

IRISH

fall 2011

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Notre Dame's Top Gun

Read about how '99 grad Carrie (Geyer) Dillon is teaching the next generation of fighter pilots

plus:

Fr. Bryson

Brian Widmaier

Mark Cendrowski

Natalie (Render) Raghu

Tom Novak

Irish news

Alumni notes

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A WORD FROM YOUR **NEW** ALUMNI DIRECTOR



“Welcome home!” These are the warm words I received upon accepting the director of alumni relations position at Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy. And a warm welcome home it has been! As a Class of 2000 alumna (NDP), I am thrilled to be back on campus joining Notre Dame’s office of advancement. Kelly (Cole) Patterson ’99 (NDP) has been a tremendous asset to Notre Dame and its alumni and has laid the groundwork for building an exceptional alumni association. I look forward to further developing our alumni ties and hope to meet many of you at homecoming on September 23 and other upcoming events.

As you’ll read in this issue of IRISH, there are great things happening at NDPMA. If you haven’t had the opportunity to reconnect with Notre Dame lately, I encourage you to come back for a visit. No matter the number of years since your graduation or the physical building of the school you attended, you will be welcomed back and feel at home here. I will be happy to give you a tour, walk you down memory lane and show you recent updates. The teachers, administration and staff always enjoy seeing our alumni and hearing where life has taken you. And while our current students aspire for good grades and acceptance into the college of their choice, they view successful Notre Dame alumni as positive role models for their future.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association offers you enjoyable opportunities to reconnect with fellow alumni and celebrate your alma mater. You might consider attending an event with some former classmates, dropping by a monthly board of directors meeting, participating in the annual fund or volunteering your time and talents to help the school. Whenever we see you, we will thank you for your friendship and welcome you home. After all, they say that home is where the heart is—and our hearts forever love thee Notre Dame.

Irish blessings,

Rachel (Alexander) Miller ’00 (NDP)

Message from Kelly (Cole) Patterson ’99 (NDP)

During one of my spring cleaning episodes, I came across an old journal. The message I read was written neatly and clearly on the white lined paper. The cursive words read, “Stay awake.” These words brought me back to the 2010 National Leadership Conference and the presenter was welcoming the participants and encouraging them to “Stay awake” to the opportunities that awaited them throughout the week.



Writing that reminder, my intention was not to stay awake throughout the conference, but to stay awake when opportunity whispers, or when God nudges, or whatever it is that compels one to action. As I read through my notes, I smiled. Currently, I’m in a transition period in my life. Many of you already know that this summer, I’m transitioning back into the classroom after serving as the alumni director for the past three years. This fall,

I’ll be teaching middle division students here at Notre Dame Marist Academy. When the opportunity arose, I felt God’s nudge and knew that it was the time to keep moving along my career path.

To all the alumni, I thank you for supporting me, for volunteering, for staying in touch, and for all of your support to the Notre Dame community. I want to be the first to welcome Rachel (Alexander) Miller ’00 (NDP) to Alumni Office, and I wish her well in her future at Notre Dame. The alumni are lucky to have her, as she is a fellow graduate with passion and experience that will support the alumni association and the advancement office at Notre Dame.

Finally, I wish to encourage all of you to stay awake to the

possibilities which await you. They may appear highlighted in a journal or gently brushed across your vision, but nevertheless, be awake to life’s experiences. Trust in God that you are where you’re meant to be and you are on a path to greatness. This issue of IRISH is filled with people who are alive with possibilities and alumni who are seeking new opportunities. Our cover story about my classmate Carrie (Geyer) Dillon ’99 (NDP) describes how she followed her passion for flying and turned it into a very “lofty” career. As you read through the Letters & Notes on page 22, I hope you’ll feel a sense of adventure as you read about our fellow alumni moving about their lives, getting married, having children, changing jobs, and remembering those who have made an impact on their life, such as Rev. John Bryson on page 14. No matter where you are on your path of life, remember to stay awake to God’s calling. One more thing: remember to thank those people who make a positive impact in your life. I would like to thank all the alumni who supported me in this juncture of my life. I wish Rachel the best of luck, and I encourage all of you to stay awake!

God bless you,

Kelly (Cole) Patterson ’99 (NDP)

IRISH

IRISH is a magazine devoted to the alumni and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory, Notre Dame, Oakland Catholic, Pontiac Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick schools. It is distributed free of charge. For more information, please see the alumni section of Notre Dame Prep's web site at www.ndpma.org/alumni.

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ON THE COVER: Carrie (Geyer) Dillon '99 (NDP) is preparing the next generation of the nation's best fighter pilots.

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Are you interested in advertising to 10,000 of your alumni friends? Place an ad in an upcoming IRISH. Contact Mike Kelly '73 (NDHS) for more information and pricing: mike@group-ex.com.

Record amount of scholarship dollars for Notre Dame's class of 2011

Nearly \$12 million dollars in university scholarships and grants have been offered to the Notre Dame Prep graduating class of 2011, which numbers 160 students. This is a record amount in total for the school and the \$73,594 per-student average exceeds the per-student average of 16 previous NDP graduating classes.



The University of Notre Dame is enrolling seven graduates of NDP this fall.

Alumni board welcomes 5 new members

Congratulations to Frank Coppola '73 (NDHS), Daniel Marchese '02 (NDHS), Michael Bray '02 (NDP), Sarah Fredin '09 (NDP) and Keaton Curran '10 (NDP), whose election to the board of directors was officially announced at the Alumni Annual Meeting on August 16, 2011. John Schwartz '00 (NDP) was re-elected to a new term. Continuing their terms will be Mark McGreevy '76 (NDHS), Scott Lockhart '98 (NDP), Jim Gammicchia '99 (NDP), Gina Coppola Cereska '00 (NDP), Trent Thiry '00 (NDP), Victoria Sidor '01 (NDP) and Jane Dika '02 (NDP).

The Alumni Board of Directors is a group of dedicated alumni who gather monthly to plan events, networking opportunities and keep alumni close to their Notre Dame family. The mission of the board is to foster and strengthen the relationship between Notre Dame and its alumni, preserve and promote the traditions and mission of the school, and keep alive the affection and reverence for our alma mater. If you would like to take an active role in the Notre Dame Alumni Association, contact board president, Jim Gammicchia, at jgammicchia@ndpma.org or visit www.ndpma.org/alumniboard.

New director at Lourdes Center in Boston



On January 1, 2011, Fr. Andrew Albert, s.m., was named superior/director of the Lourdes Center in Boston, replacing the retiring Fr. Normand Martin, s.m., who served 25 years at

Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods. Martin remains on staff at the center along with Fathers Albert DiIanni, s.m., and Roland Lacasse, s.m.

The Lourdes Center was founded in 1950 by the Archbishop of Boston and the Bishop of Lourdes to promote loving devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, to distribute Lourdes water in North America, organize pilgrimages to Lourdes, France, and to serve as a center for information on Lourdes.

Notre Dame Prep alum enters priesthood

Notre Dame Preparatory School alumnus Eric Fedewa was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Detroit by Archbishop Vigneron on June 11. Fedewa, who graduated from NDP in 2000, is currently an associate pastor at St. Anastasia in Troy.



Eric Fedewa '00 (NDP)

Notre Dame fifth graders meet with Sen. Levin to discuss invasive species

As part of the action plan of their International Baccalaureate-PYP exhibition, Notre Dame Marist Academy fifth graders Kyle Cragg, Thomas Ridge and Claire Seitzinger met with U.S. Senator Carl Levin in his Detroit office on March 22 to discuss the research they had done on invasive species in the Great Lakes.

The senator listened intently as the students presented their findings on the various exotic species currently living in the Great Lakes or threatening to invade the waterways.

"These fish pose a real, clear and growing threat to the Great Lakes and I will continue working to ensure tools like the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act and others will be available as we counter this threat," Levin said in December after a bill coauthored by Levin and Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, that will aid in the fight against the further spread of Asian carp was signed. "The devastating effects Asian carp could have on the Great Lakes are not fully known, and I want to make sure they are never realized."

Sen. Levin thanked the lower-division students and told them they had done a great job with their research and presentation. He said he looks forward to finding an effective solution to this very important problem.

Cragg, Seitzinger and Ridge also presented their research at a recent public hearing of the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers.



U.S. Senator Carl Levin met in March with ND fifth graders.

Notre Dame Prep wins state robotics championship



The NDP Killer Bees put together a great weekend of robotics match play in April and earned the state championship of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition, where student-operated robots

competed at Eastern Michigan University.

Besting over 180 other teams, the state-champion alliance of students from ND Prep, Huron Valley Schools and Goodrich High School earned a trip to the world finals in St. Louis, Missouri.

NDHS grad featured in Esquire Magazine

Ben Blackwell '00 (NDHS) was featured in Esquire Magazine's second annual songwriting challenge, called "Last Night in Detroit" this year. According to the publication, the contest involved "five musicians dressed in the season's best jackets and jeans, one great American city, and a simple challenge: write, perform, and record an original song inspired by our phrase."

A drummer in one of Detroit's most popular bands of late, the Dirtbombs, Blackwell also oversees production at his uncle Jack



Ben Blackwell '00 (NDHS)

White's record label in Nashville, Third Man Records.

Blackwell's song was titled, "Bury my Body at Elmwood." Read more: <http://www.esquire.com/features/music/songwriting-challenge-2011#ixzz1RpQvpm00>.

NDP's Jezdimir coach of The Oakland Press Dream Team

(from The Oakland Press) "The Fighting Irish haven't traditionally enjoyed a lot of success in boys basketball, but that changed this year. [With first-year head coach Brandon Jezdimir,] Notre Dame Prep went 18-5 to win its division in the Catholic League, took Class A state quarterfinalist Orchard Lake St. Mary's to triple-overtime in the Catholic League tournament, and gave Country Day a decent game in a Class B regional final."



Coach Jezdimir talks to his players during the 2010-11 season.

Art show features interpretations of early 20th-century art movement

The 2011 Notre Dame Marist Academy - Middle Division student art exhibition, which opened May 9, featured art from students in the sixth through eighth grade. A large portion of the exhibition included paintings created as interpretations of an early 20th-century art movement known as Fauvism.



According to Gardner's "Art Through the Ages," "The first signs of a new and specifically twentieth-century movement in

painting appeared in Paris in 1905. In that year, a group of younger painters under the leadership of Henri Matisse exhibited canvases so simplified in design and so shockingly brilliant in color that a startled critic described the artists as 'fauves' (or 'wild beasts'). . . They produced canvases of great spontaneity, with rich surface texture, lively linear patterns, and boldly clashing effects of primary colors."

The student show, which also featured pencil studies and sculpture, is an annual event that usually runs a couple of weeks in mid-May in the main lobby of the Pontiac campus.

