

Irish

M A G A Z I N E

A CREATIVE CALLING

A new musical opening in August is the product of an all-alumni cast and the devotion of Notre Dame Prep's talented longtime choir director

ISSUE 33

|

SPRING / SUMMER 2024

IRISH

MAGAZINE

Dedicated to alumni, parents and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory School 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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IRISH is published two times per year by the Office of Marketing and Communications. Please send comments to irish@ndpma.org.



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



AN INVITATION TO ALUMNI

As a valued member of our alumni community, I am reaching out to extend a heartfelt invitation for you to join us in supporting our alma mater. Whether you graduated from Notre Dame Prep, Notre Dame High School, Oakland Catholic, Pontiac Catholic, St. Michael or St. Frederick, you have all played a role in the success of the school today. Your connection with either Notre Dame

Prep or any of our legacy schools is not just a part of your past; it's a lifelong bond that continues to shape the present and future. While the name and location of the school has evolved over the years, our mission of providing a quality, Catholic education to youth has not changed. We continue to live our Catholic and Marist mission of *working with God to form good Christian people, upright citizens, and academic scholars*.

Your experiences as members of a Catholic school have played an integral role in shaping who you are today. Whether it was the inspiring teachers who challenged you to think critically, the lifelong friendships you forged, or the unforgettable memories created on campus, each moment has contributed to your personal and professional journey.

Now, we invite you to pay it forward and make a lasting impact on the next generation of students. Your support can provide opportunities for deserving students, fund critical programs, enhance campus facilities, and strengthen the overall reputation of our alma mater.



Here are a few ways you can get involved and show your support:



Make a Gift

The Notre Dame Fund is our primary fundraising vehicle. It is a once per year, unrestricted gift to support the mission of the school. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference. Your contribution can directly impact students' lives by providing scholarships, improving safety, funding teacher development, and supporting various student programs across campus.



Volunteer Your Time

Share your expertise and experiences by volunteering as a mentor, guest speaker, or career advisor. Your guidance can help current students navigate their academic and professional journeys more effectively.



Attend Alumni Events

Stay connected with fellow alumni and engage with the school community by attending homecoming, alumni events, reunions, and networking opportunities. These events offer a chance to reconnect with old friends, make new connections, and celebrate our shared legacy.



Spread the Word

Help us spread awareness about the incredible work being done at Notre Dame Prep. Share your alma mater's success stories on social media, encourage fellow alumni to get involved, and help us expand our network of supporters.



Pray for Us

Notre Dame Prep is a Catholic school. Operating a faith-based school in today's environment can be challenging. Our faculty, staff and administrators work hard to deliver both an excellent education and to foster a relationship between students and God. Your prayers give us the strength and confidence to stay true to our Catholic and Marist mission.

In closing, your continued support is essential in ensuring that Notre Dame Prep remains a beacon of excellence for future generations of students. Together, we can uphold the values and traditions that make our alma mater truly special.

Thank you for considering this invitation, and we look forward to your participation in supporting Notre Dame Prep in any way that you can.

Blessings and peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J. Guest".

Andrew J. Guest ND'84
Head of School

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ON THE COVER

A new musical opening in August is the product of an all-alumni cast and the vision of Notre Dame Prep's Dave Fazzini.



Notre Dame Prep's lower school students enjoy ice cream bars and other frozen treats during the feast day of St. Peter Chanel. It is a tradition of the Marist Fathers and Brothers to distribute ice cream to students on the feast day.

FEATURE STORY

A CREATIVE CAL



L I N G

A new musical opening in August is the product of an all-alumni cast and the devotion of Notre Dame Prep's talented longtime choir director



“...but thi

On Aug. 23, the musical “Alyce” opens at Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich. It will be the culmination of a years-long effort to stage the musical fairy tale about an indentured servant, a scarecrow, a witch and a witch finder. It’s loosely based on Nathaniel Hawthorne’s short story “Feathertop,” which was first published in 1852.

It also will be the first time that veteran Notre Dame Prep choir director Dave Fazzini has managed an all-alumni cast musical.

“It’s never been done before,” said

Fazzini, who wrote all the music for the play. “The initial response was positive and the enthusiasm has steadily risen all along. Our alumni have in the past returned and performed at various concerts and video projects over the years and we’ve had a few alumni choir concerts in the past as well, but this will be different.”

Matthew Croft NDP’06, who currently is traveling the country as the music director, conductor and keyboard player for the “Mamma Mia!” 25th Anniversary National Tour, has agreed to provide the orchestration for “Alyce”. He said his former teacher first contacted him about the project in 2022.

“It’s never been done before...”

“Dave had asked for some thoughts about arrangements for the show and whether I might be available or interested in orchestrating the show,” said Croft, who currently lives in Omaha, Neb., when he’s not on tour. “So we started there and began to more fully work on the project late last summer to start the scoring process.”

He said it’s truly exciting to work on an original score and show.

“Plus, to have an orchestra of 15 professional musicians to work with is quite the treat. I’m hoping to be able to come and be a part of the production in August if I’m able to work it in my schedule.”

Another alum, Dennis Bonucchi, who has been cast in the new musi-

is will be differ

cal, said being part of something like “Alyce” was intriguing after he read about the play in a recent alumni e-newsletter.

“The article indicated that theatre alumni from heritage schools also could apply to join the cast,” said Bonucchi, who graduated from Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods in 1969.

“I immediately emailed Dave Fazzini to express my interest, and also to advise him of my past theatre experience at NDHS. He responded by inviting me to an “Alyce” workshop on Feb. 18 at Notre Dame Prep, where we rehearsed songs from the musical.

Now that he's been cast, Bonucchi says he feels both “privileged and fortunate to be participating in NDP's summer production of ‘Alyce.’”

INSPIRED BY STUDENTS

The initial call for auditions for “Alyce” went out last summer and most of the main characters have been cast, according to Fazzini, and there have been a number of read-throughs. There are a total of six leads, a dozen supporting roles, two choruses, dancers, non-singing actors, the production



“I owe a great deal of

team, crew and administration. With rehearsals beginning in earnest in early July, it's a huge undertaking for anyone let alone someone who's teaching full-time.

But for Fazzini, now in his 25th year at NDP, he wouldn't have it any other way.

“I've been fascinated by the theater since I was a child myself,” he said. “Directing plays and musicals at NDP has deepened my understanding and love of the genre. It seemed like a natural progression to combine my need to write music with my love of the theater. And I have to say that while I've been composing music my whole life, it wasn't until I recently explored writing for the stage that music seemed to just pour out of me.”

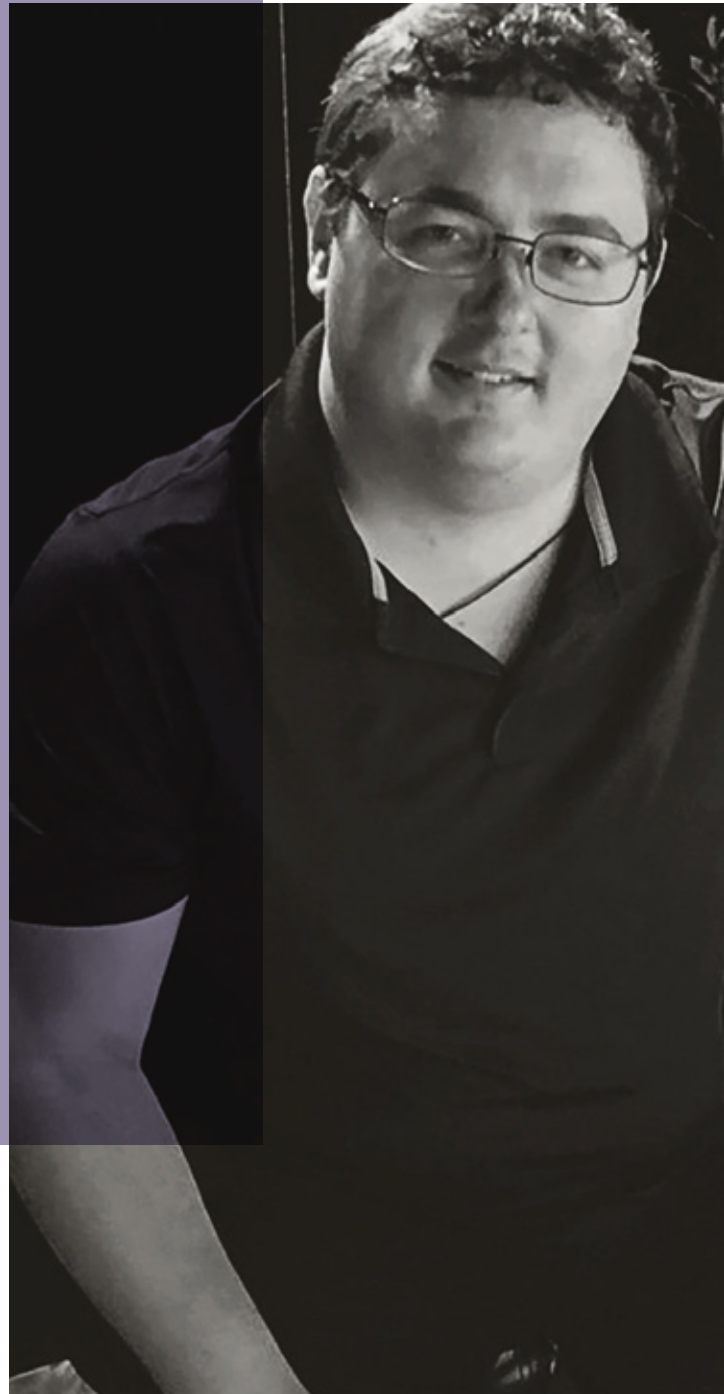
And while some of the stage's most famous performers, such as singer Julie Andrews and composer Stephen Sondheim, have influenced Fazzini, he says his greatest inspiration always comes from working with young people.

“If that sounds corny, so be it,” he said. “Directing them in more than two dozen musicals over my career — each one a treasured memory — was the main prompt for me to tackle something as ambitious as ‘Alyce.’”

Former student Croft says he in turn holds special memories of working with Fazzini.

“Dave was a fantastic teacher; I owe a great deal of my musical development to both Dave and Joe Martin,” Croft said. “Dave always encouraged me to write and arrange, and has been a big fan of my work. His gospel and

film music background was part of a really great learning opportunity for me as a student, and I took a lot of lessons from him into my college experience and beyond.”



my musical development to...

CAPTIVATED BY THE STAGE

Fazzini grew up in Farmington, Mich., and attended Farmington High School and Wayne State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music composition. He's been playing piano since he was a child but says singing has always been his true passion.

