

# IRISH



fall 2008

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Kotarski, Parent  
and Rice

Molly Coldren

IB Programme

Author Joe Borri

Alumni notes



# A WORD ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the Marist Fathers and Brothers, the Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy administration and the entire Notre Dame family, I would like to extend a warm and thoughtful invitation to all alumni to stay connected with your Alma Mater.

The mission of Catholic education is arguably more important today than at any time in the history of the Church. Society in general, seems to be drifting further and further away from the core values of Christianity and Catholic schools remain a beacon of light to help form and guide young people toward a life of service, value and morality.

As an alumnus of Notre Dame, I appreciate the quality of education and the life-long friendships I received as a student. I feel blessed to have been called as a “man of Notre Dame” to serve on the administrative team at Notre Dame Prep.

During my tenure at Notre Dame Prep, I have grown to love and respect the continued dedication of the Marist Fathers and Brothers to the mission of education. Notre Dame Prep, along with Notre Dame Marist Academy (which is our JK – 8th grade division) embodies everything that we stood for at Notre Dame...and then some!

For the past two years, we have been working diligently to create a formal alumni office to serve both alumni from ND Prep and ND. Our vision is that over time, we will evolve into one unified body, dedicated to the mission of Catholic education and support of the Marist Fathers and Brothers.

Our first issue of “IRISH” is designed to demonstrate how these two institutions can come together under one roof. Under the direction of the Marist presence, we hope to

strengthen the bond between the entire Notre Dame family, so that we can keep the ideals and spirit of the Marist teaching tradition alive for many years.

Our mission is simple. With God...we form good Christians, upright citizens and academic scholars.

Please choose to be part of that tradition by staying connected, getting involved and supports our efforts to build a strong alumni base. The future depends upon it!

Have a great day!

Andy Guest '84 (ND)  
Vice President and Director of Advancement

## Message from Ken Parent

### “Thanks for the memories”

I know I’m stealing Bob Hope’s line, but those four words best sum up my sentiments after 39 years of teaching—36 at Notre Dame and three at Notre Dame Prep.

From “green” first-year teacher to “greying” retiree—what a rainbow of colorful experiences teaching has been.

Teaching, obviously, is academic, but to me, it has been so much more. It’s been about building relationships with students and colleagues that transcended the classroom. It was about building relationships that last a lifetime.

Perhaps, once you graduated, our paths



did not cross for years, but I always cherished seeing alumni at reunions, sporting events, and other gatherings. I loved hearing your stories about something I said or did in class—and couldn’t even remember. As a teacher, that always reinforced the importance of paying attention to every detail of what I said and did in the classroom.

I think of the Honor Roll of alumni who have gone on to be the best at who you are and who you have become. I’m so proud to have been part of your growing up. Does “Christian persons, upright citizens, and academic scholars” ring a bell?

I feel privileged to have been the alumni director. It gave me a first-hand chance to reconnect with students I once taught. Hearing about your families, children, parents, jobs, successes—and even failures—have been heart-warming. I guess that’s what this alumni publication is all about—sharing our lives with those who once touched us in a special way.

I’ve been asked what I’m going to do when I retire, with all that time on

my hands. As many of you know, I’m from New England. It will be nice to spend more time with my family in Maine—and eat more lobster, of course. Also, it’s time to give back. I’d like to do more volunteer work locally, especially with the poor.

As I told some students at the end of the school year, “I’m not dying. I’ll be back to haunt you.”

Teaching Phys. Ed., French, Sociology, Religion, Health, U.S. History; coaching tennis and gymnastics; attending hundreds of games, plays and concerts; chaperoning dances and rock concerts; encouraging students to sell raffle tickets; talking to alumni at festivals; keeping students in line during fire and tornado drills ... and on, and on.

Again, great memories! Keep in touch. Thanks!

Ken

# IRISH

IRISH is a magazine devoted to the alumni and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac and Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods. 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).

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ON THE COVER: Teacher Hal Rice has devoted 45 years (and counting) to the students of Notre Dame and Notre Dame Prep.

## Betty Wroubel named AVCA National High School Coach of the Year and inducted into the MHSSCA Hall of Fame



Earlier this year, the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) announced that Betty Wroubel, head girls' volleyball coach at Notre Dame Preparatory School, was selected as the 2007 AVCA National High School Coach of the Year.

In the 27-year history of the AVCA awards program, this is the first time the association has awarded a National High School Coach of the Year.

Kathy DeBoer, AVCA Executive Director, said, "Having Betty as an inaugural recipient is most fitting. She is a fitting example of the success that is possible when you love the kids as much as you love the game."

Wroubel has been a high school girls' volleyball coach for over 30 years. In 14 years as head coach at Notre Dame Preparatory, Wroubel's teams have won the conference championship 10 times, the district title nine of the last 10 seasons, and the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MIVCA) Team Academic All-State award each of the last 14 years. The 2007 season was her most successful to date, as the Irish set a school record for wins with 54, en route to winning their first Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) volleyball state championship.

## WSU faculty member honored

*[By Eric D. Lawrence; reprinted from the Detroit Free Press, April 8, 2008]*

A Grosse Pointe Farms man has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Paul Clemens '90 (ND), an assistant to the dean of liberal arts and sciences at Wayne State University, is to get one of the 190 fellowships from the New York-based John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

"Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment," a statement from the foundation said.

Clemens and the other fellows were chosen from more than 2,600 applicants in the 84th annual Guggenheim competition for the United States and Canada. Awards total more than \$8.2 million, the statement said.

Clemens wrote "Made in Detroit: A South of 8 Mile Memoir," his 1995 recollection of growing up in a changing Detroit.

## Joey Zambito '07 (NDP) represented student-athletes team USA in Japan in GE Global Challenge Bowl.

Joey Zambito '07 (NDP) was part of a 41-strong roster of high school football players ages 19 and under who took on a Japanese national all-star team in the inaugural GE Global Challenge Bowl in Kawasaki, Japan, on Saturday, March 22, 2008.

Team USA practiced together for the first time in San Diego,

CA, on March 14 and 15 before heading to Kawasaki. Following a week of acclimatizing to their new surroundings, the Americans lined up on Japanese national television in the Kawasaki stadium in front of a crowd of 15,000 passionate Japanese football fans.

## Congratulations, Notre Dame Prep class of 2008!

**Number: 193 graduates**

Scholarships/Grants: nearly \$10 million

Average/graduate: over \$49,741

**Top 5 Schools of Choice:**

#1—University of Michigan (36)

#2—Michigan State University (29)

#3—Oakland University (19)

#4—Grand Valley State University (16)

#5—Central Michigan University (8)

**Valedictorians:**

Paul Al-attar

Kelsey DeLave

Kathryn Hojnacki

Shawna Kolka

Rachel LeDuc

Meredith Loveless

Patricia McCormick

Cara Pozolo

Alexander Scales

Sajel Trembley

Eric Tye

Christina Winkler

## Update on Fr. John "Hollywood" Bryson, s.m.

Ken Parent visited Fr. Bryson of Harper Woods Notre Dame earlier this year. He had just returned home in Wellesley, Mass., after having had his right leg amputated below the knee before Christmas. He was in great spirits, saying that he felt good. Ken arrived at about one o'clock, but couldn't stay too long because Father had to get ready to play bingo at 2:30. Ken told him it seemed strange that he had become a bingo player after running the concession stand at bingo for many, many years at HW Notre Dame.

All in all, he's doing very well. He loves getting snail mail. Consider sending him a card or note.

Father's address is:

Elizabeth Seton Residence

Attn.: Rev. John W. Bryson, s.m.

125 Oakland Street

Wellesley MA 02481



### **Notre Dame Prep student earns top ACT score**

When Notre Dame Preparatory School junior Ryan McIntosh scored a 35 on the ACT Assessment practice test in December, he was pleased but thought he could do better. So he prepared for the actual test this April in a most unusual way---he did not study for it nor did he take any ACT preparation classes. The result? A perfect 36.

"After going through the practice test and scoring so well, I was perfectly happy getting a 35," said Ryan. "The teachers here are always challenging us to achieve more. Even though I didn't study for the it, I felt really prepared for the actual test."

That preparation put Ryan in rare company.

Dana Engelbert, a spokeswoman for ACT, said that typically less than one-tenth of one percent of ACT test takers earn a composite score of 36. "And that's out of about 2.4 million ACT tests administered in the United States," she said. "Congratulations to Ryan. This is a great achievement."

According to Fr. Joe Hindelang, principal at Notre Dame Prep, Ryan is another example of how the faculty and intellectually focused curriculum at the school are preparing students for the challenges awaiting them in college. He cited as an example the fact that this year's graduating class received an average of over \$50,000 per student in college scholarship offers.

### **Business Club established**

The NDPMA Biz Club was established recently to help make connections with other business owners, entrepreneurs and corporate executives. Annual dues are \$300 and are 100% tax deductible. All alumni are invited to join. Contact Kris Powell '75 (ND) at (248) 581-0280, Kent Tyrrell at (734) 502-0510, or the Advancement Office at (248) 373-2171 for more details.

### **Wills, Trusts and Taxes Forum**

The Notre Dame Planned Giving Committee will be hosting a free forum on wills, trusts and estate taxes. Our expert presenters will address such issues as charitable remainder trusts, bequests and the latest changes in tax laws that could affect your estate. The forum will be held at the Notre Dame Prep/Marist Academy campus on October 1st at 7:00 p.m. All alumni and friends are invited to attend. Please RVSP by phone or email to the NDPMA Advancement Office: (248) 373-2171; Jkopytek@ndpma.org

### **Alumni Events**

#### **Hockey Game**

The second annual alumni hockey game was a resounding success. Thanks go out to Mike Lesnau '06 (ND) for taking a leadership role in this event. Thanks, too, to NDP hockey coach Randy Campana for his assistance. And thanks to Mr. Ingram, father of Ben '02 (NDP) and Tom '06 (NDP), for refereeing the game.



### **Volleyball Game**

The almost-annual NDP volleyball game was held on Sept. 2, 2007. There were eight alumna do battle with our varsity team. The second 2007 team came up with a 3-game sweep, but not before the "old timers" gave them a run (25-23, 25-21, 28-26) for their money! It is our hope that this game could expand into a mini-tournament. Maybe those graduating in odd years vs. even years vs. varsity. We would also like to see us add a BBQ to this event. We're looking for your ideas on the format. For now, we would like to schedule the event on Sunday of Labor Day weekend every year.

### **Soccer Game**

The annual alumni soccer game against the varsity squad took place in mid-August 2007. About 10 soccer alumni played in the game. We'd like to see this annual event grow to at least 25 alumni so there could also be a game between two alumni teams.

### **Homecoming 2007**

Approximately 150 alumni returned to their alma mater for homecoming under a warm fall sky. Most of them visited the alumni tent which was set up near the entrance to the stadium to enjoy food and drink before and during the game football game. This was a change from having an indoor reception after the game.



### **Holiday Chillfest**

Thanks to Jim Gammicchia for organizing the first Alumni Chillfest. A few alumni attended the event at Rochester Mills Brewery. Jim said, "That's okay for the first attempt. We'll do things a bit differently next year. Perhaps we can get several bands to play, and hold the event at school."

### **Turkey Bowl**

Thanks to John Putnam '02 (NDP) for organizing the first alumni bowling party at Classic Lanes the day after Thanksgiving. About 25 grads attended the bowling event. John expects the event to grow in popularity once it becomes well-established. It's a good meeting place when everyone is home from school for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

### **Alumni Serving in the Military**

#### **Leah Kohler '98 (NDP)**

**Carl Schmidt '01 (NDP)**—After graduation from NDP, Carl enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Sergeant Carl Schmidt's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) is Combat Engineer. In 2003, he participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and in 2004, in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He has participated in multiple training exercises across the United States and most recently this past summer in a combined exercise with British Royal Marines and Royal Army Commandos. He is currently stationed with Bravo Company, MWSS-471 at Selfridge ANGB, training in preparation for upcoming combat deployments.



