

SUMMER 2024 ISSUE

# CRUSADER CONNECTION

Notre Dame High School's  
Alumni Newsletter



Introducing  
Notre Dame's  
Class of 2024!

## Congratulations & Best Wishes to our newest alumni!

Divye Agrawal  
Mariana Alanis Navarro  
Isabel Beames  
Alexis Becker  
Isabella Busch  
Vincent Campanelli  
Alex Daugherty  
Garrin Dougherty  
Madison Fargo  
Giulia Fassarella Arydes  
Zachary Faulkner  
David Ferriol Bermejo  
Lydle "Aedan" Gill  
Murilo Garcia Santana  
Julia Granha Pinto  
Kevin Green  
Grey Haluska  
Olivia Haluska  
Abigail Hart  
Caroline Horton

Lydia Howe  
Darren Hughes  
Jahmeire Keyser  
Elizabeth Kraeger  
Julian Mann  
Jose Marcotti Neto  
Allyson Marion  
Noemi Marrero  
Sophia McMaster  
Logan Meisner  
Genevieve Montanarella  
Cameron Neidrich  
Jeremiah Parker  
Connor Ryan  
Simeon Scarselletta  
William Schweizer  
Mallory Sheehan  
Ashlyn Stitley  
Daeshawn Thompkins  
Makenzie Wilson

## CONTENTS

### 69th Commencement

- Commencement Ceremony
- Valedictorian & Salutatorian
- International Seniors / Photo Gallery
- Legacy Families
- Oh, the Places They'll Go!
- 2024 Awards Assembly

2 - 7

### Alumni Corner

- Alumni Chronicles - Michael Mustico '90
- Alumni News / Keeping Track
- Deceased Alumni
- Upcoming Class Reunions

8 - 20

### Student Life

- Elmira College Partnership
- 2024 Awards Assembly
- International Program / May Crowning / Technology & Information Skills
- Chem Bowl / Theology Department / National Honor Society
- Theater Department / Junior-Senior Prom
- Crusader Carnival
- Congratulations!

21 - 25

Thank you - Crusader Classic Sponsors  
Upcoming Events

A Message from the President Emerita

26 - 28

**Sixty-ninth Commencement Ceremony**  
**Friday, June 21, 2024**  
**Charles & Mary Crossed Auditorium**



Notre Dame High School welcomed Michael Mustico '90 as the commencement speaker for the Class of 2024. Following his graduation, Mike graduated from Notre Dame University in 1994 with a degree in Accounting and Syracuse University with a Law Degree in 1997. He is currently the owner of Mustico Financial Group in Elmira. Mike continues to share his time and talents with Notre Dame High School, serving as a past member of the Board of Trustees, and as a coach for football, softball, girls basketball, and girls soccer. Mike and his wife, Lisa (Beaty '92), reside in Elmira and have four adult children, each of whom attended Notre Dame High School, Xavier '12, Julia '17, Ellie '21, and Ava '23.

In his remarks, Mike reflected on his time as a student at Notre Dame High School, and assured the graduates that success is attainable, regardless of mistakes made in high school. He communicated that while they may not have it all figured out right now, if they continue to work hard, they can achieve anything.  
*(For Mike's full remarks, please read Alumni Chronicles on page 9 of this edition of the Crusader Connection)*

**Congratulations!!**  
**Class of 2024**  
**Valedictorian**  
**and Salutatorian**



**Divye Agrawal**  
**Valedictorian**

*Divye will attend  
Georgia Institute of Technology*



**Cameron Neidrich**  
**Salutatorian**

*Cameron will attend  
Miami University - Ohio*

**Best wishes to the Class of 2024 and Godspeed!**



This year's graduating class included 6 seniors in Notre Dame's International Student program. Five of the six graduates joined the Notre Dame family in their junior year and returned for their senior year to graduate from ND. The seniors, from Brazil, Mexico, and Spain, quickly became part of the fabric of ND, participating in all aspects of school life - athletics, assemblies, pep rallies, Homecoming & Prom, even being crowned Senior Prom King & Queen! The friendships and memories made in the dorm and with classmates, faculty, and staff will last a lifetime.

We were excited to welcome their families as they traveled to join us for Baccalaureate and Graduation!

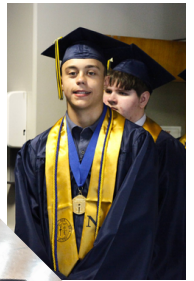
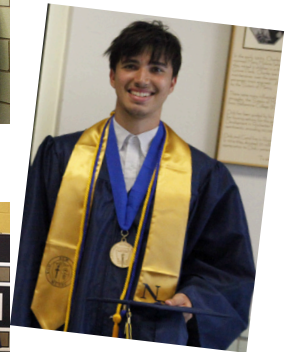
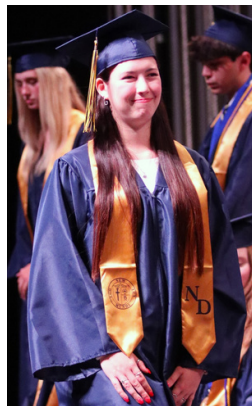


