

BLARNEY

stone

SPRING 2026



A Letter from our LEADERSHIP

Dear Alumni and Friends of Notre Dame High School,

As another remarkable school year comes to a close, I find myself filled with tremendous gratitude. Every day, I am reminded that the strength of our school is rooted not only in our history and traditions, but in the generations of alumni, families, faculty, students, and supporters who continue to believe in our mission.

The Class of 2026 represents the very best of Notre Dame. This graduating class has distinguished itself academically, spiritually, athletically, and artistically. They are young men and women of faith, character, leadership, and compassion who have embraced the values that have defined Notre Dame for 150 years. As they prepare to take the next steps in their lives, they carry the foundation, friendships, and spirit of this school with them. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and excited to see the impact they will make in the world.

At the same time, the future of Notre Dame has never looked brighter. We are experiencing a record number of applications for the 2026–2027 school year, a reflection of the growing confidence families have in the direction of our school and the value of a Notre Dame education. This momentum speaks volumes about the work happening throughout our campus and the dedication of our faculty and staff.

We also continue to make meaningful progress in strengthening the operational health of the school. Through careful stewardship, strategic planning, and the support of our community, we have continued improving our operational budget and positioning Notre Dame for long-term sustainability and success. These efforts allow us to invest more confidently in our students, programs, and future opportunities.

This year also marked the completion of a major campus infrastructure project with the full rewiring of the school building and the installation of new LED lighting throughout campus. While much of this work happened behind the scenes, its impact will be felt for years to come through improved safety, efficiency, reliability, and learning environments for our students and faculty. These upgrades are another important step forward as we continue modernizing our historic campus while preserving the character and spirit that make Notre Dame so special.



Perhaps most exciting is the successful kickoff of our upcoming capital campaign, which will help shape the next chapter of Notre Dame High School. As we continue celebrating our 150th anniversary, this campaign represents far more than buildings and renovations. It is about creating opportunities for future generations of students.

None of this progress would be possible without the continued support, prayers, and belief of our alumni community. You are an essential part of the Notre Dame story. Your example, generosity, and love for this school continue to inspire our students and open doors for the future.



The momentum is real, the vision is clear, and the future is filled with promise.

Thank you for remaining part of this incredible journey and for continuing to support the mission of Notre Dame High School. **Go Irish!**

With gratitude and hope,

Eric Schexnaildre '96
Head of School

Campus UPDATES

Hunter Field has been updated with new fencing donated by Jack Berry '80, of All Fences, and new brick columns. Support from alumni like Rick Hunter '67 and Jack Berry allows Notre Dame High School to continue updating and improving its facilities.



2026 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



LINK THROUGH NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL SECURE WEBSITE (MOBILE AND DESKTOP FRIENDLY)

Scan QR code for Donation Instructions

- "PAY NOW" option for one-time card payments \$2,500 or less
- "PLEDGE" option for future check payments mailed to NDHS Advancement
- "RECURRING CARD PAYMENT" option for monthly card payments





STOCK OPTIONS THROUGH MORGAN STANLEY

- Scan QR code for Delivery Instructions



FACULTY Focus

Welcome to our newest faculty members **Gary Cain** (left), Facilities Technician, and **Tyler Robertson** (right), Civics and Film Instructor, and Head Soccer Coach.



Catholic schools, rooted in faith, strive to nurture the whole child—encouraging students to grow in knowledge, character, and a relationship with God while developing a strong sense of service to others. For many families, Catholic education offers a community where faith and learning are intentionally woven together each day. In this interview, we hear from teacher **Marcie Smith '97**, who has chosen Catholic education for both of her children, to hear about her perspective as both an educator and a parent and why this choice has been meaningful for her family.

MW: What initially motivated you to choose a Catholic education for your children, and how did that align with your family's values/priorities?

MS: We were motivated by our own experiences at OLP, St. Jude, and Notre Dame. We loved our time at Notre Dame, and we understood that laying that foundation would start at one of the foundation schools. We always knew that we wanted our own kids to have

a Christ-centered education but specifically a Catholic one. We both were raised Catholic, just like our parents. Continuing that

family tradition, as well as that Notre Dame legacy, first held by my dad, Mike Hunter, was never a question in our minds for one moment. We love that our kids get to experience the Eucharist and the Rosary at school. You won't find those things in other Chattanooga private schools.



MW: What would you tell other parents who are considering a Catholic school for their own children?

MS: The Catholic population is drawn together. The history behind the Basilica and Notre Dame runs very deep, and we are proud to be a part of it. Your kids will become a piece of something far greater than themselves. There's something so very special about being a part of this community and you do not have to be a Catholic to be included in this loving family. The closeness and unity we share as alumni of the Catholic schools here in Chattanooga is something vastly different from the other private schools in the area. They'll never have to go far to find a fellow Irish in their midst. 🍀



150 MOMENTS IN IRISH HISTORY

The spirit of our 150th Jubilee continues with 50 more moments in Irish History. Whether it was the C.Y.O., an athletic championship, or a brief moment in the hallway, these are the moments of which the IRISH are made! A special thank you to Karley Nutz '26 and Megan Steere '26 for their help with this issue of our *Blarney Stone*.

1963

1960 - St. Jude School is established



1961 - Tom Clary is Coach of the Year

1962 - Power Bowl Football Champions



1963 - Notre Dame becomes first school in Chattanooga to voluntarily desegregate

1963 - Notre Dame defeats Father Ryan in football

1963 - C.Y.O. Food Drive



1964 - Freshman Football Team



1965

1964 - Laura Dupont and Chris Brown are state tennis champions



1965 - School moves to Vermont Avenue and becomes 9-12 grades

1965 - Reverend William S. Bevington serves as Principal

1965 - First interracial high school basketball game in Chattanooga VS Howard



1966 - New building dedicated

1966 - Students in the hallway



1969

1967 - Sophomores in English class



1967 - Father Alex Lawrence Maxwell serves as Principal



1968 - Dennis Haskins (our Mr. Belding) graduates

1968 - Notre Dame wins state championships in swimming and wrestling on the same day

1969 - Boys Basketball



continued

1972



1969 -
Pat Landry
graduates

1970 - The French club striking a pose!

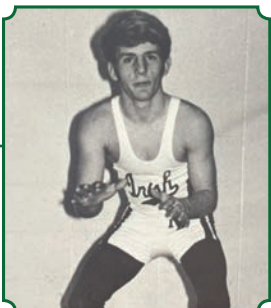


1970 - Father John Patrick Connor serves
as Principal

1970 - Wrestling wins traditional state
tournament



1971 -
Paula Herbst
and Pat
St. Charles
are voted
Best All
Around



1972 -
Martin
Francis
becomes
the first
4-time state
champion in
Tennessee

1974

1973 - The Hoo-Ray Club



1974 - Jim D.
Phifer, the first
layman to be
named Principal

1974 - C.Y.O. Officers



1974 - Golf Team



1975



1975 -
Monsignor
James D.
Niedergeses is
ordained Bishop
of the Nashville
Diocese

1975 - Homecoming Court



1975 - Student Council



1976 -
Cross Country Team



1979

1977 - Boys Basketball

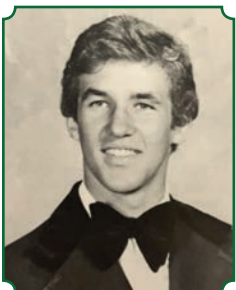


1978 -
Reverend Mike
Nolan and Beth
Lewis voted
"Most School
Spirit"

1979 - Drum Major Wallace Ervin and
Captain Kevin Arnold lead the band to
win many trophies!



1979 - Auditorium is constructed and
dedicated



1979 -
John Mullin
graduates

1979 - Baseball
wins state
championship

1982

1980 - First 24-hour dance marathon in
Chattanooga raises money for St. Jude
Research Hospital



1980 - Mr. and Ms. Notre Dame
candidates



1981 - Senior football players



1982 - Prom



1984

1982 - Sadie Hawkins Dance



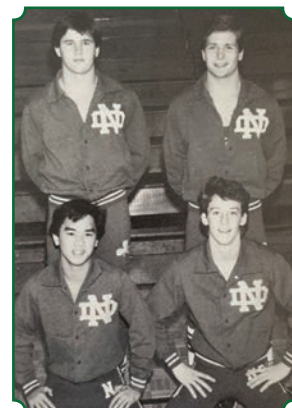
1983 - National Honor Society



1984 - Irish Echoes Staff



1984 - The marching band wins best in
class tri-state



1984 -
Senior
wrestlers

1985 -
Irish
defeats
Knoxville
Catholic at
first home
football
game

STUDENT STORIES

Hands-on activities in
**Mrs. Jones' Honors
Biology Class**



Father AJ teaching Religion I students



Over Christmas break, students attended **SEEK**, a Catholic conference, in Columbus, OH.



Dax Brown '27 and **Gianna Costello '26** presented a check to the Mary Ellen Locher Scholarship Foundation. Funds were raised at the **Pink Out** basketball game.



Congratulations to the cast of *Almost, Maine!* Thank you to **Pearson Smith**, our theatre director, for a successful run with her cast and crew. This was her very first show at Notre Dame.



Irish Winds came away with Superior Ratings at the Concert Performance Assessment.



Lander Smith, 1st Chair All-State bassoon



Middle School Ensemble with **Scotty Jones**



High School Ensemble with **Dr. Barry Kraus**

Forever Irish FRIENDSHIPS

We celebrate 150 years of friendship by spotlighting two seniors who met in 9th grade, became best friends, and in May, will go separate ways. But time and distance are irrelevant to those who shape us. Here's to the friends we made in the hallways and the memories of them we hold Irish forever.

Max Solis '26 and Drew Miller '26

Every school has traditions that quietly shape its culture, and at our campus, one of the most visible has been the daily care of the American flag. For Drew Miller and Max Solis, that responsibility became the foundation of a friendship built on shared values.

Drew and Max met in ninth grade. Drew came from Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH), while Max joined us from St. Jude. Though new to one another, a friendship was quickly formed based on their mutual love for Scouts and music. Both Drew and Max are Eagle Scouts, the highest rank in Scouting, reflecting years of dedication and community involvement.

It was at the beginning of 11th grade when the boys started the quiet honor: raising, lowering and caring for the American flag each school day. What began as a simple duty soon became a daily ritual; one that required consistency and teamwork. Standing together each morning, Drew and Max learned the importance of doing small things well. Caring for the flag was not about recognition; it was about duty. Rain or shine, they made sure the flag was treated with dignity, folded properly, and displayed with pride.



Music also brought them together. As members of the band, Drew and Max learned the importance of listening and collaboration. Whether practicing for performances or supporting fellow band members, they carried the same teamwork they demonstrated each day at the flagpole.

Their story serves as a reminder that friendships are often forged through a shared purpose. Drew and Max exemplify how honoring tradition, serving others, and staying true to one's values can create bonds that are Irish forever.

Max

Max's commitment to service has been shaped by strong family encouragement and a love for discovery. Inspired by



an uncle who was a Scout and supported every step of the way by his grandmother, mom and stepdad, Max began Scouting because he loved being outdoors and

wanted the chance to explore new places. That early curiosity grew into years of dedication, culminating in his Eagle Scout project—building much-needed cabinets for the school band room. To fund the project, Max organized a bake sale at St. Jude Church, demonstrating both initiative and community spirit.

Max's involvement in band began in sixth grade on the clarinet before transitioning to percussion in eighth grade. He also served as a student leader for SEARCH 176, guiding peers through a meaningful retreat experience. Max credits Mrs. Smith and the band program for creating a supportive environment where he is encouraged to make mistakes, grow, and improve. He is also a member of the Dallas Bay volunteer fire rescue, a Sea Scout, and co-president of the recycling club on campus. Max has his sights on UTC in the fall, majoring in environmental science.

Drew

For Drew, high school has been shaped by creativity, opportunity, and a strong foundation of family support. A familiar face in every school play, Drew especially loved performing in Seussical and Percy Jackson. Those productions helped solidify Drew's love for performance and self-improvement. While living in Florida, his middle school

teachers saw his talent and encouraged him to play the trumpet. At Notre Dame he has been a member of the pep, marching and jazz bands. He values Mrs. Smith for helping him discover and grow in all areas of performance art. The arts at Notre Dame solidified many friendships, including those with Max, Ben, and Deric. Beyond the stage, Drew is a member of the school bowling team, serving as team captain, which he describes as a fun and rewarding experience.

Following in the footsteps of his father, an Eagle Scout, Drew credits both his mom and dad for giving him the chance to experience what he calls some of the "coolest things" in life. Through Scouting, Drew gained leadership skills and lasting memories, including attending NYLT, one of his favorite

experiences. Drew will attend the University of Alabama in the fall, majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Acting. 🍀



ATHLETICS ACCOLADES

Cooper Campbell and **Owen Maddox** were named D-II-AA All State.

Owen Maddox will kick for UTC in the fall.



Ryan Fillauer '26

During my time at Notre Dame I have played football, basketball, and ran track. Being a multi-sport athlete has kept me busy for the past four years and instilled in me some valuable principles. I have learned how to manage my time and energy, balancing three sports with my academic life and leadership roles. Going into high school, my brother Andrew was my biggest inspiration for sports, as he participated in the same three sports I do, and he always encouraged me to believe I can do it all.

Each sport has taught me certain life skills. In basketball, I learned the importance of hard work; to be successful in basketball you have to put in the work by getting shots up and conditioning your body. Football taught me the importance of dependability and toughness; your team is counting on you to do your job, which often requires you to overcome great physical challenges. Track teaches focus; this became apparent to me at the region championship meet last year when I had to wait hours for my race due to a rain delay. Despite this, I was able to run my fastest time ever and place first in the region for the 400m after being seeded seventh.

Playing sports at Notre Dame has been such a unique experience as I have been able to grow in my faith. The family-like atmosphere my coaches have created has allowed me to build relationships with my peers that extend far beyond just being teammates. I feel so blessed to have been a part of the athletic community the past four years. Go Irish!



The Irish wrestling team had a successful season!

Alex Pham, Matthew Loher, Luke Deitch, and Miles Carter qualified for the state tournament.





The girls basketball team had a historic season, making it to the state tournament final four for the first time. Other season highlights were 1000 points scored by **MiMi Lee** and **Callie McCormick**, **Erin Spurgeon** and **MiMi Lee** were both selected to the All-East Region Tournament Team, and Coach **Jason Hill** was named **District Coach of Year**. **MiMi Lee** was selected to the 2026 TSSAA DII-A All-Tournament team with her performance in the State semifinal game vs. USJ. She scored 26 points to lead the Lady Irish.



Colt Stohler-Pitts finished 4th in the 1-meter diving event at the State Swimming and Diving Championships.



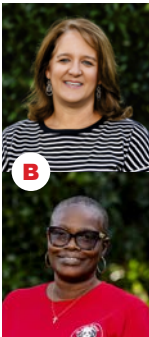
Nathan Jungels and **Katelyn Neill** earned NISCA All American Honors.

Happenings in our Catholic Schools Community



ST. JUDE

- A** Our Saints family got the year kicked off with fun and fellowship at the **Back to School** Movie Night, Middle School Swim Night, Popsicles on the Playground and Opening Mass with Bishop Beckman!



- B** **Mandy Mroz** and **Angela Weddington** were honored by the Diocese for their 25 years of service to our Catholic Schools!



- C** **School Retreats** are a big part of the growth process in our Middle School. Both 7th and 8th grade had a meaningful experience, traveling off campus and testing their personal limits.



- D** We are grateful to **Mr. James Gaudin**, grandfather of **Ellie Gaudin**, St. Jude and Notre Dame alum, and Upper School Resource Teacher for his generous donation to our Learning Center.



- E** Both the **Girls** and **Boys Tennis Teams** won First Place in the ISC Small School Tournament Championship!



- F** Asked to host the **Freedom Flag Foundation's** September 11 memorial for a second year, St. Jude School held a reverent service in memory and honor of all those affected by the events of September 11, 2001.



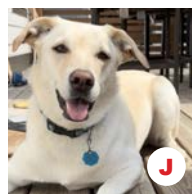
- G** The **Notre Dame Band** made an inspiring visit to our school, hopefully encouraging many new band enthusiasts!



- H** St. Jude School hosted a special **Veteran's Day** breakfast for members of the parish and school, with 4th grade serving as host.



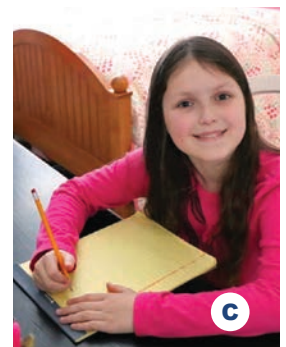
- I** 8th grade students held their annual **Science Fair** during Catholic Schools Week, highlighting many thought provoking projects and welcoming knowledgeable individuals as judges.



- J** This year, St. Jude welcomed a certified therapy dog, **Daisy**, who visits classrooms and students, allowing for sweet pets and snuggles for all who want to get to know her.

OLPH

- A** In a nail-biting overtime finish decided by penalty kicks, our OLPH Rams Middle School soccer team clinched the ISC Championship for the **FOURTH** year in a row!
- B** The OLPH Elementary Boys Basketball Team fought back from behind to ultimately win the ISC Championship!
- C** Fifth grader **Genevieve Moy** was recently featured in *The East Tennessee Catholic* for sharing her thoughtful reflections on faith, school, and everyday life. A budding writer, Genevieve is already using her voice through writing, creativity, and curiosity.
- D** In the Fall, OLPH students participated in our annual Day of Service, packing care packages for children staying at Erlanger Children's Hospital and writing thoughtful thank-you notes for local veterans in honor of Veterans Day.
- E** Sixth grade student Noah Klingler earned First Place in the woodworking competition at the Beta Club State Convention. Noah designed and built a table featuring a secret locking drawer, and his careful planning and craftsmanship earned him the top honor.
- F** Elementary Spanish teacher Diana Lee received the Golden Apple Award, presented by Food City and News 12, which honors educators who inspire, encourage, and go above and beyond for their students. We are proud to celebrate Señora Lee and this well-deserved recognition.
- G** Three dedicated OLPH teachers were recently recognized for their remarkable milestones in Catholic education. Kari Ingle (ND class of 1989) celebrated 30 years of service, while Teresa Hale and Lori Voges (ND class of 1980) each marked 25 years. We are grateful for their many years of commitment, care, and lasting impact on generations of OLPH students.



ADVANCEMENT NEWS

All the Green! All the Gold! All the Giving! Irish supporters gathered at The Chattanooga to celebrate and raise their paddles for technology enhancements - generating over \$200,000 in proceeds! The evening featured dinner, games, dancing, and a lively auction by Marc Gravitt. We extend special thanks to the planning committee, our generous sponsors, and all who joined in making this night so memorable. We look forward to celebrating with you next year! Save the date for 2/6/2027.

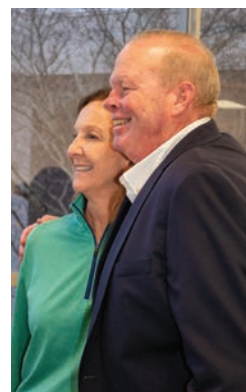


Above, the 2026 Green & Gold Gala Planning Committee: Kathy Martin, Kelly Rittenberry, Mary Jungels, Melissa Loyd and Paulette Schievelhud.

GREEN & GOLD GALA



We joyfully kicked off our 150th jubilee with a special Mass honoring a century and a half of faith, learning, and community. The current Notre Dame students welcomed alumni and former teachers. Familiar faces reunited, stories were exchanged, and lifelong connections were renewed. The anniversary Mass served as a powerful reminder that our school is more than a building. We are a family, and as we give thanks for the past, we also look forward to continuing the legacy of Our Lady.



ALUMNI FEATURE

Notre Dame is happy to welcome home Elizabeth Ciabattone '15. She is working in alumni affairs and as an assistant coach for boys' and girls' soccer.

It is hard for me to put into words the immense amount of joy I feel returning to Notre Dame. One of my first tasks in my new role was to write the Alumni Feature for this issue. While discussing different ideas, Melissa Wolff asked me, “who is an alumnus you are proud of and want to tell everyone about?” Immediately I replied, “Joseph Dossett.” Joseph and I became quick friends our freshman year in the Fall of 2011. It is not news to anyone reading this that the halls of Notre Dame foster friendships that extend far past graduation and create a sense of magic that allows you to go months or even years without speaking to a classmate, but the moment you reconnect, it is like no time has passed. Joseph and I went to different colleges, graduate schools, and haven’t lived in the same city in over a decade. However, we have stayed family. While in college, my mother would drive to Knoxville to pick me up to go see Joe



by Elizabeth
Ciabattone '15

play at ETSU. On Joe’s 21st birthday my sister happened to be in Johnson City and went to dinner with him. While I was in law school Joe and I would spend hours commiserating on the workloads in our respective programs and find comfort knowing we weren’t alone and always had a listening ear in each other. I couldn’t think of someone more deserving of recognition for their hard work, fortitude, and accomplishments. I thank Notre Dame for connecting me with such a kind, intelligent, and curious friend who I know already has and is going to continue to make the world a better place. This spurred me to think of other graduates who have achieved the incredible feat of medical school and are going to change the world. This month’s alumni feature is dedicated to the newest doctors in the Notre Dame Family.

FROM *Scholar Athletes* TO **STELLAR PHYSICIANS**

Niamh Cahill '16

Can you fill us in on your timeline since Notre Dame?

After high school, I went to the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC where I earned a BS in Biochemistry with a minor in Spanish. I graduated in 2020 at the start of the pandemic and spent a gap year recovering from my fourth hip surgery, applying to medical school, and working at ND as a substitute teacher and tutor in the guidance office. Then I moved to

Greenville, SC for medical school at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. Now I live in Seattle, WA for residency!

What impact did Notre Dame have on your success after graduation?

I definitely believe that the education, leadership skills, and lessons in perseverance I gained while at ND set me up for success in college and beyond. I have an even deeper



appreciation for ND's impact after having the opportunity to substitute and tutor in the guidance office during the pandemic in 2020. Reconnecting with teachers and faculty and returning to ND in a teaching role was such a meaningful experience.

Now, as a pediatric resident, I draw on lessons from that time to better understand and communicate with my adolescent patients and I am so grateful for the additional time and experiences I had at ND.

What inspired you to become a doctor?

Growing up, I had many ideas about what I wanted to be, from my very first aspiration of becoming a purple butterfly

to later dreams of being a veterinarian or pharmacist. However, during my junior year, I was diagnosed with a rare form of hip dysplasia. After multiple surgeries and a significant amount of time spent in doctors' offices and hospitals, I began to understand the incredible impact medical professionals can have on children and their families. I wanted to use my experience as a patient to help others in a similar way. After several shadowing experiences, I knew I would do everything I could to become a doctor.

What specialty did you choose/are you considering and why?

I chose Pediatrics as my specialty and am currently in my first of three years of residency at Seattle Children's Hospital. Although my desire to become a doctor stemmed from my experience as a pediatric patient, I intentionally kept an open mind about specialty choice during medical school.

While I enjoyed the unique learning opportunities in each field, I consistently found myself drawn to pediatrics. I feel I can

relate to my patients and their parents in a special way. I love helping children establish healthy relationships with the health care system early on, setting them up for success as adults. And honestly, little kids are really cute and working with children (of all ages) every day is genuinely fun.

What was your favorite shadowing experience or rotation?

I obviously loved my pediatric rotation in medical school, but some of the coolest aspects of medical school were the opportunities to do things few people ever experience, like assisting in surgery and delivering a baby, and learning about areas of medicine I previously knew nothing about.

One of my favorite experiences was my wilderness medicine rotation, where we spent two weeks hiking and camping while practicing emergency scenarios. We learned about wilderness trauma, environmental emergencies like hypothermia and altitude sickness, and rescue techniques.

Who are some of your most influential mentors?

Many of my mentors as an aspiring doctor, and now as a developing pediatrician, have been the incredible physicians I've worked with and learned from throughout medical school and residency.

I also cannot talk about my journey without mentioning my amazing parents. My development into the person I am today is largely thanks to them. They taught me important lessons about perseverance and self-belief, and I certainly wouldn't have been able to face the challenges of a career in medicine without their support.

If you didn't become a doctor, what other career would you have chosen?

Even though residency is incredibly challenging, I truly love being a doctor. I think about this question often because it's hard to imagine doing anything else. Since the pandemic, I've discovered a love for baking and now try a new recipe every week to share with my friends. If I weren't a doctor, it would be fun to do a complete 180 career-wise and become a baker!

What is next for you?

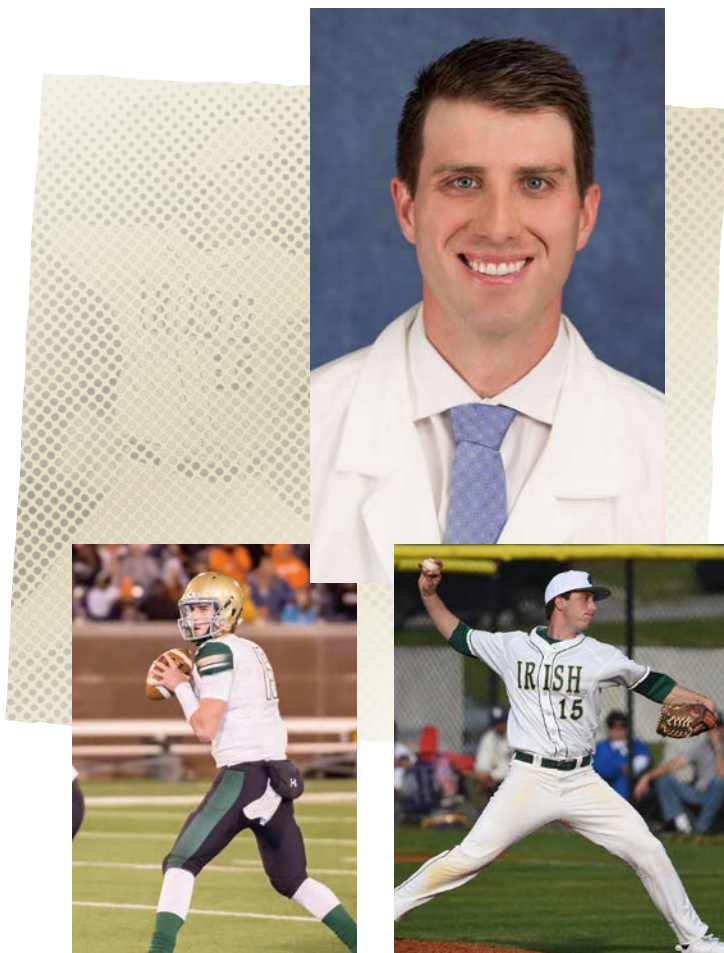
After this year, I will have two more years of pediatric residency. Following residency, I plan to complete a fellowship to subspecialize within pediatrics. I am currently most interested in neonatology and working in the neonatal intensive care unit. However, I'm keeping an open mind as I continue exploring the many different subspecialty options available.

Alex Darras '16

Will you give me a timeline of what you did after high school and any clubs/organizations you were/are a member of during college and med school?

After Notre Dame I went to Furman University for a year then transferred to Sewanee: The University of the South. While at Sewanee, I played football and was a member of KA fraternity, the Student Athlete Adversory Committee, Admissions Committee and the Student President of the Green





Ribbon Honor Society. After graduating from Sewanee, I moved to DC with my now-wife Sofia (who also went to Notre Dame) and worked as a medical scribe at a clinic while she was getting her Master's at Georgetown. I then got into medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. During medical school, I was a representative of the Student Surgical Society and the Student Orthopedic Association and participated in a UTC premed mentorship program.

What impact did Notre Dame have on your success after graduation?

Long term, I think ND prepared for balancing responsibilities like school and extracurriculars while still having time for myself, friends and family.

Who was the most influential figure(s) in shaping your academic or personal growth during high school?

It's hard to choose just one influential person because there were truly so many faculty members, staff, and coaches

who genuinely cared about me and believed in me. During my time at ND, I began finding my own identity, and through both academic challenges and support, I gained the educational foundation that helped me achieve my ultimate goal: becoming a doctor.

One of the most influential teachers during my time at ND was definitely Mr. Irvin. He made learning science fun and positively challenging, and his classroom was always a place I could go for support, to make some tea, and talk about our shared love of Doctor Who.

Who was the most influential figure(s) in shaping your academic or personal growth during high school?

Throughout my life, my family have always been my biggest supporters and helped me set a high standard for myself. During high school specifically, Coach Fant was an influential figure in my growth both as an athlete and as an individual. I think a lot of lessons can translate from sports to life and I learned a lot from him.

What inspired you to become a doctor? What specialty did you choose/are you considering and why? Did you ever change your mind on your specialty or career path?

My sports background not only introduced me to medicine early on but more specifically orthopedics. With an interest in science, working with others and service, medicine felt like a natural pursuit. As I went through medical school I considered other specialties but was also most interested in orthopedics. For me, orthopedics is an opportunity to have an immediate positive hands-on impact on a patient's life while also getting to do really cool surgery and that's why it's what I chose to pursue it.

If you didn't become a doctor, what other career would you have chosen?

In another life, I'd like to think I would have been either a chef or pilot.

What is next for you?

Next for me is continuing with my orthopedic surgery residency here in Chattanooga at Erlanger for the next 4.5 years. Hopefully in the next couple years I'll know what subspecialty I am interested in and then a 1 year fellowship after residency before fully completing my training.

Joseph Dossett '15

After graduating from Notre Dame in 2015, I enrolled at East Tennessee State University on a full athletic scholarship for football. I started my freshman year at defensive end and played my last season of football my sophomore year. After, while continuing my studies at ETSU, I began working as a certified nursing assistant. I also became the Co-President of ETSU's chapter of the American Chemical Society Chemistry Club. I graduated from ETSU in 2019 with a bachelor's in health science and a concentration in microbiology. I continued my employment as a CNA then matriculated into ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine in 2022.

While in high school, I enjoyed spending time with the friends I made at Notre Dame (we hung out often), playing video games, and participating on the football team. Notre Dame set me up to succeed academically, professionally, and socially; Notre Dame is truly a quality institution. The most influential teachers during my time at Notre Dame were the sisters, Mr. Irvin, and Coach Fant. Having teachers who truly see you and your potential is the difference between simply going through the motions or actualizing your dreams.

When I was in middle/high school I did not know if I enjoyed football or wrestling more. I believe I was better at wrestling. However, as I wrestled the #2 heavyweight in the state my freshman year, Josh Mackey, I sustained a torn labrum and separated shoulder. This was the genesis of a line of internal questioning. My father had always been in my ear as a boy telling me to use my mind and pursue higher education, but I aspired to play in the NFL. However, this initial injury, as well as a second torn labrum two weeks before my junior football season at Notre Dame, gave me insight into the, at

times, fickle nature of the human body. Dr. Jeremy Bruce, the rehab, and the recovery sparked an interest in medicine. As of writing this I am a 4th year medical student applying Psychiatry in the residency match.

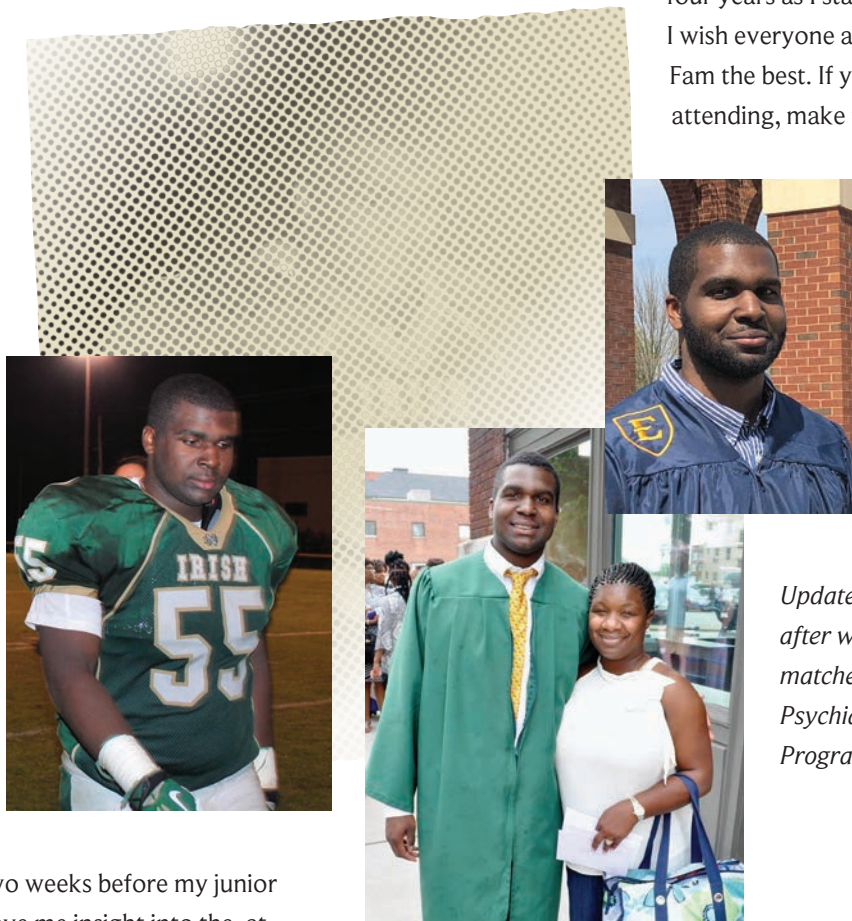
I entered medical school intending to practice psychiatry. However, the cost and fascination of everything we were learning lead me to keeping an open mind about specialties. I heavily considered radiology, plastic surgery, and general surgery during my pre-clinical training and clerkships. My favorite rotations during my clerkship 3rd year were psychiatry, plastic surgery, general surgery, and reproductive endocrinology.

My most influential mentors are those in my family who have come before me. Their humility, faith, and perseverance have always inspired me. If I hadn't become a physician, I would have been a master plumber and joined my father's company or maybe chase my childhood dream of being a pilot. My next step is figuring out where I will be training in psychiatry for the next

four years as I start my career.

I wish everyone at ND and the ND Fam the best. If you are currently attending, make the most of your

time there. It is truly special and will teach you things and prepare you to do whatever you want in life.



Update: Just a few weeks after writing this, Joe matched with the ETSU Psychiatry Residency Program! 🍀



A The **Donnelly family** (Jay, Kelli, **Jack '29**, **Holder '29** and **Patrick '31**) traveled to Rome where Jay and Kelli met Pope Leo and shared the news of our 150th Jubilee!



B **Heidi Eckler '22** married Collins Self on January 10 at the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul celebrated by Rev. J. David Carter. They met at the UTC Newman Center and both graduated December of 2025 from UTC.

C **Beth Spraker '21** graduated from King's College in London with a Master of Science in Neuroscience.

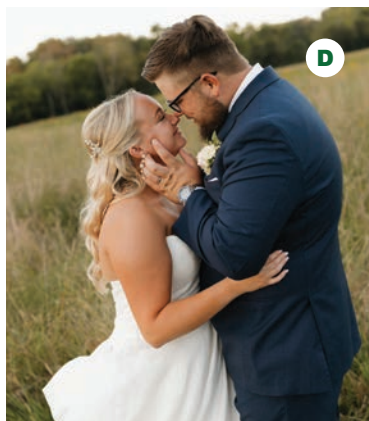
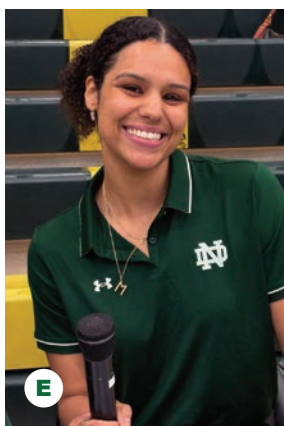
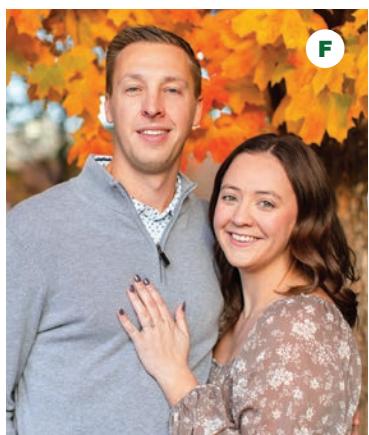
D **Lilly Schafluetzel '20** married **Jackson Love '22** on September 13th, 2025.

E **Mackenzie Johnson '19** came home to be the voice of the Irish for our home Girls & Boys Basketball games.

F **Ashley McMeen '17** was engaged to Elliott Hotovec in November, 2025.

G **Anna Gorman '17** was engaged to Phillip Lamsey (son of **Daniel Lamsey '83**) in November, 2025.

H **Patrick Martin '15** married Abby Engelhardt in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 24, 2025.





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Irish Classic

Thursday, July 16 - Afternoon Flight

Friday, July 17 - Morning Flight

at Windstone Golf Course

Every Class Bash - **Friday, July 17** at Varallo Gym

Alumni Mass & Golden Grads Brunch at NDHS,
and **Individual Class Reunions**

Saturday, July 18th



*Join us for the
150th Jubilee
Campus Celebration!*

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12**

All current families and alumni will be invited.



NOTRE DAME

SUMMER CAMPS '26



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MAY 26-29

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**GIRLS
BASKETBALL**
JUNE 1-5

SOCCER
JUNE 8-12

WRESTLING
JUNE 1-5

**BOYS
BASKETBALL**
JUNE 15-20

THEATRE
JUNE 1-5

GOLF
JUNE 15-18

STEM
JUNE 15-19

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