

IRISH

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Spring 2020

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with grads and students*



THE CAREER ISSUE

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March 19, 2020

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IRISH

Spring 2020 | Volume 13, No. 1

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

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The power of alumni connections

When I was a student at Notre Dame High School in the early '80s, I did not know how powerful my network of friends would be later in life. I was like every other young boy in school. I had friends from the sports I played and the activities in which I participated. Football, track, band, forensics and student council were a few of the major activities, but basketball games, Irish Week, dances, lunch, hallway conversations, and classes were also part of the array of experiences I shared with my classmates. Like many ND alums, my network expanded when I began to date a girl from Regina, who later became my wife.



A few years after graduation, I was looking for a summer job and Ken Parent (longtime teacher and friend to thousands of ND alums) directed me to Heileman & Sons Sign Company. Tim ND'73, Dan ND'76 and Gary ND'78 were all graduates of Notre Dame and they offered me a great job for the summer. I was able to return for Christmas and Easter breaks to earn money to help pay for school. This was my first networking experience.

During college, I remember Dave Coulier coming to perform at campus and wanting to see him with another ND friend of mine. After the performance, we slipped a note to a stagehand that we were alumni from ND. We always loved when he came back to perform for us as students and just wanted to let him know we enjoyed the show. As we turned to walk out of the theater, we were surprised to see Dave come out to talk to us and say "hello." He talked to us for about 20 minutes and did impressions of our favorite teachers. The power of our ND connection.

Later in college, one of my best friends, Mike Housey ND'84, got me a job working at the Strohhaus on Gratiot in Detroit. That position turned into a decades-long run in a variety of sales and marketing positions for the third-largest brewing operation in the United States. Early in my Stroh career, I was mentored and became friends with Joe Delegato ND'72, who took me under his wing as a fellow ND grad. The networking continued.

While I lost contact with the school for many years, I eventually returned as a volunteer to help raise donations from classmates for the school's annual giving appeal. During that time, I got to reconnect with my classmates, many of whom I had not spoken to since graduation. It was fun to hear what they were up to and many of them were glad to support the school. I remember meeting Dr. Maynard Buszek ND'72, who was also volunteering for his class, and learning that there were many others that felt the same way about ND as I did. I always found speaking to ND alums was easy because we had a common bond.

In 2005, I was invited by Fr. Leon Olszamowski to rejoin the ND community to serve the student body at the new campus in Pontiac. Notre Dame Prep immediately felt like home and I was welcomed by the familiar faces of Fr. Jim Strasz ND'70, Br. Louis Plourde, Fr. Joe Hindelang ND'68, Norm Kotarski, Ken Parent, Duane Holmes and Hal Rice. I quickly became friends with Tony Block ND'80 and Greg Simon ND'89, who were the business manager and admissions director, respectively, at the time. A few years later, Mike Kelly ND'73 joined the school to help with our marketing needs. I took a trip to the Marist home in Framingham, had lunch with Fr. Coolong, said hello to Fr. Demers and met Fr. Graham, Fr. Champaign and Br. Leonard. Frank

Migliazzo ND'69, Pat Haddad ND'81, past board members at both ND and ND Prep, have both been strong mentors that helped shape my opinions on philanthropy and service. Kris Powell ND'75, Gerard Housey ND'77 and I became friends during their time on our board. I recently had lunch with John Henke ND'58, a good friend and supporter of the school for many years. I continue to expand my networking reach.

Over the years, I have come to know hundreds of ND alums. The networking doesn't stop there. Each year, St. Michael and St. Frederick, whose families came together in 1964 to build the school at its current location, gather for respective luncheons to keep their networks strong. Alums from Pontiac and Oakland Catholic get together for an annual golf outing. This year, more than 250 alumni from ND, NDP, Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick attended our homecoming football game and tailgating party. What a powerful network.

The ND network continues to expand through the alumni and families at NDP. It now includes thousands of young alums, ages 22-43, many of whom are early on in their careers and could benefit from the wisdom, insight and experience from those of us more seasoned veterans. Informal alumni gatherings in Tampa, Bonita Springs and Chicago have united alums both old and young who seem to enjoy sharing their experiences and learning about both the history and present of our wonderful school. The network will only continue to grow.

Many people shudder when they hear the word "networking." We often associate networking as that large, uncomfortable "salesy-kind-of-thing" that takes place at large cocktail parties and is reserved for uber-extroverts. The reality is that networking happens naturally through the process of making friends and treating people with kindness and respect. Knowing that we share a common bond makes networking easy and enjoyable.

This year, as we celebrate our 25-year anniversary, it is important to recognize the contribution of all the alumni from NDP, ND, Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick. We all have a common connection. We all belong to the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

My vision for the alumni group is that we all band together for the sake of Catholic education in Southeast Michigan. Notre Dame Prep is the only Catholic school in Pontiac, and it is the continuing legacy of the Marist teaching tradition that many of us experienced at Notre Dame in Harper Woods. Operating a successful Catholic school today can be difficult. Rising costs of tuition, declining Church attendance, a largely secular society, safety, politics and the impact of social media are all issues that affect the education, health and wellness of young people today. Schools like Notre Dame, which provide young people with a quality education and strong, Catholic values, need the support of their alumni to stay strong and relevant. We need to continue to grow our network.

The dedicated faculty and staff, under the guidance and sponsorship of the Marist Fathers, continues to work with God to form Christian persons, upright citizens and academic scholars. That mission is what drives our school and that mission is what will continue the legacy that all of us are a part of in some small way.

Please know that as alumni, your support is always appreciated. Whether it be your time, your talent or your treasure, we will not be successful without your support. If you would like to learn more about what you can do to become more involved or to help our school, please contact our advancement office anytime. In the meantime...

Go Irish!

Andrew J. Guest ND'84
Head of School

Best in state

Notre Dame Prep gets top STEM ranking for Catholic high schools in Michigan

Notre Dame Prep was ranked the highest of all Catholic high schools in Michigan for STEM education, according to Newsweek magazine, which, in partnership with STEM.org, recently released a list of America's Top 5,000 STEM high schools, public and private. The designation honors excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"This recognition is a testament to Notre Dame Prep's outstanding mission-focused teaching staff, who continue to educate our students within a unique and innovative curriculum that is preparing young men and women at our Catholic school for an increasingly complex world," said Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m. ND'68, principal of NDP. "It's also further proof that the significant investments we've made in facilities, such

as our Timothy J. Easterwood Science, Art and Technology Wing, have been well worth it."

The Newsweek list, which was made public last fall, includes schools in every region of the country that offer skilled teachers who remain knowledgeable of developments in these fields and who create dynamic learning environments to engage their students.

"Children don't realize it, but they're natural STEM students," said Nancy Cooper, Newsweek global editor-in-chief. "We need to make sure that innate drive, curiosity, and creativity aren't lost along the way. These high schools are helping to ensure Americans' future in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is in good hands." «



ABOVE

From left, juniors Devarshi Mukherji and Nathaniel Nosegbe work with robots in Notre Dame Prep's robotics center, part of the Timothy J. Easterwood Science, Art and Technology Wing.

BELOW

Katrina Palushaj conducts a computer science class in the Easterwood Wing.



Irish News

NOTRE DAME NAMES VARSITY GIRLS LACROSSE COACH

The athletic department of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced



in February that Mark Lazzara, a 1986 Notre Dame High School alum, has been named head varsity girls lacrosse coach.

"We're very pleased to be able to make this hire for our coaching staff," said Betty Wroubel, athletic director and assistant principal at NDPMA. "He's been coaching girls lacrosse for many years and brings a wealth of coaching and training expertise to our girls program."

Lazzara comes to Notre Dame from the Lake Orion lacrosse program, where he was an assistant coach on the high school girls team and head coach for the middle school team. He also served as a trainer for the Irish Banshees Girls Lacrosse Club, which uses the Lacrosse Athlete Development Model created by U.S. Lacrosse.

Lazzara currently is director of sales for the Ford Plastics Business Unit of Flex-N-Gate, a leading manufacturer and supplier of large stamped metal and welded components, assemblies, and plastic parts for the automotive industry. Prior to that he worked at Bailey Corp., a manufacturer of injection-molded plastic components primarily for the automotive industry.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial marketing

from Western Michigan University. Lazzara and his wife, Marci, who live in Oxford, Mich., have two children: Ali, a sophomore at Michigan State University playing lacrosse and studying engineering, and Joe, who is in the U.S. Navy, currently training to become a Navy SEAL.

NOTRE DAME NAMES VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE COACH

J.D. Hess has been named head varsity boys lacrosse coach for Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.



"We're very happy to welcome someone like J.D. on staff here," said Betty Wroubel, athletic director and assistant principal at NDPMA. "He's got great credentials as both a coach and player and we look forward to him taking over our boys program."

Hess comes to Notre Dame from Bloomfield Hills-based Omnia Lacrosse, one of the state's premier lacrosse training programs, where he was the director of operations. Since April 2018, he also served as offensive coordinator for Birmingham United's boys lacrosse program.

Before this, Hess was the regional director for True Lacrosse, a Midwest-based club lacrosse program, where he was responsible for recruiting and the day-to-day operations of multiple youth teams. Prior to that, he was the director of operations and graduate assistant for the University of Detroit Mercy men's lacrosse

team, where he lettered all four years he played for the Titans. He also was named U.S. Lacrosse High School All-American and First-Team All State as a senior at Birmingham Seaholm High School.

Hess holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education from U-D Mercy and currently is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in educational administration. A resident of Birmingham, Hess is employed as a paraprofessional in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District.

SENIOR NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Jonathan Raju, a member of Notre Dame Prep's Class of 2020, has been named a finalist in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. He now will compete



for about 7,600 scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

Three types of scholarships will be offered by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., including about 2,500 awarded by state allotments, 1,000 corporate-sponsored scholarships, and more than 4,000 sponsored by 200 colleges and universities.

Scholarship winners will be announced beginning in April.

SOPHOMORE SINGS AT CARNEGIE HALL

Since opening in 1891, Carnegie Hall in New York City has been the setting for performances by the world's finest artists, from Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Mahler and Bartók to George Gershwin, Billie

Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Judy Garland and The Beatles.

Last year, Angela Carraher, currently a sophomore at Notre Dame Prep, was added to that list for the first time as part of the Honors High School Choir in the 2019 High School Honors



Performance Series.

This year, she again was chosen as one of the highest-rated high school performers from across the world, and she performed as one of 120 singers in the Honors Treble Choir.

In the fall of 2019, Carraher applied and auditioned for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted after a review by the Honors selection board. Acceptance to the elite group is a direct result of the talent, dedication, and achievements demonstrated in her application and audition recording, according to event organizers.

She joined performers from 41 U.S. states as well as from other countries, including Canada, Qatar and China, for special performances at the world-famous concert hall.



Frank L. Battisti, from the New England Conservatory of Music and conductor emeritus for the program, said it's truly a special opportunity for high school students.

"Carnegie Hall is an acoustically beautiful and historic hall where many great artists and ensembles have performed," he said. "The opportunity for students to perform on this stage before a panel of distinguished conductors is a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience that will be remembered for a lifetime."

Carraher said this year's trip was just as much fun as last year, but different.

"Last year, I sang in a boys and girls choir, but this year, the Treble Choir was all girls, which was also great and I still got to meet a lot of new people," she said. "Also, the music was much harder this time and it took a lot of practice. Our conductor picked some real tricky pieces for us to sing."

She added that the most fun part of her trip was seeing and working with young people like her from all over the world.

"I really like to meet new people," she said. "Being with people from many different countries but with the same interests as me was awesome. In fact, my roommate during the trip was from England. I also hope to get back to the event next year, too!"

Carraher said she and the other singers in New York held their final concerts in front of an audience in Carnegie Hall on Feb. 2.

SIX SENIORS SIGN TO PLAY SPORTS AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL

Six senior student-athletes from Notre Dame Prep signed on to



play athletics at the college level. Nalin Fox signed with Purdue University to play football; Connor Gaeschke will play football at Northern Michigan University; Julian Lee signed to play football at Hillsdale College; Brian Marx will be on the golf team at Hope College; Antonio Popp signed to play football at Hope College; and Spencer Wittebort will play lacrosse at the University of Tampa.

FOUR NDP STUDENTS NAMED EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Four Notre Dame Prep students were commissioned last month as Eucharistic Ministers.



With Fr. Ron Nikodem and Br. Louis Plourde, from left, are Olivia McGettrick (11), Luke Hunker (11), Kaitlyn Heaman (10) and Allison Voto (9). Their first Mass was Ash Wednesday.

RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR NOTRE DAME ARTISTS



Student-artists from Notre Dame Prep earned 58 awards in the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition for the Southeastern Michigan region, beating the school's all-time record of 50 awards won in 2018.

According to Sandy LewAllen, Notre Dame's art chair, 34 students received a total of 58 awards (21 Gold Keys, 18 Silver Keys, and 19 honorable mentions).

"What an awesome and prestigious honor this is," she



said. "This number tops the number of awards ever won at our school. I am so proud of all our art students and their effort! In addition, junior Jason Stewart won the American Vision Award, which is deemed the 'best in show' from all of the artwork entered in this year's Southeastern Michigan regional competition."

