B D AND EXPENSION FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

Students solving a world full of problems

One of Notre Dame's newest clubs begins season at prestigious conference in Northville.

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n Nov. 5, nearly 30 Notre Dame students participated in the Southeast Michigan Model United Nations Association (SEMMUNA) annual conference at Northville High School. This is the largest Model UN conference in the state of Michigan and featured over 900 delegates from such schools as the International Academy, Detroit Country Day, UD-Jesuit, Ann Arbor Greenhills and Bloomfield Hills High School.

According to Dave Osiecki, a social studies teacher in Notre Dame's upper division and the moderator of Notre Dame's Model United Nations club, the student "security councils" discussed such topics as the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in North Korea, while other MUN committees will discuss such diverse topics as cyber-security, the safety of health-care workers in war zones, nuclear proliferation and drug trafficking.

"The conference was a very impressive collection of young people who are dedicated to learning about world affairs, and just as importantly, committed to learning how to work with others of different viewpoints and national interests," Osiecki said. "I can really see these young people as future national and international leaders in business, law, medicine, diplomacy and



Notre Dame's Model UN club's participation in a Nov. 5 conference in Northville was led by, left to right: seniors Mariel Manzor, Jacqueline Kenny and Alexis Lawroski, and junior Julia Nellis.

government."

Two years ago at this conference, Notre Dame was represented by five students, who established the team in Notre Dame's first year with a MUN club. This year at the conference, the club had close to 30 participants, including four students chairing Model UN committees.

"I was thrilled to have the opportunity to chair a committee about the ethics of healthcare in warring nations at 2016's SEMMUNA conference," said NDP senior Jackie Kenny. "While the media focuses so much on the wars and the nations themselves, I think that centering an entire committee about this specific aspect of the conflicts will open doors to engaging discussion about global conflict, but with a human rights and healthcare bent. This will be my first time chairing a committee and I've loved the preparations thus far and can't wait to see where MUN takes me next."

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



'FIVE-STAR' LOWER DIVISION HUMS Along Thanks to dedication of Longtime Staffer.

Pharmacist and alum gives back in Haiti

Notre Dame and a trip during college set this grad up for a life of service



Notre Dame alum Marisa Sochacki ('06), fourth from left, is with friends in Haiti.

o hear alum Marisa Sochacki ('06) tell it, her passion for helping others began at Notre Dame and manifested itself at college when she began traveling internationally to serve those desperately in need.

"One thing I've learned as I've traveled the world is that who I am today is a result of my past experiences," said Sochacki, who earned a doctorate in pharmacy at the University of Toledo in 2012. "My values and passions for helping others are continually developing, but those seeds were first planted during my high school years at Notre Dame."

She said though it's sometimes hard to appreciate initially, community service is something that cannot be ignored.

"We Notre Damers have an obligation to ensure that others get many of the opportunities that we had — or better! Our alma mater is like our family. NDP supported us, so like good, Christian people, we must do the same, in whatever way we can."

Since high school, Sochacki's "family" has expanded in both scope and geography.

After graduating from NDP in 2006, Sochacki attended the University of Toledo to study in its pharmacy program, which consisted of two 'pre-professional' years followed by a very competitive application process into the 'professional division.' The last four years of pharmacy school, according to Sochacki, consisted of vigorous, year-round academic and onsite practice modules.

During college, she also was involved with intramurals, church groups, she worked as an intern, and also held leadership positions within a number of pharmacy organizations. She began traveling to Haiti for service work in 2008, and visited at least twice per year during college. It is during college, specifically in 2010, that she began to work very closely with a Haitian orphanage, Foyer des Enfants de la Providence, in the city of Les Cayes. By the way, Sochacki also managed at the same time to graduate with a doctor of pharmacy degree (Pharm.D) in 2012 as one of four valedictorians, the credit for which she gives partly to Notre Dame.

