FALL 2023 ISSUE

CRUSADER CONNECTION

Notre Dame High School's Alumni Newsletter



FROM MS. MACK'S DESK

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a fantastic start! We welcomed thirty-five new 7th-grade students to Notre Dame, and they are crushing it in the classroom! Our faculty gained several new teachers whose expertise and enthusiasm for education, as well as their positivity toward building relationships with students, have strengthened the ND family. We were excited for the return of five of our international students for their senior year, who shared that their experiences last year were academically and socially positive and they couldn't imagine spending their Senior year anywhere else!

Our traditions at Notre Dame continue to run deep. Homecoming weekend was highlighted with the blessing of Coach's Corner, adjacent to Joel Stephens Memorial Park. Alumni, students, staff, and families came out to celebrate the life and legacy of Coach Mike D'Aloisio at his newly constructed monument. This was followed by a Varsity Soccer game and the crowning of the Homecoming Queen, Senior Sophia McMaster.

Mercy Week provided opportunities for all grades to go out in the community to volunteer and support our local senior population, animal shelters, the food bank, the community kitchen, and Catholic charities. Highlights from the week were shared on ND social media. Students continue to show kindness and give back to the community throughout the school year, so keep an eye out for future activities and events!

Elinor Gough and Patricia Thorne were awarded the McAuley Award which was presented and celebrated at our annual dinner on October 18, 2023, at the Elmira Country Club. These deserving ladies continue to show support for Notre Dame in the selfless ways Catherine McAuley served as the founder of The Sisters of Mercy. We are so grateful for those who continue to sponsor this event and make it possible for ND to honor deserving individuals.

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A Message from the President Emerita Sponsor a Student

FROM MS. MACK'S DESK continued

We are looking forward to the start of Quarter 2 and all the joy it brings every year with the celebration of our most prized tradition, Golden Mass, on December 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Charles and Mary Crossed Auditorium. Please join us for this celebration of the birth of Christ and the mercy shown to local families by our entire community.

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION



We are so proud to affirm that Notre Dame has a long history of being recognized for excellence. The school received its first accreditation by the University of the State of New York at a meeting of the Regents on June 29, 1956, while the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges has accredited Notre Dame since 1961. The first report following the Middle States visit congratulated the staff on "the work you are doing to meet the spiritual, educational, and cultural needs of the student body. That you are doing an outstanding job is evident in the unstrained discipline, friendly manner, and conduct of your student body". Since that first visit in 1961, the school has maintained its Middle States accreditation through periodic selfstudies. Accreditation benefits our school by verifying that the school meets high standards, helping with recruitment, being part of issuing immigration documents for international students, and facilitating strategic planning and self-assessment.

At this time, Notre Dame is participating in the re-accreditation process, "Middle States Excellence by Design Self-Study". Dr. Deborah Fredo and Mrs. Karen Jennings have been designated primary internal coordinators to manage the self-study. Faculty, board members, and other stakeholders are collecting evidence which will be assessed to determine future goals and action steps, prior to the accreditation visit in Spring 2024.

If you would like to join us on this journey, you may complete our survey here. Results from the survey will help us to set goals for our future.

You can follow the progress of our Middle States journey with updates and reports in future editions of the Crusader Connection.



Courageous Action. Selfless Spirit.™ Acción valiente. Espíritu altruista.™

Mercy Education is proud to announce that Notre Dame High School was named to the Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll, with Bronze Distinction. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

Notre Dame High School celebrated Mrs. Elinor Gough and Ms. Patricia Thorne with the 2023 McAuley Award on October 17, 2023. Notre Dame is truly blessed by their dedication and service to the school over many years. Thank you to all who attended and supported the event.

McAuley Awards

























ALUMNI CORNER

by Eileen McCarthy Ruppenthal '81, Business & Alumni Relations Coordinator

Fall welcomes a new school year, as students return to Notre Dame and a new senior class begins the journey toward graduation. Classrooms are busy with activity and laughter rings through the halls. The students, teachers, and staff quickly fall back into rhythm and a myriad of activities are planned and celebrated.

The events of the fall semester encompass both past and present. We welcomed back alumni as we honored the newest members of the Athletic Hall of Fame prior to our Homecoming game, where current students cheered as Sophia McMaster was crowned Homecoming Queen. We were grateful for the support of the ND community as we honored Ellie Gough, an alumni parent and grandparent, and Pat Thorne, a long-time favorite ND English teacher with the McAuley Award. Mercy Week focused on community service, instilling principles that students take with them and share with their communities long after they graduate.

