

In this issue:
'Sopranos' star
talks about high
school and his
journey to
career as
successful actor

Marching on

Notre Dame announces
\$7.5-million science, art and
technology building expansion

plus:

Bradley Hensen

Berch brothers

Marisa Sochacki

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Luke Moriguchi

Irish news

Alumni notes

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(SEE PAGE 7)



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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:
Notre Dame announces \$7.5-million science, art and technology building expansion. (Page 10)

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A WORD FROM YOUR ALUMNI DIRECTOR

It's a very exciting time here on the Notre Dame campus! In late February, we opened the lower-division expansion providing six additional classrooms and a restroom. Each of the six new classrooms in the addition are the same size as its current classrooms, with an additional entrance/exit included as part of the \$1.1 million expansion, which was begun in late summer.

On March 9, we launched the public phase of our philanthropic campaign to raise a total of \$5.5 million toward a \$7.5 million science, art and technology wing to be built on the main campus. Dubbed the "March on to Victory" campaign, the public phase of the fundraising effort was introduced at a special celebration to a crowd of more than 650 who heard from school and campaign officials. Many alumni and alum families were on hand for the big announcement.

The alumni board has had a very successful year. The newly structured board started the career speaker series, updated homecoming weekend with many improvements, hosted an alumni theatre night and so much more. More alumni participated in events this year than last and we hosted over 25 reunions this year!

Hoping for a class reunion this year? If you do not see a reunion on the list for your class and would like to get something going, please

don't hesitate to reach out to me. I would love to help you! I can provide you with contact information for your classmates and a small budget to get things going. We had some wonderful reunions last year, and I am hoping to make this a focus in the upcoming year. I have had such a wonderful time meeting with all of you at your reunions and look forward to seeing you again.

Whether you graduated from Notre Dame High School, Notre Dame Prep, Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic, St. Michaels or St. Frederick, now is the time to be a part of the future of Notre Dame! We hope that in this new year, you will connect at an even greater level with the alumni association and continue to be a part of the mission of this great institution!

Beth Campbell

Beth Campbell
Director of Alumni Relations, Notre Dame



Notre Dame students learn about legal profession from alumni

More than 50 students from Notre Dame's upper division gathered in early February in the school's media center for the 6th edition of the Alumni Career Speaker Series, which is sponsored by the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

The focus of this event was on legal careers and featured four Notre Dame graduates: Amanda Murley '05 (NDP), judicial staff attorney to Oakland County judge Lisa Gorcyca; Brynne Lewis, JD '04 (NDP), an attorney with Hewson & Van Hellemont, primarily focusing her practice on insurance defense; Andrew Pauwels '05 (NDP), a litigation associate at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, a Detroit based commercial law firm; and Michael A. Rataj '77 (NDHS), a criminal law attorney. At the previous career event, a number of alums spoke to Notre Dame students about the marketing, accounting and finance industries.

Notre Dame Prep graduate ('98) and ND Alumni Association chair Scott Lockhart, who organizes the events along with Beth Campbell, director of alumni relations, said the association looks forward to continuing to match current student interest

with alumni professionals across a range of disciplines.

"This latest session proved once again that students at Notre Dame are very interested in what their next steps could

be in terms of college majors and careers," Lockhart said. "We're very happy that the association can continue to host these types of events." ■



From left: Scott Lockhart, ND Alumni Association chair; Andrew Pauwels '05 (NDP), a litigation associate at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP; Brynne Lewis, JD '04 (NDP), an attorney with Hewson and Van Hellemont; and Michael A. Rataj '77 (NDHS), a criminal law attorney.

Students benefit

Third Annual Irish Week Challenge raises more than \$11,500 to benefit Notre Dame students

The 3rd Annual Irish Week Challenge finished up last week as another tremendous success for NDPMA! The Challenge raised more than \$11,500 in support of Notre Dame and its annual appeal, The Notre Dame Fund, which directly benefits students.

Similar to last year's Challenge, which honored four of the school's staffers, Fr. James Strasz, Mrs. Ellen Tessada, Mr. Norman Kotarski, and Ms. Kathy Bembas, this year's fundraising effort was focused on anyone who's served at any of the Notre Dame schools as well as Pontiac/Oakland Catholic. As a result, more than 115 faculty and staff members were honored last week as part of the challenge. Among those called out during the week were Diana Atkins, Fr. Ron DesRosiers, Gretchen Glick, Fr. John Kiselica, Br. Louis Plourde and Conrad Vachon. The complete list of "champions" is below.

"Based on the enthusiastic response to the previous two efforts, we decided to expand the challenge," said Gregory Simon, Notre Dame's director of advancement. "The 'Who's Your Champion' theme gave donors a chance to honor anyone who works (or worked) to make our Notre Dame schools special. We are thrilled, grateful, and humbled by the generous response. It goes to show how much our community of alumni, parents, and friends appreciate the work being done on behalf of our students."

The overall goal for the Notre Dame Fund is \$600,000, which school officials hope to reach or surpass by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2017. More information on the fund is at ndpma.org/ndfund. ■

Dr. Laurie Alkidas
Kim Rose Anderson
Melissa Archer
Diana Atkins
Carol Belkowski
Kathy Bembas
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Amy Tkac '02 (NDP)

Notre Dame's building expansion 'opens for business'



In a ceremony and blessing Feb. 27 held outside the recently completed expansion of Notre Dame's lower division building, parents, faculty and administration officials welcomed students into its new classrooms.

Head of School

Andy Guest provided remarks

and Fr. Ron Nikodem, s.m., from the campus ministry department, blessed the new structure before those in attendance filed in to the William Kozyra Assembly Hall for refreshments and treats.

"The fifth graders will be the first to occupy the new classroom building along with students in Spanish classes," Guest said.

Guest thanked the faculty, staff, student and parents along with the project team, which included Steve Pangori from Anderson Eckstein and Westrick, Inc., and representatives from Frank Rewold and Son Inc.

Each of the six new classrooms in the addition are the same size as its current classrooms, with an additional restroom and entrance/exit included as part of the \$1.1 million expansion, which was begun in late summer.

Notre Dame's lower division moved in 2013 from its original location in Waterford to the current facility on the school's main campus in Pontiac. Since then, it has experienced substantial growth in enrollment and its 12 classrooms will grow to 18 when the new addition is completed.

The division educates students in junior-kindergarten through grade 5.

Alum and author visits with lower division

Notre Dame alum Kelsey (Ellsasser) Fox ('06) visited with a number of students in the lower division in early March to read from and discuss her book, "Just try it Wyatt."

The book, which was released last year, is the first in a planned series of books by the author featuring Wyatt, the red fox, who is very set in his ways, but discovers that trying new things can be fun and exciting.

According to Fox, the second book in the "Adventures of Wyatt" series is called "Please be quiet Wyatt," where the little fox learns when and where he needs to be quiet and that it's important to let others have a turn to speak, too.



Lower-, middle-division robotics teams win state championships

Team 3333K of Notre Dame's VEX IQ robotics group, the Bumble Bees, came out on top last month in the GM-sponsored VEX IQ Elementary School Michigan State Championship, which was held at

Charlotte Middle School in Charlotte, Mich. As a result of their big win, the team qualifies for the VEX IQ World Championship, which will be held in April in Louisville, Kentucky.

Team 3333K, also known as the "Poison Vipers," is comprised of third graders from Notre Dame's lower division. They are Brooke Beaudoin, Andrew Chang, Augustin Villajuan and Lucas DiGrande.

Following the state championship win by the team from the lower division, a team from Notre Dame's middle division also brought home a state title in February after defeating 31 other teams in the



VEX IQ Middle School Michigan State Championship, which also was held in Charlotte.

Team 3333B, "The Engineers who say Ni," finished first followed by Notre Dame's Team 3333A, 3333X and 3333P.

As a result of the big win, these teams of 6th graders automatically qualify for the VEX IQ World Championship in Louisville. They will be joined by the following NDPMA robotics teams: Yellow Jackets – 3333Y, The Terminators – 3333T, Code Crushers – 3333J, Poison Vipers – 3333K and Motorheads – 3333N.

Two alums get key appointments at Notre Dame

Notre Dame's Board of Trustees announced on Feb. 7 that Andrew J. Guest was named head of school. In this position, Guest oversees the day-to-day operations of the school, including all academic, arts and athletic programs. He succeeds Fr. Leon Olszowski, s.m., who was named corporate president, a position that will be responsible for Notre Dame's long-term vision, strategy and board development as well as alumni and donor relations.

Since July of last year, Guest has been serving as interim president of the school, while Olszowski was on a six-month sabbatical.

Guest first came to Notre Dame in 2005 as director of advancement, charged with overseeing the school's alumni relations, marketing and fundraising efforts. Since then, the school has experienced extensive growth in both its annual giving and number of donors. Most recently, in 2013, Guest was named executive vice president. During his tenure at Notre Dame, he has been a member of the strategic planning, building, finance, advancement, legal and education committees and the committee on trustees and has helped raise nearly \$25 million for the school.

Gregory Simon, who first moved into Notre Dame's advancement department in 2014 to direct its annual fund activities, was named Feb. 9 by Head of School Andy Guest to lead the department as director of advancement. In this position, Simon will manage and administer advancement and development initiatives as well as the procurement of major and designated gifts. In addition, he will



Andy Guest '84
(NDHS)



*Gregory Simon '89
(NDHS)*

oversee alumni relations, market research, the Notre Dame Fund, the school's webmaster and the day-to-day operations of the advancement department at the Colin House.

Simon first came to the NDPMA campus in 1995 shortly after the school opened. Since then he has served as both a social studies and government teacher in the upper division in addition to roles as student council moderator, assistant athletic director and coach of both basketball and baseball. In January 2014, Simon moved from a nine-year tenure as Notre Dame's dean of admissions and diversity to the school's advancement department as annual fund director where he planned and managed the annual-giving component of advancement.

Notre Dame Prep cheer wins 4th straight state title

The Notre Dame competitive cheer team took its fourth consecutive MHSAA Division III state title this past Saturday at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids. The Irish, who placed second in both the district and regional competitions behind Richmond, posted the top score in each round in the state finals meet.



Notre Dame posted scores of 235.30 and 230.36 in the first and second rounds respectively to lead Richmond by just 1.24 points heading into the critical third round. Despite going first in the round, Notre Dame topped the Blue Devils 315.90 to 314.70 in round three and 781.56 to 779.12 on the day. Monroe Jefferson took third with 772.62 and Comstock was fourth with 767.34. Flat Rock was fifth with 761.46 with Lake Odessa Lakewood sixth (756.62), Paw Paw seventh (752.84) and Howard City Tri-County eighth (748.58).

The Irish graduate seniors Kaitlin Boncore, Caroline Hauck, Grace Mackey, Sarah Nantel, Jenny Redoutey, Brooke Ringler, and Anne Seyferth from a class that took state titles in all four years at Notre Dame.

