

CRUSADER CONNECTION

Notre Dame High School's Alumni Newsletter



Trish Mack with ND mascot,
George Francis Mack

FROM MS. MACK'S DESK

As I reflect on my time as a student at Notre Dame in the mid 1980's, I recall the opportunities to serve others. It was what made Notre Dame unique in the community and allowed me to understand that service was something I needed to provide throughout my life. The personal gratification of providing for those in need and serving others as a school community continues to be tradition at Notre Dame.

Marie McCaig, Notre Dame's Campus Minister, has been busy! Two new student volunteer groups have been created and are working hard. The

"Junior Ladies of Charity" held a winter coat drive for babies and toddlers in need locally, followed by a successful collection of items for the local homeless population! The "St. Joseph's Workers", a group of exceptional young men, was also created to provide service in the school. We are so proud of these young men and women who are making a difference in our community!

Notre Dame continues the tradition of giving and service celebrated annually at our Golden Mass prior to Christmas break. Students, parents, faculty, and alumni shopped and wrapped gifts for 20+ families so that they could enjoy a stress-free holiday week. The excitement and fulfillment on the faces of students is always the most joyous time of the year at Notre Dame. The message, "It is in giving that we receive," was felt by all who attended the Golden Mass and is reflected in the true spirit of service.

Wishing you a blessed 2023!

*"The best way to find yourself is to
lose yourself in the service of others."
Mahatma Gandhi*

CONTENTS

**Thank you from Jayne D'Aloisio
Book Publication / NFHS Network
Bob Agan Memorial Turkey Day 5k
Crusader Christmas
Golden Mass**

2 - 6

Alumni Corner

- Alumni Chronicles - Laurie Sweeney '71
- Alumni News / Keeping Track
- Prayers for Deceased Alumni 2022
- Upcoming Class Reunions

7 - 15

Upcoming Events

16

Student Life

- Music & Theater Department Guest
- Quiz League
- The Spotlighters present "Matilda"
- International Students
- Junior Ladies of Charity
- Junior High Robotics
- Congratulations!!
- Crusader Decals / Thank You!

17 - 20

**A Message from the President Emerita
Sponsor a Student**

21

THANK YOU

To our Notre Dame Family:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Notre Dame family for the outpouring of love and support during Coach D's illness and passing. I had initially planned to send a thank you note to each and every one of you, but it quickly became overwhelming.

When we first heard the words Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), it was on July 29, 2020, our 31st wedding anniversary. A day to celebrate quickly became the absolute scariest day of our lives. Meeting with the doctor, neither Coach nor I heard anything after those words and not much was said on the drive home from Rochester. That evening & the weeks that followed were consumed with research and many questions. Mike had known for many years that something was wrong, his body was deteriorating, but he was not prepared for this diagnosis. He focused on the doctor's analysis that his case was "slow progressing"; that was all he needed to hear. He was so thankful that his swallowing and speech were not yet affected - we all know how important that was for Coach D as eating was his favorite thing to do!

Following Mike's diagnosis, so many people reached out to him to show their love and support. These interactions meant the world to him. Countless people asked to come and visit, but sadly, we had to limit visitations as we were in the middle of a pandemic. He so looked forward to the visitors he was able to have. Listening to him talk with his former players, coaches, fellow teachers, and family was so heartwarming. He reminisced, told stories, made plans, set goals, and never gave up. He was able to do that because of all of you. You motivated him and gave him hope. This was somewhat of a role reversal for Mike; he had always been the motivator, not the person being told to "never give up", and it made him fight even harder. He was so blessed to have almost two years with the Notre Dame community from near and far reaching out to tell him how much he had touched their lives. You have no idea the impact each of you had on our lives. The phone calls, texts, letters, visits, and gifts were truly what kept both of us going.

The last two events that Mike was able to attend gave both of us so much joy. The final Joel Stephens golf tournament that honored Mike was such a wonderful afternoon as memories and stories were shared. The Notre Dame Homecoming football game in October 2021, where he was celebrated along with two of his championship teams, allowed him to see and speak with so many former players, coaches, teachers, students, and friends one last time. He gave one of his infamous pregame speeches and drove onto the field before a standing room only crowd, capping off an evening that was unbelievably special. He spoke about his love and appreciation for those two events every day for the last few months he was with us.

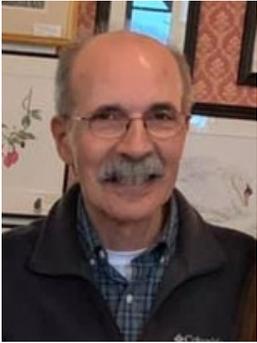
What is so amazing about the Notre Dame community is that the prayers, love, and support didn't stop after his passing. The beautiful mural overlooking the football field, the soon to be "Coach's Corner" park adjacent to the Joel Stephen's Memorial Park, and the book that Mike had started that was finished by one of his best friends and colleagues, is something I will forever treasure.

There are not enough words to tell you how much I appreciate all of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. My hope and prayer is that you all have a blessed, healthy, and happy new year ahead.

Love and God Bless Always,

Jayne D'Aloisio





Anthony Pucci
Author, Former ND Teacher

BOOK PUBLICATION

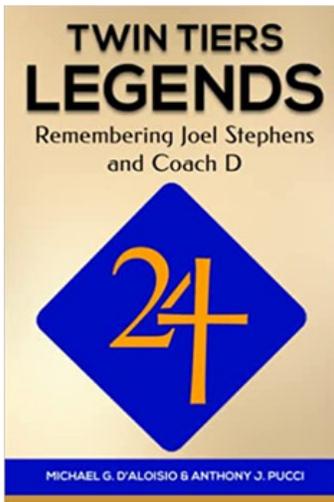
Sometime in 2019, Coach Mike D'Aloisio first told me of his desire to write another book about the legacy of Joel Stephens (ND Class of 1995). Twenty years had passed since *5 C Hero: The Joel Stephens Story* had been published. I had helped Mike with that first book and was happy to collaborate with him on another. He was fully committed to keeping Joel's memory alive, and I knew that he had many more stories to share.

