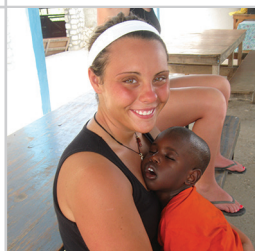


# IMPACT

The Magazine of Notre Dame High School



In Jamaica, Jaclynn Campos '10 (left) and Courtney Rechtiene '08 helped one of the local residents repair a gravel road.



## **08** Young Alumni: Living the ND Spirit of Service

Inspired by what they experienced at ND, many young alumni continue to serve—together, on their own time and dime—in some of the poorest places imaginable.



## **14** Dance: A Metaphor for Life

Sally Hong's early career in dance (at Radio City and on Broadway) was a dream come true. Equally satisfying is a "second act" that includes raising a family and teaching at ND.



## **16** Carl Philipp: A Thread in ND's Tapestry

During 49 years at ND—as a student, faculty member, and administrator—Carl Philipp has witnessed the inevitable ups and downs of a small Catholic high school. He shares that history in the firm belief that ND today is a school any educator would admire.

Spring 2014

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AT RIGHT: Steve Cavallo '65 addressed ND students at the school's annual Veterans Day Mass.

AT FAR RIGHT: Jessica Cannon '14 and Winston Crumb '14 were among many wanting to learn more about his service in Vietnam.



## Veterans Day Prayer Service

Notre Dame remembered the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces to protect our democracy during our annual Veterans Day Prayer Service in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on the campus of Sacred Heart University. After Fr. Cipriani's homily, 12 students read more than 75 names of alumni who served or are serving in the military, with special recognition given to the five graduates who made the ultimate sacrifice—four in Vietnam and one in Iraq.

The school community was also privileged to welcome Steve Cavallo '65 and his wife Diane

Parker Cavallo '65, whose three daughters also went to ND (Michelle '87, Kimberly '89, and Denise '92, as did their grandson Steve '13). Mr. Cavallo spoke about the value of his Notre Dame education and the experience he had as a 19-year-old teenager deployed to Vietnam in 1966.

IF YOU KNOW OF AN ND ALUMNUS/A WHO SERVED or is serving in the Armed Forces, please let us know so we may honor them in future services. To do so, contact the Alumni Office at [marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org).

## Grandparents' Day

Notre Dame's annual Grandparents' Day had its largest turnout ever, with some 100 grandparents and grandchildren taking time out of the day for Mass and light refreshments. Among them, at right, was Marie Halstead, one of ND's original business teachers.

Marie is the proud mother of six ND grads: Joan '67, Mary Ellen '68, Robert '70, John '72, Mark '80, and Elizabeth '82, and is pictured here with two of her grandchildren now attending Notre Dame—Sam '14 and Maggie '16 Halstead of Fairfield (Mark's children).







ND enjoyed a record turnout of prospective students and parents at Open House this fall.

## Admission Fever!

Notre Dame welcomed more than 300 families to its Open House event in October, by far the largest crowd in years. Families had the chance to tour the school and visit with students, teachers, parents, coaches, and alumni. A big part of this success was Operation Lawn Sign; in the four weeks leading up to the event, Open House lawn signs seemed to sprout up all over the greater-Fairfield area, thanks to a concerted effort by the school and the good graces of families, faculty, alumni, and friends of ND.

The Admission Office's Shadow Day program began in earnest the following week and has, to date, hosted some 160 eighth-graders from 25 towns and 40 schools. They spend the day in the company of ND student ambassadors, accompanying them to classes as well as lunch in the recently renovated cafeteria.

## Freshman Retreat

### Building a positive, caring community

On Oct. 4, the freshman class participated in a special class retreat, designed with a focus on building a positive and caring community. After breakfast, Mass, and ice breakers, students broke into small groups for discussion led by senior and junior members of ND's Student Leadership Team. To spark conversation, Shannan Williams '14, spoke movingly about personal obstacles she has overcome.

The freshmen then heard from a trio of ND alumni who have formed a motivational speaking enterprise called Iron Path. Alex Audet '12, Tyler Toto '12, and Theo Tumba '12 talked about ways teens can tackle day-to-day challenges, especially by seeking out role models for encouragement and positive reinforcement. Their presentation was greeted with energetic approval and appreciation.



## Classes Visit Peabody Museum

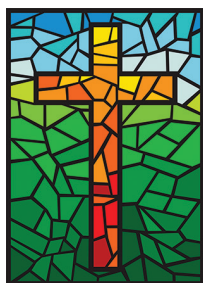
Seniors in Dr. Mary Callaghan's AP Humanities class joined freshmen from Mrs. Kelli Fitter's honors and high honors World History classes on a trip to the Peabody Museum at Yale University

in New Haven. In addition to touring the existing collections in the museum, students attended a class on human origins and had a guided tour of a temporary exhibit on ancient Egypt.



TOP AND RIGHT (respectively): Posing before stunning replicas of ancient predators are students taking AP Humanities and honors/high honors World History.

BOTTOM: Before attending a lecture on human origins, students explore Peabody's famous Hall of Dinosaurs.



## Building a Faith Community

So that students can gather as a faith community with their classmates on a regular basis, Notre Dame has instituted a rotating schedule of Masses, held every Friday for a different class and celebrated by Fr. Bill Sangiovanni, president, or Fr. Peter Cipriani, chaplain.



## Congratulations . . .

**Hannah Maximin '14** (Stratford) and **Jordan Genias '16** (Bridgeport) began the school year at a four-day "boot camp" in Houston, Texas—not one to prepare them for military service but to develop leadership skills already apparent that will serve them for a lifetime. Of nearly 80 teens in the organization's Westchester/Greater Connecticut chapter, only six were chosen to attend the National Black MBA Association's Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) conference. That Hannah and Jordan were among them speaks volumes to their potential.

So does the fact that both teens spend every other Saturday morning at Norwalk Community College, attending a program designed by the organization to prepare promising African-American students for success. Hannah, who started as a sophomore, appreciates the mentoring, career days, and college planning aspects of the experience. "Guest speakers, workshops, and group discussions make it really informative," she says. "They encourage us, and support as we learn skills important for success, like public speaking, interviewing, and networking."

Jordan, now in his second year of the three-year program, confesses that the prospect of learning to network at a national conference and to speak in public had little appeal. "My mom felt it would be good for me and further build my self-esteem," he says. "She asked me to have an open mind, so even though I was reluctant, I did it . . . and enjoyed it as much as I enjoy our chapter meetings. The experience helped me



overcome my fear of public speaking, which in itself is amazing." Not only did Jordan get over that fear, but he came back from the Texas boot camp with a mentor who works in New Jersey, a first-place finish in a team competition to develop and present a mini-business proposal to a panel of judges, and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Of 80 candidates from various Fairfield and Westchester County high schools, only six were chosen to attend the national BMBAA Conference in Texas. Among those six were two from Notre Dame: Hannah Maximin '14 and Jordan Genias '16 (above).

Both ND standouts enjoyed the conference's dress code workshop, which demonstrated in amusing fashion the difference between business and casual and what not to wear when making a first impression. "We were up at 6 a.m. for exercise, and after breakfast had interactive workshops and activities that took us nearly until midnight," says Hannah. "Through the whole experience, I've learned self-discipline, and that business in the real world is hard work."



**Trenton Moore '16** (Stratford) has been recognized by the National Society of High School Scholars for his academic success, service work, and leadership. The sophomore, who has a 3.9 GPA and volunteers

with a New Haven Youth Basketball program, expects to take advantage of the opportunities that will be afforded him through this distinction.



**Mrs. Mary Guarino**, ND Spanish teacher and chairperson of the Modern Language Department, was honored in October by the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers for her 25-plus years in the teaching profession.