**Trip Reimann '02** - Trip graduated from Niagara University in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Political Science. He earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army in the same month, after going through 4 years of ROTC.

### Weddings

**Mike Mlinarcik '96 (ND)** and Sawsan Kizy—May 18, 2007

**Cheryl Bowman '98 (NDP)** and Matt De Vrie—November 4, 2006.

**Matt Murphy '99 (NDP)** and **Theresa Mlinarcik '99 (NDP)**—September 8, 2007.

**Rebekah Beyer '00 (NDP)** and Dr. Chi Lum—May 10, 2008.

**Jacqueline McClellan '00 (NDP)** and Drew Moore—December 29, 2007.

**Joel Knaack '02 (NDP)** and Laura Arpke—May 26, 2007.

**Kim Murphy '02 (NDP)** and Jeff Munro—June 2, 2007.

**Matt Barrett '03 (ND)** and Ashlee O'Donnell—January 5, 2008

### Rest in Peace

Please pray for:

Helen T. Matlas, mother of **Tom '59 (ND)**

Valerie Ramberger, mother of **Alan '65 (ND)**, **James '70 (ND)** and **Steven '78 (ND)**

Fred T. DeMuro, father of **David '67 (ND)**, **Richard '71 (ND)** and **William '78 (ND)**

Lorraine Meganck, mother of **Richard '68 (ND)**, **Michael '70 (ND)**, **Allan '73 (ND)**, and grandmother of **Nathan '03 (ND)**

Louie Bulgarelli, father of **Terry '69 (ND)**

Eugene J. Bieszki, father of **James '71 (ND)** and **Jeffrey '72 (ND)**

Mary A. Scharl, mother of **Michael '71 (ND)**

Angela DeBusscher, mother of **Gary '72 (ND)**

Victor S. Sarpolus, father of **Edward '72 (ND)**

Josephine Okragleski, mother of **George '75 (ND)**

Katherine G. Titus, mother of **Ronald '75 (ND)**, **Timothy '77 (ND)**, and **Daniel '80 (ND)**

Caroline B. Horodko, mother of **Joseph '76 (ND)** and the late **Lawrence '80 (ND)**

Leonard Swan, **father of John '77 (ND)** and Ken, former teacher at ND

Albert Taconelli, father of **John '77 (ND)** and **David '80 (ND)**

Shirley M. Baumgart, mother of **John '79 (ND)**

Arthur J. Dolecki, father of **Brian '79 (ND)**

Edmund J. Sadowski, father of **Steven '79 (ND)**

Dolores Lyscik, mother of **William '81 (ND)**

Jerry Nehr, father of **Jerry Nehr '84 (ND)**

Hilda A. Andary, mother of **Paul "PJ" '86 (ND)**

Donald T. Edge, father of **Jeffrey '93 (ND)**

Gerald V. Allen, father of **Neil '95 (ND)**

Edward Lennon, father of **Bryan '97 (ND)**

Robert Szyzkiewicz, father of **Joseph '97 (NDP)**

Joseph P. Pierce, father of **Philip '00 (ND)**

Diamond France, father of **Brandon '01 (ND)** and **Jeremy '04 (ND)**, husband of ND Bookstore/Scrip Manager, Sue

Kay Gifford, mother of **Chris '01 (ND)**, **Jason '03 (ND)** and **Kyle '07 (ND)**

Krystyna Green, mother of **Alina '05 (NDP)** and **Gregory '09 (NDP)**; also a long-term substitute teacher in the Science Dept. at NDP

Rose Ann Fain, mother of **Brian '08 (NDP)**

Janet Barron, mother of Bruce, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; grandmother of **Liz '09 (NDP)**, **P.J. '10 (NDP)** and **Sara '12 (NDP)**

Elvie "Nellie" Ratliff, sister of Jerry Potter, security guard at NDP

Francis O'Donnell, former teacher at ND ('66-'69)

Victoria M. Sporer, mother of Sr. Patricia, teacher at ND

Leonard Bugajewski, friend of Notre Dame

### Deceased Alumni:

**Stanley Slazinski '59 (ND)**

**Egidio "Gino" D'Agostini '64 (ND)**

**Gary L. Korte '70 (ND)**

**Randall Rubis '72 (ND)**

**Raymond E. Borders '73 (ND)**

**Kenneth E. Whiting '73 (ND)**

**Robert Newmann '75 (ND)**

**Timothy J. McLuckie '76 (ND)**

**Dennis J. Badalucco '77 (ND)**

**Michael R. Fuqua '77 (ND)**

**Michael L. McBride '79 (ND)**

**Clancy Guglielmetti '81 (ND)**

**Gregory M. Kotas '91 (ND)**

**Brandon Hacias '95 (ND)**

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

### Memorial Fund established in Fr. St. Onge's memory to benefit education of new priests through the "Living Faith" campaign

[reprinted from Marist Outreach, Winter 2008] [also, see page 13]

The brother of the late Fr. St. Onge, s.m. has established a memorial fund to help raise funds for seminary education. Donations to the fund will be credited to the Marist's "Living Faith" campaign.

"I wanted to do this in memory of my brother because of the great passion he had for education," said Remi St. Onge from his home in Brunswick, ME.

*Anyone interest in making a donation to the Rev. Omer St. Onge—  
Memorial Fund for Education can send their tax-deductible gift payable  
to "Marist Fathers and Brothers," to: Marist Development Office, 518  
Pleasant Street, Framingham, MA 01701.*

# cheer, cheer for molly

Molly Coldren '08 just finished an extraordinary four years at Notre Dame Prep. She heads to Central Michigan University after setting numerous records and winning many awards, including Michigan's Miss Softball, Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year and the CHSL Walt Bazylewicz Athlete-of-the-Year.

When Molly Coldren stepped up to the plate against Bloomfield Hills Andover on May 27 in a Division 2 softball district opener, she was the first batter of the game.

The first pitch was a ball. The next was, "perfect." "It was one that I liked," Coldren said. "Low enough for me to reach down and hit it hard."

She put the offering on top of Notre Dame Prep's new music building, which is located 15 feet past the 200-foot fence in center field. It's also 32-feet high, according to Prep coach and AD Betty Wroubel.

"When you start off the game bouncing it off the roof, it gives everyone an ounce of confidence that we're going to be OK," Wroubel said, as Prep cruised to an 11-1 victory. (ND Prep made it to the state semifinals.)

Coldren, who will play softball for Central Michigan University next season, has given much more than an ounce of confidence to the Irish over the past years. In fact, what she's given the athletic teams at Prep might be impossible to add up.

Her high-school career included All League, All Catholic, All District, and All Region awards in softball, volleyball and basketball, and All State awards in volleyball and softball. She owns every volleyball offensive record at Notre Dame Prep and was near the top in most defensive categories, too. A four-year starter on the school's volleyball, basketball and softball teams, she also is the only player in the state to play in both volleyball and softball Class B all-star games.



volleyball (2007) and to the D-2 state semifinals in softball (2008).

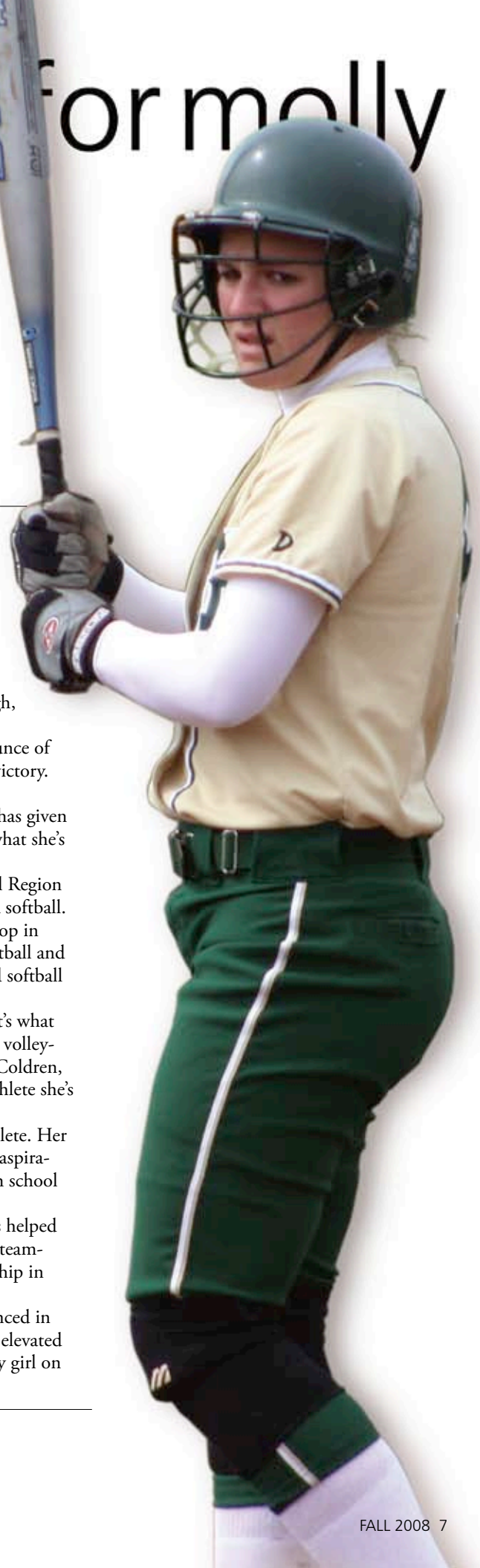
"Molly brought a certain something special to the team that I haven't experienced in my 30 years and some 70 seasons of coaching various sports," said Wroubel. "She elevated the play of the girls around her—her presence on the court or the field made every girl on the team better. We're really going to miss her." ■

"Once in a lifetime." That's what Wroubel, who also coaches volleyball, says when describing Coldren, probably the best female athlete she's ever coached.

"Molly's an incredible athlete. Her determination and level of aspiration far exceeded most high school athletes," Wroubel said.

That determination has helped lead Coldren and her Prep teammates to a state championship in

*C&G Newspapers contributed to this article.*





# hearts and souls

Norm Kotarski, 65, Ken Parent, 62 (and recently retired), and Hal Rice, 75, truly can be called the hearts and souls of Harper Woods Notre Dame and Notre Dame Prep. Between the three of them, they've spent 110 years teaching young men and women at both schools. They recently sat down to discuss those years and what it means to be educated at Notre Dame.

**IRISH:** *How long have you been teaching at Notre Dame Prep?*

**KOTARSKI:** Twelve years.

**PARENT:** Three years.

**RICE:** Twelve years, from fall 1996 until the just-completed 2008.

**IRISH:** *How long did you teach at Notre Dame in Harper Woods?*

**KOTARSKI:** Fourteen years.

**PARENT:** From fall '69 to spring '05—36 years.

**RICE:** June 1963 to June 1996—33 years.

**IRISH:** *Who was principal at HWND and NDP in the year you moved to NDP?*

**KOTARSKI:** The principal at HWND was Rick Kuhn, and the principal at NDP was Fr. Leon '65 (ND).

**PARENT:** Mike Reece '78 (ND) was the principal at HWND during the last year of

the school's existence. Fr. Joe Hindelang '69 (ND) was the principal who hired me at NDP.

**RICE:** At HWND, it was Rick Kuhn and at Prep, Fr. Leon, who asked me to be Assistant Principal and later Vice-Principal.

