



# IRISH

spring 2009  
2

Meredith Gifford

Joe Vicari

Kala Thomas

The Muggs

Bryan Ureel

Alumni notes

# A WORD FROM YOUR ALUMNI DIRECTOR



“Keeping the Tradition Alive”

That’s basically written into my new job description as the Alumni Director for Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy. I accepted this position as a 1999 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, but not only do I represent Notre Dame Prep (NDP) alumni, but also Notre Dame High School (ND) alumni, Pontiac Catholic (PC) alumni, and Oakland Catholic (OC) alumni. We are a combination of schools with a shared mission and vision, to live as Christian People and to sustain Catholic education in south-east Michigan.

Let me formally introduce myself. Upon graduation from NDP, I received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Oakland University. For three years, I taught fourth grade at Notre Dame Marist Academy. Currently, I am studying Educational Leadership at OU and completing my field work at NDP. My focus as your new alumni director is to provide you with an active, service-oriented alumni association. My main goals are to provide alumni with chances to reconnect, with reunion assistance, with a place to update their information, and with a place to get involved.

Since August, so much has already taken place in the world of alumni relations. We had a great turn-out at Homecoming in October, we have had numerous reunions, social events, and alumni visits. The alumni hockey game was a huge success, as well as the beginning of our Traveling Irish Dinners.

Most importantly, we are beginning to build a strong Alumni Council. The Alumni Council’s ambition is to serve as a working body committed to building and growing the alumni association. Currently, the Alumni Council meets on the first Tuesday of every

month. We would prefer representation from a wide range of class years and abilities. If you are interested in serving on the Alumni Council, please contact me. Our meetings are open, so feel free to stop by and see what we are working on. In the next few months, the Alumni Council will create and approve an official set of by-laws, vote on an executive cabinet, and create an events calendar for the following school year.

There is a lot of work to do in order to create the kind of alumni association that suits our graduates. This is just the beginning. With your help and continued support, imagine the possibilities! We already have the best and brightest alumni, why not have the best alumni association?

Irish blessings,

Kelly A. Cole '99

## Message from Fr. Joe '68 (ND)

### Hello to our alumni family.

It is always great to see our graduates and to hear what you are up to now. Many recent grads stopped by during their Christmas break from college.

The teachers, staff and administrators are happy to catch up on how well you are doing and seeing the kind of adults you are becoming.

Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy is proud of the people who have established such a good reputation for us. Have you



heard that for the third time we have been named by the Acton Institute as one of the top-50 Catholic high schools in the country!?! The success of NDPMA as a Catholic school is due to the student body and teaching staff over our short history. As grads move on to college and then to establishing their own families and work careers, we are pleased that we could play some role in all that you are becoming.

This letter is a brief request for you to stay in touch. You are always welcome to stop by school for a visit. You will still recognize many favorite teachers and secretaries but even the new ones are interested in meeting alums. We’ll show you the new parts of campus. (Have you seen the auxiliary gym and new band room?) If you are unable to visit, drop an e-mail to the Alumni Office to let us

know what you are doing, especially when you have big news—awards or graduation from college, marriages, babies, new jobs, travels—about yourself or a classmate.

It is a kick to hear regularly that so many of you have maintained friendships that developed while you were students. Or that you meet other alums of Notre Dame Prep or Harper Woods Notre Dame through your jobs and you develop an instant bond. The Marist Fathers and Br. Louis, the teachers and staff, thank you for your part in building up our school (your school) and for building up a great alumni community.

May God bless you and your family and all that you are doing!

Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m. – NDP Principal

# 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 high 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](http://www.ndpma.org).

## CONTENTS

### 4 IRISH NEWS

Get the latest about NDPMA and all alumni groups.

### 8 BROADWAY SEOUL

Notre Dame Prep alum Meredith Gifford '02 brings English to Korean students from the stage.

### 11 ITALIAN COOKING

Veteran restaurateur Joe Vicari '75 (ND) cooks up a recipe for success.

### 13 STUDENT, LAWYER, TEACHER

Kala Thomas '00 (NDP) sets her goals high and then meets them.

### 14 ROCK & ROLL FRIENDS

HWND classmates '90 take Detroit by storm.

### 16 DRAWING DREAMS

Bryan Ureel '80 (ND) credits hard work and dad's advice for his success.

### 19 LETTERS AND NOTES

Alumni send their notes and letters.

### 22 CLASS REUNIONS

Recent and upcoming reunions.

### 23 ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Another great season on the field, court and ice.



ON THE COVER: Meredith Gifford '02 (NDP) is acting and teaching English in South Korea. (photo provided by Meredith Gifford)

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### Advertise in IRISH

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



## Marist Fathers and Brothers form one province



*The Fathers and Brothers of the Society of Mary met during the summer of 2008 at the Retreat Center at St. John's in Plymouth, Mich.*

In January 2007, the Marists Fathers and Brothers in the U.S. began a long process of coming up with a strategy to deal with the decline in the number of members and the aging membership. As they examined the realities, they challenged themselves to look at and address the new needs of the time and to look at creative ways to continue their mission today. They strategized on how they could best reorganize to address these new realities while at the same time renewing themselves and unleashing a new energy for their mission.

The Marists then gathered during June and July 2008 at St. John Retreat Center in Plymouth, Mich. The provinces of Atlanta and Boston met separately to discuss a united future for the Marists in the United States.

On July 10, 2008, both "chapters" reached a unanimous agreement to ask the Superior General to create one new province for the whole country. The Very Rev. Fr. Jan Hulshof, s.m., Superior General of the Society of Mary, with the consent of his Council in Rome, announced the creation of a new province of the United States of America. This took effect on January 1, 2009.

## Notre Dame Prep named a top-50 school; third time in four years

In November 2008, Notre Dame Preparatory School announced that it had been named to the National Catholic High School Honor Roll, a compilation of the nation's best 50 Catholic secondary schools. This is the third time in four years that the school has received this honor and follows the school's recent authorization as Michigan's only Catholic International Baccalaureate "World School." The school previously was named to the Honor Roll in 2005 and 2007. This latest honor makes it one of only six schools in the state and the only school in metro Detroit to receive this special recognition.

The purpose of the National Catholic High School Honor Roll, which is sponsored by the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization, is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education. A critical resource for parents and educators, the Honor Roll distinguishes those schools that excel in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.

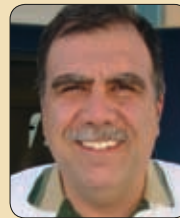
"We are once again honored to be named as one of the top 50 Catholic schools in the U.S.," said Fr. Joseph Hindelang '68 (ND), Principal of Notre Dame Preparatory School. "It is a real testament to our teachers, students and parents, and their commitment to the



ideals of Catholic education. Our mission is to form Christian people, good citizens, and academic scholars. This award is recognition that we live our mission and are recognized as one of the best in the country at integrating Catholic identity with civic responsibility and educational excellence."

## ND grad rated one of best contractors in nation

HWND graduate Frank Fazi '73, owner of and third-generation ceramic-tile contractor with F.D. Berardino Tile Inc. of Eastpointe, Mich., has earned the coveted Five Star Contractor certification from the National Tile Contractors Association. Only four ceramic tile contractors from around the country earned this award, and Fazi



was the only one from southeastern Michigan. This national certification honors recipients with superior job performance, superior training levels and qualification levels, excellent quality, safety records, and knowledge of the tile and building business. His work habits and high standards were undoubtedly learned as a student at Notre Dame all those years ago.

F.D. Berardino works throughout the five-county area of southeastern Michigan. "We can tackle any kind of tile installation, and this designation reinforces that," Fazi said. "We are professionals at what we do."

F.D. Berardino Tile Inc. is located at 17551 Nine Mile Road in Eastpointe, Michigan, 48021. 586-777-5932 or [www.fdbtile.com](http://www.fdbtile.com).

## \$50,000 awarded to Super Raffle winner

NDPMA president Fr. Leon Olszamowski '65 (ND) presented a check for \$50,000 to ND Prep parents Sheryl and Michael Berry and daughter Brittany '10 (NDP). Sheryl Berry was the grand-prize winner of the school's annual Oktoberfest Supper Raffle held last fall at the Pontiac campus. Prizes of \$10,000 and \$5,000 were also awarded.



## Notre Dame Prep senior published in national magazine

Francesca Boville, a senior Spanish student at Notre Dame Prep, recently was published in the Spanish Honor Society magazine, "¡Albricias!" Any member of the Spanish Honor Society (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica) may send in essays, poems, drawings for quarterly publications, but only the best are chosen. NDP has had student essays published in the past, but never a drawing.

Francesca's drawing was not only chosen to be published, it was chosen as the front cover of the magazine. In addition, she received a check for \$50.

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, was formally organized in 1953 as the Spanish National Honor Society, and the name was changed in 1959. The purpose is to recognize student achievement in



Spanish and Portuguese and to promote a continuity of interest in Hispanic studies.

Congratulations, Francesca!

### Bill Raymond retires. Again!



Bill Raymond retired in 2008 (for the fourth time!). Many are betting that he will be back soon though. He is currently retiring in Pompano Beach, Fla. I'm sure all can picture Bill poolside at his condo relaxing from all those tiring years of being around the "kids." He says he will miss John Pierce and his gang from 1989 at their reunion as he will

be in Massachusetts during that week. He recalls many fond memories of those fellows sitting in his classroom. "Fond memories, many, many, many!"

### Community Read day spearheaded by International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

Students and teachers at Notre Dame Marist Academy-Middle Division in Pontiac spent a unique day recently exploring the topic of child labor and considering the question: "What is childhood?"



All members of the school community, including teachers, students, parents, and office staff, participated in a community read. The book chosen for the community read was *Iqbal*, the story of a young Pakistani boy sold into bonded labor at the age of four,

who escaped and eventually became an activist for ending child labor, primarily within the carpet industry. Iqbal Masih was murdered in the streets of Pakistan in 1995, most likely by the "carpet mafia."

Students began their day listening to one of their own cafeteria workers. Anita Cordova told the story of her life as a young child laborer, picking fruits and vegetables from the age of five in the fields of Texas and Michigan.

The students learned about Fair Trade products and companies that do not employ child labor. Discussion circles allowed students to respond to the issues and concerns raised in the book and to discuss actions they could take to help end child labor.

### Detroit Lions QB visits Notre Dame Marist Academy – Lower Division

In November, Detroit Lions quarterback Dan Orlovsky arrived at NDMA second-grade student Sydney Newby's house in a limo, took her to school, visited Principal Diana Atkin's office, and spoke to students about the importance of good health and exercise.

Sydney and her family entered and won an online contest sponsored by the NFL and JC Penney.

Orlovsky was among 34 players around the country participating in the "NFL Take a



Player to School" program. During the visit, Orlovsky led students in fitness activities as part of NFL's PLAY 60 campaign, which aims to help youth get 60 minutes of exercise a day. In addition, the school received physical-education equipment (jump ropes, resistance bands, cones and footballs) and \$2,000 (\$1000 from JC Penney and \$1000 from the NFL) to be used for the purchase of additional equipment.

### Alum writes about his Detroit Police experience

Tom Novak '58 (ND) writes a very compelling account of his experiences as a Detroit police officer in the 1960s. Titled *Among the Tin Cans and Broken Glass*, the book is a fictional story based on Novak's personal experiences as a cop in Detroit during the turbulent sixties.

"I guess what I am most proud of is through the book, I was able to reconnect (after 39 years) with Richard Dungy, a retired Detroit Deputy Chief of Police," said Novak. "Richard is the uncle of Tony Dungy, the coach of the Colts. Dick and I were patrolmen together at the Tactical Mobile Unit."

Novak kindly donated a copy to NDP's media center for our older, more mature students to enjoy. Novak is an alumnus who is truly sharing his gifts and experiences with others. Throughout the book, readers will recollect events during that period in a very accurate and amazing way.



Dungy, retired deputy chief of the police force, says that the book brought back memories for him long forgotten. "Tom included several events where I was involved—some fictional, others factual. To his credit, I had difficulty determining which was which. Reading the book was a truly refreshing experience."

*Among the Tin Cans and Broken Glass* is available through Barnes & Noble, amazon.com, and

other book-seller web sites.

### ND classmates finish in national IRONMAN contest

Widely considered the single greatest challenge in all of competitive sports, the 140.6 mile Ironman Triathlon is a grueling journey into the abyss of physical and emotional fatigue. The three-stage event includes a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. Top it off with 95-degree temperatures and sweltering humidity and you have the Ford Louisville (Ky.) IRONMAN.

Though more than 2,300 athletes representing all 50 states and two dozen countries registered for the race, only about 1,800 finished within the 17-hour time allotment. Three of those finishers were John Okoniewski, Mike Housey and Andy Guest from the ND class of '84.

IRISH magazine finally caught up with the three friends and asked them about their experiences.

Getting to the finish line was the easy part, according to Okoniewski. "It's the 100-mile plus training rides at 4:30 a.m. That's the tough part."

Guest agreed. "There is a great deal of excitement on race day, but riding your bike when it's 40 degrees and raining in February is not so exciting."

According to IRONMAN statistics, the average participant trains

18-30 miles per week to prepare for the event. The three ND alums all were limited to only 10-15 hours per week due to work and family commitments.

“The IRONMAN is not for the faint of heart,” said Housey. “It takes immense discipline to balance the body, mind and spirit with family and work.”

So how exactly did they motivate themselves to stay on track? Guest dedicated his training to the memory of Steve Harvey, also from the class of ’84. “Steve was one of the most talented and driven individuals I ever met. He never turned away from a challenge. When the training got tough, I drew strength from knowing that “the Harv” would be behind me all the way.”

About a week prior to departing for the race, the three learned that another fellow classmate’s (Joe Caretti ’84) eight-year-old son (Joey) was diagnosed with a brain tumor and would be undergoing surgery days before the race.

The three athletes decided to dedicate the race to Joey. (IRISH is happy to report that, after a brief scare, the surgery was a resounding success!).

“A scare like that puts things like the race into perspective,” said Okoniewski. “Any one of us would have gladly given up our finisher medals to know that Joey was okay.”

