

IRISH

ISSUE 23

Fall 2019

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The silver anniversary of Notre Dame brings reflections of the past and a roadmap for the future

22 EVERYDAY MOMENTS
2018-2019 Honor Roll of Donors





**NOTRE DAME FALL OPEN HOUSE // GRADES 6-12
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 // PROGRAM BEGINS AT NOON**

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IRISH

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IRISH magazine is dedicated to alumni, parents and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy and our heritage schools, including Notre Dame High School, Pontiac/Oakland Catholic High School, St. Michael High School and St. Frederick High School.

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Under the mantle of Mary, a child was born on July 1, 1994. We called it Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.

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HAPPY 25th!

Our Lady's school in Pontiac has flourished since Cardinal Adam Maida first invited The Marist Fathers and Brothers to this beautiful campus 25 years ago. At the core of our success has been adherence to the mission of Marist schools worldwide. Our mission remains as valid today as it did when The Society of Mary was first recognized as an order in 1836. In the words of the Society's founder, Fr. Jean-Claude Colin:

"The duty of teachers toward students in school is threefold, namely: above all else to train them to be faithful and active *disciples of Christ*; to instruct them in all virtues so that they may grow to be *upright and decent citizens*, profitable to society; and lastly, to *teach them letters* and various branches of knowledge."

Our mission has always been one of hope. Notre Dame has made the world a better place by following the example of Mary, the Mother of God. As an educational apostolate, our mission comes to life daily in each one of our students. Yes, we teach them lessons, but students also learn to be citizens of the world and, most importantly, disciples of Christ.

Young people face more obstacles today than ever before. The influence of social media and the pressure to be connected 24 hours a day, seven days a week is leading to an increase in student anxiety and depression across the United States.

There are three priorities that I have set for the school. They tie into our Marist mission and are supported by the school's strategic plan. They are, in order, the health and wellness of the student body, a safe and inclusive environment, and excellent academics. These priorities live within the context of our Christian faith.

The health and wellness of the student body is the most important priority for our teachers, staff and administration. Tending to the student's social and emotional needs, as well as their academic needs, will ultimately make them better learners. They will be more prepared for college and for life.

A safe and inclusive environment is also important for our school. Students need to know that they are welcome at Notre Dame, that they can grow academically, socially and spiritually in a supportive community where faculty, staff and parents work hand-in-hand to support them. This opportunity extends to children of all religious, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Children need to know that they matter. They need to know that they belong.

Academic excellence has been the cornerstone to our success since the very beginning. More than anything else, alumni tell us how well they were prepared for college. This is one of the main reasons that we continue to be ranked as the No. 1 Catholic high school and the No. 3 private Pre-K to 12th grade school in Michigan, according to Niche.com.

We are also the first Catholic school in the United States and the only Catholic school in Michigan authorized to teach the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) from Pre-K to 12th grade. The IB pedagogy has defined a Notre Dame education since 2007 and is the perfect platform to encourage inquiring minds in this brave new world.

The Marist Fathers and Brothers are an exemplary group of men who have given their lives to education in Michigan. Alumni from Notre Dame Preparatory School and our heritage school, Harper Woods Notre Dame, have seen their commitment firsthand. On page 16 of this issue, you will find an interview with the Marist men who have dedicated their lives to this beloved school.

There will come a day when the laity will be called on to carry forth the work of the Marists in Michigan. One of our strategic initiatives is to ensure that the transition of knowledge, what we call Mary's Way, is successful. We will be sharing more information with alumni, parents and friends in the months ahead about how we, as lay people, can help guide our Catholic, Marist mission into the next 25 years.

Andrew J. Guest ND'84
Head of School

Debatin supe

One of the more popular camps this past summer at Notre Dame, "Forensics Edge: Speech and Debate," was given high marks by its participants.

"That was the most fun I have had... like EVER," said Manath Mohindra, who attended Notre Dame Middle School.

Allison Voto, a current freshman at Notre Dame Preparatory School, said that she "loved it! It was so much fun!"

What Mohindra and Voto and others in the camp were excited about is a now two-years-running speech and debate camp that Notre Dame sponsors in collaboration with Eastern Michigan University's forensics and debate team, which is the top college program in Michigan and arguably one of the top programs in the United States.

"Getting college debate coaches to Notre Dame for a summer camp is a great opportunity for students, whether they plan to be competitors on a debate team or just want to be better speakers," said LeAnne Schmidt, who teaches the eighth-grade individuals and societies class and seventh-grade writing and manages the debate activity at NDPMA. She acknowledges, however, that the camp may be popular due to the subject matter of some of the debates.

"Of course, our superhero debate always is popular," she said. "The kids learn debate protocols while they're making cases for superhero matchups in Sweet 16-style brackets. Because they know the material and subject matter from popular culture, and it's not that intimidating, they quickly learn the affirmative/negative rotations and cross-examination skills before moving on

Notre Dame forensic activities gear up for 25th season after spending part of the summer at Eastern Michigan University debating superheroes.

to meatier, more Congressional topics in the final debates. Even veteran debaters ask to return for the superhero debates.”

LARGEST PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY

As school began in late August, Notre Dame’s debate activities, which include those in the middle school and high school, were gearing up for a big year of competition and events.

In the middle school, all students by default become members of the National Speech and Debate Association’s National Forensic League. That type of all-inclusive participation has made Notre Dame’s middle school the largest middle school speech and debate program in the United States.

“At all grade levels and in all classes, students earn honor points for speeches and classroom demonstrations, incrementally building their experience and skill as public speakers in all types of presentation and performance,” Schmidt said. “Students also earn recognition for engaging in speeches in service to the school, such as daily announcements, mass readings, and speaking to groups of parents, students and guests.”

LUCK OF THE IRISH TOURNEY

At the high school level, Notre Dame Prep is a longtime participant in debate and forensics.

“For 25 years, NDP has competed in the Detroit Catholic Forensic League and its parent organization, the National Catholic Forensic League, including regularly qualifying students for the national tournament,” Schmidt said. “And NDP is a founding member of the Great Lakes Debate League, engaging in Congressional Debates locally, and the school participates in both the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics



Association (MIFA) and the MSCI Mackinac Conference.”

“For the last eight years, we also have hosted the Luck of the Irish Invitational tournament on St. Patrick’s Day weekend to share school spirit with the state speech and debate community,” Schmidt added. “It has become a magnet for both high school and middle school competitors looking for a day of enjoyable competition and camaraderie.”

AWARD WINNING AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING

Notre Dame students have brought home their fair share of debate awards, according to Schmidt.

“John Kenny, who graduated last May, was our first NSDA Academic All-American,” she said. “He also was named the best legislator at Michigan Youth in Government and was the No. 1 NSDA Congressional debater in the state. Last year, Amishi Mahajan, as a 10th grader, and Katie Schmidt, as a ninth grader, qualified for and competed at the National Catholic Forensic League Nationals in May. Six NDPMA middle schoolers competed on Mackinac Island for the MSCI state tournament, also in May.”

Schmidt said while this year’s forensic schedule is still being firmed up, she is pretty sure that it will be “one for the record books.” «

Irish News

NOTRE DAME'S BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS

Bolstering an already robust, experienced and dedicated school board, Notre Dame announced in September that its Board of Trustees approved the nomination of Janice Suchan P'19 as a trustee.

The board also announced the appointment of alumnus and longtime Notre Dame advocate David Rice ND'81 to a position on the board's Education and Student Affairs committee. In addition, Elizabeth Brisley, a trustee since August 2017, was appointed as the Education and Student Affairs committee chair, replacing Rob Huth, whose term on the board recently ended.

Currently a member of the board's building committee, Suchan, whose daughter, Jamie Finn, graduated from Notre Dame Prep last May, is senior principal and sector leader for the Detroit-area office of Stantec Architecture, a full-service global architectural and engineering firm. A 1994 graduate of the University of Detroit, Suchan has devoted her entire career to the management, development and design of educational facilities across the United States.

"Janice has been a valuable member of our building committee and a wonderful resource for ideas and architectural guidance as we put the finishing touches on our new Easterwood Wing," said Stephen Pangori, chair of NDPMA's Board of Trustees. "She is totally committed to NDPMA's Catholic, Marist mission and both her faith and business expertise will be most welcome as we make plans for further improvements in our



school community."

