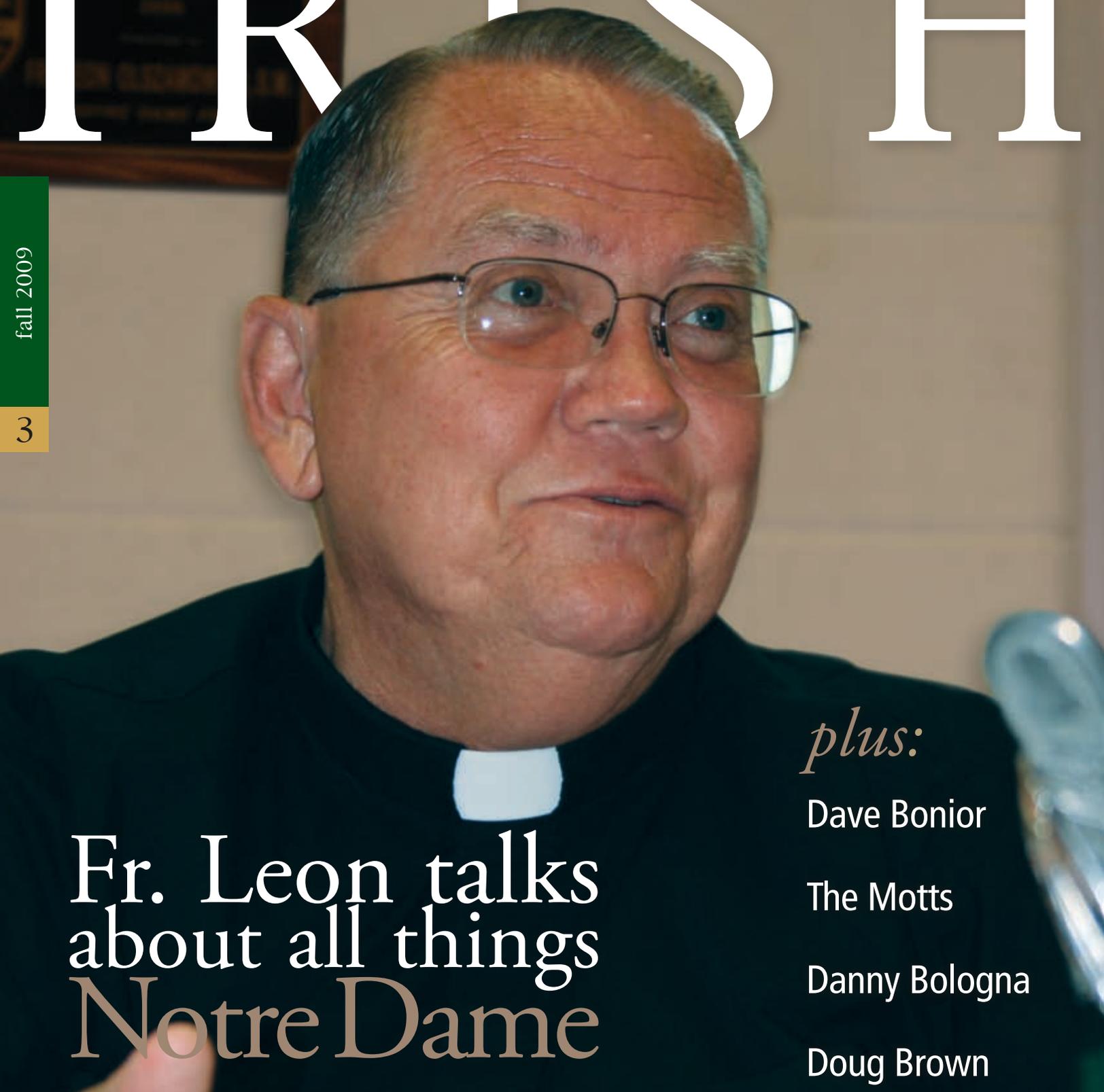


# IRISH

fall 2009

3



## Fr. Leon talks about all things Notre Dame

*plus:*

Dave Bonior

The Motts

Danny Bologna

Doug Brown

Housey Bros.

Alumni notes

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# A WORD FROM YOUR ALUMNI DIRECTOR



On August 15th, Notre Dame Prep's Class of 1999 celebrated their 10-year reunion at C.J. Barrymore's. Aside from the highlights of go-carting and guessing who's changed the most, Fr. Leon leading our class in the whistle cheer was truly unforgettable. It instantly brought back loving memories. And the smile on his face as he finished will be forever etched in my mind.

As I continue my service as Director of Alumni Relations, I feel that in order to be successful, I need to do two things well: make sure reunions are happening and make sure that communication is timely and effective. Both of these things are important because not only do we want to get classes together to celebrate with each other and with former teachers and staff, but we also want to make sure all alumni are active and involved with activities and events. As we embark on the 2009-2010 school year, I am eager to see the Notre Dame Alumni Association continue to grow.

Throughout the year, a group of NDP and NDHS alumni has been meeting regularly to create and approve a set of by-laws and to assist with events and planning. On August 18th, the first ever Notre Dame Alumni Board of Directors was elected at the Annual Alumni Meeting. The seven elected Alumni Board members will serve one-, two-, or three-year terms and will meet monthly throughout the year. If you would like to get involved with the NDAA to volunteer in any capacity, please e-mail me at [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org) or visit the web site and complete the "Update Form" page. In addition, if you are currently not receiving our monthly e-newsletter, please make sure your e-mail address is on file by visiting the web site.

Looking onward, we have some great things planned for the up-

coming school year. Please see the calendar on page 22 of this IRISH or on the web site and I will continue to e-mail you often with additional details and updates.

My aim is to provide alumni with opportunities to get together socially, to network, and ultimately to support the mission and legacy of Notre Dame. Homecoming is September 25, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. with an afterglow at Red Ox Tavern in Auburn Hills. It will be great to see everyone there!

Irish blessings,

*Kelly A. Patterson*

Kelly A. Patterson '99

## NOTRE DAME ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Jim Gammicchia '99 (NDP) 3-year term

**Vice President:** Frank Castronova '89 (NDHS) 2-year term

**Treasurer:** Mike Rome '00 (NDP) 3-year term

**Secretary:** Caitlin Dodge '99 (NDP) 1-year term

John Schwartz '00 (NDP) 2-year term

Kris Powell '75 (NDHS) 1-year term

Tricia Sage '97 (NDP) 3-year term



From left, Alumni Director Kelly Patterson '99 (NDP), and NDAA Alumni Board members John Schwartz '00 (NDP), Caitlin Dodge '99 (NDP), Jim Gammicchia '99 (NDP), Frank Castronova '89 (NDHS), Mike Rome '00 (NDP), Tricia Sage '97 (NDP), Kris Powell '75 (NDHS).

# IRISH

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 high 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](http://www.ndpma.org/alumni).

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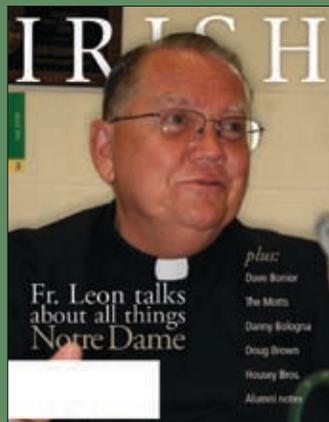
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Contact us:

**Advancement Office - Alumni Director  
Notre Dame Preparatory School  
and Marist Academy**

1300 Giddings Road  
Pontiac, MI 48340  
248-373-2171 - ext. 4  
Fax 248-373-2175

[alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org)  
[www.ndpma.org/alumni](http://www.ndpma.org/alumni)

## Advertise in IRISH

Are you interested in advertising to 10,000 of your alumni friends? Place an ad in an upcoming IRISH. Contact Mike Kelly '73 (ND) for more information and pricing: [mike@group-ex.com](mailto:mike@group-ex.com).

## NDPMA receives approval for IB MYP

In July 2009, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy received authorization from the International Baccalaureate Organization to teach the IB Middle Years Programme in grades six through ten. The school is now fully authorized as a world school for the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). NDPMA received authorization in 2007 to offer the IB Diploma Programme (DP) to its high school juniors and seniors.



Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy is the only Catholic school in Michigan with an IB curriculum and the only state school, public or private, with both MYP and DP programs. The IB philosophy of education appealed

to school officials because it fit so well into its Catholic and Marist missions.

MYP provides a curriculum framework that gives participants the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes they need to be effective in a world of increasing globalism.

## Hal Rice retires: taught at ND Prep and Notre Dame High School

After 52 years of teaching, 13 at ND Prep, 33 at Notre Dame High School and six at St. Sebastian in Dearborn Heights, Harold Rice has decided to hang up his chalk.

Rice had been teaching Religion (History of Christianity) at ND Prep for the past several years. He taught Social Studies when he signed on at the Pontiac school in 1995 and his social studies classes at Notre Dame High School were legendary with many alumni fondly recalling their time spent in his classroom.

He wrote in a recent note to faculty and staff of NDPMA that it has been a wonderful experience to have worked with everyone at ND Prep. "It is a great group of teachers," Rice said. "Young teachers with fresh and innovative ideas. Master teachers giving valuable knowledge and experience to the kids. You have all been kind and gracious to me and I thank you for your friendship."

We also thank Mr. Rice for his friendship and years of dedication to the mission of Marist and Catholic education.



## Wrestlers honored with academic awards

The 2008-09 Notre Dame Prep wrestling team was honored by the Michigan Wrestling Association with a Team Academic All State Award for its 3.62 GPA average. One of the team captains, Josh Romeo '09 (NDP), also was honored with an Individual Academic All State Award. Congratulations to Josh and the entire team!

## Students take first place in China Quiz Bowl

Four students from Notre Dame Preparatory School earned first place in the China Quiz Bowl, an annual competition where teams from Michigan middle schools and high schools vie at various levels for the highest scores in the areas of Chinese language, culture and geography.

The event, which was sponsored by the Confucius Institutes at Wayne State University and Michigan State University, and the Cen-

ter for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan, was held April 25 at Madonna University in Livonia.

ND Prep sophomores Palmer D'Orazio and Victoria Kulesza, and 2009 graduates Sarah Fredin and Jackson Hopcroft competed in three preliminary rounds and advanced to the final round where they doubled the score of the nearest competitor.

Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy teaches Mandarin Chinese in grades 6 through 12.

## ND alum gets his third state championship

Notre Dame High School alumnus and De La Salle head baseball coach Brian Kelly '77 earned his third Michigan high school state championship this past spring. Kelly, son of the late NDHS athletic director, teacher and coach Tom Kelly, finished off a 36-5 season with a tight 3-2 victory over Saline on June 13 in Battle Creek.

The Pilots, who also won state baseball championships in 1993 and 2000 under Kelly's tutelage, capped off a state-tourney run that featured a number of nail-biting victories, including a first-round, 11-10 extra-inning win against Warren Cousino.

Kelly says the challenging and close playoff games that some of the school's other varsity teams went through this year helped to get his baseball players prepared.

"The desire and determination to compete and win is something that has built up," Kelly said in a recent news article. "With some of the other close calls we've had in other sports, there was a determination that this was going to be different."

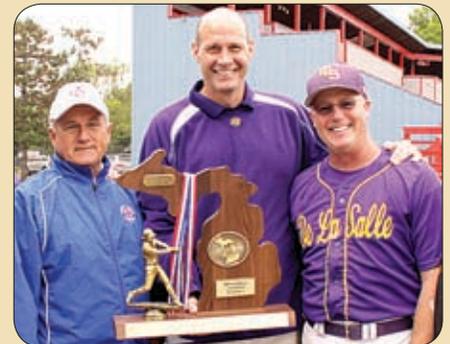
Kelly, 50, earned coach-of-the-year honors in the Catholic League. He also was named coach of the 2009 all-state baseball team and will be inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In addition, his '09 team sent an unheard-of five players to the Detroit Free Press Dream Team.

## Graduate wins congressional art competition



Congratulations to Andrea Rosnick, a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame Prep. Rosnick was selected as the winner of the 2009 Congressional Art Competition (The Artistic Discovery Contest) in the 9th District by Congressman Gary Peters.

Rosnick's winning piece was a painting titled "Intrigue." Her artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol for one year. Cannon Tunnel is a busy walkway used daily by members of Congress and



DLS baseball coach Brian Kelly (NDHS '77, right, with the championship trophy and fellow NDHS alums Paul Verska '63, De La Salle's football coach, left, and school principal Pat Adams '77.

visitors to Washington, D.C. Rosnick flew out to Washington for a June 24 ceremony and to view her work as well as the work of other district winners from around the country.

### **Notre Dame Prep student scores a perfect 36 on ACT; second year in a row for school**

Jonathan Sheperd, a senior this fall at NDP, scored a perfect 36 on his ACT test. He also scored perfect 800s on his SAT math and chemistry tests. Recent ND Prep graduate Ryan McIntosh earned a perfect 36 on his ACT last year.

ACT, the independent, not-for-profit organization that administers the test nationwide, says that typically less than one-tenth of one percent of ACT test takers earn a composite score of 36. And that's out of about 2.4 million ACTs administered in the United States each year.

