

In this issue:
**Alum plays
hockey for U-M,
says NDP gave
him confidence,
open mind**

SAJEL

Grad says an interest in science and a desire to help those in need were keys to career choice. Future doctor says Notre Dame also a big part of her academic success.

plus:

Frank Migliazzo
Shannon Murphy
Amanda Fazi
Mike Shires
Michael Kurowski
School improvements
Irish news
Alumni notes

fall 2015

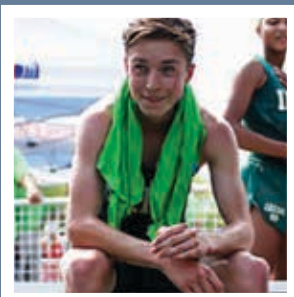
15

Notre Dame Preparatory School
1300 Giddings Road
Pontiac, MI 48340

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Royal Oak, MI
Permit 615

CONGRATULATIONS, NATHAN MYLENEK! STATE CHAMP!

(See page 6)



WELCOME TO A WORLD OF EDUCATION

NOTRE DAME: Only Catholic school in the U.S. with the three main International Baccalaureate academic programs.

More information at
ndpma.org



NOTRE DAME



PLANNED GIVING IS ANOTHER WAY TO CONTRIBUTE

Over the last 65 years, the Marist Fathers and Brothers have touched the lives of more than 11,000 students and their families. The ability to continue their mission is dependent on the support of parents, grandparents, alumni and friends who believe that Catholic education remains an important ministry of the Church. Studies show that 40% of Americans give to charitable causes during their lifetime, but only 9.6% include their favorite charities in their wills. A simple statement such as "I bequest X% of my estate to Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy" can go a long way in ensuring the future of our school. Contact Andy Guest '84 (NDHS) in the advancement office at 248-373-2171, ext. 1, (or aguest@ndpma.org) if you have any questions.



NOTRE DAME



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

CONTENTS

6 IRISH NEWS

Get the latest about NDPMA and alumni.

8 CONFIDENCE AND OPEN MIND

University of Michigan senior says Notre Dame gave him confidence and an open mind.

12 SCIENCE AND FAITH

Grad says an interest in science and a desire to help those in need were keys to career choice. Future doctor says Notre Dame was a big part of her academic success.

16 TOP ADVISOR

Notre Dame alum earns recognition from financial publication.

20 TALENT AND REPUTATION

Michael Kurowski '12 (NDP) credits Notre Dame for helping him make good first, second and beyond impressions.

22 JAZZED ABOUT NOTRE DAME

School principal in Kentucky says Notre Dame played a huge role in who he is today and why he works in education.

29 ROAD TO EXCELLENCE

Head of school says in just a short time Notre Dame has come very far. But there still is much to do.

24 ALUMNI NOTES & INFO

Find out what your classmates are up to.



DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
Beth Campbell

EDITOR
Mike Kelly '73 (NDHS)

CONTRIBUTORS
Beth Campbell
Andy Guest '84 (NDHS)
Scott Lockhart '98 (NDP)
Fr. Leon Olszowski '65 (NDHS)

IRISH is published twice yearly
(spring and fall) by the Notre Dame
Alumni Association.

The magazine's address is:
1389 Giddings Road
Pontiac, MI 48340
248-373-2171
alumni@ndpma.org
ndpma.org



Like us! Use your smart-phone
QR code scanner app to be
connected instantly to the NDAA
Facebook page.



ON THE COVER: 2008 Notre Dame
alum Sajel (Tremblay) Nuwamanya is
studying to become a doctor.

Contact us:

**Advancement Office - Alumni Director
Notre Dame Preparatory School
and Marist Academy**
1389 Giddings Road
Pontiac, MI 48340
248-373-2171 - ext. 3
Fax 248-481-6037
alumni@ndpma.org
www.ndpma.org/alumni

Advertise in IRISH?

Are you interested in
advertising to nearly
14,000 of your fellow
alumni and friends? Place
an ad in an upcoming
IRISH. Contact Mike
Kelly '73 (NDHS) for more
information and pricing:
mike@group-ex.com.

A WORD FROM YOUR ALUMNI DIRECTOR



It's hard to believe that I have an entire year under my belt as director of alumni relations. It seems like just yesterday I was writing all of you excited about the future and filled with so much anticipation. The year did not disappoint! So many wonderful things happened, but there is still so much work to be done.

I spent a lot of my time restructuring the alumni board, working with old and new members to move the board in a new direction. We are thrilled to welcome Scott Lockhart '98 (NDP) as our new board chair. Scott's energy and passion coupled with his business sense is sure to lead our new board in the right direction. We are still looking for new board members especially from Notre Dame Harper Woods. The board meets five times a year and organizes alumni events. Let me know if you are interested in getting involved we would love to have you.

The Notre Dame Fund had a record-breaking year! Over \$550,000 was raised, crushing last year's total by over \$75,000. Alumni giving reached an all-time high with an increase of 17% since the previous year. Thank you to all of the alums who gave; your support is very much appreciated.

Homecoming is right around the corner! We hope you all have your calendars marked for October 9. New this year is a pre-game tail-

gate at the Fr. Colin House at 5 p.m. Come enjoy appetizers and a drink on the deck before heading to the game. The new lower division parking lot will open for parking, providing you an easy exit after the game. At 6:30 p.m. the alumni tent opens for dinner and fellowship. Reserved alumni bleacher will again be available during the game. It's sure to be a wonderful time!

Last year's first ever Alumni 5K Fun Run/Walk was a huge success and we look forward to it again on October 10 at 9 a.m. Whether you walk or run, this family event is a great time to come back to campus. Keep your eyes open for a registration link in the next alumni e-newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to stop by and see me I would love to meet you! Don't forget to share all of the wonderful things going on in your life. We love hearing from you. Hope to see you all very soon!

Irish blessings,

Beth Campbell

Beth Campbell
Director of Alumni Relations



September 2015

Dear fellow alumni,

Hello! Over twenty years ago, I was convinced to place a bet on Notre Dame Prep. As a public school kid, it was foreign territory to me. Father Leon and Father Strasz interviewed me, selling me on the idea for a school they had, as much as I had to sell them. Having two parents who attended parochial schools, an uncle that graduated from Harper Woods Notre Dame in 1970 (Mike Thielemans), a great uncle in Coach "Schy" Jerry Schypinski, who coached for many years at Notre Dame High School, and my mom's cousin, Ronnie Schypinski, having graduated from NDHS, I had plenty of familial reasons supporting the bet I was placing. Many of my parents' friends attended Notre Dame, which I have continued to learn many years after having graduated myself.

The deal I made with my parents as an 8th grader was that if I did not like NDP, I could go back to public school at Christmas break. Well, over twenty years later, here I am writing you, and with the honor and pleasure to be the chair of your alumni board. For those of you I know, I look forward to catching up. And for those of you I have yet to meet, I look forward to seeing you around 1300 Giddings and learning more about the experiences that were meaningful to you and how we can serve your desires to get involved in the future.

The alumni board has embarked on planning an exciting year of activities for you, while simplifying what we want to achieve on your behalf and allowing for opportunities where you can get involved in the Notre Dame community. Our goal is to deliver high-quality events that allow you to re-engage with your alma mater, only growing in scope and frequency as involvement allows. For the next twelve months, we will deliver to you the following:

- Homecoming, including a pregame tailgate, alumni barbeque and the second year of the 5K Fun Run
- Make it Matter Day: service-oriented involvement
- Graduation and the senior breakfast to welcome our newest alumni
- Alumni Career Network featuring a Career Speaker Series

Please do not hesitate to contact me to get involved. I am continually impressed with what Notre Dame Prep has become and with the plans it has for the future – all of which is only possible because of the shoulders of giants, our alumni, on which it has been built.

Go Irish!

Scott Lockhart

Scott Lockhart
Class of 1998 – Notre Dame Preparatory School
alumni@ndpma.org



SAVE THE DATE

Notre Dame Homecoming Weekend: October 9-10, 2015
Pre-game tailgate, alumni tent, football game, 5K Fun Run



Homecoming Weekend 2015

Friday, October 9

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

Tent opens at 6 p.m.

Varsity football vs. River Rouge High School: 7:30 p.m.

Alumni Field, Notre Dame Prep, Pontiac

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALUMNI AND FAMILIES!

Alumni from Notre Dame Prep, Notre Dame High School, Oakland Catholic, Pontiac Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick are invited to attend. Friends and family welcome. Visit the alumni tent for complimentary food and beverages.

Saturday, October 10

Second Annual Notre Dame 5K Fun Run

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

**We look forward to
seeing you!**

Notre Dame announces appointment of senior philanthropy officer

Notre Dame's advancement office announced today that Robynn J. James has been appointed as the school's senior philanthropy officer, effective July 27, 2015.

James reports to Executive Vice President and Director of Advancement Andrew Guest and is chiefly responsible for cultivating donor support for major school initiatives.

She comes to Notre Dame from Harbinger Associates, a nonprofit fundraising and management firm she founded in 1995, serving small and start-up nonprofit clients. She has also held full-time positions in management and major gifts fundraising at several organizations focused on healthcare, international aid, women's rights, historic preservation, public policy and advocacy.



NDP marching band collects more than 700 cans of food for local charity



Last month, the NDP marching band, led by directors Joe Martin and Teri Rae Martin, kicked off a new Band Camp tradition of helping in the local community. Organized by juniors Marshall Weimer and Madeline Allard, the band had five days to collect

canned foods needed by the Baldwin Center in Pontiac.

"Everyone was immediately willing to help and got into the spirit of giving," said Allard.

"Each instrument section found out where the lowest canned food prices were, pooled their funds and sent a shopper to get the most possible cans," said Weimer.

Elizabeth Longley, the executive director of the Baldwin Center, said their food pantry was severely depleted and needed to be stocked before cold weather sets in. She said that the 773 cans of food collected by the Notre Dame band will go a long way to replenish their stock of desperately needed sustenance.

Senior gets three All-American honors in one week

Notre Dame senior Nathan Mylenek earned three All-American designations in one week after finishing second on August 5 in the steeplechase (6:21.58) at the 2015 AAU Junior Olympics Games, which were held through August 8 in and around Norfolk, Virginia. It was only his second steeplechase race ever.

On the day before, Mylenek finished strong in the 1500-meter race, taking second place out of a field of 60 with a time of 4:07 and earning his second All-American designation of the week. His string of All-American performances began August 2 as part of the USATF



National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships in Jacksonville, Florida, where he ran a personal-best time in the 1500 of 4:02, finishing seventh and getting his first All-American honor of the week.

Mylenek won a state championship for the Irish in the spring of 2014 when he finished first in the 3200 at the MHSAA D-2 finals with a time of 9:37.

Notre Dame IB Diploma success rate for 2015 surpasses last year

Notre Dame Preparatory School announced in early July that 92% of those enrolled in the school's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) had successfully received an IB Diploma. This number is ahead of last year's IB-Diploma Program graduation result of 85%.



Oana Danciu, who earned an IB Diploma, is shown presenting a summary of her extended essay at a celebration honoring Notre Dame IB Diploma candidates.

International Baccalaureate has not yet released 2015 worldwide and U.S. averages, but in 2014, the worldwide average was 78% and the U.S. average was 70%.

Also, Notre Dame DP students in 2015 averaged a 30 score for all components of the diploma examination, which surpasses the worldwide average of 29.8.

Kim Anderson, who is an IB Diploma program coordinator at NDPMA and chair of the modern language department, noted that in the past five years, Notre Dame has not had any student in its IB Diploma program fail the

Theory of Knowledge course or the extended essay, two very critical components of the program.

Alums named coaches at Notre Dame

The athletic department of Notre Dame announced in late July that Rob Suffredini has been named head coach of the school's boys soccer team. In addition, Andy Guest, who is Notre Dame's executive vice president and director of advancement, will take over head coaching duties for the boys and girls cross country teams.



New boys soccer coach Rob Suffredini, left, and new boys and girls cross country coach Andy Guest.

Suffredini, a Notre Dame High School alum, Class of 1986, comes to NDPMA after serving as coach of the Vardar Soccer Club's boys U13-U16 and girls U11-U14 teams. He also has previous experience as a coach and player development director with Michigan Burn, Gators and Carpathia soccer clubs. His high school coaching experience includes positions with Fraser, Lamphere, De La Salle and Cranbrook Kingswood schools. Suffredini, who replaces former boys soccer head coach Ryan Elchuk, is a graduate of Adrian College where he earned a BS in business administration.

