

THE blarney stone

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



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Diversity takes center stage at NDPMA

School makes progress in diversifying student population; holds Parent Diversity Forum

When Mel Larsen, a former principal and football coach at Pontiac Catholic High School who went on to become a Michigan state legislator, co-sponsored a major civil rights bill in the early 1970s, he was told it would end his political career. His bill would finally pass in 1976 and it not only did not end his

political career, the bill, called the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of Michigan, became the most important anti-discrimination law in Michigan that touched upon fair housing, age discrimination and sex discrimination.

Now 80 years old, Larson continues to serve others in the state and has said that that sense of service comes from his faith, undoubtedly reinforced during his own education at the University of Notre Dame and the time he spent at Pontiac Catholic. He also said that he now finds great joy

in mentoring the next generation of civil rights leaders.

SETTING AND EXCEEDING BIG GOALS

One member of that next generation perhaps is NDPMA's Kala Parker, the school's dean of diversity and associate dean of admissions — and a 2000 NDP graduate. She's an attorney and can likely make a lot more money elsewhere, but instead has devoted her six-plus years on campus to the education of young people — and more importantly, the education of a more diverse school community of young people.

A big goal for Parker over those years has been increasing NDPMA's student diversity to at least 20 percent, which to her delight, according to recent numbers, is now at 22 percent.

She said the school has had a three-prong approach to making its community more inclusive: 1) developing student activities highlighting current domestic and global issues to widen their outlooks and to encourage valuing the culture and perspectives of others; 2) utilizing the faculty diversity committee (FDC) as mentors to support faculty in seeking/developing multicultural teaching material and making their classroom discussions and activities more inclusive; and 3) engaging parents in meaningful discussion around creating a diversity action plan to move the school forward.

Notre Dame's upper division also offers

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Mel Larsen, right, a civil rights pioneer in Michigan and former principal of Pontiac Catholic High School, visited Notre Dame on September 28 and toured the campus with Andy Guest, left, head of school.

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



ALUM'S CAREER IS SOARING
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A soaring career

Notre Dame alum is having the time (and the job) of his life flying corporate jets.

There currently are about 600,000 certified aircraft pilots in the U.S. One of those pilots now flying in and out of the U.S. is Notre Dame alum Nick Bonello, who says he's had a desire to fly airplanes since he was quite young. He also admits that he had zero flight knowledge or experience when he enrolled in Western Michigan University's flight program after graduating from Notre Dame Prep in 2012.

"Training to fly an airplane could take a wide range of avenues for prospective pilots," said Bonello, who currently flies for a private company at the Oakland County International Airport in Waterford. "You can learn in the military, college or by taking lessons at personal expense. I chose to go the college route and attended the WMU College of Aviation's flight science undergraduate program."

He said the first step for him after college was to receive his basic pilot license. Next, he trained for instrument-rating certification and for a commercial pilot license, which is divided into single-engine and multi-engine licenses.

"Basically, a commercial pilot license allows a pilot to be compensated for his flight duties," he said.

However, after graduating in the spring of 2016 from WMU, Bonello chose to pursue a certified flight instructor (CFI) track that allowed him to teach others about flight where they too would eventually receive their own private pilot and commercial pilot licenses, he said.

FROM KALAMAZOO TO THE CARIBBEAN

Bonello eventually would teach future pilots out of a school in Michigan, but at the same time, he began to also make connections with a number of high-profile individuals in the area who eventually recommended him to what is now his current employer, Lentini Aviation, Inc.

"After all the hours of schooling and training I had endured, I remember receiving a phone call to start turbojet training for Lentini — it was one of happiest days of my life," he said. According to Bonello, turbojet training typically is broken down into about 50 hours of ground school (classroom) time and 30 hours of full-motion, realistic simulator training, which for him was held in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

"After passing a pilot-in-command (PIC) 'check ride' for the



Notre Dame alum Nick Bonello ('12) began his journey to the aircraft cockpit at the College of Aviation at Western Michigan University.

Cessna Citation Ultra jet, I received my CE-500 type rating," he said. "These types of ratings are based specifically for each different jet I might fly. I also hope to go to school again at some point in the future to learn even more new equipment and aircraft."

But for now, his job with Lentini keeps him both very busy in the air and for much of the week.