According to ACT, the proportion of 2008 graduates to score a perfect 36 was 1-in-3300. The national average ACT composite score for 2008 was 21.1. Also, the ACT college entrance exam is preferred by more four-year public universities than any other.

### **NDMA middle-school math students excel in high-school math competition**

For the fifth year in a row, Notre Dame Marist Academy students won first place as a team in the Midwest Division 3 and fifth place as a team nationally in the National Catholic Math League Competition. Approximately 75 students from grades six through eight competed in the Algebra 1 competition. Competition rules say that as long as a student is enrolled in an Algebra 1 class, he or she is eligible to compete. As a result, NDMA's middle-school students, who take Algebra 1, are in competition with many Catholic high-school students.

### **Lower division earns Emerald School status**



*Sr. Sue Sattler, an IHM sister, is shown with Notre Dame Marist Academy students at the Waterford campus after earning Emerald School status.*

Notre Dame Marist Academy's lower division has been certified as an official Michigan Emerald School for the 2008-2009 school year. This is the second year in a row for the school and it's one of only 32 schools in Oakland County with such a certification. The award is given each year by the Michigan Green Schools Foundation to schools that meet certain environmental criteria. This is the second year in a row that ND Marist Academy has been named an Emerald School.

NDPMA's Pontiac campus was named a Michigan Green School by the foundation, meaning the campus achieved at least 10 of 20 energy-saving and environmental tasks.

### **Triathlon raises big money for cancer research**

Friends and family of Warren Kendall, a 2006 graduate of NDP, participated in a triathlon to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of Kendall, who's been diagnosed with a rare

form of leukemia.

Warren, who also participated in the triathlon, is responding well to treatment after finishing the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Triathlon in Philadelphia on June 28.

"Team Warren" earned \$16,000 for cancer research and support by participating. Warren's sister, Renee Kendall '09 (NDP), and her friend Jackie Jones '09 (NDP) were on the team as well. However, Renee was unable to participate as she broke her neck the week prior. (She is doing well.)

The entire Michigan Chapter earned \$80,000. Warren is planning on attending Oakland University this year and then transferring to MSU where he will study biomedical engineering—he hopes to get into cancer research and help find a cure.

### **First recipient of Kirby Smith Art Award**

Molly Dimefski '09 (NDP) was chosen as the first recipient of the Notre Dame Prep Kirby Smith Art Award. Recently retired Kirby Smith taught art for 32 years, having spent time at Notre Dame High School and at ND Prep. He has been an inspiration to many as he taught with passion and with a kind spirit. Since retiring, Smith regularly visits NDP and substitutes when needed.

### **School loses a friend and supporter**

On June 24, 2009, the school lost a dear friend with the death of Jim Grimaldi at the age of 83. Grimaldi was a champion for Catholic causes and Catholic education throughout his lifetime, but became particularly fond of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy in the early to mid 90s, when he formed a close and personal relationship with Fr. Leon Olszamowski.

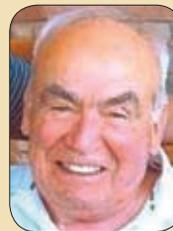
Grimaldi believed deeply in the need for Catholic education and the need for a quality Catholic school in Pontiac. In fact, his support for the school dates back to the time that the school operated as Oakland Catholic from 1988 to 1994. However, it was with Fr. Leon and the Marist Fathers that Grimaldi's support grew.

During his relationship with the school, Grimaldi supported many ventures. His donations included property across the street from the main campus where the tennis courts are now located, the cafeteria stage, and regular contributions toward financial aid so that more students could benefit from a Catholic education. He always gave freely without the need or desire for recognition.

Grimaldi also was a close personal friend of Andy Guest '84 (NDHS), VP for Advancement. During the last four years of



*Warren Kendall '06 (NDP), second from right, with sister Renee Kendall '09 (NDP), far left, and friends after completing the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Triathlon in Philadelphia.*



Grimaldi's life, Guest got to know him very well. According to Guest, Grimaldi will forever be remembered as a good friend, a kind man and a generous supporter. "Jim's sacrificial, kind and pragmatic approach to giving is something that I will carry with me the rest of my life," said Guest.

In 2008, the school recognized Grimaldi's 15-plus years of support by naming the new auxiliary gym, concession stand and restroom complex the "Jim Grimaldi Athletic Center." The center will stand as a permanent legacy of Grimaldi's philanthropic spirit.

### Patent for 2000 alum

Thomas Durkin '00 (NDP) and two other engineers at General Motors Powertrain Division received a patent from the U.S. Patent Office for their invention of "cam shaft covers with integrated intake manifolds for diesel engines." (USPN 7571701) Durkin currently is working as a calibration engineer on the Chevrolet Volt program.

### Frs. Demers and Martin at 50 years and counting

Rev. Gerry Demers, s.m., and Rev. Norman Martin, s.m., celebrated 50 years of priesthood in 2009. Demers and Martin spent many years in teaching and administration positions at Notre Dame High School. Currently, Martin is director of the Marists' Lourdes Center in Boston and Demers is pastor and superior at Our Lady of Victories parish, also in Boston.



*Jubilant Fr. Martin in Boston recently with NDHS alums Patrick Kelly '00, left, and Mike Kelly '73.*

### ND Prep robotics team wins prestigious award with rare all-girl drive team

Notre Dame Prep's Killer Bees robotics team earned the 2009 Regional Chairman's Award at the Kettering University Robotics District Competition held March 7 in Flint. Instrumental in winning the event's most prestigious honor were robot drivers and Prep seniors Sarah Huston and Carla Spicuzzi, a rare all-girl driver team. The Chairman's award is given to the team that best exemplifies a blend of technological skill, entrepreneurial enthusiasm and community service.

Jim Doyle, ND Prep teacher and team moderator, said that Huston and Spicuzzi are the first girls team in 14 years to pilot ND Prep's robot in the competition. "We are very proud of Sarah and Carla," he said.

### ND Marist Academy in the top 10

Notre Dame Marist Academy grade 5 scored in the top 10 in the Archdiocese of Detroit in Math Computation on the IOWA test. This area of the IOWA test is a difficult one, and scores tend to be lower than other math sections of the test. Congratulations to Mr. Frank's fifth-grade class.

### Former Notre Dame English teacher retires from Mercy; featured in *Detroit News* article

Tom Schusterbauer, who taught at Notre Dame High School for 11 years, was featured in a June 11, 2009, *Detroit News* article by columnist Laura Berman after he announced his retirement from Mercy High School. Excerpt from the *News* article:

*In the first minute of the last 45 minutes of the last day of his 41-year teaching career, Tom Schusterbauer hands out buttons.*

*As he tells this last class, in a poem he also distributes, last June he wished not to teach another class of freshman girls. "After 40 years of dealing with the drama and insanity and the wonderful aliveness of 14-year-olds," he wrote of himself, in third person, "he was ready to go, in a quieter and calmer way."*

*In this world of teaching high school students—first, boys who slammed their lockers at Notre Dame High School for 11 years, then for an all-female Mercy cast ("higher decibels, more giggling, less slamming," he says)—he's having a moment. This 62-year-old man, standing before his last class in blue jeans and a T-shirt that says "Caulfield," accomplished something special.*

*He did this with laughter, tears and the ability to engage with young people by banter, argument and query. He did it by surprising them with wit and intellect and raw emotion. "He gave us himself," says Tracie Krawczyk, a Mercy alumna and now a biology teacher in Colorado, who changed travel plans to be here. "That's a lesson I think about almost every day, because it's so hard to do." (The Detroit News)*



DETROIT NEWS

### ND Prep names new football coach



Notre Dame Prep Athletic Director Betty Wroubel announced in the spring that Kyle Zimmerman of Marine City, Mich., was named head varsity football coach at the school. Zimmerman, 30, comes to NDP from Bentley High School in Burton, Mich., where he turned around a program after 12 straight losing seasons—he won the league championship in his first season and qualified for the state playoffs. Previous to Burton, Zimmerman had coaching stints at Marine City High School and Montrose (Mich.) High School.

### Respected member of faculty was an inspiration to students

Beverly Williams, one of Notre Dame Prep's most beloved faculty members, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on July 1st at her home in Dryden.

Beverly "Bev" Williams, 64, was a very well-liked and respected teacher by her peers, the administration and, most notably, the students who had her in class. Bev taught Psychology, AP Psychology, Sociology and Current Issues at the upper division and has been with the school since 1999. She also was the loving wife of Tim Williams and the proud parent of Carley Williams, who graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2003.

A memorial service attended by hundreds of family members, friends, students, staff and alumni was held July 7 in the Jim Grimaldi Athletic Center. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to the Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy Scholarship Fund.



## Alumni Serving in the Military

**David Murray '04 (NDHS)**—2nd Lieutenant United States Marine Corps, was stationed at Quantico, Virginia, for the Infantry Officer Course (April - June 2009)

**Keegan Rasmussen '07 (NDP)**—after attending one year of college had decided to enlist with the United States Army. Keegan completed his Basic Training in Georgia. On Easter Sunday 2009, he was deployed to Afghanistan where he will remain until at least Christmas. Upon hearing about Keegan's deployment, Mr. Salic (NDP Counselor), his son Nick '10 (NDP), and several other students from Notre Dame graciously began to honor Keegan by gathering donations and signatures from their fellow students and prepared a box which they shipped over to Afghanistan.

**Staff Sergeant Carl Schmidt '01 (NDP)** is with the Marine Corps security forces in Djibouti, Africa conducting operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Announcements

**Rosina D'Agostini '99 (NDP)** and Jeff Thom engaged; wedding in June 2010

**Emily Kesek '00 (NDP)** and **Matthew Hindelang '00 (NDHS)** engaged; wedding in October 2009

**Sarah Brown '01 (NDP)** and Kevin Baker engaged; wedding in fall of 2010 in Charleston, WV

**Justina D'Agostini '01 (NDP)** and **Nick Lapoulas '01 (NDP)** engaged; wedding in July 2010

**Philip McDonough '02 (NDP)** and Terri Joseph engaged; wedding in July 2010

## Weddings

**Kelly Cole '99 (NDP)** (ND alumni director) and Bob Patterson (NDPMA faculty) - June 13, 2009

**Kathryn Reimann '01 (NDP)** and Maj. Daniel Munter were married in August 2009 in Glendale, Ariz.

## Births

**Chloe Alexandra**—born May 18, 2009: Proud parents, Carol Evola Smith '99 (NDP) and Ryan Smith

**Lauren Marie**—born June 8, 2009: Proud parents, Mike Guest '95 (NDHS) and Michelle Guest

## 90th Birthday

**Catherine Dusenbury '28 (SF)** celebrated her 90th birthday on May 28, 2009, with family and friends. She was born in Detroit to Walter and Elva Miller Heaphy. Catherine graduated from St. Frederick's High School in 1928. She still lives in Waterford and she has four grandsons and five great-grandchildren. (from Oakland Press 5/26/09)

## Rest in Peace

Please pray for:

**Martin Beloskur '68 (NDHS)** Additionally, his wife passed away on January 27, 2009.

**Arthur Bogusz**, father of Larry '64 (NDHS) and Gary '73 (NDHS)

**Gary Borushko**, father of Matt '98 (NDHS) and Mark '00 (NDHS)

**Robert J. Bruttell**, father of Jack '69 (NDHS), Tom '72 (NDHS), Ron '74 (NDHS)

**Harvey "Dick" Burr**, father of Paul '75 (NDHS)

**Gloria Carnago**, mother of Tim '76 (NDHS), Greg (NDP parent);

grandmother of Maria '06 (NDP), Michelle '08 (NDP), Gina '09 (NDP), Jerry '11 (NDP)

**John W. Carroll Jr. '64 (NDHS)**

**Michael J. Cesaro '73 (NDHS)**

**T. Mario "Angelo" Comito '72 (NDHS)**

**Robert Einheuser** (former PC Bingo Chair)

**Frank Fox**, father of Frank '72 (NDHS)

**Patricia A. Garr**, mother of John '63 (NDHS), Dan '75 (NDHS), Bill '79 (NDHS)

**Charles Gerbino**, father of Tom '67 (NDHS)

**Robert G. Goodman Sr.**, father of Robert Jr. '66 (NDHS), Gary '73 (NDHS), Jim '77 (NDHS), John '80 (NDHS); grandfather of Jeff '94 (NDHS), Eric Pascany '02 (NDHS)

**Robert C. Hamel**, father of Gary '63 (NDHS), David '71 (NDHS), Bruce '75 (NDHS)

**Dorothy Hammers**, mother of Bill '68 (NDHS), Dave '73 (NDHS)

**Thomas A. Jozefowicz**, father of Dave '81 (NDHS), Paul '87 (NDHS)

**Kenny Kalisz '74 (NDHS)**

**Robin E. Kearney**, former teacher at NDHS

**Palma Loria**, mother of Leo '77 (NDHS)

**Thomas M. McMahon, Sr. '52 (SF)**, brother of James '48 (SF) and Patricia '49 (SF)

**Sam M. Migliazzo**, father of Frank '69 (NDHS), John '71 (NDHS)

**Don McCormack '66 (NDHS)** June 2008

**Virginia Pasko**, mother-in-law of Mary Jane Pasko (NDP secretary), grandmother of Jacqueline Pasko '06 (NDP), Christine Pasko '07 (NDP), and John Pasko '10 (NDP)

**Angeline Plizga**, mother-in-law of Gerard Giacona '77 (NDHS), grandmother of Emily Giacona '00 (NDP), Nicholas Giacona '03 (NDP)

**Lawrence F. Roulo '67 (NDHS)**

**Joseph Sengstock '95 (NDHS)**

**Elizabeth Sind**, mother of Marty '74 (NDHS)

**Raymond Sieg**, father of Don '71 (NDHS)

**Mary Ann Strauch**, mother of Dreux '82 (NDHS)

**Dennis Toffolo**, father of Don Toffolo '96 (NDP), Dan Toffolo '99 (NDP), father-in-law of Sara Johanson Toffolo '96 (NDP). Dennis was a Deputy County Executive for Oakland County and a former board member for NDPMA.