**IRISH:** *How long have you been teaching in total?*

**KOTARSKI:** I have just completed my 44th year in education, and I still love it

**PARENT:** Thirty-nine years; 36 at HWND and three at NDP.

**RICE:** Counting this past year, 51 years.

**IRISH:** *Where did you teach before HWND?*

**KOTARSKI:** I taught at Saint Andrew High School in southwest Detroit for 16 years.

**PARENT:** I came to HWND straight out of college (Boston College, '69)

**RICE:** St. Sebastian, Dearborn Heights.

Third grade first year and then seventh for the next four years. My first experience in teaching was to those third-graders; I was the fourth teacher to teach these 56 nine year olds. A challenge, but it was great!

**IRISH:** *Why did you decide to become a teacher?*

**KOTARSKI:** Actually it was the principal at St. Andrew who called me after I graduated from Wayne State University and asked if I would be interested in joining the staff of my Alma Mater. The rest is history.

**PARENT:** It's a long story but I'll make it short. When I entered the seminary, part of the training included teaching for two years between philosophy (undergrad) and theology (master's). I chose to come to Michigan to teach at HW Notre Dame. Immediately, I fell in love with teaching—and eventually, coaching.

**RICE:** It was not my first choice. I majored in History and Poly Sci. in hopes of working for the government. After finishing my BA and starting a Master's at Wayne State, I got a position with the MESC as an Administrative Assistant. It was the most depressing job I ever took. There was a recession going on and I wasn't able to help literally hundreds of people seeking jobs. In the midst of that,





a pastor (St. Sebastian) began a search for a teacher, and after an interview with him, on December 8th (feast of the Immaculate Conception), I took the job. I later went on and received credentials and an MA in History from U of D.

**IRISH:** *Where did you grow up and attend grade school or high school?*

**KOTARSKI:** I grew up in southwest Detroit and attended St. Andrew schools K-12.

**PARENT:** I grew up in a small farming community in Maine called Hamlin. The local big town was Van Buren. The Marist Fathers ran the public high school (for boys) at the time. And a group of nuns ran the local public high school (for girls) across the street. The nuns also ran the public grade schools.

**RICE:** Grew up in Detroit, east side (area of Harper and Gratiot) in an all-Italian neighborhood. I attended some public school early, then Patronage of St. Joseph where I had Felician nuns. In the sixth grade, my parents moved to Warren Township on a small farm at 12-1/2 Mile and Dequindre. I completed grade school in Warren and attended Warren High School.

**IRISH:** *Do you have an idea when you might be fully retired?*

**KOTARSKI:** I “semi-retired” one year ago on July 1, 2007. As long as my health holds on and the school can use my services, I would like to continue challenging students to read, discuss, and write about good literature.

**PARENT:** I have always worked full time until full retirement now.

**RICE:** I stopped full-time teaching (and Administration) in June 1999 and have taught three classes a day since that time. I have no firm plan for full retirement at this time, but it certainly is on my mind.

**IRISH:** *How has it been teaching at Notre Dame Prep?*

**KOTARSKI:** You know, I can honestly say the same good things about both schools: great kids, interested parents, extensive academic, athletic, and social programs, and a very dedicated staff.

**PARENT:** Phenomenal academic program,

driven by an excellent teaching staff. Very good athletic success for such a young school. Outstanding band, choral and drama programs.

**RICE:** The kids are wonderful. That is not to say the guys at HWND weren't also great—they were. We have a dedicated staff here, and on the young side (of course they would be in the eyes of a 75 year old!). But they are dedicated, spend lots of time with kids, are willing to take on the challenge of the International Baccalaureate Programme. We have some wonderful women administrators here. Kim Rose (now Anderson) in attendance and discipline—just a very fair, kind gal; Donna Kotzan, vice principal (and married to a HWND grad).

**IRISH:** *Did you have any favorite “era,” or time that you enjoyed more than others at HWND?*

**KOTARSKI:** The mid-eighties were really a jumping time at HW Notre Dame. The students were all involved in activities, and it was a pleasure to work with a great faculty.

**PARENT:** No one era stands out in my mind. But I remember the ‘70s fondly as the “years of my youth.” Those were exciting times. The Vietnam War was thankfully coming to an end. And the “make love, not war” hippies abounded. Long hair, leisure suits and polyester shirts were where it was at!

**RICE:** I think the era of Conrad Vachon's principalship. Never a dull moment. I have to mention, though, that the late 60s and early 70s were the most difficult for me, as the Vietnam War claimed many of our guys. I was also dean of discipline and those were protest times. (hair, wide pants, Banlon shirts!)

**IRISH:** *What do you miss about HWND?*

**KOTARSKI:** I guess the thing I miss



most is the spirit among the young men. It seems that nothing was done half way by the boys. They went all out for games, Irish Week, and even such activities as forensics. I remember the many members of the forensics team and the great trips we made to Chicago, to Fort Lauderdale, and to several other cities for the National Catholic Forensic League tournaments. We had good times and good competition. Even at local competitions, the boys would pile into the van on early Saturday mornings and review their scripts just one more time before facing the judges. On the way back there was always a lot of self evaluation, good-natured ribbing, and even a song fest. Good times!

**PARENT:** The camaraderie, above all else. As the school population shrunk, one of the positive aspects of the school was that it was a much closer, tight-knit community. Each student knew most of the other students in school, not just his classmates. This was also true for the staff and parents. There was a real “family” feel to the school.

**RICE:** The people. So many great kids I got to know in debate, coaching track; years in sports medicine. Buddy teachers—Vachon, Bob Kelly, Sister Rosemary, Tom Kelly and his wife Gini. Plus a host of priests, many of whom are now gone. Also missed working with Doreen Vermiglio, Delores Lynch and so many more.

**IRISH:** *Can you name the other faculty members (or staff, etc.) who were at both HWND and NDP?*

# The students at both schools were very much aware of the philosophy of the school, and at both schools the name Notre Dame is very special.

Norm Kotarski

**KOTARSKI, PARENT, RICE:** Here is what our collective memory tells us: Joe Spada, Fathers Strasz '70 (ND), Hindelang, Leon, Bro. Louis, Fr. Gonzalez, Bill Raymond, Roy Johnson, Eddie Cackowski (R.I.P.), Larry Sigel, Kim Rose (now Anderson), Sylvia Mulrenin, Ken Engler '61 (ND), Kirby Smith, John Parthum '63 (ND), Dwayne Holmes, Tony Borton, Bill Welliver, Tony Block '80 (ND), and us, of course. A couple of alums on staff are very active: Greg Simon '89 (ND), Mark McGreevy '76 (ND) (teacher Marist Academy), Mike Kelly '73 (ND) and Andy Guest '84 (ND).

**IRISH:** *Aside from the Marist connection and the name, what do you see as the common "threads" connecting both schools?*

**KOTARSKI:** Number one thread is the "great kids." They want to have fun, and they know why they are in school. Visit a pep rally for the enthusiasm; visit a classroom for spirited discussions; visit the cafeteria for all the small talk that never seems to end. The students at both schools were very much aware of the philosophy of the school, and at both schools the name Notre Dame is very special. Alumni from both schools are pleased with the education they received, and if they worked hard with the knowledge they acquired, they are happy and successful. I think a teacher never really knows success unless students come back and express their appreciation. Teachers have received a lot of thanks from students at both schools. That's a great thread of success.

**PARENT:** The Marist mission—the same philosophy of teaching. "With God, we form Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars." I see the same rigorous curriculum, the same high standards and expectations for a college-prep school.

**RICE:** Clearly the curriculum. But it has even been much improved since I first came to Prep, especially with the addition of the International Baccalaureate Programme and the host of A.P. programs. Also the strong spirit of Harper Woods Notre Dame is here at Prep, and it shows especially during Irish week!

**IRISH:** *What do you see as the advantages of*

*attending a Catholic high school?*

**KOTARSKI:** Catholic high schools have reputations for producing good people and good scholars on a very high level. Beginning the day/class with prayer has a calming effect on the students. The opportunity to participate in retreats, masses, and other religious services gives the students that extra phase of a whole education that they just wouldn't get in the public school. There is more to a complete life than a good academic record and an outstanding athletic performance.

**PARENT:** It sounds so cliché, but a Christian values-laden education can't be beat. Students learn how to put into practice what they are taught in school, at church and at home. Discipline is much less an issue in Catholic schools. Self-discipline is the standard.

**RICE:** Like HWND, we have an active "faith filled" life at NDP. Students are doing so much Christian service (over 10,000 hours this past year). I don't know that all students appreciate the beauty of their Catholic faith, or the freedom to express it, but it is a marked advantage from our perspective.

**IRISH:** *Can you provide any anecdotes, stories or memories from back in the day at HWND that still resonate with you?*

**KOTARSKI:** Teaching English classes with the masters, Conrad Vachon and Bob Kelly, was always a real trip, if you know what I mean. Those guys knew their stuff, were laid back, and really knew how to get the best out of the students. I enjoyed both of those guys; we were good friends, and I still think about them both. There are so many good things and good people to remember. Sometimes Hal Rice and I come across something that makes us reminisce about the good days at HWND.

**PARENT:** To name only a few: Raffle ticket drives. Fr. Bryson's "sock hops" and rock concerts in the gym with Bob Seger, Ted Nugent and others. Senior proms at Greenfield Village and the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. A school with no bells. Attending hundreds of games, meets and matches. The spring ritual of throwing students into the pool behind the rec-

tory. Irish games. Senior pranks at graduation time. Senior trips to the Bahamas and Jamaica. Fall and spring festivals. Bleach burn-outs in the dip by the caf. Seniors running through Regina after Irish games. Dave Coulier's '77 (ND) gut-splitting comedy improves for the students. Homecoming games





and dances. Volunteer days at the Capuchin kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, and other needy places.

**RICE:** For fear of recalling embarrassing situations, I will always remember the streakers at Dominican High School (“our boys”); the mooners from both N.D. and

Regina, the exciting competitions such as the one when N.D. played Brother Rice for homecoming, and lost the game in the last seconds on a Rice field goal, only to go into the gym for the dance and face a huge poster showing N.D. defeating Rice by a field goal. Or the time I was teaching

a sex-ed chapter in Psychology and when I finished, one gentlemen came up to me and said, “Boy Mr. Rice, that was bad!” It was.

**IRISH:** Any “Conrad” stories?

**KOTARSKI:** Conrad Vachon, Bob Kelly, and I would play golf once in a while; Kelly





was the only golfer, but we always had a good time. By the time I arrived at HW Notre Dame, I think Conrad had mellowed, so any stories I have are all second hand. Bill Raymond hired me during his first year as principal.

**PARENT:** No real stories, but I remember riding with Conrad in one of his “souped-up” cars. You really did take your life into your own hands with him behind the wheel.

**RICE:** Well, we took the track team to a Saturday meet downriver and the coaches stopped at a Howard Johnson Restaurant for breakfast. Conrad didn't like the way his eggs were done and called the waitress over and demanded to see “Howard.” She was flustered and we were doubling over. Or the time coming home from the Central Michigan Relays. Conrad was behind me in his green Mercury with Doug Brown '70 (ND) in the front seat (I believe) and all of a sudden I didn't see him in the rear-view mirror. A few seconds later he came out of a ditch on the left and was now ahead of me. We couldn't believe it! Or the time we were on our way from state final in Saginaw and decided to stop in Frankenmuth and have a chicken dinner, without a reservation. We showed up at Zehnders and all 20



of us went in and Conrad told them our name and that we had a reservation. They got flustered and said they could not find the reservation, at which time Conrad became indignant. We were promptly seated! I can tell you no other teacher had a greater impact on my teaching style than he did. Great man.

**IRISH:** *What were some of your thoughts at the time you found out HWND was closing?*

**KOTARSKI:** Sad, sad, sad. However, I think just about everyone saw it coming. Nothing good can last forever, and I'm glad that HW Notre Dame kept its excellent reputation as a very positive influence on the thousands of young men who passed through its corridors. I thought of all the history of a great school and of all the service that it rendered to the community for so many

years.