"I choose to work a lot because I love to travel and explore different cities" he said. "An average work week consists of five to six days and around 15-20 flight hours. My trips range from a few hours in

a day to three to five days away from home, which for me now is in Sterling Heights."

Piloting a wide-range of Cessna Citation aircraft models — they carry from eight to 10 passengers and have a range of about 1,650 nautical miles — along with Hawker jet aircraft, which are a bit bigger, Bonello has indeed visited many cities in the U.S. as well as outside.

"Probably the coolest and farthest destination I have flown to date is St. Maarten Island in the Dutch Antilles, which is located southwest of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean," he said. "St. Maarten also has one of the most iconic airports in the world because its approach goes very low over a very beautiful beach."

With such an exciting and unique occupation, it doesn't sound like Bonello plans on any big career moves soon, although his workspace may get bigger.

ENGLISH CLASSES AT NOTRE DAME MADE THE DIFFERENCE

"I love the job I have now and plan to stick with it and grow my experience, but I can't tell you what could happen in the future in regards to moving to commercial airlines," he said. "But I always keep an open mind with opportunities and possibilities."

Bonello also made it a point to give props to Notre Dame for preparing him for college and for whatever that future holds for him.

"I don't know if I would have been able to handle the too-many papers and the workload in college without the previous guidance of the great teachers at Notre Dame Prep," he said. "I especially enjoyed the English classes taught at NDP. Mrs. Bembas, Mr. Butorac and Mr. Davis provided a fantastic education environment to prepare me and my fellow classmates for the college experience.

"Also, I met many individuals who I remain in contact with to this very day. The academic, music and sports programs were top-notch and I would recommend the school to any prospective students." 🇺🇸

DIVERSITY, from page 1

a diversity scholarship, available to ninth through 11th graders in their first year at NDP. It is based on a student's response to the diversity statement in his or her application for admission. The scholarship was launched in 2002 based on the recommendation of the student council at that time and it was funded initially by some faculty payroll deductions as well as a percentage of walkathon/raffle proceeds.

"The school's commitment to diversity actually stems back to 1998 when a group of students launched The Minority Caucus to provide a stronger voice for minorities, an avenue for leadership, and to celebrate the cultures that existed within our school community," Parker said. "Over the years, the group grew and matured into the Multicultural Alliance, which still exists today. I also have to mention that Greg Simon, the school's director of advancement, was the staff member most responsible for making all of this happen. When he was a teacher here in the early days, Greg really was THE pioneer for the school in its quest for more diversity."

'LARGEST POOL OF DIVERSITY'

James Pillot, a 2016 graduate of Notre Dame Prep currently enrolled at Stanford University, also commented on the diversity strides made at his alma mater.

"When I first started at NDP and when I graduated in 2016, the diversity at the school still was lower than ideal," he said. "In my class year, I was the only black male, and in class years above or below me, there were usually less than 10 students of color," which he said means Latino or black, by his definition.

"However, through the work of Mrs. Parker and Mr. [Corey] Porterfield [also in admissions], I can see NDP taking tremendous steps forward in adding some color to the yearbook," Pillot said. "Upon my return to visit the school recently, Mrs. Parker and crew appeared to have recruited the largest pool of diversity in this current year's freshman class that I had ever seen during my time at Notre Dame Prep."

Parker said that during the years following 1998, the population of the school and the number of diverse students actually has ebbed and flowed. She said some years were much better than others.

"But as concerns grew over the decrease in students from underrepresented popula-

tions, the faculty diversity council continued to work to support multicultural education in the classrooms," Parker said. "And this committee successfully procured annual funding to support the enrollment of diverse students and diversity resources."

Parker said that the school's admissions department, along with its usual responsibilities of enrollment, financial aid and scholarship disbursement, added the very important charge of recruiting a diverse student body.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY

"Also, when the school slowly began to become more diverse, parents and school administrators started to meet to discuss a variety of diversity issues, including ensuring that diverse students and families were well-represented in our marketing materials and re-working the mission statement of the school to include not just socioeconomic diversity, but diversity of all types," Parker said.

She said that once this change was made, conversations began around the school's definition of diversity and, as a result, the FDC was tasked with developing a school diversity statement, which is as follows:

"Notre Dame, guided by the spirit and teachings of the Catholic Church and Society of Mary, actively seeks students, families, faculty, staff, and trustees of diverse backgrounds who are committed to the formation of a community of inclusion that respects the dignity of every individual.