**Dennis M. Traskal**, mother of Mike '71 (NDHS)

**Catherine A. Tyll**, mother of Matt '82 (NDHS), Jim '86 (NDHS), the late Archie (NDHS)

**Sophie T. Urbaniak**, mother of Jerome '76 (NDHS)

**Susan E. Warholak**, mother of Mike '10 (NDP)

**John C. Weisenberger**, father of Rich '94 (ND)

**Beverly Kay Williams-Stone (NDP Faculty)**, mother of Carley Williams '03 NDP (see previous page)

**Richard Wright '45 (SF)**

**Louise Zinser**, mother of Jerry '59 (ND), Larry '62 (ND), Marv '66 (ND), Russ '68 (ND), Fred '70 (ND), Phil '76 (ND), Chris '78 (ND), John '80 (ND)

*May their souls, and the souls of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

# keeping the faith

FR. LEON OLSZAMOWSKI '65 (NDHS), PRESIDENT OF NDPMA, DISCUSSES

It probably goes without saying that Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy has become an academic powerhouse and a school of choice in Oakland County. But what shouldn't go without saying is that NDPMA would not be where it is today without the hard work and dedication of the numerous participants in the school's early years and most especially not without the legacy and tradition of Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods.

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., '65 (NDHS), president of NDPMA, discusses both the history and future of a school that recently made a number of high-profile announcements. In early August, NDPMA announced that it has added its sixth through 10th grades to its prestigious International Baccalaureate curriculum already being taught in grades 11 and 12. This put the 15-year-old institution in rare company as the only school in Michigan—public or private—with such a range of IB offerings. And to date no other Catholic school in Michigan offers a single IB program. Also, in recent Michigan Merit Examination (MME) testing (see page 20), the school ranked highest among Catholic high schools in the state. In addition, ND Prep was named one of the nation's top-50 Catholic high schools in four of the last five years.

**IRISH:** *How did Notre Dame Prep begin?*

**FR. LEON:** The building itself was built in the 1960s when two rival Catholic schools in Pontiac merged. St. Frederick and St. Michael high schools came together in the northeast corner of Pontiac on land purchased by the Archdiocese of Detroit. The new



## THE SCHOOL'S FIRST 15 YEARS AND THE LEGACY OF NOTRE DAME

school, named Pontiac Catholic Central High School, saw some of its highest enrollment years in the early 1980s. But in 1987, as the school experienced a definite downward trend in enrollment, it was renamed Oakland Catholic to encourage students from a broader swath of Oakland County to attend. But the early 1990s proved that the new name was not going to be fruitful. In May 1992, the Marist Fathers were approached by the bishop (for the second time) and asked if they would take over Oakland Catholic. After some reservations, a deal was struck. When finalizing the relationship between the Marist Fathers and Oakland Catholic, the Marists wanted full control over the school and stipulated that it wouldn't be run by the Archdiocese. The Provincial council of the Marist Fathers voted in favor of it. The deal was completed in late 1992 and Oakland Catholic went through its last school year in 1993-1994.

**IRISH:** *What happened to Notre Dame High School?*

**FR. LEON:** At about the same time the Marists were devising a transition plan for the Pontiac school, Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods was facing financial problems. In the mid 1980s, enrollment had begun to decline significantly and efforts to attract new students were not effective. Most of this was attributed to the shifting population of Catholics on the lower east side of Detroit, exacerbated by the ending of residency requirements for police and fire personnel in Detroit. It soon became clear to the Marist Fathers that we would eventually have to move or close Notre Dame.

**IRISH:** *What was your primary role during this difficult time for both schools?*

**FR. LEON:** I was spending half of my time at Oakland Catholic in its last year and half of my time at Notre Dame in Harper Woods as principal. My primary role was to oversee the transition from Oakland Catholic to the opening of Notre Dame Preparatory.

**IRISH:** *Can you describe the transition that was taking place at both schools?*

**FR. LEON:** The transition from Oakland Catholic to Notre Dame Prep wasn't the easiest. It was seen as somewhat of an intrusion from the people who were here in Pontiac. In reality, I feel that they knew something



had to happen. The first official school year for our new school was 1994-1995. Eight staff members were retained from Oakland Catholic's 18 and 76 of the 130 students were re-enrolled.

In Harper Woods, there was a great migration of sorts that was taking place. De La Salle moved north and other Catholic schools in the area were relocating to broaden their recruitment base. Slowly, the demographics shifted and ND's recruitment area dwindled. The Marist Fathers, unable to continue financial sup-

port of the school, came up with a plan to close Notre Dame in an orderly fashion and transition as many faculty, staff and students as possible to Notre Dame Prep over the course of two years.

**IRISH:** *What was the initial thought process behind closing Notre Dame High School?*

**FR. LEON:** In spite of our best efforts and the tremendous efforts of other stakeholders in the school, we sensed that Notre Dame would eventually close due primarily to lack of enrollment and money. The Marists wanted to stay in the Archdiocese of Detroit and to help. So, initially, as we looked

able to the east side of Detroit and offered to purchase the school from the Marists. The deal proposed was that ownership of the school would transfer to the archdiocese and they would assume any accrued debt. The Marist Fathers would continue to operate the school but would no longer carry the financial burden of subsidizing the school. The archdiocese officially purchased Notre Dame from the Marists in 1996 and Notre Dame was given new life thanks to the cardinal.

**IRISH:** *Why did the Marists accept the request to operate Oakland Catholic and why did you choose to remain at the Pontiac location?*

**FR. LEON:** Religious congregations are built to respond to the needs of bishops. The archdiocese needed someone to run the school. The priests of the vicariate were 100% behind the deal. We also felt that the new school could be a long-term solution for Notre Dame and its tradition.

We thought that the location in Pontiac offered an opportunity for long-term sustainability. The school sits just west of Rochester Hills and adjacent to Auburn Hills. Both areas were, and still are, poised for long-term growth. And we have many alums from Notre Dame who live within a reasonable commute from the school.

**IRISH:** *How important were Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic, St. Frederick and St. Michael alums to the success of the school.*

**FR. LEON:** The success that we had was due to people on that donor board in the chapel with their names inscribed. These folks built the school. That is what gave us success. They provided us with the opportunity to give a great Catholic education in this building. We

# Notre Dame High School. . .it carried such a wonderful legacy.

Fr. Leon

also had some very good teachers who came from the Pontiac Catholic/Oakland Catholic school. Among those were Betty Wroubel, Dee Elbode (Connors), and a number of others who stayed until they retired. Those teachers that chose to stay with us worked out really well. They formed a good teaching staff.

We also were provided with the history of the previous schools, which was extremely important. The priests of the vicariate knew some of the history, but not the internal history. We depended upon the teachers who came over to let us know what had been going on over the years. Betty has been here since 1980 and helped us tremendously. She always reminds us that we need to keep trying to reconnect with the PC/OC alumni. She knew a lot of them. Eight teachers from NDHS also came over as part of the original transition plan.

**IRISH:** *What was the initial vision of NDP?*

**FR. LEON:** It's in the original document I have between the Marists and the Archdiocese of Detroit. Our original vision for the school was to make it *the* school of choice in Oakland County. Bar none. That includes the Cranbrooks, the Country Days, and all those other schools: Brother Rice, Marian, and so on. *The* school of choice.

**IRISH:** *How is NDPMA doing after 15 years? Still carrying the vision?*

**FR. LEON:** I don't know if we are *the* school of choice in Oakland County yet, but we are certainly *a* school of choice in Oakland County. People like coming here. The vision always has been that we would be a strong academic school and

modeled somewhat on the University of Notre Dame: strong in all areas—not just academically, but in athletics, arts programs, etc.—well-balanced. We are continuing to work toward our original vision and to grow as an institution.

Also written in the documentation is what the cardinal's vision for the school was: to be an "excellent academic school, coed, and to make it strongly vibrant and Catholic.

**IRISH:** *How did you arrive at the name Notre Dame Preparatory School?*

**FR. LEON:** As part of our plan, we wanted to continue the tradition of Notre Dame High School in this building—but because Notre Dame still existed, we needed to change the name slightly. So we added the names Preparatory and School. There had to be some distinction between the two school names. We wanted to continue the long, vibrant history of Notre Dame High. Of course, as you know, that started some problems and friction because the history of the transition was distorted. Also, we were encouraged by the Archdiocese of Detroit and the local pastors to take the name Notre Dame because it has 'sellability' and it would connect us to a name people already knew. We received a lot of advice on taking this name.

The name of Notre Dame Prep pre-dated the takeover of Notre Dame High School by the archdiocese. The name was given at the same time the Marist Fathers still owned Notre Dame in Harper Woods and were in the process of planning to close it. In hindsight we might have done this differently, but the cardinal stepped in at the last minute to give Notre Dame High School

new life—10 more years. From ND alums everywhere, a big thank you to Cardinal Maida!

**IRISH:** *What were some of the key decisions made early on that have contributed to the ultimate success of ND Prep?*

**FR. LEON:** Probably the key decision was who we chose to model. In terms of high schools, the two schools we chose to model were Notre Dame High School and Divine Child in Dearborn.

Notre Dame High School, because we were very familiar with the school and its curriculum and it carried such a wonderful legacy. Divine Child, because it was a coed school and still very successful. We had to become more familiar with running a coed school.

Another key decision was to involve many of the local pastors. They allowed us to go into the pulpit of each one of their churches and talk about what we were planning to do with this school.

The third and fourth decisions came during the first week of Notre Dame Prep. We set high standards for the students and had absolutely no tolerance for fighting. When a fight broke out on the first day, the students were simply dismissed. Also, we had high expectations for attendance, which at first, parents felt was too strict. But we thought we had to establish a new tradition in this building. Our goal was to give families the kind of school they say they want: an orderly and disciplined school. We were very strict with the kids. We wanted to create a high caliber of student at NDP, so we made it a highly academic school.

**IRISH:** *How did Marist Academy come to be? When did the middle division and the lower division*

*come into existence?*

**FR. LEON:** From the very beginning, it was written in the contract that we were going to establish a middle school. But the high school was shaky its first year. We didn't know whether the school was going to make it. But by February or March after that year, as we saw our incoming freshman class jump from 83 to 101, we knew we were going to have the success that would allow us to continue to grow and even expand into a middle school.

The middle division under principal Sandra Favrow opened for enrollment in 1996 and the lower division (junior kindergarten through fifth grade) in Waterford, also under Mrs. Favrow, opened in 2003. The lower division opened at the request of the diocese, the pastor of St. Benedict parish and the Pontiac Area Vicariate.

**IRISH:** *Do you have a message that you would like to send to Notre Dame High School alumni? As well as alumni from Pontiac Catholic and to Oakland Catholic?*

**FR. LEON:** Well, I guess I can use the lyrics from a song we sang in church on a recent Sunday, "All are welcome in this place" and to be part of this family.

**IRISH:** *What is your message for NDP graduates? Do you have a "call to action" for them?*

**FR. LEON:** I spent 18 years at NDHS, four as a student and 14 as a teacher and principal. I loved the place! So my call to action to NDP alums is the same as the call to action for ND, PC and OC alumni: To support this new Marist Fathers school so that what happened to a lot of other Catholic schools, including Notre Dame High School, doesn't happen here. Support it to your death if you want this

## NOTRE DAME PREP SENIORS IN COLLEGE-SIGNING CEREMONY

The University of Notre Dame and John Carroll University were among colleges that recently gained athletic prowess from ND Prep. In a ceremony held at the school this past spring, ten seniors from Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac signed on the dotted line to play sports at the college level.

Brad Woelke – basketball – Kalamazoo College  
 Lauren Rao – diving – Albion College  
 Justin Scollin – basketball – Aquinas College  
 Christina Ruggeri – volleyball – Northwood University  
 Joe Veltri – baseball – John Carroll University  
 Emily Gray – soccer – Kalamazoo College  
 Elizabeth Elias – softball – Albion College  
 Liz Barron – cross country/track – Univ. of Notre Dame  
 Sara Chrzanowski – fig. skating – Michigan State Univ.  
 Dave Owenby – football and baseball – Benedictine Univ.



