

IMPACT

The Magazine of Notre Dame High School



PARTNERSHIP



diversity

Strategically Speaking

Aspirations have been clarified and preliminary achievements of the Strategic Plan are now in evidence around campus.



outreach



EXCELLENCE



A New Look for a New Era

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to introduce you to Notre Dame's newly named magazine—*IMPACT*. The name reflects the energy so evident within the school today, and the multiple initiatives in play to bolster student success at every level.

I hope you will enjoy connecting with Notre Dame, which has helped guide more than 10,000 graduates through four important years and prepare each for the challenges ahead—grounded in character, intellect, and faith. Those three aspirations remain the central focus of a Notre Dame education, even as the way we teach has evolved with changing technologies and times.

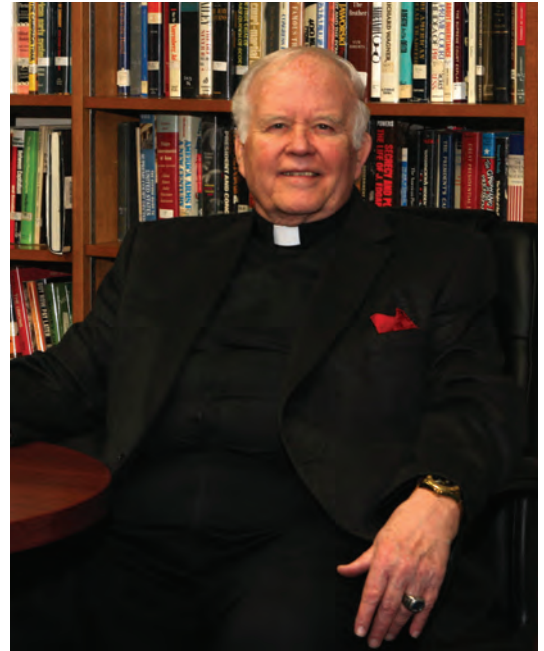
You will, therefore, be reading about initiatives that include a dynamic partnership with Sacred Heart University designed to attract ever-brighter students to Notre Dame of Fairfield. You'll learn how our ambitious strategic plan is having an impact as:

- hands-on forensic science projects turn students into "CSI agents"
- students earn high school and college credit for courses taught by ND faculty credentialed by UConn to do so
- a resurgence in the arts has turned school hallways into galleries and our stage (well, we perform at Sacred Heart) into a showcase for student talent
- service—one of the hallmarks of Notre Dame Catholic tradition—remains a unifying thread in all we do.

To our alumni, we look forward to being in more regular touch, so that your alma mater—and the spirit that animates it—can remain part of your lives. To our friends and current families, thank you for being a part of this exciting period of growth for our school.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bill Sangiovanni
President



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IMPACT

The Magazine of
Notre Dame High School
220 Jefferson Street
Fairfield, CT 06825

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POSTMASTER

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ON THE COVER

Clockwise from top left: Fr. Bill Sangiovanni, ND president, and Chris Cipriano, principal; Fr. Peter Cipriani, chaplain and teacher; Dy-Mond LeRoy '14 (Bridgeport); Mr. Radley Manzo and Maylene Vidro '15 (Bridgeport) in the new Mac Lab.

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Conversations with students are a regular part of Principal Chris Cipriano's day, as seen here in the library with Becky Stefanatos '15 and Matt Heim '13.



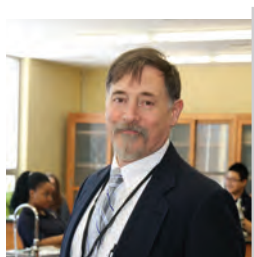
08 Aspire and Achieve

With input from alumni, parents, and faculty, Notre Dame has implemented a focused strategic plan—with impressive early results.



16 Architects of Creative Recycling

Meet Jeanine and Frank Pagliaro, whose four-year activity building sets for ND's Drama Club earned them the Connecticut Association of Schools' annual Volunteer Award.



20 Courses that Count for College

Learn how some ND students are earning college credit at UConn through courses they're taking at ND—thanks to two outstanding teachers.

Spring 2013

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Honoring the Real Heroes

To begin making up several days of school missed during “Superstorm Sandy,” Notre Dame celebrated Veteran’s Day in school rather than as a vacation day. And what a blessing that became, as the school incorporated into the day a prayer service honoring ND’s veterans (and all others).



Fr. Peter Cipriani, chaplain, led the ND community during a Veteran’s Day prayer service at the SHU chapel.

Held at Sacred Heart University’s Chapel of the Holy Spirit, the prayer service featured a guest speaker and included a reverent reading, by name, of Notre Dame graduates who joined the armed forces upon graduation. Special tribute was also paid to five ND alumni killed in action, including:

- **George R. Fitzgerald ’61**, US Marine Corps (Vietnam, 1966)
- **Thomas J. Bowe ’65**, US Army (Vietnam, 1969)
- **Russell T. Fant ’66**, US Army (Vietnam, 1969)
- **Jack R. DaCosta ’66**, US Army (Vietnam, 1969)
- **Thomas Brown ’00**, US Army (Iraq, 2008)

George Burr ’64 (grandfather of Nick ’15 and Matt ’16 Carlotto of Trumbull) spoke of his experience in Vietnam, bringing the reality of war to a personal level. “No one left the service untouched,” said Fr. Peter Cipriani, ND chaplain. “To have gathered as a community in a sacred space, for a sacred purpose, brought the meaning of Veteran’s Day to life.” 🙏

Guest Speaker Wows Students

“Know the importance of God and the role God can play in your life.”

This fall, former NFL defensive tackle **Mike McCoy** delivered a powerful message to ND students at an all-school assembly. A member of the University of Notre Dame’s national championship team, Mr. McCoy was a first-round draft pick of the Green Bay Packers, and went on to play 11 seasons in the NFL. He is currently president of Mike McCoy Ministries.

At the assembly, he reminded students to choose their friends wisely; to do their best to avoid the landmines of alcohol, drugs, and casual sex; and to remember a sentence he called “the 3 Ds” —Decisions Determine our Destiny. Reminding students that they each have unique, God-given talents, he spoke of another gift God has endowed them with—free will. “Let me encourage you,” he said, “not to let friends, society, or your environment prevent you from becoming the best you can be. Know the importance of God and the role God can play in your life.” 🙏



Mike McCoy, who played 11 seasons for the Green Bay Packers, inspired ND students with his message.

Student Awards Confirm External Recognition

Congratulations to the 2012–13 winners of the **Sr. Marion Rielly Scholarship***, named for a woman whose leadership made Notre Dame a force for good across the educational landscape during her ten-year tenure—and beyond.



The four newest recipients: front: **Patrice Lauture '15** (Norwalk), **Allison Rohr '13** (Norwalk); and back: **Nicholas Pond '14** (Bridgeport), **Dan Murphy '13** (Norwalk) were among many who demonstrated in

their essays that they met the criteria for this annual \$2,000-per-student award: religious dedication; leadership; academic endeavor; service to school and community; and participation in arts and/or other extra-curricular activities.

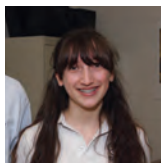


Steve Meyer '13 (Trumbull) (not pictured), **Taylor Chavez '13** (Shelton), **Charlie Fallon '14**, (Norwalk) and **RJ Cremin '13** (Easton) earned fourth-place honors in the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest sponsored

by the diocesan Saturday Engineering program. Together, they met the task of creating a device that could inflate a balloon and then pop it—in the most interesting way possible.



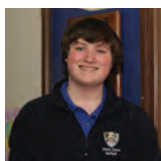
Mark Salvioli '13 (Wilton) was the 2012 recipient of the School of Engineering of Fairfield University & Sikorsky Aircraft "Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award."



Alana Merly '16 (Milford) was invited to participate in a master class with Kathleen Bride, a world renowned harpist and professor at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. Alana performs throughout the year with the "Harpeggios."



Robert Zhao '13 (Fairfield) was selected to become a member of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra. He plays the cello.



Michael Lenard '13 (Monroe) spoke at St. Jude's Elementary School as an advocate for the "R-Word Campaign" run by the Special Olympics. Dedicated to creating awareness and eliminating the word "retarded" as a derogatory term, Michael has been involved since 2009.



Derek Trent Hudson '14 (Bridgeport) was sworn in as a 2012 Young Adult Bridgeport Police Commissioner at the City Hall Annex last April. The ceremony was officiated by Mayor Bill Finch and Police Chief Joseph Gaudett.

*Editor's Note:

To raise money for the Sr. Marion Rielly Scholarship, the Office of Advancement is in the early stages of planning a cabaret-type event for fall 2013. As envisioned, graduates who were in Sr. Marion's plays will be invited to perform (in groups or solo) the numbers they sang in their student days. The audience can even join in!

So far, more than a dozen alumni have shown interest and offered to help. Please contact Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik at marzik@notredame.org for more information.

Grandparents' Day



John Notarfrancesco '14 of Fairfield, with his grandparents, Dan and Catherine O'Connor.



Jess Haray '14 of Bridgeport, with her grandparents, Kathleen and Joseph Obuchowski.



Abby Porzio '15 of Westport, with her grandparents, Michael and Anita Porzio.

3



7



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26 Acts of Kindness:

A Response to Events in Newtown

26

Dear Mr. Cipriano,

My name is Connie Sullivan and I am a third grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I am also a graduate of Notre Dame, Class of 1988. My husband, Peter, graduated from ND in 1990.