Graduate chosen one of 100 finalists worldwide for prestigious award

Graduating senior Matt DePorre, NDP's Killer Bees robotics team captain, was one of only 100 finalists worldwide chosen for the FIRST Robotics Dean's List Award, which celebrates outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST ideals is exemplary.

In an effort to recognize the leadership and devotion of some of FIRST's most outstanding FRC



Matt DePorre '11 (NDP)

(FIRST Robotics Competition) students, the Kamen family (inventor Dean Kamen founded FIRST in 1989) created the award for selected top students — FIRST superstars — to be known as the FIRST Dean's List.

DePorre's Killer Bees team took the 2011 Michigan robotics championship in early April, but came up short in the division semifinals of the World Robotics Championship in St. Louis.

The Marist House in Framingham closes

After 72 years under the authority of the Marist Fathers and Brothers of the United States, the Marist House in Framingham, Massachusetts, has closed its doors.

"It was a very painful decision," the Rev. Ted Keating, U.S. provincial for the Marists, said recently in one of Framingham's local newspapers. Situated on 35 acres of land, the sprawling house, which has 31 bedrooms, conference rooms, an auditorium, two chapels, a large kitchen, dining hall and gift shop, was officially closed this past July.

The Marists said the building required more than \$1 million in deferred maintenance and it just didn't make sense any more to keep it open. "The more we looked at it, the more impossible it became with our limited resources," Keating said.

The house opened in 1939 by the Marists as a seminary, but later became a religious retreat and conference center as well as a home for a small number of elderly priests and brothers.

According to Br. Leonard Haley, s.m., six former Marist House residents, including himself, moved to Waltham, Mass., where they rent a floor of a retirement building owned by the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers. Besides Br. Leonard, the Marists with NDHS connections who moved to Waltham include Fr. Robert Champagne, s.m., and Fr. Walter Gaudreau, s.m.

The address in Waltham is: St. Joseph's Hall, 554 Lexington St., Waltham, MA 02452-3029.



Br. Leonard Haley, s.m.



Sara Barron receives medal at the track championship.

NDP runner is state champion in 800

At the division-2 state track and field finals in early June, then-junior Sara Barron won the 800-meter run with a school record time of 2:13.49.

To date, Barron holds six school records and the CHSL record in the 1600 meter, which she set this year in breaking a league 27-year mark.

Another perfect ACT score at Notre Dame Prep

For the third year in a row, a student at ND Prep achieved perfection on the ACT. Matt Siatczynski, a senior and a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society and the school lacrosse team, achieved a score of 36 during the last school year.

Last year, 2010 graduate Jon Sheperd scored a 36, and Ryan McIntosh, who graduated from NDP in 2009, also achieved a 36 on his ACT.

According to ACT, Inc., which administers the test, less than one



Matt Siatczynski

percent of ACT test takers in 2010 scored a 36. The national average score for 2010 was 21.0 for the approximately 1.6 million students who took the test.

Siatczynski is in NDP's AP path of study and had a cumulative GPA of 4.359 at the time he received his ACT score.

He is hoping to double major in chemical engineering and finance or study pre-med at Notre Dame, MIT, Duke or Harvard.

ND boys and girls lacrosse teams win CHSL championships

On a rain-soaked Saturday in May at Notre Dame Prep's field, the NDP boys and girls lacrosse teams both earned Catholic High School League championships by defeating Flint Powers and Livonia Ladywood, respectively, 13-1 and 19-15. It was the fourth straight CHSL championship for the boys (13-3) and third straight for the girls (12-3).

Muggs play show with legendary band Cactus

Danny Methric '90 (NDHS) and Tony DeNardo's '90 (NDHS) band, The Muggs, opened for the reunited Cactus (featuring local guitar legend Jim McCarty) on July 22 at The Magic Bag in Ferndale. The Muggs released their third album, "Born Ugly" on April 29 to positive reviews and they continue to tour, including a performance at the Arts, Beats & Eats festival in Royal Oak, Mich., on September 3. <http://www.themuggs.com>



NDHS grads Methric, left, and DeNardo, right, with drummer Todd Glass.

NDHS alum honored with field dedication

Brian Kelly '77 (NDHS), longtime head baseball coach at De La Salle High School in Warren, Mich., was honored April 30 with the naming of the school's baseball field as "Kelly Field."

In honoring Kelly, who is the athletic director at DLS, the dedication recognized his significant accomplishments with the De La Salle baseball program, including three state championships — 1993, 2000 and 2009.

Kelly began teaching at De La Salle in 1982, and took over the varsity head coach spot in 1985 after two years with the freshmen and JV teams. During his tenure as head coach, Kelly — who is the son of the late Notre Dame High School coach and athletic director Tom Kelly — amassed over 600 victories.

In 2010, Kelly handed over the head baseball coaching duties to Matt Cook, but assisted Cook this past season.



Brian Kelly '77 (NDHS), left, with De La Salle principal Patrick Adams '77 (NDHS) after the Kelly Field dedication in April.



Aaron Knutson

Another state champion for Notre Dame

Notre Dame Prep junior Aaron Knutson captured the individual state championship title in boys golf as he led the Notre Dame Prep boys varsity team to a top-tier finish at the division-3 state championships.

Knutson, who shot a two-day total of 140 (68-72), sank a 35-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff against Sam Weatherhead of Grand Rapids West Catholic to earn medalist honors.

Five 2011 graduates are NDPMA "gold-level" lifers

Five graduates from Notre Dame Preparatory School's Class of 2011 earned "gold-level-lifer" status after attending Notre Dame since the lower division. Alexander Hopcroft, Sarah Skutnik, Tim Cambridge, Reine Mager and Bryce Haley each began their NDPMA education in the fifth grade in the school's lower division.

The school also recognized 59 "green-level" lifers from the Class of 2011. Green-level lifers are students who started at NDPMA in the sixth grade in the middle division.

Comic to perform in Port Huron in October

Dave Coulier '77 (NDHS), comedian and actor ("Full House") will perform as part of Port Huron's Blue Water Film Festival, which will be held Oct. 2-8. Coulier performs at 8 p.m. Oct. 6 at the McMorran Theater, 701 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron; (810) 985-6166. Tickets are \$12. See www.bluewaterfilmfestival.com for more information.



Dave Coulier '77 (NDHS)

Jakubik All-American in hockey at CMU

Jordan Jakubik '06 (NDP), a student-athlete at Central Michigan University, was recently named First Team All-American in the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association). Jakubik also was named the "MVP" for the ACHA 2010-2011 season. In 35 games this season, Jordan had 40 goals and 51 assists to capture the scoring title in the ACHA. Jakubik is in the doctorate program at CMU for physical therapy.

NDP junior wins CHSL wrestling championship



James Yanik

Notre Dame grappler James Yanik, who will be a senior this fall, won the Catholic High School League championship at 171 pounds in February 2011. From an article in The Michigan Catholic in February: "The 171-pound weight class was the only one in which a finalist didn't come from either Catholic Central or Divine Child. Notre Dame Prep's James Yanik and University of Detroit's David Obia fought a seesaw battle in that match. But it was Yanik who scored on a takedown at the bottom of the circle with 30 seconds left in the third period to earn the 3-2 win."

Please see IRISH News, page 16

NDP grad advocates for the underserved and vulnerable

Natalie (Render) Raghu '00 (NDP) always knew she wanted a career in healthcare. In fact, she thought for sure she was going to be a physician. However, when she got to college at the University of Michigan, she realized after a while that maybe there was a different role for her in healthcare—nursing. Raghu, who has a bachelor's degree in nursing from UM and a master's in nursing from Rush University in Chicago, talks with IRISH about where she ended up and why she made the switch.

IRISH: When did you decide that you were going to study nursing?

RAGHU: Honestly, it took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. Going into college I thought I wanted to be a physician. However, after volunteering at the University of Michigan Hospital in an outpatient cancer-infusion unit, I realized there were many different roles in healthcare and being a physician wasn't the right fit for me. I wanted to have a different type of relationship with the patients and their families.

IRISH: What stimulated your interest in becoming a nurse practitioner—specifically, your chosen field?

RAGHU: After my decision to become a

nurse I started working at a nurse-managed care center at UM. This type of center is where nurse practitioners are the primary care providers for patients. Traditionally, nurse practitioners have served in a role of providing healthcare to underserved communities and little did I know that this part-time position would help me realize my calling. This center served uninsured, low-income, and non-English speaking patients in the communities surrounding Ann Arbor. It was through this position that I saw the face of the most vulnerable people in our population, including women, children and the elderly, who gained access to vital healthcare resources. Since that time I have been committed to providing high-quality healthcare first in my role as a registered nurse and now a family nurse practitioner at Erie Family Health Center in Chicago.

IRISH: What are your specific goals in healthcare?

RAGHU: My specific goals in healthcare include advocating for patients and their families, providing the highest quality of care to all the patients I serve, and helping those in need access healthcare. That said, I do think that there are major changes that need to occur within healthcare to meet the needs of the people in this nation.

IRISH: What do you think is the most pressing issue in healthcare today?

RAGHU: The most pressing issue in healthcare today is figuring out how our country can provide access to healthcare to the 50 million uninsured Americans (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2011).

IRISH: Describe your family. How do you balance family time and your work schedule?

RAGHU: It is difficult to balance family and career, especially in healthcare. I think it is important to use time efficiently and be well organized so that you can have time away from work and spend it with friends and families.

IRISH: How do you think your years at Notre Dame prepared you for your career?

RAGHU: I think that the rigorous academic schedule with core values to serve others is what really prepared me well for college, graduate school and a career in healthcare.

IRISH: How does your relationship with God influence and guide your practices?

RAGHU: In healthcare, many times you are faced with the happiest moments in people's lives but also see people at their worst. Having a relationship with God is important to keep yourself balanced.

IRISH: Is there any advice you would offer to a student who is thinking about studying nursing?

RAGHU: If you desire a fulfilling role in healthcare, if you want the ability to impact people's lives on a daily basis, want to work hard both physically and mentally and have an affinity for science, nursing may be the career for you.

IRISH: Was there a certain teacher who inspired you in a special way at ND?

RAGHU: A couple of teachers largely affected my development into the person I am today and inspired me to serve others. Specifically, Fr. Joe and the way he was able to mentor those students who may not have been on the straight and narrow at that particular time. He was able to make students feel loved and valued even when they got off track. Also, Mr. Simon made a big impact on me—the way he taught us to stand up for what we believed in and advocate for the rights of the less privileged in our world. ■



"I think that the rigorous academics with core values to serve others are what really prepared me well for college, graduate school and a career in healthcare."

Natalie (Render) Raghu '00 (NDP) on how Notre Dame prepared her for college and life.

