

# THE blarney stone

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

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## Student safety and security very high on Notre Dame priority list; campus plan “commended”

School safety has consistently ranked near the top of recent surveys of worries noted by parents of schoolchildren. Gun violence, bullying along with traffic and pedestrian safety are “frequent” concerns cited by parents in a Gallup poll taken last year. While those concerns or fears have waned in the two years since the tragedy in Newtown, they nonetheless are at elevated levels.

In early 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice launched the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, a large-scale, integrated research effort that is building knowledge about what works to increase the safety of schools nationwide. It began in response to a congressional appropriation of \$75 million, which gave the Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice (NIJ) primary responsibility along with more than 20 federal partners.

The initiative was to achieve its goal by improving national-level data collection, convening stakeholders to identify and share best practices, and conducting research and testing by evaluating pilot projects in school districts around the country.

While the findings from NIJ have not yet been fully disseminated, most schools across the country already have taken aggressive student and school safety steps of their own, including Notre Dame Preparatory School

and Marist Academy, which likely will not receive any of the \$75 million appropriation.

“Safety always has been our number-one priority,” said NDPMA head of school Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m. “For awhile now, we have had armed Oakland County Sheriffs in each of our buildings. It was shortly after the Sandy Hook school tragedy.”

Olszamowski said the school’s security guards, who are contracted through an agency, also provide virtually round-the-

clock protection for the students, staff and parents and the buildings and grounds.

He also said the school has an up-to-date safety plan. “We do everything we can to keep our kids safe short of turning school into a prison.”

NDPMA building manager Julie Frakes, who is in charge of the school’s five security guards, said the Marist Fathers have always been very concerned for the safety and

*Please see SAFETY page 3*



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



MANY MORE ELITE UNIVERSITIES  
RECRUITING AT NDP (SEE PAGE 6)

# The proper ‘mind-set’

Purdue junior says Notre Dame helped give him what he needs to succeed in college

**P**urdue University junior Luke Moriguchi, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School, is well on his way to a career in engineering. He’s had successful internships at two manufacturing companies thus far and his college GPA is still strong. And while academics have kept him extremely busy, he still finds time to play in Purdue’s marching band. He said NDP has helped both in the classroom and in the band room.

“Besides taking classes, I am also the section leader of the Purdue cymbal line in the drumline for the band,” Moriguchi said. “At NDP, I had great opportunities to be a leader, serving as the NDP drumline section leader and varsity team co-captain, both for two years. Not only did participating in extracurricular activities at NDP help me become more well-rounded, it also helped me learn how to better manage my time and how to work with other people.”

Moriguchi said his experiences in the last two years-plus at Purdue have been nothing short of eventful, exciting and challenging.

“Academically, I’ve been doing well and maintaining my grades,” he said. “Honestly, the classes I’ve had to take so far have not been easy, but I’m proud to say that I’ve been able to pull through the last two years with a good grade point average.”

He’s majoring in mechanical engineering at a university with one of the top M.E. programs in the country, so the classes are pretty tough. But he credits his high school for giving him a head start.

“At NDP, I learned a lot academically, but I truly feel that the most important thing I learned was the mind-set of how to approach classes and how to learn to adjust to new classes with new material. Different subjects call for different study habits and this mind-set has helped me tremendously with keeping up in tough classes.”

## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT A BIG HELP

Moriguchi said he also credits NDP—specifically the counseling department—with helping to get him into Purdue in the first place. “Mr. [Vlado] Salic helped me a lot with making sure I got into Purdue University and he continues to support me as a graduate of NDP,” he said.

His matriculation to Purdue has in turn helped Moriguchi get a couple of prestigious internships during the past two summers.

“The College of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue is second



Luke Moriguchi '12 (NDP) is in front of the Purdue “Big Bass Drum.” At more than ten feet in diameter, it is branded as the world’s largest drum.

to none,” he said. “Its reputation and tradition of excellence has helped me work two internships after two years in college—one at American Axle & Manufacturing in Rochester Hills and the second at Gulfstream Aerospace in Savannah, Georgia. I am currently seeking a third internship for this summer.”

Moriguchi said that along with his high school academics, it’s just good old-fashioned hard work that has helped him thus far in college and with those internships.