Though all three have been training for years, they all followed a similar rigorous seven-month training program leading up to the race. “We couldn’t have done it without each other,” they agreed.



*Left to right: John Okoniewski, Mike Housey and Andy Guest after finishing IRONMAN 2008.*

### ND bleachers put to work at NDP

The relatively new gymnasium bleachers (visitor’s side), which had been gathering dust at Harper Woods Notre Dame since the school closed, were recently put to good use at ND Prep. After getting permission from the Archdiocese of Detroit, a group of parent and staff volunteers disassembled the bleachers at HWND and reinstalled them in the Jim Grimaldi Athletic Center, ND Prep’s new auxilliary gymnasium. Good to see a piece of the HWND tradition being utilized for the kids.

### 2005 grad receives kidney transplant

Daniel Szarama ’05 (NDP) and his family were truly blessed this Christmas season. On New Year’s Eve, Daniel received his second kidney transplant from a cadaver donor at University of Michigan Hospital



*Daniel Szarama ’05 (NDP) (left) with his siblings Katie ’04 (NDP) and Coty.*

in Ann Arbor. Daniel was born with Prune Belly Syndrome—acquired before birth—which affected most of his lower urinary tract and kidneys. At nine years old, he received his first kidney transplant from his mother Debra. The kidney lasted over eleven years, until Daniel’s antibodies built up an immunity to reject the organ. In September, Daniel was put back on the kidney

transplant waiting list, while his family tested again in hopes of finding a living donor. His sister, Katie (’04) was tested as a potential donor, but was an unsuccessful match because too many of Daniel’s antibodies recognized Katie’s antigens. Daniel was released from the hospital with his new kidney on January 5th. Please keep Daniel in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers. Daniel is currently a student at Baker College in Auburn Hills, Mich.

### Retirement

We would like to wish Dottie (Dorothy Carroll) a happy retirement! She has worked for 35 years, serving Notre Dame Prep, Oakland Catholic, and Pontiac Catholic students. We will surely miss her smiling face every day in the cafeteria. Thank you Dottie for all you did to serve the school and to promote the mission of Christian living. God bless you!

### Alumni Events

**Homecoming 2008:** Approximately 150 alumni returned to their alma mater for homecoming on a bit of a chilly night. Many visited the alumni tent and reconnected with each other and former teachers. We had food, drinks, and alumni giveaways, and after the game, about 30 alumni gathered at Red Ox for a post-game party. It was a great night! See you on September 25, 2009! Visit [www.ndpma.org](http://www.ndpma.org) for photos.

**Hockey Game:** On December 26th, about 40 alumni hockey players came out to the Troy Sports Center to play a friendly game of hockey, “old guys vs. young guys.” Thank you to Mike Lesnau ’06 (NDP) for organizing this event. Thanks, also, to the coaches Randy Campana, Dave Breuer and Bob Rosbury for their continued support. Mr. Ingram, father of Ben ’02 (NDP) and Tom ’06 (NDP), and Mr. Banda, father of Devon ’06 (NDP), refereed the game. Go to [www.ndpma.org](http://www.ndpma.org) for photos.

### Alumni Serving in the Military

West Point graduate Captain **Steve Chetcuti ’98 (ND)**—In Arizona, preparing for a one-year redeployment to Iraq in April.

**Nicholas Dokianos ’02 (ND)**—Army

**Charles Ouellette ’02 (NDP)**

**Carl Schmidt ’01 (NDP)**

**Louis Stramaglia ’03 (NDP)**—2nd Lieutenant United States Marine Corps, currently stationed in Quantico, Va.

### Please Pray for:

Eyan Konal, son of **Jeff ’89 (ND)** and Lori; diagnosed with neuroblastoma on the kidney. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy. Eyan is three years old.

### Announcements

**Kelly Cole ’99 (NDP)** engaged to Bob Patterson for a June ’09 wedding

**Katie Gerst ’02 (NDP)** engaged to Jake Lyons for an Aug. ’09 wedding

**Sarah Lesnau ’02 (NDP)** engaged to Norman Sturgill for a June ’09 wedding

**Jeff Petack ’03 (NDP)** engaged to Katharine Withorn for an Oct. ’09 wedding

**Amanda Schmitz ’02 (NDP)** engaged to **Paul Wezner ’02 (NDP)** for a June ’10 wedding

**Andrea Shanahan ’02 (NDP)** engaged to Andrew Priday for an Aug. ’09 wedding



**Dan Staniszewski '02 (NDP)** engaged to Lauren Peterson for an Apr. '10 wedding

**Kala Thomas '00 (NDP)** engaged to Stephen Parker for a Sept. '09 wedding

### Weddings

**Krista Berry '02 (NDP)** and Mark Ivanovic—September 2008

**Victoria Butcko '97 (NDP)** and Jacob Darcy—September 20, 2008

**Breanne Duerr '00 (NDP)** and Matthew Kelty—July 26, 2008

**Katilin Moxley '02 (NDP)** and William Edgerton—October 21, 2006

**Jennifer Petty '02 (NDP)** and Jason Minich—May 30, 2008

**Naasshon Phifer '03 (NDP)** and Jamil Saliba—October 18, 2008

**Sean Stringer '03 (NDP)** and Chelsea Carlson—December, 20, 2008

**Luis Vasquez '98 (NDP)** and Adrienne Vasquez—June 28, 2008

**Jill Zimmerman '98 (NDP)** and James Patterson—August 30, 2008

### Births

Ella Louise Cichy, born August 18, 2008. Proud parents: **Jennifer Cichy (Cole) '97 (NDP)** and Stephen Cichy

Danny Healy, born June 23, 2008. Proud parents: **Lisa Syrowik-Healy '98 (NDP)** and **Jeff Healy '98 (NDP)**

Aiden Brent Poole, born July 25, 2008. Proud parents: **Alison Poole (Leon) '99 (NDP)** and Brent Poole

Jack Rathsburg, born June 26, 2008. Proud parents: **Tracey Healy Rathsburg '00 (NDP)** and **Marty Rathsburg '00 (NDP)**

Arelia Henahan, born November 28, 2008. Proud parents: **Rachel Nacienceno Henahan '98 (NDP)** and **James Henahan '98 (NDP)**

Gracie Spezia, born February 25, 2005, and Ellie Spezia, born August 16, 2007. Proud parents: **Katie O'Brien Spezia '97 (NDP)** and Tony Spezia

Taela Aurora Richards, born October 19, 2008, in Texas. Proud parents: **Miguel Richards '74 (PC)** and Becky Richards

### Rest in Peace

Please pray for:

Theodore Adamczak Sr., father of **Ted Jr. '75 (ND)**, **Mike '77 (ND)**

Ambrose A. Bologna, father of Sandy Favrow (NDMA-MD principal), grandfather of **Daniel '03 (NDP)**

John J. Canu, father of **Jim '71 (ND)**, **Gary '72 (ND)**

Mary Coudron, mother of Grace Seroka (NDP faculty)

**Egidio "Gino" D'Agostini '64 (ND)**, father of **Gino '98 (NDP)**, **Rosina '99 (NDP)**, **Gina '01 (NDP)**, **Michael '03 (NDP)**, brother of **Antonio '63 (ND)**, **Jim '73 (ND)**

John R. D'Aoust, father of **Ron '66 (ND)**, **Don '68 (ND)**

Joseph DiFranco Sr., father of **Frank '69 (ND)**, **Joe Jr. '75 (ND)**, **Jerry '76 (ND)**, **Jim**, **John '84 (ND)**, **Jeff '85 (ND)**, **Jay '86 (ND)**, grandfather of **Jerry II '01 (ND)**, **Michael '01 (ND)**

Elizabeth J. Debol, mother of **Daryl '68 (ND)**, **Dave '74 (ND)**, **Dan '81 (ND)**

Emilio Fabbri, father of **Dennis '83 (ND)**

Frederick and Rose Gray, parents of **Don '70 (ND)**, the late **Paul '67 (ND)** and Gary; grandparents of **Chris '02 (ND)** and **Andrew '05 (ND)**

Robert D. Herbertson, father of **Tom '72 (ND)**, **Joe '82 (ND)**

Lucille Hergott, mother of **Dave '72 (ND)**, grandmother of **Ross Broadwell '94 (ND)**

Paul F. Horodko, father of **Joe '76 (ND)**, the late **Larry '80 (ND)**

Mary Anne Housey, mother of **Chris '99 (ND)**, sister of **Mike Koch '75 (ND)**

Margaret Kaschalk, mother of **Al '84 (ND)**

Ralph P. Kohlitz, father of **Don '70 (ND)**, **Tim '73 (ND)**, **Jeff '76 (ND)**, grandfather of **Brekan '04 (ND)**

Veniece M. Krisak, mother of **Chuck '78 (ND)** and the late **Bart '73 (ND)**

Miles Lueck, father of **Michael '60 (ND)**, **Tom '62 (ND)**, **Jim '64 (ND)**, **Joe '77 (ND)**, grandfather of **Matthew '90 (ND)**

**Salvatore F. Mancuso '67 (ND)**, brother of **Frank Mancuso '74 (ND)**

**David M. Marcil '75 (ND)**, brother of **Ray '74 (ND)**, **Rick '79 (ND)**

**Charles "Chuck" J. Martin '86 (ND)**

Bruce Jerold McGhee, father of Jerry McGhee (NDPMA faculty)

Philip Monaco, father of Cindi Kelly (ND staff), father-in-law of **Mike Kelly '73 (ND)**, grandfather of **Patrick '00 (ND)**, **Thomas '03 (ND)**

Vita F. Nannini, mother of **Mike '71 (ND)**, **John '73 (ND)**, **Tom '83 (ND)**

Enrico Nardone, father of **Anthony '66 (ND)**, **Mario '75 (ND)**, grandfather of **Anthony '07 (NDP)**, **Phil '08 (NDP)**, **Victor '08 (NDP)**, **Paul '11 (NDP)**

Mary J. O'Neil, mother of **Jim '70 (ND)**, **Mike '72 (ND)**, **John '75 (ND)**

John A. Okoniewski, father of **John '84 (ND)**, grandfather of **Megan '06 (NDP)**

Susan Parker-Hewson, wife of **James Hewson '70 (ND)**, mother of **Domenic Terenzi '06 (NDP)** and **Sydney Terenzi '08 (NDP)**

Frederick T. Paruszkiewicz, father of **Tom '66 (ND)**, **Gary '68 (ND)**, grandfather of **Matt '95 (ND)**

Clarence Rademaker, father of **Dean '85 (ND)**

Brenda J. Rago, mother of **Steve '83 (ND)**

Anthony E. Ruda, father of **Chuck '80 (ND)**

Rose E. Schulte, mother of **Dan Weitzel '71 (ND)**

Nicholas A. Shock, father of **Brian '92 (ND)**

Barbara Sottu Santi, mother-in-law of Marie Place (NDP staff)

John Stefek, husband of the late Mary Stefek (ND staff), father of **Chuck '58 (ND)**, **David '63 (ND)**

Ronald Stinson, former librarian, ND

Geraldine R. Swan, mother of **John '77 (ND)**, Kenneth (ND faculty), mother-in-law of late **Anthony Perez '97 (ND)**

Phyllis Tacconelli, mother of **John '77 (ND)**, **Dave '80 (ND)**

**Robert D. Tourangeau '74 (ND)**, brother of **Chuck '68 (ND)**, **Richard '70 (ND)**, **Jim '77 (ND)**, the late **John '73 (ND)**

**Daniel J. Tuladzieck '80 (ND)**

Olga Wenzel, mother of Sylvia Mulrenin (NDP faculty), grandmother of **Megan Mulrenin '09 (NDP)**

John A. Winkelseh Jr., father of **John III '80 (ND)**, **Matt '89 (ND)**

Amalia Younan, mother of **Jim '93 (ND)**

Walter J. Zarkowski, father of **Pat '74 (ND)**, **Paul '83 (ND)**

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

# broadway seoul

## NDP ALUM BRINGS ENGLISH TO KOREAN STUDENTS VIA THE STAGE

One thing many alumni say about Notre Dame is that they received a great education. But just as important, they say they've made great friendships, learned how to be a good person and to share that with others. Meredith Gifford '02 (NDP) shows how she continues to live the mission of the school at home and abroad through her love for theatre. In September, Gifford sat down in the triangle with IRISH to share her journey of family, theatre and life.

aged to work backstage as well, so I could understand how every aspect of the theatre works. I even got a chance to do some hair and makeup design as well, which was really neat. I was singing, acting, and dancing every day and took voice lessons two times a week. Rehearsals three hours a night, five days a week!

**IRISH:** *Was there one show or experience in college that was a turning point for you?*

**GIFFORD:** There was one show in my

**IRISH:** *When did you get involved in theatre?*

**GIFFORD:** My first year here, I was shy and unsure of myself. I participated in cheerleading and soccer. When my brother was in the play "The Music Man" in 2000, I came to every show and thought that I had to be in it. So in 2001, my junior year, I tried out for "Oklahoma" and thought I'd end up in the choir. But to my surprise, I got the supporting role and loved it! I was also in the band at the time. I really felt like I found my place. I was starting to gain more confidence and had met some good friends through the theatre program. It was a good support system. My teachers, Mr. Kotarski, Mr. Fazzini, and Mr. Martin really helped me build my confidence through my work in theatre.

I have ND to thank for helping me find what I wanted to be when I grew up. It's hard at 16 to know such things—I was lucky enough that I did.

**IRISH:** *Who inspired you?*

**GIFFORD:** My mom and dad really inspired me and were my biggest supporters. They would be the first to know that theatre is a risky and difficult business, but there was not one second when my mom and dad didn't support me. They encouraged me to follow my dream.

**IRISH:** *Where did you attend college?*

**GIFFORD:** I went to Western Michigan University for my first year. Then, I transferred to Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI, where I majored in music and theatre.