"Notre Dame believes that teaching students to advocate for justice is essential to their development as Christian persons, upright citizens and academic scholars. We believe members of our community should work to eliminate prejudice and be a voice for those pushed to the fringes of society on the local, national, and global level. Therefore, Notre Dame challenges our community members to battle discrimina-

tion against any person or group, including, but not limited to discrimination on the basis of age, creed, gender, race, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic status, or religion."

EARLY EFFORTS

Dave Osiecki, a social studies teacher in Notre Dame's upper division and an original member of the FDC, recalls the beginnings of the school's push toward increased diversity.

"The early days of the diversity committee consisted of a number of educators brainstorming ideas to enhance diversity at NDPMA," he said. "I'm not sure if any of us had any training or experience on this topic, but a bunch of us wanted to do something. Some of the early efforts surrounded MLK day and Black History Month and there were several



Notre Dame's first Parent Diversity Collaborative Forum was held October 25 in an effort to keep the dialogue on improving diversity going within the NDPMA community.

years when we had a speaker or a program presented in the gym."

He admits that some of the ideas in the early days did not work out so well, but he said they were not really diversity professionals — just very interested teachers trying to make a real difference.

"Although teachers here have remained totally focused on this, I personally thought it was fantastic when NDPMA named Gregory Simon [now director of advancement] whose job description

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‘Diapers for the D’

NDP senior honored by Detroit’s City Council for helping to provide a critical need for Detroiters.



Notre Dame senior Anjali Reddy is with her “Spirit of Detroit” proclamation in front of the Spirit of Detroit statue.

When Notre Dame senior Anjali Reddy and four of her friends first wanted to volunteer in 2015 to help better the lives of Detroiters, they thought they’d probably get involved with feeding the hungry and finding housing for the homeless among many other needs. What they found out almost immediately was that there was still another crucial need in the city: diapers.

They discovered that with nearly 40 percent of Detroit families living below the poverty line, there were approximately 70,000 babies in the city whose families could not afford diapers, which by most estimates can cost about \$80 per month for each baby.

So the five girls — Reddy from NDP and Courtney Weaver, Natasha Vasani, Julianna Aikens and Veronika Ahlborn, all students at Cranbrook — teamed up with the Detroit Police Department and the Mike Morse Law Firm to create “Diapers for the D,” a fundraising organization to supply diapers to those families in need.

“When I first joined Diapers for the D, I never really thought about the expense of diapers and how crucial they are for a baby to be healthy and happy,” said Reddy, who also is an avid photographer and a four-year varsity player on the Irish tennis squad. “Once I realized how much of an impact they actually do make, I wanted to spread awareness of diaper needs and how to better the lives of babies in Detroit.”

Reddy and her four friends started Diapers for the D in the summer of 2015 and during that first year, 55,000 diapers were collected and \$2,500 raised. Every one of the diapers were distributed to the families in need through an affiliation with Early Head Start programs. In 2016, they collected 100,000 diapers and their goal this year is to collect 200,000 diapers. Every year in September, during the nationwide Diaper Need Awareness Week, Reddy and her team run diaper drives and events to collect diapers. Their culminating event is a city-wide diaper drive, partnering with Development Centers in Detroit and the Detroit Police Department.

On October 10, the Detroit City Council recognized the work done by these five girls for the community of Detroit and awarded them the “Spirit of Detroit” awards, which were handed out during a session of the city council.



Reddy and the four other girls who worked with her on the Diapers for the D campaign receive the Spirit of Detroit award from the Detroit City Council on October 10.

More details can be found about their organization on their website: www.diapersforthed.com, and donations can be made through their Facebook page: facebook.com/diapersforthed.

New summer robotics camp to welcome students from China



A group of 30 students from Beijing, China, will be traveling to Pontiac in the summer to participate in NDPMA’s first robotics and engineering camp themed for middle school students.

Students from China have traditionally done very well in

world robotics competitions. In fact, last year at the VEX Robotics World Championship, held in Louisville, Kentucky, Chinese students took home eight of the 21 available championships or awards from the more than 1,400 teams that hailed from 30

different countries in the April 2017 competition.