“As simple as this may sound, the strengths that have helped me succeed in the workplace with the internships are being hardworking, diligent, eager to learn, and having a sense of urgency. During my first two internships, these four strengths allowed me to have more opportunities and to learn much more during each three-month term.”

He said that while it was rewarding to know that people felt he was a reliable source for help on their assignments, the experience he gained through these extra assignments as an intern are what has stuck with him and “will help me continue to succeed later in my career.”


## NOTRE DAME MEMORIES

Moriguchi said he looks back very fondly to his time at Notre Dame Prep. He worked as the head sound engineer for two NDP musical productions, “Grease” and “Beauty and the Beast.”

“I worked with Nick Finn and Mike Klepp, who were both in my sound crew,” he said. “I learned so much about acoustics, leadership and theater during those experiences and I still remember how exciting it was to have been a part of that.”

Moriguchi also has realized how important alumni are to an educational institution.

“As a band student at NDP, I got to meet many of its alumni and I was quickly exposed to how much they supported us,” he said. “This trend has continued during my time at Purdue. The drumline at Purdue receives a lot of support from alumni, which allows us to have great equipment, movie nights, and other great experiences. Without the generosity of our alumni, these things likely would not be possible.”

During his first two summers after graduating from NDP, Moriguchi has returned to his high school to help with the school’s band camp and to be an instructor for NDP Band Director Joe Martin’s drumline. “While the summer internships have made this harder and harder each year, I still try to stop in whenever I have a chance.” 



Jim Travis is the supervisor of Notre Dame's security detail. He's been working on campus for about eight years and says that serious incidents are extremely rare.

**SAFETY, from page 1**

well-being of the students, faculty, staff and parents. She notes that incidents are very rare on campus and that parents should be reassured that this level of safety will continue.

"The Marists' foresight in making Notre Dame a real jewel—a safe jewel—in the middle of Pontiac is commendable," she said. "And a big part of that is our security guards, who are very dedicated to the school. They are here, rain or shine, at all events, not just through the school year,



Brian Ward works exclusively at the lower division unless there are major events at the main campus.

but all through the summer camps, school breaks, at all hours of the day or night as needed. Although some parents may disagree with traffic directions, checking in at the office, or other security procedures, it's all about keeping our students safe!"

Keeping students safe. That is in fact what all who were interviewed for this article said was their number-one priority. Jim Travis, one of NDPMA's security guards,

also supervises the crew. He said without a doubt "making sure the kids are safe" is job one." Travis' wife Barbara also works security

**A recent appraisal by the school's insurance agency noted that NDPMA's safety and security procedures are "commendable."**

at Notre Dame, primarily in the afternoon and evening.

Jim Travis has been working on campus since 2006. He said he and his crew are laser-focused on school safety and security and "making sure that the people, the traffic and the property stay safe every day."

Traffic, he said, is a big part of what his crew does and that it comes with special challenges. Travis has a special message for parents: "Slow down!"

He wants all parents to drive slowly in the parking lot, especially during morning drop-offs. "I have a lot of kids all over the place, and it's often very dark. I know some of the parents are late with bringing their kids to school, but please—leave five minutes earlier from the house and then you won't have to come screaming around the loop, especially on the north side."

Brian Ward, the security guard who

works exclusively at the lower division, echoes Travis. He said he realizes that the parking situation at the new lower division campus has been problematic, but he'd like everyone to be patient.

"But that new parking expansion cannot come along fast enough," he said. "It will be a godsend for alleviating the congestion at peak times around here."

Ward has been working security at NDPMA for six years, including five at the former lower division building in Waterford. He said the expansion will be a whole lot better for parents and traffic, but the new entrance off of Walton, while overall beneficial for traffic flow, will make his job a little harder. "I'll have to make sure that the cars in our lot belong there," he said. "I am hoping to get gates up at the entrances as well."

Ward, who said working at Notre Dame is a complete joy for him, notes that beside keeping an eye on the parking lot, his daily duties include securing the lower-division building, windows, doors, etc. But his



NDPMA security guard Larry McIntosh, also a minister at Calvary Missionary Church, goes out of his way to ensure student safety, especially during peak traffic times.

biggest thing is the extended-care program in the evening. "It's a main job for me, making sure the kids are all picked up by the right people. I am so, so careful about that!"

