

# IRISH

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Spring/Summer 2022

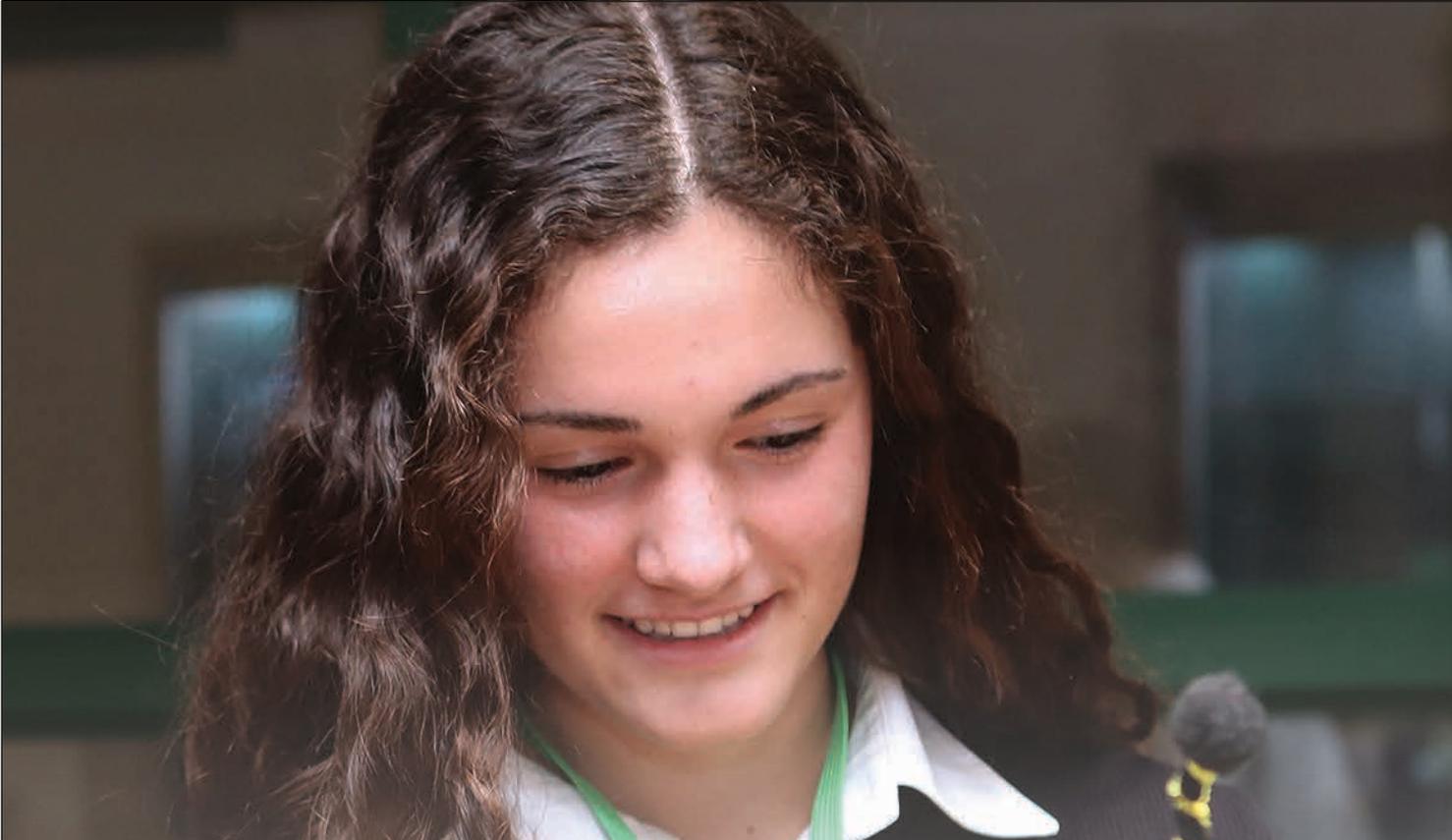
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THE SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE



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NOTRE DAME

# IRISH

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Spring/Summer 2022 | Issue 29

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

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# Notre Dame and CRT

One of the hottest topics in education these days is school curriculum, the pedagogy in which a school delivers its academic content. Of particular concern is the concept of critical race theory or CRT. I am often asked if we teach "it" at Notre Dame, though I am not 100 percent certain people really know what "it" is.



During a time when our country is more politically divided than ever, I think the real question that people are asking is whether we are liberal or conservative in our approach to education. To better understand the school's approach to education, it is helpful to understand the ethos and structure of our school.

Notre Dame is first and foremost a Catholic school. We were founded by the Society of Mary with the express mission to work with God to form Christian Persons, Upright Citizens, and Academic Scholars. The Society of Mary was

founded in 1816 by Fr. Jean-Claude Colin and a group of seminarians in Lyons, France. In 1836, the Marists were officially recognized by Pope Gregory XVI as a religious order. Since that time the Marists have focused primarily on missionary work and education, trying to bring the message of Jesus's love to various areas of the world and often in the form of schools.

As a Catholic school, we follow the religious curriculum of the Archdiocese of Detroit (AOD) and incorporate the Marist ethos into our daily life and actions. Marists believe that Mary, as the Mother of God and first disciple of Jesus, provides the best example of how to live a life of faith and love. As Marists, we are called to think, judge, feel and act as Mary.

Notre Dame is also an International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum school, which means that we follow the IB approach to teaching and learning from PreK – 12 grades. In fact, we were the first Catholic school in the nation and remain the only Catholic school in Michigan authorized to teach the IB curriculum from PreK – 12. The express mission of IB schools is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, confident and caring young people. IB schools are widely recognized as global leaders as we prepare students not only for the world in which we currently live, but also for the world in which they will live and compete in both at the university and professional level.

In 2014, the school completed the purchase of all the grounds and property from the AOD and accepted the transfer of assets and liabilities from the Marists to form a new entity called Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, Inc., a Michigan, nonprofit, independent, educational corporation. The new corporation is governed by a Board of Trustees, including alumni, alum parents, religious and other lay volunteers. The Board of Trustees is responsible for major policy and works closely with school administration to make sure the school is managed well, financially stable and remains true to its mission. Fr. Leon Olszamowski, corporate president, Fr. Joe Hindelang, Marist Provincial, and I, as head of school, all have ex-officio seats on the board of trustees. Steve Pangori, president of AEW and alumni parent of Maria (NDP '13), Andrea (NDP '15), Dana (NDP '17) and Anthony (NDP '18) is our current board chair. Ann Stone, alumni parent of Erin (NDP '14) and Justin (NDP '21), is our current vice chair. While the Marist Fathers no longer own the school, they do sponsor the Catholicity of the school, which allows us to remain true to our mission and in good standing with the AOD.

## What is CRT and why is it so controversial?

CRT is an academic and legal framework that suggests that systemic racism is part of American society. The theory was first developed in the '70s and is often taught in law schools, graduate programs and some undergraduate programs. It suggests that racism is more than prejudice and bias. Rather, it is embedded into the laws, policies,

and institutions of our nation, affecting everything from employment and health care to housing and education. CRT is not really a curriculum, per se, but more of an idea or concept. It suggests that if we really want to cure the world from racism, you must look at the underlying institutional causes.

The concern from parents is that CRT is being taught to children at a young age to indoctrinate them to a belief system that potentially undermines traditional Judeo-Christian values. There is nothing more anti-racism than the message of love that Jesus brings to the world. That is why most parents choose to send their children to a Catholic school. Again, CRT is simply a theory. From an academic standpoint, there is value in discussing theories, including potential benefits and pitfalls. In fact, the Socratic method of teaching requires it. True knowledge is obtained through perception, reasoning, scientific inquiry, testimony, education, memory and practice. We teach children how to think and they learn how to draw conclusions for themselves.

Unfortunately, CRT has become such a political hot button, it has politicized our efforts to advance diversity initiatives at the school. Diversity is important at our school, as children benefit from seeing, interacting and learning with people of different races, ethnicities, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. Ultimately, it makes them more balanced and well-rounded individuals better equipped to contribute positively to society. Diversity work existed long before CRT became a hot topic and will continue to be an area where the school hopes to improve going forward. We want every student at Notre Dame to feel that they belong.

## Notre Dame's approach to education

As an independent, IB, Catholic school, Notre Dame has never believed in indoctrination as a method of teaching. In fact, it abhors the very notion. Rather, we teach students to become critical thinkers and problem-solvers, so that they learn how to research facts and draw conclusions for themselves. Most students would not know the political slant of their teachers because it doesn't really enhance the learning experience and is irrelevant to critical thinking and sound decision-making. Teachers should never teach students to follow their political beliefs, but they should always teach students how to form well-educated opinions and conclusions for themselves.

## Is Notre Dame a liberal or conservative institution?

As a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3), it is against the law for us to advocate one political agenda over the other. Doing so would jeopardize our tax-exempt status. The U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops calls for Catholics to be informed voters and participate in the political process, but do not require or even encourage one political party over the other. The Church has always had its own agenda of teaching love and calls on Catholics to follow the rules of our faith and to act morally. We are called to treat others with respect and be advocates for the marginalized in society such as the poor, sick, elderly, discriminated against, and unborn.

## Does Notre Dame teach CRT?

Notre Dame teaches students that every child is born in the image and likeness of God and that every child is deserving of love. As Christians, we are expected to follow the teachings of Jesus, who called us to love one another and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. This is the simple golden rule of a Christian education. We teach children to follow the example of Jesus and to love and respect their neighbors.

Blessings and Peace!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J. Guest". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew J. Guest ND'84  
Head of School

# Caring

## Beloved HR director passes away following cancer battle

# compassionate

When friends mention Kathleen McCaffrey in the halls of Notre Dame, they can't help but smile as they fondly recall their beloved colleague. McCaffrey, who served in her role as HR director for the school until her death this past year following a lengthy battle with cancer, was a fixture at the school.

News of her death sent shockwaves through the school community, and both colleagues and close friends quickly took to comforting one another by trading stories of McCaffrey's compassion for others, unmistakable laughter, dedication to her job, and love of family. Those that knew her best said her untimely passing leaves a deep void at the school she loved.

"Kathleen was one of the most dedicated and beloved employees the school ever had. She genuinely cared about everyone, and she had an excellent moral compass. It was important to her that everyone was treated fairly. Kathleen took pride in doing her job and doing it professionally. She was a good friend and is missed every day," said Head of School Andy Guest.

Longtime friend and coworker Joan Kopytek, who has been with the school since 1997, said she quickly became friends with McCaffrey from her time working in the front office.

"The office ladies went to lunch together almost every day," she said.

Two of her fondest memories, Kopytek said, are participating in fundraisers for the American Cancer Society, and trading stories about family.

"A bunch of us did the 'Shades of Pink' cancer walk at the Detroit Zoo a couple of years in a row. Dan and Kathleen would treat us all to pizza and drink afterwards. We always had lot of fun," she said. "One year,

that time, and she was so proud of him."

Laura Hand, the school's bookkeeper, also recalls casual lunches with McCaffrey and agreed that her stories of family were always something to look forward to.

"I first met Kathleen on the phone when she called to interview me for the bookkeeper position at Notre Dame Prep. She was so nice and easy to talk to, but professional, and I

knew that I would enjoy working with her if given the chance," Hand said. "At that time, she told me that she had never envisioned working here as long as she had, but that the people that worked here made it worthwhile. I thought that was a pretty good vote of confidence for the school!"

"We became friends over the many lunches we shared at NDP and commiserating about skunks and cold feet in the Business Office portable," Hand added.

One of the things she will miss most is McCaffrey's laughter, which she said helped make the days go by quicker.

"She had a great laugh! She had an awesome knowledge of TV shows and movies as well—we could always count on her to keep us updated! She also loved her family—especially the grandkids," Hand said.

Stephanie Nester met McCaffrey when she was hired as the school's registrar in 2011.

"When I started here, Kathleen made sure to invite me to lunch everyday so that I could meet people and was not eating alone. We shared many similar interests and always



Dan, Kathleen and their daughter Clare went on vacation to Italy. Kathleen had a bad fall on one of the water taxis. She was not able to work for a while and I would stop to see her on my way home from work. We talked about our families, work, or whatever else was on our minds. She only had one grandchild at

### ABOVE

Kathleen McCaffrey, center, is with her NDPMA colleagues, from left, Julie Frakes, Karen

West, Joan Kopytek, Carrie Lytle and Stephanie Nester at a get-together last year.