We talked about the book all the time. Once he had a something on paper, he would give it to me to edit. He would often tease me about the amount of red ink on the pages that he got back, but I know that he appreciated my input. Whatever changes I made, I was always conscious of maintaining Mike's voice. Unfortunately, it was also around this time Mike's health began to fail. Our work became more and more difficult.

Just as Joel did when faced with his diagnosis of terminal cancer, Mike D'Aloisio kept his focus on others and on his faith in God as he dealt with his diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was sometimes frustrated by his lack of progress on the book. It was then that I made a promise to Mike that the book would be completed.

Joel's number was 24, and that was Coach's favorite number. It is a sad irony that 24 years after losing Joel in 1998, the Notre Dame family lost Mike D'Aloisio in 2022. One of the kindest and most caring individuals to walk the halls of Notre Dame High School, he had an enormous and lasting impact on so many in this area. Like so many others, I was proud to call him my friend. With the support of Mike's remarkable wife Jayne, I had access to all of his notes. In addition to the stories about Joel, I decided to turn the second half of the book into a tribute to the Coach himself.

The result was *Twin Tiers Legends: Remembering Joel Stephens and Coach D* published in November 2022. (Check with your local bookseller to purchase the book; it is also available on Amazon)



CRUSADER ATHLETICS ARE NOW ON THE NFHS NETWORK!!

Notre Dame is pleased to announce that all games held in the John T. Gough Gymnasium, on the turf of Brewer Memorial Stadium, and on the baseball and softball fields will be broadcast on the NFHS Network!

A membership is required to watch the network. To set up an account/subscription visit

<https://www.nfhsnetwork.com>

If you are interested in being a sponsor

on the network's Notre Dame page, please contact

Brad Bellinger, Athletic Manager - bellingerb@notredamehighschool.com

or Theresa Tobey, Director of Advancement - tobeyt@notredamehighschool.com

BOB AGAN MEMORIAL TURKEY DAY 5K

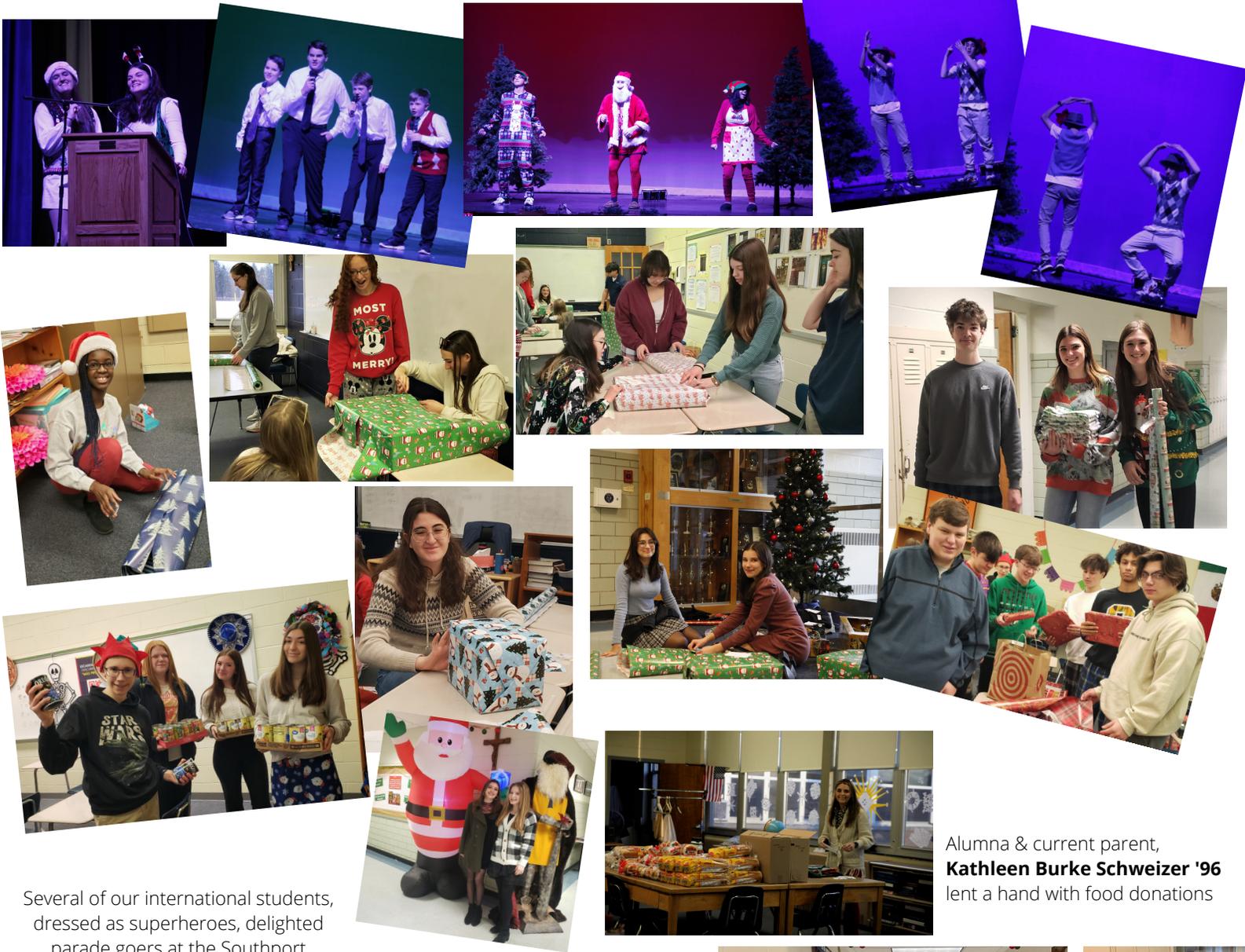
Notre Dame was proud to welcome 523 registered participants to our campus on Thanksgiving morning for the 11th annual Bob Agan Memorial Turkey Day 5k. The annual event is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with family, friends and former classmates. A huge shoutout to all of our sponsors and to the race committee on a successful event! See you again next year!