Notre Dame names PGA pro as new boys golf coach



The athletic department of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced in early February that Tom Gillis has been named head coach of the boys golf team. A native of Lake Orion, Mich., Gillis has been competing professionally since 1990 after playing at the collegiate level with Oakland Community College.

Gillis was born in Pontiac, Michigan, and graduated from Lake Orion High School in Lake Orion, Michigan. He turned professional in 1990 after playing collegiate golf at OCC where he was a two-time

Junior College All-American.

Gillis, who currently has two children in Notre Dame's lower division, has competed in 28 countries and earned 15 professional career wins on multiple tours. He was a member of the PGA Tour for eight years and the European Tour for five years and is currently on the ballot to be elected into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame.

Also announced today, Jennifer Gillis, Tom's wife, will be an assistant coach for the boys team. Jenny Gillis holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering and played collegiate golf at Oakland University. She also was an assistant coach for the OU women and men's programs for two years.

Record-setting student-artists pick up awards at the DFT

On Feb. 7, in a ceremony held at the Detroit Film Theatre in the Detroit Institute of Arts, Notre Dame student-artists were honored alongside hundreds of fellow high school artists in the area who earned accolades in the Southeastern Michigan Region of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition.

Sandy LewAllen, Notre Dame's art chair, said she was super proud to watch the NDP artists accept the school-record 45 Scholastic Art Awards on stage at the DFT.

LewAllen also noted that Notre Dame junior and American Vision award winner Sophia Shick had her artwork published on the cover of last night's program.

A public exhibit of all the artwork, which had been mounted at Detroit's College for Creative Studies, also opened the same night. The exhibit is held annually at CCS and features approximately 1,100 works of art displayed throughout all four levels of the college's Walter B. Ford II Building.

The 45 pieces of art by Notre Dame student artists that earned awards from the Southeastern Michigan Region of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition represented a new record for the school.



NDP junior Sophia Shick won an American Vision award from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition.

Notre Dame debuts sports broadcasting club at basketball game



When the Davison Cardinals boys basketball team came into Notre Dame's gym in February to play the Fighting Irish, NDP students on the school's new sports broadcasting team decided it was as good of time as any to put the game on air.

Started initially by the school's Varsity Club, the new "broadcast

Please see IRISH News, page 14

Career defined by change

1977 graduate says high school and mom also helped define his work—and his life

When 1977 Pontiac Catholic High School grad Bradley Hensen got into college he thought he had a pretty good handle on where his education and career would take him.

But things “changed.”

“The word ‘change’ best describes

my experience in college,” said Hensen. “My major changed three times while I attended four different schools in three different states over a seven-year period. I started out thinking I wanted a career in graphic arts. But, on the very first day in my first graphics class, the professor told us the average salary a graphic artist could expect to make. That number was so disheartening I dropped the class as soon as it ended that day and changed my major immediately.”

Hansen said that throughout his very eclectic college career, he continually re-assessed his goals and adjusted his field of study to not only help maximize his future potential, but to better fit his evolving interests.

“I think I did this because my mom and a couple of influential teachers at Pontiac Catholic taught me to think for myself and keep my mind open to new things,” he said. “Another important lesson I learned in high school came from my 10th-grade geometry teacher, Sr. Mercia McGee. She often told us, ‘The man who knows how will always have a job. But the man who knows why will be his boss.’ That wisdom has stayed with me my entire life.”

Hensen’s life after college — he ended up with a bachelor’s degree in film from Syracuse University — also had a few twists, not the least of which was a planned moviemaking career in LA.

“My goal at the time, of course, like everyone else in film school, was to get to Hollywood and make movies,” he said. “Right out of the gate after college, I started my Hollywood journey in Michigan, working as a production assistant on film shoots for TV commercials. In my personal time, I also wrote unsolicited scripts for network television shows and submitted them through the Writer’s Guild. I even sold one, but it was never produced because the show was canceled.”

His career got its first boost — and a possible slightly different direction — when, while working on a shoot for an AT&T commercial, he made a connection with a creative director at a small advertising agency who was looking for some writing help.

“I didn’t know anything about advertising, but I thought to myself, ‘I watch TV, how hard can it be?’ Two weeks later, I began working as a writer at that agency.”

While at the agency, some very kind people helped Hensen learn more of the ins and outs of the advertising business. “I found that I liked it very much and that I had an aptitude for it,” he said. “Advertising actually allowed me to put my creative-writing skills to use immediately and soon I was in New York — and Hollywood(!) — on a regular basis producing the TV commercials I’d written.”

As time went by, Hensen, whose son, Finnegan, currently is in Notre Dame’s 4th grade, built a pretty good reputation for himself along with a strong portfolio, which allowed him to get better and better positions, move to larger agencies, increase his salary and work on marquee national and international accounts. Over the years, he’s created work in every possible media channel and traveled around the globe collaborating on projects produced in England, France, China, Thailand,

Australia, South Africa, Canada and more than two dozen states in the U.S.

In spite of all of this worldly success, Hensen hasn’t forgotten about what, and more importantly, who, actually led to such success.

“I always come back to my mom,” he said. “As I was growing up, my mom was the single biggest influence on my success in life. She always stressed the importance of honesty, hard work and integrity. She taught me to look out for myself and others and to be wary of bullies under any guise. She also emphasized the value of education and made it clear that a college education was critical to success in life. To that end, she sacrificed a lot to see that my four brothers and sisters and I were able to attend private Catholic schools and go on to college. And throughout my four years at Pontiac Catholic, those same values were definitely reinforced.”

Hansen said that even though he and his career are far removed from the small, close-knit community and wide-eyed optimism he shared with many of his classmates at Pontiac Catholic, he still looks back at his high school with great fondness.

“I have so many awesome memories of my time at Pontiac Catholic,” he said. “I enjoyed high school very much and still have a number of lifelong friends from that time. But it would be difficult to choose a single memory as my favorite.”

He said there is one that stands out, however.

“It was a practical joke played on me in retaliation for one I played on someone else,” he recalled. “A few friends conspired to make me late for school one morning. As the first hour bell rang, I was opening my locker only to discover it was filled to the top with popcorn that came pouring out. Then someone sounded an air horn, which brought the vice principal out of the office. So there I was, alone in the hallway, late for class, standing shin deep in popcorn. It was tricky to explain.”

As far as teachers go, Hensen said there actually was one he could say was a real favorite at Pontiac Catholic: Mr. Nolan.

“I had Mr. Nolan for a few history classes and homeroom when I was a senior,” Hensen recalled. “He taught me to think differently and question things. He also helped reinforce the importance of believing in yourself and going your own way. I remember having a conversation with him about college. He said he had traveled to Europe the summer after he graduated from college and that experience brought the world to life for him and allowed him to make a more meaningful impact on his education. He recommended I do the same. Back then I didn’t understand. Now I do.”

Another thing Hensen understands now is how important one’s early experiences is to a successful life and career.

“One of my favorite expressions is ‘we are standing on the shoulders of giants,’ which simply means that much of our success in life comes to us through others,” he said. “Their wisdom and experience enriches and elevates our lives. We in turn have the power to enrich the lives of others. Over time, it has a cumulative effect by lifting each new generation higher than the one before. In that respect, I think it’s incumbent on each of us to pass along our knowledge and experience to create a better world for those who come after us.

“So if your alma mater is teaching the values, morals and skills you believe will help its students create a better world, then I believe it’s very important to support those students,” he said. ■



Marching into the future

Notre Dame announces \$7.5-million science, art and technology building expansion

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy on March 9, 2017, launched the public phase of its philanthropic campaign to raise a total of \$5.5 million toward a \$7.5 million science, art and technology wing to be built on its campus in Pontiac.

Dubbed the “March on to Victory” campaign, the public phase of the fundraising effort was introduced at a special celebration to a crowd of more than 650 who heard from school and campaign officials and watched a special video presentation.

Daron Gifford, NDPMA board chairman and co-chair of the campaign emceed the event and said it was a momentous day for Notre Dame.

“The big goals of this campaign, which is the most ambitious in the school’s history, are to help our great school to maintain its educational leadership not only for our current generation of students, but also for many generations of students to come,” said Gifford, who also is an alumni parent.

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., corporate president, explained

that the new facilities planned as part of the campaign will total 26,000 square feet and will include a one-story science, technology and arts wing to be added to the shared middle division and upper division building. The new wing will house science laboratory facilities, collaborative learning classrooms, a robotics lab, a specially designed greenhouse, and a fine arts studio.

“We’ve always tried to be on the cutting edge here at Notre Dame,” said Olszamowski. “And the educational program we have here now is not necessarily for students living in today’s world, but with this project, we are looking at what students will need in the future.”

The new fine arts studio will be dedicated solely to the visual arts and provide a setting that encourages and fosters the talent and imagination of Notre Dame students. Natural lighting, abundant wall and floor space, proper worktables, ample shelving and storage, a kiln room and more will provide a setting to help aspiring young student-artists flourish. The space also will include a modern gallery to exhibit student-artists’ work.

Sandra LewAllen, who is chair of Notre Dame’s arts depart-





of Notre Dame



The new facilities planned as part of the campaign will include a one-story science, technology and arts wing.

ment, said she is excited about the big changes ahead for the school.

“It will be absolutely beautiful,” she said after reviewing the latest architectural renderings. “The art studio and gallery’s many features are amazing. In fact, I think I might teach here until I’m 80!”

The planned science labs have been designed to promote inquiry-based learning through design and functionality, according to the school. Work areas will accommodate small group collaboration and technology will be incorporated into the teacher demonstration station. Counters and chairs have been designed with students in mind and a prep room conveniently situated between each of the science labs will provide a safe and secure environment for the storage of equipment and any potentially hazardous chemicals. General storage also will be housed in the prep room.

The new collaborative learning classrooms have been thoughtfully designed as flexible and fluid learning spaces that emphasize the roles that comfort and environment play in fostering group work as well as the hands-on learning—concepts so critical to Notre Dame’s progressive and comprehensive curriculum.

Another key component of the academic expansion is a 1,200 square-foot robotics lab and 850 square-foot adjoining classroom. Notre Dame’s robotics program has grown to encompass world-ranked programs at its lower, middle and upper divisions. The robotics center will complement the space currently provided through our relationship with FIAT Chrysler, a sponsor of our robotics program since its inception. The robotics room also will provide dedicated education, construction, storage and training space; mobile work stations that will allow for both computer-aided instruction and robot-building space as well as indoor and outdoor work space that will be centrally located between the upper and middle divisions.

The new greenhouse is designed to be a powerful environmental education tool for Notre Dame students of all ages. The greenhouse will also provide students with the unique

opportunity to explore hydroponic growing systems, which is a new way to develop efficient food sources. Throughout each school year, students studying natural and social science, math, language arts, visual arts and more will benefit from the greenhouse and its garden-like setting.