**IRISH:** *How were you involved in theatre in college?*

**GIFFORD:** While at Viterbo, I was in the Fine Arts Center all day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. I received lots of practice by performing in many shows. I was encour-



PHOTOS COURTESY MEREDITH GIFFORD



junior year called “Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean” that really stands out. It was about a group of people who were disciples of James Dean. I played the character Mona and it really was the first time I threw myself completely into a role. It was exhaustive. I worked from five to seven o’clock on my lines, then had rehearsal from seven to 10, and then would go home and research James Dean. At some point each night, I’d also complete all my other homework. My professors were very supportive. And I had one professor who really pushed me. It really helped to further build my confidence. I remember a time during junior year when I was ready to give up and I called my mom. She talked to me and just told me not to quit. She encouraged me to stick it out and to just keep going.

**IRISH:** *What skills/type of performing have you developed most over the past few years? Is there a type of performing that you prefer?*

**GIFFORD:** I’ve probably spent the most time developing my singing. During my freshman year, I developed “vocal nodules” (bumps in my vocal chords). It’s why Julie Andrews, one of my heroes, can’t sing anymore. I had to give up singing for a bit, which was really hard. Just when I wanted to soak it all in, I had to stop singing. At the end of 2003, I had a vocal scope and everything came out clear. Now I get checked every 2 years. But my favorite type of performing is acting. I like it the best. Singing is a close second.

**IRISH:** *What recent projects have you been working on?*

**GIFFORD:** I will be working in South Korea teaching Korean children English through live shows. It is like “Blues Clues” with lots of repetition and active audience participation. Direct audience participation is part of the show. One show we will be doing is all about recycling. We repeat “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle” and we’re dressed up like penguins. It’s neat because we develop the pro-

grams, so we have lots of ownership about what is done. We also teach the students English through game shows. It is a much smaller stage with more student/teacher interactions.



Meredith Gifford with two girls at the Peace Town orphanage in South Korea.

**IRISH:** *Where did you find out about this project?*

**GIFFORD:** I found it on Craig’s List. I had to check to make sure it was legitimate. You have to be careful, though. I sent a resume and headshot in February. [Gifford explained that in acting, a resume consists of a one-page resume and a head shot (portrait). She had to go to Chicago to take her head shots. It is rather expensive —\$500-\$1,000. They take about 200 pictures and you choose four to purchase. When you audition, you take your resume and head shot.]

In April, the people in charge of the Korean project e-mailed back with three questions. “One, are you still interested? Two, what is your availability? And three, do you have any clips on You Tube?” I did have a clip on You Tube from a show I did at the Grandbury Opera House in Grandbury, Texas. It was a 60s show. The clip had me and a few other girls, but they thought I was one of the other girls, (who I thought was a great singer). But I had to be honest with them and tell them that I was not her. They only had one slot open and told me they’d be in contact with me in about two or three months.

In mid-July, they e-mailed me and asked if I was still interested because I hadn’t answered any previous e-mails. Well, I didn’t receive any previous e-mails,

so that made me nervous. The manager e-mailed an official application and said after that I could be offered the official job.

It took another month, but in August, I was officially offered the job. I had a lot of paperwork to complete along with a criminal background check because I would be working with children. I’m considered an “edutainer” and I had to get a teaching visa.

**IRISH:** *How is the program set up?*

**GIFFORD:** The kids live in a village that resembles a street in England. They are not allowed to speak Korean and neither are the teachers. It is a parent-paid program that is like a camp where students learn during the day from teachers and from the live shows. We work with the teachers to see their content so we can reinforce the learning.



After purchasing a “panda hat,” Meredith Gifford poses with hat vendor in the Itaewon district of Seoul, South Korea.

My program is set up so I could perform for three months and then have three months where I am part of the creative team. The creative team directs, writes and designs costumes.

It is a 40-hour work week with two days off throughout the week. On the weekends, the village is open to the public and serves as

# Teachers (at Notre Dame Prep) encouraged me to work to my potential. I remember Mr. Roy Johnson, who especially took the time to help me be academically strong.

Meredith Gifford

a theme park for other children.

**IRISH:** *What are your thoughts about the upcoming year?*

**GIFFORD:** I am very excited to be doing this. My dream is to work on Broadway, and I'm glad to be working in educational theatre right now. I would love to create and direct a children's TV show one day.

**IRISH:** *How did your NDP experience help you to achieve your goals?*

**GIFFORD:** Notre Dame is like a small community where everyone knows each other. My freshman year, I was shy and didn't know anyone. I kind of started falling through the cracks, but the school wouldn't let me. Teachers encouraged me to work to my potential. I remember Mr. Johnson, who especially took the time to help me to be academically strong. Notre Dame is a hard school, but it prepared me. I learned how to earn strong grades and I finally began looking people in the eye.

Notre Dame was a family community from the first day I arrived. In some schools, kids get left behind. But here, kids are really cared for. Teachers come to events and shows. They know you and so many stay here a long time, which says so much.

Teachers know when you've scored a touchdown in a game or when you performed in a show. That speaks volumes.

My brother Joe, class of 2011, has teachers now that I had. They always ask



Meredith Gifford, right, and fellow edutainers Matt and Tonya backstage after their first Christmas show at Gyeonggi English Village in South Korea.

COURTESY MEREDITH GIFFORD

about our family, about me, and about my other brother Sam.

**IRISH:** *What would be your advice to other aspiring performers who are struggling to find the right roles for them?*

**GIFFORD:** Don't give up because when you think you're done, something comes along. Keep a good support system. There is a plan out there for you. You will find your way. ■

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Gifford also lived in New York City for four months to pursue acting and theatre where she met two roommates through friends. She auditioned eight to 10 times a week with a typical day consisting of rising at six in the morning, signing in to audition at seven o'clock where she might have been a number 85 out of 100, and by 2 p.m., maybe having a chance to sing for 30 seconds. During the evenings, she taught ballet at the New York Kids Club. She also participated in a Vera Wang fashion show for a couple of days. She remembers being locked in a room because they didn't want her to see Vera.*

*Gifford also took a summer job as an elf in New Hampshire at Santa's Village, which is a theme park that according to her, is "all-Christmas, all-the-time." The show won "Best Theme Park Show in the World" in 2007, rated by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions.*

## CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Call for Entries!

The Alumni Art Show is returning to:

Notre Dame Preparatory School

Homecoming Weekend 2009

Look for details in the next IRISH.

## SAVE THE DATE

HOMEcomings 2009

September 25, 2009

## BUSINESS NETWORKING

Join the Notre Dame Biz Club! As alumni, you have the opportunity to network with other business owners in the Notre Dame community.

Contact Rob Huth or Sebastian Minaudo through the alumni office for more information: [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org)

## SOCIAL! SOCIAL!

The Notre Dame Alumni group gathers for a Happy Hour the first Wednesday of every month. Currently, we are meeting at Champ's in Troy. Stop by at 7 p.m. for a chance to socialize with other alumni. It's a great time! (For more information and specific dates, please visit the alumni website.)



# italian cooking

## JOE VICARI LETS US IN ON HIS RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

On October 15, 2008, Joe Vicari '75 (ND) and his wife Rosalie were inducted into the CATCH Hall of Fame during the CATCH Night of Champions at The Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Rosalie and Joe, who shared the spotlight with Curtis Granderson of the Detroit Tigers and Florine and Peter Ministrelli, were honored for their contributions to the community and for supporting children's causes. Recently, Vicari sat down with IRISH to discuss his career, his restaurants and Catholic education.

Joe Vicari knows what it means to be successful, to work hard, and to keep the Christian mission of Notre Dame alive. He also is a beacon for all Notre Dame alumni who have a dream. Joe Vicari is a local businessman, father, and friend.

### BEGINNINGS

Vicari opened his first restaurant in 1984, a Ram's Horn in Warren, followed by Lido's on the Lake in St. Clair Shores in 1990. Thus began the Andiamo Restaurant Group. At that time, he didn't have a lot of knowledge on how to run a restaurant. One important thing he did learn quickly, though, was that a restaurateur's projects are often undercapitalized.

Fast forward to today: Vicari has just opened his nineteenth restaurant, Rojo Mexican Bistro, in Novi, Michigan. When asked if opening a restaurant now is easier than it was with his first, he said the mechanics are similar. "You just have to pay attention to the basics: quality food, quality ingredients, properly trained staff, advertising and getting the word out that you're open. Those are the keys to opening a successful restaurant."

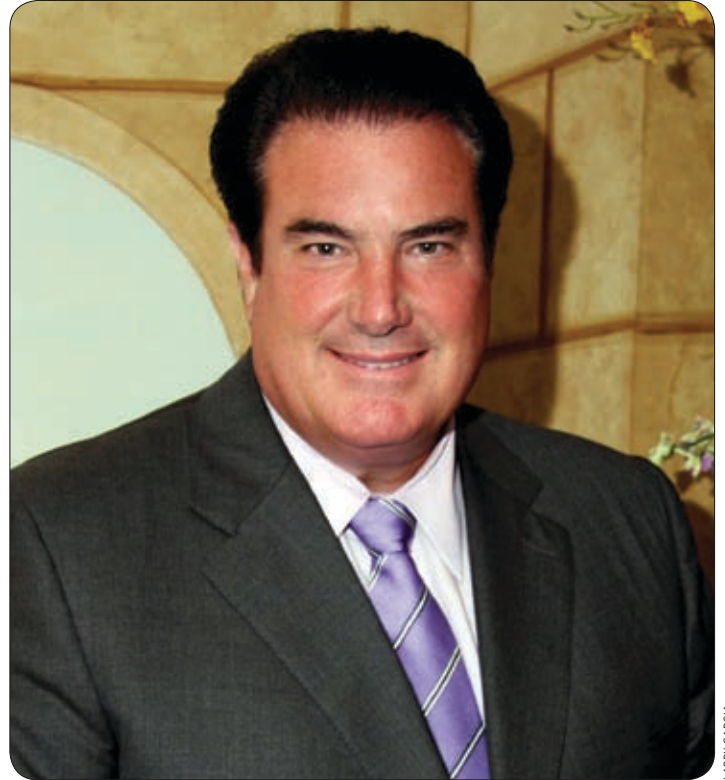
### SUCCESS IN A CHALLENGING ECONOMY

Being a business owner in today's economic climate is much different than when Vicari started out. A trend that he is seeing now in the restaurant industry is that to survive in a challenging economy, dining establishments must find a way to give something back to customers to get them in the door. "It started with fast-food value meals and now has spread into the fine-dining marketplace as well," he said.

Last year his restaurants were ahead of the curve when they began offering buy-one-get-one-free gift cards as a way to give back to the communities that support their businesses. Currently, Andiamo also offers \$100 gift cards available at Costco for \$79. "We know money



Joe Vicari, with Notre Dame Alumni Director Kelly Cole at Andiamo's Warren, Mich., location.



LARRY GARCIA

is tight for everyone right now," Vicari said.

A large part of the philosophy behind Vicari's restaurants is that they offer quality food, the best ingredients, excellent service—all sold at a value—to the customer. And in an effort to further support the communities that support his restaurants, Vicari uses local food providers, mostly in the summer and mainly from organic farms that provide fresh produce.

Meals at Andiamo establishments are not a la carte and servers go through extensive training. The restaurants are largely chef-driven and as the businesses grow, more control is given to the chefs.

"The menus are all fairly similar throughout our restaurant group," Vicari said, "but we let the chefs get very creative with their daily specials."

For those considering opening a restaurant, Vicari offers tips and a bit of caution: "You must consider the local economy; make sure it's a good market to invest in, first of all. Secondly, find a location that actually needs a restaurant or that may need a niche eatery in the area." Lastly, Vicari says to make sure there is adequate capital. "You must have enough staying power during the time it takes to build your business," he said.

### LOOKING BACK TO ND

At Harper Woods Notre Dame, Vicari played football all four years and baseball until he was a junior. Reflecting on his time at ND, he said his favorite memories are of the lifelong friends he made, some of whom currently work with him in his restaurant group.

"I enjoyed going to an all-boys school," he said. "I enjoyed the





Rojo Mexican Bistro, the Andiamo Restaurant Group's newest establishment, features familiar Mexican dishes as well as more contemporary signature dishes. It is located at 44375 12 Mile Road in Novi, MI. (248) 374-4600. [www.rojomexicanbistro.com](http://www.rojomexicanbistro.com) [www.andiamoitalia.com](http://www.andiamoitalia.com)

camaraderie. I enjoyed the sports." He also has fond memories of many of his teachers, including Mr. Cosky, Mr. Vitale, Mr. Vachon and Mr. Rice.

Vicari credits his Catholic education for instilling him with the values of discipline and good work habits, which have been very instrumental to his success. His three children, Theresa (26), Dominic (24), and Carmella (23), also attended either Regina High School or Notre Dame in Harper Woods.

Looking back to a few years ago on the effort to keep ND open, Vicari, who was on the school's board and had previously worked on fund-raising, said that when the Archdiocese of Detroit made the decision to shut the school down, he worked closely with other alumni and met with Monsignor John Zenz at the AOD offices to try to keep the school open. In the end, he says, it became clear that the decision was final.

Vicari said his initial reaction to the announcement of the school closing was shock. "I couldn't believe it. I'm pretty sure even Regina at that time was not thinking about closing. And I always think about how U of D Jesuit continues to be successful on the east side."

He also noted that for some reason Harper Woods Notre Dame's alumni have never been as strong as U of D or De La Salle's, for example. But he believes a lot of them would have stepped up to the plate if given the opportunity or if they knew how dire the situation was. When asked how he feels about it now, Vicari said he's still saddened. "What a great school it was. And on top of that, it had one of the best football fields and one of the best gyms out of all of the area high schools."

Vicari acknowledged that there is still uncertainty with how best to preserve the memories of HWND and keep the traditions alive. "I'd hate to see the Notre Dame and Marist tradition just wither and eventually die. In my mind, there is a logical connection with what is going on at ND Prep in Pontiac. It just makes sense that the Notre Dame and Marist philosophy of educating kids should continue to grow in southeast Michigan—just a little farther north of 8 Mile and Kelly." ■

*EDITOR'S NOTE: CATCH was founded by former Detroit Tigers Manager Sparky Anderson in 1987 to benefit Children's Hospital and Henry Ford Hospital. CATCH provides a wide range of items and services that help improve the quality of life of sick, injured and needy pediatric patients. [www.catchcharity.org](http://www.catchcharity.org)*

## TRAVELING IRISH DINNERS

The Notre Dame Alumni Association is visiting a college campus near you! If you like to eat FREE food, this event is for you! Our Irish Dinners are a way for us to keep in contact with our young alumni, and to foster conversations about how we can better serve them!