Notre Dame's top

'99 GRADUATE PREPARES THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE NATION'S

Maverick and Goose have got nothing on Carrie. While the fictional characters from the popular 1986 film took the "Top Gun" pilot school by storm, Notre Dame Prep grad Carrie (Geyer) Dillon '99 is schooling the latest generation of top gunners at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in California. She teaches Marine pilots to fly tactically in F-18 Hornet fighter jets and gets them ready for the fleet where they eventually may deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan.

"I train them on dropping air-to-ground weapons (bombs) and fighting in the air-to-air arena—basically, dog fighting," she said. "I spent three years before this flying in an F-18 Super Hornet fleet squadron deploying to Afghanistan. My job title now is weapons system officer, but in simple terms, if you've seen the movie 'Top Gun,' I do what Goose did."

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, formerly Naval Air Station (NAS) Miramar is a United States Marine Corps installation that is home to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which is the aviation element of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. It is located in Miramar, California, about 10 miles north of downtown San Diego.

A typical class at Miramar lasts nine weeks and is designed to train already experienced air crews in all aspects of fighter-aircraft operation, including tactics, hardware and techniques.

Geyer says that even though her job can be pretty routine, there are moments that make her really appreciate the high levels of both skill and danger inherent in her line of work.

She recalls a particular instance back when she was flying missions in Afghanistan. After spending seven hours in the air supporting ground troops, Geyer and her squadron mate, who was her pilot for the day, were returning at night to

the aircraft carrier. She says it was quite late, pitch black and they were dead tired.

"Sometimes after spending seven or eight hours strapped to an ejection seat listening to soldiers being shot at over the radios, you want nothing more than to grab a hot dinner and crawl into bed. However, there is always one big hurdle in your way—that hurdle is making it back on the boat!"

Landing on a carrier has been described by those that do it all the time as basically making a controlled crash with the jet. Geyer says the aircraft they were flying on that mission descends at about 700 to 1,000 feet per minute, and at night, sometimes all one sees are the lights on the center line of the runway.

"Well, on this night as we were making our descent to land, the primary instruments in the front seat went out," she said. "We had to land on stand-by instruments, which makes for a very scary landing. So we were close to touching down, and I noticed that the plane was descending lower than it should have been. We heard the landing signal officer, who is on the carrier and aids each jet as it lands, screaming 'Power!' over the radio."

If you hear that call, she says, it's always a bad thing. "I couldn't see anything but black around us, and I thought we were about to hit the back of the carrier. I sat in my seat and thought to myself, 'Well, it might be my time to go.' But we somehow made it on board after a quick climb. Looking back, I doubt if we were even close to crashing, but it certainly felt close! We both walked away from the jet that night with very pale faces!"

In such a young life, Geyer most certainly has seen and experienced a fair amount of heroic and inspirational moments and has worked with many individuals who deserve respect and admiration. But she reserves a special place for those who affected her in a positive way at Notre Dame.

She said several teachers at NDP inspired her for different reasons.

"Mr. Borton, for his never-fading passion to teach us his favorite subject, calculus; Fr. Strasz, for always finding something special in every student and helping them develop it; Mr. Simon, for best relat-

gun

BEST FIGHTER PILOTS

ing to all of us, and of course, Mr. Rice, for being one of the coolest individuals I have ever met! One of my sisters is a teacher, and I have huge respect for her and for all teachers who have a very hard job of trying to inspire young minds!”

Geyer also fondly remembers NDP in other ways. “I think I miss our track meets the most and the camaraderie we all shared whether the team won or lost. There also was the time Amanda Willick and I won the hand-walking competition during Irish Week when we were freshman. We were so proud!”

Back to the present in San Diego, Geyer says she is proud of what she is doing for her country, but welcomes any down time.

“I have to be away from home a lot, so any time spent with my husband is bonus time. We get pretty lazy on the weekends, just walking around downtown, having dinner on the balcony, and sitting around watching TV. I finally convinced him that scuba diving is fun and now I’m working on getting him to feel the same way about skiing. So we often travel to the mountains to ski during the winter.” ■



Carrie (Geyer) Dillon '99 (NDP)
teaches fighter pilots at the
Marine Corps Air Station
Miramar near San Diego, Calif.

STAY CONNECTED!

RECEIVING ALUMNI E-NEWS? Do we have your current e-mail address? If not, you are missing monthly alumni e-newsletters and communications about class reunions. Visit www.ndpma.org/update to update your e-mail address or other contact information.

CLASS CAPTAINS What is a class captain? A class captain serves as a representative of his/her class, promotes the mission and vision of the school, ensures that timely reunions are held—typically every five years, works in conjunction with the alumni board of directors and with his/her classmates to stay connected and keep information updated, and encourages alumni to attend events such as homecoming and other alumni events. Are you interested in representing your class? Visit ndpma.org/classcaps for a complete list of class captains and to sign-up.

SUPPORT ALUMNI BUSINESSES

The Alumni Business Directory includes companies and businesses owned by members of the Notre Dame Alumni Association. This online directory is intended to provide information to other alumni seeking products or services, and who wish to consider doing business with a fellow graduate. The Notre Dame Alumni Association encourages networking and the support of alumni businesses. Visit www.ndpma.org/abdirectory to view the directory and add your business to the list.



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on social media for all things Notre Dame:



PARENTS OF ALUMNI Remind your alumni sons and daughters to update their address, phone and email. We still have parents' home addresses and phones listed for many young alumni no longer at home. Parents may update us on their children's behalf too. Remember we love to hear about their achievements, graduations, job placements and promotions, engagements, weddings and births of children. Visit www.ndpma.org/update.

DAILY MASS Alumni are invited to daily Mass at Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy (Pontiac) in the chapel. Masses are held 7 a.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday Mass is at 3 p.m. All are welcome.

A note from the vice president for advancement



On behalf of the entire faculty, staff and administration, I would like to officially welcome the Notre Dame Preparatory School class of 2011 into our alumni association. The class of 2011 consisted of 153 seniors that were accepted to more than 120 different colleges and universities across the nation and garnered a record \$11.8 million in college scholarships. In addition, the class of 2011 completed more than 9,000 hours of Christian service during their four years as high school students.

The school also did well from a financial standpoint, benefitting from an increase in enrollment and a 22% increase in fundraising. These efforts are due to more and more families recognizing the value of the Catholic and internationally-recognized, college-preparatory experience that we offer and to increased generosity from our donors and benefactors, including more than 270 alumni who participated in our 2011 annual fund.

This past spring, we lost one of our most beloved Marists in the passing of Fr. John Bryson. Fr. Bryson impacted thousands of Notre Dame students and alumni spanning a teaching, religious and service career of more than 50 years. May he rest in peace.

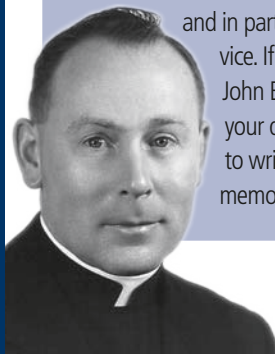
This summer, we welcomed two alumni into the advancement office with the hiring of Frank Castronova '89 (NDHS) as our new annual fund director and Rachel (Alexander) Miller '00 (NDP) as our new alumni relations director. Both Rachel and Frank, along with marketing director Mike Kelly '73 (NDHS), bring tremendous talent and capabilities to our team in addition to a genuine love and appreciation for their Marist educational experiences.

Please know that it takes the efforts of many to create an exceptional educational product in today's financially stressed and competitive marketplace. As our country continues to struggle with important issues and unprecedented political divide, know that Notre Dame continues to be a bastion of Christian hope and morality as we strive with God to form Christian persons, upright citizens and academic scholars.

Andy Guest '84 (NDHS)
Vice President for Advancement

FR. JOHN BRYSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A special scholarship fund is being established in memory of Fr. John Bryson, s.m., who passed away in May of 2011. The scholarship will be awarded to current or incoming NDP students in need of financial assistance and is being funded in part by the family of Fr. Bryson and in part through donations received at his memorial service. If you would like to make a contribution to the Fr. John Bryson Memorial Scholarship Fund, please send your donation using the enclosed envelope. Make sure to write "Fr. Bryson Memorial Scholarship Fund" in the memo line. More about Fr. Bryson on pg. 14. ■



world walker

FUTURE DOCTOR MALINDA KILLU '08 (NDP) IS GRATEFUL FOR WHAT NDP GAVE HER



After finishing up her undergraduate degree at the University of Detroit Mercy, Malinda Killu '08 (NDP) plans to study medicine. She says she chose UDM for a number of reasons.



Malinda Killu '08 (NDP) conducts an experiment as part of her studies at UD Mercy.

"One, it's close to home and it helps since I'm such a family person," she says. "Second, I wanted to attend a Catholic university. Third, there are not many universities where you can receive a private education, your professor makes time to know you on a personal level and you're able to go to lunch with the whole department, including the chair of the department. Plus, at UDM, we have Father

Albright, and every dental/medical school student knows Father. It's pretty awesome being taught by someone who's older than the biology books."

Her post-graduate plans are to go to medical school to be an M.D. in anesthesia. She's looking at Northwestern, John Hopkins, Loyola and University of Michigan.

IRISH: What are you currently studying? Why did you choose this field?

KILLU: I am currently studying biochemistry/pre-med with a minor in both philosophy and Spanish. I chose biochemistry because you take just as many biology classes as a biology major and a lot of advanced classes like a chemistry major, so pretty much, I get the best of both worlds. Plus, I think as a biochemistry major, it looks a lot better on an application to medical school.

IRISH: What is the most challenging thing about attending college?

KILLU: I would have to say that the most challenging thing about attending college is balancing your academic life with your social life. There is also the "hidden curriculum" of attending college. There's no "Interpersonal Relationships 1000" course to register for—you have to figure

this stuff out on your own.

The lessons here are way more important than your chemistry courses, and they are much more difficult to learn.

IRISH: Do you feel that Notre Dame Prep prepared you for life after high school?

KILLU: Notre Dame Prep prepared me very well for my life after high school. I approached college with confidence because of the education I had at NDP. NDP taught me time management and how to study, what to study and when to study. I finished my freshman year of college with a very strong GPA and until this day, I have maintained a very good GPA. Someone once told me, "Notre Dame Prep gave you one of the best educations around, and one day you're going to have to give back to them." As of right now, all I can do is thank NDP, but once I'm successful, my gratitude will be given to them.

IRISH: Was there a certain teacher who inspired you in a special way?

KILLU: Well, I do have to say that all of my teachers who taught me at NDP had a positive influence on me, but the one that I will always remember, and people from my graduating class and above will always remember, was Mr. Cannon. He

had a great sense of humor, he was very intelligent and knew his material. I grew a passion for history because of him. He knew how to make anyone laugh. Even if you were just walking down the hall, you would laugh because you knew something was going to be said by him.

IRISH: What is your favorite memory from Notre Dame?

KILLU: My favorite memory was always in Señora Tessada's Spanish class, especially my senior year.

