

IRISH

spring 2010

4

Electric Irishman



Tom Durkin

plus:

Dave Coulier

Stephanie Rink

Ben Blackwell

Jonathan Russo

Alumni notes



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A WORD FROM YOUR ALUMNI DIRECTOR



Looking back at the fall-2009 issue of IRISH, I wrote about two goals regarding reunions and communication. As I reflect on the past six months, I am pleasantly surprised at the amount of progress we have made. Your alumni-board directors are not only dedicated workers, they truly share the vision of the NDAA and have a deep passion for their alma mater. It's amazing what a few people in a short amount of time can accomplish. And we only formally meet once a month!

In terms of progress, I hope you have noticed the effort to increase effective communication on-line, on social-media networks, and through the mail. With your recent survey results, we are hoping to continue to improve communication to fully develop our calendar in regards to events, especially reunions. When it's time for your class to have a reunion—typically every five years—we can help you find committee members, we can help with class lists, and so much more.

I sincerely encourage you to become involved with your alumni association. Whether you read each IRISH cover to cover, attend events, or join the board, your impact and support is powerful. It's amazing to see so many alumni send notes, update information, attend events, and reach out to organize reunions. I hope and expect that this involvement will continue to blossom. I also hope you enjoy this issue of IRISH and I encourage you to reconnect with

your classmates at an event or reunion—or simply write us with your thoughts. God bless and go Irish!

Irish blessings,

Kelly A. Patterson

Kelly A. (Cole) Patterson '99 (NDP)

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Message from Jim Gammicchia '99 (NDP)

Fellow alumni:

It has been only a year now since a group of alum from Notre Dame High School and Notre Dame Prep sat down at the Pontiac campus and began to toss around some ideas about how to best serve our constituency and form the official Notre Dame Alumni Association.



Over the course of the last year we have been hard at work developing bylaws, setting goals, and formulating events that will help all of us continue to build camaraderie. Whether we are traveling to Irish Dinners to connect new and established alumni, visiting with alumni as they return to our campus

for Homecoming festivities, or listening to alumni recount their exceptional reunion experiences, it is clear that our alumni truly enjoy reconnecting time and time again.

The board of directors is here for each and every one of our alumni to foster fellowship and great memories. We encourage you to get involved—either by sharing your ideas with us for events and activities you would like to see the Alumni Association undertake, joining a committee and sharing your talents with

other alumni and the board, or by getting involved directly in the board as a director.

Keep checking our webpage at www.ndpma.org/alumni for updates of coming events and current happenings with the Alumni Association. Our Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in the NDPMA board room. This is a great opportunity to get involved or simply find out more about the Notre Dame Alumni Association. All are encouraged to attend!

Jim Gammicchia '99 (NDP)
President- ND Alumni Association

PS: Please keep checking the alumni web site where we plan to publish the results of the alumni survey soon. Thanks!

CORRECTION

In the Fall 2009 IRISH, a story on Paul Houshey and his Building Bridges program reported incorrect contact information. The correct contact information is: Building Bridges, Paul Houshey '88 (NDHS) 248-458-1100, paulhoushey@aol.com.

Thank you.

IRISH

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

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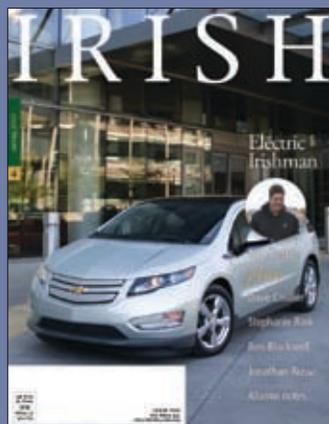
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ON THE COVER: The 2011 Chevy Volt, which has been extensively tested by NDP alum Tom Durkin '00. Photos: General Motors and Tom Durkin

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Advertise in IRISH

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

Former state champ proud of newest state champ



Chris Burns



Doug Brown

Notre Dame High School alum and former Olympian Doug Brown '70, who earned a state championship in cross country, says he was elated to hear about NDP senior Chris Burns winning a state title. Burns won the division-2 cross-

country state championship at Michigan International Speedway in November. Burns and Matt Hartung '96 (NDHS) are the only athletes from NDHS or NDP to win the state cross-country crown since Brown did it in 1969. "I was very excited to hear that a Notre Dame man won the Michigan state cross country title," Brown said. "I am very proud of Chris. It feels very good knowing that Chris and I now become a special link between Notre Dame High School from the past and Notre Dame Prep of today.

"Having an Irishman accomplish such a great athletic feat sends an important message to all current and future Notre Dame Prep student athletes: they walk the same halls everyday that Chris Burns does, which means they too can achieve great things if they put their mind to it."

ND Prep students are Eagle Scouts

NDP seniors (from left) John Bommarito, Neil Dwivedi and Patrick Connolly and sophomore Anthony Lograsso (not pictured) recently earned the coveted Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America. Bommarito's Eagle project involved refurbishing furniture for the St. John Fisher Chapel. Dwivedi planned, organized and executed a care-package program benefiting American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Connolly's work was at the NDPMA Pontiac campus, where he designed and built storage space for the band, and Lograsso's service project was rehabilitating a playground at St. Paul's School.



Students star in film about safe driving

Takata Corporation, a manufacturer of automotive safety systems, brought its Safe Driver program and a film crew to NDPMA on November 11 to teach high-school students how to minimize driver distractions and make good judgments while driving. With its hands-on driving simulator called the Wii Driver Distraction Challenge, a game show called Are You Smarter than a Crash Dummy, and other activities, the Safe Driver interactive program focused on basic driving behav-



iors that can significantly reduce accidents and save lives.

The footage that Takata obtained at the school will be used to promote the program and its safety sessions to other schools and local media around the country.

Wroubel center dedicated on February 24

A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on February 24 for the new Betty A. Wroubel Athletic Performance Center.

The new 4,000-square-foot facility includes space for weightlifting, plyometrics, stretching, rehabilitation and a training room. The \$400,000 center was paid for 100% through private donations and provides NDPMA students with a first-class athletic performance center. Detroit Pistons' strength and conditioning coach and current parent Arnie Kander helped to design an optimum equipment layout in the center.

The facility's name was chosen to honor the school's long-time employee and current athletic director/assistant principal Betty Wroubel. According to NDPMA president Fr. Leon Olszamowski, Wroubel has been an institution at 1300 Giddings Road since she first began teaching in 1980. "She has been instrumental in building our athletic department, which is one of the largest in the state of Michigan, into an exemplary model of a mission-driven program. I couldn't be happier with the choice of name for this new addition to our school," said Olszamowski.



Fiftieth for Brother Leonard



Br. Leonard Haley, s.m., recently celebrated his 50th anniversary as a Marist. Br. Leonard was at Notre Dame High School from 1961-1973, working in the attendance and school office. He now lives at the Marist Retreat House in Framingham, Massachusetts, with other Marists, some of whom taught at Notre Dame: Frs. Ray Coolong, Robert Champagne, Joe Chasse, Robert Graham, and Walter Gaudreau.

After leaving Notre Dame, Br. Leonard was pastoral assistant in a number of parishes in Michigan and Massachusetts. He also worked as a hospital chaplain. At the Marist House he now hosts retreat groups, drives some of the older Marists around town, visits Fr. John Bryson in a nearby nursing home, and cares for flowers and plants around the property.

Br. Leonard's anniversary Mass was celebrated by NDP principal Fr. Joe Hindelang, the Vicar Provincial, along with several Marist priests from around New England.

First place for Notre Dame Marist Academy

Congratulations to the NDMA 8th-grade team, which won first place in the Scholastic Olympics held recently at the school's Pontiac campus. Holy Family Regional School placed second; St. Joseph - Lake Orion placed third.

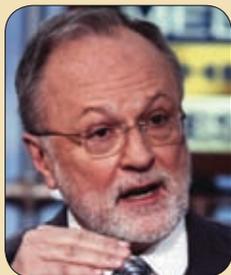


Notre Dame Prep well represented in Russ Thomas Scholarship program

Three 2009 graduates of Notre Dame Prep joined thirteen other NDP alumni as recipients of college scholarships given over the years by the prestigious Russ Thomas Scholarship Foundation. The Russ Thomas Scholarship Fund was created in 1991 in memory of the late Detroit Lions player and general manager to provide financial assistance to deserving young adults who exhibit outstanding characteristics and values. More ND Prep students have received this scholarship than any other Catholic school in the area. The Russ Thomas scholarship recipients from NDP are:

- Tiffany Calderon '09
- Orlando Castro, Jr. '09
- Molly Horal '09
- Elizabeth Battiste '08
- Brandon Johnson '08
- Angela Ciosek '08
- Michelle Ankley '07
- Antonio Zambito '06
- Danielle Lewandowski '05
- Marcos Colon '04
- Paula Gialdi '04
- Danielle Kidder '04
- Kate Reimann '01
- Dominic Russo '01
- Kelly Cole Patterson '99
- Amy Florka Tanner '99

Bonior for governor? Nah...



A "Draft David Bonior for Governor of Michigan" group has been gathering signatures and support in an effort to convince the long-time legislator to jump into the 2010 race for the Democratic candidacy for governor. But it appears he's not interested.

David Bonior '63 (NDHS) is a life-long Democrat with solid state-wide name recognition and firm appreciation among the unions. He's a former state legislator

and member of Congress. The group also has launched a Draft David Bonior for Governor Facebook page. However, Elizabeth Bukey, a spokeswoman for Washington-based American Rights at Work, which Bonior chairs, says the former legislator is "not running" for governor.

1990 alums team up as Mega~Weedge

Andy Misuraca '90 (NDHS) and Tony DeNardo '90 (NDHS) are playing local Detroit-area clubs in a Ween-tribute band called Mega~Weedge. Misuraca, who plays rhythm guitar, started the band back in 2005 and soon thereafter recruited DeNardo to play bass.

Misuraca's older brother Paul, owner of the Cadieux Cafe, is the lead singer. (Paul went to Bishop Gallagher.) According to DeNardo, "If you listen to Ween, they have an eclectic songwriting style. But, in my opinion, they are the closest thing to the Beatles currently. Plus the songs are a blast to play!" Keep checking the alumni web site for upcoming gigs.



NDHS '90 grads Andy Misuraca, left, and Tony DeNardo

\$50,000 super-raffle winner at Oktoberfest



Fr. Leon presents a \$50,000 check to Dale and Denise Kirk.

NDPMA parents Dale and Denise Kirk happily accepted a check for \$50,000 as the grand-prize winner of the 2009 NDPMA Super Raffle at last year's Oktoberfest. For the second year in a row, the grand-prize winner offered to donate \$10,000 back to the school. A big thank

you to the Kirk family for this generous gesture!

Oktoberfest was the culmination of a very successful week of activities for the school, including a fun-filled (if rainy) student Walkathon.

2005 grad speaks at his UCLA commencement

John Kennelly, a 2005 alumnus of ND Prep was recently honored by speaking at his 2009 UCLA commencement ceremony. Kennelly joins fellow 2005 grad Stephanie Rink, who also gave a commencement speech at her Bucknell University ceremony in Pennsylvania. (p. 12)



De La Salle coach adds to honors

Brian Kelly '77 (NDHS), varsity baseball coach at De La Salle High School was named 2009 Diamond Sports ABCA Regional Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association. He was recognized at a banquet in Dallas, Texas, in January 2010.