**PARENT:** I knew that, inevitably, the school would have to move or close because of the changing demographics around the school. Most of the feeder parishes had closed their schools and it was increasingly difficult to recruit new, qualified students. With an active group of alumni and parents willing to step forward and pursue moving the school eventually, the future seemed hopeful at the time.

**RICE:** Because of the suddenness, I was angry. I knew the situation had slowly changed with feeder schools closing, enrollment falling, and neighborhood changing, and the opening of De La Salle in Warren creating more competition. All these played into a financial situation that was

becoming strained; but to suddenly have it closed the way it did just seemed wrong. It was probably inevitable that it would happen, but it could have had a much more

## At Notre Dame Prep, I've taught sons and daughters of Harper Woods Notre Dame grads and it is something I will always treasure.

Hal Rice





# extra-entrepreneur

For many students, freshman year of college can be daunting. But for a young entrepreneur like Joe Pascaretta '06 (NDP), founder and president of the Alps Lawn Company and Alps Technology International, things were going pretty well.

Both of his companies were growing substantially. Pascaretta's Alps Lawn Company—a landscaping firm that serves more than 60 residential and commercial properties—experienced a 239-percent increase in revenue and grossed more than \$1 million in 2006. Pascaretta's other business, Alps Technology International—a technology firm for the Web site development market—saw a 93-percent increase in revenue due to a major increase in international sales.

Pascaretta, now 20 years old and a junior at the University of Michigan, credits his ability to balance work and school in part to an affiliation with the National Federation of Independent Business Young Entrepreneur Foundation, an organization promoting the importance of small business and free enterprise to the nation's youth. He also credits his Notre Dame Prep education, which he says gave him a great base and foundation not only for his university education, but for working in the corporate world.

When deciding where he should attend college, Pascaretta chose to stay close to home at UM so he could continue to run both of his businesses. He also says that financially he could have chosen to skip college, but instead chose to pursue a degree in business while continuing to run his companies.

"In today's business community, a degree is a valuable asset," said Pascaretta. "I plan to continue running my businesses through college, but after graduation I want to be able to evaluate my options and see what opportunities are out there. As an entrepreneur, I'm always looking for new innovative ways to reestablish myself in the business world." ■

Joe Pascaretta recently received the Ernst & Young 2008 Entrepreneur Of The Year Award in the product solutions category in the Central Great Lakes.

## Robert "Pops" Kelly (1928-2008)

Former Harper Woods Notre Dame teacher Bob Kelly passed away in Florida on March 29, 2008. His wife Barbara predeceased him in 2006. He is the father of Sean '83 (ND) and Judy Casinelli, grandfather of Quinn, and brother of Rita. Mr. Kelly taught for 39 years, the last 28 at Notre Dame. As everyone at Notre Dame knew, he loved teaching English and

was fond of golf.

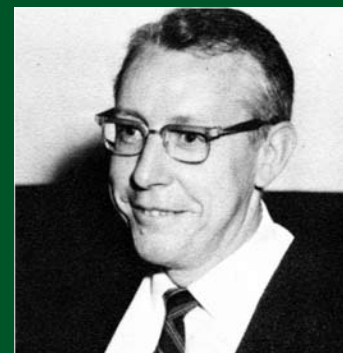
Mr. Kelly also loved art. After retiring, he did volunteer work as a docent at the Detroit Institute of Art. He also volunteered over 2000 hours for Readings For the Blind.

Fr. Gerry Demers, a former English teacher and HWND rector, wrote, "I remember a time in the 1960s and 1970s when Bob Kelly was one of two great pillars of the Notre Dame Senior English Department. Their contrasting personalities and styles complimented

each other and added to the effectiveness of their teaching.

"Bob was always a true Marist in spirit and a quiet but effective example to the students.

"Bob left his mark on many. He was a true 'Son of Mary!' May he rest in peace!" ■



# world school

## ENTIRE NOTRE DAME INSTITUTION OFFERING RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME IN THE FALL

Beginning this fall, Notre Dame Prep will be offering the Diploma Programme, a rigorously academic two-year program for high school juniors and seniors which leads to the internationally recognized International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Notre Dame Preparatory School is the only Catholic high school in Michigan to offer this challenging program known for its demanding curriculum and global perspective.

The high school joins only a handful of Michigan high schools offering the IB Diploma Programme, including Detroit Country Day in Birmingham and International Academy in Bloomfield Hills.

The school's Marist Academy, JK - eighth grade, has been accepted as an IB Candidate School and is already teaching the IB curriculum as part of the authorization process. Full authorization is expected by the end of the calendar year 2008, making the institution the only school in the entire state to offer this rigorous curriculum from junior kindergarten through 12th grade.

It took approximately two years for ND Prep to get through the application and candidate-school process. The extensive procedure allows schools the opportunity for planning time to strategically implement the program while maintaining the rigor and curriculum standards upheld by the IBO.

"Because we are a school which currently runs an academically challenging program, including AP and Honors classes," says Sharon Derico, NDP IB Coordinator, "IB will allow our students to be academically rich as well as citizens of the world community. It's a win-win situation."

Students who graduate with an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma benefit from higher acceptance rates at competitive universities as well as the possibility of college credit earned.

"We are very fortunate and blessed to be able to offer this program next year," said Fr. Leon Olszowski, President of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy. "Not only does the advent of this program bring us to the cutting edge of "World Class" education, it also gives our students, who receive the diploma, a dramatic edge in their quest for acceptance at the world's finest colleges and universities."

The IB Diploma Programme allows students to study in a variety of subject areas, commit to creative ventures as well as athletic and community service-oriented activities, and take part in a research study which culminates in a 4,000-word extended essay.

Notre Dame Preparatory School was also recognized by the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty on its Catholic High School Honor Roll of the Top 50 Catholic high schools in the United States. Additionally, ND Prep was the highest ranking Catholic school in Michigan on the Michigan Merit Exam, with over 96 percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards.

"We are very proud, yet humbled by the academic success of our students," said Fr. Joe Hindelang, Principal at Notre Dame Prep, "but we are most proud of the kind of people our students become while they are here." ■



**Not only does the advent of this program bring us to the cutting edge of "World Class" education, it also gives our students who receive the diploma a dramatic edge in their quest for acceptance at the world's finest colleges and universities."**

Fr. Leon



From page 13

Christian approach to it.

**IRISH:** *What are your thoughts on the disconnect between NDP and HWND? Why hasn't there been closer ties through the years?*

**KOTARSKI:** Too many negative attitudes were promulgated by some of the very people who should have tried to create closer ties with NDP. The transition that some of the HWND students made to NDP went very smoothly. They were welcomed; they wore their jackets, one of them even became athlete of the year in his first year. The last of the transfer students graduated this year. No distinction was made, and they seemed well adjusted and happy. Students adjust to change much more quickly than do the adults. Those students who transferred to the Prep are alumni of Notre Dame.

**PARENT:** There never was a strong tie between the two schools for various reasons. First, there was confusion in the minds of many people, especially the alumni, because both schools bore the same name. Did that mean they were one school, in two parts? Did that mean that the older, more established school (HWND) was supposed to support the new NDP financially? (Many grads thought that a gift to HWND meant a gift to NDP.) Some HWND alumni think that if NDP wants their support, NDP's name should become Notre Dame.

**RICE:** Naturally, because of my close feelings about thousands of HWND grads and the hundreds I have accumulated here at Prep, it is painful for me to see strained relations. These are all good people; that is the shame of it. If only they would talk to each other, communicate, and be willing ultimately to share so many good things between them. At Notre Dame Prep, I have taught sons and daughters of HWND grads and it is always something I treasure.

**IRISH:** *Why do you think there are problems with getting the two schools' alumni groups together?*

**KOTARSKI:** I think the biggest problem is lack of communication. How do you get people who displayed so much anger very publicly to moderate their emotions and

at least come together to talk? There are many, many Notre Dame High Schools throughout the country; I bet they all sing, "Notre Dame our Mother..." and I bet they all "Cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame..." The history of each school will always exist; it is the philosophy that is carried forward by those who lived it in the past to those who live it in the present. It just seems sad that the students who gained so much from that philosophy can't bring themselves to personally help those who are part of it today.

**PARENT:** I think the first step is to get the HWND alumni to truly understand what we are trying to do. What type of communication will best appeal to them? Does it take an attractive looking magazine like this? An e-mail? A postcard? The question is—what will they read, if anything? And will they respond to our inquiry?

**RICE:** I think the most important way to start to clear up things is to talk. Get everyone together and talk. Clear up the rumors and misinformation. ■

## Send us your news/story ideas

Got news? A press release? Or an idea for a story? Or maybe a story itself? Interested in contributing a guest editorial?

As an infrequent publication, we're not really time-sensitive. So we love news past, present and future. We also encourage submission of short (really short) stories, fiction and non-fiction, that your fellow ND literati might like to read. We'll give you a byline and everything (except remuneration, of course).

We're especially open to articles about your chosen careers, whether it's nuclear engineering or tattooing.

All that said, please bear in mind that we're still an editorial operation. We'll use your submission if we believe the ND Prep and ND audience will find it consequential, interesting and nearly cogent.

Still interested? Send your release, story pitch or idea for a contributed column, etc., to:

Alumni Director  
Notre Dame Preparatory School  
1300 Giddings Rd.  
Pontiac, MI 48340  
248-373-2171  
Fax 248-373-2175  
alumni@ndpma.org  
www.ndpma.org

# one author named joe

'80 GRAD TALKS ABOUT HIS BOOK, THE EAST SIDE AND NOTRE DAME

Joe Borri graduated from Harper Woods Notre Dame High School in 1980. As a young boy, he was always drawing and watching movies, developing a love of stories early on. A second generation American of Italian descent, and the son of a Detroit policeman, he heard riveting stories of life in Detroit, his father's work downtown, and the '67 riots. Enthralled by the concept of "stories"—whether obtained by relatives, films or books—the emerging artist secretly wanted to be a writer.

After earning a BFA from Northern Michigan University ('84), Borri worked as an illustrator, free-lancing for both Detroit dailies and various editorial publications.

Currently employed as an artist at a commercial art studio in Royal Oak, Borri has written *Eight Dogs Named Jack*, a collection of fifteen short stories. Inspired by life on Detroit's East Side and his travels north, *Eight Dogs* is his first published book.

*Eight Dogs Named Jack* is available throughout Michigan at Borders, Barnes & Noble and other bookstores. It can be purchased online at places like Amazon.com, keyword: Joe Borri. Joe currently resides in Farmington Hills, with his wife, Maria, and their four children, Gino, 16, Marina, 14, Julia, 10, and Ava, 7.

Recently, Joe was kind enough to answer a few questions about himself, his book and his high school alma mater.

## How did you start writing?

Well, when I came back from Marquette seeking work as an editorial illustrator, jobs were scarce. I was working as a bouncer at Brownie's, designing gunstock checkering, breaking down tables at VA halls, anything to make money. I was fortunate to hook up

with a design director from Detroit Monthly. He mentored me, invited me to parties with his coworkers. I would tell them jokes, stories, etc. One of the editors, Patty Stearns, took a fondness to one story in particular about getting my tattoo. It killed her. She suggested I try writing a story on it. I did and they published it. I wrote a few more and then life and family got in the way.

## You took a writing hiatus?

Quite a long one. I somehow stumbled into commercial art sales, the path of least resistance as it were. I painted at night, but my writing went into hibernation. I was always a movie buff, and had this nagging idea for a screenplay. For some reason, I started writing it the day before my youngest was born, 2001. Since that time, I've written four full-length screenplays, a novel (all as-yet unproduced and unpublished) and *Eight Dogs*.