"Each regional program across the country selects the five most outstanding works of art from their Gold Key recipients," said LewAllen. "Jason will be among those five student-artists to represent the region on the national level as American Vision nominees. A national panel will then select one of the nominated works from each region as the national American Vision Award recipient for 2020."



NOTRE DAME SENIOR NAMED FINALIST FOR STATE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HONORS

Katherine Topoleski, a senior at Notre Dame Prep, has been named one of the state's 120 finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Awards for the 2019-20 school year, presented by Farm Bureau Insurance.

The program, now in its 31st year, has recognized student-athletes since the 1989-90 school

year and again this winter will honor 32 individuals from MHSAA

member schools who participate in at least one sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament.

"I join the entire Notre Dame family in sharing how very proud I am of Katie," said Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director and assistant principal. "Not only for her academic and athletic accomplishments but also for her spirituality and the type of person she has become. She is another great example of the embodiment of our school's mission."

Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Awards and will present a \$1,000 scholarship to each recipient. Since the beginning of the

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NEW DIGITAL NEWSLETTER LAUNCHES THIS SPRING

A top priority for our school continues to revolve around better engaging alumni and families on our mission to form Christian people, academic scholars and upright citizens. It is a goal we strive for yearly and one we've heard from our community is an important need. Beginning in March, we will launch a bimonthly Irish eNews digital communication that will focus deeper on news centered around the topics of diversity and inclusion, athletics, The Marist Way, and campus ministry. In addition, the Irish eNews will feature updates from the Head of School, as well as other department leaders. Look for the first issue to launch in your inbox this spring!



Architect alum
says the variety of
opportunities and
classes fit him to a T.

Left Brain

W

hen Shawn Cencer was a student at Notre Dame Prep, he realized quickly that both his right brain and left brain were getting a workout. In fact, now as a full-time architect, he's confident that the array of classes he took at NDP led directly to successful stints at both Carnegie Mellon University and his chosen profession.

"NDP gave me a lot more flexibility than I felt like other high schools did at the time to explore different things," said Cencer, who graduated in 2007. "I need variety to remain engaged, and I got that in high school. The interdisciplinary nature of NDP also was a good primer for Carnegie Mellon, a university that I was attracted to because of its strong emphasis on encouraging students to explore a variety of disciplines simultaneously."

For Cencer, that meant attending a very strong architecture program first and foremost, but then being able to overlap with equally strong music and performing arts programs.



Right Brain

That variety, he said, was especially in play at NDP.

“In high school, I explored a wide variety of courses, including a total of nine of the 10 AP classes available,” he said. “I also took a few visual arts classes, some music classes and activities — band in my freshman year and Glee Club in senior year — and was involved in other performing arts extracurricular activities such as the musicals and plays.”

He enjoyed most of his classes in high school — definitely math and science, he said, but also history, economics, English/composition, music and visual arts. When it came to thinking about college and possible career choices, Cencer was looking for something that combined all of those interests, and especially something with a creative angle that he could actually make a living on.

“After considering engineering, I settled on architecture as a major,” he said. “It was the right fit for me — a good balance of ‘left brain, right brain,’ and architecture integrates almost every other discipline. It’s also a vast enough profession that one can specialize in



what you are most passionate about.”

Which, of course, for Cencer wasn’t necessarily one thing.

“I was really drawn to the fact that Carnegie Mellon intentionally made the School of Architecture part of the College of Fine Arts along with its schools of Art, Drama, Music and Design,” he said. “This was important to me because, although the architecture program was very technical and theoretical, it remained firmly grounded in creative expression. And it granted me the

flexibility to also take music, design and theater courses for credit toward my major.”

He said one of the most memorable studio classes at CMU was a theater design studio class where students were able to collaborate with theater production majors and shadow the real-life Frank Gehry project of designing a new performing arts center for Ground Zero in New York City.

“We followed the same program as Gehry, and we were even able to tour the site and walk around the sub-levels of the then under-

OPPOSITE

Shawn Cencer NDP’07 is an architect working in Kalamazoo, Mich.

RIGHT

Cencer is at his desk at Diekema Hamann Architecture & Engineering.

construction new World Trade Center complex. I will never forget the view, standing probably 80 or 90 feet below grade and staring up at the hulking mass of the new Freedom Tower/1 WTC under construction,” he recalled.

Now, fast-forwarding to the year 2020, Cencer is in his eighth year working as an architect, currently as a project architect in the employ of Kalamazoo-based Diekema Hamann Architecture & Engineering, a 50-person firm with a 100-plus year history specializing in the health care, government and education arenas.

“Before HMA, I worked at Kingscott Associates Inc., also in Kalamazoo, doing primarily K-12 projects with some senior living,” said Cencer, who received his professional architect license in 2018. “Kingscott is another firm with a long history, dating back to the 1920s. I was at Kingscott for almost four years, starting as an ‘architectural graduate’ and working my way up to project architect.”

Prior to Kingscott, Cencer worked for a little more than two years at a small firm in Lewisburg, Penn., called RAL Architecture + Design Inc., as an architectural project

■ ■
THE INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF NDP ALSO WAS A GOOD PRIMER FOR CARNEGIE MELLON, A UNIVERSITY THAT I WAS ATTRACTED TO BECAUSE OF ITS STRONG EMPHASIS ON ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO EXPLORE A VARIETY OF DISCIPLINES SIMULTANEOUSLY.



manager, where he was involved in a large variety of work, including healthcare, higher education, religious, community/civic, small commercial and private residential.

Now happily residing in Kalamazoo since 2015 with his wife, Janet, and their dog, Simba, he’s glad he’s back in his home state though he’s a little wistful about their time in Pennsylvania, which for him added up to eight years, including his tenure in college.

“We miss Pennsylvania, but are happy to be back in our home state, closer to family,” he said. “I grew up in the Romeo area and my wife’s family is in Three Rivers, Mich. I have four siblings, including Jeremy, who graduated from NDP in 2005, and my wife

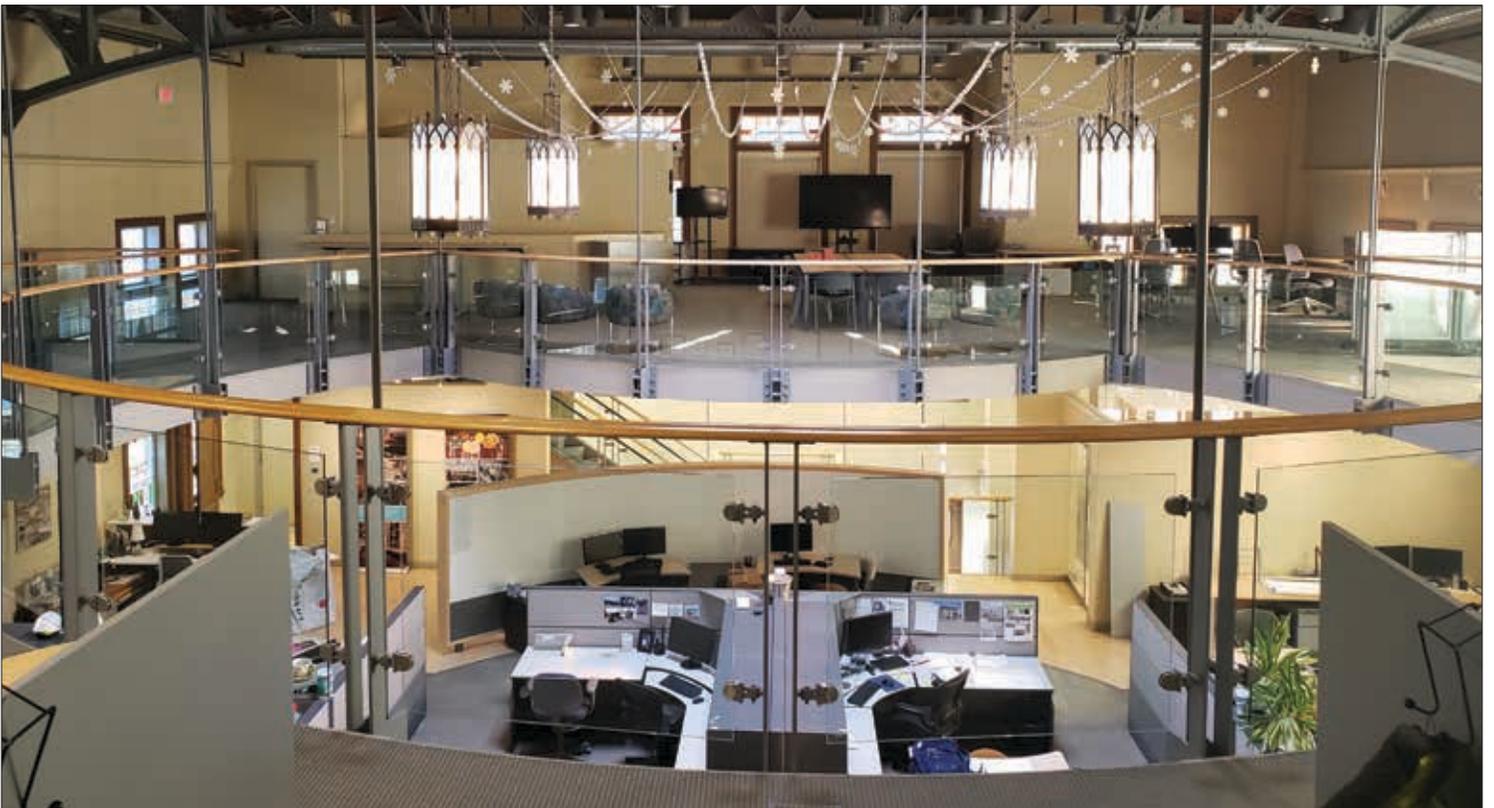
has six siblings. And they live in nine different states across four different time zones. So we are quite spread out.”

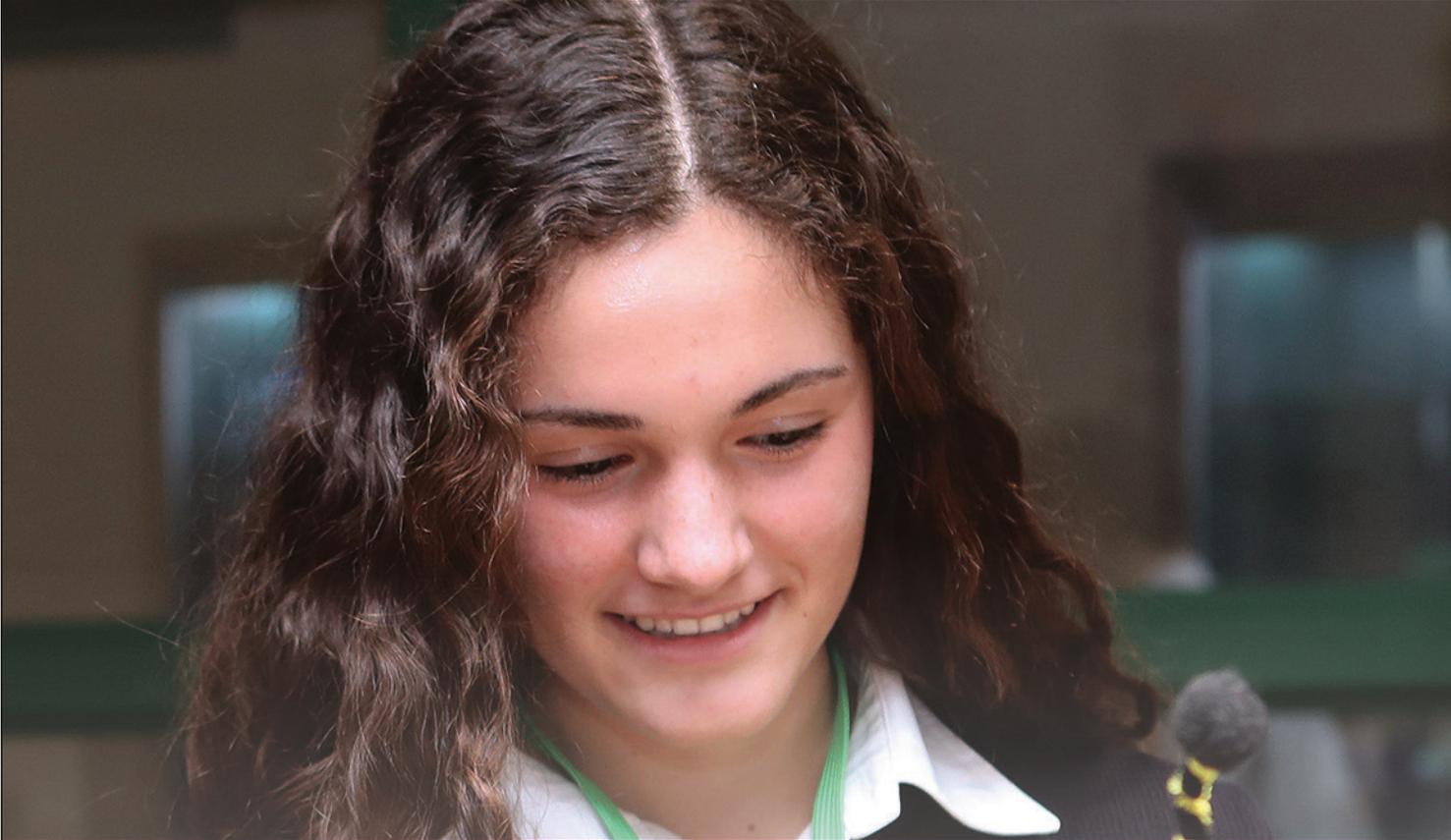
Cencer also is a bit wistful about his high school years and the mission-driven education he received there. He also has many fond memories of a number of teachers he remembers well.

