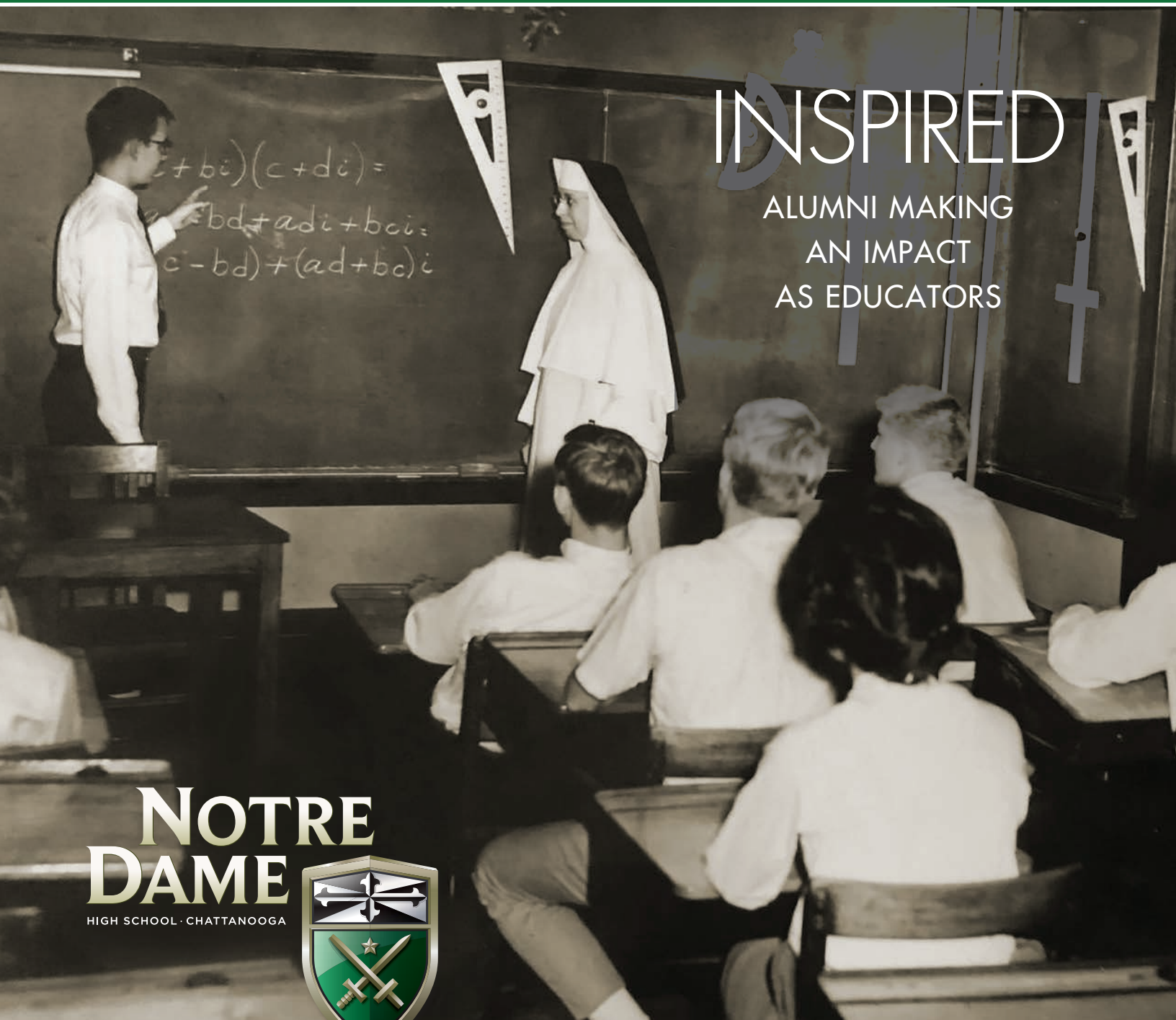


BLARNEY

stone

WINTER 2022



INSPIRED

ALUMNI MAKING
AN IMPACT
AS EDUCATORS

**NOTRE
DAME**
HIGH SCHOOL · CHATTANOOGA



From the PRESIDENT



To our NDHS families and friends –

Since relocating to Chattanooga with my family and kicking off the new school year at Notre Dame, I've had the pleasure of meeting so many great people on campus and around town. We are blessed beyond measure with our students and families, our teachers, our Chattanooga clergy, our Diocesan leadership and - not least of all - you, our treasured alumni.

Many of you and I see a bright future for Notre Dame. We bring about that future with daily progress through the combined gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Some of you participated recently in our Chattanooga Catholic Schools Planning Charrette - thank you for your contributions to this important work! All voices and perspectives are welcome and incorporated.

I've heard many great NDHS alumni stories from the 60's through today, yet the words of one alum keep coming back to me. When I asked what Notre Dame means to him, he responded, "The person I am today did not exist before Notre Dame." That is powerful. Notre Dame offers her students a truly transformational experience. The common thread and most important lesson from my orientation is this:



Notre Dame is beloved and everyone wants what is best for her, both in the present and for her future.

Notre Dame's mission is what makes true transformation possible for our students. In dreaming of our brighter future, despite the rapidly changing world and culture, let us be rooted in our mission.

Where perspectives diverge, the current moment demands from everyone engaged in this dialogue to practice active listening, constancy in prayer and discernment, great charity and radical forgiveness with one another, bold visioning and a spirit of compromise and sacrifice for the greater good.

It is my hope and goal to be an inclusive leader of NDHS who appreciates and builds on our great traditions but continues to learn and evolve as necessary to bring about the bright future desired by all.