Shout out to Carole Moretti '75, who participated virtually from Keuka Lake

Crusader Christmas kicked off with a rollicking assembly on November 30 that included a rendition of the "12 Days of Christmas" sung by Mrs. Tanner with each verse hilariously acted out by 2 of our international students, senior Rafael Soares & junior Ricky Reicher. The next 3 weeks were busy as ND students, families, alumni, faculty & staff donated food items, shopped for toys & clothes, wrapped gifts, and shared the Christmas spirit with the community.

CRUSADER CHRISTMAS



Several of our international students, dressed as superheroes, delighted parade goers at the Southport Bicentennial Holiday Parade



The Notre Dame Robotics team spread Christmas cheer at the Corning Parade of Lights



Alumna & current parent, **Kathleen Burke Schweizer '96** lent a hand with food donations



Crusaders enjoyed a visit from St. Nicholas (senior Giovanni Reale) & his elves (Deacon Thomas Jack, seniors Kevin O'Toole and Jack Vakiener, and Mrs. Jessica Ryan) on December 6





GOLDEN MASS

The Notre Dame family gathered for the 67th Golden Mass on December 21. We were pleased to welcome back alumni who, with our current students and families, celebrated one of our favorite events. The beautiful celebration ended as our alumni joined together in the front of the auditorium to sing a rousing chorus of "Joy to the World".



Above, **Michael Stearns '16, Mary Hosey '80, Daniel Stearns '19**



Right, **Caroline Viselli '22, Nick Viselli '20, Mary Ellen (Maloney '61) Coseo**



Above, left to right, from the Class of 2022: **Tyler Richards, Sean Franzese, Anna Velasquez, Megan Pratt, Allie Finnerty, Caroline Viselli, Owen Stewart**



Above, **Madeleine Meier '19, Christine Meier, Alexandra Meier '22**



Right, **Kaitlin Barkley '18, Isabella O'Toole '22, Emmalie Barkley '22**



Below, **Anne (McCarthy '57) Eller & alumni parent, Elaine Eller**



The tradition of "the Suit" carries on with senior Shane Maloney



"Joy to the World", pictured left, **Carol (Cook '67) Brady, Jim Brady '67, Alexandra Welliver '21, Fr. John DeSocio '66, Christina (Bruner '94) Sonsire, and in the rear, Paul Mack '82, Devon Montanarella '13**



ALUMNI CORNER



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

Winter at Notre Dame - days and evenings are busy with preparations for mid-term exams, band and chorus concerts, theater productions, basketball games, bowling matches, and indoor track meets. Annual events including the Turkey Day 5k, candy from St. Nick on St. Nicholas Day, and Snow Ball. The occasional snow day. And two of the most cherished traditions of the year - Crusader Christmas and Golden Mass.

A favorite of students and faculty alike, Golden Mass is a throughline to all of our alumni, each of whom has a memory of the beloved tradition during their time at the school. From the first Golden Mass in 1955 through today, the focus on serving our community remains strong. Beginning with the kickoff of Crusader Christmas, the month of December is spent collecting food, shopping for clothing, household items and toys, wrapping gifts, and decorating the stage in preparation for the celebration on the last day of school before break. The anticipation builds as the month progresses, with the true meaning of the holiday in the air. Giving back, providing for those less fortunate, sharing our blessings with our community. All while instilling a foundation of service that students take with them when they graduate from Notre Dame and, as alumni, share within the communities where they live and work.

It is always wonderful to see our alumni return to Notre Dame to attend Golden Mass. The joy of seeing the curtains pulled back to reveal a stage filled with wrapped gifts and decorated trees elicits memories of days past. We are thankful for those memories and for all our alumni, near and far. And we are grateful for the time and talents that they continue to share with others, carrying on the tradition of service fostered at Notre Dame..



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.

ALUMNI CHRONICLES



by Laurie Sweeney '71

As a 1971 graduate of Notre Dame High School, I have always been proud to be a Crusader. The Catholic education I received beginning at St. Mary's Grammar School, followed by Notre Dame, and ultimately at D'Youville College, as well as through my 25 years working at St. Joseph's Hospital, has certainly had a positive and influential impact on my life's journey. The faith that was developed and nourished in me led to a "calling" that has carried me through my life. My career as a nurse and then as Director of Woodbrook Assisted Living reflects the basic values I learned from the Sisters and Priests who shared their Catholic faith with me.

It was at Notre Dame that I was encouraged to learn about the saints who inspire and guide us to try and live as they did, helping others. A favorite of mine is St. Teresa of Calcutta, known more familiarly as Mother Teresa, who states "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Simple acts of kindness are powerful, as I witnessed first-hand with the residents of Woodbrook. Pope Francis declares "Greatness and success are measured by service – not on what someone has, but on what someone gives." I believe that going forth with "Christ-like love" is our true mission in life – serving others with passion and purpose. So much of this belief and vision was fostered during my years at Notre Dame. The importance of delivering the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, the way Jesus would want us to, is a philosophy I supported through my role at Woodbrook – "to be a good leader, one must first learn to serve." As I reflect on my early years at Notre Dame, I recognize that the teachings of the Sisters of Mercy still hold power with me today. I have been able to live a life of passion and purpose and have been incredibly fortunate to witness the goodness in people, comfort in the ordinary, the beauty of love, and the presence of God daily.

