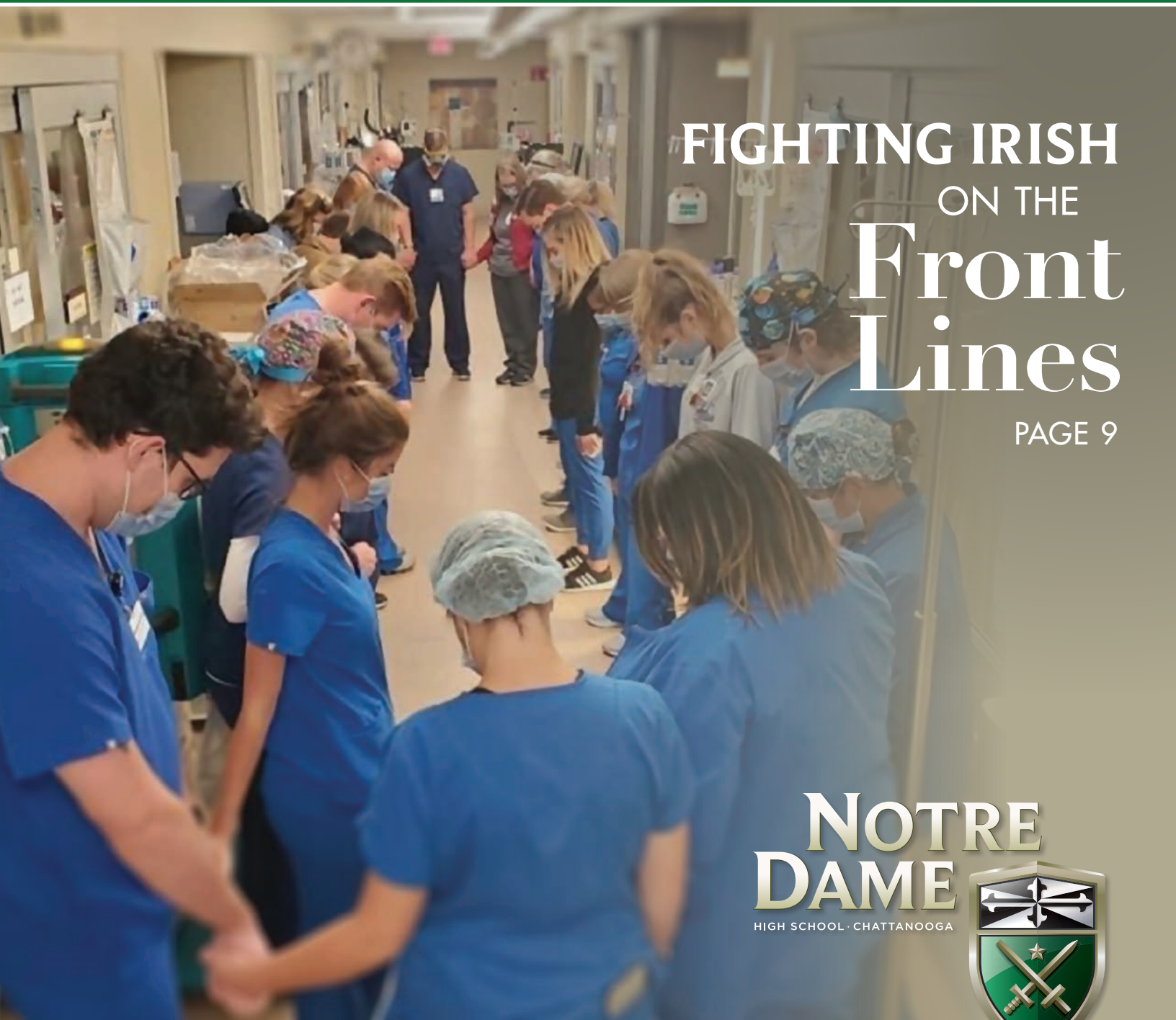


# BLARNEY

stone

SUMMER 2021



## FIGHTING IRISH ON THE Front Lines

PAGE 9

NOTRE  
DAME

HIGH SCHOOL · CHATTANOOGA



# Farewell from the PRESIDENT



*To our NDHS families and friends –*

**H**ow do you summarize 25 years at a single place? Four years as a student added to four stints as an employee – there are days I really can't believe it's at an end.

It's a mixed bag of memories that begin back when I sat in these very same desks our teachers have sanitized every single day of this oh-so-strange year.

But mostly – it's a whirlwind of emotions about the people. Classmates and teammates, colleagues, co-workers ... and the students - the many, many, many students I have been blessed to have taught or coached or just known. They were just kids at the time, the same as I had been before them, we were "flawed mortals stumbling toward enlightenment." When I returned to teach, I found them looking at me, hoping I might provide a bit of that enlightenment. I doubt they realized it, but we helped each other.

Sadly, there are way too many who have graduated and I've lost track. But there are others who have become friends and co-workers and people I admire. My life is richer for it.

I have loved seeing teenagers smile. I have loved working with men and women who've been open to accepting God's call. And I have loved Father Pat Connor and Coach Jim Phifer.

One was my Principal and the other set me on a path to become one. Father showed us how school leaders can simultaneously be demanding and compassionate; Coach taught me for whom schools are supposed to exist – the kids. We learn from everyone – at least we should. I've tried to. But some impact you more.