In your service,
Kyle Schmitt
President



On the Cover: Sister Mary Ambrose teaching math at the Eighth Street location of NDHS

“When you get where you’re going, don’t forget – turn back around and help the next one in line”

– Tim McGraw, *Humble and Kind*

Dear Alumni and Friends –

The above lyrics often resonate in my mind when we receive a gift to Notre Dame. We are so grateful to all the alumni and alumnae, friends, parents, and grandparents who continually support NDHS. Without your time, talent and treasure, the mission of sharing the Catholic faith and academic excellence for all would not be possible. You are the “roots to our success.” I invite you to become a member of the Shamrock Society and make a monthly recurring donation to the Annual Fund. A monthly investment can make a significant impact for the next in line. Planned giving like the generous gift received from the James & Naomi Burkart Charitable Remainder Trust is another example of ways to help future students.

Speaking of making a significant impact, the feature article highlights some alums who entered the teaching profession. They truly are making a difference using their time and talent. All of them were inspired to enter the profession because of a teacher at Notre Dame!

Thank you to all who have contributed to Notre Dame. Please make plans to attend the 3rd Annual Green & Gold Gala on February 26th as we raise funds for new entrance signage at the school! This is our premier fundraiser for the school and a good time will be had by all!



Kathy A. Martin
*Director of Advancement
and Alumni Affairs*

SAVE THE DATES for Alumni Weekend 2022

“So Happy Together”

We are planning to celebrate Alumni Weekend in July! The following classes will have reunions – 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007 and 2012.

Call Kathy Martin in the Alumni Office for planning assistance!

Friday, July 22

37th Annual Irish Classic Golf Tournament
& Every Class Bash

Saturday, July 23

Golden Graduates Ceremony
& ND Class Reunions

Sunday, July 24

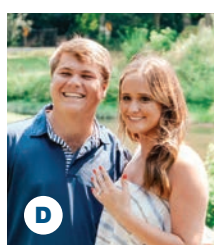
All Alumni Mass



Members of the Monahan, Borchert, Johnson, and Goodwin families gathered at halftime during the Irish football game to present a check on behalf of the late James '38 & Naomi '38 Burkart Charitable Remainder Trust. The gift will be placed in an endowment fund named after them and will be used for tuition assistance.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Keep us in the loop! Send your Alumni News to martink@myndhs.com



A Kolby McGowan '18 has accepted a position with Bloomberg LP as a Financial Product Analyst in San Francisco. He will start his new position following graduation from Cornell University.

B Patrick Johnson '17 got his first professional start with the Philadelphia Eagles on September 27th.

C Alex Darras '16 celebrated his White Coat Ceremony with family and friends at UT College of Medicine.

D Megan McNabb '16 and Case White got engaged in July.

E Mila Combs '15 and Dustin Rey Montecillo were married at St. Augustine Church on October 16th.

F Michaela Guice '15 and Joseph Daniel were married on September 25th in Kentucky.

G Mallory Hein '15 and Skylar Reese were married at St. Jude Church on September 5th and now reside in San Antonio, Texas.

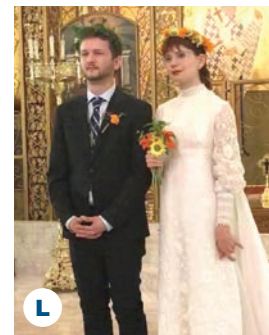
H Austin Nelson '15 and Taylor Copeland got married in Chattanooga on September 25th.

I Dominique Lee '14 got engaged to Matthew Boyd and is planning a November 2022 wedding.

J Evan Newell '14 got married to Natalie Campbell on August 14th.

K Lanna Turner '14 and Ryan Edwards got engaged in October.

L Ellie Newell '13 married Evan Hubbard on July 25th.



M **Grace Courter Moxley '12** and husband Zac welcomed Walker Wayne Moxley on August 3rd.

N **Kenna Rewcastle '11** received her Ph.D. from the University of Vermont, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Her research investigated the impact of climate change on the functioning of mountain ecosystems. She now resides in Reno, Nevada.

O **Emily Champion '10** and Dylan Piette were married on October 16th in Chicago.



P **Meg Gorman '10** is running for Congress in Tennessee District 3.

Q **Alaina Marinello, DDS '10** has been appointed Assistant Professor of Dentistry at the University Of Tennessee School Of Dentistry and is currently the Director of Dental Services at Orange Grove Center.

R **Kyle Wittler '10** and wife Malone welcomed Charlotte "Lottie" Lee on August 18th. Lottie joins big brother Watts.



S **John West '08** and wife Erin welcomed their first child, Hailey Ruth, in March 2021.

T **Robert Wheeler '08** and Ashlyn Blanchard got married October 9th at St. Jude's Church.

U **Caitlin Worley '08** and **Brian Sullivan '08** were married at St. Jude Catholic Church on October 2, 2021.

V **Meaghan Kelly Henry '07** and husband Mike welcomed their first child, Theodore Charles Henry, on July 14, 2021.

W **Chandler Rennick '05** and wife Jamie Ann welcomed William Peter "Pete" on June 8th.

X **James Wheeler '03** and wife Sperry welcomed Zachary Sheldon on August 3rd. Zach joins big brother Pete.

Moving? Be sure to let the Alumni Office know your new address! Send to martink@myndhs.com

ALUMNI UPDATES



Y

Y Louellen Smith Raulston '02 is

in the top 20% of agents in the KW Chattanooga Downtown real estate firm for the last 12 months.



Z

Z Mary Kathryn Blazek '95 was recognized by the State of New York and the city of Greenburgh for her administration and implementation of COVID Angels. Mary Kathryn set up databases to help senior citizens schedule vaccination appointments and navigate the technological hurdles. Due to her volunteer work, six thousand people were assisted and 3,500 received vaccinations. Her system was packaged and sent to another dozen towns to duplicate in order to help senior citizens.



AA

AA Barbara Johnston Skelton, MD '77 is a pediatrician in Pennsylvania. In her spare time she travels the country on her motorcycle.