I saw the news report about Notre Dame's **26 Acts of Kindness** in response to the tragedy that took place on December 14. My heart broke on 12/14. The teachers and students are healing, but very slowly. When we hear stories like this we are so moved. These generous young adults are showing the world that they, too, choose love.

Please tell your wonderful student body that they have made me very proud to be a Lancer.

Inspired by an idea proffered publicly by NBC's Ann Curry, Notre Dame shaped its own response to the shooting tragedy in neighboring Newtown by launching a "26 Acts of Kindness" campaign during January and February.

Each school day focused on a different collective effort to be kind in a specific way—simple things anyone can do to warm a heart or put a smile on someone's face. "Please and Thank You Day," for example, highlighted courtesies sometimes forgotten in the course of a busy day. "Embrace Your Mistakes Day" inspired an inner focus on self-acceptance and the need to move on.

"Thank a Teacher Day" raised the spirits of some whose efforts can go unnoticed. And "Hold the Door Open for Someone Day" created lots of laughter amidst not a little congestion!

The campaign—designed by school Principal Mr. Chris Cipriano and embraced by the entire ND community—also included letter writing initiatives

(e.g. first responders, soldiers); a lunchtime collection for the United Way's Sandy Hook Fund; and several drives to help local charities (e.g., used sporting goods, toiletries, pet food, canned goods).

Each school day focused on a different collective effort to be kind in a specific way—simple things anyone can do to warm a heart or put a smile on someone's face.

One of the project's highlights was ND's annual Community Service Day, held February 1, during which nearly 200 students volunteered at 23 local nonprofits. Another was a visit by NBC-TV Connecticut to the school, which subsequently aired the story in its *Making the Grade* news segment. 🇺🇸

How Hours Become Days and Then Weeks

Ten thousand hours. Yes 10,000 hours.

That's what the students of Notre Dame High School gave back—and forward—in service projects last year, mostly in the region but also in Appalachia, the Bronx, and other impoverished sections of New York City. Such activities vary according to student interest, and seem a natural extension of just about every extracurricular club on campus.

Campus Ministry service projects are among the most popular, with activities like preparing/serving meals at the Norwalk Community Center or accompanying children at St. Peter's School in Bridgeport, for example, to a production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* at the Downtown Cabaret.

Each spring, Freshman Field Day transforms young NDers into big brothers and big sisters for some 300 public school 3rd-to-6th graders, helping them enjoy events like a moon bounce, kickball and dodge ball, sack races, an obstacle course, and relay races. "The energy expended could fuel a rocket," laughs religion teacher Mr. Joshua St.Onge, who helps organize the day.

Speaking of organization, imagine the logistics behind ND's annual service day, where some 200 students fan out to dozens of local schools and nonprofits to paint, clean, stock shelves, rake, read to children—whatever the recipients request. So impressive was this community "invasion" that the *Connecticut Post* featured it in its community news section.

Fr. Peter Cipriani, chaplain, models for many the link between faith and service, ever seeking creative ways to highlight that connection. "Notre Dame takes seriously its motto: *Be Imitators of Christ*," he says, "and our hope is that students will find meaning in it here, but will carry it forward as an integral part of the rest of their lives."



Tré Bethel '13 reads to a preschool class at Villa Divino Amore in Stamford, during ND's annual day of service.

Service can also be infectious, as a glimpse of bulletin board announcements makes clear. A brief sampling from a host of other student clubs that integrate service into their activities:

The Spanish Club ran a "spare change" fundraiser during Lent and arranged a donation of five ducks, two chickens, and a rabbit to a pueblo in South America.

The Care Club sponsored a daytime dance/social at the Jewish Home for the Elderly (now a 20-year tradition), an afternoon enjoyed by all.

The French Honor Society staged a school-wide food collection providing families with Easter breakfast baskets, dinner baskets, and staple items for the ensuing weeks.

The Boys' Lacrosse team raised more than \$650 during the annual Sticks for Soldiers charity lacrosse tournament, to benefit wounded veterans of war.

And that's just a sample! 🍀



Service Day Rake and Bake Front: Evan Yiannoulis '13, Tyler Lehren '13, Mike King '13, Brandon Pavlik '13, Fr. Peter Cipriani. Back: Mr. Joshua St. Onge, Morgan Sweeney '15, Katie Yellen '13, Becky Stefanatos '15, Lauren Puskas '13, Alicia Berard '16.



Lacrosse Team: Sticks for Soldiers Front: Matt Vizi '16, David Bahr '15, Mike DeGennaro '14, Tyler Owen '14. Middle: Charlie Fallon '14, Dana Lewis '14, Adam Dawe '15, Brendon Watcke '16, Ken DuBose '14, Dan McCarthy '14, John Notarfrancesco '14. Back: Patrick Pohle '13, Kendall Johnson '16, Tré Bethel '13, Steve Meyer '13, Manny Rosales '14, Andres Rosales '15.



Mr. Chris Cipriano and
Fr. Bill Sangiovanni

Leadership for Changing Times

Gone are the days of predictable, sustained enrollment in Catholic high school education. What was once made possible by a relatively “free” labor pool of nuns and priests (think 1950 to mid-1970) yielded to new realities after Vatican II. Stepping in to sustain the highly respected system of education was an ever-growing cadre of lay Catholic educators who, despite sacrificial salaries, were able to live modest but comfortable lives of commitment and service. For two decades, personnel budgets and tuition rose in tandem, while relatively economic prosperity kept Notre Dame affordable. Students kept coming.

Enter the '90s, with new waves of technology and attendant costs; stir in economic changes that reduced the spending power of ordinary people; and turn life upside down a decade later with an economic crisis and unemployment rates not experienced in generations. Enrollment began to suffer dearly at Notre Dame—and elsewhere.

“What we’re accomplishing through the engagement of alumni and others is clearly evident in a growing enrollment, a revitalized learning environment, and a continuing commitment to the spiritual lives of our students.”

In the last few years, the tide has turned, thanks in large part to changing ND’s leadership model to one proving successful at Catholic schools around the country. The “President/Principal Model” operates within dual administrative roles—one primarily focused on fundraising, alumni relations, and marketing (the president), the other on the school’s internal operations including academic enhancement to support enrollment (the principal).

In Notre Dame’s case, the president and the principal were already on board, each primed for promotion by years of experience and an integral sense of the school’s mission. Thus, in 2010 Fr. Bill Sangiovanni moved from principal to president, and Mr. Chris Cipriano from assistant principal to principal. In that framework, a strategic planning process was born, drawing on the expertise of alumni, faculty, and friends of Notre Dame to chart a course to renewed vitality.

“I am pleased to have moved into this new leadership role,” says Fr. Bill, “and even more pleased by the energy being generated by it. What we’re accomplishing through the engagement of alumni and others is clearly evident in a growing enrollment, a revitalized learning environment, and a continuing commitment to the spiritual lives of our students.”

For Mr. Cipriano, the chance to move academic projects from the “needs” column to the “accomplished” one has been heartening. “The Strategic Plan has created realistic goals and a timeline for their implementation,” he says. “The gradual infusion of funds has provided the means, and the willingness of the faculty to rise to the challenge of change has made this work.”

Clearly the roles of president and principal have areas of overlap—one being the focus on enrollment and the various forms of marketing that influence it. But together, supported by dedicated colleagues and a loyal alumni base, the “model” is living up to its promise. Since the changeover, enrollment has risen for the classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017 (incoming) by, respectively, 7%, 22%, and 15%. As a result, an ND High School Catholic education remains an option within a region that, for decades, has been blessed by its effectiveness. 🙏



Among the many ND students now able to enjoy SHU facilities are Christian Turner '15 (Norwalk), Andrew Goldstein '14 (Milford), Collin Cegelka '14 (Ansonia), Caitlin Lonergan '15 (Ansonia), Lizette DosSantos '14 (Bridgeport), Becky Stefanatos '15 (Norwalk), Matt Lasky '14 (Milford), Mike DeGennaro '14 (Derby).

ND/SHU: Creative Partnership Yields Mutual Benefits



Victor Olivares

For Victor Olivares '12, the timing couldn't have been better. The December 2012 announcement of a creative Notre Dame-Sacred Heart University partnership included a provision for qualified ND graduates to attend SHU at half-tuition. Olivares was more than qualified, having earned good grades and been engaged in a variety of extracurricular activities. So he turned down acceptances from UConn and Fordham to take advantage of a golden opportunity.

"It made sense to me and to my parents to avoid taking on a lot of debt," said Olivares, now a double major in accounting and finance in SHU's Welch School of Business. "Because of its association with Jack Welch, Sacred Heart's business school is well-known and highly respected. Plus, and it's a big plus, I'm getting to play Division I soccer."

"The infusion of capital and academic resources affects every student and teacher in the building, and represents a new era for ND."

The ND-SHU partnership does far more, however, than assist individual students. The impetus for the mutually beneficial agreement was ND's sale to SHU of a two-acre parcel of land on Park Avenue.

"The infusion of capital and academic resources affects every student and teacher in the building, and represents a new era for ND," said Fr. Bill Sangiovanni, president. "We have been able to install wireless technology in every classroom. Significant upgrades to our athletic fields are in their early stages [including a new turf field for soccer and lacrosse, built to international playing dimensions]. And the entire ND community now has privileges at Sacred Heart's library." In addition, the partnership has allowed Notre Dame to invest in external upgrades that include a newly paved entrance and landscaping to improve its "curb appeal."