In my most recent stint as Principal, I've been afforded more opportunities to speak about our school. It's a matter of great pride when I brag about our school's lengthy legacy – 145 years. But as I told the kids, it's more important to have a long future. And while I am the past; it is they who are that future.

But they can't do it alone. We never have. Nancy and I are so very grateful for the many kindnesses, gifts and prayers the Notre Dame Family has poured out to keep her going – ever better, ever stronger, ever longer.

I'm not sure what the next years hold for us. Many have asked. I'm sure we'll find a cause of one sort or another. But the other day, Emma, our seven-year-old granddaughter, went to school wearing two right shoes. I think I'll start with her.

May God bless the Notre Dame Family!  
#GoIrish

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Valadie". The signature is fluid and cursive.

George Valadie '71  
*President*



In honor of their retirements, George and Nancy Valadie were surprised with a student-led assembly. They were adorned with retirement bathrobes and crowned Mr. & Mrs. Notre Dame. The students gave them retirement advice and a yearbook dedication. The front drive at the school has been named *Valadie Way* and a

scholarship in George Valadie's name has been established to assist current students. This fall they will enjoy a trip to the University of Notre Dame to attend a football game!

**On the Cover: Therese Schultz Miller '79 and fellow ICU staff at St. Thomas Hospital pray for a colleague.**

*“I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life.”*  
– John F. Kennedy

Dear Alumni and Friends –

**C**hange... Notre Dame High School is undergoing quite a bit! While it can be a little overwhelming, the changes taking place at our school are exciting.

A new President, a new Principal and several new teachers will each bring unique talents to NDHS. Our alumni family is changing & growing as well with the addition of the 2021 graduates! These new alums will join a large, diverse group of NDHS graduates who are located all over the world. Whether it is help needed with a Freshmen class project, connections made with a ND family who has a critically ill child in the hospital, help with events at the school, or the many ways our alumni are involved in their local communities, the Irish family can always be counted on to show up! We have much to be proud of, especially our fellow alumnae and alumni who have spent the last year working the front lines dealing with Covid-19. The resilience shown by all these individuals should be applauded and is much appreciated.

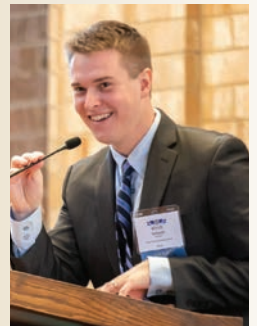
So, as we say goodbye to some and hello to others, *Irish Eyes are Still Smiling!* Thank you to all who have contributed their time, talent and treasure to Notre Dame.



See you Alumni Weekend –  
Kathy A. Martin  
*Director of Advancement  
and Alumni Affairs*

## WELCOME to our NEW PRESIDENT

**I** am deeply honored that the President search committee selected me to serve you as the next President of Notre Dame High School. I am both grateful for the opportunity and excited to begin. I look forward to partnering with you in commitment to the mission of the school, building on the incredible strengths and traditions at NDHS, and leading NDHS boldly into a future where our ambitions and aspirations are worthy of the school's rich history.



I am eager to arrive in Chattanooga with my family. I look forward to getting to know you. I can't wait to see what great things we accomplish together.

In your service,  
Kyle Schmitt, Ed.S., *Incoming President*



## ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT!

**Honor a graduate, relative, classmate, or someone special by sponsoring a chair in the Miller Theater!**

Theater Floor Seats \$250 • Upper House Seats \$150

Donate at [myndhs.com](http://myndhs.com) > support, or email [martink@myndhs.com](mailto:martink@myndhs.com).



Dear Fellow Notre Dame Alumni –

**M**y name is Kari Mara Ingle. I am a graduate of the class of 1989 and I have stepped into the role of President of the Alumni Council. I would like to thank Anne Wehunt for her years of service to the Council. Her love of Notre Dame is evident by the tremendous amount of hard work that she has put in over the years. She has shown her dedication to the school and the Alumni Council. Thank you, Anne.

As I said earlier, I am a graduate of the class of 1989. I am married to Andy Ingle, class of 1982, and we have two children. Our daughter, Hannah, is a graduate of the class of 2019. She is currently a junior at University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Our son, Drew, is entering into his senior year at Notre Dame.

Not only do I enjoy watching all my family attend and graduate from Notre Dame, but I also love that I get to see my students move on to Notre Dame. I have been teaching at OLPH for the past 25 years. There are many of you out there that I had the privilege to teach when you were a mere seven years old. I have had the honor to keep in touch with some of you, but there are many who I have not seen since you left OLPH. Please reach out and let me know how you are and what you are doing. I would love to hear from you!

For any of you that would like to know what is going on at ND, I invite you to reconnect and come visit us. If you would like to be involved with us, we would love to have you. We are looking to grow our council and we welcome new and fresh ideas. If you would like to know more about what we do, please contact Kathy Martin at Notre Dame, or you can email me at [ingle6465@gmail.com](mailto:ingle6465@gmail.com). I am happy to answer your questions. I look forward to hearing from you!