IRISH: What are your hopes, dreams and aspirations?

KILLU: Medical school is very hard to get into. So I hope I get into medical school especially Northwestern. Also, I want to travel the world but not how an average person would do it. My professor gave me this idea and it will happen when I have enough time; I want to walk the world. I will start at the southern tip of South America and walk along the coast up into North America, then cross at the Bering Strait and end up in Ireland. It would be the way to avoid all oceans and say that once in my life, I walked the world. Anytime a Notre Dame Prep student wants to talk about any of my experiences, just give me a date and time and I will be there. ■

MARIST YOUTH LEADER CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA – 'A CALL TO GREATNESS'

This summer, seven Notre Dame Prep students, who will be seniors this fall, joined students from Marist School in Atlanta for a Marist Youth Leader Conference. The conference was held June 13-15 on the campus of Berry College in Rome, Georgia, about 1-1/2 hours north of Marist School's Atlanta campus. Kelly Patterson '99 (NDP), who was director of alumni relations at NDPMA and is now teaching in the middle division, and Larry Jack, NDPMA's bookstore and transportation manager, accompanied the students at the conference.

The purpose of the three-day conference was to empower young leaders

in Marist schools for Christian leadership in the "Marist way." This includes formation skills, spirituality and a faith perspective. According to the guiding principles laid out by the founder of the conference, Fr. Mark Walls, s.m., a Marist priest from New Zealand who works with Marist youth and education ministry in his home country and Australia, the participants learned that they have a voice and "that voice needs to be heard if we are to announce the 'Good News' to its fullest."

According to Walls, the main focus of the conference was that "We are not trying to make your school great, but to make *you* great." ■

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT FOR ART SCHOOL

The top three factors that prospective students should consider when choosing an art school, according to Widmaier:

"I would say location, program diversity, and historical significance, not necessarily in that order, and I would say that this could apply for any kind of post-high school education.

"Location, because changing what is familiar to you and challenging your comfort zones can be fruitful. Also, having friends with couches all over the world means more free places to stay. I remember after I first moved to Chicago, everyone coming to visit me from NDP—it becomes a good thing for everybody.

"Program diversity, for the same reason and why I thought NDP's own art education program was helpful.

"And historical significance, for this I would say look at the people who had already attended the school. This is important because most of your education comes from your peers. If the school looks to be producing interesting work and people from the near past, the chances are that it still attracts a similar person. The more interesting people you have a chance to meet, the more you can learn from each other."



Among other art schools he attended, Widmaier studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. The Academy of Fine Arts is the oldest art school in the Czech Republic and one of the oldest in Europe (est. 1799).

exploring man's relationship with machines through art

NOTRE DAME ALUM'S RESIDENCIES AND TEACHING POSITIONS AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDED A STINT AT HIS ALMA MATER



Artwork by Brian Widmaier '01 (NDP): "Origin and Destination" and "Ditto" PVC, wood, acrylic. Variable dimensions (table tops, three-foot round).

Notre Dame Prep grad and artist Brian Widmaier '01 is in the Netherlands

working with and learning about ceramics as a means to explore and create art. The European Ceramic Work Centre, located in the city of s-Hertogenbosch about 70 miles south of Amsterdam, is an international workshop where artists, designers, architects and staff members from around the world explore the artistic and technical possibilities of ceramics as a medium.

In Widmaier's own words, he is there to build upon his "understanding of the ceramic medium so that I can better execute ceramic-based projects in the future."

"Execution" is a great word to describe Widmaier's approach to his craft. His work is complex and technical and to bring about the final piece requires uncommon vision, supreme patience, attention to detail and the wherewithal to put together—to execute—his vision in tangible form.

A recent body of work deals with among other things, illusion, perception (misperception) and man's relationship with machines.

He talks about one of his creations in the series by citing 20th-century British philosopher Alan W. Watts, who said: "For us, 'to know' really means 'to control'; that is, to see how events may be fitted to consistent orders of words and symbols so that we may predict and govern their course. But this mania for control leads ultimately to a barren confusion, because we ourselves are by no means separated from the environment we are trying to control."

Widmaier says his "Untitled Machines That Control the World" comes to life when the viewer turns a lever, activating a series of gears, whose energy activates characters and images drawn from stories and memories.

"These parables play out over use until the viewer(s) destroy the machine. The performance becomes no longer accessible,

now only existing in imagination and recalled in memory.”

The ceramic artist and sculptor graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2001 and went on to study art at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts, and Cranbrook Academy of Art, where he earned a master’s degree. He also has studied and worked at institutions ranging from Guldagergaard International Ceramics Research Center in Skælskør, Denmark, and the Akademie výtvarných umění (Academy of Fine Arts) in Prague, Czech Republic, to California State University in Long Beach, where he produced and presented new original work with other visiting artists.

In 2007 and 2008, Widmaier, who is the son of NDPMA’s academic technology coordinator and registrar Joanne Widmaier, was a substitute art teacher at NDPMA’s lower division as well as in the high school, where he taught drawing, painting and pottery.

He fondly recalls his own high school art classes at Notre Dame. “My art instructor was Mr. Kirby Smith and I remember his classes being particularly enjoyable. [NDP] had good options in the art program,” Widmaier said. “There was painting, drawing, ceramics, music and theatre. Having that diversity of choice is what made it a good program.

You know as a young person (even as an old person) sometimes you don’t really know what’s going to be your thing. Having multiple outlets for discovery gives everyone a chance to find what they do best while giving them an opportunity to share it with others and contribute to society. If that was not there for me, I’d just be bringing the ruckus instead.”

Widmaier goes back to an even much younger age when discussing what may have sparked his interest in art and making things.

“I think like most people I started drawing and painting at a very young age. Coloring books, finger painting, and even building with Legos I would consider be-



ing important to the beginnings of my life as a maker,” he said. “Then I guess with time these fun projects became more important. At some point they became the program for how I could operate within the world of today. But that specific point in time I am still trying to remember—when it happened and if there were any definite triggers that caused ‘this.’”

In a relatively short amount of time, “this” for Widmaier has included an impressive body of work and exhibitions, including “Analogy” at Habatat Gallery in Pontiac, Mich., “Out of the Woods” at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), and “LINE: Drawing in Contemporary Art” at the Workshop Gallery in Bialystok, Poland.

Besides his teaching experience at NDPMA, Widmaier also taught art at the Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists’ Residency in Saugatuck, Mich. ■



Artwork by Brian Widmaier '01 (NDP):

Top: “T.V. Land and Feedback”

Cardboard, wood, acrylic. Dimensions varied (tiled background is four by eight feet)

Bottom: “Untitled Machine that Controls the World (Tiger and Magpies)”

Cardboard, wood, acrylic, steel. 21x24 x21 inch

“thanks a million!”

ALUMNI, MARISTS AND FRIENDS GATHER ON JUNE 2 TO REMEMBER FR. BRYSON

Rev. John W. Bryson, s.m., ended many Notre Dame High School dances with these famous words, “Thanks a million!” On Thursday night, June 2, 2011, Notre Dame alumni, fellow Marists and friends gathered to honor and give thanks for the “disc jockey” priest at a memorial Mass and reception on the campus of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy in Pontiac, Mich.

Bryson died May 17, 2011, in Massachusetts.

Fr. Joseph Hindelang, '68 (NDHS), Marist vicar provincial and current principal of Notre Dame Prep, celebrated the



Fr. Joe Hindelang '68 (NDHS) talks about Fr. Bryson during the June 2 memorial Mass at Notre Dame Prep.

mass along with six other Marist priests: Fr. Brian Cidlevich, Fr. Ronald DesRosiers, Fr. Francis Grispingo, Fr. Leon Olszowski, '65 (NDHS), Fr. John Sadjak, and Fr. James Strasz, '70 (NDHS).

During Hindelang's homily, he spoke candidly about Bryson as a man who wasn't necessarily the most intellectual person, but who was extremely savvy when it came to business and marketing. “If you needed a rosary, Fr. Bryson would sell you one.”

Hindelang said that Bryson loved to be with the students and celebrated all the things he did well. He was focused on improving Notre Dame and working to improve the lives of its students. At one point in the service, alumni and friends had the opportunity to

share stories about the beloved priest. Frank Castronova '89 (NDHS) recalled how Bryson would try to reuse as much inventory as possible when working bingo. “He would reuse coffee grounds for about three days before discarding them. But he was great to work for.”

Another alum, Mike Petrucci '62 (NDHS) shared memories from the many Notre Dame dances he attended as a student, and said, “That's where I met my future wife, the love of my life. Fr. Bryson had a way of bringing people together. The dances would always start with an Our Father, Glory Be, and Hail Mary, and ended with an Act of Contrition.”

Among many remembrances received from alumni was this from Ralph Panella '80 (NDHS): “. . . I'll always remember that he would address folks as ‘Hollywood.’ He would say, ‘Hey Hollywood, come to the concert on Friday night. Holy Smoke is playing in the gym.’”

Thomas Blomquist '62 (NDHS) said, “Fr. Bryson was a close friend who was always there when we needed him. Totally unexpected, he showed up at my mother's funeral and concelebrated her funeral mass. A wonderful man—I am sure there is a special spot in heaven for him.”

After the liturgy—in the style of Fr. Bryson—a reception was held in the cafete-



Memorial attendees enjoy slushies and reminiscing in the NDP cafeteria.

ria and the same prayers were used to begin the festivities. And music from the 50s, 60s and 70s was played. Slushies were served “25 cents each, or two for a quarter,” and alumni and friends looked at photos from their past and remembered stories about their days



Frank Castronova '89 (NDHS) presents one of the readings at the Bryson memorial Mass.

at Notre Dame. And, just like many Notre Dame dances, the evening ended with Percy Faith's rendition of “Theme from a Summer Place.”

Bryson was born on December 8, 1923, in Worcester, Mass., to John and Leola Bryson. He attended St. Peter's Junior High and High School, and then went on to the Marist Novitiate, Our Lady of the Elms, in Staten Island, N.Y. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marist College and Seminary in Framingham, Mass., and was ordained in the Society of Mary on July 25, 1953.

As a priest, he taught at Cathedral Central High School for one year then at Notre Dame High School where he became a legendary teacher and friend to many during the years 1955 to 1970. Bryson's dances and concerts at the school brought in such musicians as Marvin Gaye, Bob Seger, the Supremes and Ted Nugent.

From 1970-1976, he served as Bishop Breitenbeck's secretary in Grand Rapids, then returned to Notre Dame until his retirement in 2004 when he was sent to live at the Marist House in Framingham, Mass. As his health deteriorated, he was cared for at the Elizabeth Seton Residence in Wellesley Hills, Mass., until entering into eternal life on May 17, 2011.

