a solid foundation before attending college. I believe NDP provided me with the tools to not only succeed in college but to succeed throughout life in general.

Michelle (DiPonio) Maltese '08 (NDP): My college experience was greatly influenced by my time at Notre Dame Prep. I learned valuable lessons such as strong study habits, time-management skills, and the desire for success. When I began college, I was already accustomed to difficult course work, having been prepared by both the teachers and curriculum at Notre Dame. While college was a

time for personal growth, I can confidently say that this growth began with the foundation I built during my high school years.

Vanessa (DiPonio) Ruffino '06 (NDP):

My college experience was one of the most influential times of my life so far. I learned a lot about myself while simultaneously carving a successful career path. And I believe NDP helped me to accomplish this by giving me a solid foundation to start my college education. I was already acclimated

to large course loads and challenging material that I encountered at NDP, which consequently helped me to excel in my college courses.

NDAA: Could you briefly share the career path you took to get to where you are today?

Marisa: I attended the University of Detroit Mercy and received my Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (BSN). I currently work at Royal Oak Beaumont in its mother/baby care



Notre Dame alumni sisters, from left, Michelle (DiPonio) Maltese, Vanessa (DiPonio) Ruffino and Marisa DiPonio all pursued careers in the healthcare field.

unit where I take care of postpartum mothers and newborn infants.

Michelle: After graduating from Notre Dame Prep, I was accepted into the seven-year accelerated BS/DDS program at the University of Detroit Mercy. This program condenses a four-year biology degree into three years. Once the undergraduate course work was completed with the required standards, admission to the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry was granted. Following my completion of dental school, I began working as a general dentist in a private practice in Rochester Hills.

Vanessa: Following Notre Dame, I attended the University of Detroit Mercy and graduated with a major in biology. I then went on to graduate school at UDM and received a master's degree in physician assistant studies. I am currently working as a physician assistant in internal medicine at Henry Ford Hospital and have been there for six years.

NDAA: What has been most influential in driving your aspirations towards college or your career? What skills and strengths do you possess that you think will make you success-

ful in your field?

Marisa: I knew I wanted to follow in my mother's footsteps and become a registered nurse. I decided to attend the University of Detroit Mercy because I was able to get into its direct-admit program and start nursing school right out of high school. While in nursing school, I had the opportunity to experience a lot. From these experiences, I knew that it took a very special person to be able to take care of sick individuals. However, with being a very optimistic person and having a bubbly personality, I knew I wanted to work in a part of the hospital that saw more happiness than sorrow. Being able to work with new mothers and infants has brought so much joy to my life. It is a very exciting time for my patients and their families, and I am fortunate to be able to share in their happiness.

Michelle: My personal desire for success has always been a driving force in my academic accomplishments. From an early age, my parents instilled in me the importance of education. As cliché as it may sound, I always knew that I wanted to become a dentist and would do whatever it took to

make that my reality. I believe I have the compassion and sympathy to communicate and connect with my patients on a daily basis.

Vanessa: I always knew I wanted to work in the healthcare field but didn't know exactly which route I wanted to pursue. Then one day I went into the counselor's office at NDP and was given information on a five-year PA program at UDM. I didn't really know what a physician assistant was at the time, but my counselor took the time to educate me on the role of a PA, and from then on I knew it was the right fit for me. So therefore, if it wasn't for NDP, I likely would not be in the field I am in now.

NDAA: Do you have a favorite memory from Notre Dame, or do you miss anything about NDP?

Marisa: My favorite memory at NDP would have to be Irish Week. It was an opportunity to bring the school together to celebrate and have a fun week.

Michelle: It is not just one single memory that remains with me from Notre Dame Prep, but it's the relationships I still have that are most important to me from NDP. My closest friendships, including that with my husband, Christopher Maltese, first developed in the halls of Notre Dame. To continue to hold on to all those Notre Dame relationships proves just how meaningful my experiences at NDP were, and I will forever be grateful for where they began.

Vanessa: My favorite memories from NDP always involve Irish Week. I enjoyed getting to participate in all the various activities of the week and celebrating with peers.

NDAA: As an alumnus, why do you feel it's important to support your alma mater after graduation is long a memory?

Marisa: I find it important to support NDP because it provided me with the values, skills and life lessons that have helped guide me thus far through life.

Michelle: I will forever keep a part of Notre Dame Prep with me as I move forward in life. I definitely feel it is important to give back to the school. I like to believe that my children may walk through these same halls, and any form of support that I can give to NDP will continue to create an environment that I would love for them to be a part of one day.

Vanessa: I feel very grateful to have received such a great education from NDP and it is important to give back to allow other students the same opportunities and experiences that we had. ■



After 41 seasons with Utica Eisenhower High School, Notre Dame alum Bob Lantzy ('64) just started his second year as head football coach at Stoney Creek High School.

Eagles

Hall of fame continuum

Alum and hall-of-fame coach Bob Lantzy talks about attending Notre Dame and playing for another hall-of-famer.

When legendary high school football coach Walt Bazylewicz was filling out his application for the position of director of the Catholic High School League in 1972 and he came to the part that asked for references, he allegedly wrote, "Ask anybody."

That's because by that time, "Bazy" had established himself as one of the most successful football coaches by not only CHSL standards, but by Michigan High School Athletic Association standards. (A member of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, his record was 146-42-9 when he gave up coaching to take over the Catholic League.)

Everybody in Michigan high school sports knew Bazy in 1972 and he went on to become one of the best directors in league history before passing away in 1999 at the age of 77.

Enter Bob Lantzy, a 1964 Notre Dame alum, who's now into his second season as head football coach at Stoney Creek High School.

But Lantzy's not a sophomore coach by any measure. In fact, he's set to begin his 43rd season as a coach, having spent the first 41 seasons leading Utica Eisenhower to a 304-115-1 record until the year 2011, when he first retired from coaching.

