

IMPACT

The Magazine of Notre Dame High School

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010s

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: 60 Years of Notre Dame Alumni

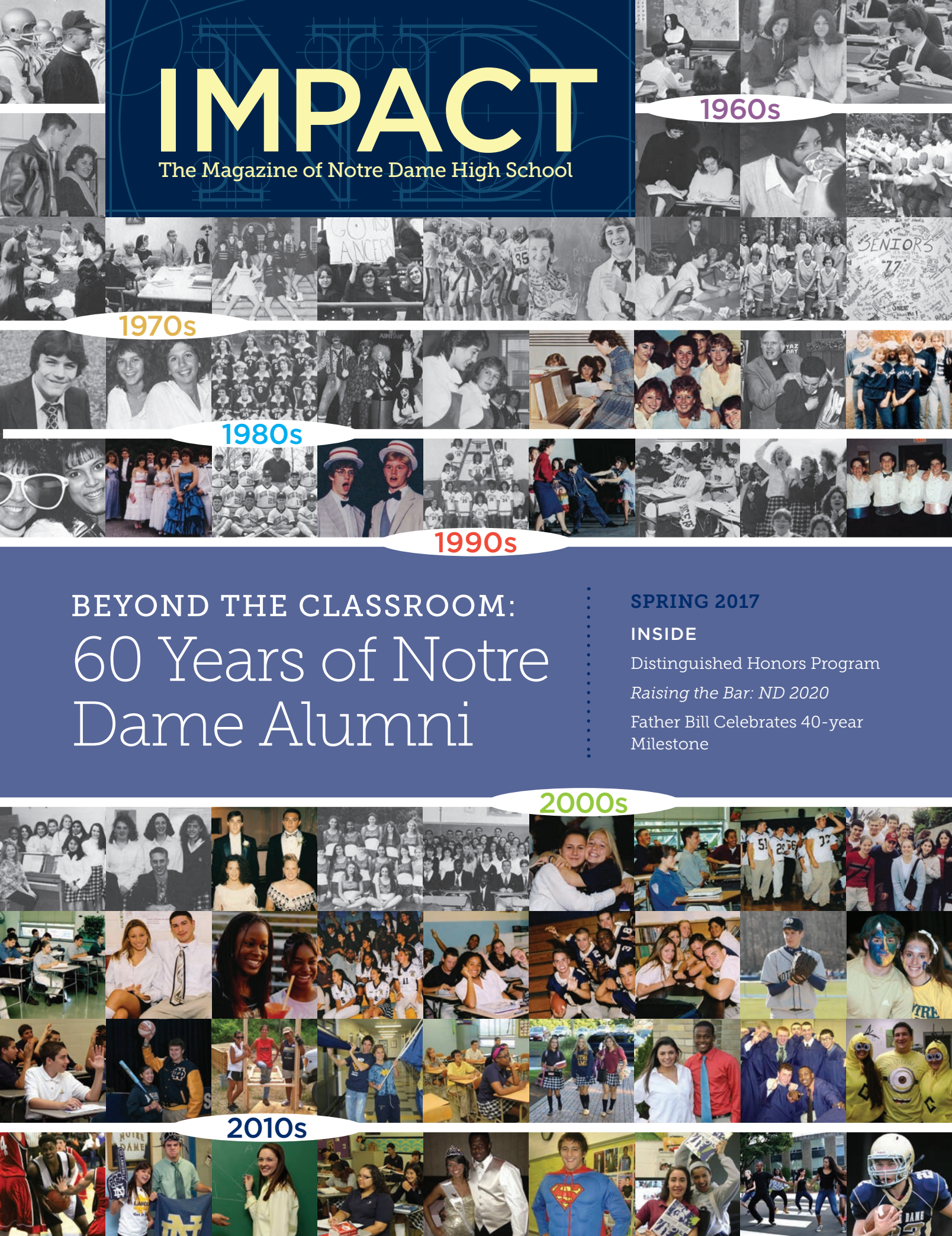
SPRING 2017

INSIDE

Distinguished Honors Program

Raising the Bar: ND 2020

Father Bill Celebrates 40-year
Milestone



Spring 2017
Contents



02 Scholars Program
 New program provides an extra-competitive edge



03 Be an Ally
 Building a positive school culture



05 The Arts
 ND grad turned playwright



06 Strategic Plan
Raising the Bar: ND 2020



08 Beyond the Classroom
 60 Years of Notre Dame Alumni



12 40 Years for Father Bill
 A testament to faith, hope and love



14 In the Community
 ND's Weekend of Service



16 Growing ND
 The 60th Anniversary Celebration



18 Sports
 Soccer Does it Again!

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ON THE COVER
 Beyond the Classroom:
 60 Years of Notre Dame Alumni

LETTER FROM OUR School Principal

Dear Friends,

Is it my sincere pleasure to present to you the 2017 edition of *Impact* magazine. In the coming days, we will be completing another successful school year, this one highlighted by our year-long 60th Anniversary celebration. The school, founded by Bishop Shehan in 1956, continues to thrive and produce students ready for college and the world.