*Left to right: Murilo Garcia Santana, Julia Granha Pinto, Mariana Alanis Navarro, Kristie Crossley (Director of International Recruiting & Student Services), Giulia Fassarella Arydes, David Ferriol Bermejo, Jose Marcotti Neto*



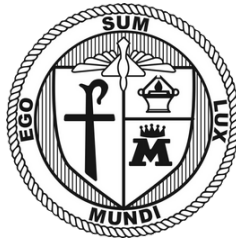


PHOTO GALLERY





## Congratulations to the graduates of Notre Dame's legacy families



Above, left to right: Sharidy Grapes, **Abby Hart '24**, **Riley Hart '21**, Andy Grapes  
Right: Derick Hart, **Abby Hart '24**, **Riley Hart '21**, Lois Hart



Left to right: Vani Modi, **Pratha Purushottam '21** (Class of 2021 Valedictorian), **Divye Agraway '24** (Class of 2024 Valedictorian), Vineet Agrawal



Left to right: **Andrew Pedalty '90**, **Jessica Pedalty '14**, **Alexis Becker '24**, **Kathleen (Pedalty '94) Becker**, **Timothy Pedalty '88**







Seated, left to right: Katrina Olthof-Montanarella, Lily Montanarella, **Eve Montanarella '24**, **Anthony Montanarella '01**;  
Standing, left to right: Gabby McHenry, Bryan McHenry, **Ari Montanarella-Powell '17**, Lou McHenry, Lauri McHenry, **Paul Montanarella '75**, Joe Montanarella, Mary Montanarella, **Devon Montanarella '13**, **AJ Montanarella '69**

Seated, left to right: **Kathleen (Burke '96) Schweizer**, **Liam Schweizer '24**, Pete Schweizer; Standing: **Sheila Burke Reynolds '91**, Dan Burke, Finn Schweizer '26, Maureen Burke, Jane Burke, **Charlie Burke '86**, Josette Burke



Seated, left to right: Mario Scarselletta, **Simeon Scarselletta '24**, Felicia Poland Scarselletta;  
Standing: Walter Poland, **Leo Scarselletta '17**, **Rocco Scarselletta '19**, **Liam Scarselletta '22**



## OH, THE PLACES THEY'LL GO!

## The Class of 2024 is ready to start their next chapter

Binghamton University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Central Michigan University  
Clarkson University  
Eastern University  
Elmira College  
F.A.A.P. - Sao Paolo, Brazil  
Fordham University

Georgia Institute of Technology  
Grove City College  
Keuka College  
Lycoming College  
Mansfield University  
Marywood University  
Mercyhurst University  
Miami University - Ohio

Monroe Community College  
Onondaga Community College  
St. Bonaventure University  
St. John Fisher University  
SUNY Corning Community College  
Temple University  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester



Graduation week kicked off with **Senior Banquet** on Tuesday, June 18, at Hill Top Inn. The Class of 2024 gathered to celebrate their accomplishments, share some laughs, and make new memories. The evening included remarks by class officers, Senior Superlative Awards, induction into the ND Alumni Association, and a slideshow of their time at Notre Dame. The traditional **Baccalaureate** was held on Thursday, June 20, at St. Mary's Church in Elmira. We were pleased to welcome graduate Noemi Marrero's godfather, Fr. Jorge Maria Cabrera, to concelebrate the Mass with Fr. John DeSocio '66 and Deacon Paul Sartori. The Mass featured music by members of the ND Select Choir and concluded with surprises for both the graduates and their families. It was a beautiful evening celebrating the Class of 2024!

## SENIOR BANQUET & BACCAULAREATE



## ALUMNI CORNER



by Eileen (McCarthy '81) Ruppenthal, Alumni Relations Coordinator, Senior Class Advisor

Graduation at Notre Dame and the events leading up to the ceremony hold a special place in the hearts of all alumni. We recall our Senior Banquet and the traditional Baccalaureate Mass – events meant to celebrate classmates and bring the class together for a final time as a unit. We remember the graduation ceremony, walking across the stage to receive your diploma, moving your tassel from right to left signifying you were done! This year's graduating class, like all the graduating classes before them, excitedly prepared for graduation week and the ceremony that would signify their entry into the next phase of their lives.

As familiar as these events and ceremonies are to each of us, the reference points and experiences of this class are unlike any class before them. They have never lived in a world without YouTube or social media. The first iPhone was released while they were toddlers, so they have never known life without a cell phone connected to the internet, online shopping, or social media. Netflix has always been an option for TV viewing. They have always had Google to research information and answer their questions. They started high school in the middle of a global pandemic.

Yet, the more things change, the more they stay the same. The traditional celebrations hold the same importance as they always have and the graduates solidified bonds that will carry them far into the future. The memories they created will be recalled with nostalgia as they look back fondly on their time at Notre Dame.

We hope the Class of 2024 continues to share their successes with us and we wish them all the best as they step into their future!

### Keeping Track

This newsletter is meant to inform fellow alumni of the exciting things you are doing, but we need your help in order to do so! Fill us in on your travels, life experiences, accomplishments, careers, volunteer work, etc. so that we can share your news with your classmates!