Notre Dame recently made the half-tuition benefit reciprocal for children of Sacred Heart faculty and employees, a move certain to appeal to highly motivated students and their educator parents.✉



Strategically Speaking...

A Plan with a Purpose

Mission Statement

The mission of Notre Dame High School is to help young men and women grow in character, faith, and intellect. We encourage each student to develop a thirst for knowledge and truth, and we instill in our students the determination to strive for excellence in every endeavor.

—Implemented in 2011

In late 2011, Notre Dame unveiled a strategic plan that will guide its growth and development during the next five years. Guided by a steering committee that spent eight months shaping ideas proposed by faculty, staff, parents, and alumni, the resulting document is titled *Notre Dame Fairfield 2016: Aspire and Achieve*.

With aspirations clarified, the Plan, along with new mission and vision statements, reaffirm Notre Dame's commitment to exceptional Catholic high school education that prepares students for leadership and service in the 21st century.

The new Plan sets goals and strategies in six key areas of focus:

1. **Academic Affairs:** to continue to strengthen Notre Dame's curriculum and engage and support all students in a vibrant learning experience.
2. **Catholic Identity:** to deepen and reaffirm the importance of faith formation and service throughout the School community.
3. **Student Life:** to develop and expand opportunities for students to grow their talents through a vibrant program of extra- and co-curricular activities and athletics.
4. **Alumni and Development:** to deepen connections with alumni, expand strategic partnerships, and strengthen the school's annual development efforts.
5. **Advancing Reputation and Growth:** to strengthen and expand marketing, admissions, and communications efforts to ensure growing and sustainable student enrollment.
6. **Facilities and Resources:** to enhance facilities, technology, and other campus resources to support student excellence in learning, arts, and athletics.

Academic Affairs

"In approaching the development of a Strategic Plan," says Fr. Bill Sangiovanni, "we perceived a need to add rigor and depth to our curriculum. At the same time, we recognized our obligation to add support services for students whose learning differences place them at the other end of the academic spectrum."

To that end, Notre Dame established a Teaching and Learning Center this fall (see sidebar) under the direction of longtime educator/administrator Mr. Larry DiPalma. Named Connecticut's Principal of the Year in 2011, he retired from Ansonia's Prendergast Elementary School in 2012, having earned accolades for his efforts in raising test scores and school spirit.

For juniors and seniors, Notre Dame now offers two courses in UConn's Early College Experience (ECE) program, through which students earn both ND and UConn credit at the same time (see page 14). "Both this program and our Advanced Placement courses are rich in content and offer excellent options for earning college credit in advance," says Mr. Chris Cipriano, principal.

To broaden options and bolster college readiness, Notre Dame has also signed on with Virtual High School, an entity that makes additional electives and AP courses available online. At the moment, ND students are enrolled in eight courses not taught at ND, including *Sociology*, *Contemporary Issues in Human Law*, and *Fantasy & Science Fiction*. "We make sure that what they take fits in with graduation requirements," says Mr. Gaetano Marra, director of admissions. "Students find the courses challenging, but say it's great preparation for the online courses that will likely be part of their college experience."

Catholic Identity

The new strategic plan reaffirms the important role faith plays within the Notre Dame community, and prioritizes efforts to have Mass and prayer services be integral to the school's community-building activities. The strategic plan advises finding more ways to integrate service into classroom learning and to create structured opportunities for students to process and reflect on their varied service experiences.

The recommended reactivation of a formal Peer Ministry program is underway. In fact, the freshman and sophomore retreats held at the school include sessions led by juniors and seniors. "We try to help students connect with God in a comfortable way," says Fr. Peter Cipriani, chaplain, "and to create an environment that encourages students to keep faith and values on the radar screen. Retreats and prayers services are one part of that; community service is another."



To reinforce math concepts, Mr. Larry DiPalma finds small group work a helpful teaching/learning tool.

Learning Center Sets Stage for Academic Success

"Because students come to Notre Dame from so many cities, towns, and schools, they've had different styles and levels of preparation," explains Mr. Larry DiPalma, director of Notre Dame's new Learning Center. "One of my roles is to help even out any discrepancies so students can go on to succeed. Math is often their biggest hurdle."

Students whose testing identifies them as weak in that area take *Learning Center* as a scheduled class course every morning. They then take *Algebra I* from Mr. DiPalma in the afternoon. This "double-dipping" allows him to tailor his afternoon lesson plans to their specific needs, and to review the following morning concepts taught in class that day.

A bright, cheerful space, the Learning Center's atmosphere is designed to inspire. A "word wall" reinforces vocabulary. Posters speak to students' gifts and potential. And a bulletin board features the best of their most recent work. "They love seeing their work on display," he says with a smile. "They even keep track of the size of the stars I give them!"

A bright, cheerful space, the Learning Center's atmosphere is designed to inspire.

Mr. DiPalma is in the process of building up a cadre of adult tutors to supplement the efforts of four volunteers who help out weekly. "It would be wonderful to involve alumni and parents in this most satisfying form of service," he says, noting his pleasure that members of ND's National Honor Society now serve as peer tutors. "Although the Learning Center is in its fledgling stages, I am certain that with many minds, souls, hearts, and hands contributing, it will serve well students whose desire to learn also includes a struggle to do so."

Note: If you've been wanting to volunteer somewhere, and meaning to look into it, perhaps becoming a Learning Center tutor would be just the meaningful activity you've hoped for. To help you discern if this is "it," contact Chris Cipriano, principal at cipriano@notredame.org for a "no obligation" conversation.

Class of 2016 Brings New Energy

This year's freshman class continues ND's long tradition of geographic diversity; it includes students from 50 different schools (both public and private) and 30 cities and towns in the region. "We're delighted that the size of our most recent classes is increasing," said Mr. Gaetano Marra, director of admissions. "It's a trend and trajectory that speak volumes about the ongoing vitality of a Notre Dame education."

To give students the chance to meet some of their new classmates and develop skills that would be helpful in high school, ND gave all incoming freshman the chance to attend a late-August day of icebreakers and "low ropes" teambuilding. Ultimately, 50 members of the new class boarded the bus to the YMCA Camp in Brookfield.

After a quick whole-group activity, students were assigned to one of four teams by the Y coordinators. From the need to lift each of their classmates through a web of bungee-like cords, to using tires and rope swings to move from point A to point B, plenty of challenges filled the day.

Most daunting, for sure, was one called the whale watch, which took the newly minted teams hours to master. Students could not let touch the ground any part of a 6x6 platform set atop a ball joint-like structure—while one after another team member stepped aboard. If the platform did touch the ground, everyone had to get off and start all over.

"Put 13 freshmen in a group—most of whom have just met each other—and you have a scenario certain to test a group's patience and resilience," said Principal Chris Cipriano. "Watching them process the experience, learn what worked and what didn't, and seeing some take leadership roles proved to be textbook team-building."

"For the 50 who were able to come," said event organizer Mr. Marra, "the experience took the edge off their first-day-of-school nerves."



Freshman Orientation focused on teambuilding—with many a shared laugh along the way.

In terms of community engagement, the Campus Ministry Club is one among many that sponsor service activities (see page 5). "By October, more than 70 kids had paid \$10 in dues to join," says religion teacher and club moderator Mr. Joshua St. Onge, explaining that funds cover supplies, sign making, and transportation. Most members go way beyond the annual service hours required for graduation (five for freshmen, 15 for other classes). "These kids even agree to be at school at 7:30 on a Saturday morning," he says. "They're willing to make that sacrifice."

Student Life

Calling for an expansion of extracurricular clubs and activities, the strategic plan views these as vehicles where students can develop new interests and skills, and also share knowledge and talents with like-minded peers.

"As a parent, I totally enjoyed participating in the strategic planning process . . . Truth be told, I never thought so many of the overall goals would be implemented while Amy was still a student, but the administration's efforts began immediately!"

Jeanine Pagliaro P'13, Easton

Addressing a different aspect of student life, two programs now in their second year are already bearing fruit: Advisory, and Senior Experience. Through Advisory, all students meet every other week with a faculty member to discuss a wide-variety of topics. Over time, these small group meetings help engender trust, creating relationships that give students an additional adult advocate in the building.

The Senior Experience Program makes great use of the last four weeks of school, a time typically spent combatting "senioritis." Last year, 23 students gave the new program a try, completing a supervised internship or community service project in the community. "I look forward to the continued growth of this program," said Mr. Cipriano, "and the opportunities for partnerships it will foster in area business and non-profits."

Alumni and Development

The strategic plan recommends the renewal of opportunities to engage the alumni community, be it through the regular publication of *IMPACT*, the formation of an Alumni Council, Facebook

page creation for each alumni graduation class, and assisting alumni during significant reunion years. Clearly, the first goal has been met, given that you're reading this publication!

Because Notre Dame has a small staff, these aspirations will be made possible—in the short term—with the timely, focused help of loyal alumni, faculty, staff, and parent volunteers. Longer term, greater alumni engagement and an increase in annual donations will more tangibly ensure a strong, vital community of proud Notre Dame alumni.

Advancing Reputation and Growth

Because enrollment is largely driven by a school's reputation, Notre Dame's strategic plan stresses: 1) the importance of student recruitment practices, and 2) the need for materials that convey the school's strengths. As to the latter, ND has already developed a suite of attractive admission publications, one of which describes how incoming students will benefit from ND's new partnership with Sacred Heart University (see page 7).