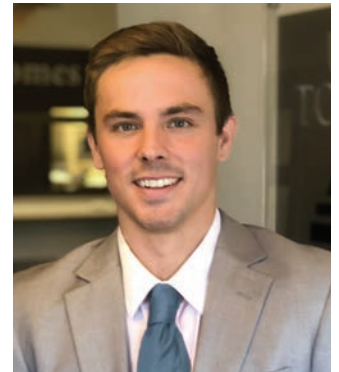
Irish Forever,  
Kari Ingle  
*Alumni Council President*

## Welcome to our newest Alumni Council members!

**Morgan Strozak McCroskey** graduated from Notre Dame in 2007 and was part of the Volleyball State Championship team. She played volleyball at Austin Peay University for two years and then participated in a national student exchange program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She graduated with a degree in Marketing & Entrepreneurship. Morgan has worked at Yellowstone National Park, Tennessee Valley Authority, and currently works at Unum as an event coordinator, planning incentive events across the nation. Morgan has an affinity for suffering in the outdoors and she's always looking for another ultra-trail run to help improve her mental fortitude.



**Dillon May '09** has Irish roots that run deep! Since graduating, he married his high school sweetheart, Jordan Reiner '09. He began his professional career with Coyote & Arrive Logistics where he worked his way up from a sales representative to a corporate trainer. He eventually became the Carrier Sales Manager. After five years of corporate leadership experience, family ties to multiple Chattanooga tourism businesses, and having a strong affinity for the city, he became a real estate agent with Real Estate Partners. When he is not selling the city, he enjoys bouldering in Prentice Copper State Park, hanging with family and enjoying his two pups, Scootie & Priscilla.



### 2021-2022 ALUMNI COUNCIL

Kari Ingle '89 – President

Anne Wehunt '86 – Past-President

Morgan McCroskey '07 – Secretary

Kathy Mara '68

Vickie Guthrie '78

Raymond Fox '71

Father Mike Nolan '78

Yogi Anderson '68

Charles Jabaley '15

Lori Bianculli Fox '79

Dillon May '09

# DESIGNING Woman

In high school Bettina O’Neal Benson ’02 was on the court playing basketball and volleyball, or running track. Fast forward nineteen years later and she is now running her own fashion line, *Chloe Kristyn*, in Atlanta. After graduation from college and working in the medical sales industry, Bettina launched her own brand of women’s clothing. She currently resides in Marietta, Georgia with her husband, Michael, and seven-year-old daughter, Chloe. Recently, a 15-week-old goldendoodle, named Cocoa, joined the family. When not working on her designs, Bettina loves meeting friends for dinner on restaurant patios, vacationing on 30A, reading, and every now and then... doing absolutely nothing!

**NDHS** – How did *Chloé Kristyn* come to fruition?

**Bettina** – I attended college at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Tallahassee. Other than working summer retail jobs, I had no experience in fashion until my junior year. My first foray into the fashion world was starting and running my online boutique called “Eye Candy Buy Candy.” I would source designer vintage fashion from resale and thrift stores. As the business grew, I started sourcing items from the Los Angeles and New York garment districts for each season.

After completing two internships in medical sales, I accepted a position with Pfizer Animal Health upon graduation. I worked in several specialties during my ten year medical sales career but in 2016 decided to launch *Chloé Kristyn*.

**NDHS** – What/who influences your design?

**Bettina** – I draw influences from art and architecture, but the most influential are the women who support the *Chloé Kristyn*

brand. They are the women I wanted to be when I was in high school! Many of my clients represent the type of woman I am becoming. I feel so grateful to be doing something I love to do.

**NDHS** – What are some of your notable career achievements?

**Bettina** – During my medical sales career I won several President Club awards with the most notable won the year I had my daughter. Recently, I was named a Tastemaker of the South by *Southern Living* magazine and featured in the August 2020 issue. In December, I was awarded one of six Stitch

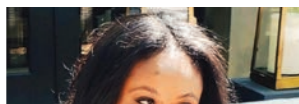
Fix Elevate grants. The \$25,000 grant promotes equity, diversity and inclusion in the fashion industry and provides mentorship opportunities from leaders across the company, marketing access, and the opportunity for my products to be sold on Stitch Fix.

**NDHS** – What were your favorite classes and teachers at NDHS?

**Bettina** – Mrs. Iorio was one on my favorite teachers. She was so bubbly, fun, and stylish! I loved my English Literature class.

**NDHS** – Do you have a favorite memory of high school? A bad memory?

**Bettina** – My best memories were the friendships made and the bonds built through sports. The classes were challenging yet rewarding. The teachers were always supportive. The food in the cafeteria would qualify as my worst memory! 🍀

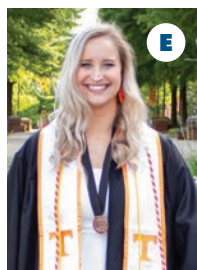


CHLOÉ KRISTYN



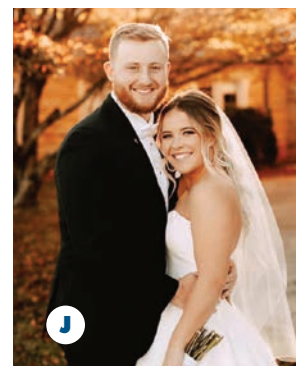
# ALUMNI UPDATES

Keep us in the loop! Send your Alumni Updates and contact info changes to [martink@myndhs.com](mailto:martink@myndhs.com).



- A** **Olivia Reeves '21** won the gold at the International Weightlifting Federation Junior World Championships.
- B** **Averie Sheppard '20** was named 2nd Team All-Sun Conference. Averie plays softball at Thomas University.
- C** **Kennedy Bingham '18** got engaged to Drew Roberts and is planning a wedding in 2022.
- D** **Grant Speer '18** was inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society at the Citadel. He also recently received the Military Order of World Wars Award.
- E** **Audrey Barkeloo Carter '17** graduated from the University of Tennessee summa cum laude and will be attending medical school this Fall.
- F** **Meagan Eiselstein '17** finished her senior soccer season at Maryville College and was presented the Molly Hewa Sers Team Award. This award is presented to the women's soccer player who epitomizes what Maryville College stands for: scholarship, respect and integrity.