Well-versed in the science and art of architecture as well as its business and management, Suchan has been recognized by Crain's Detroit Business as a "40 Under 40" rising star and early in her career was named American Institute of Architects Detroit's "Young Architect of the Year." She also serves as a member of both the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture Advisory Board and the ACE Mentorship Board's Michigan Chapter.

"I've truly enjoyed the time I've spent so far serving on the board's building committee," said Suchan, who is a member of the St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish in Auburn Hills, Mich. "I believe that my architectural expertise, leadership skills and strategic-planning experience can be of further value to Notre Dame as we consider future building or campus projects."

David Rice, who was named to the Notre Dame board's Education and Student Affairs committee, is the chief financial officer at Farmington Hills, Mich.-based P&C Group I Inc., a privately held automotive supplier of metal seat structures. Prior to this, he was the vice president and chief financial officer of Horizon Global Corp., a global towing and trailering solutions provider in Troy, Mich. Before Horizon, Rice was the division finance officer with

ABOVE LEFT

Janice Suchan, left, was appointed to Notre Dame's Board of Trustees. David Rice was appointed to the board's Education and Student Affairs committee.

ABOVE RIGHT

Notre Dame Preparatory School was named the top Catholic high school in the state by Niche.com.



TriMas Corp. in Bloomfield Hills.

A 1981 graduate of Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods, Mich., Rice, whose late father, Hal Rice, was a veteran teacher at NDHS and NDP, said he is passionate about Notre Dame and the Marists.

"As the child of a longtime educator at Notre Dame, I literally grew up around the school and the Marist Fathers and Brothers," he said. "I am committed to the school's mission and look forward to the opportunity to be directly associated once again with both the Society of Mary and Notre Dame."

Rice received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Wayne State University, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. He and his family are active parishioners of the St.

Isidore Catholic Community in Macomb, Mich.

Trustee Elizabeth Brisley P'14, P'20, P'21, who was named chair of the board's Education and Student Affairs committee, has been a tireless supporter of Notre Dame and its students, according to Head of School Andy Guest.

"During this past summer, Liz spent countless hours working with our Corporate President, Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., and me on setting goals and addressing strategic initiatives for her committee," Guest said. "We couldn't be more pleased that someone with Liz's experience, organizational skills and dedication to Catholic education will be leading such an important committee."

NDP RANKED NO. 1 IN THE STATE

Notre Dame Preparatory School was named the top Catholic high school in Michigan for 2020, marking the fourth time in five years the school has earned the ranking according to Niche, a national organization that



ABOVE

Notre Dame's 2019 IB-Diploma candidates were celebrated April 8, 2019, in a ceremony held in the school's media center.

also are part of the rating process. Much of the data and statistics are obtained by the U.S. Department of Education, according to Niche.

PERFECT SCORES HIGHLIGHT NOTRE DAME PREP'S 2019 IB RESULTS

Thirty-nine students from Notre Dame's International Baccalaureate Class of 2019 found out in early July that they had successfully earned the IB diploma for the past school year. As reported by school officials, the more than three-out-of-four diploma percentage represents a higher success rate than NDP's 2018 IB class, which topped the previous year's worldwide average.

According to Kim Anderson, who is the IB Diploma program coordinator at NDPMA and chair of the modern language department, Notre Dame Prep also had nine students earn perfect scores in the following IB courses: Spanish (2), History (1), Math Studies (5) and English: Language and Literature (1).

"Earning a perfect 7 is a big

deal," she said. "Earning nine 7s in one class is a huge deal. It's like a unicorn. It doesn't happen that often anywhere. We also had everyone in the class pass the Theory of Knowledge course and five in the class each earned an A in Extended Essay, both very notable achievements."

TODDLER PROGRAM ADDED TO LOWER SCHOOL

Priscilla Chan, a pediatrician by training and the wife of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, noted recently that learning cognition occurs much earlier in a child than when most of them are first introduced to school.

"The majority of brain development happens in the first five years of life," said Chan in a recent op-ed piece published by a number of news outlets. "And still, most children start school at age 5. By then, much of the wiring that enables learning and socio-emotional management is in place."

Chan founded The Primary School in East Palo Alto, Calif., which recently announced it was adding a toddler program to its existing Pre-K-through-8 curriculum.

Like Chan's school, Notre Dame's lower school also introduced a toddler component for children 18 months to age 3 to its current Pre-K-through-5 program this school year. It is based on a developmentally-

focused, play-based model in which children play, explore, learn and grow.

"Over the past few years, more and more parents have been coming forward and asking if we offer a toddler or infant program," said Diana Atkins, principal of Notre Dame's lower school. "The idea of having all children in a family at one school location, on the same schedule, is very appealing to many parents. Additionally, having the benefits of introducing our Marist philosophy and values to children at an earlier age in such a nurturing and caring environment fits perfectly with our goal of educating the 'whole child.'"

Those enrolled in the Notre Dame toddler program will follow the same schedule as the other students in the lower school, according to Atkins, and also will have available the lower school's extended-care option, which is available before and after the regular school schedule at 7-7:45 a.m. and 3:05-6 p.m.

NOTRE DAME'S WROUBEL NAMED NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

The National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA), a professional organization of school coaches and athletic directors, has named Notre Dame's Betty

SEE IRISH NEWS ON PAGE 20

annually ranks colleges and K-12 schools across the country.

Niche previously ranked NDP the state's No. 1 Catholic high school in 2016, 2018 and 2019.

Niche also rated Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy the No. 3-ranked private K-12 school in the state, religious or non-religious, on a list that included Cranbrook, Detroit Country Day and University Liggett.

According to Niche, the 2019 Best Catholic High Schools ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall experience at a Catholic high school. The ranking takes into account key factors such as the strength of academics, school culture and diversity, as well as student and parent reviews, in an attempt to measure the overall excellence of the school.

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

Parent and student surveys of opinions on the overall experience at each school



25 YEARS OF PROGRESS

After a quarter century, NDPMA brings reflections of the past and a roadmap for the future

In an article published Feb. 5, 1993, in *The Michigan Catholic*, then-Archbishop Adam Maida announced that he had invited the Society of Mary (Marist Fathers and Brothers) to oversee the operation of Oakland Catholic High School in Pontiac, beginning in the fall of 1994.

The Society of Mary agreed to establish Notre Dame Preparatory School at the request of Maida, who made the offer to Fr. Joseph Hindelang, s.m., Provincial Superior of the Marists, based primarily on the excellent reputation enjoyed by the Marists at Harper Woods Notre Dame, which closed in 2005.

The site on Giddings Road in northern Oakland County was built originally as Pontiac Catholic Central High School in 1968, when two Pontiac area schools, St. Michael and St. Frederick, merged. In 1988, the school was rebranded as Oakland Catholic High School.

"The Marists bring their great dedication and proven history at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods, and I know the people in Oakland County are very excited about this," Maida said at the time. "I look forward to working with the Marists to make it the premier high school in the archdiocese."

ABOVE

The robotics center in the Easterwood Wing.

1994 Notre Dame Preparatory School is founded in Pontiac on the former campus of Oakland Catholic High School.

1996 Notre Dame's middle school is established in the main campus building.

1998 Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, declares Notre Dame in Pontiac his "miracle school."

1995 22 seniors cross the stage as Notre Dame Prep's first graduating class.

1997 Notre Dame's D Wing, which houses the middle school, is extended.

1998 88 members of the first class to spend four years at NDP graduate.

1994-1998



LEFT

The campus of Oakland Catholic High School in 1993.

CENTER

NDP students pose with a sign when the school opened in 1994.

LOWER LEFT

Former Notre Dame art teacher Kirby Smith.

LOWER RIGHT

Former Notre Dame Middle School Principal Sandy Favrow.

On Aug. 28, 1994, Notre Dame Preparatory School began its first year with a meeting of teachers, administrators and staff around four small tables in the library of the former Oakland Catholic building. The meeting included only 18 staff members and consisted of veteran teachers from three of Notre Dame's heritage schools: Harper Woods Notre Dame, Pontiac Catholic High School and Oakland Catholic High School.