“The whole idea around sciences, technology, the arts and math is that they are part of the analytical skills that children need today and will be even more vital to them in the future,” Gifford said.

Andy Guest, Notre Dame’s head of school, told those on hand at the launch that nearly \$4.1 million already has been raised through the quiet phase of the campaign with the participation of more than 100 donors, including faculty and staff who came together to contribute over \$100,000 and counting. He added that the new facilities are a continuation of the momentum the school has experienced over a number of years to become an institution with one of southeast Michigan’s most diverse and innovative curriculums.

“We are proud of how Notre Dame has taken root and flourished in Oakland County in just over 20 years,” Guest said. “We set high standards for our students from junior kindergarten on, and every year our students exceed established goals and raise the bar for the next class. And this new wing will no doubt help our amazing and accomplished faculty to continue their work in encouraging every student to reach his or her full potential.”



The new greenhouse is designed to be a powerful environmental education tool for Notre Dame students of all ages.

Olszamowski added that he thinks that faith has been a guiding force for the campaign from the very beginning.

“It’s always been our belief that God is there to help out this school and its students,” he said. “So we believe that this project will move forward and be quite successful.”

TMP Architecture, headquartered in Bloomfield Hills, is the architect for Notre Dame’s new building initiative. To learn more about the campaign, its impact and how to participate, please visit ndpma.org/marchontovictory. ■

Dedication to mission



NDPMA Head of School Andy Guest discussed the “March on to Victory” project in a speech given at a March 9 event at Notre Dame to announce the campaign.



Andrew J. Guest was named head of school for Notre Dame on February 7, 2017.

Good evening everyone. And, thank you, Brad [Seitzinger], for that truly inspirational message. I cannot express in words how moving it is to hear such great thoughts from you and other members of our community who have chosen to support this cause so freely and generously. Thank you!

We “pitched” this evening as a chance to “come see the future.” And this science, arts and technology wing is just the beginning. This project will provide us with extra classrooms, science labs, a prep room, an art studio

for both the middle and upper divisions, a robotics room and a green house. Notre Dame is a school truly on the move. We are growing and expanding at a time when others stand still.

We do this because we are driven by a sense of purpose and dedication to our mission, to work with God, to create Christian persons, upright citizens and academic scholars.

Let’s face it. It can be a crazy, difficult and confusing world out there for kids. But we believe we are an educational and spiritual oasis in the desert of modern society.

We prepare our students not only for success in college, but also for life...and, ultimately heaven. For what good would it be to send our students to the best colleges and universities in the world if they did not become good people in the process—kind and caring adults who make the world a better place.

When I first joined the school 12 years ago, I was sitting in Mass in this very gymnasium. It was springtime and a little warm. A young boy in the middle division was sitting in the row behind me. I think he was a little bored and more than a little fidgety. I didn’t think too much of it, but noticed one of our teachers leaned over to remind him that we were in church and to behave. Nothing that I hadn’t done with my own kids on multiple occasions.

At the end of Mass, the young boy approached me and said, “Excuse me, but I wanted to apologize if my behavior in Mass distracted you.” I was blown away and I immediately fell in love with the school. I knew right then and there that Notre Dame was a special place. Since that time, I have seen so many random acts of kindness from both students and teachers I could go on for hours. You’ll be glad to hear, I won’t.

What we do, I think better than any Catholic or parochial school in the area, is offer an internationally recognized, college preparatory experience of lasting value. And, we do that within the loving arms of the Church and through the guidance of our patroness, Mary, the Mother of God.

We offer an outstanding academic curriculum, second to none, delivered by exceptional teachers, received by talented young students and raised by families who want the best for their children. Through God’s grace, we have created a culture where “it’s cool to be smart.”

We understand that if we do Catholic education well, we not only bring our students, but their entire family closer to God. And, that my friends, is an awesome responsibility.

We want to build this science, technology and arts addition... We need to build this science, arts and technology addition...because it will offer our students access to the best facilities we can provide to maximize their academic potential and best prepare them for college...and beyond.

As you can imagine, this is an aggressive undertaking. The total cost of this project is \$7.5 million dollars. Our goal is to raise \$5.5 million by the summer of 2018. If we can raise at least \$5.5 million by the summer of 2018, we will have this beautiful, new science, arts and technology wing open and operational as early as one year from this fall. That means that any parent with a student who is a sophomore or younger will be able to learn in the new addition before they graduate. This is a very aggressive timeline, but very doable. In



Another key component of the academic expansion is a 1,200 square-foot robotics lab and 850 square-foot adjoining classroom.

fact, we have already received our site plan approval from the City of Pontiac.

Now, while the goal is to raise \$5.5 million, the closer we get to the total project cost, the better it will be for the school. Today, I am happy to announce that we have already raised a total of \$4,103,591 toward our goal of \$5.5 million. This \$4.1 million includes a gift of \$50,000 from our own Marist Fathers United States province and \$103,000 from 73 members of our faculty and staff, who came forward on their own accord to make voluntary contributions, mostly through payroll deductions, to support this important initiative for our kids.

It warms my heart to know that no one cares more about the kids than our own Marist Fathers and Brother and our own teachers and staff. Virtually everyone that works at our school could make more money elsewhere...and certainly if they chose different professions. But, they are here because they love kids, they love teaching and they love our Catholic mission.

The first \$4.1 million, toward our goal of \$5.5 million, has been

Please see DEDICATION page 27



'Make dreams come true'

Corporate President Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., also addressed those on hand at the March 9 event.

Good evening, and thank you for joining us on this happy occasion. As you know, one of the consistent hallmarks of our school is that we deliver what we say we will deliver. This is evidenced by our academic scores, our college placement, and the wonderful all-around decorum of our student body—truly a Christ-like community that lives its mission well. We have been a body of Christian people “on the go” and “on the grow” ever since our inception in 1994. As schools go, ours is a mere 23 years old—as it were, just a young adult with a bright future ahead. We are an academic gem shining brightly here on Giddings Road, filled with remarkable students and staff. We are well-supported by parents and friends. All these factors and friends make for a very good school destined for greatness.

Every school day our mission calls us to help our students find their niche in life and develop their God-given talents to



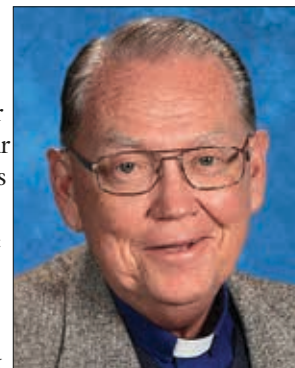
The planned new greenhouse will provide students with the unique opportunity to explore hydroponic growing systems.

occupy their station in life well. Our mission calls us to become an educational bee-hive, teaching and learning to do our part to strengthen the hive itself and successfully complete any project we encounter. Our mission demands our staff to deliver the best academic program in superior surroundings that invite exploration, experimentation, deep thinking, and even deeper creative, moral judgement.

Since I arrived here 24 years ago, (even before our school began), I have watched our staff, programs, our athletic fields, and our building's square footage expand to deliver our students many of the tools they will need to live and grow in their “future world” much more than into our “world today.” Our Board of Trustees, administrative team, and our staff, have done the requisite thinking and planning to provide an ethos in which our kids can succeed and bear much fruit. In fact, we have just helped to prosper our lower division last week as we celebrated the completion of its new 7,000-square foot school addition.

This evening, I have more good news—this time about our middle and upper divisions. I want to share briefly our plan for a

26,000-square foot addition that will help the middle and upper divisions to prosper, particularly in collaborative Art, Science and Technology. Our curricular space must always match our student needs and continued demands for more science (a mainstay of modern left-brained education), more graphic and fine arts (which increase creative right-brained activity), and a much-needed robotics lab (to further whet our appetite for STEM, STEAM and STREAM.) Our new Art, Science and Technology wing is only a beginning, a start down a path of building for the next 10 years.



Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., is corporate president for Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.

May I add that, although our natural and biological science programs have been very strong, we have not paid enough attention to the biological kingdom opposite the animals. We will address the plant kingdom with a new, well-equipped botanical center, indoor greenhouse and outdoor experimental garden; and we will offer new courses in botanical science.

Because of the nature of our student body, we know they are destined to be tomorrow's leaders; so, today we will do what we can to prepare them for that role, making sure that they can hone their tools and skills at a school that allows them to engage and create a better world.

Our new Art, Science, and Technology wing is, as I said, only a first step that will address many of our academic needs; but I want you to know that this is only a beginning. We have a long list of future academic, athletic and arts projects to match our students' hunger for knowledge in arts and sciences and hunger for healthy athletic competition.

I think we are all well-aware of the powerful dynamic that goes on at this school each day. After all, that's why your children attended, attend, or want to attend this school. That's why we taught, teach, and will continue to teach at NDPMA. All you need to do is look at our track record and the caliber of our student graduates to know that this is a magically productive incubator for Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars. We board members, we Marist Fathers, we faculty/staff associates, and we, the local Catholic community are proud of what we have built here in Pontiac.

May I conclude by saying that we love your kids almost as much as you do. Our promise is to do our best to provide what they need to be productive adults and healthy people.

So, join me now in taking a look at what we have in mind. We hope you like what you see and work with us to make dreams come true. ■

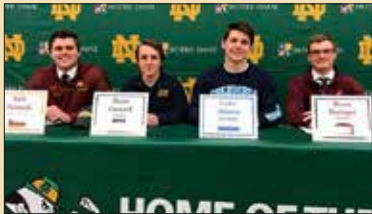
club” currently consists of seniors Luke Adams, Adam Sadowski, Noah Ford, Will Gurzick, Alex Shimoon, Ryan Collins, Andy Carpenter and junior Tommy Cavanaugh.

Turns out the decision to broadcast the Davison game was fortuitous as both the broadcast and basketball teams performed admirably with Irish basketball defeating the then one-loss Cardinals, 84-79.

Coach Whitney Robinson '88 (NDHS) called the win “the best win by far so far this season,” and we couldn’t agree more.

All games are archived on theirishthunder.com website after each contest.

Four from Notre Dame sign to play college athletics



On Feb. 1, on what is traditionally the annual signing day for high school student-athletes across the U.S. who are heading to college in the fall to play football, Notre Dame Prep did indeed host a signing ceremony on campus that day

for four of its senior student-athletes.

Luke Adams has committed to attend and play football at Columbia University; Bryce Baringer signed to play football for Southern Illinois University; Ryan Genord will be playing lacrosse at Drexel University; and Kyle Sassack has signed to play football for the University of Minnesota.

Notre Dame takes first place in prestigious drama competition

In late January, Notre Dame’s upper division drama students earned a Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association district first place for their performance of “Women and War, A One Act Play.”

According to Meredith Gifford, who heads Notre Dame’s theatre department, the group also received Superior Awards for Costume Design (Abigail Kot) and Acting (Chloe Fazzini, Francesco Fregoli, Nina Romzek, and Emily Macks), and Excellent Awards in acting for the entire cast and for sound design (Mikaela Crute).