"My father was a music minister at a large Protestant church in Southfield called Brightmoore Tabernacle," he said. "So from my early elementary school days, I was put on stage to sing in front of hundreds of people. In fact, most of my early experience with music came from that church, and much of it under my father's direction."

For the past 15 years, Fazzini also has been a member of a local band called "Cancel Monday," which plays around 80 dates a year — weddings, corporate parties and some clubs. In addition, he's the sound engineer for St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lake Orion.

He played cello in middle school and eventually joined the choir in high school.

"My high school choir teacher took us to see a few musicals one year and I was captivated by the magic of the stage," recalls Fazzini. "So much so that during my senior year, I auditioned for my high school's production of 'Annie Get Your Gun.' I got the lead role and experienced the magic from the other side of the curtain, which had such a profound effect on me that since then, I've been compelled to stay as close to the theater stage as possible."

A CHRISTIAN MAN

Now well into his third decade at Notre Dame Prep, Fazzini easily reflects on what it means to work at a Catholic and Marist school like NDP.

"Teaching at a Catholic school is an amazing blessing. My childhood was full of church activity, participating sometimes four or more times a week. But like many, my church attendance lessened in my college and early career days."

He said working at NDP put him close to the church once again. So close, in fact, that he's proud to say that last year he attended



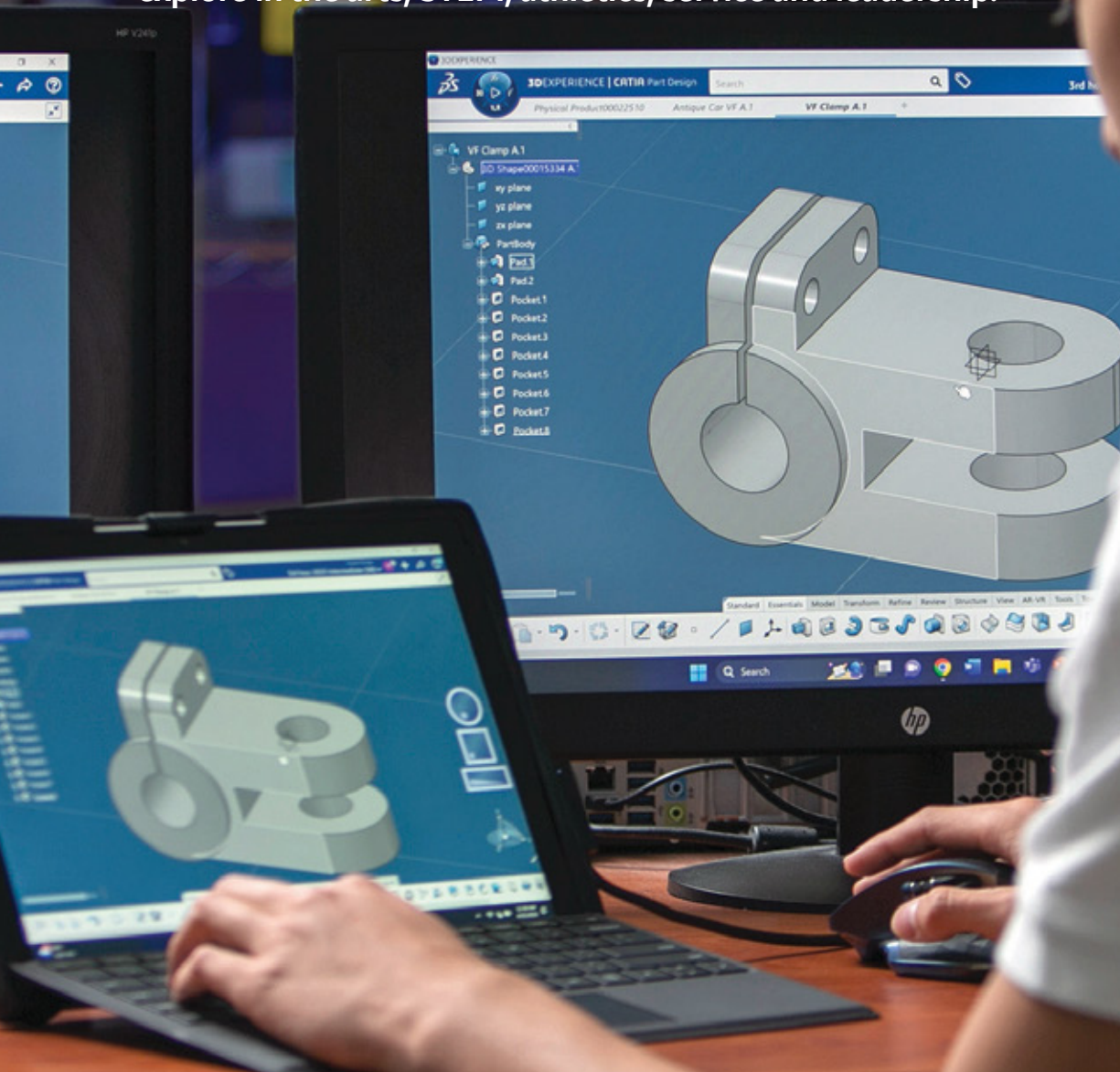


the RCIA program at St. Joseph's parish in Lake Orion and was confirmed last Easter.

"Now I also get to more fully explore both my Catholic faith and the school mission with my students," he said. "I always pray that I can be a good example of a Christian man to the kids. The choir classroom and the cast of a musical are both great models of citizenship. In addition, classes like choir explore parts of the human condition that can't be explained by science. Things like beauty, faith, love and joy. I believe that this kind of scholarship is not only worthwhile, but essential to a complete education." +

Notre Dame Prep: So Much More.

Why consider Notre Dame Prep? For more course selection, more advanced challenges, and more opportunities to explore in the arts, STEM, athletics, service and leadership.



Learn about our Gateway scholarship program and merit scholarships for incoming ninth graders at ndprep.org.



Notre Dame Prep
A Catholic and Marist Community

ndprep.org





SPOTLIGHT ON NDP CLUBS

BIG WIN

for Notre Dame Prep's Michigan Youth in Government delegation

Notre Dame Prep's Michigan Youth in Government delegation, which included the state's youth governor elected earlier this year, attended the 2024 MYIG spring conference in Lansing and came home with major accolades and a big mock trial win.

YMCA Michigan Youth in Government is a student-run, student-led model government program for teens across the state of Michigan. It provides the content and resources for delegations to organize locally to prepare for regional and statewide events. The program year typically starts with a regional fall training conference and culminates in a spring conference in Lansing.

This year's spring conference, for high school-aged participants, ran from April 11-14 and was centered predominantly at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Lansing, although some of the Thursday and Friday events were held in the State Capitol Building.

Notre Dame Prep's delegation, one of the largest in school history, was featured in a number of forums, programs and activities, including the swearing-in ceremony on Thursday and a welcome address and State of the State speech to all attendees by the 2024 youth governor, Michael Kenny NDP'24.

According to Whitney Lorenz NDP'12, who recently had been mentoring the school's MYIG team and assisting in coaching the forensics club, one of the most exciting events that NDP delegates participated in was the Model Judiciary Program, which began in earnest on a Thursday afternoon.

"After a grueling eight rounds of mock trials, the NDP team 113, Geralyn Nguyen NDP'25,

Erin Surmann NDP'26, Caroline Powell NDP'26 and Valentina Sedano NDP'25, took home the win in the final round of competition," she said. "Erin Surmann received a 'Best Witness' award for some superb acting, and lastly, the team was gifted with a replica of the ring that served as evidence in their mock murder-trial case."

Lorenz was effusive about the talent demonstrated by the Notre Dame Prep students.

"I cannot begin to explain all of the hard work and dedication that they put into preparing for this mock trial case," Lorenz said. "I'm so proud of that team as well as all our students who were in Lansing. It truly is another testament to the incredible students at NDP." +



(Above) Erin Surmann NDP'26 receives the "Best Witness Award" at the MYIG Lansing conference. (Opposite) NDP's Model Judiciary Program Team 113, Geralyn Nguyen NDP'25, Erin Surmann NDP'26, Caroline Powell NDP'26, and Valentina Sedano NDP'25, is with Team 114, Christina Yeras NDP'25, Jamie Thomas NDP'26 and Adriane Thompson NDP'26, who also attended the spring conference. Also pictured is student judge Matthew Kafarski NDP'25 and MJP advisor Whitney Lorenz NDP'12.

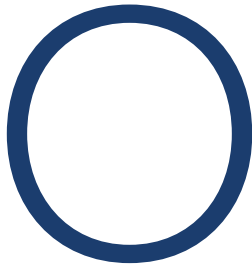


Difference maker

A busy, young
student finds inspiration
through her sister







n Dec. 2, 2023, Notre Dame Prep sophomore Elisa Kim and several members of 100+ Women Who Care Motown, an organization of local women who support area charities, visited Gigi's Playhouse in Southfield to tour the facility, meet with participants and present a check for \$10,000.

Gigi's Playhouse, which opened in 2019, is the local branch of an organization with more than 50 locations across the country that helps raise awareness for individuals with Down syndrome for developmental play, therapy, sharing resources, and most importantly, the creation of important support networks for both kids and parents.

Kim's family has been associated with Gigi's Playhouse since January of 2019. Her younger sister, Elena, has Down syndrome, and Elisa and her family's participation in fundraising events provided a big boost in the opening of Gigi's Playhouse almost five years ago and has been a part of its steady growth since then.

Notre Dame Prep sophomore Elisa Kim, center right, is with her sister, Elena, and other Gigi's House participants after a check for \$10,000 was presented to the organization.



DOWN RIGHT FABULOUS



One Hundred +
WOMEN
Who Care MOTOWN

December 2, '23
Date

Pay to the
Order of

GiGi's Playhouse

\$ *10,000*

Dollars

ten thousand

For

*One Hundred + Women Who Care
Motown*

100•100•100•100•100•100• 100•100•100•

HUGE IMPACT

Involving the 100+ Women Who Care Motown organization was a perfect fit for Gigi's, according to Kim.

"After having multiple conversations with the founder of 100+ WWCM and several of its members, I was able to advocate for Gigi's Playhouse at their November 2023 meeting," Kim said.

"For a small nonprofit like Gigi's, the donations totaling \$10,000 will make a huge impact on its ability to provide services and programs to individuals with Down syndrome in Metro Detroit," she added.

Elena clearly already is benefiting.

"Since Gigi's opening, Elena has participated in various programs offered there," Kim said. "I was inspired to become a volunteer after seeing how Elena was helped by the various programs and by observing how it gives her a community that supports and encourages her to be her best self."