Having recently made the decision to retire from my position at Woodbrook, I was faced with many unknown challenges – one of which was discovering what my next calling would be, but I knew eventually that God would lead me in the right direction. And He did. I had always felt that there was no job more important than taking care of our residents, but then I realized there was something more important – bringing Jesus to them. And so, I continue to serve in my community as a Eucharistic Minister, calling on area assisted living facilities and nursing homes, and now through a "Homebound Ministry", where I visit with people who are unable to leave their homes. I returned to Woodbrook as a volunteer to coordinate Mass each month for the residents. The people I serve with Holy Communion, prayer, and conversation have a definite impact on my life. The wisdom they impart reveal lessons in hope, faith, resilience, and strength.

I have also been called to spiritual "end of life" care, making sure the dying process is dignified and peaceful. I will never forget an early experience with Sister Edwina, as we sat and prayed when Father Joseph Hogan, the first chaplain at Notre Dame, passed to Heaven. After being unresponsive for many hours, Father Hogan opened his eyes and looking at the crucifix in the room, took his last breath. As I looked to Sister Edwina, I realized how privileged I was to have witnessed this intense spiritual moment and how blessed Sister Edwina & I were to have been there together. Through that early experience, I recognized my calling and have always felt honored to be at the bedside when someone passes.

A career is something you choose; a calling is something you receive. A calling doesn't end when you retire, it carries you throughout your lifetime. I am so blessed to have found this calling in my life. I am forever grateful for the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph, along with St. Mary's School and Notre Dame High School, for bringing me to this mission and this ministry that fulfills my being.



Alumni News



Rye Bar & Restaurant, owned by **Charlie Hunter '85**, was named New Business of the Year by the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce. After living outside of the area for 25 years, most recently in San Francisco, Charlie returned home and purchased the former Horigan's Tavern in Elmira. Congratulations to Charlie on his new & successful venture!



Sue Knox (left) with Christa Heyward

Erin Panosian '07 was featured on the Southern Finger Lakes Upstate NY website, a resource for developers, business owners, and visionaries to market our area and share stories of those who live and work here. Erin, who returned to the area in 2020 after spending many years in Pittsburgh, works as a full-time graphic designer and freelance photographer. The feature story, "Back Home Sweet Home" can be found [here](#)



Congratulations to **Christa Heyward, Ph.D. '98** on the recently released documentary "*3 Generations of Chefs*". The film, commissioned by the Elmira Center for Cultural Advancement, (ECCA) through The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes, tells the story of professional chef, Jesse Knox, as told by his daughter, **Sue Knox '71**, and grandson, Kaylen. The documentary, produced by Christa, along with Will Wickham, provides a glimpse into the multi-generational culinary family. To view the documentary, click [here](#). Christa who serves on the board of the ECCA, works at GSK (formerly GlaxoSmithKline) as an Immunologist and Investigator in Discovery Science.

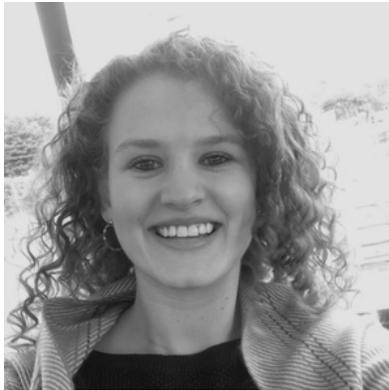


Brittany Schutrum '13 was a presenter at STEM Day 2022, held at SUNY Corning Community College in November 2022. Brittany, is a PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University's Melng School of Blomedical Engineering. *(Pictured above left is Brittany with ND Junior Grey Haluska, who attended the presentation).*



Jacob Rice '13, son of Todd and **Bernadette (Robinson '84) McClelland**, married Erica Bowser on October 8, 2022. Jacob currently works & resides in Erie, PA.

Tom '14 & **Kyra Agan** were married on September 4, 2022 at St. Michael's in Penn Yan followed by a reception at Crispin Hill. (Pictured, left to right, Jennifer Agan '10, Jim Liska, Kate (Agan '08) Liska, Kyra Agan, Tom Agan '14, Beth Agan, Steve Agan '79, Danielle (Allington '09) Agan, and Dan Agan '09. Dan & Danielle's twins, Avery and Leo, are held by Jen & Danielle).



Alexandra Steed '13 is an Associate Producer at Grim & Mild, an audio production company dedicated to powerful historical storytelling. Allie's credits include over 340 episodes of podcasts including "Lore", "American Shadows", and also "Grim & Mild Presents" on which Allie is a narrator. To check out recent podcast episodes featuring Allie, click [here](#).



Isaiah Smallwood '14 recently auditioned for the upcoming season of American Idol! Be sure to tune in on February 19 to see this talented alumni!



Warren "Flip" Sarta '16 visited with Art teacher, Susan LaVelle, while home for the holiday. Flip is currently living in the Los Angeles area, where he is working for Fred Films as a Development Manager. His goal is to incorporate his passions for conservation, compassion, and community into his work in the field of animation. In his spare time, Flip volunteers as a Hoofstock Specialist Docent at the LA Zoo.