You may submit news directly to Eileen Ruppenthal at [ruppenthal@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:ruppenthal@notredamehighschool.com) or [ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com)

We hope to hear from you soon! Thank you!

### Planning your reunion?

If your class has a reunion coming up, please contact Eileen Ruppenthal '81 at [ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com) to share your plans, schedule a school tour, request a class list, or for any other assistance you may need.

## Alumni Chronicles



### **Class of 2024, Commencement Address** by Michael Mustico '90

*(reprinted in full with the permission of Michael Mustico)*

I would like to thank Sister Mary Walter; she is the reason Notre Dame has held strong over these many years and why ND is so respected as a high school. I know many of these students well, and I am very pleased to be speaking here today, but to say I am surprised would be an understatement.

Many of you don't know that I held several records at this school: Most uniform violations, most absentee days, and most tardies. I don't know how many years those records stood, but I am fairly certain my daughter shattered the tardy record last year!

Sister Mary Walter and I spent a lot of quality time together while I was in my record setting run. When I say a lot of time, I mean a LOT. She caught me coming in late one day and pulled me aside to go over all of my late and missed days that year. Before she had an opportunity to ask me what I had to say for myself, I proceeded to say, "Sister, we both know I don't have a whole lot going for me, other than maybe my looks, and you don't get looks like this by not getting the proper amount of beauty sleep." After what felt like a long minute of her blankly staring at me, all she could muster to say was "God Bless you child." I still don't know for sure what she meant by that.

I had a lot of failed business ideas while I was in school here. I was the original inventor of Grubhub. Most people don't know this. I quickly realized that if you teach kids under 16 to drive a car before they get their license, they can't wait for you to send them on errands. Any errands at all, as long as they get to drive a car. So after teaching my 14-year old girlfriend how to drive, I never had to leave my house for McDonalds, KFC, or Pizza Hut. I would then charge my friends for her to pick up their food as well; she would deliver it right to the school after practice.

Things were going so well that I decided to expand operations. At the time, there was only one taxi company in town, Totem Taxi. So I taught my 14-year old brother, Tony, how to drive so he could drive my friends around town, for a small fee. I called this division Totem Tony. I am still banned from Totem Taxi to this day.

Everything was great until one of my underage drivers accidentally drove my Dad's Honda Accord directly through a gazebo. Yes, I got to spend more time with Sister that week. In addition to a guest speaker from law enforcement. I spent more time in her office after I was elected Student Body Treasurer in a landslide; I should have known it wasn't a congratulatory meeting. My closing speech was right here, in this auditorium, in front of hundreds of students. I concluded by stating that we no longer had to worry about additional school fundraising - I was going to take the school's money to Las Vegas and double it! That offer still stands by the way.

Sister Carmela was my Chemistry and Physics teacher. I wasn't her favorite student. One day she pulled me aside and asked me what I was planning to do after high school. She stated that based on my performance in class I shouldn't waste my parents' money by going to college and I should strongly consider a trade school. I couldn't argue with her at that time.

Mrs. McCort was my Spanish teacher. I wasn't her most successful student. One day she asked me how I was going to pass the Regents exam. Since this was my senior year, I wouldn't be able to graduate with my class if I failed the exam. I explained to her that I had reviewed the scoring for the Regents exam, and found that vocabulary and the present tense comprised the majority of the exam, therefore if I knew that one tense well enough, I could pass with a 65 on the Regents. She asked me how I planned on passing the essay section, which entailed describing a picture they provided, if I only knew the present tense. I told her I would use the caveman essay style - "Boy is nice. Boy is happy. Boy is hungry." After she



## Alumni Chronicles

### ALUMNI CHRONICLES (continued from page 9)

received the exam grades, she called me personally, which I thought was a very bad sign. She waited several seconds before informing me that I passed with 67. Clearly, I had overstudied..

At this point you all are probably thinking why was this dipstick asked to speak. I am sure all the administrators are thinking that right now. Yes, see, they are nodding their heads vigorously.

Yet somehow, by the grace of God, I ended up graduating and sitting where you all sit today. And sit there, I did. They called my classmates to stand for all kinds of different academic awards for over an hour. I sat through the whole thing ... I sat for pretty much the entire commencement. I thought I had life figured out back then, until I didn't. I would eventually switch my college majors, and then switch careers, many different times as I changed my mind. Ultimately, I became a CPA who didn't do tax returns. I became an Estate Planning Attorney who didn't draft legal documents. I pretty much felt like I threw away years of my life getting degrees in professions that I didn't even enjoy.

After lobbying my wife for quite some time, she reluctantly supported me as I decided to pursue my new dream of becoming a Financial Adviser. It just so happens that over-educated professionals who can understand tax and estate planning are very useful as Financial Advisors. Now I own an investment firm and manage hundreds of millions of dollars in assets. I have clients in the majority of U.S. states and several countries. I have helped invest assets for former teachers of mine, some of who were at this very school when I wasn't at my best.

My point in sharing of all this with you is this - if some of you are sitting here, feeling like you don't have every stage of your life mapped out, or have no clue whatsoever ... you are not alone. If you feel like you have been a major screw-up and have little hope that you will amount to anything, you are not the only one.