He has also received recognition from the Baseball Coaches Association as a District Coach of the Year.

Kelly's varsity baseball team won the Michigan Division 1 Championship in June 2009, the third state baseball title for Kelly and De La Salle. Earlier this past fall, Kelly was honored by the Michigan High School Coaches Association when he was inducted into the MHSCA Hall of Fame.

NDP/UND grad committed to helping others

Notre Dame Prep alumnus Andy Pauwels ('05) graduated recently from the University of Notre Dame and is now involved with Teach for America, a program created under the U.S. AmeriCorps umbrella. TFA places top graduates from the best universities in struggling public schools, mostly in large cities. Last year alone, TFA placed 4,100 new teachers in public schools across the country. Pauwels, who also attended ND Marist Academy's middle division, currently is teaching at-risk middle-school students in Florida.



"I have always loved learning and I wanted to pass that on," he said. "And this is the challenge: to get kids who have no passion for learning to discover the joy of knowledge."

Pauwels says that the Teach for America application process was intense and highly selective. "Only 4,100 were selected from 35,000 applicants last year. It's very competitive. For example, 16% of Yale's graduating class applied. These applicants are the best of the best."

He currently teaches middle-school math at Eugene Butler Middle

School in Jacksonville, Florida. "I teach in a program for students who are two years or more behind grade level," said Pauwels. "I think my youngest middle-school students are 13 years old. I have many who have already turned 16. It is an extremely challenging position, but the reward will be tremendous if I can make breakthroughs."

Three first places at robotfest



NDMA sixth-grader Perry Outman prepares the Yellow Jackets Too LEGO Robot entry at the 2009 FIRST LEGO League Challenge in Saginaw. The Yellow Jackets Too received a first place in teamwork.

A group of Notre Dame Marist Academy middle schoolers traveled to Saginaw, Mich., in November to compete in the 2009 FIRST LEGO League (FLL) "Ready, Set, LEGO" Smart Move Challenge held on the campus of Delta College.

The Yellow Jackets, comprised of NDMA 7th and 8th graders, took first places in technical robot design and overall points, and the Yellow Jackets Too, all 6th graders, received a first place in teamwork.

A total of 280 students making up 28 teams competed against one another in the regional tournament, which was sponsored by Nexteer Automotive, an automotive supplier based in Saginaw.

Commenting on her experience with the LEGO league, NDMA eighth grader Ellen Green said, "Before FLL, I would have never thought math, technology, science

and engineering could be this fun!"

The Yellow Jackets and Yellow Jackets Too joined the top teams at the state competition in Flint this December. There are over 6,600 robotic teams of students ages 9 through 14 in the United States and Canada. The aim of the FLL program is to develop the skills and knowledge required of future engineers.

NDP ski teams continue to excel

At Mt. Holly, the NDP girls ski won their regional in division 2 on February 11. Earlier in the month, they defeated Country Day and Waterford in the giant slalom in the Don Thomas Cup tournament at Pine Knob. The score against both teams was 10-25. They finished in first place with a 8-1 record in the Pine Knob division and placed first at the division tournament. The boys team defeated Country Day (16-22) and Waterford (14-28) in giant slalom. They tied for third place with a 6-3 record in the Pine Knob division and placed fifth at the division tournament. Alex Rink placed ninth in slalom and 10th in giant slalom, which qualified him to compete as in individual in the SEMSL Championship. The girls team finished fifth in the state finals at Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs.



NDP skier Kara Petrowski finished first at the Don Thomas Cup tourney at Pine Knob.

Art show draws alumni artists

The Notre Dame Alumni Association held an alumni art show January 28-February 10 at the Pontiac campus of Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy. The show featured 65 pieces of art created by 12 alumni from both Notre Dame Prep and Notre Dame High School. NDAA director Kelly (Cole) Patterson was overjoyed at the level of participation from alumni, both as artists and visitors. "We had some really great pieces of art displayed—from paintings and drawings to pottery," she said. "Some of the art was for sale, but just to get together with such a creative group of people was special. Next year, we plan to make the show even bigger!"



Stephen Pobutsky '76 (NDHS), right, discusses the finer points of art with Jeff Powers '04 (NDP) at the January-28th opening reception for the NDAA First Annual Alumni Art Show. Pobutsky and Powers both exhibited art in the NDAA gallery. See the alumni web site for more photos from the event.

High-flying alumna

MSU sophomore Elizabeth Battiste '08 (NDP) is studying accounting in East Lansing and plans to follow up with law school. All of this keeps her very busy, but it's her extracurricular activity that really gets Battiste motivated.

"My greatest passion at MSU is my involvement with the MSU Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Team," she says. "We provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, as well as support and informational services for families and friends of people who have been assaulted." She says the program operates a 24-hour crisis hotline and provides medical, judicial, and legal advocacy. Battiste currently is the political outreach chair of the group, which keeps the organization up to date with any



NDP grad Elizabeth Battiste '08 skydives with her tandem partner as part of Operation Freefall. She plans to continue her work with the MSU Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Team after college.

legislation that may be pertinent to this field, and to reach out to legislators to help create awareness in local communities. One of the most exciting parts of her involvement in the MSU Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Team, she says, is its annual event, Operation Freefall: The Two-Mile-High Stand Against Sexual Assault. “Thousands of people across the country go tandem skydiving to raise funds and awareness for sexual-assault programs like ours,” said Battiste. “This year will be my second time participating and my first time organizing.”

Alumni hockey game

The annual alumni hockey game took place on January 2nd. There were about 20 alumni hockey players, their families and fans who participated in a fun game. A special thanks to Mike Lesnau '06 (NDP), who helped organize the event, and the alumni parents, who helped keep score and referee.



Alumni serving in the military

Captain Matthew E. Wernert '00 (NDHS)—US Army. After graduating with honors from NDHS, Matt attended Norwich University in Vermont as a member of the Corps of Cadets. He graduated with honors in June 2004. Since then, he has been serving in the United States Army in positions of increasing responsibility. Matt served 15 months in Iraq and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. He is married to Leslie and they have an 18 month old son. Matt was just assigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana where he will command a Company of 93 soldiers and support staff.

Note: Please see the alumni web site for a more complete listing of alumni serving our country in the military. Current military or veteran? Please let us know. We want to have the most up-to-date records of your service experience and address. Thank You!

Please keep all our active military and veterans in your prayers.

Please pray for:

Emily Rice, wife of retired teacher Hal Rice (NDHS/NDP): She had developed immunity to the current chemo protocol and unfortunately, a new small tumor showed up in the lung, and one on the cervical spine. She hasn't been feeling well, but is carrying on the battle, says Mr. Rice.

Paul Vago '66 (NDHS) is recovering from a stroke suffered in March. **Andrea Bierema '08 (NDP)** (as of Feb. 21) Recently, Andrea attended a UM hockey game and climbed 25 stairs with the help of her father and an attendant. She had to rest at the landing but managed to get to her seat. Her endurance is improving and she has been enjoying the company of friends and family. Andrea is continuing to stay strong. Many alumni and friends have supported her. In total, over \$2,000 has been raised to help the family's medical bills.

Hundreds of purple bracelets saying “Let Love In” were sold for donations for the family. Alumni from all over the country spread the word, sold bracelets, and took part in the effort. Follow her progress on Facebook: “Prayers for Andrea Bierema” or go to www.caringbridge.org: “letlovein”

Announcements

Bobby Trecapelli '07 (NDP) engaged to **Alexandra Solt '07 (NDP)** for a March 2011 wedding.

Alex Lindemann '04 (NDP) engaged to Amanda Driscoll for a September 2010 wedding.

Mike Rome '00 (NDP) and **Jennifer Fecek '00 (NDP)** are engaged to be married with a wedding planned for June 11, 2010. Attendants will include Brad Rome '03 (NDP), Chris Fecek '03 (NDP), Tony Ostrowski '00 (NDP), Mike Niemczycki '00 (NDP), Walt Wojtkowski '00 (NDP) and Chris Williams '96 (NDP).

Mac O'Brien '99 (NDP) engaged to Sara Raabe for a March 2010 wedding.

Megan Thiry '99 (NDP) engaged to Greg Knight for a July 2010 wedding.

Happy retirement

Ms. Anita Cordova, from NDPMA cafeteria, mother of David Cordova '97 (NDP). Anita has worked at the school since it opened in 1994.

Happy 90th birthday

Catherine Smith '38 (SM), grandmother of Douglas Smith '08 (NDP), celebrated her 90th birthday on January 29, 2010. Catherine was born in Salem, Ohio, and graduated in 1938 from St. Michael High School in Pontiac. She attended business school and then worked at Pontiac Motor as a clerk/secretary. Married Garnet Smith in 1943 and lives in Waterford Township. She has seven children, 18 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. She loves bowling. (Her party was celebrated at Airway Lanes.)

Weddings

Shana (Smith) Bohle '04 (NDP) and Dan Bohle, Aug. 1, 2009
Justin Sobczynski '02 (NDHS) and Rachel Wanagat, Sept. 18, 2009
Timothy Kruszyna '01 (NDHS) and Nicole Anteau, Apr. 25, 2009
Emily Kesek '00 (NDP) and **Matthew Hindelang '00 (NDHS)**, Oct. 17, 2009. Catherine Krause '00 (NDP), Erin Nolan '00 (NDP), Melissa Gerst Ford '00 (NDP), and Mark Hindelang '01 (NDHS), David Kowalski '00 (NDHS), Michael Bissig '00 (NDHS), as well as Matthew's dad and uncles from NDP and NDHS were in attendance.

Scott Jiles '00 (NDHS) and Rebecca Battestilli, Sept 26, 2009. Among the groomsmen were Patrick Kelly '00 (NDHS) and Jon Robb '00 (NDHS).

Kevin Dunbar '99 (NDHS) and Michelle Wheeler, Aug. 29, 2009
Mike Morrison '84 (NDHS) married for the first time over Labor Day weekend to Shelly. Lives in Cleveland, OH.

Births

Lauren Guest, born June 2009. Proud parents: **Michael Guest '95 (NDHS)** and Michelle Guest

Heather Marie Thomas, born May 27, 2009. Proud parents: **Damien Thomas '01 (NDHS)** and Kellie Thomas

Alumni Rest in Peace

Gerald Wagoner '55 (SF)

Please see IRISH News, page 19

electric avenue

NOTRE DAME PREP GRAD HITS THE ROAD WITH GM'S EXCITING NEW

A Notre Damer and Irishman through and through, Tom Durkin '00 (NDP) carries the skills he was taught in school throughout everything he does. Durkin, oldest of seven children, has done a lot of very cool things in just a short career so far. He is a calibration specialist for General Motors, working on the electric-car program and the Chevy Volt. He spends most of his time at GM's Milford Proving Grounds, but also gets out on the road to test the company's latest vehicles.

As he tries (without success) to explain in layman's language what he does, "I'm responsible for creating an axle torque request based on interpreting the driver's accelerator pedal input as well as other areas, including cruise-control calibration and engine-speed control." Got it!

As this article is written, Durkin is traveling with his GM team of specialists to the northern parts of Canada, completing a cold-weather test on the Volt. He already has traveled around the country testing the car in mountain ranges (Pikes Peak) and hot-weather areas (Nevada). He's gaining much experience in a field that his mother says was pre-ordained. "He knew from the age of seven that he wanted to be an engineer," Mary Durkin said. She said that when Tom was in the Boy Scouts, he was a part of the young-engineer program and built his first engine. After that, his mom says, he knew for sure that was what he wanted to do.