Like with Bazy, you'd be hard-pressed to find anybody in football in the state of Michigan who doesn't know about Lantzy. Yet that isn't the only thing the two coaches have in common.

THE NOTRE DAME CONNECTION

According to Lantzy, his coaching career was informed big-time by Bazylewicz, who was his football coach in high school at Notre Dame in Harper Woods.

"Bazy taught us all that to win you had to love the game and be



Lantzy, near the top in red circle, is with his 1962 Notre Dame teammates, including retired U.S. Congressman David Bonior, who is standing in front of him.

willing to sacrifice your time to excel," said Lantzy after a recent tour of the Notre Dame campus in Pontiac. "His practices were at game speed — not long — but organized to cover all the situations that could come up in the game. Bazy also did not play favorites. The best players played in the games and if you wanted to play, you had to earn it."

He said in his own coaching career, he has utilized the same ideas he learned from Bazylewicz at Notre Dame: that to be a winner, you have to have courage, heart and brains.

"In other words, it was not how big, fast or strong you were that decided who Bazy would put in the game," he said.



Walt Bazylewicz, right, coached at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods in the 1960s.

A halfback on NDHS's football team, Lantzy and his teammates, which included former U.S. Congressman David Bonior and recently retired Warren De La Salle coach Paul Verska, shocked the Catholic League in Bazylewicz's first year as head coach in 1962 by winning the Central Division title. The Irish also won the division in the fall of 1963, during Lantzy's senior school year.

"Bazy was an emotional person who would kick you in the pants at one moment and tell you what a great person you were at another," recalled Lantzy, who went on to play college ball at Northern Michigan University. "He would get in your face and tell you exactly what he expected from you."

He also said it was sometimes frightening to be in a film session with the coach.

"He would get on the players, coaching staff and anyone else he thought was keeping us from getting better. We never knew when something was going to go flying across the film room. He was a great actor and played the role of coach perfectly," he said.

THE PERFECT ROLE REDUX

The role of coach also has been a perfect part for Lantzy to play and the stats bear that out.

Now with seven undefeated regular seasons, Lantzy's 306 career victories put him in the top-10 all time on the state career coaching list as well as at the top of the Macomb County chart, according to the MHSAA.

He's earned three conference titles, six MHSAA district championships, six MHSAA regional championships, four MHSAA state final appearances, 13 MAC Red coach of the year honors and four Macomb County coach of the year honors. In addition, he was named MHSFCA regional coach of the year 10 times, MHSFCA Division-1 coach of the year in 2003, AP Division 1 coach of the year in 2004, and was a three-time Detroit News Metro Detroit coach of the year.

In 2009, he was inducted into the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame.

Now north of 70 years old, Lantzy shows no sign of slowing down. He credits gaining his work ethic from both his high school football coach and his high school.

"Notre Dame made us work hard every day," he said. "We had hours of homework daily, which as student-athletes, made us all very conscious of time management. It also taught us that we controlled our own destiny and that we needed to set goals and make up a plan to reach those goals, both on the athletic field and in the classroom."

"Thanks to Notre Dame High School and Bazy, I was able to play college football four years at Northern Michigan University and have some success coaching high school football for more than 40 years."

'Some success' indeed! ■

Alum earns national recognition for charitable work

1988 alumnus is honored for work in helping underprivileged children receive a Notre Dame Prep education; also a finalist in the 2017 Invest in Others Awards.



Paul Housey, an alumnus of Notre Dame High School and co-founder of Troy-based ISTO Advisors, has been announced as one of three national finalists for the Catalyst Award as part of the eleventh annual Invest in Others Awards. Housey is being honored for his work with Building Bridges, which will receive a \$5,000 donation from the Invest in Others Charitable Foundation because of the nomination. If Housey wins his category, the donation will increase to \$20,000.

Nearly two decades ago, Housey, who graduated from NDHS in 1988, founded Building Bridges, a non-profit dedicated to inspiring underprivileged children in Pontiac, Mich., to believe in themselves by connecting them with adult role models and private high school scholarships. Since 2004, Building Bridges has partnered with Notre Dame Preparatory High School in Pontiac to sponsor dozens of high school students, connecting them with high-quality education and putting them on the path to a college education.

According to Housey, kids who haven't had a fair chance for a good education should get one. "So we get good and generous people together as donors or advocates to inspire these kids to believe in themselves, and once they believe in themselves, the sky's the limit."

The Building Bridges organization's work has included helping to educate schoolchildren through its school-based program, ongoing mentoring activities with children at Christ

ceremony. "From the early days of working with Gregory Simon (director of advancement) and Andy Guest (head of school) to get this off the ground, to all of Greg's hard work for 10 years on identifying strong candidates, to (dean of diversity and associate dean of admissions) Kala Parker's tireless efforts that now help support 38 students on scholarship, the Notre Dame team has been extraordinary."

Housey said he is committed to spending every dollar Building Bridges raises on scholarships and related programming; he and his wife personally finance all other organizational overhead expenses. His enthusiasm for education inspires annual fundraising events and encourages the Board members he has assembled over the past decades to also give generously.

Building Bridges has changed the trajectory of the lives of many young adults in Pontiac, allowing them to attain an education and break the cycle of poverty that affects many families

Child House in Detroit and an annual holiday gifting program that provides hundreds of gifts to children whose families cannot afford even a single gift.

"Notre Dame Prep and Building Bridges truly have a unique and meaningful partnership," said Housey, who will be traveling to New York City in late September for the final award

in the community. The organization also connects students with adult advocates who provide mentoring and real world guidance over the students' four-year high school career and beyond. Every graduate of the program has gone on to pursue a college education. According to Housey, this year, Building Bridges plans to support 40 high school students and will underwrite more than \$300,000 in tuition payments.