"My academics and advanced placement courses at Notre Dame certainly helped ease my transition to college courses," she said. "The study habits I developed at NDP greatly assisted me in maintaining an excellent GPA though both high school and college."

She said that during her time at Notre Dame, she also was involved in quite a few extracurricular activities, such as the National Honor Society, soccer, cross country and community service.

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Chairing a committee is a significant responsibility at a conference like this, according to Osiecki, as many commit-

tees are being run by college students from their own university MUN programs.

Alexis Lawroski, who is president of Notre Dame's Model UN team, said she was more than excited to lead the cyber-security committee.

"It gives me a different perspective for one of my favorite hobbies, and it lets me see how my peers think and

Nearly 30 Notre Dame students participated in the Southeast Michigan Model United Nations Association (SEMMUNA) annual conference Nov. 5 at Northville High School.

problem solve," she said. "I love hearing how all committee members study the world, and I really looked forward to leading my peers in this event. I couldn't

LIST OF CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS AT NDPMA

ACTION FOR AFRICA

Meetings: Periodically. Moderator: Amy Preiss

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Campus Ministry offers peer ministry programs to students through: - Christians in Action (CIA):

- Christians in Action (CIA)

- Peer Leader Program:

Meetings: Periodically

CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE Meetings: Tuesdays. Moderator: Mary Jane Williams CHINESE HONOR SOCIETY

Meetings: Tuesdays. Moderator: Joanne Liu
COMPUTER CLUB

Meetings: Periodically

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

DEBATE

Meetings: Ihursdays. Moderator: LeAnne Schmic ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

F.I.R.S.T. ROBOTICS

Meetings: Mondays. Moderator: Sue McGinni ILEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meetings: Once a phase. Moderator: Nick Kator MATH CLUB

Meetings: Tuesdays, Thursdays **MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB** Meetings: Periodically, Moderator: David Osied think of a better way to kick off our first conference of the year!"

Notre Dame had four committee chairs at the Nov. 5 conference: junior Julia

Nellis and seniors Alexis Lawroski, Jacqueline Kenny and Mariel Manzor. "As the chair of

the committee on healthcare in war zones, I helped organize the debate on this topic, and made sure everything ran smoothly and that all delegates got the most out of this experience," said Manzor. "I was also responsible for seeing that the committee

produced a resolution that was not only satisfactory to the vast majority of delegations, but that it also had the potential to enact real change."

MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE
Meetings: Periodically. Moderator: Kala Parker.
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
Meetings: First Tuesday of month. Moderators: Aleissa Archer, Kyle Lilek
NEWSPAPER
Meetings: Periodically. Moderator: Megan Rochon
NDP ACADEMIC TEAM (QUIZ BOWL)
Meetings: Periodically. Moderator: Caroline Morgan
OCCRA ROBOTICS
Meetings: Mondays. Moderator: Sue McGinnis
OPTIMIST CLUB
Meetings: Tuesdays. Moderator: Shari Phillips, Amy Preiss
PHILOSOPHY CLUB
Meetings: Wednesdays. Moderator: Gretchen Glick
SADD
Meetings: Wednesdays. Moderator: Gretchen Glick
SUB
Meetings: Noberet Communication (Secondard Secondard Seco





Two from NDP get High School Heisman honors

Notre Dame seniors Micaela Gleason and Brendan Fraser were named school winners for the nationally recognized Wendy's® High School Heisman Award. Gleason and Fraser were selected based on their outstanding academic and athletic achievements, and leadership within their communities. Based on his state finalist status (one of 20: 10 boys, 10 girls), Fraser now has a chance to be named a state winner, which could lead to national honors, typically announced during ESPN's broadcast of the college Heisman Memorial Trophy presentation in December.