I couldn't be prouder of our soon-to-be-graduates, the Class of 2017, as well as all those who have come before them. The ND tradition of creating Imitators of Christ—and building character, faith, and intellect—remains an important mission, one which we work towards achieving each and every day.

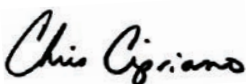
As we seek to build upon our successes of the past, I am excited to unveil our new Strategic Plan—*Raising the Bar: ND 2020*. This very ambitious plan will continue to support the many programs and opportunities that currently exist, while providing a road map for new programs and innovative ideas which will allow Notre Dame to be competitive and provide our students with a solid, faith-filled, Catholic education. Please visit our web site to read the full plan. I am confident you will be as excited and proud of it as I am.

In addition to a new strategic plan, the coming school year will bring some big changes to ND as our long-time President (and principal before that) Fr. Bill Sangiovanni will officially

retire on June 30 after 37 years at the school. Father, though, will still be a presence in the building and a continued supporter in his new role as President Emeritus. In addition to Father, long-time Assistant Principal Carl Philipp, who has spent the last 52 years at Notre Dame as teacher and administrator, will also be retiring in June from his full-time day-to-day position. It is with tremendous thanks, gratitude, and heart-felt appreciation that we salute these two men who have dedicated their careers to supporting Notre Dame and Catholic education.

Please have a wonderful summer, and I hope to see you around Notre Dame in the near future . . .

All the best,



Christopher Cipriano
PRINCIPAL





Dr. Mary Callaghan with members of the 2016-17 Distinguished Scholars Program.

NOTRE DAME LAUNCHES

Distinguished Scholars Program

A NEW PROGRAM AIMS TO GIVE highly motivated incoming students a rigorous high school curriculum, tough enough to challenge them and give them the competitive edge that the best colleges want to see.

Nine incoming freshmen were selected for the Distinguished Scholars Program (DSP) last September, with acceptance based on 8th grade performance, recommendations from teachers, an interview, and a personal essay detailing why they think they would be good candidates for such a challenging program. Taken together, these factors generally reveal whether or not each student can manage his or her time and has a deep interest in learning. “All of their classes at ND will be high honors classes,” explains Program Director and Academic Dean Dr. Mary Callaghan, who also teaches English. “While there will be other honor students in their classes, those nine will form a cohort that will be together all four years.”

Although the academic expectations of the DSP are considerable, the students in the program all say they were looking for a curriculum that would challenge

them. “The idea of being in a cohort-type group with opportunities to take a more advanced course load was really appealing to me,” says Sophie Sieber ’20 (Trumbull). In English class, she notes that the group read Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*, and Viktor Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*—both thought-provoking books that the class examined on a deep level. She also appreciates the additional enrichment opportunities offered, such as a recent field trip to Yale Repertory Theatre.

A Notre Dame education is broad-based, and the DSP is no exception. As tough as their curriculum is, “many of these students are musicians, some play lacrosse, and all are involved in extra-curriculars,” says Dr. Callaghan. That was particularly important to Ethan Miller ’20 (Monroe), who was intrigued by the challenge of the DSP but is equally passionate about his music. ND’s music program was another draw for him. In addition to his schoolwork, he found time for soccer, band, and to perform in the orchestra for the spring production of *Les Misérables*.

“We’ve already seen that these students support each other academically,

they challenge each other, and they’ve developed a sense of community,” says Dr. Callaghan. Ethan agrees. “Being in a cohort has made it really easy to make tightly bound friendships,” he says. “It’s a really supportive atmosphere, and I don’t see very much competition.”

Besides the many opportunities for service that are always available to students, it’s likely that DSP students will work together on a particular project during their junior or senior years, although this idea is still in the development stage. In the meantime, they have participated in a number of service projects, including one for Mr. Gaetano Marra in the Admission office that all seemed to enjoy.

For support, DSP students are paired with upperclassmen in the National Honor Society, and they meet regularly with their guidance counselors and mentors, just as all ND students do. Those participating in the program receive a scholarship toward tuition each year. In September, ND will admit 14 freshmen into the next DSP cohort. ♡

BY NINA M. RICCIO



NAMES ASSEMBLY

Be an Ally, Not a Bystander . . .

ONE PANELIST SPOKE OF BEING BULLIED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Another confessed to spreading rumors.

Still others spoke of being shamed for their religion or race.

“Honestly, I was amazed at what the students were willing to share,” said English teacher Ms. Diana Taccone. “They were very brave.”

The occasion was a full-day, anti-bullying program called Names Can Really Hurt Us, organized by the Anti-Defamation League and coordinated by Ms. Taccone along with guidance counselor Mrs. Lisa Seperack. The central theme of the program: Be respectful. Be an ally, not a bystander. When a bystander intervenes, the bullying almost always stops. The program focused upon building a positive

school culture where all students and staff feel respected. Besides the six student panelists who agreed to share their stories, the day included a film, an open mic period, and small group discussions, moderated by trained faculty and student co-facilitators, during which students talked about what they heard, how that made them feel, and what they could do to make ND a welcoming place for all.