Drawing on a mission conceived by Society of Mary founder Fr. Jean-Claude Colin in 1829 and the experience of graduating from and later teaching at Notre Dame High School, Marist Fathers Leon Olszamowski, Jim Strasz and Joe Hindelang formulated a vision: Notre Dame Preparatory School would be "the school of choice in Oakland County."

The following day, on Aug. 29, the faculty and staff welcomed 183 students to a new school in the refurbished Oakland Catholic building. It was on that day that students heard for the first time the defining phrase in the mission of the new school: "With God, we form Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars."

One of those 18 faculty and staff members was Kirby Smith*, who became the art teacher at the newly opened school.

"I do recall hearing about our mission and

that I knew immediately that NDP was the place for me," said Smith, who also taught art at Cranbrook and Harper Woods Notre Dame. "I also remember that the art room I was given was pretty small. I scouted the school and found an unlikely vacant home economics room that would work well.

"Fr. Leon was very helpful. He always supported the arts, but he had to call downtown to the Archdiocese for approval. I had the room until a new wing was built with two art rooms that I designed. The larger room with lots of storage, included four sinks, a kiln room and a private office with even more storage. I then built and bought display items and had two showings every year. It truly was an exciting time for both me and the students."

A longtime Notre Dame teacher who came up to Pontiac when the Harper Woods school closed was Ken Parent. He taught on the NDPMA campus for three years, first as a physical education teacher along with health classes and some intramurals. He then became the alumni director part-time for two years before he finally retired in 2008.

"I felt very welcome because of some of the old familiar faces from NDHS who were already there," he said. "And it didn't take long to feel at home with the other new faces. Eventually, I felt comfortable once I got to



know most of the students by name."

HIGH SCHOOL GROWS AND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKES ROOT

Twenty-two seniors crossed the stage as Notre Dame's first graduating class in the spring of 1995.

The original plan for the new school included a middle school, which began with soon-to-be principal Sandra Favrow and not much more than a desk, a pad of paper and a pen. In August of 1996, Notre Dame opened its doors to 162 students in grades six, seven and eight, including the younger siblings of 39 Notre Dame Prep students who were enrolled in the high school at the time.

Favrow, who retired in 2010, said in her 40 years as a high school teacher and administrator, no other position could compare to her 15 years at Notre Dame.

"Excellent teachers, lifelong friendships, bright, lively students, what more could you ask for?" she said. "For me, being part of opening a Catholic and Marist middle school was the opportunity of a lifetime. I truly love NDPMA.

As Fr. Leon always reminded all of us, to be a successful school, we must follow the mission in becoming good Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars. I thank God that Fr. Leon and the Marists offered me the position in 1995 so that I could enjoy being a part of this exceptional

1999 Notre Dame builds new media center/library on main campus.

1999 B-Wing is added and cafetorium expanded.

2002 Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., named president of NDPMA.

2003 Notre Dame opens a lower school in the former St. Benedict building in Waterford.

2005 Notre Dame is named one of the nation's Top 50 Catholic schools.

2007 Notre Dame is authorized by the International Baccalaureate organization to offer the IB Diploma Program (DP) to its high school juniors and seniors.

1999-2003

2004-2008



AS FR. LEON ALWAYS REMINDED ALL OF US,
TO BE A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL, WE MUST
FOLLOW THE MISSION IN BECOMING GOOD
CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, UPRIGHT CITIZENS AND
ACADEMIC SCHOLARS.



educational institution.”

Notre Dame’s middle school, along with Holy Family Regional School, St. Joseph School, St. Benedict School and St. Lawrence School, continued to provide the core group of students necessary to make Notre Dame Prep thrive as a high school.

In four short years after opening its doors, Notre Dame was proclaimed to be a “miracle school” by Archbishop Maida.

ALUMNI SHINE

The Class of 1998 was the first to spend a full four years at NDP and the remarkable success of the still-young school came through clearly in the accomplishments of that class. The graduation of those 88 students brought NDP’s first acceptances to the University of Notre Dame, Northwestern University and Boston College, among other elite schools.

The class also was NDP’s first to eclipse \$1 million in college scholarships. In addition, the Class of 1998 helped usher in the now-thriving theatre and band programs, launched a first-class service project by spending nearly 400 hours restoring a home in the city of Pontiac, and won the school’s first regional championships in athletics. The class also included NDP’s first National Merit Scholarship finalist and an All-State First Team selection in athletics.

Dr. Leah (Kohler) Spring NDP’98 is a board-certified dermatologist as well as a commander in the U.S. Navy. She recalled her time at NDP fondly.



“My favorite NDP memories included Sturpee Thursdays in AP Biology and Mr. [Gregory] Simon getting so excited about government class that he was almost leaping around the room,” she said. “Also, anything in Mrs. Bembas’s classes and how Brother Louis knew and enthusiastically greeted every student in our class — even at our 20-year reunion!”

NEW LOWER SCHOOL

The school’s story took another unexpected

turn in 2003 when, in an era when closing and consolidating Catholic schools was commonplace, Notre Dame ventured out and opened an elementary school, which took its form first in a location with an already established history of Catholic education.

Notre Dame Marist Academy’s lower school opened on the campus of St. Benedict School and Parish in Waterford. St. Benedict, which originally was a strong feeder school to Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic and Notre Dame Prep, began to struggle in the early 2000s and eventually closed.

The Marists agreed to open the school and, throughout the following summer, volunteers and staff from Notre Dame turned out to help prepare the building. On Sept. 2, 2003, the Marists, then-middle school principal Favrow and her staff welcomed 110 new students into the Notre Dame family.

Before long, Notre Dame’s lower school students began to outperform their peers on the IOWA Test of Basic Skills, but more importantly, they fully embraced the mission of being “good Christian people and upright citizens” in an elementary learning environment that challenged students in academics, art, athletics, service and prayer.

Diana Atkins, who eventually took over from Favrow as principal of the lower school in 2005, said that when she first hired in to

2008 The Jim Grimaldi Athletic Center and Beverly Gifford Music Center are completed.

2009 Notre Dame’s middle school is authorized to offer the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) to sixth-through-10-grade students.

2010 Notre Dame’s athletic program earns Michigan’s only Exemplary Athletic Program award

2010 Notre Dame’s lower school is authorized to offer the IB Primary Years Program (PYP).

2010 The Betty A. Wroubel Athletic Performance Center opens on the main campus.

2004-2008

2009-2013

OPPOSITE

Dr. Leah (Kohler) Spring, a dermatologist and commander in the U.S. Navy, is a member of NDP's Class of 1998.

RIGHT

The Notre Dame Lower School moved to Pontiac in 2013.

LOWER RIGHT

Former NDP Vice Principal Donna Kotzan.



teach middle school English and geometry at Notre Dame, she knew she had found a home.

"During my interview with Sandy, I knew I wanted to be a part of the amazing program Notre Dame offered its students," she said. "The mission resonated with my own values, and I wanted to share my talents with the students here."

In 2013, Notre Dame's lower school, which includes students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, moved from Waterford to a brand new facility in Pontiac across the street from the high school and middle school.

"I was ecstatic when the decision was made to move the lower school to Giddings Road," Atkins said. "The location provides convenient access for parents who have children in different grades and it also provides opportunities for faculty across our three schools to collaborate more easily. Lastly, older students serve as tutors for the younger students in the lower school. All of these things aid in creating a strong community and positive experience for students, parents and faculty."

ACCOLADES PILE UP

The early success of Notre Dame provided a foundation for the tremendous growth to follow. The school thrived because the

Marist Fathers and Brothers, the school's faculty and staff, and families in the community continued to look for opportunities to grow.

In fact, one of the early members of the parental

community ultimately became a faculty member. Donna Kotzan, who retired as vice principal of Notre Dame Prep in 2013, said she was so impressed with the school as a parent, that she decided to join the faculty when a math position opened up.

"When my oldest daughter was high school age, we were pleased to see that Notre Dame became a presence in Pontiac," Kotzan said. "My husband was a 1970 graduate of Harper Woods Notre Dame and I went to Regina High School. After attending an open house at NDP, we decided to enroll our daughter in the first class. We saw the same values we saw in our high school days in the educational hands of familiar faces."

Kotzan said those familiar faces included a couple of Marist priests and a brother.