Prior to working on the Volt, Tom was a hardware release engineer working on the Duramax diesel engine. Specifically, he was working on the exhaust-gas recirculation valve and the intake system, with additional projects

involving hardware design and warranty reduction.

He also has applied his engineering skills in the community. While attending the University of Dayton during his freshman year, Tom participated in a program called the "New Engineers Program: Wheels for Kids." The



Tom Durkin '00 (NDP), center, with fellow GM personnel taking a break during a test drive to Pikes Peak near Colorado Springs, Colorado, with the Chevy Volt, GM's new electric car.

program calls for engineering students at UD to work with younger children to fix donated bicycles—and the kids got to keep the bikes. It was a particularly enjoyable experience for Tom and he worked closely with the kids before ultimately transferring to the University of Notre Dame after his freshman year.

THE ENGINEER AND THE COACH

Tom always has had a strong engineering mind, but he possesses an equally strong ability to work with others, particularly children. He has "relate-ability," according to his mother. When he gets time away from his busy GM work, Tom helps coach 5/6 grade football and 7/8 grade baseball at St. Joseph School in Lake Orion.

Recalling his most fond memories from NDP, he says without hesitation, "Football! Even though we weren't that

good, I enjoyed my time playing, and I think I took away valuable life lessons, including the fact that we can learn from everything and to take experiences for what they're worth. You aren't going to win at everything, so you might as well get something from the experience!"

He also says Notre Dame Prep prepared him academically and helped him to practice skills he is using every day in his career. After leaving Dayton, Tom completed two degrees, a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and a Masters in Science in Engineering from Purdue.

"I think the thing NDP did most for me was instill a good work ethic when it came to my studies—and managing my time," Durkin said. "During my college years, I was completely committed to my studies because it was clear I needed to perform well in order to be successful in my chosen career. I'm still early in it, but so far so good."

It seems that Durkin's automotive career and employer may have been a given. He is in a field that is very familiar to him. Not only do both his parents work in automotive, so did his grandfather. Combined, his grandfather, mother and dad have worked over 80 years with General Motors.

When asked his opinion about the industry and its

future, especially with environmentally friendly cars, Durkin believes "the industry fully understands the need and desire for environmentally friendly cars, and it's taking very real steps to address the needs of the consumers." As recently reported in the news, electric vehicles like the Chevy Volt, along with conventional vehicles with much-improved fuel economy such as the Chevy Equinox, are becoming much more prevalent.

Will SUVs and large "gas-guzzling" vehicles become obsolete within the next few years? Not so fast, says Durkin. "In 2009, three of the top-10, best-selling vehicles were pickup trucks from Ford, Chevy, and Dodge; with the F-150 topping the list. There is still a strong demand for trucks and OEMs also are working to improve the efficiency of these historic gas guzzlers."

When looking even further into the future of the automotive industry, Durkin places the responsibility squarely on the buying public. "It depends on how the technology is accepted in the field," he says. "I think the focus will be on continuing to improve the efficiency of the internal combustion engine as this is the cheapest short-term solution. But I think you will see a lot more electrification for vehicles (i.e., Chevy Volt)."

Even though still quite young himself, Durkin is not shy about offering advice to younger, aspiring engineers. "There is a large push for alternative-energy solutions right now in the industry, so taking any courses in these areas would definitely be advantageous. Also, get involved in extracurricular activities like the SAE Mini-Baja, SAE Electric Car, ECO Car, and Challenge-X. Additionally, a co-op

ELECTRIC CAR

stint or summer internship while in college is a must.”

CHEVY vs. FORD

While Durkin works feverishly on the launch of the Volt, he still manages to keep up with his many siblings. The Durkins are a close family with an obvious love and respect for each other and a support system that remains strong. But General Motors is not the only topic discussed at the dinner table. Younger brother Mike ‘01 (NDP) is currently working for Ford Motor Company. (see sidebar for more info) Yes, brotherly competition is present, according to mom, but “they find a way to add comedy to the competition. It’s never boring.”

Mike graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in business after attending Albion College for two years.



The Durkin family, back row, left to right, Thomas, Daniel and Michael. Middle, left to right: James, Matthew, Andrew. Front, left to right, Katy, mom Mary, dad Mike.

He then accepted a sales and promotions position with Ford and currently is the business development specialist for the Kansas City region. In this role he helps coordinate the region’s auto shows, wholesale planning, and dealership programs. He is traveling with the auto shows and has been on TV many times. “His gregarious personality is perfect for what he’s doing,” says

mom Mary.

Mike’s other accomplishments include being number one in sales in the Kansas region, and being the number one Ford truck dealer.

He recalls one great experience where Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally was looking for help in getting his mother a car. Mulally personally asked Mike to show his mother some Ford vehicles. After flying Mrs. Mulally to Kansas, Mike did the “walk around” with her and introduced her to a vehicle that he thought was perfect for her.

“He knows the cars inside and out,” said Mary. “And he’s honest.” Mulally’s mother ended up buying the vehicle Mike recommended.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING

The Durkins are all-too eager to also discuss the rest of the family.

Mom says Tom and Mike’s sister Katy ‘06 (NDP) is a senior at St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana, and has been an active contributor to the school’s soccer team, playing in 60 of 67 games so far for the Belles.

Younger

brother Dan is a sophomore at NDP and there are three other siblings soon to be a part of the Notre Dame family. Mary Durkin says that being able to provide the opportunity to attend Notre Dame Prep was a value the Durkin family took very seriously. “There wasn’t a choice,” she said. “It wasn’t ‘do you want to go to NDP?’ It was

Please see Durkin, page 19

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DURKIN FAMILY



Notre Dame Prep alum Mike Durkin ‘01 and friend with country music star Toby Keith at a Ford Motor Company “Meet and Greet.” Toby Keith and Ford have teamed up on concert tours and promotional events for the F-150.

SIX QUESTIONS WITH MIKE DURKIN ‘01 (NDP)

- 1. You have an MSU business degree; what now, academically?** I’m currently preparing for the GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) to begin an MBA program this fall.
- 2. What advice would you offer for a new graduate seeking a similar field?** In sales and marketing, your ability to build relationships is a majority of what you’ll do. In any job, I truly believe that if someone calls you, you always have to call them back. If they have a question and you don’t have the answer, tell them you’ll find it and get back to them.
- 3. Currently, you’re working on the business-development side of the automotive world. What has the response been in the industry to eco-friendly cars?** There has definitely been a shift in the buying patterns of Americans. While some decided to go into hybrid vehicles, others have decided to downsize into smaller vehicles. The biggest shift has been due to the overall economy. The drop in the industry hasn’t just caused people to shift from larger vehicles to smaller vehicles, but they’ve decided to hold onto their vehicles much longer than they used to. Ford is working to have more cost affordable fuel-efficient vehicles. Turbocharging is becoming more affordable than many of the hybrid options, which makes it a more viable option for more buyers.
- 4. Okay, back to school. At ND Prep, what teacher inspired you?** I’ve always enjoyed history, so I have to say Mr. Simon. (NDPMA staff ‘89 NDHS) His Law class was great because he forced you to get up in front of the group and speak to the class, which proved very beneficial in college.
- 5. What do you think was the value of your NDP education?** First, I need to thank my parents for my Catholic education. I think the Catholic education provided me and my six siblings with a strong structure and value system in our education.
- 6. Favorite memory from high school?** Irish Week was always a great time at NDP. Also, playing football, because the guys who played were some of the hardest working people I’ve known. However, I have to mention winning the Catholic League championship in lacrosse during my junior and senior years!

record keeper

NDHS 2000 ALUM TAKES HIS PASSION FOR MUSIC AND VINYL TO NASHVILLE



Dirtbombs: (from left) Pat Pantano (drums), Ben Blackwell '00 (NDHS) (drums), Ko Melina (guitar/vocals), Mick Collins (guitar/vocals) and Zachary Weedon (bass).

Ben Blackwell, a 2000 graduate of NDHS, is a drummer in the Dirtbombs, an American garage-rock band based in Detroit, notable for blending such diverse influences as punk rock and soul music. He's been with the Dirtbombs since nearly the beginning when the band was formed in the mid-1990s by Mick Collins (of the influential garage punk band The Gories) as a side project. They started recording songs in 1995.

But what probably takes up most of Blackwell's time is his role managing the vinyl-record division of his uncle Jack White's (White Stripes) record company, Third Man Records, in Nashville. He's a busy guy, but took some time to answer a few questions for IRISH magazine.

IRISH: *What are your current responsibilities at Third Man?*

BLACKWELL: We specifically don't have proper job titles at Third Man. For example, my business card reads "Pinball Wizard." That being said, my day-to-day is heavy on the vinyl manufacturing of Third Man titles.

IRISH: Any recent news about the Dirtbombs? Upcoming gigs?

BLACKWELL: I was in Detroit in October performing with the Dirtbombs. The folks from Vice magazine are putting together a documentary on current "garage" bands and they flew me into Detroit so they could interview me and film a Dirtbombs performance. Other than that, we're slowly working on a new album, but when I say slow, I mean Guns N' Roses slow.

IRISH: How did you get involved with the Dirtbombs initially?

BLACKWELL: Mick Collins (the guitarist/lead singer of the Dirtbombs) had seen me play a show at the Gold Dollar in the Cass Corridor in the summer of 1999. As November was rolling around he was looking for a drummer and I was overjoyed at the possibility of playing with what was, at the time, one of my favorite bands. My first show

with them was December of that year.

IRISH: What is the most exotic or memorable location/city/show the Dirtbombs have ever played?

BLACKWELL: Zagreb, Tasmania, Belgrade, and on a boat circling the Statue of Liberty. Most memorable shows would be either Washington, DC, in 2003 or Wellington, New Zealand, in 2008—both of which saw me draw blood from bizarre drum antics and required emergency room visits.

IRISH: How and when did you learn how to play drums? Did you play in high school?

BLACKWELL: I started playing drums during my freshman year at Notre Dame.

IRISH: Why did you move to Nashville and how did you get the job at Third Man?

BLACKWELL: I moved to Nashville explicitly for the job at Third Man. While I was still living in Detroit, I was running my own vinyl-focused record label (Cass Records) and Jack White (owner/big cheese at Third Man) liked what I was doing with it and asked me to come and work for him in Nashville. It's also worth noting that Jack is my uncle and at this point vinyl feels like the family business.

IRISH: Would you ever consider coming back to Detroit?

BLACKWELL: I would move back to Detroit in a heartbeat provided there was a job for me there that paid a decent salary, covered my health insurance and found me pressing vinyl for all of my favorite bands.

IRISH: How is your brother Stephen '97 (NDHS) doing?

BLACKWELL: Stephen is living in the Detroit-area and staying completely busy with acting, from Greenfield Village (he was one of the Wright Brothers this past summer) to the Detroit Repertory Theater and everywhere in-between. My sister, Angela, is in Chicago and is an assistant manager at the Levi's Store in Evanston. Mom and dad are working the same jobs they have for the past thirty-some years.

IRISH: Recalling your four years at ND, can you name some of the most influential teachers you had there and why?