In the month that followed, students signed a banner pledging ‘to be an ally,’ then received bracelets to remind them of that pledge, says Ms. Taccone, who hopes to continue with more activities to reinforce the message next year. 🙏

Notre Dame held a full-day program in February aimed at building a positive school environment for all students.



BACK TO NATURE

Meet the Ambassador



At the National Park Service conference in Washington, D.C., student Ben Clark met with noted biologist Dr. E.O. Wilson, “an esteemed scientist who is a hero of mine,” he says.

A CHILDHOOD SPENT FISHING with his grandfather and playing in the woods of southern Maine fueled the passion Ben Clark '19 (Bridgeport) has for nature and all its diversity. As a sixth grader, he joined the 2011 Rocky Mountain BioBlitz sponsored by National Geographic—an event in which thousands of people take to the national parks to identify as many different species of plants, animals, insects, and fungi as possible. Shortly thereafter, the director asked him to be a Youth Ambassador, a position he proudly accepted.

As a National Park Service Youth Ambassador, one of Ben’s primary responsibilities is to raise youth awareness and involvement with the aim of cultivating young

stewardship of the earth and its resources. To that end, he led a group of students on a bioblitz of the local wetlands while he was still in grade school—an event so inspiring that 42 fellow students, plus teachers and parents, joined the Golden Gate (CA) BioBlitz the following year. Now a Notre Dame sophomore, he’s planning to facilitate a trip to tag horseshoe crabs for the purpose of study, and another to plant beach grass with the goal of preventing erosion. It’s that dedication and passion for mission that earned Ben the honor “Everyday Young Hero” by Youth Service America, an organization that honors young people dedicated to improving their communities through service. 🇺🇸



Enrollment on the Rise

WITH ENROLLMENT UP and a waiting list for next September, Director of Admission Gaetano Marra admits he’s more than satisfied. “We had 115 in last September’s freshmen class, and we’re aiming for 135 or so next September,” he says. One new initiative

has been a concerted effort to meet with each and every family interested in Notre Dame. “It’s a great opportunity to answer their questions and tell them about all the great things happening at this school.” 🇺🇸

ARTS FEATURE

Save Us!

Notre Dame students go back to the 1930s in a play that explores what it's like to fear the end is near.

THIS YEAR'S FALL DRAMA was an all-Notre Dame affair, when *Save Us!*, a two-act play written by ND grad Dan Murphy '13, was chosen for production. Mr. Joshua St. Onge, religion teacher and chair of the Arts department, and Ms. Jessica Mazal, also an ND religion teacher, co-directed the play.

Dan, who graduated in May with a degree in theatre arts and English from Sacred Heart University (SHU), was introduced to theatre while at Notre Dame, where he thrived in the spring musical productions. "The summer before my senior year, Josh (St. Onge) challenged me to write a play for the senior cabaret, so I figured I'd give it a try," recalls Dan. Though he had always enjoyed creative writing, "playwriting is very different. It's structure-based and very specific."

Nevertheless, he got hooked. "Notre Dame gave Dan his spark of interest in the theatre, but he fanned the flames when he got to Sacred Heart," says Mr. St. Onge. "It's great to see how much he's progressed."

Save Us! is an original drama that Dan wrote at SHU and adapted for ND's fall theatrical production. Inspired by the Orson Welles' broadcast, "War of the Worlds," and the public hysteria that followed, the story explores the roller-coaster ride of emotions and soul-searching among a group of people convinced that some hours spent in a diner were to be their last. A declaration of martial law ensures that they're stuck in the diner, terrified of aliens and the dire warnings they're hearing on the radio. Their real anxieties, however, are about everything else, such as their families and their relationships.

"In life, people don't always say what they mean, but when I'm writing, I try to find moments where I can focus on truth, maybe with a character dealing with conflict," explains Dan.

Acting coach and ND English teacher, Kevin Fitzpatrick, worked with the cast of 10 to adapt their posture and speech to mirror the more formal mannerisms of nearly 100 years ago. He suggested various period films to watch, and several actors to whom the students could look for inspiration. When



TOP Poster designed by Paul Keegan '19; ABOVE Cast and production team of *Save Us!*

the students combined this coaching with the script and their own feelings about each character, the end result "was just magic," says Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Staging this play had the added benefit of teaching the students a bit about history, adds Mr. St. Onge. "For them, the concept of sitting quietly and listening to a radio program was so foreign; it led them to consider the role of media and how it has changed through the years."

At Sacred Heart, Dan involved himself in the business of theatre as well as its more artistic side. He has spent two years on the Theatre Arts Executive Board, and has served as producer of Theatre Fest, an annual program showcasing shows written, directed, and performed by students. Most recently, he's applied to several graduate education programs with the goal of teaching English at the secondary level . . . though he's sure "writing will always be a part of me." 🍷

BY NINA M. RICCIO



INSPIRED LEARNING



TRANSFORMATIVE FAITH



CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

STRATEGIC PLAN

Looking Ahead to 2020

As Notre Dame High School celebrates its 60th anniversary, the future looks brighter than ever.