- G** **Patrick Johnson '17** was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the 2021 NFL draft. He will be wearing jersey #48.
- H** **Hunter Finnegan '16** and wife Madison welcomed their first child, Piper Dean Finnegan, born on May 15th.
- I** **Andy Fortin '16** and Sophie Lowe were married on May 8th.
- J** **Courtney Boyd '15** and Grady Wright were married on December 5, 2020.
- K** **Hannah Cashatt '15** graduated from East Tennessee State University with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing.
- L** **Mila Combs '15** got engaged to Dustin Rey Montecillo and is planning a fall wedding.



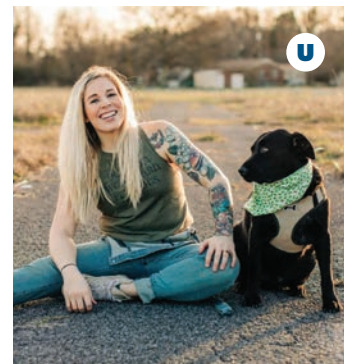
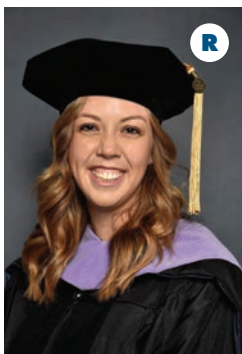


**M** **Mallory Hein '15** got engaged to Skyler Reese and is planning an August wedding.

**N** **Kareem Orr '15** has signed a 2-year contract in the NFL with the Rams. He was formerly with the Tennessee Titans.

**O** **Andrew '14** and **Natalie Wilkinson Howard '14** welcomed daughter Dawn Teresa on May 18th.

**P** **Katie Lamsey '14** and sister **Meghan Lamsey '12** coached the St. Jude Saints elementary girls basketball team this past season. The team was undefeated in conference play!



**Q** **Spenser Turley '14** joined Sakaegumi Construction in Tono City, Iwate, Japan and will be assisting in expansion of overseas projects, presentations, advertising materials and general translation work.

**R** **Ellen Sawyer '13** graduated from Midwestern University with a Doctor of Dental Medicine. Dr. Sawyer will be working with First Choice Dental in Madison, WI.

**S** **Brian Delaney '12** and Juliana Wasden welcomed daughter Emma Catherine on May 20th.

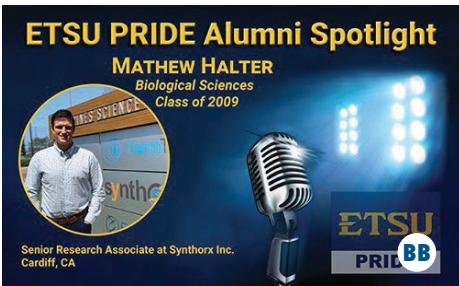
**T** **Sydney Hamon '12** received the Spirit of Community Policing Award. Officer Hamon collected blankets and distributed them to the homeless in Chattanooga last winter.

**U** **Alex Guidi Zupanich '12** and her business Yoga Muttz were featured in *Shoutout Atlanta* this April. Alex is a yoga instructor and personal trainer.

**V** **Alicin Lawson '10** graduated from UTC with a bachelor's degree in Child & Family Studies.

**W** **Carey Leiper Martin '10** and husband Corey welcomed their son, Pierce Hudson Martin.

**X** **Jacqueline Bruce Fugatt '09**, husband Bob and big sister Bella welcomed Sage Auden on December 11th.



**Y** **Matthew Walker '08** and wife Katherine welcomed William Jackson Walker on November 25th.

**Z** **Adam Tiano '06** got engaged to Lauren Riehl.

**AA** **Nick Philpott '05**, wife Courtney and big sister Emma welcomed Elliott Chase on April 4th.

**BB** **Matt Halter '04** was recently featured in the ETSU Alumni spotlight publication. He currently resides in California and is a Senior Research Associate at Synthorx Inc.

**CC** **James Wheeler '03** was named Associate Dean in the College of Pharmacy at University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**DD** **Sandy Corn Pricer '98** is the Co-Founder and President of RISE UP cooperative which presents teens and at-risk youth with life and leadership skills through weekly workshops.

**EE** **David '81 & Grayson '12 Mullin** were featured in the January 2021 *Citiscopes* magazine in an article "Like Father, Like Son — Passing Down a Lifelong Love of the Game".

**FF** **Pez Whatley '69** (deceased) was elected to the WWF Legacy Hall of Fame. Pez played football and wrestled for ND. He began his professional career in 1973 and became a popular fixture in regional and national productions.

## REMEMBERING

The faculty, staff and students of Notre Dame offer our most sincere condolences to all those families who have lost loved ones. We remember them and all our dearly beloved in our daily prayers and Masses.