BB

BB Dr. Valerie Boaz '74 was named a 2021 Woman of Distinction Honoree of Greater Chattanooga. Her medical leadership as a health officer and her volunteer work have left a lasting impact on the community.



CC

CC Bill West '69 retired after thirty six years with the Hamilton Count District Attorney's Office. He plans to travel and enjoy time with family.

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.

- Marie Awad '44
- Candance Griffin Barre '63
- Vickey Gilbert Booth '75
- Mary Phyllis Witte Bosch '75
- Gene Bruno '60
- Naomi Frund Burkart '38
- Anita Jean Kioebage Davis '50
- Kenneth M. Garrett '73
- Carol Anne Cowan Goodwin '63
- Vicky Alston Jennings '73
- Sarah Lucille Dean Jones '73
- Alice Claire Capling Kisling '45
- Thomas Kisling '76
- Frank "Tad" Laskowski '80
- Tim Mayo '63
- David "Daisy" McKenna '76
- William Thomas Merle '55
- Robert J. Munson '77
- Michael James O'Grady '61
- Therese Giles Paullus '47
- Gene Ragghianti – former NDHS teacher
- Eunice Ricks Warren '63
- Lawrence Oliver Westfall '80
- James William White, Jr. '72
- Katherine "Kay" Stein Standifer Woods '66

STAY CONNECTED!



www.myndhs.com > Alumni



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@NDChattanooga



Twitter
@myndhs



Facebook
Groups/NDalum
NDChattanooga

Gentleman JACK

"His gentle kindness is a joy to everyone"

– The 1946 Marian yearbook

Seventy-five years have passed since Joe "Jack" Payne '46 walked the halls of Notre Dame as a student. As such, he was honored as a Diamond Graduate as part of the annual Golden Graduate brunch during this past summer's Alumni Weekend. Recently the Blarney Stone asked him to reminisce about his life and memories of school.

After graduating from the "old school" on East Eighth Street, Jack attended the University of Chattanooga (now UTC) and received a Bachelor of Arts in History. He then joined the Army and served with the 52nd Battalion of the 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War. Upon returning to Chattanooga in 1952, he worked for the Postal Service as a mail sorter before beginning his employment at Pioneer Bank. His banking career with Pioneer spanned 40 years and he was instrumental in assisting many Notre Dame grads with their first loans!

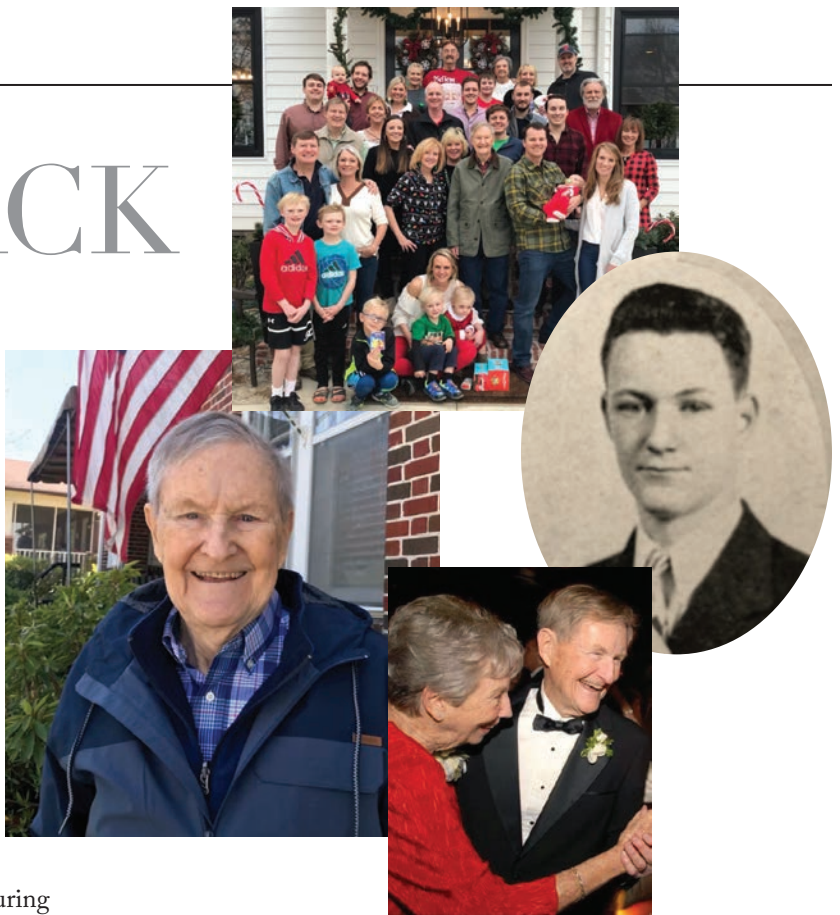
While the career and other notable achievements of which he speaks are remarkable, the love of his family shines through as most important to him.

Blarney Stone: What are some of your notable career achievements?

Jack: I started as a teller at the 11th street branch of Pioneer Bank and rose to the position of Vice-President. I worked all forty years at the same branch and was often jokingly referred to as the "Mayor" of 11th Street!

I was involved with many civic and religious organizations including the Knights of Columbus, Serra Club, Civitan Club, and the Half Century Club. I served as the treasurer for the Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Biscuit Brigade Service and was a member of the CHI Memorial Auxiliary Board. I volunteered at CHI Memorial and took a turn helping count the weekly offertory at OLPH.

Once retired, my wife Helen and I enjoyed playing tennis and I played well into my eighties! In 2003 and 2006, I was the USTA Super Senior State Team Champion.



Blarney Stone: Did you have a favorite teacher or memory from your high school years at Notre Dame?