Several new recruitment initiatives are also proving helpful. An optional summer Orientation has been added (see sidebar at left) to offer incoming students a relaxed way to meet each other. Group Shadow Days welcome prospective ND students. Together they attend three classes and have lunch with the freshmen "ambassadors" they've been shadowing. They then have presentations by and a Q&A with the principal and chaplain.

"Enrollment has stabilized," notes Mr. Cipriano, principal, "and now—with the economy taking a seeming turn for the better—we're working hard to increase our numbers." Among those "numbers" are 13 international students from countries including Korea, China, and Brazil. "One thing Notre Dame has always prided itself on is its diversity, says Ms. Joanna Lohan Cipriano, director of international students. "Their presence adds new cultures in the mix, stretching all students to grow in understanding, tolerance, and acceptance." ♡

*To read the full strategic plan, please visit www.notredame.org/strategicplan

Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Mr. George Estrada '79, P'98,'05 (chair)
Mr. James Barquinero, P'13
Mrs. Marianne Cassidy, P'09,'12
Ms. Eileen "Ginger" (Farrell) More, '64
Mr. David Salce, biology teacher
Mr. Joshua St. Onge, religion teacher
Mrs. Deb (Buckshon) Tietjen '79, P'08,'11



Morgan Sweeney '15 and Kayleigh Spataj '13 are among those well-prepared in the sciences at ND.

Facilities

Many recommendations in the strategic plan focus on updating and modernizing the school facility. Exterior enhancements already completed include landscaping, repaving of the entrance, and the planting of dogwood trees along the driveway.

A \$300,000 anonymous gift made possible some of the exterior work and also funded a much-needed renovation of the biology lab. The space now has 28 workstations configured for individual or group work. Boasting the most current advances in technology, the new lab provides an array of learning tools.

Other interior upgrades are supporting expanded course of-

A new Mac lab includes 26 brand new, state-of-the-art iMac computers equipped with industry-standard software.

ferings in art and technology. A new Mac lab includes 26 brand new, state-of-the-art iMac computers equipped with industry-standard software (Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver). Sophomores taking Graphic Design and seniors taking Advanced Graphic Design build skill upon skill. "They edit video in iMovie, and even dabble in music production with Garageband," said computer teacher Mr. Radley Manzo. In a third course, students design and edit Notre Dame's annual yearbook and ready it for production.

"Clearly," said Fr. Bill, "the investment we are making inside the building and out indicates our commitment to Notre Dame's ongoing vitality. For decades, ND has offered a unique educational option, in a setting that reflects the region's diversity like no other. That tradition will continue."



Monica Walsh '15 works on a creative assignment during a graphic design class.

New Mac Lab: Designed with Design in Mind



Mr. Radley Manzo

They create Web pages. They make animated videos and sync them to song lyrics. They restore vintage photos. They “rasterize” pictures and turn them into contemporary posters featuring grids of dots that simultaneously conceal and reveal the original image. Thus begins a litany of learning taking place in Notre Dame’s new Mac Lab, as related by ND juniors Charlie Fallon (Norwalk), Matthew Lasky (Milford), and Tim VanScoy (Bridgeport).

Last year, the trio took *Introduction to Graphic Design* with Mr. Radley Manzo, where they and 22 others learned the basics of Photoshop through a series of gradually more complicated assignments. The results, grouped in artistic displays around the room, include variations on the psychedelic album-cover art prevalent in the '60s and '70s; cartoon pages created by the very students whose faces become main characters; and movie posters from the '80s and '90s that feature a new cast (ND students, of course).

“I try to make the assignments relevant and fun,” said Mr. Manzo, now in his 15th year teaching computer design at ND and who, last summer, oversaw the room’s transition from PC to Mac hardware. (Don’t worry, PC advocates, there are oodles of them throughout the school). But this lab makes it possible to teach graphic design using industry-standard publishing software (InDesign), as well as Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Flash, and Fireworks on each of its 26 Macs.

“They’re getting a valuable experience, one I hope helps them stand out in the college search process.”

“Right now we’re taking Mr. Manzo’s *Yearbook* course,” said Charlie. “He gives all 26 of us a different set of pages to be responsible for. We do everything from inputting ad copy and students’



This lab makes it possible to teach graphic design using industry-standard publishing software (InDesign), as well as Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Flash, and Fireworks on each of its 26 Macs.

activities to the more fun stuff—creating unique artistic elements.” Coordinating the activities of 26 student editors is no easy task, admits Mr. Manzo, who also serves as ND’s liaison to Herff-Jones, the printing company. “The kids are great,” he says, “and they feel a sense of responsibility for what they contribute.” When they began the course in September, most had never used a Mac. But because they’d all used electronic devices of some sort, it took them only a couple of days to get comfortable with the technology.

“They’re getting a valuable experience, one I hope helps them stand out in the college search process,” says Mr. Manzo, who also teaches an *Advanced Computer Design* as a senior elective. “Even as the technology changes over time, the fundamental concepts they’re learning will equip them to master whatever comes their way. And that’s a good thing.”

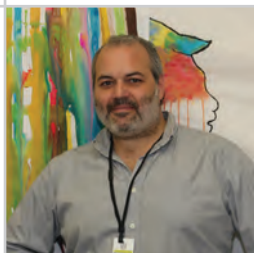


Don't look now, but these '60s-style psychedelic posters now feature modern music artists, courtesy of ND's budding graphic designers.



Jasmine Barada '12 puts the finishing touches on a sculpture made in art class.

Creative Art: Discovering Hidden Talent



Mr. Damon Testani

All ye who enter the hallowed halls of Notre Dame High School, look up . . . and around . . . at the art affixed to the corridor walls. There hang colorful masks, point-perspectives of all sorts, gray-scale self-portraits, and line/light drawings, to name a few. So good have students in Mr. Damon Testani's art classes become that they've established an online gallery to showcase their work. No, the site is not public, but its internal popularity has led to a waiting list of students clamoring to take one of his classes: *History of Art* and *Principles of Art*. Last year's two sections of 12 students each has grown to three sections of 25 to 27 . . . and counting.

Mr. Testani, who joined the Notre Dame faculty last year, brought with him a background in

graphic design, fashion, and textiles. "Everything we do is hands-on," enthuses Monica Walsh '15 (West Haven). "I'm someone who wants to pursue art in college and as a career, and what I'm learning about the elements and principles of art is giving me a great foundation."

When teaching a particular principle—patterns, symmetry, contrast—Mr. Testani gives students ample opportunity to gain first-hand experience of what the concepts mean. To learn about color value and shape, for example, students used cell phones to take their own photos, scanned them into the computer, transferred the image onto a transparency, and re-created their picture by tearing and gluing sheets of paper to match the shades and shape of their image.

Visitors to the classroom are invited to add their own touch to the stained glass wonder of the room's windows—using a wooden pencil on a special black paper that lets prism'd light shine through the drawing in myriad colors. Speaking of light, Mr. Testani's students created a drawing that consisted of a single line and could be completed in about 30 seconds. After creating their image, they had to use a light to draw their image in the air, where it was captured—a technique the great Pablo Picasso experimented with in his later days.

Whether or not Notre Dame produces a new generation of Picassos, Monets, or Whistlers remains to be seen. Meanwhile come see what these students are doing now. It's impressive! 📱



Last year, students in Notre Dame's art and computer classes participated in a Man vs. Machine competition. Students in Mr. Testani's art classes were asked to take a painting from the Renaissance era, *The School of Athens* by Raphael, and divide the image into sections for each student to paint individually. Students in Mr. Radley Manzo's computer classes were asked to do the same using Photoshop. The result still hangs in the hallway near the computer lab (Room 203), with a chart that identifies which student completed which area of each image.

Crime Scene Investigators

... in the Making

When physics teacher Wayne Sakal was asked two years ago to create a new science course, he had never seen *CSI: Las Vegas* on television. Now a fan, he's also become a producer of sorts, in a laboratory on the third floor of Notre Dame High School.

Each week, students in his *Forensic Science* class study a different aspect of crime scene investigation, learning the scientific techniques used to analyze evidence including fingerprints, blood spatter patterns, tool marks, bite marks, bullet striation, and more.

"Because the nature of forensics is multidisciplinary, students need a good foundation in math and a grasp of all the sciences," says Mr. Sakal, noting that the juniors and seniors who take the course are well prepared. And television helps. "TV shows like *Bones*, *NCIS*, and *CSI* highlight the exciting ways science can be used to help solve crimes. The kids really get into the scenarios I set up for our lab sessions."

Some of those scenarios draw upon Mr. Sakal's 23 years as a volunteer EMT. Take, for example, the mannequin he dressed in a jogging suit and roller skates before running it over with his car in the school parking lot (unwitnessed, before class). Extreme? Yes. But students sent to the site—notebooks, tape measures, and cameras in hand—photographed the scene and surroundings, numbered the evidence, and bagged it. Back in the classroom, they calculated things like vehicle speed, trajectory, and skid marks.



Seniors Alex Scott and Jasmine Williams seem quite at ease working a classroom crime scene.



Examining a "dead body" in the halls of ND is just routine procedure for students in Mr. Wayne Sakal's (center) class. Here, freshman Geovanna Badaro and juniors Christian LaCroix and Cai Chao measure bullet trajectories.

Not all Mr. Sakal's lab sessions are as graphic. In the bite mark analysis unit, for example, students take impressions of their own teeth using Baseplate wax. Once their casts are sterilized, they inspect each other's impressions to identify which "perp" bit the victim. Another module delves into computer forensics, where students learn to remove hard drives from destined-for-the-graveyard computers. "Our goal is to do it in less than nine minutes," says Mr. Sakal, noting that time is of the essence in criminal cases.