## How does a guy with four kids, a full-time job find the time to write so much?

Not sleeping helps though I don't recommend it! If you're married, a supportive spouse is a must. I didn't want to take away from anything with my children, so my schedule was after the kids were in bed, I'd write. Ten p.m. until two or three most nights, every night for six years, even holidays sometimes. It reminds me of that joke about how smoking takes a few years off your life: those are usually the lousy ones. I would wake up at 6:30-7 a.m., see the kids off and go to my "real" job. Seriously, if it weren't for coffee I wouldn't have gotten through most days. Most of 2005 is kind of a blur.

## Was getting published difficult?

God yes. As an artist I'm used to rejection, but man. There are just so many books out there. I didn't want to self-publish, because I feel like it doesn't give you as much validation as a writer. I was fortunate that Ed Peabody, the publisher at Momentum Books, saw something in my work. Even though it's an independent press, it's a great start.

## And you did all the artwork, too?

I wasn't going to. I didn't want it to take away from the writing. Then I realized it's what I am. I feel now that it only adds to the uniqueness of the book. Of course, all I did was make way more work for myself.

## Eight Dogs Named Jack. That's an interesting title. Your idea?

No, I mean, it's the title I gave of one of the stories but it was the publisher's idea to name the book that. He wanted to grab the casual buyer. My father-in-law had this idea that if he named all his hunting dogs Jack, his kids wouldn't get attached to them. The story is about a guy and a dog, and a terrible situation that changes





Joe Borri's book recently won the Ben Franklin award for Best New Voice in fiction. The award is given annually by the Independent Book Publishers Association. It also took Silver in Foreword Magazine's Book of the Year Awards, Fiction - Short Stories.



# Brother Gonzalez, Father Leon, Father Sadjak, they all put up with that side of me, thank God.

Joe Borri

his thoughts on animals. It's funny, too. The title resonated with the publisher. I wanted to name the book, *Leaving Copper Corner*, which is the Detroit neighborhood I grew up in on 7 Mile east of Hayes. He thought it didn't grab as much attention as *Eight Dogs Named Jack*. You get a little worn down and some fights aren't worth fighting, but I think his instincts were right. People always comment on the title.

## Why did you write the book?

I think they were building inside me for many years. After thinking about my married situation, there was a nice juxtaposition. As I say in the Afterword of the book, I'm the son of a Detroit cop, an Italian, who married a Sicilian girl whose father hated Detroit cops. Mash that up and you're going to hear some crazy things. I really wanted to put together a collection of adult camp stories if you will. Kind of gritty, pulpy, noir-influenced tales. Many contain the spine of a real life situation, spun into fiction. Pain spawns art, and the death of my brother, Doug '67 (ND) certainly played a great role. But I also wanted to leave behind something enduring from me for my children. These stories are like folk tales. They remain long after I'm gone, and that was exciting to me.

## Are any of the characters based on you?

Richie. He appears in three stories if I remember correctly.

## Some of the stories have rough language, situations. How would you characterize it?

It's not a children's book! The publisher wrote on the inside flap, "... Ernest Hemingway, meet the Sopranos." Aside from how ludicrous my name being in any way associated with Hemingway is, I don't like being pigeon-holed as writing only about Italians. However, the book's protagonists are mainly Italian and it does contain a fair amount of crime, so fuggedaboutit!

## The stories read almost cinematically. The movie influence?

That's just the way I write. I really try to paint a word picture of what I'm seeing in my head. The story ends up playing out as a film I watch as I write. I feel I'm a bit over-descriptive sometimes, but you know, I'm still learning how to construct a story. The longest one in the book, *Bow Season*, I adapted into a screenplay. I'd love to see it made in Michigan. If Matt Servitto '83 (ND), or Mark Cendrowski '77 (ND) or Dave Coulier '77 (ND) are reading this, PLEASE CALL ME! Matt was in *The Sopranos*, so maybe he has some connections.

## Speaking of Notre Dame grads, how has the support been from the alumni?

Really great. I've received many kind words from lots of the guys I went to school with and even some from the years before

and after me. Jim Mandl '90 (ND) mentioned me in his newsletter and he came to a signing with his father, who is also an alumni. I'm really grateful, humbled for that kind of support.

## Any teachers from ND that stand out?

Certainly John Giordano, Cameron Anderson and Pat Burgen, my art teachers. They were so good, so advanced. My portfolio going into college was so much more complete than any of my peers because of them. That helped me get a scholarship to NMU. Bob "Pops" Kelly, who recently passed away, touched many of us with his warmth, wit and affability. In his English classes, he saw something in me. I remember he had me read from *Death of a Salesman*, Willy Loman's character. I wondered, "Why me?" when there were so many other kids in class who were much better students. I really enjoyed the experience and it stayed with me, his confidence in me. He was a great man.

Conrad Vachon was one-of-a-kind. Witty! We butted heads a lot, and I was never smart enough get into one of his actual classes, to have him as a teacher. I know Paul Clemens, who wrote the excellent and nationally-acclaimed, *Made in Detroit*, highlights him as a big influence. I think his presence made everyone better.

There are others, who I wish I could go back in time to relish what they were trying to teach me. I was a bit of a class clown, I suppose seeking attention to overcome teenage

insecurities. Brother Gonzalez, Father Leon, Father Sadjak, they all put up with that side of me, thank God. All I can do to honor them is be the best I can as an artist, writer, father and husband. Whatever all the teachers did rubbed off though, because college came much easier than I imagined, the liberal arts' requirements, for instance.

## What are you working on now?

I'm on the second draft of the novel I adapted from a screenplay I wrote. It's called, *The Claw*. It's a dark humor take on consumerism and a pretty wild ride, traveling from Birmingham to downriver. I was encouraged to write it by Jack Epps, the fellow who wrote *Top Gun*. I took a writing class of his, and he made an exception and read my screenplay. Becoming a screenwriter is as difficult as becoming an artist. Very Catch-22-ish! He liked the story and suggested I try writing it as a novel, as a backdoor way to get the script sold. We'll see. I'm trying to get an agent, see if I can't go national with it. Also trying to sell the film rights to *Eight Dogs*. My plan is to keep writing and see what God has in store for me. ■



Joe Borri illustrated the entire book using woodcut-type renderings.

To learn more about Joe Borri, visit his web site, [www.joeborri.net](http://www.joeborri.net) He also has a blog: [www.eightdogsnamedjack.blogspot.com](http://www.eightdogsnamedjack.blogspot.com). Joe is available for appearances, signings and book clubs. He can be reached at [jborri@att.net](mailto:jborri@att.net).



# We get letters and notes

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep alumni: (NDP); Harper Woods Notre Dame alumni: (ND)

**Veronica "Ronnie" Bayagich '07 (NDP)**—It's been a busy school year, but it's finally coming to an end! All of the hard work and sleepless nights have finally paid off. I am proud to announce that I had some artwork that was accepted into the CCS Student Art Show!

**Logan Mitseff '07 (NDP)**—Logan is a member of the Central Michigan University football team. They won the MAC championship and played in the Motor City Bowl in December.

**Christian Roberson '07 (NDP)**—I will be playing basketball at Rochester College, after being red-shirted at Western Michigan University last year.

**Matt Zaborowicz '07 (NDP)**—Matthew Zaborowicz was accepted last fall into the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Institute at Albion College. Honors students are required to enroll in four "Great Issues" seminars in humanities, science, social science, and fine arts. In addition to the seminars, Honors students must graduate with a 3.5 GPA and produce an Honors thesis.

**Katy Durkin '06 (NDP)**—After spending 1-½ weeks in Scotland and England last summer playing soccer for St. Mary's, Katy has ventured overseas again through St. Mary's College Notre Dame, Indiana) to study in the lovely country of Ireland. She is currently pursuing her degree in Elementary Education and was just formally accepted into the program in January, 2008. Katy had another successful season for the Belles. She started and played in all 17 games and finished second on the team with a total of 5 goals and 1 assist. (from mother, Mary)

**Jaclyn Krause '06 (NDP)**—Valparaiso University sophomore Jaclyn Krause continues to shine in athletics as well as in the classroom. The Notre Dame Prep High School graduate from Rochester has been named to the Horizon League's All-Academic team for women's swimming and diving. Krause, who has a 3.93 cumulative grade point average, was a member of the Horizon League's fall Academic Honor Roll as well. Krause earned her latest award after a standout performance at the Horizon League Swimming and Diving Championships held in Akron, Ohio. Krause, who has a double major in nursing and Spanish, set a school record in the 100 freestyle with a time of 52.96 seconds. She was also a member of the school record-setting 400 freestyle, 200 medley and 400 medley relays. Krause finished fourth at the league championships in the 50 freestyle and won seven individual races throughout the season. [The Oakland Press—5/3/08]

**Eoghan McGreevy '06 (NDP)**—Eoghan was offered a fellowship in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Michigan for the summer of 2008. The research program involves a minimum 10-week full-time research equivalent, including participation in the program of activities associated with the REU program.

**Josh Roberson '06 (NDP)**—Josh transferred from Oakland University to Grand Valley where he is playing basketball. He is red-shirted the first year. (from brother, Christian '07 NDP)

**Danielle Coldren '05 (NDP)**—Danielle was named the tennis team's Most Valuable Player at Saginaw Valley State in May. She finished the season 8-10 in singles and 8-7 in doubles competition.

**Heather Evans '05 (NDP)**—Heather is a junior at Alma College. She made the Dean's List for the 2007 Fall Term. (Alma College Bulletin)

**Jessica Stouffer '05 (NDP)**—Jessica attends the University of Notre Dame, majoring in chemical engineering, and studied in Dublin this year. She attended the beatification of Fr. Moreau in LeMans, France in September. In a note to her parents, she said: "All-in-all, the weekend was a good experience. I learned a lot about Fr. Moreau. In the end, I'm really glad I went. And it was cool to see LeMans and Chartres which were French cities that were much less busy and affected by tourism than Paris. I really had a good time." Jessica has been accepted into the Alliance for Catholic Education Program upon graduation from Notre Dame. Basically, she will teach at an under-served Catholic school for two years and obtain her Masters of Education during the summers at Notre Dame. It is a great program and an honor for her to be accepted. (from mother, Linda)

**Bryne Janeway '04 (NDP)**—My daughter Bryne is off to Law School at the University of Loyola Chicago, and wants to start training for the Chicago marathon in October. (from father, Kevin)

**Peter Holland '04 (NDP)**—Peter Holland was one of seven Albion students recognized as among the state's top college community service leaders by Michigan Campus Compact (MCC). Holland received a Heart and Soul Award, given to students who've invested significant time, effort and personal commitment through service. Holland is a member of, and leader in, numerous campus organizations and projects with community service components, including the Alpha Phi Omega community service fraternity, sixth grade field day, and the Albion Health Benefit Ball. He has further worked as a merit badge counselor for the local Boy Scout troop and was the campus chairman for the first annual "Make a Difference Day" food drive. Pete is an economics and management major with a concentration in the Gerald Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service. He plans on working as an auditor for KPMG, LLP upon graduation and is a candidate for Shelby Township Trustee in the August 2008 primary election. (Jake Weber, Albion College Communications)

**Lauren Lebioda '04 (NDP)**—I want to express my deepest thanks on behalf of the Honduras Medical Relief Brigade for your more than generous donation. I was down in Honduras in the middle of August last summer performing daily medical brigades that provided the impoverished people with medical and dental care. The level of poverty in the beautiful country

was astonishing, but the Honduran people were incredibly grateful for the work we did. For me personally, this experience was life changing. My four years of Spanish at Notre Dame Prep were beyond useful. I never thought I would have to speak Spanish as I did while in Honduras. When we were short of translators, I had to give postoperative dental instructions, and try to keep the crowd under control. I was also able to spend time in several orphanages established by a Catholic nun. The children who live there either have parents in jail or no parents at all. They greeted us with love, joy, enthusiasm, and curiosity. It was an unbelievable experience, and it has already helped me in pursuing my next level of education. I recently had an interview and was accepted into a graduate school in Chicago to be a Physician Assistant. Teresa Giacomazzi, a current Albion classmate and NDP graduate of 2004, also was present on the trip. She expresses my same sentiments of how the trip influenced her. Thank you again for helping students from Albion College and the University of Michigan learn about the Honduran culture, and help many of the ailing people. It was a phenomenal experience, and through our work there, we helped approximately 2,700 people.