Guest has been a mainstay on the Notre Dame campus since hiring on in 2005 as director of advancement, overseeing fundraising, marketing and alumni relations for the school. Prior to taking over as head coach of cross country, he served as assistant coach for boys and girls cross country, and boys and girls track and field. He will continue to assist track and field head coach Jonathan Barbee when that season begins in the spring. Guest is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1984 alumnus of Notre Dame High School.

More than \$45,000 raised for scholarship fund to help Notre Dame students

More than \$45,000 was raised for Notre Dame Prep scholarships at the 20th annual Building Bridges Golf Outing held July 23 at the Greystone Golf Club in Washington, Mich. Proceeds from the event, along with other donations received throughout the year, go to fund a number of scholarships for children who might otherwise be unable to attend Notre Dame Prep in Pontiac.

Mikal Spann, who attended Notre Dame with the help of Building Bridges and then went on to Michigan State University and a career in finance, said he absolutely enjoyed and benefitted from the time he spent at Notre Dame. "Everyone at the school just embraces you and you really feel the love from everybody there."

According to Building Bridges founder Paul Housey, who is a Notre Dame High School alum, Class of 1988, kids who haven't had a fair chance for a good education should get one. "So we get good and generous people together as donors or advocates to inspire these kids to believe in themselves, and once they believe in themselves, the sky's the limit."

NDHS teachers and staffers get together on the eastside

There were hugs aplenty Saturday at Gilbert's Lodge in Saint Clair Shores as more than 20 former members of Harper Woods Notre Dame's faculty and staff got together to reminisce about 20254 Kelly Road and the students and teachers who used to populate the hallways of the school, which was closed in 2005 by the Archdiocese of Detroit.



NDHS staffers and teachers at the reunion yesterday included Rick Kuhn, Duane Holmes, Ken Parent, Ron Stephens, Sr. Pat Sporer, OP, Nanette Maltz, Cindi Kelly, Nancy Malone, Anne Sepos, Dolores Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Sr. Alice Kotwick, OSM, Jim Hassett, Cathy Hassett,



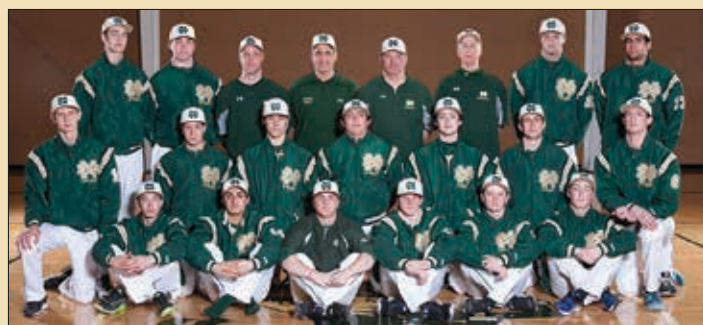
Mikal Spann attended NDP with the help of the Building Bridges program.

Doreen Vermiglio, Teri Holifield, Don Holifield, Dick Wagner, Pat Pompeo, Dave Pochmara, Mike Bilicki, Mike Reece and Roseanne Horne, all of whom worked at Notre Dame until it closed in 2005. Great to see them again!

Like Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, Harper Woods Notre Dame was operated by the Marist Fathers and Brothers, but as an all-boys school. It occupied the Harper Woods campus for more than 50 years.

The school building eventually reopened in 2007 as Chandler Park Academy, a school operating with a charter through Saginaw Valley State University.

Notre Dame baseball second in state for academics (D2), softball all academic 21 straight years



Notre Dame Prep's varsity baseball team landed in the second spot in the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association (MHSBCA) list of top academic teams in Division 2 for the 2015 season. See complete list [here](#).

With a team grade point average of 3.550, the Fighting Irish were just behind Gaylord High School, which averaged 3.601. It's the fourth time in five years that Notre Dame was named team academic all state. Irish baseball also earned team academic all-state honors in 2013, 2012 and 2011, when Notre Dame had the highest GPA of all schools in all divisions in Michigan.

Irish baseball ended the 2015 season with a record of 21-14-1 and graduated seven seniors, all of whom have contributed significantly to the program, including four-year starters Luke Shilling, who is playing at the next level at the University of Illinois, and Will Mullen, who will be playing ball at Western Michigan University. Also off to play college baseball in the fall are infielders Jake DePillo (Hillsdale) and Joey Vyskocil (Wisconsin/Mikwaukee), pitcher Mark Marrone (Northwood) and outfielder Mat Bur (Albion). The Irish also lost infielder Michael MacLean to graduation.

Notre Dame's softball team also was named academic all state for the 2015 season, the 21st year in a row for the Irish.

This year the team finished the season 31-10 overall and won a school-record ninth straight district title. Notre Dame graduates five outstanding seniors, who collectively won 113 games during their four years at NDP: shortstop and four-year starter Hannah Antosz,

Please see IRISH News, page 14

University of Michigan senior says Notre Dame gave him confidence and an open mind

David Pagnucco is heading into his senior year at the University of Michigan. When he arrived on the Ann Arbor campus after graduating from Notre Dame Prep in 2012, he thought he had a bead on a career path in the medical field. But after a freshman year studying in U-M's pre-med program, he thought medicine might not be his cup of tea. So fast forward to today, and Pagnucco is zeroing in on a summer internship with Mercedes Benz Financial Services and a degree from Michigan in economics.

And he attributes his successful major switch to Notre Dame Prep.

"I firmly believe that attending Notre Dame Prep helped me develop an open mind and not be afraid of trying something new," Pagnucco said in a recent interview. "I had never thought about pursuing a career in business, but once I began to explore different business careers, I knew it was the best fit for me."

He said it is extremely important to have an open mind in high school and college and explore different things. He was so sure that he wanted a career in medicine that he never explored other options. But his Notre Dame experience taught him that being open to change was not a bad thing.

"At Notre Dame Prep, it's considered cool to join a club, be in the band, play sports, or act in the school play," he said. "NDP is an extremely supportive and collaborative community that encourages students to have an open mind and try something different outside of expectations and their normal comfort zones. It is important to do well in school, but colleges and employers also look for students with diverse backgrounds and experiences in addition to academic success."

IB CLASSES SET THE STAGE

Pagnucco attributes his college success so far largely to his high school experience at NDP and specifically to the International Baccalaureate program.

"As a high school sophomore, I decided to enroll in the IB program because I knew it would prepare me for the rigorous college curriculum," he said. "I think that one of the most important skills I learned as an IB student was time management. I played varsity hockey and lacrosse at Notre Dame, and was on NDP's student council for four years. So I needed to balance my schedule to ensure all my work was done on time. Now, at Michigan, those

time-management skills come in real handy as I continue to skate on U-M's club hockey team at least four times per week and act as treasurer for the team. I'm also involved with a college financial investments club."

In addition to time management, Pagnucco thinks NDP and the IB program significantly developed his writing skills. He said his IB English and IB History classes along with the IB extended essay were heavily focused on composing organized, argumentative, and analytical writing. "Whenever



a college professor tells a class we will have an essay-based exam or a paper due, most students usually display discontent about the assignment. But not me. I enjoy the opportunity to write an essay for any class I have, and I'd much rather take an in-class essay exam than a multiple-choice exam. I attribute this to my classes at NDP."

FROM MEDICINE TO MERCEDES BENZ

All throughout high school and even in his middle school years, Pagnucco planned on pursuing a career in the medical field. He said his passion for science and biology developed through his favorite high school class, IB Biology, with Jocelynn Yaroch as teacher.

"I still vividly remember some of the most interesting days in the class where we would do everything from dissecting a heart to studying bacteria colonies in the nearby creek on school grounds," he said. "I took my interest in science and planned on majoring in biology at the University of Michigan. During my freshman year, I worked as a student researcher in a medical lab conducting research on the development of artificial lungs as a bridge to human lung transplants.

However, after my freshman year I reevaluated my interests. I looked back on my experiences through my pre-med classes, talking with medical students, medical research, and past hospital volunteer work, and decided that I no longer wanted to pursue a career in the medical field."

So starting with his sophomore year, Pagnucco switched his major to economics in hopes of pursuing a career in the financial services industry. He said he is looking forward to his internship in accounting and finance with Mercedes-Benz this summer and said it will get him real close to the action in a real business environment.

"I am extremely excited to begin this new journey, and I think my analytical skills, positivity, and teamwork will make me successful in this field."

CARING AND PASSIONATE

Pagnucco is quick to emphasize again how important his high school experience was to where he is now and where he plans to go in the future.

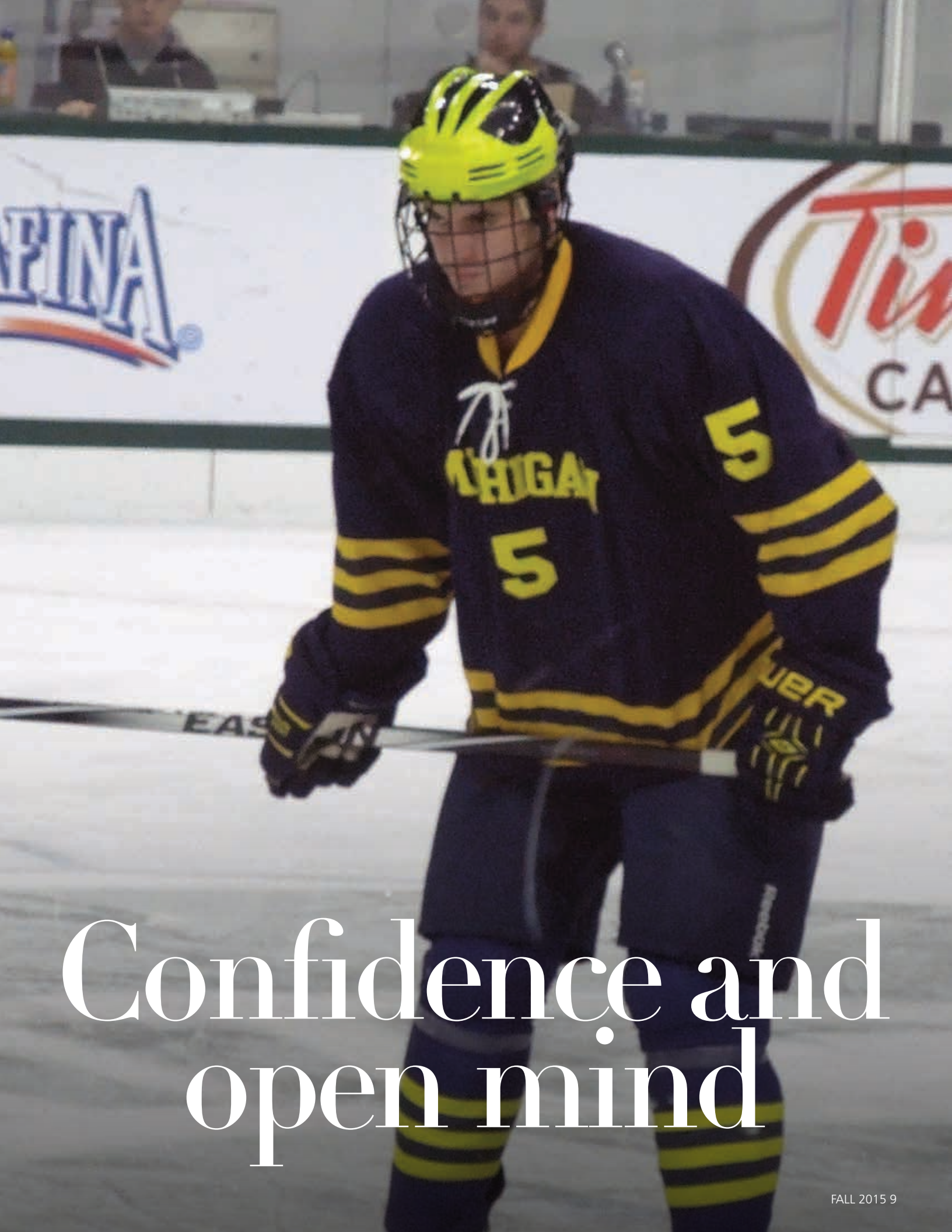
"All of my teachers at NDP were extremely caring and passionate about their classes and students," he said. "They wanted students to succeed and were always willing to help in any way. I remember my teachers always wanting students to be involved during class."

For example, he said, take David Osiecki's IB History class. "It was an extremely engaging class. We would have many in-class discussions that Mr. Osiecki would facilitate, but ultimately, he wanted the class to drive the conversation itself. I really enjoyed that."