SEE McCAFFREY, page 38

# Irish News

## STUDENTS AS LEGISLATORS



Students from Notre Dame Preparatory School took their learning to the state capitol early in March when they traveled to Lansing for the YMCA Michigan Youth in Government (MYIG) conference. They joined more than 500 students from across the state to serve as legislators, lobbyists, lawyers, governor’s cabinet members, legislative oversight panelists and press reporters during the conference.

Working together with their peers during the weekend, the NDP contingent debated current issues, proposed new legislation, shared ideas and grew as leaders, according to Dr. LeAnne Schmidt, who teaches eighth-grade U.S. History and seventh-grade writing and manages all debate and forensic activities at NDPMA.

“We sent 17 delegates this year, up from three in our first year, five who tried to participate when COVID canceled everything, and four who participated virtually last year,” she said. “This really felt like our first true experience as we had students in the House, Senate, Governor’s cabinet, and the lobbying firms.”

Schmidt adds that she was assisted during the “long weekend” conference by fellow middle school teacher Ellie Carter and freshman parent Erik Kafarski P’25, both of whom did “yeoman’s work” in preparing for the conference.

YMCA Michigan Youth in Government is a student-led,

student-run model government for teens across the state. The organization provides the content and resources for delegations to organize locally from September to April to prepare for regional and statewide events. The program year starts with a regional fall training conference and culminates in the Lansing conference.

## APPLE ‘COACH’ FOR LOWER SCHOOL

Andy Hopkins, Notre Dame Lower School technology teacher, recently completed a five-month program to become an Apple Learning Coach. This is a new program by Apple that offers free professional learning that trains instructional coaches, digital learning specialists, and other coaching educators to help teachers effectively use Apple technology in the classroom.

Hopkins, who first came to Notre Dame in 2018, attended a mix of self-paced lessons and virtual workshop sessions with Apple professional learning specialists.

“I came away from this program with many tools and resources to create actionable plans with teachers on how to integrating technology into their classrooms”, he said. “I was able to connect with educators across the nation, and really develop my skill set, it was a great experience.”

The Apple Learning Coach Program has now become a nationwide program. The International Society for Technology



in Education (ISTE) published a report this year certifying that Apple Learning Coach earns a Seal of Alignment to its coaching standards. The report states that Apple Learning Coach “is well designed, highly professional in approach, easy to navigate,” and further notes that the program “contributes to the pedagogically robust use of technology for teaching and learning,” and demonstrates it does “consciously, purposefully and meaningfully support best practices for digital age teaching and learning.”

Before Notre Dame, Hopkins served for 25 years as a tech specialist and teacher in the Harper Woods, Mich., school district.

## TWO MORE AWARDS FOR WROUBEL

Betty Wroubel, NDPMA’s athletic director, volleyball/softball coach and assistant principal, earned two prestigious awards at the recent Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association annual conference held last month in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse Resort Hotel.

The first, the “State Award of Merit,” was from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association in cooperation with the MIAAA given to Wroubel “in recognition of outstanding leadership and meritorious achievement in interscholastic athletic administration.” The second honor came directly



from the MIAAA and it was the “2022 George Lovich State Award of Merit,” also for “outstanding leadership and meritorious achievement in interscholastic athletic administration.”

## CROUSE NAMED AD OF THE YEAR

The MIAAA announced in March that Aaron Crouse, CMAA, associate athletic director at Notre



Dame Prep, has been named Region 13 Athletic Director of the Year by the

Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. A member of NDPMA’s athletic staff since 2014, Crouse took the position as the associate athletic director and has served the past eight years. In addition, he also was the varsity hockey head coach at the school for six years.

“Aaron is a young and talented administrator, and a mission-driven and tireless worker who remains locked-in on always providing our students with a great experience,” said Betty Wroubel, NDPMA athletic director and assistant principal. “His work ethic truly is second to none.”

Wroubel added that during his eight years at NDPMA, Crouse took the lead on two major projects: re-turfing the stadium field and installing turf on the baseball and softball fields.

“The results speak for themselves,” she said. “The NDPMA community has greatly benefited from his skill set and he’s always spot-on with his philosophy regarding the role and vision of educational athletics.”

## **NOTRE DAME NAMES NEW BOYS GOLF COACH**

The athletic department at Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced in March that Gary Turner has been named head coach of the boys varsity golf team. Turner replaces Mike Erskine, who left the program due to a recent job change.

Turner comes to Notre Dame Prep following a position coaching the men's program at Rochester University in 2017 and 2018.

In addition, he enjoyed a successful career playing at the university level after a four-year stint on the



varsity golf team at Avondale High School in Auburn Hills. He was a member of the Rochester University men's program for four years and was named All American during the program's USCAA national championship runs in 2009 and 2010.

Currently a resident of Clawson, Mich., Turner works as a manager at Acme Mills, part of The Acme Group of companies within the fabric and textile industry serving industrial and commercial customers, including those in the automotive, aviation, furniture and marine markets.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies/mathematics from Rochester University in Rochester Hills.

## **SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS**

Jaimie Krankel and Maria VanDieren, members of Notre Dame Prep's Class of 2022, have been named finalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. They now will compete for about 7,600 scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will begin to be awarded in the spring.

Three types of scholarships are 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 typically are announced beginning in April and concluding in July.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) — which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year — and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

## **JUNIOR ECONOMISTS**

Colorful stations adorned with all the trappings of professional marketers—complete with flashy signs and colors to attract the eye—filled the fourth-grade classrooms at Notre Dame Lower School as students peddled an assortment of homemade goodies during a makeshift market this spring. The annual tradition is designed to



teach students about economics and how money affects our everyday lives.

Students were tasked with conceptualizing, producing,

advertising and selling their products. The exercise coincided with the end of Phase 4 of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, or "How the World Works."

Teacher Caitlin LaPratt said students typically begin planning their store a few weeks prior to mid-winter break.

"We talked about product scarcity and how to set a budget, maximize profit margins, and how to get your product in front of consumers," she said.

Students even got to advertise their products on the morning announcements.



"It's fun and something the kids look forward to every year," she said.

With COVID-19 restrictions easing, this year students were also recently able to take a field trip to Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills to participate in a lesson on economics and math.

Teacher Kathy Dugan said the fourth-grade market has taken place for over a decade and is a larger fundraiser for the school. Any money raised is donated back to the school in the form of a gift.

"We have been able to purchase items like the basketball hoops in the lower school parking lot and an outdoor play structure," Dugan said.

Fourth-grader Liana Kalasho said the market helped her understand the value of making money.

Kalasho said she worked with her mom to create hand-drawn mini notebooks, rainbow cookies, "cootie catchers" and pud-

ding worms and dirt cups.

"I think the dirt cups are cute and will sell out quickly," she said.

Brothers Brendan and Nicholas Schochet opted to sell chocolate-covered pretzels to corner the market on popular snack foods.

"We knew others would be selling cookies, so we wanted to offer something different," Brendan said. "It was fun working with my dad."

## **2022 SUPER RAFFLE WINNERS PICK UP BIG CHECKS**

On Saturday, Feb. 12, winning ticket numbers for the latest Super Raffle were drawn in the school's cafeteria at a live-streamed virtual event that was long-delayed from the October 2021 raffle and Oktoberfest, which were canceled once again due to the pandemic.

Becky Ricci, Parents Club president, Head of School Andy Guest and Marist Brother Louis Plourde, s.m., were on hand to draw the winning tickets from tens of thousands of tickets sold, netting the lucky winners big prizes.



Raffle ticket purchasers had a chance of winning one of seven main prizes: \$50,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500 and three \$1,000 payouts.

## **TWO SENIORS SIGN TO PLAY SPORTS AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL**

In an event in February held in front of their peers, two senior student-athletes from Notre Dame Prep signed on to play athletics at the college level. Billy Newman signed with to play football at John Carroll Univer-

**SEE IRISH NEWS ON PAGE 40**

*Notre Dame Prep freshman boys basketball team's wrong phone number leads to meeting the 2021 Super Bowl champs and learning valuable lessons in kindness, resilience and character.*

# ‘Where’s

**W**hen the Notre Dame Prep freshman boys basketball team showed up on Dec. 15 for another weekday grind through basketball practice, they expected another run-through of the kind of drills from head coach Andy Durkin that had by then resulted in a successful season. What they didn't expect was another chapter in a wild and crazy story that began with a simple wrong number on a group text.

Kim Murphy, the mother of Tampa Bay Buccaneer cornerback and 2021 Super Bowl champion Sean Murphy-Bunting, flew in to Michigan and was in the gym that evening to present autographed Murphy-Bunting jerseys to every freshman player and coach. She also talked to the boys about Successful Jocks, a nonprofit organization she founded that aims to motivate, inspire and empower student-athletes.

Her surprise visit was the culmination of a remarkable journey that began after NDP freshman Luca Gasperoni's number was added incorrectly to a late November team group chat that led to them surprisingly connected directly to Murphy-Bunting in the Buccaneer locker room.



# the GOAT?’



“Everyone was skeptical at first because it definitely couldn’t be an NFL player, right?” NDP ninth grader Vinny Tartaglia, who was in charge of adding numbers to the text, told WDIV-TV of Detroit, one of many media outlets globally to cover the story after it went wildly viral.

But it really was the NFL’s Murphy-Bunting on the phone.

## OPPOSITE

Sean Murphy-Bunting is FaceTiming with NDP freshmen basketball players.

## ABOVE

The team is with Murphy-Bunting’s mother, Kim Murphy.

The group text then turned into a FaceTime call with several other Buccaneers, including running back Leonard Fournette, who walked the NDP student-athletes through the locker room and gave them a glimpse of players such as Mike Evans, Rob Gronkowski and Richard Sherman. An even bigger bonus awaited them on the call — but we’ll get to that in a moment.

Meanwhile, this seemingly random “luck of the Irish” event for the team was starting to go viral literally around the world after NDP counselor and assistant freshman coach Jason Whalen posted a tweet after his son,

Colin, also a member of the team, told him about the call.

“A wild thing happened this AM that I had to share,” Whalen’s tweet began. “My son’s basketball team at @NDPMA\_Athletics starts up a group chat. When entering phone numbers, they mess up one digit for one of their teammates. Then this random guy replies to the chat, ‘did you mean to add me to this group?’”

That “random guy” was Murphy-Bunting and by the time the former Macomb County resident and Central Michigan University alum’s mother visited the school a couple of

weeks later, the wrong-number story had been seen or read in the New York Times, The Washington Post, ESPN, CNN, Fox News, NBC, ABC, CBS and countless others, including Good Morning America, The Independent in the United Kingdom, and at least two news organizations in Australia.

A few of the ND Prep players were even featured nationally on a Fox Sports' NFL pregame show, where they were interviewed by Cooper Manning, the brother of NFL greats Peyton and Eli Manning.

### THE GOAT APPEARS

"I don't have much of a social media presence so I had no idea how far and how fast my tweet would travel," Whalen said. "I just knew it was a great story that needed to be shared because it puts a smile on your face. I also was hoping that it would serve as a thank you to Sean and his teammates for taking the call in the first place."

■ ■  
**IT'S JUST ONE OF MANY SIGNIFICANT LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT CAME FROM THIS. NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH HAS BEEN THAT IT HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE TEAM BONDING EXPERIENCE, AND THE FACT THAT KIM MURPHY SHARED SUCH A VALUABLE MESSAGE WITH OUR TEAM ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES, CHARACTER AND RESILIENCE I KNOW RESONATED DEEPLY WITH THESE YOUNG MEN.**

■ ■  
One can speculate about why such a story was shared around the world as much as it did. Granted, it was, as Whalen said, a great story. But the fact that the boys on the call refused to hang up until they could see one more player probably had more than a little to do with the story's popularity.

"Where's the GOAT?" freshman Nate Seaman asked Fournette at the end of the call, referring, of course, to Tom Brady, the "greatest of all time."

The kids went crazy when, sure enough, then-Tampa Bay quarterback and seven-time Super Bowl champion Brady got on the line.

"What's up, fellas?" he greeted the kids.

Frosh Anthony Valentine, already a Michigan football fan (Brady played college football at U-M), said the first thing that came to mind. "I told him, 'Go blue, we're going to beat OSU!'"

Tartaglia said that finishing up the call with Brady made it even more of a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "It was truly a surreal experience to go through, especially for a freshman in high school."

Teammate Seaman agreed and added that



the whole story in general was unbelievable.