## In the Community: Wide-Ranging Concerns

### OUR TROOPS

- Personal items (Care Club)
- Wounded Warriors (Baseball Team)
- Letters to the troops (26 Acts of Kindness)

### THE REGION'S POOR

#### The Hungry

- Frozen Thanksgiving turkeys (Key Club)
- Service at regional soup kitchens (Campus Ministry)
- Connecticut Food Bank—canned goods (Parents' Association)

#### The Homeless

- Gently used hoodies (Care Club)
- Visits to homeless shelters (Campus Ministry)

#### Children

- Tutoring at Missionaries of Charity after-school (Campus Ministry)
- Children's and teens' books (26 Acts of Kindness)

#### The Elderly

- Leaf raking day (Football Team; Campus Ministry)
- Afternoon at Jewish Home for Elderly (Drama Club)

### SPECIAL NEEDS

- Malta House—pregnant teens (Campus Ministry)
- Animal shelters—pet food collection (26 Acts of Kindness)
- UNICEF—eliminate malaria (Key Club, Trick-or-Treat drive)
- Syrian refugees—gently used clothing (French Club)



1. A talk by Anne Groener, P'08 (Kate) about losing her son Christopher to suicide inspired ND's cheerleaders to partake in a fundraising walk during Suicide Awareness Week.
2. Caitlin Wardlow '16, seen here with Mayor John Harkins, received the Stratford Library Association's Presidential Gold Service Award for volunteering over 100 hours in the children's department last summer.
3. As part of ND's Hunger Food Awareness Drive, students and families not only collected donations to support the Connecticut Food Bank but, at the facility, sorted and delivered goods to area food pantries.
4. Students visited an after-school program run by the Missionaries of Charity in Bridgeport for an afternoon of tutoring and fellowship.



# giving thanks

# Kindness

in the  
community

## ND's Acts of Kindness:

Notre Dame remembers Newtown by repeating the 26 Acts of Kindness

Following a prayer service held on Dec. 13, the school-wide effort began the next week and went well into February. Activities ranged from expressing gratitude and extending courtesy to donating items and caring for self/others/the world.

Each of these activities was a simple act of kindness anyone can do—any day of the year. “When we did this last year,” says Mr. Chris

Cipriano, principal, “we were not aware that one of our alumnae, Connie [Orfino '88] Sullivan, was a third-grade teacher at Sandy Hook, nor that our response would so closely parallel Newtown’s public response to the tragedy: ‘Choose Love.’” This year, more than 20 elementary, middle, and high schools in the region contacted Mr. Cipriano, each eager to introduce the same project in their schools.

# Remembering Newtown

## New Bishop Visits NDHS on Ash Wednesday



Named Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport last summer, the Most Reverend Frank Caggiano visited Notre Dame for the first time on Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2014) to celebrate Mass and stop by some of the classrooms.



Bishop Caggiano (center), Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, superintendent of schools, and Mr. Chris Cipriano, principal, check out the high-end MAC computer lab, where evidence of student talent in graphic design covers the walls.





LEFT: Playground duty in Alaska was a sobering experience for ND's Brian Mezzapelle '10, Rachel Dorosh '12 (rear), and Brittany Barstein '11.

RIGHT: The whole gang takes a break from building a school addition in Jamaica, 2011.

## YOUNG ALUMNI: Living the ND Spirit of Service



Colleen O'Connor '05 in Haiti, 2012.

This fall, while Jim Piazza '08 was chaperoning a group of Shelton High School students on a class trip to Boston, he wrestled with a dilemma presented by the leftover food on his plate. "The portion was so big I couldn't finish it, and we were on our way to a museum. There was no way I could take it with me for later," he says. "After what I saw in Haiti, wasting food anytime, anywhere, really bothers me. That awareness is one of the many effects our alumni service trips have had on how I live my life."

For Brian Mezzapelle '10, awareness has taken a different form. A senior fire science major at the University of New Haven, Brian has been a volunteer firefighter and EMT for seven years in his hometown, Derby. "I find now that when I'm working on the ambulance, I listen more and judge far less," he says. "I try to see beneath the situation at hand to the person who's causing or being affected by it. My compassion and understanding have grown through my experiences in Jamaica, New Orleans, and Alaska."

Ms. Jessica Medoff, who for six years has worked with ND chaplain Fr. Peter Cipriani to organize service trips for alumni, says the awareness that

"sticks" in her daily life is water. "I am so aware of how I use water," she says. "In places like Haiti and Jamaica, people have to walk long distances every day to get water, or cannot safely drink and bathe in what's available nearby. Being involved with Fr. Cip on alumni service trips has increased my everyday gratitude, as well as my desire to be as generous to others as the poor are to us when we come."

These alumni service trips are not sponsored by Notre Dame, and those who participate do so on their own dime and on their own time, including Fr. Cipriani. A core group of 25-30 young alumni—most of whom were involved in the Appalachian service trips while students at ND—expressed a desire to continue group service. Fr. Cip, as he is known, and Ms. Medoff (now on faculty at Fairfield Prep) have made it happen and together serve as planners, organizers, and chaperones. No funds come from Notre Dame High School, which rightly needs to focus its fundraising and resources on current students. (Still, though, it's a point of pride that so many alumni desire to continue what they found so meaningful at ND.)

"These young people have outsize hearts," says Fr. Cipriani. "They're as down-to-earth as





ABOVE: Jim Piazza '08 bonded easily with this young Haitian orphan.



RIGHT: Poverty of a different sort was evident at an Indian reservation in Wyoming, 2010.



they come, willing to challenge their faith and their sense of the world by stepping outside the familiar." The trips take shape in affiliation with existing programs in the area being visited, including among others: International Partners in Mission (Shoshone Indian Reservation, Wyoming), Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist (Jamaica); Adventures in Missions (New Orleans), and One Vision International (in Haiti).

From Fr. Cipriani's perspective, outreach trips are not about proselytizing (converting others), but about discovering and reflecting on the presence of God in each setting. Every day begins with Mass, followed by whatever activity the sponsoring organization requests. They've helped level roads and build outhouses; played with children at orphanages; organized activities at a trailer park playground; and made and brought meals to countless appreciative children and adults. Reflection on such service takes place informally in the group's breakfast, lunch, and dinner conversations, an activity Ms. Medoff refers to as 'ministry at the table.' "We talk about what we've done and what we've seen without over-spiritualizing it," says Brian Mezzapelle, who has been to Jamaica, New Orleans, and Alaska.

"We see so much suffering, so much poverty, yet we also see joy and find generosity. It's a lot to process."

For volunteers, the hard part is typically the first day, adjusting to the way they're living and getting the group into a rhythm. On the first Jamaica trip, for example, they slept in sleeping bags (Fr. Cipriani opted to sleep under the stars instead of in a tent); they've also slept on cots, bunk beds, regular beds, and sofas, and in dorms, schools, churches, homes, and gymnasiums—always ready to adapt to whatever conditions await them.

**"These young people have outsize hearts," says Fr. Cipriani. "They're as down-to-earth as they come, willing to challenge their faith and their sense of the world by stepping outside the familiar."**

"It was startling to see how impoverished people were in Jamaica," says Brian, describing shacks, dirt roads and, if a family was lucky, an outhouse. "While there we helped a family build an outhouse, which basically meant digging a





LEFT: At work in Jamaica, 2011.

RIGHT: Erica Macero '10 cuddles a young orphan in Haiti, 2012.



hole and nailing a structure together around it, without directions." On the same trip, in 100-degree weather, the group helped fill in potholes with piles of gravel the government had left alongside the dirt road. It was left to residents to fill in the many ruts and ridges in hopes of more level travel—and Notre Dame alumni pitched in.

"When you have the right people doing good things out of love, everything seems possible," says Ms. Medoff. In this instance, ND alumni turned that backbreaking project into a competition featuring wheelbarrow races and gravel rake-offs. "There was lots of joking around," says Brian, "and we fed off each other's energy. I couldn't imagine doing it alone if I lived there."

**"When you have the right people doing good things out of love, everything seems possible," says Ms. Medoff.**

Eleni Stefanatos '10, a senior at Providence College, has been on four service trips since graduating from ND: Jamaica, Haiti, Alaska, and New Orleans. "Appalachia got me into service mode while I was at Notre Dame," she

says, "and I wanted to do more even further away, to become more aware of the world."

Each trip has offered a different insight into the faces and facets of poverty. "In some ways," says Eleni, "it's more satisfying to help build something, like we did in Jamaica [summer 2011], because the sense that you've made a difference is tangible." The following summer, Haiti taught her a different, even deeper lesson. There the group spent their days at an orphanage teeming with children who craved attention and affection. "Keeping up with them all day was exhausting," says Eleni, who couldn't help but notice that her unwashed young charges wore the same clothes every day. "I came to realize that even though the children were dirty, they were loved and taken care of. And they appreciated everything. They spoke Creole and we spoke English, but somehow in the playing and in our presence to each other, a connection was made."

Jim Piazza agrees. On that trip, he met two-year-old Luc, whose picture Jim sees every day on the background of his phone. "On the first day, Luc hit his head in a fall and started crying," he recalls. "For some reason, I was the only one he'd let pick him up. After he stopped crying, he fell asleep on my shoulder. From that moment, I was 'his guy' and he was at my side the whole week. Leaving him was heartbreaking."