Jack: I remember Sister Jean Frances (Beck) and Monsignor (Francis) Sullivan. Both were very strict, but fair and friendly; Monsignor Sullivan was a "class act" as our Principal. Both could be relentless!

I enjoyed time with my friends, Tommy Johnson and Paul Brewer. They were great guys to pal around with. All my classmates were good people and I enjoyed the Catholic atmosphere.

Blarney Stone: How did Notre Dame prepare you for the next seventy-five years?

Jack: Notre Dame gave me a good education and taught me the importance of serving others. I think serving as treasurer of my Senior Class prepared me for the banking world!

My late wife Helen and I had six children graduate and eight grandchildren graduate from NDHS. Two great grandchildren are preparing to join the Irish family in the future. I am most proud of my family!

Those who have had the privilege to know Jack Payne also know that the 1946 yearbook staff were not only describing his school years but they unknowingly were describing the next seventy-five years of his life. Congratulations and thank you to Jack Payne! 🍀

SCHOOL NEWS

With 195 classes, 375 students, and lots of new faculty and staff, it has been an exciting semester! Thanks to a dedicated and determined community, Notre Dame has continued to prosper post-COVID. Our Guidance Department has led the way, offering learning support classes, providing after school tutoring, and additional counseling and mental health resources. Not to be outdone, our National Honor Society students are tutoring peers and students from our feeder schools who need extra help understanding effective strategies and complicated concepts. On the service front, our families and faculty donated 912 food items to local St. Vincent de Paul food pantries and “adopted” 26 local families (95 children) to help make their Christmases special. Our House system is also thriving, and everyone was happy to reinstate our friendly competitions, including Minute to Win It and Games Day. All is well at Notre Dame as we continue to learn and serve to meet our mission of academic

excellence and spiritual growth. If you haven't visited campus in a while, please stop by. We always enjoy hearing and learning from our alums!



Laura Swenson
Principal



Homecoming Court

(l to r) Caroline Gargano, Riley McCormick, Kenzie Campbell, Samantha Crisp, Lindsay Burns, Josh McGee, Levi Brown, Ty Wilkerson, Andy McGann, and Ian Agbannaog



King & Queen Kenzie Campbell & Josh McGee

Service for Others

Notre Dame students participated in many service projects the first semester of school.

Senior Build Day was held in conjunction with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Fifty beds were built and will be distributed to children who would otherwise not have one. Students also participate on a regular basis at the Chattanooga Food Bank, Clifton Hills Food Pantry and the Chattanooga Community Kitchen.



Fall Theater Production

“All’s Fair in Love and War” was presented by the Theatre department and featured scenes from MacBeth, Romeo & Juliet and A Midsummer Night’s Dream.



Business Leaders and Alumni Visit Campus



(Center) Tom du Plessis, CEO and Plant Manager-Volkswagen Chattanooga Operations, with the marketing class.



(l to r) Lauren Philpott Clemons '10 and Alaina Marinello, DDS '10 talk

about their career paths with the marketing class.

In addition to his academic accolades, Mr. Lombardo has served as a senior advisor to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, drafted Virginia's Patient Health Records Privacy Act, is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, an elected member of the American Law Institute, and has served as a historical consultant and advisor on several television and movie productions. He is an expert in matters of laws concerning bioethical issues and has been interviewed by various news organizations including *The New York Times*, The BBC, National Public Radio, and *The Washington Post*. He was also contributor and consultant for the U. S. Memorial Holocaust Museum and has authored two books!

In 2009, he spoke at a conference at the Vatican on "New Frontiers of Genetics and the Danger of Eugenics." While at the conference, Mr. Lombardo was able to meet Pope Benedict and tour parts of the Vatican that other tourists typically would not see. Recently, Mr. Lombardo was awarded the Jay Healey Health Law Teacher of the Year Award from the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics.

Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Alumnus and Jim Phifer Service awards were presented in front of the student body in August. Dr. Paul Lombardo accepted the award for Distinguished Alumnus and George Valadie received the Jim Phifer Service Award.

Following graduation from Notre Dame, Paul received his bachelor's degree from Rockhurst College and then his Masters degree from Loyola University in Chicago. Because two degrees weren't enough, he earned his PhD and law degrees from the University of Virginia. From 1985 – 1990 he practiced law in California. In 1990, he served on the faculty of the Schools of Law and Medicine at the University of Virginia, where he directed the Center for Mental Health Law at the Center for Biomedical Ethics. In 2006 he accepted a position at the Georgia State University, where he is now the Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law. In 2017 he was awarded a Regents Professorship, the highest academic appointment in the University System of Georgia.



(l to r) George Valadie '71 Jim Phifer Service Award, Dr. Paul Lombardo '67 Distinguished Alumnus Award



George attended Notre Dame and graduated in the Class of 1971. He recently celebrated his 50th reunion and is now considered a Golden Graduate – but he is so much more to Notre Dame! He has been a student, educator, coach, Principal and President. His office door was always open to students, faculty and parents. He could be found in the hallways helping a student with his tie, sitting in a gym or at a field watching student athletes, or attending a band concert or theatrical production. He has crowned Homecoming Queens and disciplined students who needed some extra guidance. The list goes on....

Like his mentor and friend, the late Jim Phifer, his love for all things Notre Dame was and is evident in his every action. He is reluctant to draw attention to himself which made him the perfect person for the award!

Both award recipients spoke to the student body about their time at Notre Dame, and what it means to be successful. Thank you to both of these recipients for their exemplary service and accomplishments.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Shawnte Bacher

Director of Guidance

Hometown: Owensboro, KY

Education: Master of Social Work, University of Kentucky; Master of School Counseling, UTC



Troy Boeck

Geometry, Statistics, Football and Baseball Coach

Hometown: Augusta, GA

Education: Bachelor of Science, UTC; ME-Ed Leadership, GCU; Teachers Certification, Rhodes College



Rachel Craig

Theatre, Theatre Tech, Dance, Introduction to Film

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Education: B.A. Theatre and Dance, MTSU; M.A. Education, Lipscomb University



Louie Elliott

Conceptual Physics, Honors Physics, Engineering

Hometown: Cowan, TN

Education: B.S. Physics, UTC; M.S. Theoretical & Mathematical Physics, NC State; Ph.D. Philosophy & Computational Engineering, UTC



Sister Rosemary Esseff, O.P.