For more on Bryson, including archived photos from the memorial service and remembrances from alumni and friends, please see the Notre Dame Alumni Association website at: <http://www.ndpma.org/alumni>. ■

THE **DICK DOGKEY**
PRIZES
PRESENTS

DICK YOUR HOST DJ
PURTYN

MARVIN GAYE

THE AMBOY DUDES

SYDNEY BRACE

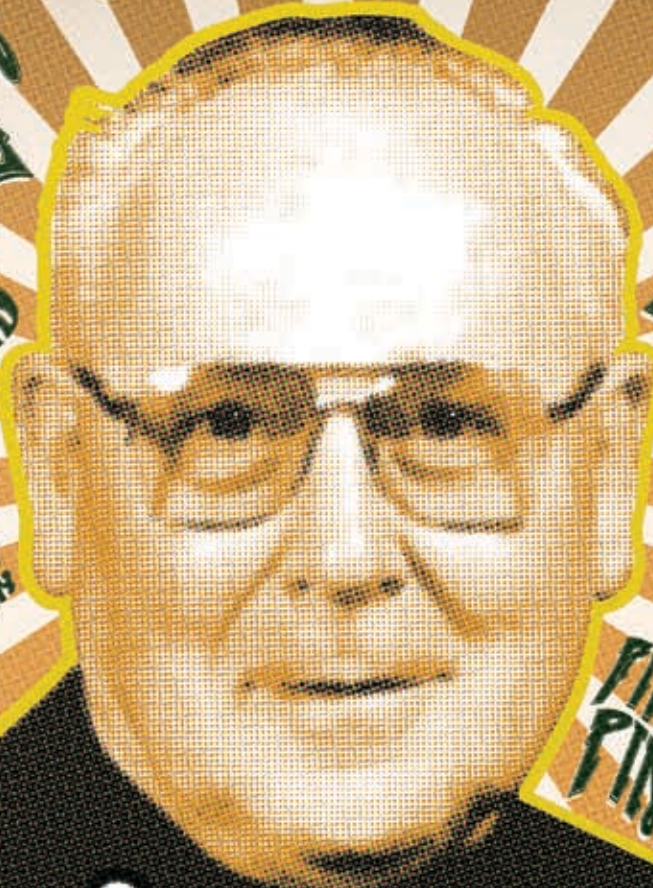
**HOLY DEON JACKSON
SMOKE**

BOB SEGER

THE SUPREMES

MITCH RYDER

**PAUL
PINK ?
AND THE MYSTERIUS**



**THANKS
A MILLION!**
- FR. BRYSON

AT THE
CAFETERIA
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
ON KELLY ROAD

Weddings

Evan McCausland '04 (NDP) and Victoria Gates at St. Andrew's Church in Rochester, Mich., on October 2, 2010.

Gerry Mattei '02 (NDP) and Molly Bricton in Chicago, Ill., on July 17, 2011.

Lynsey Bramstedt '01 (NDP) and Jason Worthen, on July 16, 2011.

Pete Mattei '00 (NDP) and Sheila Isabel Fernandez in Charlotte, N.C., on April 23, 2011.

Mike Poulin '00 (NDP) and Kelly Green in Indianapolis, Ind., on February 12, 2011.

David Knesek '99 (NDP) and Michelle Legacy in Traverse City, Mich., on July 9, 2011.

Kristin Patrona '99 (NDP) and Michael Poma, on August 12, 2011.

Jade Curry '98 (NDP) and Robert Burns in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on February 11, 2011.

Births

Henry David Kruszyna, born March 31, 2011. Proud parents: Tim Kruszyna '01 (NDHS) and Nicole Kruszyna. Proud grandpa is Dennis Kruszyna '70 (NDHS). Proud uncles are Dan Kruszyna '99 (NDHS) and Scott Kruszyna '06 (NDHS).

Frank Joseph Cereska, born May 25, 2011. Proud parents: Gina (Coppola) Cereska '00 (NDP) and Branden Cereska—and big sister Olivia Rose, 3-1/2 yrs. old. Proud grandfather Frank Coppola '73 (NDHS); proud uncle Joseph Coppola '03 (NDP).

Bradley Joseph Griffith, born October 12, 2010. Proud parents: Brandon Griffith '99 (NDP) and Michelle Griffith.

Jonah Nicholas Murphy, born February 22, 2011. Proud parents: Theresa Mlinarcik '99 (NDP) and Matt Murphy '99 (NDP).

Alumni rest in peace

Michael Martel '87 (NDHS)

Michael G. Pappas '84 (NDHS)

Michael Boyd '83 (PC), brother of Audrey '79 (PC), Nancy '82 (PC) and Susan '86 (PC).

Guy J. Mattiacci '76 (NDHS), Brother of Gary '77 (NDHS)

Gary Michael Canu '72 (NDHS), Brother of Jim '71 (NDHS)

Estrella Anita "Star" Rosario '70 (PC), Mother of Chessa (Rosario) McCaughey '98 (NDP) and Dario Rosario '94 (OC)

Daniel P. Goltz '67 (NDHS)

Rev. John W. Bryson, s.m., ministered forty-five years, primarily at Notre Dame High School. Was legendary as the "disc jockey priest" for ND record hops. Served as the personal assistant to Bishop Joseph Breitenbeck in his early years as bishop of the diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan. More on page 14.

NOTE: For a complete list, see ndpma.org/prayers.

May their souls, and the souls of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

WHAT'S YOUR NEWS?!

To share your news in the next issue of IRISH, send a note to Rachel (Alexander) Miller '00 (NDP) at rmiller@ndpma.org, or visit ndpma.org/update.



Friday, September 23, 2011

Alumni tailgate begins at 6:30 p.m.

Varsity football game vs. Bishop Foley—7:30 p.m.

Alumni Field, Notre Dame Prep—Pontiac

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALUMNI AND FAMILIES!

Alumni from Notre Dame Prep, Notre Dame High School, Oakland Catholic, Pontiac Catholic, St. Michael and St. Frederick are invited to attend.

Join us for a BBQ and visit with former teachers, classmates and friends.

We look forward to seeing you!

THE PREMIER EVENT FOR ND ALUMNI!

OKTOBERFEST—SATURDAY, OCT. 1



Alumni and friends (21+) are invited to attend this celebrated annual event organized by the NPDMA Parents Club. Join us for a fun evening of cocktails, music, dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$30 each and include dinner, beer, wine and entry to door prizes. Purchase your tickets through the alumni office by calling 248-373-2171, ex-3, before Sept. 16.

ALUMNI IRISH GAMES—SATURDAY, MAR. 10

Remember competing in student games during Irish Week, like cageball, tug of war and chariot racing? Well, grownups can have just as much fun! The 3rd Annual Alumni Irish Games will take place on the campus of NDPMA. Enjoy food, adult beverages and nostalgic Irish Games with your fellow alumni. Save the date – Saturday, March 10, 2012. More information to come in the e-newsletters, or visit www.ndpma.org/alumniirishgames for details.



all-class reunion for St. Frederick



On September 12 of last year, the alumni from St. Frederick High School celebrated an all-class reunion. The sunny day began with a memorial Mass at St. Damien Catholic Parish in Pontiac.

“It was very important to us from the beginning to concentrate on the Mass and get as many alumni involved as possible. So it was their Mass,” said Patty Dean-Phillips ’52 (SF), who has orchestrated the reunion since the beginning. In fact, the whole Dean family has been involved for a countless number of years and is dedicated to getting alumni together and perpetuating the spirit of St. Frederick as well as Catholic education in Pontiac.

A luncheon at Santia Banquet Hall followed the Mass. About 180 people attend each year, and at the luncheon the Lawrence Dusenbury ’38 (SF) Award Recipient is always announced. This year, Joe Kleiner ’50 (SF) received the award. The first recipient of the Dusenbury award was Bill Brown from the class of 1927. It is given annually to a St. Frederick alum for dedication to the philosophy of St. Frederick School. Dean-Phillips says Dusenbury was active and on the board from the beginning. “He had a great devotion to the school.”

Though she devotes a lot of time to the event, Dean-Phillips said that when alumni gather for the all-class reunion, “It’s like coming home again. You’re coming home to where your roots are, in your church. It’s a labor of love.”

The St. Frederick Alumni Committee welcomes anyone who loves and cares for the ideals and values, but most importantly, the memories of the years spent in that venerable old building. The most enjoyable part of the reunion is seeing friends coming together. This year, the all-class reunion for St. Frederick was Sunday, September 11, 2011. ■

Patty Dean-Phillips ’52 (SF), left, hands over the Lawrence Dusenbury ’38 (SF) Award to Joe Kleiner ’50 (SF). The first recipient of the Dusenbury award was Bill Brown from the class of 1927. It is given annually to a St. Frederick alum for dedication to the philosophy of St. Frederick School. Dean-Phillips says Dusenbury was active in the school and on the board from the beginning. “He had a great devotion to the school.”

SUPER RAFFLE The NDPMA Parents Club is sponsoring its annual Super Raffle, and a \$50,000 grand prize winning ticket could be yours. Tickets were mailed to all alumni (more than five years out) in July. If you did not receive your tickets or would like additional tickets, call the alumni office at 248-373-2171. The Super Raffle is open to all alumni, family and friends. The drawing will take place at the Parents Club “Oktoberfest-Irish Style” event on October 1, 2011 (see below). You need not be present to win. Grand prize: \$50,000; 2nd prize: \$10,000; 3rd prize: \$5,000. Proceeds from the Super Raffle will directly benefit Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.

FY 2011 ANNUAL FUND SETS NEW RECORD Thanks in part to increased alumni participation, the school’s fiscal year 2011 annual fund grew more than 22% this year and exceeded \$375,000 for the first time in the school’s history. In total, we had 273 alumni gifts, including more than 200 from NDHS alums, accounting for approximately 7.5% of the annual fund. Annual fund proceeds are used to enhance the school’s arts, academic and athletic programs and to provide financial assistance to students in need. All alumni gifts will be listed by donor and school in the upcoming 2011 annual report, which will be mailed to more than 12,000 constituents this fall. Thank you for your generous support!

NEW LEFEVRE AND VICARI RESTAURANTS ‘ON THE WATER’

Mike Lefevre, youngest of the Lefevre brothers (Greg ’73, Jim ’75, Tom ’78 NDHS) has opened a restaurant on Jefferson in St. Clair Shores called “Mike’s on the Water.” Reviewed by The Detroit Free Press this past spring as “a

funky, ’70s-style burger joint on Michigan Harbor,” Mike’s features baskets of burgers and buckets of beers in a cozy spot right in the middle of the Nautical Mile in SCS. Mike Lefevre, who also attended Notre Dame, was an owner of the former Jack’s Waterfront Restaurant on Jefferson and his family operated the venerable Lido’s on the Lake from 1982 to 1990.