“There were quite a few teachers at NDP who had a big influence on me in many different ways,” he said. “Probably way too many to name all of them, but I can definitely include

Ms. Swieca-Brickman, art; Mr. Mark and Tim McCaskey, calculus and physics; Mr. Osiecki, economics; Mrs. Yaroch, environmental science; Mr. Smith, English, drama; Dr. Doyle, physics; Mr. Fazzini, choir; and Mrs. Bembas, English/composition. It’s amazing how many made such a big impression on me in high school.” ◀

BELOW
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ABOVE

Kathryn Durkin NDP'06, a special education teacher, says that experiencing the growth and progression of her students is incredibly amazing and fulfilling.

RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM

*Alumni find calling through
teaching others*

Supporting students when they need her most is part of the job for Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local Schools special education teacher Kathryn Durkin NDP'06, and it's something she loves.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," she said. "I myself have attention deficit disorder (ADD) and had a learning disability growing up. My teachers saw that I struggled and never gave up on me.

"That willingness to differentiate and spend the time on me knowing that I was capable of learning just in a different aspect made me want to become a teacher. I wanted to pay it forward," Durkin added.

It wasn't until attending St. Mary's College, where she was part of the first class to graduate



ABOVE

Breanne Kelty NDP'00, an academic interventionist at St. Joseph School in Lake Orion, Mich., specializes in helping elementary-age students who struggle with literacy in the classroom.

with dual licensure in special education did Durkin really find her calling.

"As I continued the path into special education, I found that I had a calling to be a voice for these kids. I did observation in a special education classroom and the challenge that came along with working with those kids just really inspired me," she said.

"I have the greatest job. Seeing these kids make progress albeit, small progress, is incredibly rewarding," she added. "Experiencing a child have growth and progression is incredibly amazing. Knowing that I am a part of their journey and that I can help the kids grow and learn is absolutely the best. Every student needs a champion."

Durkin is not alone in her quest to help educate the next generation. From classrooms to state and local government, Notre Dame alumni are leaving their mark in the education field. In the past two decades alone, dozens have gone on to become teachers.

Breanne Kelty NDP'00, an academic interventionist at St. Joseph School in Lake Orion, Mich., specializes in helping elementary-age students who struggle with literacy in the classroom.

"Literacy education is my passion," she said. "I work with small groups and one-on-one with students to help cultivate a love of reading."

"There is truly nothing better than taking a child who is hesitant about school, lacks confidence in his or her abilities, and watch him or her open up, begin to take risks, and grow in self-confidence."

A graduate of Miami University in Ohio with a degree in

early childhood education, Kelty says it was Notre Dame's emphasis on academics and helping others that helped chart her future career path.

"I have pursued both my master's degree and educational specialist degree because of the thirst for knowledge that was cultivated at NDP. Through programs like the National Honor Society, my compassion for service grew and led me to pursue a career in which I am blessed to help others daily," said Kelty, who also holds degrees from Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

"Through my studies and through classroom teaching experience, I became fascinated with the ways in which people learn. I love getting to know each student and figuring out which strategies will best meet their needs," she added.

As a student at Notre Dame Prep, Kelty fondly recalls one of her "teaching heroes," Mr. Russell Cannon's advice.

"He knew I was going to go into teaching even before I did. He told my mother that he felt I would be well-suited for a career in education," she explained. "I think that is the true magic of NDP. Not only are you provided a first-class education, you are also influenced by passionate educators who work to make meaningful connections with their students. They care about you as a person and help guide you on your life's path."

Terrence Pesta ND'68, served as president of the San Diego Education Association for four years (2002-2006) a union representing 8,000 teachers in the San Diego School District, the second-largest district in California.

Under his leadership, Pesta played a key role in successfully reducing the amount of teacher layoffs, crafting a new collective bargaining agreement for educators, and implementing critical education reforms in classrooms around the region.

Pesta looks back affectionately at his time at the Notre Dame Harper Woods school.

"My Notre Dame education helped me immensely to be a better college student and a teacher, especially with my writing and math skills," he said. "I thank Fr. Bryson and Fr. Sheehan for their religion classes that aided in forming my moral compass. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Johnson helped me acquire excellent math skills. Math

||| |||

I HIGHLY VALUE MY MARIST EDUCATION THAT DEVELOPED MY CHARACTER AS WELL AS MY MIND.

is my favorite subject to teach. All my English teachers, especially Mr. Loftis, gave me an appreciation for literature and improved my writing skills.”

A culture of service also played into Pesta’s decision to pursue a career in education.

“Honestly, I never thought about being a teacher until about my third year of college. I eventually saw education as a way to have a lifelong career that also would be beneficial to society. I’ve never regretted this decision,” Pesta said. “All the writing, thinking, and math skills that I learned at Notre Dame contributed to making me a great teacher. As a teacher, I taught thousands of students and, hopefully, helped them in many ways.”

SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Doug Jardine ND’72, a professor of plant pathology at Kansas State University for 35 years, has dedicated his life’s work to understanding the plant lifecycle and educating others



on sustainable living. A former resident of Warren, Mich., Jardine spent summers on his family farm in Richmond located in northern Macomb County.

“When I was young, I mostly helped my grandfather around the barn area, but as I grew, I was able to help in the fields including planting, weeding and harvesting,” Jardine said. “Once I reached high school, they gave me a stipend for my summer’s work. By the time I graduated high school, the farm was 197 acres in size and likely the largest fresh market vegetable farm in Southeast Michigan.”

A self-professed plant geek, Jardine recalls fondly about his alma mater and impressing teachers and classmates about his vast knowledge of biology.

“My fascination came from just being around (plants),” he said. “Watching a seed go into the ground, then sprouting and eventually reaching harvest maturity is nature in action. With vegetables, they are all so different. Some you harvest the roots, others the leaves, and yet others the fruits.”

When asked about his time in high school, Jardine said the Harper Woods school was a key driver for his success in college.

“Not only were the courses rigorous, but we learned good study habits and time management. Science and math have been an important part of my career and the science and math classes at Notre Dame prepared me for my college courses in those areas,” he said.

Additionally, he said teachers Harold Rice and Fr. John Bolduc helped mold him into a better person and fostered a sense of leadership and professional development.

“Having a faith-based education has helped me beyond any subject matter learning. Practicing the Golden Rule has allowed me to be successful as much as my learned knowledge. I highly value my Marist education that developed my character as well as my mind,” he said.

Jardine’s love and enthusiasm for biology eventually led him to pursue a bachelor’s and master’s degree in horticulture from Michigan State University (MSU) before landing a job with the MSU Extension Service for nearly five years, first as an Extension 4-H agent and then as an Extension agriculture agent. He returned to Michigan State and earned a doctorate degree in plant pathology in 1985.



ABOVE

Doug Jardine ND’72 is a professor of plant pathology at Kansas State University.

LEFT

Terrence Pesta ND’68 served as president of the San Diego Education Association for four years (2002-2006).



BE GRATEFUL FOR EVERY EXPERIENCE NOTRE DAME AFFORDS YOU

BECAUSE IT WILL HELP SHAPE NOT ONLY WHO YOU ARE AS A PERSON, BUT ALSO HOW YOU CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY.

Upon graduation, Jardine was hired by Kansas State University as an Extension specialist in plant pathology.

“...It has been my mission to provide Kansas consumers with a safe, nutritious, and affordable food supply, while at the same time making Kansas farmers maximally profitable in the most environmentally friendly way,” Jardine explained.

Currently, Jardine is involved with a national project to educate growers about roundworms that live in the soil known as the soybean cyst nematode. It is the No. 1 disease pest of soybeans in the United States. Because it is in the soil, it often flies under the radar for farmers.

“Soybean pathologists across the country have developed a teamwork concept known as the Soybean Cyst Nematode Coalition,” he said. “As a result of our first year’s education efforts, Kansas soybean growers increased the submission of soil samples to check for the presence of the nematode by 360 percent.”

With so many changes taking place both environmentally and with new technology aimed at helping farmers, Jardine said no two days on the job are the same.

“I travel across the state of Kansas and I enjoy being able to be out in the field. As a plant pathologist, each year is different. Differing weather results in different plant diseases being a problem in any given year,” Jardine said.

Some plant diseases thrive in cool, wet weather; others like it warm and wet; still others like it hot and dry.

“Kansas is a place where from year-to-year we can have any of these types of weather including all of them in a single season. Part of my success comes from those summers on the farm. I joke that I am successful because ‘I speak farmer,’” Jardine said.

He is also heavily focused on combating a lack of trickledown economics and the rising cost of commodities for Kansas farmers.

“While food prices continue to increase for consumers, very little of those increases trickle back to the farmer who produces the raw commodity,” Jardine explained.

For example, wheat prices today are not much different

than when Jardine arrived in Kansas 35 years ago.

“Fortunately, there have been gains in efficiency of production and yield per acre that partially offsets the lack of commodity price increases,” he said.

In Kansas, water is also a huge issue.

“We are draining our rivers, lakes and aquifers at a rate faster than they can be replenished. Reduced water usage generally results in reduced crop yields. Crop breeders are working diligently to develop cultivars that use water more efficiently, but it is a slow and laborious process,” he said.

Upon hearing that Notre Dame Prep has invested in its own sustainability program, including four active beehives and a state-of-the-art greenhouse, Jardine said he is thrilled the school is taking a proactive approach to educating the next generation.

“I am all for young people learning about plant life. We need to be sustainable if we are going to feed 9 or 10 billion people in the next 30 years,” he said. “We need students interested in the genetics of plants as well as developing more efficient production methods whereby we conserve soil, water, nutrients and control pests in the most efficient and environmentally friendly way.”

THE SHADOW OF NOTRE DAME

For some, high school is more of a distant memory with each passing day, while for younger alumni, walking the halls of the Pontiac campus quickly brings back waves of nostalgia. All agree, however, that their experiences, friendships and the lessons learned along the way hold a special place in their hearts.

“Try everything, be involved, and give back. If you are thinking about pursuing a career in education, go into the schools and volunteer your time. If you are interested in medicine, shadow or get a part-time job at a hospital,” said Kelty when asked her advice for current students. “Practical experiences will help focus your goals and build upon the knowledge you gain in high school.

“Be grateful for every experience Notre Dame affords you because it will help shape not only who you are as a person, but also how you contribute to society,” she added. ◀



ABOVE

Jardine says he was thrilled to find out that Notre Dame Prep is taking a proactive approach to educating the next generation in sustainability.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?



Olivia Aratari, 2nd Grade
"An artist or teacher. I like to draw about art. I want to teach about reading and science."



Lily Buero, 3rd Grade
"I want to teach dance. I don't know why, but I have been dancing since kindergarten."



Sophie Chun, Kindergarten
"I want to be an ambulance driver and take care of people."



Nino Liparoto, 1st Grade
"I want to be a policeman because I like them; they have cool cars."



Cara Sadowski, 5th Grade
"I want to be a writer because I am good at writing stories—anything but horror. My favorite author is J.K. Rowling."



Amelia Schochet, Pre-K 3
"I want to be a mommy. I love my mommy."

As children begin to grow and learn more about the world, they start to develop their own dreams and aspirations. Through the IB Primary Years Program, children at Notre Dame Lower School are introduced to a broad subject material that emphasizes academic, social and emotional wellbeing, focusing on international-mindedness and strong personal values. IRISH sat down with several students to ask them the question, ***"What do you want to be when you grow up?"***



Caden Staniszewski, 4th Grade
"I want to be an eye doctor. My mom is a doctor and my older brother is going to be a doctor. I like to help people."



COMPASSIONATE

CARE

Trinity Health CEO credits Catholic upbringing and Notre Dame High School in a career serving patients

Growing up in the shadow of Detroit's automotive industry, Mike Slubowski ND'72 never imagined his career journey would take him from his humble roots in the Motor City to leading one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health-care delivery systems in the nation as president and CEO of Trinity Health.

"After high school, I had no inclination of moving into the health care field. Both my dad and my uncle worked in the automotive industry and I saw that as my path forward," he said.

While attending college at Wayne State University, Slubowski was recruited by now defunct American Motors Corp., known for producing small cars including the Rambler American, Hornet, Gremlin and Pacer. Six months into the job, however, he was laid off and looking for work. That's when destiny came calling.

"I had an uncle who worked for Henry Ford Health System in Detroit and he said, 'you know, you should really think of looking into health care,'" Slubowski said.

Slubowski spent 10 years at Henry Ford Health System, where he worked his way up to vice president of Ambulatory Satellites and Prepayment Programs. He also served as Trinity Health president and chief operating officer in May 2017. Before that, he was president and CEO of SCL Health in Denver, Colo.

Now he leads Trinity Health's 22-state Catholic health system with almost \$20 billion in annual revenues, 130,000 employees, 92 hospitals, 27,000 physicians, 18 clinically integrated networks, and 109 continuing care centers.