Anne Elizabeth Baugher '84

Gerald Charles Beene '87

William J. Cotter III '57

David Evans '71

Peter Jackson Ford '61

Carolyn Sawyer Hill '41

Carl F. Hubbuch '60

Charles "Skip" Patton Hunerwadel '63

Robert Emba Lambdin III '68

Rose Marie Lombardo '58

Victor J. McDonald, Jr. '61

Christopher Thomas Nelligan '19

Mark Harrison "Harry" Prater '73

Christopher "Chad" Smith '96

Mary C. Stangarone '04

Mary Lynn Stringer '50

Thomas Thornburgh '76

Edward Donald Warwick '61

Glenn "Pat" Webb '64

Edward "Woody" Wright '76

James W. Wright, Jr. '72

James C. Wrenn '61



# ESSENTIAL HEROES

## Fighting Irish on the Pandemic Front Lines By Hayden Seay '12

In January 2020, the United States confirmed its first case of Covid-19, a disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. As of June 2021, over 50% of the country's population has received at least one dose of the three vaccines designed to combat the virus and return life to normalcy.

The following are some of the stories of Notre Dame alumni who dealt with the virus in hospital rooms, mental health centers, schools, restaurants, and their own lives.

### Therese Schultz Miller '79

As a critical care nurse for over three decades, Therese (below) has always been there for patients.

"When Covid-19 began in China, it looked like a ship on the horizon sailing in an opposite direction," says Miller, who currently serves as a supervisor of Critical Care at Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville. "While we talked about it among ourselves, it seemed remote and unlikely to be a problem."

After watching Covid-19 spread across Italy and spike in New York City and Seattle, Miller realized the virus would affect everyone.

"We were scrambling to prepare," says Miller, who noted how the combined strengths of the hospital's staff helped improve treatments for patients. "As our first cases started arriving, we began developing protocols and continued to revise them based on new information and our own experiences."



But tragedy struck Miller in April 2020: Her mother passed away at her nursing home in Washington D.C. Unable to visit due to restrictions and her mother's wish to not go

to the hospital, Miller said goodbye to her mother through a computer screen while at work.

"My mom was a big hugger, she was Irish to the bone, she always wanted her kids gathered around her," says Miller. "More than ever, I understand that even the nurturers need nurturing and that human touch is a precious gift."

With ailing Covid-19 patients filling beds, the reality of the situation set in: The virus ravaged people young and old, no matter their health condition or who they were. Last November, tragedy struck again, and Covid-19 claimed the life of Miller's colleague and longtime friend, Gary Woodward.

"When those things happened, [typically] you would be able to stop and kind of process that, but the next shift comes on and the wheels keep turning," says Miller. "Everyone has kind of dealt with it in their own way."

### Dr. Melinda Ball '00

For Dr. Ball (above), an anesthesiologist at Holy Name Medical Center, watching Covid-19 erupt in New York City shocked her.

"We were all stunned, and probably still are when we think back to a year ago," says Ball. "I think it was a shock it arrived in New York City as quickly as it did."

As the virus surged in the city, her role as an anesthesiologist changed. "Our world changed from being normal, elective surgeries, the intraoperative role the anesthesiologist plays, [and] we immediately went to the frontlines of managing Covid patients and their airways, essentially, and the critical care needs of those patients," says Ball.



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In normal times, endotracheal intubation serves as a common procedure in the operating room. But with patients devastated by Covid-19, intubation poses a greater risk of death.

“Typically, we intubate people in the operating room every day; that’s general anesthesia for the most part,” says Ball. “Having to perform intubations on patients knowing that their chance of survival is low was emotionally very difficult for our specialty.”

This March, NBC’s Dateline featured Ball during a special called “Covid One Year Later: Life After Lockdown.”

“The interview was difficult, because Kate [Snow] asked really direct questions and certainly about the fears of bringing Covid home to my family or the possibility of getting Covid,” says Ball, who noted how Covid-19 spread remained unknown. “Just knowing that was your duty to be there to help patients, but also not sure it would cost you your life or you would bring it home to someone you loved, and it could cost them their life.”

Throughout the pandemic, Ball says the teamwork amongst everyone at her hospital, whether doctors or nurses all the way to food and environmental services, left a profound mark on her.

“Everyone just showed up to work, and we got each other through it,” says Ball.

## Dr. Benjamin Baker ‘96

Throughout the Parkridge Health System, Dr. Baker (below) works as an emergency physician.

“We’re supposed to be able to take care of anything and everything that comes through the door,” says Baker. “We’re trained in emergent management of sick patients.”

Over the course of a three-to-four-month period, Baker and other doctors changed the way sick patients are seen and cared for while learning about Covid-19 on the fly.

“There was medicine before and medicine after,” says Baker. Due to the swift onset of the pandemic, Baker and his partners were reintroduced to aspects of critical care they have not used in a long time.

“You hate to say it like this, but it was exciting to be a part of something that you knew was so important,” says Baker. “We’re running towards the sick people and



everyone else is running away from it. We were excited that we could be a part and help, but obviously we wouldn’t wish this calamity on anybody.”

During New York’s surge, several of Baker’s partners traveled to help take care of patients

“Hearing their stories really humbled me because here I am thinking about the few [patients] I had to intubate and whatever and they’re putting eight to ten in body bags a day,” says Baker. “It eventually gets to you.”

With the current state of the pandemic, Baker says he feels cautiously optimistic, but it has led him to reflect on his own mortality.

“I think that for me, as a person who’s almost forty-three years old, and having seen so many young people get sick and die from this, it has caused me to reflect on my own life and make sure that everything that I have is in order for my daughter,” says Baker. “I don’t want to leave anything in the air when it comes to her.”