Alaska was heartbreaking, in a different way. There, the summer 2013 group worked with children living in a trailer park, bringing lunch and organizing activities at what Eleni describes as, “a poor excuse for a park. It was just a slab of cement; no swings, no slides, no grass, no climbing structures—just cement.” What troubled her most was the level of abuse the children lived with, a situation described by the sponsoring agency, Grace Works. “So many live in fear of older half-siblings, of parents, of live-in partners, and of stepparents,” she says. “I felt they needed us, and we did our best to create a series of safe, fun days, and most of all, we were kind. Even if the only impact we made was on those days, I hope we made that cement slab a place where hope and joy could shine.”

It’s not unusual, according to Ms. Medoff, for volunteers to wonder—upon returning home—just what difference they have made. “Each person comes to terms with that differently,” she says. “For me, I have to trust that in the midst of great suffering, I took a tiny piece of it away—on just that day.” She sees that awareness as a gift, as well as a responsibility. “I have a responsibility not only to talk about what I’ve seen, but to become ever more grateful for what I have and as generous as I can be in the little things of daily life.”

For Jim Piazza, who just completed his master’s degree in secondary education, it’s also a dual determination: to talk to others, and to use the classroom resources which he now sees as a gift, to the fullest extent he can. “In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, we saw the tent cities that sprang up after the earthquake devastated the island,” he says. “On another part of the island, three generations of a family were living in a space the size of a living room, with only one meal a day. Because I saw it, I have the chance to share it with my own students, and I do.”

“The hope,” says Fr. Cipriani, “is that these service and immersion trips nourish the faith already at work in our alumni volunteers. They are neither ‘holier-than-thou types’ nor concerned about seeming ‘cool’ to their peers. Rather, they bring an authentic self to the experience, which allows them to recognize the presence of God in those they serve. They may not say it quite like that, but in talking about their experiences to family, friends, and colleagues, they are quietly planting seeds.”

Most of which began growing while they were students at Notre Dame. 💙

ABOVE LEFT: Eleni Stefanatos ’10 marveled at the spirit of youngsters who could be joyful despite severe poverty.

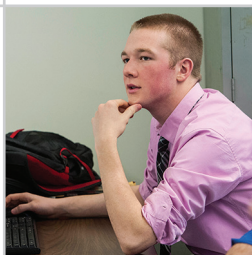
ABOVE RIGHT: A little end-of-the-week sight-seeing was a blessed perk of the group’s trip to Wyoming, 2010.





Reflecting ND's strategic efforts to expand the school's science offerings, Mr. Mathew Wajda '07 began teaching Aerospace Engineering this fall.

# Aerospace Engineering: Hands-on Design



Charlie Fallon '14, who hopes to become an engineer, is thrilled to be taking a related course in high school.

A visitor to Notre Dame might wonder, when walking past Room 312, just what in the world is going on inside. Conversation flows in all directions as students learn the math and science fundamentals upon which rest the hands-on aspects of designing, prototyping, building, and testing a given project. Whether it be a balsa-wood airplane, a lighthouse, a robot, or a rocket, each "product" makes real for students the underlying principles just learned in their full-year Aerospace Engineering class.

Mr. Mathew Wajda, a 2007 ND alumnus who teaches the junior and senior elective course, remembers how much he loved building things as a kid. "My dad tells me I had some difficulty reining in my curiosity about how things work," he confesses. "I needed to see the effects of throwing and dropping things, not to mention colliding objects into each other. That sometimes got me in trouble.

"Now I get paid to teach this stuff!" Mr. Wajda enthuses—an enthusiasm that has translated to quite a buzz among students. "I had a study hall during Period F," says Sean Cronan '14 (Milford). "Once I heard how fun and interesting the course was, I petitioned to get in. What's different is that the class is run like a seminar. All of us are expected to participate, to ask questions, and to bounce ideas off each other. It's up to us to pay attention to what he's teaching, because he doesn't stop for nonsense."

And pay attention they do. "The math can be tricky and the science a challenge, but their preparation has been good," Mr. Wajda observes. His students—10 boys and one girl—will soon be using CAD [computer-assisted design] software. "Their eagerness to learn makes them a great group to teach."

Charlie Fallon '14 (Norwalk) is happy to be in that group. "I've known since I was a kid that I wanted



to be an engineer,” he says, “and I was excited that I wouldn’t have to wait until college. I like math and physics, and the idea of applying them to something hands-on appealed. I was like, ‘Oh yes! Sign me up!’”

The Aerospace Engineering course is based on a nationally recognized STEM curriculum [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics] called Project Lead the Way, which Mr. Wajda earned certification to teach at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Designed for grades 6-12, the curriculum is project-based and uses real-world problem-solving as a framework.

“That’s what engineering is,” says Mr. Wajda, “problem solving using the tools of science and data to design possible solutions.” Using science and data, students work in pairs to hand-draw a blueprint that they draw to scale and submit it to Mr. Wajda. “I review each one, write all over them, and either OK them or send them back to the drawing board,” he says.

**“That’s what engineering is,” says Mr. Wajda, “problem solving using the tools of science and data to design possible solutions.”**

Only then do students begin creating the actual prototypes that brings their ideas to life. Once they have fiddled with their prototype, they build the actual model that will be tested based on specific criteria. “Testing is the hardest part. They have to make the model do its job,” says Mr. Wajda.

The competition can be fierce as uniquely shaped gliders fly one-at-a-time across the room, being judged not just on distance, but on stability, duration, direction, balance, efficiency, and design creativity. Or as lighthouses built of index cards and tape (see sidebar) reveal whether or not they can withstand a storm.

In the coming months, lessons and activities will include building and launching Estes rockets; designing airplane parts using CAD software; and a GPS project that will remap Notre Dame on Google Earth. “The curriculum and projects are varied,” says Mr. Wajda, “and cover in different and overlapping ways the fundamental principles of engineering. It’s a very rewarding way to teach, and we have fun along the way.”

## Hands-on projects make concepts real

### THE ASSIGNMENT:

Design a mock prototype of a lighthouse and enter it in a competition to replace a lighthouse in Fairfield damaged in Superstorm Sandy.

### BLUEPRINT:

Your blueprint will have to be approved by Mr. Wajda before you can purchase the building supplies. Please use the attached cost-analysis form to keep track of your expenditures.

### MATERIALS AND COST:

Application for blueprint \$1,000  
Index card pack \$500 each  
Tape \$100 per inch  
Tax 10%

### CRITERIA:

Prototypes will be judged on their strength and stability (can it hold the weight of a cell phone without collapsing or tilting?), height, and cost efficiency.

## Strategic Plan in Action



Aerospace Engineering student Sean Cronan '14 (left) visited Sikorsky Aircraft this fall as part of career exploration day. With him are Robert Araujo, senior engineering manager, and Linda Barlow, environmental, health, and safety engineer.





Among the 13 students taking Mrs. Hong's *Introduction to Dance* course are (l-r): Renice Desrosins '17, Nicola Badaloto '16, Christale McWilliams '17 and Pedro Oliveria '17.

## Dance: A Metaphor for Life



Second from left, Sally Hong as a Radio City Rockette (1996–2001)

Sally Hong's love for dance began at age three—when she learned to spin and twirl from a television show robot played by a human whose every move she mastered. Who knew then that the tiny Hong Kong native would one day dance on far larger stages, a half a world away? (And then come to Notre Dame to teach dance!)

Mrs. Hong's impressive journey reveals the zigs and zags that often precede fulfilling a dream, with each "detour" offering a challenge to meet and a lesson to be learned. "Looking back," she says, "I can see that what I experienced as obstacles were part of what shaped what was to come."

Thus, for example, at age 13 and a relative newcomer to the United States, the only way she could learn tap dancing was in a class with five-year-olds. "Until I went to the studio in California for jazz class, I didn't know there was a form of dance that combined movement and sound. I fell in love with it, but the only beginners class was

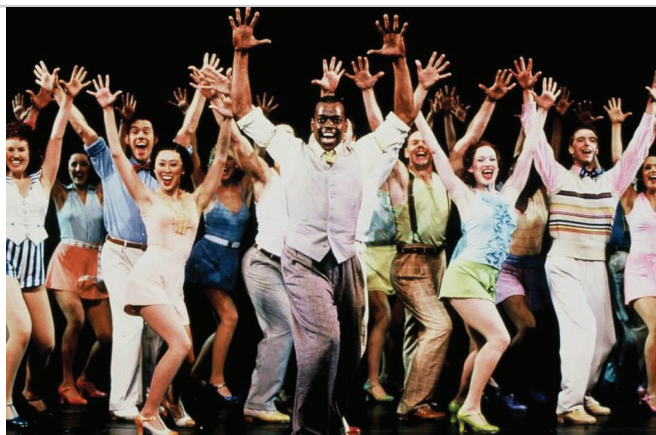
for little kids. They danced circles around me," she remembers with a laugh.