PHOTO BY LISA GRAY

Notre Dame Prep senior athletes, from left, Christina Ruggeri, Joe Veltri, Emily Gray, Elizabeth Elias, Sara Chrzanowski and Liz Barron are headed to college and will play sports. In a signing ceremony held May 5 at the school's Pontiac campus, ten ND Prep students were acknowledged and congratulated by the school community. Not pictured: Brad Woelke, Lauren Rao, Justin Scollin and Dave Owenby.

kind of education to exist for your children and their children. That's especially important in our current economic time. There is a tremendous product here! These kids know it! The graduates know it! When I look at our early graduates and how well they did, oh, it's amazing to me because there was so much transition and turmoil going on. But we put the right people in place and focused on the right things. And that's what is critical in all of this. In my heart, I truly believe that Mary wanted us here. So, again, what I have to say is to get behind the school. Financially, yes, that helps, but over and beyond that, just be here. Do things with the school *AND* don't be afraid to send your kids here.

Remember, that who you are now is to a large degree a result of what you were here and at Notre Dame High School and the many teachers, staff and peers you rubbed elbows with.

**IRISH:** *What is your vision for the future of NDPMA?*

**FR. LEON:** The vision is that this school becomes *the* school of choice in Oakland County and the Catholic school of choice in southeast Michigan. I believe we already are the Catholic school of choice in Oakland County. We are the only school in the state of Michigan to offer the International Baccalaureate

program at the middle- and high-school levels, and we plan to have IB in place at the lower school within 12 months, which will make NDPMA the only Catholic school in the country with such a breadth of IB curricula. We provide the best education you can get, Catholic and internationally speaking, for a reasonable price. That's why we went with the IB curriculum. We are not preparing kids to live in *our* world—we are preparing kids to live in *their* world, 20 or 30 years from now, when they are prosperous and productive people. When they are CEOs and leaders, we want them to be good CEOs and leaders and we want them to live in the world and not get swallowed up by it. Ultimately, we want to continue to provide to our kids the education they need to be successful in this world and the next.

Also, as an aside, I really want to see before my departure a performing-arts center here on campus that is worthy of our kids' talents. I also want our sports programs to continue to grow and develop. Most importantly, however, I want our students and graduates to be GOOD PEOPLE. That has always been the core mission of what this school is all about. ■



Prepared  
for  
College,  
Life

“Coming into college, you become this whole different person. You come to realize the world is bigger than you. I’ve made an effort to take a step out of my comfort zone. And because of Notre Dame Prep, I felt academically prepared to take that step.”

*Stephanie Rink*

Graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School (2005) and Bucknell University (2009)



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*a higher grade of learning*

Whenever people speak about families who truly embody Christian values, families like the Mott family automatically come to mind.

by Kelly Patterson '99 (NDP), Director of Alumni Relations

Whenever people speak about families who embody Christian values, families who bear the giving spirit, and families who possess a humble upbringing, families like the Mott family should automatically come to mind.

There have been four Mott children who have graduated from Notre Dame and one who will graduate in 2010. The legacy of the family at NDPMA has spanned the years of 1995 through today. They are one of the school's longest standing families and it's safe to say that the Mott family goes way beyond the realm of what some would perceive as community involvement. The Mott family, carrying the spirit of "Good Christian People, Upright Citizens, and Academic Scholars," serve internationally through study-abroad programs and the Peace Corps.

Four of the five Mott siblings recently sat down with IRISH for coffee and conversation. Meghan Mott '99 (NDP) is not only the oldest sibling, but also the true leader of this family of leaders. Meghan's community and worldwide service has inspired her siblings to get involved on a global basis.

At Notre Dame Prep, Meghan was not shy about getting involved either. She swam in the inaugural season of the swim team and was editor of the Leprechaun school newspaper. Academically, she was on the National Honor Society and a Valedictorian of her graduating class.

When asked who influenced her at NDP, she quickly remarked that Mr. Simon and Ms. Bembas "stick out."

"They were real with us," she said. "Mr. Simon—because he was

to Wayne State University.

It was at Wayne State that Meghan's call to serve internationally became very loud.

It began at a lecture at WSU given by a nurse representing Doctors without Borders. The nurse focused her lecture on international service through programs like the Peace Corps. Meghan decided she had to get on board and subsequently spent two years teaching in Lesotho, a tiny African country surrounded by South Africa. She worked in a town called Sehonghong as an English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) teacher.

Meghan worked primarily with high-school students who lived on campus and who, she recalls, had less-than-ideal school living conditions.

"There were twelve 14 year olds all living together in a shack near the school compound. They had to cook for themselves—do everything for themselves. It was kind of like going to college, except they're 14 and don't have a clue."

Her experience in the Peace Corps was unforgettable. She says that upon returning to the United States, she tried not to take things for granted anymore. "Reuse things," she says with emphasis.

# carrying the mission around the world

new and young—and because I had lots of classes with him. He was challenging, but fun." Meghan also remarked how Ms. Bembas didn't sugarcoat anything. Meghan recalls completing arduous tasks like timed readings, but she says they were useful and that she even made her own students do them.

She smiles as she also remembers going toe-to-toe with Fr. Strasz. "I used to argue (with him) a lot. But I love Fr. Strasz and he taught me that it's okay to disagree on things," she adds. "I felt like he respected my opinion on stuff enough that he would hear me out."

Meghan's passion for involvement didn't stop at NDP. She continued her education at DePaul University where her initial passion was theatre. After a year, she had a change of heart and transferred

"We don't really need all this stuff we accumulate in America. The bare minimum here is so much more than people have in other places."

While Meghan was busy giving her time and talent to others across the globe, her younger sibling, Colleen Mott '02 (NDP), was determined to have her own African experience.

Colleen participated in a study-abroad program in South Africa through Michigan State University. After visiting Meghan, she studies for four weeks and began to focus her studies in the areas of conservation and biodiversity. Colleen learned about the national parks and game reserves while staying at the Southern African Wildlife College and at the Kalahari in Cape Town, South Africa. This group didn't stay in one place long, she said, but she would complete many bush walks and safaris while learning how they managed their



Meghan Mott '99 (NDP) enjoys an instant coffee and chicory in her one-room house on the school compound in Sehonghong, Lesotho.

PHOTOS COURTESY MOTT FAMILY

## For the Mott family, their mission is to be of service to others and to continue learning and supporting each other in the process.

parks.

Colleen says that her interest in conservation and biodiversity actually began to bloom when she was a student at NDP. She was swayed by Ms. Toczylowski's AP Environmental Science class and decided to major in Environmental Studies and Applications while at MSU. Colleen was academically strong and involved in the National Honor Society in addition to being a cheerleader for the Fighting Irish.

Growing up in what Colleen describes a "nature-y" family, the study of conservation was a perfect fit for her. Colleen's international study program helped her to survive in an assortment of situations and to appreciate the beauty of animals and nature in an array of places.

It looked like the Mott family's "domino effect of service" had begun!

After Colleen returned home from her study-abroad program, Betsy Mott '04 (NDP), decided to join the Peace Corps. Betsy is currently working in a village called Ataloté, located in the northern half of Togo.

While Betsy was in Togo, her younger sister, Annie Mott '07 (NDP), made the decision that she had to be a part of this Mott "international phenomenon." Three Mott sisters had already spent time in Africa, all contributing to the culture and environment in differing ways. Now it was Annie's turn.

Throughout the summer, Annie worked in Aflo, Ghana, at the First Baptist Preparatory School and the Good Shepherd Happy Children's Home. The orphanage held about 35 children and the school had about 180 students. Both were located in the same compound. Annie taught English every day and also taught a few math lessons. "It was nice because I had the freedom to choose which area I wanted to work in and what kind of extra activities I wanted to put together," Annie said. "On the weekends I was able to play with the orphans and students and I also started an after-school tutoring

program for the students two times a week."

Looking back to NDP, Annie, who like her big sister Colleen, participated on the cheerleading team and was student-council president, felt that all her teachers were thoroughly involved and genuinely wanted their students to learn.

"Mr. Osiecki was great!,"

she adds. "I really liked his classes." She also remembers Ms. Swieca-Brockman and her experiences at Kairos Retreat, and Mr. Kator for the time she spent on StuCo.

It is not every day that one encounters a family that is so focused on giving. Throughout the interview with IRISH, it was apparent that the Mott siblings thoroughly enjoy life. They do not hesitate to share their talents with others and to get involved in the



Annie Mott '07 NDP teaches English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) to students in Aflo, Ghana, this past summer.

world around them. They are humble in their upbringing and simple in their day-to-day living. You can tell their focus is not on how big their television is or what kind of car they drive. Instead, they are focusing their lives on what they can do to better the world around them. Their mission is to

be of service to others and to continue learning and supporting each other in the process.

Meghan paved the path for her three sisters to see the world and the sisters all agreed that having Meghan go first made it easier for them to get involved and learn on a global level. IRISH asked Meghan what had inspired her in the first place.

She answered, "If you want to do something, if you want to accomplish something, there are ways to go about it. If someone is getting in your way, go another way or see if you can get someone to come on board with you. If people know the value of something, they are more likely to get on board."

When questioned about parental support, all the Mott kids laughed and said that their parents, Bill and Nadine, would often say, "Hey! Go for it!" Meghan added that even if it was something stupid, their dad would be like, "Okay, you will learn when that doesn't work out."

Annie also said that their parents let them make their own mistakes but helped out whenever needed. To a one, the Mott children felt that family support was integral, but that it also was important for their parents to let them make their own decisions. Even if something seemed crazy at first, their parents guided them to make educated decisions and to deal with whatever consequences that came with it.

From early on, the Mott parents took their children to art shows, art fairs, museums, and to downtown Detroit. "My parents exposed us to a variety of cities, cultures and other experiences that helped all of us to be more adventurous and open to others," said Meghan. "As long as mom had a map, they were willing to travel." This idea of adventure and trust in their children's decision-making likely created this strong sense of value within the family and an even stronger sense that they are serving God through others.

What's next for the Mott family? Well, as they continue to support Betsy on her Peace Corps journey, they also continue to support the youngest sibling, Willy Mott '10 (NDP). He is following in the Mott family tradition of being involved in a very positive way. He was recently elected president of the student council. Willy also plays on the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams. Teachers who have influenced him include Ms. Swieca-Brockman, Mr. Fazzini, and



Meghan, left, and Betsy on a 24-hour bus trip from Bloemfontein, South Africa, to Windhoek, Namibia, where they spent 10 days on a tour/safari.



Mott family, from left, dad Bill, mom Nadine, Willy '10 (NDP), Betsy '04 (NDP), Annie '07 (NDP), Meghan '99 (NDP), and Colleen '02 (NDP).

Mr. Kator. “Ms. Swieca, because we are both vegetarians and she is pretty cool. Mr. Fazzini, because he is a nice guy in general and is ‘real’ as well. And K-Dogg is a good guy.”

Willy has high hopes for his senior year as student council president. He hopes to bring new and exciting ideas and to get more students attending events. After he graduates from NDP, Willy

plans to attend Michigan State University. Although he is not sure what he will study, he knows he would like to follow in his sisters’ footsteps and get involved on a global scale.

All three Mott sisters interviewed agreed that NDP prepared them well for the college level. They also all commented on the atmosphere of the school, which stressed student involvement. Annie says that when you are involved in many things in high school, you naturally get involved in college, and get to meet many new people.

The Mott family consistently displays the qualities of independence, open mindedness and flexibility in their daily lives. At NDP-MA, the recently integrated International Baccalaureate programme focuses on these characteristics as well—ones the Mott family so easily models.

The Mott sisters also added that if current and former students wanted to study abroad or join the Peace Corps, they ought to try it.

“The Peace Corps is a huge commitment,’ Meghan admitted. “But think it through and don’t be afraid of being adventurous.” ■

# red wine and sauce

Danny Bologna '03 (NDP), son of long-time restaurateur Joe Bologna, opened his first restaurant in July 2008. Via Bologna, located in Clarkston, Mich., follows the lead of his father’s classic Italian restaurant in Sterling Heights, Joe Bologna Trattoria. Besides dad’s valuable counsel, Danny attributes his success to networking, experience and, of course, to Notre Dame Prep.

**IRISH:** *Between your experiences at your father’s restaurant and what you’ve gone through so far with your own place, what trends do you see emerging in the restaurant industry now?*

**BOLOGNA:** Restaurants have to be able to adapt, evolve and be innovative at a flip of a switch in today’s economy. I think the



Notre Dame Prep graduate ('03) Danny Bologna in his restaurant Via Bologna in Clarkston, Mich.

top reasons people decide to eat at a particular restaurant is price, service, quality and atmosphere. These factors are all closely being measured by customers. The current trend facing my industry is restaurants converting to bars. Current financial pressures have resulted in a shift among those who would have decided to eat a nice meal at a restaurant instead to grab a sandwich at a bar. I have to be able to offer the best food, service and atmosphere at a price the market is able and willing to bear to get repeat customers.

**IRISH:** *Are your restaurants chef-driven? In other words, how much creative control is your*

*own and how much is left to the chefs?*

**BOLOGNA:** The recipes are completely created by the family. They are handed down, worked on and put into action. Luckily my father is a chef and has the ability to perfect the recipes we use. Hats off to my mom too; she’s got the baking and pastry down to a tee. The chefs at both restaurants take a lot of pride in their food. The chefs use their knowledge, creativity and innovative techniques to offer daily dinner specials.