This fall season has also welcomed home several class reunions to the Notre Dame campus. Tours of the school, a fun run on the Molly Huddle Track in the stadium, and lunch in the cafeteria all brought back memories of high school years and time spent with classmates. The through line of each reunion is the memories of the annual events, such as Homecoming. While the details of the events may change with each class, the foundation and the tradition are shared by all alumni.

Notre Dame's current students are celebrating the same events as the classes before them, and they are creating their own memories. Memories that they will carry with them as they leave ND and that they will share with their classmates when they gather for their class reunions in the future.

Keeping Track

This newsletter is meant to inform fellow alumni of the great 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 '81 at ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com or to 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 to share your plans, schedule a school tour, request a class list, or for any other assistance you may need.

COACH'S CORNER

Coach's Corner, featuring the Coach Mike D'Aloisio monument, was unveiled on October 7, 2023, prior to the Homecoming game. **Father John DeSocio '66** joined us for a beautiful blessing and dedication. Thank you to the Joel Stephens Memorial Park committee for this wonderful tribute to our beloved Coach D











REBECCA RYAN '17 BENCH DEDICATION

The Notre Dame community gathered on August 27, 2023, for an afternoon of fellowship to celebrate the life of Rebecca "Beckie" Ryan '17. A bench in Joel Stephens Memorial Park was dedicated in Beckie's honor, and memories and stories were shared, along with Beckie's favorite cookies.



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Notre Dame Athletic Hall of Fame inductions were held on October 7, 2023, prior to the Homecoming game. The Hall of Fame Class of 2023 includes **Kevin Wilson '95**, **Christopher Bennett '99**, **Patrick Waite '03**, **Megan (Weber '06) Thompson**, **Sydney (Dimon '12) Green**, **Mackenzie Maloney '17**, and **Brian Adams, ND Varsity Soccer Coach**.

Each inductees' athletic accomplishments were highlighted as they were introduced on to the field, prior to receiving their plaque from Head of School, Patricia Mack '85, and Athletic Manager, Brad Bellinger.

Congratulations to the newest Hall of Fame members!



Left to right: Megan (Weber '06) Thompson, Kevin Wilson '95, Christopher Bennett '99, Patrick Waite '03, Sydney (Dimon '12) Green, Mackenzie Maloney '17, Sean Adams '10 accepting on behalf of his father, Coach Brian Adams





Are you on Facebook?

Join the Notre Dame High School Elmira, NY - Alumni Facebook page



Terry (Rodzai '66) McNamara and **Mike Tarby '60** were joined by ND's Sophomore Class at the Elmira Community Kitchen. The sophomores were working at the Kitchen for their Mercy Week service project.



Mary Beth (Morgan '80) Conwell, owner of Ray Jewelers, hosted an exclusive meet and greet with designer & philanthropist Tommy Hilfiger. Mary Beth provided an opportunity for local designers and artists to meet Tommy, share their designs, and discuss the industry. Congratulations on a hugely successful event!



Alumni News

Dan '74 & Marianne (Fusare '74) Kalec recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary! Congratulations!





ND Alumni in Ireland! A visit to Dunguaire Castle in County Galway was a great opportunity for a group photo! Front: Mary (Gingrich '70) Palmer, Liz McNamara '78, Theresa (Gingrich) Woodruff '75. Back: Rita Kujawski '71, Patty (Hughes **′71**) Corcoran, Kathleen (Foy '69) Kane, lim Palmer, Connie Sweeney '61, Gail Sweeney '64, Steve McNamara **'75**. Kim Harkness '75

Tailgating at James Madison University Parents Weekend, left to right: Charlotte (O'Brien '82) Wirth, Mary (Monroe '82) Carroll, Anne (Liddy '82) Gamerdinger



Always great to visit with lifelong friends! *Left to right:* Wilhelm Peck '82, Mike Grosvenor '82, John Zuniga '82, Pat Sullivan '82, Mike Parks '82, Mike Batteersby '82.

Classmates catching up in Florida! Right: Laurie Williamson '84, Konnie (Krovetcz '84) Davis, Jackie (Weideman '84) Gunn, Colleen (Costello '84) Huffner, Robert Keene '84. Far right: Robert Keene '84 & Mark Ritter '84)





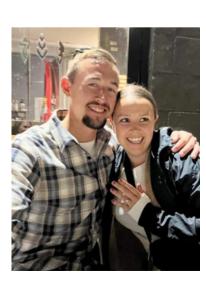
Class of 1987 at Canandaigua Lake. *Left to right:* **Jennifer (Barton '87) Helin, Amy (Clark '87) Bond, Karen (Carges '87) Donoghue, Angela (Kosmicki '87) Narosky, Katie (Klotz 87) Parasch, Bethann (Lewis '87) Strothman**

Tony Pucci recently had the opportunity to visit with Megan (Barbier '91) Love and with Sister Mary Lou Seitz





Congratulations to
McKenzie Allington '12
and Tom Makowiec '12
on their recent
engagement!