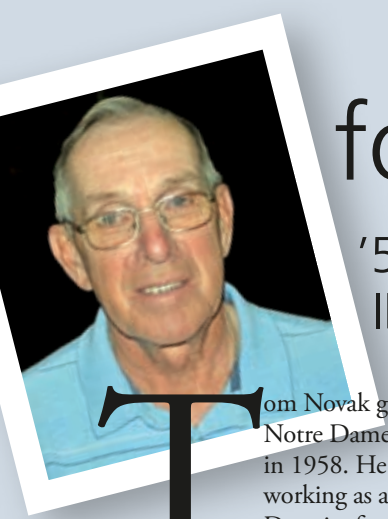


Andiamo Restaurant impresario Joe Vicari ’75 (NDHS) and his brother John ’76 (NDHS) have opened Brownie’s on the Lake in a building that housed Dockside Jack’s, formerly known as Jack’s Waterfront. The original Brownie’s, which was a popular nightclub located in the Jefferson Beach Marina, closed in the mid-1990s. Vicari also recently converted his Andiamo Italia restaurant on the Nautical Mile to a Rojo Mexican Bistro.

WILLS FORUM NDPMA will be offering a FREE educational forum titled “Wills 101.” The forum is open to all parents and alumni and will answer such questions as:

- Why do I need a will?
- What happens to my children if I do not have a will?
- Do I need to hire an attorney or can I create a will online?

The forum will be held at the school’s Pontiac campus on October 12 at 6:30 p.m. It will be hosted by Tom Delpup, a Rochester-based attorney and certified financial planner with more than 20 years of experience in wills, trusts and estate planning. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP through the advancement office at 248-373-2171 – ext. 2.



former cop, current author

'58 GRAD CREDITS HIS HS ENGLISH TEACHER WITH INSPIRING A WRITING CAREER

Tom Novak graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1958. He spent the 60s working as a police officer in Detroit after which he was employed by Dow Corning for 30 years. His tenure in Detroit as a cop is what informed "Among the Tin Cans and Broken Glass," a fictionalized novel he wrote based on that experience. He followed his first book with "Good Ones and Scallywags," which recounts his experiences owning, training, hunting and competing in field trials with his hunting dogs.

From Amazon.com's review of Novak's first book, "Among the Tin Cans and Broken Glass:" "In the 1960s Detroit, Michigan, had a population of approximately 1.5 million people. Their police force numbered around 5,200 men and women. This is the story of one of the officers who served in that department. He was no super-hero, just a man who loved being a police officer. The time he served spanned the 1967 Detroit Riot, a trying time in that man's life and the city's history. This book is based on actual incidents occurring during the 1960s in Detroit."

Novak is retired, though he is working on another book about police officers. He recently took some time away from writing to answer a few questions for IRISH.

IRISH: How did you start writing?

NOVAK: Actually, it started in grade school where I wrote essays for the ADF (Archdiocesan Development Fund) while at Ascension in Warren. I won a rosary in the fifth grade, I think, for an essay. During my senior year at ND, Mr. Vachon, my English teacher, wanted us to write for a Free Press or Detroit News contest. I did not win, but Mr. Vachon said, "You can write, Tom. Don't waste your talent." Much later, I sent him a copy of an outdoor magazine published out of Cincinnati that bought two articles from me in the late 70s just to show him I am trying to follow his wishes.

IRISH: Why did you write your first book?

NOVAK: I loved being a police officer and there were some things that needed to be told.

IRISH: It's a fictionalized account, but are any of the characters based on you?

NOVAK: The book was written based on meritorious citations and commendations that I received. Jake Bush, the main character, is based on the author. The ending is pure fiction since I needed a good one.

IRISH: What about your second book, "Good Ones and Scallywags?" It is about bird-hunting and the special breed of dogs used in hunting. Can you provide more info on the book and perhaps why you wrote it?

NOVAK: I have had bird dogs since 1966, hunting and competing with them in field trials until the mid-90s, winning four championships along the way. I retired from field trials to just hunt—which I still do—about 85 days a year in New Mexico and North Dakota. Along the way while judging or competing—or just hunting—I have met a lot of "good ones and scallywags"—people, dogs and birds. So I wrote about them.

IRISH: Are you working on any books currently?

NOVAK: I am currently working on another cop book. I put Jake back "on the job." Some readers thought they'd like a sequel. This one will be pure fiction since I spent 30 years working for Dow Corning Corp. I think I can do it. Mr. Vachon said I could.

IRISH: Do you have any memories of your time spent at Notre Dame High School?

NOVAK: I transferred to ND from St. Mary's of Orchard Lake after my freshman year. My dad was a factory worker, so I had to work to pay my tuition and buy the "Ivy League" clothes that were popular at the time in 1955. I worked, but found a way to make the sock hops that Fr. Bryson put on. I also liked the music played during lunch at the cafeteria. "Rock Around the Clock" and "Blue Suede Shoes" were popular then.

IRISH: What about teachers, coaches, staff from ND? Any who stand out for you?

NOVAK: I actually loved the way Mr. Vachon read "Macbeth," changing voices for all the characters. He was a sharp dresser and, being the class clown, I had to make comments about his Robert Hall wardrobe.

Fr. Verow was very good to me during my frequent trips to his office. I looked up to him. Fr. Boulanger was a great teacher and man. I had Fr. Champagne for typing.

I think his bark was bigger than his bite. Or maybe I liked priests who were strong men, too.

Mr. Kelly—I had him in one class.

Always a smile. Then too, when I thought I wanted to play football my senior year, it was Mr. Kelly I sought out to talk to. I would have had to quit my job at Stouffer's at the mall to play. My dad said I would also have to give up my '53 Ford. Mr. Kelly was honest with me. I kept my job and my car.

Looking back, I now know I did not have the talent to play on that team with ND's first graduating class. I went into the Marines about a week after I graduated. ■



Novak's first book, "Among the Tin Cans and Broken Glass," top, was followed by "Good Ones and Scallywags." He currently is working on a third book.

ND grad finds fun and a career in Hollywood

BUSY DIRECTOR ALSO FINDS TIME TO TEACH AT UM

Mark Cendrowski '77 (NDHS) must be one of the most prolific directors in Hollywood. A quick scan of his body of work bears this out as there are at least 200 TV shows, series and movies on his resume.

But what Cendrowski is probably best known for is his work on "The Big Bang Theory," the CBS hit comedy that premiered in 2007, for which he's directed nearly 100 episodes. He says that while "The Big Bang Theory" takes up a majority of his time, he also is currently directing some episodes of "Rules of Engagement" and a new show called "Mad Love."

"We start at the end of July [on TBBT] and shoot shows until March," he said. "On hiatus weeks is when I will jump over to another show if I can fit it into my schedule."

He says he's also doing some Disney and Nickelodeon shows for some friends of his who are the executive producers. "This keeps me busy during the summer when the network shows are down."

He recently shot a pilot for Disney and is currently developing a sitcom for TV Land. In addition, he says he started a small production company with some writers, actors and directors "to try to keep the multi-camera genre going."

After graduating from Notre Dame and then from the University of Michigan in 1981, Cendrowski moved to L.A. "to make my



A typical day on the set of *The Big Bang Theory*, according to Mark Cendrowski '77 (NDHS), center, with party hat.



Cendrowski, left, says this is how "The Big Bang Theory's" Jim Parsons, right, looks without makeup.

name in Hollywood." But he gets back to Ann Arbor twice a year as a guest lecturer and meets with all of its film/television classes.

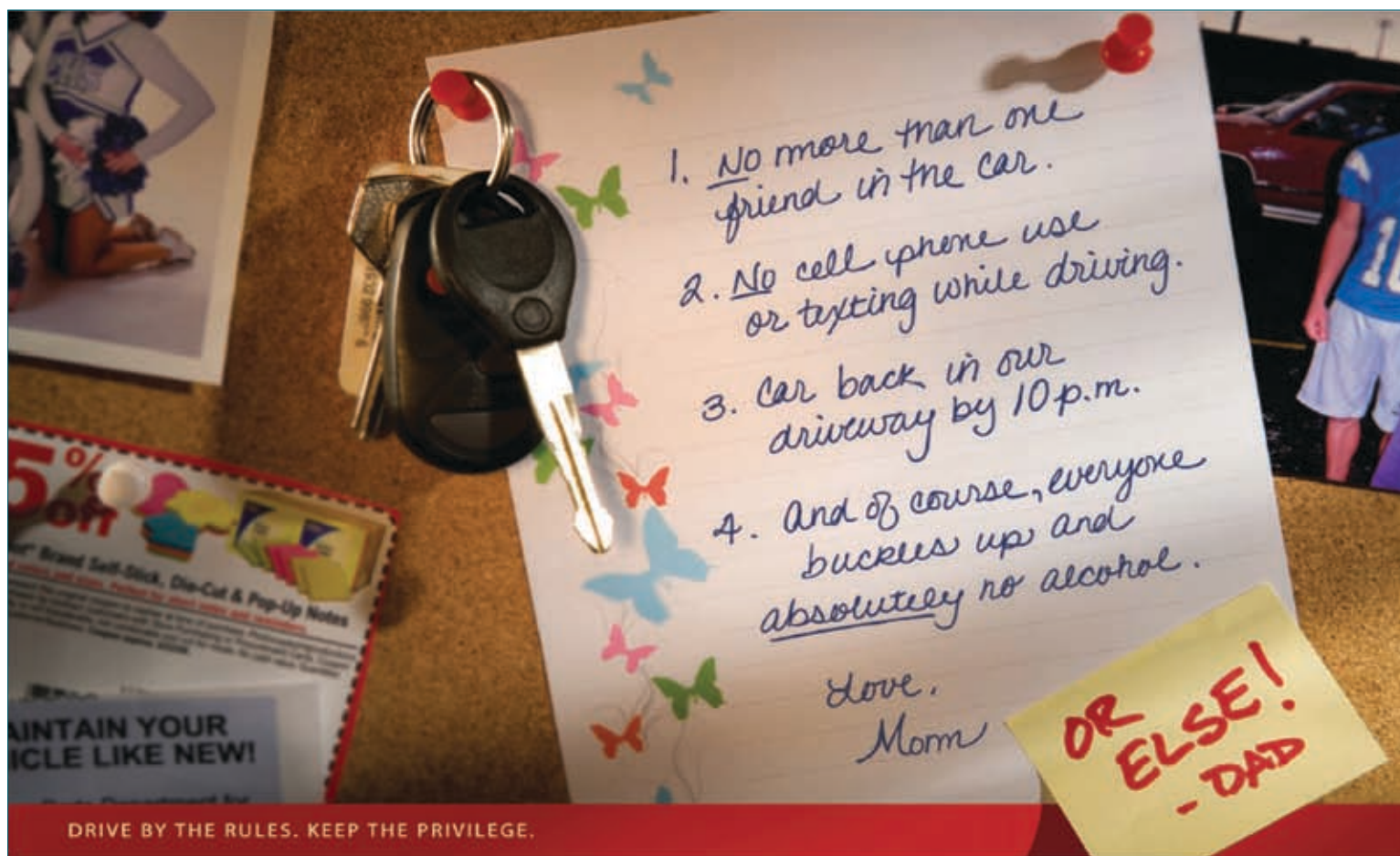
"I will talk with students in the advanced-writing programs as well as beginning directing classes and do a hands-on workshop in the school studios. I'll stage a few scenes from current shows I'm working on. We use all student actors, crew and writers and when I'm finished they have a product that they can then edit and use for future classes. It's a lot of fun and it gives students a glimpse of what a typical work week is like for someone like me."