Notre Dame teams that competed last April also did very well with one of the lower-division teams getting second place in their division and two of Notre Dame’s middle division teams earning rankings in the top 20.

Now, east will meet west this coming summer as a group of 30 students from Beijing, China, will be traveling to Pontiac to participate in the NDPMA’s first robotics and engineering camp themed for middle school students aged 10-14 years old.

Louise Palardy, longtime mentor and robotics advocate at NDPMA, is organizing the camp, which will run July 15 through July 30. She is working with a coach in Beijing who will be sending his students to work alongside 30 students from Notre Dame.

“The students have a common interest in VEX IQ and will work together to learn about each others’ culture, language and no doubt, friendship,” Palardy said.

Two from Notre Dame get Heisman honors, Neiheisel named state finalist



Notre Dame students Lauren Neiheisel and Alexander Impellizzeri were named school winners for the nationally recognized Wendy's® High School Heisman Award. The two seniors were selected based on their outstanding academic and athletic achievements, and leadership within their communities. Neiheisel was subsequently named a state finalist, which could lead to national honors, typically announced during ESPN's broadcast of the college Heisman Memorial Trophy presentation in December.

Eligibility for the high school Heisman 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 47 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.

Neiheisel was the regional champion last year in the 800m and 1600m (track). She is a two-sport athlete: cross country and track. Impellizzeri holds two school records in diving. He is a three-sport athlete: cross country, swimming and diving, and track. 🇺🇸

\$50,000 winner picks up big Super Raffle check



With the grand prize check for \$50,000 are, from left, NDP sophomore Michael Robbins, Jacqueline Robbins, raffle winner John Robbins, and Head of School Andy Guest.

At Notre Dame's 2017 Oktoberfest celebration — its 10th annual — which was held in late September on the school's Pontiac campus, the winning Super Raffle tickets were drawn from nearly 50,000 tickets, netting the lucky winners big prizes. Raffle ticket holders had a chance of winning one of the seven main prizes: \$50,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500 and three \$1,000 payouts.

John Robbins, the father of 10th-grader Michael Robbins, earned the raffle's biggest prize of \$50,000. The proceeds from the raffle will help Notre Dame with financial aid, continuing technology upgrades for the students and other classroom enhancements. 🇺🇸



The Notre Dame Fund kicks off

The school year is underway and the activity is all-too familiar: from our junior-kindergarten students beginning their educational journey to our senior class preparing for life beyond 1300 Giddings Road, the mission of Notre Dame is alive and growing in every student, every day.

The lively and bustling campus reminds us of why Notre Dame is truly a special place, and all this is made possible through contributions to The Notre Dame Fund. This year's Notre Dame Fund is working to raise \$600,000 for today's students. The Notre Dame Fund provides our school with the financial support necessary to remain healthy, innovative and accessible.

While the fund supports the operations of the school, it also empowers donors to donate to an area of passion. The Notre Dame Fund benefits every student, every day while allowing donors to decide where they would like to designate their contribution: **Artists Way, Citizens Way, Irish Way, Mary's Way, Scholars Way** or **where Notre Dame needs it most.**

Please take part and improve the lives of 1,100 young people through the mission of forming "Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars." More info at ndpma.org/ndfund. 🇺🇸

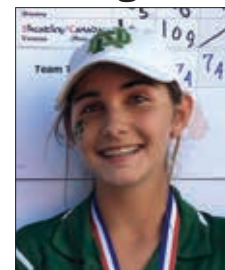
Staskowski wins 2nd straight D3 state golf championship

On October 21, NDP junior Danielle Staskowski earned her second straight MHSAA Division 3 girls golf state championship.

"It's a really cool feeling. It shows all the hard work I've had over the season has paid off; it's a good feeling," Staskowski said in an article published by The Oakland Press.

She shot even-par 72s on each day of the golf finals held at the Forest Akers West golf course in Lansing.

"Dani absolutely thrived," said Notre Dame coach Kyle Lilek. "This was a course she had played numerous times, over 30 or 40 times, she knew this course like the back of her hand. She got out there and had a very strong first day and then a very strong second day and she did really, really well obviously." 🇺🇸



The best of two worlds

Middle school art teacher is thriving as educator and illustrator.