"*Forensic Science* is a fun, hands-on class," says Jasmin Williams '13 of Norwalk, who took it *and* chemistry last year. "It's challenging because you need math to calculate distance and volume, and you have to integrate those numbers into the metric system. Still, it feels like we're on TV when we're analyzing fingerprints or trying to figure out which tools were used to break into a suitcase."

When she first came to ND, Jasmin wanted to take as many science courses as she could, envisioning a career in a health-related field. "I think about becoming a physician's assistant or a pediatrician," she says, "so I want to get a strong foundation." To that end, she is also taking High Honors Physics with Mr. Sakal this year.

"Anyone would love his courses, especially *Forensic Science*," she says. "Mr. Sakal is funny, smart, and interesting—and he makes sure you know your stuff." 🍷



Behind the Scenes



Creative costuming added to the fun during *Grease*.

Did you know that 25 toilet paper tubes, spray-painted, wrapped in pink yarn, and glued onto a plastic bucket, can “credibly” look like hair rollers”? Or that bed frames made of metal pipes and telephone wire painted to look like iron (in *Annie*, 2010) can become tables (in *Beauty and the Beast*, 2011) and then be re-engineered again as a podium (in *Grease*, 2012)?

Meet two of ND’s architects of creative recycling—Frank and Jeanine Pagliaro of Easton, whose daughter, Amy, is a senior active in the Drama Club. Spring 2013 will be their fourth year helping build the sets that bring ND’s annual plays to life.

Jeanine and Frank raided ND’s costume closet to see what was available for the recent production of *Guys and Dolls* (performed at Sacred Heart’s Edgerton Center Theater) and scoured almost every Goodwill from Orange to Stamford in search of bedding, curtains, furniture, and costumes.

“The Drama Club kids are a great, fun group,” says Frank. “It’s really a privilege and very rewarding to help them showcase their talent.”

Part of a long line of dedicated Drama Club parents, the Pagliaros and others do much of their work while the students are rehearsing—which means very late dinners on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. “The Drama Club kids are a great, fun group,” says Frank. “It’s really a privilege and very rewarding to help them showcase their talent.”

For the parental set builders, that means getting preliminary sketches from the director, Maria Vee. Then they plan how to make creative set pieces and prepare eight flats—framed at about 4x8 feet each, on casters—to serve an ever-changing variety of scenes. Once covered in canvas (on both sides, so they can be flipped around during scene changes), the frame painting begins—using, of course, donations of leftover paint.

“I’m not an artistic painter,” says Jeanine, “but I do know how to wield a brush. One of the other parents, Norma Tozzi [mother of Dan ’12 and Tatiana ’16], has the artistic skills we depend on. Kris Murphy [mother of Dan ’13], is in charge of props.” In recent years, the fathers have excelled in meeting each play’s special construction needs.



For four years, ND parents Jeanine and Frank Pagliaro have raided ND's costume closet, scoured every Goodwill in a 30-mile radius, and built creative sets for the Drama Club's annual spring productions.

Paul Bonenfant, P'11 (father of Caitlin), for example, built a fountain strong enough to have students dance on it, as well as a sturdy fireplace for *Annie* which was then reused in *Beauty and the Beast*. For the latter, Frank Pagliaro custom-built the tea cart pushed by one character as another sat concealed inside, with only his "teacup-costumed" head visible.

"The kids are phenomenal, the shows are phenomenal, and that makes every minute we put in well worth it."

But wait. All this scenery is prepared at Notre Dame. The play takes place across the street. "We have an annual call for vehicles," Frank explains. "Families volunteer their vans, pickups, and hatchbacks, and line up like a parade to move

Broadway Classroom Workshops

Members of the Drama Club enjoy a very special opportunity each year—the chance to learn from a theater professional, and then see that cast member in a live performance of a Broadway play. The Broadway Classroom workshops take place in the morning, and each session relates to the play students will see in the afternoon.



In December, for example, students took "Making Music" from a cast member of *Mary Poppins*. Last year, they learned the "Art of Quick Change," where (before seeing *Sister Act*) they got to see a quick costume change happen, could volunteer to try one, and got a broader understanding of how many people it takes to keep a Broadway show moving.

Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik, director of advancement and the Drama Club's co-moderator, organizes these annual learning events, which have included working with a dialect coach, reading sheet music, choreography, and staging. "It's a great learning experience for the kids, especially because there's a Q&A after each class," she says. "Sometimes the cast member even offers to sign their playbills after the show. All in all, it's a memorable way to learn!"

everything over to Sacred Heart for the week we have use of the stage."

Rehearsals then become a sight to behold. Sitting there during "tech week" with tool box and paint supplies in hand, the Pagliaros marvel when finally seeing the students in action with scenery in place. "The hidden work of the student stage crew has a choreography of its own," says Frank.

"And the voices, the pool of talent, their spirit, their hard work," says Jeanine. "The kids are phenomenal, the shows are phenomenal, and that makes every minute we put in well worth it." 🎭



Cast and Crew of *Beauty and the Beast* — May 2011



Dan Upchurch '13

Winter Sports Ignite School Spirit



The cold winter months, complete with record snowfalls, did nothing to dampen the spirit of the Notre Dame community. In fact, the rising return to success of three sports teams generated energy and buzz not only within the school but in local print and broader social media as well. The teams: hockey, men's basketball, and women's basketball.

Boy's Basketball

Helping that process along was boys' basketball (17-7), which went into the Southwest Conference Tournament as the #3 seed, losing in the semi-finals to Bethel. Nonetheless, the team qualified for the Class M State Tournament, experiencing a second-round loss to Bloomfield. Senior Dan Upchurch, earned First-Team All-State honors not only for his tourney play but for his four-year, 1,588-point scoring prowess. "I couldn't be more proud of Dan," said Coach Vin Laczkoski, "or of senior Earl Coleman, who scored 1,279 points during his four years on the team."



Earl Coleman '13



Aly Furiguele '13



Brianna Mann '14

Girl's Basketball

The ND girls' basketball team (23-5) advanced all the way to the Class M State Championship game this year, losing to Cromwell, 42-28. The second-place finish was followed, however, by a first-rate honor for Coach Eric DeMarco, voted Coach of the Year by the Connecticut Post. "The team received excellent press in both print and social media," said Athletic Director Rob Bleggi '93. "Between hockey, and both girls' and boys' basketball, the buzz in the hallways was a constant reminder that Notre Dame—after a few quiet years—is getting back on the sports map."



Hockey

A late-season surge (eight consecutive wins) by the hockey team (11-10 overall) led to a berth in the Division I state championship tournament. Although ND lost to Simsbury in the first round, juniors Christian LaCroix and Stone Denbok were named to the All State Second Team. For Steve Hetherman, who finished his first full year as head coach, the bounce-back was encouraging. "We have a lot of good players returning," he said, "and the late-season success we had this year makes us believe in even better prospects for next year."

Erik Laaksonen '13 (at left)
and Jake Novak '13 (at right)



Mr. Dave Salce combines traditional instruction with the latest technology in ND's newly renovated and reconfigured biology lab.

Extra Credit: Courses that also count for college

This year, 16 students taking *Environmental Science* will earn UConn credit for their efforts. Another 22 taking *Spanish 4* will do the same.

Two Notre Dame faculty members have been credentialed by UConn's Early College Experience (ECE) program to offer courses at ND that allow students to earn college credit while still in high school. Last year, Mrs. Mary [Gaffney] Guarino (Spanish) and Mr. David Salce (Biology) went through the rigorous application process, which involved creating a syllabus judged equal in content to a parallel course at UConn. Both are now considered adjunct faculty at UConn, even though their teaching takes place at Notre Dame. This year, 16 students taking *Environmental Science* will earn UConn credit for their efforts. Another 22 taking *Spanish 4* will do the same.

Mrs. Guarino, who has taught *Advanced Placement Spanish* for nearly 20 years and been an adjunct at Sacred Heart University for 10, spent countless hours adapting the *Spanish 4* composition course for its new designation. "I've loved the language since I first took it in sixth grade," she said, adding that her first Spanish teacher was

Dr. Edward Bourque, who would later become a faculty colleague at ND (he retired at the end of last year). "I knew way back then that I'd spend my life living in the language."

Her every class is an invitation to students to join her. Upper-level courses focus on creative writing. In a weekly journal they keep, students write about current events, or themes in the textbook, or a person they admire, for example. They also write and illustrate an autobiographical poem—in Spanish, of course. Mrs. Guarino, who has a portfolio for each student, has saved their autobiographies—for decades. "My husband actually made

"I've loved the language since I first took it in sixth grade," Mrs. Guarino said, "I knew way back then that I'd spend my life living in the language."

cabinets at home so I'd have a beautiful place to store them," she says with a smile. "Each one is precious to me."

Beyond writing, Mrs. Guarino's students can count on a cultural immersion, whether making masks to celebrate the Day of the Dead, participating in a prayer service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, or watching a movie in Spanish (e.g., *Pan's Labyrinth*, *West Side Story*). "If they do a research project on dance, and write about salsa," she says, "they also have to show the class how to do the steps when they present it. When that happens, the kids really get into it, which makes the learning fun."

Down the hall and around the corner, Mr. Salce is teaching in ND's renovated biology lab, about which he shows the pride of a new father. "It has granite countertops, slate floors, and island benches," he enthuses, admitting he sounds a bit like a Realtor® on HGTV. The space, now configured for group or individual projects, also boasts the most current advances in technology, providing an array of learning tools for all science classes that use the lab.