But each time you think you know what you want out of life, put your all into it and work hard to achieve it. You can outwork people smarter than you. Trust me. Because you went to Notre Dame, I am confident you are used to working harder than most of the peers you will be competing with throughout your lives. Your ticket for life has not been punched yet, not even close. Someday, you may find things worked out better than you ever planned. Someday, you may be the person standing at this podium, speaking to a graduating class at commencement.

In the meantime, Class of 2024, God speed and God bless

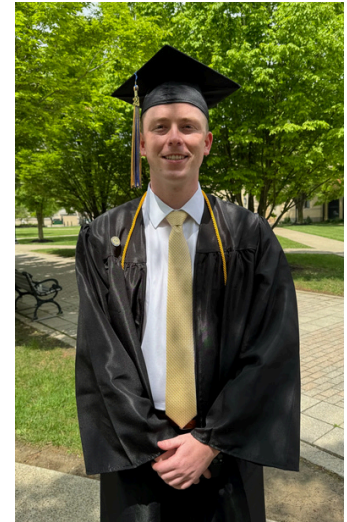




## Alumni News

### Congratulations to these alumni on their recent graduation!

**Chase Leonard '17** was awarded a master's degree from the University of Rochester



**Andrew Finnerty '19** graduated *summa cum laude* from Canisius University with Bachelor of Science degrees in Finance and in Business Economics. He received the Nelson D. Civello Most Outstanding Graduate Award from the Finance & Economics Department. Andrew is excited to join Corning, Inc. as a Financial Analyst in Corporate Treasury



**Gavin Harrington '18** earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a focus in Health Fitness Management from Alfred University

**Katie Bukowinski '20** received her BS in Nursing from Duquesne University. Katie was awarded the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award & received cords for *magna cum laude* and for the Nursing Honors Program. Following graduation, Katie passed her licensure exam, the last step in adding a few more letters to her name - BSN, RN



**Brooke Benjamin '20** graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology's School of Film & Animation. To view Brooke's Craft Track Presentation detailing the work she did on 3 senior capstone films, click [here](#)



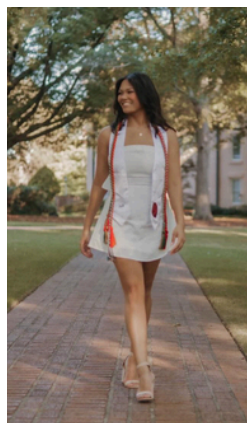
**Erik Charnetski '20** (pictured left with Cait Steed '20) graduated from St. John Fisher University with a degree in Psychology with a pre-med focus. Erik will start LECOM (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine) in July 2024

**Patrick Finnerty '20**

earned his BA in Economics from the University of Notre Dame with minors in accounting, data science, & linguistics. He has accepted a position with Cuesta Partners, a strategic technology consulting firm, as an analyst



**Lucy Kaffenbarger '20** graduated in May from the University of Michigan with a BS in Psychology, with an English minor. Lucy will be working next year as part of the National Health Corps in Jacksonville, FL



**Deayza Peebles '20** graduated in May from the University of South Carolina



**Peyton Maloney '20** is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of South Carolina with a double major in Marketing and Management and a minor in Retail. Peyton has accepted an offer to work as an Area Marketing Specialist for Porsche Cars North America





**Caroline Rogers '20** graduated *summa cum laude* from Skidmore College with a Bachelor's in Geosciences, receiving the Roy T. Abbott III Memorial Prize in Geosciences. While at Skidmore, Caroline had the opportunity to present the results of her research in New Zealand at GSA Connects in October 2023. Caroline also holds Skidmore records in the 200 backstroke and 800 freestyle relay, as well as 5 swims on the college's Top 10 all-time times list! Caroline will be attending the University of Missouri for her master's degree in Igneous Petrology



**Austin Gleason '20** received her BS in Psychology from SUNY Oneonta. Following the ceremony, she was presented with the Student Leadership Award from the SUNY Oneonta Alumni Association. Austin will attend Roberts Wesleyan in pursuit of a doctorate in occupational therapy



**Olivia Murray '20** graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia



**Caroline Ronsivale '20** graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, *magna cum laude*, with a BSN. Caroline majored in nursing with a minor in museum studies. This summer, she will begin an Emergency Room nursing residency at Northwestern in Chicago



**Kalpana Sharma '20** received her PTA (Physical Therapist Assistant) Associates of Applied Science degree from Johnson College



**Caitlin Steed '20** graduated from Berklee College of Music with a Bachelor of Music. Cait majored in Professional Music with concentrations in vocal performance, music business, and musical theater performance, with a minor in dance



**Taylor VanDine '20** earned a bachelor's degree from Mansfield University

**Colin Tolbert '20** graduated from SUNY Brockport, School of Business and Management



**Alexandra Welliver '21** graduated as an RN from St. Joseph's College of Nursing. She will continue at LeMoyne College for her BSN. (Pictured right, Charlotte Welliver '26, **Sarah (Murphy '94) Welliver**, **Alex Welliver '21**, Steve Welliver, **Kate Welliver '23**)