“This was something that I think will never ever happen again,” he said. “They didn’t have to take our call, but they did and it was great meeting all of the players. It was an incredible experience.”

### KINDNESS MATTERS

For counselor Whalen, not surprisingly, he took the 30,000-foot view of the whole affair.

“These young men have been incredible through it all,” he said. “But it doesn’t surprise me. I’ve known most of them and their families since sixth grade and had a chance to coach some of them in middle school.”

He said he knows others on the team from coaching football and from his son’s many friends.

“I know we are blessed to have incredibly high-character young men in our school and in our athletic program,” Whalen added. “I think coach Durkin and us as assistant coaches hope that these young men have learned how much of an impact one can

have on someone else’s life just by being kind and giving your time and energy to put a smile on someone’s face.”

He added that it was a perfect bookend to have Murphy-Bunting’s mother come in and talk to the team about the inspirational story of her son and his climb to a Super Bowl championship.

“It’s just one of many significant learning experiences that came from this,” Whalen said. “Not the least of which has been that it has been an incredible team bonding experience, and the fact that Kim Murphy shared such a valuable message with our team about opportunities, character and resilience I know resonated deeply with these young men.” ◀



### ABOVE

Tampa Bay quarterback Tom Brady greets the NDP team during their call.

### LEFT

Jeanna Trotman from WXYZ-TV interviews Kim Murphy in the NDP main gym.

### OPPOSITE LEFT

Jamie Edmonds from WDIV-TV interviews Nate Seaman from the freshmen basketball team about his wayward call to the Buccaneers.

# 'PREPPED'

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# PRODUCT

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# DESIGNER

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*Alumnus heads out into the working world after a stellar college art career made possible, he says, by Notre Dame Prep's visual arts program — and one very special art teacher.*

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#### OPPOSITE

Notre Dame Prep alumnus Matt LaMothe NDP'18 looks forward to a career in industrial design.

**C**onsistently named one of the world's top colleges and universities for art and design, the College for Creative Studies (CCS), located in Detroit's Cultural Center, is a world-class institution that educates artists and designers to be leaders in the creative professions.

A private, fully accredited college, CCS currently enrolls more than 1,400 students pursuing Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degrees. It traces its heritage back to 1906 when a group of local civic leaders, inspired by the English Arts and Crafts movement, formed the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts, which ultimately became known as the College for Creative Studies in 2001.





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## ABOVE

The Generac EM5500 (Easy Mobility 5500kw) was designed by LaMothe to make moving, storing and using a generator easier. It was marketed to elderly and disabled consumers.

Fast forward to 2022, and one of the leading lights in the school's industrial design program is about to graduate into a career that likely will include toy design or consumer electronics. It's a career path he didn't think he'd ever take — that is until his ever-perceptive Notre Dame art teacher stepped in.

"I always knew that I loved art — ceramics specifically — but never thought a creative career would be feasible, so up until my junior year of high school, I was planning on studying packaging or industrial engineering," said Matt LaMothe NDP'18, who will graduate this May from CCS. "Mamma Lew, or Mrs. LewAllen, my art teacher, was the one who noticed my potential and pushed me to look into industrial design or automotive design."

LewAllen said that it was very clear early on that LaMothe was a standout artist and designer.

"He excelled in the first few pottery classes he took, fell in love with visual art and continued to grow throughout his time at NDP," she said. "He was the recipient of many Scholastic Art awards as well as the full-ride scholarship to CCS. We've kept in touch over the years and I could not be more proud of him. His future is bright and I expect to see his innovative product design at work in our world."

LaMothe said the move to concentrate on product design was a good one for him.

"Industrial design is the perfect combination of art and design with problem solving and engineering," he said. "I'm a very technical and mathematical thinker so I can leverage that side of my brain with the other side in my designs and concepts."

As fate would have it, LaMothe got a chance to use both

brain sides this most recent summer in Chicago at an internship with legendary toy and wagon manufacturer, Radio Flyer. He loved it.

"Working with Radio Flyer last summer was fantastic," he said. "I was lucky to be on-site in their Chicago headquarters, which was great, especially since so many of my classmates had remote or virtual internships."

"I was able to work alongside a team of designers and engineers in developing new products as well as re-imagining some existing toys and ride-ons. By the end of the summer, I had led three projects while assisting on two smaller parts of their new line of e-bikes."

LaMothe adds that none of his early success in school and during his internships would have been possible without the Marist-sponsored high school he attended.

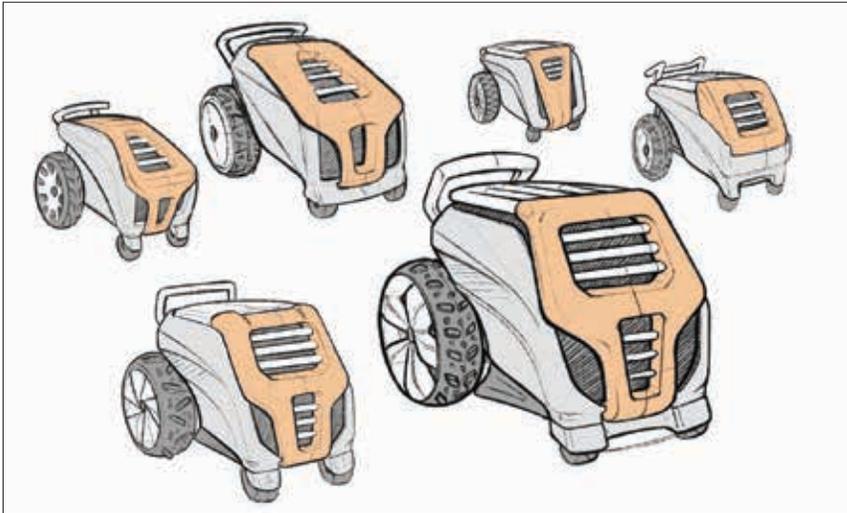
"Notre Dame Prep never failed to challenge me and because of that I came into college with a substantial head start," he said. "The rigorous academics along with its faith, sports and clubs taught me a lot. Teachers were always supportive and willing to help. On top of that, the art program was second to none."

And despite the fact that his college is one of the top art schools in the world with some of the best faculty members anywhere, he puts his high school art teacher at the top.

"Mrs. LewAllen is still to this day the best teacher I've ever had, bar none," he said. "Her ability to effectively teach the technical aspect of art while nurturing a creative spirit is incredible. Working with her in IB Art, as well as in ceramics, taught me how to think creatively, flush out thoughts and ideas effectively, and present my ideas

|| ||

NOTRE DAME PREP NEVER FAILED TO CHALLENGE ME  
AND BECAUSE OF THAT I CAME INTO COLLEGE WITH A  
SUBSTANTIAL HEAD START.



clearly. Also, IB Art was the best decision I've ever made, not to mention that it helped get me a full ride to CCS because of my well-rounded portfolio.

"I always like to tell people I didn't even really start drawing until my junior year of high school because it illustrates how art is not only for the naturally gifted. Art also is for those who must work harder to develop their talent — and it was NDP's visual art program that gave me all the tools I needed to succeed with my own talent." «

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**LEFT**

This concept drawing is among those created by LaMothe for a portable generator for Generac Power Systems, Inc.

**BELOW**

LaMothe also designed a tech-focused backpack for school-aged children.



LAMOthe  
9-16-2021

# JOIN US FOR AN ALUMNI CAREER NETWORK WORKSHOP

*Event on May 26 will offer resume writing help, professional headshots, and more*

**O**n May 26, the Alumni Career Network will host its first Alumni Career Network Day.

Graduates from the years 2012 through 2022 will have the opportunity to have their resume reviewed by professionals, participate in mock interviews, and have their headshot taken for LinkedIn. The event is part of a renewed focus by the school to connect with students beyond their time in high school.

“As the job market becomes more competitive, we want our alumni to continue to land the best jobs, the highest promotions, and help them reach their professional goals,” said Beth Lockhart, executive director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

A strong resume, interview practice, and a professional headshot are vital to taking those first steps towards career success.

“A resume is likely the first thing a recruiter will see, and, with the current sea of resumes flooding human resource departments around the country, standing out from the crowd has never been so important,” Lockhart said. “Further, the digital world has made having a presence on professional social networks like LinkedIn a necessity. No longer can candidates rely only on their skills and expertise to land that dream job or promotion. The way candidates present themselves professionally is equally, if not more, important.”

**NOTRE DAME**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

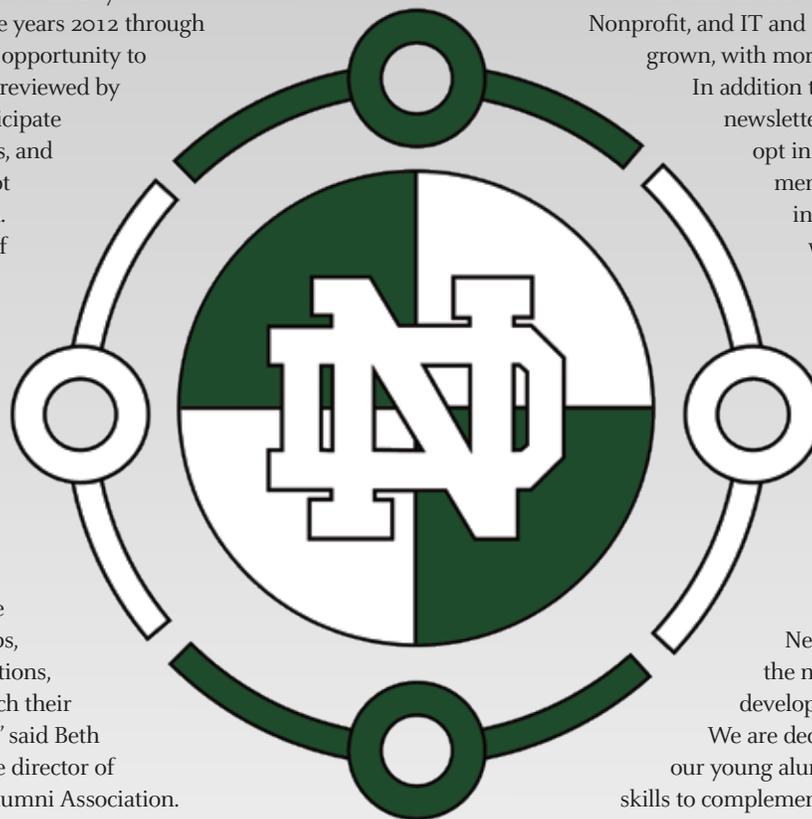
Since launching the ACN two years ago, interest in all four of its tracks—Business and Entrepreneurship, Health and Medicine, Education and Nonprofit, and IT and Engineering—has grown, with more than 150 members.

In addition to a quarterly newsletter, members can opt in to join peer-to-peer mentorships or participate in virtual discussions with like-minded professionals. Industry-specific events, both in-person and virtual, are also being planned now that restrictions on gatherings due to COVID-19 have eased.

“The Alumni Career Network Workshop is the next logical step in the development of the ACN. We are dedicated to offering our young alumni the resources and skills to complement their exemplary education. Notre Dame Prep’s uniquely

impressive alumni base creates a phenomenal network, and we are so excited for the young alumni to join and learn all about connecting,” said Liz Casselman NDP’09, who chairs the ACN.

**Alumni Career Network Workshop will take place in the NDP Library from 6 to 8 p.m. Those interested in participating in the event can register at [www.ndpma.org/ACNDay](http://www.ndpma.org/ACNDay).** «



## ABOVE

Join the career network as part of four different tracks: business, medical, IT and education.

# Irish Week gets parents, alumni in on the action

Irish Week at Notre Dame is a feat like none other. Students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade take a break from class to play games and activities for one week in winter. Now in its 46th year, the tradition dates back to Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods when principal Conrad Vachon was looking for a way to drum up school spirit among students during the week of St. Patrick's Day.

This year, parents and alumni had a the chance to join in the fun. Hundreds of them visited a pop-up website to play crossword puzzles, games like Jenga and basketball, post photos of their favorite Irish Week memories from years gone by, and even a virtual game of Jeopardy. Special thanks to Scott Lockhart NDP'98, Linda Brouns P'19, P'22, and Frances Finnegan PC'69.

"We decided to focus Irish Week on alumni and parent engagement. Part of that was asking the alumni from Notre Dame High School and Notre Dame Prep to connect with one other about the memories they made during Irish Week the last 40 years or so," said Beth Lockhart, executive director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

More than 50 alumni, parents and friends also contributed a total of \$11,460 to the Notre Dame Fund. Every gift the school received was earmarked to support financial aid and scholarships.