One such class is Mr. Salce's ECE-accredited *Environmental Science* course. Its content requires both hands-on and computer-related research, and often sends students outdoors on a mission. "Looking at living things in their own environment makes for more holistic learning," he explains. "In the course, we look at living things—from plants to animals to tissues in the human body."

One recent project involved creating a composite list of the trees found on ND's campus, having already begun the study of species' characteristics. "I divided the class into four groups and the campus into four quadrants. Their job was to collect leaf samples from the trees in their sectors. Ultimately, when we excluded the duplicates, we had identified 28 different trees."

Getting to that conclusion took hours of further research, much of it done as a class in Notre Dame's remodeled library. To support Mr. Salce's teaching goals, Library Media Specialist Tracie Marko advised using Google Docs software. The ensuing classes

"Although our facilities are not huge," said Mr. Salce, "the fantastic world that science encompasses is well-taught at Notre Dame by some dedicated, creative people. I'm pleased to be among them."

took place there, where students could research the various leaves—each able to view and give feedback on what the others were doing.

The next course project involves researching the global decline of amphibian populations, followed by students' devising an informational Podcast to increase public awareness of the threat. "Frogs, for example, have skin that makes unique compounds. Some of these have great medical potential," said Mr. Salce, citing one that is being found more effective for pain relief than morphine, without the latter's side effects and potential for addiction. This "threaded" approach to learning environmental science—doing the research and using the tools of technology to communicate it—has helping to better the world as a key goal.

"Although our facilities are not huge," said Mr. Salce, "the fantastic world that science encompasses is well-taught at Notre Dame by some dedicated, creative people. I'm pleased to be among them." 🍷



Each of these *Spanish 4* students will earn both high school and UConn credit for the course they are taking with Mrs. Mary Gaffney Guarino (front row, right).

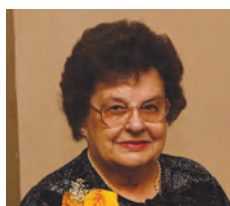
Remembering and Honoring

For decades, Notre Dame's teachers have made the school an exceptional place to learn, to grow, to mature. On this page we not only memorialize our recently deceased faculty, but also catch up with recent retirees as they gather for (finally, a longer-than-20 minute) lunch.



Back row (l-r): Jeff Kiernan, Dave Baye, Jim Murphy, Mary Jane (Winkler) Reidy, Jay Reidy. Front row (l-r): Mary Sullivan, Jan Haffner, Judy McDermott, Pat Land, Kay Kenny, Mary Ann (Braun) Nemergut, Steve Nemergut.
Photo by Jay Misencik '69

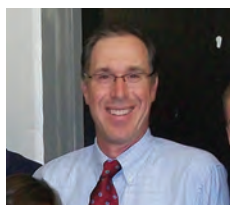
This spring, ND will honor the following faculty members by "naming" one of the new dogwood trees along the entrance to campus:



Jean Baranyar began her career at ND in 1970 as a math teacher and later became credentialed to become the school librarian. Known for her sense of humor and as an avid Yankees fan, she loved theater, opera, travel, and all things Hungarian. Jean retired in 2010 and died on May 31, 2012.



James Lombardo taught art from 1997 to 2011. While at Notre Dame, he introduced students to various forms of media, painted murals on the cafeteria walls, and refurbished/repainted the statue of Mary outside the school. Mr. Lombardo, 59, died on October 19, 2012.



Robert DeSimone taught chemistry, integrated science, and biology between 2006 and 2010, and passed away suddenly on December 29, 2010. Known to his students as "Dr. D.," he had a fine mind for all things medical, was a student favorite and, in his spare time, enjoyed the game of golf.



Carol Christy Surina taught English at ND for 31 years (1979-2010), and supported all things Notre Dame: academics, athletics, service, and the arts. During her tenure, she served as chair of the English and Social Studies departments, earning respect for her strong work ethic. After a courageous

battle with cancer, she died on April 10, 2010.



Richard "Duke" LaTorre taught math and computer science at Notre Dame for 42 years and also served as the school's business/financial/bookstore manager. He personally wrote the computer software that made ND one of the first diocesan high schools in the country to computerize its

in-house scheduling, report cards, and databases. Duke loved traveling, anything Disney, fine food, electronics, the arts, sports, and gift-giving. He died on Oct. 12, 2011, at the age of 64.



John Waldeyer taught a wide range of courses during his 1964 to 1989 tenure at ND, including English, German, typing, computers, and Latin. He also served as boys' basketball coach from 1969 to 1984. The school's resident grammarian, he helped countless peers "get the words right." In retirement, he

continued to enjoy life with his wife, Judy (also a retired ND faculty member). He died on Nov. 2, 2010.

Second Annual Lancer Legacy Gala

Notre Dame's second annual Gala took place March 14, 2013, at the Waterview in Monroe. Following a cocktail reception and silent auction, guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner and a spirited awards ceremony that included ND Lancer Legacy and Athletic Hall of Fame honorees.

ND Lancer Legacy Honorees

Richard LaTorre '65, received (posthumously) the Carole Christy Surina Educator Award for a range of contributions (see his bio on page 22) that placed Notre Dame at the technological forefront and enhanced student learning.

Suzanna Zello '69 was honored with the Sister Marion Rielly Leadership Award for her 35 years of service to the Diocese of Bridgeport, the last two decades as principal of St. Peter's School in Bridgeport. She is a member of Our Lady of Grace Church in Stratford where she is a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Pastoral Council. She is also a member of the Cathedral Education Cluster Advisory Board.

Sean Carroll, president of Merit Insurance, received the Notre Dame Community Impact Award for his work with numerous business, nonprofit, and higher education boards in the region, as well as with Notre Dame's High School Advisory Board. He presently runs the Trumbull Challenger Program, a weekly baseball program designed for children with special needs. Sean and his wife, Maggie, live in Trumbull with their three children: Patrick, Sean, and Ryan (whose baseball and basketball teams he coaches).

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Teale Stevens '79 played both basketball and volleyball at ND, and became a four-year basketball standout at Fairfield University (where she earned the first athletic scholarship in the post-Title IX era). Today a successful realtor with Coldwell Banker in Westport, she is a volunteer coach at the Wakeman Boys' and Girls Club, and is a color commentator for basketball and other sports at Cablevision, Fairfield University, and MSG. She and her husband, Christopher Rhode, live in Fairfield with their sons, Michael and Steven.

Greg Florence '84, a four-year member of the cross country team, also participated in spring musicals and the "crisis crew" while at ND. Greg went on to study at the U.S. Naval Academy and, after graduating in 1988, gave 21 years of service to the nation. He retired in 2009 at the rank of Commander. He and his wife, Kelly, are parents of three children: Graham, Jonathan, and Rachel.

Oliver Macklin '89 played four years of ND basketball, two as its captain, and was also a member of the track and cross country teams. A true scholar-athlete, he was inducted into the National Honor Society, went on to play basketball for UConn, and served as the Husky captain his senior year. Oliver has served as a juvenile probation supervisor in Connecticut for the past 17 years.



1. Close friends and family of Richard LaTorre were there to accept his award.



2. Sherrie Zembrzusi and Oliver Macklin



3. Greg Florence and George Burr



4. Fr. Bill Sangiovanni and Sean Carroll



5. Steve Nemergut and Teale Stevens



6. Sister Mary Grace Walsh and Sue Zello

Anonymous \$300,000 Gift

Although the donor wishes to remain anonymous, the impact of the gift has been anything but. "Receiving it was an absolute joy," said Fr. Bill, school president, "because it had an immediate impact on making two goals of our current strategic plan possible." One, the renovation of the biology lab, transformed an outdated resource into a modern one, equipped scientifically and technologically to support individual and group learning. The other goal—addressing the school's exterior appearance—took shape with the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers, as well as repaving the entrance driveway. "What this one extraordinary gift has enabled us to do has had a transforming impact," said Fr. Bill, noting with a smile that other such gifts are always welcome—anonymous or not!



A portion of this amazing gift helped beautify the school entrance.

UND Alumni Chapter Creates Enrichment for Faculty



Through the generosity of the University of Notre Dame's Fairfield Alumni Chapter, math teacher Ms. Sherrie Zembrzusi attended the Excellence in Teaching Conference there in October. During her stay, she focused on Active Learning workshops, swapping ideas with 135 educators from across the country. She also visited four ND alumni now at the South Bend institution: Meghan Cassidy '12, Mary Kate Vincenzi '12, Steven Son Son '12 and Jason Sapp '00. Jason, who graduated from ND/South Bend in 2004, currently works at the University, where he is in charge of the Blue and Gold's athletic website.

Jason Sapp '00 and Ms. Sherrie Zembrzusi

A Beauty of a Gift

While a student at Notre Dame, Pat Cronan '81 toiled back and forth to school in a '67 Ford Mustang, a coupe his brother had bought for \$25 and got running again as a requirement for shop class at Andrew Warde High School. The Mustang—a beater then and a classic today—stayed in the Cronan family for decades.

"Over the years, we've probably put \$30,000 into it," said Pat, now a resident of Milford. "We had body parts fabricated from fiberglass, some engine work done, and a professional paint job that turned it into an Acapulco-blue beauty."