**Lois (Miller '60) Masteller** was recently honored as one of the recipients of the 2024 Jazz Heroes Award, by the National Jazz Journalists Association. Lois is the owner of The Jazz Corner on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, and also organizes a local jazz camp and other activities. For more on Lois and the Jazz Heroes Award, click [here](#) and [here](#)

Classmates from 1981 got together at O'Ryans Sports Bar (owned by classmate Bill Seymour) for an "off-year catch up". Great to see everyone! *Left to right: **Paula (Walter) Aldrich, Eileen (McCarthy) Ruppenthal, Biz (Harkness) Crout, Colleen (Prunier) Pataky, Jill (Mathers) Booth, Bill Seymour, Susan (Pfaff) Alexander, Tom Lepkowski, Tom Barcomb, John vonHagn, Beth Brinser, John Seidman, Don Butler, Sue Mehalick, Bernadette (Cleary) Drew***



**Ellie Mustico '21 & Ava Mustico '23** dropped in for a visit & caught up with **Susie (Masone '88) Vertoske**, ND's Office Manager



Congratulations to **Joe Leonard '80** on his marriage to Sherry Young. Joe was also recently added to the Mansfield University Mountaineers football coaching staff as a Defensive Line Coach.





*John Cusimano '83*



*John Fracchia '83*



**John Cusimano '83** and **John Fracchia '83**, members of the rock band Loose Change, are excited to announce their upcoming new album release! This will mark the band's first full album release. Formed in 1988, Loose Change is known for its songwriting and also its philanthropic focus. Their last single, "Carry On" was released in 2011 on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 as a fundraiser for the Fealgood Foundation, which supports 9/11 first responders with ongoing health issues. Prior to that, Loose Change contributed two songs in 1990 to the Tunes for the Dunes project, which sent 1,000 cassettes of new music to troops serving during the Gulf War. For a full press release on the album, click [here](#). You can also get more information on Loose Change on

their website [here](#) and on their Facebook page [here](#). When not working on their music, John Cusimano is the Vice President of OT Cybersecurity at Armexa, an industrial cybersecurity company. John Fracchia is a Career Development & Technology Specialist at Ithaca College & serves as the President of One World Market, a non-profit organization that promotes culture, fair trade, and a living wage through a store that sells goods made by international artisans.

**Dr. Erika Mickelburgh '93** was recognized with the 2024 National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Live, Learn, Proclaim Award. This award highlights the outstanding work being done in Catholic education communities across the country. Erika has been principal of St. Paul of the Cross Catholic School in Park Ridge, IL since 2018. Under her leadership, the school was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in 2020. Her many accomplishments include: the redesign of the marketing and enrollment office resulting in an increase of 200 students over two years; the redesign of the school curriculum to include Writers Workshop, Conceptual Math Program and Guided Reading; facilitation of a comprehensive communication plan to update more than 500 school families on school activities, events and news; implementation of a comprehensive program for inclusion and student wellness, focusing on social emotional skills; and implementation of a comprehensive reopening plan to ensure safe in-person learning during the pandemic. She established and attends the weekday all-school Mass. The NCEA noted that Erika exemplifies spirituality in living God's message through her actions as a Catholic mission-driven servant leader, thoughtfully prioritizing what's best for the students while working hard to develop teachers to be the lifeblood of Catholic education.







**Mike Johnston '86**, was named Co-Coach of the Year for the Class AAA Corning Hawks Softball Team after winning the program's second NYS Championship this year.



**Griffin English '22**, a sophomore at SUNY Morrisville, was named to the NAC (National Atlantic Conference) men's lacrosse All-Conference Second Team. This is Griffin's first time earning All-Conference honors, after playing a solid role for the Morrisville Mustangs in all 15 games started on defense. Across the regular season he collected a season total 23 ground balls and 14 caused turnovers. Griffin had a single game high three caused turnovers at Husson, and five ground balls against Oneonta State.



ND's Varsity Lacrosse Coach, Geoff Crossley, welcomed back players for the first Alumni Lacrosse game. Returning alumni took on the current varsity team in a close game with the alumni winning by 1 point! Left to right: Finn Schweizer '26, Matt Keough '28, Landon English '27, Garret Kone '26, **David Ferriol Bermejo '24**, **Liam Schweizer '24**, Dominic Caporiccio '27, Dylan Mattoon '25, **Vinny Campanelli '24**, Coach Geoff Crossley, **Garrin Dougherty '24**, **Kevin Green '24**, **Griffin English '22**, **Luca Campanelli '22**, **Rylan Brewer '22**, **Ryan Edwards '18**, **Shane Maloney '23**, **Kellan Murphy '23**, **Nick Viselli '20**, **Owen Spring '22**, **Sean Franzese '22**, **Grant Crossley '22**



**Ally Finnerty '22**, a sophomore on the LeMoyne College Equestrian Team, qualified for the 2024 Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) National Championships in Tryon, NC, ultimately placing 5th in the nation.

**Piper Young '23**, a freshman majoring in neuroscience at Chatham University, set a new personal best in the 400m hurdles with a time of 1:12.09 (fifth-place) at the recent Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Piper is also a member of the Chatham Indoor Track & Field team, long distance.