Pagnucco also had a shout out for his counselor, Vlado Salic, for his above-and-beyond help and guidance with college preparation and search. "I think that more students need to take advantage of the resources Notre Dame Prep offers, especially the counseling department."

And speaking of resources, Pagnucco, as a business and economics major, knows full well how critical it is for a private school to have the support of its community.

"As an alumnus, I believe it is extremely important to support NDP to ensure that future students will have the same influential and positive experiences that I had in high school," he said. "My four years at Notre Dame were some of the most memorable years of my life, and I made lifelong best friends that I'm still in contact with on a daily basis at U-M and other universities. Giving back to the school that gave me the academic foundation for my future is a way to say thank you for helping me get to where I am today." ■



Confidence and open mind

Publishing a career in China

Notre Dame alum Derrick Sobodash ('00) is shown in a photo-illustration he created recently.

Derrick Sobodash graduated from Notre Dame in 2000. He matriculated at Oakland University and double-majored in journalism and Chinese studies, after which he wondered—as most college grads do—where he would apply his education. Unlike most of his contemporaries, though, his job search focused not in the U.S., but in China.

“Everyone thought I was crazy for combining those two majors in college because there’s really no overlap at all, which is why it took me five years instead of four to finish up,” Sobodash said in a spring 2013 IRISH magazine article. But sure enough, he secured a job teaching at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, and moved to China in 2005. After about a year at the university, he landed a job as a copy editor at “Beijing Today,” which was founded as the Chinese capital’s first English newspaper and has been serving the expatriate community since 2001.

Now 10 years into living in China and married (Liu Chenlu), he’s never looked back.

Sobodash said in a recent interview with NDPMA’s advancement office that things are going well. “I was promoted to content director for the newspaper in late 2013 and started pushing hard to develop Beijing Today’s online presence,” he said. “We’ve had several of our stories on the front page of Reddit and one or two of our top posts went viral for a day.”

He said the site is getting an average 70,000 unique readers per month (peak month was 1 million), but he won’t say how abysmally bad

it was before the online push. “Still, it could be better. But I’m happy with the growth. After all, it’s an English publication in a city that doesn’t speak English.”

NO PUFF PIECES

His work is made even more difficult, Sobodash said, because the newspaper is government owned. He said that fact, plus the paper’s dubious early history, causes many people in China to view his and his team’s work with suspicion even though he made it a policy to ban puff pieces and Xinhua wire copy.

After his promotion to manager with Beijing Today, Sobodash has spent a lot of time reinventing the publication. The year 2014 was spent on restructuring, social-media development and recruiting a new editorial and production team.

“I’ve been really proud of how the new journalists have progressed,” he said. “Yang Xin, one of my editors, has been really good about going after corruption in China’s education system, and we’ve had quite a few good features. The hard part is finding topics we can explore that haven’t already been blocked by the government.”

He said that while the government doesn’t force them to print things, they do tell the editors what not to print and sometimes demand a certain angle on hot topics.

“When that happens, I pass up the story,” he said. “I won’t run anything where our office does not have full editorial control.”

Please see PUBLISH, page 30

Dear alumni,

I am overcome with pride on how well the school has been doing the last few years. We are coming off of seven straight years of enrollment and fundraising growth and the school is as strong today as it has ever been. This is due in large part to the support of you, our alumni body. Each year, we are gaining more and more support from alums from Notre Dame High School, Notre Dame Prep, Pontiac/Oakland Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick.

Last year, we completed a bold move in purchasing all of the land and property at 1300 Giddings Road from the Archdiocese of Detroit. This was done to establish the long-term stability of the school. As a truly independent—yet ever-Catholic—institution, we are poised to fulfill our mission of forming, with God, Christian persons, upright citizens and academic scholars.

I find it rare that I travel anywhere and not run into alums. Last February, I ran into an alum from Notre Dame High School that owned a roadside restaurant in Ohio while driving back from Florida. This past July, I ran into an alum from Pontiac Catholic at a bonfire on a beach on the shores of Lake Superior. And just yesterday, an alum from the class of 1965 from St. Frederick stopped in for assistance with their all-school reunion.

As an alum myself from Notre Dame High School, I know very well that Notre Dame Prep is not the same school that I experienced. I also know how devastating it was to have our alma mater close and can imagine the pain that others felt when the school that they were most familiar with closed. That being said, Notre Dame Prep has welcomed us with open arms and strives every day to keep the memory of these great schools alive. We know that we would not exist without the legacy of the schools that came before us.

Notre Dame High School was the birthplace of our Marist legacy that we instill in the current students every day. Three of the four Marists that operate our school are alumni from Notre Dame and all are former teachers and administrators of that great school. They have taught us through their examples how to be followers of Christ with the grace of our blessed Mother. Notre Dame lives strong in many of our faculty and staff, the legacy of our name, the fight song, our yearbook archive and the many alumni who work and have children at the school.

St. Frederick and St. Michael are the two Catholic schools that came together to create our current campus. We are the only Catholic school in the city of Pontiac and only exist because of their great vision and benefaction. We still retain a donor wall in the chapel with the names of those families who built our school.

Pontiac Catholic and Oakland Catholic gave us a 20-year legacy of excellence in Pontiac that became the foundation on which we built Notre Dame Prep. We still have teachers that were here when Pontiac/Oakland Catholic was in existence.

The bottom line for all of this is that Catholic education is a complex and tough business. It goes through ups and downs. Right now, Notre Dame is on an all-time high. The 180 graduates of our class of 2015 had an average ACT of 27 (more than 7 points above both the national and state average), were accepted to more than 150 different colleges and universities across the nation (including 45 to the University of Michigan and 11 to the University of Notre Dame) and performed more than 15,000 hours of community service. We realize, though, that we would not exist if not for the great history and support of all the alumni that have come before us.

Please know that you are always welcome to visit anytime and that you are always welcome to claim us as your school, because we claim you as our alumni.

Sincerely,



Andy Guest
Executive Vice President
NDHS Class of '84



STAYING IN TOUCH:



THE NOTRE DAME E-NEWSLETTER

Receive news and information, e-mailed monthly. Update your e-mail address at ndpma.org/update.



HELP US REACH 1,000 LIKES!

[Facebook.com/notredamealumniassociation](https://www.facebook.com/notredamealumniassociation).



FOLLOW US

[Twitter.com/ndaapontiacmi](https://twitter.com/ndaapontiacmi).



NETWORK WITH FELLOW IRISH ALUMS

[Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com/company/notre-dame-alumni-association-pontiac-group) — Notre Dame Alumni Association (Pontiac) group.

THE NDAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Jane Dika '02 (NDP)

Erin Kish '03 (NDP)

Dan Staniszewski '02 (NDP)

Bobbie Hall '00 (NDP)

John McCabe '63 (NDHS)

Scott Lockhart '98 (NDP)

Grant Golasa '10 (NDP)

Daniel Terzano '10 (NDP)

Science and



It was an unlikely combination of interests in science, French, global health and her Christian faith that came together nicely for 2008 Notre Dame alum Sajel (Tremblay) Nuwamanya when, as a student at DePauw University, she began looking at health and medical initiatives in the African countries of Senegal and Uganda.

Now a biochemistry grad with a French minor from DePauw (Indiana) and a current student in med school at Wayne State University, Nuwamanya said it was an especially busy time in Africa that solidified in her mind the direction her career was pointing, which was toward medicine and—incidentally—also toward meeting her future husband, Victor.

faith

Grad says an interest in science and a desire to help those in need were keys to career choice. Future doctor says Notre Dame was a big part of her academic success.

But it was when Nuwamanya was an undergrad that she originally began to connect with hunger and malnutrition initiatives in Africa and the work of Dr. Thomas Burke of the Division of Global Health and Human Rights at Massachusetts General Hospital after a presentation he gave at DePauw. It didn't take her long to join one of Burke's projects, the "Initiative to End Child Malnutrition," as a program coordinator.

"And five days after graduation from DePauw, I was on a plane to Uganda, a place I had obviously heard about and was excited to see first hand," she said.

"Many big decisions were made when I was in Uganda," said Nuwamanya. "I really looked forward to working with patients and their caregivers, and I learned a lot about malnutrition-treatment protocols as well."

She loved what she learned so much that she decided she would begin pursuing a medical degree full time when she got back to Michigan and then to eventually return to Africa at some point to make a bigger and better impact as an M.D.

"I even started studying for the MCATs, the entrance exams for American medical schools, while living in rural Uganda," she said.

THE 'SAME JESUS'

Nuwamanya said her faith also was a big influence in her decision to pursue medicine. "I knew from being active with the church since I was young that the knowledge of Jesus Christ made a huge impact in people's lives everywhere in the world, including Uganda," she said.

It wasn't the first time her Catholic ideals were called upon, though. At DePauw, as a member of the university's volleyball team, she led a local chapter of Athletes in Action, a Christian organization where athletes who are Christ followers become missionaries through their sport. In Rukungiri, Uganda, Nuwamanya oversaw both inpatient and outpatient treatment programs for children with malnutrition at Karoli Lwanga "Nyakibale" Hospital, a private, rural Catholic hospital. She also helped train Ugandan health workers in the national protocol for the treatment of malnutrition so that they would be able to continue the work when she and her team left for home.

Also, while in Uganda, Nuwamanya joined a local church in the city of Rukungiri and connected with many other Christians. "I was amazed to see the same Jesus who loved me in in the U.S. move and work in people's lives 7,400 miles away from my home," she said. "And I also knew that even the best health care was not a cure for people when their lives were broken in a lot of other ways. So I decided right then that I would be a medical missionary and eventually return to Africa after finishing my formal medical training."

She also met her husband while in Uganda. "Victor was at the same church in Rukungiri where I was working as a youth pastor and administrator," she said. "We served together and visited local high schools to teach students about our shared vision of reaching lost souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ." They married in 2013.

In addition to her work in Uganda, Nuwamanya also studied and volunteered in Senegal, a French-speaking country in West Africa.

"I was able to take a course in international public health in Senegal and practice my French-speaking skills at the same time," Nuwamanya said. "After a semester in Dakar, I then volunteered for 10 weeks with

Mission Inter Senegal, a branch of the Senegalese Evangelical Fellowship, which is a non-profit organization recognized by the government. I worked in the laboratory at a mission hospital and lived with a missionary family from Zambia."

JOURNEY BEGAN AT NDP

Nuwamanya says the full scholarship she received from DePauw and her other academic success was a direct result of the strong academics and study skills she learned at Notre Dame Prep.

"I qualified to apply for the DePauw scholarship based primarily on my high grade-point-average at Notre Dame," she said. "I remember as an NDP senior that in order to even apply for the scholarship, I had to write an essay based on a book about globalization, which I didn't necessarily look forward to."

But Nuwamanya did read the book and then wrote a strong essay that obviously impressed DePauw, because not long afterward the university notified her that she had been awarded the Rector Scholarship, a rare prize reserved only for candidates with superior achievement in all academic areas within a rigorous high school curriculum.

Plus, she said, without all of the credit she earned from her AP classes at NDP, she knew she wouldn't have been able to complete a double major at DePauw and then study abroad.

"I passed quickly into upper-level courses and during my first year on campus, I took advanced science and French courses with all upper-classmen and I still excelled," she said. "In addition, I arrived at college already knowing how to balance lots of schoolwork with athletics and extracurricular student organizations."

She graduated magna cum laude from DePauw, and it appears that things have worked out quite well for her.

Nuwamanya now lives in Detroit with husband, Victor, and their 9-month-old daughter, Chloe. She wanted to make sure it was noted that her original interest in the sciences came directly as a result of classes she took at Notre Dame, "especially those with science teacher Ms. (Jocelynn) Yaroch."

LOG RULES

Nuwamanya has many other favorite memories of Notre Dame Prep, and near the top of her list is winning the Class B volleyball state championship in 2008 during her senior year. "I really enjoyed coaching the middle-school volleyball team and helping at volleyball summer camps with the grade-school girls," she said. "I loved playing volleyball and learned a lot from Coach (Betty) Wroubel. We never had an easy practice and her always-high expectations taught me to expect the best out of myself and put in the hard work to achieve it."

Nuwamanya wanted to make sure she thanked Ms. (Kathy) Bembas and Ms. (Sheri) Derico for instilling great reading and writing abilities in her—skills, she says, she'll never stop using. "I remember that Ms. Bembas's tests were so hard that even when I read the whole book, I was still stumped," she said. "And how can I forget Mr. (Mark) McCaskey's log rules that were written on an actual log, which could even make calculus interesting." ■

second baseman Hailey Atkins, two-time all state honorable mention catcher Hanna Bullard, first baseman Lauren DiFiore, and four-year centerfielder Katie Swartz.