She never imagined that she would one day spend six seasons (1996–2001) as a Radio City Rockette, one of the field's most glamorous, coveted roles. Or that she'd be dancing in the first national tour of *42nd Street* (2003), on Broadway in *Flower Drum Song*, or touring with Sandy Duncan in the *King and I* would follow.

A walk through a different set of zigs and zags will make it clear how unlikely Mrs. Hong's career trajectory was. In high school, she continued taking dance—ballet, tap, jazz—and practiced 3.5 to 4 hours a day (while maintaining a 4.2 GPA). "At the studio where I studied, the only focus was on learning technique, and it was grueling," she says. "Because I was never the best in any of my classes, I had to work hard to get to where others got more easily. I think I stuck with it because I had to work so hard for it."

Yet when it came time for college (University of Southern California), she opted to major in





theater, not dance—largely due to a self-image not quite aligned with reality. “At the time, I thought I was too old to continue dancing; I felt not pretty enough, not tall enough, not whatever else you can think of.”

After graduating *magna cum laude*, she found acting work in—ironically—musical theater, thus returning to her roots in dance. She began studying musical theater and dance at the Professional School for the Arts, where she would also teach. While perusing a trade paper looking for auditions, Mrs. Hong noticed that the Rockettes were having one in the area. “Two hundred people went, and I got a call back as one of 50. Only the final 20 would be chosen, and I was one of them!” she says with delight. “I had six wonderful seasons in a fun, glamorous job.”

Accompanying the glamour were certain hidden realities. “The stage always reeked,” she laughs, “of Ben-gay, Mineral Ice, BioFreeze, Salonpas. We did three to five shows a day, with several hundred kicks per show.” For the unenlightened, a kick only counts as a kick if it goes above the waist. “We were always sore somewhere! One particular dance had 96 kicks in eight minutes. When the music started for that one, my blood would curdle.”

In her final season as a Rockette, Mrs. Hong requested to be a “swing dancer.” As such, she had to learn everyone’s part, and be available to substitute on a moment’s notice. “Getting it created new challenges for me,” she says, “but it’s also nicer to your body because you’re using all your muscles, not just those needed for dancing on one side of the stage.”

From there, she moved into musical theater, both on Broadway and in national tours of several shows. Traveling took its toll (eight shows in six

days, with travel to the next city on the seventh) and she stepped in a new direction.

In 2004, she left the glitz and glamor behind in favor of teaching and family life. She married her college sweetheart of seven years, Michael, and welcomed a son two years later. Now a West Haven resident, she gives private dance lessons, teaches Zumba and Pilates, and joined the ND faculty this fall. “I love the students here,” she says, noting that her Introduction to Dance class of 13 includes two boys and 11 girls, and spans all four class years.



Teresa Salamone '17 (Norwalk), finds the dance course a perfect complement to her other passion—synchronized swimming, which she did for seven years with the New Canaan YMCA. “To me, dance is another way of speaking.”

For Christale McWilliams '17 (Bridgeport), formal dance lessons are a first. “I’m a spirit dancer at my church (Calvary New Testament Church of God) and I’ve always thought of dance as prayer,” she says. “But I’m shy in front of people, so I

thought learning some of the basics might give me more confidence.”

Jordan Crawford '17 (Bridgeport) hopes to go beyond the basics, possibly into musical theater itself. “Dance is my first love,” he says, adding that he’s been taking lessons for four years. “It’s a way to get in touch with and express different sides of myself. Mrs. Hong understands that like no one else I’ve ever met.”

“Dance puts you in touch with your feelings as well, and gives you a way to express them,” says Mrs. Hong. “It’s a metaphor for life, which is always throwing up obstacles. You have to face them adapt, deal with them, and learn from them.” And these students thought the course was just about dance! 💃

ABOVE: Sally Hong’s Broadway credits include appearances in the *Flower Drum Song* (left) and the national tour of *The King and I* (right). At center, she demonstrates a dance move to her current students.



# Carl Philipp:

## A Thread in the ND Tapestry

He has been to every graduation at Notre Dame High School since his own in 1961, when the diploma a young (and beardless) Carl Philipp received marked him as a proud member of the school's second graduating class. Even as he was earning a degree in French at Fairfield University, he retained close ties to Notre Dame, helping fund his college tuition by continuing to work as a dishwasher for the community of some 50 Holy Cross priests and brothers who staffed the boys' division of Notre Dame.



As a senior, Carl Philipp (right) reviewed many a chemistry concept with his lab partner, Michael Cooney '61.

1961

Who knows where life might have taken the newly minted college graduate had Mr. Philipp, who had studied abroad while at Fairfield, opted to accept the Fulbright scholarship he was offered for advanced study in languages. "I was more interested in teaching," he recalls. "When I heard there was a position open at Notre Dame, I turned the Fulbright down. Looking back, I have no regrets; I have loved my 49 years here."

"Carl is our chronicler," says Fr. Bill Sangiovanni, president, noting Mr. Philipp's career as a teacher of Latin, Spanish, and French before his move into administration in 1976. "He began here as one of the school's first students, and has worked with every principal in our history."

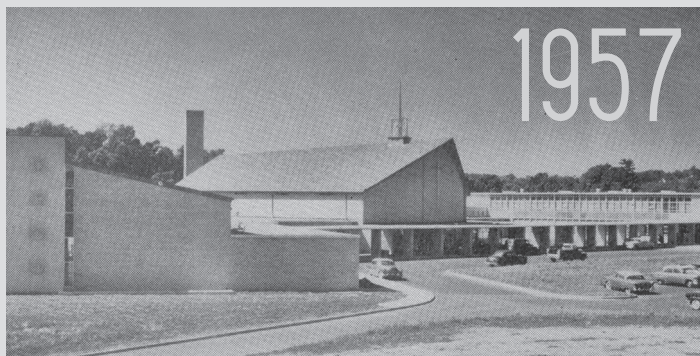
Oh the changes Mr. Philipp has seen—from the school's days as a newly built diocesan high school (co-ed and co-institutional, with the girls' side staffed by 50+ Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur), followed by its controversial separation to different locations, followed by its re-merger in 1973 as a fully co-ed institution at Notre Dame's present facility in Fairfield.

"In many ways, we've come full circle," says Mr. Philipp, alluding to present-day realities wherein ND and Sacred Heart University (which "displaced" ND from its original facility in 1964) enjoy an active and strong partnership. Among other benefits, it includes the use of SHU's library, chapel, and theater by ND students, faculty, clubs, and ministries . . . as well as half-tuition for qualified ND graduates. "These changes have come about in recent years through the strategic efforts of Fr. Bill, Chris Cipriano [principal], and officials at Sacred Heart."

"If we were planning a coed high school today," Mr. Philipp reflects, "we'd want to ensure strength in academics, including the arts, science, and technology," he says. "As a Catholic school, linking faith and service would be essential. And as important, we'd be striving for diversity. In all three areas, I believe we already have the school we would want to create."

Getting to this point has been no easy challenge. Notre Dame was one of several diocesan high schools established in the same timeframe. "What began as a diocesan effort was followed by decentralization, wherein each high school was to build a coalition of parents to help take fiscal responsibility," recalls Mr. Armand Fabbri, who





ABOVE: Notre Dame High School began its history on Park Avenue before moving across the street in January, 1968.

AT RIGHT: Sister Marion Rielly, S.N.D., who became principal of the re-merged ND, played a key role in the construction of the school's first athletic field. Neither she, however, nor longtime teacher John Waldeyer pictured with her, actually rode that tractor!



1968

joined ND's faculty in 1962 and served as assistant principal (1972–83), principal (1983–94), and diocesan superintendent of schools (1994–2004).

"Notre Dame faced built-in obstacles," he explains. "There was a lot of resistance by people who had originally funded the other building, which was understandable. And then there was that unspoken 'directive' not to mess with diocesan donors! It was ultimately the parents whose loyalty and hard work helped us prevail."

#### THE '70s: SCRAPING BY . . . BUT SCRAPPY

"Enrollment-wise," says Mr. Philipp, "Notre Dame Boys School did not do well as a separate entity. By 1972, it was clear we would not make it unless we could merge the boys and girls schools." With the bishop's permission, Fr. Bill Condon, CSC, the principal, went to his counterpart at the girls' school, Sr. Marion Rielly, SND, and proposed the merger. "She could have said no, as the girls' school on Jewett Ave. was doing fine. But Sr. Marion was a visionary, interested in the greater good, and said she'd consider it."