"With businesses impacted by COVID-19, we have had more requests for financial assistance from both new and current families," Lockhart said. "Irish Week was a great way to highlight that need. Their gifts will allow today's students the opportunity to make their own memories during Irish Week that are sure to last a lifetime."

As part of the challenge, lower school grades competed to raise the most. The kindergarten parents won a pizza party for their children.

To learn more about the Notre Dame Fund, visit [giving.ndpma.org](http://giving.ndpma.org). «



The Michael J. Kotzan Creative Writing Scholarship Award debuted this year and will help Kotzan and help pave the way for future creative writers at Notre Dame Prep.

# A CREATIVE CONFER

**M**ichael J. Kotzan was a proud 2005 Notre Dame Prep graduate who touched many lives during his time at the school, including those of classmates and teachers. According to his mother, Donna, who retired from Notre Dame Prep after many years as a teacher and administrator, Michael epitomized the ideal Marist-educated young man.

In fact, a “behind-the-scenes” kind of guy is how best to describe him, his mom said.



“One of my favorite quotes of Fr. Colin, the Marist founder, which is appropriately displayed in the school main hallway, says, ‘While doing great things for the Lord, be unknown and even hidden in the world,’” she said. “That would be a great tagline for Mike. He didn’t need credit or center stage and always was concerned about and considerate of others.”

She said that Michael realized early on how blessed he was and how he looked to help those less fortunate, which is exactly the type

of person the world needs today, she believes.

But the world now is missing one more kind and giving person it needs because, tragically, Michael Kotzan died suddenly last June.

And while his family and the Notre Dame Prep community continue to mourn the loss of such a brilliant light, a new scholarship in his name has been announced as a way to honor his memory and to encourage young NDP students to pursue creative expression like Mike did in a life well-grounded in Fr. Colin’s calling.

“We as a family worked with the administration of Notre Dame to initiate the Michael J. Kotzan Creative Writing Scholarship Award in an effort to help awaken the creative talents of NDP’s youngest students,” Donna Kotzan said.

“Michael always enjoyed writing, but it was not until he had earned his bachelor and law degrees that he realized his love of writing needed to be more fully explored. Although he cannot continue his writing dreams or mentor young writers anymore, hopefully this scholarship can inspire students to explore their own creative writing abilities and continue to strengthen those skills during their time in high school.”

## A CAREER U-TURN

After Michael graduated from NDP, he went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University’s James Madison College in 2009. In 2012, he graduated from the University of Miami - Florida School of Law and passed the bar exam in Illinois. As a member of the bar, he had many

interesting experiences practicing law, but he was looking for more.

In his free time, Michael started to write short stories and formulate ideas and scripts for TV and movies. After burnishing those skills by taking a number of creative writing classes, he became convinced it was time for him to travel a completely different path in the working world.

“He got involved in writing groups and enjoyed the camaraderie and critiques, especially the positive feedback, of fellow writers,” his mother recalled. “He decided to take a break from Chicago, which is where he was practicing law, and moved to Hollywood. He wanted to give his dreams a chance. Even though COVID closed down most of Los Angeles, he still was able to work on a variety of screenwriting projects, which we’re very fortunate to have as part of his legacy.”

Now, the Kotzan family hopes that legacy will thrive and blossom through the new scholarship, which is specifically targeted to Notre Dame Prep freshmen.

Anthony Butorac, chair of Notre Dame Prep’s English department thinks the scholarship’s focus on writing is a great thing for the students.

“I believe that creative writing is essential for our school and for the greater community,” he said. “We are a school where football players, for example, do theater and sing in the choir. I love the idea that our football players can now also be creative writers. This scholarship is a great opportunity for us to bring the element of creative writing to an even larger group of kids in our

school family, just like we do with theater, music and art.”

Donna Kotzan says that’s exactly what she’s hoping for from the Notre Dame family, a family, she says, that was almost as important to Michael as his own family, which, his mom says, was indeed special to her son.

“Family was critical to Michael no matter how many physical miles separated us,” she said. “He loved his grandparents and helped them in many ways. His sisters [Kathy NDP’98, Karen NDP’01], nieces and nephews adored him. He loved playing *Pretty Princess* and dinosaurs with them and if family or friends needed help, he was quick to rearrange his schedule.”

## MISSION AND ADVENTURE

Donna Kotzan also said her son always looked for new adventures, whether they were in Miami, Chicago, Hollywood or wherever.

“He also gave his family great vacation destinations because he was determined to follow his dreams wherever they would take him,” she said with a wink.

Summing it all up, mom Donna says she and Mike’s dad (Joe ND’70) are exceptionally proud of their son “and we know that he would be honored to award this scholarship in his name to students who are willing to put forth their best efforts in creative writing.”

She adds that the school mission also was a proud part of the Kotzan family’s traditions and that Michael definitely was a product of that mission.

# RAL

“He was a man of faith, community and academic balance,” she said. “Mike glided through high school with many great teachers, some of whom are still teaching today at NDP. His favorite teachers ‘got’ his dry sense of humor and measured academic approach. I also have to say that Mike reveled in the fact that he was the creative one in his own family — a family of engineers, by the way, and one math teacher.”

One of his former teachers, Jocelynn Yaroch, who teaches IB Biology and serves as vice principal of NDP, agrees.

“You can tell early on that there definitely was a creative streak running through Michael,” she said.

NDP Principal Kim Anderson is excited about the new scholarship.

“I am hopeful that this opportunity may inspire some of our freshmen who may be nervous, apprehensive or humble about their writing, to take a risk and share their creative writing pieces,” she said. “I think that giving a young writer the inspiration to follow their passion would make Michael very happy.” «

**Entries for the Michael J. Kotzan Creative Writing Scholarship Award are due June 15. For more information, current freshmen families should check out their community time page in MyNotreDame.**

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## OPPOSITE

As a student at Notre Dame Prep, Michael Kotzan was involved in many extracurricular activities, including varsity hockey.



# ATLANTA AMAZING

Middle-schooler Caroline Powell discusses her top-10 finish in the national competition of the Amazing Shake held in early March

**N**otre Dame eighth-grader Caroline Powell finished sixth out of more than 100 participants from around the country in this year's annual national Amazing Shake at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Ga. Her performance in the three-day competition held March 4-6 came after acing the Notre Dame Middle School version of the competition, which was hosted last month on the school's Pontiac campus.

Her trip to Atlanta was an intense experience and a whirlwind of activity, according to Powell, and Notre Dame's event helped pave the way ultimately to the success she enjoyed there.

"The Amazing Shake at Notre Dame taught me so much and I was able to learn even more as I moved on to Atlanta," she said during a recent interview. "Also, learning these skills that I will be able to use throughout my life are essential to understanding how an interview works and how to present one's thoughts and ideas properly."

The Amazing Shake competition, which educator Ron Clark founded in 2018, is open to middle school students throughout the United States. It consists of case-scenario stations that every competitor must pass through by exercising etiquette, composure and the ability to speak appropriately.

The competition's eight rounds include events such as a

professional interaction obstacle course called the "gauntlet," group interviews, a debate, a corporate presentation, and a final one-on-one interview.

The program emphasizes student manners, discipline, respect and professional conduct, according to the program's founders. Middle schoolers learn the basics of professional interaction, such as giving a proper handshake, working a room, having a successful interview, and remaining composed under pressure.

Brandon Jezdimir, principal of Notre Dame Middle School, said it was a phenomenal learning experience for all the students who participated and that it gives young people the skills necessary to make a real difference in the world.

"I was extremely proud of Caroline and for all our eighth graders who participated," he said. "One of the things I myself learned during this whole process was the importance of the actual 'shake.' Especially for interviewing and recruiting, a handshake can make or break an interview or any personal or professional interaction."

In this interview conducted after returning from Atlanta, Powell talked about her "incredible" experience and how it will benefit her and other students as they move through high schools, colleges and careers.

(Edited for length and clarity.)



**"...enjoyed the gauntlet."**

**"...incredibly fun."**



**Caroline, can you sum up the entire Amazing Shake process, from our campus to Atlanta's finals?**

The Amazing Shake was such an incredible adventure and nothing like anything I've ever done before. I've been able to find out what I am really capable of, from both the competition here at Notre Dame and the one in Atlanta. I've learned so much that I will be able to use in the future, such as for job interviews and college interviews. Even now, this will help me be able to communicate with adults and teachers much better than I was able to before.

**What were some of the surprising things about your Amazing Shake experience?**

Surprisingly, I was not as incredibly prepared for the Amazing Shake as I thought I was. I was aware of what the Amazing Shake was all about, but up until about a week before, I didn't have as complete an idea of everything involved and how things all fit together. I suppose another surprising aspect of this was how fun it was. In the gauntlet, for example, I found myself intertwining aspects of the theatre and improvisation skills that I had learned in my theatre class last semester. This helped me to be more passionate about what I was doing, and then once I moved on to the work-a-room part of the event, I used what I learned from the gauntlet! I truly was surprised that even within only one day, I was able to improve so much.

**Which part or parts of the process did you enjoy the most and which were the most challenging?**

Each part of the Amazing Shake was incredibly fun, although I personally enjoyed the gauntlet the most. As I said earlier, I was able to incorporate improvisational skills into the gauntlet because I was being thrown into different and random scenarios every minute. Another reason I enjoyed the gauntlet so much was because of the scenarios. For example, I'm a big fan of the TV show "Shark Tank," so pretending like I was on the show was a lot of fun. Or, for another example, walking the runway in Atlanta. I was able to just pretend I was walking an actual runway — and saw a whole new side of myself.

**Would you recommend this to your underclassman at the middle school for next year?**

I would definitely recommend the Amazing Shake to my underclassmen

**"...nothing like anything I've ever done before."**

# 1816

The Marist Fathers and Brothers or the Society of Mary is an international religious congregation of men who are missionaries and dedicated to the Blessed Mother.

The first idea of a "Society of Mary" originated in 1816 in Lyons, France, with a group of seminarians, who wanted to bring a restoration of the faith to people of France subjected to persecution because of the French Revolution. The Marist Fathers and Brothers credit Jean-Claude Colin as their founder.



# 1836

Pope Gregory XVI, in a quest for missionaries for Oceania definitively approved the "Priests of the Society of Mary," or Marist Fathers, as a religious institute with simple vows and under a superior general. There are also other religious groups called Marists including The Little Brothers of Mary (Marist Brothers of the Schools) The

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Marists serve in 24 countries throughout the world collected into eight regions (United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Asia Pacific and Europe).

## Mission

Marists strive to do God's will similar to the way Mary, the mother of Jesus, did; to live and work in the Church today following the model of Mary at the beginnings of the Church. They seek to think, feel, judge and act as Mary did in all things.

# 700

The Society of Mary (Marist Fathers and Brothers) currently has approximately 700 members.

# 3

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# Who are the Marists?



# 1999



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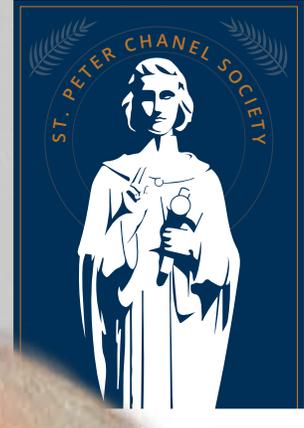
ers of the Holy Name of Mary, commonly called  
st Sisters, The Missionary Sisters of the Society  
ary and the Marist Laity. Each of these groups  
tually were given ecclesiastical approval as  
rate institutes.

er Colin was elected superior general on Sept.  
836, and 20 men professed their vows the  
e day. Among them were four men soon to be  
oned to Oceania.

In 1831, at the age of 28, Peter Chanel joined the Society of Mary (Marists), who would concentrate on local missions and foreign missionary work. Instead of selecting Chanel as a missionary, the Marists appointed him as the spiritual director at the seminary of Belley, where he stayed for five years. In 1833, he accompanied Jean-Claude Colin to Rome to seek approval of the nascent Society.

Chanel was martyred on April 28, 1841, on the island country of Futuna. He was canonized on June 12, 1954, by Pope Pius XII.