**Evan McCausland '04 (NDP)**—Things haven't changed; I'm still the geek who loves playing with cars. I've spent the last six months working at AutoWeek magazine as a web intern, and have had the opportunity to write many pieces for both the web and print editions of the magazine. Notable assignments included covering the Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance and driving Ford's latest batch of concept and fuel cell vehicles. I plan on continuing to freelance for the magazine while I finish my journalism degree at Oakland University.

I've also spent quite a bit of time interviewing, writing and collecting photography for a history book on the RTS transit bus. The project is, as I write, nearly complete and will be published by Iconografix publishing by the end of the year or early 2008.

**Johnny Collins '03 (NDP)**—I am living in Shelby Township after graduating from college. I will be employed with Chrysler LLC. I graduated with a major in international business, Spanish and marketing. I plan on getting my master's in 2009 and a couple of years later, begin to work on my Ph.D. in business. I also traveled to Costa Rica for a month this past summer, and it was a spectacular experience. Do you know if there is someone who is going to work on our class reunion?

**Chris Fecek '03 (NDP)**—Oakland University graduating senior Christopher Fecek was honored with the university's most prestigious awarded at OU's spring commencement ceremonies in May. Chris received the 2008 Alfred G. Wilson Award

for his service and achievements at OU. The biology major maintained a 3.81 grade point average, remaining on the dean's list for ten consecutive semesters and is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Other awards he has earned include the Golden Grizzlies Excellence in Academics Award and the Rochester Hills Community Service Award. (The Oakland Press)

**Nick Giacona '03 (NDP)**—I graduated from MSU in 2007 and did a singing tour on a cruise ship with three friends from college. I flew into Lansing on Jan. 8th after a short stay with some friends in LA. I have since set up shop in East Lansing, close to all the resources provided by my alma mater MSU, to study for the GRE (Graduate School Entrance Exam) and learn Spanish (thanks to Rosetta Stone!) before my next seaward adventure. I embark for the Caribbean this March aboard the Celebrity Galaxy, visiting 8 Caribbean ports of call from San Juan to Aruba. I'm set to revisit Alaska this summer and have a pending 5-month Australian contract on the docket for next fall, singing aboard the Celebrity Millennium. It's a great way to see the world and this is certainly the time to do it. When I finally satisfy my traveling addiction, I'll be applying to graduate schools for clinical psychology.

**Dave Kuntz '03 (NDP)**—I'm writing because I want to share some news with you. As you may or may not know, a few years ago I decided to join the Marine Corps and enrolled in the NROTC program through Northwestern University in order to earn a commission as an officer. Since I needed to change my major from Theatre in order to be awarded the NROTC scholarship, I needed to take an extra year of undergrad here at Loyola. In May, I graduated with my Bachelor's in History and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

**Kevin Lao '03 (NDP)**—Back in town with the home team [Detroit Red Wings]. Chicago was nice, but I wanted a chance to be a champion! I do everything from individual games, group outings, and season ticket plans here for the Wings, and I'd be happy to help anyone out. I've already had people contact me from ND in regards to this. If there is anything I can do for ND Alumni, please let me know. (Lao@hockeytown.com.)

**Brad Michaels '03 (NDP)**—I was hired full-time as an Event Coordinator in August, 2007. My job is to assist in the coordination of all major events at Ford Field. This includes events such as the NCAA Division I Men's Midwest Regional (2008) and Final Four (2009), Kenny Chesney Concerts, Motor City Bowl, MAC Championship, MHSAA Football Championship, CHSL Prep Bowl, Monster Jam, Supercross, and more. Although I don't have much to do with the planning of Detroit Lions games, I am currently assisting our Event Department in coordinating Training Camp at Allen Park, just as we did last year. During events, my job is to make sure everything runs smoothly, that our clients are pleased, and most importantly that no potential safety hazards exists. (bmichaels@detroitlions.com.)

**Bradley Murphree '03 (NDP)**—Brad graduated from the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. He is a student at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. (Oakland Press)

**Kristin Syverson '03 (NDP)**—Kristin graduated from the University of Michigan on April 26th with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Economy, Business and Society. (per graduation announcement)

**Mike Bray '02 (NDP)**—I am currently working at Lowe's of Bloomfield Township. I am hoping to transfer to the Rochester store or work at the Home Depot in Auburn Hills in order to be able to pay for classes at OU again starting this fall.

**Katie Gerst '02 (NDP)**—I live in DeKalb, IL, now. I am currently in graduate school.

**Meredith Gifford '02 (NDP)**—Meredith is loving New York, and working at the Brooklyn Diner, teaching ballet to kids at the New York Kids Club, babysitting, and auditioning during the day. (per father, Daron)

**Andrea Haslett '02 (NDP)**—Andrea graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2006 with a BS in Dental Hygiene. Andrea moved to Norfolk, Virginia to accept employment as a civilian Dental Hygienist at the Norfolk Naval Station Dental Clinic where she met Lieutenant Matthew Shook. Their relationship remained strong through Matthew's 10-month Iraq deployment, and Andrea and Matthew were engaged in May 2008. They are planning a June 2009 wedding at the Annapolis Naval Chapel, Annapolis, Maryland, where Matthew is a 2000 alumnus. (note from mother, Mary)

**Bill Higgins '02 (NDP)**—I am going back to Harvard in August. I'm enrolling in the 4-year JD/MBA program, starting at Harvard Business School this year. (I can still pull out of the JD/MBA and do only the MBA if I decide in my first year that I'd rather not spend the extra 2 years and extra tuition to get both degrees—but for now, it's the joint.) I got really lucky in admissions... I'm aware all the time of how fortunate I am. And, of course, I learned most of what I know at NDP.

**Joel Knaack '02 (NDP)**—Joel married Laura Arpke at St. Daniel Church in Clarkston on May 26, 2007. They live in Oxford.

**Charles Ouellette '02 (NDP)**—Charles is married now and has a new baby, Charles Junior. He asked me to be godfather to his son, and I'm going to do it. (note from Bill Higgins '02 NDP)

**Trip Reimann '02 (NDP)**—I graduated from Niagara University in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Political Science. I earned my commission as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army in the same month, after going through 4 years of ROTC. He was deployed to Kuwait in March, per his mother, Elaine.

**Melissa Valeen '02 (NDP)**—Melissa is in Spain, teaching English as a second language. (per Melissa's father)

**Brandon France '01 (ND)**—I have been doing very well since graduating from Notre Dame. I went on to graduate

with honors from Central Michigan University, earning more than 6,000 dollars in scholarships my senior year. I have a bachelor's in Business Administration, majoring in Marketing with a Concentration in Sales Management and Customer Service. I will be going for my Master's as of next spring semester. I work in sales for the largest home builder in Michigan, third in the U.S., and a Fortune 200 company, Pulte Homes. As you know, we missed our 5-year reunion because of the closing of ND. I would like to do a Lucky 7-year theme around Homecoming '08. I was wondering if Prep had any intention of having 5, 10 or any other reunions for us, along with theirs. Why not combine the two? It would be a good networking opportunity, also for a larger reunion. I am sure I could get at least my immediate friends to attend. Let me know what you come up with. Dave DeGrandchamp is working for Fifth Third Bank, after graduating from Western. Jerry Stewart is a paramedic for Detroit, but a lot of people are out of state. Go Irish!!!

**Rebekah Beyer '00 (NDP)**—Rebekah married Dr. Chi Lum at an all NDP wedding at St. Joseph Church in Lake Orion on May 10, 2008. The best woman and best man were Carolyn Beyer '03 and Dan Beyer '05. The music was provided by Dave and Suzie Fazzini, Joe Martin, and Dennis Strach '06. The celebrant was Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m. They now live in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

**Eric Fedewa '00 (NDP)**—Eric is now an official candidate for the priesthood with the Archdiocese of Detroit.

**Bill Holland '00 (NDP)**—The Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corp. dedicated the Pontiac Veterans Memorial on Saturday, May 31st, during Memorial Day weekend. The founders of the memorial felt it was important to involve the community in honoring these brave veterans. Therefore, in 2000, the corporation asked students from schools in Pontiac to create designs for it, and Notre Dame Prep artist William Holland's design was selected. (Oakland Press)

**Jacqui McClellan '00 (NDP)**—Jacqueline McClellan Moore wed Drew Moore at Old Saint Mary's Church in Detroit on December 29, 2007. She graduated from medical school in the spring, along with her husband, and started an Internal Medicine residency at St. John Providence Hospital in July.

**John Schwartz '00 (NDP)**—John C. Schwartz graduated from Michigan State University College of Law in May 2007, and recently joined the law firm of Pilchak Cohen & Tice, P.C., in Auburn Hills, MI. John graduated from Albion College in 2004. He and his wife Dr. Emily Schwartz recently relocated to Grand Blanc, MI.

**Kala Thomas '00 (NDP)**—Mr. Kevin Thomas of Pontiac and Ms. Linda Stevens of Westland announce the graduation of their daughter, Kala Thomas, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Kala is a graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory and Purdue University. After pursuing a year in teaching she realized that her true calling was the pursuit of justice. She has now completed a difficult educational journey and will become Kala L. Thomas, J.D. on May 18, 2008. (Oakland Press)

**Mike McIntyre '99 (NDP)**—Mike is an EMT, currently working in Baltimore.

**Tim Brumbaugh '98 (ND)**—I am in Chicago now, still working for GE in Private Equity. I was accepted to Kellogg's night program at Northwestern and began pursuing my MBA in September 2007. No wife or kids for me, just yet!

**Cheryl (Bowman) De Vrie '98 (NDP)**—Cheryl was married to Matt De Vrie on Nov. 4, 2006. Cheryl is a Supervisor of Programming and Analysis at HealthPlus of Michigan, and she and Matt own a computer support and repair business named Canyonero Consulting.

**Jeff Meganck '98 (NDP)**—I may be one of the few (or possibly the only one) from my class of '98 who is still in school; I'm currently a PhD student at the University of Michigan and am trying to do a bunch of experiments this summer so that I can finish my degree. That takes all my free time... and then some!

**Rick Suhrheinrich '98 (ND)**—Several of your classmates are looking for you! Please contact us. The phone number you left is incorrect.

**Sean Macom '96 (NDP)**—I graduated in 1996 and it seems like yesterday when I was in the hallways. I was married in 2003 to Jennifer Talbot (Ortonville Brandon). On January 13, 2006, we had our first child, a daughter named Madison Chloe Macom. I currently reside in Auburn Hills, MI, and work as a national logistics manager for a large manufacturing company. I miss all my friends and wish them all the best. As a former captain of the football team, I say congratulations! I am so proud to have been a part of the program.

**Angela (Martin) Martino '96 (NDP)**—I am remarried and my new name is Angela Martino. Very similar, I know! I have a 10-year-old from my first marriage and a 2-year-old from my current marriage. My husband is currently on active duty in the Army. He is a medic and we are in the process of moving to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

**Neil Allen '95 (ND)**—All is well with me. I've been married for 3 years to my wife, Jessica, and we are trying to have children. Unfortunately, we waited too long, but my father's memory will live through them.