Celebrating **Genna Wirth '13** on her nomination for the "Wilma's Women to Watch" award! Genna is the Executive Director of Voyage, a non-profit in Wilmington, NC. (for more on Genna, see "Alumni Perspectives" in the Winter 2022 edition of the *Crusader Connection*). Congratulations, Genna!



Isaiah Smallwood '14 was featured in the July 2023 issue of *Mountain Home Magazine*, a monthly publication celebrating the NY Finger Lakes and Pennsylvania. The article can be found here.





Brooke (Harvey '15) and Jimmy Fazzari '15 were married on October 7, 2023, with ND alumni Carley Blampied '14, Paige Harvey '22, Derek Harvey '08, and Darius Garvin '15 in the wedding party. Congratulations!!





Congratulations to Alivia (Clark '16) & Toby Wirth '16 who were married on May 27, 2023! Their wedding party included ND alumni Emma Booth '16, Kaylyn Curran '15, Mackenzie Maloney '17, Derek Marshall '14, Megan (Herrick '14) Schlessing, Ryan Steed '16, Brendan Webster '16, Maddie Wirth '20, and Genna Wirth '13



Matthew '18 & Katie (Bohart '18) Connolly

were married on September 16, 2023. The couple are living in Albany where Matt is an HVAC Tech and Katie is a licensed social worker. Congratulations, Mr. & Mrs. Connolly!



The ND middle & high school robotics teams are excited to have **John Bernatavitz** '19 as a programming mentor. John is a Computer Science major at SUNY Corning Community College.



Emma Vakiener '19 graduated from Ithaca College in May 2023 with a degree in Music Education. and recently passed both the NYS EAS & Music Content exams to get her initial K-12 teacher certification in NYS. Congratuiations! Emma will be performing in the Ithaca College Senior Recital on November 12th at the Hockett Family Recital Hall.



Giovanni Reale '23, Ilaria Stimamiglio '23, Marino Cagetti '23, and Federica Angius '23 got together for lunch in Milan, Italy with International Student Recruitment Director, Kristie Crossley (not pictured)



Pratha Purushottam '21 returned to ND for the Blessing of the Animals (pictured above with her brother, ND senior Divye Agrawal, and their dog, Milo). Pratha, a junior at the University of Virginia, spent her summer as an intern in the Immigrant Services Proram at Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties.



Molly Huddle '02 (pictured above right) was a special guest at the 42nd Wineglass Marathon, held the last weekend in September in Corning, NY. Molly appeared at the Wineglass Expo at the Corning Glass Center, ran in the 5k, and was at the finish line cheering on runners in the half & full marathons. Runners included alum **Joe Barkley '15** (pictured above, center, with wife, **Megan (O'Dell '15) Barkley**) and **Dan Stearns '19** (pictured left with mom, **Mary Hosey '80**). Congratulations to all!



ND is excited to welcome back **Christina (Bruner '94) Sonsire** as coach of the ND Modified Girls Soccer team! Go Lady Crusaders!



Megan Pratt '22, a sophomore at Delaware State University, tallied a career high score of 84 points in the Equestrian team's season opener vs the University of Minnesota. Megan, a rider in the Fences corps, earned the first Most Outstanding Player of her career and was named ECAC Rider of the Week for the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

Ella Chicone '23, a freshman at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, IL, scored her first college goal vs Knox College. Ella is a midfielder on the Foresters women's soccer team.



We love to hear from our alumni!!

Please continue to submit your news & pictures to ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com

Keeping Track

2003

Amanda (Paribello '03) Wellington

Welcomed her second child with husband, Christopher. Daughter Harper Lilly, born in September 2023, joins older brother Jude.

2011

Maxwell Garten

Graduated from Mansfield University in May 2023

2016

Emma Booth

A graduate of Hofstra Law, recently passed the bar exam

Toby Wirth

A graduate of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, recently passed the bar exam

2018

Jack Sobel

Graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology

2019

Cassandra Uy

Graduated from the University of Vermont with a bachelor's degree in Psychological Science

2020

Austin Gleason

Earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2023 semester at SUNY Oneonta

2021

Gino DeLeone

Spent the summer of 2023 doing an internship at Adaptive Biotechnologies in Seattle, WA

2022

Erica Parks

A sophomore at Mansfield University, recently returned from studying abroad in the Central American country of Belize, as part of a faculty-led, short-term study abroad program. While abroad, Erica researched the politics, culture and economy of Belize, while gathering field notes on a research topic focused on cultural identity, globalization, sustainable development or democracy.