Notre Dame Schola, Freshman Religion

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Education: B.Mus., Catholic University of America; B.A. in Education, Aquinas College; M.S.M in Choral Direction, Catholic University of America; M. A. in Liturgy, The Liturgical Institute; B.S. and

M.Mus. in Composition, Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music; Ph.D. in Composition, Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music



Mary Gatta

College Algebra, Contemporary World History

Hometown: Sewanee, TN

Education: B.A. Philosophy, St. Mary's College of California; M.A. Philosophy, University of Tennessee; M.A. English Literature, Sewanee School of Letters



Katie Lamsey '14

Front Office, Student Support Services

Hometown: Chattanooga

Education: B.S. Special Education, University of TN; M.S. Speech and Language Pathology, University of TN



Sister Victoria Marie Liederbach, O.P.

Pre-Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, Honors Calculus, AP Calculus

Hometown: Petosky, MI

Education: B. S. In Civil Engineering, University of Pittsburgh



Conor Martin

Senior Theology

Hometown: Orange County, CA

Education: B.A. in Philosophy, Mount Angel Seminary and College



Pepita Nolan '84

Religion I, Spanish II

Hometown: Chattanooga

Education: B.A. in Economics and M.B.A., University of Tennessee, Chattanooga



Wesley Payette

Honors Biology, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science

Home State: New Hampshire

Education: B.S. Houghton College, M.S. Western Kentucky University



John Pionzio

Algebra I, Honors Algebra, Honors US History, Assistant Soccer Coach

Hometown: Fairfax, VA

Education: B.A. in Economics, Classical Studies, & History; M.S. Secondary Education



Matthew Walker '08

Athletic Director

Hometown: Chattanooga

Education: B.S. Ed: Sports Management, Minor, Business Administration University of Tennessee; M.Ed. Sport Leadership, Virginia Commonwealth University



Heather Wilson

Religion II

Hometown: Chattanooga

Education: B.S. Mass Communications, MTSU

ATHLETICS NEWS



Congratulations to all our fall sports teams for representing Notre Dame so well. Irish Proud!

Matthew Walker '08
Athletic Director

Lady Irish Soccer

Despite being impacted by several injuries throughout the season and only playing two games with a fully healthy roster, the Irish Girls Soccer team was able to advance to the State Tournament. The Irish finished 3rd in their district in the regular season. After a heartbreaking loss on penalty kicks in the Region Semifinals, the Irish found themselves down 1-3 in the 2nd half of the 3rd/4th place game. The team battled back with three goals in the second half to defeat CAK 4-3 and advance to the State Tournament! The Irish finished the season with a record of 7-7-1.



Irish Football

The 2021 Notre Dame Football team showed steady improvement throughout the season and went into the final week of the season with a shot to make the playoffs. They, unfortunately, fell just short and ended the season with a 3-6 record. The Irish gained valuable experience and look forward to a productive off-season as they prepare for the 2022 season which will feature seven home games!



Lady Irish Volleyball

Coming off a State Runner-up finish last year, the Notre Dame team picked up right where they left off. The Lady Irish finished the regular season undefeated in the district heading into post-season play. The Irish overcame Boyd Buchanan twice to win both the District Championship and the Region Championship. The Lady Irish advanced to the State Championship tournament where they finished the season 3rd in the state! Notre Dame compiled a season record of 29 wins and only 7 losses!

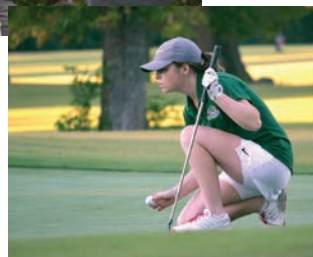
Cross-Country

The Irish cross-country teams had successful seasons. The Irish runners improved throughout the year and several runners recorded personal best times throughout the season. Both the boys and girls teams narrowly missed qualifying for the State Meet. Senior Sophie Welch qualified as an individual by finishing 1st overall in the D-IIA East Region Meet. Sophie finished 12th overall at the State Meet with a time of 20:41.9!



Golf

The Irish golfers had a good season, with the golfers improving their scores each match. Notre Dame sent three golfers to the Region Tournament including seniors Ryan Eiselstein and Sarah Cate Richardson, and freshman Chase Lundberg.



Notre Dame Annual Giving Program

Every Gift makes a difference and ensures the future of Catholic education in our community. On behalf of the entire Notre Dame High School family, thank you to each and every one of the donors in the following listings. These donations were made between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 by alumni, parents, faculty, and other friends for both specified and unspecified uses.

If any of the following are listed incorrectly or there are omissions, we apologize and ask you to please contact Kathy Martin in our Advancement Office.