## Laura Champion ‘13

In February 2020, Laura (above) began her career at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas’ emergency room, right before Covid-19 exploded around the United States.

“It’s kind of shaped the way I was trained as a nurse, because that’s all I’ve really known since I’ve started,” says Champion, who learned about intense infection prevention and educating the community about its principles.

In response to receiving the first Ebola patient across the United States in 2014, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas created a system focused on infection prevention education.

“Even before Covid was a big deal, we had to go through all of this extra training, just because that hospital had dealt with it previously,” says Champion, who noted that the hospital provided its workers with the proper equipment to keep them safe.

As Covid-19 spread, hospitals and healthcare providers became strained due to the sheer volume of patients.







“That was interesting to start my healthcare career right when healthcare and the country was being affected so much by it,” says Champion. “A lot of the time, we didn’t really know a lot, so we rolled with the punches, and every shift, there was something new, we just had to adapt quite a bit.”

Although uncertainty still surrounds recovered Covid-19 patients with lingering health problems, Champion says her hospital has seen fewer cases rolling in.

“We are seeing so many fewer cases,” says Champion. “So many people are now vaccinated that even if they are getting it, it’s so much less severe that they’re not requiring the extra treatment that maybe someone a couple months ago would’ve required.”

## Father Jeff Johnson ‘89

While on spring break in March 2020, Father Johnson (above) imagined the vacation would last just one more week.

“It all came about very quickly last March in 2020,” says Johnson, who serves as the president of Strake Jesuit High School in Houston, Texas. “We went on Spring break, thinking that we would come back [after] an extra week of spring break, but as it turned out, we didn’t come back for the remainder of the school year in person.”

As the all-boys Catholic high school closed, Strake’s teachers quickly learned how to teach remotely via Zoom.

“Looking back on it, it was so fast, how we went from up and running full speed ahead to remote,” says Johnson.

Last August, the school year kicked off with remote learning, but students were slowly brought back into the classroom by early September. After resuming classes at a lowered capacity, the school relaunched sports and other extracurricular activities.

“But there were still other things we just couldn’t do,” says Johnson. “We still have not gathered as a faculty and staff in person [in] over a year, still.”

To Johnson, maintaining the sense of community has been one of the most difficult aspects of the pandemic.

“Like Notre Dame, we see ourselves as a community of students and faculty and parents and alumni,” says Johnson, who mentioned how communities like to stay together in person. “There’s no replacement for that.”

Johnson hopes to see the school return to a sense of normalcy this August. “People are really excited about being [fully] back in person,” says Johnson. “Not just teaching, but as a community.”

## Tom Owen ‘99

After teaching elementary school for ten years, Tom (below) switched to a career at Daybreak Treatment Center amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Owen made the move to Daybreak, an outpatient mental health facility for teenagers in Germantown, Tenn., in August 2020, where he still teaches in a classroom setting.

“For the most part, because of Covid and virtual learning, most of them do their own things from school,” says Owen, who assists the students with their homework across a variety of subjects. “I’m there to help.”

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic in its early days, Daybreak closed their doors for a few weeks. Throughout the summer, the facility began reopening, albeit with capacity limits. “We have fewer patients that we’re able to treat, which is really kind of unfortunate because at this time with everything going on, you’ve got a lot more anxiety and things going on, especially with teenagers over schoolwork in general and being home with their families and things,” says Owen.



Daybreak has seen an increase in individuals seeking help or wanting to attend, which has led to a nearly month-long waitlist, but they are unable to serve more people due to restrictions. “Sometimes it’s easy to forget the impact [the pandemic] is having on kids,” says Owen. “Seeing [the] mental strain it causes for everyone, for parents and for kids, was really eye-opening for me.”

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## Amanda Goodhard '08

Focusing on the ten rural counties outside of Hamilton County, Amanda supervises the Tennessee Department of Health's Southeast Region as its Assessment Planning Coordinator and Public Information Officer.



"It has changed so much," says Goodhard about the arrival of Covid-19. "Everything kind of flipped upside down."

Early in the pandemic, Goodhard recalled hearing about and researching the virus while her workdays

grew longer, and media inquiries arrived.

Before long, the National Guard deployed to the state and the Tennessee Department of Health began to consolidate its efforts towards administering Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing to the public

"That was our thing, tests were hard to come by," says Goodhard. "And as with most things in response to the pandemic, the Health Department was [the] only available option in the beginning."

On December 21, the ten counties Goodhard works with received their first doses of the Moderna vaccine.

"The [moment] that honestly almost brought me to tears was the day we got vaccines," says Goodhard. "It felt like we've been coming through a very long, dark tunnel, and there was finally a little bit of light."

"Initially, we gave just a single vial because we didn't get a ton in the beginning," says Goodhard. "We gave ten doses at each site to first responders." As supply continues to surpass demand, Goodhard's focus has switched to educating the public about the vaccines.

"As things develop and we hear more about this new virus, we have to change our response to it as we get more vaccines and new qualifications and different things like that, you just have to kind of adjust," says Goodhard. "Right now, we're just mainly trying to encourage people to get vaccinated and put some shots in arms."

## Sarah Love Hart '04

For Sarah, the arrival of Covid-19 changed everything. As the pandemic progressed, Hart and her husband, Hunter were forced to close their businesses and cut staff, all while learning to adjust to a rapidly changing situation.