## Keeping Track

**1973**

**Rev. Scott Kubinski**

Celebrated his 40th jubilee with a reception at Hill Top Inn. Ordained on June 1, 1984, Scott's priesthood has included several Southern Tier assignments: parochial vicar at St. Patrick's, Owego & St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads; chaplain at Ithaca College; sacramental & administrative roles in the cluster of All Saints in Lansing, Holy Cross in Dryden/Freeville, & St. Anthony in Groton; and pastor at Elmira's Christ the Redeemer. He is currently pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Elmira.

**1980**

**Vinnie Sidari**

**1986**

**Dominic Sidari**

The Sidari brothers have been tossing pies most of their lives and recently celebrated 25 years of their business, Vincenzo's Pizzeria, in downtown Elmira. Vincenzo's offers pizza, subs, salads, wings, pasta, and delicious Italian desserts. You can dine in, take out, or get delivered to your door. Some might call it the best pizza they have ever had!

**2013**

**Riley Leonard**

Completed the Buffalo Half-Marathon with a time of 1:26:04, placing 40th out of 3,100 runners

**2016**

**Dillan Leonard**

Was awarded her 2nd master's degree from St. Joseph's University

**2019**

**Emma Vakiener**

Will be attending the University of Kentucky in the fall to pursue a Master's Degree in Trumpet Performance

**2021**

**Brandon Hibbard**

Was named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List at the University of Buffalo

**2023**

**Meg Agan**

Has been accepted into the highly competitive Dental Hygiene Program at Pennsylvania College of Technology

**2023**

**Bruna Bertol**

Is attending law school at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra

## PRAYERS FOR OUR DECEASED ALUMNI 2024

### January

18 Mary Theresa (O'Brien '48) Martuscello  
29 Maureen (Holleran '69) Lutomski

### February

12 Dale Ramich '72  
14 Aaron Mekos '92  
23 Dr. Michael Barnoski '58

### March

3 James P. Weingart '73  
14 Stephen Chely '71  
22 Marianne (Clune '61) Wichtowski  
27 Joseph E Godwin '53

### April

11 Richard McGill '54  
14 Bridget (Sweet '67) Wetmore  
18 Sheila (Aber '82) Cashman

### May

5 Francis (Skilly) O'Connor '54  
17 Michael DiCicco '85  
24 Daniel O'Herron '60



## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS 2024

### **CLASS OF 1964 60TH REUNION**

**SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2024**

**Friday, September 20**  
**5:30 pm Bernie Murray's**

**Saturday, September 21**  
**6:00 pm Lib's Supper Club**

**Sunday, September 22**  
**TBD**

### **CLASS OF 1964**

Plans are underway!

Please contact  
Don Miller at  
[hdonaldm@yahoo.com](mailto:hdonaldm@yahoo.com)  
or 585-202-8094  
with any questions

### **CLASS OF 1974 - 50TH REUNION**

**Friday, September 20, 2024**

6:00 - 10:00 pm Judy's Place, 510 W Gray St  
snacks, hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**

Optional Golf Scramble at Soaring Eagles  
Optional boat ride on Captain Bills on Seneca lake  
7:00 pm Ill Eagle Taphouse, 200 E Church St  
Food with cash bar

**Sunday, September 22, 2024**

9:00 am Mass at St. Mary's 224 Franklin St  
10:30 am Tour of Notre Dame  
12:00 pm Brunch, West Elmira Fire Hall

### **CLASS OF 1974**

Additional information on cost, lodging  
and RSVPs can be found [here](#)

Please pass the word -  
we are missing contact info for a  
number of classmates - we need  
addresses, emails, and/or phone  
numbers to ensure we reach everyone!

Please email [NDclassof74@stny.rr.com](mailto:NDclassof74@stny.rr.com)  
with any updates or questions

## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS 2024

### **CLASS OF 1984 40TH REUNION**

**OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2024**

**FRIDAY, October 4  
TBD**

**SATURDAY, October 5  
HillTop Inn 7:30 - 10:30 pm  
appetizers, dinner & DJ**

**SUNDAY, October 6  
TBD**

### **CLASS OF 1984**

Check out the Class Facebook page [here](#)

For information on cost, please contact Konnie Davis  
[konniedavis8@gmail.com](mailto:konniedavis8@gmail.com)

### **CLASS OF 1994 30TH REUNION**

**SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024**

**5:00 pm  
Informal Dinner & Drinks  
Ill Eagle Taphouse  
200 East Church Street  
Elmira**

### **CLASS OF 1994**

More details will follow; depending on turnout, we may expand events throughout the weekend.

There are several classmates we do not have emails for; please spread the word to any classmates who may not have received our communications.

Please RSVP to Tom McNamara  
[thomasjmcnamara1535@gmail.com](mailto:thomasjmcnamara1535@gmail.com)

**ELMIRA COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP**

Notre Dame High School is pleased to announce a newly established partnership allowing ND students to participate in dual enrollment with Elmira College. The ND to EC program will provide Notre Dame juniors and seniors with a 3.0-grade point average or higher access to a range of 3 and 4-credit courses offered at Elmira College at a discounted price to complement their studies at Notre Dame.