Catie Talenti '15 stopped in for a visit while home for Thanksgiving. Following graduation from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Catie worked in several capacities on Capitol Hill before assuming her current role as Manager, Communications and Research, for the trade association, Consumer Brands Association, in D.C. (Pictured left, Catie with Erik Rominger,)

We love to hear from our alumni!!

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



Emma Vakiener '19, has spent several recent weekends in New York City as a member of the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble. Emma, a senior at Ithaca College, traveled to NYC in November for a performance at the Broadway Ballroom in the Marriott Marquis with renowned musician Jim Hynes, before heading to Yankee Stadium the next day to play with the Ithaca College Pep Band during the Cortaca Jug Game. In early January, Emma participated in the Jazz at Lincoln Center Annual Jack Rudin Jazz Championship, a two-day jazz invitational event featuring ten of the most well-regarded university jazz programs in the country.. Congratulations Emma!



Emma with her parents Keith & Sara (Spencer '93) Vakiener



Austin Gleason '20, visited with a few of her favorite teachers during her recent break from SUNY Oneonta. (Pictured above, Austin with Senora Marina Liriano)



Caroline Rogers '20, a Geoscience major at Skidmore College, journeyed to the South Island of New Zealand (Te Waipounamu) in January for a four-week geological field camp as a precursor to her semester abroad as a student in the fields of mineralogy, volcanology, and geomorphology at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, during which she will also complete an independent research project based on the field study. This past summer, Caroline worked with geologist Dr. Andrew Horst to complete a research project characterizing a subvolcanic magma plumbing system through the analysis of the magnetic susceptibility of igneous Icelandic rock samples. Caroline is also the captain of the Skidmore Geosciences Peer Academic Coaching staff and a member of the Periclean Honors Forum.



Josie Becker '21, a sophomore at Hartwick College, enjoyed a visit with **Trish Mack '85**, ND Head of School. Josie, a history major, is also working as a curator at the Yager Museum of Art & Culture on the Hartwick campus.



Kylee Bakley '22, a freshman at Savannah College of Art & Design, surprised ND faculty & staff with a village of homemade personalized ginger bread houses! (Pictured with Kylee is **Bernadette (Robinson) '84) McClelland**, Assistant Head of School)





ND Alumni inducted into Chemung County Hall of Fame

Notre Dame was well represented in the Chemung County Hall of Fame Class of 2022 with Bill Huddle '66, Dick Craft '76, Robert Kelly '80, and Joe Bennett '98 inducted on December 27, 2022.

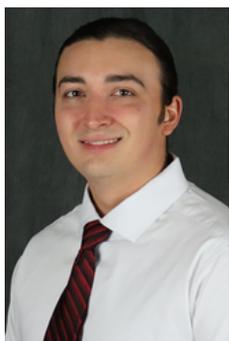
Bill Huddle '66, inducted posthumously, earned all-city basketball honors in 1965 & 1966, scoring 342 points as a senior, which at the time ranked No. 2 in program history. Bill went on to play basketball and baseball for the University of Rochester, earning a total of six letters. *(Dr. Tim Huddle '72, pictured far right, accepted for Bill)*

Dick Craft '76 was a three sport standout at ND, earning All-Twin Tier Honors in football three times and was chosen All-State his senior season. He played three seasons of baseball and wrestled two seasons. As an assistant football coach at ND, he helped the team to an intersectional title in 1990 and guided the team to a Section IV final as head coach in 2001. *(Dick is pictured 4th from right)*

As a basketball player for the Crusaders, **Robert Kelly '80** contributed to consecutive Section IV championships in 1979 and 1980. He returned to ND as a coach for the girls basketball team and ranks among the most successful high school basketball coaches in Elmira history, most notably coaching the team to back-to-back Class C State Championships in 2006 and 2007, the only girls basketball state champs for an Elmira school. *(Robert is pictured 4th from left)*

Joe Bennett '98 was a 1997 first-team All-State selection in football, catching 26 passes for 841 yards and 10 touchdowns to lead the Crusaders to a 9-1 record and division title while playing for his uncle, Coach Mike D'Aloisio. Joe also registered eight quarterback sacks at defensive end and had 45 tackles. In basketball, he averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds during his senior season, earning All-Sullivan Trail Conference honors. At Mansfield University, Joe earned Division II All-American honors as a receiver, ranking third all-time at the school while leading the program chart in yards (2,695) and touchdowns (29). *(Jayne D'Aloisio, pictured 2nd from left, accepted on Joe's behalf).*

Brandon Donovan '16 was named Assistant Men's Lacrosse Coach at SUNY Plattsburgh. Brandon, who competed in men's lacrosse at SUNY Potsdam from 2017-2020, played in 35 career games as a long-stick midfielder. Good luck, Brandon!



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Congratulations to **Caroline Rogers '20**, who, as a member of the Skidmore Women's Swimming and Diving Team, set a new all-time Skidmore College record in the 200 Backstroke at the Rochester Institute of Technology Don Richards Invitational Swim Meet, where she was also the highest scoring woman at the seven-team, two-day meet.



Alexandra Cowley '21, a sophomore at the University of Buffalo, was recently named Athlete of the Week. Alex, a member of the Cross Country and Track and Field teams, was recognized for her hard work in spirit, community outreach and athletic performance. Congratulations, Alex!



Madison Watts '21 has been named the Modified Girls Basketball Coach for the upcoming season at Notre Dame. Maddy, currently a sophomore at Mansfield University, was a multi-sport athlete at ND, playing basketball, soccer, and softball. Welcome home, Maddy!

Keeping Track

1969**Thomas B. Russell**

Was named to the LeMoyne College Alumni Board. Tom will assist in roles involving strategic alumni planning while interacting with the college's alumni nationwide. To start his new role, Tom will serve as Co-Chair for this Class's Golden Anniversary in May.