THE ANNUAL FUND

Three Centuries & Beyond Club (\$10,000 +)

CHI Memorial Hospital
Joe Coleman '72
Frances & Beverly DuBose Foundation, Inc.
Karl & Becky Fillauer '66
Mike & Martha '80 Leiper
*In honor of the Faculty, Staff & Students of
Notre Dame High School*
Michael Miller '59
Mike & Judy St. Charles '74, '74
*In memory of Jim Dorris '69
In memory of Johnny '64 & Denny '70
Hennen
In memory of Cliff Martin '74
In memory of Ed Warwick '61
In memory of Mel & Mary Jo '45 Downs*

Dominican Sisters Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Jack Berry '80
Rascoe B. Davis Family Fund
Eileen Dubose '68
Mick & Sandy Lee Family Foundation
In memory of Ralph E. Schweickart, Sr.
Rev. Michael Nolan '78
Nancy Nolan '72

Sister Jane Francis Beck, O.P. Club (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Charles & Libby Dietzen '66
Peter Hendee '72
Mr. & Mrs. Alaric Henry
Charles Stutz '58

1876 Club (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Anonymous
Dr. Benjamin Baker '96
Edward Burney Foundation
Robyn Carlton
*In honor of Becky Valadie '51
Robyn Carlton
In honor of George '71 & Nancy '74
Valadie*
Stephen Chardos
Estate of Joan Clarke-Mayes '56
Thomas Coulter '74
Wes Davis
J. Thomas Decosimo '73
Mr. & Mrs. Blane Haywood
Corinne Henderson '80
Eugene T. Hubbuch '61
Margaret Hubbuch '47
Henry H. Ireland III '73 & Joi M. Ireland
Moon Gin Lee
In memory of Katharine B. Davies
Ken & Kathy Mara '68, '68
Doug & Kathy Martin
J. Carey & Nancy Hubbuch McHugh '66, '66
*In memory of Pat McHugh Sr. & Bill
Hubbuch*
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Meinert
Lisa Schulz Mills '77
Rick Nelson '79
Janet O'Neal
Karen O'Neal '59
*In honor of Doug '56, Karen '59, Gary '61,
Rick '67, Donna '69 & Paula '71 Herbst*

The Plainview Group
Betty Rutherford '66
Andy & Kathy Sawyer '86, '86
Kurt & Julie Schmissrauter '80, '80
Casey Schumacher
Lawrence & Martha Schmidt Skelly '64
*In memory of Monsignor George E.
Schmidt, Jr. '62*
Jean St. Charles
Patrick St. Charles III '71
Stolpmann Plumbing Company
Jim & Colleen Teal '85
In memory of William R. Courter
Katherine Thompson '72
In memory of Becky Valadie '51
Rick '72 and Susie '71 Thompson
In memory of Mary Shipley Hopper
Mrs. Susan Turner '67
Bill '69 & Cissy '82 West
In honor of George Valadie '71
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Woody
In memory of Mary Ann Morreale

Rev. Patrick Ryan Club (\$500 - \$999)

Ann Aguirre
Cliff Berry & Betty Berry
In memory of Burt Sawyer '54
Scott Braman
Karen & John Carden '75
Heather Cockerham
Alan Collins
Andrew Combs
Katy Valadie Cottle
Dr. & Mrs. James Craven, Sr.
Francis Crowe '55
In memory of Alice J. Crowe '56
Fred & Amy Decosimo Family Charitable Fund
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Richard & Libby Eberle Fund
Michael & Lori Eiselstein '90
Timothy Gaddis '76
Gus Glascock '81
Mr. & Mrs. Blane Haywood
In memory of Sam Cramer '13
Kristy Mara Higgins '87
Lorraine Johnson '48
Thom Jungels
Travis Kelley '94
Elizabeth Kincaid
Cheryle C. King
In memory of Peter W. Card
Rev. Christopher Manning
Mr. & Mrs. Chris McCutcheon
Mr & Mrs. Jim McGill
Andrew J. & Carolyn Nardo '61
Edward O'Brien '81
Jane Peloquin '77
Katie Peiper '79
Publix of Tennessee
Tom Skahan '81
In memory of Michael Dixon '81
Joanie Sompayrac '83
In memory of Moira Tingle
Mr. & Mrs. George Valadie '71, '74
Sieglinde Wallis
Monica White
In memory of Thomas W. White '59

Loyal Sons & Daughters Club (\$250 - \$499)

Ernie Aguirre
Anonymous
Lin Arnold '67
In memory of Frank & Rose Arnold
Aaron & Dana Barasha
Barry Boettner
Marlene Bowman
Ginger Bridges '75
Dr. & Mrs. Damieon Brown
In honor of DJ Brown '23
Naomi Burkart '38
In memory of James A. Burkart '38
Mickey & Luchy Burrell
In honor of Joseph M. Bertani '23
Paul & Lucy Cahill
Mike Costello '70
John Cross '78
John & Marina Delaney
Jennifer Fillauer
Missi Flasch
Mr. & Mrs. Sal Geraci
In honor of Jennifer Petersen
Ed '54 & Emily Neligan '56 Ginley
Henry & Haven Glascock '69, '69
Foster & Carol Goodwin '63, '63
*In memory of James Burkart '38 & Leland
Cowan '38*
Gary Herbst '61
Mike & Gretchen '81 Mueller
In memory of Burt Sawyer '54
Fred & Carol Kuhn
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lamsey '79
In memory of Burt Sawyer '54
The Lawson Family
Doris Malpartida
Diane Margot
Mr. & Mrs. David Mayfield '74, '74
Dr. & Mrs. Gary Meredith
Rev. Chris Michelson
Laura Mildemberger
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Moore
In honor of teachers and staff
Mrs. Gretchen Mueller '81
John Mullin '79
Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Patterson
David Pennebaker '56
In memory of Joan Clarke-Mayes '56
Tom & Cathy Phifer '76, '76
In memory of Jim Phifer '49
Robert & Kim Pischke
Joe Remillard
In honor of Clint & Katy Cottle
Ivette Rios
Angela Ripper
Dr. & Mrs. Chris Sanborn
Anthony Schmidt '11
Jennie Firth Sheridan '90
Rick & Christy Torok
David Turner
Nancy Valadie '74
Matt Wilkerson '85
Toria Williams '87
Mr. & Mrs. Arch Willingham '80

1st 100 Years Club (\$100 - \$249)

AmazonSmile
Anonymous
Anonymous
*In memory of Monsignor George E.
Schmidt '62*

Anonymous
In memory of Mary Ann Hendee '44
Edward Austin
In memory of Alice Brady Austin '66
Robert Bagby '56
In memory of Burt Sawyer '54
Doug & Kim Barta
Aaron Berry
*In honor of my brothers and sisters fallen
in combat*
Aaron Berry
In honor of Dan Hanson & family
Tommy Boone Jr. '55
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Boone
Mary Phyl Bosch '75
Mary Breen '49
In honor of the Class of 1949
Jennie Brockman
Dean '78 & Joann Bryant
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Continuing the TRADITION of INSPIRATION

By Hayden Seay '12

From the earliest days of kindergarten, to the halls of universities, educators of all academic levels strive to make an impact on their students and their learning.