Recently, we visited Grand Valley State University, University of Michigan, University of Detroit Mercy, Albion College, and Michigan State University.

In March, we are visiting:

Eastern Michigan University – March 5

Oakland Community College – March 12

Macomb Community College – March 12

Oakland University – March 12

Wayne State University – March 25th

Check the website for future college visits and for details on specific location(s) and times.

## CAREER CONNECTIONS

Looking for alumni who are interested in sharing their career journey with our high-school students through conversations, formal panel discussions, or through mentor relationships. This initiative is a way for alumni to share their talents with our students who are considering countless career options.

If you are interested in sharing your career with NDP students, please contact Kelly Cole, Alumni Director, [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org), (248) 373-2171, ext. 4

## ALUMNI GROUPS ON FACEBOOK OR LINKED IN

The Notre Dame Alumni Association has groups on both Facebook and Linked In. Join these groups for reunion information, news, and alumni events. Plus, it's a great chance to keep in contact with former classmates. For more information, or to help with these sites, please contact Kelly Cole, Alumni Director, [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org).

## NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL VIDEOS

Do you have any old football videos from HWND? We have an alumnus searching for some videos of his playing days in 1985. Ron Mack '72 (ND) also is looking for his senior-year football videos, which would have been in 1971. If you can help, please contact Kelly Cole, Alumni Director, [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org).

## LETTERS AND NOTES

WANTED: ALUMNI UPDATES: We are looking for short updates from our Alumni. Whether you graduated in '58 from Notre Dame High School, '78 from Pontiac Catholic, '08 from Notre Dame Prep, or somewhere in between, we want to know what you're doing. Please send your updates to our Alumni Director, Kelly Cole at [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org), or call 248-373-2171, ext. 4. Thank you!

## KALA THOMAS SETS HER GOALS HIGH AND THEN MEETS THEM

Right: Kala Thomas '00 (NDP) graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School after completing studies at Purdue University. Far right: Kala and fiancé Stephen Parker are planning a September 2009 wedding.



PHOTOS COURTESY KALA THOMAS



# student, lawyer, teacher

Kala Thomas '00 (NDP) knew right away that Purdue University was the school of choice for her. When asked what made her choose Purdue, she said, "Actually, another NDP student mentioned that she had received literature from Purdue and was not interested. I asked her to bring it to school—something about it just made me want to find out more." After she visited the university and learned more about it, she was hooked.

In the fall of 2000, Thomas was off to West Lafayette, Indiana, to begin her college career. At first, she thought she was going to major in medical technology because she wanted to go into the field of forensic science, but later she discovered that although the field was extremely interesting, it wasn't for her. "I hated the classes required for the major," she said. She changed her major during her sophomore year to Law and Society, a combination of sociology and criminology, and she loved it. She minored in psychology.

Recalling life on campus, Thomas candidly says one of the best things about her time at Purdue was sorority life. "I really enjoyed it. And the friendships I gained will last a lifetime, I believe."

At Purdue, she was the membership chair of the Epsilon Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. But her memberships didn't stop there. Thomas was also part of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Mortar Board National Honor Society, and the 2nd Vice President of the Black Student Union.

Upon completion of her studies at Purdue, Thomas decided to apply to Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing. "I have always considered law," she said. "But I always questioned whether or not I truly wanted to practice it—and actually, I am still considering that same question."

At first, she didn't know a lot about Cooley, but "I applied because the school was getting a lot of commendations for the practicality of its program. Many people said that students gain so much practical experience through the school, and that its students are truly ready to practice law upon graduation." Commenting on the application process for Cooley, Thomas says that it was fairly simple, and nothing like the bar application, which was about thirty pages and took about three months to complete.

During her tenure at Cooley, Thomas continued her very active lifestyle. She participated in the Moot Court Program as a First Year Competitor. She also was an Intra-School Competitor, a judge, a senior judge, and a teaching assistant/competition coordinator in the program, in addition to time spent as a legal intern in Cooley's Estate Planning Clinic. Thomas also was a coach for a Michigan Youth-in-Debate team.

Currently, Thomas is a policy writer for a daycare corporation. She hopes to one day go back into education. After graduating from Purdue, she spent time teaching seventh-grade English and Social Studies. This time, though, she'd like to be on the administrative side of the classroom and focus on school reform.

Thomas discussed how Notre Dame Prep prepared her for life after high school. She said that her first year at Purdue was like 13th grade at ND Prep. "I realized after getting to know other people in college that not everyone has the same advantage I had from attending Prep.

Mr. Greg Simon '89 (ND), who taught her World Cultures and Government, and Ms. Connors (Elbode), who was her French teacher, were special inspirations to her throughout her time at NDP and beyond.

Simon said that as a high school student it was clear that she was going to be successful. "She was bright, well-mannered, and had a maturity that is always wonderful to see in young people."

Irish Week during her senior year was a favorite memory from Notre Dame. She also remembers Mr. Simon's Government Class' presidential rallies and elections. She was the campaign manager and later was voted in as Speaker of the House. She also enjoyed the law class trials and chemistry-class experiments with Mr. (Ed) Cackowski '61 (ND).

Thomas made it a point to say that without her Catholic education she wouldn't be where she is today. "I truly value my preparation for college. The transition was extremely smooth for me. I attribute that to Notre Dame." ■

# rock & roll friends

## ND GRADS TAKE DETROIT BY STORM

Harper Woods Notre Dame grads Tony DeNardo '90 and Danny Methric '90 were buddies in high school. Their friendship led to one of the Midwest's most popular blues-rock band. Formed in 2000, the Muggs were the culmination of a lot of hard work, prodigious talent and the determination not to let a serious medical detour get in the way of a dream.

Before there was such a thing as the Muggs, guitar-player Methric and bass-player DeNardo were playing together in two bands at the same time: The Detroit Underground Blues Band and Fat Belly Brown. Methric eventually ran into Matt Rost, a local drummer who had actually been in Fat Belly Brown himself for about two weeks. Rost was interested in doing something different and the three musicians got together and formed the Muggs. It didn't take long for the band to start gelling as all three players had been musicians for at least seven years.

In October 2000, the Muggs recorded their first EP demo to get gigs in local bars and pubs. Positive buzz about the band was getting out in the Detroit area and the Muggs started to play better shows in larger venues.

Things were looking great for the band when, in 2001, DeNardo suffered a hemorrhagic stroke that nearly ended his life. He was completely paralyzed on his right side and was unable to speak. He survived his stroke but was in bad shape. Because of their close friendship and out of respect for the music the band was playing, the Muggs decided they could not go on without DeNardo. Methric and Rost occupied themselves with several side projects for a couple of years until DeNardo, who had made great progress through rehabilitation and was up and walking with a cane, figured out a way to play bass on a keyboard. Using his left hand and configuring a Fender Rhodes keyboard to perform the bass lines he used to play on guitar, DeNardo got the sound they wanted and the Muggs were back in business.

In 2003, after about a month of rehearsals together, the band returned to their local home venue, the Cadieux Café in Detroit, almost two years to the day after their last show together, to play their comeback show. Since then it has been nothing but good times and good music as the Muggs picked up right where they left off. In late 2008, they released their second full-length CD, *On With the Show*, which has been met with very positive reviews. In a recent interview with IRISH magazine, Tony DeNardo answered a number of questions:

**IRISH:** *Your music echoes many of the blues/rock acts of yesteryear—Humble Pie, Rory Gallagher, the original Fleetwood Mac with Peter Green, Savoy Brown, etc. From where else does the band draw musical inspiration?*

**DeNARDO:** The Beatles are one of mine and Danny's all-time faves. But digging deeper into the foundation of rock are the blues.



DOUG COOMBE

Harper Woods Notre Dame '90 alums Tony DeNardo, left, and Danny Methric, far right, have risen to national prominence as the Muggs. Matt Rost, center, is the group's drummer. They recently played at ND Prep's Chill Fest.

Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, BB. King, Freddie King (my personal fave), Little Milton, Skip James. Even some more obscure British blues rockers like the Aynsley Dunbar Retaliation, the Groundhogs, Taste (Rory Gallagher's first band). On the American side, you have Cactus, and the James Gang. It's endless.

**IRISH:** *You and Danny have been friends and band mates for a long time, and graduated from Harper Woods Notre Dame together in 1990. Did you know Danny before ND?*

**DeNARDO:** No. I met Danny freshman year in 1986. We were the tiniest guys on the freshman football squad. Our friendship grew from that time on throughout high school. We always hung out with the same crowd and had four years of Spanish class together. After high school, Danny went to MSU and I went to Oakland University and later Wayne State University. I would visit Danny at MSU. He was learning to play acoustic guitar and made playing look so alluring—I had to try it for myself. He acquired skills on the guitar much faster than me and subsequently, Danny talked me into playing bass guitar. At the age of 21, Danny and I started our first band and have never looked back.

**IRISH:** *Your most recent CD release is fantastic! How has "On With the Show" been received from the music press?*

**DeNARDO:** Thank you. We have sent "On with the Show" out to all the important magazines, and webzines. The reviewers loved it. Our proudest review thus far comes from the August 2008 issue of *Classic Rock* magazine. They gave us an 8 out of 10.

**IRISH:** *We saw a recent show at Cadieux Café (December 13, wsg Rattlesnake Shake). It was great as usual. Do you prefer playing live or in a recording situation?*

**DeNARDO:** Both, actually. The two are very different processes. When playing live you can draw inspiration from the energy of the



# At ND, I met Danny freshmen year in 1986. We were the tiniest guys on the freshman football squad. Our friendship grew from that time on throughout high school.

Tony DeNardo

crowd. Your meter can be faster or slower depending on the mood of your drummer. I love that you only have one shot to get the song right. Sometimes you are allowed to vamp and stretch out if the song requires it. In the studio, we are more concerned with getting the right “tones” and executing our parts flawlessly. Then we sift through and assemble all those parts to our liking. Nothing can go unnoticed.

**IRISH:** *We heard you played at the Notre Dame Prep Chillfest in January. Do you think the Muggs style of music resonates with today's generation of teenagers?*

**DeNARDO:** I thought we were very well received at the Chillfest. Kids aren't dumb. Radio has gone south for about the last 10 years. It amazes me, though, the power of suggestion that radio has. But I sense a sea change and after being lulled by radio mediocrity for so long, change is coming. What the Muggs offer is honest, exciting songwriting as well as stage prowess and a true guitar hero in Danny Methric. It is our hope that NDP students were inspired by our enthusiasm for music and live performance.

**IRISH:** *How was your experience on Fox-TV's, "The Next Great American Band?" It got the Muggs national notoriety, but it seemed more pop-oriented than serious rock and roll.*

**DeNARDO:** We were honored to be one of only twelve bands selected to represent the nation. That's out of more than 10,000 applicants. We considered the pros and weighed the cons about being on an "Idol"-type show. In the end, we could not pass on the exposure aspect, and signed our lives away. (Haha.) I was excited,

and scared to death at times but we actually had very low expectations about our chances to win because of the very point you mentioned, “pop-oriented.” We wished the show showcased our

rock prowess more, but in the end we were enveloped by the same machine that radio represents. No room for a real rock band. Still I'm very hopeful that radio and TV will break from its insultingly formulaic manner. It's getting to the point where there is no room anymore for truly creative artists. We prided ourselves in symbolically giving the “thumbs down” to the judges when they dissed Danny's singing. We were the only band to stand up for ourselves and say, “This is who we are! And we are relevant!” ■



In January, the Muggs played at the annual Notre Dame Prep Chillfest, which is sponsored by the student council.

*To learn more about the Muggs, visit their web site, [www.themuggs.com](http://www.themuggs.com); or [www.myspace.com/themuggs](http://www.myspace.com/themuggs). See them live March 13th PJ's Lager House on Michigan Ave. in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood.*

## DOES THE NOTRE DAME ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAVE YOUR ADDRESS AND E-MAIL ADDRESS ON FILE?

Please add us to your list of people to update when changes occur. We want to make sure you consistently receive vital information from your alumni group. Visit the website to update your information. Our goal is to send our monthly e-mail broadcasts of reunion news, information, and alumni events. Help us to serve you better! Thanks! Here's where to go:

[www.ndpma.org](http://www.ndpma.org)>Notre Dame Preparatory>Alumni>Sign-Up Form

## VISIT NDHS

Are you interested in visiting Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods? If you are interested in getting together with your former classmates for a “walk down memory lane” please contact the Alumni Office: Kelly Cole, [kcole@ndpma.org](mailto:kcole@ndpma.org) or (248) 373-2171, ext. 4.

## DISCOUNTS

ALL alumni (ND, NDP, PC, OC) are welcome to attend NDP school events at a \$1-off discount. This includes athletics, plays and con-

certs. If you need a replacement card, please contact the Alumni Office. If you attend a game without your card, you can still receive the discount by filling out the appropriate alumni information. GO IRISH!

## ATTENTION ALL CHOIR ALUMNI

This year's Alumni Choir Concert will take place on Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m., location TBA. There will be a rehearsal the night before, May 15, from 6-8 p.m. in the choir room. Anyone who has been in choir is welcome to be part of this concert. We would like to send out rehearsal materials during March. If you are interested in singing with us, please e-mail Mr. Fazzini at [dfazzini@ndpma.org](mailto:dfazzini@ndpma.org), or join our NDP Alumni Choir group on Facebook. Send a message saying that you want to be part of the concert and include your e-mail and phone number. Also, this year's Choir BBQ will take place on Thursday, May 21, from 4–8 p.m. at Independence Oaks County Park. Concert on the Hill will take place on Friday, June 5, from 7–9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. We can't wait to see all of you!



Above: Bryan Ureel '82 (ND) and wife Jamie. Left: Bourbon Street illustration created for the J. Walter Thompson ad agency in 2004 and used to promote the National Automobile Dealers Association convention in New Orleans.