The Invest in Others Awards program recognizes the charitable work of financial advisors and financial services firms in communities across the country and around the world. Advisors are nominated by their peers for actively giving back to non-profits to improve their communities and make a difference in the lives of others. There are five award categories for advisors and two for financial services companies.

Invest in Others received hundreds of nominations this year and finalists were selected based on their leadership, dedication, contribution, inspiration, and impact on a non-profit and the community it serves. Nominations were blindly reviewed by a diverse panel of judges representing industry associations and national media outlets.

Final awards will be presented at the eleventh annual Invest in Others Awards Gala, an event attended by nearly 600 financial advisors and financial services executives, on September 28, 2017, in New York City. ■



Mikal Spann, a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, attended the school with the help of a Building Bridges scholarship. He went on to attend MSU and currently works in the financial services industry.

Revolutionary



Cornell student and NDP alum wants to be part of Detroit's revolution. Ivy League sophomore is flourishing but says she misses the close support she received from Notre Dame Prep teachers; plans to be part of the burgeoning revolution in Detroit.

Michelle Lo is now more than a year into her college education in economics at New York's Cornell University's College of Arts and Sciences. She graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2016 and while she has adapted well to a university environment and being so far from home, she's noticed one big difference between Cornell and Notre Dame Prep.

"I miss the close-knit relationships I formed with all my teachers over the years at NDP," Lo said. "Walking to class and joking around with Mr. Devine or stopping in to say hi to my teachers is what makes me miss the halls of NDP the most."

Lo said it's different being close with teachers you see everyday and who you turn to for guidance versus the limited support that university professors can offer.

"My teachers at NDP took a genuine interest in me and the track I was on in life," she said.

Still, Lo is thriving at Cornell.

"Although classes are extremely rigorous and my coursework requires me to really apply myself, I owe my success so far here to the study habits I developed at NDP," Lo said. "The workload I was given at NDP, especially in my AP classes, is what I believe gave me the ability to manage my time well and

it's what prepared me for the level of rigor I've experienced during my first year at Cornell."

She said the in-class essays and demanding prep work for AP exams at Notre Dame are very similar to the assignments she's completed so far in her college classes.

"If it hadn't been for the discipline that NDP instilled in me during my time in high school, I wouldn't have had such a big advantage going into my classes at Cornell last fall."

Currently, Lo is majoring in economics and minoring in business, and she hopes to become an analyst for a consulting company or maybe follow in her dad's footsteps and work as an auto analyst in Detroit.

WANTS TO BE PART OF THE 'REVOLUTION'

"My accounting class with Mrs. Palushaj at NDP has inspired me to return to Detroit and get involved with the revolution the city is currently experiencing," she said. "I remember Mrs. Palushaj took our class to the Quicken Loans Finance Park in Detroit and that got me thinking that eventually I would bring my education and experiences back to the city to 'industrialize' it further. Those business classes at NDP influenced my decision to write the majority of my college application essays about my passion for both Detroit and business, and how I'd like to take the education I receive and bring it back home to become a part of the revolution myself."

This summer, Lo is interning with the business department of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as well as doing some research work with a professor at Oakland University. She's also a longtime violinist and believes the discipline necessary to learn and play the instrument also factored in her success both at Notre Dame and Cornell so far.

"I really think my ability to tie my passions for music and business together will allow me to excel in the business world when I get there," she said. "I never thought that my education in music or my role as a violinist would be influential in what I do in terms of economics or finance, and yet my work as the social chair of the Cornell Chamber and my previous involvement with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra has led me to where I am today."

She said she's been able to turn her passion for classical music into a business interest in Detroit and thinks that the role the DSO has played in Detroit's comeback is critical.

"I want to bring back symphony music even stronger in Detroit by marketing it to a younger audience, which could also generate revenue and interest for other cities as well," she said.

NOT ONE, BUT TWO IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS

Lo's work at Cornell isn't her first foray into learning about the world of business at an Ivy League school.

While still a student at Notre Dame Prep, Lo was able to spend a summer interning at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, something she said resulted from help courtesy of NDP math and business teacher Joanne Beauchamp.

"Yes, I've always loved business, but without the guidance of Mrs. Beauchamp, I would not have learned about the different branches that business really encompasses," she said. "Mrs. Beauchamp actually wrote one of my recommendation letters for that prestigious Wharton program for high school seniors at Penn, which also served as a catalyst in discovering my passion for management and what got me interested in consulting. I was able to study with Wharton professors and write a business plan for a service that my team and I pitched to a panel of actual venture capitalists and business professionals." ■

Marist educator



Former Notre Dame teacher Fr. Ron DesRosiers, s.m., kept his students entertained through many French and Latin classes.

Fr. Ron DesRosiers, s.m., is currently assigned to St. Louis, King of France, a Marist-run parish in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It's the most recent stop in a career that has had many.

Over the years, he's taught school at Harper Woods Notre Dame, St. Bede's College in New Zealand and Cours Sainte Marie de Hann in Senegal, among others. He also spent some time in Antarctica. His most recent teaching gig was as an assistant professor of philosophy and ethics at Madonna University in Livonia from where he finally retired in 2013 after 50 years in the classroom.

He had been assisting at the St. Louis parish off and on over the years when needed, mostly during the summer months. But when he retired from teaching, his Marist superiors, naturally, thought it was time to go full-time at the parish.

"Amen, said I, and I've been here ever since, helping with masses and confessions," said DesRosiers, who noted that the parish is a very busy downtown church with 16 masses, countless weddings and funerals and 14 sessions of confessions each week.

He no doubt is busier than most retirees, but unlike perhaps most retirees, he loved — and loves — his job.

IT WAS THE SISTERS

"I began thinking about becoming a priest in the 5th grade because one of my teachers, a Sister of Saint Joseph, said I'd be a good one," DesRosiers said. "I thought it'd be a great adventure. Actually, it's turned out to be even better."