Here are some of the stories of Notre Dame alumni who followed in their teachers' footsteps and pursued careers as educators.

PRE-SCHOOL

Jessica Storey '03

While volunteering at the Siskin Early Learning Center during her senior year at Notre Dame, Jessica found her passion in life: Early Childhood Education. She found she loved working with children and watching educators shape their student's learning and development.



After graduating from East Tennessee State University in 2007, Storey taught kindergarten to second grade at Clifton Hills Elementary in Chattanooga. "When I started out, everything felt new and every situation was a learning experience, but the more experience you have, the more confident you become," says Storey. "You have to keep learning and growing just to keep up with new teaching styles and techniques and

not feel complacent in what you have always done."

In 2010, Our Lady of Perpetual Help hired Storey to help launch their first PreK4 Program, a position she held for eight years. While there, she worked alongside some of the same teachers that taught her. Today, Storey serves as the senior preschool director for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga, which opened a new Language Immersion Early Learning Center last April.

ELEMENTARY

Keely Dunavin '14

Keely aspired to be a role model to young learners. "I have always wanted to be in the education field; so many teachers at Notre Dame inspired me to keep the dream alive." Dunavin noted that Chuck Newell, Matt Irvin, Carin Watts, Linda Farnsley, and especially Elizabeth Wheeler Maounis inspired her.

Reminiscing about Mrs. Maounis' English Seminar: "Everyday before beginning class, she would read an affirmation letter that she had written about someone in our class," says Dunavin. "I remember her reading my letter and just feeling



so encouraged. I mean, who finds that kind of time to make each student feel so worthy and loved?"

Although she taught online last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Dunavin is back in the classroom teaching math, reading, writing, social studies, and science. "My style of teaching has definitely changed since my first year of teaching," says Dunavin, who mentioned the struggles of communicating expectations to the class. "Now, I make sure that students know that our classroom is a safe space where we can have fun, laugh, and even play sometimes, but there is an appropriate time for each."

Jenny Rittgers '00

Teaching goes further than simply relaying content to students. Starting as a religion teacher at Notre Dame, Jenny initially focused on teaching the principles and traditions of the Catholic Church to her students. But as she took the helm of a second grade



classroom later in her career, she realized that teaching means so much more.

“It doesn’t make a bit of difference what you’re teaching, what matters is that you’re teaching students and you’re trying to connect [and] build relationships with them, and especially teaching at a Catholic school, trying to show them Jesus and help them be saints,” says Rittgers. “I want to lead them to know Jesus better.”

Now, Rittgers serves as the principal of St. Mary’s Catholic School in Rome, Ga. “The hardest part of teaching was leaving it at school,” says Rittgers. “... my heart, every ounce of who I am is devoted to these children and when I go home, they’re who I think about, who I worry about, who I pray about.”

Mrs. Claudia Iorio was Rittgers’ inspiration at Notre Dame. “I had her for religion, and she just made the faith come alive for me. She helped me see how beautiful the faith is.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Carleen Evans ‘79

As a kid, Carleen would pretend to be a teacher while playing with her two younger sisters. “I had report cards, I made worksheets, I taught their times table before they were in school,” says Evans, who now teaches math and science to fifth graders.



While attending Our Lady of Perpetual Health, Evans found inspiration in her American History teacher, Don Waters. “I just knew I wanted to become a teacher like he was,” says Evans, who was also inspired by Notre Dame’s Coach Pfifer, Mrs. Eiselstein, and especially Mrs. Bohem: “such an awesome math teacher, made me grow in my love for math.”

When Evans first started teaching thirty-eight years ago, her classes followed a traditional style of teaching: Rows of desks, memorization, and repeating facts. “My style has changed, I try to be more the facilitator,” says Evans, who aims to teach thought-provoking material. “It’s fun to [see] them discover something instead of me discovering it for them.”

One of Evans’ favorite things is teaching several generations of students. “I am now teaching my students’ children. That’s a neat feeling to know they [liked] me, got a good education from me, and now I’ve got their child.”

HIGH SCHOOL

Lindsey Peterson ‘10

Inspired by her teachers at Notre Dame, especially her mother, Mrs. McGirl and Mrs. Kos, Lindsey decided to build a career in teaching.



But as she started student-teaching during her final year at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Peterson hit a roadblock teaching third grade. “I found I really only wanted to teach the math block, even though we did all the subjects.” Peterson decided to pursue a high school endorsement and focus on math courses.

In the high school setting: “I instantly loved how I could connect to students, how they understood my sense of humor, and I found the content exciting to teach.” Peterson currently teaches Geometry and Algebra II at West High School in Knox County.

“I had a student come to thank me for being their teacher,” says Peterson. Over the following years, this student returned to Peterson to ask for advice for her new math courses and even advice for her college career. “When she left for college, she wrote me a letter about how she was going to pursue a math degree to become a math teacher,” says Peterson. “And that I was her inspiration. It absolutely stopped me in my tracks.”

Kevin Dockery ‘90

Kevin, a former journalist, similarly thought about becoming a teacher. “I always had it in the back of my mind but didn’t pursue it as a career,” says Dockery. “Journalism was a natural tie-in because I was trained to take complicated issues and concepts and make sense of them to a wider audience, much like teaching in many ways.”



