

IRISH

ISSUE 31

Spring/Summer 2023

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THE SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE



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NOTRE DAME

IRISH

Spring/Summer 2023 | Issue 31

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

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy

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Artist's Statement

'Free Mind' is a reflection of the process of my dreams, with branches connecting the light of serene fantasies with the dark of nightmares. The subject matter is inspired by French sculptor Éva Jospin's panoramic wood and cardboard forests that she connects to feelings of childhood. The vibrant, swirling colors of the wool recreate my own childhood wonders that are accessed again when I dream. This piece connects my dreams into the epitome of each surreal conception."

Madeline Lawrence, Class of 2023

On the Cover

"Free Mind" by Madeline Lawrence NDP'23, a scholarship winner from The Savannah College of Art and Design, was created using the felting process whereby strands of colored wool is woven through a fabric backing. The piece earned a Gold Key in Mixed Media from this year's Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition for the Southeastern Michigan region. Read Lawrence's full artist's statement below left.

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Who and what we are



Next year, we will be celebrating the 30-year anniversary of Notre Dame Prep and I am proud to say that I have been here for 18 of those years. I am grateful to the alumni from Notre Dame High School, Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic, St. Frederick and St. Michael who preceded Notre Dame Prep and laid the groundwork for its success. Most of all, I am appreciative of the Marist Fathers and Brothers who founded the school and have had such an impact on so many lives.

The recent shooting at Michigan State University weighs heavily on the minds of our alumni. Over the last 30 years, I would estimate we have sent between 1,000 and 1,500 graduates to MSU. If you add the number of MSU alumni from our legacy schools, the number probably exceeds 2,500. One must ask what kind of world have we become where students cannot even go to school without the fear of harm? Our prayers and thoughts are with all of our alumni from MSU.

This past year, we have spent a great deal of time thinking about what school we want to become in the future. We are generally regarded as one of the top Catholic schools in the Midwest. We offer outstanding academics, a strong moral foundation (seated in our Marist educational philosophy), and boundless opportunities to grow through our award-winning arts, robotics and athletic programs.

Dr. Norm Berlinger, a trustee and alumnus from Notre Dame High School's Class of '62, recently shared a story about a letter he received as a young man from Fr. Omer St. Onge, s.m., former NDHS principal, complimenting him for representing the Notre

Dame ideal in his career. At the time, he said he didn't know what that meant. Later, he came to realize that the educational and spiritual foundation he received as a young man had permeated his adult person, almost through osmosis. Today, as a retiree, he is volunteering his expertise in adolescent psychology to give back to the community and students at Notre Dame Prep.

At a recent Parents Club meeting, we were discussing why parents choose Notre Dame Prep. John Hensler, our treasurer, mentioned how "chaotic" a place the world is becoming. Parents choose Notre Dame Prep because it's a refuge from the chaos of our secular world. Notre Dame Prep is both progressive and traditional. As an International Baccalaureate school, we combine a best-in-class educational pedagogy with our Catholic and Marist values. We challenge students to be the best version of themselves. We teach children the importance of prayer and God in their lives. And, we provide them with a moral compass that will help them make good decisions in life.

Our faculty, staff and coaches work tirelessly to ensure that Notre Dame Prep sticks to its mission and that we remain a place that alumni are proud to call home. Homecoming is tentatively set for Friday, Sept. 23. Last year, we had more than 300 alumni come back to visit. We hope that you will do so again this year.

Blessings and Peace!

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

Andrew J. Guest ND'84
Head of School



One of

Longtime business manager and alum passes away following battle with cancer

the ‘good guys’

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., founder and corporate president of Notre Dame Preparatory School, passed along sad news in late January that Chuck Stys, alumnus and former longtime business manager of Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods, had died after a brief hospitalization in Wisconsin at the age of 80. Olszamowski delivered the eulogy at Chuck’s funeral mass at St. Anthony on the Lake Catholic Church in Pewaukee, Wisc., on Feb. 23, 2023. His note below was based on that eulogy.

Dear alumni and friends of Notre Dame High School:

I write today to celebrate the life of Charles (Chuck) Stys, 1960 graduate and business manager for 32 years (1971-2003) at his beloved Harper Woods Notre Dame High School. Chuck loved Notre Dame and mourned its closing in 2005. He retired in 2003, unable to continue working after a long bout with cancerous lymphoma and multiple rounds of chemotherapy. Anecdotally, Ann, his wife, mentioned that he would receive his chemo on Fridays, struggle through the weekends, and be at work at ND the following Mondays.

Those who knew Chuck, understood that he was a consummate gentleman—always kind, caring and respectful of students, parents, faculty and staff at Notre Dame. He was particularly kind, respectful and caring of the Marist Fathers and Brothers at the school, even working with some tough and demanding rectors and principals during his tenure. I personally worked closely with Chuck during some trying times at NDHS and found him to be thoughtful, careful and hopeful about Notre Dame’s future.



Chuck had married Ann, a Regina High School graduate, with whom they helped God create four wonderful daughters who grew up and moved to Wisconsin, Minnesota, and France. He and Ann lived in Michigan for several more years before moving to Wisconsin in 2012, after the passing of his parents, to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Ann remarked that he felt a sense of pride keeping himself in shape, walking 10,000 and more steps each day. She added that Chuck felt blessed to stay in remission from his cancer for 20 years. Unfortunately, that cancer returned and took him from us on Jan. 18, 2023.

Ann remarked that the simultaneous deaths of Dolores and Dennis Lynch in an automobile

accident was a particularly difficult time for him. Dolores had been his longtime assistant in the ND business office.

Chuck died the proud grandfather of nine grandchildren and the entire family, which was at his side when he passed peacefully, gathered together as we celebrated his life and his passing into the Lord’s company on February 23 at St. Anthony on the Lake Catholic Church, Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

I had the great pleasure to know Chuck and to work with him closely for seven years at Harper Woods Notre Dame, and it was my distinct honor to concelebrate his

funeral liturgy in February.

Having graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1965, having had the privilege to serve as teacher and principal there for 14 years, and having worked as teacher and administrator at Notre Dame Preparatory School for going on 29 years, I want you all to know how very blessed the Marists have been to have such loyal, kind and professional co-workers. Chuck Stys, as Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., our provincial would say, was “one of the good guys.” I hope that Chuck will pray for us so that our journey through life to God’s heaven will be as successful as was his. May he rest in peace. Amen. «

Irish News

THREE FROM NOTRE DAME PREP GET NATIONAL ART HONORS



Notre Dame Prep senior Anise Kruse earned a National Gold Medal Award in the Scholastic Art & Writing Award competition for "Hypnotized."

A student-artist from Notre Dame Prep, senior Anise Kruse, learned March 22 that she earned a National Gold Medal Award as part of the 100th annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, one of the highest awards given by Scholastic. Past winners of the National Gold Medal Award include Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford and Joyce Carol Oates.

Senior Meghan Ferrara and sophomore Emily Mantych earned a National Silver Medal Award from Scholastic.

Kruse won her National Gold Medal in printmaking for "Hypnotized," which also earned a Gold Key earlier in the year in the Southeast Michigan and Thumb Art Region competition. Ferrara won her National Silver Medal for her printmaking piece titled, "Mango," and Mantych earned a Silver Medal in drawing and illustration for "Smoky."

According to Sandy LewAllen, Notre Dame's art chair, Scholastic typically awards only 40 national medals in the region.

"These national silver and gold medals are chosen from the regional gold key awardees only," she said. "So the odds of getting them are very long, which means

our three national medals represent a huge accomplishment for these kids and for our school."

By virtue of her National Gold Medal, Kruse also will be honored at the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards event scheduled in June at New York City's Carnegie Hall.

VEX IQ TEAMS PUNCH TICKETS TO WORLDS

The VEX IQ Robotics State Championships were held in Monroe at the River Raisin National Park Visitor's Center on March 11-12 and according to Notre Dame Prep team mentor Jerry Palardy, it was another triumphant trip for the student-roboters.



Team 3333T, "Tornado Troopers," Steven Carter, Juan Pablo Turrubiarres and Sam Tyler won the Amaze Award and earned a trip to the world championships in Dallas.

"The championship was for the under-12 division and our Team 3333Y 'Wynaut,' consisting of sixth graders David Ma, Thomas Binkowski and Graden Grech, started the day with some technical issues and bad luck," Palardy said. "But they persevered, finishing strong and placing sixth while taking home the 'Build Award,' which is presented to the team with the most robust and durable robot. That award earned the sixth graders an invitation to the VEX World Champi-

onship in Dallas.

The 12 and older division held its championship in Monroe and NDP's team of Steven Carter, Juan Pablo Turrubiarres and Sam Tyler, Team 3333T, "Tornado Troopers," had quite a run in the qualification rounds, ranking as high as third place during the day and entering the finals in the No. 4 alliance.

"They punched their ticket to VEX Worlds by winning the prestigious 'Amaze Award,' which is given to the team with the most awe-inspiring and amazing robot," Palardy said. "Notre Dame fielded teams in all four divisions of the VEX Michigan State Championship this year, seven teams in all. And all seven of them advanced to the VEX World Championship. We have an outstanding group of students this year and I am so proud of them."

SECOND ANNUAL CREATIVE WRITING SCHOLARSHIP OPENS

The second annual Michael J. Kotzan Creative Writing Scholarship Award opened in early March for ninth graders at Notre Dame Prep who aspire to be creative writers perhaps interested in playwriting.