"I was so impressed by Fr. Leon's vision and leadership," she said. "I had no doubt that NDP was going to be a school of choice. And Fr. Joe's mentoring of students as he enforced the rules of the school truly was a model for the faculty. He always treated students with dignity but had expectations of appropriate behavior. He also mentored me in the Marist way by his example. Brother Louis was the kindest, most caring person — again, an example of living a life in the way of Mary."



In the time since the school's founding, Notre Dame has developed one of the most respected arts programs in the area; was recognized as a Top 50 Catholic School by the Catholic School Honor Roll four times; received the prestigious Exemplary Athletic Program Award by the Michigan High School Athletic Association; and became the first Catholic school in the nation to offer all three levels of the International Baccalaureate curriculum.

Dave Osiecki, who has been teaching social studies at NDP since 1997, said the school's

2013 The lower school moves to the main Notre Dame campus on Giddings Road near Walton.

2014 NDPMA completes the acquisition of grounds, buildings and other assets from the Archdiocese of Detroit.

2016 Notre Dame Preparatory School is named the top Catholic school in the state of Michigan by Niche.com, the first of four such awards to date.

2017 Andrew J. Guest NDP'84 is named head of school.

2018 The Melissa Kozyra Greenhouse and Botany Learning Lab and Timothy J. Easterwood Science, Art and Technology Wing opens for the new school year.

2014-2018/19

accolades are well-deserved.

"Besides the 'brick-and-mortar' changes over the years, there also have been many internal changes made for the benefit of our students," he said. "A greatly expanded AP program; the implementation of the International Baccalaureate program at all three levels; greater opportunities and resources set aside for teacher training and education; a larger office and greater resources for student counseling; more variety of teacher in-service continuing education; expanded sports opportunities for students; and significant educational technology support and assistance for both teachers and students alike."

But Osiecki says it's something else entirely — not facilities and not academics — that makes Notre Dame so special.

"I think it's the way the 'Marist Way' most definitely permeates everything



and everybody at the school," he said. "We are challenged to think, judge and act as Mary at all times. I think that this way of doing things is manifested in the respect, humility and decency that are part of all interactions at Notre Dame. It might

not be an obvious or aggressive 'hit you over the head' type of philosophy or charism, but I think it's there nonetheless.

"I have helped with ninth-grade admissions interviews for many years and have heard



many times from families that when their eighth-grader had a shadow day at NDP, they got in the car and immediately said they've made their decision and wanted to go to NDP," Osiecki added. "Was it anything the student heard in class that day that impressed them so much? I doubt it. It was probably a blur. But I really think they felt the sense of community and Marist way of doing things that is such a big part of our everyday school life."

WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

In 2016, Notre Dame Preparatory School was named the top Catholic school in the state of Michigan for 2016, according to Niche, a national organization that annually ranks colleges and K-12 schools across the country. Niche.com also rated Notre Dame the 7th best private high school, religious or non-religious, in the state. Cranbrook and Country Day were ranked one and two, respectively, on the list of all private schools.

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

In August of this year, Niche.com again

ranked NDP as the top Catholic high school in the state, which means that four out of the last five years, the school earned the top spot.

STEM GETS BOOST WITH NEW WING

In August of 2018, school officials, students, parents and faculty and staff celebrated the opening of the school's new new science, art and technology wing that was made possible by the most successful capital campaign in the school's history.

The new facility, now called the "Timothy J. Easterwood Science, Art and Technology Wing," has been added to the existing shared middle school and upper school wings and includes science laboratories, collaborative-learning classrooms, a robotics lab, a state-of-the-art greenhouse, and two fine arts studios.

"The Easterwood Wing and Melissa Kozyra Greenhouse and Botany Learning Center are now complete and fully operational," said Head of School Andy Guest. "We are so grateful to the more than 250 donors who came forward to help make this project a reality."

"We have been a beacon of excellence in Catholic education in Oakland County for nearly a quarter century," Guest added. "And this addition to our academic campus is giving our students today the opportunity to prepare for the college majors and careers of

ABOVE

Notre Dame Prep social studies teacher Dave Osiecki.

TOP CENTER

The Timothy J. Easterwood Wing opened in August of 2018.



||

THE SCHOOL HAS THRIVED BECAUSE THE
FACULTY AND STAFF ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE
OF THE KIDS AND SO WILLING TO GO ABOVE
AND BEYOND.

||

very first day, freshmen are acquainted with the Marist philosophy, and returning alumni always talk about how they continue to live that philosophy as Christian persons, upright citizens and academic scholars."

Another Notre Dame teacher echoed Kotarski's assessment of the school.

DANCE A LITTLE

"From the very beginning, I've felt like the Marists were very mission-driven," said John Smith, a social studies teacher who came to Notre Dame Prep in the fall of 2003. "From the first faculty meeting that I attended all of those Augusts ago, it was apparent that the priests were there to develop Christians, citizens and scholars. Also, it's clear to me the school mission doesn't just apply to the students, but to the faculty and staff as well. From the yearly faculty and staff retreats to daily prayer and mass, I feel the Marist presence at all times while I'm here on campus."

Smith also noted that it's not just about prayer and work at the school.

"The Marists, going all the way back to Fr. Colin, have stressed that students and staff must also find time to 'dance a little,'" he said. "The teachers, staff and administration here at Notre Dame do a great job making sure that even while the school continues to be a place of outstanding academics, there also are ways to relax and enjoy the experience of being in a loving community."

Smith also said it is important for the entire community to take a step back once in a while and enjoy being part of something



bigger than just education.

"The friends we make in the classroom, on the athletic field, in the band room, in the robotics lab, on the stage or just walking down the hall are emphasized by the Marists just as much, if not more, than anything else in our school."

STRONG FUTURE AT HAND

The Marist Fathers and Brothers continue to infuse the school in Pontiac with a spirit and philosophy of education rooted in a long history of teaching not only in metro Detroit but around the world.

This commitment to excellence has also benefited from a vibrant alumni association that includes more than 10,000 graduates from the Notre Dame family of schools who continue to share their gifts on this campus as teachers, coaches, parents, volunteers and donors. In fact, Notre Dame's roster of faculty, staff and coaches currently includes 17 alumni.

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy has come far in a short 25 years. With a solid foundation rooted in faith and academics, the long-term success of Michigan's best Catholic school is assured. And the next 25 years promise to be just as exciting. «

**Editor's note: Kirby Smith, a beloved faculty member of the Notre Dame family, passed away on Oct. 7 prior to the publication of this issue of IRISH.*

tomorrow — particularly in the sciences and technology."

HERITAGE OF EXCELLENCE

Much like Fr. Colin encouraged a Marist-sponsored education to be "a second creation," the Notre Dame we cherish today carries on the legacies of its heritage schools. The school was blessed to open its doors because of sacrifices and gifts of countless people. The buildings were built and handed down by families of Waterford's St. Benedict Parish, Pontiac and Oakland Catholic, and St. Michael and St. Frederick high schools.

Harper Woods Notre Dame lent its good name and a tried and true approach to educating young people. One such staffer with a long history of educating young people at both NDHS and NDP is Norm Kotarski. He is unequivocal about what has

led to Notre Dame's continued success.

"The school has thrived because the faculty and staff are very supportive of the kids and so willing to go above and beyond," he said.

"Working with students

both inside and outside of the classroom is what students always say about their teachers when describing their school to prospective parents and students. From the



ABOVE LEFT

Former NDHS and NDP teacher Norm Kotarski.

ABOVE CENTER

Current NDP social studies teacher John Smith.

A Star is Born



Under the mantle of Mary, a child was born on July 1, 1994. We called it Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.

ABOVE

A sign at the north entrance of the main campus of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy welcomes families.

*By Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m.
Corporate President and Founding Principal*

Schools are like people who grow and develop a sense of identity over time and, ultimately, stand on their own two feet. Our Notre Dame was nurtured, valued and loved along the way by Mary, the Mother of God's "gracious choice" as mediated through the Marist Fathers and Brothers, Cardinal Adam Maida, the Pontiac Area Vicariate pastors, our Board of Trustees, generous parents, and caring staff members.

Our journey of 25 years has turned a swaddling infant into a prosperous young adult. Along the way, our community has garnered a solid reputation as it has "worked with God to form Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars." Congratulations to our current student body and our alumni for making the Notre Dame schools what they are today.