**IRISH:** *What do you think is the hardest part of opening a new restaurant?*

**BOLOGNA:** Developing the steps of service through education and training activities that

# I believe NDP is why I excelled over others in college.

Danny Bologna

enable staff to perform their functions and responsibilities thoroughly. For example it's getting the server, dishwasher and chefs to collectively work together in a manner you set forward. I am like the orchestra director, making sure everything runs smoothly.

**IRISH:** *What is the process for opening and maintaining a successful restaurant?*

**BOLOGNA:** Entrepreneurship or risk-taking is a key factor. Your risks can be reduced by developing a solid business plan. A business plan is simply a living document that estimates trends, financial reports and market research. With that, I would say one key to operating a successful restaurant is developing a thorough business plan. Most importantly, keep that plan close because the market is always changing and your plan better include contingencies. Part of my plan was to surround myself with previous staff members and trustworthy friends such as NDP alumni Grant Leffel '03 and Kristi Lewandowski '03.

**IRISH:** *Where did you get your training and inspiration?*

**BOLOGNA:** Other than growing up in the family business, I traveled around the world for my undergrad studies and met a lot of interesting people. Everyone I met had an impact on me that would help mold me for my future endeavors. My education gave me the tools I needed to be successful but my friends, family, and most importantly, my grandpa, Ambrose Bologna, encouraged me to apply them to the real world.

**IRISH:** *Where did you earn your undergrad degree?*

**BOLOGNA:** Johnson & Wales University (JWU). I started at the campus in Providence, Rhode Island. Very soon after my arrival, I was accepted into a highly selective campaign known as the President's Leadership Council (PLC). As a result of PLC I was accepted to JWU's campus in Gothenburg, Sweden. In Sweden I met some amazing people from their Denver campus and transferred there the following year. Then I studied a little Spanish in Sevilla, Spain, and Asian business practices in Seoul, South Korea. All this was completed in the three-year accelerated undergrad program.

**IRISH:** *Why did you choose Johnson & Wales for college?*

**BOLOGNA:** During my senior year at

NDP, I was contemplating Michigan State, John Cabot American University in Rome and Johnson & Wales. I choose JWU because they were known for having a global perspective in culinary arts, hospitality, and business. I ended up majoring in International Business with a minor in Marketing and Leadership Studies.

**IRISH:** *After graduating from college, what did you do?*

**BOLOGNA:** I thought I was going to work for the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer or Foreign Service Specialist. When that didn't work out I decided to open a restaurant. Who would have guessed?

**IRISH:** *What are some of your memories of Notre Dame Prep?*

**BOLOGNA:** I have the best friends in the world. The students, staff and faculty will always be part of my life. They are family.

**IRISH:** *Did you have any favorite teachers at ND?*

**BOLOGNA:** Ms. Donovan, Father Joe, Deacon Morici, Ms. Kotzan, Ms. Mistretta, but especially, Ms. Donovan! I'll never forget her.

**IRISH:** *What else were you involved in at ND?*

**BOLOGNA:** When I wasn't going to work for my parents after school I played soccer and tennis. I wish I was more involved in the extracurricular activities the school had to offer. Thankfully, at some point during my senior year I realized how important extracurricular activities really are and took full advantage of every opportunity that came my way in college.

**IRISH:** *What do you see as the value of your ND education and of Catholic education in general?*

**BOLOGNA:** I believe NDP is why I excelled over others in college. I had a competitive advantage in the subjects of Math, Science, English and Social Studies. Having an education founded on the principles of a moral environment also helped set the foundation for my future. ■

*Via Bologna is located at 7071 Dixie Highway in Clarkston, Mich. 248-620-8500  
www.joebologna.com*

## NDAA BOARD MEETINGS

The Alumni Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Prep. Meetings are open to all alumni. If you have an agenda item, please contact the Alumni Board president Jim Gammichia '99 (NDP), [jvgammic@comcast.net](mailto:jvgammic@comcast.net).

## ALUMNI ART SHOW: CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The Alumni Art Show will be on display at NDP January 28 –

February 4, 2010. If you would like to submit your work, please drop it off at Notre Dame Prep with a completed submission form. Artwork drop-off dates: December 14 – January 15.

Download submission form on-line at [www.ndpma.org/alumni](http://www.ndpma.org/alumni). Mark your calendars for opening night, January 28, for a special alumni preview night!

**SUPER RAFFLE** tickets are now available through the Alumni Office.

1st Prize: \$50,000, 2nd Prize: \$10,000, 3rd Prize: \$5,000. The Super Raffle Tickets are \$10 each. The drawing will take place at Oktoberfest-Irish Style on October 2nd.

## OKTOBERFEST-IRISH STYLE:

Alumni (21+) can purchase tickets for Oktoberfest. Tickets include entrance to Oktoberfest, dinner, beer, and wine, plus door prizes. Tickets are \$30 each. You can print the invitation on-line at [www.ndpma.org/alumni](http://www.ndpma.org/alumni), or through the alumni office by calling (248) 373-2171 ext. 4. Purchase your tickets today for the Raffle and for Oktoberfest!

## DONOR FOR A DOLLAR

Alumni donations are rising! We are continuing to increase the percentage of alumni who participate in our Annual Fund through our Donor-for-a-Dollar Program. This year, we would like to see the percentage continue to grow. Donate your dollar at any alumni event, reunion, or by sending it into school marked "donor for a dollar." All donations are appreciated! Thank you!



# three-time olympian born to run



Doug Brown '70 (NDHS) was a track and cross-country star at Notre Dame High School and went on to set the world on fire at the University of Tennessee and as a three-time Olympian. Brown sat down recently over breakfast with IRISH to talk about his time at ND and beyond.

Doug Brown currently lives in Georgia due to his job, which is with Polytan-USA, a global sports surfacing company based in Germany but with U.S. headquarters in Atlanta.

He has two children, son Chris, and daughter Lindsay, and one granddaughter. The oldest of nine children, Brown gets back to Michigan about twice a year since most of his brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews live in the Detroit area as does his mother. His father passed away from cancer in 1993.

He says he has stayed in touch with a few of his ND buddies through the years. "Tim Bondy, who was captain of ND's hockey team in 1970, is probably my closest ND friend," he said.

Brown said it would be an understatement to simply say that he has fond memories of his days at ND. "It sometimes scares me to think about what my life might have been like without the education, guidance, leadership and mentoring that I received at Notre Dame," he said. "Even though it was all part of God's plan for me anyway, it still scares me!"

"Simply put, (teacher and track/cross country coach) Conrad Vachon was one of the most influential people in my entire life," he said. "It's not cliché to say he was like a father to me. He would kick my butt when it needed kicking, hug my neck when it needed hugging, and taught me so many things that could never be learned in the classroom. He always believed in me and for that reason I was willing to run through walls for that man—pun intended!"

Brown noted that Hal Rice was an assistant track coach back then, as was Roy Johnson and Denny Lynch. "Father Martin also was a good friend," he said. "He married me in Chicago in 1974 and he and Vachon used to travel with my parents to Tennessee to watch me run."

He also noted that while at ND, Father Bryson always kept track of his exploits by making sure the morning announcements included his previous day's accomplishments in cross country or track.

A pretty good ND story Brown shared was during his senior year in cross country. "I kept losing to this one runner from Grosse Pointe North," he recalls. "About halfway through the season I started doing morning runs before school that would lead me past this guy's house. I remember pointing at his house as I ran by. The week before the state meet I made a bet with Vachon. If I beat this kid at states, I get Vachon's car for the weekend. If I lose, I'd have to get a 'baldy' haircut.

"Well the word got out about the bet and a bus full of ND students showed up the day of the meet in Ypsilanti," he continues. "I was warming up on the course with my teammates and we ran by the Grosse Pointe North team. My nemesis at North yelled out: 'Hey Brown, I hear you're getting a haircut today!'

"That was the wrong thing to say to me!"

"I ran on his shoulder for the first three quarters of the race at which point I hear Vachon yell out, 'NOW BROWN, NOW!' I blew by this kid so fast he literally fell apart. I won the race and he finished 45th. He never beat me again."

Brown said he was very saddened to hear the news about the closing of the school that meant so much to him. He drove by shortly after the closing and picked up his letter sweater that had been hanging in one of the trophy cases. "It felt nostalgic and weird," he said. "From what little I know about the situation it seems like the NDHS alumni and the alumni of Notre Dame Prep are doing as much as they can to preserve those memories and traditions." ■

Doug Brown was a three-time Olympian—1972, 1976, 1980. Here he is shown in steeplechase at the 1980 Olympic trials. Brown was a two-time American record holder and a five-time national college champion in the event. During his senior year at Notre Dame, he won the Michigan class-A state championship in cross country.

# bridge-building brothers

## NDHS ALUMS BRINGING OPPORTUNITY TO THE LESS FORTUNATE

Paul Housey '88 (NDHS) and his brother Mike '84 (NDHS) have been working tirelessly for nearly 15 years on helping children in metro Detroit get the same opportunities these two east-siders had when they were growing up. Building Bridges, which the Housey brothers began in 1996, is a nonprofit organization founded on the belief that thousands of children in metropolitan Detroit are lacking much-needed positive interaction with caring adults. Whether caused by death or divorce of parents, economic difficulties, learning disabilities or other circumstances beyond their control, so many children need but one adult to believe in them so that these children can believe in themselves, the Houseys say.

In the early years the Housey's work centered on providing Christmas gifts and school supplies to needy families. In 2000, they began making once-a-month visits to the Christ Child House in Detroit to meet with and teach the children who were wards of the state. A few years later they started raising funds targeted specifically to creating a scholarship program for these children to attend Notre Dame Prep.

Building Bridges is an all-volunteer organization without a single dollar of donor funds being used for salaries, rent or equipment. Every penny donated goes to help kids.

Paul Housey answers a few questions from IRISH about Building Bridges.

**IRISH:** *What inspired you to start Building Bridges?*

**HOUSEY:** Believe it or not, it was a poem that was part of my MSU fraternity's initiation ritual. It is called "The Bridge Builder" by Will Allen Dromgoole, and promotes the idea of building links for the future, and for passing the torch along to the next generation. There is more to fraternity life than the Animal House image!

**IRISH:** *What is the criteria for student participation in the Building Bridges scholarship program?*

**HOUSEY:** We work very closely with ND Prep to identify the right students for our scholarships. We don't have hard and fast rules, but are generally looking for students with great financial need, who are willing to

work hard and who demonstrate the skills to become great citizens and beyond.

**IRISH:** *What are your expectations of students who are selected to participate in the Building Bridges scholarship program?*

**HOUSEY:** In this economy, asking for (and receiving) donations is harder than ever. Our committee that selects new scholarship recipients and renews scholarships annually has a great respect for every dollar that has been entrusted to Building Bridges. So our expectations (of the students) have to be of excellence. Excellence is measured differently in each student but with common criteria.

We expect the students to be respectful to the faculty and parents at NDP and to be leaders and role models to the other students. Finally, we expect that each student plans to attend college.

**IRISH:** *How many students are in the program?*

**HOUSEY:** In 2008-09, we had nine. Due to the economy, we have scaled back to seven for 2009-10 but plan to increase our numbers again once our fundraising improves.

**IRISH:** *Have you had any graduates yet? If so, what are they doing?*

**HOUSEY:** Yes. We are extremely proud that we have been a part of four students graduating from ND Prep. One graduated in 2008 and has gone on to college and three just graduated this June. All are off to college!

**IRISH:** *I understand the relationship between Building Bridges and NDP is quite unique. Can you explain how it works in lay terms?*

**HOUSEY:** We came to NDP with a limited amount of funds and a desire to help as many families as possible. Our commit-

tee and NDP were very creative in putting together a win-win-win for Building Bridges, NDP and our recipient families. NDP generously agreed to pick up 25% of the tuition and to accept 50% from Building Bridges, with the final 25% coming from the family and/or student.

**IRISH:** *How did you come to choose ND Prep as the school to partner with for Building Bridges?*

**HOUSEY:** That was easy. Because we knew so many of the people involved in running NDP from our time at Notre Dame in Harper Woods, we knew that we would be working with the school and teachers that would provide the best Christian learning environment and the best chance for the scholarship recipients to go on to college

and succeed in life.

As if that wasn't enough, Andy Guest '84 (NDHS) and Greg Simon '89 (NDHS) also were on staff at ND Prep and very good friends of the Housey family for many years.

**IRISH:** *What is your long-term vision for the Building Bridges program...or in other words, what difference do you hope to make in the lives of these children or in society in general?*

**HOUSEY:** Basically, we just want these kids to have the opportunity to do what they want to do with their lives, rather than being dictated to because they are poor and don't have a quality education. Sure, we sometimes let our imaginations drift to what these kids could accomplish.

Just the other day, my brother Mike reminded me that NDP will provide these students with more than just a chance at career success. Here's a little story about how much more this program will mean to one girl we are supporting:

(There is) one amazing young lady on scholarship whose own parents believe that the role of a girl is to cook and clean, and not

*Please see Bridges page 20*



Paul Housey '88 (NDHS), left, and Mike Housey '84 (NDHS) at the latest Building Bridges golf outing.