# 1954



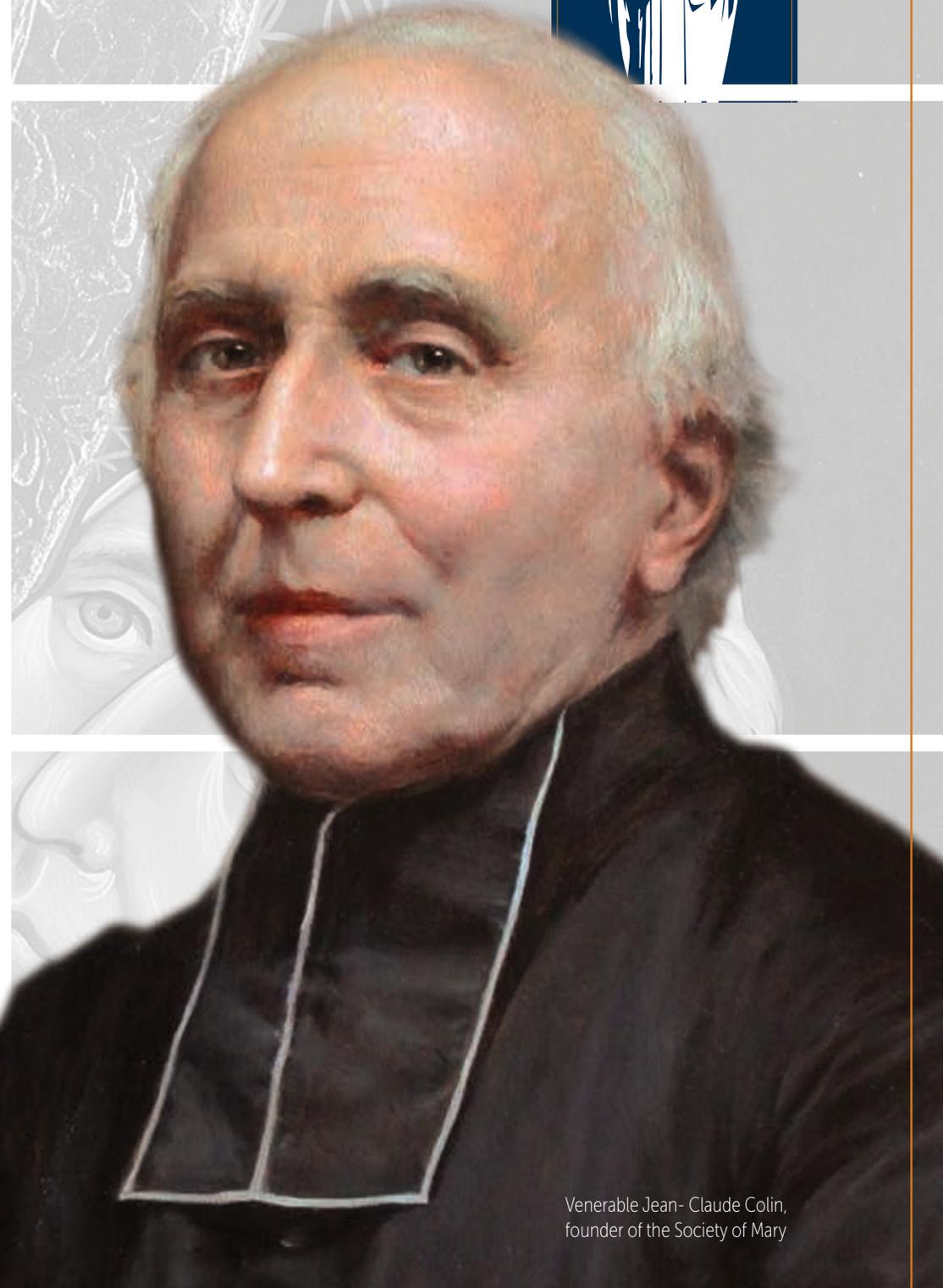
## 35/12

Marists run more than 35  
ols in 12 different countries.



ellin Joseph Benedict Champagnat, also  
wn as Saint Marcellin Champagnat, was  
in Le Rosey, village of Marthes, near St.  
ne, France. He was the founder of the  
st Brothers, a religious congregation of  
ers in the Catholic Church devoted to  
and dedicated to education.

mpagnat was declared Venerable in 1920  
ope Benedict XV, beatified by Pope  
XII on May 29, 1955, and canonized  
ope John Paul II on April 18, 1999.  
east day is observed in the  
olic Church on June 6.



Venerable Jean-Claude Colin,  
founder of the Society of Mary

# One family

## *Life, death and basketball: How one basketball team stood united through hardship*

This article originally was published by MLive on March 22, 2022. It is reprinted with permission.

By Jake May | [jmay2@mlive.com](mailto:jmay2@mlive.com)

It was a night to remember for Pontiac Notre Dame Prep's boys basketball team.

Each moment felt rich, sweeter as each accented the next.

It was senior Jonathan Risi's 24-point game as his teammates dished him the rock again and again as he led them to a 74-54 win on March 16.

It was 6-foot-5-inch, 230-pound senior Alex Scherle using his defensive end football figure to knock around 6-foot-7-inch Goodrich freshman Parker LePla, holding him to only 11 points on the game.

It was junior Joseph Wilcox cutting the first strand of the net from the hoop, and each player on the team climbing the ladder to slice off their own keepsake, uniting the team who hadn't seen a regional final victory since 1998.

And while the student section rushed the court and the Fighting Irish celebrated amidst a sea of parents embracing their sons on March 16, something bigger was still at play.

Something bigger than any game, even this particular victory.

Players waited for head coach [and '98 NDHS alum] Whitney Robinson in the locker room with bated breath.

Upon his arrival, he was doused with as much water as their bottles would hold.

Their voices echoed through the hallways at Flint Powers Catholic High School and into the gymnasium as two janitors began sweeping up the trash left behind from

hundreds in the crowd.

Coaches each took turns critiquing the performances on the night, mostly with compliments of unselfish game play as team basketball won this game.

And while Robinson spoke to each player's performance, he waited to share his comments on his 16-year-old son Wade's performance until the end, as he had news to share with him.

"My father passed away today," he said, while stroking his hands in Wade's hair through tears.

Joe Robinson was 81, and one of Whitney's, and since his birth, Wade's biggest fans.

The mood changed from celebratory to somber.

Whitney Robinson went on to share details about his father's love of the sport, and more so, his support for the Fighting Irish and for his grandson, who scored 17 points on the night.

"He was a basketball fan like no other. He taught me everything I know about basketball," Whitney said, remembering that he would watch Isiah Thomas and the Bad Boys era of the Detroit Pistons together after nights being







"WE'LL BE EACH OTHER'S SHOULDERS  
AND CRUTCHES IN TOUGH TIMES. THIS IS THE  
FAMILY WE'VE GOT."

coached by his father. "He followed me every step of my career from elementary to middle school to high school, college, professional and was always my biggest fan.

"My son Wade started playing basketball at a young age. My father redirected all of his focus, energy, love and energy for the game back into Wade. He was Wade's biggest fan and supporter. Every time I would talk to him, he's not even asking my how I'm doing, he wants to know about Wade and how the last game went and how he played."

Whitney toyed with the idea of telling his son before the game, as sometimes athletes play "lights out," utilizing the feelings and taking them into the game. After discussions with other close family members, he decided to wait.

While addressing the team, he choked up again and again. He held Wade closely.

He cried, unafraid to show these boys that it's OK for men to shed tears and be stronger for it.

"We'll be each other's shoulders and crutches in tough times. This is the family we've got," Whitney said.

The team prayed together and after saying "Amen," each player took a moment to embrace Wade to show that they were not only bonded through the sport, but a humbled humanity.

He walked through the empty hallways and gymnasium with his head held higher and his teammate's compassion lifting him.

"This game, this win — it means a lot," Wade said. "I know we are going to play for Pops. Win, lose or draw, we are doing it for him. All for him. ... This one is for you Pops. Thanks for all of the support. We're not done yet. It's not



over yet. I love you.”

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep takes on Ferndale at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in the Division 2 quarterfinal at St. Clair Community College in Port Huron. [The Irish lost, 68-55.]

Whitney was the last to pack his bags from the locker room and load onto the bus.

He took a moment to look around and take the scene in.

While a regional championship — his first-ever as a coach — will be remembered fondly, it will never simply be just for the game.

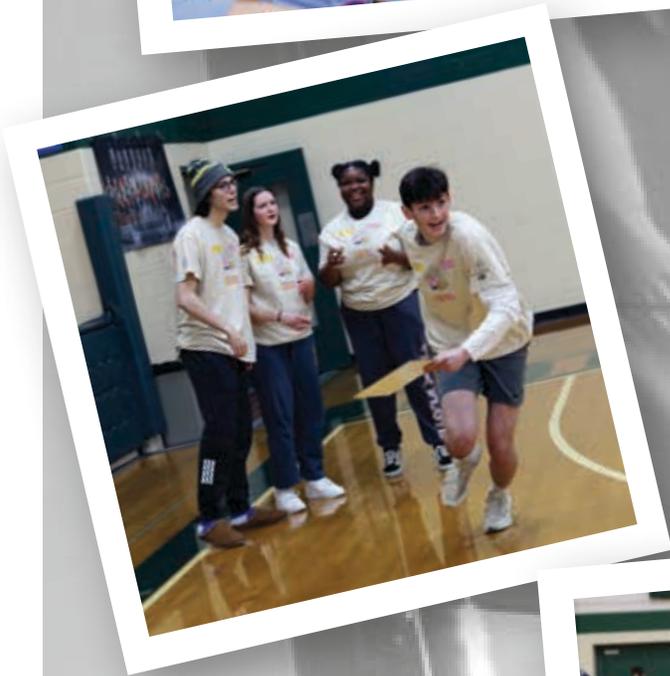
It is more than that.

It’s a memory — one bonded through a love of basketball, and ultimately, one that has etched its way into school history and woven into the fabric of his family forever. «



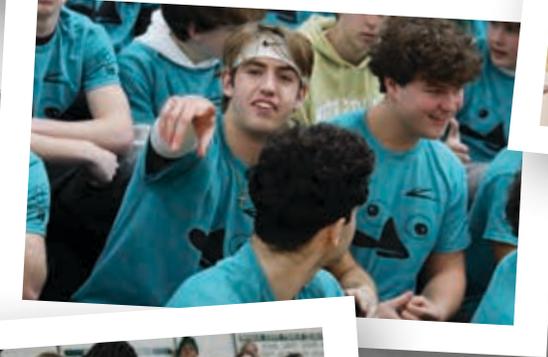
## PHOTOS

Notre Dame Prep’s varsity boys basketball team experienced many highs this past season, including a regional championship. But they really came together as a team in a special way after a death in the coach’s family. (Photos by Jake May | MLive.com)



# The Games

After a year that saw Notre Dame Prep's Irish Games being played outside due to COVID-19, the 2022 version ended up as a very spirited return to the traditional goings-on and venue.





# DESIGNING FOR A BETTER LIFE

Notre Dame Prep's first-in-the-nation engineering and empathy class is working on developing products to assist quadriplegics and others who suffer from limb loss or paralysis.



“They were quiet, attentive, took notes and were visibly moved by the experience. After the interview, we discussed everything we learned about Shelly’s struggles and everyone had ideas of what they wanted to learn more about and focus on.”

**B**eginning with the 2019-2020 school year, Notre Dame began to offer a new course as part of its high school science curriculum called engineering and empathy. The class features the pedagogy of Project Invent, a nonprofit organization founded in 2016 to empower high school students to go out into their communities and invent technologies that make a difference.

“Initially, we offered this class in the upper school for 11th and 12th grade as a science elective,” Jocelynn Yaroch, then the science department co-chair, said. “We also considered at the time offering an abbreviated version as an elective for eighth grade. Louise Palardy, Notre Dame’s STEM specialist and manager of the school’s robotics center, is teaching the upper school class.”

According to Palardy, the class involves creating an impactful technological invention, a business plan and marketing strategy. She also said NDPMA was the first school in the United States to use the program as an integral part of its in-class curriculum.

“The course follows the design cycle — with empathy added — as each invention created is driven by problems that deeply impact a person’s life in the community, local or otherwise,” she said.

This semester, a group of 21 Notre Dame Prep juniors and seniors are working with a special grant through Project Invent and the Limb Kind Foundation, a Long Island, New York, nonprofit whose mission is to “improve the lives of children and adults with limb loss, both domestic and international, by strengthening the amputee community and providing prosthetic care to all.”

Specifically, according to Palardy, the students are working on

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#### ABOVE

Students work on their projects in Notre Dame Prep’s engineering and empathy class.