When Lauren Zajdel was in college, she had her mind set on becoming an illustrator. But when she neared her BFA degree from the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio, the Great Recession was hitting the U.S. economy and she thought she needed a fallback plan since jobs for illustrators were becoming scarce. Turns out her plan B was what led her to NDPMA this fall to teach art in the school's middle division.

"When I was at CCAD, the school began offering the opportunity to receive a teaching license through another nearby school, Notre Dame College in South Euclid," said Zajdel, who grew up in Shelby Township, Mich. "We were the guinea pigs for the program, and the biggest incentive for those of us who attended was the free tuition."

Zajdel said the program itself did not last and she was one of only three who actually completed it with a teaching degree.

"My major at CCAD was illustration with a minor in art history," she said. "But I figured that adding a teaching license couldn't hurt my chances of landing a job once I graduated. I wanted to have as many

possibilities for myself as possible when looking for a job."

TEACHING IN OHIO

Zajdel's job at Notre Dame wasn't her first teaching job, however, as she taught pre-K through 5th grade students at an elementary school in Marion, Ohio, for seven years. "It was a great experience for my first teaching position," she said. "I worked with a dedicated staff who supported my program and the community was supportive as well."

When Zajdel applied for the art teaching job at NDPMA, she was not completely unaware of the school and its academic standing.

"My brother Adam had attended and graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2002, so I was very familiar with how the school ran and how it consistently lived up to its reputation," she said. "I think getting the opportunity to teach here is everything an educator could wish for."

For middle-division principal Brandon Jezdimir, hiring Zajdel was another wish come true.

"Lauren has confirmed all the reasons why we hired her at ND Marist Academy in the first place," Jezdimir said. She has formed trusting relationships with her students; she brings her art classes to life, and her confidence

and passion in teaching is evident in her students' work. Outside of the classroom, Lauren is a team player and is always looking for ways to integrate the arts into other subject areas. Lauren is an ideal Marist educator."

OVERSEEING AND CREATING

Overseeing middle school students creating art five days a week, while seemingly all-consuming, still gives Zajdel time for pursuing what she says is an "eclectic experience" in creating art herself.

"For well over the past decade, I have freelanced in mural work, face painting, caricatures and painting commissions," she said. "I have also built life-sized monsters for haunted houses and for movies. When it comes to my freelance commission work, it can vary wildly depending on what the client requires. Mostly, I am hired to make a custom painting in either watercolor, oil paints or acrylics."

She said every now and then she gets to dabble with actually building something or creating decor for a client.

"In addition, during the past few years, I've started to venture into putting my art into shows, galleries and local businesses. I feel very blessed to be able to utilize both of my degrees to do what I am most passionate about every day.

"I feel really fortunate to be able to teach the middle division at NDPMA," she said. "Every day it brings on new challenges that I welcome. Plus, now I get to teach the lessons that I wasn't able to do with the younger grade levels in Marion. And I feel that my students are just as excited as I am. Already, we have completed four projects amongst the grade levels and I love the momentum of my students' engagement. They are incredibly talented and I can't emphasize that enough."

Zajdel is a bit more circumspect when it comes to identifying the most important thing about her job at Notre Dame.

BORN IN SOUTH KOREA

"It's hard for me to boil it down to just one thing," she said. "For me personally, I have a true passion for what I do, plus a lot of experience that I can share in my classroom. But overall, I think the most successful educators love working with people and being part of a group setting such as a classroom. Being flexible, patient, humble, open-minded, and having a 'win-win' attitude also are important attributes.

Food-borne education: Upper division students learn about ethical choices on what they eat and where it is sourced

“We as educators get to witness those incredible, energetic moments when the students are engaged, feeling confident and going further than the lessons call for,” she said. “It never gets old for us. I want the young people around me to succeed and I truly feel that success. So I support my students in the best way I know how — by being present and totally involved and immersed!”

When she can pull herself away from Notre Dame, besides her art and mural business, Zajdel still finds time to spend with her family, which includes her mom and dad, two older brothers, Adam and Phillip, and Erica, a younger sister. She says she loves her “incredible” family dearly and also is very proud to say that she was adopted from South Korea when she was only six-months old.