# lifetime of service from Notre Dame alum

Retired U.S. congressman David Bonior, who graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1963, looks back at his career in Washington and his time at ND.

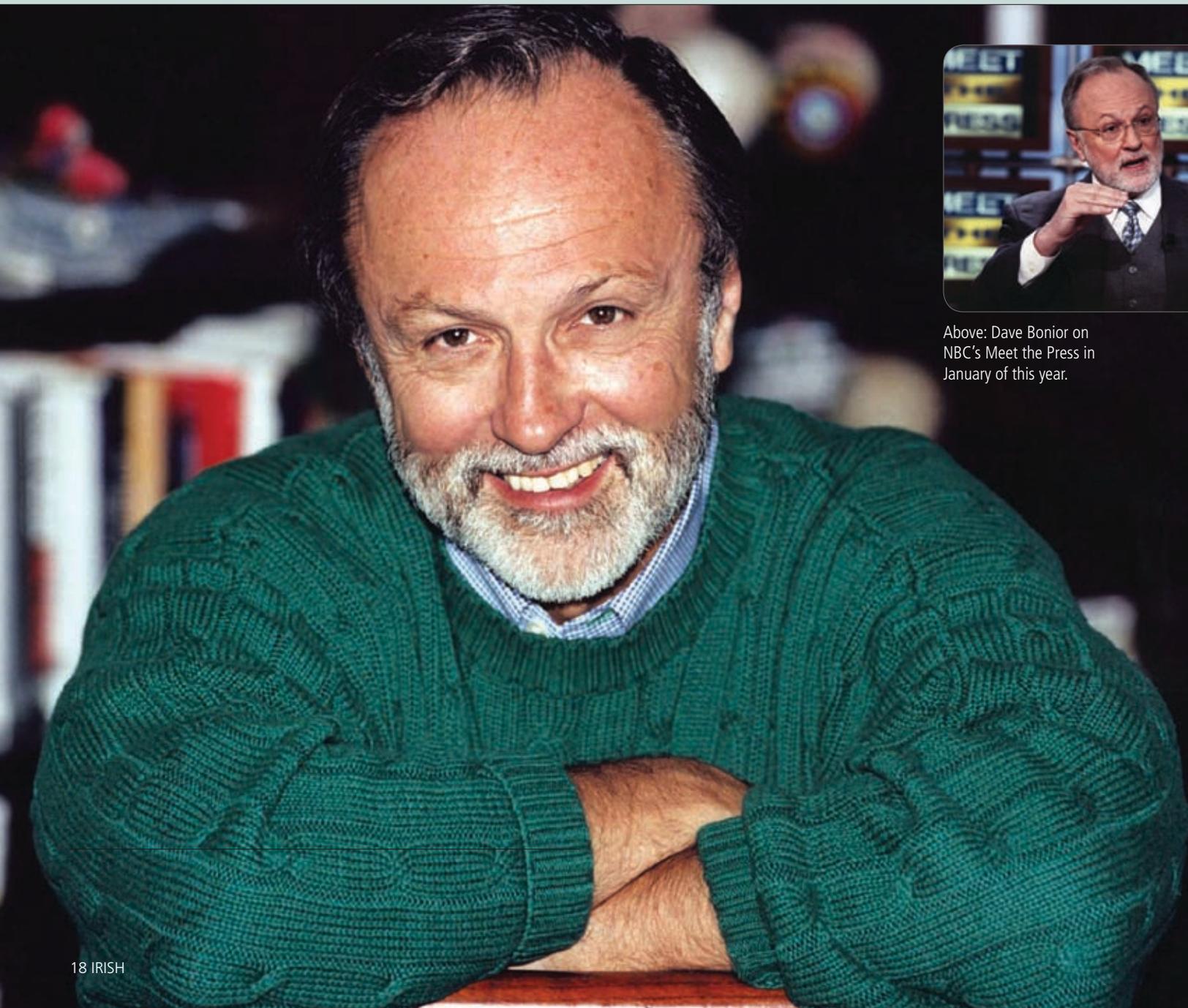
It would be an understatement to say David Bonior was a busy student at Notre Dame High School. Active in the Varsity Club and Sodality, and vice president of the student council, he also played baseball, football and captained the basketball team.

During his senior year at the school, the Bonior-quarterbacked

football team, coached by Walt Bazylewicz, won the Catholic League Central Division and was undefeated going into the 17th annual Soup Bowl. Unfortunately, the Irish were defeated in that game by St. Ambrose, which only slightly diminished what was a phenomenal season. Bonior's ND teammates included halfback Randy Lamprides, captain and linebacker Paul Verska (head FB coach at De La Salle HS), Bob Lantzy (head FB coach at Utica Eisenhower HS) and all-state end Joe Przybycki. After graduation, Bonior went on to attend the University of Iowa on a football scholarship.

Fast forward to 1976 when he was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Michigan's Macomb and St. Clair counties

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID BONIOR



Above: Dave Bonior on NBC's Meet the Press in January of this year.

# I continue to do work on issues I care deeply about.

David Bonior

for 26 years—the longest tenure of any congressman from that district. Bonior retired at the end of 2002, but not before serving 10 years as Democratic Whip, the second-ranking Democrat in the House.

His tenure in Congress was marked by a passion for social and economic justice. Bonior earned a reputation as a strong voice for working families and as a leader on the environment, fair trade, jobs, and human and civil rights.

Born in Detroit and raised in East Detroit (now Eastpointe), Bonior graduated from the University of Iowa, received a Masters Degree in history from Chapman College in California, served in the Air Force, and worked as a probation officer and adoption caseworker before he began his political career in the Michigan Legislature in 1972.

Currently, Bonior is chairman of the board of American Rights at Work (ARAW) and has served in this role since he began the organization in 2003. He is the author of two books: *The Vietnam Veteran: A History of Neglect* and *Walking to Mackinac*. He previously served as University Professor of Labor Studies at Wayne State University and on the boards of Public Citizen and Community Central Bank in Mount Clemens. In 2007-2008, Bonior took a leave of absence from American Rights at Work to join John Edwards' presidential campaign as the national campaign manager. He also worked on President Obama's transition team.

He and his wife Judy now live in Washington, DC, and their three children and seven grandchildren also live in close proximity. The former congressman recently sat down and spent a few minutes of his busy schedule to talk to

IRISH about his current avocation, his new home away from home in Washington, DC, and Notre Dame High School.

Bonior still owns a house in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, but moved permanently to Washington in November of last year. He says the main reason other than his work was to be near his kids and grandkids.

"We live very close to the Washington Nationals' new ballpark," he said. "My wife and I go to a lot of baseball games since our home is within walking distance of the park. I'm still a big Tigers fan, though, and always wear my Detroit Tigers garb to the Nationals games. My grandchildren are all around five years old, so we're now starting to take them to the games."

Bonior's work of late has been mainly with ARAW, a nonprofit organization he founded that is focused on the rights of workers, especially their rights to collective bargaining. With health care, climate change and a host of other legislative issues pending in Congress, he is working hard to get the Employee Free Choice Act, better known as the "card check" bill, on the floor for action. He has about 25 people working for him currently and also teaches part-time at the University of Iowa as a professor of political science. So between teaching, the ARAW, and his family—it all keeps him very busy.

But he's trying to gradually remove himself from the Washington treadmill. "Actually I'm trying to do less," he said. "At my age I'm trying to wind down. Right now, though, what I'm working on specifically is labor unification—bringing together the NEA, the AFL/CIO, and a number of other big labor organizations. I'm asked to do these types of things because of my experience and the fact that I've been

around the block a few times. But at the same time I want to kind of wind down. During this chapter of my life, I value my time more and more along with my kids and grandkids. But I don't want to withdraw completely—I've always been active in my community."

When it was mentioned that it seems like he does more work in retirement than most people do while working, Bonior says that "yes, I continue to do work on issues I care deeply about."

Once the conversation with Bonior turned to Notre Dame, a flood of memories came forth and it was clear that his time at ND also was a period in his life he cared deeply about.

He mentioned numerous faculty members who were important influences on him in high school and beyond. "Mr. Raymond was certainly a big influence," he said. "A great teacher—taught me physics. And Conrad Vachon, who was as good a teacher as I've ever had. (I remember) he made me miss a baseball game once. Kept me after school. But he did the right thing. I was mad at him, but it was the right thing to do. Also, I had a habit of silent reading with my lips. He cured me of that by sticking a pencil in my mouth!"

Bonior also fondly recalls what may have sparked his interest in serving his fellow man. "There used to be a column published in the Detroit News by a journalist named Ralph McGill," he remembered. "He was out of Atlanta and worked for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution but also was published in the News. He wrote primarily about civil-rights issues. Of course when I was in high school, it was the peak of the civil-rights movement. Conrad turned me on to McGill and to social issues, and it also was the first time I read something outside of the sports page."

Bonior said he didn't have Tom Kelly as a teacher, "but he was my baseball coach and the school's athletic director. I remember at my last baseball game with ND, he played me at every position on the field. It was a really nice thing to do—I'll always remember that. Tom Kelly was perhaps the most beloved person in that whole community. People really loved Tom—they had a high regard for him as a person. Just a good, good man. A very special guy."

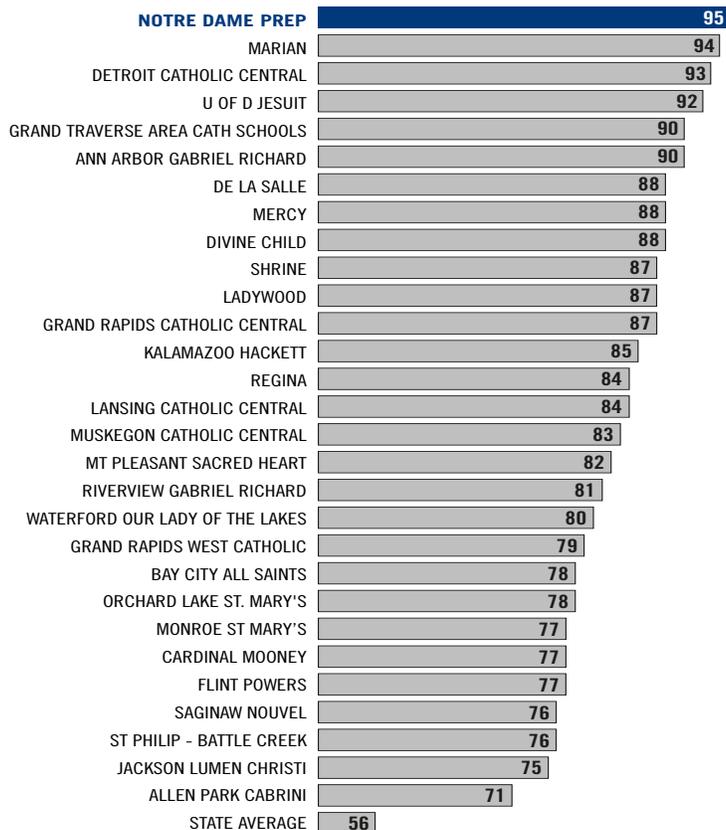
Bonior also remembers a few others from his heyday at ND. "Fr. St. Onge, who was principal when I was at ND, was a great guy—kind of quiet but he carried himself with a tremendous amount of dignity. And Fr. Bryson—what an institution! Fr. Hollywood had all those great stars who came to dances. Fr. Gallant and Fr. Saunders also were very good teachers. And Mr. Egan—I remember him as a pretty cool guy."

For young men and women from his alma mater, Bonior offered the following advice: "Take advantage of the opportunities before you—internships, studying abroad, helping in your own communities, charitable groups, human-services organizations, etc. Those are really the enriching pieces of life that complement your education. It's very important to take advantage of each of them as you progress through your schooling. Education just for the sake of education without applying it in the community is not the way to go. Combining what you *learn* in the classroom with what you *do* in the community is important."

We couldn't agree more. ■

## NDP RANKS HIGHEST AMONG STATE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

In a comparison of Michigan Merit Exam (MME) scores among state Catholic high schools, Notre Dame Prep was at the top of the list. Graph shows two-year average (2007-2008) for MME scores among Michigan's Catholic schools. Schools testing fewer than 30 students were omitted for statistical accuracy. Brother Rice and Bishop Foley did not test in this period.



Source: Comparative study of MME results by Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools

### BRICK PAVERS

The Booster Club is offering an opportunity to become a part of NDPMA history by having your own personalized brick placed in the beautiful courtyard area of the Grimaldi Center. LEAVE YOUR LEGACY AT NDPMA... 4" x 8" bricks are \$100. 8" x 8" bricks are \$175. Order forms can be found on [www.ndpma.org/forms](http://www.ndpma.org/forms) or by contacting Audra and Russ Sassack (586-786-6532; [sass6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sass6@sbcglobal.net)) or Jim Bokshan (586-739-8382; [jbok@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbok@sbcglobal.net)).

### ALUMNI GROUPS ON FACEBOOK OR LINKED IN



The Notre Dame Alumni Association has groups on both Facebook and Linked In. It's a great chance to keep in contact with former classmates. For more information, or to help with these sites, please contact Kelly Patterson, Alumni Director, [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org).