#### OPPOSITE

Notre Dame Prep’s engineering and empathy class interviews Gary Miracle, who in 2020 lost his arms and legs due to a blood infection and is now an advocate for the Limb Kind Foundation.



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**THIS CLASS IS STILL ANOTHER GREAT  
EXAMPLE OF OUR CHRISTIAN AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICE MISSION.**

inventing products that will make the day-to-day activities of quadriplegics easier and more bearable.

“We had a virtual interview with Shelly Loose, a quadriplegic woman from Grand Rapids who had an injury that caused a broken neck 34 years ago,” Palardy said. “Prior to that interview, we prepared by watching a recorded interview provided by Project Invent of a man named Jeff and his struggles as a quadriplegic.”

**ARDENT LOVE OF NEIGHBOR**

The class also had an opportunity to Zoom interview Gary Miracle, who in 2020 lost his arms and legs due to a blood infection and is now an advocate for the Limb Kind Foundation.

“I was put in touch with Gary through Project Invent,” Palardy said. “One key element that came out of our interview with him was how hard limb loss is at the beginning and that not everyone has a strong support system. This message also was clear during our interview with Shelly.

“Since our current Marist theme is Ardent Love of Neighbor, I am hoping to ask all of the students at our school to write a letter to someone on similar journeys as Gary and Shelly who also may be looking for a way to heal and adapt to these types of situations.”

When the class finally got Shelly on a Zoom call, the students took turns sitting in front of the computer and asking her questions, Palardy said.

“They were quiet, attentive, took notes, and were visibly moved by the experience,” she said. “After the interview, we discussed everything we learned about Shelly’s struggles and everyone had ideas of what they wanted to learn more about and focus on.”

Palardy noted that one of the questions asked of Shelly was what she’s learned since her accident and she said she is a lot tougher than she thought she was, that she has value, and that she has developed some amazing friendships.

“One of our kids also asked her if she wished she could go back to before the accident, and she said, ‘No, I like myself just the way I am.’ That reply had an incredible impact on all of us and could be felt throughout the classroom.”

The students now have a few areas of focus for their projects. One area of interest is Shelly’s wheelchair cushion that loses air occasionally and since she has no feeling from the waist down, she cannot tell when it is deflating. Another area of focus for the students is the transition Shelly must take from her wheelchair to her shower chair.

“She has handles on the shower chair but her hands are locked in a fist position making grasping the handles nearly impossible,” Palardy said. “Still another area of focus is how she can use her fists for tasks requiring fine motor skills. Our students’ last area of interest is working on something to assist her in picking up things when she drops them.”

**CHRISTIAN AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

With the grant from Project Invent, Palardy is purchasing special supplies and equipment, including breadboards, which are thin plastic boards used to hold transistors, resistors, chips, etc., that are wired together for microcontrollers, as well as sensors for a series of activities for the students to learn about wiring, programming, inputs and outputs. She also purchased a couple of multimeters to help the students measure voltage, current and resistance.

“I am really looking forward to seeing what our students end up with for their final products,” she said. “This class is still another great example of our Christian and community service mission, which emphasizes in part that when we really get to know those in the greater community who are in need, we will go that extra mile.”

The students currently are in the early stage of ideation and initial prototyping and have a demo day scheduled for early April. This is where Project Invent will have investors listen to the teams’ marketing pitches and decide if they’ll invest in their idea.

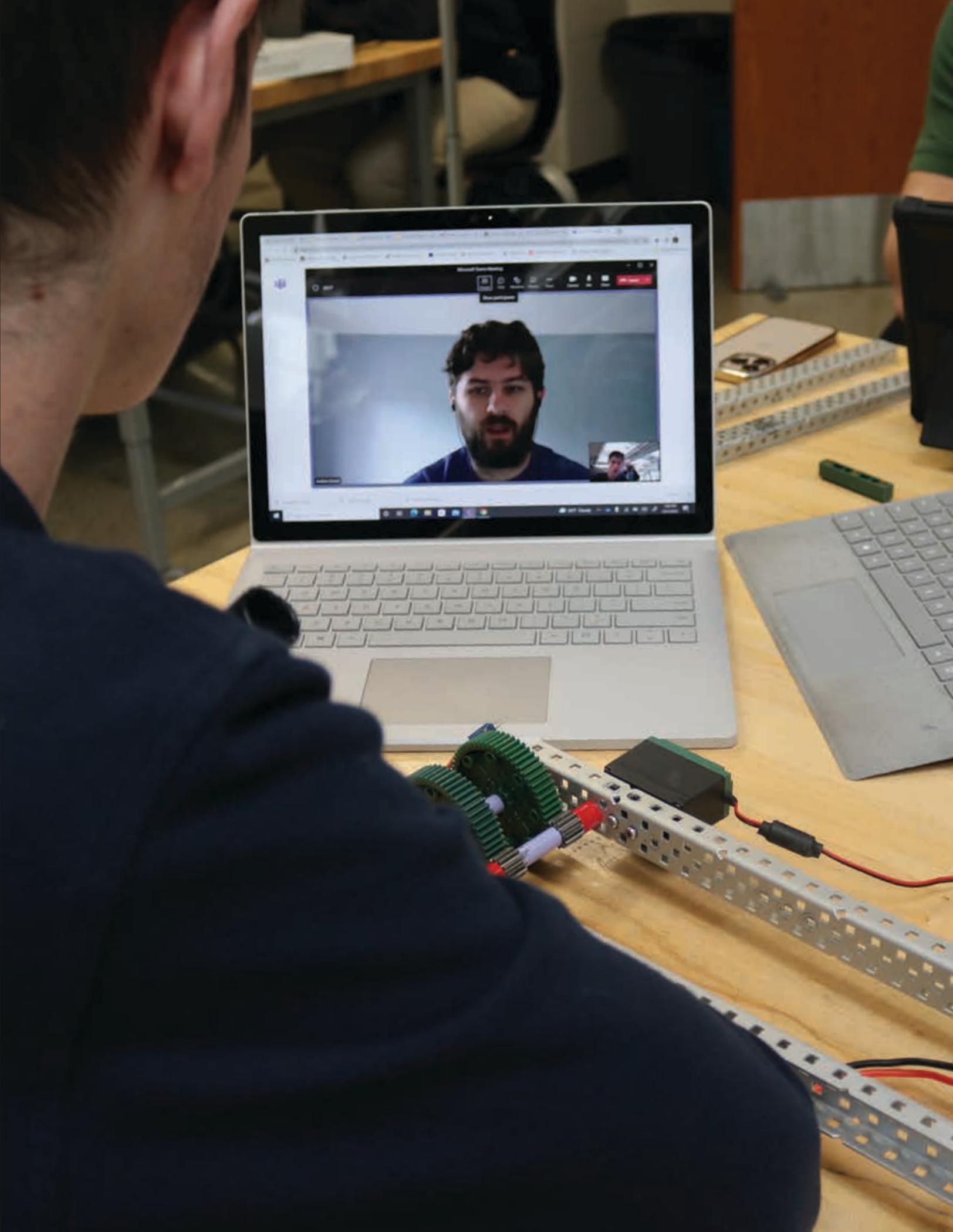
“This year we have a special pitch coach assigned to our school to help the students prepare,” Palardy said. “Rebecca is a design program manager from Google with an abundance of product pitching and marketing experience. She is going to connect with our students during class through Zoom to give them feedback on how to improve their presentations for demo day.” «

**ABOVE**

One of the projects involves developing a special glove that produces vibrations to counteract shakes from Parkinson’s disease.

**OPPOSITE**

NDP alum Andrew Palardy NDP’12, now working as a computer engineer, is online and helping the students with their projects.





# Compassionate counseling

Notre Dame Prep counseling office  
restructures, adds staff to address  
students' academic, social and  
mental health needs

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## ABOVE

NDP's newest counselor, Elizabeth Stibich, grew up in Leland, Mich., and last worked at Hart Middle School in Rochester Hills. Here, she's getting to know sophomores Alexis Carlisle and Luke Burtraw.

## RIGHT

Denise Mahoney became a full-time counselor at NDP in 2018.

|| THE SPIRITUAL, ||  
EMOTIONAL, AND  
MENTAL SUPPORT OF  
STUDENTS HAVE BEEN  
TOP OF MIND FOR  
ADMINISTRATORS  
FOR YEARS.



Even before the COVID-19 pandemic swept through Southeast Michigan, Notre Dame Preparatory School administrators were concerned about their students' mental and emotional health. The last two years escalated several issues, giving administrators pause to rethink how they could better support the needs of the most vulnerable.

Beyond COVID, students have been dealing with trauma related to social media usage, family and relationship issues, academics, social isolation, and the challenges of juggling a busy schedule of schoolwork and extracurricular activities. That is why during the 2021-2022 school year, the decision was made to invest more staff and resources in the counseling department to better support students' social and emotional needs.

"Social media is huge. It gives kids the ability to say things to each other that they wouldn't normally have said to somebody in person. They base their personality on likes and shares and that can have a negative impact on their day-to-day interactions," NDP Principal Kim Anderson said.

The department is led by Vlado Salic and previously consisted of four full-time guidance counselors who focused primarily on academic advising and career and college exploration to prepare students for the transition to college. That work included SAT/ACT prep, job shadowing opportunities, college application essay advising, study skills, and time management.

"Over the years, the demand for personal counseling has increased steadily," Salic said. "COVID, social media, the Oxford High School shooting have all exacerbated those needs and the immediacy to meet our students where they are at. We were finding ourselves meeting more and more with students about personal issues; it was hardly ever about college stuff."

In January, the team brought on Andrew Durkin, a full-time academic interventionist, and a fifth counselor, Elizabeth Stibich, who previously served as a behavioral health clinician at Hart Middle School in Rochester Hills, Mich. There, she was responsible for student preventive education, group and individual therapy, crisis intervention, substance abuse counseling and prevention, and nutrition education and suicide prevention.

With the restructuring, all high school students will now meet with two counselors throughout their four years at NDP. Salic and fellow counselor Margie Bond will handle the collegiate side of the student experience, while counselors Jason Whalen, Denise Mahoney, and Stibich will address the social, emotional, and academic (SEA) needs of students. To prepare for the transition, counselors met with students when they returned from Christmas break and then allowed students to choose which SEA counselor they felt most comfortable meeting with on a regular basis.

Additionally, students who are identified as needing extra academic support would then be referred to Durkin, who monitors their progress in the classroom, identifies those who are having learning issues or other academic problems, and works with teachers, students, and parents to develop a special plan to address these issues.

"Andy (Durkin) will help students with everything from organizational skills to more in-depth support in reading comprehension skills or math problem-solving skills," Yaroch said.

Jamal Cannon, a junior at NDP, said reorganizing the office to give students more face time with their counselor has been invaluable as he begins his college exploration.

"Ms. Bond has really been there for me especially now to make sure my



#### LEFT

Vlado Salic, who directs the Notre Dame Prep counseling department, speaks with junior Amanda Roth about college plans.

grades are staying on track for the college I want to attend. Mr. Whalen, I can come to him any time when I have questions about study skills,” Cannon said. “I leaned heavily on Ms. Mahoney for my own personal mental wellness during a particularly rough time during the aftermath of the Oxford High School shooting.”

#### MISSION-DRIVEN STUDENTS

A driving factor in the reorganization was administrators’ decision to evaluate what it means to be a mission-driven student—a Christian person, upright citizen and academic scholar.

“We were seeing places where we could be doing better in respect to each of those areas,” Yaroch said. “I would say the counseling department works very well addressing the second and third parts of our mission but part of being a Christian person is about how you treat others and how you respond to how you are being treated. We felt that to better meet the needs of our students and better address the full mission of our school, it made sense to do some shuffling around.”

The spiritual, emotional, and mental support of students have been top of mind for administrators for years, Anderson said. It was a driving reason behind the school’s change to a new class schedule that was rolled out in the 2019-2020 academic year.

The schedule provides more time for students to meet with advisors, catch up on homework, or attend presentations, and divides the curriculum into an A/B schedule with four classes per day.

“During community time we teach our students the skills they need to be a well-rounded person when they leave us,” Anderson said. “The changes to the counseling department are just an extension of what we’ve already been doing.”

For instance, student activities that take place during “community time” at NDP on Mondays, aptly named “Marist Mondays,” focus on cultivating what it means to be a Christian person to others. Additional activities focus on diversity, equity and inclusion issues, as well as students’ relationship with God. The “Find Your Grind” program, led by the counseling office, helps students figure out who they are and where they want to go by flipping the script on traditional career planning and focusing on a lifestyle-first approach.