After consulting with parent volunteers whose efforts were making such a difference at the girls' school, she said yes to the merger. "Sr. Marion had a knack with parents, a passion for theater, was an experienced educator and administrator, and was also a clinical psychologist," says Mr. Philipp. "Everyone recognized her talent, and with the full support of the bishop and Holy Cross priests, she was named principal of the 'reunited' school."

For the most part, it was a seamless transition. "It took a couple of years to bring a few of the courses together because of content and sequence differences, but we graduated the first fully coed class in 1974," says Mr. Philipp.

Enrollment grew . . . and with it, Notre Dame's reputation.

Among those who became affiliated in the mid-'70s was a recently ordained diocesan priest,

Fr. Bill Sangiovanni, then trying to form a youth group at St. Patrick's Church in Bridgeport.

"Sr. Marion had sent a letter to diocesan priests inviting us to say Mass at ND for students from our parishes," he recalls. "I was one of many who jumped at the chance." What came next was unexpected—an invitation to teach.

"Sr. Marion had a gift for spotting talent," says Mr. Philipp. "After seeing how effective Fr. Bill was with kids during Mass, she asked him if he'd like to teach a religion course and, if so, to ask the bishop's permission." That granted, ND's current president began teaching—at first one course, and later combining teaching and chaplaincy fulltime.

#### THE '80s: CLIMBING TOWARD EXCELLENCE

Notre Dame had a hidden gem in the late Mr. Richard "Duke" LaTorre, a math and computer science teacher whose genius with computers made ND an early leader in technology in education. By 1980, he had developed computerized systems for report cards, attendance and scheduling, which he shared with other schools in the diocese. He would go on to do the same for tuition, becoming the school's business manager along the way.

"Keep in mind," says Mr. Philipp, "that Sr. Marion ran a very tight fiscal ship. She was not sold on the usefulness of computers [this was 1979] and worried about the cost of electricity to run them. Duke came to me one afternoon in disbelief: 'She's insisting that I unplug them every night!' And so he did."

To understand such frugality, one needs to know about parallel efforts taking place. In the early '80s, Notre Dame had no practice or athletic fields and little money to build them. So while Mr. LaTorre was introducing technology, Mr. Fabbri was spearheading a decade-old benefactor group whose acronym—FUNDS—testified to its purpose: Friends United for Notre Dame Schools.





1974



1984



1990

AT LEFT: Sr. Marion Rielly; BELOW: Mr. Armand Fabbri; BOTTOM: Mr. Carl Philipp

"It has been part of Notre Dame's character and identity to work well with parents," says Mr. Fabbri. "At the time, we had a lot of blue-collar families who worked at places like the phone company, the gas and electric companies, and such. They were not rich but they knew how to work."

When the decision was made to build a field for football, the group's creativity and resolve came together in a big way. Through a connection, physical education teacher (and subsequent Athletic Director) Dave Baye '67 made arrangements with a heavy equipment instruction school to run part of its apprentice training operation at ND on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. "Many of our parents got permission from their bosses to borrow their company's smaller equipment for use at ND on weekends," recalls Mr. Fabbri. "Another parent did the irrigation and underground work at cost. Fathers and sons, as well as faculty and staff, fine-tuned with shovels and rakes.

"Notre Dame's main expenses were the sod and the bleachers. The parents put the bleachers together and built the press box," says Mr. Fabbri, not hiding his pride in what a community of good-hearted volunteers can accomplish. "A project that might have taken a few months had we been able to hire a company took us three years, but we did it."

Not to be forgotten in this project is Sr. Marion Rielly who, while not at the helm of any bulldozers or behind the swing of any shovels, made her own contribution. "Among her many talents, Sr. Marion was quite the cook!" says Mr. Philipp. "So she prepared and provided lunch for the workers and volunteers—a contribution she made nearly every one of those Saturday mornings, for three years."

Near the end of that project, Sr. Marion learned that she had cancer, which would take her a mere year later—but not before she attended the dedication of the football field. After her death in January 1983, Mr. Fabbri took over as principal—with big shoes to fill. "I was so incredibly lucky to inherit what I did," he says, "Sr. Marion had shaped and united Notre Dame into one place, with clear goals and its people of one mind. It would be years before I understood just what an accomplishment that was." Nonetheless, the school was still doing its fiscal balancing act.

Notre Dame was beginning to feel the effects of Bridgeport's hemorrhaging industries; as parents lost jobs, ND lost students. In Norwalk, Central Catholic High School had recently closed, and Mr. Fabbri's thought was to attract some of those students to Notre Dame. He and his assistant principal, Mr. Philipp, took a few test drives to

time that city's proximity—and that of other towns—to ND.

The next year, two 15-passenger vans driven by ND faculty began transporting students to and from Norwalk; subsequently that would grow to five or six additional routes into the Valley, Milford, Bridgeport, and Stratford. "We then became a regional instead of a local high school," says Mr. Philipp. "Ultimately, we went from vans to busses. That was probably a good thing because we'd never asked permission for the vans; who knows how many laws we were breaking?"

Meanwhile, something very right was taking place educationally at Notre Dame. Through the initiative and energies of Ms. Theresa Valentino, a religion teacher, the U.S. Department of Education named Notre Dame a national School of Excellence in 1985. "We were the first school in the diocese so named, and only shared the honor in Connecticut with a public school in Darien," says Mr. Fabbri.

#### THE '90s: DEEPENING FAITH THROUGH SERVICE

When Fr. Lawrence Carroll '72 joined the Notre Dame staff as chaplain in 1991, he realized that students needed more ways to put their faith—be it Catholic or otherwise—into action. In 1992, he and adult volunteer Michael O'Rourke took ND's first cadre of six seniors to Appalachia for a weeklong service experience, volunteering under the auspices of an established organization, Appalachian Volunteers Inc.

Now approaching its 23rd year, the Appalachian Volunteer program is a hallmark activity at Notre Dame and from its modest beginnings became the foundation for an ethos of community service that has only grown through the years. In 1994, engaging in service activities was deemed an integral part of an ND education and was "institutionalized" through an annual service requirement for all students.

"Last year," says Mr. Philipp, "our students volunteered more than 10,000 hours in the region. Many of our graduates continue this service in college and in their own communities." (See related article on page 8.)

#### THE 21ST CENTURY: EMERGING FROM CHALLENGING TIMES

Key to Notre Dame's progress in the new millennium was the attention given to educational technology. "As principal, both Armand and Fr. Bill made sure that our computer labs were the best," says Mr. Philipp. "Given that we had Richard LaTorre as a driving force, students were well prepared for what awaited them in college." One of those students, Jeff Stone '98, returned to ND as a computer science teacher after graduating





from Sacred Heart. “Duke often referred to Jeff as his ‘right hand man,’ and Jeff became one of the go-to persons for faculty learning to weave technology into their teaching.” Today, Mr. Stone is his mentor’s successor as ND’s information technology expert and business manager.

Despite its strong faculty and cutting edge technology, Notre Dame would soon be hit hard by the unemployment of many parents and the economic downturn of recent memory. Enrollment dropped perilously. At the urging of the diocese, Notre Dame moved to a principal/president model of administration that many private schools have found effective. Fr. Bill Sangiovanni became president and Mr. Christopher Cipriano, principal.

“The two of them instituted a formal process of strategic planning in 2009, and got alumni engaged in the process, which set the stage for what is now a clear reversal of those uneasy years,” says Mr. Philipp, noting that Notre Dame has had a 30 percent increase in freshman class enrollment over the course of the last four to five years. In fact, Notre Dame is likely the most diverse school in the region—racially, socioeconomically, and geographically. Students come from 35 cities and towns, and include a mix

of white, Black, and Hispanic teens, while ND’s international students attend the school anywhere from one to all four years, with the majority planning to stay until they graduate.

“Chris is doing a great job implementing the academic side of our strategic plan,” says Mr. Philipp, citing new courses in the arts and sciences, and renovations to the biology and computer labs, the library, and cafeteria. “The relationship with Sacred Heart has helped immensely as well,” says Mr. Philipp, noting that sale of acreage to SHU provided it space to construct a new school of business and ND with the means to install wireless technology and improve the school’s exterior.