Growing up in Framingham, Mass., about 20 miles west of Boston, DesRosiers was aware certainly that the Marists ran a seminary in his hometown. He said he ultimately decided to join the order as a priest because he was most familiar with them and more importantly, he said, they were the ones who kept his family's parish alive when it was failing.

After his ordination, DesRosiers, who speaks fluent French, was assigned initially in 1963 to Notre Dame in Harper Woods, where he taught French and Latin ultimately for about 20 years over three different stints — the last of which ended in 1990.

MOST ANIMATED

DesRosiers used the word "amazing" to best describe his tenure at NDHS,

and he remembers well what it was like to face a large group of high school students right after leaving school himself.

"When I first started teaching at Notre Dame, I was only about 10 years older than my senior French students. I was petrified! Nonetheless, it all worked out for the best."

Dwight Cendrowski, a 1970 NDHS alum, loved taking classes with DesRosiers, who had a huge reputation for in-classroom hijinks.

"One of my favorite teachers was Fr. DesRosiers," said Cendrowski, who is a professional photographer based in Ann Arbor. "I took Latin from him and he was one of the funniest and most animated teachers I've ever had. He later officiated at my brother Mark's wedding, which was 25 years ago."

LIFELONG LEARNING

Like Cendrowski, DesRosiers also fondly remembers his Latin classes at Notre Dame.

"One of the mnemonics I utilized back then to help the kids remember Latin preposition and case usage was, 'Put the ablative with de, cum and coram, ab and e; in and sub with the ablative case tell about a resting place.'"

He said that one of his former Latin students at NDHS who he had lost touch with over the years recently reconnected with him.

"He was a deacon in the Archdiocese of Detroit and when we crossed paths in a local sacristy, even before saying hello, he broke into a wide smile," DesRosiers said. "Just like a cheerleader, the alum said 'Put the ablative with de, . . .' and he recited the whole thing flawlessly! Talk about lifelong learning."

Another of DesRosiers favorite memories of NDHS was "le vrai dîner français," prepared every year by a team of his 4th-year French students.

"Cooked in the cafeteria kitchen and served in the faculty dining room to others in the class, it was the highlight of each year of French," he said. "I also remember the time I had to shave my beard completely off in front of the entire student body — but that's another story for another lifetime."

If DesRosier's next "lifetime" is as fulfilling and entertaining as the one he's living now, a couple of new generations of students will most "certinement profiter et bénéficier." ■

extraordinaire

Dedicated former teacher says his time in the Notre Dame classroom was 'amazing.'



Hard work and art get together

Teaching art to more than 12,000 students at five high schools, three colleges, and yes, one jail has solidified this 71-year-old artist's reputation from Kalamazoo and Marquette to southeast Michigan.

Kirby Smith "officially" retired from teaching nearly 10 years ago after finishing up a 14-year stint at Notre Dame Prep, his last full-time job. But his retirement has been nothing like what one would call taking it easy.

He's currently teaching ceramics at St. Clair Community College in St. Clair, Mich., and has been super busy of late putting together a retrospective exhibition of 50 years of his art that opened May 2 at Studio 1219, a gallery located in Port Huron.

"It's mostly ceramics," Smith, 71, said, "but I've also got a few paintings in the exhibition as well."

Kirby Smith has devoted a lifetime of hard work to making art and teaching art to students — more than 12,000 students by his estimation — at schools that include most notably Notre Dame High School, Notre Dame Prep and Cranbrook.

He is tickled by the fact that Notre Dame Prep is planning to build a bigger, more dedicated space for the visual arts as part of the recently announced "March on to Victory" capital campaign.

"I've been hearing something about that for years," he said. "Now it looks like it's going to happen. With art, space is one of the most important things. Plus, it's another example of how this administration supports the arts. Actually, everywhere I've been, I've been lucky to work at schools that value art. Cranbrook is noted for the arts, and at both Notre Dames, I always had big budgets to do what I needed to do."

Smith thinks the new building campaign and renewed focus on art come at a perfect time.

"Businesses and companies are now realizing that hiring people with an art background or education is oftentimes a better thing than if job candidates do not have any art training," he said. "Having the ability to

use both sides of your brain creates a very well-rounded and intuitive young person who can be much more valuable to an employer than those with strictly a business education, for example."

LATE NIGHTS AND HARD WORK

A native Michigander, Smith grew up in Kalamazoo and attended Loy Norrix High School where he and his fellow students comprised the school's first graduating class. Post-high school, Smith studied art at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek after which he matriculated to Northern Michigan University where he received both bachelor's and master's degrees in art.