THANKS TO THE SCHOOL'S previous strategic plan, *Aspire & Achieve 2016*, Notre Dame has experienced five straight years of growth, with a thirty-six percent enrollment boost overall and an astonishing sixty percent increase in the most recent freshman class (as compared to 2010). New academic programs are in place, facility renovations are underway, and the school's partnership with Sacred Heart University is an increasingly dynamic one.

However, this is no time to relax and glory in past accomplishments, says Academic Dean Dr. Mary Callaghan.

"If Notre Dame remains static as an institution, we'll risk falling behind the learning needs of our students," she explains. "We must stay in step with advances in education and technology if we're going to successfully prepare our students for future challenges."

The school's new strategic plan, *Raising the Bar: ND 2020*, is keeping the school's momentum—and vision—fresh and moving forward. Specifically, the plan outlines four top strategic initiatives: to build Notre Dame's effectiveness as a school that offers Inspired Learning, Transformative Faith, Christian Leadership, and Responsible Stewardship to the entire community.

"It's important for Notre Dame to offer the best academic opportunities," notes Principal Chris Cipriano. "However, we are also preparing students to contribute to the world as thoughtful citizens and leaders. Our new plan outlines the ways in which we intend to continue evolving as both a top academic institution and as a supportive community where students can grow not only as scholars, but personally, spiritually, and emotionally, too."

“Our new plan outlines the ways in which we intend to continue evolving as both a top academic institution and as a supportive community where students can grow not only as scholars, but personally, spiritually, and emotionally, too.”

—CHRISTOPHER CIPRIANO

Powerful Strategic Themes for Future Growth

STRATEGIC THEME 1: Inspired Learning

Notre Dame has always been a place where education is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person. The school is especially committed to developing active, engaged learners who can think, communicate, collaborate, solve problems, and be innovative.

Or, as Dean Callaghan puts it, “The heart of the matter is improving the day-to-day class experience for all. We must constantly ask ourselves what we can do better, as we tailor Notre Dame’s educational opportunities to the emerging needs of our students. Most of all, our hope is that we engender a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.”

The plan’s Inspired Learning goals include conducting a comprehensive curriculum review and providing a rich, integrated, student-centered learning experience. Strategic objectives range from defining essential learning outcomes to developing a summer study skills prep program and enriching honors program.

STRATEGIC THEME 2: Christian Leadership

Notre Dame has always called upon the community to lead by serving others. Now the school is enhancing opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to do so by implementing a Christian leadership strategic initiative. There is an institution-wide intent to mentor and challenge students to become Christian servant leaders; implement a Student Prefect Program; provide ongoing leadership training for administration, faculty, staff, and board; and develop more service-focused partnerships to expand community presence and cultivate Notre Dame’s relationship with community leaders and organizations.

STRATEGIC THEME 3: Transformative Faith

Raising the Bar: ND 2020 outlines a clear strategy for providing a more integrated Catholic faith experience. The goals here include guiding students to develop an active prayer life that deepens their awareness of God’s loving presence and seeking ways to strengthen the impact of the school’s religion curriculum. The plan also includes objectives related to fostering the connection of faith and service by expanding partnerships with local churches, Catholic schools, and other Catholic service organizations.

STRATEGIC THEME 4: Responsible Stewardship

By building responsible stewardship within the community, Notre Dame can ensure the school will reach its goals by continuing to build a growth-oriented, sustainable operational plan. Developing a robust, institutional advancement model will help Notre Dame expand and deepen its outreach and engagement with stakeholders and audiences. The school will also continue growing enrollment, as Notre Dame begins the groundwork for a major capital campaign that will help provide the very best in technology, facilities, and academic programs for the community.

What’s Next?

Now that the school’s plan is in place, next steps involve creating and supporting teams to implement it. This may sound like a tall order, but this is one instance where it’s appropriate to look back in time.

“I remember when the last strategic plan came out,” Dr. Callaghan says with a laugh. “I read it and thought, Dear God, are all of these things possible to achieve? But, one by one, we have worked together to reach those goals. Knowing that gives me confidence that we will succeed in working together to implement this new strategic plan, too. Notre Dame is a place with a rich history, but it’s also a school with a strong spirit, great energy, and hope for the future.”

BY HOLLY ROBINSON



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: 60 Years of Notre Dame Alumni



Notre Dame alumni are everywhere.

They are saving lives, caring for the poor, leading organizations, bringing us the news, and more. Each graduate's story—of exploration, moral responsibility for our world, and gratitude—reflects the education and experiences they received from their Notre Dame teachers, administrators, and friends, whether 10 or 50 years ago. In celebration of our 60th anniversary, here is a sampling of how some of our alumni are making a difference today.

Kelly DePanfilis '04

AN ONCOLOGY NURSE at Norwalk Hospital, Kelly DePanfilis '04 does more than care for her patients. Through her generosity of spirit, she's given a sick little boy a second chance at life.

Just over five years ago, Kelly was encouraged by an adult patient, who was waiting for a bone marrow transplant, to get on the list to become a donor. Soon after submitting her test swab, she was contacted as being a match for a six-month-old baby who was born without an immune system. "I was told that the only other person who may have been a match for this child was an identical twin," Kelly says. "This, for me, was like me hitting the lottery. I couldn't have been more excited to receive the phone call that I was the potential match."