Eligibility for this honor begins with maintaining a GPA of 3.0 (B average) or better. Applicants also need to be proven leaders and role models within their school and community. And applicants must perform in at least one of the 43 school-sponsored sports recognized by the International Olympic Committee in the Summer and Winter Olympic Games or the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Fraser participates in cross country, track and field and wrestling. Gleason has competed on the Irish volleyball and softball teams.

Like the collegiate Heisman Memorial Trophy, known as the highest award in college football, the Wendy's High School Heisman Program honors the allstar performances of high school seniors in the classroom, on the field and in the community.

HAITI, from page 2

"These activities fostered development for me of crucial life skills," she said. "Things like time management, well-roundedness, leadership and community service, especially the community service."

MOVING TO HAITI

After graduation from college, Sochacki completed two optional, post-graduate residencies in order to polish her pharmacy practice skills, including patient-care skills.

Her first residency, in 2012 and 2013, was at the Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which was followed by a residency at the University of Pittsburgh that had a global health and



Sochacki said that her values and passions for helping others are continually evolving, but those seeds were first planted during her time at Notre Dame.

underserved focus. She also kept up her travels to Haiti and added trips to Malawi and Honduras, which pretty much confirmed her desire to pursue a career in missions/global health/humanitarian aid.

"After residency, I applied to work and volunteer with Doctors Without Borders and was offered a mission in South Sudan," she said. "I spent eight months in a rather remote area of the country managing the pharmacy activities. After this mission, they offered me the pharmacy coordinator position in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. I spent an additional seven months in Juba, overseeing the pharmacy activities for all projects in the country as well as serving as an advisor to the Ministry of Health. My contract In South Sudan ended in November 2015, and it was around that time that I realized how much I missed Haiti."

The Haitian orphanage she worked at in 2010, Foyer des Enfants de la Providence, had opened a new school in 2015 and was in need of a supervisor/tutor. It was a perfect excuse for her to move to Haiti on a more permanent status. So off to Haiti again she went in December of 2015 to live and volunteer at the orphanage.

"I spend my days helping at the school, playing with kids, and assisting with administrative issues at the orphanage," she said. "This is completely voluntary, so I have also needed to do extra short-term mission work with Doctors Without Borders in order to help support myself in Haiti. One of those missions was a training mission in Athens, Greece, and the other was gap coverage for a country pharmacist in Papua New Guinea."

THE DESIRE TO LOVE

Obviously well-traveled for someone so young, and it's obvious Sochacki isn't traveling so much just to see the world. So what possesses someone with such a potentially prosperous life in the United States to leave it all behind?

"The overriding driving factor behind all of my career decisions has been an intense desire to help others," she said. "This desire began at an early age and was fostered during my time at NDP. I've always wanted to live in a developing country and be part of a community there. However, the more time I spend in Haiti, the more I realize my Haitian family is teaching me and helping me more than I could ever imagine. I've also begun to realize that the most important skill of all is the simple desire to love. This involves a desire to listen, a desire to see, and a desire to understand.

"By listening to others in need, we give them a voice and validate them as part of God's creation. And by doing this, we can help make miracles happen!"

More information on the orphanage in Haiti where Sochacki lives and works:

Foyer des Enfants de la Providence was founded 21 years ago by two Haitian women, Michaelle and Gerta, with the principles of love, security, nutrition, education, and hope for a future. They are currently responsible for 27 children, aged 3-27. The orphanage is in Les Cayes, Haiti. There is also a kindergarten for the neighborhood that employs five Haitian professors. The orphanage also recently opened a new school, Providence Academy, with the hope of allowing the children more opportunities after high school graduation. The orphanage website is **www.FEProvidence.com.**



Sochacki earned a doctor of pharmacy degree in 2012 from the University of Toledo as one of the school's four valedictorians. She now volunteers and works as a pharmacist in Haiti.

Notre Dame 7/8 football puts exclamation mark on undefeated CYO season



Notre Dame Marist Academy football's 7-8th-grade team finished its 2016 campaign on Saturday, October 22, at Ford Field with a 12-0 shutout of St. William. With the win, the Fighting Irish captured the regional championship of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and posted an undefeated 9-0 season.