In addition to Notre Dame softball and baseball, the following Irish teams earned team academic all state for the 2014-15 school year: boys cross country, girls cross country, boys tennis, volleyball, wrestling, hockey, girls basketball, boys swim and dive, competitive cheer, boys lacrosse, and girls tennis.

Notre Dame alum releases important study on automotive industry

John W. Henke, Jr., Ph.D., a 1958 graduate of Notre Dame, says Ford, General Motors, FCA US and Nissan collectively would have earned \$2 billion more in operating profit last year had their supplier relations improved as much as Toyota's and Honda's did during the year.

That's one of the significant conclusions from Henke's 15th annual North American Automotive/Tier 1 Supplier Working Relations Index® Study released by Birmingham, Mich.-based Planning Perspectives, Inc., that looks at the automakers' supplier relations and how they impact OEM profits. This year, 435 suppliers participated.

The study is watched carefully in automakers' boardrooms because an OEM's supplier relations rating is highly correlated to the benefits that a supplier chooses to give an OEM – including which OEM is first to see a supplier's newest technology, is provided a supplier's best personnel for support, and gets their best pricing – all of which impacts an OEM's competitiveness and operating profit.



John Henke, Jr., graduated from NDHS in 1958.

Notre Dame alum (2006) and Detroit City FC goalkeeper featured by club

(By Detroit City FC)

When Detroit City FC fans arrive at Cass Tech High School's field, Bret Mollon '06 (NDP) is one of the most recognizable figures. His neon green jersey radiates the northern penalty box, and as his teammates pound shot after shot his direction during warm-ups, City's



NDP alum Brett Mollon ('06)

go-to goalkeeper flies between the pipes.

Mollon's commanding presence behind the defensive line has earned him the starting job for Le Rouge for the past few summers, but when he isn't shutting down NPSL forwards, the Washington, Mich. native has another job.

Since August of 2013, Mollon has been an assistant coach at Coastal Carolina University (CCU). After his first season for DCFC, Mollon began his coaching career for the Chancellor men's and women's programs. When

he played in the Premier Development League, prior to joining Le Rouge, one of Mollon's friends was an assistant at CCU, and invited him down to Myrtle Beach. Soon after, Mollon became Coastal's goalkeeper coach.

2014 alum gets membership in National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Christian Bishop, a 2014 graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School and current student at Central Michigan University, has been granted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, an honors

organization that recognizes and elevates high achievers in colleges and universities across the United States.

"NSCS is more than just a symbol of academic achievement," said Stephen E. Loflin, NSCS founder and chief executive officer. "Membership gives students access to a number of amazing benefits including career and networking resources, scholarships, travel, and service projects both on campus and in the community."

Loflin said that membership is by invitation only, based on grade point average and class standing.

NSCS is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the nation's only interdisciplinary honors organization for first-year and second-year college students. NSCS has over one million lifetime members and 300 chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.



Christian Bishop, a 2014 NDP alum, has been granted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. (Photo 2014)

Notre Dame graduate gets special honors as service academy appointee

At a ceremony held last week hosted by U.S Representative Sander Levin (9th district) honoring recent high school graduates who were accepted to a United States service academy, Notre Dame's Domenic Tatum ('15) was given official notification of his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Levin nominated Tatum for the appointment as part of an extensive application process that began months ago.

In a letter of appointment given to Tatum, Levin, 83, said it was such a great honor for Tatum to be selected to attend a United States service academy. "As a nominee, you competed against more than 10,000 students from across our great country," Levin said. "The fact that you were selected out of such an elite pool of applicants speaks so highly to your character and abilities."

There are five service academies in the United States. Three reside within the Department of Defense: U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York; U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland; and U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Two reside within the Department of Transportation: U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York and U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut.



Recent NDP grad Domenic Tatum is with U.S. Representative Sander Levin at a May 28 reception honoring appointees to U.S. service academies.

Notre Dame's Class of 2015 shatters scholarship record

When the 180 seniors from Notre Dame walked across the stage on May 17 to receive their diplomas, few if any in the audience knew what an astounding statistic about their class was percolating down the hallway.

According to figures released last spring by Notre Dame Prep's counseling department, this year's class of graduating seniors earned

Please see IRISH News, page 24

Star rises in Hollywood

Two-thousand-one Notre Dame grad says his disciplined education in high school set him up for career success in Hollywood

Frank Meli has been chasing his Hollywood dream since his high school years at Notre Dame Prep. He graduated from NDP in 2001 and while it isn't that long ago, it's quite a long period of time measured in Hollywood minutes. But whether you're talking about Hollywood or Pontiac, Mich., minutes, by any measure, Meli's success so far in film and television can be considered pretty extraordinary.

BEEN BUSY

Meli has had significant experience in a variety of positions in Hollywood, including casting director, producer, actor, writer, editor and director. His resume features more than 25 different film or television projects since the mid-2000s, including "Million Dollar Listing," "Something Borrowed, Something New," "The Biggest Loser," "Misconceptions" and "Without a Trace." But what he really wants to concentrate on is film.

"I've always had a passion for film," he said. "When I moved to the Los Angeles area with a dream and a penny, I took any and every opportunity that was thrown at me. And yes, being in the entertainment industry is always the one thing I dreamed about, even while in school at Notre Dame Prep."

After Meli's move to LA, he studied communications and film at a college in Santa Monica. Soon after, he started as a production assistant on commercials, and then dabbled in editing pilots for television.

"Most of my work in the past six years has been in casting and producing reality shows," he said, "and I have been working mostly with the NBC, ABC, Bravo, TLC and Fox networks. But his ultimate goal is film directing. "I have been working very hard building up my resume and experiences in film," he said.

CANNOT FORGET NOTRE DAME

Even though Meli's star seems to be swiftly rising in California, he can't forget the grounding he received in Michigan and especially at Notre Dame.

"Notre Dame not only educated me, but also taught me discipline, which has served me well in this business," he said. "The school also gave me the best material for writing scripts, characters and experiences!"

He said he really cherishes the memories



Notre Dame alum Frank Meli ('01) is a director, actor, writer and editor in Hollywood. Below, Meli is with actor Barry Bostwick on the red carpet at a recent event in Los Angeles.

he took with him from high school. "Some of my dearest friends today are the ones I met at Notre Dame. I'll forever be grateful for my education and experiences at ND Prep."

And Meli, who now calls West Hollywood home, gives a special shoutout to the student rallies and events at NDP. "The pep rallies were some of the most memorable experiences for me," he said. "I really enjoyed the spirit and collaborative energy of all the students and faculty coming together. Growing up, I had always watched high school events depicted on television and film, and pep rallies were timeless, common to every decade. I'll never forget the first time I walked into an NDP pep rally. It was everything I expected and more!" ■



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FRANK MELI '01 (NDP)



Top advisor

Notre Dame alum earns recognition from financial publication

Frank Migliazzo, a 1969 graduate of Notre Dame High School and the leader of a Merrill Lynch private banking and investment group in Troy, Mich., was recognized recently on the 2015 Financial Times “Top 400 Financial Advisors” list.

The “Financial Times Top 400 Financial Advisors” is an independent listing of U.S. advisors produced by the U.K.-based Financial Times. The FT 400 is based on data gathered from firms and verified by broker-dealer home offices, regulatory disclosures, and the FT’s research. The listing reflects each advisor’s performance in six primary areas, including assets under management, asset growth, compliance record, experience, credentials and accessibility.

Migliazzo began his Merrill Lynch career in 1977. As the leader of The Migliazzo Group, he provides strategic direction and investment policy for the team.

Migliazzo is one of approximately eighty advisors nationally who are designated as Global Institutional Consultants at Merrill Lynch. He has served as chair of two prestigious leadership bodies within the firm: the National Advisory Council to Management at Merrill Lynch, and the Private Banking and Investment Group Advisory Council to Management. Barron’s Magazine named Migliazzo one of the Top 1,000 Advisors in America from the inception of the accolade in 2009 through 2013 inclusively.

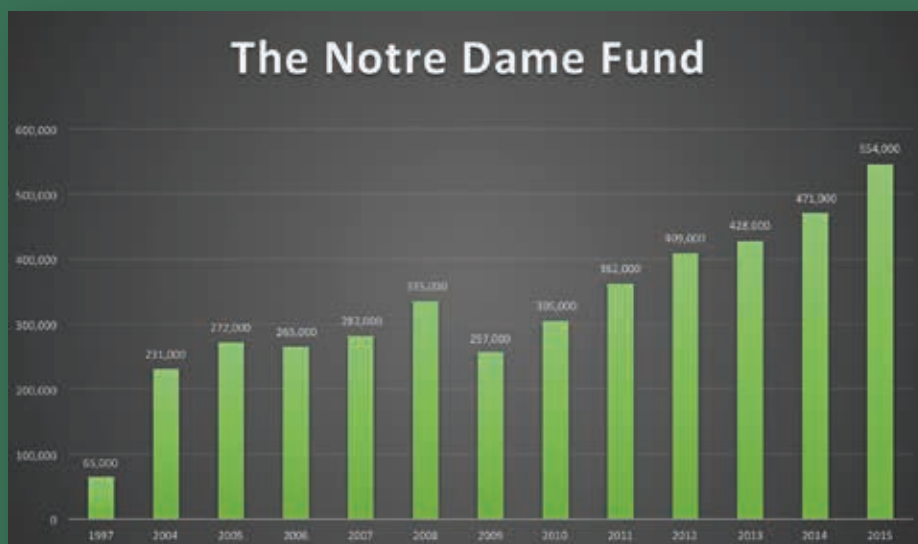
Migliazzo earned his undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University and his M.B.A. from the University of Detroit. He is a certified financial planner, a designation awarded by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. He also holds the Certified Investment Management Analyst® (CIMA®) designation sponsored by the Investment Management Consultants Association (IMCA) at the Wharton School.

Migliazzo serves on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan and the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House. ■

Thank you!

Fueled by records in the number of donors (nearly 1000), new members in the St. Peter Chanel Society (50), senior pledges (63), and increased giving among young alumni (up 17%), The Notre Dame Fund had a fantastic year. With your support, the fund shattered the previous year’s record giving by nearly \$80,000!

The Notre Dame Fund is essential to our school and improves the experience of every student—every day—so we cannot thank our alumni and donors enough for their generosity! Thank you and **GO IRISH!**



Creative craftsman

Creative Notre Dame alum credits his high school for career success in film and video production.

It's a familiar refrain we hear from Notre Dame graduates. "I would not be where I am today without my Notre Dame education." "Notre Dame taught me the value of hard work." "The high academics at Notre Dame made college so much easier for me." And on and on we hear virtually the same thing from nearly every grad.

Add 2000 Notre Dame Prep alum and film/video producer Bill Holland to that list.

"As much as the workload at Notre Dame often seemed overwhelming, it totally prepared me for tackling the seemingly impossible tasks I was faced with in college," said Holland.

"I found that as a college student, Prep had prepared me well for the reading workload and extensive projects that every class would demand. There were times, as a high school student, that the amount of reading almost seemed impossible to tackle, but when I got to college the reason became clear."

Holland is owner and president of Middlebranch Productions, Inc., a Chicago-based video production, direction, post-production and motion graphics company he formed in 2002. Since then, the company has grown and expanded to handle a range of projects from commercials to event and music videos. He has recently worked on projects for Wheat Thins, Subway, Wrigley, Sears, Hilton Hotels, and Nascar while working at several different Chicago-based agencies.

Holland says that even before his film college experience at Northern Michigan University, he always thought he'd end up in the film business.

"I have wanted to make films since I was

probably 12 or 13," he said. "While attending Notre Dame, I actually wrote and directed a feature film starring fellow NDP alum and current Detroit archdiocesan priest, Eric Fedewa.

"And I was drawn to Northern because it had a good film program, was in-state, offered me scholarships, and was right in the center of some of the most beautiful scenery this country has to offer."

Holland said the art and design department at Northern required him to make one film per week with minimal-to-no crew and gear. He said that while his experience later at Columbia College would teach him more

about the industry standard on how to make films, his undergrad at NMU taught him how to be fiercely independent and efficient.

But again, he credits his NDP experience for setting him up for success in college and the business.

"Thanks to the mentorship of Joe Martin and Ms. Chinavare, I already had experience from high school on how to make a film by myself," Holland said. "Ms. Chinavare would let us opt out of presentations in religion class by producing our own versions of stories from the Bible. In my senior year, Mr. Martin allowed me to take an independent study course and direct a documentary for the band. Growing up in Michigan, there were not many people doing what I wanted to do with my life and career, so there was really no blueprint for how to direct a student like me. I think the teachers at Notre Dame really saw that I was struggling with this and gave me many opportunities to customize my learning experience."