Cendrowski, who has two brothers—also NDHS grads: Dwight, in 1970, and Gary, in 1972—says he'd love to visit Notre Dame Prep and talk to the students about his career, but the summer is about the only time during the year that provides a little breathing room for him, which obviously would not work out since NDP students are mostly gone from campus. He is hoping for an opportunity in the near future.

And even though it's tough to schedule it, he still makes a point to get to Michigan each summer for a week of golf with his NDHS buddies, including comedian Dave Coulier '77 (NDHS).

"The last couple of years Joe Ciolino '77 (NDHS) has been responsible for putting together the outing in northern Michigan," Cendrowski said. "About twenty guys from our class regularly do it, and it seems to keep growing every year."

A new season of "The Big Bang Theory" premieres September 22 on CBS. ■



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IT'S EASY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

It's almost time for homecoming at Notre Dame Preparatory School, and I had a homecoming of my own recently. Twenty-two years after graduating from Notre Dame High School, I became the annual fund director at NDPMA. It is a career move that feels right in so many ways, and a position where I know I can make a difference.

By facilitating my secondary education, the Marist Fathers helped me develop my personal, intellectual and spiritual skills, giving me success and happiness as

an adult. I'm sure that those of you reading this can recall a teacher, classroom situation or other event from your high school years that has had an enduring and positive effect on you.

Because I had such a wonderful experience, I have chosen to support the Marists and NDPMA through a contribution to the Annual Fund for the past several years. It is an important fundraising initiative at the school that enhances programming at all levels, and supports our faculty, classroom technology, the athletics programs, the arts and our beautiful campuses in Pontiac and Waterford. It feels good to give to NDPMA, knowing my dollars help ambitious, bright and curious young people experience a Notre Dame Marist education.

In my first communication with fellow alumni as a member of the staff, I ask you to join me in supporting the Annual Fund today. If you've contributed in the past, please consider a similar amount or more if you are able. If you've not yet participated in the Annual Fund, please make your first of many gifts in support of a Marist education—any amount will make a difference. You'll be glad you helped!

It's easy to give. Go to ndpma.org and click on "Support Notre Dame," and look for the "Donate Now" button. Over the next weeks and months, the school will reach out to those who have not yet made an Annual Fund commitment via mail, telephone and e-mail. We even plan to include contributor testimonials in future issues of IRISH. If you'd like to inspire others to make a gift, please contact me at (248) 373-2171, ext. 5, or fcastronova@ndpma.org.

May God bless you all,

Frank Castronova

Frank Castronova '89 (NDHS)
Annual Fund Director



HIRING!

The NDPMA Parents Club is looking for a producer for this fall's upper division musical and will consider any qualified alumni. If interested, please contact Tim Philippart (NDPMA Parents Club president) at ilonatim@comcast.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September

- 10 35-year reunion, NDHS class of 1976
- 20-year reunion, NDHS class of 1991
- 40-year reunion, Pontiac Catholic class of 1971
- 11 St. Frederick all-class reunion
- 13 Alumni board of directors meeting
- 23 Homecoming tailgate and football game at NDP (vs. Bishop Foley)
- Super Raffle ticket orders due

October

- 1 Oktoberfest and Super Raffle drawing
- 11 Alumni Board of Directors meeting
- 30 NDPMA Open House, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Lower Division Open House (Waterford campus) 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

November

- 5 50-year reunion, NDHS class of 1961
- 40-year reunion, NDHS class of 1971
- 8 Alumni Board of Directors meeting
- 26 10-year reunion, NDP class of 2001

December

- 4 Rochester Christmas Parade, NDP band plays
- 13 Alumni Board of Directors meeting

January

- 10 Alumni Board of Directors meeting
- 26 Alumni Art Show reception
- 26-31 Alumni Art Show at NDP

February

- 1-3 Alumni Art Show at NDP
- 21 Alumni Board of Directors meeting

March

- 10 Alumni Irish Games
- 13 Alumni Board of Directors meeting

Additional information for all events on www.ndpma.org/alumni.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI ARTISTS

The Alumni Art Show will be on display at NDPMA January 26 – February 3, 2012. All alumni are invited to display their artwork. If you are interested, download submission form found at www.ndpma.org/alumniart and turn in with artwork beginning December 12, 2011. The opening reception will be held January 26, 2012.

NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNI

Maria Lagrosso '10 (NDP)—is a music performance major at the University of Dayton.

Matthew Dondanville '09 (NDP)—is a sophomore at Grand Valley State and pursuing studies in urban planning and sociology.

Logan Lawson '09 (NDP)—Logan, along with fellow Arizona State University water ski teammates, was pictured in the nationally circulated issue of "Waterski" magazine in March 2011. The featured photo was taken at the National Collegiate Water Ski Championships in Austin, Tex.

Molly Dimefski '09 (NDP)—is a student at the Savannah School of Art and Design and is doing fabulously well. Molly thanks the college counseling program at NDP for steering her in the right direction!

Thomas Gulvezan '07 (NDP)—was accepted to medical school at the University of Virginia.

Monica Majewski '07 (NDP)—In May I graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in Communicative Sciences and Disorders. I will be starting the doctor of audiology program at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Gallaudet's undergraduate population is composed almost exclusively of deaf and hard of hearing students, and its graduate population is about 50% deaf/hard of hearing and 50% hearing. I am very much looking forward to continuing my education in this unique environment, improving my American Sign Language and exploring a new city.

Erica Saad '07 (NDP)—I recently graduated in December 2010 with a degree in advertising. Currently (March 2011) I'm seeking a job in the field with a strong focus on social and new media. I must say the Notre Dame web site and alumni stuff has come a long way.

Christopher Dondanville '06 (NDP)—is living in Wisconsin and enjoying his new job at Epic Systems in Verona.

Kathryn Durkin '06 (NDP)—I graduated from St. Mary's College a year ago in the spring. In August, I moved to Centerville, Ohio. I am a special education teacher. I work with kids who have moderate to severe needs. It is physically and emotionally exhausting, but I absolutely love it! It is so incredibly rewarding. I am currently finishing my first year. I really enjoy living in the Dayton area. I do often visit NDP to watch my brothers play football, basketball and run track. I can't wait to see everyone at our five-year reunion!

Jordan Jakubik '06 (NDP)—was named 1st Team All-American in the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association). Jordan also was

We'd love to hear from you! Send a note to let us know what you're up to: e-mail Rachel (Alexander) Miller '00 (NDP) at rmiller@ndpma.org, or visit ndpma.org/update.

We get letters and notes

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep alumni: (NDP); Notre Dame High School alumni: (NDHS) Pontiac Catholic: (PC); Oakland Catholic: (OC); St. Frederick: (SF); St. Michael: (SM)

named the "MVP" for the ACHA 2010-2011 season. In 35 games last season, Jordan had 40 goals and 51 assists to capture the scoring title for the ACHA. Jordan has been accepted into the doctorate program at CMU for physical therapy and began classes in spring 2011.

Kyle Sucher '06 (NDP)—graduated from Georgetown University and began working for an organization that helps with water and sanitation around the world.

Danielle Fergus '05 (NDP)—is currently working for the Crowne Hotel in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Thomas Paci '04 (NDP)—is currently working for a bank based in Southfield, Mich.

Amanda Sekelsky '03 (NDP)—is the school administrative director for the Grand Rapids Ballet Company.

Annalisa Simmer '03 (NDP)—visited NDPMA in March and shared stories of her missionary work in Guatemala. Annalisa has been a missionary since 2007, and also teaches English at a Lutheran school.

Erica Armstrong '03 (NDP)—is currently living in Chicago and working as a Dean's Fellow for the dean of MSU College of Law. In 2007, she graduated Cum Laude from Loyola University of Chicago with a B.A. in environmental studies. In May 2010, she graduated Cum Laude from Michigan State University College of Law with a J.D. and a specialization in environmental and natural resource law. She has worked for the National Wildlife Federation in Ann Arbor, the Western Environmental Law Center in Eugene, Ore., and has volunteered with the Safer Pest Control Project in Chicago. She was admitted to the Illinois State Bar in November 2010.

William Higgins '02 (NDP)—living in Chicago, Ill., and suggested the Notre Dame Alumni Association arrange an alumni get-together for Chicago-dwelling ND alumni. [William, great idea and we're working on it—stay tuned for more information.]

Christina "Tina" Paci '02 (NDP)—teaches third grade at a new school in Austin, Texas. Christina has specialties in reading and special education.

Joe Rumph '01 (NDP)—is the associate director of investments at the Kresge Foundation.

Sarah Brown '01 (NDP)—married Kevin Baker on October 10, 2010, in Charleston, W.V. The ceremony was held at the state capitol, and fellow NDP grad Meghan (O'Donnell) Podolny ('00) was in attendance. In January 2011, Sarah began working for Mountain State Justice, a non-profit law firm representing low income

West Virginians in predatory lending and other consumer cases. Sarah enjoys life in West Virginia, and is active on the boards of the YWCA of Charleston and the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences. Sarah writes: "Hope all is well at NDP—one of these years I'm going to have to make it back to Michigan for the alumni Irish Games - I LOVE that idea!"

Kevin Sucher '01 (NDP)—is working for the Detroit Tigers as coordinator of group and season ticket sales.

Jamie Sliwa '00 (NDP)—I am a high school AP Psychology and Civics teacher in Durham, North Carolina. I have also been the varsity lacrosse coach for the last eight years.

Jade (Curry) Burns '98 (NDP)—is a pediatric nurse practitioner working with the Henry Ford Health System, and a Ph.D. student in nursing at the University of Michigan.

Shanna Render-Samples '97 (NDP)—I contribute to research and development programs for Army Robotics—robotic systems that are fielded or will be fielded in the future. I work specifically for U.S. Army TARDEC (Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center).

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Joe Srodawa '87 (NDHS)—I'm glad that NDHS alumni have a place to call home. I live in New Jersey with my wife and three daughters, and own a group of companies that design, manufacture and market diamond and jewelry brands both through traditional retail channels, and several e-commerce sites directly to consumers. Keep me posted on what's happening, and if there are any ways I can contribute.