Tyler Richards

Was named a 2022-2023 PSAC Scholar Athlete, earning a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25. Tyler, a sophomore at Mercyhurst University, is a catcher on the Lakers baseball team.

Derek Simpson

Was named to the 2022-2023 PSAC Scholar Athlete award list. Derek, a sophomore at Mansfield University, is a member of the Men's Track & Field Cross Country team

PRAYERS FOR OUR DECEASED ALUMNI 2023

January		April		August	
22	Richard Vito Liotino '86	13	Anne Fitzpatrick '63	1	Timothy O'Herron, MD '95
		26	Mark Laux '67		
February		30	Paul Mack '82	September	
17	Marjorie Sydlo Olyer '63			6	Marie Ginter Butcher '72
19	Jane Ryan Agan '54	May			
		8	Connie Lee Barden Streck '68	Octobe	r
March		15	Anthony Punzo '58	1	John F. Irwin '66
2	Marlene Ann Semesky '61	17	Roberta Arnold McDonald '63	6	Patricia Cady Sacheli '68
4	Clifford Jessup '71	23	Tlmothy Scanlin '63	17	Madeline White '16
9	Suzanne Butler '63	June			
13	Prudence Burke Taylor '66	2	Margaret Farrell Bowen '73		
		8	James Studzinski '63		
		16	Sister Arlene Semesky, RSM '61		
		22	Maureen Constantine Stachowski '6	56	

CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1963

The **Class of 1963** celebrated their 60th reunion on September 15-17, 2023. A weekend full of events included a Friday night mixer at Bernie Murray's, a Saturday morning round of golf, followed by afternoon Mass, and dinner at Lib's. The reunion wrapped up with a farewell breakfast on Sunday morning.













CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1966

Terry (Rodzai '66) McNamara writes, "Some people are reluctant to reveal their age, but the ND Class of '66 is proud to say they have been blessed with 75 years of life and gratefully celebrated on the weekend of September 22-23, 2023.

Friday evening set the stage with a "Meet & Greet" at Hill Top Inn crowned with a gorgeous sunset. Saturday morning classmates met at the ND track for a run/walk/donut eating event along with a tour of the school. On Saturday, classmate **Fr. John DeSocio '66** celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Church, followed by a dinner at the Elmira Country Club. The stories, memories, and laughs are treasured by all who attended."











CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1973

The 50th reunion of the **Class of 1973** took place over the weekend of October 20-21, 2023. On Saturday, classmates enjoyed a tour of the school followed by lunch in the cafeteria. Laughter echoed through the halls as they shared memories and old stories.



The **Class of 1978** gathered the weekend of August 4-6, 2023 for their 45th reunion. Events included an informal gathering Friday night at the Clarion Inn, a 9-hole golf outing on Saturday morning, followed by a reunion party at the III Eagle Taphouse. The reunion concluded on Sunday morning with Mass and a school tour. The class had a wonderful time catching up and sharing memories

CLASS OF 1978













UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1983 40TH REUNION

Friday, November 10, 2023

Ill Eagle Taphouse, 200 E Church St, Elmira, NY

Saturday, November 11, 2023

1:00 – 5:00 pm Hibernian Center, 701 Kinyon St, Elmira, NY 5:00 pm until ? Green Derby, 113 W 2nd St, Elmira, NY

Sunday, November 12, 2023

9:00 am Mass in Memory of Deceased Classmates St. Mary's Southside, 224 Franklin St, Elmira, NY CLASS OF 1983
Please contact
Kelly (Turk '82) Emanuel
kemanuel00@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1974 - 50TH REUNION

Friday, September 20, 2024

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

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Golf Scramble at Soaring Eagles
Possible Boat Ride at Captain Bills, Seneca Lake
7:00 pm Ill Eagle Taphouse, 200 E Church St
Food with cash bar

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Mass - location & time TBD Family Picnic at West Elmira Townhall (cost TBD)

CLASS OF 1974

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 <u>NDclassof74@stny.rr.com</u> with any updates or questions

NEXT MEETING
January 12, 2024
2:00 pm Ill Eagle Taphouse
All are welcome to join!

UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1984 40TH REUNION

SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2024

PLANNING IS UNDERWAY!