BLACKWELL: In his brief two years there, Mr. Kluka and his freshman year English class were profoundly influential on me. He was the first person to ever suggest to me that I should write about music for an actual publication. I won Rolling Stone's college journalism contest in 2004 and I don't think that would have been possible without his gentle nudge.

Also, Mrs. Ayrault's English classes were always so engaging and captivating. She taught a speech class in 99-00, and I still remember it as just perfect. The mix of upper and lower classmen, goofballs and scholars, shy guys and outgoing fools—I don't think I could ever imagine a class (grade school, high school, college) making me feel better than that speech class still does. Plus, I won a contest that let me give a speech at graduation without having to be Valedictorian or student-council president. I was happy to sneak in that way.

IRISH: Did you play sports at ND and if so, which ones?

BLACKWELL: I played soccer for four years, but my final two years were spent mainly on the bench telling jokes to the starters when they sat down to catch their breath. Thanks to a slick one Bryan Pickford '00 (NDHS) pulled over on then-athletic director Joe Spada, I still own my team-issue, green Adidas soccer shorts from senior year and have brought them with me on every tour I've ever done—Japan, Australia, Europe, Yukon Territory.

IRISH: Do you keep in touch with any former classmates?

BLACKWELL: I recently went to Rob Topolewski's '00 (NDHS) wedding in Chicago. From time to time I'd run into Andrew Shelley '00 (NDHS) or Dave Kowalski '00 (NDHS) in Detroit. But really, I've been far more out-of-touch than I'd like to admit and the upcoming ten-year reunion gives me high hopes for finally seeing what in the heck

John Wendling '00 (NDHS) is doing.

IRISH: Any other NDHS memories you can share?

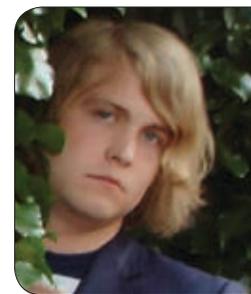
BLACKWELL: In reflecting where I am today, in a job that deals wholly with vinyl records, I am utterly amazed that we had a 45-rpm jukebox in the cafeteria. Not only was that the coolest thing happening at ND while I was there, it may be the coolest thing I've ever encountered my entire life. The fact that I could hand Fr. Bryson a copy of the White Stripes' first single back in 1998 and he would put it in the jukebox, no questions asked, still seems unbelievable to me. (Side note: the NDHS cafeteria is almost certainly the location of the White Stripes first-ever jukebox plays in the world.) Even more unbelievable was that he put me in charge of the jukebox—

letting me remove and add titles as I saw fit and even giving me money (in dollar bills, no less) to buy new singles. If there was any doubt before, my infatuation with vinyl records was permanently sealed by Fr. Bryson asking me to take charge of the trusty Seeburg.

Also, I always had a blast with Quiz Bowl. I remember when Mr. Swaney put together the team in junior year, I wasn't originally included. I'd heard murmurs about it and convinced Matt Hindelang '00 (NDHS) to "suggest" to Swaney that I be included. When the first tournament rolled around, I'm humble enough to say that I personally swept the floor with Grosse Pointe South. Our team of juniors were a respectable 4-5 our first tournament while the seniors went 0-9. It was glorious. ■

For more info on the Dirtbombs: thedirtbombs.net

Ben's blog: <http://trembleunder-boomlights.blogspot.com/>



studying in Happy Valley and Uruguay



Through her previous experiences in student government, undergraduate research, community service and studying in Grenada, Spain, Stephanie Rink, a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame Prep and now an alumna of Bucknell University, has built connections that likely will last a lifetime.

Now she's at Penn State University in a nutrition sciences program that includes a research stint in Uruguay. It also should be noted that Rink was selected in a competition judged by fellow students, faculty and staff to be the class of '09 speaker for Bucknell's commencement on May 17. She recently answered a few questions from alumni director Kelly (Cole) Patterson '99 (NDP).

IRISH: Could you give us an update on Bucknell? Why did you choose this college?

RINK: I graduated from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., in May with a double Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Chemistry. I chose this exceptional institution for its high-caliber academics, welcoming feel, and impressive opportunities for students to be involved outside of the classroom.

IRISH: What about post-graduate plans?

RINK: I am attending Penn State University to pursue a PhD in Nutrition Sciences. I will be actively researching how iron deficiency and lead expo-

I want to use my career in nutrition to improve the health and lives of others.

Stephanie Rink



Stephanie Rink, left and above, a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, was chosen to address 900 of her fellow graduates and thousands of visitors at Bucknell University's 159th commencement ceremony on May 17 in Lewisburg, Pa.

sure affect childhood development. Data collection also will be taking place in Uruguay.

IRISH: Were you involved in other things at Bucknell? Did you hold any special office?

RINK: I became very involved on campus at Bucknell. I was particularly involved in student government. I served as secretary/treasurer of my class all four years, was the student liaison to the Town Borough Council, the student representative on the International Education Committee, the chair of the Fiscal Committee, and the chair of the Community Affairs Committee. Outside of student government, I held a job as the assistant community service coordinator under the dean of students. I was an active member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, within which I held the position of parliamentarian and ritual chair. I also assisted with new student orientation for two years.

IRISH: What advice would you offer current NDP students about getting involved at the high-school level?

RINK: Step outside of your comfort zone! Try something new if it interests you! Even if you have no experience in

a field but are interested in joining (or even starting) a club or organization, give it a go. It never hurts to try.

IRISH: What has been the most challenging part about attending college?

RINK: Time management is definitely the hardest part of attending college. Managing extracurricular commitments, social engagements, personal wellbeing, along with an intense workload that is inherent with university courses. It is important to make time for every part of college life.

IRISH: Do you feel that Notre Dame Prep prepared you for life after high school?

RINK: Certainly! I felt academically prepared for the college-course load.

IRISH: What are your hopes, dreams and aspirations?

RINK: My hopes, dreams, and aspirations are constantly changing. I am always growing and evolving, and my future goals must grow and evolve with me. Generally speaking, I know that I want to use my career in nutrition to improve the health and the lives of others to help them create the best life possible. ■

PARENTS

If you're reading this, ask your alumni son or daughter if they have updated their new address, new name, or recent graduation/job placement. We still have a lot of addresses for many alumni who are no longer at home, so please help us pass the word along to your alumni. Thank you!

BUSINESS?

Share your business with us. Where do you work? Do you own your own company? Currently, we are gathering information for an alumni directory of businesses. Visit the webpage, click "update" and provide your information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Additional information for all events on www.ndpma.org/alumni

March

- 13 Alumni Irish Games
- 20 Traveling Irish Dinner—Chicago
- 23 13th Annual Fashion Show Gala
- 27 Wine Tasting at NDMA-Waterford

May

- 14 NDP Senior Breakfast
- 22 NDP Chorale & Alumni Concert
- 23 NDP Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement (Welcome 2010 alumni)

June

- 17 NDPMA Booster Club Golf Outing

August

- 17 Alumni Annual Meeting

September

- 12 St. Frederick All-Class Reunion
- 19 St. Michael All-Class Reunion
- 25 NDHS Class of 1960 50-year reunion

October

- 1 Homecoming game at Notre Dame Prep (Afterglow at Red Ox Tavern in Auburn Hills)

ALUMNI VISITS

Visit the school any time! We welcome our alumni to come back, see former teachers, and just tour the school. In January alone, we had over 40 alumni visitors to campus! Thanks for visiting! See you soon.

ALUMNI SURVEY

This past December the Notre Dame Alumni Association launched its first alumni survey in an effort to obtain feedback from our fellow alumni about goals and events that everyone would like to see happen. A great big thank you to all that participated—your input is appreciated and will certainly help the board in its future planning! Also a big thank you goes out to Kris Powell '75 (NDHS) and BenePro, who helped facilitate this survey!

The full report of the survey will be available on our alumni website in April.

L.A. comedian doesn't

SAYS ND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HIS CAREER CHOICE AND SUCCESS

Dave Coulier '77 (NDHS) is perhaps best known for his work on the long-running hit ABC television series, *Full House*, which aired for eight seasons (1987-1995, with 192 episodes produced) and now can be seen as part of the Nick At Nite and ABC Family network lineups. Additionally, the show is currently in worldwide syndication in over 100 countries. He followed this success by hosting his second prime-time hit series *America's Funniest People*, which ran on ABC for four seasons. Coulier also handled the hosting chores for ABC's *The World's Funniest Videos*, and hosted his own series, *Out of Control*, for Nickelodeon. In March, he heads back home to Michigan to perform at a few area clubs.

Currently living in Los Angeles with his son, Luc, Coulier gets back to his home state quite often. He also spends a lot of his free time flying airplanes, and playing ice hockey and golf.

He was gracious enough recently to accommodate *IRISH* magazine with more info on what he's been up to lately and talked about some Notre Dame memories.

Saying he's never been busier, he started a new production company called "Cumulus Entertainment," partnering with a number of producers he's worked with over the years, and just recently pitched six new TV series to ABC.

"I also wrote two movies last year that won a couple of awards and continue to do standup comedy at theaters, clubs, casinos and colleges," he noted. "This year I'm going to be taping a one-hour standup special from my 'Funny T-Shirt Tour' and I still do voice over work on 'Robot Chicken' and 'The Bob and Doug (McKenzie) Show,' where I am the voice of Bob McKenzie."

With all that on his plate, he still finds time to connect with a few of his fellow ND grads. In fact, his agent is Dave Moroz, a 1976 graduate of ND, and he often sees fellow '77er Mark Cendrowski, who also lives in L.A. and is himself busy in Hollywood.

"Mark is currently directing 'The Big Bang Theory,' which won the Best Comedy Series - People's Choice Award," said Coulier. "He may win a SAG award and possibly



forget his roots

could be nominated for a directing Emmy this year.” Coulier said he and “Cinder” always find time to watch hockey, especially when the Red Wings come to Los Angeles to play the Kings.

And nearly every year, Coulier meets up with fellow alums at Garland Resort in northern Michigan. “This past summer more than 20 of us went to Garland for some golf and legal stupidity.”

He also reconnects with his Full House alumni. “I see them all the time,” he says. “It’s kind of weird. We’ve really stuck together after all these years. I just stayed with John Stamos for three days in NYC. He’s starring in ‘Bye Bye Birdie’ on Broadway. Amazing show.”

Demonstrating that he retains his midwestern/Notre Dame roots and values, Coulier stays very active with a number of charities that get a big chunk of his time — “Hockey Fights Cancer,” most recently. He said he’s been really fortunate to have achieved a certain amount of success and that he feels he should use that fame to help others. “If I can get the word out through the media to help charities, it really utilizes the fame part of what I do to its highest potential. It’s just really a no-brainer to help others whenever I can.”



Speaking of Notre Dame, Coulier brought up a couple of teachers from high school who he thinks were instrumental in his career choice and subsequent success. “Conrad Vachon and Father Bryson both gave me opportunities to perform comedy and entertain fellow students at Notre Dame. They could’ve easily just told me to cool it with the impersonations and the comedy bits. But instead, they allowed Cendrowski and

me to write comedy sketches and perform them during school. Some alumni may still remember the ‘Linus Pauling and the Band’ show we did in Regina’s auditorium.”

Coulier also fondly recalls Vachon’s writing classes.