"In 1990, I entered Catholic health care and never looked back," he said. "It's the perfect fit

for me. Many secular nonprofits deliver quality care, but it really is the mission of our Catholic-based health system to serve the poor and vulnerable."

That mission, Slubowski said, resonated with him due to his time at Notre Dame High School.

"Attending Notre Dame with its faith-based direction certainly had an impact on me beyond my years there," he said. "The school experience was one of discipline, focus and excellent college prep; it prepared me well for the college experience.

"The teachers there also focused on behaviors and ethics. The experience and living the spirit of the Gospel made a difference."

One of the teachers who had the most impact on him, Slubowski said, was Conrad Vachon, who taught creative writing.

"When you are leading any organization, your success is oftentimes gauged by how well you communicate and engage with multiple audiences," he said.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The teachings of the Marist priests at Notre Dame has served Slubowski well over the years, particularly as the health system looks for new ways to improve its people-centered care approach to patient service.

"When we make decisions about our hospitals that may impact employees or the communities we serve, I always ask myself, 'are the communities better off?'" Slubowski said. "Like the Marists humbly following the example of Mary leading others to Christ, my guiding philosophy has always been that we are people caring for people.

"We call employees our colleagues. How we inspire and empower those colleagues to improve the experience of those we serve

is the secret sauce. We have been called to move beyond just providing episodic services to looking more at how we are improving community well-being."

For example, he said, the hospital system has a self-imposed mandate to increase its focus on addressing patients' social needs and the broader social determinants of health in the communities it serves. This includes addressing societal and environmental conditions such as food, housing, transportation, education, violence, social support, health behaviors and employment.

Trinity is developing a cadre of community health workers that use pathways—regimented, evidence-based multistep protocols—to help individuals address their specific needs.

In 2015, Trinity invested \$80 million over five years in six communities to improve public health, with a focus on obesity and tobacco use. The investment consisted of grants and loans for the communities to implement policies, programs and resources that aim to decrease obesity and smoking rates.

"At the end of the day, it is about service to others and remembering the balance that goes with that," Slubowski said. "I have a five-point philosophy I try to live by: faith in God; love of family and friends; good health; happiness; and service to others. If at any point I'm out of balance, that philosophy jars me into action."

As far as his advice to current students and future alumni, Slubowski said always be open to continuous learning.

"There is a certain amount of God's providence to your path. Don't get fixated on the linear. Life is a journey and your path may evolve over time. Use your head and heart in making decisions and you can't go wrong," he said. «



BELOW LEFT

Mike Slubowski ND'72 said the teachings of the Marists have served him well in his role as president and CEO of Trinity Health.

BELOW RIGHT

Slubowski leads Trinity's 22-state Catholic health system with almost \$20 billion in annual revenues, 130,000 employees and 92 hospitals.





Called to serve others

Alumni motivated by school's mission to help patients as caring doctors

The Greek physician Hippocrates once said, "Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity." No truer words can be spoken of the men and women of Notre Dame Prep and its heritage schools who have gone on to forge successful careers in the health care industry.

In a recent interview for IRISH magazine, several of those alumni took time to opine about their time at their respective schools, lessons learned along the way, and advice to current students looking to break into the industry.

Peter McCanna, president of Baylor Scott & White Health, the largest not-for-profit health care system in Texas, said helping people was something he has always wanted to do, even at a young age. A 1979 graduate of Pontiac Catholic High School, McCanna credits the school for instilling in him the values of teamwork, self-accountability, and discipline, all of which he says is the secret to his success.

"Catholic education instilled in me the expectation and desire to serve others. Health care provided a great environment where I could help others and put my leadership and business skills to work," he said.

McCanna, who oversees 47,000 employees, 50 hospitals and 7,500 affiliated physicians across Texas, said Pontiac Catholic's Sister Mercia in particular had a lasting impact on his career.

"(She) was one of my favorites," he said. "She drove a big old Cadillac, taught math, and treated every student with care and respect. She truly loved every student. At the time, we joked about her but looking back, she was a role model on how to treat everyone with respect, every day."

It is that lesson the varsity basketball player and class salutatorian said he has tried to emulate in his leadership of Baylor Scott & White.

"We are investing millions and countless hours developing products and services that place the customer at the center of everything we do," he said, adding that the health care system has the most US News & World Report-ranked hospitals in the state that score in the top quartile in clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction and employee engagement.

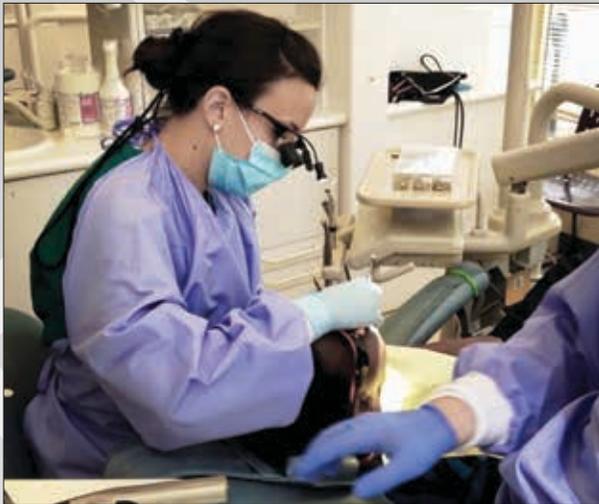
EVERYONE HAS A STORY

Michelle (DiPonio) Maltese NDP'08, a private practice dentist out of Shelby Township, Mich., said while the classes were small, the school's diversity of backgrounds, people and experiences were an important part of her high school



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...CONTINUE TO GROW, BUT I WOULD ADVISE MY
 YOUNGER SELF TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART AND YOUR
 DREAM, IT WORKED FOR ME.



journey and helped set the foundation for her future career.

“I learned to walk into every situation with an open mind, to not judge a book by its cover,” she said. “Every parent and family comes into my office with a different story, a different reason why they are looking for help from a stranger, their dentist. Every time I walk into the office, I start fresh, knowing today will never be the same as yesterday, and my ability to maintain an office ready to treat each patient relies on our willingness to create an individual relationship with each case.”

Maltese describes her practice as “holistic dentistry,” which means treating the body as a whole and not just the mouth and teeth.

“I have the unique ability to bring positive change to a patient’s life. It could be something as small as filling a cavity, eliminating day-to-day pain for a patient. It can also be as large as a full mouth reconstruction, enhancing the life of a patient cosmetically or medically, whatever the reason may be,” she said. “I am given the chance to grow with a patient from their first exam as a child, to seeing them through braces, to maintaining healthy dental habits and care throughout the rest of their life.”

Married to the love of her life, Chris Maltese, a fellow NDP’08 alum, the couple just welcomed their second child, and Michelle said there is nothing more she would rather be doing.

“Dentistry offers me such a wide variety of cases through my care of patients, something I love about the field,” she said.

When asked her career advice for her own children, as well as current NDP students, Maltese said it is important to “stay the course” in relation to your aspirations.

“There were a ton of times along the way where I wanted to question if the hard work and sacrifices were worth it. Now, being where I am, I know that they were,” she said. “As we get older, our problems change. Something that may have been a problem in high school, looked silly in college. A problem in dental school is laughable today in my professional life. We will always continue to grow, but I would advise my younger self to follow your heart and your dream, it worked for me.”

Following her graduation from Notre Dame Prep in 1998, Dr. Leah (Kohler) Spring joined the U.S. Navy through the Health Professions Scholarship Program (a full ride to medical school in exchange for a four-year military obligation).

“Thirteen years, 11 countries, five states, two squadrons, three humanitarian missions, and a dermatology residency later, I find myself both personally and professionally molded by a wide spectrum of mentors, colleagues, squadron mates and forged from a career of service,” she said.

As Spring reflected on her post high school career, she remarked on the qualities of scholarship, service, and personal fortitude instilled in students.

“Stamina and adaptability were critical while serving as the sole physician and flight surgeon during our squadron’s continuous relief operations to mainland Japan during the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear power disaster of 2011,” she said. “Mental and physical toughness were honed

OPPOSITE

Peter McCanna, president of Baylor Scott & White Health, oversees the largest not-for-profit health-care system in Texas.

LEFT

Michelle (DiPonio) Maltese works on a patient at her Shelby Twp. office.

BELOW

Dr. Leah (Kohler) Spring is a commander in the U.S. Navy.



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**"I THINK MY CATHOLIC UPBRINGING HAS HELPED
ME TO PROVIDE COMPASSIONATE CARE TO WOMEN
DURING THE BEST AND SOMETIMES WORST
TIMES IN THEIR LIVES.**

during squadron hikes in full gear around Okinawa, while climbing Mount Fuji, and during an ascent from the black sands of Iwo Jima to the summit of Mount Suribachi during a squadron readiness exercise."

In addition, a four-day, 100-degree, 2,000-patient humanitarian mission in the central Luzon region of the Philippines highlighted the importance of communication, camaraderie, and affection for her teammates.

"Qualities like these, exhibited and taught to us by our teachers and mentors at NDP helped shape my career and provided a guiding light to a path that has led someplace completely, but wonderfully unexpected," Spring said.

CARE IN THE BEST AND WORST TIMES

It takes a special kind of person to care for people daily as if they are family. Doctors and health care workers carry with them the healing and comfort that patients and families need during times of confusion, pain, distress and sadness, said Alexis (Burns) Bonucchi NDP '97, who received her doctorate in optometry in 2005.

As an optician, Bonucchi examines the internal and external structures of the eyes to diagnose vision conditions such as nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), astigmatism and presbyopia; eye diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts and macular degeneration; systemic diseases like hypertension and diabetes. She also performs tests to determine a patient's ability to focus, coordinate the eyes, judge depth and see colors accurately.

Bonucchi always tries to put as positive spin as possible on the diagnosis, even when it's hard.

Abby (Beauchamp) Boyd NDP'07, a Lake Orion-based obstetrics and gynecology doctor, works with midwives and nurse practitioners to provide care to women. She graduated from a four-year residency program in May 2019 and has been with her current practice since September.

Putting patients first in all aspects of their care is critically important in her line of work, she said.

"I think my Catholic upbringing has helped me to provide compassionate care to women during the best and sometimes worst times in their lives. While OB/GYN is a very happy field for the most part, occasionally I have to tell a woman her unborn child has serious medical issues, or that she herself has cancer, and in those times I believe that my Catholic faith helps me support my patients in their time of need," Boyd said.

Boyd is part of an interesting phenomenon at Notre Dame Prep in that she is one of at least 16 students from the Class of 2007 that has gone on to pursue a career in the health and medical profession.



In a 2011 interview for IRISH, Bonucchi said empathy is one of her defining characteristics, something that was nurtured and developed while attending Notre Dame.

"When I'm giving someone bad news about one's vision, I can empathize and certainly sympathize when they are upset," she said.

ABOVE

Alexis (Burns) Bonucchi NDP '97 received her doctorate in optometry in 2005.

RIGHT

Michelle (DiPonio) Maltese NDP'08, a private practice dentist, is with husband, Chris Maltese, a fellow NDP'08 alum, and their two children.

OPPOSITE

Abby (Beauchamp) Boyd NDP'07, is a Lake Orion-based obstetrics and gynecology doctor.





“I wanted to be a doctor since I was a child, but back then I didn’t really know what that meant. As I got older, I knew I wanted to be in a career where I could help people and I loved science, so medicine combined these two nicely,” she explained.

One of the aspects of her job she likes the most is being able to constantly learn something new.

“Medicine is a career of lifelong learning; best practices and technology are constantly changing, and it is up to me as a physician to stay up to date,” she said. “As an OB/GYN, I am an advocate for women and strive to provide all my patients the best care regardless of their race, creed, gender, national or ethnic origin.”

Like others who have walked the halls of Notre Dame, Boyd said the school’s world-class academics and caring teachers helped instill in her the values to succeed in today’s workforce. While it was not always easy, if she had to go back and do it all over again, Boyd said she would offer her younger self a piece of advice:

“Relax! It is all going to work out and it is ok to not be perfect (no one is perfect and no one expects you to be),” she said. «

A PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

Notre Dame alumni share their advice for the Class of 2020

Editor’s note: IRISH reached out to several alumni in the health care industry to share their words of wisdom with this year’s graduating senior class.

“Seek to be educated in liberal arts in college. You will use the lessons of the humanities and social sciences throughout your career. You can easily acquire technical knowledge but leaders need to understand people—human nature, cultures, psychology and historical context. A liberal arts education gives you this. Also, after college, don’t choose your first couple jobs based on money, location or prestige. Work for a great boss who will mentor you, challenge you, and be a role model for you to emulate throughout your career.”

Peter McCanna PC’79
President, Baylor Scott & White Health

“There is no correct path to achieving your professional and personal goals. There are colleagues of mine who took vastly different career paths than me. There is no textbook giving the specific decisions that must be made in order to become a dentist. With hard work, a continued passion to learn and grow, and the ability to handle the adversity life can throw at you, dreams can become reality.”

Dr. Michelle (DiPonio) Maltese NDP’08
Dentist

“Volunteer in a hospital or shadow a doctor to see what their life is like. It is nothing like what you see on TV. Make sure that you have other interests as well- you will burn out if medicine is the only thing you do. Residency is really hard, but it is also rewarding and can be fun if you are in the right field and with the right people.”