Michael was a proud 2005 graduate of Notre Dame Prep. After attending the James Madi-

son College at Michigan State University, he studied law at the University of Miami Law School, Fla. He became a member of the



Michael J. Kotzan

Illinois Bar in 2012. While practicing law in Chicago, Mike was inspired to expand his writing skills to the creative side. In 2018, Mike decided to move to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of becoming a Hollywood screenwriter. On June 1, 2021, Michael died suddenly with his dream still in place. This scholarship award is intended to inspire the future creative writers enrolled at NDP.

This year's creative entry for the scholarship should be a one-act play not exceeding 40 pages. The subject is one of the student's choosing and it can take any genre: fantasy, science fiction, humor, romance, mystery, etc. The story should be appropriate, in line with the NDP philosophy.

This year's deadline for entries is June 12.

VRC TEAMS QUALIFY FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At the VEX Robotics Competition state championship for students 15 and younger, which was held on March 4 in Monroe, Notre Dame Prep had three teams representing the school and all three advanced to the World Championship.

Team 3333B, "TechnoBacon," punched their Worlds ticket by making it to the semifinals when they nearly upset the No. 1 seed. Coplin Serota's driving was one of the keys to their success as was Tomasz Kapusniak's programming along with the mechanical skills of pit crew Brady Rossmiller and Rory DeYoung.

Team 3333X, "X-treme Bot," consisting of ninth graders Krrish Patel (driver) and Patrick Riley (primary programmer) and seventh-grade pit crew, Will

Platt, Chris Artinian and Caden Staniszewski, won the Innovate Award, which is given to the team that demonstrates “out of the box” thinking and unique solutions to engineering problems.

Team 3333M, “Hawaiian Rats,” comprised of seventh graders Sofia Arinez (programmer/driver), Vanessa Artinian (pit crew) and Arwyn McCormick (pit crew/driver), won the Pit Decorating Award, but more importantly, advanced to the World Championship as a wild card, based on their driving and programming skills.

The World Championship for this age group will be in Dallas, Texas, beginning April 27.

IDEAS WITH EMPATHY



Notre Dame Prep’s upper school students go over their product ideas, which are intended to make a positive difference in the lives of many in need.

Both sections of Notre Dame Prep’s innovative and first-in-the-nation engineering and empathy class are now working on their chosen inventions and have recently moved into the second phase of their projects where product ideas are fleshed out a bit more and product markets are further researched.

“We completed our first phase, which is interviewing community partners to determine needs,” said class instructor Louise Palardy, Notre Dame’s STEM specialist and manager of the school’s robotics center. “The students are working in small groups of two to four members each on their technological inventions.”

During phase one, the class chose which community partners they would like to work with; either Shelly Loose, a woman who is a quadriplegic, or

Fred Gillespie, a fire chief affiliated with the Leary Firefighter Foundation.

“Once they decided with which community partner they would like to work, the kids decided on a struggle that their partner is facing and then a solution,” Palardy said. “Research at this stage includes asking and answering questions such as ‘what is currently on the market for this struggle,’ ‘how many people face this problem,’ ‘what makes the solution unique,’ and ‘is it buildable,’ among others.”

Each team created a slide deck of their initial idea information as well as a video presentation and forwarded them to a number of engineers in the area who volunteered to review the initial ideas and provide valuable feedback.

NOTRE DAME SENIOR WINS SPECIAL STATE SCHOLARSHIP

Notre Dame senior Amanda Roth was named one of only 13 senior student-athletes in the state to earn the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) scholarship for the 2022-2023 school year.

“Congratulations to Amanda on winning this honor and scholarship,” said Notre Dame athletic director and assistant principal Betty Wroubel. “It’s really quite an honor! The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship reserved for student athletes who best exemplify the values found and developed in educational athletics.”

Wroubel said the \$1,000 scholarship award is part of an annual MIAAA program that helps defray the college expenses of exceptional graduating seniors as they



make their way to colleges and universities in the fall.

“The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association believes in rewarding students who flourish in both academic and athletic excellence and commit to service to his or her local community,” a press release from the MIAAA said. “The selection process for this year was highly competitive and Amanda is very deserving of this honor.”

A four-sport athletic (ski, golf, softball, tennis) and academic standout for the Fighting Irish, Roth helped Notre Dame Prep’s girls team win their fourth state championship since 2019. She joins former Irish student-athletes Michael Broderick (2013), Max Schwegman (2014), Celia Gaynor (2018) and Jennifer Ohlsson (2020) as MIAAA scholarship winners.

BELEJ NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Thomas Belej, a member of Notre Dame Prep’s Class of 2023, has been named a finalist in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. He now will compete for one of 7,250 scholarships worth more than \$28 million that will begin to be awarded in the spring.

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



Notre Dame Prep senior Thomas Belej is with his collegiate counselor Margie Bond after receiving notification of his NMSC finalist status.

mately 1.6 million entrants each year — and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

More than 30,000 students across the country applied last year for the National Merit Scholarship program.

LOWER SCHOOL BOOK READING CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Each February, the Notre Dame community celebrates Black History Month, a time of year where we recognize the advances and contributions made by Black Americans within our communities. The school’s special guest in February was board trustee and school parent Rumia Burbank, who dropped by the lower school to read “Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race” by Margot Lee Shetterly.



Burbank also talked about her job in technology and encouraged the students to continue to think about how they can make the world a better place — just like the brilliant women in the story who persevered despite numerous barriers.

“Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the

SEE IRISH NEWS ON PAGE 32

BEST-SELL

Author of groundbreaking thriller for young adults was on campus to discuss her debut novel, her Indigenous culture and the writing process that has led to such a whirlwind of success.

Angeline Bouley, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is a storyteller who writes about her Ojibwe community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In the past, she also has served as director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education and as her tribe's education director/assistant executive director.

She's also a New York Times best-selling author currently working with former president Barack and Michelle Obama's production company on a Netflix adaptation of her first book, "Firekeeper's Daughter."

And while it's certainly happened before, whenever somebody's book debut becomes an instant No. 1 New York Times bestseller, it is a big deal — a "really" big deal — and, as a result, Bouley's life likely will never be the same.

The book, which is geared toward young adults 12 to 18 years old, also earned Bouley the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature, the Printz Award, the William C. Morris award for YA debut literature, and was an American Indian Youth Literature Award Honor Book. Additionally, in August 2021, TIME Magazine named the book to its "Best Young Adult Books of All-Time" list.

Now, as Bouley, who still lives in Michigan, is planning to publish her second novel, "Warrior Girl Unearthed," this year and continues to work with the Obamas' production company, Higher Ground Productions on the Netflix series, she still finds time to visit with young people.

On Feb. 6, Bouley traveled across the state to Notre Dame Prep in order to spend some quality time with high-schoolers and middle schoolers.

Organized by librarians Liz Aguilar and Megan Rochon in an effort to expose students to more cultural touchstones, the award-winning author gave a presentation to NDP freshmen and invited sophomores, juniors and seniors about the themes of her debut novel, the Ojibwe culture and writing. Later in the day, middle school students attended her presentation on Ojibwe culture and writing.



Bouley said she always looks forward to these school events.

"I actually do between two to five school visits per month," she said. "I enjoy meeting younger readers the most, because the conversations tend to be less filtered and more insightful."

"Firekeeper's Daughter" follows the adventures of Daunis Fontaine, a native 18-year-old living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, who, in an attempt to expose corruption in the community, goes undercover in an FBI investigation and uncovers more than she expected.

Bouley, who in the past has described the novel as an "Indigenous Nancy Drew," says she typically tells young readers that the book is about love, death, and hockey — "as a teen girl tries to figure out who is responsible for a new drug that is devastating her Native American community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula."

LING VISIT

Asked about progress on the Netflix series based on her novel, Bouley says everything is moving along, but acknowledges that such things take time.

“The showrunner and head writer have worked on a pilot script that Netflix has approved,” she said. “The next step is to assemble a writers room of four to eight more writers to work on the scripts for season 1. Once Netflix greenlights those, they’ll move from the development phase to the production phase — which will involve casting and location selections.”

Bouley said she hasn’t yet spoken with the Obamas on the project, “but I look forward to meeting them in person when ‘Firekeeper’s Daughter’ premieres.”

And while she may have some ideas when it comes to casting the series, she’s also keeping an open mind and in fact welcomes suggestions from her young readership.

“In addition to some of the fan art I receive, I love to see the casting ideas that students have for ‘Firekeeper’s Daughter!’” «



THIS PAGE

Author Angeline Bouley discussed indigenous culture and her writing career with Notre Dame Prep upper and middle school students. She also participated in a podcast with the “Talk of the Irish” podcast club and signed copies of her book for students, faculty and

staff. “Firekeeper’s Daughter,” Bouley’s debut novel, was published in March of 2021. Her second book, “Warrior Girl Unearthed,” will be released in May of this year.



PAINTING A CASE IN DETROIT

High-profile legal battle over a painting in a major exhibition of artwork by Vincent van Gogh at the Detroit Institute of Arts is keeping attorney Andrew Pauwels NDP'05 busy.

ABOVE

Andrew Pauwels graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2005 and is a partner at Detroit law firm Honigman LLP.