MIFA is a state non-profit based in Southfield focused around the middle and high school levels of forensics activities like debate, individual events, and theater. It has been the governing body for speech activities in the state of Michigan since 1917.

“Women and War, A One Act Play,” by Jack Hilton Cunningham, was derived from a selection of fictional stories based on historical fact, told by generations of Americans impacted by conflict from The Great War to the war in Afghanistan.

Gifford said the MIFA competition consists of traveling shows of published or unpublished one-act plays, cuttings from longer plays, or original one-act plays that are 35 minutes long.

“Students are judged on their performance and schools may participate in studio and/or main stage divisions,” she said. “Humorous and serious themes sometimes alternate between the various divisions.”



Notre Dame alum to run for mayor

Joe Ricci, a 1967 Notre Dame alum, announced in January that he has thrown his hat in the ring of mayoral candidates in the city of



Grosse Pointe Farms.

A current member of the Farms city council, Ricci officially filed paperwork recently with Wayne County to run for GPF mayor in the November 2017 general election.

Ricci is a semi-retired longtime auto dealer in the Detroit area and believes his business experience makes him the ideal candidate for the mayor’s position.

“Even though the mayoral job is considered part-time, I can give full-time attention to the job where no one else can,” he said, citing that his successful family automotive dealerships are now run by his two sons, Jay and Andrew.

Ricci is a University of Michigan graduate who has an undergraduate degree in engineering and a master’s in occupational psychology. He has been a member of the Grosse Pointe Farms city council for the past four years and has had a strong commitment to the community and to its future, Ricci said in a recent press release.

“I have a passion and love for the community,” he said. “This is where I have lived for 35 years and where my sons and grandkids have also made their home.”

Notre Dame student earns rare honor

Late last year, Notre Dame sophomore Kevin Cragg earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award given by the Boy Scouts of America. According to the organization, only 4 percent of the nearly three million scouts nationwide earn Eagle Scout status.

Cragg joins current Notre Dame students Logan Hand, William Ballew and Anthony VanDieren, and alums Logan Verheyen, Brennan Eagle, Tyler Obear, Ryan Flaherty, Ryan Dau, Erik Egner, Connor Verheyen, Jack Stouffer, Joe Lombardo and Peter Dondanville, who also achieved Eagle Scout status in recent years.

For his Eagle Scout project, Cragg purchased and constructed a greenhouse on wheels to help benefit Forgotten Harvest, which operates a farm in Fenton, Mich. This type of greenhouse enables the farm to start one crop early in the spring and when the crop is established the greenhouse can be rolled to an adjoining field to start a new crop.



Notre Dame marches on MLK Jr. day of service



On January 14, two days before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a number of students from Notre Dame’s upper division participated in a special day dedicated to service in memory of Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy.

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Offices of Black Catholic and Youth Ministry in Detroit, students organized by Notre Dame’s Campus Ministry department joined hundreds of other students from schools around the area for activities and marches designed to help area needy, including prayer and fellowship with senior citizens in Detroit.

Please see IRISH News, page 20

Alums give back to alma mater

Notre Dame Prep scholarship fund set up by generous contribution from alumni brothers.



PHOTO BY MIKE KELLY '73 (NDHS)

Notre Dame alums Larry Berch ('60), left, Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., ('65) and Jim Berch ('59) at Notre Dame Prep on Feb. 17, 2017, after announcing the new Notre Dame Tuition Assistance Endowed Fund.

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced on Friday, Feb. 17, 2017, that an endowed scholarship fund for tuition assistance has been established with the generous support of alums James Berch, Lawrence Berch and Robert Berch.

The fund, which is officially titled "The Notre Dame Tuition Assistance Endowed Fund," has been established with a charitable gift from the Berch family of \$105,000 for ongoing tuition support of a student or students entering Notre Dame Preparatory School.

In a ceremony held in the school, members of Notre Dame's administration, including Corporate President Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., '65 (NDHS); Director of Advancement Gregory Simon '89 (NDHS); ND Prep Principal Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., '68 (NDHS) and Fr. Jim Strasz, s.m., '70 (NDHS) said they were extremely grateful for the Berch family's generosity in establishing the fund.

"Your gift will help generations of Notre

Dame students receive the same excellent education that you and thousands of other alumni received, but who may not otherwise be able to receive," added Olszamowski. "A huge thank you to the Berch brothers! And we look forward to growing this fund even more in the coming years."

The gift from the Berch brothers will provide a permanent asset that will enable financial assistance for one or more students each school year. The scholarship is renewable by the recipient each school year until graduation, based on demonstrated need, good citizenship and academic success.

Jim Berch, a 1959 graduate of Harper Woods Notre Dame High School who also was a faculty member at the school in the 1960s and 70s, said he and his brothers definitely appreciated the dedication of their parents in being able to afford the Notre Dame education they received. "That's why we are here making this donation today, so that others who might be less fortunate are better able to afford such a great education," he said.

Jim's brother, Robert, a 1963 Notre Dame alum, who was unable to attend the ceremony

at the school, said that in deciding to contribute to the scholarship fund he was totally appreciative of his time at Notre Dame. "Like my brothers, I was very grateful for the academic training and the character formation I received at Notre Dame. That's why we decided to put this fund together," he said.

According to the school, the goal of the partnership with the Berch family is to increase access to Catholic education at Notre Dame for students "with great promise as Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars."

The scholarship will be made each year based on returns on investment, according to the agreement. The award can be increased and/or awarded to multiple students up to the amount of interest earned each year.

Larry Berch, a 1960 Notre Dame alum, said the most important thing about their gift is that he and his brothers want it to inspire future giving to the school.

"We hope other alumni see this also as an opportunity to grow the fund even further," he said. ■

From Teaneck to

Notre Dame alum Matt Servitto ('83) has had a busy and successful acting career in front of the camera, mostly on television. He is probably best recognized for his seven seasons on "The Sopranos" as FBI agent Dwight Harris and for his six years on daytime TV on both "All My Children" and "One Life to Live." More recently, Servitto spent three seasons on the Showtime series "Brotherhood" as well as in a four-year run on Cinemax's "Banshee" as the Brock Lotus character.

His work also includes playing Satan in "Your Pretty Face is Going to Hell" on the Adult Swim network (now in its third season) and he's had recurring roles more recently as Dr. Sebastian Reifler on "The Blacklist" (NBC) and as the character Bob Sweeney in "Billions" (Showtime).

But while Servitto took theater on a scholarship at Wayne State University and studied at the famed Juilliard School in New York City, his significant acting chops were initially honed at Notre Dame High School.

"One of the reasons I think Notre Dame was instrumental in me pursuing a career in the arts was the amazing teachers, mentors, stu-



Servitto credits his high school with an early push to drama. In the photo above, he plays Brock Lotus of the Banshee County Sheriff Department in Cinemax's "Banshee."

ers like Conrad Vachon, Bob Kelly and Fr. Sadjak; music and choir teachers like Dennis Egan; and theater instructors and directors like Fr. Ken Swann, Norm Kotarski and Dennis East.

"But I cannot emphasize enough how drama director Bob Valgoi '73 (NDHS) was especially important in both recognizing my talent and encouraging me to pursue this career path," he said. "I think of him often and try to thank him whenever I get the chance."

TEANECK TRANSPLANT

Born in Teaneck, New Jersey, just outside of New York City, Servitto said he landed in Detroit while very young.

"My father is from Detroit and my mother is from the New York City area," he said. "They met in Hawaii — which in itself is a long and wonderful story — got married and moved initially to New Jersey where I was born. But then we moved when I was still a baby to the city of Detroit. So consequently all my first memories are of Detroit and the various houses we lived in on the east side."

Servitto attended St. Raymond's parochial school on Detroit's northeast side and matriculated to Notre Dame in the fall of 1979. At Notre Dame, he played football, ran track, was on student council, and was

fully involved in all of the plays the school sponsored. He starred in many of the musicals staged by the school, including "West Side Story," "Pippin," "On the Town," "A Christmas Carol" and "Roar of the Greasepaint." He also went next door to Regina High School to do "South Pacific" during his junior year.

"It's funny, I get asked a lot about why I got involved in theater in high school," he said. "And very often I use a one-word answer: 'girls.' The fact is the plays at Notre Dame were one of the few things the school sponsored that was co-ed. We had girls from Regina, Dominican, Star of the Sea, etc., all participating in our shows. To this day, I am actually still friends with some of those women."

Servitto also was a member of the Notre Dame's forensics club.

"Norm Kotarski was in charge of forensics back then and I usually competed in the categories of dramatic interpretation and dramatic duo with alum Rob Brant ('82). We actually won a variety of awards and ribbons, if I recall correctly."

As he got closer to graduating from high school, Servitto wasn't necessarily considering a career in acting or theater. In fact, he said he was thinking about journalism or possibly being a political science major. However, with Valgoi's encouragement, he began to look into college theater programs around the country as well as locally at Wayne State University. He was accepted into the Goodman School of Drama at DePaul University in Chicago, but won a theater scholarship to Wayne State and chose to attend the Detroit university starting in the fall of 1983.

TRIP TO THE U.K. CEMENTED CAREER GOAL

"During my time at Wayne State, I had the opportunity to go to Oxford, England, and spend a semester at the British American Drama Academy," he said. "Those few months changed my life — and my acting. I came back from England a different actor who was very highly motivated. I immediately decided to pursue the best training I could find in the U.S. and that included applying to and auditioning for the Juilliard School in New York."

He was accepted into Juilliard in the spring of 1985 and after two years at Wayne State, Servitto moved to New York City to start a new



Actor Matt Servitto graduated from Notre Dame in 1983. He is probably best recognized for his seven seasons on "The Sopranos" as FBI agent Dwight Harris.

dents and directors who I encountered during my four years there," Servitto said. "Dedicated men and women who opened my mind and heart to music, theater, poetry, literature and the visual arts."

He said it was because of literature teach-

Tony Soprano



1983 alum, who spent seven years on HBO's mega-hit series "The Sopranos," says his time at Notre Dame was instrumental in career success

life in the big city. He's lived there now for over 30 years and it has been a great home base for his long and successful acting career.

But Servitto always comes back to his time at Notre Dame and how it shaped him as both a person and as an actor. He said it wasn't all about work at NDHS, however.

"I went to school with some of the most supremely funny guys in the world," he said. "They helped me develop a sophisticated and dark sense of humor that I really believe has helped me not only in my career, but in my life as well."

He said that whenever he gets together with those guys from Notre Dame, it always

involves laughter and great stories.