# drawing dreams

ALUM CREDITS HARD WORK AND DAD'S ADVICE FOR HIS SUCCESS

BRYAN UREEL

Career direction for most people doesn't happen until the later years of high school or beyond. For commercial-artist Bryan Ureel '82 (ND), his career path began in the second grade.

"I was not any better with crayons than anyone else in second grade, but my imagination seemed to be," said Ureel. "I could draw the best crazy-looking monsters. Ever since then I've enjoyed putting down on paper what I could dream."

Now, Ureel is drawing his dreams at Flying Fish Studios, a creative-services agency located in Birmingham, Michigan. He and his two partners offer award-winning graphic design, illustration, digital imaging, retouching and photography to clients ranging from Coca-Cola, Disney, Chrysler, Ford and Honda, to Steelcase and Carhartt.

An alumnus of Detroit's College for Creative Studies, Ureel always has been a fan of professional artists. "I was forever curious about technique and mediums and how the great artists did things," he said. "I wasn't born with a golden paintbrush in my mouth, but I sure was wired for art. I really wanted to do it. But I have to constantly work at it and my talent is still growing."

He said his first professional work in the arts began right after

graduating from Notre Dame High School in 1982. "It was with a company that created ads, catalogs and brochures for local businesses. I was hired in to help out wherever I could and worked my way through college."

After college, Ureel worked freelance for about five years and then with another company for five more before starting Flying Fish with his partners. "There were three of us that started Flying Fish and we all have equal partnership. We've been in business for eight years now."

## INFLUENCES

Looking back on his inspirations and influences, Ureel says that his dad was a major reason for how he pursued his career and what ultimately made him a successful businessman. "My dad always told me when I was growing up, 'If you are going to do something, do it right.' That stuck with me and it's how I approach everything. I wish more people would."

Ureel also cites a professor at College for Creative Studies, Gary Colby, as a major influence. "He was a tough instructor, graded hard and expected everything from his students. Colby did this because he also was a working professional illustrator—in fact, almost all the staff were professional artists working around town—and he wanted to show us the 'real' world of commercial art. The field



is extremely competitive and when I started out I had to compete against artists who had been doing it for twenty years or more.”

## ALL NIGHTERS

“Colby’s real-world way of teaching made a lot of sense,” said Ureel. “The teachers at CCS gave a ton of homework, but I didn’t care. I was paying for my education and wanted to get every dime’s worth of it. I got so much homework that I routinely stayed up all night to get it done.”

All-nighters are not just in the realm of college students, Ureel says. “The advertising and commercial-art profession is very intense and challenging. We spend many, many hours coming up with the right concept or idea. It comes down to trying to figure out what a client is thinking, what is going to make him or her happy and what is going to work effectively for them. It’s mind-reading! After agreeing on a concept, the execution of the concept or idea, while time-consuming, almost seems easier.”

When asked about any common myths about his profession, Ureel responds, “Artists are flakes!! (Laughing) Well, not all of us are. But I think the creative side makes an artist different from other professionals. Typically, artists are ‘right-brained,’ where most people are a little of both. The right hemisphere controls creativity, music and emotion, while the left controls higher cognitive functions like math, language and quantum physics. I think commercial artists have a good deal of wiring on both sides, where, say, a doctor or accountant may have very little crossover wiring. But that’s only my theory.”

## STUDYING LITERATURE AND ART AT ND

Ureel has fond memories of Harper Woods Notre Dame, which was overseen at the time by Principal Conrad Vachon. Recalling art classes at ND, “I had two art teachers there. The first was Mrs. Lampe-Burrell and the second was Mr. Patrick Burgam ‘74 (ND). The art program in my opinion was excellent. I learned a lot.”

Many alumni surely remember the ND fight song painted on the stage doors in the school’s gym. What they may not know is that it was Ureel who painted it on a Christmas break while a student there. Additionally, he worked on illustrations for the ND year-books. “Graduation time also was great fun!” he recalls.

“I also remember Mr. Kelly’s literature class. We covered such literary wonders as Beowulf, Chaucer, ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn’ by Keats, and Robert Frost, to name a few.”

## ADVICE FOR FUTURE ARTISTS

As a working professional offering advice for those thinking of a career in commercial art, Bryan Ureel emphasizes one word: “Technology.” He says most jobs require computer skills and lots of graphic-art program experience.

But, he says, you also must also have a good foundation in art. “It’s an honest field where you can’t bluff your way through it. Either you can create good art and designs or you can’t, and your clients will definitely notice.” ■

For more on Bryan Ureel’s work and Flying Fish Studios, go to [www.flyingfishcreative.com](http://www.flyingfishcreative.com).

# alumni and marist influence

The Marist teaching tradition dates back to 1816 when the first group of “Marist” aspirants came together under the leadership of Rev. Jean Claude Colin. In 1836, the Society of Mary was officially recognized by Rome as a missionary congregation.

Since that time, the Marist Fathers and Brothers have established a long, rich history of educating children in missions and schools throughout the world.

The Marists recognize the valuable role that faculty, staff and alumni from Harper Woods Notre Dame, Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic, and Notre Dame Prep have played in the current success of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.

**Kim Anderson**  
NDP Assistant Principal  
NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Tony Block**  
Business Manager  
Former HWND Staff  
HWND Class of ‘80

**Tony Borton**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Pam Bourlier**  
Retired Dir. of Advancement  
Former HWND Staff

**Ed Cackowski (Deceased)**  
Former NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff  
HWND Class of ‘61

**Kevin Carotta**  
Former NDP Faculty  
NDP Class of ‘00

**Rev. Brian Cidlevich, s.m.**  
NDP Faculty

**Kelly Cole**  
Director of Alumni Relations  
Former NDMA-LD Faculty  
NDP Class of ‘99

**Ken Engler**  
NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Sue Foster**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former Pontiac Catholic Staff

**Emily Giacona**  
NDMA-LD Faculty  
NDP Class of ‘01

**Andy Guest**  
Vice President for Advancement  
HWND Class of ‘84

**Rev. Joseph C. Hindelang, s.m.**  
NDP Principal  
Former HWND Administrator  
HWND Class of ‘68

**Duane Holmes**  
Athletics  
Former HWND Staff

**Roy Johnson**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Mike Kelly**  
Director of Marketing  
HWND Class of ‘73

**Norm Kotarski**  
NDP Faculty  
Former NDP Vice Principal  
Former HWND Staff

**Mark McGreevy**  
NDMA-MD Faculty  
HWND Class of ‘76

**Sylvia Mulrenin**  
NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Rev. Leon M. Olszawowski, s.m.**  
NDPMA President  
Former HWND Administrator  
HWND Class of ‘65

**Ken Parent**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former Dir. of Alumni Relations  
Former HWND Staff

**John Parthum**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Faculty  
HWND Class of ‘63

**Rev. Maciej Pawlowski, s.m.**  
NDP Faculty

**Marie Place**  
NDP Secretary  
Former HWND Staff

**Brother Louis Plourde, s.m.**  
Business Office  
Former HWND Staff

**Bill Raymond**  
Retired NDP Curriculum Coordinator  
Former HWND Administrator

**Tracey Healy-Rathsburg**  
Former MA-LS Faculty  
NDP Class of ‘00

**Hal Rice**  
NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Justine Sciriha**  
NDP Counseling  
Former Oakland Catholic Staff

**Larry Sigel**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Greg Simon**  
NDP Dean of Admissions  
HWND Class of ‘89

**Kirby Smith**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Joe Spada**  
Retired NDP Dir. of Athletics  
Former HWND Staff

**Dan Staniszewski**  
NDP Faculty  
NDP Class of ‘02

**Rev. James Strasz, s.m.**  
NDP Assistant Principal  
Former HWND Administrator  
HWND Class of ‘70

**William Welliver**  
Retired NDP Faculty  
Former HWND Staff

**Betty Wroubel**  
NDPMA Director of Athletics  
NDP Assistant Principal  
Former Pontiac Catholic Staff  
Former Oakland Catholic Staff

**Char Zimmerman**  
Retired NDP Media Specialist  
Former Pontiac Catholic Staff  
Former Oakland Catholic Staff



# annual fund

## 2007-2008 ANNUAL FUND REPORT



**Thank you** to all of our Alumni Annual Fund donors in the 2007-2008 year. Because of your generous contributions, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy students are continuing to receive the best Catholic education in southeast Michigan and in the country. When talking to Notre Dame Alumni, it is unanimous that their education prepared them academically for life after high school. In addition to the rigorous academic program, alumni consistently comment on the lasting memories and friendships that were created throughout their high school years.

As the Notre Dame Alumni Association continues to grow and develop, our need for support is continuing to grow as well. This year already, our alumni participation has increased dramatically. You may have seen our "Donor for a Dollar" cauldron at a reunion or social event. This is our way of saying that no matter the donation, it is valued and appreciated.

In the 2007-2008 year, less than 1% of alumni contributed to the Annual Fund. Your Notre Dame Alumni Association is working diligently to increase the percentage of alumni who contribute. So, whether you contribute \$1 or \$1,000, you are working to make a difference for the entire alumni community. As of February 2009, our alumni contributions have already increased to 2.5%. Our goal for the 2008-2009 school year is 5%. Can you join the team to help achieve our goal?

In a few weeks, you'll receive a contribution form in your mailbox. Please consider donating as you feel comfortable. If it is \$1 or \$1,000, please know that every person's contribution helps. We truly value our alumni and are working to create an active, thriving, alumni network of which you can be proud. If you are interested in getting involved in any aspect with the Alumni Association, please contact Kelly Cole '99, Alumni Director at [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org) or (248) 373-2171 Ext. 4.

Many Irish Blessings to You!

### 2007-2008 ALUMNI DONOR HONOR ROLL

Deanna Antonioli Starling, NDP	Ralph Kuznia, HWND
Guy P. Beauregard, HWND	Caroline Lang, NDP
Andrea (Nord) Billings, Pont. Catholic	Kristin Lang, NDP
John G. Billings, Pont. Catholic	Sarah Lesnau, NDP
Maynard C. Buszek, HWND	Joseph Mejaly, HWND
Michael E. Cannon, HWND	Frank Migliazzo, HWND
Antonio B. Cervone, HWND	NDP Class of 2002
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Kelly Cole, NDP	Jerry M. Nehr, HWND
Karen DeWitt, NDP	Roger Novotney, Pont. Catholic
James Gammicchia, NDP	Sarah Nusselt, NDP
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Emily Giacona, NDP	Louis G. Perlotto, HWND
Andrew Guest, HWND	Kristopher Powell, HWND
Patrick Haddad, HWND	Marty Rathsburg, NDP
Tracey Healy-Rathsburg, NDP	Lauren Rimar, NDP
Ronald Hebert, HWND	Ann (Ryder) Schulte, Pont. Catholic
Fr. Joseph C. Hindelang, s.m., HWND	Gregory Simon, HWND
Robert L. Hindelang, HWND	Scott Spicuzzi, HWND
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Michael Kelly, HWND	Joseph Veltri, HWND
David Knesek, NDP	Stephanie Vitale, NDP
Michael Knesek, NDP	Carley Williams, NDP
Andrew Kukawinski, NDP	Ronald J. Yanik, HWND
	Philip J. Zaborowicz, HWND
	Daniel Zerafa, HWND

### Attention Killer Bee Alumni!

Thanks to all of our alumni over the years, the Killer Bees are in the midst of their 14th year as a FIRST robotics team. Our award showcase grows larger every year, but more importantly, we continue to reach out to new students and to spread the message that science and technology can be exciting. We are currently in the middle of build season and are excited to be attending four competitions this year:

- Kettering University District: March 6-7
- Grand Valley State University District: March 27-28
- Eastern Michigan University State Championship: April 3-4
- Georgia Dome FIRST Championship Event: April 15-19

Now we are looking to get in touch with all of our alumni in order to officially invite them to some alumni events hosted by

FIRST. In order to keep you updated on these events and on what the Killer Bees are up to, please contact us at [killerbees33@live.com](mailto:killerbees33@live.com) and let us know the following:



JASON J. MONROE

Killer Bees prepare for competition at the 2008 Atlanta national FIRST Championship event.

- When were you a member of the Killer Bees?
- What are you up to now (school? work? family?)
- What is your favorite FIRST memory?
- May we send your contact information to FIRST?

Also, check out the Killer Bees online at: [killerbees33.com](http://killerbees33.com).

## NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNI

**Emmalilly Hoxsie '08 (NDP)**—Is currently attending school at Michigan State University.

**Rose Holland '08 (NDP)**—Is attending school to become an elementary school teacher.

**Mitchell Glenn '08 (NDP)**—I am currently attending college at Northern Michigan University where I play club lacrosse and am participating in The United States Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps program at NMU.

**Michael DePorre '08 (NDP)**—Is currently a student at Hope College.

**Kathryn Hojnacki '08 (NDP)**—Is attending school at Oakland University double majoring in English and Art.

**Stephanie Dal Bianco '08 (NDP)**—Is currently a student at U of M and studying to become a psychiatrist.

**Christina Roberts '08 (NDP)**—Currently is working at Caribou Coffee and plans to teach English at the high school level or publish a book.

**Katie Berlin '08 (NDP)**—Is a student at Western Michigan University.

**Emma Frye '08 (NDP)**—Is a student at Oakland University majoring in Anthropology and minoring in Arabic. In her spare time she likes to travel.

**Christopher Denis '07 (NDP)**—Attends University of Detroit Mercy.

**Christopher Dugan '07 (NDP)**—Attends University of Detroit Mercy.

**Jeff Bluhm '07 (NDP)**—Is a student at U of D Mercy studying biochemistry.

**Thomas Gartner '07 (NDP)**—Is working on an Associates Degree while working at McDonalds.

**Kelly Smith '07 (NDP)**—Is majoring in Communications with a Public Relations specialization at Michigan State University.

**Felicia Guest '06 (NDP)**—Currently is working as a piano teacher and babysitter.

**Monica Drake '06 (NDP)**—Is working at the Oakland University print shop and interning at a public relations firm.

**Lana Brown '06 (NDP)**—Works at the Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education at Oakland University and aspires to do something with her degree in Japanese.