Future comedian and TV star Dave Coulier sits front row, second from right, next to boyhood pal and future Hollywood director Mark Cendrowski, seated right. Coulier and this motley crew from NDHS performed “Linus Pauling and the Band” for fellow students.

impression here): ‘David, not everything in this world is funny.’ And I said, ‘Yes it is.’ He laughed, shook his head and walked away. I stuck with it though, and for the next assignment I wrote something that I thought was really funny about the Vietnam War. The following week he was giving out our papers and I thought: ‘Here comes another D!’ He threw my paper on my desk with a look of sheer disgust on his face. I looked down. I got the gold star! Before I read my paper to class, he told everyone what (‘guts’) I had. The moral of the story for me? **STICK WITH WHAT YOU**

“He would give out a gold star if your paper was the best of that week’s assignment. I would usually write something funny about a serious subject matter.

Well, my first four papers in his class were Ds. He told me (insert nasally Conrad Vachon

BELIEVE and there’s going to be some failure on the way to success.” ■

Coulier will be in Michigan for

a couple of shows in March: March 25, headlining Comedy Fest at Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle in Royal Oak (248) 542-9900; and March 26, for a show in Romeo at Younger’s Irish Tavern (586) 752-4400.

A 2009 interview of Dave Coulier conducted by Joe Borri ‘80 (NDHS) can be found on the NDAA alumni web site: www.ndpma.org/alumni

NDAA BOARD MEETINGS

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

SAVE THE DATE

- Annual Alumni Meeting - Tuesday, August 17, 2010. The Alumni Board of Directors will host its annual meeting at Notre Dame Prep in Pontiac. At the meeting, an election will take place for additional alumni directors. We are creating an on-line option for nominating a candidate or for voting for your favorite candidates. Make your voice heard! Visit the website for additional details and nomination forms.
- Homecoming is Friday, Oct. 1, 2010

DONOR FOR A DOLLAR

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

TRAVELING IRISH DINNERS

Congratulations to our UM Wolverines! They beat our MSU alumni by having more alumni attend the Traveling Irish Dinner on February 12th. Both schools had a great time gathering ND alumni, eating, and sharing memories.

A Chicago Traveling Irish Dinner is currently being planned for March 20th. Please visit the website for location and details.

For more information on upcoming Traveling Irish Dinners and events, visit our calendar on the website.

GUILTY AS CHARGED!



As the head of Advancement, I often get accused of only caring about money. This often comes up in discussions with alumni from both Notre Dame Prep and Notre Dame High School.

As you begin to dissect private, independent Catholic education though, it is easier to understand why we ask for support so often and in so many ways. The simple fact is that Catholic schools will not survive without the support of individuals who care about the Catholic school mission and purpose.

According to National Catholic Educational Association statistics, the number of Catholic schools in the United States and the number of students attending Catholic schools is only about one half of its peak in the mid 1960s. Last year alone, 162 Catholic schools consolidated or closed, and only 31 new schools opened.

It costs about \$12,500 a year to educate a child in a quality Catholic high school today. This includes teacher salaries (mostly lay persons), benefits, curriculum, arts, athletics, student clubs, Christian ministry programs, and other activities important to the formation of students as well-balanced citizens, prepared to live a Catholic/Christian life.

We try to keep the cost of tuition as low as possible so that families can better afford to send their children to our school. But with rising costs and declining economic conditions, we walk a fine line every year as we sit down to balance our budget.

While living within our means, we have been able to stabilize enrollment (approximately 1,000 students spread among the divisions), add much-needed facilities (auxiliary gym, music center, weight room, etc.), refresh computer technology, add academic programs, and reduce our long-term debt—all this, in large measure, thanks to the generous ancillary support of our benefactors.

We solicit support from parents, grandparents, alumni, alumni parents, friends and corporations each year because we know that we cannot survive without outside support. We receive little government funding and little financial support from the Archdiocese of Detroit. We are truly on our own to fulfill our Marist educational mission.

Our future and, indeed, the future of all Catholic schools are directly linked to our ability to find the resources necessary to compete in a very demanding marketplace. We do it for our mission, and our Marist mission means the intellectual and spiritual welfare of our kids. While money is not our mission, it provides the fuel to achieve our mission.

So, when people say that all I care about is money, I have to answer honestly, "Guilty as charged."

Thank you to all our alumni who supported our annual giving appeal. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Guest '84 (NDHS)
Vice President for Advancement, NDPMA

DON'T FORGET THE ALUMNI IRISH GAMES

Saturday, March 13th, 2010

NDPMA Pontiac Campus; 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.; \$10

Registration includes t-shirt, food and drink tickets for the bar.

Register by March 1st online: ndpma.org/alumni; or mail payment to:

Alumni Irish Games, 1300 Giddings Rd, Pontiac, MI 48340

(Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.)



A Force for Change

"My Notre Dame Preparatory education provided me with academic rigor, integrity and a focus on caring about others. These values are still the foundation of my life. The education and values have influenced the path I have taken to get to where I am today, and will be with me in the future."

Bridget Maher

Alumna of
Notre Dame Preparatory School
and Harvard University



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BETSY MOTT UPDATE

After the Fall 2009 IRISH was published, Betsy Mott '04 (NDP) sent an update from her village in Africa.

Betsy's village is called Ataloté, and it has about a thousand residents on the northern border of the Kara region (the second most northern region) in Togo. She is the first volunteer in that region. "My sector is Agricultural Productivity and Food Security, a division of the Natural Resources Management. Currently, I am working with the local clinic doing weekly nutritional talks during baby weighing," she said. Betsy also has a nursery

of 200 trees of various varieties, including moringa, orange and mango.

"When school begins again, I hope to start a girls' club and soccer team and become more involved with the village development committee." ■



notre dame hip hopper

ALUM WANTS HIS GENERATION TO RISE UP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Monica Drake '06 (NDP)

For students who attended Notre Dame Prep during the years Jonathan Russo '04 (NDP) attended, he was practically a legend—known for his drum solos with the Men's Glee Club or when he rapped to an 'N Sync song during a sports rally. Now, six years since graduation, he has turned music into his career as "J-Rus."

His career was established with the creation of his first three-song demo CD titled "Get Up." Upon its release in the summer of 2005, using only self-promotion, J-Rus sold over 1,000 demo tracks. In May 2007, he released a 9-track album entitled "At the Gates."

Russo credits many of NDP's teachers for inspiring him on his road to success. But one in particular helped him the most—David Fazzini. Mr. Fazzini instilled in Russo the love of music that has become so prominent in his life.

"I will never forget him. He taught me how to sing and made me fall in love with music. His passion for the students was absolutely remarkable. His ear for music was top ten in the country. I have met some serious musicians and singers. People do not understand the gift that God placed inside of them. He inspired me so much," Russo said.

Russo is now a hip-hop artist, composer and producer. He attended two colleges, starting off at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and graduated in 2007 with a recording-arts degree from Full Sail Real World Education in Orlando, Florida.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN RUSSO

Russo said his older brother Dominic '01 (NDP) graduated from Oral Roberts University, and that his parents wanted him to also give it a shot. "I barely lasted a year! Great school, just not for me. I knew that

I wanted to get a degree so I researched Music Production and Engineering. I found that Full Sail was the best choice and most cutting edge. If you wanted to make it in the industry, this was the place to be," he said. "When you have destiny knocking at your heart's door 24/7, you can't run away from it. You have to pursue it with



everything you've got."

In a Sony Remix Production Battle at Full Sail, Russo won two remix competitions and was recognized as the number one producer in his class. Full Sail prepared Russo for the real world, he says, for sometimes he would be in class for 16 hours per day.

"Day and night I would write songs and produce music. I think before I left school, I had about 300 songs written," Russo said. He gets his inspiration for songs from God and real life experiences, and his passion for music and his love for people is what keeps him going throughout his rigorous schedule.

"I would dream of being in front of crowds performing and helping people

reach their fullest potential," Russo said.

Since then, he has performed in front of crowds of as many as 75,000. He has performed in South America and this past summer he performed in Nicaragua with his brother, which was one of his favorite experiences. He also has performed at the Palace of Auburn Hills during the now Tulsa

Shock's halftime show and has opened for bands such as the Jeff Deyo Band, Kari Jobe, Toby Mac, Stellar Kart, Grammy Award-nominated band Leeland and Grammy Award-winning rapper T-Bone.

Russo said his favorite part about performing is that God can use him as a rapper to bless people. A few months ago, he performed at a church in Chicago. "These people flipped out that I was rapping a club-like song in church!" Russo said. But Russo doesn't sing the stereotypical lyrics of a rap artist. He gives a whole new image to the genre.

He sang one of his singles, "SYCO," for the 400 attendees of the church. "SYCO is about losing yourself and giving everything you have to your passion and dreams. Sometimes you

got to be a psycho! Look at Joseph in the Bible, his brothers called him a maniac for having those dreams," Russo explained. But, as Russo has demonstrated in his own life, if you work hard enough, the dreams that some people may doubt can definitely become a reality.

Recently, his song "Bounce" was featured in the official trailer for the movie "To Save a Life," which came out in theaters on Jan. 22. "To Save a Life" is a movie about an all-star sports player in high school whose childhood friend commits suicide. The movie centers around the effect this had on the main character's life and how he in turn would sacrifice his dreams to help save the lives of others. Russo flew to L.A. on Jan. 21

Please see Hip Hopper, page 20



Now in his second career, Notre Dame Marist Academy middle-division religion teacher Mark McGreevy '75 (NDHS) says it's the best move he's made after a 25-year first career as an architect. The Notre Dame High School alum credits his first visit as a parent of a prospective student and a losing battle with God as factors in his mid-life career switch and ultimately, his NDMA job. McGreevy talks about his career and why he made the switch.

IRISH: What are the most significant changes to the school since you first started?

McGREEVY: The most significant change has been the implementation of the International Baccalaureate program. This program takes a lot of work by a lot of people and, I think, we have made great strides in accomplishing the requirements. Parents don't realize the behind-the-scenes work of the coordinators, the trips the teachers have gone on, the effort to do new unit plans, all while keeping the school humming along and achieving things like Top 50 Catholic High Schools awards repeatedly. These people are really amazing. It says a lot about the staff and faculty of all the divisions.

IRISH: What do you think is the most important part of your job?

McGREEVY: Responsibility, in a nut shell! I was never so intimidated as when I was asked to teach religion. Not because I didn't think

NDMA gains after alum loses battle with "Him"

IRISH: Why did you become a teacher?

McGREEVY: Oh, for the money of course! (laughing)

IRISH: Was NDPMA your first teaching job?

McGREEVY: No, teaching wasn't even my first career! I spent 25 years as an architect, but my first teaching job was at St. Anne in Warren. My eighth-grade English teacher, Thom Engel, remembered me and hired me for seventh grade. I guess being a good kid paid off. That was in 2003. After that, it was to NDPMA where I've been ever since. Although I was originally hired to teach at the lower division, I moved to the middle division when an opening became available about a week before school began.

IRISH: How did you handle your first teaching experience?

My first teaching experience went quite well actually. I was offered a contract renewal—that's a good thing! I was in my mid 40s, though, and had plenty of experience working with kids through coaching prior to making this career change. In a sense, I had already been teaching kids in a part-time fashion for nearly ten years. So the jump to the classroom wasn't overwhelming.

IRISH: What was your first impression of NDPMA?