We are what we are today because we espouse valid educational assumptions that have bred powerful interior values and virtuous approaches to learning, living and doing. This "miracle school," as Cardinal Adam Maida often calls it, has been recognized as the top Catholic school in the state of Michigan (Niche.com) four out of the last five years and the 57th best of nearly 1,200 Catholic high

schools in the United States. It is a school that is internationally, nationally and locally recognized as a high performer in academics, the arts and athletics — an awesome track record for a relatively young school celebrating its silver anniversary this year. We firmly believe we will be even better when we celebrate our golden anniversary.

Visitors to our Pontiac campus have often told us that they sense a palpable solidness and peace, and there is a powerful reason for that. From the beginning of this newest U.S. Marist school, the Venerable John-Claude Colin's assumptions are interiorly espoused and externally lived out by our Notre Dame community.

We Marist fathers and brothers believe and teach that God is a lover who desires a relationship with his creation of which we humans beings are stewards; that Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sins, modeling for us the perfect life of grace; and that Mary (Notre Dame), the icon of the Holy Spirit, by her "yes" to the angel Gabriel, is the Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Mary is the perfect disciple of Christ, and Notre Dame families are called to think, judge, act and feel as Mary, i.e., we are to nurture a healthy relationship with God, do the work of Mary by showing an ardent love of neighbor,

and live a life that is simple and humble. Above all, we are to show merciful love to others as God has shown merciful love to us. The above values are, in a nutshell, why this school is so successful. We have a great Marist tradition: we use our limited resources wisely, and we have inspired students and staff.

Often, parents and students come to our school for the academics, but soon they find out there is much more to be had here on Giddings Road. They discover that we are also working with God to create clean-living, Christ-like people and productive citizens.

The philosopher Heraclitus said that "the only constant is change," and we, as a school community, are embracing a rapidly changing world. Now, beginning our 26th year as a robust young adult community at Notre Dame, we have arrived at the point of our life to plan and build what I like to call "Notre Dame 2.0." We began about 15 years ago when we embraced the International Baccalaureate programs to practice "best-in-class" student pedagogy.

The IB and its "Approaches to Teaching and Learning" root our curriculae from Pre-K through 12th grade. More recently, we have made significant changes to our campus and our academic offerings. This year we even adopted a new rotating schedule. The new



WE HAVE A GREAT MARIST TRADITION: WE USE OUR LIMITED RESOURCES WISELY, AND WE HAVE INSPIRED STUDENTS AND STAFF.



Easterwood Wing also perfectly models our embrace of change as we teach more strategic thinking and problem-solving in disciplines like robotics, computer science and food production.

As an older generation of teachers and administrators moves toward retirement, they continue to serve as fine mentors to those who will perfect Notre Dame 2.0. And the future lies in the hands of younger, more vibrant administrators and staff members who must, as a matter of course, set out as good stewards “bringing out from the storehouse the best of the old and the new.”

This new generation of Notre Dame leaders are slowly pouring old wine into new wineskins as they catch up to and reach out to a world of many new generational characteristics and personal needs. Those new characteristics and needs must first be learned and then applied to enhance our classroom teaching, athletics and arts. The look and feel of Notre Dame better matches Gen Z’s needs and we work hard to anticipate future student needs.

As one of the original founders, I am proud to say that we’re hardly skipping a beat in the process of change and that our school is moving along “just fine” as we develop new tools to think through and answer tomorrow’s questions.

Head of School Andy Guest shares his own thoughts on the 25th anniversary of Notre Dame in an accompanying article on page

3 of this magazine. He will work with our Board of Trustees to bring those aspirations to fruition. I am happy to say that as I move into retirement over the next few years, I have left our school in very good hands! «

ABOVE

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m. is in the Mary Courtyard.

BELOW

Aerial views of the Notre Dame campus today and Oakland Catholic High School in 1993.



25 AND SO MUCH MORE

*The Notre Dame
Marists talk past,
present and future
of their beloved
school*



ABOVE

Left to right, Fr. Jim Strasz, s.m., Br. Louis Plourde, s.m., and Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., discuss all things NDPMA.

RIGHT

Br. Louis Plourde, s.m., has been at NDPMA since 1994.





I'D SAY THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE BEGINNING WAS VERY LIVELY BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

Notre Dame's exceptional education experience is not possible without the commitment of hundreds of individuals over the years. It took a village to transform a high school with 183 students into a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade Catholic school serving 1,000 students. Even so, four men in particular have shaped the course of the school's history like no others.

IRISH magazine had the opportunity to sit down with Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., Fr. Jim Strasz, s.m., and Br. Louis Plourde before classes started this fall. Each of them shared their memories of the early days, what it means to be a Marist school and what they think the future holds. (See page 14 of this issue for Fr. Leon Olszowski's, s.m., personal thoughts on Notre Dame's 25th anniversary).

IRISH: When did you first come to Notre Dame Preparatory School?

Fr. Joe: I joined the faculty as a full-time religion teacher in 1998. The following year I was asked to be the assistant principal for discipline and continued teaching part-time. In 2002, the roles of president and principal of the high school were separated. Fr. Leon served as president and I was named principal by the Marist Provincial at the request of the school's Board of Trustees. I also taught a couple of religion classes for a while.

Br. Louis: I came in 1994 to help with copies and mailing, similar to what I did at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods. We were opening a new school in the Oakland Catholic High School building, so I was organizing a lot of office spaces for the administration. The first thing I did was set up an office for myself. I didn't have an office in Harper Woods and shared office space with Dolores Lynch. God rest her soul. I also was in



charge of transportation.

Fr. Strasz: I was the school's first assistant principal when we opened in 1994. I was named vice principal and left shortly thereafter for a six-year assignment at the Marist Retreat House in Framingham, Mass. I returned to Pontiac as a faculty member in 2003 and joined the administrative team. I took a sabbatical in 2013 and returned as a teacher one year later.

It was then I began helping to implement the 'Marist Way.' We realize that as aging priests and brothers, we will be retiring at some point. My role is to help the administration understand and implement our Marist mission in the school's daily life. I do this with the support of the other Marists as well as my colleagues in Campus Ministry and the teachers and staff across the three schools.

IRISH: It must have been interesting in those early days. Some faculty and staff like you from Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods came to Pontiac and worked side-by-side the teachers at Oakland Catholic High School at the request of Cardinal Adam Maida, the Archbishop of Detroit at the time.

Fr. Strasz: As Marists, we were doing something we had always done. The local church had a need—Cardinal Maida asked the Marists to come to the Catholic school in Pontiac—and we were filling that need. The Marists have been known to answer the needs of the local church throughout our history, whether it be in France, Oceania, Atlanta or Oakland County.

During the first few weeks we were here, Fr. Leon and I went out to parishes in the area and preached about Notre Dame Prep. We operated on a shoestring budget in the beginning. I have a lot of great memories.

Br. Louis: I'd say the atmosphere in the beginning was very lively because everyone was excited about the future. There was some initial "getting used to" among the Notre Dame High School and Oakland Catholic folks. It's always felt like a happy place to me, like one big happy family!

IRISH: The campus and student programs have grown significantly since 1994. What significant initiatives have you seen in the past 25 years?

Br. Louis: There have been so many. We

CENTER

Hindelang graduated from Harper Woods Notre Dame High School in 1968.



THE ONE MAIN THING THAT SETS US APART FROM



added grades 6 through 8 in the middle school in 1996. The lower school opened in Waterford at St. Benedict's parish and then the Board of Trustees moved it here to Giddings Road in 2013. The new library, or media center, opened in 1999. The athletic facilities and the Easterwood Wing and the Kozyra Greenhouse are also recent enhancements.

Fr. Joe: I enjoyed teaching in Harper Woods for 10 years and here at NDP. There has been a growing emphasis on college readiness and college admissions among the students and parents.

One of our Spanish teachers, Ellen Tessada, who has since retired, first mentioned the International Baccalaureate program to me. She believed it fit well with our mission and would give our graduates a head start on lifelong learning for college and beyond.

IRISH: Notre Dame Preparatory School and

Marist Academy was the first Catholic school in the country to embrace the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Is this true?

Fr. Joe: Yes, that's true. Another major change has been the style of teaching and learning that goes on in and out of the classroom. Students are learning around the clock thanks to our talented faculty and their use of academic technology.