Kim also went through volunteer training at the facility a couple of years ago, but due to the pandemic there was a lengthy suspension of activities. She's made up for that lost time and then some and has been an active volunteer for the past two years. She also volunteers at Friendship Circle in West Bloomfield, another organization that provides a range of services and programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

MISSION-FOCUSED

"I try to do what I can to promote awareness and acceptance of Down syndrome," she said. "All too often, people make assumptions about Elena and individuals like her because they wear their disability on their face. But part of being a Christian person, I believe, is to meet each person where they are in life, and to treat them with care and compassion."

She says her sister, without question, is someone who is so full of joy and love and that she doesn't judge others at all based on appearance or background.

"I try to share that same openness when I am at Gigi's and interacting with all the participants. I've learned so much from being involved there. Being a volunteer also gives me the opportunity to be an upright citizen by being more fully active with the local Down syndrome community and by bringing more awareness to the community at large."

Going forward, she is hopeful that her involvement with Gigi's Playhouse encourages others to learn more about Down syndrome or other disabilities and to get more involved themselves.

THRIVING AT NOTRE DAME PREP

Meanwhile, Kim, who first came to Notre Dame Prep as a sixth grader, has thrived at the Oakland County Catholic school. She said a big reason she likes NDP is because it has so much to offer to its students compared to others.

"NDP gives students a unique experience that makes high school very memorable," she said. "My favorite classes so far have been art and freshman year English with Mr. Lilek. I've also been part of the swim team since freshman



year and I participate in Michigan Youth in Government."

Among her other extracurriculars is the Culinary Club (she's the founder) that focuses on food and cooking, especially international cuisine. Kim's also a member of the school's Newspaper Club, the UNICEF Club, the Podcast Club and the Pre-Med Club.

A busy young lady, for sure, but not too busy to think about the next step in her academic journey.

"Although I am keeping my options open after graduation, I am interested in the University of

Michigan, Georgetown University, where my sister, Aria NDP'23, goes to school, the University of Notre Dame and UC Berkeley," she said.

As she was heading to the finish of her second year of high school, Kim understandably wasn't quite sure what she'll study in college or what a potential career might look like. But it's a fair bet that the world likely will benefit from whatever she does. +





NOT JUST A DREAM





Two alumni friends
transform the fairway
into the new runway



Julia Pagnucco, left, and Raegan Kerr exhibited at the PGA Show in Orlando, Fla., in late January.



During the last full week of January,

Notre Dame Prep alums Julia Pagnucco and Raegan Kerr, both from the Class of 2016, were in Orlando, Fla., at the PGA Show, one of the biggest national events of the year for the business of golf. They were there to introduce The Garde, a women's sporting and lifestyle brand they both launched recently from "just a dream."

"Since high school, we have always talked about creating a fashion brand someday," Pagnucco said on the eve of the Orlando show. "Raegan and I have always bonded over our interest in fashion and wanted to create something that reflected our own personal styles."

Kerr played on the varsity golf team all four years at NDP and while she enjoyed the sport, her favorite part of golf had always been the fashion. Back then, according to Pagnucco, Kerr's best friend, creating a brand and business was "just a dream" they talked about but with no real idea of how they were going to make it happen.

"Eight years later, after college and grad school, we realized that we were in a great position to act on that dream," added Pagnucco, who graduated from the University of Michigan in 2020 with a degree in computer science. "We felt it was a matter of 'now or never' and decided to go for it. Looking back, The Garde really is a culmination of everything we've been working toward, even before we knew what exactly that was. Now we are really excited to see where this journey takes us!"

THE FAIRWAY AS RUNWAY

The Garde is a made-in-the-USA women's sporting and lifestyle brand that Kerr and Pagnucco said is focused on updating traditional aesthetics with modern details. They believe they've hit the bullseye by "making the fairway the new fashion runway."

More from a recent press release: "Inspired by the intersection of game and lifestyle, The Garde designs functional but fashionable garments that allow women to easily transition from the golf course to the boardroom to happy hour. The Garde is carving a space for in-the-know women, offering a collection that challenges the status quo of traditional, outdated sportswear and opening doors for a new era of elegant athleticism."



THE GARDE

Pagnucco said their start-up is direct-to-consumer through their website, the-garde.com, and will soon be found in select retailers across the country starting in the spring.

“We also are planning a trunk show road trip for later this summer,” she said, adding that all their clothing is made in New York City. “Keeping our development and production domestic was something that was important to us from the start.”

IB INFLUENCE AT NOTRE DAME PREP

The two women said the Florida show went well and they're still trying to catch up. And while both of these young entrepreneurs are looking forward to big success with The Garde and long and rewarding careers in business, they can't help but look behind to what likely helped make that possible.

“When I was at NDP, like most of my classmates, I had no idea where I would be at this point in my life, but I know that my time there had a major influence on who I am as a person today,” said Kerr, a graduate of Miami University and the Parsons School of Design in New York City. “I learned to stay true to myself, follow my passions, and to appreciate and lean on the

people who have been there for you since the beginning. Notre Dame Prep faculty, staff and families are still our biggest supporters, even eight years later.”

Pagnucco, who also works at Google as a software engineer, was equally appreciative of her time at 1300 Giddings Road.

“In high school, I actually thought I was going to be a doctor,” she said. “Although my path changed quite a bit, what I learned at NDP was how to work hard and persevere.”

She said the International Baccalaureate program definitely influenced her way of thinking and to always keep an open mind. “I think discussion-based learning helped me understand others' viewpoints, which was very important in college.

“The relationships I formed at NDP are still at the center of my life — Raegan still is my best friend and I met her there. I also am still very close with many others I met there, and I fondly remember all the teachers being amazing influences and resources.

“In my career as a software engineer and now as a new entrepreneur, I find my time at Prep gave me the tools to succeed — the math skills, the leadership skills, the critical-thinking skills, and most important, the confidence-in-myself skills!” +



SHAPING LEADERS:

A conversation with
MYIG'S
GOVERNOR



In the heart of Michigan's Youth in Government program beats the spirit of democratic engagement and leadership development. Notre Dame Prep senior Michael Kenny's four-year journey in the program encapsulates the transformative power of youth participation in shaping the future of governance. Kenny served as youth governor for the 2023-2024 school year.

Michigan Youth in Government (MYIG) is a student-run, student-led model government for teens across the state of Michigan organized by the State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs. Student delegations organize locally from September to April and participate in regional and state events culminating in a spring conference in Lansing. The program provides middle school and high school students with a unique opportunity to become acting state legislators, lobbyists, press corps representatives and lawyers. They simulate the positions of the actual state government.

From delegate to governor

For Kenny, politics was not always in the cards, he admits. The soon-to-be graduate filled his time at NDP participating in extracurriculars like Irish Investing Club, Creative Writing Club, Model U.N. and debate. He also hosted the school's YouTube comedy show, "Between Two Shamrocks." When he wasn't involved in those activities, his rigorous International Baccalaureate class schedule also filled his days.

"When I first joined MYIG, I was not the most enthusiastic about it, as it was fully online my first year in spring of 2021. As I heard the passion in the delegate's speeches, I wanted to learn more," he said. "I am so thankful that Dr. (LeAnne) Schmidt continued to push and encourage me to run for office."

Kenny said he fell in love with the program after being elected lieutenant governor his sophomore year and had the opportunity to preside over the junior and senior year delegate's Senate Chamber sessions.

"I witnessed these high schoolers disagree, passionately debate, and compromise on the Chamber floors but still be friends and grab lunch together right after. Seeing so many young people come together to share a common passion for change in our world today truly inspired me," he said.

Kenny was re-elected lieutenant governor his junior year before running for and winning the youth governor seat his senior year.

His ascent through the program mirrors a personal evolution for Kenny during his time at NDP, first as an underclassman with a lot of uncertainty to eventually finding his niche in leadership roles across the institution.

"It's been an incredible journey of growth and discovery," Kenny said.

Election triumphs and governing responsibilities

Kenny's road to governorship was a personal goal and a memory that he will cherish.

"Being elected governor was both a humbling and exhilarating experience," he said.

As governor, Kenny embraced a myriad of responsibilities, from representing Michigan at national conferences to fostering cohesion within the MYIG community.

"My first duty was to represent the state of Michigan at the YMCA Conference On National Affairs, which takes place every year at the Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina. There, I connected with and brainstormed with the other youth governors representing most of the states in the nation, crafting policy and working together to have a smooth year in Youth In Government," he explained.

Throughout the year, Kenny met with schools statewide to learn more about how they wanted to see the program evolve.

"I also worked with and spoke to multiple Michigan senators, representatives and committee members on getting the program grant renewed by the state," he said.

In November, Kenny helped organize and run the MYIG Fall Training Conference, where students across Southeastern Michigan introduced new members, elected Speaker of the House and Youth Governor candidates, and planned the spring conference.

"In April in Lansing at our spring conference, we spent four days working in the capital, and I received firsthand experience working in politics. This year, we introduced the Governor's State of the State address, where I recognized bill authors and policies that I would like to see in legislation moving forward," Kenny said.

From there, the youth governor worked with students serving as chief of staff and in the Governor's Cabinet, to communicate with bill authors, speak at press conferences, discuss bills for signing, and either pass or veto student-sponsored legislation.

"Something I worked on this year was integrating all the programs (Legislative, Model Judiciary Program, National Issues Forum, Press, Lobbyist and Legislative Oversight). To do this, I communicated with the heads of each program and learned what press coverage and schedule flexibility would help them feel seen in the program. On my last day, I gave a final closing address to the program, doing my best to instill a message of hope and

perseverance for the program, encouraging the delegates to work together as a community to further our great state of Michigan.”

Navigating the legislative landscape

After four years, Kenny said one of the biggest lessons he learned is how to compromise and work with others to accomplish a goal, even if he didn’t always see eye to eye with bills that other student legislators authored.

“MYIG exposed me to the complexities of governance,” he said. “From healthcare to gun violence to infrastructure, the issues we grappled with were diverse and challenging.”

As governor, Kenny navigated the legislative landscape with a keen eye for feasibility and impact. “It was a balancing act,” Kenny acknowledges, “but fostering dialogue and collaboration was paramount to advancing meaningful policy solutions.”

The road ahead

While Kenny’s tenure as youth governor has concluded, his commitment to effecting positive change remains steadfast.

“MYIG has instilled in me a deep sense of civic duty and responsibility,” he said. “For aspiring

participants, I offer this advice: seize the opportunity to engage and lead. MYIG has the power to transform lives and communities.”

Kenny admits that politics may not be his true calling, at least for now. He is planning to attend the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business.

“As I bid farewell to MYIG, I leave behind a legacy of leadership and service,” he said. “It’s been an honor to serve alongside my peers and mentors, and I’m grateful for the friendships forged and lessons learned.”

As he embarks on his next adventure, he said the lessons learned at Notre Dame Prep and MYIG will forever remain close at heart.