"We immediately closed everything and then changed our entire operation," says Hart, who co-owns Brewhaus, LeRoy's Beer Lounge, and Hart and Hive Provisions with her husband. "Covid changed the restaurant business as a whole and we changed with it."

After a month, the couple reopened Brewhaus for takeout orders with a staff of only three people: Hart, Hunter, and the general manager.

"We didn't let anyone else into the building," says Hart, who served food, quarantine food kits and family meals through the front windows for about three months. "We thought that would be the best way to keep both us and our customers safe."

To help keep their businesses alive, the couple opened a new section called the Brewhaus Bodega. This new section provided a way for locals to buy hard-to-find groceries and supplies and gourmet meals that could be heated and served at home.

"It saved our business," says Hart. As restrictions eased, the Harts hired two new servers, expanded their menus and hours, and opened their patio to guests.

"It's been a huge learning experience, but we have been some of the fortunate ones," says Hart. "We have learned to simplify for a better quality of life and that supporting local [businesses] in every aspect of our life and day to day is extremely important." 🍀





# SCHOOL NEWS

## Academic Signing

Academic Signing was held during the Senior Award Night and honored students who have been offered academic scholarships that cover all tuition and fees. Congratulations to these deserving students!



(left to right)

- McKenna Brown** – University of Georgia
- Max Flasch** – United States Air Force Academy
- Mailynh Jensen** – University of Georgia
- Gwen Jimenez** – University of Alabama, Birmingham
- Marissa Krukowski** – Tennessee Technological University
- Griffin Lee** – University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Sarah Moore** – United States Naval Academy
- Colton Sanborn** – Virginia Polytechnic and State University
- Isabella Wade** – Georgia Institute of Technology



## Service & Mission

The students at NDHS continued a long tradition of service projects this past Spring. The Chattanooga Community Kitchen received over 400 sack lunches prepared by students after school and the Blood Assurance mobile unit visited the campus.



Amare Da Silva'24 (at left) wrote over 200 Caring Cards for individuals served by the Orange Grove Center



## Barrel Racing Champ

Congratulations to Ali Covey '22. She is the 2020-21 Tennessee High School State Champion Barrel Racer.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Band News

The Spring Band Concert was held in the Miller Theater this past May. Two members of the band were recognized with honors. Levi Brown was in the All-East TN Blue Jazz Band and was first runner up for the TN All-State Jazz Band. Charlotte Mahn '21 was in the All-East TN Blue Band and was in the TN All-State Band.



## Dodgeball

The annual Dodgeball tournament was held during Catholic Schools Week. The House of Rex won the championship!



## Foreign Language Week

Foreign Language Week was celebrated by highlighting the many countries represented by our student body and faculty.



## Mr. & Miss ND

Congratulations to Yasu Tyndale and Cal Price, Mr. & Miss Notre Dame 2021.



## Prom

After missing the prom last year, the juniors and seniors were happy to gather at the Renaissance Center this past April for a Casino themed prom.





## Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Congratulations to Isabella Wade, Valedictorian and Eric Alvarado, Salutatorian for 2021. Isabella has taken 9 AP classes, earned distinction as a National Merit Finalist, scored a perfect score on the ACT, and served as captain and coach of the ND Rock climbing team. Isabella will continue her education at Georgia Tech where she will study mathematics. Eric has taken 11 AP classes, played piano competitively, and served as president of both the Green & Gold Ambassadors and the French Honor Society. He will continue his education at Johns Hopkins University where he will study neuroscience and public health.



## New Principal

Laura Swenson has been named Principal of Notre Dame. She joined Notre Dame in 2019 as Dean of Academic Affairs and quickly established herself as a professional educator. Mrs. Swenson is easily accessible for the students and has earned the respect of the school community. She has a Master of Arts degree in Education with a concentration in reading and language arts and has over twenty-five years of experience in various teaching and administrative roles. Mrs. Swenson will be conferred a certificate in school management and leadership from Harvard University in August.



## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

- Acceptance to 128 colleges
- 2 military appointments accepted
- 25% scored 30 or above on the ACT
- Over \$10.8 million in scholarship award offers
- 89% were awarded merit scholarships





# ATHLETICS NEWS

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, sports continued at Notre Dame High School. Several indoor sports restricted the number of fans, but our student athletes persevered and did well.

The swimming team was fortunate to participate in some big meets and Belle Flasch '22 helped lead the team. Davina Sharma '21 broke the school record in the 500 meter freestyle event at the State Championship.



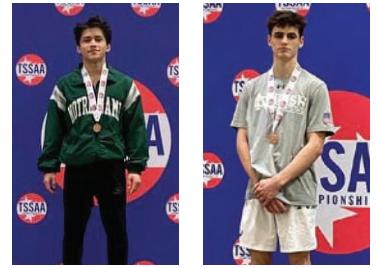
The girls' basketball team had a winning record despite getting quarantined on three separate occasions! They will return all five starters and are looking at Kenzie Campbell '22 (District Player of the Year) to lead the team as she works towards the 1,000 points goal.



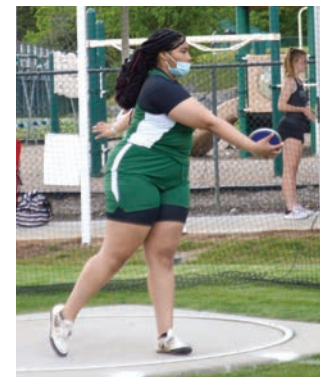
The boys' basketball team finished the season 20-8 and won the regular season district. They advanced to the quarterfinals of the state tournament before losing a heartbreaker 32-31 to ECS. Tim Vaughn was back-to-back District Player of the Year, and Coach Jonathan Adams was named District Coach of the Year for a second time.