Dr. Abby (Beauchamp) Boyd NDP’07
OB/GYN



A different direct

Mike Jamroz's career veers to law from a settled future in accounting and finance

Nineteen-seventy-two Notre Dame High School grad Mike Jamroz has always thought that his accounting classes inspired an accounting major in college. He also figured at the time that he was destined for a long, comfortable career as a CPA. However, while he did work as a CPA for a number of years after earning his degree in accounting from Wayne State University, his career took a slightly different tack during his tenure at accounting firm Deloitte's Detroit office.

"One of the audit partners I worked for in Detroit used to tell me that I should go to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in Washington, D.C., to work," he said. "I did not take him completely seriously, but nevertheless applied there following a vacation in DC in 1980. Before I knew it, I was taking the oath to become a government official."

Jamroz, who also holds an MBA from U-D Mercy, said that one of the first things he noticed at the SEC was that nearly everybody there was a lawyer. The writing clearly was on the wall.

"I quickly entered a night law school program at George Mason University," he said. "Working full-time while going to law school was stressful, but working with lawyers at the SEC while going to law school was very helpful and rewarding. I also did not have to worry about finding a job following law school. I worked in an area at the SEC where being both a CPA and a lawyer was, and still is, a distinct advantage."

Armed with a Juris Doctorate from GMU, Jamroz became an expert at the SEC on the rules that govern the regulatory capital requirements of securities firms, the segrega-



tion

tion requirements over investor property and related record keeping and audit requirements. That expertise also led him to work on a number of high-profile cases at the SEC, including the Ivan Boesky insider-trading case in the mid-1980s and the liquidation of Drexel Burnham Lambert in the early 1990s.

He's also been published in the American Bar Association's Business Lawyer journal and has recently submitted another article for consideration for its November 2020 issue. In 1993, Jamroz left the SEC to become a partner with Deloitte in DC where he served both audit and advisory securities firm clients. He eventually reached the mandatory retirement age for Deloitte partners in 2016 but continues to work for the company as a senior advisor under an exclusive contract.

Now working at a slightly less hectic pace and living in the Old Town neighborhood of Alexandria, Va., with his wife, Laura, Jamroz has a little more time to reflect on his high school alma mater. That is when he and Laura aren't in Italy during their twice-a-year, weeks-long vacations there. (He also plays hockey twice a week.)

"I have fond memories of ND and its many teachers, including Hal Rice and Bob Kelley, but while I did take accounting there, I believe my eventual career path was more discovered than planned," he said. "I think it's hard to plan your career at a high school age, but you do begin to get an understanding of your talents and preferences."

He said that lots of people change their career paths after college and beyond, and Notre Dame High School grads were no different. And just like a career, he said that sometimes what one studies in high school comes back later in life in new and interesting ways.

"Strangely, I have now developed an avocation for some of the subjects in which I did poorly at ND," he said. "I got Ds in foreign language classes and world history. But I've become fluent at least conversationally in Italian and I cannot tell you how many history books I've read in my lifetime. However, while chemistry was tough in high school, I never developed an interest in it later in life." ◀



With its first graduating class in the late 19th century (St. Frederick), the alumni association's 12,000+ alumni no doubt have worked within an almost infinite number of jobs and careers. It is amazing to hear stories about such a diverse array of talent and expertise, including those of Rachel Sartori NDP'15, right, who works at Coca-Cola's headquarters in Atlanta. But there seems to be a nearly unanimous thread that ties all of them together: the lessons learned in high school. We recently interviewed a number of our alums who work in the "business world," many of whom decidedly can also be called real entrepreneurs.

Irish entre



LEFT

Rachel Sartori, a 2015 Notre Dame Prep grad, works at Coca-Cola Company's global headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., as a data engineer.

preneurs

Working with big data is almost like a puzzle for Rachel Sartori, a 2015 Notre Dame Prep grad.

“It’s fascinating analyzing the data in business and distilling it down to something that executive leadership can use to strategically plan for the future of the company,” she said. “And while there is a multitude of rewarding avenues you can pursue within the big data field, my work focuses on sustainability right now.”

It’s a passion for her, and she says it has direct ties to her high school’s mission.

“I feel strongly that in order to be upright citizens, we must be environmentally conscious, which is why I am so passionate about sustainability,” said Sartori, who works at Coca-Cola Company’s global headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., as a data engineer.

“My team is getting better results with the data we are collecting to ensure we have the most meaningful metrics in place to drive action and progress,” she added. “With this new influx of data, we are utilizing machine learning and predictive modeling to reduce our supply chain’s carbon footprint, decrease packaging waste, sustainably source ingredients, and minimize our impact on the environment.”

Sartori’s passion seems to be working well for her as she recently won first place in the 2019 Global Hackathon competition at Coca-Cola for leveraging technology to promote recycling.

“I developed an augmented reality mobile app that allows consumers to scan their empty beverage containers and then directs them to the nearest reverse vending machine (vending machines that accept and recycle empty plastic and aluminum beverage containers),” said the University of Michigan grad (B.S., 2019). “The app also gives customers coupons, rewards points, or the opportunity to donate to a favorite charity.”

Alum Brad Mitchell NDP’02, also is working in big data, but in a decidedly different industry than Sartori. And it came about after a game of poker.

“I actually was playing poker at a Detroit casino years ago and received advice from a few employees there to apply with the company as its IT department was hiring,” he said.

“I had previous experience in customer service and hospitality, but not in the gaming industry.”

But his education — a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology and minor in business administration from Central Michigan University — a number of internships (including one with NDPMA’s IT department) and two years of prior IT experience landed him an interview and a subsequent



job with MGM Grand Detroit Casino, a unit of MGM Resorts International.

“Over the years with MGM, I’ve been fortunate to be able to continue to expand on my knowledge on the IT operational aspect of entertainment, gaming and hospitality,” said Mitchell, who currently lives and works in the Las Vegas area with his wife, Katie, and their son and daughter. “All of the opportunities MGM has provided me with, including traveling to regional sites, leading teams during four property openings, assisting during construction, and eventually being promoted to corporate operations, has made the last 11 years extremely rewarding for me.”

Also rewarding for Mitchell was

his Notre Dame experience.

“The one-on-one attention that many of the teachers at Notre Dame Prep provided, Mr. Simon, Ms. Bembas, Ms. Bev Williams, Ms. Anderson, Padre Juan to name a few, taught me the value of setting goals and how to hold yourself accountable to drive toward them,” he said. “Those values took me out of my comfort zone in college by joining and leading IT business groups, working to become a supervisor in my own campus job, and accomplish my degree in four years.”

“I will always remember Bev Williams’ interpersonal communication class and Mr. Simon’s law class, where their style allowed me and my classmates to use our speaking and communication skills while solving problems as a team,” he added. “These are life lessons that cannot be taught from any textbook.”

FOREGONE CONCLUSION

Just like Mitchell, 1968 alum Mike Pipia gives credit to his high school alma mater for his success in business — and life.

“Notre Dame High School definitely contributed to my career in business,” he said. “The school taught discipline and teamwork, two attributes that are essential for



MY EXPERIENCE AT NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL MADE ME TRULY VALUE

A PRIVATE, CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

success in the workplace and with life in general.”

Pipia recently retired from Guardian Glass, a business unit of Guardian Industries, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of industrial glass products, where he was global logistics manager. He says his career almost seemed a foregone conclusion while growing up.

“My father was in the transport business, a truck driver, so at a very young age I was introduced to the concept of logistics,” he said. “I’ve also worked in the automotive world, including Chrysler and General Motors, from which I retired in 2008.”

The Eastern Michigan University grad (BBA, 1972) said he also worked a total of 18 years at Federal Marine Terminals Inc., a divisions of Fednav, a global maritime shipping company.

“My career has been super rewarding for me as it’s opened ‘the doors of the world’ to me,” said Pipia, who now provides logistic support for a number of clients through his own consulting company, BMP Logistics Solution LLC.

ENTREPRENEUR/BUSINESS-MAN/FAITH-FILLED

It might be hard to find an alum who embodies the term “entrepreneur and businessman” more than 2001 Notre Dame High School alum Patrick Fabian.

He currently serves in two full-time professional roles: business manager at St. Paul on the Lake Church and School in Grosse Pointe Farms and since 2017 as president and owner of The League Shop in Grosse Pointe, one of Michigan’s

premier luxury gift and stationery retailers.

But this graduate of Madonna University (B.A.) and Franciscan University (MBA) also finds time to serve the church that, he said, has served him so well.

Fabian was invested by Cardinal Timothy Dolan as a Knight in the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the world’s oldest surviving order of chivalry at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City in 2013 and he currently serves as treasurer of the group in the Michigan area.

“The Order is dedicated to the defense of the Catholic faith and service to the sick and the poor,” he said. “I also serve in a number of other professional and philanthropic roles, including serving as a trustee of Sacred Heart Academy, a Catholic, independent school in Grand Rapids.”

He said his four years at Notre Dame High School was his stepping stone to a life devoted to the Catholic Church.

“My experience at Notre Dame High School made me truly value a private, Catholic education,” he said. “It is what inspired me to attend a Catholic university and subsequently a Catholic graduate school. An authentic, tangible Catholic identity in both the classroom and student life combined with individualized attention in my opinion makes for an optimal educational environment at any level.”

Coming out of high school, Fabian was planning to pursue a career in law, but that changed pretty quickly.

“I decided that I could have a broader impact through the

pursuit of a variety of business interests,” he said. “It has always been my hope that I might make a difference in the lives of others and I hope that I can continually grow in this objective through my personal and professional pursuits. As a practicing Catholic, having an impact on the mission of institutions such as St. Paul that impart the truths of our faith has always been very important to me.”



When he took over The League Shop, a business with decades of history serving the Grosse Pointes and much of metropolitan Detroit, it wasn’t something he would have anticipated early in his life.

“But it has been very rewarding to own a business that’s so important to many life celebrations in the community,” he said. “I believe The League Shop has a cultural impact on the region as well as through its promotion of traditional luxury retail.”

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Taylor Bolleber, a 2010 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, is another alum entrepreneur. She runs BIRD

ABOVE

Alum Patrick Fabian ND’01 is the business manager at St. Paul on the Lake in Grosse Pointe Farms and president and owner of The League Shop in Grosse Pointe.

OPPOSITE

Brad Mitchell NDP’02 is senior manager of IT operations with MGM Resorts International.

OPPOSITE LOWER

Mike Pipia ND’68 works in international logistics.



MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS HELPED SHAPE ME AS A PERSON AND PROVIDED ME A FOCUS ON LEARNING, GOAL-SETTING AND ACHIEVEMENT.



ABOVE

Taylor Bolleber, a 2010 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, runs BIRD BEE, a lifestyle clothing boutique in downtown Detroit.

RIGHT

Robert Kocis ND'75 lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in Texas and works in human resources.

BEE, a lifestyle clothing boutique offering a mix of modern bohemian, vintage inspired and contemporary clothing, shoes, jewelry and accessories in Detroit's historic Capitol Park area.

When she started her company in 2015, it came with a barrage of local publicity as she was one of four finalists in Hatch Detroit's "Hatch Contest," a contest that awards up-and-coming entrepreneurs a \$50,000 grant to build out their brick-and-mortar storefronts.

Bolleber didn't win the contest that year, but she believes the work she put in as part of the contest helped with getting her business off the ground in the first place. In fact, according to Hatch, since 2011, when the contest began, while eight winners have been announced, 42 other Hatch businesses have opened up.

A graduate of Grand Valley State University, this still-young business leader and entrepreneur's hard work thus far in making her clothing boutique

a success, she believes, has been aided by what she learned in high school.

"My favorite part about NDP is that even with it being relatively small compared to some public high schools, it still offered so many leadership opportunities," she said. "I know that if I attended any other school, I would have never been part of so many clubs and organizations or taken on the roles that I was able to at ND Prep."

Another alum who credits Notre Dame for teaching the importance of self-reliance and academics is Robert Kocis ND'75.

"My high school years helped shape me as a person and provided me a focus on learning, goal-setting and achievement," he said. "It launched my journey as a life-long learner and my passion for learning and the sharing of that learning led me to a role as an adjunct faculty member at Davenport University, instructing various business and human-resources courses."

His "day job," though has been as a human resources executive for a number of major companies, including International Paper, his current employer, where he is the area HR manager for the U.S. border region, i.e., Mexico, Chile and Peru; the U.S. west region and the U.S. southeast region. He's also worked for local business stalwart (and alumni-owned), Morley Group of Companies in Clinton Township, Mich., as corporate director of human resources.

"Looking back, my foundational education in both high school and college would be the natural basis for my career path," said Kocis, who earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakland University

and Master of Science degree from Central Michigan University. "My curiosity and passion for people and the critical role of leadership as a key element of what drives business success. My career has been tremendously enriching and really is a part of who I have become."

Kocis also recalled that the teachers he had at Notre Dame were very consistent in one particular way.



"All the teachers at ND had different ways of doing so, but driving students to be their best was clearly the major focus of the school's faculty and staff," he said.

He recalls a few of the many who made a big impression on him.