1969**Rooney (Frailey) Russell**

Moved with her husband, **Thomas Russell '69**, from Wellesley, MA to Cape Cod, MA, living near Woods Hole in the town of Falmouth

2016**Noah Kravitz**

Was recognized by SUNY Canton for earning Part-Time honors during the Fall 2022 semester.

2019**Adrian Haluska**

A senior, majoring in mechanical engineering, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Clarkson University.

2022**Alexandra Welliver**

Earned Dean's List honors for Term 1, 2022 at St. Joseph's College of Nursing. Alex is currently enrolled in the Dual Degree Partnership in Nursing program with LeMoyne College & St. Joseph's. This 1+2+1 DDPN requires two years of full-time study at Le Moyne College (years one and four) and two years of full-time study at St. Joseph's College of Nursing (years two and three) to satisfy both the associate degree and bachelor degree requirements.

PRAYERS FOR OUR DECEASED ALUMNI 2022

January

24 Julie Bennett McInerny '80

February

3 James N. "Jim" Holleran '65
11 Kathleen A. "Sis" Fennell '47
14 Charles A. Jung, Sr. '52
23 Lucy Esposito Gill '59
25 Nancy Keefe Yonko '52
26 Robert "Roy" Gublo '69

March

3 Teresa Connelly Pyhtila '47
17 Judy McManus Palinkas '58
19 Steven Cloke '86
24 John M. Cain '64

April

14 Richard Wronkoski '65
19 Caroljean Waschezan '67

May

4 Mary A. Parlo '63
14 Dolores Looney Ciccotti '50
21 Kevin O'Connor '79
27 Lee Race '79

June

2 Thomas Ciccotti '79
8 Richard E. Rollins '72
19 Dolores Tuccinardi Hall '65
22 Regina Lynch Hanson '66
22 Cynthia Williams '72
24 Sharron L. O'Buckley '72
25 Daniel Minch '62
26 Donald Perfetti '69
27 Theodore J. Semesky '67

July

5 Susan Wylie Carpenter '67
21 Kathleen Sullivan Fesh '57

August

2 Patricia Moylan Dailey '51
17 Theresa Milliken Esposito '43

September

4 Mary Ann Davis Cleary '69

October

12 Mary Lagonegro Weingart '72
15 Rev. Bernadine C. Kessing, OFM '50
20 Joan Wagner Monahan '61
29 Stephen Kelly '57

November

26 Charles McDermott '62
27 David Corkins '81

December

6 Margaret Guinane Mason '57
8 Elizabeth Nelan Justice '74
10 John A. Moretti, Jr. '73
13 Sr. Mary Brigid McCarthy, SSJ '43
15 James Capozzi '70
17 Stephen J. Kondrk '62
29 Patricia Weingart Howland '50
31 Craig Easton '78

UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

2023

CLASS OF 1963 60th REUNION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Bernie Murray's
500 S. Main St., Elmira, NY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Mass at 4:00 pm
St. Mary's Southside
Dinner at Lib's Supper Club
106 W. 5th Street, Elmira, NY

Please join & follow our private Facebook group at
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/NDHS.
Class.of.1963](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NDHS.Class.of.1963)
for the latest class news

EMAIL Jim Mockler at
jim.mockler@gmail.com with your up-to-date contact information to ensure you receive class mailings

CLASS OF 1973 50th REUNION

DATE: October 20 - 23, 2023

PLACE: TBD

EMAIL: Mary Buckley
marybuckleynd73@gmail.com
or Mark Montanarella
montanarella.mark@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: There is not a Facebook group associated with this class/reunion. Please contact Mary and/or Mark directly

CLASS OF 1978 45th REUNION

Where has the time gone????!!
Dar, Chris and Jeff are facilitating the reunion.
Please spread the word and
SAVE THE DATE!
(postcards will be mailed soon)

August 5, 2023

Ill Eagle Taphouse
200 East Church St., Elmira, NY
Cash bar and complimentary food
Donations happily accepted the night of the event!

Please join & follow our private Facebook group at
[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?
id=100089724819493](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089724819493)

UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

2024

CLASS OF 1974 50th REUNION

We are looking for volunteers to help us plan our reunion.!

We are meeting at Ill Eagle Taphouse at 2:00 pm on Friday, April 21, 2023 to start the planning process. All are encouraged to attend.

Email Marianne Kalec at NDclassof74@gmail.com to let her know if you will be attending the planning session.

We want to make this a Grand Reunion!! We will be sending out a survey for our classmates in the near future.

CLASS OF 1984 40th REUNION

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW & SAVE THE DATE!!
OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2024**

Please send your contact information to
Konnie Davis
konniedavis8@gmail.com
or
203-948-5663

Throwback
1971



C.S.M.C. Reps. – *Front:* Joann Frailey, Joanne Burke, Lynn Pesesky, Kathy Hill, Debbie McGann, Debbie Gush, James Redmond; *Center:* Sister Dolores Ann, moderator, Sue Casey, Laura Wahl, Michael Eagen, Joseph Hulbert, Larry Stewart, John Kraus; *Stairs:* Liz Graner, Mary Eileen Holleran, Kevin Balok, Pat Larkin; *Back:* Joseph Rodzai, Michael Sullivan, Mary McCarthy, Pat Kent, Chris Bergh.

Are you on Facebook?