Why, then, did he and his wife, Jean, decide to donate the coveted classic to Notre Dame to be raffled at the school's gala fundraiser? "We are impressed by what Fr. Bill [Sangiovanni, president] and Mr. Cipriano [principal] are doing to advance the school," said Jean. "Donating it would be a concrete way to support the many good things taking place at Notre Dame," said Pat. "It was also a way to say thank you."

Sincere thanks to the Cronan family, whose generosity netted \$12,500 for Notre Dame.



While a student at ND, the '67 Ford Mustang that Pat Cronan '81 drove looked nothing like it does today—a beater that gradually became a beauty in his care. It recently became a blessing for his alma mater.



Cherishing Connections: Fairfield Town Clerk Betsy (Peddle '88) Browne



Betsy's ties to Notre Dame remain active. As a member of the Sr. Marion Rielly Scholarship Committee, she helps select student recipients from among rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors. "Each essay tells a pretty impressive story," she says. "It's very hard to choose."

Betsy (Peddle) Browne doesn't even have to leave her office in Fairfield's historic Town Hall to experience a "phenomenon" familiar to graduates of Notre Dame High School: running into or meeting someone else who went to ND. Elected to her third term as Fairfield's town clerk in 2011, Betsy enjoys the instant sense of connection that accompanies such encounters—whether working, volunteering, or socializing.

Betsy says, "I recently discovered that a paralegal who'd been doing business with our office for years was, in fact, one of my classmates. As soon as I noticed her maiden name on a document, I picked up the phone to ask. She hadn't known my married name either, so we were pleasantly surprised to add Notre Dame to our sense of professional connection."

Professionally speaking, Betsy has spent her entire career in public service. She parlayed a college internship (Sacred Heart University) into a fulltime position working for Fairfield's First Selectman, the late Jacky Durrell, who became a treasured mentor. "I guess you'd say I was bitten by the political bug while working with Jacky," she says.

Betsy loves that every day is different—and how could it not be in an office that deals with, in part, property transactions; absentee ballots; and birth, marriage, and death certificates. And then there's the Memorial Day Parade. "I'm secretary,"

she says, good-humoredly placing her head in her hands, "so I get to organize the endless details; we call it organized chaos!"

Attention to detail, one of Betsy's innate strengths, was clearly evident during her Notre Dame days, especially in the Key Club, peer ministry, and as yearbook editor. "One of my favorite teachers was Mary Sullivan," she says of the now-retired business, typing, and computer teacher. "We always got the work done, but she made learning a fun, positive experience. Professionally speaking, she taught me a valuable life skill."

An excellent foundation is what Betsy says she got at ND, "a good Catholic education—and I mean that not just in the sense of a capital 'C,'" she notes. "I never thought of going anywhere else." Likely influences were her parents, both ND alumni (Joe Peddle '62 and Maribeth Farrace '65); her brother, Joe '93, would follow Betsy there.

Betsy's ties to Notre Dame remain active. As a member of the Sr. Marion Rielly Scholarship Committee, she helps select student recipients from among rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors. "Each essay tells a pretty impressive story," she says. "It's very hard to choose."

Already looking forward to her 25th Class Reunion (fall 2013), she delights in the regular contact made possible by Facebook with classmates she saw at her 20th. 📱



1960 Septuagenarians Gather!

In October 2012, seven members of the Class of 1960—ND's first graduating class—gathered near Atlanta, Ga., to celebrate a momentous occasion: becoming 70 years old. Converging from around the country, the longtime friends ate, drank, frolicked in the pool of their rented vacation home, visited the Georgia Aquarium, reminisced over old times, and caught up with recent developments.



1. Class of 1960 Reunion

Participants included (l-r): Peter and Mary Veronica (Mason) Kolesar of Logan, Utah; Jackie (Cantwell) Cody of Atlanta; Sharon (Smith) Becker La Bree of Milton, Mass.; Bill and Maryann (Higgins) Hallam of the Villages, Fla.; and Betty (Slagle) Kranyik of Fairfield, Conn. Sharon's husband, Bob, who took this photo, was such a good sport that the group made him an honorary member of the Class of 1960.

2. Class of 1962 Reunion

From (l-r) Ray Rackiewicz, Rich Grich, Rich Batsavage and Jerry Buckley.

3. Class of 1982 Reunion

From (l-r) Ken Kochiss, Mary Moran, Gregor Steger, Joan Garguilo Welch, Matt Reale, Evelyn Vaquero-DiCicco, Liz Halstead-Keefe, Diane DiTullio-Vergara, Bob Scarpetti and Rich Rojowski.

70 Attend Fiftieth Reunion Weekend

By Betsy Hemenway Redgate

On Columbus Day Weekend, 70 members of the Class of 1962 gathered for their 50th reunion. For 45 years, this class had been faithful to the reunion tradition, coming together every five years for Mass and a dinner dance. For the 50th, however, they decided to "plan big" and offer an entire weekend of activities.

Friday night, attendees danced to the music of a local DJ, feasted on hors d'oeuvres, and reminisced. Thirty members gathered on Saturday for lunch at Homewood Suites in Stratford, where many of those traveling from as far away as California and Florida were staying. That evening, they met again at Brooklawn Country Club for a cocktail hour, formal dinner, and dancing to the Clusters (an Internet find), who played music from the '50s and '60s.

The reunion culminated on Sunday morning with Mass celebrated by Fr. Bill Sangiovanni, president of Notre Dame, at Sacred Heart's chapel, where he remembered, by name, 45 class members who have died. A continental breakfast at SHU's Pitt Center gave alumni a chance to see the incredible transformation from the high school complex they had known as their high school to the university it has become today. As they prepared to go their separate ways, the surest sign of success was the many who asked, "So what are we going to do for our fifty-fifth?"

The Stuff(ing) of Friendship

For the past 15 years, Thanksgiving Day has begun with breakfast at the Galaxy Diner (formerly the Town & Country) for the "Boys of the Turkey Day Special." Many in this group played on Notre Dame's 1964 state championship football team. Their chosen moniker pays tribute to their former coach, Lou Saccone, who every year created a special play for the Thanksgiving Day game.

Now celebrating 40 years of friendship, the "boys" include Dave Baye '67, Rich Bonosky '66, Tony Cefalogli '66, Patrick Dizney '67, Rich Dobbs '69, James Lavin '67, Larry Pace '67, Mario Paniccia '67, Guy Paniccia '67, Rich Pavone '66, Joe Polozzolo '67, Rich Principe '67, Jack Prusac '67, Don Rodgerson '67, Ron Rodgerson '67, and Mark Wilchinsky '70. Their former teacher and coach, Armand Fabbri, also joins the boys each year.

Ever-loyal to their alma mater, the group ends this annual gathering with a collection which they donate to Notre Dame.



The Class of 1982 Celebrates 30 Years

"Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other's gold!" This was evident at the Class of 1982's 30th reunion held Saturday, November 24, 2012 at Vazzy's 19th Hole in Fairfield. Among the nearly 90 attendees, people traveled from Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts, and more. Liz Halstead Keefe created a beautiful memorial table honoring class members who have died, and the class picture included a chair for those not present. The evening included delicious food, music, and a raffle whose profits were donated to the Thomas Merton House in Bridgeport and toward the purchase of a Class of 1982 memorial brick. "It takes an incredible amount of planning, executing, and teamwork to make an event like this happen," said co-chair Joan Garguilo Welch. "I am so happy to have been part of the fun and am grateful for the committee members who helped make it a success."

1962

John Reut, Fishers, Ind., and his wife Rose Mary, celebrated 47 years of marriage in 2012, a year made even more special by the weddings of two grandchildren (Erica in March and Bryan in August). Adding to the joy was the birth of their seventh grandchild, Linda (in January), and their first great-grandchild, Isabella (in July).

1963

Karen (Renzulli) Lynch, West Hartford, Conn., has relocated her law offices to Farmington, Conn., after more than 30 years practicing in West Hartford. She specializes in wills and trusts; estate planning and administration; elder law, probate, and special needs trusts, and has a Hartford office as well.

1967



Ronald Allen, Park City Utah, has been an airline pilot for some 40 years, most recently as a captain for Ethiopian Airlines. He and his wife, Marcy, having adapted to the "empty nest," now live and work in Africa, where their adventures have included a safari in Uganda to the mountain gorilla and chimpanzee areas.

1969

William Boyce, Shelton, Conn., recently retired from Sikorsky Aircraft. He served as Chief of Test for the company's S-76 commercial helicopter line and managed the Ground and Flight Test organizations that in Oct. 2012 were instrumental in getting an FAA certification of a new Sikorsky helicopter, the S-76D. During his 30+ years at Sikorsky, Bill worked in the Test Engineering group, which developed test programs Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Commercial, and NASA customers.



Christine Neidermeier, Fairfield, Conn., is the creator and author of a new independent political blog, www.StraightScoopPolitics.com; an on-air national TV senior political analyst; and the managing director and principal of the Fairfield law firm of Christine M. Niedermeier Associates.

1976

Paul Kelsch, Alexandria, Va., recently received tenure as a professor of landscape architecture at Virginia Tech's Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center.

1983



Bianca (Salahshourian) Wren (air name: Bianca Tyler), Greenwich, Conn., is co-host with her husband, Philip, of "Let's Talk!" a live, call-in radio show on WGCH 1490am. Now celebrating its 10th season, the show discusses life, love, and parenting.

Bianca loves blogging on www.TheLetsTalkMom.com, which has enjoyed more than 4.9 million page views, and is currently writing a trilogy called *The Momversationalist*,™ due out later this year.