### CAREER CONNECTIONS

Looking for alumni who are interested in sharing their career journey with our high-school students through conversations, formal panel discussions, or through mentor relationships. This initiative is a way for alumni to share their talents with our students who are considering countless career options.

If you are interested in sharing your career with NDP students, please contact Kelly Patterson, Alumni Director, [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org), (248) 373-2171, ext. 4.

*Bridges, from page 13*

to bother with high school and certainly not college. But at 13 years old she sat in front of our committee and told us that she needed to go to NDP so she could go to college, then become a doctor and one day support her mom, dad and brothers. She is more mature at 13 than most of us will become in our whole life! As Greg Simon told me a month ago, society always talks about the need for inner-city kids to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, but very few people have the internal makeup to really do it. But this girl has it. I believe in her so strongly that if Building Bridges ran out of money tomorrow, I would pay for her to finish her high school career at NDP myself.

So anyway, I was talking about all of the career success she could have someday when my brother Mike reminded me that no matter what she chooses as her career, she will likely one day become a mom and when she does, she will break the cycle for the next generation of believing that a girl should drop out of school to cook and clean. Sending her to NDP will change the course of her life, her children's lives, and her grandchildren's too.

That's our vision—one student at a time.

**IRISH:** *Finally, any thoughts on what your experience from ND—favorite teachers, stories or influences that may have helped contribute to who you are as people, or that helped lead to the formation of Building Bridges?*

**HOUSEY:** My brothers Mike, Dave '85 (NDHS), our other brother—who lives too far away to be involved with Building Bridges on a daily basis—and I sit around a lot and tell Vachon stories as I am sure 90% of ND alum do. I haven't written a single paper or letter since 12th grade without thinking of how Mr. Vachon would want me to reword a sentence to better comply with Strunk and White's Elements of Style. But I don't think one story, teacher or experience from ND stands out above others, though. For me, the beauty of ND and now NDP is the whole experience, not just the individual moments. For us, I think Notre Dame was an extension of our Catholic upbringing and a place where you could be a hard worker, a good student and a Christian without worrying about peer pressure. Every person at ND from Father Bryson in the cafeteria to Mrs. V. in the office and all of my fellow students helped prepare me for college and for life. ■

For more information:

Building Bridges

PO Box 350

Birmingham, MI 48012

248-988-1252

# We get letters and notes

## NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNI

**Rob Healy '08 (NDP)**—Was a part of U of M's mens Lacrosse Team. They were 20-0 and won the MCLA National Championship in Denver. Rob scored three goals during his freshmen season.

**Lexi Kosik '08 (NDP)**—Earned her varsity letter at University of Vermont in Track and Field as a freshman. She scored points in the Discus and Hammer throws. She had a great year, and was even able to travel with the team, going to places like Boston U., Dartmouth, Middlebury, and Tufts among others.

**Peter Chirco '08 (NDP)**—Currently attends Grand Valley State University and was selected for the University of Michigan Med SOAR (Sports Orthopedic and Rehabilitation) Medical Research Team for the summer of 2009.

**Elizabeth Battiste '08 (NDP)**—Elizabeth is the Communications Director for MSU Democrats and is active in Political Outreach and Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention. She has been involved in interviews on Impact 88.9 FM, the MSU radio station. She has also had two interviews on WLS, a station covering mid-Michigan. She is involved in a program called Operation Freefall, a Two Mile High Stand Against Sexual Assault. She went sky diving to bring awareness and funds to Sexual Assault programs at Michigan State and across the nation. For more information on her program, visit [www.endrape.msu.edu](http://www.endrape.msu.edu) and [www.operationfreefall.com](http://www.operationfreefall.com).

**Sarah Burns '07 (NDP)**—Is going to the U.S. Naval Academy and majoring in Political Science (International Relations) and hopes to get a minor in German. She is also on the Varsity Cross-Country and Track team there. Sarah completed her first Boston Marathon on April 20th in 3 hours, 13 min. Her good friend and fellow alumna, Emily Kutil '07 (NDP), was there to take a picture of Sarah running by at mile 23. Sarah also earned a letter in Track at Navy this past Indoor Season running the 3000m and 5000m. She is currently finishing up the outdoor track season with Patriot League Finals at West Point.

**Matt Raukar '07 (NDP)**—Is a pre-business major at Miami University (OH) and will hopefully be entering the business school next semester to study Economics.

**Lauren Rimar '06 (NDP)**—Lauren is in Chicago and attending Northwestern. Lauren and her brother spent some of last summer in Japan. She is majoring in communications with a minor in International Studies. She graduates from college next year. She loved her time in Japan and wants to go back and possibly work there.

**Eoghan McGreevy '06 (NDP)**—Recently returned from Europe with the University of Michigan Rugby Team after competing against the Slovak and Swiss National Rugby teams in some goodwill games. Upon his return he was asked to try out for the Michigan Collegiate Men's Select Side after being scouted at a local game. He made the team, which is open to all collegiate men's teams in the state and the spots are given to top players. Eoghan began playing rugby last spring at U of M. He began on the "C" team and progressed rapidly to be a starter on "A" team by the end of the season. His hard work has paid off as he can now be considered the best collegiate fullback in Michigan. He will travel with this Select Team in hopes of becoming the Midwest Champions later this summer. He will also be taking his MCAT test in June. A very busy schedule that he became comfortable with during his years at NDP.

**Shana Smith '04 (NDP)**—Just graduated from Grand Valley State University with a B.A. in English/Language Arts and an Elementary Education Certification. She is currently substitute teaching while hunting for a job.

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

## Amanda Woodcox Sekelsky '03

**(NDP)**—Received a BA in Dance Performance from Oakland University and currently working at the Grand Rapids Ballet Company as the School Administrator.

**Lyndsey Clements '03 (NDP)**—Graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing in 2007. Since graduation, she has been working at Children's Hospital of Michigan as an Emergency Room/Trauma nurse. In March of 2009 Lyndsey became the hospital's first ever Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse, a national certification recognizing excellence in the field.

**Carolyn Beyer '03 (NDP)**—Has volunteered as a moderator for FIRST Robotics for the NDP Killer Bees for three years. She has worked with Dr. Doyle, moderator of the team and science teacher, and a group of very dedicated, enthusiastic students.

**Andrew Eisenberg '02 (NDP)**—Is completing a Masters Degree at University of Notre Dame in patent law.

**Trip Reimann '02 (NDP)**—Trip deployed to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in January 2008 and returned home on December 21, 2008. He has spent the last three months reuniting with family and friends, and has traveled around the country quite a bit. He continues to train with the Michigan Army National Guard, and is currently looking for civilian work.

**Jenny O'Rourke Bennett '01 (NDP)**—Married Anthony in 2003. She graduated from Oakland University with a teaching degree in elementary education. Right now she stays home with her boys, Nikolas (5) and Jacob (almost 2) and keeps busy by helping out in Nik's school a few days a week.

**Sarah Brown '01 (NDP)**—Sarah writes: "After completing my one-year federal clerkship in Nashville, Tennessee, I am moving to Charleston, WV, where my fiancé and I are opening our own law practice, Baker & Brown, PLLC. We plan to focus on employee-side employment and labor law, in addition to criminal defense and an appellate practice. We also just purchased our first home and are working on renovations and getting settled! Hope all is well with everyone at NDP!"

**Suzanne Sable '01 (NDP)**—Lives just outside of DC in Maryland and was barred as an attorney this past December. Suzanne recently accepted a job offer to be a Legislative Correspondent with Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI).

**Thomas Durkin '00 (NDP)**—Congratulations to Thomas Durkin who earned a U.S. patent at GM. See page 8, IRISH News.

**Mickey Lyons '95 (NDP)**—Has two kids: Eric, 10 and Angela, 6. He has been working diligently to get alumni together from Oakland Catholic and Notre Dame Prep.

## PONTIAC CATHOLIC ALUMNI

**Kathy Leavy Smith '79 (PC)**—Kathy has been married for 29 years to Gregg Smith '78 PC. They have four children: Katie ('90), Trevor and Travis ('94) and Mitchell ('96).

## OAKLAND CATHOLIC ALUMNI

**Pedro Ramos '93 (OC)**—Pedro wonders if anyone has a 1993 OC yearbook? He says he lost his copy during a number of moves. Can anyone help him out? Editor's note: for PC and OC alumni, the Archdiocese of Detroit has "copies" of all the yearbooks, but do not have additional books.

## NOTRE DAME ALUMNI

**George Murray '03 (NDHS)**—Living in Seattle, WA, and working for Microsoft.

**Michael Bissig '00 (NDHS)**—Graduated with honors from Michigan State University in 2004 with a BA in Marketing. While at MSU, he says he became friends with a number of NDP alumni including Paul Sullivan '99 (NDP) and Matt Coppola '00 (NDP) through the Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity. "There definitely was a ND power surge within the fraternity, for I was president of the house in 2002/2003 and Matt Coppola was the president in 2003/2004," Michael writes. After MSU, he took a job with the J. Lewis Cooper Company in connection with the EJ Gallo Management Development Program and was a sales representative selling only the finest table wine to retail chains in SE Michigan. "After my wine gig, I moved to the metro Washington, DC, area to take a contract specialist job at the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), which is a field agency of the Department of Defense," he said. "Other than career, I was married in the summer of 2007 to the former Kendra Wasilewski, and we are getting a dog. Life is good!"

**Aaron Radelet '93 (NDHS)**—Aaron has been named vice president, global communications and public relations of Hilton Hotels Corporation.

**Brian Quenneville '91 (NDHS)**—He is with United Parcel Service and has completed a BBA in marketing via the web at University Of Phoenix online. He is married to Paoline (Angco) with three boys: Julius, 5, Gabriel, 3, and Marcus, 8. "Possibly the next generation of ND men," he says. "We are all in good health and enjoy visiting different vacation areas of Michigan throughout the year."

**Eric Woodhouse '91 (NDHS)**—Eric writes: "I just received the latest IRISH alum magazine and found it a great read. It was good to see some old faces in their new surroundings. When Fr. Joe married my wife Kelly and me five years ago, he told me I would always have friends at ND Prep. That was great to hear and now I'm seeing it in IRISH. I spoke with Ken Parent yesterday and he told me to forward an article The Detroit News did on a company I started. This was a hobby of mine and it started to get much bigger. Thanks for all you work with the alums."

**Kevin Borycz '89 (NDHS)**—Is currently employed at the Warren Police Department. He has been married to Rebecca for 13 years. They have 3 children: Dawson, 10, RileyLynn, 9, and Carson, 5.

**Ben W. Holmes '87 (NDHS)**—Going on 16 years of marriage, with two wonderful kids that are 7 years and 6 months old.

**Derek D. Wartner '86 (NDHS)**—Derek writes: "I am divorced with a 4-1/2-year-old daughter named Phoenix. I am currently engaged to Josette Queener. I graduated from Eastern Michigan BBA with a major in Accounting. I worked in various corporate accounting positions for a few years, then moved into IT. Currently, I am working as an IT Coordinator for a seating plant for Faurecia. Unfortunately, due to the downturn in the automotive market, I am probably going to be seeking employment again really soon. I still hang out with Steve Schafnitz '86 (NDHS). Also, I am trying to find out if anyone has heard from Christopher Love '86 (NDHS). We were really close for years, but he has moved around a lot

and I lost contact with him. I would really like to locate him. If anyone is interested in contacting me feel free to pass on my email and phone number. [dwardner@gmail.com](mailto:dwardner@gmail.com) 586-601-8943."

**James M. Iwanicki '84 (NDHS)**—Currently the Engineer-Manager at the Marquette County Road Commission and during the fall an assistant varsity football coach at Ishpeming High School. Married to Kim and they have four children: Josef, 14, Grace, 12, Sara, 10, and Joshua, 8. He says they have been living in Marquette, Mich., since 1998.

**Mike Morrison '84 (NDHS)**—Mike says he enjoyed reading all about ND Prep. "The accolades, awards, and fine young men and women are proof of the excellent work the teachers, priests, and folks like you are performing," he wrote. "I was really impressed with ND Prep taking top honors amongst all Catholic/Christian schools in MI. Very impressive. I can see the strong link between NDHS and ND Prep. The legacy is clear with the priests and teachers who've dedicated their lives/careers to both places in the name of producing outstanding young women and men...that trumps all else. I'm going to send Ken Parent an email."

**Tom Rybak '84 (NDHS)**—Started off in Savannah, GA, but has lived in Nashville for 10 years now.

**Larry Stephens '84 (NDHS)**—is celebrating his 10th year as a Minister. Congratulations!

**Paul Gigliotti '83 (NDHS)**—Writes that he ran into Honorable John Rabaut '81 (NDHS) and chatted about ND. He said John brought up Conrad Vachon. "I (then) told John how I was recently helping my daughter with an English paper and all of Mr. Vachon's little grammar rules had come back to me, crystal clear," Paul said. "I thought I had repressed all of those memories! It's amazing how one person can affect so many lives."

**Paul Tripp '82 (NDHS)**—Has been married for 10 years and has three great kids. The oldest is in second grade and the youngest just turned 3. He is a teacher at Northville Middle School and a girls' basketball coach at Livonia Stevenson.