“Notre Dame is a good place to be,” says Fr. Bill, hoping a new program called LIFT will enable more students to attend (see story on page 24). “I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. What a blessing it has been, all throughout the years, to have Carl Philipp as an unbroken thread in the tapestry of ND’s history. He’s quiet and he’s humble, a behind-the-scenes force whose contributions have been many. Without a doubt, his fidelity to the school is unmatched.” 🙏

ABOVE: Carl Philipp in his office today, surrounded by mementos of the many educational trips he’s led for Notre Dame during his career.





ND's new director of athletic advancement, seen here with Raina Ceryak '16 and Spencer Bassett '14, is a real "kid magnet." (Spencer took part in "No Shave November," a fundraiser for cancer research—thus the beard!)

## Jim Olayos: Elevating Athletics at ND



Jim Olayos

Jim Olayos, Notre Dame's Director of Athletic Advancement, prides himself on his abilities in "kidspeak," the sometimes baffling language of youth. The youngest of his four sons is 16, which helps Mr. Olayos stay current with the younger generation, where the descriptor "blazin" means good; "sick" is a synonym for stylish, and "swerve" tells the listener to give you some space for a while.

Mr. Olayos' position at Notre Dame is a newly created one, a reflection of the school's renewed commitment to athletics—be that in coach development, student recruitment, and raising funds to enhance both fields and facilities. He arrived at ND in August, bringing with him a range of relevant experience in athletics, program administration, and the law.

"I'm very excited about the energy and vision for athletics that Mr. Olayos is creating at Notre Dame," says Joyce Williams (Norwalk), vice

president of ND's Athletic Association and mother of senior two-sport athlete Briana Mann. "You immediately recognize his passion for the kids and his interest in their overall success. At games—and he's there for most of them—he's like a kid magnet. They're all eager to talk to him."

As a high school student, Mr. Olayos played basketball and baseball at St. Joseph's in Trumbull (where he most recently spent 13 years as Athletic Director). While earning a degree in economics at Fairfield University, he coached basketball at Masuk High in Monroe. Not only did that help with his expenses, but he also earned recognition (*New York Daily News* Coach of the Year) that would cement his reputation in the region. During law school at the University of Bridgeport (now Quinnipiac School of Law), he worked as an assistant coach with Bruce Webster before beginning his career in law.



"When my wife, Kim, and I started having kids, building my law practice occupied the bulk of my time, but I never strayed too far from sports," he says. "I enjoyed my 20 years as a trial lawyer, but as my sons began getting involved in one sport or another, I became aware of what I considered a glaring need." Addressing that need would move him away from law and into the field of youth development.

Some 15 years ago, he co-founded the Future Stars Sports Academy with ND alumnus Frank Oleynik '72, P '03, '06. A unique, "portable" program, it combines the fundamentals of various sports with an educational component (Lessons of Life) that includes academics, relationships, and life challenges. That broad background and the connections he has forged in the region are what Mr. Olayos brings to Notre Dame as he takes on a new professional challenge.

"We have phenomenal kids here at ND; they are so respectful, so unassuming, so eager to succeed," says Mr. Olayos. "The time and effort

they dedicate to a sport can develop important characteristics for success in life. From what I have seen in my few short months here, ND's multi-faceted diversity and spirit of community service lay a strong foundation." What he wants to build upon that is a strong commitment to athletics.

Among his early initiatives has been an enrollment drive to build up the Notre Dame Athletic Association, a group of parents, alumni and friends eager to promote quality athletic programs at ND and assist in their funding. "Right now," he says, "we're just beginning to prepare our wish list."

Fear not, while that list may include big ticket items like a turf field that would include a track portion, smaller projects like netting and fence repair will have an immediate effect as well. "The state and appearance of a school's fields and facilities represent that school's commitment to athletics," he says, "and we have some work to do. Part of my job is to create the means to do so." 🏡

## Building School Spirit

This year, cheering crowds have become the norm at ND sporting events.

Thanks to ND's steady growth in enrollment and a corresponding infusion of young talent, the school is experiencing a resurgence of energy and excitement around its various sports teams, and support for each is growing. For students, it's a community-building bonanza. Wear an ND tee-shirt and they score free admission to home basketball games. Wear an official ND sweatshirt and admission to ND hockey games at Milford Ice Pavilion is free. Families and friends have a cost-effective way to cheer on the teams as well, through season passes available through the Office of the Athletic Director.

It has made a difference. Attendance at events is way up, especially as entire teams opt to go to other teams' games. Thus, for example, the football team cheered on girls' soccer this fall, while girls' volleyball came out en masse for boys' soccer. While both soccer teams are young and building, they each took pride in coming within a game of making the state tournament. One young woman, Erika Quinones '17, was named to the All-State team, a first in ND girls' soccer history. In winter sports, the boys' hockey and basketball teams each earned a berth in their respective state tournaments.

"We're focusing our efforts on making athletics an integral part of the ND spirit," says Mr. Rob Bleggi '93, athletic director. "Kids need to feel pride in their school, and athletics is a big part of that. We recognize that the excitement must be felt here first, so our focus this year has been to engage as many students as possible in supporting our teams."

In that, the teams themselves are setting the example, faithfully attending many of each other's home and away games. That spirit extends to the cheerleaders, as well. Their loyalty to ND teams of all stripes was rewarded this year in a special way: at a recent cheerleading competition, the boys' basketball and football teams came out to cheer *for them*.







ND's football team raked leaves last fall for senior citizens unable to do so.

To build and reinforce awareness of Notre Dame's Catholic identity, Campus Ministry has broadened its efforts to include athletic teams in its various spiritual and service activities. "While there's no requirement to attend," says Fr. Peter Cipriani, chaplain, "most students appreciate the chance to have a team Mass on a special occasion, and they've been among the school's most enthusiastic community volunteers."

Members of the girls' soccer team, for example, took pre-K students in Bridgeport's St. Andrew Academy to the Burr Mansion's Enchanted Castle this fall for a delightful afternoon with princesses and such.

The football team (pictured above) participated in the Danbury-region annual Rake and Bake event, spending a Saturday morning raking yards for senior citizens unable to do so.

Traveling to Meriden, the girls' volleyball team put in a green-thumb effort by gardening and landscaping at a farm operated by the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, followed by the chance to eat and pray with the sisters.

"Many athletes go far beyond these team options for service," says Fr. Cipriani, "in a spirit that seems rooted in a deeper place."

## The ND Athletic Association: You're Invited



Given the energy and excitement building for athletics at Notre Dame, the ND Athletic Association is a major plus for the school's various programs. Its aim, according to Mr. James Olayos, director of athletic advancement, is to promote quality athletic programs for all student-athletes and assist in funding them.

With a membership drive now underway, the organization's vice president, Joyce Williams '14 (Norwalk) encourages parents and alumni to get involved. "The kids need and appreciate our

support," she says, "and Mr. Olayos welcomes our ideas and input in prioritizing what needs to be done. His optimism and enthusiasm are contagious and have set a wonderful tone for our activities."

Everyone in the ND community is welcome and encouraged to join this "team" that benefits all ND teams. There's a free Lancer car magnet in it for you, if you do!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Mr. Olayos at [olayos@notredame.org](mailto:olayos@notredame.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

- That a partnership between ND and Webster Bank Arena gave the boys and girls hockey and basketball teams the thrill of playing at that venue this season?
- That in April, Notre Dame varsity baseball played in a high-school triple-header at HarborYard, as part of a Wounded Warrior benefit that concluded with a Bridgeport Bluefish game?
- That for the third consecutive year, ND won the Michaels Cup, awarded at the CIAC annual sportsmanship conference?
- That Notre Dame's rising enrollment means the reinstatement of freshman football, basketball, and baseball for fall 2014?