OPPOSITE

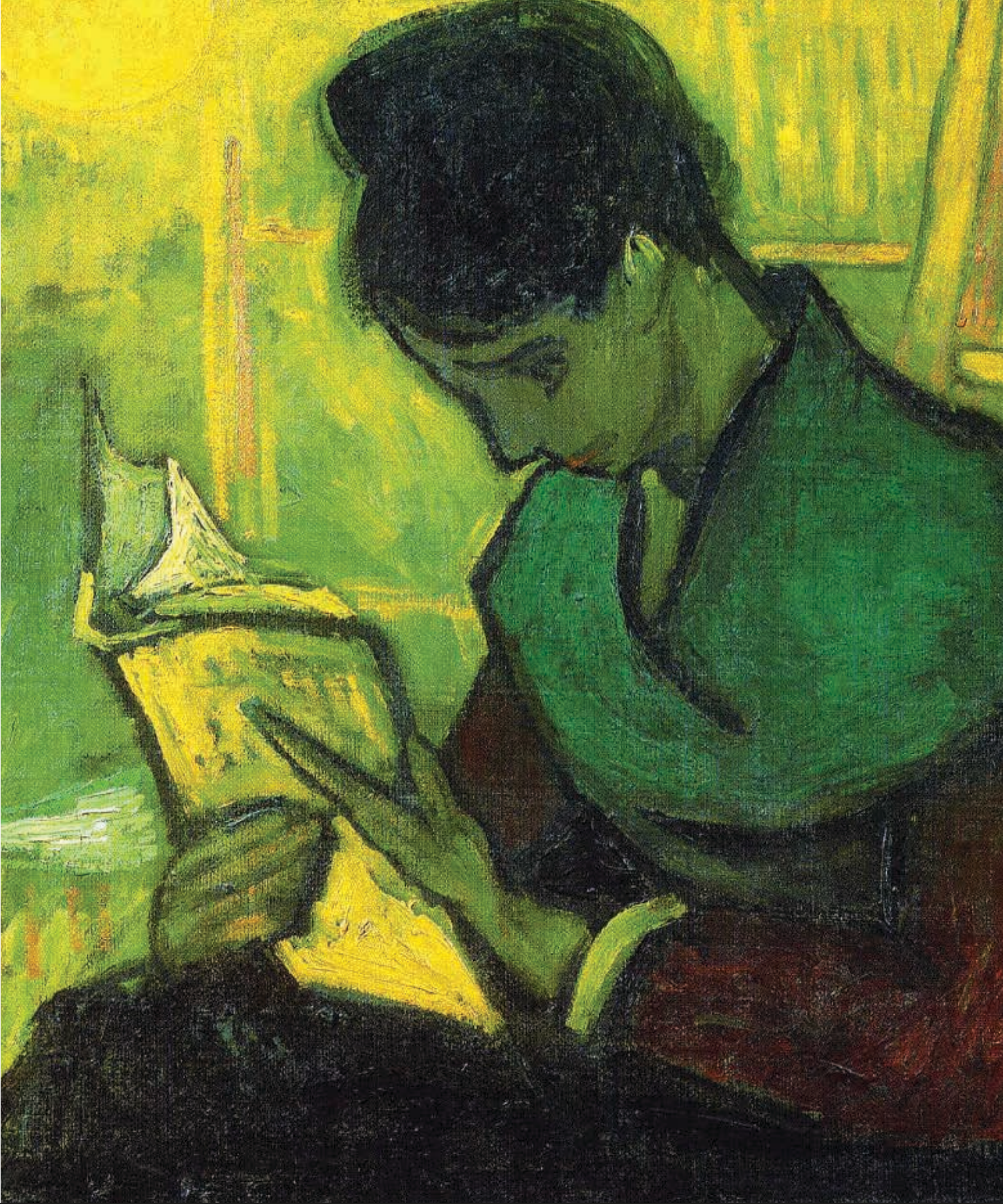
Pauwels is representing the Detroit Institute of Arts in a dispute over ownership of Van Gogh's "Une Liseuse de Romans," a.k.a., "The Novel Reader."

The Detroit Institute of Art's status as the first public museum in the United States to purchase a painting by Vincent van Gogh (Self-Portrait 1887) no doubt contributed to the decision to mount a major exhibition late last year of 74 authentic Van Gogh works from around the world.

The exhibition saw huge crowds that explored the considerable efforts made by early promoters of modernism in the United States to introduce the artist, his biography, and his artistic production into the American consciousness.

The show, which ended January 22 after three-and-a-half months, was arguably one of the museum's most successful exhibitions ever, counting nearly 200,000 visitors during its relatively short run.

While Van Gogh's "Self Portrait," acquired in 1922, would typically get more interest





ABOVE

Andrew Pauwels and his wife, Jennifer, currently live in Ferndale with their son, Anthony (5).

from attendees than the artist's other pieces, another rather obscure painting became the most talked-about piece, especially during the show's final weeks.

That's because Van Gogh's "Une Liseuse de Romans," a.k.a., "The Novel Reader," made headlines around the world after a lawsuit was filed Jan. 10 in Detroit federal court alleging that the painting was stolen from its owner before arriving at the DIA for the show.

While officials at the DIA dispute the allegation, claiming they acquired the painting under normal circumstances from a third party, the matter has been in and out of court ever since with the latest wrinkle being an appeal of a judge's dismissal of the lawsuit.

The painting has remained at the DIA while the legal drama played out, but on March 21, all parties involved announced a final settlement with the ultimate home of the art still unclear.

Andrew Pauwels, who graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2005 and is a partner at Detroit law firm Honigman LLP, was the DIA's lead attorney in the dispute and could not comment about the case, but he did agree to talk to his high school alma mater about what else he's been up to since graduating from NDP.

Notre Dame Prep: How long have you been at Honigman? Did you work at any other firms before Honigman?

PAUWELS: I started at Honigman in September 2014, so I've been there now for a little more than eight years. I did not work at any other firms before Honigman - I was a summer associate at Honigman as a second-year law student (in 2013) then started at the firm full time after I graduated law school and passed the bar.

NOTE: Pauwels is a litigation attorney who focuses on media law litigation, complex commercial litigation, and intellectual property litigation matters at Honigman. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame.

NDP: Working in media law and IP must make your job pretty interesting. Are there any cases you can talk about that you found more interesting than others?

PAUWELS: Yes, specializing in media law and intellectual property law has made my job comparatively interesting. I will first say that, as a general matter, I am fortunate to have a job that is interesting. One thing that drew me to Honigman was to be able to work at a premier law firm, but in a smaller market — I hoped that that would give me the opportunity to work on



I FELT LIKE I HAD A HEAD START OVER MANY OF MY COLLEGE CLASSMATES ON DEVELOPING THOSE CRITICAL-THINKING SKILLS

complicated, interesting cases from the outset. And that in fact has been my experience. Even outside of the media law and IP context, I get to work with clients across industries with varying resources and different litigation needs. Rarely are two cases the same or even similar, and I'm constantly having to learn my clients' business and the unique legal issues they face. I enjoy that challenge.

My media work in particular has been interesting and rewarding. I get to work with local and national journalists on a variety of issues: providing counseling before an article goes to print, defending defamation suits, suing governmental bodies or intervening in high profile cases for access to information, and even counseling a photographer who was injured by police covering protests (I was interviewed for a podcast for that one, a unique experience in and of itself). And I get to do all of this in Detroit - it's awesome!

NDP: Can you talk about your time at NDP and what that experience did for you in terms of college prep, life prep, etc.?

PAUWELS: It is crazy to think I'm coming up on 20 years out of NDP. I believe I left NDP well prepared for college - many of my classes there were as challenging as

my first-year courses at the University of Notre Dame. I think the teachers and the curriculum then (and I think even more so now, with all of the IB opportunities) really focus on teaching the skills that underlie a class. It is one thing to teach the facts of history, for example, and quite another to lay out the critical thinking skills to know how to talk about history, to read about history, to ask questions about history, and to apply those skills to the next class or to your career. I felt like I had a head start over many of my college classmates on developing those critical-thinking skills.

NDP: Any comments on perhaps any teachers or staffers at Notre Dame Prep who may have been especially influential on you as a student?

PAUWELS: I was lucky to have a lot of great teachers at NDP, and this question is always hard to answer because I don't like to leave people out. But I will say that there were a number of teachers who I remember really pushing me to think critically and independently. Mr. Osiecki stands out for how he used class discussions in AP U.S. History; Mr. Cannon always challenged me; Dr. Alkidas, Ms. Bembas and Ms. Derico had an easy job when it came to me as a student, teaching literature to someone who loved to read as much as I did. But they also really helped me develop the writing skills that I still

use to this day, and challenged me to think about reading and writing at a deeper level. And I actually taught math (among other things) before going to law school, so I have to give a shout-out to Mr. McCaskey and Mr. Borton. If my best math lesson was half as engaging as their worst class, then I did a good job. «

BELOW LEFT

Pauwels, with his family at Walt Disney World in Florida, says his work in I.P. and media law keeps his job interesting.



Alum and physical therapist says Notre Dame and the Marists inspired a lifetime of service and a focus on human rights

A LIFE OF PEACE, A FOCUS ON HUMANITARIANISM

When Ron Clinton was transitioning from sophomore year to his junior year at Notre Dame High School, his dad lost his job due to a corporate takeover. While concerned initially that he might not be able to afford the last two years at the private Catholic school in Harper Woods, he nonetheless pressed on and eventually made it through graduation.

"I was very fortunate to finish high school at Notre Dame," he recalled. "But after graduating and then concerned about paying for college, I took what the kids today would call a gap year, which for me consisted of working in a factory for a year so I could get the money together to get a car and go to college."

After his gap year, Clinton's college career began rather unceremoniously with a general studies program since he was certain he would eventually end up where many of his classmates were going post-high school: Vietnam.