CLASS OF 1984
Please contact <u>Konnie (Krovetcz '84) Davis</u>
for information

CLASS OF 2004 20TH REUNION

APRIL 12 - 13, 2024

Proposed Schedule

Friday, April 12

7:00 - 10:00 Welcome Reception - Green Derby

Saturday, April 13

10:00 Tour of ND & Pudgies Pizza lunch in the Cafe5:00 - 7:00 Drinks & Appetizers/NDHS 2004 Trivia7:00 Dinner at Elmira Country Club

CLASS OF 2004
Patrick Buckley '04, Krissy
McNamara '04, & Paul Ryan '04
are coordinating the reunion

For planning purposes, please respond to the survey <u>here</u> by 12/31/23

UPCOMING EVENTS



FLX GIVES day is right around the corner!

This is a wonderful opportunity to show your support and make a gift to Notre Dame. All donations, big or small, are appreciated.

Please visit <u>https://www.flxgives.org/</u> and enter Notre Dame High School in the search bar

Please consider making a donation to ND on FLX Gives day and make a difference! November 16, 6:00 pm - November 17, 6:00 pm



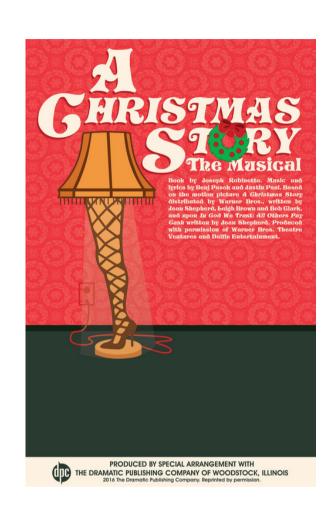
REGISTER

https://tinyurl.com/BobAganMemorialTD5K2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Presented by the Notre Dame Spotlighters

Saturday, Dec 2nd @ 7 pm Sunday, Dec 3rd @ 2 pm Tickets are \$12 at the door general admission





STUDENT LIFE

MERCY WEEK

Notre Dame is proud to be a Mercy School and our Crusaders look forward to Mercy Week each year! We are grateful to the following who invited us into their

businesses and homes: Appleridge Senior Living Center, the Crisis Pregnancy Center, Woodbrook, Big Flats Community Center, Miller Manor, Meals on Wheels, Chemung County SPCA, His Haven, P'nuts Animal Sanctuary, Elmira Community Arts Center, Chemung County Family Fitness Center, Elmira Community Kitchen, FoodBank of the Southern Tier, Feed My Starving Children in Ithaca, Second Wind Cottages in Dryden, and the homes of local senior citizens.

To view a compilation video, click here:











An assembly in the Charles & Mary Crossed Auditorium was held to announce that the American Heart Association, in partnership with LECOM, will provide all Notre Dame students, faculty, and staff with CPR education. We are grateful for our affiliation with LECOM and for this amazing opportunity!

CPR TRAINING





STUDENT LIFE

LANGUAGE DEPT



Students, faculty, and staff joined our international student Mariana Alanis Navarro in celebrating Dia de los Muertos by creating a traditional ofrenda. Dia de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday where family and friends create ofrenda to honor their deceased loved ones. The altar is decorated with bright marigolds, pictures, and mementos of their loved ones, along with the favorite foods and drinks their loved ones enjoyed. In addition to the ofrenda, students in Spanish II & III performed a Spanish song, researched and presented reports on Hispanic countries, and had the opportunity to try a traditional treat of hot chocolate and pan de muerto provided by Spanish teacher, Sandra Perkins. Dia de los Muertos is celebrated Oct 31-Nov 2, coinciding with All Saints Day and All Souls Day.







Congratulations to the Crusaders who made it to Sectional play!

> Varsity Girls Soccer Varsity Boys Soccer Girls Swim Cross Country





HOMECOMING







Homecoming Court (left to right): Kevin Green escorting Maddy Fargo, Aedan Gill escorting Sophia McMaster, Jeremiah Parker escorting Mallory Sheehan, Jose Marcotti Neto escorting Abby Hart, Logan Meisner escorting Caroline Horton

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITA

by Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM

At the beginning of a new school year, we are reminded of the story of the starfish – the tale of a young girl who spots hundreds of starfish washed up on the beach and proceeds to toss them, one by one back into the ocean – making just a small impact on the overall situation, but a huge impact on each individual starfish. This story illustrates how one person can make a difference by doing one small thing.

You are our "stars" as we continue the work of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The school community joins us in thanking you for your support and we promise to offer our prayers and good works for your intentions.

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

Thank you!!