**Geoff Brumbaugh '94 (ND)**—Geoff is doing well. He just took a position with GM Powertrain as an IP lawyer. He finished law school a couple of years ago and he and his wife have two beautiful little girls; Katrina, and Abigail (from brother Tim)

**Robert Damian '89 (ND)**—I was sad to hear that the Harper Woods school was closed. I am curious to know what they are doing with the building and the land. In any event, I would like to keep posted on any alumni news. It would be great if you could tell me about any 20th year reunion that may be coming up. I would like to attend. I thank all the educators at Notre Dame for giving me, in reality, a priceless educational experience. Let me know as well how I can help out financially for your school. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Paul Kotas '89 (ND)**—Since graduating from ND, I spent 5 years for my undergrad at CMU, earning two degrees in physics, math and education. I was commissioned an officer in the Regular Army. My wife

(Ann) and I spent 3 years at Ft. Drum, NY before returning to Mount Pleasant, where we settled down and pursued our Masters degrees at CMU. I had started on my Ph.D. in physics at MSU in 2000, but when 9/11 hit, I deployed to Afghanistan. I've spent the last 11 years with Special Operations, having deployed multiple times to various theatres. On the civilian side, I have recently been promoted to principal electrical engineer with KRATOS Defense & Security, working under contract for the Army's Signal Experimentation Division at Ft. Gordon, GA, where I am experimenting with emerging SATCOM technologies and conducting research on wireless communication technologies. My wife and I have 3 children: Bryson (9), Savana (6) and Orion (4). I personally like living in Augusta where the weather is mild and the golf is abundant; but the kids often complain of the lack of snow!! My brother Jeff '90 is doing well and still resides in the MI area. On a sad note, however, our brother Greg '91 passed a couple of years back in Ann Arbor in a drowning accident. I am curious as to how ND Prep is doing and with how some of the teachers are doing. What is Bill Raymond up to these days? Is he retired? What about Father Leon? Is the alumni association for ND Harper Woods still alive? Are there any plans for a reunion for 1989? Please pass on my hello to the Notre Dame family.

**Tim Egan '88 (ND)**—Tim lives in White Lake Township with his wife and two kids. He owns a business in Clarkston called Simplest Solutions. They use infra-red technology to seek out heat loss in homes and businesses, and offer energy-saving solutions while going green.

**Steve Loewen '88 (ND)**—I know you probably hear it all the time but it is amazing how fast time goes by. It does not seem like it has been almost 20 years since my NDHW days. I see Don Wortham '86 occasionally. I think it's been 3 or 4 years in a row that our kids have been in the same classes.

**Andrew Showich '88 (ND)**—I was married in 2000 and have two kids. The oldest is Sarah; she is 5 years old, and the youngest is Ethan, who is 3. I love being a dad and enjoy the constant source of entertainment they bring to my world.

**Carl Smiley '88 (ND)**—I have been living outside of the U.S. for the last 9 years, working in the automotive industry (4 ½ years in China). I resigned from General Motors 18 months ago and moved to Magna International wherein I am responsible for the manufacturing facilities in China, India, Korea, and Thailand. My wife is from Mexico. Rosalinda and I have 3 children (Vanessa—9, Carl Jr.—3 1/2, Javier 2 ½), and we all are currently residing in Shanghai, China. I will be turning 38 in June and still can remember the summer gymnastics sessions as if they were yesterday! Please tell Father Strasz that I also say hello, and I am going to try to coordinate a business trip to N.A. for the 20-year reunion, if possible.

**Nate Edmonds '87 (ND)**—I gave you an update a while ago and have some great news to share. As of July 1, 2007, I have been named as a senior partner in my law firm, Secret Wardle (secretwardle.com). Pretty amazing since I am the



second youngest and second quickest to achieve this position at my firm. With 61 attorneys in the firm, I am quite humbled, but amazed at what has transpired since I joined this firm a mere 6 years ago. I was able to land a large insurance client and continued to build my book of business and, as they say, money talks. So I was offered the "senior partnership" which is ownership interest in the firm with my other 5 partners who are all over 60 years old. Having just turned 38, it is truly a dream come true. I promise to stay humble and true to my roots. Obviously, there are good financial things that go with this and I plan on giving back and helping out those who struggle. It has been a big rush for me ... I still shake my head and wonder how and why me, and I'm learning as I go. But I will always try to treat others like I would want to be treated and remember how hard it is coming from a single, working parent, no brother or sister background. All I can say is that I have been truly blessed throughout my life. It is easy to say that when you are doing well but even when you're not, we are a lot farther ahead than many people. I cannot say more than that I am blessed every day with my family, my wife Sandra and my children, friends, family and business contacts. And I never forget where I came from because you can always end up there again. However, I will help others reach for their dreams. Work remains hard but I do not let my number one priority, my family, ever lose out to anything else. I will always put them first. Thanks again for making me a better person. Tell all who are still around from '87 (back in the "hood," aka, Harper Woods) that I miss them and thank them for everything they did, and still do. All of you make a difference.

**Chuck Loose '87 (ND)**—I have moved back to Detroit after spending the past 12 years in Kansas City practicing law and developing a career in advancement. Currently, I am working for Wayne State University as Associate Director for Planned Giving.

**Derek Mattice '86 (ND)**—Why didn't the class of 1986 ever have a 20-year reunion? I'm just curious to see if they did.

**Greg Rinaldi '86 (ND)**—My family had a market in Mt. Clemens for a number of years. I was involved but decided to follow a career in Information Technology. I had been involved with consulting projects before landing at EDS and I have been here for about 10 years, so I cannot complain. On the home life side, I've been married almost 15 years (Cheryl), two kids Julia, 10 and Dominic, 4) and a dog. I do hope all is well.

**Pat Fanning '85 (ND)**—I am a sergeant at the Novi Police Dept. and work with Tim Farrell '85 and Dan Jenkinson NDP '01. While I was sad when HWND closed, I have always appreciated the sacrifices my parents made in order to send me to the school. I am grateful for all the opportunities I had going there. I am glad to see the Marist tradition is alive and well in SE Michigan. I just wish the school was closer to where I live, so I could send my 6 kids there.

**Scott Baumgart '84 (ND)**—I graduated in 1988 from Northwood University with an AA and BBA and then

graduated again in 2001 with an MBA. I currently am married for 15 years to Jackie and have two children, Savannah 13, and Remington, 9. I am Director, GM Supplier Development at GMAC Insurance and own two businesses. I own Robusto's Martini Lounge in Grosse Pointe Woods (ClubRobustos.com) and a property investment company (MichiganPropertyInvestors.com). We reside in Sterling Heights and have a second home in Gladwin on Secord Lake. I am also very active in charitable groups such as the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Masonic Lodge, Shriners and I-Care. I look forward to receiving the newsletters as I have not seen one in a while.

**Paul Jaboro '84 (ND)**—Paul and his wife Rowaida have six boys!

**Pat Green '83 (ND)**—Congratulations to Pat for his election to the Warren City Council!

**Robert J. Koleski '81 (ND)**—Worked 20 years for EDS. Job went to India two years ago. In second year of Bible College, seeking a 4-year degree in Ministry.

**Brian Schulte '81 (ND)**—I'm doing well and enjoying life with my family. I had planned on attending my reunion but there was an illness in the family which prevented me from attending. I've been married now for 23 years to my wonderful wife Mary who I met just after graduation; we have two great kids, and live in Clinton Township. Brian Jr. now 21, graduated from Chippewa Valley High School and is now in the fire academy at Macomb. He was a roller hockey player all while growing up and played for the club at school. I was his coach while he was growing up and I was his high school coach plus the president of that club for two years. Katelyn, now 19, graduated from Chippewa Valley H.S. She was co-captain of the swim team there and had a very successful time there. She is scheduled to start at Macomb C.C. this winter. As for myself, I have found my niche at PTM Corporation located in Fair Haven. PTM is a metal stamping manufacturer. I do all the costing here, from production tooling to production itself. That's all for now. Hope all is well with you. Take care and go IRISH!

**John Baumgart '79 (ND)**—I live in the Rockford, MI area, along with my twins, Michael and Zachary, age 14.

**Dave Bologna '77 (ND)**—Dave and his wife Darcy have two children in first and sixth grades at Holy Family in Rochester Hills. Dave lost his high school yearbooks while moving around after college. Does anyone have extra copies of 1974-77, especially 1977?

**Dave Barker '76 (ND)**—Dave and his wife Rosemary own a computer company. They have three grown children—two in college.

**Bob Carlesso '76 (ND)**—Glad to see the NDAA lives on. The class of 1976 needs a reunion.

**Tim Carnago '76 (ND)**—My mother's cancer is finally contained after two years. My son Kevin graduated from ECU in December and is going back to grad school there. He was married this summer in NC. My daughter Stephanie is at a community college in Gainesville, FL. And

my son Rob is a junior in high school.

**Tim McLuckie '76 (ND)**—It's with great sadness that I'm letting you know that my youngest brother, Tim '76, passed away on Sept. 24, 2007, just 10 days short of his 49th birthday, after a long illness. He is survived by two daughters, Erin and Megan; our father, James, who just turned 91; our brother Rob '73, and his wife Lorri; myself, Jay '72, and my wife Nancy; and five nieces and nephews. Our mother, Genevieve, predeceased him on March 25, 2005. Funeral arrangements for Tim were made by his classmate and the family of Greg Schultz. I remember that Tim's class had it made as far as dress code went. I believe I had to wear a white shirt and tie with a sweater or a sport coat. I remember Tim going to school in shorts and tee shirt. Fr. Bryson used to pick up Rob and Tim from our home to work at the ND dances on Friday nights. They worked the coat room and brought the coat tags home to sort. I don't think they all made it back because we used to use them as mini-frisbees to fling at each other. The years we spent at ND were some of the best. Please keep our family in your prayers. (note from Tim's brother, James "Jay" McLuckie '72 HWND)

**Marty Mlynarek '76 (ND)**—My wife Anna and I are still doing emergency pet care. 3 kids in 3 different school districts this year so we're putting a lot of miles on the cars. Alex is now a senior at U of D Jesuit, Lindsay is in 10th at Marian and Gordie is in 5th grade.

**Ron Mack '72 (ND)**—The class of '72 achieved 4 state championships—state chess champs, state jazz band champs, state hockey champs, and state ride-a-gas-powered-mini-bike up the entire hall of a high school while school is in session champs. I'm wondering if this is unprecedented or have other years achieved 3 or more state championships?

**Ed Sarpolus '72 (ND)**—Cofounder of Lansing-based polling firm EPIC/MRA, joined the political/public policy arm of the Michigan Education Association, the state's largest teachers union. (Detroit Free Press)

**Mark Steury '71 (ND)**—I have a BS in Computer Science from U of M Dearborn and an MS in Computer Science from Oakland University. I have been employed for 23 years with Ford/Visteon/ACH-LLC, working currently as Technical Fellow in Manufacturing Simulation.

**Charles LaCombe '70 (ND)**—I moved from Grosse Pointe Woods to Baraboo, WI, in the summer of 2007. I am interested in any Harper Woods ND news, and would also be interested in hearing from any alumni who are in my new area. (e-mail: redbrontosaurus@gmail.com)

**Ray Lassing '69 (ND)**—We had a 10-year reunion where we had alumni submit a page of info and we compiled it and made a nice booklet for all. I would like to do something similar—but on the web. I want to set up a website for 1969 alumni where we could exchange some info and see where we have been. I know you have privacy issues to protect. For an ND 1969 website, nothing would get there unless the person joined and posted it himself. (ed. note: Since then, Ray has set up a website for 1969 grads. To join,

go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NDHS1969/>)

**Moe Geromette '68 (ND)**—Congratulations! Moe is the new mayor of Fraser, having been elected on Nov. 6, 2007. (Detroit Free Press)

**Jim Belloli '67 (ND)**—Still happily married to Sharon (maiden name: Bartell, South Lake HS '68). Four children: Brian, married (Grace Cusumano), 2 kids (Marina and Dominic); Lisa (Cavataio), married (Tony), 2 children (Giovanni and Anthony); Maria (DePonio), married (Joe), no children yet!; and Anthony, married (Sarah Randazzo), no children yet! I retired from Ford in February 2007.