**Brett Mollon '06 (NDP)**—Is playing soccer at Temple. He was named "Player of the Week" for his conference. He is 2nd in the conference for goals against, for the season, and has tied the record in his first year, with nine shutouts.

**Shaun Kosnik '06 (NDP)**—Plans to open a personal business in finance.

**Tim Reimann '05 (NDP)**—I will graduate in 2009 from Texas Christian University with a degree in Education majoring in English, Language Arts, and Reading with ESL. I am currently student teaching at three different schools while taking 18 credits. It's great to know that my hard work is paying off for me in my classes and with teaching. I always think back to my NDP days and the teachers who affected me the most—mainly Ms. Wroubel and Mr. Simon—and realize that my motivation to teach stems from that. I can't really see myself doing anything else, really, which is a good thing. So far I am really enjoying it and am really looking forward to my full-time student teaching that begins next fall.

# We get letters and notes

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep alumni: **(NDP)**; Harper Woods Notre Dame alumni: **(ND)** Pontiac Catholic: **(PC)**; Oakland Catholic: **(OC)**; St. Frederick: **(SF)**; St. Michael: **(SM)**

**Joe Degnan '05 (NDP)**—I am a Communications Studies major, and will be graduating in May of 2009. As far as post-grad plans go, I am unsure. I am currently applying to some marketing and advertising companies, but also am going to send my resume to the FBI, CIA, Dept. of Homeland Security, and possibly a few others. I joined the Facebook group, so I look forward to hearing more from you in the future!

**Ricky Bieszki '05 (NDP)**—Is an independent business owner and a senior on the Oakland University Men's Basketball Team.

**Peter Kutil '05 (NDP)**—Is a 4th year student at the University of Michigan, studying industrial and operations engineering.

**Michael Labelle '04 (NDP)**—Michael is a member of the McMaster U football team. McMaster U is a university in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He is the starting offensive center.

**Dianna Merrelli '04 (NDP)**—I have graduated from Oakland University with a BS and am currently enrolled in Wayne State University's physical therapy program; so times are busy.

**Tim Collinge '04 (NDP)**—Is currently a student at Oakland University.

**Alex Lindemann '04 (NDP)**—Is currently working as an airline pilot.

**Shana Smith '04 (NDP)** is engaged.

**Jessica Nadai '03 (NDP)**—I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in '07 with a degree in chemical engineering. I currently live in downtown Chicago and work at a BP refinery outside the city.

**Ashley Popis '03 (NDP)**—My reunion experience was great. It was really fun finding out what everyone was up to. I graduated from Michigan State University and am working for the Department of Defense in the field of supply chain.

**Mike Roberts '03 (NDP)**—I received my Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from University of Detroit Mercy in August 2007 and my Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering in May 2008 (also from UDM). I am currently working for General Motors as a Brake Controls Test & Development Engineer in the Hybrid Controls group in Milford.

**Sean Stringer '03 (NDP)**—I got married the week before Christmas 2008. Chelsea and I both graduated from UM in '06. We now live in NY where I am a student at NYU College of Dentistry on a US Air Force scholarship and Chelsea is finishing up an accelerated BSN program.

**Sara Salahi '03 (NDP)**—I'm at Duke University studying for my PhD in Biomedical Engineering. I just completed my first marathon in Chicago and it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life! I hope to be spending next year doing research at a university in Norway.

**Francine Orow '03 (NDP)**—I received my undergraduate degree from Oakland University with a major in Health Sciences and a minor in Psychology. I am currently a student at the University of Michigan - Flint where I will be getting my Doctorate of

Physical Therapy in August 2010. If anyone is interesting in this field, feel free to contact me at [francedpt@gmail.com](mailto:francedpt@gmail.com).

**Brent Alexander '03 (NDP)**—I am living in Chicago, working as an outside sales rep. for the corp. division of Staples.

**John Putnam '03 (NDP)**—I am finishing up my first year in Physical Therapy school at the Univ. of Scranton. I moved out there on a whim after getting accepted into the program. It is in NE Pennsylvania and two hours outside of NY. It will take me a few more years before I earn my doctorate degree. I haven't been doing anything extraordinary besides that, but I am traveling to Guadalajara, Mex., in January with the program to do PT/OT and preventative care for children and families in the underprivileged areas. I guess that's pretty sweet.

**Carley Williams '03 (NDP)**—I am currently working for Nestle Corporate in Operations Management and living in Chicago. I graduated from Michigan State University with a BS in Packaging in December 2007.

**JP (Joseph) Grusing '03 (NDP)**—Is currently working for Dell, Inc., in Austin, TX.

**Brad Murphree '03 (NDP)**—I am an audio engineer in Hollywood, I have been fortunate to work with artists such as Carrie Underwood, Jewel, Montgomery Gentry, George Clinton, Martina McBride, Alan Jackson, and Julianne Hough. I have also worked on such TV shows as Fox News, Lost, and Fox Business Channel. I have two movies I worked on called "Management" and "17" again coming out soon. Right now I am working on a project for Direct TV, updating their broadcast facilities for the digital transition in 2009.

**Audra Milosch '03 (NDP)**—I graduated from Northwood University in the spring with a Bachelors of Business in Advertising, Marketing, and Management. I am currently living in the Netherlands with my boyfriend, and I plan to begin work in Amsterdam for a media monitoring company.

**Katy Barkell '03 (NDP)**—I graduated from Michigan State in May of '07, majoring in Retailing/Merchandising Management. I work for an advertising agency called MediaCom on the Dell account, planning and buying advertising in the Corporate side of the business.

**Meredith Gifford '02 (NDP)**—Is working in an English Village in Paja, South Korea, as an actress/performing arts teacher. (see related story, pg. 8)

**Krista Berry '02 (NDP)**—I got married just a couple months ago in Sept. Mark and I are having a lot of fun going through our first holidays as husband and wife!

**Andrea Shanahan '02 (NDP)**—I live in Columbus, Ohio. I am continuing my accounting career as a Tax Associate for a CPA firm. My fiancé and I will be married August 1, 2009, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in Grosse Pointe Shores, and we're currently building our new home and expect to move in late next summer!

**Jennifer Minich (Petty) '02 (NDP)**—Married Jason Minich at St. Benedict's

Church in Waterford on May 30, 2008. A fellow NDP alum, Victoria Sidor ('01), served as a bridesmaid. Jennifer and Jason currently reside in South Bend, IN, where Jennifer is pursuing her JD at Notre Dame Law School.

**Kaitlin Moxley '02 (NDP)**—I was married to my husband William Edgerton, in Traverse City, Michigan. We were married by Deacon Anthony Morici at St. Joseph Catholic Church on October 21, 2006. I work as an interior designer for Charlene & Company in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**Jodee Ciszewski '02 (NDP)**—Jodee has been living in North Carolina going on two years now. She is going into her third season working for a minor league baseball team.

**Dan Staniszewski '02 (NDP)**—I've been living as a hermit in the middle of the Amazon rain forest for the past three years. I have decided to change my name to "Ron." I've learned how to hunt, fish, and even swim with the piranhas. In my spare time, I like long walks on the beach and kung-fu movies. In order to make a little bit of money, I have been harvesting herbs and berries. Using these, I have also harvested beeswax to go into my own scented candle business. Shipping out of the rain forest is tricky, but my business is publicly traded through the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

**Amanda Schmitz '02 (NDP)**—Engaged to Paul Wezner '02 (NDP) with wedding planned for June 26, 2010. Attendants include Christelle Penkala '02 (NDP), Jennifer Gammicchia '02 (NDP), John Adams '02 (NDP), and Mark Wezner '04 (NDP).

**Jennifer Bohne (Cooper) '01 (NDP)** Is married to Mike Bohne, graduating from a Masters program next year.

**Michael Bohne '01 (NDP)**—Is married to Jennifer Bohne (Cooper).

**Sarah Brown '01 (NDP)**—I received a BA from St. Mary's College in 2005 and my JD from American University in May 2008. I am now clerking for a federal judge in Nashville for one year.

**Derek Schraffenberger '01 (NDP)**—Is married and currently teaching grade 5 at Academy of Sacred Heart.

**Sarah Lesnau '01 (NDP)**—Is engaged and working at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland.

**Lynsey Bramstedt '01 (NDP)**—I'm living in Highland, IL, and am expecting my first baby. I am keeping in touch with a few people in my graduating class, and am looking forward to the 10-year reunion already. I would like to start receiving the newsletters in the mail again.

**Michael Pietrzak '01 (NDP)**—I am currently a manager at Target in Troy. I have a degree in residential architecture. I am also almost finished with another degree in construction technology.

**Dominic Russo '01 (NDP)**—Is President of Dominic Russo Ministries. He went on a mission trip to India recently.

**Andrew Ferrara '01 (NDP)**—I'm living down in Fort Lauderdale, work for EDSA, which is a top landscape architecture firm in the world. I am working on hotel and development designs from Puerto Rico to Dubai. I love living by the beach, having a great time, and am making lots of friends.

**Phil Kotzan '00 (NDP)**—Is now living in California.

**Lisa Storc '00 (NDP)**—Is in grad school and looking for a well-paying job.



**Gina Cereska (Coppola) '00**

**(NDP)**—Married with a beautiful baby girl named Olivia. Working as a bookkeeper in Clinton Township and plans to go back for a Masters in Accounting.

**Caitlin Dodge '99 (NDP)**—Currently working for Oakland County Health Division; 2004 graduate from Oakland University in Management Information Systems; and a 2007 graduate of UM-Flint—Master of Public Administration.

**Rosina D'Agostini '99 (NDP)**—I am currently living back at home with my mom to help her out. I work for the family business, which I enjoy. I travel quite a bit through the year, trying to enjoy and see everything now.

**Mac O'Brien '99 (NDP)**—Moved to Chicago in 2003. Currently runs the wholesale division for an Investment Management Firm.

**Kristin M. Patrona '99 (NDP)**—This will be my sixth year of teaching in the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. I am currently teaching fifth grade. I completed my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Marygrove College in May 2008.

**Alison Poole (Leon) '99 (NDP)**—Is married to Brent Poole and has one child, Aiden Brent Poole, who was born on 7/25/08. Alison works as a teacher at Lee County High School and teaches Career Management and also serves as the Career Development Director.

**Jenny Miller (Johns) '99 (NDP)**—Me in 200 words or less: Originally from Shelby Twp...went to Notre Dame Prep...CMU from there...married my high school sweetheart...moved to Naples...lived by the beach for three years...soaked up the sun and salt water...got a dog...went to Hawaii...worked at an awesome design studio...became a licensed designer...continued to soak up the sun and salt water...moved back to Michigan.

**Kelly Myricks '99 (NDP)**—I am getting a Master's in Counseling and graduating in May! Thank God! I can then get a better job and move back to Tennessee!

**Danielle Downey (Kirby) '99 (NDP)**—I got married in May. I work in HR at Aerotek and it is a pretty good job. I am planning on going back to school in the spring to get my MBA.

**Andi Churna (Thomas) '99 (NDP)**—I graduated from Vanderbilt with a degree in Human & Organizational Development and moving to Washington DC in 2004. I got married last year. My husband Tim is a patent attorney and I work for Rosetta Stone in Recruitment, which I love. I am learning Spanish currently and plan to start Italian once I am fluent in Spanish.

**James Henhan and Rachel Nacienceno-Henhan '98 (NDP)**—Have two children, a four-year-old son and a baby daughter. They live in South Carolina where James works for GE and Rachel is a stay-at-home mom.

**Chris Arroy '98 (NDP)**—I am currently living outside of San Francisco, California, with my fiancée Samantha and we are expecting our first baby in May. I am working as Executive Sous Chef at a restaurant called The Peasant and the Pear, which has been a great continuation of my constant training as a chef. It's been a long difficult road but it is the little things in life that make it worth it!

**Scott Lockhart '98 (NDP)**—I am currently beginning my third year living in Birmingham, England, working for PricewaterhouseCoopers. I have been traveling as much as possible throughout England, Europe, and as far away as India, with my favorite city being Paris...by far... and I even remembered the word for green beans (haricots vert), which would have made Madame Connors proud. I will be going to Singapore and Australia early in 2009 and working on what other cities to visit.

**Jade Curry '98 (NDP)**—Jade graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) and previously worked in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit. She now is a graduate student in the pediatric nurse practitioner program at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Chessa McCaughey (Rosario) '98 (NDP)**—I have traveled across the country with my husband Tom, a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. We were married in June 2001. It has taken me forever to finish my B.S. Degree in Psychology because the credits from the University of Michigan did not transfer well! Five days after graduation, our son James was born. We are extremely happy and truly blessed!

**Luis Vasquez '98 (NDP)**—I was married on June 28th this past year to the now Adrienne Vasquez. I graduated from Oakland University in 2004 and am taking courses for my Master's, graduating in 2010. I teach Spanish at Walled Lake Central HS. In the summer, I play softball and coach boys hardball.

**June Banks Ragatz '98 (NDP)**—Is married and has a two-year-old daughter. She is currently expecting her second child.

**Lisa Healy (Syrowick) and Jeff Healy '98 (NDP)**—Recently celebrated their 5-year wedding anniversary! They have a daughter Katie and a son Danny, who was born June 23, 2008.

**Henish Pulickal '98 (NDP)**—Henish is living in San Diego working at the same company since he graduated. He is thoroughly enjoying life and staying very active with various organizations.

**Tom Sturm '98 (NDP)**—My wife Shannon and I live in NW Washington State, and we love it. I am lucky enough to have the greatest job on earth; I teach at a local middle school and have amazing students. In addition to teaching, I am also pursuing my masters in Curriculum and Instruction through Seattle Pacific University.

**Victoria Butcko '97 (NDP)**—Married Jacob Darcy September 20, 2008, at the Church of Loretto on the campus of Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. Fellow NDP alumni in attendance included Tricia Knauss Sage '97 (NDP) and Ryan Neely '97 (NDP).

**Ana Dillman (Van Ryn) '97 (NDP)**—I am living in San Francisco. Happily married for 9 1/2 years. I taught second and third grade for five years back in Illinois. I just started work as a nanny for a wonderful family with four boys.