Outside of his video work, Holland also has achieved a level of success in music. He's been a professional club DJ for ten years, working in Chicago and says he's had many amazing opportunities blossom from those years of experience.

"I have been fortunate enough to be onstage at Lollapalooza with my band, Many Moons, thanks to my good friend Zebo, and I've toured all over the U.S. with label mate, Vourteque, he said. "In keeping with my experiences playing in the Notre Dame Prep Jazz Band, I produce a style of music called 'electro swing,' which fuses elements of swing and classic jazz with electronic dance music." ■



NDP grad Bill Holland ('00) is on the set of a recent film production.

Digital journalist

Notre Dame alum and journalist covers state and politics for Michigan's largest digital media company

You would think a very shy teenager might not pursue a career that requires talking to a lot of people—particularly political people—on a daily basis. But for Shannon Murphy, who graduated from Notre Dame in 1998, her career and love of journalism forced her out of her shell.

“Surprisingly for someone in my business, I was pretty shy growing up,” said Murphy. “But interviewing people helped bring me out of my shell, especially at Michigan State, where you could easily get lost with the thousands of people there. And, you definitely have to love learning a little bit about everything, and sharing that knowledge with others to be successful in my field.”

Murphy’s “field” is journalism, and she’s been sharing her skills as an interviewer, writer and editor with Michigan residents since graduating from MSU with a degree in journalism in 2002. She now works for MLive, a digital-media company that owns numerous local newspapers and operates MLive.com, a web-based news site serving readers and businesses in Michigan. She currently serves as managing producer/community engagement specialist at MLive and, as part of her job, she helps manage and direct coverage for digital newsrooms in Lansing and Detroit, working with a reporting and photography staff of 11 who cover the state Capitol, statewide issues, the automotive industry and Detroit police, among other beats.

READING AND WRITING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Murphy’s career in the news media actually began in college where she worked at the student-run newspaper, “The State News.” Since college, she’s worked at six newspapers, covering everything from crime in Flint, to government in Bay City, to hosting community events in Saginaw, before hooking up with MLive, which is headquartered in Grand Rapids.

So, besides looking for a way out of her shell, what else drove Murphy to work as a journalist?

handled all social media, community engagement and editorials, and finally to my current job as managing producer, which is akin to being an assistant editor on more traditional media, such as newspapers and magazines.”

But she loves the relatively new digital media landscape. “In the past decade, I’ve picked up more skills that have helped me in my career—it’s a very digital world now and knowing the ins and outs of new technology, whether via smartphones, new apps or social media, has become an integral part of my job.”



Shannon Murphy '98 (NDP) is a writer and editor at MLive, a digital-media company that owns numerous local newspapers and operates MLive.com, a web-based news site serving readers and businesses in Michigan.

“I’ve always loved writing and reading, which I think helped guide me to the career path I’m on today,” she said. “Writing anything, from a term paper to a short story, came fairly naturally and I enjoyed doing it. Being able to write full time about issues that mattered seemed like a no-brainer.”

Murphy has moved quickly through the ranks since joining MLive.

“I’ve spent most of my career with MLive, starting as a reporter, then to community engagement specialist, where I

NOTRE DAME WHISTLES

Even though Murphy’s been out of Notre Dame Prep for quite a few years, she keeps certain high school memories front and center.

“When I think of high school, one of the first memories that comes to mind is Irish Week—it was always such a fun and bonding week for our class,” she said. “And I don’t think I’ll ever forget Fr. Leon’s famous whistle cheer and, of course, Mike Burkhart’s hilarious impersonation of it!”

She also cites Notre Dame for giving her the skills necessary for life and for work.

“NDP helped instill leadership and a love to learn new things,” Murphy said. “And I had so many favorite teachers there. Mrs. Bembas made English and writing interesting and pushed us to do our best, Mr. Borton, even though math was not my strong point, had such patience with us to help us get to where we needed to be in class.” ■



Talent and reputati



Michael Kurowski '12 (NDP) credits Notre Dame for helping him make good first, second and beyond impressions. “Interestingly enough, I found that talent and reputation are of equal importance in my career.”

M

ichael Kurowski, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, seems to be on a real upward trajectory in his pursuit of a career. Now in his third year at Columbia College Chicago, a liberal-arts college focused on the arts and media education, he’s already been in six college “Mainstage” musicals/shows, and recently made his Chicago debut as a lead in Jackalope Theatre’s production of “Four.” He soon will appear in the ensemble cast of the first Chicago-made production of “American Idiot,” and he’s landed a Lunchables commercial as well as a small role on the TV show, “Chicago Fire.”

“It has been an exciting three years,” said Kurowski.

Now getting real close to a BFA from Columbia in musical theatre, Kurowski says looking back at his college experience so far is difficult to describe, other than to say it has been incredibly eye-opening for him as both a performer and as a person.

“In the fall of 2012 when I got here, I was thrown into the heart of the theatre capital of the world and since then it has become a home to me,” he said. “The thing about Columbia is that it’s a place where students must push themselves and their talents to their limits—and then find ways to blend that into their careers.”

‘DECENT HUMAN BEING’

Since matriculating at Columbia, Kurowski has become an accomplished singer, musician, actor, dancer and, most especially, a student. “I could go on forever about my classes and how the teachers at Columbia have helped pave my way into the professional world, but I should give credit where it really is due,” he said.

“Honestly, NDP is where I learned to be a great student and a decent human being. It gave me a safe place to make mistakes, both in an out of school, and then to learn from them.”

He said making the transition to college was easy for him because Notre Dame prepared him well beyond anything he could imagine.

“NDP gave me the opportunity to balance my school work and theatrical work at the same time, which is an invaluable skill, plus I was involved in choir, musicals and the school band, which helped me develop an ear for music. Thanks, Mr. Martin and Mr. Fazzini!”

Kurowski also credits Notre Dame for helping him make good first, second and beyond impressions. “Interestingly enough, I found that talent and reputation are of equal importance in my career,” he said. “NDP helped teach me how to make a good impression to others and how to be professional in a new environment. That is incredibly important because performers are constantly job searching since shows never last long enough to make a real salary from them. Truth is, if you create a good reputation for yourself and always bring your best work to the table, people take notice. Because everyone knows everyone else in this city, it doesn’t take long for a reputation, good or bad, to spread to directors higher up the food chain.”

NO HALF-BAKED PAPERS

A lover of literature and writing, Kurowski goes especially out of his way to also give props to NDP’s English department.

“Mrs. Bembas always had a comfortable classroom to be creative,” he said. “And Mr. Davis helped me appreciate all forms of literature—‘Heart of Darkness’ is still one of my favorite books—and Mr. Butorac helped push me to my limits as a writer and a student. I actually owe Mr. Butorac quite a bit. He never settled for anything less than the best from his students. He constantly demanded more from my writing, which now has turned into my own subconscious demand for better and better work from my writing and music.”

He said it physically hurts to turn in a half-baked paper or compose lazily written music. “Mr. Butorac always made class discussions interesting and held his students to the highest educational and moral standards. I can’t thank him enough.”

So while he’s looking forward to great and rewarding career after college, Kurowski can’t help but look behind to what likely helped make that possible. “I am very proud of where I came from and I want those that follow at NDP to know that.” ■



Notre Dame alum Michael Kurowski (12) in a scene from a Jackalope Theatre production in Chicago.

Jazzed about Notre Dame

School principal in Kentucky says Notre Dame played a huge role in who he is today and why he works in education

When contacted about participating in an interview for IRISH magazine, 1987 NDHS alum Mike Shires was reluctant—as is typical for most alums—saying that his “story” may not be that interesting. We of course disagree because, just

like with nearly every alum we contact and interview, it turns out that his story is another one of many interesting stories that show just how impactful Notre Dame and its Marist-inspired education were on their lives.

“Notre Dame has played a huge role in who I am today and why I am in education,” Shires said recently. “This interview really makes me think about my time at that special place and reflect on the people there who made an impact on me. In reality, I am trying to do the same things they did, but for a different generation.”

Shires is a principal at North Pointe Elementary School in Hebron, Kentucky, just south of Cincinnati. He’s been in education for nearly his entire professional career and in Kentucky since 2007, when he and his family moved from Chicago.

“After living in the big city for 15 years, my wife, Rhonda, and I decided it was time to make a move out of Chicago, partly because we needed more space with three kids,” Shires said. “We chose northern Kentucky because it’s still close to my family in Detroit (4-1/2 hours by car) and still near a major city.”

He said they can head south 10 minutes and be in a very rural setting or head north 15 minutes and be in the city. Plus, he said, northern Kentucky is a great place to raise a family and “a lot cheaper place than Chicago to live.”

So, with three kids, a busy job and a current pursuit of a doctoral degree in educational leadership, Shires is a busy guy. In fact, this accomplished jazz musician—who has a twelve-year-old daughter, Lili, and twin boys named Miles and Jack “Coltrane” Shires—gave up his trumpet about five years ago.

“In Chicago, I played gigs all the time, but with the kids and being the principal of a school, time was extremely limited,” he said. “I felt like I could not dedicate enough time to doing something I loved. And because I could not be the best I could be at playing, I decided to hang it up for a while.”

He says that after he finishes up his doctoral program at Northern Kentucky University, he hopes to pick up his trumpet again and play.

LARRY EGAN MADE HIM BELIEVE

Shires recalled his time at Notre Dame as being an important time in his young life. “My experiences at Notre Dame helped to instill in me the value and importance of education,” he said. “The teachers and staff there pushed me to strive for excellence and to try and

reach my fullest potential as an individual.”

Shires, whose three uncles also graduated from Notre Dame—Tom McEvoy (‘59), Charles McEvoy (‘62), and Tim McEvoy (‘64)—holds one particular aspect of his Notre Dame education in especially high regard. He said the music program at Notre Dame and the late Larry Egan, the longtime music teacher and band leader at NDHS, were very big influences in many parts of his life.

“As I get older and reflect on my time with him, I have realized that

Mr. Egan believed in me even when I didn’t believe in myself,” Shires said. “That was very powerful for me. I wanted to please him and I thought that if he believed that I could do it, then I must be able to do it.

“Now I see myself doing this very thing for students. Many times young students doubt themselves. If the principal of their school tells them ‘I know you can do it,’ they start to believe that they can do it, and then they do it!”

A big fan of bebop and post-bop musicians such as Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, John Coltrane and Woody Shaw, Shires said Egan also taught him how to be more professional as a musician, especially on the band stand. “I can still hear him telling me ‘If you’re on time, you’re fifteen minutes late.’” ■



Notre Dame alum Mike Shires (‘87), right, with his wife, Rhonda, daughter, Lili and sons Jack and Miles.



The late Larry Egan was a longtime band director at Notre Dame.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MIKE SHIRES '87 (NDHS)

In the late 15th century, Christopher Columbus landed on a group of islands just east of what is now Puerto Rico, eventually claiming them for Spain and renaming them “Las Once Mil Virgenes.” Since then many other countries expressed interest or claimed ownership of this idyllic spot in the Caribbean, including Holland, France, England and Denmark.

Eventually, the United States purchased three of the islands from Denmark in 1917 for \$25 million, and St. John, St. Croix and St. Thomas, now collectively known as the U.S. Virgin Islands, have morphed into major tourist destinations for travelers from around the world.

Which brings us to Notre Dame Prep grad Dave Krease. This 2001 alum, who spent a number of years fighting the corporate wars on mainland America after graduating from the University of Michigan with an economics degree, thought that enough is enough, it’s time to land himself on an island paradise and spend the rest of his life there.

But, in his case, he didn’t just daydream about it as so many of us corporate-cube dwellers do on a daily basis. He actually did it. And he credits both his corporate job and

Notre Dame grad and U-M alum is business owner in the Virgin Islands

his high school for getting him there and for helping him start his own business—a surf shop—on the island of St. John.

“Those years of long hours and full-time travel as a corporate manager not only taught me how to run a successful business, but also that I wanted to have a store of my own,” said Krease.