The procedure itself, Kelly explains, was "easy and painless," and she hopes to get the call to donate again. In the meantime, she is leading registry events at Norwalk Hospital, and is inspiring people around the world. Earlier this year, *Oprah* magazine featured Kelly and her story.

"I encourage anyone with the opportunity to get on the bone marrow registry to do it," Kelly says. "They should 'win the lottery,' too. It is such an amazing cause."

LaSalle Blanks '88

EMMY AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST LaSalle Blanks is thrilled to be back in his home state. After his more than 20 years anchoring and reporting for WVEC in Hampton Roads, VA, he's returned—as part of the news team at WTNH. "My dream was always to

return to Connecticut," he says. "Now that I'm here, I hope the viewers will embrace me."

LaSalle is most excited about being geographically closer to his friends from Notre Dame. "We're like family," says LaSalle. "I didn't like missing the class reunions over the years. Reconnecting with my friends up here was a big part of my reason to move." His senior year at Notre Dame, LaSalle's peers elected him Student Council President. He served as VP his junior year, and Class President as a freshman.

In February of this year, not long after his relocation to the New Haven area, LaSalle took a drive through his former neighborhood—the street he grew up on in Fairfield. "I'm not there for more than five minutes, when I hear a voice calling, 'LaSalle! LaSalle!' I turn around, and it's a childhood friend! We started laughing and hugging. It was a sweet moment for both of us," he says. "And that's why I moved back to Connecticut. I'm so glad to be here. This is home."

Betsy Browne '88

EVERY YEAR, BETSY BROWNE—Fairfield's Town Clerk since 2005—gets the opportunity to address Notre Dame graduates before they leave campus to make their mark on the world. "I remind them to keep what they learned at Notre Dame front-and-center," she says. "These life lessons will help them succeed in the future. I also ask them to come back and visit their teachers. Some of mine are still teaching, and it's always great to see them!"

In addition to her position as Town Clerk, Betsy is currently serving a one-year term as the President of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks (NEACTC). Part of that year involves hosting

OPPOSITE PAGE

1. Paul Gleason '64, Eileen (Ginger) More '64, Joe Palsa '64
2. Bill Roberti '64
3. LaSalle Blanks '88
4. Kelly DePanfilis '04
5. Deb Tietjen '79, with Carl Philipp and Bishop Caggiano
6. Betsy Browne '88
7. Bill Hass '68
8. Matthew Reale '82

“It was a privilege to attend Notre Dame,” Bill Hass ‘68 says. “I received a wonderful education and a great foundation for the rest of my life.”

the 50th Annual NEACTC Conference this year in Trumbull for approximately 200 town clerks throughout the region.

Working with the public has come naturally for Betsy since her student days when she sold beach passes and later interned for the First Selectman. At Notre Dame, she was part of Key Club, peer ministry, and the yearbook committee.

“I love where Notre Dame is today,” she says. “Enrollment is up, they are building, and the students are very involved in community service. While I am always a proud graduate of Notre Dame, it’s especially exciting to see this resurgence.”

Matthew Reale ‘82

ATTORNEY MATT REALE can still recite the lines from the passage from *Hamlet* that English teacher John Reidy made him memorize more than 35 years ago. “Back then, Mr. Reidy scared me,” Matt remembers, with a chuckle. “He was tough, rigid, and stern. But now, I respect his methods and how he taught. He made us attain more than we ever believed we could.”

Today, Matt practices law in Shelton. Throughout his career, he has served as a board member for non-profit organizations throughout Fairfield County. All have had a similar goal: support parents and children in the community. In April, he was given an honor by The Center for Family Justice in Bridgeport, for his dedication and service to victims of violence and abuse.

“Going to Notre Dame was the best decision my parents made for me,” says Matt, who grew up

in Trumbull and attended public schools through ninth grade. “It opened up a whole new world of possibilities for my future. I met kids from other towns with different social experiences, I didn’t get lost in a sea of students, and I made some really good friends,” he continues. “Most importantly, it is where I learned that by helping others, you really help yourself.”