The Irish wrestling team was successful and finished fourth in the region and ninth overall in the state. Four of the wrestlers, Bob Deitch '21, Josh Deitch, Fran Palacio'21, and Luke Braman placed in the state tournament.



Despite coming off a canceled Covid season in 2020, the baseball team beat the odds and doubled their winning record. Mitch Grannan '21 led the team offensively with a .397 batting average. Defensively, Jacob Eargle kept the opposition at bay, recording a 3.00 ERA and striking out 31 during the season.



The track & field team had their best season since 2003, and finished 8th in the state and tied Webb Knox in the East Region. Seniors Colton Sanborn and George Fillauer led the team with wins in field events and relays.



Also sharing a great season was the bowling team. They were the Regional Champs for a second year in a row and came in 3rd in the State Tournament. CJ Petrin '21 won the individual state championship and was named to the All-State Bowling Team.



Girls' softball has been restarted at Notre Dame and is in the building process. Despite a losing season, sixteen players joined the team and are enthusiastic about the future of girls' softball at the school. Like softball, the sport of lacrosse is under development at NDHS. Last year the team was able to get one game played before the school shut down due to Covid-19. This year, the team had a complete season and all the players improved. The sport is continuing to grow in the Southeast and Notre Dame looks to be competitive in the next few years.



The boys' soccer team had a rough season due to injuries, tough schedule, and young players. They won in the district tournament and advanced to the region, but lost to Webb Knox. Coach Schermerhorn is looking forward to next year and the return of a more experienced team.



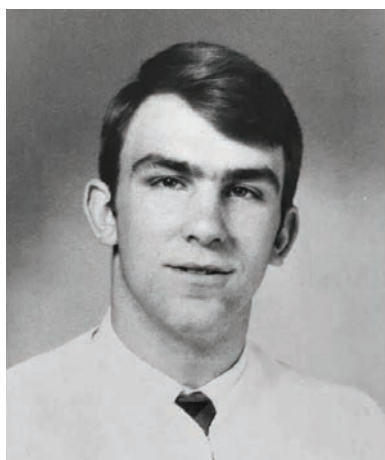
The 2021 tennis teams outperformed expectations considering they lost a year of development due to Covid. Seniors Sam Philips and Scott Steele were selected to the All District team and freshman Patrick Osborne emerged as a promising player in doubles. Team captain Charlotte Mahn '21 led the girls' team to winning the district and finishing among the top 12 teams in the state. Morgan Hicks '21, Charlotte Mahn, and sophomore Savina Jones and freshman Hannah Widerkehr were selected to the All District team. The future looks bright for the tennis program!



## A FOND FAREWELL

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The 2021 school year ended with the retirements of three long time educators – George Valadie, Donna Gabor, and Kim Mullin. It was determined that among the three of them, several thousand students have passed through their classrooms. These esteemed educators have devoted their professional careers to teaching and mentoring. Their presence will be missed at NDHS but they have left an indelible mark on the lives of many. Retirement only means it is time for new adventures!



**George Valadie '71** began his career at NDHS in 1975 as a teacher of literally anything Mr. Phifer needed. He was also a coach of various sports teams and served as a club sponsor. After a brief time at Soddy Daisy High School, George returned to Notre Dame as the Assistant Principal and assistant football coach. His career in education administration took him to OLPH as Principal, Director of Alumni & Development at NDHS, and then onto Vicksburg, Mississippi where he served as Principal of Vicksburg Catholic.

In 1993, he accepted the position of President at St. Benedict in Memphis. George returned to his alma mater in 2013 as President of Notre Dame. His knowledge of the history of NDHS is immense and his love of the school is evident in every position he held.





# FORTIS BELLATOR

**Donna Gabor '75** began her career at NDHS in the fall of 1999. She taught junior religion and according to her, "At Christmas Break I was ready to go back and teach 4th grade, but decided that juniors were only taller than 4th graders. It worked out, and I stayed a "few" more years!"



Mrs. Gabor has many fond memories of her years at Notre Dame... an exercise called "Bomb Shelter", sponsoring Homecoming dances and the prom, students writing their own prayers to be read during announcements, students trying to get all their service hours, serving as House Head for Fortis, the music at all-school Mass... are just a few. Her greatest memory will be sharing the halls of NDHS with her two daughters, Laura '04 and Karen '06. "I was blessed to see them grow in their teenage years, meet their friends, and watch them graduate from a wonderful place. Notre Dame is a family that stays together through the trying times and shares memories of the happy and fun times."



Alpha Theta. Many students have remarked that Mrs. Mullin made math understandable and was always available for extra help.

Like Donna Gabor, some of her favorite memories while at NDHS involve teaching her two children, Alex '11 and Grayson '12, and watching them participate in various sports and activities. The faculty Christmas parties also topped the list of fond memories. Kim plans on traveling, volunteering and sleeping past 5 in the morning! The majority of her time will be spent spoiling her first grandson.

**Kim Mullin** began her teaching career in the early eighties and came to NDHS in 2007. She has taught Geometry, Algebra 2, Precalculus/Trigonometry, Algebra 3, Honor and AP Calculus. She was named the Department Chair and was the faculty sponsor for Mu





# NOTRE DAME

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