1987



Mike Ganino, Shelton, Conn., is a Certified Public Accountant

Fernando Moreno '04

This fall, **Fernando Moreno '04**, currently serving as an Army nurse in Afghanistan, e-mailed his former ND computer



teacher, Mr. Radley Manzo, asking if Notre Dame would consider sponsoring a school supply drive. To help make Afghanistan a better place for local citizens, his unit has been giving medical help and clothing to the nationals. "Now we are starting to help the local schools by giving them school supplies," he wrote.

ND students, teachers, and parents responded, big-time, sending boxes of pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons, paper, and other supplies.

In a recent communique, Fernando sent a photo with the following message: "We had a patient to see today . . . he is an 8-year-old boy who had a follow-up. He was injured a month ago and as we went to see him, I took the opportunity to take him some school supplies that the ND family sent! The joy in his face can only be explained by this picture!"

and an Audit Partner in the accounting firm of Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte and Sterczala, PC located in Shelton. One of the Ganino's summer of 2012 goals was to visit as many Ice Cream Parlors as possible and vote for their favorite.

The family visited over eighteen creameries across five states but their unanimous favorite was Connecticut's own Rich's Farm Ice Cream Shop in Oxford, CT.

2006

Justin H. Cirisoli, Ansonia, Conn., is now director of residential life at Albertus Magnus College. He holds a B.A. in history from Roger Williams University and an M.S. in counseling/higher education from Central Connecticut State University.

2007



Megan Kelley, Stratford, Conn., earned her Actors Equity

Association Card in October while performing with the White Christmas National Tour. In 2012, she made it to the final round of the arduous, multi-phase process of auditioning to be a Radio City Rockette.

2010

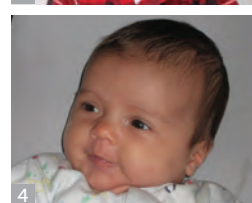
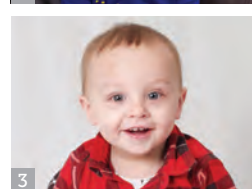
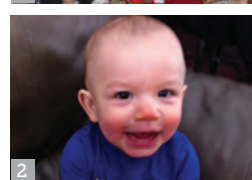
Emily Uleano, New Haven, Conn., returned to ND in September, when she spoke to students in Mrs. Guarino's Spanish 4 classes. Currently a double major in Spanish and anthropology at Southern Connecticut State University, stressed the importance of studying a second language and the benefits of studying abroad.

Births

1. **Lizbeth (Velastegui) '06**, Bridgeport, Conn., and her husband, Luis Garcia—daughter, Nov. 30, 2012—Gabriela Lizbeth. She joins "big" sister Mariana Lizbeth.

2. **James Michael Curley Sr. '99** and Jamie McIlhoney—son, James Michael Jr., on May 6, 2012.

3. **Marissa (Beres) '08** and her husband, David Toth—son, January 12, 2012—Connor David.



4. **Brendan Kiernan '90**, White Plains, N.Y., and his wife Milá Ercole—daughter, Aug. 31, 2012—Clara Esme. She joins big brother Elias, 3.



1



2



3



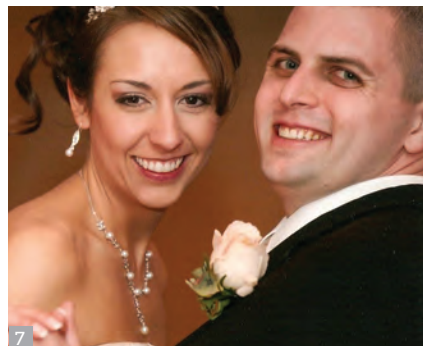
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9

Marriages

Lou '79 and Margaret

(Ebling) DiPalma are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Kellie to Alex Simeone on August 4, 2012, in Newport, R.I. Abby, her sister, was the maid of honor. Kellie is the granddaughter of Charlotte Ebling, former English teacher at Notre Dame.

Alberto C. Martins '88 and Amy Gabrielle—December 7, 2012.

Kristyn Calovine '02 and **Eric Fay '02**—May 27, 2012. They were married by ND chaplain Fr. Peter Cipriani at St. Patrick's Church in Bridgeport. Jaclyn '05 and Ally Calovine '08 were maids of honor for their sister. Kristyn is the daughter of Bill '76 and Iris Calovine.

Evan Bowen '03 and Eileen Tabler—August 18, 2012. The couple lives in Seattle, Wash.

Evan Grenier '04 and Colleen Flynn—August 18, 2012, at Saint Michaels' College in Colchester, Vt. They reside in Quincy, Mass., where Evan works as an assistant dean of admission for Stonehill College. He will receive an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration in May from Northeastern University.

James McGehee '04 and Claire Pevoto—July 23, 2011, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Austin, Texas. Represented in the wedding party were '04 graduates Ryan Bobrowski, Masanobu Massiah, and Michael Pankowski. Faculty member Joshua St. Onge served as cantor for the ceremony.

Sherri Mola '04 and Anthony Carpentieri—August 17, 2012.

Her wedding party included ND classmates Megan Donnelly, Kelly Depanfilis, Jen Gay, and her sister, Ashley Mola '06. Anthony and Sherri live in Norwalk, where Sherri is a graphic artist for the Norwalk Hour.

Daniel Ross '04 and Jillian LeBlanc—October 7, 2012. They currently reside in Fairfield, Conn. Jillian is a nurse practitioner and Dan recently started a new position with a company located in the Hartford.

Jessica Marzik '06 and Kevin Golen—August 4, 2012, at St. Anselm College, Manchester, N.H. Members of the wedding party included ND graduates: Stacy Marzik '04 (maid of honor), Tara Cancellieri '06, Stephanie Mauer '06, and groomsman Paul Marzik '10. Jessica and Kevin are living in New York City.

Laura DeFrancesco '04 and Jason Ross—September 15, 2012, at Fairfield University. The bridal party included Lindsay Messina '04, Melissa (Koval '00) Sakowich, Rachel Hensley '04, and Vincent DeFrancesco '08. Other ND grads present were James McGehee '04, Jack Messina, '09, Michael Smerglino, '04, and Dan Ross '04. Laura and Jason live in the Washington, DC, area, where Laura is a project manager for Pricewaterhouse Coopers, focusing on its Leadership Development programs.

1. **Laura DeFrancesco '04** and Jason Ross
2. **Sherri Mola '04** and Anthony Carpentieri
3. **Kellie (DiPalma)** and Alex Simeone
4. **Jessica Marzik '06** and Kevin Golen
5. **Evan Bowen '03** and Eileen Tabler
6. **Alberto C. Martins '88** and Amy Gabrielle

7. **Daniel Ross '04** and Jillian LeBlanc
8. **Kristyn Calovine '02** and Eric Fay '02
9. **James McGehee '04** and Claire Pevoto

Lancer Open Golf Tournament in memory of Bob Shea

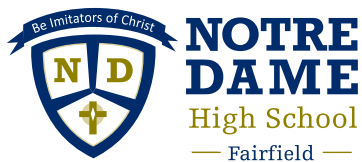
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2013 | REDDING COUNTRY CLUB
REDDING, CONNECTICUT | \$200 PER PLAYER



More than 75 percent of those who play in this special golf tournament—now in its 12th year—are Notre Dame alumni, making it a friendly, fun, and meaningful event. Fun and friendly because of the people! Meaningful because of its purpose!

For information on playing or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik, director of advancement, at marzik@notredame.org. Committee members include: Barbara Ezechick, Bill Miko '70, Debbie Tietjen '79, Loren Wells '96, Dorrine Sopko, P '03,'05,'07,'10, Marianne Spinelli, P '99,'04, Katie Makara '06, Rebecca O'Connell, P '16, Deb Bradley, P '14,'16, Sherrie Zembrzuski, and Kristen Stone.





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reunions

We invite all members of the following classes to save the date! If you have any personal updates (i.e. new name, email, phone or "snail-mail" address), please send them along!

Class of 1983 30th Reunion

November 30, 2013
The Room at Vazzy's—
Fairchild Wheeler
Golf Course

CONTACT:
Kimberly Marini Killoy at
kkilloy@aol.com

Class of 1978 35th Reunion

October 19, 2013
The Stone Barn—
Whitney Farms
Golf Club

CONTACT:
nd.reunion2013@
gmail.com

Class of 1973 40th Reunion

September 14, 2013
Vazzy's 19th Hole

CONTACT:
Sharon Csordas Buzi at
sharcare1011@aol.com
Tom Intelisano at
thi13@optonline.net
Gary Rogo at
gmrogo@gmail.com
Barb Susi at
barbsu@yahoo.com

Class of 1963 50th Reunion

TBD

CONTACT:
Margaret Golden Rossini at
goldenrossini@dslextreme.com

Class of 1993 20th Reunion

July 13, 2013
Marisa's Ristorante Trumbull, CT

CONTACT:
Michelle Marella or Brent Mahieu at
ndclassof93@gmail.com.



Calling All ND Graduates

Notre Dame's new magazine, **IMPACT**, is currently collecting information on our alumni for its next edition. If you have news to share with the ND community (promotions, new jobs, new degrees, weddings, births, and more), please send it to us *today*—while you're still thinking about it! And be sure to attach pictures, if you wish, when you send your news to the Alumni Office at marzik@notredame.org. We look forward to hearing from you, and sharing your good fortune with other alumni.

To update your information, go to the website at
www.notredame.org/pages/alumni_update.html