Deb Tietjen ‘79

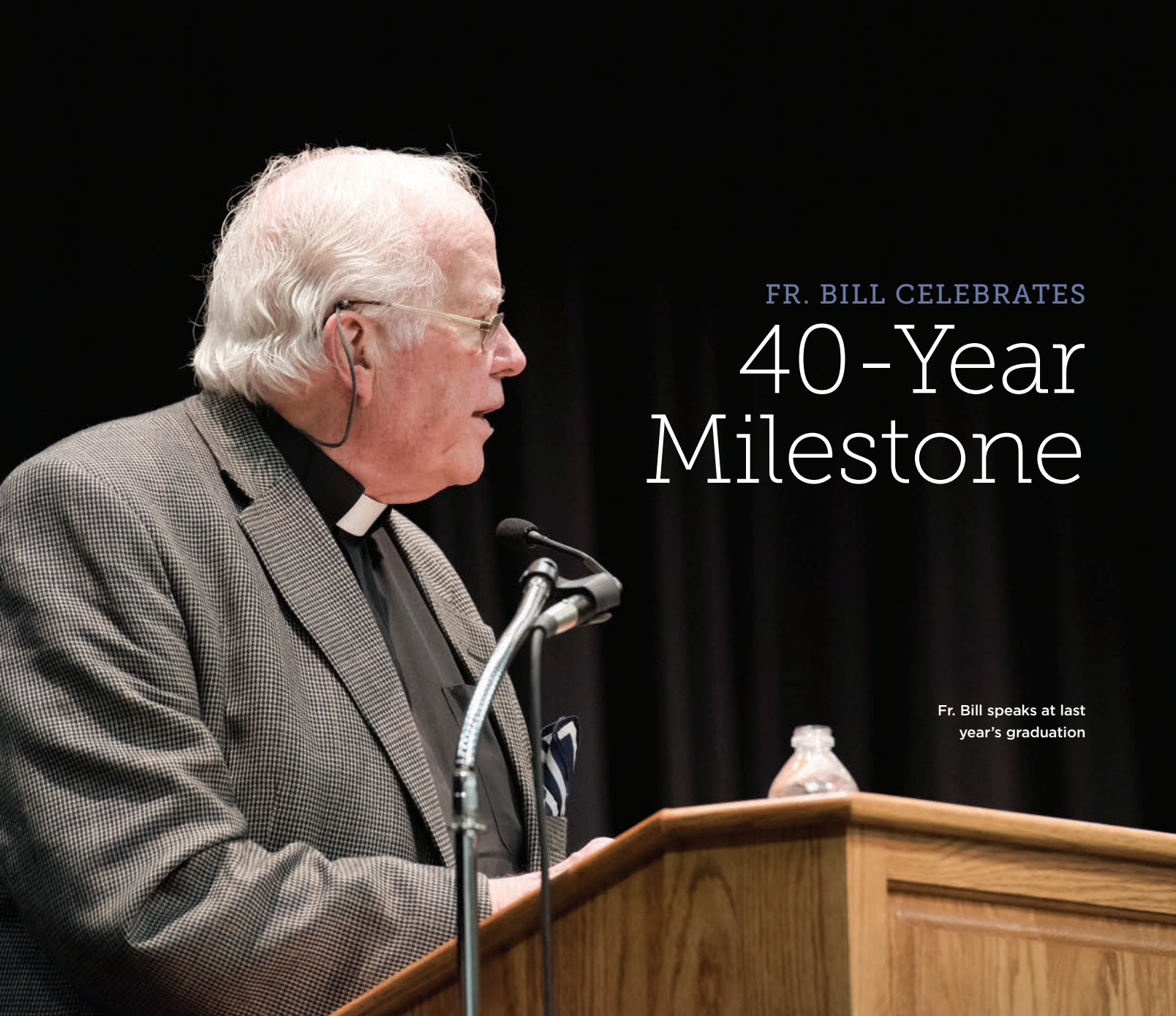
LONGTIME VOLUNTEER Deb Tietjen loves serving her alma mater. “Notre Dame is like family,” she says. “When my daughter started as a freshman in 2004, I felt like I was going home. Even some of the same teachers I had were still there. It is a wonderful community of people who care for and look out for one another.”

Deb has devoted her time to volunteering on several of Notre Dame’s committees over the years, including the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. “It has been a great opportunity to share ideas of where Notre Dame can grow and become even better,” she says. In addition, Deb has been a part of the Parent Association, and has assisted with the golf tournaments, the 60th Anniversary Gala, and the cabaret and silent auctions. Today, her children are now alumni—graduating in 2008 and 2011—but she still volunteers. “I enjoy it,” she says with a smile. “And I’ve made some very dear friends doing so. If Notre Dame needs a hand, I tell them to just give me a call.”

In the fall, Deb was honored by the Diocese of Bridgeport for her generosity of service. Nominated by Notre Dame Principal Christopher Cipriano, she was among the 150 recipients of the St. Augustine Medal.

“Notre Dame is where you become who you’re supposed to be,” says Deb. “It definitely shaped me into who I am today.”





FR. BILL CELEBRATES
40-Year
Milestone

Fr. Bill speaks at last year's graduation



The Rev. William Sangiovanni has had many titles in life—from pastor and principal to president and even “Father Garlic.” But it’s the title he’s held the longest that informs all the others—that of priest.

THIS YEAR, FR. BILL MARKS the 40th anniversary of his ordination, a testament to faith, hope, and love that hasn’t gone unnoticed across the diocese. In March, Fr. Bill was recognized at the Notre Dame 60th Anniversary Celebration in gratitude for his 40th anniversary and his impressive 37-year tenure at the high school.

“He is certainly an iconic figure,” said Principal Christopher Cipriano of his predecessor and mentor. “There are few people in the area who don’t know Fr. Bill. He has impacted so many lives.”

Born in Brooklyn, Fr. Bill’s first encounter with the Diocese of Bridgeport was as an undergraduate student at Fairfield University, where he earned a history degree and then a master’s in education and arts.