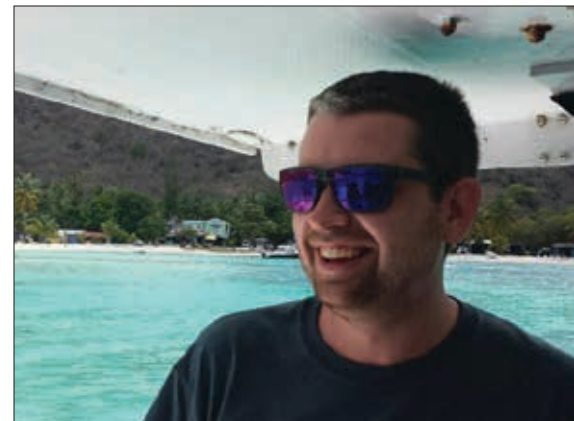
He also said Notre Dame taught him the importance of thinking critically and asking questions. “Those two basic skills have been a huge part of my success in college and in my career thus far,” he said.

Krease’s shop, which is located on the shores of St. John’s Cruz Bay, is called Wasted Sun, and it specializes in surf apparel, sunglasses and lifestyle goods. He said his new home in the Caribbean, a 19-square-mile island “smaller than the City of Pontiac,” is located about 1,100 miles southeast of Miami. He said it’s really not that far from the mainland and pretty

easy to get to, though there is only one way (“besides parachutes,” he said).

“The island is only accessible by boat and has no stoplights, chain stores or even addresses,” he said. “The closest thing to a traffic jam is braking for wild goats, donkeys or chickens in the road. And about two thirds of the island is designated as a national park with great hiking trails and some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.”

All in all, a tough assignment, to be sure, but somebody has to do it and it appears that Dave Krease is more than up for it. ■



NDP alum Dave Krease ('01) owns a business that specializes in surf apparel, sunglasses and lifestyle goods.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DAVE KREASE '01 (NDP)

Surf's up!

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Michael McClain '65 (NDHS) We are doing fine these days. I'm retired and living in Boise, Idaho. My older brother, Pat, (1962) passed away a few years ago, and my brother Dennis (1966) is doing well, with homes and business interests in Michigan and other states. People have stopped asking me if my brother is the real Denny McClain (He is not the ex-Tigers pitcher, but used to be an excellent infielder). Guess a lot of folks are getting older and don't remember. Our youngest son is 14, so Carol says I'm not allowed to get old. Hello to all of the early Notre Dame guys and their families. Best wishes to those young men and women carrying on the traditions.

John Ciolino '79 (NDHS) After graduating with a degree in TV, radio and film from EMU, John spent a year at Channel 29 in Traverse City and a year a WILX Channel 10 in Lansing. He was then hired by newly formed 10 O'clock News, a WKBD Channel 50 affiliate, where he spent the next 17 years. It was here that he began to collaborate with many accomplished news professionals and honed his skills of shooting, editing and writing stories that not only informed, but moved viewers to feel for the people and situations in the greater Detroit area. His partnership with editor Paul Pytlowany was of the most rewarding chapters in his 32-year career. John has been at WXYZ Channel 7 since 2002 and has continued his passion for human interest stories with his work on Detroit 2020,

We'd love to hear from you!

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

Alumni Notes & Info

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

a ten-year station initiative designed to return Detroit to its former glory. John has accumulated many honors, including 20 Emmy awards, numerous AP awards, first-place MAB individual photojournalist three years in a row, and was the videographer for a Peabody and national Emmy award-winning documentary. John is honored to be a part of the Channel 7 family where he continues to work with and learn from some of the most talented and hard-working people in the business. On March 1, he was inducted into the Silver Circle for 25 years of service.

Greg Ulrich '70 (NDHS) Elected president of the University of Detroit School of Law Alumni Board of Directors at the Board's May 2015 meeting.

NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNI

Molly Hall '09 (NDP) After almost four years (two full-time, two as an intern) in the Michigan Legislature, Molly decided it was time to pack up and leave her beloved Michigan and find bigger and better experiences in Washington, D.C. Taking her experience of working in the Senate and the House, she has joined Burson-Marsteller, a major international public relations firm. In her new role, she uses her communication skills to help organize a program for the firm's largest clients. Additionally, she uses her people skills to help develop employee training and development programs. Molly is excited about this new chapter, and looks forward to the adventures that will follow.

Jennifer Bohne '01 (NDP) Mike and I celebrated 10 years of marriage on June 25 this year as well as welcoming our son Kellan that same day.

Kelly McElreath '13 (NDP) I recently began my first year of two at Dartmouth College where I will be getting my degree in engineering (concentrating in mechanical/biomechanics) as part of their Dual-Degree Program. This is highly sought after opportunity that I am very blessed to be a part of where students attend one of a few selected liberal arts colleges (I went/go to Mount Holyoke College) for their freshman and sophomore year, spend their junior year at Dartmouth, go back to their initial school for their senior year to graduate with their class, and then attend a fifth year at Dartmouth, where will then graduate as well. Being a part of the IB Diploma Program at NDP provided me with the foundation which made this opportunity possible, and gave me the skills to be truly successful. This program also allowed me to pursue athletics while at Mount Holyoke (both varsity golf and swim team) and focus on academics and research at Dartmouth. I am also a part of their Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

Michael Kosuth '14 (NDP), Maria Redoutey '14 (NDP) and Kayla Piskorowski '14 (NDP), all spent the summer living on Mackinac Island, working and having some wonderful experiences!

Dennis Strach II, CSC '06 (NDP) After graduating with an M.Div from the University of Notre Dame in May, Strach professed final vows with the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests & Brothers, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on August 29, and was ordained a transitional deacon the following day at Moreau Seminary (Notre Dame, IN). He now returns to his first assignment at St. Ignatius

Martyr Catholic Church in Austin, Texas, and anticipates ordination to the priesthood on April 2, 2016 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Alana O'Reilly '08 (NDP) I'm living across the river in Kentucky but working in Cincinnati Public Schools. Right now I'm working with a resource coordinator who organizes partnerships with the school, family/community engagement, and connections to social services, health, and mental health. Next month, I'll be an ESL tutor for recent Latin American immigrants in the mornings and summer camp counselor in the afternoons at a different school close by. I'm really excited.

Annie Calvanese '13 (NDP) I am a sophomore voice performance major at the University of Michigan. It has always been my dream to go to Italy to study opera. Fortunately, that dream is becoming a reality because I have been accepted to the "Music in the Marche's" 2015 Summer Program! The program is a four-week intensive course that will help me grow as an artist while developing my music and language skills in Mondavio, Italy.

David Levine '00 (NDP) I'm a lawyer at a big firm in DC now. I spent time as an Air Force intel officer and eventually made my way to law school at UMich. Graduated from there in '12, clerked for a federal judge for a year, and now I'm here. You seem to be up to big things at NDP!

James Gammicchia '99 (NDP) is having a work anniversary. Three years this June at UAW Local 1777.

Natalie DeLave '11 (NDP) is having a work anniversary. One year this June at Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Washtenaw County.

Ena Patterson '10 (NDP) Graduated from Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, MI in May 2015. ■

NEWS, from page 14

an amazing total of more than \$20.4 million in academic merit-based scholarships from colleges and universities. That record total amount of dollars works out to a more than \$113,000 average for each member of the class, which shatters by far the \$88,000 mark set the last two years, which itself was a record for any year in the history of the school.

In addition, the Class of 2015 averaged 27.2 on the ACT, breaking the record of 27.0, which was the average of the last three graduating classes. Also, the counseling department said this year's graduates included 52 who scored a 30 or above on the ACT.

Twenty-eight graduates fill out this year's valedictory court for the class, which also featured 37 candidates for the prestigious International Baccalaureate diploma. And many colleges and universities across the country will welcome these graduates in the fall, including Georgetown, the University of Michigan, Northwestern and the University of Notre Dame.



Notre Dame's Shilling named state Gatorade baseball player of the year

Notre Dame's Luke Shilling, who just graduated as part of the school's Class of 2015, was named Michigan Gatorade State Baseball Player of the Year. Shilling pitched and played first base for the Irish.

He led the Fighting Irish to a 20-10 record and the Division II district tournament. At the time of his selection, Shilling owned a 7-1 record with a 0.70 ERA and 104 strikeouts in 49.2 innings. Ranked as the state's No. 2 prep prospect in the Class of 2015 by Perfect Game USA, he batted .383 with six home runs, 22 RBI and a .704 slugging percentage through 30 games.

The Gatorade State Baseball Players of the Year were selected based on athletic production and impact in the 2014-15 season. Each winner also demonstrated high academic achievement and exemplary personal character, including volunteerism, sportsmanship and community leadership.

Alum named athletic director of the year

De La Salle Collegiate High School Athletic Director Brian Kelly, who graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1977, has been named the Tom Kelly "Athletic Director of the Year" and was honored at the Annual Catholic High School League (CHSL) Hall of



NDP alum Luke Shilling ('15)



NDHS alum
Brian Kelly ('77)

Fame Day on June 8 at the Fern Hill Golf and Country Club.

The CHSL first presented the Athletic Director of the Year award in 1976. Brian accepted the award, named for his father, a longtime fixture in the CHSL. Tom Kelly passed away in 1976 when Brian was about to enter his senior year at Harper Woods Notre Dame.

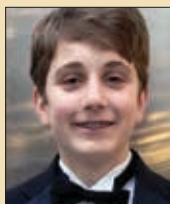
De La Salle Principal Patrick Adams, a close friend of Brian Kelly since their high school days at Harper Woods Notre Dame in the 1970s, said, "Brian's work ethic, passion, and love of De La Salle have served to elevate him to an elite status as an educational leader. He exemplifies all that is right and good at the Collegiate. His efforts are a main reason De La Salle is flourishing at this time, and we are fortunate he wears purple and gold."

Student chosen as a 'Future Science and Technology Leader'

Christian Andre, a sophomore at Notre Dame Prep, was nominated to attend the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders, which was held June 28-30 in Boston, Mass.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

Andre, who is a member of Notre Dame's Killer Bees robotics team, was nominated by former American astronaut Buzz Aldrin, science director of the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists, to represent Notre Dame Prep based on his academic achievement, leadership potential and passion for science and technology.



NDP sophomore
Christian Andre

Notre Dame grad named principal of local school

Rev. Father Michael Gawlowski, president of Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School in Waterford, Mich., announced in April the appointment of Richard Vanden Boom to the position of principal at Our Lady of the Lakes High School.

Originally from Lake Orion and a 2002 Notre Dame Preparatory School graduate, Vanden Boom had been serving in the Delta-Greely School district in Alaska for the past eight years taking on a variety of educational roles. He began teaching high school science and radio broadcasting, before becoming the administrator of the Delta Elementary School that he led to become a blue-ribbon school in 2014.

During this time, Vanden Boom was also the radio station manager at KDHSLP in Delta Junction. He has coached both football and boys basketball, and he received the Aurora Conference Coach of the Year in 2012-2013. He has also been very active in the district as a Health and Wellness Director, a Career and Technical Coordinator, and he won the Delta High School Teacher of the Year award for 2011-2012.



NDP alum
Richard Vanden Boom ('02)

Weddings/Engagements

Alison Stephanic '06 (NDP) married Bobby Robinette on September 27, 2014, on Old Mission Peninsula (Traverse City). They both

work at Eaton Corporation in Galesburg, Michigan.

Sarah Seehaver '02 (NDP) married Brian Eagen of Raleigh, NC, on Mackinac Island in August 2015. Attendants included alums Lisa Taglione ('02 NDP), Gina Iacobelli ('02 NDP) and Jason Seehaver ('04 NDP).

Christine Convery '09 (NDP) I am currently studying public health at the University of Michigan, earning my master's degree in epidemiology. I recently spent the summer in Kashongi, Uganda, as part of my degree program doing research into maternal and infant health in a rural setting. I worked with a nonprofit organization called Progressive Health Partnership, which provides care and health education in 106 different villages. This fall, I am returning to Ann Arbor to finish my coursework and I will graduate April 2016.

Births

Jennifer Bohne '01 (NDP) Mike and I celebrated 10 years of marriage on June 25 this year and we welcomed our son, Kellan, that same day.

Ryan Corocoran '05 (NDP) My wife and I welcomed our first child, a son named Ethan Ryan, on May 7, 2015. He was born healthy and happy, and mom is doing well.