Fr. Strasz: We've also seen a cultural change in our schools and homes. It's a different generation even now compared to the students who graduated from here 25 years ago. And so we have to take the Marist Way and present it much differently than when we first started.

Fr. Leon always said his goal was to make this school the best academic institution in Oakland County. I think few, if any, would argue that we are not already there. It's important to note this great school is serving

the local church, as we were charged by Cardinal Maida when we first began. I like to say, "Here at Notre Dame, it's not just an education; it's a formation of character."

IRISH: What does it mean to be a Marist school?

Fr. Strasz: We are called by God, by gracious choice, to belong to the family of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We learn from her example in the early Church and at Nazareth how to tell the story of Jesus and invite others to come and be His disciples. We become, in a sense, her presence by the way we live our lives. The Marist Way asks us, how do I take this gift that is offered to me, how do I make it present in my own life, and how do I share the gospel with other people—and do it Mary's way?

Fr. Joe: The U.S. Province of the Society of Mary ("The Marist Fathers and Brothers") is proactively working with our teachers and staff and other lay women and men at Marist schools around the country to instill the Marist philosophy of education. Our teachers are committed to living it themselves and sharing it with our students.

In the same way that Mary always pointed to her Son and led others to Jesus, we are called to be like Mary for the benefit of the students entrusted to us by their parents. It is impressive to me to see teachers, coaches, counselors and campus ministers who are enlivened and inspired by Fr. Colin's invitation to us to be instruments of God's mercy.

IRISH: What sets Notre Dame apart?

Fr. Joe: Hospitality is one of the values that Fr. [Jean-Claude] Colin, the Society of Mary's founder, stressed for Marists and their co-workers in ministry going back to the 1800s. We make safety and security a priority for our

M OTHERS IS THAT WE ARE A MARIST SCHOOL



school in these modern times, but it's comforting to hear visitors and new families say how welcoming our students and staff members are.

We are keenly aware of how to reduce stress and anxiety among the study body while also maintaining high academic standards. We're preparing students to make a real contribution at college and in life. More importantly, we hope our students deepen their relationship with God. Even those who have questions or doubts about faith can take time here to think about and set good priorities for their lives and learn to become more generous people.

Fr. Strasz: I think the one main thing that sets us apart is that we are a Marist school. Every Catholic school has its own charism or gift from God which makes up its spirit. Our Marist spirit calls us to learn from Mary how to be present in the Church and in the world today. Our mission is to work with God to form good Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars—in that order.



IRISH: In your opinion, what will Notre Dame Prep look like 25 years from now?

Fr. Joe: Well, I don't have a crystal ball and, after being a Marist priest for nearly 41 years, I have learned to never predict the future. It will

certainly take the diligent work of the Marist laity and the spirit of the Marist educational life, and that it's up to us, the remaining religious Marists, to trust in that laity in working with them to ensure the mission of the Society continues.

When I was a student at Notre Dame High School, nearly everyone we knew was Catholic and everybody went to mass. Today's families are much different. It's our job as Marist religious and laity to adjust accordingly and serve our families like we always have.

IRISH: How can we accomplish this goal?

Fr. Joe: It's all about the formation of a student's character. We do that through academics, through sports, through the arts, etc. How do you learn to be the person you truly are? God has created you and His plan is ultimately that you will be the person that you truly are. In a world that is rapidly changing and that will likely be unrecognizable to us 25 years from now, it will always come down to how you remain faithful and live your life as you're supposed to live it.

Fr. Strasz: I can't imagine what education will be like in 25 years. Our Marist mission will still be needed by students and families and they will be in the good hands of our dedicated

lay staff who continue to live and foster the Marist way of life.

Like Fr. Joe said, there are and will be challenges without a doubt. Technology and the pace of life has changed our world so drastically. Our students have so many resources and options they sometimes have trouble setting priorities. It is easy for them, and all of us, frankly, to get caught up in what's around us.

It's important to remember to choose to live as a person of faith and integrity. God created each of us to be great individuals. Sometimes students try so hard to fit in, they lose sight of being themselves. Our challenge as Marist educators is to help students see that God has given each of them unique talents and qualities to develop and use in the service of others. The more we can help students know God loves them—today and 25 years from now—the happier they will be in life.

Br. Louis: I believe the work we've done here in the last 25 years will still be felt by the kids who are here 25 years from now. «



IRISH NEWS FROM PAGE 7



ABOVE

Betty Wroubel was chosen from eight U.S. finalists as National Coach of the Year.

Wroubel as the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Volleyball Coach of the Year. The award was presented to Wroubel in front of more than 500 coaches and athletic directors on June 26 at the Ramkota Conference Center, in Bismarck, ND, where the NHSACA Annual Conference was held.

According to NHSACA Executive Director Dave Dougherty, Wroubel, who also serves as Notre Dame's athletic director, assistant principal and head softball coach, was nominated for the national honor by Michigan's High School Coaches Association and was selected as the National Coach of the Year from eight finalists who advanced in this competition from across the country.

"This selection was based on longevity, service to high school athletics, honors, championship years, and winning percentage," he said. "The nominees and finalists are evaluated by experts in the field of coaching using a sport-specific rubrics to assign points in each category. The NHSACA and MHSCA are very proud to spotlight Betty Wroubel, a person whose work and values best mirror those of the association." «

WE REMEMBER

Sylvia Mulrenin, a longtime and treasured teacher at both Notre Dame Prep and Harper Woods Notre Dame, passed away June 16. The news of her illness and passing was sad and unexpected and caught her family and the entire Notre Dame community by surprise.

To all who knew Sylvia, she was an amazing teacher and colleague who impacted the lives of thousands of Notre Dame students over her 26-year career at NDHS (1994-2003) and NDP (2003-2019). During that time, she taught mostly chemistry and anatomy, but also biology and was a Quiz Bowl moderator. She had been the co-chair of the Science Department since 2015. Her daughter Megan ('09) son Patrick ('13), niece Emily ('15) and nephew, Andrew ('18) all graduated from Notre Dame Prep.

Sylvia had a passion for science that was palpable and contagious for her many students and fellow teachers. Her students often said that they were well-prepared for college and many pursued careers in science based on the passion that she helped instill.

Sylvia is survived by her beloved husband, Steven, and her children Megan (Alex) Frankfort and Patrick Mulrenin. She was the dear sister of Robert (Pat) Wenzel and the late Udo Wenzel and the late Werner Wenzel, and dear sister-in-law of Barbara Wenzel.

To honor Sylvia's dedication to science, the Society of Mary and Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, the school announced Sept. 12 that the Sylvia H. Mulrenin Science Award will be given annually by Notre Dame Prep's Science Department to a senior for outstanding achievement in the sciences.

Bart "Buzz" Famularo, a passionate and dedicated family man and member of the Notre Dame community, passed away Aug. 17 after a courageous eight-year battle with cancer. A proud Clemson University alumnus and avid fan of Notre Dame Prep where his children attended, Buzz was an active member of the school's Booster Club and served as a coach for many years for the Irish boys basketball and football programs.

Buzz was totally devoted to his family and he touched all he met with his keen sense of humor and kindness. He easily made friends wherever he went and instantly lit up any room.

A graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice High School and Clemson University where he earned a degree in business and finance, Buzz enjoyed vacationing with his family every year in Hilton Head as he proudly wore Clemson orange. Buzz began a career in banking in 1988 at TCF Bank in Minneapolis and most recently served as a commercial banker at Huntington Bank where he touched many lives and developed many lasting relationships and friendships.

Buzz is survived by his beloved wife, Teresa (Modesette), and children Vinny, Dominic and Maria; mother, Nancy Disler Famularo; sisters Susan (Buddy) Christensen and Lynn (Tom) Bauer; brother-in-law, Mark (Jean) Modesette; father-in-law, Joe Modesette; dear friends John and Kim Stearley; dozens of relatives, particularly Karen and Joe Clifford, who were a second set of parents. He was preceded in death by his beloved father, Bart Famularo.