Peter Sullivan '82 (NDHS)—I have two boys - Jack (John) (14) and Maxwell (11).

Richard Semenik '66 (NDHS)—I read with great sadness about the passing of Bill Raymond ("IRISH," Spring 2011). He had a major impact on both my education and my life. I remember I had Mr. Raymond for calculus and as a coach for the cross country team (in those days, if you wanted to be a pitcher on the baseball team in the spring, you had to run cross country in the fall.) I was a miserable runner and frustrated with what I felt was a meaningless, burdensome assignment to the cross country team. After listening to my whining (somewhat impatiently as I recall), Mr. Raymond told me "Fine. Go clear out your locker." I spent the next week feeling like a weakling and a failure and came to him begging to be back on the team. He didn't say much at that point, except that I needed to be at practice that night. Mr. Raymond taught me what it felt like to be a quitter—and I have never gone there again. So, I

wanted to write to pay tribute to Mr. Raymond as a great teacher and mentor.

Paul Vago '66 (NDHS)—is recovering from a stroke and encourages everyone and their loved ones to get their cholesterol checked. [Paul, we will pray for your speedy recovery.]

Dennis Berger '65 (NDHS)—is helping to plan the 50-year reunion for the class of '65, which will take place in 2015. Dennis asks all NDHS classmates to please update the alumni office with your correct mail and e-mail address.

John Pierron '64 (NDHS)—is living in California.

Edwin Maloney '64 (NDHS)—is currently the head football coach at Dundee High School. He chaired the American Football Coaches Association High School Committee for the 10th consecutive year at the AFCA Convention in Dallas, Tex., in January 2011. In addition, Ed has been appointed as an ad hoc member to the AFCA Board of Trustees, becoming the first high school coach in the history of the AFCA to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Jerry Alderman '62 (NDHS)—is on the planning committee for the NDHS class of 1962 50-year reunion and writes, "We've always elected to have our gatherings at Notre Dame. Obviously, it is not an option for our upcoming 50th. Our unanimous desire was to have it at the 'new' Notre Dame. We are in the process of contacting classmates and are getting a good response so far. We know of some out-of-state grads who will come in, and many from Michigan who are not acquainted with your beautiful campus as some of us are. I am sure all would love to experience the new Notre Dame!!!"

John Valeri '61 (NDHS)—is currently retired and living in Arizona. John previously attended University of Detroit College of Dentistry.

Richard Paperd '59 (NDHS)—lives in Macomb Twp., Mich. Is still officiating high school football, baseball, softball, basketball and numerous youth leagues.

Jeffrey Bidigare '59 (NDHS)—sent us a note letting us know he recently retired.

Edward Goralewski '59 (NDHS)—(from Carol Goralewski, Ed's wife) I would like to inform the Class of 1959 and 1958 that my husband has had some health issues and has had two legs amputated and is now a bilateral amputee. Ed and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary on 12/30/2011. Ed said we will be dancing on our anniversary!

ST. MICHAEL ALUMNI

Richard Stevens '62 (SM) -- Thanks (to Kelly Patterson) for your participation and presentation at the St. Mike's Class of 1962 reunion-planning luncheon at Red Knapp's in Clarkston. The information you presented to the group was just right. I believe our class feels NDP is finally an adopted "brick-and-mortar" home we can turn to as a part of our legacy. ■

CLASS REUNIONS

NOTRE DAME PREP

Class of 2001 10-year reunion. Saturday, November 26, at JD's Key Club in Pontiac, Mich. A family-friendly reunion is also planned for November 26 at Chuck E. Cheese in Sterling Heights. Visit www.ndpma.org/classof2001 for more info. Reunion Contacts: Lynsey (Bramstedt) Worthen, lbramstedt@yahoo.com; Pamela DeMartinis Bishop, demartinisp@hotmail.com; Jennifer O'Rourke Bennett, jlbennett@gmail.com; Victoria Sidor, sidorvictoria@gmail.com.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1961 50-year reunion. Saturday, November 5, 2011, at Penna's of Sterling Heights. Reunion contacts: Ken Engler: 586-949-4005 - ken.engler@sbcglobal.net; Paul Baeckeroot: 586-286-6654 - ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net.

Class of 1962 50-year reunion. Planning underway. Contact: Jerry Alderman - trottinhorse@myway.com.

Class of 1965 50-year reunion. The committee is looking to update e-mail addresses and contact information, with the reunion being planned for 2015. Dennis Berger: 909-223-4483 - dennisaberger@aol.com.

Class of 1971 40-year reunion. Saturday, November 5, 2011, at Club Venetian, Madison Heights. Committee: Mike Scharl - notredame71@att.net; Jim Bieszki - jamesbieszki@aol.com. cell: 734-604-1112; office: 734-457-0545.

Class of 1976 35-year reunion. Saturday, September 10, 2011, at Comerica Park (Tigers vs. Minnesota). Reunion contact: Dean Ricci 734-421-0059

Class of 1981 30-year reunion. Saturday, November 5, 2011, at Ciccarelli's Sports Bar Theater, Shelby Twp. Reunion contacts: Tony DelVillano 586-415-0640, delvillano@wideopenwest.com; Pat Casasanta, patcasasanta@gmail.com.

Class of 1986 25-year reunion. Planning underway. Reunion committee: John Kaminski - jkaminski1700@yahoo.com, H: 612-822-4759, C: 952-261-5546; Dan O'Brien - dobrien734@comcast.net, 248-840-8391; Paul Arnone - paul.c.arnone@gm.com; Stephen Schultz - stephen2000_fl@yahoo.com; Jonathan Zaidan - jkmzc@sbcglobal.net.

Class of 1991 20-year reunion. Saturday, September 10, 2011, at Comerica Park (Tigers vs. Minnesota). Reunion contacts: Ronald J. Stempin, Jr., ronald_stempin@ml.com, 586-295-1338; Eric Woodhouse, 586-945-0390; Rick Nowicki, 586-295-1338

PONTIAC CATHOLIC

Class of 1971 40-year reunion. Saturday, September 10, 2011, at Bo's Brewery and Bistro, Pontiac. Reunion contact: Amy (Stiel) Almas - amyalmas@yahoo.com.

ST. FREDERICK

All Class Reunion, Sunday, September 11, 2011. St. Frederick School will be open to tour from 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Mass is 11 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul in Pontiac, Mich. Luncheon to follow at Santia Hall. Tickets available at Madonna Shop on Huron Street, 248-681-3964. Reunion contact: Jim Russell at 248-363-4209 or st_freds_alumni@yahoo.com.

ST. MICHAEL

Class of 1962 50-year reunion. Planning underway. Contact: Dick Stevens - dickstevens1@yahoo.com.

Looking for or wanting to help plan your upcoming class reunion?

Email Rachel (Alexander) Miller '00 (NDP), director of alumni relations, at rmiller@ndpma.org. The alumni office can help you, and a reunion planning informational packet is available. For details and a complete list of reunions, visit www.ndpma.org/reunions.

Football coach looks for experience and speed to help in this year's campaign

Notre Dame Prep's head football coach Kyle Zimmerman is beginning his third year at the helm of the Fighting Irish. A strong finish last year has provided motivation and hunger as his experienced squad starts the 2011 season.

IRISH: As you head into this season, what progress have you made toward building the program and how do you measure it?

ZIMMERMAN: In 2009 we had around 50 total kids in our high school program. We are looking at 70 or more this year. However, I look at what's happening in the hallways of the school, on Friday nights at the games, how our players interact with people and how supportive everybody is at ND Prep as a better way to measure what we are doing. To me, these things show that our players are taking our football program and living it outside of the game itself.

IRISH: What strengths and weaknesses (if any) do you foresee for this year's team?

ZIMMERMAN: The strength of this team will be the experience and hunger we have coming back from last year's 4-5 record. We have eight returning starters coming back on each side of the ball. This is the third year most of those kids have been in our system. They know what to expect and they expect to win every time they step on that field.

IRISH: The first part of last season didn't go as you planned, but then you put together an impressive four wins to finish where you outscored your opponents 117-19. To what do you attribute the strong finish versus the first part of the season?

ZIMMERMAN: I think it's a tribute to what we have built together here as a group of players and coaches. We always talk about

believing in what you do and believing in the guy next to you. No matter if we're 0-4 or on a three-game winning streak, the kids and coaches in this program gave everything they had in practice and on

Friday night to win. We just kept believing in each other and what we were doing and just kept getting better and better. Don't forget that we played teams that were a combined 34-1 in those first five weeks and no game had us behind more than 12-0 going into the fourth quarter.

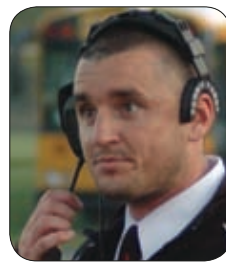
IRISH: How do you think the defense will be this season and what type of defense will you run?

ZIMMERMAN: We hang our hat on our defense. My defensive coaches are the best around with Blaise Glennie (def. coord.) Dean Leach (linebackers) and Shon Hart (defensive backs). They do an outstanding job getting our kids to play at a very high level.

We run a multiple front defense where we try to keep our reads and keys simple so our kids can fly around and play fast. We may be smaller than most teams, but nobody will fly around or hit like us. Our defense is relentless.

IRISH: How about on offense?

ZIMMERMAN: Returning this season are four offensive linemen, four wide receivers, three running backs and our QB, all who contributed significantly last season. They have practically lived together in the weight room all winter, spring and summer. This is



ND football coach
Kyle Zimmerman

the strongest offensive team I have ever been around and I'm hoping that it will translate into a great attack on the ground.

IRISH: On this year's upcoming schedule, are there any games that look to be especially competitive?

ZIMMERMAN: We have three CHSL AA division games: at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, 1 p.m., Sept. 10; at Divine Child, 7 p.m., Sept. 30; and home vs Lutheran North, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 10. Each of these games is critical for us in order to put ourselves in position to play in the Prep Bowl Oct. 22 at Ford Field. Also, our homecoming game will be a big one on Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. when our biggest rival Bishop Foley comes to ND Prep. They were not on our schedule last year but we are looking forward to continuing this rivalry and hope to keep them on the schedule every year. Rivalries are what make high school football special!

IRISH: What, if anything, has surprised you the most since you've been the head coach here at school?

ZIMMERMAN: I would have to say it's the sense of community that ND Prep has. When I came here, I thought it would be one thing that we wouldn't have due to our families coming from many different parts of Oakland and Macomb counties. I couldn't have been more wrong. The sacrifices the NDP families make are unmatched. This place is a family; it's the greatest job I could ever dream of having and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it. ■

(Editor's Note: At press time, the Notre Dame varsity football team is 1-0 on the season after defeating SCS Lakeview, 14-0, in the opening game for both teams.)



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