**Don Mierendorf '67 (ND)**—I have fond memories of my years at ND High in Harper Woods.

**Ron Moore '65 (ND)**—The closing of the school that you and I both attended left me feeling sort of wounded. Notre Dame of Harper Woods was a "rock" in my life. I had "grown up" thinking that it would be there forever for high school-aged young men. It was literally a shock to me when the school closed. I think that it's a good idea and a "good thing" for alumni of Notre Dame of Harper Woods to now have a new home. (from a letter to classmate Fr. Leon Olszawowski, s.m.)

**Bob Wojcinski '65 (ND)**—Glad to see that the Harper Woods alumni found a home. Keep up the good work.

**John Yardley '65 (ND)**—John got married three years ago and lives in North Muskegon.

**Dennis Lynch '60 (ND)**—After 2 years at Osborn High and 35-1/2 years at NDHW, I retired from teaching in January of 2002. Worked at the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores until July of 2005. Since then, I work two or three afternoons a week at Oak Ridge Golf Club during golf season. Really enjoy the notes from all the graduates. My wife, Dolores, and I were also glad to hear that Fr. Bryson is doing better.

**Jim Snodgrass '60 (ND)**—I retired from teaching in 2003, and moved to Macomb Township in 2004. I am active in St. Therese of Lisieux parish and the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel.

**Don Kolke '58 (ND)**—Didn't see anything about the class of '58 (the first graduating class) from Notre Dame High School in the latest on-line newsletter. Not sure how many are still alive. I am retired and enjoying the heck out of retirement. Just wanted you to know about a unique website on which I have been included. It is [www.detroitkidshow.com](http://www.detroitkidshow.com). When you enter it, arrow down to the Hercules picture and click on it. It will give you the story of yours truly and the Hercules television show that was on CKLW-TV in 1963-64. Hope you enjoy it. Notre Dame High School is mentioned in the Hercules story.

**Sam Mocerri '58 (ND)**—This past summer while in Harper Woods I went by Notre Dame High School for the first time in almost 40 years. I knew in advance of my visit it had closed down. The empty building made me very sad and at the same time triggered memories at almost every window in the building. The experience at Notre Dame shaped my life much more than my college experience.

Although I was set to go to Austin, which was not my choice, a visit by my mother found an opening. I think the opening appeared because I was 6'5" at the time and they planned a frosh basketball team. The priest that really found the right path for me was Father Champagne, a French Canadian that had the French temper to match his desire to be in control at all times in his classes. It worked for me. I hope nothing but the best for the Marist Fathers and I know that their teachings will continue to build solid students.

**Fr. Robert Champagne, s.m.**—Fr. "Champ's" responds to Sam Mocer's letter: "Thank you for the lovely e-mail. How wonderful it is to hear such good things about our past students. As I've said more than once, we never realized at the time how much our discipline—and over-strict endeavors to keep them in line—comes out all too often. Just this summer I had been asked to attend a get-together of some twelve former graduates. My airfare out to Detroit was all taken care of by these guys. The 12 guys and their wives were all there and kept trying to convince me that it was the training that they received from not me alone, but so many other Marists ... It made me very proud in knowing that they thought enough of me to do this."

*(Ed. note: Space limitations sometimes require abbreviations and other changes to notes sent to us and published.)*

*If you'd like to share a few highlights about what's been going on in your life, please send us an e-mail with that information. You can e-mail us at [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org). Or go to our website, [ndpma.org](http://ndpma.org), click on "Alumni," then "Alumni Submittal Form." At the bottom of the page, there is a place to send us notes. Send us photos for possible use, too!*

Several alumni have asked us 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 or via credit card 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

### **Class of '58 (ND)**

Bill Vallee has begun working on your 50-year reunion. Contact him to help organize your reunion, or to get information. Bill's phone number is 586-879-6976 and his e-mail address is [bnruf.cong@comcast.net](mailto:bnruf.cong@comcast.net).

### **Class of '84 (ND)**

Your classmates are organizing a 25-year reunion for 2009. (Date and location TBD) Paul Gaynor, John Okoniewski and Andy Guest are helping to plan the event. For more informaton, contact Andy Guest at [aguest@ndpma.org](mailto:aguest@ndpma.org), or 248-373-2171.

### **Class of '88 (ND)**

Your classmates are organizing a 20-year reunion, scheduled for the fall of this year. (Date and location TBD) In order for them to contact each graduate from the class, they are asking that you all update your Alumni Information at the [ndpma.org](http://ndpma.org) website. Also, you can contact members of the Class of 1988 Reunion Committee:

- Jim Pettyes	586-247-2777	<a href="mailto:james.pettyes@sbcglobal.net">james.pettyes@sbcglobal.net</a>
- Scott Klott	248-276-9232	<a href="mailto:klotts@yaho.com">klotts@yaho.com</a>
- Bill Flaherty	586-772-5345	<a href="mailto:bpflaherty@aol.com">bpflaherty@aol.com</a>
- Steve Loewen	586-713-4989	<a href="mailto:sloewen7@yahoo.com">sloewen7@yahoo.com</a>

### **Class of '89 (ND)**

Your classmates have begun working on your 20-year reunion for next year. To help out, or to get more information, call Greg Simon at 248-353-5300 or e-mail him at [gsimon@ndpma.org](mailto:gsimon@ndpma.org).

### **Class of '97 (NDP)**

Thank you, Alexis Burns-Bonucchi and Tricia Sage-Knauss for organizing and hosting your 10-year reunion.

### **Class of '98 (NDP)**

Lisa (Syrowik) Healy and her husband Jeff are interested in helping to organize your reunion. If you would like to help them, please contact Joan Kopytek in the Advancement Office at [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org) or 248-373-2171. Once the details are available, it will be posted on the NDPMA website.

### **Class of '02 (NDP)**

Thank you, Colleen Robinson and Steve Skok for organizing and hosting your five-year reunion. The good turnout was a testament to the time you spent contacting your classmates by phone, e-mail, MySpace and Facebook.

### **Class of '03 (NDP)**

John Putnam is planning your reunion for the fall. Once the information is available, you will receive an invitation by mail. Also, the details will be posted on the website once they are verified. If you want to help John, you can contact him by phone at (248) 891-5491 or e-mail him at [jmputnam07@gmail.com](mailto:jmputnam07@gmail.com).

*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 reunion at 248-373-2171 or [alumni@ndpma.org](mailto:alumni@ndpma.org).*



# champions

## ANOTHER SEASON OF ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Notre Dame Prep finished another school year with a slew of league and conference championships. And yes, a state championship, too!

### State Champions

Volleyball

### State Final Four

Softball

### Regional Champions

Volleyball

Girls Ski

Softball

### District Champions

Boys Basketball

Boys Golf

Volleyball

Girls Soccer

Softball

### State Qualifiers

Boys Ski (4th at Finals)

Girls Ski (3rd at Finals)

Boys Tennis (16th at Finals)

Boys Golf (4th at Finals)

### Academic All State

Hockey

Volleyball (3.83 GPA)

Boys Ski (1st in State)

Girls Ski (3rd in State)

Softball (1st in Division 2)

Girls Tennis (3.83 GPA)

### Conference (CHSL) Championships

Football

Boys Soccer

Hockey

Dance/Pom

Boys Lacrosse

Boys Ski

Girls Ski

Volleyball

### CHSL Sectional Championships

Football

Volleyball

Boys Soccer

Boys Tennis

Boys Basketball

Baseball

Boys Lacrosse

Girls Lacrosse

JV Volleyball

JV Girls Lacrosse

JV Girls Soccer

### Operation Friendship Championship

Girls Cross Country

### Tournament Championships

Boys Varsity Soccer (NDP Rainbow Classic)

Girls Swim/Dive (Royal Oak, Romeo)

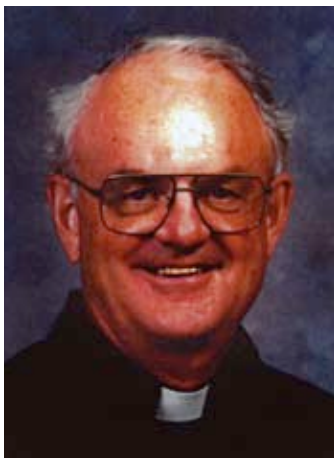
Boys Varsity Tennis (Warren Mott, Avondale,

Gabriel Richard)

Varsity Volleyball (West Bloomfield,

Livonia Stevenson)

JV Volleyball (Marian, Country Day, Brandon)



### Rev. Omer St. Onge, s.m.

August 24, 1920 - Nov. 10, 2007

### Fr. Omer St. Onge was a beloved educator and parish priest

(reprinted from Marist Outreach, Winter 2008)

A Mass of Christian Burial for Marist Father Omer St. Onge, s.m., was celebrated November 14, 2007, at the Marist House, Framingham, Mass. He died on November 10 at age 87.

Born in Brunswick, Maine, Fr. St. Onge entered the Society of Mary at age 19 from his home parish of St. John the Baptist, which was

administered by the Marist Fathers. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 2, 1946.

He was elected Provincial of the Marist Fathers of Boston in 1970 and served in that capacity until 1979.

St. Onge served as a teacher and eventually principal at three high schools. He was the founding principal of Bishop Grimes Junior/Senior High School in Syracuse, New York (1964-66), and he also served as principal at Van Buren Boys High School in Van Buren, ME (1954-57), and Notre Dame High School, Harper Woods, MI (1957-64).

He also served as Parochial Vicar at St. Francis of Assisi-St. Blaise parish, Brooklyn, NY, from 1987 to 1998.

St. Onge took a special interest in the parish's R.C.I.A. program and in his late sixties learned Creole and Spanish so he could be of greater service to the community.

Burial was in the Marist plot at St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Brunswick, Maine. He was predeceased by a sister who was an Ursuline Sister. He is survived by his brother, Remi St. Onge, of Brunswick, and a sister, Marist Sister Gabienne St. Onge, S.M.S.M., of Waltham, Mass. ■

# a higher grade...

## NOTRE DAME PREP AND MARIST ACADEMY PROMOTE BRAND AND SCHOOL

The advancement office of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy has undertaken a new marketing campaign designed to help promote the school. The linchpin of the campaign is a new tag line, "A higher grade of learning," promoting the fact that students at NDPMA get an educational experience truly unique in southeast Michigan.

According to Andy Guest '84 (ND), NDPMA's vice president and director of advancement, the school is using a combination of advertising and public relations to promote itself more aggressively than ever before.

"The quality of education available at our institution is second to none. We believe that our students have at their disposal a world-class learning environment that is quite unique not only in metro Detroit but statewide. And we cannot be quiet any longer. That is why we're starting this marketing program," said Guest.

He said that radio and print advertisements already have gone out this past spring to raise the visibility of the school's lower and middle divisions. More aggressive advertising is planned in the fall leading up to the entire school's open house on November 9, 2008.

"One of the most important goals of our marketing push is to publicize the International Baccalaureate Programme (see page 14) that will be in place throughout the entire school," said Guest. "From junior kindergarten through 12th grade, students will have access to a curriculum that allows them to be academically rich as well as citizens of the world community."

**WELCOME TO A HIGHER GRADE OF LEARNING**

The world's best preparation for the future.

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- Advanced science, language and computer classes
- Intramural and CTO sports
- 1st in Midwest, 2nd in nation, National MathFAX Competition
- Over 35 clubs and extracurricular activities

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