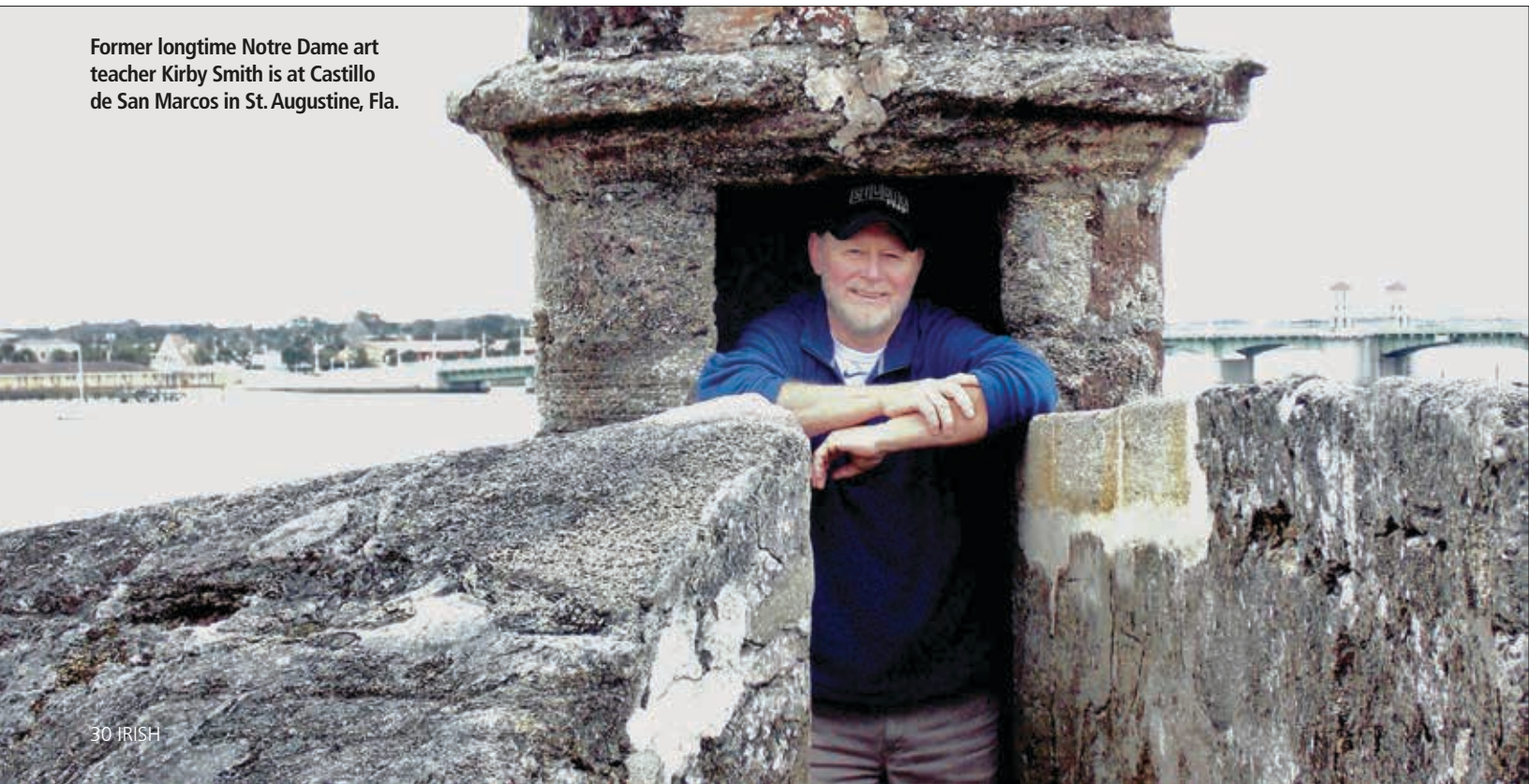
So dedicated to his art at NMU was Smith that he would actually worked in the school studios late into the night — so late that he would have to hide when the security guard made his last rounds of the evening.

"I blocked out the windows at night so the lights couldn't be seen from the outside," he recalled. "I got caught twice. The first time, my professor was okay with it, and probably realized he was just dealing with a rather ambitious student. But the second time I was caught, it was three in the morning and I could tell the prof was really upset. So I stopped the late nighters."

After graduation from college, Smith student-taught at a high school in Green Bay, Wisc., as well as a nearby community college, and then picked up his first real, full-time teaching position at Forest Park High School in Crystal Falls in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It was at FPHS where he also took up coaching football, which was something besides art that he was good at after a fairly successful playing career at Loy Norrix.

Forest Park won two state championships during Smith's coaching tenure and the team occasionally played Iron Mountain High School,

Former longtime Notre Dame art teacher Kirby Smith is at Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Fla.



er in one determined teacher

which featured at the time current MSU basketball coach Tom Izzo and former NFL head coach Steve Mariucci.

But his heart was into his art — and teaching art — and when a job opportunity opened at Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield



Smith created this piece in the early 1990s while teaching at Notre Dame High School.

Hills, a school with an international reputation in art education, he thought he'd apply.

"I remember that while at Forest Park High, I would put on student exhibitions and advertise in the local media and promote the heck out of it, but no one would show up," Smith said. "It just drove me nuts! So when I found out Cranbrook was looking for an instructor, I sent my resume to the school, and lo and behold, much to my surprise, they called me for an interview."

He drove all the way from the U.P. to Bloomfield Hills in his old car and about three miles from Cranbrook, his car broke

down. But thankfully Smith was able to talk the tow truck driver into driving him the last three miles to his interview.

When Smith finally arrived — 15 minutes late — unfortunately, the headmaster had already left his office.

"But I was determined. I walked across campus, which is about 500 acres, and looked for him," he recalled. "I did find him eventually and apologized up and down for being 'so late.'"

Smith said the interview process at Cranbrook was decidedly different than any other school he's ever encountered.

"I interviewed with 12 people over the course of two days," Smith said. "The job was described to me as being a 'general practitioner' in the art department, teaching design, painting and drawing alongside seven other full-time art instructors."

After the multiple interviews during those two grueling days, Smith drove back to the U.P. in his now—repaired car, thinking that he was never going to get the job, even though it seemed like a dream position for him.

But Smith eventually did get the job and spent the next six years at Cranbrook teaching art and also coaching football. When he was passed over for a coveted ceramics teaching position at the school, he decided it was time once again to move on.

THE NOTRE DAME ERA

"I quit Cranbrook without having anywhere else to go," he said. "It was probably not the smartest thing I could have done, especially since I just got married."

Bill Raymond was the principal at Notre Dame High School in 1985 when a teacher Smith knew from Cranbrook who was at NDHS at the time suggested that Smith take a look at that school in Harper Woods.

"So I interviewed with Bill Raymond, which to the surprise of no one who knew Bill, did not turn out to be a quick process," he said. "Not as involved as Cranbrook, for sure, but still pretty involved."

Raymond was impressed enough with Smith that he was hired at NDHS and subsequently taught art and coached there for 10 more years.