“Notre Dame Prep has been instrumental in preparing me for the road ahead,” Kenny said. “Each and every one of my teachers has prepared me for leadership, as NDP teachers truly do the work of Mary in guiding students here toward a bright future. Thanks to my teachers, I have an undimmed eagerness to learn more, explore the world around me, and work with my classmates to achieve our goals. As I leave NDP to attend the University of Michigan, I feel fully prepared for what lies ahead.” +



PURPOSE through TEACHING

Social studies teacher finds a school environment that aligns with her own faith and mission in life

Fewer than one in five Americans (18 percent) would encourage a young person to become a K-12 teacher, according to a recent survey by NORC (National Opinion Research Center) at the University of Chicago, a non-partisan, independent social research organization. Last year, Harvard University dropped its undergrad teaching program due to declining enrollment — just one of many such closures that have accelerated since 2020, noted a Forbes article by Mark C. Perna, an educator, author and specialist in workforce management.

Meanwhile, finding those teachers who embrace the special mission that defines everything at Notre Dame Prep despite such a difficult environment remains a huge priority for the school's administration and human resources department. Fortunately, the classrooms of NDP, from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, continue to be staffed by a group of faculty members who deliver the school's enviable academic program within a community that also guides young men and women into

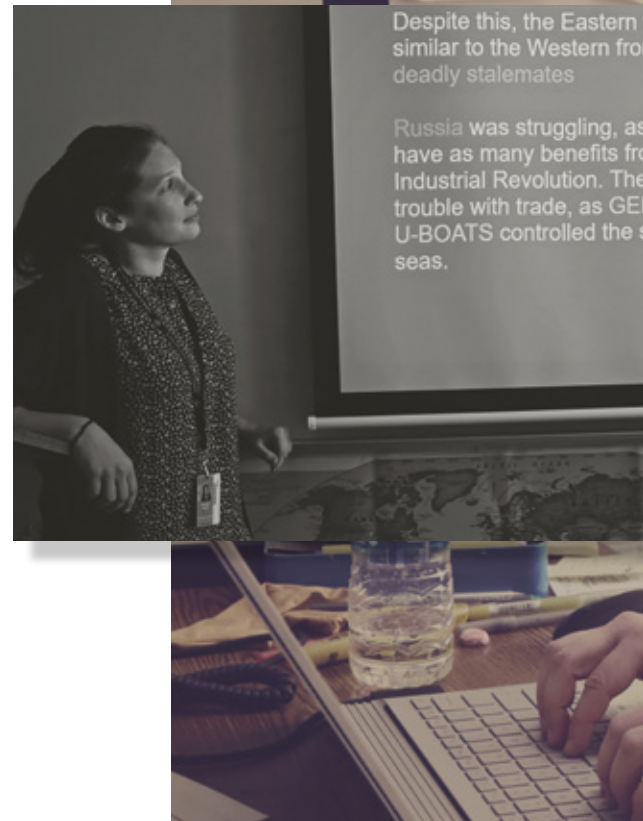
becoming good Christian people and upstanding citizens with the strength to live their conviction and a commitment to serving others.

IT'S ABOUT VALUES AND ETHICS

For NDP's Rachael Kroll, who began teaching in the upper school in December of 2021, it's been an "amazing" experience so far and one that seems perfectly aligned with who she is.

"The faith and school mission aspect of NDP is grounded in a very similar way to my own high school experience," she said in a recent interview. "I remember my high school years instilling certain values and ethics that I keep with me to this day. And I can tell that Notre Dame does the same thing."

A graduate of Oakland University with a Bachelor of Arts in history, a minor in cinema studies and a secondary education certification, Kroll had a number of long-term substitute teacher positions





before signing on at NDP as a full-time instructor. She's currently teaching world cultures, AP U.S. History and economics. She also said that while starting in the middle of the school year was a bit hectic for her, the administration and her fellow teachers were very supportive and encouraging. And so were the kids.

"The students were amazing and really helped me be successful in my first year," she said. "I still have fantastic connections with some of those students I had that first year. And throughout these past few years, this amazing school has allowed me to grow as an educator through furthering my own education while working with some truly inspiring fellow staff members."

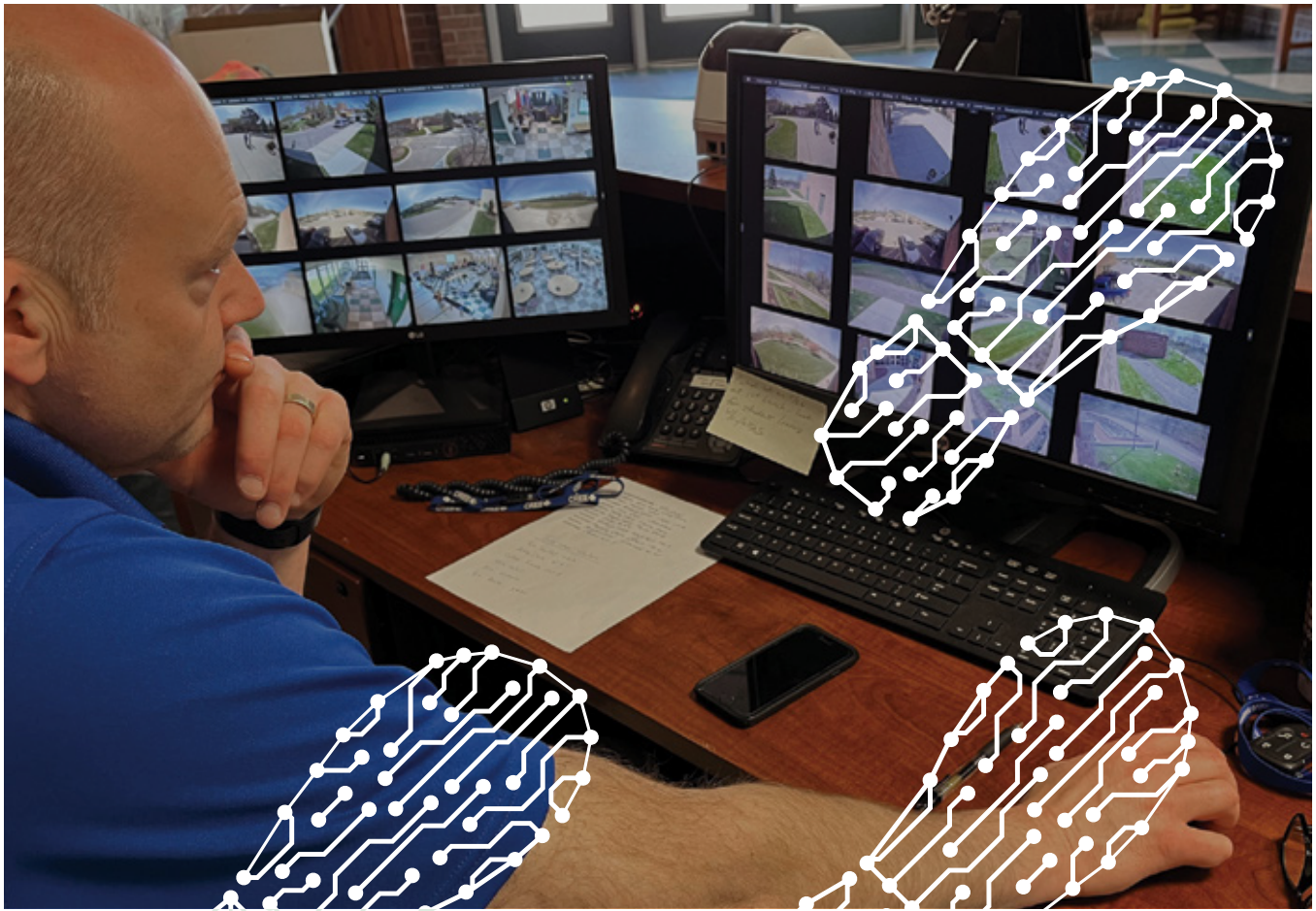
Kroll also took on the job as moderator of NDP's Model United Nations program. With roots going back to the early 20th century at Harvard University, Model United Nations is a high school- and college-based simulation of the real United Nations General Assembly located in New York City. She said Model UN has been an amazing experience.

CALLED TO BE THE BEST

"We were able to go to a conference at the University of Michigan and I really got to see the students grow in their confidence and ability to be an impactful part of democracy and change," she said.

As Kroll and her students looked to finish the school year strong, she remains steadfast in nurturing and advancing the overall *raison d'être* of Notre Dame Prep.

"The school fosters an environment where everyone feels accepted, heard, challenged and called to be the best person they can be," she said. "Forming Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars has a lot more to it than just those words. Truly living and understanding those words is how we all can become who we are called to be by God." +



Increasing the security footprint

In January of this year, Notre Dame Prep announced that it hired Kerry F. Horton II as its new full-time director of security and safety. Horton's extensive background in law enforcement, security management and his commitment to innovation and safety will play a key role in ensuring the safety and well-being of the school's campus community, said the announce-

ment. In this newly created role, he leads all emergency and safety protocols on campus and works collaboratively with surrounding community and law-enforcement partners.

According to Andy Guest, Notre Dame Prep's head of school, the investment in a full-time security and safety officer position is a significant step in ongoing efforts to ensure that the school

maintains a high level of safety for students, parents and staff.

"Kerry will work closely with school administration and lead our existing security efforts, which include a strong team of dedicated security professionals," added Guest. "Combined with our investment in a state-of-the-art emergency communication system and more than 100 security cameras, I am confident that

Notre Dame Prep is now one of the safest campuses in the state.”

Horton, a retired federal law enforcement officer with 26 years of service, brings a wealth of security experience to Notre Dame Prep after serving primarily within the Federal Bureau of Prisons, beginning at the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan, Mich. In 2001, he transferred federal agencies and was hired by the U.S. Probation Department and specialized in cases involving drugs, firearms and high-risk criminal activity in Wayne, Macomb, Oakland and Genesee counties.

He is a nationally certified safety instructor and during his tenure with U.S. Probation, was responsible for developing and facilitating training in the application of use of force, self-defense tactics, hand-to-hand combat, ground fighting, handcuffing, weapon retention, and various other law enforcement-related areas.

In December 2021, he retired from the federal service and began working at Premier Security Solutions as an armed school security officer and would eventually be promoted to his most recent previous position as a school security manager, where he assisted in the oversight of security operations in 18 school districts.

“I feel very humbled and blessed to have been chosen to fill this vital role at Notre Dame Prep,” said Horton, who maintains an office on the school’s Giddings Road campus. “I believe my past law enforcement experience and

time already spent at Notre Dame together make me uniquely qualified to meet our school’s security and safety needs. I have spent my entire professional career in public service and am excited for the opportunity to continue serving the members of our school community.”

Horton earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and sociology from the University of



Kerry F. Horton II

Michigan and a master’s degree in criminology from Eastern Michigan University.