# Lancer Legacy Gala

As attendees moved from one beautiful venue to another on Sacred Heart University's campus, Notre Dame's Lancer Legacy Gala became a floating celebration, an evening of laughter, mingling, and memories. What turned the event into a gala was the scope of celebration involved—from community leaders . . . to alumni Hall of Famers . . . to Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. ND honored the following:

## Community Leaders

**Dr. John Petillo**, president of Sacred Heart University (Carole Christy Surina Educator Award)

**Frank and Patricia Carrano** (Sister Marion Rielly Leadership Award)

**Hon. Daniel Caruso** (Notre Dame Community Impact Award)

## Alumni Hall of Fame

Stephen Cavallo '65

Michael Clancy '80

Thomas Intelisano '73

Hugh Narciso '80

Dawn Pilotti '92

## Athletic Hall of Fame

Jeff Beveno

George Burr '64

Bill Garfield '91

Patricia Stramoski Hajducky '79

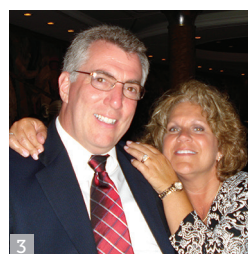
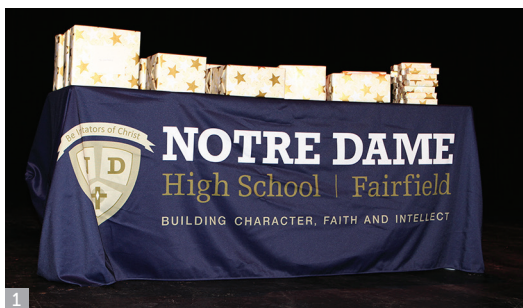
1964 Football Team

1964 Baseball Team

1977 Softball Team

1989 Hockey Team

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE AN ND GRADUATE for the 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame, please visit the ND website (<http://www.notredame.org/pages/alum.html>) for more information and the nomination form. Deadline for nominations is Nov. 1, 2014.



"Brian and I had a fantastic time at the Gala. We ran into some old colleagues and friends, and made some new acquaintances. The speeches by the award recipients validated the success of the school and its values. We are so proud that our Brendan will be attending Notre Dame in the fall."

—ANNMARIE BRIONES



1. Gifts for the Lancer Legacy honorees, Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame recipients.
2. Dr. John Petillo
3. Frank and Patricia Carrano, P'99
4. Hon. Daniel Caruso
5. Notre Dame parents Kevin and Deb Bradley, P'14,'16 and Kim and Howard Wardlow, P'13,'16
6. Terry Clancy '78, Colleen Clancy '70, Mary Donnelly '73, Meghan Clancy '75, Patty (Donnelly) Davitt '64, Maura Clancy '71, Michael Clancy '80, Michael Donnelly '81
7. Mark Stramoski '70, Joe Hajducky '77, Trish (Stramoski) Hajducky '79, Daniel Hajducky, Sandy (Moretti) Stramoski '75, Paul Stramoski '72, Dana Infante, Nick Infante.





## LIFTing students to their full potential



Notre Dame has launched a special sponsorship and mentoring program called LIFT, an acronym closely related to the school's

founding mission: Lancers Invest for Tomorrow. Because we live in a region marked by sharp disparities in income, many bright young men and women cannot afford the blessing of a Notre Dame education. Equally important, the talents and strengths they might bring to the ND student body are lost to the community.

"LIFT is ND's response to this dilemma," says Mr. Chris Cipriano, principal. "Creating a way to provide deserving students with a strong academic foundation, and building in them the confidence, character, and discipline needed for success."

"LIFT moves our mission to a new level," notes Mr. James Olayos, director of athletic advancement. "We're asking alumni, friends, corporations, and agencies to invest, to 'pay it forward,' if you will, by targeting their time, talent, and treasure to help particular students, while still maintaining their traditional giving to Notre Dame." The LIFT program enables benefactors to make a substantial difference in a young person's life,

through full or partial tuition support for all four years, as well as the option to engage in one-to-one mentoring. The latter involves a commitment to plan mentoring meetings several times a year, as well as contact in between via phone or e-mail.

"Donors choose their level of involvement," says Mr. Olayos, "which is part of the beauty of it. We then do our best to match donors who, for example, have an interest in technology or the arts with a student who indicates similar interests."

Each donor's gift serves one purpose only: tuition assistance for accepted students whose records, applications, and recommendations indicate both high academic promise and true financial need. The LIFT program has been established as an entity separate from Notre Dame's regular operating budget and financial aid awards system. It is meant to add to Notre Dame's resources, both financially and academically, bringing to the school the presence, talent, and example of bright, deserving students who might otherwise not be able to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please visit <https://www.notredame.ejoinme.org/LIFTgiving> or contact Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik at [marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org).

## Sister Marion Rielly, SND, Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 2013-14 recipients of the Sr. Marion Rielly Scholarship, named for one of the most amazing principals in ND history (see related article on page 16). The scholarship, which recognizes prowess in academics, leadership, and service, is benefiting (l-r): Alexandra D'Aurio '16 (West Haven), Ashley Maitland '15 (Norwalk), Jessica Cannon '14 (Shelton), and Rachel Jankovsky '14 (West Haven).

THE ANNUAL SISTER MARION RIELLY SCHOLARSHIP MASS AND BREAKFAST is held each fall. This event helps to subsidize the scholarship fund. If you would like to be put on the Sister Marion Rielly Mass and Breakfast mailing list, please contact Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik at [marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org).



## Commemorative Bricks

Walking on the path from the driveway to the front entrance of Notre Dame is, for anyone who has a history with the school, a heartwarming experience. Step after step, a series of commemorative bricks reveal the names of ND alumni, parents, families, faculty, and friends whose pride in the school is there for all to see.

If you would like to join this honor roll of satisfaction, this legacy of loyalty—either in your own name, as a special occasion gift to that hard-to-buy-for person, or in memory of a loved one—please contact Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik ([marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org)) for details. Each brick costs \$65 and includes up to 15 letters in 3 rows.





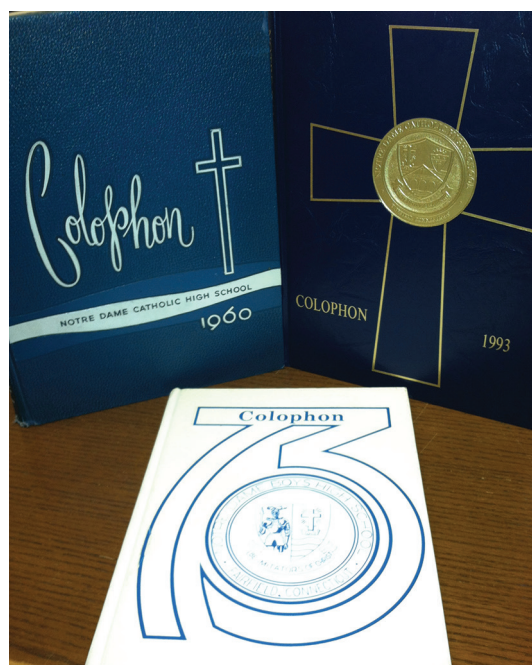
## Physics Wall of Fame

In Philosophy of Education courses, professors have always recommended that aspiring teachers design captivating bulletin boards (although there has been no definitive correlation that well-designed bulletin boards increase academic achievement).

In a quest to design such a bulletin board, then-newly minted physics teacher Mr. Wayne Sakal came up with an idea, prompted by a student query: "Why don't we get our names on the bulletin board if we pass physics?" With that, the "Physics Wall" was started in 1982. By 1999,

the names engulfed the entire west wall of the physics lab. The turn of the century brought change and the wall was covered up, replaced by other themes.

In February, the replacement board needed repairs and, for the first time in a decade, "The Original Wall" was exposed. Then the wall was covered up again, replaced this time with an Academic Lineage bulletin board; How many years will it take for another generation of ND students to discover the ever-more-ancient Physics Wall once more?