Then, shortly after Notre Dame Prep opened in Pontiac, Smith



Smith taught art at Cranbrook-Kingswood in Bloomfield Hills for six years.

moved north to teach art at that fledgling school, which, like Harper Woods Notre Dame, was run by the Marist Fathers.

At ND Prep, Smith established the art program from scratch and since he was working nearly day and night to get the program going, he decided to finally give up coaching. One of the first things he did during the initial few years at the school was to move the art room from a small, regular classroom to what at the time was a much-larger home-economics room.

"They had 220-volt electric service for my kiln plus a lot more room for art tables and storage," Smith said.

"Then, when Notre Dame was planning to build a new wing a number of years later, Fr. Leon (Olszamowski) came up to me one day as only Fr. Leon could and asked me to design a new art space for the new wing," he said. "I said 'great' But then he said he needed the design by 7 a.m. the following morning. Fortunately, I got it done in time."

Smith taught at Pontiac Notre Dame a total of 14 years and served as chair of an art department that had included as many as three teachers.

He finally retired in 2008 after 38 years and five different high schools.

ON TO NIGHT SCHOOL AND JAIL

Never one to let any dust settle, Smith continues in his ceramics position at St. Clair Community College. It actually isn't his first teaching gig outside of a high school.

While teaching at the two Notre Dames, he also served as an instructor of art at Wayne County Community College in Detroit, where he turned a failing program around in fairly short order.

Some of his most successful "success" stories in teaching were from his time at WCCC.

"I get emotional thinking about it now," he said. "Some of my students came from very challenging environments at home and in high school. Plus, the classes at WCC when I first got there were just not very good at all. But those students really came around and were so proud of their work. And I, too, was very proud of their work as well as the students themselves."

If all of that that wasn't enough work for Smith, while at Notre Dame in Harper Woods, he began teaching adult-ed at night through a program sponsored by the L'Anse Creuse school system.

"It wasn't just any adult-ed," he said. "I actually taught commercial art in the evening at the Macomb County jail. I spent 10 interesting years teaching art to rapists, murderers, thieves — you name it. But there never was a time when I felt threatened or afraid."

50 YEARS OF WORK

At the time of this interview, Smith was putting the finishing touches on the art that went into his Port Huron show that began May 2 and ran through May 30. It was a lot of work given the fact that he had more than 50 years of work to curate and organize into one place.

But he wasn't complaining.

"Art has always been a good fit for me," he said. "The other thing that I believe was just as important for me as art was the drive and hard work my parents instilled in me from the time I was very young. I remember my father working sunup to sundown as a roofer and my mother working in a laundry until she was 74 years old. I believe that work ethic has served me very well, both in my teaching and in my art." ■



Ceramic piece by Smith was created in 1997 during the time he was the art chair at Notre Dame Prep.

Pediatrics proponent

Alum starts new career as a nurse in D.C. hospital after graduating from U-M.

For as long as she can remember, 2013 Notre Dame graduate Sarah Hampel wanted to be a nurse. But it wasn't until she spent some special clinical hours as a nursing student at the University of Michigan that pediatric nursing was where she would specialize.

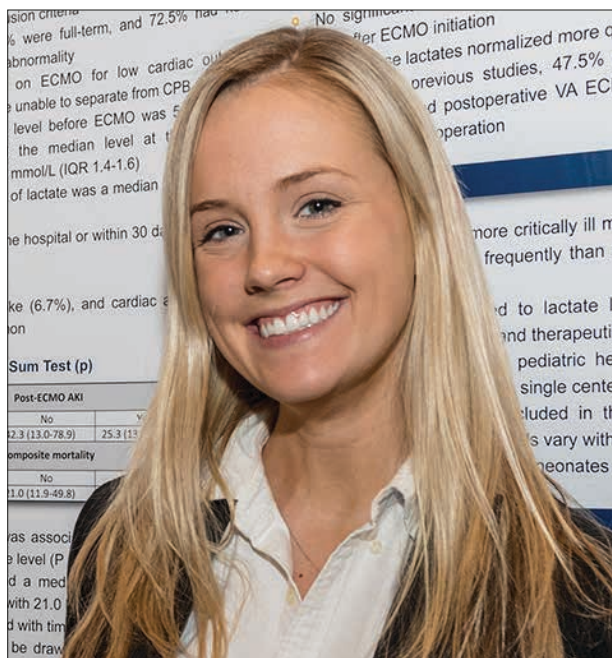
"Starting as early as freshman year at Michigan, I was fortunate enough to spend many of my 'nursing classes' outside the lecture hall, completing hands-on clinical hours in a variety of in-patient settings," said Hampel, who graduated in April from U-M with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. "Instantaneously, I fell in love with pediatric nursing and knew it was what I wanted to pursue. And after my externship last summer in a pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), I was certain that such a place with the highest stakes, intensity, teamwork and constant learning was definitely where I wanted to begin my practice."

Hampel's focus on a career in medicine was not by happenstance, however, by any measure. Science came naturally to her, even at Notre Dame Prep, and it's an area she truly enjoyed. Plus, she was (and still is) a talkative, outgoing, people person. Still another reason pediatrics seemed like the ideal fit for her.

Attending college was no walk in the park, she said, despite a thorough and completely successful academic experience at NDP.

"The University of Michigan has been an eye-opening, thrilling and downright challenging experience," Hampel said. "But I strongly tie many of my successes there to the robust formation and education I received at Notre Dame Prep. Also, at a close-knit school like NDP, I was offered tremendous opportunity — in both leadership and academia — and was provided a myriad of resources." She said during her time at NDP, she was able to take seven Advanced Placement courses, which made the transition to rigorous college course work much easier.

"I felt so much more ahead of my peers in difficult courses such as organic chemistry, biology and statistics and also felt confident in my time-management skills," she said. "Another aspect that has always stood out to me about



Sarah Hampel '13 (NDP) said that because of Notre Dame, she was so much more ahead of her college peers in difficult courses such as organic chemistry, biology and statistics and also felt confident in her time-management skills.