THE MARIST INFLUENCE

But by that time, he said, after his four years in a Marist high school that preached tolerance and promoted working against injustice and violence in the world, if he was to join the Army and head to southeast Asia, it was not going to be with a gun.

"My plan was to be a medic because I didn't want to kill people," he said. "I remember when I went

to the draft office, it was a little early for my appointment, and the recruiter told me I could review some literature in another room. I opened a book up with careers in the service, and one of them was for physical therapy, which definitely intrigued me."

In fact, it intrigued him enough that he thought it was perfect for him because it combined exercise, of which he was a big fan, with medicine, in which he also had a keen interest. And presumably guns were not a big part of such a chosen path.

Long story short, Clinton headed to a special Army base in Texas to begin training for a military PT position.

"When I got to the base and started to fill out the paperwork, I was told there might be a problem," he said. "Turns out they were only accepting women in physical therapy in the military at that time."

That policy eventually changed, but by that time, Clinton had already been through a community college physical therapy program and had graduated from Wayne State University in 1970 with his PT degree.

Fast forward to present day, Clinton is still very active in his chosen profession with a specialty in knee and joint therapy. A certified McKenzie-trained physical therapist in private practice since 2001, his office is located in Rochester Hills, Mich., at HealthQuest Physi-

cal Therapy. He's also created and taught seminars for fellow physical therapists and presented several times at PT-related conferences across the state.

He was named "patient educator of the year" at Crittenton Hospital (now Ascension Crittenton Hospital) in Rochester and has helped patients with long-term knee problems and failed knee surgeries return to an active lifestyle, including clients referred from the Cleveland Clinic headache, dizziness and balance clinic.

Prior to that, he worked with patients at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and spent five years at Mount Carmel Hospital, also in Detroit, specializing in cardiopulmonary physical therapy.

"When I finally got to Crittenton," he said, "I had become a spinal specialist, certified in the McKenzie Method of joint therapy, which has pretty much defined my career up to this point."

FOCUS ON KNEE PAIN

While still in private practice, Clinton's working on cutting down on his actual patient treatment activities and starting to work again toward more consumer education as an adjunct faculty member at Wayne State, and separately at Oakland University and the University of Michigan-Flint. He also continues to teach courses privately and train physical therapists as an independent practitioner through an organization he calls

"Back Coaching Services."

"After working at Crittenton, I had several doctors who continued to refer to me, and I've built up a clientele of patients over the years who come back periodically for one issue or another," he said. "I see a lot of back and neck patients as well as a number of knee patients now that I've written a booklet on knee pain. I am trying to slow down my practice a bit and move to educating consumers locally, nationally and internationally as I feel the information in the booklet has universal applications. Currently, my wife, who is originally from Venezuela, is translating the booklet into Spanish."

It's been a long and remarkable career for Clinton and while his attention to his own health, wellness and fitness has no doubt contributed to his success thus far, he reserves a special place of gratitude for the education he received from the Marists at Notre Dame High School.

WELL-PREPARED HUMANITARIAN

"As a student at Notre Dame, I never realized how much I was getting from the training and discipline I learned there," said the father of two. "It was only after graduating and when I started to attend college that I experienced the benefit of being very well prepared to handle the courses that I needed to take."

"At Notre Dame, I also developed a very strong spiritual foundation, a desire to seek the truth and to

OCUS SM



be a champion for human rights. I continue to do my best to serve people in my work, and support those who are in very difficult situations. Additionally, my wife and I support Doctors Without Borders, Haven, Goodwill and Gleaners. We wish we could do more.”

Clinton noted that some of his favorite classes at NDHS were U.S. and World History with Father Boulanger, s.m., and religion with Fathers Lavoie and Demers.

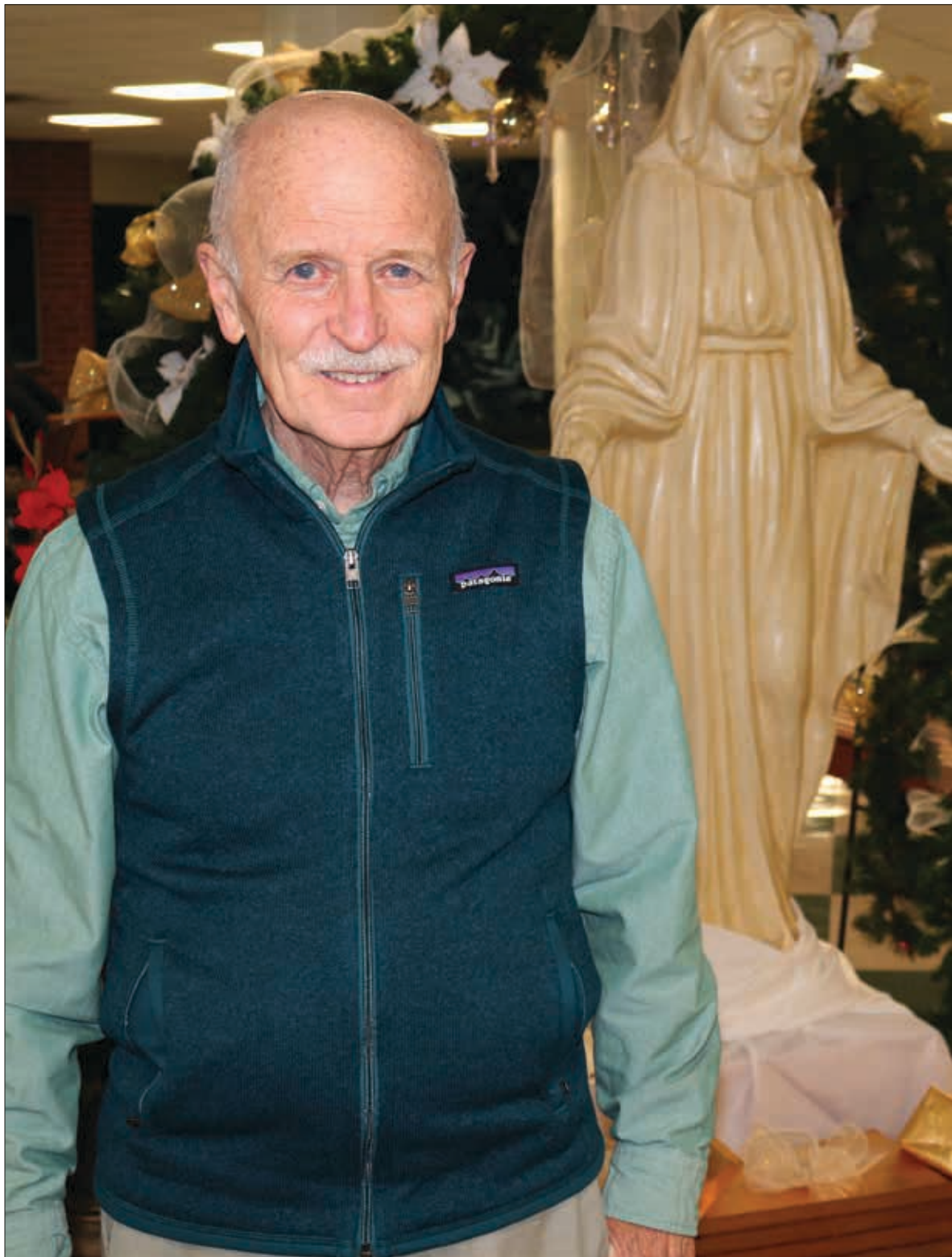
“Those three classes made me acutely aware of injustice in the world,” he said. “I soon began to follow more closely the civil rights movement and then the work of Father Bill Cunningham of Focus: HOPE, which for a time led to me living in a community of students, a priest and some grads from the Newman Ministry at Wayne State. We were laser focused on humanitarian issues back then, and it continues to inform my life today.” «

RIGHT

Ron Clinton PT, M.Ed., a 1964 Notre Dame High School graduate, currently is a certified physical therapist practicing in Rochester Hills, Mich.

TOP

Clinton sat in for a podcast conducted by Notre Dame Prep’s “Talk of the Irish” student podcast club



Amazing

In the school's second annual Amazing Shake competition, a new winner emerges

Shake 2.0



It was going to take a monumental effort to top last year's Amazing Shake competition that resulted in a school win for then-eighth-grader Caroline Powell. But Notre Dame Prep middle school's second annual Amazing Shake event, which was held from Feb. 2 through Feb. 16, was one for the ages with a new winner and a few new twists and turns.

After numerous rounds of activity, Alec Wernis, an eighth grader in Notre Dame Prep's middle school, was declared the 2023 Amazing Shake school winner in a close contest that ended with an executive "job interview" by a corporate human resources professional.

The Amazing Shake is a competition that places an emphasis on teaching students leadership, manners, discipline, respect and professional conduct.

The first round, "The Gauntlet," involves volunteers who were assigned to one of 25 different scenarios that last for 60 seconds. Contestants, which this year also included

seventh graders, were given the instructions of that scenario and were scored on their response on a scorecard. Scenarios ranged from asking a student a simple question to playing the role of an actor within the scenario station.

"Work The Room," the second round, involved a business networking environment with adult professionals who graded the participants based on the interaction and how in depth their conversation was, their ability to insert themselves into conversation respectfully, how personable they are, etc.

The third round, called the "Circle of Doom," had students fielding questions from the professional volunteers with only 60 seconds to answer them. Students were scored on how they answered the question and their ability to fill that minute with meaningful conversation.

Round four was the "Debate," where two groups consisting of five students each debated a question as they were judged on knowledge of the topic, how they listen to other participants, eye contact, and confidence in presentation.