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Notre Dame High School

CRUSADER CASH RAFFLE

Ticket Price: \$100
Additional Ticket: \$75

	≤ 350 Tickets Sold	>350 Tickets Sold
	Silver	Gold
1st Prize	\$5,000	\$10,000
2nd Prize	\$1,000	\$2,500
3rd Prize	\$500	\$1,000

To purchase tickets contact Theresa Tobey at tobeyt@notredamehighschool or 607-734-2267

Drawing will be held on Friday, April 21st, 2023
1400 Maple Ave., Elmira, NY 14904

Need not be present to win
Must be 18 or over to enter the drawing

SAVE THE DATE!!



Crusader Classic Golf Tournament Sunday, May 21, 2023

Bid to Give

Notre Dame High School's Online Silent Auction March 12 - March 26, 2023

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Donations needed
Deadline for Donations is March 9th
Your donation may be tax-deductible

PLEASE SUBMIT DONATIONS TO
Theresa Tobey, Director of Advancement
tobeyt@notredamehighschool.com
or 607-734-2267 ext. 325

DONATION SUGGESTIONS

- Autographed Memorabilia
- Sports Tickets
- Vacation Get Away
- Art
- Theater Tickets
- Athletic/Personal Training
- Wine Tours
- Anything you can think of!

STUDENT LIFE

MUSIC & THEATER DEPARTMENT

Notre Dame chorus and drama students had a wonderful opportunity in early December to meet Laura Darrell, the actress who played Anna in *Frozen Live*. Students enjoyed hearing about her experience as a professional singer and actress and were able to ask questions about what it is like to perform professionally. Laura was in Elmira to appear as a featured performer with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes Not All Frozen Holiday concert, held at the Clemens Center.



The ND Quiz League enjoyed a very successful season with the Twin Tier Quiz League. The Crusaders took first place, outscoring their closest competitor by over 800 points! Congratulations to Seniors Ella Chicone, Stephen D'Ortona, Kurt Golden, Isabella Hazelton, and Allie O'Brien; Juniors Divye Agrawal, Sophia McMaster, Cameron Neidrich, and Simeon Scarseletta; and Freshmen Andrew Golden and Lorelei Golden. The squad will next compete in the 43rd Annual Scholarship Challenge on February 11, 2023.

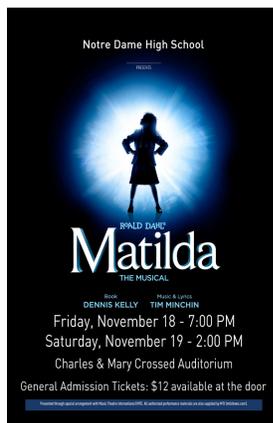
QUIZ LEAGUE

The event will be broadcast live on the radio (WATS/WAVR 102.1 FM) and streamed on <https://www.myhometowntoday.com/choice-102>



THEATER

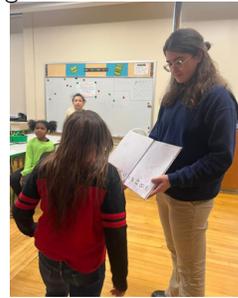
The Spotlighters presented *Matilda* on November 18 & 19, 2022 in the Charles & Mary Crossed Auditorium. Reviews were fabulous and a great time was had by all! We are looking forward to their spring production of *The Worst High School Play in the World*.



STUDENT LIFE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In early December, twelve of our international students visited third, fourth and fifth grade Beecher School classrooms for practice reading in English, improving their English vocabulary. In addition to reading, the ND students, from China, Spain, Italy, Ukraine and Brazil, answered a variety of questions — mostly regarding holiday traditions in other countries. The Ukrainian student, a senior at ND, is deaf and brought along an interpreter so students could hear his story as well, providing a unique opportunity for Beecher School students. The visit helped to deepen everyone's understanding of both their cultures and languages!



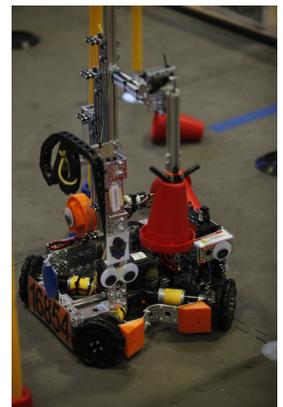
The Junior Ladies of Charity have been busy! Their first project, collecting coats, ranging in size from newborn to size 5, was a great success as they exceeded their goal and delivered 62 coats to the Southern Tier Crisis Pregnancy Center. Their second effort, involved collecting items to fill 40 drawstring bags with socks, blankets, hats, and gloves, along with personal hygiene items, hand warmers and snacks, to be delivered to Elmira's homeless population. Club officer, eighth grade student Isabella Noviello, connected with Elmira City Police through her Law Guardian position on the Elmira Youth Court and arranged for officers to pick up and distribute the bags.

JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY



Congratulations to Notre Dame's FTC #16854 Nuclear Detonation Robotics team on their success at the Corning, Inc. Qualifier, their final competition of the year. With 16 teams in attendance, ND ended up in 3rd place at the end of qualification matches. Outside of the robot matches, the ND team took 1st place for the Design Award for their innovative gripper system, a 2nd place Think Award for their Engineering Portfolio, and a 3rd place Innovate Award.

JUNIOR HIGH ROBOTICS



CONGRATULATIONS!!

STUDENT LIFE

The Rotary Club of Elmira honored 24 Elmira high school seniors at the 35th annual M. Edward Lincoln Youth Salute program, awarding \$4,500 in scholarship funds to three of them. The students receiving the top three awards were ND Seniors - Izzy Griffin was presented with the First Place award of \$3,000, Ella Chicone received Second Place of \$1,000, and Third Place was awarded to Kurt Golden with \$500.

The M. Edward Lincoln Youth Salute program was established in 1987 to recognize student leaders. Participating students complete an application providing their GPA and answer numerous questions which assess their leadership involvement in school, extra-curricular activities, sports, and the community. In addition, they are required to write an essay that highlights their own personal leadership experience and strengths. The top 10 students are then interviewed by a panel of Rotarians, who select the scholarship award winners.