During the past two years with Premier, Horton has been actively involved in the security program at Notre Dame Prep, both as a security officer and manager. These experiences have allowed him to gain valuable insight into the security practices and needs at NDP, as well as developing positive working relationships with the various members of the school community.

“Even prior to accepting my new position with the school,” he added, “I already considered

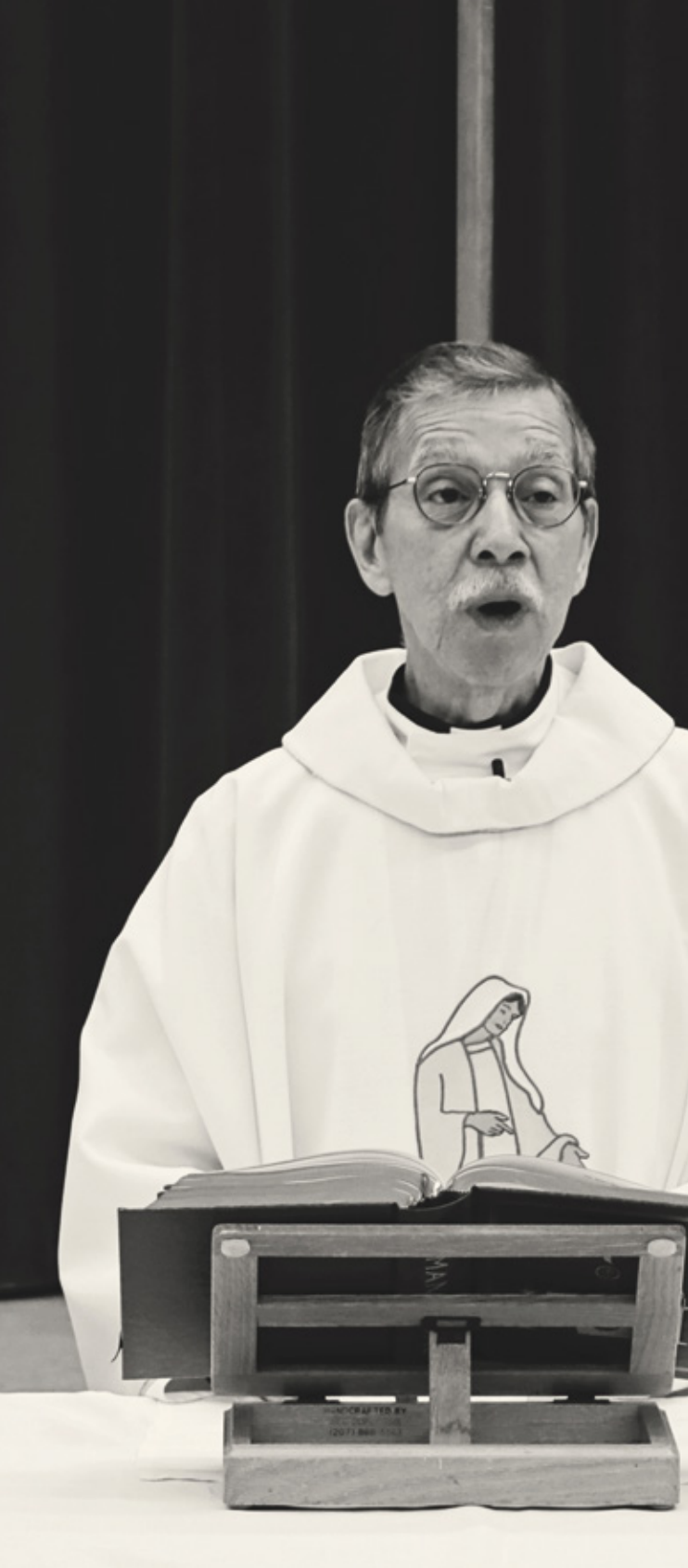
myself a member of this community, which I am totally devoted to keeping safe.”

Horton also noted that Notre Dame Prep’s current security program historically has been strong and effective.

“To the credit of our school’s leadership, NDP continues to treat security as a top priority and invests in any upgrades necessary to meet the needs of our school community,” he said. “That includes maintaining high staffing levels of contracted security personnel on all campuses, the lease of a security vehicle and increased security markings on personally owned security vehicles for added deterrence, installation of additional cameras/video monitoring, electronic visitor check-in screening, and the expanded use of keycards on designated building entry points.”

Horton said a big part of his job is to continually assess all campus facilities and established emergency procedures and make adjustments as necessary. He also plans to maintain the existing working relationship with local law enforcement agencies such as the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office.

“Local law enforcement offers an added layer of support in maintaining an orderly campus, as well as being first responders to any critical incident that may occur. By keeping everyone protected and feeling safe, teachers can be comfortable teaching, students can learn and our school divisions can operate at their maximum effectiveness.” +



P A D R E J U A N



Fr. Juan González, s.m., returned to Notre Dame Prep in February after serving at parishes in Brooklyn and San Francisco

Returns

"I recall that even as a high school student myself. I was interested in a teaching career."

1976

Professed vows as a Marist

1977

Came back to Michigan to teach at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods

1979

Returned to Boston to complete theological studies

1981

Came back to Michigan to teach at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods

1982

Ordained to serve in the Society of Mary

1985

Assigned by then-Archbishop Edmund Szoka as pastor of St. Stephen – Mary, Mother of the Church in Detroit

After Fr. Ron Nikodem, s.m., retired at the end of the last school year and left a huge void at Notre Dame Prep, the Marists and administration of the school had been anxiously awaiting the February return of Fr. Juan González, s.m., who now is serving under Marist Way and the Marist missionary efforts of the school community.

González returned to the Pontiac campus after more than six years as pastor of Notre Dame des Victoires Parish in San Francisco, Calif.

"I am quite excited about my transfer from my parish in California to Pontiac as I've missed the Marist ministry of education since I last left Michigan in 2005," said the Detroit native before arriving in Pontiac.

"My newest ministry at Notre Dame Prep will be a reunion with the NDP community and also with my own family members who still reside in the western suburbs of Detroit. I am grateful that God has blessed me with this ministerial change and I joyfully welcome God's will for me as a gift at this stage of my Marist life."

González grew up in Detroit and

after high school attended the University of Massachusetts, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then earned his Master of Divinity degree from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, now known as the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College.

He professed vows as a Marist in 1976 and was ordained to serve in the Society of Mary in 1982.

González first came back to Michigan to teach at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods from 1977 to 1979 during his Marist formation and then again from 1981 to 1985. In addition, from 1985 to 1993, González ministered as pastor of St. Stephen – Mary Mother of the Church Hispanic Mission in Detroit.

In 1994, the Marists transferred him to Pontiac to help open Notre Dame Prep where he taught for six years before moving back to Harper Woods to serve again at NDHS. After that school was closed in 2005 by the Archdiocese of Detroit, González moved to Brooklyn in New York City where he served as pastor of the St. Francis of Assisi/St. Blaise parish until 2017 when he moved to San Francisco.

It's been quite a whirlwind for the busy Marist priest, but he was truly

"I've missed the Marist ministry of education..."

1993

Went on a one-year sabbatical

1994

Transferred to Pontiac to help open Notre Dame Prep and teach

2000

Transferred to Harper Woods to serve again at NDHS

2005

Moved to Brooklyn in New York City where he served as pastor of the St. Francis of Assisi/St. Blaise parish

2017

Moved to San Francisco

2024

Returns back to Notre Dame Prep in Michigan

looking forward to his newest assignment and most especially the opportunity to work again in a school.

"Those years of teaching were so memorable for me," he said. "I recall that even as a high school student myself, I was interested in a teaching career and would pray to God that he would answer my prayers. God did hear my prayers and granted me 21 wonderful and blessed years of teaching at NDHS and NDP."

Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., served with González at both Notre Dame High School and Notre Dame Prep. Now provincial superior for the Marist Fathers and Brothers USA in Washington, D.C., he is very pleased that his fellow Marist is back in Pontiac.

"He was a popular teacher at both NDHS and NDP, and I think the students and staff at Prep will enjoy having him back," said Hindelang, who served as principal of NDP for many years. "He's a dedicated Marist with a ton of creativity and humor, and while he enjoyed his time in our parishes, he is excited to be returning to the education ministry."

And like many staffers who served at both Notre Dame High School and Notre Dame Prep, González is quick to embrace and point out the common threads con-

necting the two schools.

"Our Marist charism, which I sometimes define as 'to be the presence of Mary in the world,' was the foundation of the Society of Mary's education ministry at both schools," he said. "As Marists, we share this vision with our students, their parents and extended relatives as well as with administrators and teachers.

"I also want to say that I've always felt supported when I was at both Michigan schools. My ministry of education and living within each school community enriched my life and I have experienced Mary, the Lord's Mother, as guiding, supporting and loving me from the moment I became a Marist to the present day." +

"I joyfully welcome God's will for me as a gift at this stage of my Marist life."



RUN

*Jonathan Karr
NDP'20, a senior
at the University of
Notre Dame, loves his
daily runs. In fact, he
currently has one of
the top 3,000 running
streaks in the world,
over 1,000 days and
counting.*

Notre Dame Prep alum Jonathan Karr “runs” to

NING

his finish at the University of Notre Dame

MAN

and charges toward a PhD in computer science.

The National Intercollegiate Running Club Association (NIRCA) is the national governing body for club-level collegiate cross-country, road running and track and field clubs at more than 50 colleges and universities across the United States.

At the University of Notre Dame, Jonathan Karr NDP'20 has been a member of the NIRCA club since he was a freshman, serving as race coordinator last year and media chair this year. Endlessly upbeat and a man of faith, Karr, who runs every day, is a dynamo who's looking forward to the next lap of his life, likely a doctoral degree in computer science.

But Karr says all would not be possible had it not been for his Notre Dame Prep experience.

“I am so grateful for Notre Dame Prep paving the way for me,” he said. “Notre Dame Prep’s International Baccalaureate program, especially, laid a solid founda-

tion that helped me succeed in college. And the experiences of Kairos and NDP’s Catholic and Marist foundation guided me in deepening my faith even further throughout college.”

He also credits his Catholic university in furthering his devotion to God.

“The UND community has helped me with my faith just as it was leading me to re-discover my passion for computer science,” he added. “For example, at Notre Dame, I’ve been part of the Stanford Hall for all four years and served as the sacristan of the hall chapel. Each dorm on campus has a chapel, and at Stanford we’re lucky to have daily mass. Also, having two Holy Cross priests and a Holy Cross brother in our dorm has helped me in my faith journey.”

Research at the university level

Karr’s longtime passion for computers also has led to a computer science major

at Notre Dame with a cybersecurity concentration and minors in theology and engineering corporate practice. Additionally, he's been working on research with Dr. Paul Brenner, who is a senior associate director at Notre Dame's Center for Research Computing.