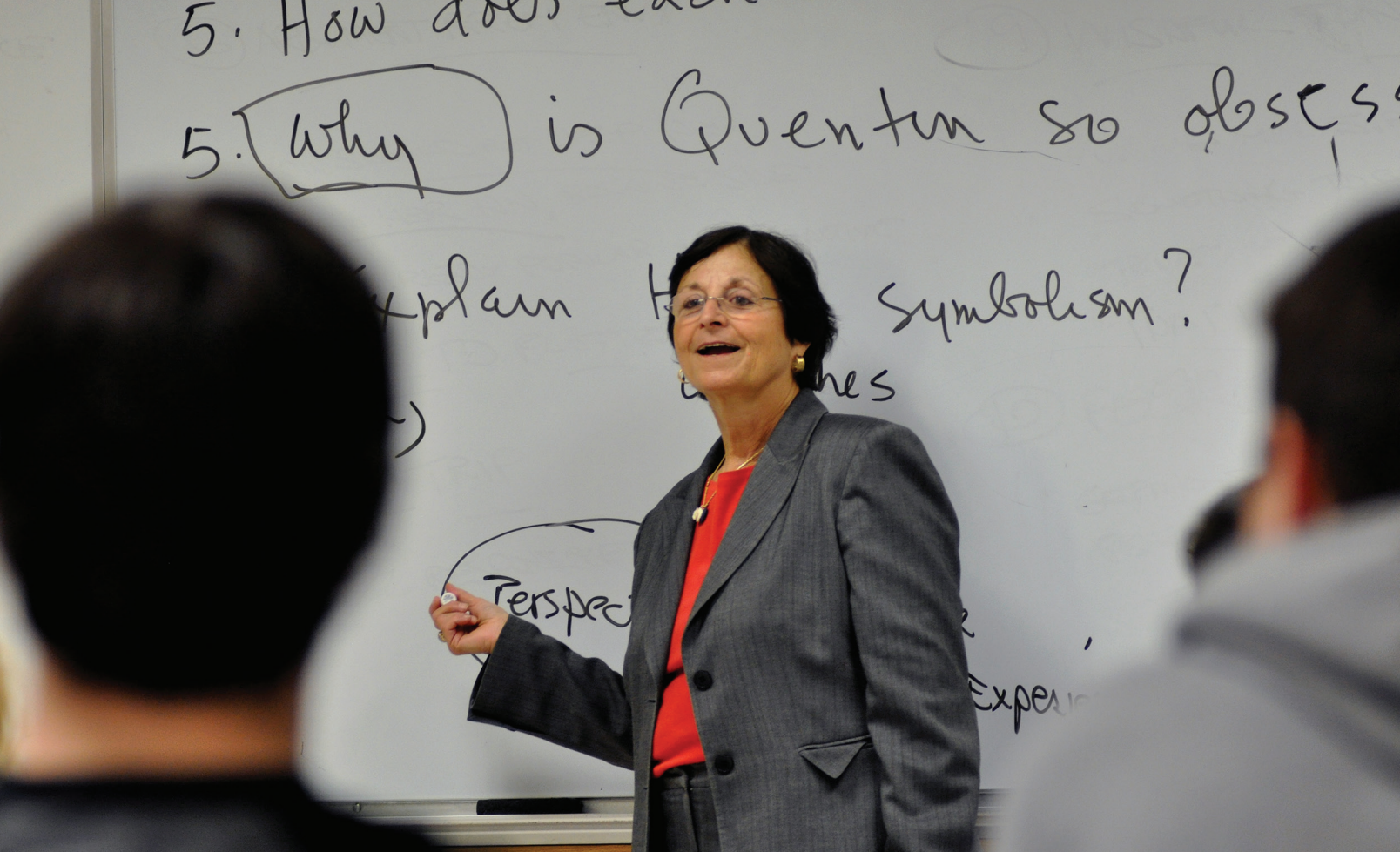


## Missing Yearbooks!

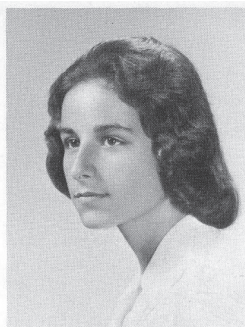
We hope you can help us acquire copies of the 1963 girls' and boys', 1964 girls' and 1971 boys' *ND Colophon*, the only yearbooks missing from our collection. We don't mind if it's marked with the well-wishes of classmates; in fact, that makes it more fun.

The alumni office is always happy to take any other ND memorabilia you would like to donate to our archives. If you can help, please contact Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik at [marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org).





## Michelle Carbone Loris '64



MICHELLE A. CARBONE

Jigsaw puzzles defeat her, admits Michelle (Carbone '64) Loris, who has nevertheless spent much of her professional life putting together the disparate elements that make for a strong collegiate core curriculum. "I'm more of a left-brain person when it comes to my work," she says, referring to a love for program, curriculum, and faculty development that is rooted in her passion for teaching and learning.

"That passion was shaped and developed during my years at Notre Dame," she says. "The nuns, who wore full habits at the time, were very strict, gave lots of homework, and had high expectations of us girls." Perhaps rising to those expectations together helped form the lifelong friendships Dr. Loris traces to her days at ND. "One of those classmates, Theresa Martinez, was the most influential person in my life. She went on to become an excellent elementary school teacher and principal before her passing in 2010," she says. "Looking back, I believe the nuns who taught us opened our minds to learning and also gave us the skill set to expand it."

Apparently so. Today, Dr. Loris serves as the associate dean of Sacred Heart University's College of Arts & Sciences, and was recently honored as Connecticut's Professor of the Year

by two prestigious national organizations: the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

**Today, Dr. Loris serves as the associate dean of Sacred Heart University's College of Arts & Sciences, and was recently honored as Connecticut's Professor of the Year by two prestigious national organizations.**

Her journey to such distinction has been noteworthy. After high school, she stayed put—it could be said—earning her undergraduate degree at Sacred Heart, located on the campus that was home to ND when she graduated in 1964. She went on to earn doctorates in both American literature (Fordham University) and clinical psychology (Antioch College). For nearly 40 years now, she has brought the energy, expertise, and fruits of those disciplines to her students and colleagues at SHU.

Along the way, she has been awarded program and curriculum development grants from entities including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations,





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and the Lilly Fellows National Exchange Program—the latter to bring 50 educators from across the nation to SHU to learn about the signature Human Journey core curriculum she designed, based on and reflecting the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Dr. Loris was the founding director of what is now SHU’s Jandrisevits Learning Center, where individual tutoring and small group workshops equip struggling learners with additional tools for academic success. She also designed a Basic Studies Program for students with remediation needs. At the other end of the spectrum, she directed the Honors Program for several years, shaping it as an interdisciplinary, team-taught enterprise.

These efforts led to an increase in administrative responsibilities, but have yet to take Dr. Loris out of the classroom. “Most of all, I am a teacher,” she said in her Professor of the Year application. “My aim is to challenge, enliven, and inspire in my students a love of knowledge and learning; careful, analytical, and ethical thinking; and a deeper, empathetic understanding of themselves, others, and the world in which they live.”

Upon reflecting, Dr. Loris attributes these same qualities to the likes of Sr. Virginia Therese,

Sr. Imelda, Sr. St. Therese, several of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who taught her at ND.

“They instilled indelible characteristics that helped shape who all of us would become, academically, intellectually, religiously, and spiritually,” she says. “Many were women ahead of their time, paving the way for me, for my friend, Theresa, and for the rest of us.”



Among the lifelong friends Michelle Loris made while a student at ND was the late Theresa Martinez '64, seen relaxing here with Michelle in 1970 (at left) and at the beach in 2000 (below).







## Class of 1963 (50 years)

### 1. Class of 1963 Reunion

More than 75 graduates attended the 1963 Reunion in October.

### 2. Class of 1963 Reunion

From (l-r) Katherine "Cassie" (Muratori) Mazzucco, Ann Marie (Tutor) King, Joan (Piazza) Oros

### 3. Class of 1963 Reunion

From (l-r) Bob Cenci, John Lotty, Charles Niznansky

The Class of 1963 celebrated its 50th reunion in grand style with three very different events that drew lots and lots of classmates for a wonderful weekend of memories and renewed friendships. The weekend (Oct. 4-6) began at Notre Dame with an outdoor picnic on the side patio and grounds, and included a visit from the Super Duper Weenie truck and lots of table hopping. When darkness fell, a number of fire pits were lit and folks gathered around to make smores and continue conversations.

Saturday evening featured a cocktail hour and sit-down dinner at the Marriott in Trumbull, complete with door prizes brought from wherever attendees lived, and quiet background music. "The reunion committee decided on background music," said members Joan (Piazza) Oros and Cassie (Muratori) Mazzucco, "because we knew we'd want to hear each other talk!" They credited a fabulous turnout to the efforts of classmate Margaret "Marge" (Rossini) Golden, a genealogist who spent untold hours tracking people down.



## Alumni Association



### YOU'RE INVITED!

At long last, Notre Dame has an official Alumni Association, and you're invited to join. Through professional, educational, and social events, the Association hopes to promote and increase alumni participation in ND-related activities.

Annual dues are \$20, and help defray the cost of events which in 2014 will include a Career Night for current students, Homecoming in the fall, Alumni Service Day, and Breakfast with Santa for alumni children. For a real bargain, get a custom key chain (regularly \$10) and pay your dues for just \$25, by logging on to the ND website and filling in the membership form.

Association meetings are held every other month throughout the year and all alumni and alumni parents are welcome to attend.

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Lancer Open in Memory of Bob Shea Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, September 22, 2014, at the Redding Country Club.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the Alumni Office at [marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org).

### KEEP US INFORMED

Please remember to inform the Alumni Office of any changes in your name, address, employer, or email/phone number by either:

- E-mailing the Alumni Office: [marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org)
- Logging on to the alumni page of ND's website [www.notredame.org/pages/alum.html](http://www.notredame.org/pages/alum.html)
- Sending changes through our Facebook pages