Congratulations to Izzy, Ella, & Kurt on their awards!! And a BIG BLUE & GOLD shout out to seniors Violet Daly, Oliver Fogarty, Shane Maloney, and Allison O'Brien who were top ten finalists and Shannon Maloney, Jade Nordin, Shannon O'Connell and Saviano Waters who were Honorees.



Pictured above, left to right, Trish Mack '84 (ND Head of School), Ella Chicone, Violet Daly, Oliver Fogarty, Kurt Golden, Izzy Griffin, Shane Maloney, Allie O'Brien, Shannon O'Connell, Brett Moore (ND Director of Enrollment, Admissions, & Guidance). Missing from the photo: Shannon Maloney, Jade Nordin, Saviano Waters.



ND Senior, Isabella Griffin, was recognized by both the City of Elmira and the Economic Opportunity Program as the driving force behind an initiative to honor Ernie Davis. Izzy, a member of Elmira Youth Court, started the campaign with a petition on Change.org, created & sold t-shirts, and worked to make the initiative a reality. In a proclamation issued on January 6, 2023, the City of Elmira's Mayor announced that December 6 (the day Ernie Davis won the Heisman Trophy) will now be known as Ernie Davis "Elmira Express" Day. The proclamation said the day will be to honor the legacy of the famous Elmiran footballer and his accomplishments on and off the field.

Congratulations to Izzy on this amazing accomplishment!!


CITY OF ELMIRA NEW YORK

Office of the Mayor
CITY HALL • 312 EAST CHURCH STREET • ELMIRA, NEW YORK 14801
www.cityofelmira.net • @cityofelmira.net

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ernest R. Davis was born on December 14, 1939 and died on May 18, 1963; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Davis like many young boys had a love for football, that as he grew, his skill set grew; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Davis was known as the Elmira Express for his quick abilities on the field as a tremendous running back, which set him above others as he went on to play football at Syracuse University; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Syracuse University Ernie's outstanding abilities eventually won him the esteemed Heisman Trophy on December 6, 1961, making Ernie Davis the first African American to win this highly regarded and prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Davis was not only known for his amazing football skills, but his actions off the field as well, always a kind word or gesture, always remembering where he came from and encouraging younger athletes to work hard on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Davis was drafted in 1962 by the Washington Redskins before being traded to the Cleveland Browns, who had plans for Ernie to share the backfield with his former Syracuse teammate Jim Brown; and

WHEREAS, the success of Ernie Davis was short-lived as he was diagnosed with leukemia and just 13 months later Ernie Davis lost his battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, although Ernie Davis never had the chance to impact the NFL, his spirit lives on in the City of Elmira and continues to inspire individuals to defy all odds, persevere through all obstacles, and most importantly, lead a life of kindness and compassion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. Mandell, Jr. do hereby proclaim December 6th as

ERNIE DAVIS "ELMIRA EXPRESS" DAY

in the City of Elmira in honor of the great human being Ernie Davis who was on and off the field, and all that he exemplified in his short life, and further acknowledge that Ernie Davis Day will be proclaimed every December 6th moving forward.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ELMIRA, THIS 13th DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

MAYOR

CRUSADER DECALS!

Show your Crusader pride with these ND decals!
6 inch vinyl, self-adhesive decals for your car, windows, laptop, etc.
Pick-up & delivery options available
Order here: <https://tinyurl.com/42bu3udp>

\$10 each



THANK YOU!!

WE DID IT!
GRAND TOTAL RAISED
\$11,210



THANK YOU TO ALL THAT DONATED!!

THANK YOU to all of our alumni, friends, and families who donated to the recent FLX GIVES Day Campaign!

FLX GIVES Day, an initiative by the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc., is a regional annual giving day to raise awareness of and benefit local nonprofits. It's a wonderful opportunity to show support and make a gift to Notre Dame High School during a designated 24-hour period.

ND is proud to be a Mercy school where service to others is a key component woven throughout our Crusader's experience. During this year's Mercy Day, eager Crusaders spent a combined 875 hours of service working with 17 not-for-profit agencies and individuals in the Elmira area! The 24-hour FLX GIVES campaign provides Notre Dame an opportunity to share our Crusader pride through social media, sharing the amazing work our students are doing in our communities. To view this year's video, click [here](#).

Donations to the FLX GIVES campaign helps ensure that a Mercy education will remain an educational choice for all in Elmira and surrounding areas.

Look for the next FLX GIVES Day in the Fall 2023!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITA



by Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM

What is your favorite memory of Notre Dame?

This is a question that the staff of the Maryleaf, Notre Dame's student newspaper, has posed each year to graduating seniors. Inevitably, the majority of students respond "the Golden Mass". The tradition of this liturgy began in 1955 and has continued over the years. It is an event at which the school community blesses the works of love and generosity with a liturgy that is truly a celebration of the meaning of Christmas.

The weeks preceding the Golden Mass are filled with collections of food, gifts, and money to purchase perishable items as the school community prepares for this meaningful ceremony. The stage is prepared, the music is practiced, and the gifts are wrapped as the students and staff look forward to participating in the legacy of Notre Dame's Golden Mass. It is a joyful event. We have transformed a simple stage into a cathedral of giving.

It is no wonder our graduates remember the Golden Mass and often return each year to their Alma Mater to celebrate with the current school community. It is an inspirational assembly that captures the values and traditions of the Sisters of Mercy who sponsor the school. It integrates the ideas of service to the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the neglected into their lives and hopefully they will use their gifts to make our world a better place.



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!!