Originally created by the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Ga., The Amazing Shake is a competition that places an emphasis on teaching students overall manners, discipline, respect and professional conduct.

Prior to each competition, students learn



the nuances of professional human interaction as they are taught skills such as how to give a proper handshake, how to network, how to give a successful interview, and how to remain composed under pressure.

Wernis and three other NDP finalists, Anna Lis, Lucia Jolokai and Brett Skonieczny, traveled to Atlanta in mid-March to compete in the national Amazing Shake competition at Ron Clark Academy, where Wernis finished in the top 10. «



ABOVE LEFT

Notre Dame Prep eighth grader Alec Wernis is with HR executive interview judge Bethany Yeager after winning the 2023 Amazing Shake competition.

ABOVE

Middle schoolers Alec Wernis, Anna Lis, Lucia Jolokai and Brett Skonieczny were in Atlanta to compete in the national Amazing Shake at Ron Clark Academy.

LEFT

Former Detroit mayor, businessman and NBA star Dave Bing served as one of the volunteer judges in this year's Amazing Shake at Notre Dame Prep.

4.28.2023

After 12 months of dialogue with parents, faculty and staff, alumni, and key stakeholders, the Board of Trustees recently approved a new five year

Strategic Plan

to re-imagine the future of our Marist school.

The strategic plan will be shared with the community on April 28, a special date for the Marist Fathers and Brothers around the world—the feast day of St. Peter Chanel.





Greetings



PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MA



from



EST. 1994

CHRIST ACADEMY

 **NOTRE DAME**

As part of a package sent to every newly accepted member of the Class of 2027, a special illustrated vintage poster was commissioned to highlight what Notre Dame Prep is all about.

FOLLOWING FOOTSTEPS

Two sisters take a common path through academia to a dream season of undefeated soccer together

Justina Gaynor graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2020. Her sister, Celia, graduated in 2018 and brother, Nathaniel, in 2012. But that's only part of the long Notre Dame and Marist road for the Gaynors.

Their grandfather, Ray, and Ray's twin brother, Ron, graduated in 1958 from Harper Woods Notre Dame High School, also a Marist-run school. Their father, Paul ND'84, and uncles Mark ND'83 and John ND'89 are NDHS alumni, and they have cousins who are Notre Dame Prep alumni or current students.

After finishing up their own Notre Dame Prep academic and athletic careers, Justina and Celia, both standout soccer players in high school, matriculated to Butler University in Indiana to study and play at the next level. Last fall, they played soccer together again at Michigan State University, which finished its greatest regular season campaign in program history, concluding the year with a 14-1-3 overall record and an undefeated Big Ten season.

For the Gaynor sisters and their teammates, while it was a dream season, there was more to come. The Spartans finished as runners-up in the Big Ten tourney and eventually lost to TCU in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

"This year has definitely been everything we could have asked for and more," said Justina, a junior midfielder at MSU during an interview with the two sisters last October. "I don't think our recent accomplishments have sunk in yet. There have been so many emotions and excitement around this season, and we still have more to play for, so I don't think I have really taken the time yet to enjoy what we have accomplished this far."

SKY IS LIMIT

Her sister Celia was all business nearing the season end and maintained a laser focus on what was ahead for the team.

"We have accomplished a lot so far, but we are not done yet," she said. "Our goal is to play our best soccer every day, and when we do that, I think the sky is the limit. We always talk about sticking with the process, and that is truly what it is — a process. I think as a team we have been great at remembering to take it day-by-day and staying in the moment. We really do believe in ourselves and our ability to play with anyone."

Like Justina, Celia was a midfielder, but unlike her sister, she played as a grad student for the Spartans after receiving a Bachelor of Arts in strategic communication and communication sciences and disorders from Butler. She's working on her master's degree in communicative sciences and disorders in East Lansing and while her post-secondary career has been extraordinary on and off the pitch, she has not lost sight of what's behind her estimable achievements.

"I definitely got a taste of success at NDP, winning the state title and Catholic League title in 2016 for soccer and winning districts in 2018 for basketball," she said. "I will forever hold those memories close to me."

But attending Notre Dame Prep was so much more than its outstanding athletic program for Celia, who also earned an International Baccalaureate diploma at NDP, still the nation's only Catholic school with all three IB academic programs.

ROOTED IN FAITH

"I absolutely loved my time at NDP and all the memories and lifelong friends I made," she said. "I have taken the values instilled in me at NDP and have remained steadfast in those values and beliefs, regardless of any struggle I have faced."

She said that academically, NDP could not have prepared her better.

"As an IB student, I was challenged to think critically, and



I think the IB program equipped me with the tools I needed to be successful in the classroom. I felt like I was ahead of my peers at Butler while earning my degree in both strategic communication and communication sciences and disorders, and even as a current graduate student working toward my master's degree in speech and language pathology, I feel prepared and am forever thankful for the education I received at NDP."

Justina, too, has many plaudits for her high school experience on Giddings Road.

"We strived to be the best we could be and that paid off for us not only on the soccer field but in the classroom as

well," she said. "The education I received at Notre Dame Prep has truly prepared me to be successful and thrive in the college classroom.

She adds that as a member of the IB program at NDP, she was challenged early on to think critically about material presented to her, which helped her to gain important skills that have followed her to college.

"I have also taken the values instilled in me throughout my years at NDP to help me stay rooted in my faith during the struggles that come with being a college athlete."

BEST FRIENDS

So as last season came to a close, as the two Spartan siblings prepared for the eventuality that they won't be teammates for too much longer, one wondered if playing together on the same team with your sister had been awkward at all?

"Not at all," said Justina. "Playing with Celia has been so much fun. We work so well together because we are best friends and know where each other is going to move and how each other is thinking. We have a certain telepathy that helps us work together on the field. Having such a close relationship off the field also helps us push each other to get better because we know that any constructive criticism comes from a place of love. We are always trying to make each other better."

Celia said it helps that she and her sister are best friends.

"We've have played sports together in the past and we can really read each other and know what the other is thinking," she said. "We have similar mindsets when it comes to competing and can count on each other to give it our all every time we go out. I think it all comes naturally since we spend so much time together, and I think the opportunity to play a collegiate sport with your sibling, especially at this level, is amazing and very unique."

She adds, though, that they also are super competitive, and push each other to be the best they can be every day.

"In fact, we love to go up against each other in training or practice and maybe sneak in a few nutmegs when we can." «



LEFT

NDP alumni Justina, left, and Celia Gaynor said they enjoy playing on the same team.

ABOVE

The Gaynor sisters celebrate the best regular season campaign in MSU women's soccer history, as the Spartans finished undefeated at 9-0-1 in league play.



Esports looking to grow at NDP

Notre Dame Prep fields a second-place team in the most recent esports season, players get varsity letters.

A recent academic summit held in Nottingham, England, broke an attendance record for the fifth consecutive year. This one was a bit different than most conferences devoted to education in that it was about esports, one of the hottest “new things” for schools on both sides of the Atlantic.

The British Esports International Education Summit, initially launched in 2019, provided a platform to discuss the ongoing impact, developments, and opportunities available in competitive gaming and esports for schools and colleges, especially those in varied stages of esports development.

One such school in the early stage of esports participation is Notre Dame Prep, which fielded two teams — the Green and the Gold teams — in their most recent season, which ended in late fall. According to Eden Konja, Notre Dame’s information and academic technology director, who helps mentor the teams, the Fighting Irish Gold team pulled down a second-place finish in the Vanta Rocket League.

“They played against other high school teams in the Midwest to earn their place in this season,” said Konja, who noted that the teams have competed in other leagues over the past few years.

He said that the Vanta Rocket League is an arcade-style game of soccer played out with rocket-powered cars in essentially a mix between a demolition derby and soccer with cars that can fly.

“The objective in Rocket League is the same as the objective in soccer,” he said. “You work with your team to score the most goals. The team that has the most goals by the end of the game wins. It sounds simple — and the concept basically is — but the mechanics are extremely hard to master.”

Notre Dame Prep senior Zach Hogan was the captain of the school’s Gold team this past season. He says the game is fun and it is indeed very similar to soccer.

“Imagine a soccer video game, but instead of controlling people, each player controls a car,” he said. “The ball is on the scale of the cars, and they can fly through the air to hit aerial shots, or run into each other and demo the opponent.”

EXPLOSIVE GROWTH

Since 2018, when the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) first recognized esports as an official sport, more than 8,600 high schools have started video-

gaming teams. Last year, more than \$16 million in esports scholarships were awarded by U.S. colleges, helping to fuel the explosive growth of high school teams.

A recent article published by the National Education Association noted that this growth is nearly totally driven by student interest since about 90 percent of teens already play video games. NEA also said that its growth has been matched by the growth in esports scholarships and careers.

For Hogan, who will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall, he’d love to play at the college level, but with some caveats.

“I’m not sure if U-M has esports teams, but I would love to compete in college,” he said. “But maybe not at such a high level that it prevents me from doing other important activities, but definitely at some level.”

CRITICAL THINKERS

He added that he became involved in competitive esports in high school because it is a perfect blend of competition and simply playing a video game. And whether it informs his college major or a future career, it’s still an open question.

“I’ve toyed with data analytics and journalism, and I would definitely like to write a book, but in all seriousness, I’ve not settled on anything yet,” he said. “Something with art, maybe, but that is more of a hobby thing. I’m still searching for that spark to send me in the direction of a specific career.”