NDP is that teachers and staff take the time to get to know you on a personal level in and outside of the classroom. I am very grateful to the teachers who were able to highlight strengths and identify my potential because they motivated me to pursue my dreams."

While she gives accolades to virtually every teacher she had at NDP, a certain chemistry instructor stands out for her.

"One of my favorite teachers during my years in high school was Mrs. (Sylvia) Mulrenin because of her quirky and fun ways of making complex areas in science education fun and unforgettable. I can still hear her banging on the whiteboard chanting 'OIL-RIG! Also, taking on AP Chemistry was a huge challenge, but Mrs. Mulrenin encouraged me to take it on in spite of my initial qualms."

Now armed with a U-M nursing degree, Hampel in August began work in the pediatric nurse residency program at the Children's National Health System in Washington, D.C., in the hospital's PICU. It's the culmination of a lifelong dream of hers, but while she was definitely looking forward to starting the job, it isn't a job she is taking for granted.

"It is such a privilege to care for the most

vulnerable patients in some of their most difficult hours," she said. "But waking up every day knowing that I will be helping a young patient get one day closer to going home and playing outside will be incredibly rewarding."

Hampel notes that getting to this point in her career was well worth the sacrifice.

"Over the past four years, determination and drive have really helped me get to where I am today," she said. "It wasn't easy getting up at 6 a.m. on a Friday morning to work a 12-hour clinical, when many other students didn't begin classes until noon. I think it takes a special kind of motivation to study during the summer for yearly 'check-offs' or medication tests that needed to be completed before the next school year started. But it was all worth it when you're surrounded by a cohort of students who feel exactly the same sense of pride and purpose about their career choice."

She will be busy for sure once her job starts at the end of the summer, but she hopes to get back to her high school alma mater when and where possible, especially in the fall.

"I will always look back fondly on NDP home football games under the lights with my



Hampel, center, is on one of the University of Michigan Health System's Survival Flight program helicopters. The U-M program was the first medical flight service in Michigan.

close friends," she said. "But I also will miss the close-knit community of faith I was constantly surrounded with at Notre Dame. It was something I certainly didn't appreciate that much until I was gone." ■

It's often said that Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy feels like a family, albeit one with more than 15,000 members if you include students, parents, alumni, alum parents and faculty and staff. But if there is one "actual" family that represents what Notre Dame is all about, it might be the Yanik family.

Mary Yanik is a senior at the school's upper division and Tyler, who is the school's head wrestling coach, graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2012. Their brother Ryan, who currently works for Apple, graduated in 2010. Mom Sheri is on staff at NDPMA's advancement office and has been a strong supporter and volunteer with the athletic booster club for many years. And then there's dad, Ron Yanik, also a graduate of Notre Dame (Class of 1978) and also a very familiar presence on campus as a volunteer.

For Tyler Yanik, who also has helped coach the Irish football and lacrosse teams, a typical day — especially during wrestling season — usually

For Notre Dame wrestling coach, it's all about family, whether it's at school, home or at work. It's also about the Fighting Irish: he's looking for another good season on the mat.

involves hours on the Notre Dame campus as well as more hours working at the family business, Duckett's, a restaurant/pub just a few miles west of NDPMA on Walton Blvd.

"I'm actually the manager as well as the head chef at Duckett's and I help my dad with most of the day-to-day work," said Tyler, who attended Grand Valley State University and is finishing up a degree in integrative studies at Oakland University. He said he and his dad oftentimes compare notes from their high school experiences: Ron at Harper Woods Notre Dame, and Tyler at Pontiac NDP.

"Most of my dad's stories are about when he would help the school's sports teams as a student trainer," he said. "He says he loved his

time at ND and often brings up helping the various sports teams with taping ankles, etc., and the fact that they used to call him 'Doc Yanik.'"

Tyler, who has in the past also worked as a project manager with Royal Oak-based Adams Group Demolition, said his tenure at Notre Dame was special to him as well.

"First of all, I would say that academically, NDP made my transition to college very easy for me," he said. "The classwork and routine that NDP has is very reflective of what colleges do."

He said that another great thing he picked up from attending Notre Dame Prep was that making connections with as many good people

Please see FAMILY GUY, page 30



Fellow Notre Dame alums Ron Yanik '78 (NDHS) and son, Tyler '12 (NDP), at Duckett's, a family-run restaurant in Pontiac.

as you can is a great thing. "I still have connections with not only fellow students, but teachers and former fellow players of mine from NDP," said Yanik, who also played sports in high school.

Faith also played a big role for Yanik at Notre Dame.

"NDP helped me with finding what faith really means to me," he said. "I think that one of the greatest programs the school has is the Kairos retreat, in which I was a participant as well as a leader. Plus, I like the fact that NDP doesn't force you to follow a certain path to God, but allows you to set the way that best suits you."

Between working at Duckett's, his remaining college courses and helping out with NDP's football teams, Tyler is one busy guy this late



The Yanik siblings, from left, Ryan '10 (NDP), Mary '18 (NDP) and Tyler '12 (NDP), are in Hawaii for Ryan's wedding.

summer/early fall. But he is looking forward to being even busier when wrestling season begins in the winter.

"Last year's season was definitely an interesting one," he said. "We had a lot of great talent, including John Paul Terzano, who placed

fourth in Oakland County, and Nick Gale, who was a regional qualifier. We also for the first time won the Irish Duals tournament that we've been hosting for three years now."

However, in the state tournament last season, due to some unfortunate injuries and sicknesses, the Irish weren't at full strength and didn't make it out of districts.