"There were many memorable teachers," he said. "Mr. (Conrad) Vachon, for his insights into literature and his dry humor; Mr. (George) Geck for his disciplined approach to teaching technology; Br. Ken Parent (now Mr. Parent) for demonstrating the importance of values and principles; and Mr. (John) Giordano, who taught me creativity through art and expression."

Kocis said his job also has given him the opportunity to travel to and live in many different places in the United States. In fact, on

the day of this interview he was heading to South America for a number of meetings.

“My career has taken our family on an adventure to living in and traveling to different cities and states,” he said. “Having grown up in the Detroit area, then moving to Petoskey, Mich., then to Kalamazoo, and finally for the last 15 years, living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Also, we have two daughters, both finishing their degree programs at Texas universities.”

ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING

For 1968 alum Pipia, he also cites a couple of ND teachers who had a profound impact on him.

“Two ND teachers who made an impact on me were Mr. (Harold) Rice and my track coach, Mr. (Conrad) Vachon,” he said. “Mr. Rice more so on the personal side and Vachon on the idea of using teamwork to accomplish an end to a means. I remember Vachon always saying that you can accomplish anything if you just put your mind to it.”

Pipia also said that while he was an average student in high school and that his goal was not the University of Michigan or Michigan State University, he nonetheless realized that Notre Dame helped him achieve one of his major goals.

“I was the first in my family to go to college,” he said. “That alone was worth going to Notre Dame!”

Coca-Cola’s Sartori, the 2015 Notre Dame Prep alum, also credits her high school with helping to set a clear path for her career.

“There was a plethora of great role models at NDP who taught me to challenge myself and

encouraged me to pursue my interests without hesitation,” she said. “That confidence and support were vital aspects in my education and career journey. Today, I am able to empower other young women to pursue a career in technology through my role on the Female Student Empowerment and Recruitment Committee within the Coca-Cola Women in Technology group.”

She said the group hosts community outreach programs, supports and mentors young

women, and advocates for the continued recruitment of women in technical roles within Coca-Cola.

“Furthermore, NDP taught me how to work in an agile way with constantly shifting priorities, to collaborate with a diverse group of people, to manage my time efficiently, and finally, to approach new challenges as an opportunity to learn and grow. These skills were extremely vital to my success both in college and now at my job today.” ◀

BELOW

Sartori said Notre Dame Prep’s “great role models” empowered her to pursue her career interests without hesitation.



MAKING CAREER

Alumni Career Network brings grads together and provides a vital resource for current high school students.

NOTRE
ALUMNI ASS

Notre Dame's ever-expanding reach will now go further with the launch of its Alumni Career Network (ACN) this spring.

"The Alumni Career Network will be the touchpoint connecting the talents and good will among our over 12,000 alumni," said Alumni Relations Director Beth Campbell. "The Network facilitates career-related connections, conversations, and networking by providing alumni from Notre Dame Prep and its heritage schools: Notre Dame High School, Pontiac and Oakland Catholic, St. Frederick and St. Michael the opportunity to share professional expertise and serve as a resource for fellow graduates."



The Network will feature four industry networks: health and medicine, engineering and IT, nonprofit and education, and entrepreneurship and business. Alumni can select which industry best suits their needs and begin

to receive information specific to their industry.

Through the ACN, participants select the ways to engage, whether serving as a "mentor" to younger alumni or sharing industry insights with juniors and seniors as part of the Career Speaker Series. Other features include membership in the online LinkedIn community via the Notre Dame Alumni Association's group page, where relevant information and stories related to the Network will be shared. Career networking events and workshops, as well as job shadowing opportunities are also planned.

PANELS SHARE A PATH FORWARD

The Career Speaker Series this fall featured focused discussions on business and entrepreneurship, as well as engineering careers this past January, and law careers in February. The goal of the series, which launched in 2016, is

to help inform students as they begin to choose their future career paths, reinforce the importance of a good education, as well as encourage students to set goals.

Alumni can sign up to come participate in panel talks about their chosen career and occupations to students at Notre Dame Prep as events are planned throughout the school year by reaching out to Campbell. Invited speakers will present to the students on a day in their life at work, what they are responsible for, the skills needed for their job, any training they needed, the education needed and more.

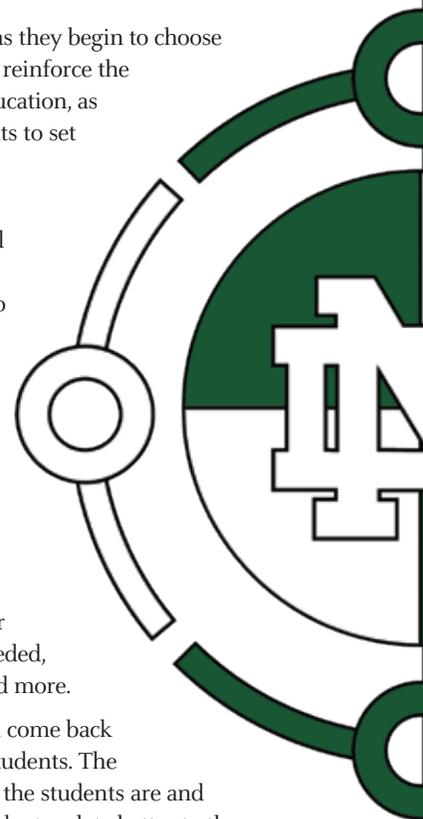
"I love that our alumni come back to speak to our current students. The alumni have been where the students are and I think that helps the students relate better to the speakers," said ACN co-chair Bobbie Hall NDP'00.

PEER-TO-PEER MENTORING

The ACN's mentoring program links recent grads with their peers—successful longtime industry professionals across the state and country. The program has enormous potential to help students and alumni build a community of personalized career support, according to its architects.

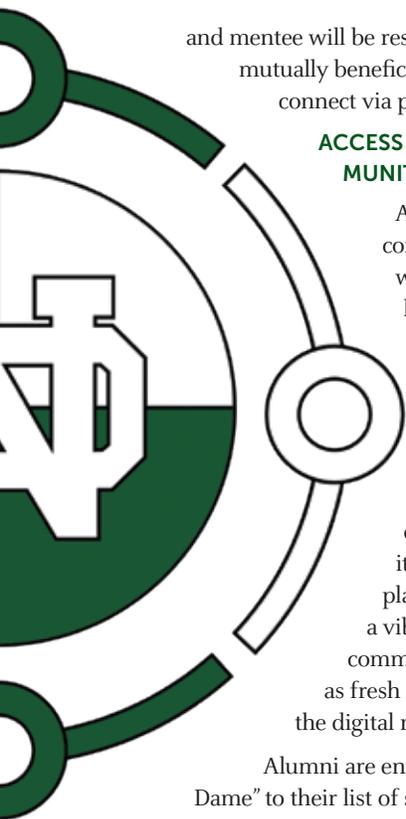
"(Mentoring) is a great opportunity for our students to learn a bit more about the options in the field of study they are interested in as well as having an opportunity to begin creating their own network of connections within that field," Hall said.

Alumni who wish to join an individual industry network as "mentors" must have 10 years or more of experience in their chosen profession. When a young alumnus reaches out to the network, they will be paired with a mentor based on industry, experience and fit. From there, the mentor



CONNECTIONS

DAME ASSOCIATION



and mentee will be responsible for scheduling mutually beneficial times to meet up or connect via phone and/or email.

ACCESS TO AN ONLINE COMMUNITY

As part of its communication strategy, which included the hiring of a new school communications director this year and the redesign of IRISH magazine, the Alumni Office is also focused on improving overall communication with its 12,000+ alumni. That plan includes establishing a vibrant and engaging community on LinkedIn, as well as fresh and relevant content in the digital newsletter.

Alumni are encouraged to add "Notre Dame" to their list of schools on LinkedIn and join the Notre Dame Alumni Association group page, where announcements and updates on the Career Network will be posted. The page can be found by searching Notre Dame Alumni Association (Pontiac, MI).

A LONG-LASTING VALUE

Campbell said the ACN has been a longtime coming and was created based on feedback from alumni surveys indicating a desire for more networking opportunities.

"We want our alumni to know that we heard them, and we are excited to be able to tap into decades of expertise in a new and dynamic way," she said. "Students and alumni benefit so much from speaking to their peers about their career paths, and we want to do everything we can to make that process easier."

Head of School Andrew J. Guest echoed Campbell's thoughts, stating: "We provide exceptional academic

preparation for our students, but those of us in the business world know the importance of networking when it comes to finding jobs. It's not always what you know, but who you know. Our aim is to create a powerful network for all alums, but our young alumni in particular."

"Those of us that graduated from Notre Dame High School know the power of that brand. It opens doors for us with other alums who shared similar experiences. We want to open that door for our young alums from Notre Dame Prep," Guest continued.

As an alum who found himself in the middle of a career transition five years ago, Mike Kastler NDHS'75, knows all too well the importance of networking. Kastler, who also serves as a co-chair of the ACN, said tapping into the knowledge base of experienced individuals in any given field and finding a common interest can pay dividends.

"In 2015, I went from being a large account sales executive in the IT industry to a solo-entrepreneur in the financial services industry. I turned to my Notre Dame network and found someone who had been in the financial services industry for about 25 years," Kastler explained. "We immediately connected, discussing our backgrounds at Notre Dame. He's been a mentor of mine ever since."

Kastler said without that connection, he doubts he could have made the switch to a new industry and from corporate sales to personal sales.

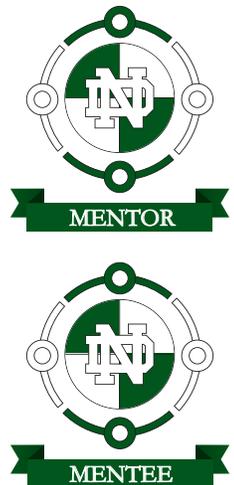
"Networking with other alumni works," he said.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To join the ACN, participants can register and complete a profile, which takes 10 to 15 minutes online at ndpma.org/acn. Alumni then can select which aspects of the Network they would like to participate in.

"It is our belief that the more information students and alumni can have about a particular career, the better decisions they can make as to what is the right career fit for them," Campbell said.

For information: ndpma.org/acn



ABOVE

Join the career network by:

1. Signing up at ndpma.org/acn.
2. Adding Notre Dame Alumni Association on LinkedIn.

FAR LEFT

In January, the ACN Career Speaker Series focused on engineering as a career.



Helping to find the road ahead

Navigating high school for many students is challenging enough. When it comes to thinking about colleges and, ultimately, careers, it can become overwhelming. Fortunately for Notre Dame Prep students, their guidance counselors have their back.

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA), a nonprofit professional organization based in Alexandria, Va., said that gone are the days of school counselors simply sitting in their offices handing out college applications or making schedule changes for students who want to drop a class. Today's school counselors, ASCA says, are vital members of the education team. They help students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.

IRISH recently met with Vlado Salic, Notre Dame's director of counseling, to ask about the role of guidance counseling at the school and how important his department is to the current and future success of each student. We specifically wanted to know what kind of help is available for NDP students when it comes to college and/or career direction.

IRISH: How much of what you work on with high school students is focused on career versus college, although there's obviously a connection?

Salic: It's comforting to know that the key to success is really knowing that there is more than one key. While we do more counseling than academic advising these days, we do spend a fair amount of time with our students on exploring, discussing and advising on career options. Having some direction or at least a career idea can certainly make it easier to target a good-fit college where they can thrive.

But "undecided" is more than fine, too. Some students just need more time because they could be good at many things. With freshmen, we may merely encourage them to start exploring some ideas of possible careers, but we focus mainly on self-evaluation and development rather

than full-blown career exploration. While we touch on it later in the freshman year, we really focus more on career exploration during the sophomore and later years. It's a process, as we all know, and the road to success is rarely a straight line.

IRISH: What kind of questions do you ask students in terms of future careers? Assume it's more than "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Salic: It's a difficult thing to ask a young person about what they want to do as a career. So we don't. Very few people know exactly what they

want to do at that age, or even as adults for that matter. I like to ask them, "What are you good at?" and "What do you enjoy doing?" It's difficult for them to say or grasp what they "want to be" when in most cases they don't even know who they are yet.

There already is too much pressure on them to decide what to be. Think about it. Most of them struggle with the question, "If a college rep from your dream school calls me and asks about you, what would you like me to share about you? Give me three or four adjectives to describe yourself? Tell me about your passions and hobbies? What would it be like for you to do your hobby and have someone pay you for it? Who is your role model and why? What are some things you would not want to do? What are some things you've thought about doing in the past and how do you feel about those ideas now? What are you most passionate about

and how does that fit your personality? What inspires you?" Even seemingly simple questions like that. It's hard for many of them because the majority of the careers they will be seeking have not even been invented.

Also, many of our students tend to focus on what their parents may do for a living and that can be good or not so good. One of my recent seniors even wrote their college app essay on it and named it "Shoes." The student wrote about the "shoes" of their parent who was well accomplished and how difficult it may be to "fill those shoes." One of my favorite essays of all time, honestly.

IRISH: Do you try to steer the kids toward a certain college or major once you know what their career interests or goals are — and if so, how?

Salic: We take time to get to know the students personally and find out



OPPOSITE

Jason Whalen, one of four guidance counselors at Notre Dame Prep, goes over college options with a student.