"I will always remember the time during a chase sequence in Notre Dame's production of "West Side Story" that some of the guys physically dropped Tom Nance '83 (NDHS) right into the orchestra pit (he was bruised, but not broken and finished the show) or the time during "Pippin" when I completely missed not just an entrance, but an entire scene because I was backstage goofing off. Poor Fr. Swann came running backstage furious. I was clueless. And one of my all-time favorite memories about doing plays at NDHS was during "Roar of the Greasepaint" when Sam Iaquineto '83 (NDHS) came out in

drag every performance. The audience just lost it. And so did I."

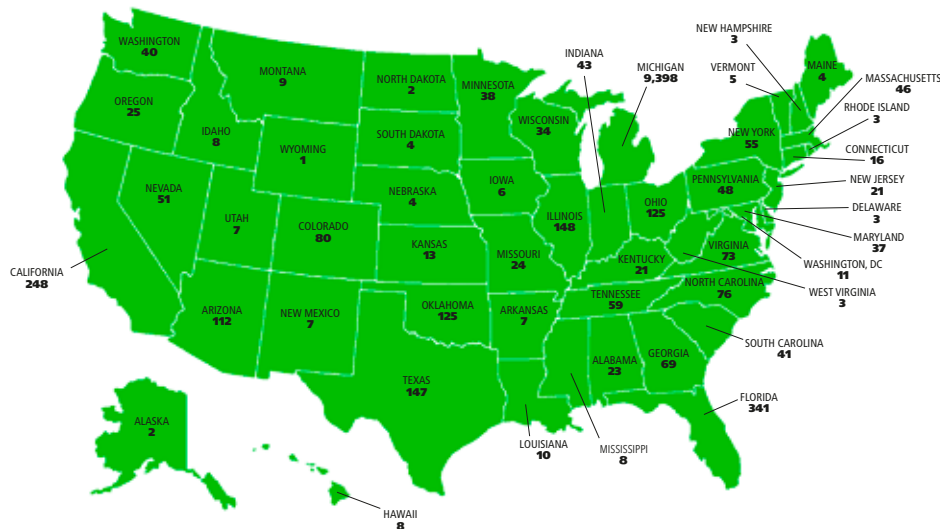
When Servitto is not on set or stage, he is home with his wife, Anne Servitto, in suburban New Jersey where they moved after living in Manhattan for 25 years.

He and his family, which includes children Francesca (13) and twins Nick and Greta (10), have been in Jersey now for 15 years.

"Most of my original 'Michigan' family, however, still live in the metro Detroit area," he said, "including my sister, Colleen '80 (Regina), who married Mike Eovaldi '80 (NDHS). They have four kids, including two who also attended NDHS, Joe and Anthony Eovaldi." ■

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI IN THE U.S.

THE COMPLETE DATABASE OF ALUMNI FROM NOTRE DAME PREP, NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, PONTIAC/OAKLAND CATHOLIC, ST. MICHAEL AND ST. FREDERICK



Where do we live?

By the end of last year, most of us had overdosed with electoral maps and diagrams, and yes, most likely with the election itself. Nonetheless, Notre Dame decided to add one more U.S. map to the mix, only this one is not rendered in red and blue.

The truly "united" Irish-green map shown above, also available in a PDF format on the school's website, shows by state what the Notre Dame Alumni Association's database lists as primary residences for current members of the association.

It is perhaps no surprise that Michigan has the most alums by far at 9,398 or that Florida comes in at number two with 341, given the number of alumni retirees in the database.

But what may be just a little surprising is that many alums currently live as far west from Michigan as one can go in the contiguous United States with California at 248, Washington 40, Oregon 25, Nevada 51 and Arizona at 112 alums.

And yet as we go even farther west, we find eight alums checking in from (usually) sunny Hawaii and two in (usually) snowy Alaska.

The Office of Alumni Relations, which compiled this data and oversees the Notre Dame Alumni Association, is part of the Advancement Office at Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy. It is dedicated to serving the alumni and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory School as well as those of the schools that preceded it and shared in its rich history and legacy:

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, 1994 – present

Notre Dame High School (Harper Woods), 1954 – 2005

Oakland Catholic (Pontiac), 1988 – 1994

Pontiac Catholic (Pontiac), 1967 – 1988

St. Michael (Pontiac)

St. Frederick (Pontiac)

ALUMNI UPDATES?

Get news and information about your fellow alumni emailed monthly. Update your email address at ndpma.org/update.

Alumna

Notre Dame Preparatory and a

To hear alum Marisa Sochacki ('06) tell it, her passion for helping others began at Notre Dame and manifested itself at college when she began traveling internationally to serve those

desperately in need.

"One thing I've learned as I've traveled the world is that who I am today is a result of my past experiences," said Sochacki, who earned a doctorate in pharmacy at the University of Toledo in 2012. "My values and passions for helping others are continually developing, but those seeds were first planted during my high school years at Notre Dame."

She said though it's sometimes hard to appreciate initially, community service is something that cannot be ignored.

"We Notre Damers have an obligation to ensure that others get many of the opportunities that we had — or better! Our alma mater is like our family. NDP supported us, so like good, Christian people, we must do the same, in whatever way we can."

Since high school, Sochacki's "family" has expanded in both scope and geography.

After graduating from NDP in 2006, Sochacki attended the University of Toledo to study in its pharmacy program, which consisted of two 'pre-professional' years followed by a very competitive application process into the 'professional division.' The last four years of pharmacy school, according to Sochacki, consisted of vigorous, year-round academic and onsite practice modules.

During college, she also was involved with intramurals, church groups, she worked as an intern, and also held leadership positions within a number of pharmacy organizations. She began traveling to Haiti for service work in 2008, and visited at least twice per year during college. It is during college, specifically in 2010, that she began to work very closely with a Haitian orphanage, Foyer des Enfants de la Providence, in the city of Les Cayes. By the way, Sochacki also managed at the same time to graduate with a doctor of pharmacy degree (Pharm.D) in 2012 as one of four valedictorians, the credit for which she gives partly to Notre Dame.

"My academics and advanced placement courses at Notre Dame certainly helped ease my transition to college courses," she said. "The study habits I developed at NDP greatly

helping needy in Haiti

trip during college set this grad up for a life of service

assisted me in maintaining an excellent GPA though both high school and college.”

She said that during her time at Notre Dame, she also was involved in quite a few extracurricular activities, such as the National Honor Society, soccer, cross country and community service.

“These activities fostered development for me of crucial life skills,” she said. “Things like time management, well-roundedness, leadership and community service, especially the community service.”

MOVING TO HAITI

After graduation from college, Sochacki completed two optional, post-graduate residencies in order to polish her pharmacy practice skills, including patient-care skills.

Her first residency, in 2012 and 2013, was at the Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which was followed by a residency at the University of Pittsburgh that had a global health and underserved focus. She also kept up her travels to Haiti and added trips to Malawi and Honduras, which pretty much confirmed her desire to pursue a career in missions/global health/humanitarian aid.

“After residency, I applied to work and volunteer with Doctors Without Borders

and was offered a mission in South Sudan,” she said. “I spent eight months in a rather remote area of the country managing the pharmacy activities. After this mission, they offered me the pharmacy coordinator position in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. I spent an additional seven months in Juba, overseeing the pharmacy activities for all projects in the country as well as serving as an advisor to the Ministry of Health. My contract in South Sudan ended in November 2015, and it was around that time that I realized how much I missed Haiti.”

The Haitian orphanage she worked at in 2010, Foyer des Enfants de la Providence, had opened a new school in 2015 and was in need of a supervisor/tutor. It was a perfect excuse for her to move to Haiti on a more permanent status. So off to Haiti again she went in December of 2015 to live and volunteer at the orphanage.

“I spend my days helping at the school, playing with kids, and assisting with administrative issues at the orphanage,” she said. “This is completely voluntary, so I have also needed to do extra short-term mission work with Doctors Without Borders in order to help support myself in Haiti. One of those missions was a training mission in Athens,

Greece, and the other was gap coverage for a country pharmacist in Papua New Guinea.”

THE DESIRE TO LOVE

Obviously well-traveled for someone so young, and it's obvious Sochacki isn't traveling so much just to see the world. So what possesses someone with such a potentially prosperous life in the United States to leave it all behind?

“The overriding driving factor behind all of my career decisions has been an intense desire to help others,” she said. “This desire began at an early age and was fostered during my time at ND. I've always wanted to live in a developing country and be part of a community there. However, the more time I spend in Haiti, the more I realize my Haitian family is teaching me and helping me more than I could ever imagine. I've also begun to realize that the most important skill of all is the simple desire to love. This involves a desire to listen, a desire to see, and a desire to understand.

“By listening to others in need, we give them a voice and validate them as part of God's creation. And by doing this, we can help make miracles happen!” ■

Notre Dame alum Marisa Sochacki ('06), fourth from right, is with friends in Haiti.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARISA SOCHACKI '06 (NDP)

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

Chester Szerlag '66 (NDHS) After a long career in academic medicine administration at University of Chicago Medicine, and at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, I recently began a new position in New York City with Weill Cornell Medicine as the executive administrator for the Department of Radiation Oncology, with responsibility for physician practice management, research grants and contracts administration and business development.

Peter Hoyos '82 (NDHS) I recently retired after 23+ years at the Genesee County

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.

Prosecutor's Office in Flint, Mich. Since then, I've been traveling and having fun.

NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNI

Matt Croft '06 (NDP) Made his Broadway debut playing keyboard 2 for "The Illusionists: Turn of the Century" at the Palace Theatre in Times Square, NYC

Kelsey Fox (Ellsasser) '06 (NDP) has been busy since graduating from NDP in 2006. She graduated from Oakland University with her BS in elementary education, had worked as a kindergarten teacher and is now a part time 4/5 ELA teacher in Royal Oak, got married to Steven Fox and had a handsome baby boy, Cody, in March of 2016! Her most recent adventure has been promoting her self-published children's book "Just try it Wyatt". She makes Author appearances at various schools throughout the week and on the weekends makes sure her store sales are doing well. You can find her book at The Funky Monkey in Oxford and Toyology in Royal Oak. "Just try it Wyatt" retails for \$8 and does not only entertain but inform. As a teacher, Kelsey makes sure that each book has a learning element in it. In "Just try it Wyatt", you will find an informational page on the red fox along with an interactive writing activity. Kelsey feels that

NDP had a hand in her creativity. She took many art and design classes while at Prep and her teachers always encouraged her. Her website www.booksbykelseyfox.com has not only the books for sale as well, but information about upcoming events, new book release dates and printable activities for kids.

Andrew Lyng '10 (NDP) graduated from the University of Michigan in 2014 and will be graduating in May with a JD from Harvard Law School.

Abby Lyng '11 (NDP) also graduated from U-M. She will be completing her post-graduate work in May, graduating from Washington University in St. Louis with an MSW in social work with a focus on mental health counseling.

Sarah Yahrmatter '09 (NDP) I recently moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to finish my last year of graduate school. In May 2017, I will receive my doctorate degree in audiology.