Head of School Andrew Guest said allocating more resources to the counseling department will ensure students are better prepared for challenges both in life and in college once they leave Notre Dame. The holistic care of students was a key discussion point among administrators when the school began planning its budget this year. He pointed to the importance of the Notre Dame Fund, which supports the school’s operating budget in three key areas—everyday moments for students, teaching excellence, and financial aid for deserving families, when it comes to adding new staff.

“The success of the Notre Dame Fund is the primary vehicle for driving school improvement each year. Donations help us to address both the current and future needs of the school. Over the past two years, we have seen an increasing demand in counseling services,” he said. “In the old days, our counselors focused primarily on college placement. Now, they are spending most of their time managing the social and emotional needs of our students. Gifts to the Fund help us invest resources where needed most and right now student welfare and safety are among the highest priorities.” «

# GETTING INTO SCIENCE

*Well into the school year, lower school staff came together to review and reflect on its innovative new science curriculum*

Earlier last November, the teaching staff at Notre Dame Lower School met to review its new science curriculum for kindergarten through 5th graders. Jennette Wrobel, who teaches fifth grade, conducted the session, during which the HMH Into Science program was dissected to find out how it was working for the staff and for students.

According to Wrobel, the lower school's previous science curriculum contract expired last spring and the school took the opportunity to sign on to a more robust program.

"Our previous program really was not a great fit for us because it did not align as well with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which are the current national standards," she said. "We started with HMH Into Science this school year and we thought this week was a good time to gather our thoughts on the program so far."

In March of 2021, learning technology company Houghton Mifflin Harcourt introduced HMH Into Science K-5, one of its suite of "Into Learning" core programs. According to the company, the program allows for seamless learning within varied learning environments and incorporates multimedia components and digitally enhanced interactivity to deepen engagement. HMH Into Science also provides more of a hands-on experience as well as ELA integration.

"Into Science makes science easy and fun while still being impactful, and it's built for the current educational landscape," said Mark Grayson, the company's vice president of science learning experience design. "Whether

you're teaching remotely, in-person or in a hybrid environment, the program provides engaging content, online and offline access, and tailored guidance for every learner."

Wrobel said that the new program also aligns better with Notre Dame's existing International Baccalaureate pedagogy.

"This new science program relates to IB in a number of ways," she said. "Some of the biggest are that it promotes inquiry, discovery and hands-on learning by the children. Instead of the traditional read-and-find-the-answers, it's much more of a hands-on approach along with critical thinking."

She said lessons start with a "driving question" for students to explore and that there are a number of explorations that students complete throughout each unit.

Into Science also is more interactive and engaging, according to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, with resources like You Solve It! computer simulations that present true lab experiences where learners act almost like real scientists.

Wrobel added that lesson reviews involve much higher-level thinking questions and critical-thinking skills.

"One of the big discussion points for a



number of our teachers at our meeting was the complexity of the terminology in this program, which at times can be challenging for our students," she said.

"But we talked about how a challenge is not necessarily a bad thing and that we believe that Into Science is helping our students think on a higher level." «



## TOP

Notre Dame Lower School fifth-grade teacher Jennette Wrobel leads her class in a discussion about their upcoming IB Exhibition.

## McCAFFREY from page 5

made each other laugh," she said.

When asked how she will remember her friend, Nester said, "I will remember Kathleen as a lover of life, family, and friends. I miss her laugh and her friendship immensely."

In her role as HR director, Nester said McCaffrey was "all about fairness and equity and doing the right thing, even if it wasn't the popular thing."

"She made sure to look out for everyone," Nester said.

Hand agreed, stating: "Kathleen always had time if you needed to talk, and she never made you feel like speaking with her was an imposition. She was helpful and made coming to work fun. She furthered the mission by her willingness to go the extra mile if it needed to be done and supported the faculty and staff in any way she could."

Carrie Lytle, executive administrative

assistant to Guest, has known McCaffrey for decades, dating back to their time together when Notre Dame Lower School was in Waterford.

"We both started at Notre Dame around the same time," she said. "I immediately fell in love with her infectious laugh and very quick wit. I admired her grace intelligence."

Lytle said they both came from larger Irish, Catholic families and enjoyed sharing stories about that dynamic.

"We both had a mutual trust for and with one another that never wavered. It was so easy to be friends with Kathleen because she had such a big heart," she said.

Recalling one of her favorite memories of her friend, Lytle said McCaffrey always had a quiet grace about her and never wanted to trouble anyone.

"In 2013, Kathleen's eldest daughter Megan

was getting married. Kathleen had purchased two beautiful gowns to wear that evening. One for the wedding ceremony at the church and one for the reception. She was so worried about transitioning from the first gown into the second (countless buttons, hooks, straps) not to mention different jewelry, and shoes, etc. One day I said, "Let me be your personal assistant to help you." As a true McCaffrey she said, 'I wouldn't want you to do that just for me.' About a week later she agreed to let me help her. It is such a beautiful, fun memory! Kathleen looked radiant."

Lytle said she will remember her friend as a person with a kind and soft heart, but also "with the grit and fearless determination for her fight against cancer."

"Kathleen was honest, kind, brave, and so very funny! She will be forever missed by so many people," Lytle said. «

## POWELL from page 27

at Notre Dame Middle School. The experience taught me so much, and I was able to learn even more as I moved on to Atlanta. Also, these skills, which I will be able to use throughout my life, are essential to understanding how an interview works and how to present your ideas properly. But also important is learning how to do a proper handshake and learn basic etiquette. I believe it's important for students at all levels at Notre Dame to learn these same skills.

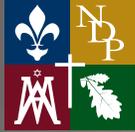
**Finally, can you comment on NDMS and how you might verbally promote both the school and the Amazing Shake to others considering attending the Notre Dame?**

Notre Dame introduced the Amazing Shake to me and I am so incredibly thankful for that experience. The Amazing Shake should be offered at every school because it teaches you certain aspects about life that you aren't really taught in a typical class. I also was very impressed with how well our school pulled it off; every student I talked to had something positive to say about the experience. This and the many other opportunities offered at Notre Dame add up to things that students won't be able to experience anywhere else. «



### LEFT

Powell is with Ron Clark, founder of the Amazing Shake competition and Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta.



# NOTRE DAME

Many alumni, parents and friends are already supporting the next generation of students by including Notre Dame in their estate plans.

## **BEQUESTS THROUGH A WILL OR TRUST**

One of the easiest ways to create a legacy with Notre Dame is through a bequest in your will or trust. You can leave a specific amount, percentage, or the residue of your estate.

## **BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS**

Naming our school the beneficiary of a retirement account, insurance policy, or bank or brokerage account only takes a few moments and allows flexibility if your plans change in the future.

For more information about how you can support the next generation of students, please visit

[www.ndpma.org/planalegacy](http://www.ndpma.org/planalegacy)



**IRISH NEWS FROM PAGE 2**



sity in University Heights, Ohio, and Alex Scherle signed to play football at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Congratulations to Billy and Alex! You will continue to make the Fighting Irish proud!

**NOTRE DAME PREP NAMES VARSITY BOYS TENNIS COACH**

The athletic department announced in early February that Leigh Ann Grubbs has been named head varsity boys tennis coach.

"We're very happy that Leigh Ann has agreed to take on the boys program," said Betty Wroubel, athletic



director and assistant principal at NDPMA. "She's got great credentials as both a coach and player and we look forward to their season in the fall."

Grubbs takes over the boys program after serving nine years as the team's assistant and 11 years as assistant for the girls team. She also was an assistant coach for the Irish ski program from 2011 to 2020. In 2020, Grubbs was named Assistant Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association and has served as a board member of NCAA Athletes for Youth, a Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Grubbs said she's looking forward to taking over the program.

"I am very excited to represent

NDP as the boys varsity tennis coach where I hope to leverage my single-word coaching philosophy into everything we do: 'respect,'" she said. "That means respect for self, team, school, competitors, and, of course, respect for the game of tennis."

Grubbs holds a Bachelor of Science degree in systems engineering from Miami University (Ohio) and was a member of the RedHawks' D1 women's swim team, a MAC champion for four straight years. In addition, she was a U.S. Tennis Association national qualifier as a player for two years.

**SENIOR GETS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE NOMINATION FROM THE STATE**

Notre Dame senior Alina Stanczak was named a finalist for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award in Class B. Stanczak is a multi-sport athlete at Notre Dame Prep, playing for the Irish in softball in the spring and swimming in the fall.

"I can't say enough about how proud we as a school community are of Alina," said Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director and assistant principal. "Not only for her academic and athletic accomplishments but also for the type of person she has become — a true embodiment of our school mission."



Stanczak was shocked and surprised to learn she was a finalist.

"I knew that so many people had applied and I feel incredibly honored just to be a finalist," she said. "I believe that for all of the finalists, it demonstrates the depth of what it means to be a student-athlete. Not only does it represent the hard work that

goes into being on a varsity sport, but also being involved deeply in academics."

**NOTRE DAME ANNOUNCES VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE COACH**

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



last year that Roger F. Soulliere III has been named head varsity boys lacrosse coach.

"We're excited to have somebody like Roger joining our 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. Most importantly, the fact that Roger is a very mission-centric coach is a huge blessing for us."

Soulliere comes to Notre Dame Prep after high school varsity coaching positions at De La Salle Collegiate High School in Warren and Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, Mich. He also served as director, Metro Detroit Division of Power Play Lacrosse and currently holds the position of boys high school travel coach for Grosse Pointe-based 313/GP Lacrosse.

"Becoming the head coach at an exceptional school like Notre Dame Prep is a dream I have worked toward for the past 10 years," Soulliere said. "The school's rich tradition, commitment to building young students through faith and academic excellence are why I am honored to join this program. I look forward to starting this journey with the entire NDP family. Go Irish!"

Before coaching, Soulliere played as a three-year starter

at Grand Valley State University where he was named to the CCLA All-Conference and MCLA All-Academic teams in 2010. Before GVSU, he played at Utica Eisenhower High School where he was named third-team All State in 2008.

Soulliere holds a master's degree in public health from Wayne State University and a bachelor's degree from GVSU's College of Health Professions.

**PREPARING STUDENTS TO SOLVE WORLD CRISES**

On Nov. 13, member schools of the the Southeast Michigan Model United Nations Association (SEMMUNA) got together at Bloomfield Hills High School for the first big state event this school year for high school students involved in MUN, or Model United Nations.

Model United Nations, which has national, state and regional components, is a nonprofit organization that advances understanding of the United Nations and contemporary international issues. Students typically simulate a UN assembly or meeting and act as a country that tries to pass resolutions that would benefit your country in a specific



meeting or around a common objective.

The fall conference in Bloomfield Hills was structured around three committee blocs: the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee (SOCHUM), which deliberated on combating hate speech; the World Health Organization (WHO) committee, which focused on pandemic preparedness; and the United Nations Environmental Pro-



gramme (UNEP), which worked on ocean pollution.

Michael Kenny, currently a sophomore at Notre Dame Prep and one of the leaders of the school's MUN group, said all of NDP's contingent were members of the UNEP bloc working on ocean pollution. He said NDP students had a great time at the event.

"In our work at the conference, the NDP students' countries ranged all the way from the United States and the United Kingdom to Tunisia and South Africa," he said. "While not all of us were successful in passing our resolutions to the UNEP issues, we all had an amazing time."

#### **FOUR SIGN TO PLAY SPORTS AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL**

In an event held in November in front of their peers, four senior student-athletes from Notre Dame Prep signed on to play athletics at the college level.

Aly Borellis signed with University of Mississippi to play volleyball; Josie Bloom signed to play volleyball for Virginia Tech; Bianca Giglio signed to play volleyball at Marshall University; and Jordan Smith signed to play softball at Central Michigan University.

Congratulations to Aly, Josie, Bianca and Jordan! You will continue to make the Fighting Irish proud!



#### **NATIONAL BEST AND BRIGHTEST**

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) announced in October that nine volleyball players from Notre Dame Prep were named as part of the first-ever AVCA Best and Brightest Award for high school senior student-athletes.

The AVCA Best and Brightest Award is an award meant to honor individual high school senior student-athletes from across the

country who excel on and off the court.

Notre Dame Prep seniors Josie Bloom, Aly Borellis, Bianca Giglio, Leah Greif, Abby Nellis, Sara



Nouhan, Hanna Rutila, Sophia Sudzina and Elyssa Wallace were named to the list by the AVCA.