RIGHT

Director of Counseling Vlado Salic, at right in the photo, greets a Notre Dame Prep student.



I RECOMMEND COLLEGES THAT NOT ONLY OFFER THOSE CAREER OPTIONS ON CAMPUS BUT ALSO ARE A GOOD MATCH FOR THAT STUDENT BASED ON THEIR PERSONALITY, CRITERIA, NEEDS AND DESIRES.

what makes them tick. Not surprisingly, many of them initially choose colleges for all the wrong reasons, which could lead to disappointment. While I don't discourage them from exploring those options, I also encourage them to keep an open mind and give them other options to consider as well.

Using current admission statistics; showing them what it's going to take to get admitted to those schools; teaching them to be responsible and more critical about what they know about colleges through proper research usually helps them open their mind to other good options. If a student has expressed a significant amount of interest in a particular career path, I recommend colleges that not only offer those career options on campus but also are a good match for that student based on their personality, criteria, needs and desires.

By the time a student begins to explore colleges, etc., we may have had several interactions and may have a good feel for that student's personality and needs. As counselors, we also visit many colleges, develop relationships with their staff, learn about their programs and the way they take care of their students, and occasionally we may even look at college rankings. I personally have visited numerous colleges and recently was at a college doing some research. If I recommend a college to a student, it's because I believe they would thrive there.

IRISH: What kind of extra career resources do you have available for the kids? Do you encourage them to reach out colleges for advice?

Salic: We utilize Naviance and encourage students to complete inventories like "Do what you are," "MI Advantage," "Strengths Explorer," and "Career Interest Profiler." The Bureau of Labor and Statistics also is an excellent resource as is the College Navigator. We do encourage them to reach out to colleges and perhaps even do a summer career exploration program on college campuses, and a few students take advantage of that. In addition, we encourage them to get a part-time summer job, seek out job shadowing, volunteering, etc., all of which will expose them to the real-world aspects of their possible career choice.

IRISH: Do you have any recent or historical data or anecdotal information on career interests of NDP students over the years?

Salic: Unfortunately, I don't have much recent historical career interest from our NDP students, but I can say that from a personal perspective, STEM and health career programs have always been in high demand here as well as business careers, the arts, etc. And, of course, many are still undecided. Even those who are convinced they know exactly what they want to do still in fact change their mind statistically at least once or twice during college. As my dear friend and recent director of admissions at Michigan State University, Jim Cotter, would say, "The No. 1 major at most college campuses is 'undecided.'" «

BELOW

Guidance counselor Margie Bond speaks with a student in her office.



GAME TIME IN THE PHYSICS CLASSROOM

New game developed by NDP students combining ping-pong and handball and named after teacher was designed for community time

When the new school schedule rolled out at the beginning of the current school year, it included a daily dose of “community time,” which loosely replaced SRT, or scheduled relief time. Both were designed to provide some non-academic space during a busy day for students to decompress, relax a little or catch up on homework — or perhaps catch up with fellow students.

Back in late 2017, a few enterprising seniors, i.e., Ross Patterson, Machus Turner, Nick Evans and Anthony Pangori, decided it might also be a good time to work on creating a new game and then, well, play it.



According to current senior Reid Gaboury, those four seniors, now proud 2018 alums, came up with a game with decidedly ping-pong roots called “Pakkaball.”

“The World Pakkaball Federation was created by Ross, Machus, Nick and Anthony with the permission of physics teacher Mrs. Pakkala, who also was the inspiration for the name of the game,” Gaboury said. “The WPF hosted massive tournaments during SRT periods every year. But due to the schedule

change for this school year, Pakkaball was moved to the community time slot.”

Pakkala said the students play nearly every Tuesday through Friday during community time in her classroom, which is located in the Easterwood Wing. She said Gaboury designed and developed a WPF website and had up until recently pretty much taken over the management and promotion of the games.

“Reid made the website last year during a study hall because he was motivated to get all the rules down officially before the Class of 2019 left us,” she said. “We had trophies, announcers, pins; it was amazing! Reid is now trying to cement his legacy as the guy who made the rules official and who now is passing it on to younger students.”

The game, which typically is played in Pakkala’s physics classroom, involves two teams of two players, each “batting” a rubber ball about the size of a softball with bare hands back and forth across two lab-type tables.

The official World Pakkaball Federation handbook, says, “Pakkaball is an athletic test of coordination, skill, teamwork and precision. (It is also notable as the most popular sport in the E Wing.) Teams compete against each other in an attempt to be the first to score 11 or 21 points.”

Gaboury noted that since he currently does not have Pakkala as a teacher this term, he’s turned over most of the Pakkaball reins to a fellow NDP student who does.

“There’s a junior named Adam Martin, and I’m passing the torch to him in terms of being the official student rep for Pakkaball,”



said Gaboury, who in the fall will be studying architecture in Georgia at the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design. “Mrs. Pakkala says that Adam plays it with his friends in community time a whole lot, which is cool. I’ve actually been meaning to organize a ‘club’ for Pakkaball during community time, but, like many high school seniors, I have honed and perfected my procrastination skills.

“But Pakkaball is sort of my way of leaving my mark on NDP, plus it’s definitely something I’ve had a lot of fun with,” Gaboury added.

For Pakkala, who is a bit humbled that the students would name a game after her, it’s still another example of what makes Notre Dame special.

“Even though we have a rather challenging academic curriculum, our students still can make up games and we allow them and encourage them to do so in order to add some real fun into their school days,” she said. “Some kids just need to play — even in high school. I remember that at the 2018 graduation ceremony, Jack Crowe gave the valedictory address and talked about all of the games the Class of 2018 invented during their time in the high school. Pakkaball actually was one of those games.” «

ABOVE

Notre Dame senior Reid Gaboury '20 is with NDP physics teacher Jennifer Pakkala, who was the inspiration for the new game's name, Pakkaball.

LEFT

Pakkaball is played by bouncing a ball on the surface of two standard lab tables.

PRE PAR ING

THE CLASS OF 2030

The future has yet to be written and how it will look—flying drone taxis, autonomous cars, personal robots that do everything from dispensing toilet paper with the touch of a button to diagnosing and treating medical problems—may seem scary to some.

|| ||

**BEGINNING WITH OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS,
WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE INQUISITIVE
AND TO LOOK AT PROBLEMS FROM MULTIPLE
PERSPECTIVES, IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.**

In a 2014 article published by The Economist, Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates is quoted as saying at least a dozen

jobs, both high-paying and low-skilled will be taken over by automation. Some of these positions include commercial pilots, legal work, accountants, real estate agents and technical writers. Others predict that by 2030, more than 2 billion jobs will disappear.

It is more of a wakeup call than a warning. Institutions like Notre Dame, however, aren't leaving anything to chance. It is ahead of the game when it comes to educating today's youth for the jobs of tomorrow.

"One of our greatest concerns as educators is that we are trying to prepare our students for a world and workforce that may not yet exist," said Katrina Sagert, chair of the English Department at Notre Dame Prep and International Baccalaureate Diploma Program coordinator.

According to the Institute for the Future, 85 percent of future jobs have not yet been conceived. Those jobs include everything from bio-waste optimizers and data integration managers, to drone docking designers and engineers, 3-D food printer chefs, and automated traffic architects, just to name a few.

What kind of world the Class of 2030 will inherit is still anyone's guess, however a 2018 study conducted by Microsoft in collaboration with McKinsey & Co. found that by the end of the decade, the fastest-growing occupations will require higher-level cognitive skills in areas such as collaboration, problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.



That is why Sagert and others emphasize the importance of Notre Dame's International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. The school was the first Catholic school in Michigan to integrate the IB program in classrooms from Pre-K through 12th grade. At all levels, IB takes a global approach, looking at big ideas across disciplines, such as examining connections between the early 20th century.

No matter what they're studying, students dig deep into subjects and try to find answers. Take for instance NDP's newly formed Sustainability Project, a three-point plan conceived by the Science Department that addresses major issues like the devastation of plant and animal ecosystems and food sustainability.

"There is a huge misconception that scientists are not creative; this could not be further from the truth," said Jocelynn Yaroach, Science Department chair. "Creativity is key to successfully solving real problems and being willing to work with/through failed ideas is crucial to being successful in a STEM-related field."

"We provide a framework for students to be creative and learn how to work through problems when their initial ideas were wrong," she added. "Fostering imagination and helping students learn resilience and perseverance in the face of difficult tasks guide our pedagogical approach."

Through biology classes, students at all levels receive hands-on learning opportunities by interacting with the school's four active



THESE TRAITS WILL ENSURE STUD

beehives or the state-of-the-art greenhouse on campus.

"Beginning with our youngest students, we encourage them to be inquisitive and to look at problems from multiple perspectives, in an orderly fashion. We build on this every year, at all divisions, with an increasing focus on analysis and communication as students move on to 11th and 12th grade science," Yaroch said.

The Microsoft study's authors concluded that in addition to fostering a healthy curiosity, today's kindergartners will graduate better prepared for their futures if they have "a strong social and emotional foundation developed in a personalized learning environment."

THE IB PROGRAM ADDRESSES THAT, TOO

"When our access to information and communication is instantaneous, what other skills are we bringing to the table to be productive members of society?" Sagert asked. "When you think of your best partners in life—whether you're talking about your colleagues, your friends, or your family—you are thinking of people who are innovative, clear, sensitive to others, resilient, and resourceful."

Throughout the Primary Years, Middle Years, and Diploma Programs, the IB empowers Notre Dame teachers to foster these soft skills or "executive functioning skills" through the IB Approaches to Learning.

"This framework allows us to teach students strategies to develop creative and critical-thinking skills, communication skills, social skills, self-management skills, and research skills. Not only will this give our students the tools for academic success, but they will be better prepared for a future beyond our imagination," Sagert said.

Diana Atkins, principal at Notre Dame Lower School, said learning in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade is heavily focused on building a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

"In tandem with our mission of creating good Christian people and upright citizens, the IB Primary Years Program encourages students to strive to be caring, open-minded, principled, tolerant, balanced, thinkers, communicators, risk-takers, knowledgeable, and reflective," she said. "These traits will ensure students are ready to jump into the workplace in many vast fields, some of which may not even exist at this time."

For more information about the IB program at Notre Dame, visit ndpma.org. «



MENTS ARE READY TO JUMP INTO THE WORKPLACE IN MANY VAST FIELDS. . .



IRISH NEWS FROM PAGE 7

program, 800 scholarships have been awarded.

Topoleski was named a Class B finalist.

BAND DIRECTOR PRESENTS AT PRESTIGIOUS MUSIC CONFERENCE



Notre Dame Band Director Joe Martin presented in January at the 15th Annual Michigan Music Conference, an in-service event held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids for music educators from across the state. His session was entitled, "Going to an All-Digital Music Classroom," which discussed how NDPMA reads, annotates, sight-reads, and organizes its music using tablet-based Mobile Sheets and SmartMusic. He also talked about how music students are assessing, composing, recording, and studying music theory as well as creating beats by using tablets.

FOUR STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR PRESTIGIOUS BAND FESTIVAL

The Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association's District 4 held its annual All-District



Honors Band Festival in early January at Clarkston High School and four students from Notre Dame Prep, juniors Madeline MacIntyre, Rachel Rook, Zack Smith, and sophomore Palmer

Wencley, were chosen to participate.

According to Joe Martin, Notre Dame's director of bands, the purpose of the Honors Band program is to recognize the achievement of outstanding musicians from instrumental music programs at Notre Dame and other schools located in MSBOA's District 4.

"One-hundred-sixty-five students were selected from 27 schools to form three separate groups," Martin said. "A jazz band, concert band and a wind ensemble were assembled. They were conducted by Dr. Chris Chapman, director of bands at Central Michigan University; Dr. Courtney Snyder, associate director of bands at the University of Michigan; and Kris Johnson, director of jazz studies at the University of Utah."

Martin also said that the event is a great opportunity to build bridges between NDP's program and other band programs.

"Plus, in the two three-hour rehearsals held during the weekend, those participating performed college-level music," he added. "A big congratulations to our student-musicians for their hard work and dedication to the arts."

LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER, ACADEMICS

The Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MIVCA) announced on Jan. 8 that Notre Dame Prep senior Theresa Carrier had been awarded the 2019 MIVCA Educational Scholarship, one of only eight in the state to earn such an honor for the 2019 season.

"This scholarship is awarded to high school volleyball players who demonstrate leadership, character and outstanding academic performance throughout their high school career," said Robin Kozuch, the MIVCA's scholarship chairperson. "It is an honor to be able to award



this scholarship to an individual who exemplifies all of the qualities we were looking for."

Irish volleyball coach Betty Wroubel said that, among other fine attributes, Carrier was a critical part of the team's return trip to the 2019 MHSAA final four.

"Oftentimes Theresa was our go-to person on the court," Wroubel said. "But more than that, she is a very caring and giving individual who always finds time to help her classmates, tutor others or volunteer in the community. In addition, her quiet leadership style was very effective this year with our young team."

SENIOR GETS PRESTIGIOUS CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Evan Wells, a senior at Notre Dame Prep, earned the prestigious "Good Citizen" award in early December for an essay he wrote for the Piety Hill chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, located in Birmingham. The Good Citizens Awards and Scholarship Program grants awards for essay writing on an annual basis to area high schoolers.