PRAYERS

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **William Barnett SF'51**.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Roberta Cahill-Saling SF'46**.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Catherine Heophy-Dusenbury SF'38**.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Prisco Nardone ND'60** who passed away on Jan. 7, 2019. Please join us and his brother, Ronald ND'62, in prayer.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Dave Pierce ND'61** who passed away on April 18, 2019. Please join us and his brother, Donald ND'59, in prayer.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Charles Merithew SM'58** who passed away on May 7, 2019.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Mark Adamo ND'76** who passed away on June 20, 2019. Please join us and his brothers J. Greg ND'78 and Paul ND'74 in prayer.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **David Poprawski ND'69** who passed away on July 18, 2019.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Barbara Sarfinski-Beacom SF'52**.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Dr. Matthew Heimbuch** who passed away on Aug. 4, 2019. Please join us and his wife, Beth, and his children Caron, Daniel and Drew in prayer.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of **Maureen T. Syron-Wood** and **Mary Therese Syron** who passed away on Aug. 21, 2019. Please join us and their son and grandson, Matthew Wood NDP'19, in prayer.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of former NDHS faculty member and administrator **Fr. Robert Champagne, s.m.**, who passed away on Sept. 3, 2019.

Notre Dame mourns the loss of former NDHS and NDP faculty member **Kirby Smith**, who passed away on Oct. 7, 2019. Please join us and his wife, Christine, and his daughter, Amanda, in prayer.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

If you would like our community to remember a loved one in prayer, please email prayers@ndpma.org.

NOTRE DAME FANS MEET THE TEAMS

Athletic department celebrates 25 years with prominent motivational speaker and special outdoor "meet the teams" rally

Hundreds of Notre Dame students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff gathered on campus Aug. 16 for the school's first-ever "Game Day" festivities as part of its community pep rally. The afternoon began with a series of presentations by Rob Miller, an internationally recognized educational-athletics expert specializing in coaching, team-building and leadership, who gave presentations first to NDPMA's student-athletes and then to school parents.

Coach Miller's discussions were followed by a "community meet the team rally" on Kozyra Alumni Field, which involved introductions of each fall athletic team from CYO through high school and performances by the Notre Dame band, dance team and sideline cheer team.



Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's director of athletics, said the main objective for holding a school-wide pep rally to start the school year is to build a greater sense of community and school spirit.

"Also, one of the athletic department's themes for the upcoming school year is '31 Programs, One Team,' emphasizing that we all support Notre Dame regardless of which specific team you may be involved

in," Wroubel added. "We also think this rally is a good way for us to highlight our 25th anniversary as a school."

Miller, who is representing Proactive Coaching LLC, an organization that works with coaches and teams to help create character-based team cultures, was entertaining, informative and very direct to both students and parents. He told the student-athletes that they are all on great teams, no matter the wins and losses. He also said teams are not just for sports.

"The band is a team," he said. "Robotics is a team and FFA is a team," which he said was his high school's most successful team while growing up and attending school in Pigeon, Mich. "FFA is Future Farmers of America and they had a dynamite record of turning out successful farmers."

Miller also told the students that great teams and great teammates reach potential, whether they win a championship or not.

"It's not about wins and losses, it's about doing the best you can and reaching your highest potential. Also, potential has nothing to do with talent. It's all about the choices you make. Showing up on time, giving 100 percent. And having no regrets, regardless of records, as long as you reached your highest potential."

He also said when students grow up, they won't remember their wins and losses.

"But, you will always remember your teammates forever," he told the eighth-through-12th-grade students on hand.

For Miller's presentation to the parents, he focused primarily on making sure they always



ABOVE

Notre Dame head of school and cross country coach Andy Guest and senior Jenny Ohlsson lead NDP's cross country team out of the stadium's new helmet tunnel.

support their kids, win or lose. He also told them to leave the coaching to the coaches.

"Your only role as parents of athletes is to support your children, always be the face your kids needs to see and focus on the team," said Miller, who now lives in Kansas City, Mo. "In addition, when you're at your kids games, try to watch the whole team and not just your kid."

The community pep rally followed Miller's talks and was held in the school's football stadium.

The NDP marching band opened the rally, followed by performances by the Irish dance and sideline cheer teams.

NDPMA Assistant Athletic Director Aaron Crouse then introduced 24 different Irish teams who charged onto the field through the school's new stadium helmet tunnel.

"I think the day went extremely well," said Wroubel. "We wanted to kick off our 25th year with a bang and it was a wonderful opportunity to bring our Notre Dame family to school the week before school starts. We think it's exciting to start the year off this way and showcase all of our teams and coaches together in one place. We plan to continue to build on this event next year and every year afterward." «

2018-19 Honor Roll of Donors

Everyday moments are made possible by the generosity of the alumni, parents and friends who support the Notre Dame Fund. We gratefully acknowledge these donors who contributed to the Notre Dame Fund between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.



Members of the St. Peter Chanel Society lead by example by making a special gift to the Notre Dame Fund each year.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$25,000+

John Henke ND'58 and Vera Ruseckas
Bill and Melissa Kozyra P'03, P'05, P'06

\$10,000-\$24,999

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Dennis Maraone ND'70, P'98, P'00
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 Kathleen Offer
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David Burhans and
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 Michael and Kelly Sermo P'22, P'24
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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list which includes gifts received between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. Please report omissions and errors to the Office of Advancement at 248-373-2171, Ext. 2, or advancement@ndpma.org. «



A diverse lineup of colleges and universities awaited Notre Dame Prep's Class of 2019 this fall

The Next Level

Two-hundred seniors in the Class of 2019 received diplomas from Notre Dame Preparatory School on May 19, 2019.

Notre Dame Prep's 25th graduating class left behind one of Michigan's most beautiful campuses and a very proud faculty and staff along with a number of impressive statistics.

Twenty-seven graduates filled out this year's valedictory court

which also featured 51 candidates for the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma. The graduating seniors averaged 26.8 on the ACT and 57 of them scored a 30 or above on the test. The average SAT score was 1,238. Collectively, they earned more than \$10 million in academic merit scholarships from colleges and universities. «

2019 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND MATRICULATION

Notre Dame Prep's Class of 2019 received offers from nearly 150 colleges and universities across the country.

Adelphi University
Adrian College
Albion College
American University
American University of Beirut
Appalachian State University
Aquinas College
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Ava Maria University
Baldwin Wallace University
Ball State University
Belmont University
Beloit University
Boise State University
Boston University
Bowling Green State University
Bradley University
Butler University
Calvin College
Case Western Reserve University
The Catholic University of America
Central Michigan University
Clemson University
College for Creative Studies
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago

Cornell University
Cornerstone University
Dean College
Denison University
DePaul University
Finlandia University
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Fordham University
Furman University
Gannon University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grand Valley State University
Harvard College
Hope College
Howard University
Duquesne University
Eastern Michigan University
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson University
Emory University
Ferris State University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University Bloomington
Ithaca College
John Carroll University
Kalamazoo College
Kendall College of Art and Design
Kent State University
Kettering University
Lawrence Technological University
Loyola University Chicago
Madonna University
Marquette University
Miami University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
New York University
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina State University
Northern Michigan University

Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oakland Community College
Oakland University
Ohio Northern University
Pennsylvania State University
Pontificia Universidad Católica - Argentina
Purdue University
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Richmond, The American International University
in London
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Roosevelt University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saginaw Valley State University
Saint Mary's College
San Diego State University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Siena Heights University
Slippery Rock University
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
Spring Arbor University
Suffolk University
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Syracuse University
The College of Wooster
The George Washington University
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The University of Manchester
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of Nottingham
The University of Oklahoma
The University of Sheffield
The University of Tampa
Trine University

Tulane University
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
University of Birmingham
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Dayton
University of Detroit Mercy
University of East Anglia
University of East London
University of Florida
University of Glasgow
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Melbourne
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Michigan-Dearborn
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of New England
University of New Haven
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Tennessee
University of Toledo
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin
Valparaiso University
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University
Xavier University

LEFT

Rachel Kloss and Enrico Rosario Caruso celebrate their graduation from Notre Dame Prep on May 19, 2019.

ALUMNI NOTES

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

NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL ALUMNI

Jade Burns NDP'98 Dr. Jade Burns has accepted a position as an assistant professor (tenure-track) in the department of Health Behavior and Biological Sciences at the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

communication with a specialization in Mass Communication and Media Studies. Graduated from Boston University in 2015 with an MS in Leadership and Project Management. Graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2011 with a BS in Political

valedictorian from the University of Detroit Mercy with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. From there, she will continue discernment with the Community of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in New York City.