McGREEVY: My first impression of the school came when my oldest son, Eoghan '06 (NDP), needed to move from his current school to somewhere that he could get away from bullies. ND Marist was never on my radar. In fact, we had recently moved to Beverly Hills to be closer to U of D High because that was where I planned on sending my boys. My wife Carol, though, suggested we look at Marist since it was close to Chrysler where she works and it would be more convenient. I actually argued with her about it, but agreed "to look" at it. I wouldn't consider it, but I'd look.

We came in unannounced and went to the Marist middle office and met Mrs. Favrow who talked to us about the school, etc. We discussed the bully issue and then something happened that changed everything. Mrs. Favrow took us to a classroom completely unannounced and told the kids, "This is Eoghan and he is thinking of coming to our school next year." The kids literally got up from their seats and put their arms around Eoghan and showed him around the class. My wife and I never saw anything like it. Carol nearly began to cry. I was speechless. I never saw anything like it anywhere else. This has been a special place for me ever since.

I could do it, but because I would suddenly become so responsible for such an important aspect of my students' lives. I could make a mistake in history, but in religion – are you kidding!! My soul would pay for that for eternity! There is a path from my room to Fr. Strasz's '70 (NDHS) office, so when St. Peter says, "Hey, what did you do to all those kids?," I can point to Fr. Strasz and say, "I asked him if it was okay!"

IRISH: What role do you think the classes you teach play in fulfilling the school's mission?

McGREEVY: Currently, I am teaching eighth graders in "History of Religion." I take this class very seriously, so much so that I am currently enrolled at Sacred Heart Major Seminary studying Theology in the master's program. I was given the task by Mrs. Favrow to "make it interesting!" I hope I have succeeded in making it interesting, but my goal is to expose the students to the "why" we do what we do. I have always found "why" the most enlightening part of any education, so why not with religion. When students begin to get an understanding of why Catholics do what they do, then they have something they can cling on to. At that point the high school can begin to reinforce their curiosity. A main focus of Christianity was not to force someone to become Christian, but to show them why it is good and give them the freedom to choose it for themselves. That's what I try to do in my class. I present the material and let them decide. I believe the religious aspect of their education is paramount; "With God, we form Christian People."

IRISH: What would you choose for a job if you weren't a teacher?

McGREEVY: Whatever He wants me to be next! I'm tired of fighting Him. I fought Him for 25 years as an architect. God led me here and I am very happy—so who am I to tell Him what I want. (But a travel agent has its perks!!) ■

ALUMNI PROFILES

The alumni association is always looking to do interesting articles/Q&As with our alumni. If you have a great story to tell or know someone who may have a great story, please forward to: alumni@ndpma.org. Thanks!

Durkin, from page 9

'we feel NDP is the best school for you and that's where you need to be.'"

The Durkins attribute the family closeness to the fact that "everything is about family." They do not place emphasis on what others have, or being like others. Mom and dad use—and teach their children to use—their talents and treasures to the best of their ability. She says "Do we get a new car every year? No. Do we take numerous trips to Maui? No. But, we work hard to provide the best education for our seven children so they will grow

up to be good and strong leaders in the world."

She boasts that they all still go to church, even now that they're older and in some cases, on their own. She says they all seem to appreciate the fact that "everything is a blessing." ■

IRISH News, from page 7

James J. Williams '55 (SF)

George Ivkov '59 (NDHS)

Kenneth R. France '64 (NDHS)

David Arthur Houle '66 (NDHS)

Alan Anuszkiewicz '69 (NDHS)

Frank E. DiFranco '69 (NDHS), father of Mike '01 (NDHS)

Bill Artymovich '73 (NDHS), brother of Bob '70 (NDHS)

Bruce Kubiak '73 (NDHS)

Raymond P. Riker, III '77 (NDHS)

Joseph J. Marrazza '80 (NDHS)

Michael J. Tracey '84 (NDHS)

Leonard J. Farina III '85 (NDHS), son of Leonard Jr. '58 (NDHS) and brother of Dave '82 (NDHS)

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

NOTE: For a complete list, see ndpma.org/prayers.

ABOUT VOCATIONS

By Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., President, NDPMA

We could use a few more vocations, too! "We," being the Marists of NDPMA, were talking about our own vocations a couple of weeks ago. Among the five of us, we have nearly 150 years of experience as religious in the Society of Mary and over 90 years experience as priests. If I recall correctly, it was our most seasoned religious, Brother Louis, who asked the question, "Why have we (Marists) not been blessed with a vocation to the priesthood, brotherhood, or sisterhood from Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy?" We've had three or four of our students go to the seminary or convent, but none have come to the Marist Fathers, Brothers, or Sisters. Sixteen years seems like a long drought! We've asked ourselves whether we are doing something wrong, or maybe we just don't stress vocations enough in the school or ask individual students enough. We'd love to know what we can do better to bring students to the priesthood and religious life.

Fr. Joe, Fr. Jim and I are native Detroiters and graduated from Harper Woods Notre Dame; Fr. Brian and Bro. Louis came from Massachusetts. We all have a few things in common, I think. Each of us heard God's call, and, as far as I know, each of us was invited by a Marist Father or Brother to give the religious life a try. Also, each of us came along, found it to our liking, and have stayed with it. I can't say that every day has been easy; but I can say, without hesitation, that I love the religious life and priesthood, and I am thankful that God invited me. I just celebrated forty years as a religious and will celebrate thirty-five years as a priest this year.

I often wonder who will take up the Marist mantle to serve at this school when the five of us move on to other pastures. So far, it looks like it will be no one from NDPMA, unless some of our students generously respond to God's call.

As a result of our conversation, the NDPMA Marists have decided to take a much more open approach toward inviting our students to learn and share our Marist way of life. We intend to be more forthright in asking students to consider a religious vocation and, then, help them to discern God's call. We would also like to invite our parental community to hear more about the Marist way of life as a possible vocation for their children. We invite all members of our school community to pray that God will bless us with calls to the religious life and priesthood. Finally, sometime this spring, we intend to have a gathering at our Marist residence to talk more about the Marist way of life with students who are interested. God needs generous young people to serve His Church. We are confident that some of those young people are attending school here. ■



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

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

BRICK PAVERS

The Booster Club is offering an opportunity to become a part of NDPMA history by having your own personalized brick placed in the beautiful courtyard area of the Grimaldi Center. LEAVE YOUR LEGACY AT NDPMA. 4" x 8" bricks are \$100; 8" x 8" bricks are \$150. Order forms can be found on www.ndpma.org/forms or by contacting Pat D'Agostini (248-650-8601).

ALUMNI GROUPS ON FACEBOOK OR LINKED IN

 The Notre Dame Alumni Association has groups on both Facebook and Linked In. It's a great chance to keep in contact with former classmates.

 For more information, or to help with these sites, please contact Kelly (Cole) Patterson, alumni director, kpatterson@ndpma.org.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

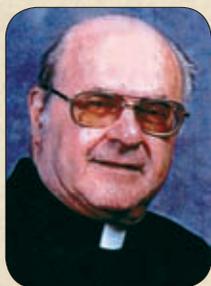
We are looking for alumni who are interested in sharing their career journey with our high-school students through conversations, formal panel discussions, or through mentor relationships. This initiative is a way for alumni to share their talents with our students who are considering countless career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

If you are interested in sharing your career with NDP students, please contact Kelly (Cole) Patterson, alumni director, kpatterson@ndpma.org, (248) 373-2171, ext. 4.

FOOTBALL DVDS

We have 1974, 1975, and 1976 NDHS football videos. Thank you to Dr. William Cirocco '77 (NDHS) for letting us copy his videos. We are building our football archives. If you have any VHS copies we can transfer to DVD, please share them. Your classmates will appreciate it!

Reverend Raymond A. Boulanger, s.m., age 88, an ordained priest with the Marist Fathers in Framingham, MA, died Friday, February 12, 2010, at St. Patrick Manor in Framingham. Fr. Boulanger served at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods from 1957 to 1975. Born and raised in Haverhill, MA, he



was the son of the late Napoleon J. and Olina (Gauthier) Boulanger. His first profession into the Society of Mary came September 8, 1945. He completed his theological studies at the Marist Seminary, Framingham and was ordained on February 2, 1951. Fr. Boulanger earned his Masters degree in Sociology from Boston College in 1956.

After his ordination, Boulanger taught at Maryvale Seminary in Bedford and Van Buren High School in Van Buren, ME, until 1957. In 1957 he moved to Michigan

where he taught at Notre Dame. In 1968 while missioned in Michigan, Boulanger was hired by the city of Detroit to work in the areas affected by the riots and was then hired by the city of East Detroit to teach social issues as a curriculum course in the adult education school program. From 1971-1975 he served the Queen of Peace Parish in Harper Woods, MI. After moving back to the east coast, Boulanger served in a number of assignments in both Massachusetts and Maine. He was the brother of the late Norman Boulanger and Gloria Bourdon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Marist Fathers Senior Religious Fund, 518 Pleasant St., Framingham, MA 01701.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL SIGNINGS

Two seniors from Notre Dame Prep have earned football scholarships to two GLIAC schools. 6'-5" 200-lb. WR Evan Sassack will attend Hillsdale College in the fall of 2010, while 6'-0" 200-lb. LB Chad Powers has committed to Northwood University. Both young men were captains of the 2009 Notre Dame Prep football team and each played a vital role in leading the Fighting Irish to a 6-4 overall record and a spot in the Prep Bowl and MHSAA State Playoffs.

Photo: Evan Sassack (seated left) with parents Russell and Audra Sassack, NDP Head Football Coach Kyle Zimmerman (seated center), Chad Powers (seated right) with parents Chris and Kara Powers.

Hip Hopper, from page 17

to promote the movie.

Russo hopes to hear his music played on the radio some day, and with his talent and ambition, IRISH can see that one day soon this will become a reality. "I wanna rock this nation with a positive sound. I want every radio station to be bumping to the phat beats of J-Rus. Why not! This is the time for our generation to rise up and make a difference! For many are called, but few are chosen. You have to step into your destiny; it doesn't come to you," Russo said.

Russo gave advice to current NDP students and alumni who want to get into the music industry or who have big dreams in general. "The more hands you shake, the more records you will make. Find what you are good at and master your craft," Russo said.

He said that his life at NDP significantly prepared him for living out his dreams after graduation. "I look back at NDP and Marist as probably one of the best experiences of my life. Ms. Favrow, Father Joe and Father Leon instilled leadership into all of us students. NDP was the stepping stone to my future. I will send my kids there. Well, when I have them one day," Russo said.

The release of his CD on iTunes is scheduled for sometime in March, although his song "Bounce" is being sold on iTunes on the "To Save a Life" soundtrack. ■

NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNI

Colin McGreevy '08 (NDP)—made three P.A.T.s (point after touchdown) in his first outing as kicker for Hillsdale College November 7, 2009. Hillsdale was nationally ranked no. 20 in Division 2A.

Aileen Bammer '07 (NDP)—Thanks for emailing me! I'm studying abroad in Ireland this semester.

Matt Boyer '05 (NDP)—Works for "High School Hammertime" on Fox Sports Network. He recently was spotted reporting a story on Capac football.

Kaitlin Dye '05 (NDP)—I attend Texas Tech Health Sciences Center for graduate school and getting my Master of Science in Biotechnology. Exciting stuff! Ha-ha.

Bryan Goudzwaard '05 (NDP)—So far everything is going well in Minneapolis; working for an investment bank called Houlihan Lokey.