The research is funded by the U.S. Navy and supports \$27 million in funding for research in advanced computing, computational biology, cybersecurity, data science, software and systems engineering and artificial intelligence.

Karr adds that they've recently been doing work with natural language processing and knowledge graphs, which, he notes, has been a bit less strenuous due to the IB at Notre Dame Prep.

"In particular, the internal assessments component of the IB program was a big help in preparing me for such college research."

But he also credits his high school's multi-faceted extracurricular focus on STEM for his overall success in college.

"The Killer Bees' robotics team helped nurture my passion for data and computer science and even helped me in obtaining internships at Qualcomm for the past three summers," he said.

Running with former classmates

Current NDP Academic Technology Director Eden Konja also was influential in developing Karr's computer science skills in high school.

"As the CyberPatriot coach at NDP, Mr. Konja showed me how computer science skills can be applied in the real world," Karr said. "Additionally, he helped me obtain IT and Python certifications."

Meanwhile, as Karr finishes up at the University of Notre Dame, he said he's in the process of applying to computer science doctoral schools that hopefully will further his interests in data mining and its relationship with ethics, artificial intelligence and graph learning.

He's also catching up with former high school classmates, like Jenny Ohlsson NDP'20, who runs cross-country for Oakland University's D-1 team.

"This year, the Notre Dame Running Club and Oakland University's NCAA team participated together in the Joe Piane Invitational, hosted by Notre Dame, and the Bradley University 'Pink' Classic meets," said Karr, who also served as captain of the NDP cross-country team during his senior year.



"So whether it's going back to high school cross-country practices during fall break or racing against former teammates like Jenny, I'm always grateful to remain connected to the Notre Dame Prep community." +



◀ Karr is with fellow 2020 NDP grad Jenny Ohlsson, who runs for Oakland University's cross-country and track and field teams.



UPDATE: Congratulations to Notre Dame Prep eighth grader Audrey Love, who placed in the top 30 in the Global Amazing Shake in Atlanta! Way to go, Audrey!

Notre Dame Prep's winner of the 2024 Amazing Shake school competition, Max Mermell, headed to Atlanta, Ga., in late March to participate in the Global Amazing Shake. He said he was looking very much forward to the trip to the Ron Clark Academy for the big event.

"I'm traveling with my sister, Ellie, who was the best scoring sixth grader, Thomas Binkowski, who was the best scoring seventh grader, William Platt, who is an eighth grader and was third place in the entire school, and Audrey Love, who is an eighth grader and was second place in the school," said the NDP eighth grader before his trip. "The families of those competing will also be accompanying us to Georgia."

Mermell said he was very excited and grateful to be attending the competition and hoped to acquire some beneficial skills, knowledge and experience.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to see how you can perform on the big stage and, most importantly, have some fun!"

Mermell, who also was one of the top finishers in the regional Amazing Shake, which was held at NDP on March 8, is thankful for the opportunities and learning experiences that the entire competition afforded him.

"Everything we went through had its negatives and positives, which themselves are complicated and subjective," he said. But he said he definitely had some favorite parts of the competition.

"I thoroughly enjoyed being in the actual moments of competition, such as entering a gauntlet, orating an answer to a 'would you rather' question, having an active conversation in a work-the-room setting, etc. These

were the moments that were most fun and valuable in my total experience. During these moments I was able to observe, learn and build my skills. I liked being in a state of mind where I was both focused and thrilled at the same time. Moving on and eventually winning was amazing, but the actual experiences of being in the competition settings is what actually makes the Amazing Shake so special."

It certainly has been a whirlwind for Mermell since he began his Amazing Shake journey and at press time, while he was looking forward and preparing to do well in Atlanta, he still managed to look beyond to what's next in his academic career at Notre Dame Prep.

"I am incredibly excited for my freshman year at NDP," he said. "Being in the middle school, I have already made connections with students, faculty and some of the programs in the upper school. I am anxious to start taking advantage of even more opportunities that the school offers, both academic or otherwise."

He added that moving to high school, like any large step in life, will most likely be a complicated journey.

"That is why I am extremely grateful to be attending a school like Notre Dame Prep that will allow me to choose my own journey, push me a bit when needed, and support me all the way through it," he said. "If I had to use one phrase to describe how I feel about this next step, it's 'I don't know what my high school future is, but I am most definitely excited to find out!'" +

(Opposite) Eighth grade student Max Mermell came in first place in the 2024 Notre Dame Prep middle school Amazing Shake competition.

Notre Dame High School alumnus John Trinkwalder knows the sacrifice his father made to send him to Catholic school. The investment, he said, is one for which he is forever grateful. Now, Trinkwalder wants to pay it forward. He and his fellow classmates have established the Class of 1962 scholarship fund to support rising freshmen at Notre Dame Prep.

Trinkwalder said the idea for a scholarship was born out of discussion with the school during the class's 60th reunion last year.

"I found out there were some students who

attend the school who struggle financially with tuition, so I decided to reach out to my classmates and ask everyone to donate \$100," Trinkwalder explained. "All of us from Harper Woods Notre Dame can relate to the sacrifices our parents made for us."

The class was able to raise \$3,200, enough to provide four scholarships to students transitioning from middle to high school. Trinkwalder said the criteria for the scholarship is simple: students must demonstrate a financial need, participate in school activities, and be registered parishioners at a Catholic church.



“Our class goal is to raise enough money to make sure the scholarship recipients will receive aid through their senior year,” he said.

The scholarship is a testament to the class of 62’s ongoing support of the Marist priests and Notre Dame Prep faculty and staff.

“My main interest is for these students to continue their education at Notre Dame,” Trinkwalder said. “They may not realize it now, but the education they receive is so valuable. These kids who go to Notre Dame are a light in the darkness that is happening all around us in this world. The education they receive here will have an immeasurable

impact on their whole lives.”

Trinkwalder said he enjoys visiting the Pontiac campus and tries to get back as often as he can, most recently during Homecoming.

“I enjoy visiting and seeing the Catholic teachings and knowing the Marist foundation that played such a big part of my life is still present at Notre Dame Prep,” he said.

For more information on scholarships, or to support scholarships for families, visit ndprep.org/support. †



HIP

NDP STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nineteen students in Notre Dame Prep’s upper school were recognized by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and InnerView in the Seventh Annual Community Service Impact Awards. This program, open to all U.S. students, has been designed to connect student community service activities, skill development and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform our world.

NDP’s UNA-USA awardees include:

Ambassador Awardee: Alessa Atallah

Honor Awardees: Erin Connelly, Isabelle Gumma

Merit Awardees: Maria Charaf, Ana Dimovski, Christian Estrellas, Brooklyn Haddad, Michael Khouri, Sami Khouri, Gracie Kozemchak, Addie Mikel, Maria Nunning, Tulicaa Ochani and Mariana Ricci

Zero Hero Awardees: Lucas Bigelow, Brooklyn Haddad, Michael Khouri, Sami Khouri, Nyia Moore, Madison Pawlowski and Ava Wernis

Michigan Awardees: Alessa Atallah, Alaina Byrne, Erin Connelly, Ana Dimovski, Christian Estrellas, Isabelle Gumma, Brooklyn Haddad, Michael Khouri and Tulicaa Ochani

Ginna Holmes, Michigan Community Service Commission executive director, said she is proud to recognize the efforts of Michigan youth who chose to give their valuable time to help others. “Youth understand the power of volunteering and the importance their actions have in strengthening communities,” she added. “Their passion and strong desire to make an impact is inspiring.”

HENRY EWLES NAMED TO MHSAA STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Notre Dame Prep’s Henry Ewles has been selected this year as one of only eight students in the entire



Henry Ewles

state to serve on Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Student Advisory Council. Ewles will serve two years in this prestigious group beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

Sophomore Ewles will be joining the other student-athletes in Michigan who have been selected this year to serve. Two-thousand thirteen alum Carly Joseph also served on the council while a student at NDP.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group that provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student’s perspective, and also is involved in the operation of MHSAA championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. New members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors who were appointed a year ago.

WORLD-CLASS ROBOTICS

Notre Dame Prep teams brought home two of the four awards won by Michigan schools in April at this year’s VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas.

The VEX Robotics World Championship, presented by the Northrop Grumman Foundation and the REC Foundation, began April 25 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison

Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. The annual event brought together the top VEX IQ Robotics Competition, VEX Robotics Competition and VEX U teams from around the world to celebrate their accomplishments and participate in the games.

Four robotics teams from Notre Dame Prep traveled this year to Dallas for the event, which is the largest robotics competition in the world, with more than 100,000 in attendance this year. Although it is a huge event, it is not easy to get in; only a small percentage of active teams worldwide qualify to attend.

“Only four teams in Michigan won awards across all divisions in high school and middle school in April, and two of them were from Notre Dame Prep,” said Jerry Palardy, NDP’s robotics team mentor and coach. “We also are the only school in Michigan to have won awards last year and this year — actually, NDP has an awards streak going on four years!”

Since the Dallas event is an international event, teams from China, Columbia, Australia, Guyana, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, India, England, Ireland, Switzerland, Vietnam and many more, are regular competitors.



Notre Dame Prep’s team 3333X, Caden Staniszewski (8th grade), William Platt (8th), Patrick Riney (10th), Krrish Patel (10th) and Chris Artinian (8th), received the Build Award for the second year in a row.

“Part of the experience for the kids is meeting and figuring out how to work with other teams that don’t necessarily speak the same language,” Palardy said. “NDP Team 3333Y “Wynaut,” David Ma (7th grade), Graden Grech (7th) and Thomas

Binkowski (7th), actually helped their Chinese partners overturn an incorrect ruling. David translated while Graden presented their case to the referee, and the call was reversed. It was an amazing thing to witness."

All four of the teams from NDP had been to the world championship before. Team 3333W, "Power of the Square," consisting of Brooklyn Haddad (11th grade), Dino Acciavatti (10th) and Kevin Carter (10th), made their fourth straight appearance at Worlds. It was the second year for team 3333T, "Tornado Troopers," Steven Carter (7th grade) and Juan Pablo Turrubiarres (7th), as well as team 3333X, "Xtrem Bot," Chris Artinian (8th grade), Krrish Patel (10th), Caden Staniszewski (8th), William Platt (8th), and Patrick Riney (10th). Team 3333Y also made their second straight Worlds appearance.

AMAZING SHAKE SHOUTOUT



On behalf of everyone at NDP's middle school, Principal Brandon Jezdimir said he would like to extend his deepest gratitude to our Amazing Shake signature sponsor, Chris Wise and the Randy Wise Automotive Group, for their unwavering support and dedication. "Your generosity has been instrumental in making this event an amazing success. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us take our event to the next level," Jezdimir added.