"But I am extremely excited for this upcoming season," he said. "We lost a few seniors, but we have an amazing new group of seniors who are committed to putting in the 'off-time' work to make their season great. I am really looking forward to sophomore Nick Gale's work as a returning regional qualifier as well as senior Parker Redburn, who has been working hard most of the summer in the weight room." ■

What our students are saying about their school

Recently, a number of current Notre Dame students from the upper division were asked about their experiences at the school and how it has affected them academically, spiritually, physically, socially, etc. Basically, we wanted to find out why they go to Notre Dame and what they get out of it.

While their answers were not too surprising — we hear similar comments nearly every day from students — they nonetheless remind us once again about how Notre Dame has such an overwhelmingly positive impact on the lives of its students.



"Through the diversity of classes, clubs and activities offered at Notre Dame, I have been able to learn more about myself and what my skills and interests are. NDP has given me a variety of opportunities to grow as a Christian, as a scholar, and as a person." — **Joey Joppich, Class of 2019**

"My experience at Notre Dame has challenged me spiritually, academically and athletically in ways I never could have imagined. Here at NDP, everyone is family." — **Maddy Chinn, Class of 2019**

"Notre Dame has provided me a multitude of opportunities, both academically and athletically, that have challenged me to reach far beyond what I thought I was capable of. NDP also has a supportive Christian atmosphere that I cannot imagine finding anywhere else." — **Celia Gaynor, Class of 2018**



"Notre Dame has given me the unique opportunity to grow both academically and personally in a comfortable, yet challenging, environment. The NDP experience truly has shaped me into the person I am today." — **Daniel Fox, Class of 2018**

"When I came to Notre Dame, I found the students to be very welcoming, and the teachers to be available if and when I needed help. They really made the transition to NDP easy for me." — **Isabella Bankstahl, Class of 2019**

"Notre Dame has shaped me into the person I am today. Through many sports and extracurriculars, and by working with dedicated teachers and passionate students, I have been able to stretch myself mentally and physically every day." — **Daniel DiCaro, Class of 2019**



If you have any questions about the Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy's admissions process, please contact the school's office of admissions at 248-373-1061 or koffer@ndpma.org.

CLASS REUNIONS

INTERESTED IN PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

Contact Beth Campbell, Director of Alumni Relations at alumni@ndpma.org or (248) 373-2171 Ext. 3.

A reunion planning informational packet is available to you, and the alumni office can offer you help in getting started and throughout your planning process. We can provide you a class list with classmates' contact information, and can print and mail your invitations, covering the postage.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PLAN 2018 REUNIONS

NDP Class of 1998, 20 year

NDP Class of 2003, 15 year

NDP Class of 2008, 10 year

NDP Class of 2013, 5 year

NDP Class of 1963, 55 year

NDHS Class of 1978, 40 Year

NDHS Class of 1983, 35 year

NDHS Class of 1993, 25 year

NDHS Class of 1998, 20 year

NDHS Class of 2003, 15 year

PC/OC all class years ending in 8 and 3

NOTRE DAME PREP

Class of 2007 10th class reunion will be held December 26, 2017 from 4 – 6 p.m. at The HUB Stadium 2550 Takata Dr, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326. Click here to buy tickets now! Price increases on December 1. For questions

or more information, please contact Sarah Burns, sburnsy.2011@gmail.com; 248-840-6391.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1958 Planning is underway for the 60th class reunion. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or attending the reunion please contact Bill Vallee at 586-649-7501.

Class of 1972 Class of '72 is looking for NDHS '72 Alumni for help with planning, suggestions or ideas for our '72 NDHS "45th" Reunion. Please contact John Berra ASAP at 949-540-3825 (cell) or jmberra2003@yahoo.com.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC

None scheduled at this time.

OAKLAND CATHOLIC

None scheduled at this time.

ST. FREDERICK

None scheduled at this time.

ST. MICHAEL

None scheduled at this time.

NOTRE DAME UPCOMING EVENTS

OKTOBERFEST Saturday, September 30

Free for the first 20 alums! Email Alumni Director, Beth Campbell at bcampbell@ndpma.org by September 22, if you are interested in attending. Join us for a fun evening of dinner, dancing, cocktails and many door prizes! Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the drawing for the annual school raffle will be at 9 p.m. For more information, click on upcoming events on our website www.ndpma.org.

HOMECOMING 2017 Friday, October 6

Alumni pregame tailgate at the Fr. Colin House starting at 5 p.m. Cocktails and appetizers for alumni and their families. Enjoy VIP alumni parking at the lower division (easy exit!) and then a short walk over to the alumni tent.

Alumni tent celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. BBQ buffet served at 7 p.m.

Varsity football game vs. Waterford Kettering – 7 p.m.

William Kozyra Alumni Field, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL ALUMNI

All alumni and guests are invited to join in this momentous event, as we celebrate our rich history of Catholic education.

4TH ANNUAL NOTRE DAME FUN RUN Saturday, October 7, 9 a.m.

Brought to you by the Notre Dame Alumni Association

The Notre Dame Alumni Association (NDAA) is excited for Homecoming weekend activities to continue on Saturday morning with the Notre Dame Fun Run.

This 5k run/walk will take place on the beautiful campus of NDPMA. Pre-registration is available at ndpma.org/nd5k as well as walk up registration on Saturday morning. Cost is \$20 per person and kids under age 10 are free. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the event will begin at 9 a.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity for ALL alumni to come back or if you have never been to campus to see it firsthand. Please join us for this wonderful event.

ALUMNI THEATRE NIGHT Friday, November 17, 7 p.m.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association (NDAA) is excited to host alumni night at this year's high school musical, Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella. We are offering complimentary tickets to the first 20 alumni interested in attending. Additional tickets for alumni will be offered at a discounted rate. Refreshments will be served after the show as we invite alumni to attend the opening night cast party backstage. If you are interested in reserving your seats, please email bcampbell@ndpma.org



PEOPLE. SOLUTIONS.

We take care of the things
that take care of your people.



Kristopher Powell (NDHS '75)

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