Alumni/staff/faculty rest in peace

Agnes Richer '41 (SM) 8-25-15

Dorothy J. Cauley '40 (SF) 8-12-15

Lenore Troy '65 (SM) 7-25-15

Kelly Patterson '76 (NDHS), brother of Kevin '80 (NDHS) 7-20-15

Jeanette Martin '45 (SM), wife of Leo '46 (SM) 7-18-15

Douglas Kayuk '67 (NDHS), brother of James '71 (NDHS), William '73 (NDHS) and Thomas '74 (NDHS) 7-11-15

Rita Marcero '50 (SM) 7-9-15

Larry Kanarek '73 (NDHS) 7-1-15

Michael McEntaggart '71 (NDHS) 6-25-15

Mark L. Doren '73 (NDHS) 6-24-15

Dennis Pesta '62 (NDHS), brother of Terry, ND '68 6-12-15

John Cauley '40 (SF) 6-9-15

John Wargel '64 (SM) 6-3-15

Robert Mikonowicz '60 (NDHS) 6-3-15

Aloysius E. "Al" Schneider '45 (SM) twin brother of William '45 (SM), **Vincent '44 (SM)**, **Rita '47 (SM)**, **Regis '49 (SM)** and **Catherine '55 (SM)** 5-16-15

Frances (Couture) Agar '49 (SF) 4-14-15

Gary George '71 (NDHS), brother of Richard '70 (NDHS) and uncle of Chris '10 (NDP) 4-10-15

Thomas Matlas '59 (NDHS) 4-5-15

Rev. Paul LaForge, SVD '48 (SF) 3-27-15

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

Book by late priest highlights Marist origins



Acknowledging that summer vacation season has waned, there nonetheless can be no dispute that another one will materialize next year. And just in case France might be on the docket for a 2016 vacation, a book by **Fr. Craig Larkin, S.M.**, a Marist priest and author who died in June at the age of 71, gives a comprehensive account of precisely where in this European country holds significant meaning for the Marists and the origins of the Society of Mary—and could also serve as your French vacation travel guide.

Called "Pilgrimage: A guide-book to places of Marist origins," it's a "pilgrim's guidebook" to places of origin of the Society of Mary, and in particular to the places in France associated with Marist founder Jean-Claude Colin. ■

New turf highlights capital improvements

New field turf, intersection reconstruction included in capital projects approved by Notre Dame board

At the April 2015 meeting of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy's Board of Trustees, a number of capital projects totaling more than \$750,000 was approved to move forward throughout this summer.

One of the biggest projects approved was the installation of new synthetic turf on the William Kozyra Alumni Field. According to school officials, 50% of the cost of the new field has been donated by current trustee William Kozyra, with the rest of the cost coming out of an appropriation from the school's maintenance fund. The new turf features greater concussion prevention versus the current field surface, an alternating-shade-of-green design and colorful renditions of the school's athletic logos.

The vendor selected for the field is Pittsburgh, Pa.-based ProGrass Synthetic Turf Systems, which was the manufacturer and installer of Notre Dame's current 13-year-old field surface. The company has installed hundreds

of field surfaces across the country at schools ranging from UCLA, Seton Hall University and MSU to Grand Valley State University and Barrow High School in Alaska.

Also at the April meeting, NDPMA's Board of Trustees approved the expansion of the intersection of Giddings Road and Walton Boulevard. New left-hand turn traffic signals and left-hand/right-hand turn lanes are installed on both the north and south sides of the intersection to better accommodate traffic during heavily congested times of the school day.

Administration officials said the school financed the intersection reconstruction with the help of an 80/20 matching safety grant from the State of Michigan through the City of Pontiac.

New office space also was approved by the board for the advancement department's Colin House at 1389 Giddings Road. The additional space was added by converting the existing attached garage into usable office space. In addition, the board approved an extension of the decorative fence with brick pillars at the south end of the lower-

division property near the Colin House.

Finally, the restroom facilities in the gymnasium triangle have been reconstructed to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

Notre Dame head of school Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., said he and others in the



Installers from Pro-Grass Synthetic Turf Systems work on the new field turf during the summer.

school community are very pleased with the facility improvements.

"Our head football coach, Pat Fox, has not stopped thanking me and the board for the new turf," said Olszamowski. "I told him that everything we do here is for the kids, and they deserve it."

Olszamowski said that the new turf is costly but long overdue. "I am especially grateful to Bill Kozyra, to whom Alumni Field was dedicated several years ago," Olszamowski said. "And, I am very grateful for the unanimous vote of our stellar Board of Trustees who approved this project and the other special projects after much careful consideration."

Athletic Director Betty Wroubel said she is continually amazed by the generosity of members of the Notre Dame community to make improvements like these happen. "The benefits and impact on our student body cannot be measured." ■



Climbing new heights

Climbing mountains, biomedical engineering and the Spanish language are keeping 2013 alum busy on two continents

Carly Joseph has always been an athlete. She loves to run and her time at Notre Dame included significant contributions to Irish softball and cross-country teams.

But it seems her physical endeavors are picking up the pace even more just as her academics demand more and more of her time and attention.

Joseph is currently pursuing degrees in biomedical engineering and international Spanish from Michigan Tech, located in the state's upper peninsula. However, her studies now have her in Valparaíso, Chile, where she's taking Spanish at the Pontifical Catholic University. When her day is done in the classroom, Joseph heads to the nearest mountain.

"Rock climbing is one of my newer hobbies, and it nicely complements my other mountain passions, which include snowboarding," she said. "Some of my favorite times while living here in Valparaíso have been climbing and chatting with locals on and around the mountains. I've been doing both outdoor and indoor climbing here. I've met some incredibly talented climbers and made lots of new friends there."

It's not the first time she's been on the mountains in South America.

After many years of competitive snowboarding, she made a transition into backcountry snowboarding toward the end of her time at NDP. Since then, she said she's grown to love mountain sports in a whole new way. "In 2013, I took my first avalanche safety certification course. In 2014, I became a Wilderness First Responder. This year, 2015, started with an unsupported 35-day mountaineering expedition in the back country of Chilean Patagonia."

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

Joseph acknowledges that even though it may seem like all of these outdoor passions may not be the most relevant activities toward her academic career path, she firmly believes in complementing the rigors

of high-intensity academics with the endorphins and adrenaline she experiences from climbing, running and the like.

"The mountains have this magical way of teaching so many life skills—humility, perseverance and risk assessment, to name a few—that help me in my day-to-day life," she said. "Climbing, running and snowboarding continue to allow me to meet people from all over the world and experience different cultures. All of these experiences are ultimately what keep my brain alive, engaged, and creative, and I believe they actually help me achieve my goals in academics."

Achieving her academic goals, it appears, is something Joseph is quite familiar with. She graduated Notre Dame as one of the Class of 2013's valedictorians with a cumulative grade point average of 4.356. She also was a member of the National Honor Society, president of the Spanish NHS and president of the NDP's varsity club. She makes sure she gives NDP props for getting her where she is today in and out of the classroom.

"My experience at Notre Dame prepared me well for college," she said. "Learning the importance of being well rounded has allowed me to continue my involvement in a diverse array of activities including undergraduate research and athletics. And the time-management skills I gained at Notre Dame were critical in making a smooth transition into university-level academic and extracurricular commitments. Finally, I believe that Notre Dame helped me develop leadership skills that have served me extremely well from the moment I set foot on campus at Tech. In my first year, I became a leader at our outdoor adventure program, a leader of our career fair, and co-founded a new engineering enterprise team."

SPORTS INJURIES LED TO CAREER PURSUIT

Joseph's initial interest in biomedical engineering stemmed directly from the various injuries she had growing up playing competitive

Please see CLIMBER, page 30



Passion for justice

Notre Dame alum is helping to bring justice for Michigan residents as a forensic scientist with the state police

The Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division includes a network of seven regional laboratories strategically located across the state that serve the communities of Michigan. Technicians and scientists within the department work on everything from determining the identity of unknown substances suspected of being "controlled," to crime-scene analysis, which could include homicides, suspicious deaths, excavations/exhumations, officer-involved shootings and violent or serial assaults.

A relatively recent involvement by the MSP forensics units into the Detroit Police Department's backlog of 11,000 untested sexual assault kits—some dating back more than 30 years—is leading to the resolution of a number of rape cases.

One member of MSP's forensic science division, NDP grad Amanda (Buszek) Fazi ('06), is making her own mark in the state as a forensic scientist who is charged with, she said, "receiving and processing evidence for the presence of biological fluids and developing DNA profiles from evidence to compare to reference samples." Fazi has been employed by the MSP in its biology unit since graduation from college.

"The majority of my work is reporting to crime scenes to assist with forensic processing and evidence collection, and then to testify to my findings as an expert witness in court," said Fazi. She notes that the driving force for her in doing her job is a passion for helping to bring justice to victims of crimes.

Her path to such a career was not necessarily a straight line, though. After graduating Notre Dame in 2006, she enrolled at Wayne State University without a clear idea of what kind of career she would eventually pursue.

FROM THE BANDSTAND TO BIOLOGY

"I jumped right in as a biology major and also continued playing music as an alto saxophone player in one of the WSU jazz ensembles," Fazi said. "I enjoyed my science courses so much that I sought out opportunities to gain experience in biochemistry and ecology research labs."

She worked part-time throughout undergrad, continued to take courses during

the summers, and also volunteered at her church as a catechism teacher.

"I feel that NDP prepared me to successfully balance my studies, work, and volunteer activities throughout college," Fazi said. Also, performing with the NDP bands helped me gain confidence to teach and speak publicly, which now are very important in my line of work."

SCIENCE MEMORIES

Fazi recalls that as a young child her first memories of forensic science was reading about crime-scene investigation in the magazine *Popular Science*. But she didn't consider it as a career choice until her sophomore year of college when she heard a guest speaker present her work as a forensic entomologist.

"From that point on, I was hooked," she said. "I was determined to enter the field of forensic science and actively looked for graduate programs with biology concentrations."

After finishing up at Wayne State, Fazi went on to receive a master's degree from Michigan State University in forensic science, which was a two-year research-based program that included a thesis project involving the development of a sequencing technique for determining sex through poor-quality and low-quantity DNA.

"I also had a wide variety of other experiences in grad school that helped prepare me for my career," she said. "Also, I have been published twice in peer-review journals for my research, which included helping to identify the presence of brucellosis in human remains from the 10th to 13th centuries and working with a team that recovered and analyzed DNA profiles from deflagrated pipe bombs. It's work that I'm quite proud of."

Although her college coursework was demanding and publicly presenting her research to experts in the scientific community was one of the hardest things she's had to do, Fazi nonetheless acquired the experience and confidence needed to successfully perform her job duties.

"It is not always easy to explain DNA

Please see JUSTICE, page 30





Road to excellence

Head of school says in just a short time Notre Dame has come very far. But there still is much to do.

By Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m. '65 (NDHS)

As a Boston College undergrad, I remember well the motto on the school's shield: "Ever to Excel" (in Greek, of course). I

remember my own steep climb to excel-

lence in what back then was one of the ten best English departments in the country. I learned a lot climbing the stairs of the "Towers on the Heights," to old Gasson Hall, where a good part of my tenure was spent. Lots of reading, long nights of composition, old English, middle English, the great vowel shift and more than a person can ever digest in school. At the feet of terrific professors, I learned to ply my trade as both student and teacher. I was invited, pushed, and shoved to "Excel." I have to admit I was better prepared than I thought, falling back on the great high school education I received at Notre Dame in Harper Woods. Some people, not all, know that I went to school until I was thirty-five, before the Marist Fathers finally told me to go to work. I developed a great love of learning, having been taught by some of the best. I remain a lifelong learner and sometimes teacher.

It seems only natural that when I took the helm at both Notre Dame in Harper Woods and Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy in Pontiac, that I was on a mission to continue a great tradition of excellence at my alma mater and build, almost from scratch, a tradition of excellence at the Prep and Academy. For me, building a great school, is both a mission and a compulsion; and, in my own passionate way (having attended wonderful schools and having had great teachers), I knew what I "had" to do. So, building excellence at Harper Woods Notre Dame during my tenure there continues here at NDPMA. They are both schools in which I take great pride. And both schools were built in the Marist Fathers way with loving care as Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, our founder, prescribed.

Many people have asked me how we, the Marists, could build such good schools. In the case of Notre Dame in Harper Woods it was already there; I only helped push it along. In the case of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, the answer remains simple to state but complex to deliver.

First, we, Marists, possess an unrelenting belief in the power of the Mother of God, Mary, whom we see as the force behind all we do. How often I have said that Mary always seems to come through and drop what we need in our laps. So the first part of the recipe for our school is belief and prayer. Second, great people. It is hard to fathom how so many wonderful teachers and staff were led to come our way, willing to work as ministers of the gospel and ardent advocates for young people. I was proud of the staff I worked with at Notre Dame High School and equally proud of the staff I work with today at Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy. Third, hard work. We have, by "getting into it up to our elbows and sweating it out," built one of the best schools in the state, perhaps, the Midwest; and we are not even what is often considered a mature school. We are only 22 years old. And, since school-building is very much like people-building, we are just moving out of adolescence—full of ideas to build a future fueled with the vigor to execute the dream. Fourth, hard cash, provided by men of great vision at the Archdiocese of Detroit, who, led by Cardinal Adam Maida, took the risk by inviting the Marist Fathers and investing a lot of money to rebuild (we say, "re-engineer") the school. And by men like Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., and his provincial council, who had the courage to accept a school in northern Oakland County.