VISUAL ARTS FLOURISH ONCE AGAIN

Notre Dame Prep's visual arts students finished off the school year in typical fashion: a stellar exhibition mounted in early spring in the school's main triangle after

still another slew of awards in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition for the Southeastern Michigan region.



According to Michelle Zimmerman, Notre Dame Prep's visual arts teacher, NDP upper-school students earned 15 Gold Key awards, the highest honor of the regional competition, three Silver Keys and five honorable mentions, awards that are conferred by the New York City-based Alliance for Young Artists & Writers in conjunction with Scholastic.

At this year's IB/AP Art Exhibition, Zimmerman was beside herself with pride for the students she and fellow visual art teacher Talan Wall mentored during the 2023-2024 school year.

"I am so proud of the students who we celebrated at this year's exhibition," she said. "Showing this caliber of talent and variety of technical skills excites me as their teacher, knowing they will improve even more in the years to come. We also are all very excited at the growing interest in ceramics and look forward to introducing more 3D and sculpture projects next year."

Zimmerman also praised the addition of Wall to the art staff this year.

"Talan has been a wonderful addition to the department," she said. "Together we will continue to provide students with a wide variety of projects that will increase their creative problem-solving skills."

For Wall, he was totally impressed with talent of NDP student-artists.

"Having only arrived at Notre Dame Prep this semester, I was a little unsure

with how it would turn out," he said. "To say it blew my expectations out of the water would be putting it mildly. I was thoroughly impressed with the IB students' work, but also the work from the AP seniors as well. It was great to see all the pieces and the wide variety of talent we have at our school. I can only see it getting better next year."

ACCOLADES AWARDED TO SENIOR ATHLETES

On April 26, Notre Dame Prep's administration announced its major athletic awards in front of an assembly



Recipients of the Dirty Dozen Award from the Class of 2024 are with Notre Dame Prep Principal Kim Anderson and Athletic Director Betty Wroubel.

of students, faculty and staff. Male and female scholar-athlete of the year, athlete of the year and nine "Dirty Dozen" awards were awarded as follows:

Scholar Athlete of the Year

Given to one senior male and one female athlete annually and voted on by a committee of coaches, administrators and faculty members, the Scholar Athlete of the Year award is presented to an accomplished athlete who also exhibits a strong combination of athletic ability and academic achievement. It requires a minimum 3.6 cumulative GPA and the student-athlete must participate in a minimum of two sports during his or her senior year.

Notre Dame Prep Female Scholar Athlete of the Year: Emily Szalach (Grade School: Holy Family)

- Golf – Individual State Finals Qualifier (2022), Individual

Academic (2023)

- Basketball – BCAM Outstanding Senior (2024)
- Lacrosse – All State HM (2023), Individual Academic (2023)
- MHSAA Scholar Athlete Nominee, Dirty Dozen Award Recipient

Notre Dame Prep Male Scholar Athlete of the Year: Nolan Tompkins (Grade School: St. Joseph)

- Tennis – Individual Academic (2023)
- Basketball – BCAM Outstanding Senior (2024)
- Lacrosse – Individual Academic (2023)
- MHSAA Scholar Athlete Nominee, Dirty Dozen Award Recipient

Athlete of the Year

Given to one senior male and one female athlete annually and voted on by a committee of coaches, administrators and faculty members. This award is presented to an accomplished athlete who also exhibits the Notre Dame Prep mission of serving as a Christian person, upright citizen and academic scholar. It requires a minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA and the student-athlete must participate in a minimum of two sports during his or her senior year.

Notre Dame Prep Female Athlete of the Year: Bree Blakeslee (Grade School: Notre Dame Prep's middle school)

- Volleyball – All Region (2022, 2023), AVCA Brightest and Best, MIVCA Individual Academic
- Soccer – All District 2023

Notre Dame Prep Male Athlete of the Year: Jacob Tuttle (Grade School: St. Joseph)

- Football - First Team All State (AP, 2022), All Region (2022, 2023), First Team All State (MHSFCA,

2023), Second Team All State (AP, 2023), Legacy Player of the Year (2023), Individual Academic (2023), Committed to Alma College

- Basketball - All State HM (2023, 2024), Individual Academic (2023, 2024), BCAM Outstanding Senior

Dirty Dozen Award

To earn this award, a student-athlete at Notre Dame Prep must complete 12 consecutive seasons of athletics in good standing at the varsity, JV or freshman level.

Addison Bellows

Cross Country (X4), Basketball (X4), Soccer (X1), Tennis (X3)

Morgan Bissett

Cross Country (X1), Golf (X3), Basketball (X2), Bowling (X2), Softball (X3), Track (X1)

Alaina Byrne

Sideline Cheer (X4), Competitive Cheer (X4), Tennis (X1), Track (X2), Lacrosse (X1)

Nathan Kalil

Soccer (X4), Basketball (X2), Wrestling (X2), Baseball (X4)

Bradon Prater

Soccer (X1), Football (X4), Basketball (X2), Wrestling (X2), Baseball (X1), Track (X1), Lacrosse (X2)

Grace Simon

Volleyball (X1), Swim (X3), Basketball (X4), Softball (X1), Tennis (X3)

Emily Szalach

Golf (X4), Basketball (X4), Soccer (X1), Lacrosse (X3)

Nolan Tompkins

Cross Country (X1), Football (X2), Tennis (X2), Basketball (X4), Lacrosse (X4)

Caterina Zaleski

Swim (X4), Basketball (X2), Bowling (X2), Softball (X3), Track (X1)

NDP DEBUTS NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS

Just 6 percent of high school students

in the United States take computer science classes. The numbers are even lower for elementary and middle school. That's according to a March 2023 story on EdWeek.org, which went on to say that computer science enrollment remains low nationally despite significant pressure from the business community.

But you wouldn't know that if you checked out Notre Dame Prep. Especially after a new class called Coding rolls out in the middle school next school year to join an increasingly robust computer curriculum at nearly every level at NDP.



"The coding class will be one of four rotating electives that NDP eighth-grade students will be taking next year," said Melissa York, who is teaching the class and also serves as a technology specialist and sixth grade math teacher. "These elective classes will be nine-week rotations. So every nine weeks, I will be working with a new group of eighth grade students and teaching them about coding. Other middle school teachers will continue to teach the other electives we offer in the rotating schedule for eighth graders."

At the upper school, Notre Dame Prep offers an Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course for juniors and seniors and CSA, or Computer Science for Applications, for seniors in which they learn about Java programming. Fundamentals of Computer Science, Introduction to Computer Aided Design (CATIA), Intermediate Computer Aided Design (CATIA), and Advance Computer Aided Design (CATIA) round out the computer science curriculum.

In addition, the first-in-the-nation engineering and empathy class, which debuted at NDP in 2019, utilizes an extensive array of computer software and coding for many of its projects. The course has become a favorite among the student body.

Notre Dame's computer science curriculum also feeds into the school's highly successful robotics program, which in turn helps to supplement the computer courses with real hands-on and tangible hardware representations of the software codes.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame Prep joined an elite group of schools and school districts across the country this year in Code.org's District Program, putting NDP on a list of only four such schools or districts in Michigan that include National Heritage Academies, Detroit Public Schools and Chippewa Valley Schools.

FOUR SIGN NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS



Emma Ciesla, Isaac Konja, Owen Marks and Alaina Polsinelli signed to play athletics at the next level.

In an event held in April in front of their peers, family and school administrators in the gymnasium, four senior student-athletes from Notre Dame Prep signed NLIs to play athletics at the next level. Emma Ciesla has signed to swim for Butler University; Isaac Konja signed to play baseball for Madonna University; Owen Marks signed to play baseball at Northwood University; and Alaina Polsinelli signed to play soccer at Lake Erie College.

High school athletic highlights and honors for each student-athlete follow:

Emma Ciesla **Swimming** **Butler University**

- Four-Year Varsity Letter Winner
- 2021, 2022, 2023 First Team All-State 100 Butterfly
- 2022, 2023 First Team All-State 200 IM
- 2021 First Team All-State 100 Breaststroke
- 2023 First Team All-State 200 Free Relay
- 2020, 2022, 2023 First Team All-State 400 Free Relay
- 2020 First Team All-State 200 Medley Relay
- 2024 MHSAA Scholar Athlete Nominee

Isaac Konja **Baseball** **Madonna University**

- Two-Year Varsity Letter Winner
- Pitcher, Infielder and Outfielder
- Owen Marks – Baseball – Northwood University
- Three-Year Varsity Letter Winner
- 2023 All-District
- 2021 Team District Champion

Owen Marks **Baseball** **Northwood University**

- Three-Year Varsity Letter Winner
- 2023 All-District
- 2021 Team District Champion

Alaina Polsinelli **Soccer** **Lake Erie College**

- Four-Year Varsity Letter Winner
- 2021, 2023 All-District
- 2024 MHSAA Scholar Athlete Nominee
- 2022, 2023 Team District Champion
- 2022 Team Regional Champion

NOTE: Athletic accomplishments current as of April 17, 2024.

NDP EIGHTH GRADERS ARE 10TH IN THE NATION

A team representing Notre Dame Prep's middle school recently earned highest honors in the 2023-2024 WordMasters Challenge, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly

125,000 students annually. Notre Dame's eighth grade team scored an impressive 159 points out of a possible 200 in the second of three meets this year, placing 10th in the nation.

Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the WordMasters Challenge, the students were coached by Kelly Simon, who teaches sixth grade reading and writing and eighth grade English, and Christine Boan, who teaches seventh grade writing and eighth grade reading.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically.



Although most vocabulary enrichment and analogy-solving programs are designed for use by high school students, WordMasters Challenge materials have been specifically created for younger students in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for children who are motivated by the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONAL, SCHOOL PARENT JOINS BOARD'S BUILDING COMMITTEE

Notre Dame Preparatory School announced in February that Maria

D'Agostini Lukosavich has agreed to serve on the Board of Trustees building committee. According to school officials, Lukosavich, who is the mother of four current Notre Dame Prep students, will be an invaluable resource to an important board committee.

"Maria comes to the board highly recommended," said Stephen V. Pangori, chair of NDP's Board of Trustees. "She is a licensed attorney and builder in Michigan with many years of real estate experience. As we look to the future with a number of potential campus building and infrastructure improvements on the horizon, her contributions in the areas of engineering and design along with her longtime experience in permitting and managing contractors will be critical for Notre Dame Prep."

Lukosavich joins the building committee with more than 15 years of residential and commercial building and real estate experience.

"My focus has been primarily in the design, entitlement and construction of industrial, residential and commercial buildings and developments," said Lukosavich, of Sterling Heights-based Mode Development Inc., a D'Agostini Company. "I am intimately aware of the various stages of the construction process. I'm hopeful my talents will make a meaningful contribution to NDP as new construction projects take shape."