Konja said it is inevitable that esports will be continuing its growth worldwide and he hopes at Notre Dame Prep as well.

“Esports has a place in K-12 and I believe it will continue to increase exponentially in the next few years. Colleges and universities are offering more and more scholarships and this year, after talking to principal Kim Anderson, we have begun to award NDP varsity letters to our kids. I think the skills these students gain and showcase in esports contribute to them becoming better communicators, team players and collaborators, time managers, critical thinkers and give them the ability to make more decisions more quickly.

“It truly is a win-win for both the school and the young men and women who participate,” he added. «

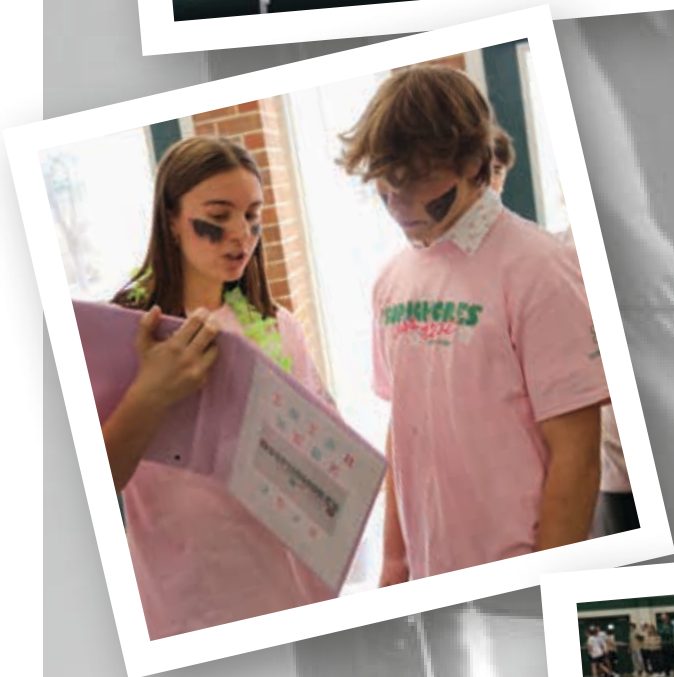


OPPOSITE

The Vanta Rocket League is an arcade-style game of soccer played out with rocket-powered cars in essentially a mix between a demolition derby and soccer with cars that can fly.

RIGHT

From left, juniors Christian Lazzara and Isaac Konja, senior Zachary Hogan and junior Iden Konja comprised Notre Dame Prep’s Gold esports team, which placed second in their most recent season.



The Games

The seniors won the 2023 version of the Irish Games to no one's surprise. However, NDP's sophomores' second-place finish ahead of the juniors did turn a few heads. And the middle- and lower-school games did not disappoint, either.





A 'COMMITMENT TO HIGH EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS'

“Grade point average is not nearly as important a factor in university admissions as the IB Diploma.” When admissions personnel at the nation’s top colleges (like Harvard) say such things, we know Notre Dame Prep is on to something pretty special.

Notre Dame Prep's International Baccalaureate curriculum, which includes all three of the original IB programs — Primary Years Program (PYP), Middle Years Program (MYP) and Diploma Program (DP) — puts the school alone on an academic pedestal as no other Catholic or private school in Michigan offers such a continuum of education to students from 3 to 18 years old.

By the time a Notre Dame Prep student is a junior at the school and even before considering the IB Diploma Program, he or she has been exposed to an academic pedagogy that transcends a typical elementary and secondary education. Heading into the 11th grade, that curriculum, embodied by the PYP and MYP, already has exposed students to truly a game-changer in terms of an academic philosophy.

A study conducted recently by the International Insight Research Group in partnership with the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) demonstrated what that “game-changer” might look like at least as it relates to students preparing for college.

The study showed that the acceptance rate of IB students into Ivy League universities is up to 18 percent higher than the total population acceptance rate and that the gap is even more significant for top-ranked universities outside of the Ivy League, where it's 22 percent higher, on average.

Recently, a number of current or former college and university admissions officers weighed in on the IB program in a presentation shared on SlidePlayer by Alexis Park and Kim Morrow, who are counselors at Lakewood High School in Lakewood, Colo.



HOW UNIVERSITIES VIEW THE IB PROGRAM



“A transcript that reveals a student’s enrollment in International Baccalaureate courses serves notice to the admissions officer that the applicant is someone who accepts rather than avoids educational challenges. Further, a successful IB student will enroll at Michigan with some advantages over students who have taken less intensive programs... Unquestionably, a school that graduates each year a number of students with IB diplomas has demonstrated its commitment to high educational standards and that commitment will serve to influence admissions decisions at the University of Michigan.”

Cliff Sjogren, former Director of Admissions, University of Michigan



“One of the advantages of an IB curriculum is its structure and quality. It is a coordinated program, well established, well known and well respected. We know the quality of IB courses, and we think the IB curriculum is terrific.”

Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergrad Admissions, Duke University



“Send us prepared students, a la IB. . . It is the ‘best’ prep curriculum an American high school can offer.”

Marilee Jones, Former Director of Undergrad Admissions, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)



“Success in an IB program correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Program on the transcript. Grade point average is not nearly as important a factor in university admissions as the IB Diploma. If a student has to choose, choose the Diploma over protecting the GPA.”

Marlyn McGrath Lewis, Former Dean of Admissions, Harvard University



The art of the scholarship

Senior Sydney Hinds earns prestigious scholarship to one of the top art schools in the world, taking her 'faith-filled,' International Baccalaureate Notre Dame Prep academic experience to Georgia.

ABOVE

Senior Sydney Hinds, an IB student at Notre Dame Prep, will be studying photography in the fall at Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga.

OPPOSITE

Hinds won a Silver Key (drawing and illustration) in the Scholastic Art competition as a sophomore for her work, "Heavenly Messenger."

When Notre Dame Prep senior Sydney Hinds got the word from a counselor at the Savannah College of Art and Design that she was receiving the SCAD Distinguished Scholars Award, which is a prestigious scholarship in the amount of \$20,000 per year, she was shocked.

"While I knew that Mrs. LewAllen had nominated me, I was not really expecting to get chosen," she said. "Because I was informed about the scholarship over the phone, I was trying to keep my composure while talking to the counselor. But as soon as I ended the phone call, I started jumping up and down with joy and my friends were quite confused about what was happening."

It's not an easy scholarship to earn — not by any stretch of the imagination.

To be considered for this award, students must be recommended by their teacher, professor or guidance counselor and have college-level coursework in high school; a grade point average of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale; stellar visual or performing arts capabilities; honors and awards from competitions or other recognitions; and leadership skills demonstrated through co-curricular or extracurricular involvement. Only one student per high school can be nominated, according to SCAD.

GIFTED ARTIST

Sandy LewAllen, who nominated Hinds and serves as a Notre Dame Prep teacher and chair of the school's art department, said the SCAD Distinguished Scholar Award truly is a prestigious scholarship — and that it's fitting that she is receiving it.

"Sydney is most deserving of this recognition from SCAD because of her diligence, work ethic, commitment to her art, creative process and her strong academic standing in the IB Program," LewAllen said. "She's won numerous awards for her work and has a very promising future in the arts. I'm excited to see where this experience takes her, and because of the type of student and artist she is, I know she will take advantage of every opportunity to learn, grow and embrace her gifts in the arts. I am so very proud of her."

While the scholarship certainly was a big factor in her decision to attend SCAD, which recently was rated the No. 1 art school in the United States by Art & Object, a fine art news website based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, it wasn't the only reason.

"I considered multiple art schools, including the College for Creative Studies, California College of Arts, Rhode Island School of Design and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago," she said. "However, when I toured SCAD, I really liked the campus and I didn't really bother applying to any other schools."

According to SCAD, for the past five years, 99 percent of its graduates were employed, pursuing further education, or both within 10 months of graduation.

Hinds said she hasn't yet fully embraced a major at SCAD, but plans initially to focus on photography and then look at possibly different artistic opportunities while she's studying.

TEACHERS BIG PART OF SUCCESS

Now looking at finishing up at Notre Dame Prep career that began for her in the sixth grade after her family moved to Michigan from England, Hinds will be leaving behind a campus that was a major part of her growth as both a student and person. Like many if not most of NDP students and alumni, she says the academic programming was challenging but not overwhelming.



I KNOW SHE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE

OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN,

GROW AND EMBRACE HER GIFTS IN THE

ARTS. I AM SO VERY PROUD OF HER.



"The faculty here are all so very nice and helpful, especially when it came to asking questions, whether in person during class or after school hours," she said. "I did not join too many clubs, but the ones I did join provided me opportunities to grow and find a community of people within the school with common interests. Also, my faith has definitely grown from all the retreats and many other faith-focused opportunities that Notre Dame Prep offers."

It is perhaps no surprise, however, that Hinds reserves a special shoutout for one of her teachers.

"Mrs. LewAllen is one of the best teachers that I've ever had in multiple ways," she said. "She creates a real community within her art classes and she encourages her students to grow their art abilities. She has influenced me because she inspired me to keep creating art and showed me what I was actually capable of. She is definitely a teacher I will never forget; whether it's in what she taught me or in how she inspired me just to keep going." «





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

DREAM JOB IS ELEMENTARY

Fourth-grade teacher's dream of a career goes from playing pro volleyball to teaching at a Catholic, Marist, International Baccalaureate grade school — and she couldn't be happier

Be-coming a teacher wasn't on the long-term career horizon for a young Caitlin LaPratt. In fact, it was her love of volleyball back then that likely was going to be paying the bills when she grew up.