**BEING SAFE, FEELING SAFE**

Security guard Larry McIntosh has been a fixture at Notre Dame for seven years, two at the lower division. An ordained minister at Calvary Missionary Church across from the school's main campus, McIntosh said he is particularly focused on student and staff safety, but he also wants to maintain a sense of normalcy on campus.

"I want to keep everyone safe, but I want to do so while hopefully making sure everybody feels safe and secure," McIntosh said. "Even when there may be an issue—and those are very rare—I think it's important to

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## Notre Dame alum is helping to bring health care to the world's needy

Clare Lilek '10 (NDP) graduated from the University of Michigan in May with a major in Women's Studies and Spanish. She now is in Lima, Peru, as an intern for MEDLIFE, which is a non-profit organization that focuses on bringing health care and preventative care to low-income communities around the world currently focusing on Peru, Ecuador, Panama, India and Tanzania. Lilek is the sister of Notre Dame upper-school English teacher Kyle Lilek. 🌍



Notre Dame Prep alum Clare Lilek has worked in Ecuador and Peru for the non-profit MEDLIFE, which helps bring health care and preventative care to poor communities around the world.

## Hour of Code coming back to NDPMA

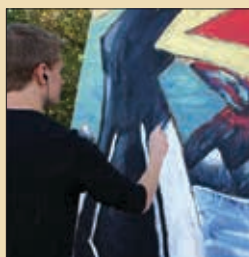


Notre Dame school officials announced last month that the school will once again be part of the nationwide "Hour of Code," which this year will be held during the week of December 8-14. Hour of Code is a campaign calling on every K-12 student in America to join in learning about computer coding. The initiative, sponsored by Code.org, a non-profit dedicated to promoting computer science education, asks schools, teachers and parents across the country to help introduce more than 15 million students of all ages to computer programming during Computer Science Education Week. 🌐

## Notre Dame comes together to 'Make It Matter'

On September 26, all three divisions of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy came together on the Pontiac campus to "make it matter."

"Make It Matter Day," which is what the school calls the day's event, was an opportunity for more than 1,150 students



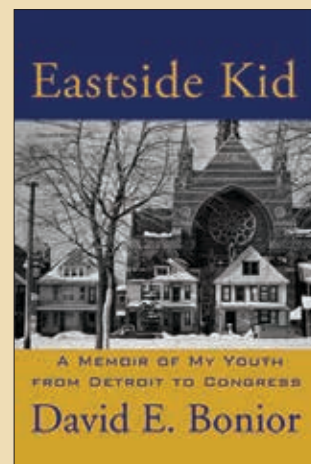
and their teachers to focus on the "Christian Persons" aspect of the school mission. The goal was to make something useful for people in need in the metropolitan Detroit area and in other parts of the world.

The students worked on small American flags for veterans and members of the armed forces overseas, packets of materials for children activities in hospitals, and fleece blankets for families in emergencies or for the homeless among many other projects. Many students in Notre Dame's upper school painted and decorated large plywood panels that will be used as a more attractive alternative for boarding up abandoned houses in Detroit and around southeast Michigan. 🌍

## Notre Dame figures prominently in new book by alum

On November 11, Notre Dame alum David Bonior ('63) will release his latest book, "Eastside Kid: A Memoir of My Youth, From Detroit to Congress," a heartfelt recollection of his coming of age in working class southeast Michigan and his ascent to become the second highest ranked member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a position he held for 11 years. It's the fourth book authored by the former Democratic Whip in the U.S. House.

In a recent phone interview with NDPMA's advancement office, Bonior said that along with passages about his early childhood in Hamtramck, there is a lot in the book—including many photos—about his parochial school experiences at St. Veronica in what was then East Detroit (now Eastpointe) as well as about the time he spent at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods. "I've written this book as a kind of family reminiscence," he said. "It's written as if I'm telling my kids and grandkids about what I've seen and experienced in life." 🌍



## Notre Dame senior is a finalist for Miss Volleyball



Notre Dame Prep senior Katherine Carlson was named by the Detroit Free Press in September as a finalist for Miss Volleyball in Michigan.