Daniel Fountain '04 (NDP) graduated from Western Michigan University in 2009 and Michigan State University in 2014. Daniel is a manager in the aerospace industry. Daniel married Lindsey Gates last September. The couple reside in Chicago.

Marianne Brazunas '02 (NDP) After graduating from NDP, I attended Albion College and graduated in 2006 with a Bachelors in English literature. I then attended the University of Michigan, graduating in 2009 with a Masters in library and information science, with a school library media certification. I worked for a year in Michigan before moving to Minneapolis in 2009 to start a life with my husband, Jeff. We were married in June, 2012. I continued to live and work in the Twin Cities as a school library media specialist while Jeff pursued his Ph.D in pharmacology at the University of Minnesota. Jeff now works for a pharmaceutical company as a medical science liaison. We moved into our first home in Prior Lake, Minnesota, in January 2015, and celebrated the birth of our son, Gavin, in October 2015. I have the privilege of staying at home full-time to care for our son. ■

NEWS, from page 14

Notre Dame students place high in cybersecurity competition

Notre Dame juniors Alex Kocheril, Haley Williams and Luke Zerona have attained the "Gold State Round" in this year's edition of the



Notre Dame juniors, from left, Alex Kocheril, Haley Williams and Luke Zerona are participating in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

Sponsored by the Air Force Association, which is based in Arlington, Va., the competition features teams from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Department of Defense schools in Europe and the Pacific, Canada, Australia, Singapore, and Hungary.

According to Eden Konja, Notre Dame's director of information and academic technology, the three Notre Dame students placed into the Gold round by scoring 375.3, which means they were in the top 50% of the 1,719 participating teams.

The competition puts teams of high school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services.

Weddings/Engagements

Chad Spigner '00 (NDHS) married Carissa Iuliano on March 11, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

Phillip J. Kukawinski '08 (NDP) married Lauren Reisig on October 22, 2016, in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Daniel Fountain '04 (NDP) and Lindsey Gates were married September 10, 2016, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Muskegon, Mich.

Births

Patrick Kelly '00 (NDHS) and his wife, Adrian, welcomed their daughter, Quinn Margaret Kelly, born November 14, 2016, in Atlanta, Ga.

Joseph Cella '87 (NDHS) and his wife, Kristen, joyfully welcomed their son Anthony Gilbert, born August 10, 2016. He joins brothers John Paul (9), Dominic (7), and sisters Francesca (11), Rita Rose (5) and Mariana (2 1/2) who are all drenching him in their hugs and kisses.

Sarah Brown '01 (NDP) On April 8, 2016, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Josephine Lea Baker. She is a very easy baby, and big brother, Wesley, has handled the transition well.

Alumni/staff/faculty rest in peace

Bill Schram, retired NDHS faculty member 9-11-16

Jim Nieman '59 (NDHS) 8-18-16

Charles "Jaws" Jaworski '64 (NDHS) 8-15-16

Dr. William Thompson III '59 (NDHS) 8-28-16

Robert Urban '84 (NDHS), father of Spencer '16 (NDP), brother of Jacob '77 (NDHS) and Richard '79 (NDHS) 9-10-16

Please see page 31

Generations of flowers

An alum business ‘flourishes’ through three generations in Detroit/St. Clair Shores



Frank Mancuso Jr., a 1974 graduate of Notre Dame, is with sisters Bette and Diane as young members of the Mancuso's Florist family.

A metro Detroit institution in the flower business, Mancuso's Florist, currently is thriving in St. Clair Shores after more than 90 years in business. In fact, the shop on Harper Ave. between 9 and 10 Mile Roads, recently was awarded the Detroit Heritage Recognition award for being a successful part of the Southeast Michigan retail business community for more than 85 years.

But the roots for the business are located a little farther south of St. Clair Shores.

"Mancuso's was started in 1923 in Detroit on Harper and Whittier, across from St. Matthew Catholic Church," said owner Frank Mancuso Jr., a 1974 alumnus of Notre Dame. "We moved to St. Clair Shores in 2007."

Mancuso's Detroit location was opened by Frank Mancuso Sr. Upon the passing of Mancuso Sr. in 1980, Frank Jr. and his sister, Bette Hang, took over the family business and in 1999, Frank Mancuso III joined his dad as co-owner.

Mancuso Jr. said bringing his son into the business really helped the company, especially in terms of technology.

"Frank III brought us into the computer era," he said. "He developed our website, www.mancusos.com, our point-of-sale order input, and even a floral app for mobile devices. He also developed many successful marketing programs, including our very popular Petal Rewards Program, customer reminder postcards, and preferred customer cards."

Bringing next generations into the family business has been a long-time tradition in the Mancuso family.

"I've been involved with Mancuso's Florist since I was 8 or 9 years old," Mancuso said. "I would go into the shop with my dad and just kind of follow him around. We would eat a packed lunch at his desk and I would do some odd jobs around the building."

He said during his teen years he would come in after school at Notre Dame and take the trash out, pull weeds, wash the windows along with other odd jobs. "Then, when I was old enough to drive, I would deliver flowers all afternoon then come back and work in the

shop."

Mancuso, who studied business administration at Wayne State University, recalls that his Notre Dame years taught him much more than just academics.

"The things I remember most were how the faculty led by example," he said. "They were always respectful to students and expected the same from you. Very rarely did a teacher raise his or her voice and inappropriate language was unheard of. They taught you character and integrity and you always tried to live up to their expectations."

At NDHS, Mancuso also was involved in the drama club and played parts in several musicals, including *Flower Drum Song* (naturally!) and *Sweet Charity*. He said many teachers and alumni have stopped in the shop throughout the years and it's always fun reminiscing about their collective high school days.

"Whenever I hear a name from a customer who I remember from high school, I'll make an inquiry about their ND connections, and oftentimes they will tell me that it was their dad or uncle who went there," he said. "Which makes me feel my age because they are often married with their own children!"

A proud father and grandfather himself, Mancuso mentioned that he and his wife, Donna, have four children, Frank III, Paul, Angela and Andrea, plus three grandchildren, Dominic (11), Ava (7) and Joey who was born in February of this year. ■



Frank Mancuso Jr., right, is with his son, Frank Mancuso III, at Mancuso's Florist in St. Clair Shores.

Setting and achieving

Luke Moriguchi, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, paid a visit in January to his alma mater, and among those he spent some time with was Vlado Salic, who directs the upper division's counseling department.

"Luke came to see us to share what he's been up to before his afternoon flight out to Iowa to get to his new apartment and job," Salic said. "It's always very nice and a highly appreciated gesture when an alum visits, but this one really felt special because he also has a great story about his educational journey and his family, which includes his sister, Francine, who graduated from Notre Dame in 2014.

Moriguchi was heading to Iowa because he soon will begin his new job as a quality engineer at John Deere's Product Engineering Center, located in Waterloo.

"I will be working with John Deere Power Systems, and that facility engineers and builds all powertrain applications for the company," Moriguchi said in an interview with IRISH magazine. "My first rotation will focus on quality planning of supplier parts within new engine programs."

Moriguchi's journey to Iowa follows a very successful stint at Purdue University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering.

Among the many extra activities during his years at Purdue, which included serving on the Purdue Marching Band's drumline, Moriguchi joined the Institute of Healthcare Improvement Purdue Chapter, a relatively new club at Purdue with countless chapters internationally.

"I took the opportunity to get involved in this club and served as the secretary and webmaster on the executive board and had the opportunity to work with some incredible students in the nursing program at Purdue," he said. "Having the opportunity to work with people from other majors was valuable in gaining different perspectives in my own studies."

Last semester, Moriguchi said his senior design team project was voted the best project of the senior class by peers, staff, and professional organizations. "We were able to minimize production space by 30% and improve

productivity by 60%, a number that greatly surpassed the client's request. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be the project manager, which provided much experience in leadership, decision-making and working with a client."

Such academic success in college didn't just come out of nowhere for Moriguchi. He said his time spent at Notre Dame was a real catalyst for him.

"Through academics and extracurricular activities at Notre Dame, I learned countless life skills that would later be reinforced throughout college and my intern experiences," he said. "First and most importantly, NDP taught me to set high goals for myself



Luke Moriguchi '12 (NDP) is with Notre Dame counseling head Vlado Salic and two very important diplomas.

as well as critical time-management skills. I was involved in two varsity teams at Notre Dame (hockey and tennis), band (marching/concert/jazz), and theater (sound crew) through my years at NDP."

By the end of his high school career, Moriguchi was leading most of those activities to some extent. And despite the countless hours spent at these extracurriculars, he maintained a high GPA and achieved consistently excellent standardized test scores.

"Without the discipline and time-management skills I learned in high school, finding success in these areas going forward would not have been possible," he said.

"When I went on to become a student leader in the Purdue band's drumline, which demanded a lot of time as well, I was able to maintain my grades, and I directly attribute to the time-management skills gained at NDP. The things I learned from leading,

teaching, and working with peers at Notre Dame prepared me for the leadership experiences I had at Purdue as well."

Moriguchi also noted that NDP prepared him for the intensity needed to be successful in the university classroom.

"Learning to study smarter and not harder allowed me to maintain a balance between school, activities and social life," he said. "This balance helped lead to success in the classroom, an expanded social network, and other new opportunities."

Moriguchi's visit to NDP last week wasn't his first since he graduated in 2012. He said he always loves to catch up with Notre Dame teachers.

"Whenever I visit the school, I make it a point to visit my former teachers, including Mr. Riley, Mr. Martin, Ms. Glick, Ms. Phillips, and Ms. Pauwels," he said. "I have been fortunate to have several opportunities to stop and speak with these amazing teachers since my graduation and I hope to have more opportunities to visit, despite working in Iowa. Besides the teaching staff, I would be remiss not to mention Mr. Vlado Salic, who was my counselor until I graduated. He helped me through the entire college application process. He provided the confidence and support I needed to prepare and submit my college applications and has continued to support me. I am proud to consider him a friend."

Now embarking on a major new phase in his life, Moriguchi is very excited to begin his new job at John Deere. But he's also focused on the longer road ahead on his journey.

"I look forward to starting my career as a quality engineer for John Deere, but, as many others, I hope to eventually transition to more managerial roles and have the opportunity to lead and influence larger groups of people," he said. "I have learned that work experience in quality, manufacturing and operations in industry will develop a solid foundation for me to make this transition and cultivate success in a position of leadership.

"Besides the work experience, I also hope to soon get my MBA to further enhance my repertoire and to continue to positively contribute at John Deere. For the next couple of years, I look forward to working very hard to learn more, contribute and innovate!" ■

ing big goals

Alum's academic
and professional
journey goes from
Pontiac through
West Lafayette to
Waterloo



Alum judge

Alumna
credits her
high school for
jump-starting
career in law

Pontiac Catholic alumna Colleen O'Brien ('74) is a judge on the Michigan Second District Court of Appeals. Governor Rick Snyder appointed her on September 29, 2015, to finish the unexpired term of Pat Donofrio, who retired the following day. She subsequently was elected to the seat in 2016 for a full six-year term, which expires on January 1, 2023.