Now serving as head of the commercial construction team for D'Agostini Companies, Lukosavich has been a licensed builder in the State of Michigan since 2004 and is a member of the Southeast Michigan Building Officials and Inspectors Association and the NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association.

A graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management, she also holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. In addition, after acceptance

to the Michigan State Bar Association, Lukosavich practiced as a small claims judge for the Michigan Tax Tribunal and was admitted to the practice in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan in 2012.

AN 'ENTREPRENEUR' FOR THE GOOD

Beck Silver, a 2024 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, was honored with the prestigious "Good Citizen" award on Jan. 9, 2024, 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 Citizen Award and Scholarship Program grants such honors on an annual basis to area high schoolers.



Beck Silver NDP'24 is with Regent Deborah Harrington of the Piety Hill chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, after picking up his award Jan. 9 at a ceremony held at the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

Last year, then-NDP senior Teegan McLeod accepted the award, which comes with a press-release, a pin and an American flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

A member of Notre Dame Prep's student council and captain of the Irish tennis team, Silver picked up his award, which recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of leadership, dependability, service and patriotism in their schools, homes and communities, at a ceremony held at the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

"I was excited and honored to learn I had been selected as Notre Dame Prep's nominated student," said Silver, who had to submit an application outlining his academics, extracurricular

involvements as well as complete a timed essay to qualify for the honor.

According to Vlado Salic, an NDP counselor who was on hand at the Bloomfield Township library DAR ceremony, Silver was very involved in many school clubs and extracurriculars.

"He's actually a magician, a website developer, investor, and a member of several clubs, including robotics, entrepreneurship, and others," said Salic. "He's just a pure delight to work with and to be around. What a great young man. Any university will be lucky to have him in the fall."

Silver added at the time of the announcement that at NDP, he's especially passionate about the Business for Good club, which he founded and that has since expanded to other schools nationwide.

"In fact, as far as college, I am looking to study business at the University of Michigan with a focus on social entrepreneurship," he said.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES ALUMNI CONNECT

Attention all alumni entrepreneurs! Are you looking to boost your business's visibility and connect with fellow graduates? Look no further than Alumni Connect! Join our exclusive platform and list your business in our Alumni Business Directory. It's the perfect opportunity to showcase your offerings to a targeted audience of alumni and potential customers.

Our aim is to create a vibrant community where entrepreneurs like yourself can connect, collaborate and thrive. Whether you're a seasoned business owner or just starting out, we welcome you to be part of this exciting initiative.

Visit ndprep.alumnifire.com. +

NOTRE DAME PREP
Class of 2004 20th Reunion

Saturday, July 20, 2024
3 p.m. with DJ music at 5 p.m.
The Social Space
324 East St., Rochester, Mich.
www.ndprep.org/04reunion

NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 1984 40th Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Hamlin Pub
48929 Hayes Road, Shelby
Township, Mich.
www.ndprep.org/84reunion

PONTIAC CATHOLIC
Class of 1974 50th Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024
5 to 11 p.m.
Fountains Golf & Banquet
6060 Maybee Road, Village of
Clarkston, Mich.
www.ndprep.org/pc74reunion

Prayers

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

1940-1949

Carl Tenuta SM'46
Nov. 24, 2023

1950-1959

Mary Halpin SM'52
Nov. 25, 2023

Joan (JoAnn) Visniski SM'52
Nov. 24, 2023

1960-1969

Gerald "Jerry" Ball PC'69
Sept. 6, 2023

Jerry Garland PC'69
Dec. 5, 2023

Sue Wirth Harb PC'69
Feb. 13, 2023

Robert L. Hindelang ND'69
Feb. 20, 2024

Lawrence Mavis ND'67
Sept. 2, 2023

Robert Porter ND'69
Jan. 4, 2024

Patricia "Pat" Quitter, wife of Roger Quitter ND'69
Nov. 14, 2023

Michael Vito ND'68
Feb. 26, 2024

1990-1999

Julian M. Cordova PC'93
Jan. 23, 2024

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@ndprep.org.

Class 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

Justyn Bensett ND'05 welcomed Jayce Bensett in October 2023.

Paul Bubnar ND'58 got married in 1962 and is the proud father of four children. He has 15 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He is a retired business owner; multi-engine aircraft pilot; owned and sailed '53 sailboat across the Atlantic; avid snow skier (retired). "Thank you Notre Dame High School for my education."

Daniel Colaluca ND'69 says, "Great school! Taught us the value of lifelong friendships. Best event after our posse was well into college was throwing a beach party on New Year's Eve of 1970, complete with sand, pool, live alligators, boa constrictor and a couple of monkeys. Over 200 people showed up!"

Frank D'Anna ND'77 and his wife Carol welcomed their first grandchild, Giovanni William D'Anna, on March 18, 2024.

Anthony DiSante ND'03 finished his certification to become a Six Sigma Master Blackbelt from University of Michigan and has begun a project at General Motors' Factory Zero working with the Cadillac Escalade EV after successfully completing a project in Lansing's Grad River plant phasing out production of the Chevrolet Camaro. "RIP to an American classic!"



Terrence "Terry" Durney ND'61 married Patricia David in November 1965. The couple has three children: Kevin, Kelly, and Jennifer. He and his wife live in Austin, Texas. Terry graduated from Park University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in management. He is retired from Ford Motor Co. and Lear. Terry worked in Michigan, Ohio and Texas, as well as in England, Central Europe, Portugal, Ontario, and 17 years in the Mexican border area.

Jonathan McGrail ND'89: "Hello to my 1989 classmates. I am approaching my 30th year with the same company providing IT

support as a senior engineer. My oldest will be graduating from Oakland University in December 2024 or May 2025 (you know how college class schedules are). My youngest will be a junior in high school. When did we get that old?"

John Mills ND'58 was the president of Student Council in 1957 and 1958.

Kris Powell ND'75: "Business is booming so while a lot of you are retired or planning on it soon, I am the CEO of a growing and prosperous business. On a personal note, my daughter, Lauren, NDP '16, is getting married next March to a great guy!"

Joseph Piech ND'65 got married in 1976. He has three children, seven grandchildren, and lives in Clearwater, Fla.



Daniel Prize ND'68: "I have been retired now for 11 years and have wound up in central Florida. Still learning to play golf for the last 55 years."

Mike Slubowski ND'72 would like to wish a belated thanks to John Berra and Dave Guinane for the Class of 1972's 50th reunion that was held 1.5 years ago. It was great to see and stay in touch with classmates after so many years! He and his wife Barb are living in Northville, Mich. and Mike is still in healthcare leadership, working for Trinity Health.

NOTRE DAME PREP

Christine Aldo NDP'21 is currently a junior voice performance major at Oakland University studying under Alta Dantzler-Boover. She recently performed in Oakland University's opera as Hansel in "Hansel and Gretel."

Eric Egner NDP'13 and Georgia (Madison) Egner NDP'13 welcomed the birth of their son, Theodore on Feb. 17, 2024 in Fort Cavazos, Texas.

Evelyn Everhart NDP'09 is excited to announce that her marriage process with her Moroccan husband is about to be finalized at the end of May in Morocco. She has been living overseas for about eight years in different countries. Everhart has a plethora of teaching and leadership experiences and has been accepted in a teacher trainer position in Agadir, Morocco, with the English Language Fellows Program that is funded by the U.S. State Department and organized by George Washington University. "I hope everyone who I may still know at NDP and in the alumni network is doing well!"



Demi Outman NDP'13 recently volunteered as a head referee for the 2024 FIRST Robotics Championship in Houston, Texas. "It was such an exciting experience to work with teams from around the world and the amazing volunteer crew. Congrats to the NDP Killer Bees on their great performance at the competition and for being 1st in qualifications!"



Class Notes



◀ **Chanel Slykas NDP'16** started CRNA school at the Cleveland Clinic School of Nurse Anesthesia in June 2023 and is finishing up her first year.



Annalisa Simmer NDP'03 is teaching upper elementary English language arts at a bilingual school in Guatemala. She also teaches adult English as a foreign language classes.

◀ **Angela Snedeker NDP'12** married Calvin Snedeker and welcomed her daughter Josephine in 2023. She was also named in the top 20 under 30 for real estate.

Irish hearts give back

Notre Dame Prep's inaugural Irish Day of Giving, held on March 15, was an overwhelming success, as more than 400 individuals answered the call to give back to the Notre Dame Fund. Throughout the inspiring 24-hour event, parents, grandparents, students, faculty, staff and alumni came together to make a difference, championing the school's commitment to support both students and teachers. The outpouring of gifts highlighted the strong spirit of community, and love for the school's Catholic and Marist ethos.

According to Matt Rzepecki, assistant director of annual giving for the school, the first-of-its-kind event exceeded all expectations.

"It was a wonderful day, and it was truly inspiring to see so many people publicly show their support for our hardworking teachers," he said.

The funds raised for the Notre Dame Fund help offset the gap between the cost of a Catholic education and what tuition covers. That includes training and salary bonuses for teachers, school building improvements, scholarships for current and future students, athletics support and safety and security.

"Thanks to everyone who supported and continues to support NDP," Rzepecki said. "With their help, we will continue to drive excellence in and out of the classroom. It is through support of the Notre Dame Fund that our school can provide so many opportunities for our students. Much of what you see on our campus today is because of the generosity

of people who have come before us."

Rzepecki also pointed out that 72 alumni and parents made their first annual gift to the school on Irish Day.

To encourage participation, multiple challenges were held leading up to and during Irish Day. At the upper school, classes competed for Irish Week points and the chance for four lucky students to pie an unlucky Principal Kim Anderson. At the middle school, students competed for House points and the chance to dye Principal Brandon Jezdimir's hair. At the lower school, the class with the most money raised won a pizza party. On Irish Day, staff passed out Irish Heart. Notre Dame Soul. wristbands and chocolate coins to students, who also posed for pictures for the school's social media page.

Rzepecki said several parents and members of the school's Board of Trustees volunteered to make the event a success. Volunteers included parent Jennifer Valentine P'25, and advancement committee members Mia Burbank P'10, P'17, P'24; Tim Easterwood P'21; Mike Genord P'11, P'13, P'16, P'18, Chris Liparoto P'23, P'24, P'26, P'31; and Kris Powell ND'75, P'16.

"We'd also like to thank seniors Michael Kenney NDP'24 and Grace Simon NDP'24 for signing our emails for Irish Day. We are grateful to them and everyone who took the time to help us make this a successful day for our school," Rzepecki added.

Gifts made on Irish Day are part of the school's 2024 Annual Appeal, which kicked off in the fall and runs through June 30, 2024. For more information, visit ndprep.org/support. †





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