A member of Notre Dame's student council, cross country team and the school's Praise and Worship Ensemble, Wells picked up his award at a ceremony



held at the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

This annual award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools and communities.

ALUM KAITLYN ROOSE NAMED DIRECTOR OF ESPORTS AT MTU



Kaitlyn Roose, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, has been named the director of esports at Michigan Tech, Director of Athletics Suzanne Sanregret announced in November. Roose is the current president and co-founder of the Esports Club at Michigan Tech, and a mentor for the Husky Game Development Enterprise. She is pursuing her doctor of philosophy degree in applied cognitive science and human factors psychology.

"Kaitlyn brings vast experience in gaming—including scouting, analysis, research and competitive play—to her new role as the director of esports. Additionally, she was a softball student-athlete during her undergraduate collegiate career," Sanregret said. "I would like to thank the search committee for recruiting such an excellent candidate. We are thrilled to welcome Kaitlyn to the Michigan Tech Athletics family, and I look forward to working with her as we grow our esports program."

THE IB LEARNER PROFILE GOES TO LANSING

The state of Michigan has its share of official state items, including bird (American robin), tree (eastern white pine) and fish (brook trout).

But Michigan joins 14 others that don't have a state food (Maine's is the whoopie pie; in Georgia, it's peaches, Vidalia onions and grits.)

For one student in Notre Dame Lower School, that's simply unacceptable.

"Adit has always loved to learn about U.S. states and he's particularly passionate about his native Michigan," said Preetinder Gill, who is second-grader Adit Gill's dad. "In March of last year, while doing some reading, he found out that Michigan is one of the states in the U.S. without any official food."

So Adit took matters into his own hands and began to research famous or popular local and state delicacies to see if any could be good candidates.

"He ended up with a list of eight food items he thought worthy of being our state food, and with the guidance of lower school principal Diana Atkins, second-grade teacher Donna Stuk and technology specialist Andy Hopkins, he created a real project out of his idea," his father said.



"He even wrote to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to solicit her support for his cause," his father added. "He also asked for the support of state Sen. Rosemary Bayer, who represents Michigan's 12th district, which includes the city of Pontiac, to introduce a bill in the Michigan Legislature and Sen. Bayer assured him that she'd research the issue further."

"I am very proud of Adit and the work he's done in taking his learning outside the classroom

doors into the real world," Atkins said. "He took an idea and completely put it into action to achieve a positive result. This exemplifies the learning we strive for through the International Baccalaureate program with all our students. I look forward to seeing if Michigan will ultimately adopt a state food."

For Adit's parents, this project was still another example of how Notre Dame is offering such unique and diverse opportunities for its students.

"As parents, we want to thank the school for providing Adit with this hands-on learning opportunity," Preetinder Gill said. "Notre Dame Lower School is well equipped to provide young minds with a well-rounded education and a robust foundation for a lifetime of learning. Mrs. Atkins and her staff consistently help their students follow the school mission and ensure that they put the IB Learner Profile into practice. We truly are blessed to be part of the Notre Dame family."

PERSONAL PROJECTS SHOW PROGRESS

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program's Personal Project is the culmination for many sophomores of their time spent with the MYP curriculum. This year at Notre Dame Prep, the school's approach to this IB component was to offer it as an elective to sophomores versus a requirement, and the end result was an evening celebration in the school library on Jan. 30 that replaced the massive exhibition at the end of the semester.



While the school did not change the basic requirements of the Personal Project, this new approach reflects the school's commitment to helping students better manage stress and the rigor sometimes associated with it.

Melissa Archer, an English teacher at ND Prep and IB-MYP coordinator, said the smaller group of sophomores doing Personal Projects led to a celebration and presentation that was much more relaxed and engaging.

"We had a wonderful night," she said. "The intimate setting allowed for very interesting discussions."

The IB-MYP Personal Project is an independent project task that allows students to achieve a goal or dream while also developing valuable project skills of time management, critical and creative thinking, research, collaboration, and more, Archer explained. Students are able to show principled action as a result of sustained inquiry and critical reflection over an extended period. «

PRAYERS

Notre Dame mourns the loss of our dear brothers and sisters and invites our community to join with us in prayer.

David Boothman ND'76, Nov. 1, 2019

Albert Cattell SF'47, Nov. 14, 2019

Fr. Bob Champagne, one of the founding fathers of Notre Dame High School, Sept. 3, 2019

Janice Corteville, former faculty; beloved mother of Brian NDP'99, Nov. 20, 2019

John E. Grossman Jr., aka "Mr. Apple," former business manager, Nov. 28, 2019

Christopher Francis Kirouac ND'79, Oct. 26, 2019

Joseph Knoth ND'73, Oct. 6, 2019

Marilyn (Hiller) Lemmen SF'66, Jan. 3, 2020

Fr. Normand Martin, s.m., former Notre Dame High School faculty, Dec. 23, 2019

Rudolph Munoz ND'59, beloved brother of Dan Munoz ND'60, Oct. 10, 2019

Keith Richards ND'77, Sept. 3, 2019

Debbie Bilyeau Robrock PC'72

Mike Segesta ND'81, March 13, 2019

Jane (Doherty) Stock SF'47, Jan. 7, 2020

Patricia (Reed) Syron SF'59, Dec. 27, 2019

John Ureel ND'58, Jan. 24, 2020

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

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

ALUMNI NOTES

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

NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL ALUMNI

Abigail (Beauchamp) Boyd NDP'07 recently completed her medical residency in obstetrics and gynecology.

Meghan (Collinge) Brennan NDP'01 married Kevin Brennan in June 2018. The ceremony included alumni Julianne (Kherkher) Page NDP'01, Christine (Praet) Walker NDP'01, and Timmy Collinge NDP'04. She and her husband welcomed the birth of their son Fitzpatrick Timothy on Nov. 21, 2019. In February 2020, Brennan celebrated nine years at Pandora Media, where she's a leader on the client services team.

Logan Brown NDP'15 is a graduate of Western Michigan University's College of Aviation. He was recently hired as a first officer with SkyWest Airlines. He was certified in the company's CRJ aircraft in November 2019, and recently began flying out of Detroit Metro Airport.

Gina Carnago NDP'09 recently got engaged to her fiancé, Ben Gouwens.

Shawn Cencer NDP'07 is a project architect in the health care and education fields at Diekema Hamann in Kalamazoo. He is a 2012 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University.

Grace Cummings NDP'16 was recently accepted into the doctoral physical therapy program at Central Michigan University.

Sarah (Dulapa) Chandonnet NDP'09 welcomed a baby boy, Dylan, on Sept. 6, 2019. Chandonnet serves as an underwriting manager for the private client division of a personal insurance wholesaler, negotiating on behalf of business managers with Lloyd's of London and domestic insurance carriers for celebrities, professional athletes, politicians, doctors and lawyers.

Patrick Fabian NDP'01 is president and owner of The League Shop in Grosse Pointe. He also serves as business manager for St. Paul on the Lake Church and School in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Michael Fakhoury NDP'12 recently graduated from Georgetown Law School.

Stephanie Fierens NDP'12 earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Wayne State in 2019. She recently moved to Chattanooga, Tenn. and works for Stantec, a global engineering firm, as a water and wastewater engineer.

Chase Glasser NDP'17 was recently appointed a research intern with the U.S. Department of Justice. Glasser conducts litigation research for trial attorneys in matters relating to opioid abuse, odometer fraud, elder fraud, consumer fraud, deceptive trade practices, and pharmaceutical fraud. While at the University of Michigan, he served on an advisory board that dictated the rewriting of Michigan's internal sexual assault policy in response to the federal court case *Doe v. Baum*.

Philip Kurajian NDP'07 is currently a basketball coach for Bloomfield Hills High School.

Michelle (DiPonio) Maltese NDP'08 and **Chris Maltese NDP'08**, recently welcomed their second child.

Brad Mitchell NDP'02 was recently promoted to senior manager of corporate MGM Resorts IT Operations, where he leads three support teams to support the company's properties.

Katherine Pacynski NDP'06 and her husband Steve welcomed their second daughter, Charlotte Jane, on Nov. 11, 2019.

She joins big sister Claire, who was born in March 2018.

Shawn Potwardowski NDP'16 was recently named to the President's List for fall 2019 at the University of Alabama. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Andreana Rosnik NDP'09 completed a doctorate in chemistry at the University of California-Berkeley in August 2019. She is now working as a software engineer for distributed energy resources analytics at Enel X in San Francisco.

Rachel Sartori NDP'15 has been working at the Coca-Cola company global headquarters in Atlanta since May 2019 as a data engineer within the Global IB and Analytics Department. Sartori helps design, develop, and maintain data collection pipelines to assist the company's 250 global bottling partners.

Derrick Sobodash NDP'00 is working as a lapidary, cutting rough gem material into finished stones at a jewelry shop in downtown Rochester following a successful career as an overseas reporter in China.

Dr. Leah (Kohler) Spring NDP'98 is celebrating 13 years in the U.S. Navy as a board-certified dermatologist.

Andrew Woodcox NDP'08 recently got engaged to his fiancé, Maya Murray.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Glenn DeLodder ND'58 is currently employed at Comerica Park in the security group and is a freelance wedding photographer (print and digital).

Doug Jardine ND'72 is celebrating his 35th year as a professor of plant pathology at Kansas State University.



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Alumni Association (Pontiac)

IRISH E-NEWSLETTER

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

Terry Pesta ND'68 is a retired substitute teacher at San Diego Unified School District. Prior to his retirement in 2012, Pesta served as president of the San Diego Education Association, an affiliate of the California Teachers Association that represents more than 8,000 teachers and educators.

Michael Pipia ND'72 is celebrating more than 30 years as Guardian Industries' global logistics manager.

Michael Jamroz ND'72 is a retired partner, now a senior advisor under contract with Deloitte & Touche LLP's Deloitte Advisory practice. He has more than 38 years of

securities industry experience. Prior to joining Deloitte, Jamroz spent 13 years with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Paul Chapdelaine SM'60 serves as an arbitrator for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, National Mediation Board, and the American Arbitration Association. He was admitted into the National Academy of Arbitrators in 2016. As an arbitrator, he argues labor disputes for a range of clients, including the Houston Police Department, San Antonio Police Department, Houston Fire Department, Federal Aviation

Administration, Southwest Airlines, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Department of Prisons, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Army, ExxonMobile, Shell Oil, Frito-Lay, and others.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Peter McCanna PC'79 serves as president of Baylor Scott & White Health, the largest not-for-profit health system in Texas. The integrated delivery network includes 47,000 employees, 50 hospitals, and 7,500 affiliated physicians. «

UPCOMING REUNIONS

INTERESTED IN PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

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

NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Class of 2000

Planning is underway for the 20-year reunion. Please contact Francis LeGasse at flegasse@gmail.com to join the planning committee.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1994

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

Class of 1960

Sixty-year reunion will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020, at Wyndham Garden Hotel – Sterling Inn. With a cost of \$60 per person, the reunion begins at 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Eddie Kay at 248-310-6912 or ewk3058@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fashion Show

Thursday, March 19

Join the Notre Dame Parents Club for the 23rd annual Fashion Show, "Roaring 2020" from 6 to 10 p.m. The event takes place at The Treasury, 30 N. Saginaw St., in downtown Pontiac. Purchase your tickets at ndpma.org/fashionshow2020.

Big Band Dinner Dance

Saturday, May 16

Featuring performances from jazz band alumni. Ticket information will be available soon. Please contact Joe Martin, jmartin@ndpma.org for more information.

Notre Dame Prep Art Show

Monday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

24th Annual Golf Outing

Monday, June 1

To register or to become a sponsor, visit ndpma.org/golfouting. New discounted alumni prices are available. This event is sponsored by the NDPMA Booster Club. Proceeds benefit NDPMA athletics.

Homecoming 2020

Friday, Oct. 2

Save the date for this year's homecoming game!

The Notre Dame Alumni Association Board of Directors:

Bobbie Hall NDP'00, Vice Chair	Mike Kastler ND'75
Jane Dika NDP'02, Secretary	Patty Dean Phillips SF'52
Dean Aldo PC'76	Meredith (Gifford) Scott NDP'02
Molly Campbell NDP'08	Dan Staniszewski NDP'02
Brian Dooley ND'85	Amy Tkac NDP'02
Lisa Healy NDP'98	



Notre Dame High School Class of 1959
Sept. 19, 2019, at Da Francesco, Shelby Township



Notre Dame High School Class of 1969
Oct. 19, 2019, at the Italian Cultural Center, Clinton Township



Notre Dame High School Class of 1984
Oct. 12, 2019, at Hamlin Pub, Shelby Township



Notre Dame Preparatory School Class of 2014
Nov. 27, 2019, at Rochester Mills Brewery, Rochester

Reunions



Notre Dame High School Class of 1989
Nov. 15, 2019, at Hamlin Pub in Shelby Township



Notre Dame Preparatory School Class of 2009
Nov. 29, 2019, at Rochester Meeting House, Rochester



Notre Dame Preparatory School Class of 1999
Sept. 14, 2019, at Topgolf, Auburn Hills



Notre Dame Preparatory School
and Marist Academy
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Pontiac, MI 48340

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