Following a brief biography of her professional career, a recent interview of O'Brien by the editors of IRISH magazine is posted below.

Judge Colleen O'Brien was appointed to the Court of Appeals in October of 2015. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and from the Detroit College of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1981. O'Brien practiced law for 17 years prior to being elected to the Oakland County Circuit Court in 1998. As a circuit judge, she served as the presiding judge of the Female Adult Treatment Court for twelve years and as the presiding judge of the Civil/Criminal Division for several years. O'Brien is a long-time member of the Michigan Judges Association and served as its president in 2015. She also has served as president of the Oakland County Women's Bar Association and served on the Board of Directors of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. An active member of the Oakland County Bar Association, O'Brien received the Distinguished Public Servant Award in 2011. Her civic activities include serving on the Advisory Board to Crossroads for Youth, serving as a member of the Indigent Defense Advisory Commission, and serving as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

IRISH: Judge O'Brien, can you go into a little more detail on your journey from high school to your current position?

O'BRIEN: After graduating from Pontiac Catholic in 1974, I attended Oakland University for two years and eventually transferred to the University of Michigan. I graduated from Michigan in 1978 where I majored in political science during college with the intent to continue onto law school.

I have to say that I believe the excellent education I received at Pontiac Catholic was instrumental in my success in college and later in law school. Specifically, a strong background in English and the development of excellent reading and writing skills were invaluable.

During law school, I worked part time as a law clerk for a small law firm in Pontiac. After passing the bar exam I was hired by that same firm to work as an attorney. For the next 17 years I worked at several different southeast Michigan law firms where I gained courtroom experience in many different areas of the law including criminal, family, personal injury and municipal law.

In 1998 I was elected to serve on the Oakland County Circuit Court. The Circuit Court handles criminal felony cases, civil cases over \$25,000.00 and family law matters. While on the court I served as the presiding judge of the Civil/Criminal Division as well as the presiding

judge of the Adult Treatment Court. I also served as an adjunct professor at Thomas Cooley Law School.

In 2015 I was appointed by the governor to the Michigan Court of Appeals. In November of 2016, I was elected to serve on the Court of Appeals for a six-year term. The Court of Appeals hears cases being appealed from the circuit courts as well as many administrative agencies. This position requires hearing oral arguments and deciding cases from around the State of Michigan while sitting with a panel of three judges. The courtrooms where the cases are heard are located in Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids.

IRISH: What or who were the big influences in your life that led to your career in law?

O'BRIEN: I believe my parents were the strongest influence in my career choice of the law. During my youth, I enjoyed watching courtroom dramas on television. My parents suggested that I pursue law school in the future even though at that time, in the late 60s, there were very few women lawyers.

IRISH: What types of extracurricular activities were you also involved in at Pontiac Catholic?

O'BRIEN: While at Pontiac Catholic, I was involved in two extracurricular activities that contributed to my skill-set and enabling me to successfully complete law school and later become a successful attorney. I was a member of the debate team at PC which required great preparation, research and development of a position. I was required to defend that position whether I entirely agreed with it or not. Also being active in theater during high school required me to speak in front of large audiences. This was instrumental in developing the confidence necessary to argue a case in court before a judge and a jury.

IRISH: What kind of specific memories do you have of high school at Pontiac Catholic?

O'BRIEN: I have many wonderful memories from my years at Pontiac Catholic. I am very thankful for the wonderful friendships I developed with many of my classmates. Several of my closest friends, with whom I stay in close contact today, were my classmates at Pontiac Catholic.

Some of my favorite memories include playing major characters in the drama productions of Showboat and Brigadoon. Also during the 70s, Pontiac Catholic's basketball teams often made it to the state finals. I remember watching many exciting basketball games.

I also had many wonderful teachers at Pontiac Catholic. Standing out are Sister Margaret, whom I credit with my strong education in English and the development of my reading and writing skills, as well as Sister Mercia who gave of her free time to direct the school's theater program.

In addition, I believe alumni should support their alma mater, which in my case also includes, if asked, sharing my experience in the law with the students at Notre Dame in the future. ■



Appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Pontiac Catholic alumna Colleen O'Brien ('74) is a judge in the Second District Court of Appeals.

Notre Dame alum appointed to special commission by Michigan governor

Hospice of Michigan's vice president of medical affairs is appointed to the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission.

Notre Dame alum Michael Paletta, MD, ('75), who is Hospice of Michigan's vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer, was recently appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission. Paletta joins the 21-member group, which will review the Report of Findings and Recommendations for Action from the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force, and develop and propose policies and an action plan to implement the report's recommendations.

A resident of Northville, Michigan, Paletta was selected to represent Michigan hospice organizations and will serve a two-year term.

"Dr. Paletta will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Governor's commission," said Robert Cahill, president and CEO of Hospice of Michigan. "We are proud of his dedication to the medical field and we're excited to see him representing Hospice of Michigan at the state government level."

After graduating from Notre Dame in 1975, Paletta went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Albion College in Albion, Mich., followed by a medical degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. He completed his residency at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, and is board certified in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. Paletta was awarded a fellowship in geriatric medicine at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and earned a certificate of added qualification (CAQ) in geriatrics. In addition, he is a distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

HIGH SCHOOL MADE A DIFFERENCE

Notre Dame figured big time in college and in his professional career, according to Paletta.

"During my time as a student and as a professional, as I got to know more and more people and could compare my reading skills, my research skills, my writing ability to what others struggled with," he said, "I think that the discipline of [teachers]

Cass Cosky, Conrad Vachon, Hal Rice, Bill Schram — I mean those guys made you better scholars, more thorough researchers, better writers, more critical thinkers!"

He also says he firmly believes that while the environment at Notre Dame definitely helped him academically, more importantly, it also helped in terms of citizenship and seeing the value of giving back to the community.

"It certainly was instrumental in my choosing a vocation where I can be of service to others. No doubt!"

Early in his medical career, Paletta also trained at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and earned his wings and an aeronautical rating of chief flight surgeon. He logged operational flying hours in a variety of fighter and attack aircraft, and has commanded military medical detachments in Europe and Central America. He served for 12 years as surgeon general for the Michigan Air National Guard, headquartered in Lansing, and most recently was assigned to the Air Force Reserve. ■



Notre Dame alum Michael Paletta ('75) trained at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine where he earned his wings and an aeronautical rating of chief flight surgeon.

USAF PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHAEL PALETTA, '75 (NMHS), OTHER PHOTO BY MIKE KELLY '73 (NDHS)



Membership in university organization called 'highest honor'

Connor Verheyen '13 (NDP), back row, top right, who currently is majoring in biomedical engineering at the University of Miami, has been invited into the university's Iron Arrow Honor Society.

Connor Verheyen, a 2013 graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School and current student at the University of Miami in Florida, has been invited to join the university's Iron Arrow Honor Society, which recognizes students who "exemplify five qualities based on the Seminole Indian tradition: love of alma mater, character, leadership, scholarship and humility."

Established in 1926, the society is considered the "highest honor attained at the University of Miami."

Selections for Iron Arrow typically are made from undergrad students, grad students, law-school students, med-school students, faculty, and staff. Once "tapped" for the honor, they are charged with keeping a fire going, and keeping a constant drum beat for 24 hours. They also wear colorful jackets for a week, followed by an elaborate initiation ceremony.

Verheyen majored in biomedical engineering at Miami and is pursuing a PhD in biomedical engineering.

Last year, he was chosen to present his undergrad research on an important biomedical engineering project at the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) annual meeting in Tampa.

Besides biomedical engineering, Verheyen said he also has interests in business and leadership.

"Ideally, my future career would be at the intersection of medicine, scientific research, engineering and business," he said, which he admits is a very busy intersection.

As to how he's managing to negotiate such a busy intersection in college so far, Verheyen gives much credit to his high school.

"Notre Dame definitely strengthened my time-management skills while cultivating an interest in many different, seemingly unrelated fields and classes," he said. "Research takes time and dedication, so the ability to manage my limited time has helped me tremendously. Additionally, a biomedical engineer must have an interest and proficiency in multiple and disparate fields. My Notre Dame experience prepared me very well for that type of thinking." ■

DEDICATION, from page 12

raised by a relatively small number of families who have made some very meaningful contributions to help get the campaign off the ground. Many of those names are listed in tonight's program.

Please thank them when you see them this evening. Many of our initial donors are alum parents and grandparents, who do not even have children at the school, but recognize the importance of giving back.

I did want to point out that Steve and Karen Hoke have also made a commitment to this project. But we just received their commitment a couple of days ago, after the programs were printed, so we did not have them listed in the program.

So, to achieve our goal, we only need to raise an additional \$1.5 million from the rest of our community. If we exceed that goal, it will benefit the school that much more and take us one step closer to our next "big announcement."

We have a couple of messages for you tonight. First, we are not asking for gifts this evening, but we will be reaching out to families over the next several weeks. Second, no gift is too small and gifts of all sizes will be appreciated. For us to achieve our goal, we will need

support at many different levels. Third, we are willing to work with families that would like to make larger gifts on timing. For example, we will accept multi-year pledges in the three to five-year range if it helps families to increase their gift and helps them from a budgeting standpoint.

Finally, our only request of you tonight, is that you take in the message that we are delivering, discuss it among yourselves and prayerfully consider what you can do as parents, alumni, family or friends of Notre Dame to help make this project a reality for our children.

If you receive a call from a member of our steering committee, asking for an appointment or a gift, we only ask that you say "yes" to our request. Say "yes" to our mission. Say "yes" to Notre Dame. Say "yes" to the future of Catholic education. And, say "yes" to our children.

Many people say that we are the best Catholic school in the state of Michigan and one of the top Catholic schools in the nation. I couldn't agree more. Thank you and God bless! ■

Reporting from

Elizabeth Crenshaw graduated from Notre Dame in 2001. Since then she's studied engineering, communications and journalism, and now is a TV reporter with WILX News 10, serving Lansing and Jackson.

She has a Bachelor of Science in engineering and honed her broadcast journalism skills at Specs Howard School of Media Arts. And, perhaps, it goes without saying that she is no stranger to media with experience in print, digital, radio, TV and health news.

Crenshaw considers being a journalist a privilege and she works to make a real difference in the community. Every story is important to her and she loves being the voice for the voiceless.

When Crenshaw isn't digging for the next story, she loves teaching yoga, church, coaching track and basketball, spending time with family and friends, and watching sports – she is a sports fanatic!

In a recent interview with IRISH magazine, Crenshaw discussed her high school, college and her job. She loves all of them!

IRISH: Tell us about your experience in college. How do you believe that your education at Notre Dame prepared you for success?

CRENSHAW: College is so much different than high school on so many levels. I attended Michigan State University "Go Green! Go White!" Once I arrived in East Lansing, I realized how incredible the education I received at Notre Dame really was.