**Aaron Davison '95 (NDP)**—Aaron is currently pursuing a degree in Secondary Education with a Masters in Social Studies and a minor in English. Aaron has been married for three years and has a wonderful son named Logan. After 12 years of Catholic School drained him, Aaron

worked as a Machine and Tool Designer and then switched into the relaxing world of carpentry. When that became too easy, he decided to go back to school and is currently working toward his degree in secondary education with a Master's Degree in Social Studies and a minor in English. After which he is planning on obtaining his Doctorate in History. He lives with his wife, son, dog, and cat in the wonderful town of Berkley and despite the state of the State, has no plans of leaving any time soon. He spends his summer weekends at his beach house (just a cottage, but beach house sounds so much more pretentious) in the wine country of Ontario, Canada. Aaron has come to an appreciation of the some of the finer things in life: family, friends, sunsets, bonfires, good music, and a good cigar. Looking to the future, Aaron sees himself teaching post-graduate History at a University in the next ten years while working on a groundbreaking work of non-fiction. Here's to the endless possibilities of tomorrow and the lessons of yesterday!

**PONTIAC CATHOLIC ALUMNI**

**Jeffrey Przygocki '90 (PC)**—Is living in Indiana.

**Steve Dean '78 (PC)**—He is currently the VP, Technology Planning and Networking for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC. He is responsible for Information Technology direction, architecture, networking and telephony.

**Michele Ayotte (Horton) '73 (PC)**—Is living in Negaunee, MI.

**Maria Moyet Delgado '73 (PC)**—She is residing in Pontiac, MI.

**Jane Karr '70 (PC)**—I am looking for Sandra Mihalik Hodges, who graduated with me in 1970. Does anyone have information? Does anyone have the yearbook from 1970?

**Barbara Frye '68 (PC)**—She is a member of the 1968 Charter Class of PCH coming from St. Michael's HS.

**ST. FREDERICK ALUMNI**

**Robert Goeckel '66 (SF)**—Searching for a yearbook or class picture. His was stolen and he would love to have this memorabilia back.

**NOTRE DAME ALUMNI**

**Nicholas Dokianos '02 (ND)**—Nicholas let us know he joined the Army.

**Brian Jones '96 (ND)**—I am a 1996 graduate of Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods. I'm interested in getting involved with alumni activities at NDP. There has been a lot of negativity around HWND and NDP from Friends of Notre Dame and although the Harper Woods school and NDP are completely different organizations, I think it is important to support all the Catholic high schools, especially one that was born from the same blood as HWND.

**Lucas C. McGrail '93 (ND)**—After working for over 10 years as an architect and construction manager in the Detroit market, the recent economic down turn in Michigan resulted in my layoff from the design/build firm I was working for in Farmington Hills. After being laid off for several months, I was offered a position that is the type of opportunity that comes along very infrequently. With the poor economics in Michigan, I had no choice but to pursue this employment option in a market outside of Michigan. I have taken a position with one of the largest architecture firms in the

world as an architect and construction administrator in the Washington, D.C., offices.

The firm, Cannon Design, has over 700 employees worldwide and 55 employees in the Washington office alone. This firm is a tremendous player in the global design market with 16 offices and projects on four different continents. I have carved out a new life in Alexandria, VA, and have thrown myself into this position. I have been waiting for this type of position for almost seven years and now that I have it, I have finally moved to the next level of my career. It feels good to be with a firm that not only encourages me and supports my professional pursuits, but also a firm that is dedicated to making the man-made and natural environment a better place. I hope that everyone from the HWND class of '93 is doing well. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for the newsletter.

**Jeff Bartold '91 (ND)**—I just wanted to say I thoroughly enjoyed reading the new "IRISH" magazine. It was a surprise. I thought that NDHW alumni assoc. had died along with the school. I found the cover article most enjoyable and to see that a lot of my teachers are still teaching at NDP. Go Irish!

**Sean Goudy '89 (ND)**—My life after Notre Dame in Harper Woods, MI, has been full of surprises. I went to Michigan State University after high school. At Michigan State University, I complete my BS in Chemical Engineering. I also continued my French studies. After graduating from MSU, I attended Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT), and I received a MS in Chemical Engineering from GIT. I have been working in the pharmaceutical industry since 1998. I am currently an engineer at Pfizer in Kalamazoo, MI. I am also finishing my PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Western Michigan University. I have been blessed to continue my French language studies, and today I am fluent in French.

I cannot remember the name of my first French teacher at Notre Dame, but I always remember that le Bon Pere was a great teacher. I wish I could show him how good I have become. I really enjoyed my four years at Notre Dame, and I too was saddened to hear that the building in Harper Woods no longer housed this great institute of learning, but the Notre Dame family continues. I just read that Mr. Kelly went on to be with the Lord. He was a great teacher. I remember having sophomore English with him. He was great. I learned a lot from him and all of the great teachers at Notre Dame. I read the article about Mr. Parent, Mr. Rice, and Mr. Kotarski. I had all of you for teachers. I still remember the debates that we had in Mr. Rice's AP class. Wow, where did the time go? I probably would not have said it then, but thank you. Please keep in touch.

**Andy Guest '84 (ND)**—Andy is the Vice President for Advancement for Notre Dame Prep and remembers his time at Notre Dame fondly. "I had four brothers that graduated from Notre Dame and virtually all of my best friends, including John and Mike, are from Notre Dame. There are many teachers, faculty and fellow administrators here that all feel the same way. Please let all Notre Dame alumni know that they will always have a home here at Prep if they

want.”

**John Hensien '84 (ND)**—For the past 15 years, I've been practicing law at Clark Hill in Detroit specializing in mergers/acquisitions and commercial transactions. My wife, Sarah, and I live in Grosse Pointe Park with our two children, Jack (10) and Anna (8), and are active parishioners at St. Paul. I look forward to seeing everyone at our 25th reunion.

**Mike Housey '84 (ND)** Mike, along with his brother Paul Housey (ND '88), founded a scholarship program called Building Bridges, which currently provides educational scholarships for more than 10 students with great potential, but no economic means, to attend ND Prep. "Notre Dame always meant a great deal to me. I owe a lot to the Marist Fathers. This is one small way that I can give back."

**John Okoniewski '84 (ND)**—John, a successful entrepreneur and owner of FAO Jewelers in Brighton and Howell, had a niece that graduated from ND Prep in '06. "ND too meant a lot to me. I am happy to see the effort being put forth by ND Prep to carry on the Notre Dame tradition."

**Mike Buckley '81 to '84 (ND)**—Since I was NEVER a good student (academically) I simply failed out of ND during my junior year. As a friend told me since I was half way to being on the Deans list (D/E student) I was unable to retain membership and had to finish my senior year at South Lake High School, St. Clair Shores, MI. After high school, I entered the Marine Corps Reserve and after basic training, I attended South Lake night school to finish my high school diploma, officially graduating from South Lake in 1986. Fortunate to have the parents I did, I attended Macomb Community College and finally completed my B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University (1995). I met my wife at WSU and had our first and only child in 2003. My wife became a CPA working at a global accounting firm for the past 15 years (KPMG—Risk Advisory services). After completing my B.S. degree, I obtained my first job with the Dept. of Justice—U.S. Immigration Service in a clerical position moving on to a career as an Immigration Inspector—I remained with INS for two and a half years. After employment with INS, I became employed with the Detroit Police Dept. where I worked for nearly two years and finally becoming employed as a Public Safety officer (Police Officer/ Firefighter) with the City of Grosse Pointe Farms. I worked for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms for nearly eight years until 2006 and have remained a stay-at-home father since. I am currently hoping to reenter my career as a Police Officer with Houston, TX.

Well, that is my story in a nut shell. I thank you for allowing me to become affiliated with the ND alumni association. Hey, 25 years ago, I was not the most model student, however, after attending three years, I wish to reestablish contact with individuals I attended school with. (313) 815-1514

**Paul Gigliotti '83 (ND)**—Overall, I'm pleased to see that the process has begun of including the alums of the old school into the new school. I know it will take some time, but hopefully the proud accomplishments of the past will have a home and hopefully the alumni from

HWND can attend homecoming, see those accomplishments displayed in the school, and finally have a place to call home. I coach soccer and ended up meeting Marc Ratajczak (NDP '02). He helped me coach soccer last year. That was the first NDP alum I got to know and I'm glad I got to meet him because it answered my question, "do they still produce quality people at ND?" My son is in his first year at Siena Heights University and plays soccer and is in the theatre program. I'm usually driving there at least a couple of times a week. My daughters play volleyball, basketball, track, and soccer at school, and play club soccer and club volleyball. They are also in the marching band, regular band, and choir. There usually isn't a free day, and if there is, I'm usually in bed recuperating. I like to whine about being busy, but the kids are all doing well so I wouldn't have it any other way. My only regret in life at this point is that I didn't go into teaching and coaching. Over the years, I've coached a ton; basketball, baseball, soccer, and football. I've coached boys and girls, at the recreation level and at the competitive level. I'd like to coach in high school. My youngest child is in 9th grade, when she graduates I'd like to figure out how I could start teaching and coaching. Thanks.

**Al Guest '81 (ND)**—I live in Alpena with my wife Amy and work for the family business which distributes plumbing and heating equipment throughout Michigan. We have four sons and the oldest plays in the band and runs cross country and track for Alpena High.

**Patrick J. Haddad '81 (ND)**—I'm an attorney practicing with Kerr, Russell and Weber, PLC, in Detroit. My wife Liz and I live in Grosse Pointe Woods. I'm a member of the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy, where I'm proud to say that the old ND spirit continues on!

**Daniel Kirouac '81 (ND)**—Updated his information for the alumni office. He is living in St. Clair Shores, MI.

**Peter J. Randazzo '81 (ND)**—I have lived in Sioux Falls, SD, for the past eight years. I am the National Sales Manager for the trust companies of Citi Bank, and President of one of those companies, Citicorp Trust South Dakota. I have been married to my wife Carrie, of Richmond, Michigan, for 18 years and have four children: Josh (12), Julia (10), Jamison (7) and Josie (4). I look forward to the next reunion of the Class of 1981.

**Joe Borri '80 (ND)**—Joe says he's just signed on as Studio Representative for Atlanta-based Indigo Studios. Stationed in Detroit, Joe will be responsible for Michigan, Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles and even some states in between.

**Tim Smith '79 (ND)**—Beth and I currently live in Clarkston and are members of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Waterford. I own City Renovation & Trim Inc. located in Auburn Hills. The company is a union commercial carpentry and acoustical partition contractor specializing in new construction and renovation of commercial offices, churches, and retail, industrial and automotive sectors. And as soon as there is commercial carpentry and acoustical partition work in the commercial offices, churches, retail, industrial and automotive sectors, we will be doing it.

(Please...anybody?) We have 11 children aged 23 to 4 years. The eldest son, Bill, works as an engineer for my company. Rick, 21, is an NDP grad and currently in college, Colin, 19, is stationed in Hawaii in the Marine Corps, Br. Sean, 17, is in the first year of the Novitiate with the Legionnaires of Christ in Cheshire CT. Mary Clare, 14, is in Rhode Island with the LOC in her first year of High School in the Consecrated Women's Program. Bridget, 11, Brendan, 8, Maggie, 6, and Catherine all attend Everest Academy in Clarkston and we also have 2 foster children, James 16 and Hayley 13. I was very glad to see the first edition of the IRISH newsletter and went out and purchased a copy of Joe Borri's book; 8 Dogs Named Jack. I'm sure with the proceeds Joe was able to put a down payment on that Porsche he always wanted. As soon as I have time I will read it, but suggest each of you reading this goes out and supports one of our alumni brethren. And besides, it makes a great coaster. I miss Mike McBride—God Rest His Soul, and where the heck is John Becker? 2009 will bring the 30th anniversary of our graduation from Notre Dame. Anyone wanting to lend a hand in doing something for this great event that celebrates our old-foginess (If only Conrad were here to spell-check that one). Drop me a line. P.S.: From the life tips section: Don't listen to the news, go to daily morning mass as often as humanly possible, keep the Absolut in the freezer and all will be well. timsmith@cityrenovation.com

**Lawrence R. Cunningham, Jr. '78 (ND)**—Just a quick hello to let you know I'm doing fine (class of 78 and first alumni). I was really glad a miracle happened to keep Notre Dame alive again. My four years at Notre Dame were tremendous and has helped me throughout in my life. I'm a bail bondsman and general contractor up north in Atlanta, married with six kids with ages from 22-6. My youngest daughter is going to a private school because we don't believe anymore in the public school system. I assume Fr. Ouellette has passed away. He did the mass for my deceased father (Lawrence Cunningham class of '58). He taught my dad and me. I love reading your newsletters and Ken Parent is finally starting to look old (lol lol). If he would have had some kids he would have looked older a lot sooner (lol). The memories will always be in my mind and the love for my school will always be in my heart. God bless you all.

**Dave Guest '78 (ND)**—Happily married (Kathy) with children (Neil 11, Jim 8). Lives in Royal Oak. CPA working in Novi, MI.

**Michael Fuqua '77 (ND)**—Mike was mistakenly reported as a deceased alumnus in the Fall IRISH. The IRISH team deeply apologized to Mike. He responded: "I appreciated the follow up and apology, although the apology wasn't necessary. I understand how mistakes like this can happen and there is no intended harm. Actually, I was impressed that Mr. Parent takes the time to monitor such life changes of former ND alums. Upon reflecting, I was humbled and moved as different ND alums reached out to me trying to assess if I was deceased." Thanks, Mike, for updating your information and kindly accepting our apologies!—IRISH.

**Gerard Giacona '77 (ND)**—Updated his information. He is the owner of Filipo Marc Winery in Clinton Township, MI.

**Edward Izzi '77 (ND)**—Glad to see the traditions of Notre Dame High School continued and passed on to a new generation, even if it isn't at Harper Woods. Perhaps it's time to move on. Please keep me connected to all the current and alumni events of Notre Dame. P.S. Hey Ex-Bro... hope you're healthy and doing well.