Before becoming a priest, Fr. Bill provided wise counsel in a completely different way, as special assistant to the Minority Leader of the Connecticut General Assembly and then as an assistant to U.S. Congressman Stewart McKinney from 1969 to 1975.

He completed his theological studies at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels at Niagara University in New York and was ordained at Bridgeport’s St. Patrick Church in 1977.

He served for a short time as parochial vicar there before finding his ultimate calling when he joined the Notre Dame faculty, becoming the school’s spiritual director in 1981.

Even as a teacher, Fr. Bill kept his hand in the political realm, serving as a member and then vice chair of the state Ethics Commission.

In fact, Fr. Bill, a tireless soul, has never been content with a regular workweek. For 11 years, he was a part-time chaplain at Bridgeport Correctional Center, ministering to those behind bars. From 1986 to 1991, he took on the role of director of campus ministry at nearby Sacred Heart University.

Fr. Bill was named principal at ND in 1994 at a time when he was heavily involved with youth activities across the Bridgeport region. In announcing his appointment, Bishop Edward M. Egan recognized Fr. Bill’s popularity, noting “I join the faculty and staff of Notre Dame in rejoicing at the assignment of one of our most distinguished priests to this important work.”

Fr. Bill has impacted the ND family in ways big and small. He was the officiant when Mr. Cipriano and his wife, Joanna, married and he baptized their young sons, Owen and Dylan.

An avid sports fan, Fr. Bill has been known to slip a hockey jersey over his vestments and smuggle a bugle into games to cheer on his beloved Lancers. The school is currently raising funds to renovate the athletic complex that will bear his name.

“The kids love him,” Mr. Cipriano said. “He’s the biggest Lancer.”

Asked what he appreciated about Fr. Bill, Mr. Cipriano was quick to answer.

“He is very passionate about Notre Dame and he is very passionate about his faith,” he said.

The longest-serving principal in school history, Fr. Bill became president in 2010, overseeing ND’s budget, annual fund and other financial matters.

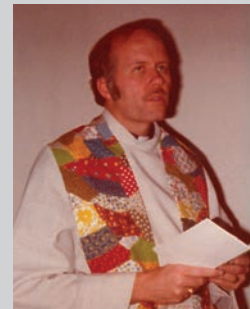
In 2015, his then-35 years of dedicated service were recognized with the Catholic Educator of the Year Award presented by Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice, a foundation that promotes social teaching in action.

It was a fitting tribute, given Fr. Bill’s prison ministry and his service work in Appalachia, where he founded the Appalachian Volunteers program and worked as a teacher and chaplain at Kentucky State Penitentiary. He also worked on a Native American reservation in South Dakota for a time, Mr. Cipriano said.

Upon receiving the award, Fr. Bill exhibited his trademark humility, preferring to shine the spotlight on Notre Dame and its students.

“I am honored . . .” he said, “especially because it reflects so well on Notre Dame and the spirit of service that permeates the school.”

BY MEREDITH GUINNESS



“He’s the biggest Lancer . . . He is very passionate about Notre Dame and he is very passionate about his faith.”

—CHRISTOPHER CIPRIANO

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Notre Dame's Weekend of Service



The pantry at The Neighborhood Center in South Camden, which students were tasked with cleaning out.

It's been about 10 years since Notre Dame last organized a service trip to Camden, N.J., yet in all that time little in the region has improved, notes Principal Chris Cipriano. "Camden is still a dangerous city. Camden still suffers a high unemployment rate and a low high school graduation rate. Camden still has a mean income of under \$22,000 per year."

THIS YEAR, HE DECIDED IT WAS TIME to offer students a chance to revisit the area. So for three days last January, Mr. Cipriano, his wife, ND English teacher Joanna Cipriano, and eight students stayed at the Romero Center in Camden, a Catholic education and retreat facility, where they worked alongside high school students from Loyola and St. John the Baptist high schools, both in New York. The trip was part service, with a healthy educational component thrown in.


The challenge on day one: To shop for food and prepare meals as if they were living at the poverty level. "Families living at or below the poverty line on average have \$3 per person per day for food, so a family of four needs to put three meals on the table for just over \$10. Healthy eating isn't an option," says Mr. Cipriano. Bananas, peanut butter sandwiches and pasta made up that day's menu. "Let me tell you what a powerful exercise [that was] in accomplishing several goals: understanding the impact and extent of poverty, living in solidarity with the millions who go without on a daily basis, and reaffirming an appreciation for how lucky we are."

The needs in a poor, urban city are great, but students had plenty of opportunities to see the bright spots, such as the Neighborhood Center in

south Camden. The Neighborhood Center is more than a soup kitchen and pantry; it provides a safe, supervised place for teens to hang out, and offers programming and activities for children. And the manager? A Harvard-educated businesswoman and former Cirque du Soleil performer who decided to come back to her hometown and see what she could do to make it a bit better.

One of the lynchpins of the entire experience, says Mr. Cipriano, is the focus that the Romero Center places on Catholic Social Teaching, so that students come away with a powerful sense of their own roles in respecting the dignity of each person, their rights and responsibilities, the call to family and community, the dignity of work, and the imperative to protect the most vulnerable among us. "Through activities, service, individual reflection, and group discussion, these teachings were continually highlighted," he says.