During the Oct. 22 contest, which led off a full day of CYO and CHSL football at the annual Prep Bowl, eighth-grader Jacob Bendtsen picked up a St. William's fumble and returned it 85 yards for Notre Dame's first score.

Later in the game, eighth-grader Jack Risi hauled in an 18-yard TD pass from Bendtsen for the team's second score of the contest. The Irish defense also played a stellar game keeping the Crusaders off the scoreboard.

Stachura named NSCAA regional coach of the year



The Regional Coach of the Year Award has three separate categories: private/parochial, small public/Division II and large public/Division I. Stachura takes the honor for private schools.

The Irish girls varsity soccer team claimed its first MHSAA state title in program history last spring with an overtime win over Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern.

Notre Dame (21-1-3) finished last season on an 18-game winning streak with key wins over #1-ranked DeWitt, #4-ranked Marian #8-ranked Warren Regina and #14-ranked Fenton in post-season play.

Seniors awarded special scholarships

Notre Dame seniors Rodolfo Aguilar-Fernandez and Daniella Cabral were awarded college scholarships sponsored by the Ric Gonzalez Memorial Foundation. It is the ninth consecutive year that Notre Dame students earned the annual scholarship.

The Ric Gonzalez Foundation, which since 2004 has been providing college scholarships, including to many NDP alums, was formed after the passing of Ric Gonzalez, co-founder of automotive- and aerospace-supplier Gonzalez Design Group, based in Madison Heights.

Last year, then-senior Carla Aranda was awarded the 2015 Ric Gonzalez Memorial Foundation scholarship, the eighth consecutive year at least one NDP student had earned the scholarship.

A celebration and awards ceremony was held November 5, 2016, at Palazzo DiBocce in Lake Orion.

The RGMF has been providing scholarships to deserving Hispanic youth in southeast Michigan planning to attend a college or university of their choice.



NDP seniors Daniella Cabral and Rodolfo Aguilar-Fernandez were awarded college scholarships sponsored by the RGMF.

Notre Dame puts its faith into action: making it matter for the community

On the 2016 edition of Make it Matter Day, which was held September 30 on and around the campus, all three divisions of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy came together mostly under one roof to make things that make a difference.

The school calls this annual event Make It Matter Day because it is an opportunity for more than 1,100 students and their teachers to focus on the "Christian persons" and "upright citizens" aspects of the school mission. The goal is to make something useful for people in need in the metropolitan Detroit area and in other parts of the world.

"Our annual Make It Matter day is a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff to put our faith into action," said Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., principal of Notre Dame's upper division.

The students built special boxes for recycling used electronics, knitted stocking caps for infants and the homeless, repaired bikes for needy children and adults, and wrote letters to retired priests and religious among many other initiatives.

Katherine Thomas, a 6th grade science teacher and IB coor-

dinator, said the students working in her classroom today prepared denim and other materials to be used to manufacture special closed-toe shoes to be distributed to children in Africa.

"The kids are cutting the material out today after which it will be shipped via the organization Sole Hope," she said.

"Sole Hope not only provide finished shoes to needy children in Uganda, they help provide shoe making jobs to many adults there who desperately need them."

Also, a number of the school's sports teams made special trips away from campus to help out in the community, including the cross country team cleaning up and pruning greenery at a public park in Lake Orion, and the varsity football team spending a morning helping elementary students at Walton Charter Academy in Pontiac.