**Lieutenant Colonel Roger Oben '75 (ND)**—Today I received my first copy of the IRISH alumni magazine. Thank you—I enjoyed reading it. I look forward to receiving future copies of the IRISH.

**Frank Mancuso '74 (ND)**—Is living in Macomb Township, MI. He updated his information through the alumni website and informed us of the passing of his brother Sal '67 (ND) on June 12, 2007. Sal died of a brain tumor.

**David Trombley '72 (ND)**—Thank you for the invitation to attend this year's homecoming game and afterglow. I'd really wanted to attend. Unfortunately, that was also my daughters' (Kelly '10 and Laura '12) homecoming at Allen Park Cabrini HS. Both girls are on the pom team and performed during halftime. Couldn't miss it. How can I get ND sweatshirts? Do you have items with alumni on them?

**Marty Schwartz '70 (ND)**—Contacted IRISH after receiving the invitation to the Homecoming game. He received his invitation too late because he lives out of state. IRISH promises to get invitations out earlier. Thanks, Marty!

**Ray Lessing '69 (ND)**—Thanks for adding my website to the IRISH newsletter/booklet. Our website seems to be well received so far. If you ever want to look at it or post a notice to alums, you are welcome to join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NDHS1969/>

**William C. Hammers '68 (ND)**—Residing in Scottsdale, AZ. In 2008, received his Masters in Arranging from the Berklee School of Music in Massachusetts. In 2002, received his M.M. in Jazz Studies from Arizona State University. From 2002-2006, Audio/Video Recordist and CD/DVD producer/duplicator. 1988-2000, Mathematics Instructor, Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix, AZ. Taught classes in Basic Algebra, Basic Algebra w/ Anxiety Reduction, Intermediate Algebra.

**Thomas Schuby '64 (ND)**—I appreciate the alumni magazine, IRISH. If I may offer an idea, possibly IRISH could list e-mail addresses of the ND alumni and former faculty.

**David Bonior '63 (ND)**—Contacted the school after reading the Fall IRISH. Thanks for your support, Dave!

**Mike Genette '62 (ND)**—Thank you for sending me the inaugural issue of IRISH. I had heard that HWND had closed but, frankly, I had never heard of Notre Dame Prep. (The Pony Express is still somewhat slow here in Carrollton, Texas.) I am one of five Genette brothers who went to HWND between 1954 and 1976. My brothers, Joe, Tom (deceased), John and Jim and I, all have fond memories of Notre Dame and the Marist Fathers and Brothers who dedicated their lives to teaching us to be better men. Imagine my surprise at seeing references to so many of the Marist Fathers who were



part of those early years. Fr. Bryson, who allowed me to be one of the disc jockeys at the infamous "sock hops," Fr. Champagne, our assistant principal. (Was he really called "Fr. Champs?" We just referred to him as "Bubbles.") Does he still pinch the inside of your arm if you break the rules? And then Fr. St. Onge, the principal during my four years. But the article that caught my attention was the reminiscences about Mr. Vachon. During my years, he taught English and French and was the faculty adviser on the literary magazine which was called "The Quest." One morning, an unsuspecting underclassman asked Mr. Vachon what his middle initial "G" stood for. Mr. Vachon got nose to nose with the inquisitor and bellowed "GOD!" That was almost 50 years ago and I remember it like it was yesterday.

**Thomas Novak '58 (ND)**—I read with interest the issue of IRISH that was sent to me. Thanks for sending it my way.

I was drawn into the dialog between IRISH and Messrs. Rice, Kotarski and Parent. I guess that since I live up-state and have not been kept up to speed on things, I was not aware of any ill feelings between alumni groups. I did have a problem when I was solicited by HWND for a fund raiser (and I contributed a sizable amount) only to find out within a month or so that Harper Woods Notre Dame was being closed.

I am really sorry that I will be unavoidably out-of-town for the reunion for the class of 1958. I would have liked to have been there to see the survivors, if nothing else.

The teacher with the greatest influence on me from my days at ND was Conrad Vachon. He walked across desks while reading Macbeth, and encouraged me to enter a writing contest. I did not win. But I did become a writer of sorts. I have been published over the years, with the best being that I had a book published last year. (This did introduce me to the pitfalls of being an author.) I signed on with a crook. But the book is back on the market, and one that I am very proud of.

My book is about my years as a police officer in Detroit up to and beyond the 1967 riot. I sent a couple of copies to Robert Bendzinski so he could raffle or auction them off at our 50th reunion. (See IRISH News for more information on Tom's book.)

**Bill Vallee '58 (ND)**—Class of 58 reunion was held Sat., Sept 13th. Planning committee spent most of 2008 preparing for "the day." About 41 classmates attended and everyone is saying it was a great success. Computer and e-mail helped to locate otherwise lost individuals.

Several alumni have asked how they can support the Marist Fathers, Notre Dame Prep and/or our efforts to reach out to all alumni of Notre Dame. Gifts of cash can be mailed directly to the Advancement Office. Gifts of stock, property, appreciated assets can be made by contacting the Advancement Office at 248-373-2171. Gifts can be unrestricted or restricted toward a particular area such as scholarship, teacher development, technology, capital improvements, athletics or alumni efforts.

## CLASS REUNIONS

### St. Frederick All Class Reunion

Thank you, Patty Dean-Phillips and the St. Frederick Alumni Committee for organizing and hosting a great celebration. Next all-class reunion is Sept. 13, 2009. For info, Jim Russell '55 (SF): st\_freds\_alumni@yahoo.com.

### Class of '58 (ND)

Thank you, Bill Vallee, for organizing and hosting your 50-year reunion.

### Class of '79 (ND)

Tim Smith has begun working on your 30-year reunion. Contact him to help organize your reunion. Details will be available at [www.ndpma.org](http://www.ndpma.org) as they become available.

Tim Smith (248) 394-0442 [timsmith@cityrenovation.com](mailto:timsmith@cityrenovation.com)

### Class of '83 (ND)

Thank you, Rob Zeweke for organizing and hosting your 25-year reunion.

### Class of '84 (ND)

Your classmates are organizing a 25-year reunion for Saturday, October 3, 2009. Update your alumni information and view reunion details at [www.ndpma.org](http://www.ndpma.org). Class of 1984 Reunion Committee:

Paul Gaynor (586) 228-7766 [prgaynor05@yahoo.com](mailto:prgaynor05@yahoo.com)  
 Andy Guest (248) 373-2171 [aguest@ndpma.org](mailto:aguest@ndpma.org)  
 John Okoniewski (810) 229-5335 [john@faojewelers.com](mailto:john@faojewelers.com)

### Class of '88 (ND)

Thank you, Scott Klott, Jim Pettyes, Bill Flaherty, and Steve Loewen for organizing and hosting your 20-year reunion.

### Class of '89 (ND)

Your classmates have begun planning your 20-year reunion. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2009. For more info, contact:

Gregory Simon (248) 373-5300 [gsimon@ndpma.org](mailto:gsimon@ndpma.org)

### Class of '98 (NDP)

Thank you, Lisa Syrowik-Healy and Jade Curry for organizing and hosting your 10-year reunion.

### Class of '99 (NDP)

Your classmates have begun planning your 10-year reunion. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 28, 2009. Update your alumni information and view reunion details at [www.ndpma.org](http://www.ndpma.org). Class of 1999 Reunion Committee:

Brad Burton (586) 255-3064 [burtonb@custom-it.com](mailto:burtonb@custom-it.com)  
 Rosina D'Agostini (810) 560-1139 [zina0323@yahoo.com](mailto:zina0323@yahoo.com)  
 Jim Gammicchia (586) 557-4583 [jvgammic@comcast.net](mailto:jvgammic@comcast.net)

### Class of '03 (NDP)

Thank you, Brittany Burns and John Putnam, for organizing and hosting your five-year reunion.

**LOOKING FOR ALUMNI:** Classes of 2004, 1994, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959. If you'd like to organize your reunion, call or e-mail Kelly A. Cole, Alumni Director at (248) 373-2171, Ext. 4 or [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org). Thank you!

**If this or an upcoming year is your reunion year, call or e-mail the Advancement/Alumni Office when you'd like to start organizing your event at 248-373-2171 or [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org).**

**As always, please send your reunion photos. We will post to the alumni web site alongside the many others.**

# champions

## FALL/WINTER 2008-09: ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### TEAM HONORS

#### State Regional Champions

Volleyball

#### State Qualifiers

Boys Cross Country (2nd at regional), Girls Cross Country (2nd at regional)

#### District Champions

Volleyball

#### Academic All State

Boys Tennis (5th consecutive year), Volleyball (every year in school history)

#### CHSL Sectional Championships

Boys Soccer, JV Boys Soccer, JV Volleyball, Freshman Volleyball

#### Tournament/Relay Championships

Girls Swimming and Diving (Royal Oak, Romeo), JV Volleyball (Detroit Country Day), Freshman Volleyball (Waterford Kettering), Cheerleading (CCCAM@Wyandotte Roosevelt, Lapeer East Classic)

### INDIVIDUAL HONORS

#### CHSL All Catholic

Boys Soccer: Neil Al-attar, Sean Grogan, Nicholas Hafner, Brad Woelke  
Football: Chad Powers  
Volleyball: Destiny Tolliver, Catherine Wiczorek  
Competitive Cheer: Megan Mulrenin, Molly Hall, Kristina Eurick, Clare Lilek  
Boys Cross Country: Chris Burns, Brad Lorant  
Girls Cross Country: Sara Barron, Alex Lallier  
Girls Golf: Marisa Stroster

#### CHSL All League

Football: Chad Powers, Branch Kampe  
Boys Tennis: Alex Horak  
Boys Soccer: John Gulvezan, William Kaniut, Lawrence Navarre, Francisco Padilla  
Volleyball: Katie Bloomgren, Lindsay Kander

#### CHSL All Academic

Boys Soccer: Weston Lawson  
Football: Joe Koterba  
Boys Tennis: Andrew Anderson  
Volleyball: Lauryn Hammond

#### CHSL Honorable Mention

Volleyball: Dalton Tolliver, Hannah Ziegler

#### Regional Medalists

Boys Cross Country: Chris Burns, Matt Kurowski, Logan Lawson, Brad Lorant  
Girls Cross Country: Sara Barron, Rachel Hanson, Alex Lallier

#### All State

Boys Soccer: Neil Al-attar (3rd Team), Sean Grogan (Honorable Mention)

#### Academic All State

Volleyball: Lauryn Hammond, Hannah Ziegler

#### All Region

Boys Soccer: Neil Al-attar, Sean Grogan  
Volleyball: Katie Bloomgren, Lauryn Hammond, Lindsay Kander, Dalton Tolliver, Destiny Tolliver, Catherine Wiczorek

#### All District

Boys Soccer: Neil Al-attar, Sean Grogan

#### All Oakland County

Boys Soccer: Neil Al-attar (Honorable Mention), Sean Grogan (Honorable Mention)  
Football: Chad Powers (Honorable Mention)  
Volleyball: Destiny Tolliver (Second Team), Katie Bloomgren (Honorable Mention), Lindsay Kander (Honorable Mention), Dalton Tolliver (Honorable Mention), Catherine Wiczorek (Honorable Mention)

#### Wendy's High School Heisman School Winners

Paige Aiello, Weston Lawson

#### Tournament Champions

Wrestling: Josh Romeo (145 lbs) Catholic League champion; Takedown in Motown at Warren Mott; West Bloomfield Invitational, Lake Fenton Invitational; Jeff Stelmach (135 lbs) Takedown in Motown at Warren Mott

#### Dr. Pepper/Oakland Press Student-Athlete of the Week

Wrestling: Josh Romeo (January 8, 2009)

#### New School Records

Competitive Cheer  
Round 3 Score: 303.3; round: 223.8, overall: 725.7

## Fr. Bryson doing well

According to Fr. Raymond E. Coolong, s.m., Fr. John Bryson, s.m., of Harper Woods Notre Dame, is doing very well. In a letter sent during the Christmas holidays, Fr. Coolong says that "Fr. John" thanks all of those who have sent him greetings, cards and letters throughout the year.

"He is very grateful that you continue to think of him and pray for him," said Fr. Coolong. "Rest assured that father keeps all of you in his thoughts and prayers.

"This year, health-wise speaking, Fr. John, who turned 85 on December 8, did very well," Fr. Coolong added. "There were no serious situations with him at all. He is very happy and content to be at Seton Residence and is well cared for by the staff. He receives visits from the Marist Confreres three or four times a week.



His sister Irene from Connecticut visits him periodically and spoils him by bringing pizza."

Fr. Coolong says to continue to keep Fr. Bryson in our thoughts prayers and he still enjoys hearing from his Notre Dame friends. ■

Father's address is:

**Elizabeth Seton Residence**  
**Attn.: Rev. John W. Bryson, s.m.**  
**125 Oakland Street**  
**Wellesley, MA 02481**



# delivering in the “D”

## VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM HELPS DETROIT PISTONS WITH “FEED THE CHILDREN” INITIATIVE IN DETROIT

In December, the Notre Dame Prep varsity boys basketball team and the Detroit Pistons participated in “The Miracle in Motown,” handing out food and gifts to needy families in Detroit.

On a frigid day in Detroit, the team got a chance to talk to the Pistons and help them hand out presents and food, including over 5,000 chickens. The event started in New York six years ago as a joint project between the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) and “Feed the Children,” a Christian, international, nonprofit relief



Above: Notre Dame Prep’s varsity boys basketball team greets Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace before handing out food and gifts to Detroit’s needy children. Left: Team poses with former Piston great Dave Bing.



organization. The program helps deliver food, medicine, clothing and other necessities to individuals, children and families who lack these essentials due to famine, war, poverty or natural disaster.

Detroit was chosen by Feed the Children to be one of the cities this year along with Los Angeles and San Francisco. Pistons legend Dave Bing offered the use of one of his warehouses downtown for the distribution.

Current Pistons Rasheed Wallace, Allen Iverson, Tayshaun Prince, Jason Maxiell and Kwame Brown worked with the NDP players during this event. Pistons head coach Michael Curry, who was the president of the NBPA six years ago, helped coordinate the project. ■



**NOTRE DAME**

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