To be eligible for the Best and Brightest Award, senior student-athletes must have earned at least a 3.0 unweighted/3.5 weighted GPA (or the equivalent if using a different GPA scale) during their junior year and play in 50 percent of their varsity team's sets during their senior season.

### **PRAYERS**

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

**Stanley Bronski ND'59**

**Gregory Butke ND'73**, Sept. 10, 2021

**Gary Crake SF'54**, Nov. 17, 2021

**David Dubay ND'81**, brother of Dan Dubay ND'80.

**Mary Louise (Theeringer) File SF'59**, March 19, 2021

**Joyce Frias SF'51**, Sept. 21, 2021

**Gerald Fritz ND'75**, April 26, 2021

**Edward Pierre Herveat SF'55**, Oct. 21, 2021

**Margaret (Drake) Hoeft SF'57**, Feb. 18, 2022

**Paul Husereau ND'79**, Oct. 17, 2021

**Mark Kozentis ND'68**, brother of Alan Kozentis ND'73, Dec. 20, 2021

**Roger Landry SF'62**, beloved husband of Rosie Landry SM'59, May 8, 2021

**Donald Larson PC'72**, brother of Karen Barach SF'66, Bob Larson PC'78, Jean Zales PC'75, Mary Jo Clark PC'73, Marcia Worthy PC'73, Herbert Larson PC'70, and Marilyn Grenier SF'65, Nov. 1, 2019

**Michael Meganck ND'70**, brother of Richard Meganck ND'68 and Allan Meganck ND'73; uncle of Nathan Meganck ND'02, Dec. 26, 2021

**Matthew McDonald NDP'01**, Feb. 13, 2022

**Doug Presto SF'59**, July 23, 2021

**George Runstadler III ND'60**, March 2, 2022

**Joan Ryan-Hunter SF'50**

**Walt Rybak ND'82**, brother of Howard Rybak ND'76 and Thomas Rybak ND'84, Jan. 20, 2022

**Joyce (Wheaton) Shannon PC'71**, Oct. 17, 2021

**Michael Tyrrell SF'66**, Dec. 21, 2021

**Paul Vago ND'66**, brother of Dave Vago ND'69 and uncle of Scott Vago ND'98, Oct. 29, 2021

**Tracy Lynn (Gardner) Wagner PC'88**, Dec. 23, 2021

**Richard Warrilow SF'60**, Aug. 16, 2021

**James Zeleznik SF'56**, Oct. 9, 2021

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@endpma.org](mailto:prayers@endpma.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 HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

**Mike Ales ND'79** is married with two grown sons and owns Ultimate Contracting, specializing in structural repairs. He lives in Casco Township.

**Brian Barney ND'83** would like to connect with classmates from the Class of 1983.

**Jan Bentoske ND'59** wife of over 50 years passed away on Sept. 11, 2021.

**Rick Caretti ND'71** has been named a top circuit judge for the last five years by dBusiness magazine. He was awarded the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel's prestigious Judicial Excellence Award for 2022.

**Jerry Drenzek ND'75** is retired.

**Nathan Edmonds ND'87** has served as co-managing partner of Secrest Wardle, an insurance defense litigation firm, based in Troy, Mich. since 2020. He has been named to Super Lawyers, dBusiness magazine's "Top Lawyers," and U.S. News & World Report's Best Lawyers of America list for multiple years. His daughter Katherine NDP'18 graduates from Florida Southern University this spring with a 3.9 GPA and a degree in business/communication and pre-law. His son Joshua NDP'20 is currently attending the University of Tampa majoring in finance. He resides in Waterford.

**Matt Foley ND'79** retired from Ford Motor Company on Dec. 31, 2020 with 25 years of service.

**Calvin Gaskins ND'91** has three boys ages 31, 24, and 20, and three grandsons. His first granddaughter is due May 28. He served in the U.S. Marines for six-and-a-half years, traveled, and has to many different places including Germany, Africa, Japan, England, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Korea.

**Carey Grzadzinski ND'72** retired in 2015 and enjoys traveling. He has visited Key West to the Arctic Circle twice, Atlantic to Pacific twice. Toured

with a blues band in 2020 (All-American Blues and Boogie Tour) booked from Key West to Keni, Alaska. Shut down by COVID-19. The tour is currently regrouping.

**David Jarvis ND'72** is an emeritus professor of music at Washington State University; retired coordinator of Percussion Studies; and a Yamaha artist/educator and composer. Prof. Jarvis was the coordinator of Percussion Studies at Washington State University for 33 years beginning in 1987. He has performed internationally in both classical and jazz arenas and during his tenure at WSU. He was a member of Jazz Northwest (the WSU faculty jazz group) and co-member of the trumpet/percussion duo, Cameradschaft. Jarvis now lives in Hawaii but continues to travel around the country giving workshops and clinics in jazz and classical performance and is a member of the Percussive Arts Society and an artist/clinician/educator for the Yamaha Corporation. His compositions have been performed all over the world and are published by Southern Music Company, Honeyrock Publishing Company, C. Alan Publications, and Activist Music (distributed by Hal Leonard). Larry Egan, band director at Notre Dame High School in the 1960s through the '80s is the reason he went into music.

**Michael Kastler ND'75** is happy to report that Kastler Financial Planning became an independent Registered Investment Advisory firm in 2019. In late 2021, we continued the transition to an "advice-only" retirement planning services firm. Our motto is, "We Help You Visualize Your Retirement Possibilities." Kastler said he is thankful for what God has done with this career and business opportunity. "I give a lot of credit to my early education years at Notre Dame for helping me become a critical thinker, instilling the passion and courage to do things differently, and the perseverance when things look grim!" Kastler and his wife enjoy spending time with their grandkids (ages 5 through 12) in Groveland Township, Mich. His son in the U.S. Air Force now lives in Japan.

**Pat Oliver ND'72** is celebrating the birth of his sixth grandchild in October, Landon James Oliver.

**H. "Rusty" Platz III ND'60** is one of five watercolor artists invited to the Jack Dorsey Invitational of Vintage Watercolorists of Washington for 2022.

**Dale Slivik ND'82** lives in Macomb with his wife Linda (Gallmore-Regina ND'84). The couple has two sons, Eric and Taylor. His daughter Taylor was married last year. Slivik works for the Department of Defense as a mechanical engineer in the Prototype Integration Facility.

**Leo Studzinski ND'77** and his wife have been living in Alicante, Spain, for the last two years. The couple moved to Spain after having spent the previous 33 years in Seattle, Wash.

**Dennis Wahl ND'62** is a past vice president of two Michigan mortgage corporations. He previously served as a realtor and past president of the Macomb Property Owner's Association.

**Scott Watko ND'79** has been employed in construction for almost 40 years. He has four children, three boys and one girl. He also has three grandchildren.

## NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL ALUMNI

**Sarah Bierut NDP'10** married her husband and love of her life, Alex, on Aug. 8, 2021.

**Shawn Cencer NDP'07** welcomed his first child, Bonnie Fae Cencer, in August 2021, with his wife, Janet.

**Evelyn Everhart NDP'09** is a university English Language instructor overseas. She has been teaching for six years in four different countries and is willing to connect with any student who may have questions about living and working abroad.

**Erinn Fredin NDP'11** stars in the upcoming Lifetime movie "Happily Never After", scheduled for release on June 3, 2022. She is a classically trained actress from Michigan and Stockholm,



## STAY IN TOUCH



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AlumniAssociation



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## NETWORK WITH IRISH ALUMS

Linkedin.com Notre Dame  
Alumni Association (Pontiac)

## IRISH E-NEWSLETTER

Receive news and information, emailed monthly. Update your email address at [ndpma.org/update](http://ndpma.org/update).

Sweden and has been seen on stages in seven countries as an actress, singer, puppeteer, and in mask. Recent television/film credits include ABC Freeform's upcoming untitled Julie Durk project directed by Jeffrey Reiner and "The Queue." Most notable roles in London were Nora in "A Doll's House," Castiza in "The Revenger's Tragedy," Kattrin in "Mother Courage and her Children," and Isabella in "The Changeling." She holds a Master of Arts degree from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul. She can be seen in a collection of funny commercials across the United States and continues to write,

adapt, and create new work.

**Michael Juszczakiewicz NDP'98, Scott Lockhart NDP'98, Anthony Farchone NDP'98, Jeff Healy NDP'98, and Matt Urbanski NDP'98** have been "crushing our Wednesday night weekly trivia competition" at G's Pizzeria in Lake Orion, Mich. We are currently on a three-week winning streak and accept challenges from any and all.

**Christina Shkulaku NDP'09** welcomed a baby girl on Feb. 5, 2022, with her husband Kenny.

#### PONTIAC CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

**Carl Bevins PC'85** is semi-retiring from full-time

golf operations and concentrating on coaching and golf instruction. He is moving to the Florida Keys for the winter months.

**Randall Forshee PC'85** married his partner in Asheville, North Carolina on Feb. 14, 2022.

**Carla Hemming Temple PC'75** retired from teaching Spanish for 20 years. She and her husband are soon to be grandparents.

#### ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

**Carlene (Linsenman) Bischoff SM'54** says "hello" to her fellow classmates and extends her well wishes.

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### INTERESTED IN PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

Contact **Beth Lockhart, Executive Director of Alumni Relations**, at [blockhart@ndpma.org](mailto:blockhart@ndpma.org) or 248-630-7722.

#### NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL

##### Class of 2017

Reunion planning is underway for the Class of 2017. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ndp2017>. Any questions, please contact [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org).

##### Class of 2002

Reunion planning is underway for the Class of 2002. Any questions, please contact [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org).

#### NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

##### Classes of 1979-1985

The classes of 1979-1985 reunion will be held Sun., Nov. 12, 2022, at 5 p.m. Capital Banquet Center, 12350 31 Mile Road, Washington, Mich. The cost is \$20 per person and includes pizza and salad. Cash bar will be available. If you are interested in being one of the class captains for this event, contact John Bendzinski at [info@capitalbanquet.com](mailto:info@capitalbanquet.com).

##### Class of 1971

The Class of 1971 is having their 50+1 reunion at Club Venetian on Nov. 20, 2022. A webpage has been set up: [mjscsi.com/notredame-71-50th-reunion](http://mjscsi.com/notredame-71-50th-reunion). Please contact Mike Scharl with any questions at [notredame71@att.net](mailto:notredame71@att.net).

##### Class of 1962

The Class of 1962's 60th reunion will take place Sunday, May 1, 2022. Rev. Robert Nalley ND'62 will celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. inside the chapel at Notre Dame Prep, 1300 Giddings Road in Pontiac. Coffee and a tour of the school will follow at 11 a.m. Join fellow alumni for a family-style luncheon at Alfocchino's Italian Restaurant, 2225 N. Opdyke Rd. in Auburn Hills at 2 p.m. RSVP online at [ndpma.org/nd1962](http://ndpma.org/nd1962) or call John Trinkwalder at 586-214-3137. The cost is \$35.

#### PONTIAC CATHOLIC

##### Class of 1972

The Class of 1972's 50th reunion will take place on Saturday, July 16, 2022. Tours of Notre Dame Prep will take place at 11 a.m. The reunion will take place from 1-10 p.m. at Pontiac Lake Recreation Area. For more details, contact Maureen (Horton) Peabody, [maureen7107@gmail.com](mailto:maureen7107@gmail.com) or 231-233-6113.

#### ST. FREDERICK

##### Class of 1952

The Class of 1952 will be hosting a 70th reunion on Sept. 11, 2022. The reunion will begin at St. Vincent de Paul church for a 10:30 a.m. liturgy, followed by a tour of the school. A luncheon will be held at Santia Hall at 1 p.m. Tickets will be available at Kennedy's Irish Pub.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Big Band Dinner Dance

**May 21, 6 p.m. at the Lafayette Grande**

Alumni interested in playing in the alumni band, please contact [jmartin@ndpma.org](mailto:jmartin@ndpma.org). For tickets to the event, visit [ndpma.org](http://ndpma.org) in late April.

### Alumni Career Network Workshop

**May 26, 6 p.m., in the NDP library**

Join the Notre Dame Alumni Association on May 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the library for our inaugural Alumni Career Network workshop. Launch your career path with confidence by participating in this special day designed to give you the

tools you need to stand out in today's competitive market. Hear from HR professionals about trends employers look for and how you can outshine other applicants. Get your resume reviewed, attend mock interviews, receive a free professional headshot, and so much more! Email [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org) to register.



# NOTRE DAME

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