We anticipate students to enroll, schedule permitting, in introductory courses in the following areas of study: Biology/Pre-Health, Nursing, Public Health as well as the dual degree program with LECOM, Business, Computer (i.e. Programming, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Media/Graphic Design), and some Humanities courses. Information on specific courses will be forthcoming once Elmira College has finalized its fall course offerings.

Notre Dame is excited to offer this option to our students, allowing them to select courses to enhance their learning and provide them with additional opportunities to explore coursework not offered at ND. As such, this will help them identify a course of study post-graduation if they choose to pursue a higher education degree.

We look forward to the new school year and our new partnership, confident in the success of our programs and our students.

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**2024 AWARDS  
ASSEMBLY**

Congratulations to all of our Crusaders who received awards, scholarships, and recognition certificates at the 2024 Awards Ceremony. Over 3 million dollars in total was awarded to many of our students during the assembly! Awards were presented to students in all grades. Notre Dame is proud of all that these students have accomplished in the classroom and beyond! They are headed for a bright future!





## STUDENT LIFE

### INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

In the fall, students in Notre Dame's International Program were introduced to a group of ladies at Applertidge Senior Living and a special relationship was formed. The students have visited their "American grandmothers" throughout the year engaging in conversation, attending a Brazilian lunch, and even joining in a fitness class! One of the ladies, Clara, who is from Brazil, has especially treasured her time to en-

gage in conversation in her native Portuguese language. In late spring, our international students welcomed their Applertidge friends into the classroom. Attending classes, lunch in the cafeteria, and an afternoon assembly, along with an invitation to attend graduation made for a fun day! Toward the end of the visit, the ladies expressed their disappointment about the international students returning to their home countries following graduation. However, plans are well underway for them to keep in touch via zoom. To watch a compilation of their day at Notre Dame, click [here](#).



Notre Dame's May Court for the Class of 2024, *left to right:* Grey Haluska, Noemi Marrero, Allyson Marion (Queen), Garrin Dougherty, Simeon Scarselletta, and Divye Agrawal

### MAY CROWNING

### TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION SKILLS

8th graders in the Technology & Information Skills class, taught by Susan Tanner, focused their second semester on creating a website focused on World War II. To view their work, click [here](#)



## CHEM BOWL

ND's Crusaders competed and took 2nd place at the 45th Annual Chem Bowl held at Corning Community College! Held annually, the Chem Bowl is a prestigious, academic event attended by schools from all over our region. Participants have the opportunity to meet chemists from several colleges, universities, and industries. Prizes and laboratory equipment are awarded to the finalists.



*Left to right: Colin VonBevern '26, Katarina Martin '26, Anna Utterback '26, Lolly Chicone '27, Sophia McMaster '24, Advisor Tom Milliken, Aedan Gill '24*



ND alumni **Don Kalec '86**, owner of Kalec Funeral Home in Elmira, NY, recently paid a visit to talk with Juniors in the Death & Dying course at ND. As a funeral director, he was able to give the students a first-hand account of the profession and the processes undertaken when a person dies and answered students' questions.

We are so appreciative of our alumni who continue to share their time and talents with our students!

## THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT



## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Members of ND's National Honor Society spent a recent Sunday morning clearing nearly 300 pounds of trash from the northside bank of the Chemung River. Along with the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, the group spent about two hours walking along the riverbank and flood levee between the Clarion Inn, on East Water Street, and the Lake Street pedestrian bridge in downtown Elmira. The students picked up assorted debris that would have ended up in the river causing harm to wildlife and the more than 50 percent of drinking water from the river.



## THEATER DEPARTMENT

The ND Spotlighters attended the Access Broadway Performing Arts Competition in Valley Forge, PA. Representing the ND Spotlighters were: Bunny Baldwin, Raionna Brewer, Elle Carvellas, Kaylin Hooks, Nayeli Jayne and Sabrina O'Connor w/ Eve Montanarella as Stage Management. The team competed in the advanced division with 200 other acts. They scored 14 High Gold award placements and 8 Platinum levels. Kaylin Hooks and Sabrina O'Connor both placed in the top five. Elle Carvellas won first place overall in her teen division and received the Broadway Star for her vocal solo. Bunny Baldwin won the overall Senior division and the Broadway Star award for her vocal solo. Both ladies performed three varied vocal selections and scored a total of over 95.5 points thus earning the prestigious Title of Best Overall Teen Vocalist and Best Overall Senior Vocalist respectively. Nayeli Jayne gave the acceptance speech for the Jr Team which won Best Overall Music Theater Group and Sabrina O'Connor accepted on behalf of the Teen/Sr Team which won Best Overall Music Theater Group. The big excitement came at the conclusion of the weekend competition when ND Spotlighters were Titled Best Music Theater School and won a cash award under the direction of Joyce Baldwin.



The Junior/Senior Prom was held on May 18th at the Ill Eagle Taphouse in Elmira. The restored Federal Building was a beautiful venue and perfectly complimented the theme "Under the Stars".