From the Detroit Free Press: “Accomplishments: Helped the Irish to the Class B state title as a junior. First team All-State as a junior. Also was named first-team All-State as a sophomore. After being recruited by Notre Dame, Duke, Western Michigan, and George Washington, committed to

Valparaiso. Has a 4.37 grade-point average. ‘She makes everything look so fluid and easy,’ said coach Betty Wroubel.”

## Notre Dame grad speaks on ROTC

Notre Dame Prep graduate Erik Egner ('13) was on campus in early October and gave a presentation on ROTC opportunities to current students. Egner, who is an Army cadet attending Loyola University in Chicago, told the juniors and seniors in attendance

about the many opportunities available to young men and women interested in pursuing careers related to the U.S. military and defense industries.

Egner said that ROTC is a great way to gain critical leadership skills even if a student does not end up in the military. In fact, he said, Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) is one of the best leadership courses in the country and offers classes as electives within a normal college curriculum. He said students can take up to the first two years of the program without having to contract to serve in the Army.



NDP graduate Erik Egner ('13) is with Notre Dame President Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., on a recent visit to his alma mater.



A regular security presence near Notre Dame's athletic complex, Harold Leslie also coaches 5th- and 6th-grade girls basketball for the school.

### SAFETY, from page 3

keep an even keel so that this great comfortable atmosphere we have here is maintained.”

Like his colleagues, McIntosh said that traffic and pedestrian safety is a big part of his job.

“The kids generally do not watch where they're going, especially when school gets out in the afternoon,” he said. “They come out of school talking to one another, talking on their phones and texting. They are not watching traffic. We all must be vigilant about keeping the traffic speeds down and watching for the students walking into traffic, because they're not watching for the most part.”

### AFTER-SCHOOL SAFETY

A real fixture on campus in the afternoons for two-and-a-half years is Harold Leslie. Always ready with a wave and a hello for passersby from his post at the athletic gate near the football field entrance, he nonetheless takes his job and responsibility very seriously.

While extremely personable and friendly on the outside, Leslie said he is definitely focused on who's who and who belongs on the campus and who does not.

“It gets really chaotic around here when there are games on the field, and multiple practices going on in multiple locations,” he said. “I am always watching like an eagle.”

A retiree from American Axle & Manufacturing and a U.S. Navy veteran, Leslie's stints at Notre Dame are seasonal since he is outside most of the time. “When sports move inside for the winter, I am not needed as much.”

But he is not short of things to do during his “off season.” Leslie coaches 5th and 6th grade girls basketball at Notre Dame and he and his wife run a math and English tutoring business from their home. “We

just love helping kids!”

### LOW INCIDENCE OF INCIDENTS

Security supervisor Jim Travis said that the NDPMA campus has been virtually trouble-free for as long as he could remember.

“We used to get what I call drive-throughs, where suspicious vehicles would sometimes make a slow drive around the main circle, looking for who knows what,” he said. “That's why we installed the second gate off of Giddings, which is closed most of the school day when there aren't a lot of people in the lot.”

He said that in the last five years, there has been only one larceny in the parking lot—an iPod was taken from a car, an unlocked car. He said it's important for the student to lock their cars all of the time.

“And also please remember, security is everybody's business! If a parent sees something, please don't hesitate to come to me or my people and we will check it out,” Travis said. “And. . . remind your kids to lock their car doors!”



Security guard Barb Travis says 'keeping the kids safe' is her main focus.



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## More elite colleges and universities visiting NDP students

Notre Dame Prep’s head of counseling, Vlado Salic, says this fall has been the most successful ever in terms of college visits to the Notre Dame campus.

“We are nearing the tail end of college rep visitation season and we have had more than 35 colleges visit and 13 more coming through the first week in November,” he said. “We are putting a bigger emphasis on promoting our school to colleges and universities—many of them fairly elite—that typically do not visit many high schools in the area.”

Salic said that Brown University, Syracuse, NYU, USC, Furman, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Vanderbilt, Boston College, Claremont McKenna, Case Western Reserve among many others already have visited with NDP students or will be on campus soon.

“NDP is getting more recognition from many more elite universities, which will ultimately benefit our students with many more opportunities post-high school,” he said. 🇺🇸