Or so she thought.

"If you were to ask me at 15 years old what my dream job was going to be, I would have said professional volleyball player," said LaPratt, who is in her third year of teaching at Notre Dame. "I realized pretty quickly that I probably wasn't going to grow much taller and should come up with a different plan."

While her plan B was teaching, volleyball continued to inform ultimately how that plan was going to roll out.

"My passion for teaching really began as soon as I graduated high school and landed my first volleyball coaching job," she said. "I knew then that I loved teaching, even though I wasn't in a classroom. I thought that leading kids was what I was meant to do."

LaPratt later graduated from Oakland University with a bachelor's degree in education and a major in language arts, but she took a job in the marketing/service industry.

"Sometimes life takes you on a different path and although you may not understand it then, you have to have faith that God has a plan," she said. "While I was very committed in my previous position, I always felt like something was missing. I continued to search for teaching opportunities and in the fall of 2020, I was welcomed to Notre Dame Lower School as the new fourth grade teacher."

It was an exciting time for LaPratt, and one that may be remembered forever — well, at

least as long as her current phone data lasts.

"I will never forget the moment I received the email and then the phone call following my interview with Mrs. Atkins," she recalled. "In fact, I still have the voicemail saved on my phone."

She says it's been smooth sailing since then and truly enjoys teaching at Notre Dame Lower School.

"I was very impressed with how well the students behaved, followed COVID protocols, and was grateful for the warm reception I received from the staff," she recalled when she first set foot on campus. "I felt that everyone was truly invested in the students as well as in helping me become successful. I am very grateful to work alongside wonderful teachers, especially my fourth-grade teaching partner, Kathy Dugan. I wouldn't be where I am today without her guidance."

Meanwhile, when LaPratt's not on campus, especially around this time of year, you'd more than likely find her in the Utica Eisenhower High School gym where she currently leads the school's volleyball program after 22 years (Macomb County D1 coach of the year 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020).

Another huge part of her life is her family, she says.

"Between my husband, Jeff, who's also a teacher, and my two kids, Vince and Mia, we probably play or coach about every sport in the state," she said. "And for those who don't know, my husband also coaches high school volleyball



at a different school in the same school district, which has been a fun topic in my classroom this year!"

Now, as Notre Dame heads toward the end of the school year, LaPratt is completely convinced her "plan B" has worked out extremely well.



"I believe strongly in the Catholic mission of our school and I remain truly inspired by its IB principles," she said. "The most important part of my job is to live up to that mission by teaching my students to open up their hearts to the Lord and that what they're learning each day will make a positive difference in the world." «

ABOVE

Notre Dame Prep fourth-grade teacher Caitlin LaPratt coaches varsity volleyball at Eisenhower High School in Utica.

IRISH NEWS FROM PAGE 7

Space Race,” which is a book for young readers adapted from Shetterly’s 2016 non-fiction book “Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race,” follows the interwoven accounts of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden, four African-American women who participated in some of NASA’s greatest successes.

It chronicles their careers over nearly three decades as they faced challenges, forged alliances and used their intellect to change their own lives as well as their country’s future.

PERSONAL PROJECTS HELP DEMONSTRATE IB-MYP MASTERY



Notre Dame Prep sophomore Samuel Phillips presents his Personal Project, which sets as its goal to learn how to play guitar.

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program’s Personal Project is the culmination for many sophomores of their time spent with the MYP curriculum. In 2020, the school changed its approach to this IB component by offering it as an elective to sophomores versus a requirement, and this year is the fourth year under that policy.

In early February, the Notre Dame Prep sophomores who are participating this year celebrated and presented their projects to members of the freshman class in the main school library. Families of the sophomores also were invited to the library to also help celebrate their hard work.

The International Baccalaureate says it places “great importance”

on the development of each student’s unique talent and the personal project provides a critical assessment of how that talent has manifested itself over the course of the MYP. Each personal project is monitored by a teacher/supervisor, but it is the student’s responsibility to complete all its components.

The personal project also encourages students to learn to manage and direct their own inquiry and further develop the skills they have learned through the MYP. Each student leads the process of developing the personal project and assessment stands as a summative review of their ability to conduct independent work using the areas of interaction as contexts for their learning.

What is the IB-MYP?

The MYP course of study consists of eight subject groups integrated through five interactive areas providing global contexts for learning. Students are required to study at least two languages (as part of their multilingual profile), humanities, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical education and technology. In their final year in MYP, students undertake this independent personal project to demonstrate the development of their skills and understanding.

When Notre Dame Prep changed the basic requirements of the Personal Project course in 2020, the approach was designed to reaffirm the school’s commitment to helping students better manage stress in general and the rigor sometimes associated with the Personal Project.

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

In short, students involved in the Personal Project act upon a natural curiosity in a topic of self-directed

interest.

While Notre Dame Prep cannot change the basic requirements of the Personal Project course, the newer elective approach that more fully supports participants reflects the school’s commitment to helping students better manage stress.

Megan Rochon, who works as a librarian at Notre Dame and became the IB-MYP personal project coordinator last year, was once again delighted to see such talent from the students.

“The Personal Project is a one-semester, independent project course that sophomores can elect to take,” she said. “It’s part of the IB Middle Years Program and each year, the students end the project by presenting their projects to the freshmen who will have the same opportunities next year.”

APPLE SCHOLARS



Students, teachers and staff at Notre Dame Prep’s lower school celebrate after being named an Apple Distinguished School, one of only three in Michigan with the designation.

Notre Dame’s lower school has again been recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for its iPad-powered continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment. Representatives from the company presented an award to the school during a special assembly during the 2023 Catholic Schools’ Week.

Only about 700 schools are recognized worldwide — three in Michigan — with this designation, which is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments, according to Apple.

“Notre Dame Lower School

opened in August 2003. When we moved into our new building in 2013, we decided to adopt a 1:1 plan with iPad devices as our learning tool. Throughout the 2018 school year we applied to be an Apple Distinguished School. This included teacher training and discovering which applications would enhance student engagement. We received our accreditation in 2019,” principal Diana Atkins said.

“When the pandemic hit, our students had a large advantage to continue learning as many of our curriculum materials were available through the iPad. This provided no loss of learning for our students in reading and math. Additionally, students had the ability to communicate with one another and teachers via Face-time, to provide social interaction while we had to remain at home.”

Atkins said through the Apple Distinguished program, two lower school teachers have become Apple Coaches and a third is currently going through the process.

The school has also seen an increase in enrollment since the 2019-2020 academic year.

“In discussions with parents, our enrollment success is partly due from our ability to have little interruption to learning the last two years during the pandemic,” Atkins said.

Atkins said she is optimistic about what the future holds for the school and appreciates the enthusiasm of her teachers to incorporate technology in their lessons.

NDP SENIOR SIGNS TO PLAY SOFTBALL AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL



Ryann Simmonds

In an event held on Feb. 1 in front of her peers, senior student-ath-

lete Ryann Simmonds from Notre Dame Prep signed on to play softball at the college level. She will be attending Aurora University in Aurora, Ill., in the fall.

BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS

With approval by the Society of Mary Provincial The Very Rev. Joseph Hindelang, s.m., Notre Dame announced in January that its Board of Trustees appointed Norm Berlinger, Barb Ciesliga, Tim Easterwood, Chris Liparoto and Aaron Silver as trustees. Also announced was the appointment of former trustee Kris Powell to the board's advancement committee.



Top row, from left: Norman T. Berlinger, M.D., Ph.D., Barbara L. Ciesliga, M.D., Timothy J. Easterwood. Bottom row, from left: Chris J. Liparoto, Aaron M. Silver, Kristopher Powell.

"Notre Dame is fortunate to have trustees who are so well-focused on the success of our school," said Stephen V. Pangori, chair of NDPMA's Board of Trustees. "We value the input we receive from all of our trustees, but it's always an exciting time when new appointees are elected. They bring a fresh perspective and different voices that provide critical guidance on our many important strategic initiatives, which no doubt will benefit the entire school."

SENIOR GETS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE NOMINATION FROM STATE

Finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Awards for the 2022-23 school year were announced in mid-January and Notre Dame Prep senior Nico Liparoto earned one of the 120 spots on the list.

The program, now in its 34th year, has recognized student-athletes since the 1989-90 school



Nico Liparoto

year and again this winter honored 32 individuals from MHSAA member schools who participate in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a postseason tournament.

Multiple-sport participation remains the norm among applicants. The average sport participation rate of the finalists is 2.88. There are 74 three-plus sport participants in the finalists field, and all but two of the 28 sports in which the MHSAA sponsors postseason tournaments are represented.

Liparoto, who played soccer for the Irish varsity team all four years, also played JV and varsity lacrosse at Notre Dame Prep.

To be eligible for the award,

students must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) and previously have won a varsity letter in at least one sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament. Students also were asked to respond to a series of short essay questions, submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

SENIOR GETS PRESTIGIOUS CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Teegan McLeod, a senior at Notre Dame Prep, earned the prestigious "Good Citizen" award on Jan. 10 from the local chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Sponsored by the Piety Hill chapter of DAR located in Birmingham, the Good Citizens Awards and Scholarship Program grants awards on an annual basis to area high schoolers.