## JUNIOR / SENIOR PROM



### JUNIOR PROM COURT

*Left to right, front row: Alex Shultz, King Gabe Patterson, Queen Kylie Agan, Bunny Baldwin; middle row: Bella Mashewske, Raionna Brewer; top row: Henry O'Toole, Dylan Mattoon*



### SENIOR PROM COURT

*Left to right, front row: King David Ferriol Bermejo, Queen Mariana Alanis Navarro, Jeremiah Parker; middle row: Grey Haluska, Mallory Sheehan, Eve Montanarella; top row: Divye Agrawal, Simeon Scarselletta*

## CRUSADER CARNIVAL



The sixth annual Crusader Carnival, hosted by the Class of 2024, welcomed guests from GST BOCES Autism Program and The Arc of Chemung-Schuyler for a morning of carnival games, karaoke, food & fun! Our Crusaders enjoyed the carnival in the afternoon, celebrating the last day of classes. A great time was had by all! Many thanks to all who supported the event by donating or volunteering their time! For more photos, click [here](#)



## CONGRATULATIONS



Junior Sara Looney (pictured above with Mandarin teacher, Penny Chung) will be traveling to Taiwan this summer! Sara was accepted into the 2024 Overseas Youth English Volunteering Program and will spend 1 week of training in Taipei, 2 weeks of teaching service at her assigned elementary school, and 1 week sight-seeing in Taiwan as provided by the OCAC (Overseas Community Affairs Council, Taiwan).

Junior Shannon Craig is one of the three United States students to receive a scholarship to attend a mission trip to Serabu, Sierra Leone, located in West Africa, with the Southern Eye Institute (SEI). The mission program provides free medical and surgical eye care and sponsors numerous food, water, education, sports, and cultural ministries in this very underserved area of the world. Patients travel to the clinic from seven West African countries, journeying long distances to receive vital life-support services. Led by Guthrie Ophthalmologists and the Medical Director of the SEI, the mission team will be fully immersed in the lives of those living in Serabu.



Junior Bunny Baldwin has earned a full scholarship to attend Tony Award Winner Kristin Chenoweth's prestigious Broadway Bootcamp. Bunny is one of 50 students selected to attend, out of thousands who auditioned from all over the world. For more on this exciting opportunity, click [here](#)



## THANK YOU

The annual **Crusader Classic** was held on May 19, 2024, at the Mark Twain Golf Course with teams comprised of alumni, current families, faculty, and friends of Notre Dame. Thank you to all of our golfers and sponsors!

**1st Place:** Grant Crossley '22 Team

**2nd Place:** Dan Pautz '01 Team

**3rd Place:** Dylan O'Toole '26 Team

**Closest to the Pin:** Men - Grant Crossley '22  
Women - Catherine Woodhouse

**Longest Drive:** Men - John Hale  
Women - Carol Gough

**Golf Towel Sponsor:** Hilliard Corporation

**Putting Green Sponsors:** Gough Holding Corporation,  
SEPAC

**Beverage Sponsor:** Hale Roofing

**Award Dinner Sponsor:** Swift Glass

**Golf Cards & Beverage Cart Sponsor:** Erway Ambulance

**Tee Sponsors:** BC Plumbing; Bond, Schoeneck, King, PLLC;  
Corning, Inc.; The Dunn Group; Edger Enterprises, GLN Tax  
& Payroll; Kate's Kleaning; Swan & Sons-Morss Company,  
Inc.; Visiting Angels; X-Gen Pharmaceuticals

## NDHS INTERNATIONAL DORMITORY

# DRESSERS NEEDED

Notre Dame High School International Program is seeking donations of 20 dressers for the International Dormitory. If you are able to donate a dresser, please contact Kristie Crossley at [crossleyk@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:crossleyk@notredamehighschool.com).

THANKYOU!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

#### Homecoming 2024

October 3-4, 2024

Bonfire  
Modified Football Game  
Varsity Boys Soccer Game  
Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions



Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Elmira Country Club

We are pleased to announce the  
2024 McAuley Award honorees

Dr. Thomas & Marie Finnerty  
Geoff & Kristie Crossley  
Susan Tanner

In Memoriam Recognition  
Dr. Timothy O'Herron '95

Please save the dates  
and make plans to come home  
and celebrate with us!!

### BOB AGAN MEMORIAL TURKEY DAY 5K



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday  
November 28, 2024



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITA



*Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.  
Live the life you have imagined.  
David Henry Thoreau*

The Class of 2024 has received their diplomas, with ninety-eight percent continuing their education - 90% at a four-year college and 8% will matriculate at a two year institution. The Class of 2024 is ready to embark on a new journey, to follow their dreams, and they are spiritually and intellectually ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The Notre Dame High School community has worked to form graduates who possess character, self-worth, and a commitment to life-long learning. Their faith in God and awareness of gospel values will be actualized in their social actions and service to others. They have the potential to become leaders who will enrich their communities for the betterment of all.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! God bless you and your family,

Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM  
President Emerita



### **SPONSOR A STUDENT**

Are you interested in sponsoring a Notre Dame student? Your financial support can cover a student's tuition, sports fees, graduation fees, lunch payments, exam fees, or Mercy Online tuition fees.

If you are interested in supporting a Notre Dame student, please contact Eileen Ruppenthal '81 at [ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com)

Thank you!!