Logan Hand NDP'18 Finished his first year at Michigan State University, studying environmental engineering.

Madeline Scherle NDP'18 Received top 3 ALL OAC recognition at John Carroll University for javelin.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Donald Kolke ND'58 Celebrated his 53rd wedding anniversary with wife, Judy, and the birth of their first great-grandchild. He is staying active by playing pickleball, teaching pickleball classes and golfing.

Edwin Maloney ND'64 Former HWND and NDP teacher, head football coach and head lacrosse coach just completed his 50th year of coaching at the collegiate and high school levels. Now entering his 11th season as head lacrosse coach at Siena Heights University.

Dennis Wall ND'69 Co-authored the book, "Catastrophe Claims: Insurance Coverage for Natural and Man-Made Disasters," has just been updated for publication this spring by Thomson Reuters West Publishing Co.

Ken Murphy ND'71 Working as a professional musician playing drums. Played in all of Notre Dame's bands from 1967 to 1971. Enjoyed working with Larry Egan.

David Leone ND'75 Retired from General Motors after 39 rewarding years as executive chief engineer, he led a cross-functional product development team on launch excellence, led the Cadillac team and also led



Matthew Croft NDP'06 Will be joining the upcoming First National tour of "Jesus Christ Superstar" as assistant conductor/keyboard 2 – his fifth national tour.

Jonathan Lezotte NDP'06 Graduated from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in 2014, went on to complete a general surgery residency at Henry Ford Macomb, and will be starting a fellowship in surgical critical care. He is currently living in Grosse Pointe Woods with wife, Emily, and expecting his first child this year.

Megan Okoniewski NDP'06 Married Chad Morrison on Mar. 30, 2019.

Sarah (Burns) Movilio NDP'07 Graduated from San Diego State University in May 2019 with a master's degree in

Science. Serving as a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, and moving to Okinawa, Japan with her husband in August 2019. Expecting her first child around the new year."

Tim Malter NDP'10 Attending Life University working towards a degree in chiropractic and is engaged to Lindsey Chartier since Mar. 24, 2018.

Reid Siano NDP'14 Selected to attend U.S. Marine Corps OCS this upcoming winter. Will be shipping out January 4, 2020.

Logan Brown NDP'15 Accepted a job at SkyWest Airlines for the month of September. Will return to Detroit once training is complete and will work as an airline pilot based in Detroit.

Mary Payne NDP'15 Graduated

STAY IN TOUCH



HELP US REACH 1,500 LIKES!
Facebook.com/NotreDame-
AlumniAssociation



FOLLOW US
twitter.com/NDPMA



NETWORK WITH IRISH ALUMS
Linkedin.com Notre Dame
Alumni Association (Pontiac)

IRISH E-NEWSLETTER

Receive news and information, emailed monthly. Update your email address at ndpma.org/update.



the Corvette and Camaro teams in the same capacity before retiring.

Thomas Manney ND'82 Ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church, June 2019. Retiring from teaching Nov. 1, 2019.

John Okoniewski ND'84 Currently running two jewelry stores in Brighton and Hartland, Mich. Life has been good. Married to Lisa (Grosse). Four happy and healthy children. Oldest daughter went to Belmont University in Nashville and is now a registered nurse. Second daughter is a junior at Michigan State University studying finance. Oldest son is a freshman at Western Michigan University and is studying aviation. Youngest son is graduating high school and wants to

study applied mathematics and computer programming.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Stephanie Collins PC'87 Attended Oakland University selecting East Asian Studies/Japanese as a major. Spent a year in Japan on the "Michigan" work/study exchange program. After graduating in 1992, moved to St. Croix in April 1993 to work with a Japanese woman who owned a jewelry design business learning about precious and semi-precious gemstones, and jewelry design. Returned home in December and interviewed with a company in Hawaii that needed Japanese speakers. Moved to Hawaii in January 1994 and lived

and worked there until December 1998. Went to travel school while living there and became a corporate travel agent. Upon returning home started working for Fanuc Robotics and Magna as a dedicated onsite travel and expense specialist. Moved to Travel Leaders in September 2002, working as the lead agent for KUKA Systems North America, and became the agency and account manager for all 37 corporate accounts. Left the travel agency in May 2017 and moved to KUKA directly. Helped KUKA migrate 32 countries on to one global booking platform for all travel and expense and migrated all business entities into one travel agency. Currently has spent 17 years serving KUKA globally. «

NOTRE DAME

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Reunion Program

Is it almost time for your reunion? The Notre Dame Alumni Association is excited to release our new reunion planning guide! Let us help plan your special event. The new guide will give you a step-by-step plan to execute your reunion alongside the association.

We are excited to celebrate reunions every five years for not only our Notre Dame Prep alumni but all our friends from Notre Dame High School, Pontiac and Oakland Catholic and St. Fred's and St. Mike's. Nothing is more important to us than keeping our alumni connected to each other and their school. We hope that this new recharged reunion program will be the catalyst to ensure your class always finds a time to reunite.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association is always looking for volunteers to help plan these events. If you are interested in chairing or joining the planning committee for your class, please contact alumni director Beth Campbell at bcampbell@ndpma.org.

Class Ambassador Program

It's time to reignite our class captain program. The rebranded Alumni Ambassador program will help keep classes connected. NDAA is looking for two to three volunteers per class from all our heritage schools to serve on behalf of their class. The ambassadors will be responsible for:

- Attending one annual meeting
- Helping update class information
- Helping recruit classmates for alumni event engagement
- Reunion planning
- Serving as a direct communication line to their class

We need your help keeping your classmates informed and your class information updated. Please contact Beth Campbell if you are interested in volunteering.



UPCOMING REUNIONS

INTERESTED IN PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

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

NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Class of 2014

Our five-year reunion will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at Rochester Mills Brewing. To register for the event, please log on to ndpma.org/NDP14 or contact Jere Neill at jere344@gmail.com for more information.

Class of 2009

Our 10-year reunion will be on Friday, Nov. 29 at The Meeting House in Rochester. Reunion will be on the second level with a great view of the Downtown Rochester Big Bright Light Show. Tickets are per person and include appetizers, desserts, a private room and service. Cash bar. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Alayna (Lekosiotis) Schraffenberger at lekosiot@gmail.com.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1994

Planning is underway for the 25-year class reunion. Please contact Tim Slowik at tims928@live.com if you are interested in joining the planning committee.

Class of 1989

Our 30-year reunion will be held on Friday, Nov. 15 at the Hamlin Pub (25 and VanDyke). To register for the event, please go to ndpma.org/ND89.

Class of 1984

Our 35-year reunion will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12. The venue will be Hamlin Pub in Shelby Township at 48929 Hayes Road. Committee: Andy Guest, John Okoniewski, Paul Gaynor, Todd Grzelewski. Register online at ndpma.org/ND84.

Class of 1969

The location for the 50th class reunion has been changed. It will now be at the Italian American Cultural Society's Banquet & Conference Center located at 43843 Romeo Plank Road in Clinton Township. The date remains the same on Saturday, Oct. 19. Please contact Paul McGrath (call/text 734-417-5614 or email cfomeister@gmail.com) if you have not received the official invitation.

Class of 1960

Our 60-year reunion will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020. The venue will be Wyndham Garden Hotel – Sterling Inn at 34911 Van Dyke in Sterling Heights. With a cost of \$60 per person, the reunion begins at 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Eddie Kay at 248-310-6912 or ewk3058@comcast.net. You can also visit the Class of 1960 website at notredamehw1960.org.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association Board of Directors:

Bobbie Hall NDP'00 Vice Chair	Lisa Healy NDP'98
Jane Dika NDP'02 Secretary	Mike Kastler ND'75
Dean Aldo PC'76	Patty Dean Phillips SF'52
Brian Dooley ND'85	Amy Tkac NDP'02
Meredith Gifford NDP'02	

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni Theatre Night

Friday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association will host alumni night at this year's high school musical, "The Little Mermaid." We are offering complimentary tickets to the first 20 alumni interested in attending. Additional tickets for alumni will be offered at a discounted rate. If you are interested in reserving your seats, please email bcampbell@ndpma.org.

SNAPSHOTS OF HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2019





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