It was the first service trip for senior Delaney O'Keefe (Milford), who had always found it difficult to commit to ND's longer service trips to Kentucky. "Our work during those three days varied so much," she says, adding that they spent one day visiting with disabled adults at a day care facility. "We spent a lot of time talking with the people there and we did some art projects, but what really impressed us was their spirit and positive outlook."

For these students, the Camden trip was a growth experience in so many ways. "We did a lot of reflection on what we saw and on the people we met," says Delaney. "And I became so close to kids I had never talked to before. It was a very emotional experience." 

BY NINA M. RICCIO

"We spent a lot of time talking with the people there and we did some art projects, but what really impressed us was their spirit and positive outlook."

—DELANEY O'KEEFE '17



1. Mr. Cipriano with ND students while cleaning out the food pantry at the Neighborhood Center in Camden.

2. Delaney O'Keefe '17, Nicole Posada '18, Margaux Atkins '18, Jalyssa Howell '18 and Mrs. Cipriano with a resident at Inglis House in Philadelphia.



2

4



3

3. Karen Garza '18, Grace Gallagher '17, Brianni Davillier '18 and Areli Anderson '17 at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries in Philadelphia.

4. The Romero Center in Camden, NJ sponsors high school and college volunteer groups.





NOTRE DAME CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Lancer Legacy Gala 2017



The Bleggi Family —
Lou, Pat, and Rob '93

Since 1956, Notre Dame has done its utmost to keep Catholic education in the area rich, alive, and vibrant . . . and nowhere is that more evident than in the character of its students, the strength of its academic programs, and the commitment of its teachers and staff. Even those who have gone from Notre Dame have left their mark, and once a year the ND community comes together to celebrate them at the Lancer Legacy Gala.

“THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION is a testament to what Notre Dame is all about—family,” says Theresa (Saia’79) Marzik, P’04,’06,’10, who once again organized the event. “This year’s event attendees included alumni from nearly every year since 1956, plus former and current faculty members, alumni and alumni parents, and friends of ND throughout our 60 year history.”

Held this past March at Sacred Heart University, the Gala is a chance for alumni and friends to get together while honoring some special friends and recognizing noteworthy accomplishments.

The Gala is ND’s biggest fundraiser, and this year drew nearly 300 people. Billed as “a strolling cocktail party,” the evening featured a silent auction and—perhaps the most fun—60 years’ worth of memorabilia that included old uniforms, prom programs, banners, and dozens of photos.

“Our honorees truly exemplify the spirit of what it means to be a Lancer,” says Mrs. Marzik. “We look forward to many, many more occasions in the future where we can celebrate them, and ND.”

And the honors this year went to . . .



At the Gala, Notre Dame honored the following individuals:

Carole Christy Surina Educator Award

Janet Haffner, a Notre Dame religion teacher for 22 years, Care Club coordinator, Lauralton Hall alumnae representative, and Eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Grace Church in Stratford.

Sister Marion Rielly Leadership Award

Anne McCrory, chief legal and real estate officer for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Albertus Magnus College trustee and United Way of Fairfield County treasurer.

Notre Dame Community Impact Award

Peter J. McGuinness '75, attorney, former board member for the Center for Women and Families, and an active member in both Notre Dame and the local community.

Notre Dame Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Frank Martire '65, chairman and CEO of Fidelity National Information Systems (FIS) and Chairman of the Board of Sacred Heart University.

Anita Bevaqua McBride '77, former director of White House personnel under Presidents Reagan and George H. Bush. McBride also served as assistant to George W. Bush and chief of staff to First Lady Laura Bush.

Garrett Mendez '05, varsity hockey and lacrosse player at ND and an inspiration to all for his strength and persistence in overcoming great difficulties.

Dan Augustine '70, Col. US Army (retired), veteran, business consultant and active member of his community of Prince William County, Virginia.

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

- Frank Carrano V '99**, hockey (posthumously)
- David Mihalov, Jr. '02**, football, varsity bowling
- Michelle Mihalov Miller '04**, basketball
- Ken Burns '06**, football, baseball

Team Inductee

1999 Ice Hockey team, Division One state champions

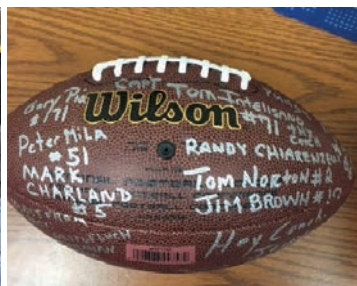
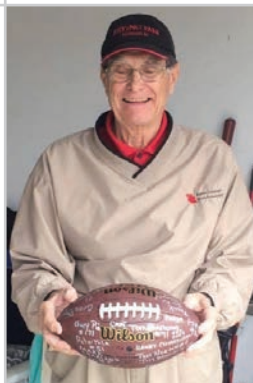


1. Janet Haffner and family
2. Peter McGuinness '75 and friends
3. Anita McBride '77 and friends
4. The O'Rourke and Appelbergs
5. The Stefanatos family — Eleni '10, