

THE blarney stone

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MARIST ACADEMY



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Wow, what a year for the Bees!

After winning state title, Notre Dame's robotics team finishes season with outstanding performance at world championship.

Notre Dame Prep's robotics team, the Killer Bees, was still basking in the glow of winning a state championship as they headed to St. Louis, Mo., for the World Championship of robotics where the team finished as a finalist in the championship, 8th in their division.

But it was on April 12, at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, when the Bees put together an exemplary strategy

and along with an alliance that included Clarkston Rush Team 27 and Flint Team 314, won the Michigan FIRST Robotics championship and a trip to the world championships held this year on April 24-26. The team, which last won the Michigan robotics championship in 2011, also earned the Chairman's Award at this year's state competition. The Chairman's Award recognizes the team that best exemplifies the values of the FIRST organization. They also won the Chairman's Award in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Notre Dame senior Ellen Green, who has been a fixture on the school's robotics team throughout her high-school career, says winning it all at the state level has been

unbelievable. "After being a freshman when the team first won a state championship in 2011, I've been dreaming of that moment and I can't think of a better way to end my senior year," she said. "And the Chairman's Award was a huge win for us because it's a very prestigious award that focuses on community awareness and spreading the message of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)."

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by noted inventor Dean Kamen to inspire an appreciation of science and

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The Killer Bees pose with the state championship and Chairman's Award banners after the April 12 competition at Eastern Michigan University.

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its diverse student body a Catholic and internationally recognized college-preparatory experience of lasting value.

LOWER-SCHOOL TEACHER HANGS WITH HOLLYWOOD A-LISTERS (See page 6)

Writing, fighting Irishman

Notre Dame Prep alum (2012) has much in common with a tough, Irish writer from the early 20th century

Jim Tully was an American writer, the son of Irish immigrants, who grew up in Ohio in the late 1800s. He also was a professional boxer and he wrote often about it in a career that garnered much acclaim in the 1920s and 30s from the literati of that time. So it's not a stretch to say Tully was in fact a real "writing, fighting Irishman." And with a big heart, say those who knew him.

Enter Al Smith, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Prep. Currently a junior at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Smith, who also is "very Irish," according to his mom, recently was given one of the most renowned writing awards conferred



U-M junior and 2012 NDP alum Al Smith, left, is a writer and boxer. So was Jim Tully, shown at right.

by U-M, the Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Creative Writing Award. It was the second year in a row he had won it. It's a big deal. Past Hopwood winners include Frank O'Hara, Lawrence Kasdan and Arthur Miller.

What's also a pretty big deal and just a tad ironic is that, yes, just like Tully, Smith is a boxer, a member of Michigan's boxing team. "While it's a great thrill being on the boxing team, I had no experience when I tried out during my freshman year," he said. "But I needed to learn all I could as quickly as I could for the sake of my own skull."

He said the coaches are boxers themselves who really know their stuff, helping newcomers like himself become seasoned boxers. "The team is a great bunch of guys with a family-like mentality, helping one another learn and grow," he said. "And I think that played a big part in us winning the national championship team title this year as well as five individual championships."

But getting back to Smith's writing prowess—perhaps a bit safer pursuit—and the Hopwood. He said it all started when an English professor at Michigan read one of the personal narratives he wrote for a freshman class and suggested that he enter the prestigious writing contest. "I was skeptical that I could win," Smith recalls, "but it would be an interesting experience. So I wrote a short story, 'The Tragedy of Dan Flince,' which ended up winning the 2012 underclassmen short-fiction Hopwood award."

Then he found out there was another Hopwood contest coming up in 2013 and he wanted to try something different for that one.

"Instead of a short story, I wrote a one-act play, 'A Weekend in the Cabinet,' and that, also to my surprise, ended up winning the undergraduate/graduate Hopwood in drama. [Editor's note:

Jim Tully also wrote for the stage.] It was a very bizarre experience. I was a music student among actual writers. But I'm glad I did it because being outside of my own comfort zone helped me realize that my niche might not be as small as I once thought."

FUTURE CAREER INSPIRATION BEGAN AT NDP

Smith originally believed his career niche definitely was going to revolve around music. He came to U-M to study performing-arts technology, which basically means sound engineering and music production. He credits NDP and especially choir director Dave Fazzini for developing those skills and his love for music.

But what he's also discovered since arriving at Michigan was that NDP was a big factor in his early success with writing, too. "I think having a series of great English teachers at NDP—[Anthony] Butorac, [Ed] Davis, [Sharon] Dericho, [Kathy] Bembas—gave me the tools to really excel in writing and composition."

In a general sense, Smith considers himself very lucky to have been able to attend Notre Dame and get the kind of quality of education he received there. "I also believe that it was the support of other families and alumni that made my excellent high-school education possible," he said. "So it's only fair that for me and for everyone else who profited from their kindness, we should try to give back to the ND community so that the next generation of Notre Dame students can enjoy the same caliber of education we had."

About a possible professional career, Smith said he's still not sure. "I can't fully answer at the moment what I'll be doing after college, but what I can say is that I hope to have a job in the film and music industry doing something creative. Ideally, I'd like to be a screenwriter or a producer/songwriter, depending on how the next few years go. I realize these are lofty goals, but I'd rather aim high and fall short than aim low and second-guess myself for the rest of my life."

DOG DAY

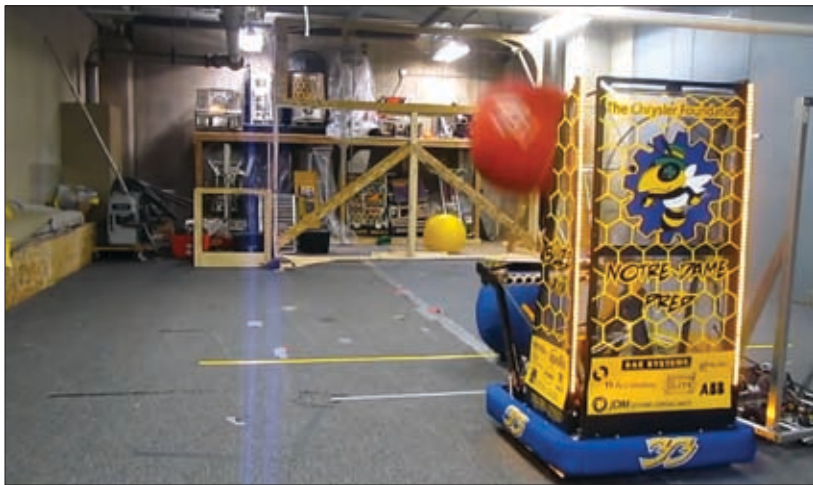
Second-guessing was not something Smith and a friend did on their most recent spring break. He said they were on the road heading through Arkansas one day when they saw two four-legged



Smith is shown with the two dogs he rescued in Arkansas.

ROBOTICS, from page 1

technology in young people. Based in Manchester, New Hampshire, FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to



The Killer Bees' robot for 2014 is shown during its development. Here it "shoots" a large inflated ball through a temporary goal set up for practice.

partner students and professionals to build self-confidence, knowledge and life-skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering.

From 28 teams in 1989, FIRST has expanded to more than 2,500 teams and 350,000+ students worldwide today. Teams from many other countries, including Brazil, Israel and Australia, competed with U.S. teams in the 2014 world championship event at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

Every year, FIRST designs a new robot "game" that is released in January. Teams then have six weeks to design and build a robot (weighing approximately 120 lbs.)

that will compete against other robots. At a typical competition, teams are randomly matched with other teams and play 12 two-minute matches over two days. Teams pick up different partners and opponents for every match, which encourages team members to work together and help each other even off the playing field. FIRST has come up with terms for this unique form of competition: "coop-ertition" and

"gracious professionalism."

Regional events are usually held in university arenas and involve 40 to 70 teams cheered on by thousands of fans over two and a half days. The world championship event caps the season.

Referees oversee all competitions, and judges evaluate teams and present awards for design, technology, sportsmanship, spirit and commitment to spreading FIRST's message: "science and math are fun."

NOTRE DAME ROBOTICS DEEMED VITAL TO SCHOOL

Fr. Leon Olszawski, s.m., head of schools for NDPMA, says that from very early when Notre Dame first opened in 1994, robotics was going to be a big deal on the Pontiac

campus. "Science, engineering, math and technology have always been important to our country and to the world's economic wellbeing," he said. "So what better way to get the kids thinking about these things while they are still young than through this program. It's been a great run for our school ever since."

There have been rough patches, though, when it comes to financing such an operation. It's expensive to run a big high-school robotics program like the one at Notre Dame Prep. Schools rely primarily on corporate support for things like registration fees for events, which cost around \$15,000, and parts for the robots can run as high as \$10,000. Travel costs (hotels, food, buses) run nearly \$15,000 and miscellaneous expenses—uniforms, costs for awards preparation, team dinners, world champi-



Notre Dame Prep senior Ellen Green has been a member of the Killer Bees for four years.

onship fees, etc.—come out to be about \$10,000. This all adds up to more than \$50,000 a year.

Heading into the 2011 season, the team received word that a major source of their corporate funding

was being dramatically cut due to the still-floundering economy. With a major competition schedule looming, parents, mentors

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Middle school chorus Skypes with renowned composer

The Notre Dame Marist Academy choruses, under the direction of Eric Taylor, had a rare opportunity last month to perform for and interview renowned composer Dr. Andrea Ramsey, choral conducting and music education professor at Ohio State University. Ramsey is one of the nation's leading choral music composers, having written many sacred and secular pieces for middle school, high school, and college choirs.

All of the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade chorus students gathered around Taylor's laptop, which projected Ramsey up on a big screen, and performed several selections for her, including her recently released "Grow Little Tree." After each selection, Ramsey spent time talking to each of the ensembles about their performance and gave tips on how to improve their choral



sound. Following the music, the students participated in a question-and-answer session with the composer. 🎨

SMITH, from page 2

animals dart out in front of their car. “We thought they were coyotes at first, but they stayed oddly close to the road,” he said. “So we stopped the car and two dogs—covered in ice and bone thin—approached and pawed at the window. There was no else



NDP grad Al Smith ('12) and current U-M student plays guitar and sings at recent charity event.

one around, so we didn't hesitate to just pick them up and try to get them rehabilitated somewhere.”

They dropped the dogs off at a local animal shelter in Arkansas hoping their owner or owners would claim them before the shelter had to put them down. Meanwhile, back in Michigan and about ten days after he left the dogs down south, Smith decided to call the shelter to check on them. Unfortunately, no one claimed the dogs, and they were slated to be euthanized in two days. So Smith, this time with his father in tow, drove straight through from Michigan back to Arkansas.

“We picked the dogs up from the shelter and immediately drove back home,” he said. “We drove about 1,900 miles in 31 hours.”

But now came an even harder task—finding one home for both dogs, which were pretty much inseparable and cried whenever apart.

“Luckily, we were able to locate a guy willing to take both dogs and since then, according to the new owner, they are doing very well and adjusting to their cozy new life in Michigan,” Smith said. “I feel really good about that!”

Sounds about right, coming from a writing, fighting Irishman from Notre Dame, who, like Jim Tully, also, obviously, possesses a big heart. 🍀

Notre Dame Prep names new head football coach



Notre Dame Prep announced last month that it has hired Patrick Fox as head varsity football coach. Fox replaces Kyle Zimmerman who has taken the top football position at Davison High School.

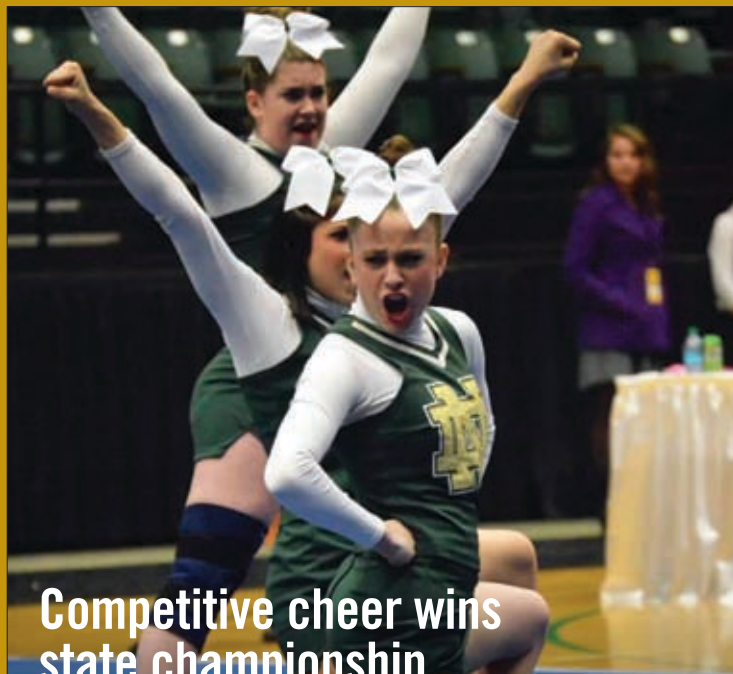
With more than 30 years of coaching experience, Fox comes to Notre Dame from Milford High School in Highland, Mich., where he served as head coach from 2000 to 2007 and then

from 2011 through last season.

He began his head-coaching career in 1988 at Ortonville Brandon High School and then in 1989 as varsity coach at Berkley High School in Berkley, Mich., where his teams earned an OAA championship and a spot in the MHSAA round of eight. He coached at Berkley until 1997 when he accepted a position as head coach with Ann Arbor Pioneer High School where he coached until 2000, earning a record of 16-11. In 2010, Fox served as offensive coordinator on the Northville High School varsity team, which gained a 250-point improvement offensively over its previous season.

Fox is the winningest head football coach at both Berkley and Milford high schools and in 1996 and 2002 earned regional coach-of-the-year honors from the MHSAA.

He holds a master's degree in sports administration from Wayne State University and a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Michigan State University. He also did postgraduate work at both MSU and Northern Michigan University. Fox currently lives in Northville, Mich., with his wife and two children. 🍀

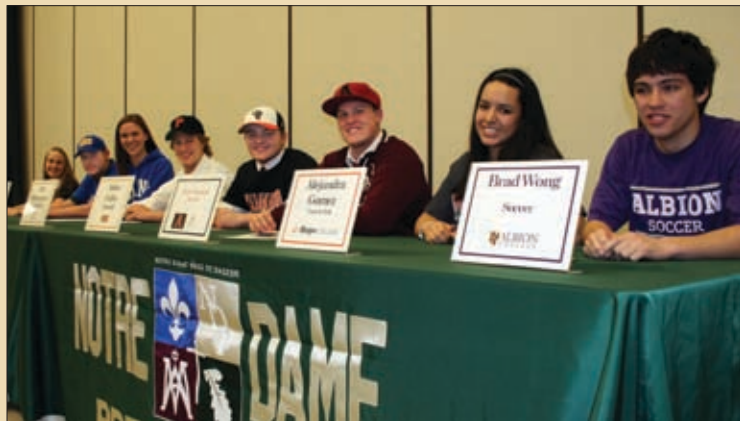


Competitive cheer wins state championship

On March 1, 2014, the Fighting Irish cheer team won the MHSAA Division 3 Competitive Cheer finals in Grand Rapids. The team's score of 764.04 overtook Comstock Park's 759.68. Last year, the Irish were runners up to Richmond High School. It's the fifth time Notre Dame Prep was in the state championship round.

Second-year head coach Beth Campbell did a great job with this team that itself did a great job representing Notre Dame Prep throughout the season. Finishing their last year as winners were seniors Alyssa Chojnacki, Lauren Chojnacki, Maggie Crowe, Alyssa George, Kayla Piskorowski and Lauren Sadowski. 🍀

Eight Notre Dame Prep student-athletes sign to play at university level



In a busy ceremony held April 16 at Notre Dame Prep in front of a cafeteria full of their peers, eight seniors signed to play college athletics:

Brad Wong: Three-year varsity soccer player; voted two-time all district; in 2013 was all Catholic and helped lead his team to back-to-back Catholic League championships in 2012 and 2013. Will continue his academic and athletic career at Albion College where he will study economics.

Alejandra Gomez: Four-year member of the track and field team and a multiple-sport athlete, helping to win back-to-back Catholic League division titles and earning multiple all state team academic honors. Will continue her academic and athletic career at Hope College where she will study pre-law and Spanish.

Nick Swanson: Two-year varsity baseball player and member of the 2013 all state academic team and was a key member of the team that played in the Catholic League championship last season at Comerica Park. Will continue his academic and athletic career at Alma College where he will study biology.

Aidan Cullen: Four-year varsity baseball player; in 2013 was second-team all state, all district, all region and all Catholic, and was all Oakland County honorable mention. Cullen will continue his academic and athletic career Kalamazoo College where he will study pre-med.

Max Schwegman: Two-year track and field member, qualified for the MHSAA state finals last year in the 100 and 200 meter runs. In 2013, was voted second-team all state and was named all Catholic and all Oakland County honorable mention. Recently named the Wendy's High School Heisman Winner and a scholarship winner by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Currently holds the school record in the 200-meter dash. Will continue his academic and athletic career at Princeton where he will study economics.

Dani McCormick: Three-year varsity volleyball player, team academic all state and national academic all state for four years; academic all American honorable mention; three-time all league, two-time all Catholic, two-time all county, three-time all region, two-time all state and was a key member of this year's class B state champion NDP volleyball team. Will continue her academic and athletic career at Indiana State University where she will study elementary education.

James Durkin: Four-year track member and multiple-sport athlete. Recently broke the school record in the 300-meter

hurdles and this school year was named all Oakland County honorable mention in football and all academic for the Catholic League in basketball. Will receive the "Dirty Dozen" award this spring for 12 consecutive seasons of athletic participation. Will continue his academic and athletic career at Lake Superior State University where he will study business.

Victoria Bayliss: Two-year varsity softball player; in 2013 was named all league, all Catholic, all district, all region and all Oakland county honorable mention. Bayliss was part of a team that won a district championship in 2013 when she earned all state academic honors. Will continue her academic and athletic career at the University of Minnesota Crookston and study elementary education. 🏆

NDP senior earns 'outstanding high school graduate' scholarship



Notre Dame Prep art instructor Sandra LewAllen announced last month that senior Gwendolen Keller has earned the 'Outstanding High School Graduate' scholarship from a program sponsored by The Detroit News and CATCH, Sparky Anderson's Charity for Children.

Keller is one of 22 students in the state of Michigan to win the scholarship, which in her case was in the category of visual arts. She was chosen on the basis of grades, test scores, honors, community involvement and demonstrated ability in visual arts. 🏆

Summer camp program bigger than ever



Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy's youth summer camps will soon be here on campus. And this year, Notre Dame's summer program is bigger and more diverse than ever before and parent/student interest

is expected to be high. So it's time now to sign up to ensure your children get a spot in the camp of their choice.

As one of the area's most recognized programs, ND's summer camps curriculum provides safe, fun, and skill-focused experiences for kids entering grades kindergarten through 12. This year's lineup includes a wider variety of both athletic and academic camps. The program includes athletic camps in volleyball, soccer, baseball, football, basketball and tennis. Academic camps include sessions in art, college essay writing, math, debate and theatre. Camps range from two to five-and-a-half hours per day and offer instruction for all skill levels, from introductory to advanced. All camps are run by NDP faculty members or varsity coaches. For more information, click on the athletics page of the NDPMA website. 🏆

Screaming at Al Pacino

Longtime coach and teacher also a film veteran who's worked with Al Pacino, Robert DeNiro, Benecio Del Toro and Sigourney Weaver

Wrestling a vampire, getting strangled by Sigourney Weaver and screaming in Al Pacino's face likely are not things that most elementary-school teachers get to do in a lifetime. But for Notre Dame's lower-school physical education teacher,

rambunctious junior-kindergarten to fifth-grade students and giving them a well-rounded weekly routine of fitness activities that sometimes rival sophisticated high-school and college programs. For example, from the lower division's curriculum guide on physical education: Jr.-K: "Use objects and props to develop spatial awareness and coordination skills." 2nd grade: "Demon-

who spent 31 of his teaching years as an English teacher in the Detroit school system and who probably should be thinking about taking a quieter, less-stressful path to retirement, he says he's very happy doing what he's doing at Notre Dame.

"I really like teaching at ND Marist because the little kids are so enthusiastic," he says.

Battani also heads Notre Dame's high school varsity girls basketball program. He's been coaching at NDP for seven years after previous stints at Bishop Borgess, Ann Arbor Huron and Andover high schools. He says he especially loves coaching at NDP.

"Notre Dame Prep is great because the athletic program is so organized, the facilities are outstanding, and the kids are smart," he said. "Which is very important because we have a very large playbook for basketball."

If all that's not enough to keep Battani busy, for the last six years he's been a scorer of standardized test essays for the Michigan MEAP as well as for the Tennessee and Connecticut tests. And he's currently a substitute teacher in the Warren Consolidated School system.

But it's probably his film and TV resume that piques more than just a few interested inquiries, including a few from *The Blarney Stone*.

For the last several years, Battani has been fortunate enough to get lots of work as an extra on Hollywood-type film sets. Between spending a month as a stand-in for noted actor and playwright Wallace Shawn and literally standing next to Robert DeNiro for take after take where he had to receive communion 14 times, Battani says he's had the pleasure of working on numerous other films with



Pat Battani, a physical-education teacher at Notre Dame Marist Academy - Lower Division, also coaches NDP's varsity girls basketball team.

it's just another day at the office—well, to be truthful, his "extra" office.

With a nearly 40-year career in teaching and coaching under his belt, Notre Dame's Patrick Battani has been one busy guy. Now, as Notre Dame Marist's phys-ed teacher, he is taking very young and

strate selected elements of mature form of manipulative skills of roll, underhand throw, overhand throw, catch, kick, hand dribble and volley." 5th grade: "Demonstrate mature form of a variety of locomotor and non-locomotor skills." Pretty impressive and complex stuff for young students—and their teacher!

For Battani, however,

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and the school's advancement office put their heads together to see if they could find other sources of revenue to rescue the team. Students formed marketing teams to give presentations to companies and explained what FIRST is and how sponsoring the Killer Bees can benefit both the team and a sponsoring company.

The results were outstanding. The Killer Bees gained access to enough sponsor

time with 160 points. In 2012, the team finished the season as the seventh-ranked team in the state, won the Industrial Design Award at the world competition, and was the number one-ranked Chrysler sponsored team in the state. The 2013 campaign was the team's best season cumulatively at that time as the Bees finished the year with a record of 74-17-1 and was ranked 10th in the world. Going into the current season of competition, the Killer Bees had an overall historic record that put them sixth in the world.

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IT TAKES A TEAM

Killer Bee Ellen Green said having the whole team (40 members) contribute is critical for achieving such success. "Teamwork is imperative while driving the robot on the field, but it also comes into play during the long hours we spend building the robot," she said. "Over the course of our six-week build season, students may spend more than forty hours a week together.

We become like a family. As the Bees always say: "Teamwork keeps the hive alive!"

Along with mentor Zondag, a number of other adult volunteers contribute a whole bunch of their personal time to the Bees, including Sue McGinnis, a science teacher at NDP; Julia Green, Ellen's mother, who works at Oakland Schools; Chrysler engineers Tim Grogan, Jim Soisson, Steve Hatfield and Dana Hobbs; and countless others equally devoted to the team's success.

Staying active in the community also is a big part of a typical year for the robotics team. Over the course of the past four years, the Killer Bees have participated in the Walk for Hunger, the Youth Engineering and Science Expo, the Plumber's Union Fair, and the Rochester Christmas Parade. They've visited local childcare facilities, teaching young children about tools and demonstrating their robots, and they hold robot demonstrations around metro Detroit.

Other special projects they've worked on include promoting the new Boy Scouts of America robotics merit badge and volunteering and raising money for the Children's

Leukemia Foundation. They also are a regular and visible presence on the NDPMA campus, demonstrating their robots at corn roasts, pep rallies, open houses, math and science classes and at lunchtime for fellow students.

School administrators and the rest of the student body have been important to the Bees' success over the years, says Notre Dame senior Green. "NDP has been instrumental in our success as a team. Not only do we receive equal recognition with athletic teams, but the 'it's cool to be smart' mentality has helped our team grow and achieve sustainability from year to year. The respect we have from the school and student body is tremendous and our team is very appreciative of the support."

INVOLVEMENT BRINGS ADVANTAGES

As she heads to college after graduating Notre Dame, Green is confident that being a part of robotics is going to be a difference-maker for her. She said her involvement with FIRST robotics already has been an advantage for her on college applications as well as with the hands-on knowledge she's gained from building and operating the machines. "As a prospective engineer, I feel very confident that my fantastic academic education from NDPMA paired with my technical knowledge from the Killer Bees will give me a real head start next year and beyond." 🇺🇸



During the state competition in which the Killer Bees from Notre Dame earned its second title in four years, Michigan's Governor Rick Snyder visits with members of the team. From left are freshman Laura Lund, Julia Walter, Governor Snyder, Erica Nowosielski and Maddie Allard.

support to get them through that season. Currently, most of the corporate support has been restored. In fact, The Chrysler Foundation, which is Chrysler LLC's community support arm, recently gave additional funding to the 12 robotics teams from Michigan that went to the World Championships in St. Louis.

ACCOLADES KEEP ADDING UP

Since 2011, the Killer Bees have strung together a huge list of wins and awards. Going into the state championship this year, the Bees were ranked sixth out of 277 participating teams in Michigan, according to Jim Zondag, one of the team's mentors and a Chrysler engineer. "For the world competition, our chances of doing well are very good," he said. "We are one of the highest scoring teams in the world, in the top 1%."

In 2011, in addition to the state championship, the Bees won the Michigan Industrial Design Award, the IRI All Star Game, the Kettering Robot Quality Award and earned the highest match score in the world at the

Lower-school robotics team places 6th in world

The Notre Dame Marist Academy - Lower Division's VEX Robotics team finished its inaugural season with a sixth-place finish April 26 in the world championship competition in Anaheim, California. The team, called "1 2 3 Robot!," which consists of third-



graders Aaron Parlardy and John Milback, and fifth-grader Charlotte Milback, also won the Create Award for having a robot with a creative engineering solution.

There were 60 teams represented in the elementary school group from nine countries (U.S., South Korea, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, China, Hong Kong, and Australia). 🇺🇸



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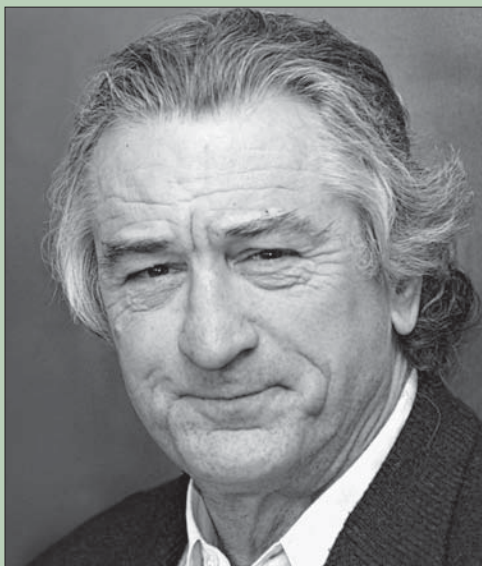
NDPMA also is on Facebook! Find a link on the NDPMA web site: ndpma.org.



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many of Hollywood's elites.

He's worked with Pacino in the Kevorkian biopic "You Don't Know Jack," DeNiro in "Stone," and counts Edward Norton, Milla Jovovich, Christopher Walken, Val Kilmer, Paul Sorvino, Benicio Del Toro and Sigourney Weaver as fellow actors on recent films. In addition, Battani,



Lower-division teacher Pat Battani once received communion 14 times in a scene with actor Robert DiNero.

who got into the business by simply answering a casting call, was an extra in the Detroit-filmed AMC drama series "Low Winter Sun." His latest work is for the upcoming release of "Into the Storm," in which actor Richard Armitage has a lead role.

"Look for me in about five scenes," Battani said. "And also look for NDP junior Hailey Atkins, who also was an extra in the film." The film premieres August 8.

Besides "You Don't Know Jack" (2010), "Stone" (2010) and "Into the Storm" (2014), Battani's filmography includes "The Irishman" (release date N/A), "Jimmy P" (2013), "Real Steel" (2011) and "Vamps" (2012), in which Weaver's character tries to strangle him.

So what does Battani do when he's not teaching six year olds, coaching high schoolers or acting with Hollywood A-listers? He and his wife, Jean, travel a lot and they both try to keep up with their five kids, Kelli, Kim, Kevin, Mike and Amanda. Oh, and he says he cooks, too. "I was a chef for six years. So I love to cook!" Phew! It appears that for chef Battani, there really is always something simmering on his stove. 🍴

Notre Dame 6th grader one of 32 in the U.S. with perfect score



A student representing Notre Dame Marist Academy achieved individual highest honors in the recent WordMasters

Challenge™—a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually.

Competing in the blue division of the WordMasters Challenge™ last month, sixth-grader Amelia Cumming achieved a perfect score of 20 on the second of three challenges to be held this school year. Nationally, only 32 sixth graders achieved this result.

Sixth graders Jon Raju and Michael Robbins achieved "outstanding" results in the meet. 🏆