When you attend college, you have to be self-motivated. In college, no one is going to make you go to class, study or do your homework. It's up to you to decide and make the commitment to your education. College is where I grew up. I went from a teenager to a young woman all in a matter of four years. It was not easy by any stretch of the imagination. I was knocked down, but I kept getting up. It was also one the best time of my life, but also the most challenging. I met many friends for life of all races and nationalities.

Notre Dame Prep High School is an outstanding educational institution. The teachers who I had were the best in the state and allowed me to be ahead of the game when I started at Michigan State University. At the time, I didn't enjoy the amount of homework every night, or the stress of Advanced Placement and honors classes, all the nights I spent crying over calculus. But reflecting on it now, it was all totally worth it.

I came to college with a solid foundation in math, reading, writing, science and history, which made my transition to MSU so much easier. Looking back, for the first few weeks of school, I didn't have to learn new material. It was all review. I was significantly less stressed and more prepared than a lot of my classmates.

The students, faculty and the administration of NDP truly care about the students and constantly pushed you to be the best. There are also lots of student organizations and sports teams to get involved with that teach you discipline and time management. A TRUE PERK: Being an athlete does pay off in life!

I developed my socialization skills, and I learned how to work together as a team and how to recognize people's strengths and assign

them roles accordingly. The result is a group that works harmoniously and efficiently.

Most importantly, I learned how to get along with a diverse group of people which expanded my understanding of the world and how alike we all are. Plus, I learned how to serve and give back to others through all of the community service opportunities at NDP.

IRISH: Can you describe how you reached your current position with WILX TV?

CRENSHAW: I started in the world of engineering. During my career in engineering, I had the opportunity to work for Pepsi Bottling Group, GM, and Fiat-Chrysler. However, I wasn't quite satisfied. I wanted more. I wanted to use my communication skills and creativity, so I left the engineering field and went into the field of journalism /communications.

I attended Specs Howard School of Media and Arts and worked on my journalistic skills at the Oakland Press, Civic Center TV, and HOMTV. From there, I landed my first on-air radio position at Power 96.5 FM for morning news and I produced for the Morning Wake-up Show with Dave Akerly and reported for 1320 WILS. I am currently in my first on-air reporting position at WILX Channel 10 in Lansing, Mich. Besides chasing the next best story, I love teaching yoga. I am a 500-RYT and E-RYT 200 yoga teacher as well as a yoga therapist. I love teaching classes both on the mat and in the world of fitness.

Looking back, all of my sacrifices were all worth it, I was told that I would never be a reporter. However, I didn't give up; I just put in more work. Today, I thank God that I am living my dream in the Capitol of Michigan as a reporter.

IRISH: What have been the big influences in your life so far?

CRENSHAW: I would like to first of all thank my mother and dad. They both have always pushed me to do and be my best—in the classroom and in sports. My parents taught me the value of education and how it is important to never stop learning. They also taught me through prayer and honoring God, the sky is the limit. Through them, I was always reminded that I could do anything that I set my mind to if even when people around you told you couldn't. I was always determined to succeed, and I hated losing. Whenever I had a goal, I would work hard to achieve it and move on to the next.

I wanted my legacy to be work hard, play hard, and be true to yourself, but most importantly, taking God with you every step of the way. My faith has been the true source of all my accomplishments.

IRISH: What are your favorite memories of Notre Dame Prep?

CRENSHAW: I have so many memories (and thank yous), so I will just share a few via some bullet points. . .

- I would like to thank Mr. David Fazzini for helping me get out of my comfort zone and join the Honors Choir where I even mustered up enough courage to sing solo. (Well, one time!).
- AP French class crepe parties with Mrs. Connors.

Please see CRENSHAW, page 30

Lansing

2001 alum Elizabeth Crenshaw
follows her dream of becoming a
broadcast reporter



- High school trip to Madrid, Spain, and Paris, France, with Ms. Anderson and Ms. Connors as our chaperones and with my great classmates.
- Betty Wroubel's Health and Phys Ed.
- Mr. Simon's law class. I still remember my opening statement. Debating skills that proved handy in life.
- Irish week and the games.
- Long bus rides from volleyball and basketball games and track meets.
- Father Leon getting the school excited at our school's pep rally. He was full of so much energy!
- Father Joe — he would always have a word of encouragement or something to say that was right on time.
- Mrs. Williams' psychology class. She will always be missed and I know she's watching us from heaven. Love you and miss you!
- The famous Coach Barbee walk—and track and field.

- Coach Murphy running with the girls in cross country.
- Running cross country my senior year on a dare. I was told sprinters couldn't run long distance so I had to prove them wrong. By the way, if I could do it over, I would have run four years of cross country.
- Track practice — at the time we didn't have a track at NDP so we had to run to Pontiac Northern as our warm-up and then practice and run back to school.
- And of course, our school restaurant, the Stuffed Bun! Thanks, Mr. Kherker!

Plus, the time we received our first soft-serve ice cream machine. Can you say heaven!

I do miss NDP a lot! And it will always hold a special place in my heart! ■

New way of thinking

Senior heads to Ivy League, says Notre Dame opened him up to a 'new way of thinking.'



gained a whole new perspective of the entire world.

"Simply put, NDPMA has opened me up to a new way of thinking," he said. "Prior to Notre Dame, I was quick to make judgements about most anything — people, classes, teachers, etc. Now I find myself embracing a plethora of new things and engaging groups of people and subjects I would have never been exposed to had I not attended this school."

He also said that joining new clubs like the Multicultural Alliance Club (Adams is current club president) has opened him up to a lot of real issues he might have previously ignored. Plus, Notre Dame has challenged him, he said, in ways that no other secondary school could have challenged him.

Adams thinks there is nothing more unifying and enjoyable for him than the team singing the Notre Dame fight song with the student section after a big win during football season.

"At Notre Dame, I also have learned the value of time management, perseverance and have developed peer-group leadership skills due to the fact that our faculty constantly strives to bring the best out of every student," Adams said. "And the curriculum at NDP really connects what we're studying to events outside the classroom, which allows me to look at my schoolwork not as just studying chapters but as a key to understanding the world."

So what does a potential Ivy League grad think about for a future career?

"Well, at Notre Dame, I have found a love for mathematics and economics," he said. "I think these two subject areas have so many real-life applications, and when combined can lead to some interesting career opportunities. That being said, having some kind of finance/economics major along with a concentration or double major in mathematics. If I'm dreaming big, I would like to become a corporate CFO one day. However, I can see myself using my finance/economics degree to become a bond trader, fund manager or financial analyst as well." ■



With Notre Dame's school year starting to wain for seniors, Luke Adams will be the first to tell you that homework has been a big part of his busy schedule since school began in the fall. Like many at Notre Dame, this senior spent the summer fielding overtures from quite a few colleges and universities. In Adams' case, those included Ivy League schools Harvard, Yale and Columbia, with Columbia getting the nod from Adams. He's also wrapped up his final season as a member of the Fighting Irish football team — something he said he's really going to miss.

"Being a part of the varsity football team for four years has definitely been one of the best parts of my experience at Notre Dame," said Adams, a 6'-2", 203 lb. linebacker/running back. "There is nothing more unifying and enjoyable for me than the team singing the Notre Dame fight song with our student section after a big win during the football season."

Adams, who serves as one of Notre Dame's special student ambassadors, said that when he graduates in May, he also will miss the academics as well as the overall Notre Dame experience, from which he said he's

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 2017 REUNIONS

NDP Class of 1997, 20 year
NDP Class of 2002, 15 year
NDP Class of 2007, 10 year
NDP Class of 2012, 5 year
NDP Class of 1962, 55 year
NDHS Class of 1977, 40 Year
NDHS Class of 1982, 35 year
NDHS Class of 1992, 25 year
NDHS Class of 1997, 20 year
NDHS Class of 2002, 15 year
PC/OC all class years ending in 7 and 2

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 Planning for the 45-year reunion in 2017 has begun. Please contact John Berra at jmberra2003@yahoo.com for more information.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC

Class of 1977 "Oh Thank Heaven for 77." 40th Class Reunion Saturday, June 17, 2017. 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at O'Malley's Bar/Restaurant located in Crowne Plaza Hotel on Opdyke. \$15.00 at the door covers room and appetizers. Cash bar. Block of rooms will be held. Must make your own room reservation. For more information, please contact Paula Rathsburg (paularathsburg@gmail.com).

NOTRE DAME PREP

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

UPPER DIVISION THEATRE PRESENTS. . .THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

By Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. Show runs **April 6-8** at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Notre Dame. Performance is about two hours long. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. Directed by Meredith Gifford '02 (NDP)

NOTRE DAME UPPER DIVISION ART SHOW

Art show runs from **April 3-23** in the upper division.

BIG BAND DINNER DANCE

Saturday, May 20, 2017. The NDP Jazz Band Ensemble & Alumni present the 17th Annual Big Band Dinner Dance to be held from 6-10 p.m. at The Lafayette Grande in Pontiac. Reservations are \$40 per person, includes dinner (cash bar), dancing and live music by our very own NDP Jazz Band. Reservation and payment deadline is May 10; tickets will NOT be sold at the door. Please make your reservation today at: <http://goo.gl/forms/N6U0u6fGgo>. Contact Joe Martin, jmartin@ndpma.org, for more information.

21ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday, June 5, 2017, at Oakhurst Country Club in Clarkston. More details and information coming soon. Sponsored by the NDPMA Booster Club. Proceeds to benefit NDPMA athletics.

HOMECOMING 2017

Mark your calendar for **October 6** for this year's homecoming game and **October 7** for the Alumni 5k Fun Run.

From page 20

William "Bill" Schram, former faculty NDHS 9-11-16
Gerald Hand '59 (NDHS), father of Michele Loster '82 (PC) 9-23-16
Fr. Edmund Ertzbischoff, friend of Notre Dame 10-3-16
Michael Reece '79 (NDHS), former principal of Notre Dame High School 11-16-16.
Raymond Kraemer '63 (NDHS) 11-7-16
Patrick Lawrey Class of '84 (NDHS) 10-31-16
James Fabian '66 (NDHS), father of Patrick '01 (NDHS) 10-15-16

Fr. Clifton Moors, s.m., former teacher and rector at Notre Dame High School 9-21-16
James Robert Janeczko '90 (NDHS) 12-11-16
James Nowak '80 (NDHS) 9-27-16
Amanda Monahan '99 (NDP) 1-21-17
James Beckman '62 (NDHS) 2-3-17
Joe Kuzmak '82 (NDHS), brother of John '81 (NDHS) 2-3-17

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. ■

GOT PEOPLE?

We've got answers!



Managing and leading people in today's complex environment is never easy. Our **Total People Solutions** approach will help!

Contact us today for a free one-hour assessment.



People: *Your Greatest Asset, Your Greatest Challenge*

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