Julie Jackson '05 (NDP)—Per father: Julie is doing great. She is anxiously awaiting the second half of her senior year. She has had a wonderful experience at Albion and we are very proud of her. Julie's next hurdle is getting a job in the metro area. That maybe the biggest challenge yet!

Shana (Smith) Bohle '04 (NDP)—I wanted to make sure you guys got my new address. My husband and I got married on August 1, 2009. He and I met at Grand Valley where I went to college for my undergrad. We just bought a house on December 15, 2009, and couldn't be happier! I was hired in August as a paraprofessional at Benton Harbor Charter School in Benton Harbor, Michigan. I'm hoping to get a teaching job here next year. Hopefully next year I will also start to return to school for my Masters.

Francine Orow '03 (NDP)—I am graduating in August 2010 with my Doctorate in Physical Therapy! Yay!!!

Katie Gerst-Lyons, M.S. '02 (NDP)—I love getting the alumni email updates and the newsletter. The new magazine looks amazing! I love bragging to my husband that my high school is better than his (Catholic Central) because of the new swanky magazine that we have now!! :-)

In 2006, I graduated from Michigan State with two bachelors degrees in Psychology and Family Community Services. This past May, I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Masters degree in Applied Family and Child Studies. I currently live in Lubbock, Texas, where I attend Texas Tech University while working on my Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies. This past summer, I got married in Mexico to my husband Jake and we've been adapting to married life and life in Texas quite nicely. :-) I have been teaching undergraduate courses in human development and family theories, which has been tons of fun and quite the learning experience. I have also done research on and working towards publications in the areas of feminist pedagogies, crisis leadership, and family theories. Aside from my doctoral studies, I also work for a research grant at Texas Tech funded by the National Institute on Health (NIH) where we look at the dynamics of work, travel, and family. I miss Michigan a lot sometimes, but getting the NDAA newsletter brings a little of Michigan to Texas!! Thank you!

Kim Majewski '02 (NDP)—I am going into my fourth year of teaching sixth grade at Safety Harbor Middle School, coaching volleyball and working toward my graduate degree at University of South Florida.

Andrew Eisenberg '02 (NDP)—Just passed the bar exam and works for a law firm in Texas.

Laura Tisdell '00 (NDP)—Is engaged and

We get letters and notes

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

has asked Fr. Joe to officiate the wedding. She wrote to Fr. Joe, "I always admired your approach at school: firm but open. And that you took our thoughts as students seriously. As a student, you always struck me as an intellectually rigorous person, and your presence at NDP certainly made me more proud to be there. Good association!! I'm getting married on July 17th in Port Huron, Michigan. My mom always sends me the alumni newsletter and I love seeing what everyone is up to."

Kyle Jackson '99 (NDP)—Personally, I just finished the halfway point of my intern year. I'm doing my residency in pediatrics at Children's Memorial Hospital (Northwestern's program) in Chicago. In another two and a half years, I'm planning on doing a fellowship and specializing in pediatric hematology/oncology, location TBD. Hope all is well back at NDP. Keep up the good work! I definitely enjoy the updates.

Megan Thiry '99 (NDP)—I am a sign-language interpreter currently working for Rochester Community Schools. I am getting married to Greg Knight on July 31, 2010.

Jeff Meganck '98 (NDP)—Received his Doctorate in Biomedical Engineering on Dec. 14, 2009, from U of M. It's been a long six-year process.

Jill (Zimmerman) Patterson '98 (NDP)—graduated with a degree in Nursing from Oakland University in December 2009.

P. Lynne Schacht '96 (NDP)—I am living and working in Los Angeles. I love it here! Leaving for Australia in February to meet the future in-laws and spend a nice vacation there with my boyfriend Shane. Traveling to Europe later this year; so excited because it's always been a dream of mine! Go Irish!! Hey '96 let's plan something!

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI

Frank DeAngelis '02 (NDHS)—Per family: "Frank lives in Brazil now and is a brother in a small religious order in Anapolis, Brazil. He has been there for six and a half years now. He will be ordained for the priesthood (Lord willing) in three more years when he will finish his Theology degree. He visits home every two to three years."

Samuel Jefferson '02 (NDHS)—Called the school. He is working in radiology technology at St. John's Hospital and will be working toward his master's degree at Wayne State University.

Clarence Barrett '00 (NDHS)—Air Force veteran, living in Calif. Married since 2005, first son is one year old.

Nicholas Provenzano '97 (NDHS)—I'm a teacher at Grosse Pointe South High School and a Harper Woods Notre Dame graduate '97. This summer I worked as a Senior Counselor at the Michigan Association of Student Council Leadership Camp and I had the pleasure of working with one of the NDP students, Brooke Ingraham '11 (NDP). I wanted to let you know that Brooke was an amazing student to work with over the course of five days at Albion. She is a perfect example of what a Notre Dame student should be. She is hardworking, dedicated, creative, and a strong leader. She worked well with other students, had great ideas, was very friendly with some of the quieter campers, and worked hard on ways to improve her leadership skills. She was one of the best campers I've had the opportunity to work with. I'm proud to say that she is part of the Notre Dame family. With students like Brooke, I'm confident the Notre

Dame Spirit and Tradition will live on. Keep up the good work you are doing at Notre Dame.

Michael (Mike) Guest '95 (NDHS)—and Michelle had their first baby (Lauren) in June of '09. Mike is a senior copywriter for Team Detroit and Michelle teaches first grade at Baldwin Elementary. They live in Royal Oak.

Mark Sosnowski '95 (NDHS)—I graduated from Michigan State in 1999. I have been teaching at Almont High School since 2000. I teach assorted history classes and run the yearbook. I earned my master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 2008. I am happily married to Mandy and have two daughters, Emily and Isabelle.

Greg Lotoczky '93 (NDHS)—We are keeping the tradition alive on the dry erase board in the office!

Mark Maroni '92 (NDHS)—I really enjoyed the article with Fr. Leon's interview explaining the decision to leave Harper Woods. Though my heart is still longing for a presence on the east side, I now understand the decision a little more clearly and it helped me deal with the move. Notre Dame truly helped mold me and I am grateful for the education and support I received. Especially from the Marist priests. Keep the tradition alive! God bless.

Ron Stempin '91 (NDHS)—Great job on the alumni communications! I was especially encouraged to see the story featuring Fr. Leon regarding the closing of Harper Woods ND. I think it helped to dispel some rumors about how it happened and also filled a void of information about the events leading to the eventual close. I believe an alumni organization needs to have an operating school to survive and thrive. It makes sense for NDP to embrace all ND alumni. I would like to come by and see the school at some point and get a little more involved in the alumni association. I will most likely be coordinating the reunion for the class of 1991, so I look forward to working on that.

Ed Perzyk '90 (NDHS)—Is attending Kettering University and studying mechanical engineering.

Paul Kotas '89 (NDHS)—Just got back from my third tour in Afghanistan/Iraq and I am now back in guard status (until next time). On the civilian side, I am a principal telecommunications systems engineer working for DoD.

John Kaminski '86 (NDHS)—"I just read the alumni newsletter and wondered if there is or was a Traveling Irish Dinner in Minneapolis? If not, I would be interested in helping to organize one, or finding out if there was interest or enough grads in the area to put one together. I would also like to be included in any upcoming class reunion planning. I was our class president, and helped plan our five-year and 15-year reunions. Thanks for keeping in touch and all of the great work on the website, emails, etc. Nice to be in touch with ND, even from afar.

Mark Machala '84 (NDHS)—Working for Citizens Bank in Troy for last couple of years. Wife Andrea has been teaching third grade in Chippewa Valley Schools for 15 years now. Living in Washington Twp. for past six years. Three kids: Spencer, 10, Maddie, 7, and Jillienne, 3. Keeping us very busy.

John Jager '84 (NDHS)—Lives in KY and works for Toyota. Was not able to make 25-year reunion, but says hello to all his classmates.

Jerry Graham '84 (NDHS)—Is a financial

advisor with Eschels Financial Group, Inc.

Bob Itchon '84 (NDHS)—Moved to Minneapolis in fall of 2008.

Douglas Dascenzo '77 (NDHS)—Living in Pennsylvania and I am now employed by Excela Health Latrobe Hospital as the Vice President of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer.

John Swan '77 (NDHS)—Married to Donna and has four children: Robert, 23, Jessica, 20, Nicholas, 19. Living in Romeo, Mich.

Kris Powell '75 (NDHS) (alumni board member)—Hi to all my fellow class of 1975 grads! I have lived in Troy for over 20 years now with my wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Lauren. Lauren will be attending ND Marist Academy next year. I still own two companies in Royal Oak—BenePro and AdminPro and am a very active golf member at Red Run! I also currently serve as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees for Notre Dame Prep/Marist Academy. If you get a chance, stop by and see the school. I think you will find the same sense of Christian fellowship (in a coed sort of way!) that all of us got from Notre Dame. Working on planning our 35th class reunion so look for information soon!!

William Lucas '73 (NDHS)—Have been working for the Veterans Administration in Detroit for last three-plus years. I have accepted a position within the VA in White City, Oregon. My family and I will be moving October 6, and arriving at our new address on October 12. First day on the job (Medical Coding) will be October 19.

Jerry Guinane '71 (NDHS)—I have accepted the Vice President of Human Resources position at Swedish-American Health System in Rockford, Illinois. My last day at Lakeland was January 4, 2010.

David Arthur Houle '66 (NDHS)—From Mary Jane Houle: Dave passed away from cancer on August 8, 2008, in his home in Chapel Hill, NC. After moving from Michigan in 1992, he served as CFO and Treasurer of Bank of Hawaii in Honolulu for 10 years. He moved to the Big Island of Hawaii in 2002 where he was Chief Operations Office of the Parker Ranch in Kamuela for three years. He moved back to the mainland in the summer of 2006 to play golf and to be closer to his three children who were by then residing in Michigan, Illinois and New York. Dave had been diagnosed with cancer in fall of 2002 and fought the disease for six years still managing to work, play golf and enjoy the time the Lord allowed him to share his smile with his family and many friends. We all miss him but are grateful for the time he was ours. He was proud to be an alumnus of Notre Dame and spoke often of the teachers there who gave him a strong foundation in his education, which in turn gave him and his family a wonderful life. *Mahalo (thank you) and much Aloha, Mary Jane Houle.*

Paul Vago '66 (NDHS)—Recovering from a stroke back in mid-March (09). Could use prayers. Much time in therapy.

Dennis Pater '64 (NDHS)—I work evenings at Mac & Rays on Lake St Clair. I probably can get any and all alumni wanting to use the facility a discount. Is anyone interested in an east-side location???

Paul Nowaske '60 (NDHS)—Yes, I receive the biannual IRISH magazine and have Notre Dame Prep's web site bookmarked. Those sources coupled with the frequent emails I get from you and Jim Mandl keep me well informed with the happenings at my old alma mater. I will be in Detroit next autumn for my 50th class reunion (can't believe I'm that old) and will make an effort to visit the ND Prep campus.