A member of Notre Dame's stu-

dent council and captain of the ski team the last three years, McLeod picked up his award at a ceremony held in February at the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

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



Notre Dame Prep senior Teegan McLeod is with DAR Regent Holly Heiss, left, and First Vice Regent Debbie Harrington of the Piety Hill chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, after picking up his award Jan. 10 at a ceremony held at the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

PRAYERS

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

- Allen Baumgart**, former staff and coach, Jan. 27, 2023
- Bill Galen ND'76**, Dec. 22, 2022
- Margaret (Underwood) Lisac SM'49**, March 16, 2023
- Robert Marshall ND'80**, July 2, 2022
- Jeremy McKolay ND'93**, Dec. 5, 2022
- Jim Moseley ND'68**, father of Scott NDP'02 and Danielle NDP'04, Chris NDP'03, and David NDP'06, Nov. 28, 2022
- Ronald Pirkola ND'72**, Aug. 12, 2022
- John M. Powers ND'62**, brother-in-law to John Parthum ND'63 and uncle to Brian Parthum ND'96, Sept. 27, 2022
- Rocco Prinzivalli ND'76**, Feb. 2, 2022
- Jeff Richardson ND'79**, brother of Steve ND'82, Jan. 5, 2023
- Louis Schultz ND'62**, Dec. 21, 2022
- John Lynn Strong SM'51**, March 25, 2023
- Mark Stuhlmüller ND'84**, brother of Dean ND'82, Nov. 14, 2022
- Charles Stys ND'60**, brother to Stanley ND'63, Jan. 18, 2023
- Br. Joseph Damian Teston**, one of the original four U.S. brothers who founded the Marist mission in the Philippines in 1948; great uncle to Mark Coley ND'85 and Michael Coley ND'86, Dec. 22, 2022
- Bob VanSlambrook ND'59**, brother of Jim ND'66, Jan. 3, 2023
- Chuck VanSlambrook ND'61**, brother of Jim ND'66, Dec. 26, 2022
- Ron Zaremski ND'68**, Feb. 27, 2023

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. If you would like our community to remember a loved one in prayer, please email prayers@ndpma.org.

ALUMNI NOTES

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

PONTIAC CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Laura McGarragan PC'80 (at right) got married on Aug. 27, 2022.



MaryAnn Moreno PC'71 is reminding everyone that the Class of '71 will be holding their 50-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The event will be held at Notre Dame Prep. If you graduated in 1971, you can join our Pontiac Catholic Class of '71 Reunion Facebook page. Also, you can email moreno.bacon@gmail.com.

John Sevegney Jr. PC'70 and Deborah

(VanCura) Sevegney PC'70 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 5, 2022. They have three children and eight grandchildren. The retired couple spends their time traveling and enjoying family and friends.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Moses Abraham ND'72 is enjoying retirement.

Michael Berndt ND'84 recently retired after 31 years in law enforcement. His two daughters are currently in college at Johns Hopkins University, and Northeastern. He moved to the mountains of western North Carolina with his wife and is enjoying the peace and quiet living in the country.

Donald Herman ND'63 married Marie Laga in 1967. He joined Chrysler in 1968 as a diemaker after serving a tool and die apprenticeship at job shop. He received a bachelor's and master's degree from Central Michigan University. He has three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Herman retired as a senior manager in 2001 and lost his wife to COVID in 2021 after almost 54 years of marriage. He currently resides in Macomb, Mich. He is

planning a 60-year reunion on Sept. 23 at the Hotel Cambria, 23 Mile and M-53 in Shelby Township. If you are interested, please contact donaldrherman@yahoo.com.

Joseph Krolkowski ND'95 will release his second album of original music, "He Called Me Hoss" on June 9, 2023.

Michael Pipia ND'68 retired for the second time from Guardian Industries in May of 2020, and started his own consulting company, BMP Logistics Solutions LLC. He specializes in international supply chain issues. Mike spends time boating on Lake St. Clair and doing photography. He lives in Shelby Township and is married to his beautiful wife Kathy. They have one yellow lab, Gracie.

Dean Ricci ND'76 in 2007, I retired from the Information Technologies industry. In 2017, we sold our home in Livonia, Mich. and moved a little further north and bought a house on Bass Lake in Commerce Township. It's a lovely area and we are in the middle of a forest, so we have plenty of wildlife to look at winter, spring, summer and fall. This year the wife and I are turning 65 and hoping we will still be around another 10 or 20 years. Visit our group on Facebook if you haven't already. "Harper Woods Notre Dame High School Class of 1976" is the group name.

John Saba ND'75 is going on his fourth year of being cancer-free. He retired from his full-time teaching position for Warren Consolidated Schools in 2020 but is back in the classroom as a substitute teacher. As a side note: Coach Baumgart, rest in peace.

NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Chase Glasser NDP'21 recently accepted a new position as a lobbyist and board director for the Coalition of Interlock Ignition Manufacturers.

Ann Marie Calvaneso NDP'13 made her

professional operatic debut in October 2022, singing "Suor Genovieffa in Suor Angelica" with the Toledo Opera. She regularly sings with both the Detroit Opera and Toledo Opera as part of the chorus. In November 2022 she presented her original methodology, "Strength for Singers", for the University of Michigan voice faculty, staff, and students. She started her third business, Marcato Consulting, in April 2022 and works with music and music-adjacent businesses. She was a panelist at the EmpowerHer Women's Entrepreneurship Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. last fall.

Whitney Lorenz NDP'12 has been proudly serving as the president of the Michigan State University Alumni Band Association. When she isn't rooting for the Spartans, she can be found traveling around the country looking for new experiences. Whitney has come home to the Notre Dame Prep community serving as a substitute teacher.

Katie Spengler NDP'17 graduated from Northern Michigan University in 2020 with a degree in Environmental Sustainability. She worked for both the Florida Nature Conservancy and more recently the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. She recently finished a month-long NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) course in New Zealand backpacking the Kahurangi National Park for 30 days. She summited Mount Owen, Gordon's Pyramid, and Replica Hill, ("Lord of the Rings" filming sites) and traveled on foot for more than 90 miles carrying 60 pounds with no cell phone service. The last few days of her journey she was nominated to be the group expedition lead and led a group of five young adults on an independent expedition in the alpine. She learned about New Zealand conservation methods for their extremely unique alpine and forest ecosystems and met folks from all around the globe.



STAY IN TOUCH



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IRISH E-NEWSLETTER

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

UPCOMING REUNIONS

INTERESTED IN PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

Contact Beth Lockhart, Director of Alumni Relations, at blockhart@ndpma.org or 248-630-7722.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1958

Planning is underway for the 65th class reunion. The event will take place on May 17, 2023, from 2 to 6 p.m. You can register for the event online at www.ndpma.org/nd58 or mail your check to Beth Lockhart, 1389 Giddings Road, Pontiac, MI 48340. Cost is \$30 per person. Please contact Vic Battani at 586-291-9100 if you have questions.

Class of 1962

The first annual Class of 1962 picnic is going to be held on Saturday, June 3, at St. Clair Metro Park, 31300 Metropolitan Pkwy., Harrison Twp., West Playfield Picnic Shelter. Please bring a dish to pass and your own hotdogs and hamburgers to grill. Spouses are welcome to join. \$10 park entry fee. Please contact John Trinkwalder if you would like more information: jtrinkwalder@att.net.

Class of 1963

Plans are underway for a 60th year class reunion. It will be held this fall on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. The location will be the Cambria Hotel, 50741 Corporate Drive, Shelby Township, Mich. Located on the south side off of 23 Mile and the east side of M-53, across from Walmart. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or to express your interest in getting involved, please contact donaldrherman@yahoo.com or 586-980-4235.

Class of 1973

Planning is underway for the 50th class reunion. Save the Date: Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, 6 p.m., at the Club Venetian, Madison Heights, Mich. Please contact Robert Mollicone at 313-808-4545 for more information.

Class of 1993

Plans are just beginning for the Class of 1993's 30-year reunion. Please contact Paul Nahra at paul.nahra@gmail.com, if you are interested in getting involved.

PONTIAC CATHOLIC

Class of 1971

Plans are in the works to hold the 50th class reunion after being canceled due to COVID-19. The event is scheduled for Sept. 9 at Notre Dame Prep. For more information, please contact Mary Ann Moreno at moreno.bacon@gmail.com.

Class of 1973

Planning is underway for the 50th class reunion. Please contact Patti Atchinson for more information at 248-420-7146.

ST. MICHAEL

Class of 1952

The St. Michael Class of 1952's 70th reunion planning is underway. Please contact Leroy Bressler at 734-756-1206 for more information about the reunion and to update your contact information. Please call him whether you are interested in attending or not.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Big Band Dinner Dance

May 20, Lafayette Grande, Pontiac

Join the Alumni Association for the annual NDP Big Band Dinner Dance at Lafayette Grande in Pontiac. Tickets will go on sale in May. Check the school website www.ndpma.org for more updates and to purchase tickets.

Golf Outing

June 12, Great Oaks Country Club, Rochester

The Notre Dame Booster Club Golf Outing will take place at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester. For more information on sponsorships or to create a foursome please visit our website at www.ndpma.org/golf.

Homecoming

Sept. 22, Notre Dame Preparatory School, Pontiac

Save the date for Homecoming! A pre-game family tailgate will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Fr. Colin House, and watch the Fighting Irish football team beginning at 7 p.m. at William Kozyra Alumni Field. Registration is coming soon.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association Board of Directors:

Bobbie Hall NDP'00, Vice Chair	Mike Kastler ND'75
Jane Dika NDP'02, Secretary	Patty Dean Phillips SF'52
Dean Aldo PC'76	Amy Gray NDP'02
Brian Dooley ND'85	Liz Casselman NDP'09



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