We say that we have come from humble beginnings to where we are

today. From a school of 183 students and 16 staff members in our first year, we are as I write this article at 1,165 students (our highest enrollment since 2001-2002) and 145 staff members who offer a cornucopia of traditional, honors and AP courses; and of course, our distinctive and engaging International Baccalaureate programs—the only Catholic high school in the country to offer the Diploma, Middle Years, and Primary Years programs under one roof.

And what a blessing the International Baccalaureate programs have been for our school. Each program (DP, MYP and PYP) has raised the educational bar considerably, and our entire staff and student body have risen to meet that bar. The IB, unlike the AP, is not a series of à-la-carte discrete courses; it is based on the "IB Learner Profile" and "Approaches to Teaching and Learning" that address both the hard-skill aspects of academic education and the soft-skill dynamics of growing up to meet the needs of today's society. It addresses the heart and mind of students, helping them exercise their personal and intellectual talents. Ask any IB student what this "Quest for Excellence" has done for them. It was a steep educational mountain, yes, but well worth the climb!

It would be foolish to say that Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy is a school for every student. Students must be prepared to engage people and the curriculum. Extracurricular activities often help to take care of the people-engagement part; a student's educational background and willingness to explore new ideas addresses the schooling part. Finally, students must be "mission-oriented" to act in a Christian manner engaging other people as good school citizens, while absorbing well their academic subject, employing critical-thinking skills.

You may be asking the question, "Where is this school going? Some of us have been here for many years, and we certainly know where the school has been as well as the pitfalls to be avoided. We are growing in size and prowess, but there is limit to growth. We would like to grow our middle and lower divisions by perhaps as many as 50 students each. However, we are not pursuing major growth in the upper division; a growth of only about 25 more students is in the cards. We want our upper division to be strong across the board and not lose anyone in the cracks. 775 students or so allows us to build a strong curriculum and still give needed attention to individuals. We are a very good school but strive for greatness as we fulfill our school mission.

We now see a need to add more academic, arts and athletic space to the campus. Our master plan shows our current campus of about 100 acres. We are currently concentrating on adding a new wing in back of the 1300 Giddings campus to serve both the middle and upper divisions. The plan also shows a new chapel, a new welcome center, a new performing-arts building, and new athletic complex at the south end of the 1300 Giddings property. For now, we hope to add the new wing (around 35-40,000 square feet) in the next couple of years.

We have recently added a new campus for the lower division and, if the enrollment warrants, we plan to expand the building by six classroom and more restrooms. In time, we plan to build a high school-sized gymnasium on the open field west of the lower division school building.

We are a school that follows the price/value model inasmuch as we give the education we can for what we charge. We distinguish our school from others by offering a Marist Fathers approach to Catholic education

Please see ROAD, page 30

CLIMBER, from page 27

softball and snowboarding.

"I spent a lot of time in doctors' offices, getting MRIs, and having follow-up assessments, etc.," she said. "One of the orthopedic surgeons I visited noticed I had a genuine interest in understanding the science behind



Carly Joseph as a graduating senior at Notre Dame Prep in 2013.

my injury and recovery outcome. So he offered to help me get a tour of the biomedical engineering lab that he worked with."

That experience, plus always asking questions to doctors and biomedical engineers during her early years at NDP,

inspired her to pursue biomedical engineering at Michigan Tech, she said.

BONDING AND COMMUNITY

Now two years out of high school, Joseph still savors her time at Notre Dame. "My favorite memories from NDP are bonding with my teammates on cross country and softball, as well as attending and leading Kairos retreats," she said. "Also, I can't thank Sra. Tessada and Sra. Anderson enough for being excellent Spanish teachers. They paved the way for me to have a great foundation in Spanish that has been so important to me, especially while living in South America."

She also misses the community aspect of her Notre Dame experience. "It's something that I didn't quite realize how special it was until I left. It is truly incredible the support and encouragement that everyone at NDP gave me during my years there, and it continues to pay dividends to this day," she said.

"I really would like to see future generations of students have a great experience at NDP as well. They will be the next leaders at their universities and in the world." ■

JUSTICE, from page 28

processing to juries, who have a wide array of education and preconceived assumptions about forensic science based on shows like CSI," Fazi said. "My job often exposes the worst and lowest points of people's lives, yet I work diligently in each case to objectively analyze the evidence from these crimes."

WARM WELCOME TO NDP

Looking back again to high school, Fazi said

she is forever grateful for the warm welcome she received as a transfer student to Notre Dame Prep from Regina High School. "I felt so blessed to become a part of the Irish family. And some of my favorite memories at NDP were band practices and performances with band director Mr. Martin."

The experience at NDP in Pontiac wasn't her first encounter with the Notre Dame family, however. Not by a long shot. Fazi's father, Maynard Buszek, graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1972 and her husband, Joe Fazi, graduated from NDHS in 2002. And Joe's dad? He's Frank Fazi, a 1973 Notre Dame alum. Oh, and Amanda's brother, Matthew, graduated

ROAD, from page 29

along with the blossoming International Baccalaureate program.

Down the road, we may add a STEM, STEAM or STREAM program, but for now, we have neither the technical programmatic expertise nor the resources to offer such a complex program. The program calls for more than just building small or large robots (although we participate in robotic competition through FIRST, VEX, and Lego League); a STEM-type program calls for a considerably different set of teaching skills and equipment, which we do not possess at this time.

Our main aim is to be an academic school of excellence at a price many families can afford. We also offer very fine athletics and arts programs (fine and performing). We have a vision for the future, both short- and long-range; but we do not want to overreach and end up thinning out or spoiling what we have carefully built.

Today, our school is doing very well. We have a fine student body and teaching staff. We see the need for more space but not a lot more students. We see areas for improvement, and we are addressing those areas as time and money allow. Just moving out of what I have called "school adolescence," we are forging our future despite growing pains. We, the Marists, our Board of Trustees and our staff associates believe we have a bright future. We believe that we are successful because we do what we do so well. We are not prone to jump on fad bandwagons or undertake unrealistic projects. You might say we are maturing with grace. As Jesus once said, "The good steward is the one that can bring forth from his storehouse both the old and the new." We think we are good stewards of your children's Christian education by adhering closely to our Catholic, Marist mission. ■

from NDHS in 2002.

Amanda Fazi loved her time at NDP and has an obvious longtime family connection with Notre Dame and the Marists. She believes that because the school has truly helped shape her into the person she is today, it's important to remember where she and all her fellow alums came from and acknowledge those important influences in their lives.

"The Marists and NDP have always been close to my heart and have been with me for many milestones in my life—from high school to my wedding," she said. "I hope that I will be able to continue to support my alma mater and to share with others how it was such a big part of my life." ■

PUBLISH, from page 10

BRAND-WISE

It's not just the editorial side Sobodash keeps an eye on. He oversaw a complete redesign of the look of Beijing Today and managed an overall brand-identity revamp that included a new logo, a company seal and other branded materials.

If all that isn't enough to keep him busy, Sobodash also spent the last few months doing all the visual identity (logo, brand colors, etc.) and content work for Talkmate (talkmate.com), a new startup company that's offering free Rosetta Stone-like language learning software.

It's pretty cool, he said, and it's one of the only places you can go online to learn a lot of less popular languages like Uyghur, Tibetan, Kazak and Persian. "They have 36 languages so far, if I recall correctly."

Sobodash is a busy guy, so we're glad he spent a few minutes updating his high school alma mater. But he left the best update for last...

"In very uplifting and joyous news, my wife and I welcomed our first two children, Rozalia and Viktor Sobodash, into the world this January." ■



Sobodash and his wife, Liu Chenlu, live near Beijing with their two children, Rozalia and Viktor Sobodash.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOHN POMPONI '99 (NDP)

CLASS REUNIONS

NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Class of 2004

Planning for the 11-year reunion has begun; please contact Paula Gialdi for more information. pmgialdi@gmail.com.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1965

The 50-year reunion is scheduled for September 25-27. Invitations will be out by the middle of August. Alumni are invited to attend an NDP football game on Friday, golf Saturday morning, dinner and dance Saturday night, Mass Sunday morning and a farewell brunch following. Please contact Dennis Berger at dennisaberger@aol.com (909) 223-4483 or Fr. Leon Olszawski at lolszawski@ndpma.org

Class of 1966

Planning for next year's 50-year reunion has begun. Larry Scemczak, Chet Semczak and Bill Schroeder are compiling updated contact info. Please contact Chet at ctszerlag@aol.com.

Class of 1972

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

Class of 1975

40-year reunion is planned for the weekend of September 11-12. Dinner Friday, September 11, at Andiamo Warren at 7 p.m. Golf Saturday, September 12, at Red Run. Tee times beginning at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Kris Powell at kristopher@benepro.com or Joe Vicari at joev@andiamoitalia.com.

Class of 1984

30-year reunion is being planned. Reunion committee contacts: Todd Grzelewski, tsg663@aol.com; Paul Gaynor, prgaynor05@yahoo.com; and Andy Guest, aguest@ndpma.org.

Class of 1986

Will be planning a 30-year reunion for 2016. Reunion committee: John Kaminski at jkaminski1700@yahoo.com. H: (612) 822-4759 C: (952) 261-5546; Dan O'Brien at dobrien734@comcast.net (248) 840-8391; Paul Arnone at paul.c.arnone@gm.com; Stephen Schultz at stephen2000_fl@yahoo.com; Jonathan Zaidan at jkmzc@sbcglobal.net.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC

Class of 1975 planning is in the works. Please send updated contact information to Tim McDonald at timothymcdonald@comcast.net, or James "Davis" Clark at tahoejimmyd@gmail.com.

OAKLAND CATHOLIC

None scheduled at this time.

ST. FREDERICK

All-school reunion planned for Sunday, September 13. Please contact Jim Russell with any questions: 248-363-4209.

ST. MICHAEL

All-school reunion scheduled for Sunday, September 20, at Notre Dame Preparatory School. Please contact Lance Butler at (248) 335-5243.

NOTRE DAME UPCOMING EVENTS

MAKE IT MATTER DAY

Friday, October 2: Join Notre Dame Prep in a morning of community service on "Make It Matter Day," which is an opportunity for more than 1,150 students and their teachers to focus on the "Christian persons" aspect of the school mission. The goal was to make something useful for people in need in the metropolitan Detroit area and in other parts of the world. This year we are hoping alums will join us in this fun and charitable event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lauren (Tuski) Snyder '09 (NDP) at ltuski@gmail.com

HOMECOMING 2015

Friday, October 9: New this year! Alumni pregame tailgate at the Fr. Colin House starting at 5 p.m. Alumni tent celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. BBQ buffet served at 7 p.m. Varsity football game vs. River Rouge High School – 7:30 p.m. at the William Kozyra Alumni Field. **FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL ALUMNI.** All alumni and guests are invited to join in this momentous event as we celebrate our rich history of Catholic education.

2ND ANNUAL NOTRE DAME FUN RUN

Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m.: Brought to you by the Notre Dame Alumni Association. The Notre Dame Alumni Association (NDAA) is excited for homecoming weekend activities to continue on Saturday morning with the first ever Notre Dame Fun Run. This 5K run/walk will take place on the beautiful campus of NDPMA. Pre-registration is available at ndpma.org as well as walk up registration on Saturday morning. Cost is \$22 per person and kids under age 10 are free. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the event will begin at 9 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for ALL alumni to come back or if you have never been to campus to see it firsthand. Please join us for this wonderful event.

OKTOBERFEST

Saturday, October 3: 6 p.m. at NDPMA, Pontiac. \$50,000 Super Raffle drawing to be held at 9 p.m. Tickets \$30.00 per person. Includes barbeque dinner, beer, wine, live music, dancing and entry to door prizes. Adults 21+ only. Tickets can be purchased from Joan Kopytek in the Advancement Office at (248) 373-2171 ext. 2.

GOT PEOPLE?

We've got answers!



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

Contact us today for a free one-hour assessment.



People: *Your Greatest Asset, Your Greatest Challenge*

Kristopher Powell (NDHS '75)

Kristopher@hrpro.biz

248-543-8181 ext. 1010

Christina Roberts (NDP '08)

CRoberts@hrpro.biz

248-543-2644 ext. 1006

www.hrpro.biz