Please see Letters, next page

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1960 (NDHS)

Your classmates are organizing a 50-year reunion for Saturday, September 25, 2010, at the Sterling Inn (15 Mile Rd. and Van Dyke, Sterling Hts.). On Friday, September 24, the 1960 NDHS football team will be honored before the home football game at Notre Dame Prep. For complete information, visit their reunion website: www.notredamehw1960.org or contact: Eddie Kay - 239-277-5110 (until May, 2010); 248-685-3058 (after May, 2010); ewk3058@comcast.net

Class of 1961 (NDHS)

Your classmate, Bob Domine, is interested in helping form a committee for a 50-year reunion (2011). If anyone is interested in forming a committee, please contact the alumni office, or contact: Bob Domine - bddoesit@bellsouth.net

Class of 1971 (NDHS)

Classmates are needed to complete the committee for a 40-year reunion. Contact: Jim Bieszki - C: (734) 604-1112; O: (734) 457-0545; jamesbieszki@aol.com

Class of 1986 (NDHS)

Your classmates are organizing a 25-year reunion for 2011. For information as it becomes available, visit www.ndpma.org/reunions or contact committee:

John Kaminski - H: (612) 822-4759; C: (952) 261-5546; jkaminski1700@yahoo.com. Dan O'Brien - (248) 840-8391; dobrien734@comcast.net

Class of 1995 (NDP) Your classmate Mickey Lyons is organizing a 15-year reunion for June 2010. If you would like to attend or help getting everyone together, please contact Mickey Lyons: mickeylyons@gmail.com; or cell: 248-841-6675

Class of 2005 (NDP)

Your classmates are organizing a 5-year reunion for 2010. Reunion Committee: Erin Welsh: 248-807-3092; erwelsh@oakland.edu

Class of 1970 (PC)

Your classmates are organizing a 30-year reunion.

Beth Brown - (248) 332-5464; caicosbeth@hotmail.com. Susan Lamparter - slamparter@yahoo.com. Celia Dawson Bellisario - celiadawson@comcast.net

All-Class Reunion (SF) The annual all-class reunion is Sunday, September 12, 2010. More information will be available soon.

All-Class Reunion (SM)

The annual all-class reunion is Sunday, September 19, 2010. More information will be available at www.ndpma.org/reunions or contact reunion organizer:

Lance Butler - (248) 335-5243

2010 Reunions

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

For complete reunion information, visit www.ndpma.org/reunions.

Letters, from page 12

James Nieman '59 (NDHS)—is retired.
C. Patrick Labadie '58 (NDHS)—I would be pleased to share my story with Notre Dame students, although I did not achieve any great academic heights. I watched NDHS under construction (before Eastland was built) and graduated with the first class in 1958. I was also editor of the very first Juggler. I went to the College of Engineering at University of Detroit and, after my second year, there worked at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. I worked for Great Lakes maritime museums for the next 49 years. I was curator at Dossin 1960-68, director of Saugatuck (MI) Marine Museum 1968-73, director of Canal Park Museum in Duluth, MN, 1973-2000, and historian for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, MI, 2003-present. I have always felt that I owed a great deal to high school teachers Frs. Graham, Ouellette, Reynolds, Verow, and Champagne, who inspired me at Notre Dame!
Dominic Miglio '58 (NDHS)—Dick Houghton where are you?

Joe Spada (Retired NDP, NDHS staff)—I'm living a "semi-retired" life up north in Gladwin, Michigan, in a community called "Sugar Springs." Beautiful area...living on a lake with a golf course as part of the amenities...although I haven't been able to golf as often as I would like to. I am an elected member of the board of directors...but that position is not as enjoyable as my experiences as an AD or coach! Even with all the hassles over the years, I miss all my good friends at NDP...AND NDHS... especially my good friend (and former assistant coach) Fr. Leon!! After 35 years as an AD/Asst. Principal FB/Baseball Coach at both ND schools...I'm enjoying my anonymous lifestyle with my wife/partner Jo Lake, who held a similar position at

Grosse Pointe South HS and Flint Kearsley HS for many years. I enjoy keeping in touch by the newsletters and keeping informed about both schools. I hope to visit with you sometime soon. And again, my best regards to everyone! Keep up the "great work!" I would be honored to be interviewed...and continue to believe and support the "Vision" of Fr. Leon, Fr. Joe at NDP and all of my "former" friends/Marists at NDHS.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC ALUMNI

Annemarie Gagel-Weers '73 (PC)—Updated her information and is living in Iowa. She has been married for 23 years and has two boys—Tyler, 20, a junior at the University of Iowa and Ryley, 12, in sixth grade.

Maureen Daugherty '69 (PC)—Has updated her information.

Dave Wehr '69 (PC)—Thanks for contacting me regarding the Notre Dame Alumni Assoc.

Nancy Adams '69 (PC)—We had a wonderful time at our reunion, with 30-something classmates in attendance and a few guests. Of course it went by too quickly, but old friendships rekindled easily. I'll forward your email to everyone on my reunion list; I'm sure some of them will contact you to update their records, and perhaps some will send photos from the reunion (sorry to say, mine didn't turn out very well!).

Susan Tarchalski Ferguson '69 (PC)—I have had a career in Education after graduating with a BS in Education from Eastern Michigan University in 1973. I later received a Masters in Reading from Oakland University. I taught various grades in public school until my children were born. After they were in school themselves, and we had relocated to New Jersey, I resumed public school teaching in the classroom. I then went back to school and received certifications as Reading Specialist from Rutgers University and Teacher of Students with Disabilities from Montclair State University. I now work for the

state of New Jersey as a supplemental teacher for classified students, basic skills teacher, and ESL teacher. The schools that I service are all Catholic schools...so I feel like I have made a full circle.

From 40-year class of 1969 Reunion (PC)—Sr. Faustina Jane Staszkievicz entered the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, Cloistered Dominican Nuns, in 1998 as an extern sister. Religious name is Faustina Marie. Made final profession of vows in 2004.

ST. FREDERICK ALUMNI

Pat Scully Strong '64 (SF)—Recently after the all-class St. Frederick Reunion, Pat wrote IRISH: "... You spoke very well at our reunion. You're right, if St. Fred and St. Mike hadn't existed, there would have been NO Pontiac Catholic or Notre Dame Prep. Lots of dedicated families helped put that school on the map. I will keep you informed of our reunions and I'm looking forward to reading the IRISH newsletter. P.S.: My mom worked at Pontiac Catholic in the Guidance Department and people still remember her for all of her help. Her name was Edna Scully and she worked there in the late 60s and early 70s... I sometimes feel she was a legend over there. Nice memories."

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD ALUMNI!

Want to help organize reunions for your class? Interested in helping the board communicate with your fellow classmates? We need your help.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association is looking for volunteers to serve as official "class captains" to help facilitate reunions and assist with regular communication with classmates.

We need your help to keep everyone connected!

Contact, Kelly (Cole) Patterson '99 (NDP) at kpatterson@ndpma.org or (248) 373-2171 Ext. 4.

believing is key to winning

ND PREP FOOTBALL COACH SAYS BELIEVING IN ONE'S GOALS IS THE PATHWAY TO A SUCCESSFUL SEASON AND PROGRAM

"The one thing we talked about daily during the past season is believing, and our kids truly believed they could reach the goals we set not only for this year but also as a football program in the future," said Notre Dame Prep's new football coach Kyle Zimmerman.

It is also clear that not only does Zimmerman believe in reaching team goals, he genuinely believes in and cares for his players. He thinks it is critical in establishing the kind of rapport necessary in developing the complete student-athlete.

"My whole philosophy revolves around having a program that cares for the kids on and off the field. Once that happens, I believe that kids will believe in what we're trying to do. So far it seems to be working."

Athletic Director Betty Wroubel is delighted that the 30-year-old coach has joined the athletic department and thinks he understands perfectly the mission of the school. "Kyle knows the importance of a great education, first of all. Secondly, he recognizes the role that athletics play in enhancing that education—not the other way around."

Zimmerman took over a football program that has been through more than a few changes in recent history. He is Notre Dame Prep's third head football coach in the past four years and comes in after Greg Ganfield left to take over the new Pontiac

High School's program, which was formed when Pontiac Central merged with Pontiac Northern. (Editor's note: Ganfield will be coaching next season at Forest Hills Central High School.)

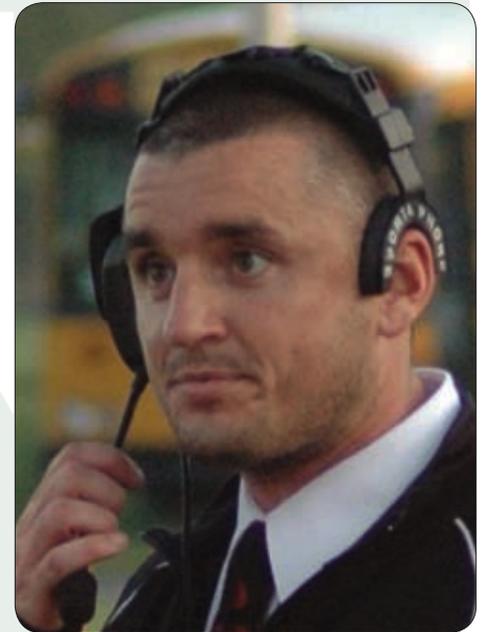
Zimmerman sounds like he'll be around for a long time, though. In a recent newspaper article, he said, "I plan on being here awhile. Before long, I want this program at a level where we are a perennial league contender every year and a squad that makes some noise come playoff time."

The new coach brought a good record to NDP. Since beginning as a head coach in 2002, Zimmerman has compiled a 66-14 record, including last year's Bentley Burton High School (Burton, Mich.) team that went 6-4, winning the league championship and qualifying for the state playoffs after 13 straight losing seasons.

Zimmerman graduated from Marine City High School and then went on to Wayne State University where he played quarterback as a walk-on. He earned a secondary education degree at WSU with a major in social studies and a minor in health.

His ND Prep team played in the 2009 Prep Bowl at Ford Field and ended the season with a 6-4 record after losing in the state playoffs to Marine City, which was undefeated at the time. Still, Zimmerman was very proud of his players.

"Our kids have done a great job this year. They are setting the foundation for all the players who will be a part of Notre Dame football well into the future." ■



ND Prep football coach Kyle Zimmerman grew up in Marine City as one of three children of parents Dean and Eileen. His family owns and operates Zimmerman's Market in Marine City. His great-grandfather opened the store in 1941 and it's been in the family ever since.

ND PREP ATHLETICS PROGRAM NAMED EXEMPLARY

The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAAA) and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) have named the athletic program at Notre Dame Prep its Exemplary Athletic Award winner for the year 2009. This award recognizes outstanding school athletic programs that "greatly serve students, families, communities and schools." ND Prep is the only school in the state of Michigan this year to win this award and is the first Catholic or private school in the award's history to be chosen. MIAAAA says that Exemplary Athletic programs "model excellence and equity. They all provide for what is best in educationally sound high school athletics." ND Prep has one of the state's largest athletic programs with 49 separate teams and three clubs.

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM CONTINUES SUCCESS

At press time, the NDP basketball team was 10-6 overall and 6-3 in the Catholic League. The Fighting Irish feature balanced scoring from outside and in with Charles Hayden, Danny Dulapa, Joey DeMartis and

Kellen McCormick, who is the son of former UM and NBA player Tim McCormick.



The ND Prep varsity boys basketball team are led by head coach Bob Jolet, right. Last year, the team went to the state playoff's Sweet 16 in Class B, only to lose to eventual state champion Flint Powers for the second year in a row.



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