After earning a masters in Social Science Education and History from the University of Georgia, Dockery sparked his new career in teaching. He currently teaches AP European History, World History, and United States Government and Politics at Fred J. Page High School, in Franklin, TN.

Looking back at his time at Notre Dame, Dockery says almost all of his teachers, including Mike Linder, Father Mike Nolan, principal Jim Phifer, and Jeff Fisher, inspired him to enter education.

“Mr. Fisher encouraged me to take US History as a sophomore,” says Dockery. “It was intimidating, but he recognized my interest and love of history and that made a significant impact.”



Neil Prigmore '85

Following in the footsteps of his mother and other relatives, Neil became a teacher. “I come from a long line of educators,” says Prigmore. “My mother taught middle and high school for over thirty years.”

The hardest part of teaching for Prigmore was fulfilling the various roles often required of teachers, including filling out massive amounts of paperwork

and dealing with issues regarding students.

Over the course of twenty-nine years, Prigmore taught social studies at three schools: Oak Ridge High, Howard High, and Tyner Academy. Although he retired early to move to California with his wife, he might return to teaching in the future.

“I think the education and experience and guidance I received from Notre Dame, along with the personal experience I had with my own family helped me become the person I am,” says Prigmore.

UNIVERSITY

Dr. Kelly Johnson '82

A chance encounter with a former teacher led Kelly to pursue education. A teacher from Notre Dame High School, Diana Barrow, recognized Johnson. By this time, Johnson had already completed a Masters in Liturgical Studies, and Barrow encouraged her to speak about teaching to the faculty at Notre Dame.

“To be honest, I didn’t expect to enjoy it because I hadn’t much enjoyed high school,” says Johnson. “And it was very, very hard work. But as it turned out, I liked being in the classroom with students quite



a lot.” A career course correction led her to complete a doctorate in Theological Ethics. “That’s how I ended up on the track I’ve pursued since then.

Today, Johnson serves as the Father Williams J. Ferree Chair of Social Justice at the University of Dayton in Ohio. Although her classes cover a variety of complex issues such as climate change and the legacy of colonialism in the United States, the main theme remains the same: the meaning of living a good life together.

“I like to think and talk and explore new ideas, and teaching seemed like a way to earn a living by doing that,” says Johnson. “The joy of working with students on their own ideas and struggles was something I came to later.”

Dr. Matt Campbell '96

As a student at Tennessee Tech, Matt felt inspired by watching his professors interact with students and do what they love. After working in industry for several years, Campbell made the decision to return to school and earn a doctorate in Business Information Systems from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In 2010, Campbell began teaching as an assistant professor at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

Campbell recalled making a joke that flew over his students’ collective heads.

A teaching video “mentioned that the heat produced by data center servers required huge air conditioning units and that their power consumption was around 36.5 gigawatts per year,” says Campbell. “I told my students, “To put that in perspective, it only takes 1.21 gigawatts of electricity to time travel.” None of the students recognized Campbell’s Back to the Future reference, and most seemed to write his joke as a fact in their class notes.

Campbell now serves as an associate professor at his university, and teaches a mix of undergrad and graduate courses in Health Informatics and Information Systems.

“My proudest moments as a teacher are when students who don’t have a technical background tell me how much they have enjoyed taking my class and that it has changed their view of technology,” says Campbell. “It’s quite a feeling to be able to open someone’s eyes to a new subject that they didn’t really think they would enjoy.” 🍀



BACK *Together* AGAIN



Golden Grads Brunch

Over 120 Golden Grads attended the brunch on Saturday, July 24th to celebrate the induction of the Class of 1971 as they celebrated their 50th reunion since high school graduation. In addition to the Class of '71 receiving their Golden Graduate pins, Jack Payne '46 was inducted into the Diamond Graduate membership. A special thanks to Ascension Living for sponsoring the event and to Karen Loveless '77 for serving a delicious meal.



Class Reunions

Individual class reunions were held during Alumni Weekend. Many thanks to all who helped with the reunion planning. Start making plans for your reunion in 2022! Contact Kathy Martin at martink@myndhs.com for assistance.



Fairways and Greens!

The 36th Irish Classic was a sell-out again! The weather was beautiful as was the atmosphere at Bear Trace Golf Course. Many thanks to all our sponsors especially Athens Distributing and the Glascock family. The golfers and volunteers make this a fun and successful event. Congratulations to the Championship team of Josh McCutcheon, Austin Bingham, Richard Powell and Nick Carden; First Flight winners: David Stewart, Eric Gribben, Joe Payne and Tee Bautista; Second Flight winners: Louis Erickson, Joe Lombardo, Joe Conway, and Mike Hennen. Congratulations are also in order for Louis Erickson for getting a hole-in-one! Mark your calendar to play on July 22, 2022 at Bear Trace. See you then!



Championship Team (l to r) Austin Bingham, Nick Carden, Josh McCutcheon, Richard Powell



First Flight Winners (l to r) Tee Bautista, Eric Gribben, David Stewart, Joe Payne



Second Flight Winners (above, l to r) Mike Hennen, Joe Lombardo, Louis Erickson '71, and Joe Conway





Every Class Bash

The Bash was back after a year off due to Covid. Several hundred alums attended and represented over 60 years of graduating classes. Many thanks to all the volunteers and members of the Alumni Council who helped make this event a fun night. Hope to see everyone July 23, 2022 for the next Bash!

All Alumni Mass

Alumni Weekend concluded with the Alumni Mass, co-celebrated by Father Mike Nolan '78, Deacon Hicks Armor '70, and Father Christopher Manning, NDHS Chaplain. A special tree of remembrance was present in memory of all Notre Dame alumnus who had passed away in the last year.





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