“I was born in Seoul and adopted right before Christmas by my family, which at the time included my two older brothers



Zajdel is at work on a recent mural installation.

and my mom and dad,” she said. “People tend to have a lot of questions about my adoption, but sometimes they’re afraid to bring it up. Since I have nothing but love for my family and how I got here, I always say ‘please don’t hesitate to ask!’ I even found out that some of my students are adopted and I enjoy being able to relate to them and others about such an exciting aspect of life.” 🌍



Sheena Monnin, a representative of the Ethical Choices Program, talks to Notre Dame students on October 26, 2017, in the media center.

The Ethical Choices Program, an organization dedicated to encouraging high school and college students in the United States, Canada and Australia to make thoughtful and responsible food choices, says that medical research has proven that the typical American diet is linked to high rates of many diseases — including heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers and other illnesses.

ECP also says that, alternatively, a plant-based diet prevents or reduces the incidence and severity of many of these threats to human health and can be a life-saving choice. They cite current research that proves the many connections between health and food choices and confirms the benefits of a plant-based diet.

This was one of the main issues presented today to Patrick Fox’s Current Issues class, which was treated to a presentation by a representative of the Ethical Choices Program in the NDPMA’s media center.

Sheena Monnin gave the class full of sophomores, juniors and seniors an interactive presentation about healthful eating, the environment of modern agriculture, factory farming and the ethics of eating.

According to Fox, his class is in the middle of a semester of debates, research and discussions about the most current issues confronting Americans today. He says that where our food comes from and how we think about our agriculture is an important part of the puzzle for food security not only for America but also in the world.

Besides discussing the advantages of a plant-based diet, Monnin also talked about the environmental issues connected with farming, including the fact that contemporary farms often dump all the by-products of raising animals and crops — excrement, fertilizers, pesticides, antibiotics, hormones — into the environment with few, if any, regulations or controls. She says these practices are polluting the water, the air and the soil, causing damage to human health and also the delicate ecosystems that animals and plants depend upon. Further, animal agriculture depletes the planet of valuable resources (water, fossil fuels, rainforests, etc.) and contributes to global warming.

Monnin challenged the students to identify widespread assumptions about human health, the environment and the use of animals. By providing only current, mainstream research and information about these issues, she and ECP hope to give students legitimate facts that inform their food choices in a non-judgmental, honest and respectful way. She says her goal is for students to learn about and consider food choices that improve their health, benefit the environment and consider animals with compassion. 🌍

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A world of education



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DIVERSITY, from page 3

included school diversity.” Michael Carman, also a social studies teacher at ND Prep, is a current member of the faculty diversity committee. He said that in the last few years, it’s become increasingly apparent to the NDPMA community that diversity and inclusiveness are key to fulfilling its mission of creating Christian people, upright citizens, and academic scholars.

“Our mission as a Marist school requires us to ensure that all students are respected for who they are, and that as many students as possible, regardless of their circumstances, have the option of attending NDPMA,” Carman said. “As a community, we are working to ensure that the academically rigorous, supportive and nurturing environment that we provide can exist for all students.”

PARENTS NOTICE

Ann Stone, who with her husband, David, are current and alumni NDPMA parents, said she has seen real progress.

“When we first enrolled at NDP in 2005, diversity within the community admittedly was lacking,” said Stone, who also is a school trustee. “Throughout the years, we have witnessed an increase in diver-



James Pillot, shown here as a Notre Dame sophomore, currently is studying at Stanford University.

sity within our student body due in large part to the support and commitment from the administration and the Board of Trustees. Our mission statement was changed to reflect our commitment to a diverse student body, funding for scholarships and finan-

cial aid (including Building Bridges) was increased along with more focused efforts on recruitment, and several new initiatives were instituted: faculty/staff training on diversity, the aforementioned faculty diversity committee, and, of course, the multicultural alliance student group. Diversity was also identified as one of three major themes in our latest six-year strategic plan adopted earlier this year.”

Stone added that while progress has been made, going forward, there is more Notre Dame will be doing to promote diversity and inclusion.

“As NDPMA moves to become more diverse, we will continue to invest in policies to recruit, retain and develop the best mission-centered students,” she said. “Also, we plan to continue to provide professional development and we trust the staff and administration will continue to address racial issues honestly and directly. We also want to continue to provide support as well as a welcome learning environment for diverse students and their families, and engage the entire school community in embracing a community that is rich in a variety of backgrounds, culture, perspectives and experiences.” 