**Brian Sudy '79 (NDHS)**—Writes that he and wife Tina are both managers at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Tina is the branch head of the Ocean Engineering Machinery and Hydraulics branch and Brian is a deputy SUBSAFE (Submarine Safety) Program Director. Their daughter Samantha is finishing up her first year at Washington State University where she is studying architecture.

**Craig Gerbe '79 (NDHS)**—Is an electrical engineer for Spicer Group in Saginaw. He is married to Teri. They have three children: Robin, 19, Eric, 18, and Sean, 15. They are currently living in Gladwin, Mich.

**Mark McGreevy '76 (NDHS)**—Mark wrote that he wanted to make it official! "I'd love to see the graduates from NDHS join us here. After 25 years as an architect, I ended up teaching at Notre Dame Marist Academy," Mark writes. "And to all the Notre Dame High School grads—this is a great place! If you were to take the time to check it out, you will realize that this is about Marist tradition regardless of the location. This should be your alumni home because it is about a way of living that produces good people in the tradition that you are familiar with. I had my doubts before I came here, but I was so impressed, I sent all four of my kids here and I made my new career here—purposely! You will feel like you belong."

**Gary W. DeBouvier, '71 (NDHS)**—Is currently a resident of Oxford, GA, (outside of Atlanta) and has recently started his own consulting

practice, Fraud Investigative Services, LLC. His only daughter, Ashley, gave birth to her first child last year, so he is a proud new grandpa of a baby girl, Madysyn Few. Gary adds, "I just became engaged to the woman I have been dating for three years now, and we plan to wed in 2010."

**William Nuber '63 (NDHS)**—Contacted IRISH after receiving Vol I, issue 2: "First I have ever received, and first I have ever known about NDP," William writes. "I am a 1963 graduate of NDHS. I have the impression that NDP desires to pick up the NDHS alumni. Enter me on your alumni list. (I did receive the 'IRISH' magazine on St Patrick's Day. By chance, I assume!) Please do enter my name on your alumni list. I did enjoy reading about Mr. Vachon and Fr. Bryson. Hope that in the future you might have information on other 'older timer' teachers from my era, i.e., Fr. Saunders, Fr. Lacasse, Fr. Poulin, Frs. Boulanger (they were two brothers) one taught U.S. history, the other senior-level sociology."

**Tom Bejma '61 (NDHS)**—Writes that he received a copy of the spring issue of the IRISH. "I enjoyed the first issue that I received—which was the spring issue—and would like to read the very first issue," Tom said. (Sent!) "You look like you are going to have a much more active alumni program—I wish you well."

**Gary Breight '60 (NDHS)**—Gary writes: "I played football and ran track all four years and enjoyed every minute of my experience at Notre Dame. I joined the submarine service in October of 1960, was married to Teresa who I met in 1962 in San Diego, California. We are about to celebrate our 47th anniversary. We have three children and five grandchildren. I served my tool and die apprenticeship in Detroit at Goden's Tool and Die from 1963 to 1966 then moved to Southern California. In 1969, I changed my occupation to framing carpenter and in 1974 took courses to obtain my General Contractor's license. My wife and I were in that business until I retired in 2006. In 2007, I was on the Internet and looked for a classmate and team member Don Chiodo who I hadn't seen or talked to since the summer of 1960. We talked on the phone and set up a visit to the Detroit area. My sister Darlene has lived there all her life, she and her husband were kind to allow me to stay in my deceased parents' upstairs apartment for a month. My mother passed away in 1997, my father 2008. Thank you for taking the time to allow me to connect back with Notre Dame."

**Ralph McCormack '58 (NDHS)**—Writes to say he currently lives in Seven Lakes, North Carolina.

# CLASS REUNIONS

## St. Frederick All Class Reunion

The 29th Anniversary Celebration of the St. Frederick School All Year Alumni Reunion and Memorial Mass will be on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Mass will start at 11:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Fr. James Mayworm, 1957, will be the Mass Celebrant. Luncheon will start at 1:00 p.m. at Santia Banquet Center (1985 Cass Lake Rd., Keego Harbor). Luncheon tickets are available this year at \$22 each. You can purchase tickets at the Madonna Gift Shop (1058 West Huron, Waterford, 248-681-3964). Or you can send a check with a stamped return envelope to: St. Fred's Alumni, 3860 Green Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48324. Please contact Jim Russell '55 (SF) with questions: 248-363-4209 or st\_freds\_alumni@yahoo.com

## St. Michael All Class Reunion

All School Reunion is Sunday, September 20, 2009. Memorial Mass at Santia Banquet Hall in Keego Harbor at 1:30pm, followed by dinner at 1:00pm. Tickets ARE NOT available at the door. Please contact Lance Butler at 248-335-5243. All students who have ever attended St. Michael's are welcome to attend!

## Class of 1959 (NDHS)

Your classmates are organizing a 50-year reunion for Friday, September 18, 2009 at the Mirage Banquet Center in Clinton Township. Reunion committee:

Rudy Munoz	ramdam@charter.net
Don Pierce	dpierce@pierce-company.com

## Class of 1960 (NDHS)

Your classmates are organizing a 50-year reunion for 2010. Reunion committee:

Gary Breight	(916) 616-6895	gpb@surewest.net
Don Chiodo	(586) 469-4439	chiodod@aol.com
George Garascia	(586) 979-7012	ggarcia@comcast.net

## Class of 1984 (NDHS)

Your classmates are organizing a 25-year reunion for Saturday, October 3, 2009, at the Mirage Banquet Hall in Clinton Township. Please RSVP to the Class of 1984 reunion committee:

Paul Gaynor	(586) 228-7766	prgaynor05@yahoo.com
Andy Guest	(248) 373-2171	aguest@ndpma.org
Todd Grzelewski	(586) 719-1297	tsg663@aol.com
Stan Wontkowski	(586) 625-2086	bugzy2007@hotmail.com

## Class of 2004 (NDP)

Your classmate, Katie Szarama, is organizing a 5-year reunion for Saturday, November 28, 2009. Details will be posted on Facebook and on the web site.

Katie Szarama kszaram1@jhu.edu

## Class of 2005 (NDP)

Your classmates are organizing a 5-year reunion for 2010. Reunion Committee:

Erin Welsh	248-807-3092	erwelsh@oakland.edu
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## 2010 Reunions

Classes that end in 0 and 5, please contact the Notre Dame Alumni Office to begin planning. (248) 373-2171 Ext. 4 or alumni@ndpma.org.

*For complete reunion information, visit [www.ndpma.org/reunions](http://www.ndpma.org/reunions)*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Additional information for all events on [www.ndpma.org/alumni](http://www.ndpma.org/alumni)

### September

- 13 St. Frederick All-Class Reunion
- 18 NDHS Class of 1959 50-Year Reunion
- 20 St. Michael All-Class Reunion
- 25 Homecoming Game at NDP 7:30 p.m.  
After glow at Red Ox Tavern in Auburn Hills

### October

- 2 Alumni Happy Hour: Oktoberfest at NDP 6:00 p.m.
- 3 NDHS Class of 1984 25-Year Reunion
- 8 Traveling Irish Dinner: Kalamazoo, MI 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Traveling Irish Dinner: South Bend, IN 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Traveling Irish Dinner: Chicago, IL 7:00 p.m.

### November

- 6 Alumni Happy Hour
- 8 Open House at NDP 1-4 p.m.
- 28 NDP Class of 2004 5-Year Reunion

### December

- 4 Alumni Happy Hour

### January

- 2 Alumni Hockey Game 4:45-6:45 p.m.  
(NDP vs. St. Mary's Monroe hockey game 6:45 p.m.)
- 8 Alumni Happy Hour 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Traveling Irish Dinner: Detroit, MI 7:00 p.m.
- 28-Feb. 4 Alumni Art Show at NDP

### February

- 5 Alumni Happy Hour
- 12 Traveling Irish Dinner: Ann Arbor, MI  
Traveling Irish Dinner: East Lansing, MI

### March

- 5 Alumni Happy Hour
- 13 Irish Week Kick-Off ALUMNI GAMES

### May

- 14 NDP Senior Breakfast  
Alumni Happy Hour
- 22 NDP Chorale & Alumni Concert
- 23 NDP Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement

### June

- 4 Alumni Happy Hour

### July

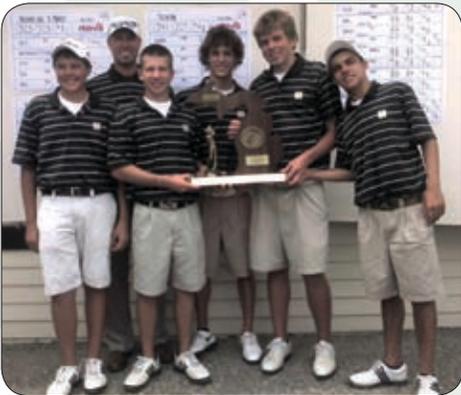
- 2 Alumni Happy Hour

### August

- 6 Alumni Happy Hour

# state championship highlights banner spring season

The ND Prep boys golf team won their first state championship this spring, making it the first state championship for a boys program in school history. They scored 316 on day one and were up by 7 strokes. The team scored 318 on the second day for a total of 634 and topped second-place finisher Haslett High School by 3 strokes. Matt Sheperd placed 6th in the individual standings with scores of 75 on day one and 77 on day two for a total of 152. Brendan Hanley, Nick Shermetaro, Aaron Knutson and Mike Klieman were the other members of the state championship lineup.



Notre Dame Prep's golf team won the division 2 state championship on June 6. Team includes, from left: freshman Aaron Knutson, coach Marc White, seniors Matt Sheperd, Nick Shermetaro, Brendan Hanley and Mike Klieman.

NDP girls soccer shut out Richmond 4-0 in the regional semifinal, handing them only their second loss of the season. They advanced to the Elite 8 where they fell to Country Day 1-0 on a late goal and were eliminated from the state tournament. The Irish finished the season with an impressive record of 17-6-1.

Softball fell to Richmond 9-6 in the regional semifinal.

In track & field, at this year's state finals, Chris Burns placed 3rd in the two-mile run with a school-record time of 9:31.28. The school record was 10:02 before the season started. Burns broke it many times throughout the season and improved his personal best by 19 seconds in the last week of the season.

## 2008-09 School Athletic Honors

Athletes of the Year and Scholar-Athletes of the Year for ND Prep and ND Marist Academy were recognized at both graduations. The winners this year are:

### NDP Athletes of the Year

Lauryn Hammond, Joe Koterba

### NDP Scholar-Athletes

Liz Barron, John Gulvezan

### NDMA Athletes of the Year

Eileen Plunkett, Connor Cervone

### NDMA Scholar Athletes

Kianna Eurick, Francesco Munaco

## 2008-09 State and Local Honors

### BOYS TRACK & FIELD

ALL STATE HONORS

1st team: Chris Burns

### BOYS GOLF

ALL STATE HONORS

1st team: Brendan Hanley

### GIRLS LACROSSE

ALL STATE HONORS

2nd team: Lauryn Hammond

ALL STAR GAME: Shivani Radia

U.S. LACROSSE—MICHIGAN

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT'S

Gina Carnago, Shivani Radia

### BOYS LACROSSE

ALL STATE HONORS

2nd team: Nick Garippa, Tom Sardelli

3rd team: Brandon Beauregard

### SOFTBALL

ALL REGION HONORS

Anne Autio, Kara Dal Bianco

ALL STAR GAME: Sarah Dulapa

### GIRLS SOCCER

ALL STATE HONORS

1st team: Kacie Steinbrecher

2nd team: Paige Aiello, Celia Horak

Honorable Mention: Emily Gray

ALL REGION HONORS

Paige Aiello, Emily Gray,

Celia Horak, Kacie Steinbrecher,

Hannah Ziegler

## TRAVELING IRISH DINNERS

Last year, the Notre Dame Alumni Association visited many college campuses to share in fellowship and food. Our Irish Dinners were a great way to keep in touch with our alumni and start conversations about how we can better serve them!

This year, we are hosting regional dinners around college towns. All alumni are welcome to attend. Please RSVP through the Alumni Office: [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org), 248-273-2171 ext. 4., or through NDAA's Facebook page.

### Upcoming Irish Dinners:

Kalamazoo — October 8

Detroit — January 15

South Bend — October 9

Ann Arbor — February 12

Chicago — October 10

East Lansing — February 12

Check [www.ndpma.org/alumni](http://www.ndpma.org/alumni) and the NDAA Facebook page for Traveling Irish Dinner details on specific locations and times

## LETTERS AND NOTES

**WANTED: ALUMNI UPDATES:** We are looking for short updates from our Alumni. Whether you graduated in '58 from Notre Dame High School, '78 from Pontiac Catholic, '08 from Notre Dame Prep, or somewhere in between, we want to know what you're doing. Please send your updates to our Alumni Director, Kelly Patterson at [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org), or call 248-373-2171, ext. 4. Thank you!

## DOES THE NOTRE DAME ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAVE YOUR ADDRESS AND E-MAIL ADDRESS ON FILE?

Please add us to your list of people to update when changes occur. Visit the alumni section of the school website ([ndpma.org](http://ndpma.org)) to update your information. Our goal is to send our monthly e-mail broadcasts of reunion news, information, and alumni events. Help us to serve you better!



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