Bright smile, bright school

'Five-star' lower division hums along thanks to dedication of longtime staffer

to find teachers at Notre Dame who are dedicated to the mission of the school and who help make NDPMA one of the finest school in the nation. But it's also easy to sometimes overlook and take for granted those school employees who don't practice their trade in front of students in a classroom. Which is completely okay with longtime staffer Greg Kaiser, who has been making Notre Dame's lower division bright - both literally and figuratively - for more than 10 years.

t's easy

"I've never had a job that gets me to happily jump out of bed every work day at 4:30 a.m. like the one I have now," said Kaiser, who is in charge of maintenance at the lower division and prefers to stay out of the limelight. (Editor's note: In fact, he tried



Notre Dame lower division custodian Greg Kaiser makes every day brighter for students and staff.

in vain to keep this interview and article from happening.)

"But honestly, I truly love what I'm doing for the school," he said. "It could be because every day there is a good chance I may help start a student's day off on the right foot. Or maybe it's the little things I do for the staff in the morning so that they can focus on the big things."

Focusing on the little things for the "little" school is what Kaiser has been doing since the division was located in Waterford.

"I came on board as a part-time, temporary worker at the school when it was located in St. Benedict's old building in Waterford," he said. "It was a wonderful facility, but it had the many, many chal-

lenges that usually come with an older building. However,

I was able to learn a lot and become a more knowledgeable building custodian through those earlier day-to-day experiences. I enjoy being an NDPMA janitor and thank the Lord each day for the job."

CUSTOMER ALWAYS COMES FIRST

Kaiser said he's had a number of other jobs and to no one's surprise, they all have been customer-service oriented.

"I've been a chauffeur, a women's shoes salesman at Nordstrom, and let's not forget that short blip as a car salesman, which was the hardest six months of my life," he said. "However, I never would have thought that being a janitor at an elementary school would make me the happiest. But it has."

Diana Atkins is the principal of Notre Dame's lower division. She says Kaiser makes every day a good day on campus.

"Mr. Greg greets

everyone each day with a big smile," she said. "He takes time to learn

every student's name, and uses their name to welcome them each morning or to say goodbye at the end of the day."

She said he also works very hard to ensure that the school building is clean and tidy, right down to cleaning the glass on the front doors several times a day.

"We are lucky to have someone who loves the lower division so much that he puts his heart into every task that needs to be completed during the day," Atkins added.

While it seems that Kaiser and the school are a great match every day from sunup to sundown, he does play favorites with certain times of the school day and school year.

"Morning is the best time for me as I get to make sure the windows are cleaned, the gates are open, the doors for the teachers are unlocked and the school is ready for everyone's arrival," he said. "In basic terms, my day consists of 'keep it simple,' keep it clean and anticipate every need of the staff."

He also said his favorite day of the entire year is the first day of school.

"But I have to say that the day I hate most is the last day before summer break. The school becomes very lonely during the summer without the kids here to make it feel alive."

STILL AN EAST-SIDER

Kaiser and his family live in Oakland County now, but he says his heart remains somewhere a bit south and east of his current residence.

"Many people know that I'm proud to be originally from Detroit's east side," he said. He now lives in Rochester Hills, which makes it a lot easier to get to work occasionally on his bike, one of his big passions outside of the workplace.

"I love to cycle," he said. "It's all about manpower not horsepower!"

Clearly, he also is passionate about his family.

"I have a wonderful wife, Jacki, who I've been married to for nearly 22 years, and who I thank the Lord every day that she is in my life," he said. "Our daughters, Rachel and Michele, are now off to Central Michigan University, and I can only hope that I did a good job as a dad who helped them become who they are today and who also helped out with what they will become next in this big world."

We finished up the interview by asking Kaiser what was the toughest part of his job.

"I would never use the word 'tough' with my job, but I do challenge myself," he said. "I work to make the school as clean and bright at 3:05 p.m. when the day is over as it was at 7:45 a.m. when the day began. I have always had the attitude that if I treat the school like I'm working at a five-star hotel, then that would mean all the students are our 'customers.' And we all know that happy customers usually love to return again and again!"

All Notre Dame facilities designated 'MI HEARTSafe'

In a ceremony held October 12 at University of Detroit Jesuit High School & Academy, school officials from Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy were on hand to accept official recognition that the school is a "MI HEARTSafe School," which means the school is fully prepared to respond to cardiac emergencies.

The Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Education (MDE); American Heart Association (AHA); Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA); and Michigan Alliance for Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death of the Young (MAP-SCDY) also awarded 104 other schools in Michigan with the MI HEARTSafe School designation.

NDPMA is one of only eight schools in Oakland County to receive the designation.

Many sudden cardiac deaths that claim the lives of children and young adults could be prevented through screening, detection, and treatment," said Dr. Eden

Wells, chief medical executive of MDHHS. "Appropriate medical response within three to five minutes is crucial for increasing the chance of survival, which is why I'm pleased to see so many of our schools taking vital measures to prepare and address this health issue."

In order for a school to receive a MI HEART-Safe School designation, it must perform at least one cardiac emergency response drill per year; have a written medical emergency response plan



and team; have current CPR/AED certification of at least 10 percent of staff, 100 percent of head varsity coaches, and 50 percent of P.E. staff; have accessible, properly maintained and inspected AEDs with signs identifying their location; and ensure preparticipation sports screening of all student athletes using the current physical and history form endorsed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

"We are so proud to support Michigan's HEARTSafe schools," said State Superintendent Brian Whiston. "Ensuring schools are prepared for sudden cardiac emergencies through planning, training, and life-saving AEDs is an important part of having safer learning environments for students, staff and the community."

Between 2003 and 2012 in Michigan, there were 2,590 young individuals between 1 and 39 years of age who died of sudden cardiac death. Of those, 214 were between 5 and 19 years of age. This is the third year of the MI HEARTSafe Schools program in Michigan. In the first two years of the initiative, 162 schools were previously designated as MI HEARTSafe Schools and prepared to help reduce the number of sudden cardiac deaths in our youth.

Public Act 12 of 2014 requires all schools (grades kindergarten to 12) to have a cardiac emergency response plan in place. This MI HEARTSafe School designation recognizes the 267 school buildings that have taken steps above and beyond to prepare to respond in the event of a cardiac emergency, and is awarded for a period of three years.

Schools that meet all of the requirements will be able to apply for the MI HEARTSafe School designation each year. For more information about the MI HEARTSafe Schools program, visit www.migrc.org/miheartsafe."



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world of education





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



The art of giving

Notre Dame held its annual St. Peter Chanel Dinner last night, which, for the third year in a row, was hosted by Andiamo Italia and its owner, Notre Dame alumnus Joe Vicari '(75). The food and ambience were exceptional as per usual and this year's program focused on the exceptional talent of the school's many student-artists for the more than 120 people in attendance.

Notre Dame senior Mariel Manzor gave the student address and highlighted this year's featured program – visual arts. Manzor is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program candidate and presented several pieces of her portfolio, which explored her family's American story and their journey from Lebanon and Cuba



At this year's St. Peter Chanel Society dinner on Oct. 12, Notre Dame senior Mariel Manzor gave the student address and highlighted this year's featured program - visual arts.

to the United States. "The Notre Dame Fund's St. Peter Chanel Society members are an inspiration," said Gregory Simon, director of the Notre Dame Fund. "With members ranging from one to 19 years of membership, it shows

how committed



Guests at the event, who were welcomed to Andiamo's by Notre Dame's Student Ambassadors, also enjoyed the newly formed ND Jazz Combo, which provided entertainment during the cocktail hour.

our members are to the mission, vision, and especially to students at our school."

St. Peter Chanel Society members are recognized every year for their generous support of NDPMA and for exceptional enthusiasm for the school's role in private, Catholic education.

For the first time at an SPCS dinner, members reaching membership milestones of five, 10 and 15 years, including board chair Daron Gifford, an SPCS member for 16 years, were recognized and honored.

In addition, Andy Guest, Notre Dame's interim president, presented a State of the School address to dinner attendees.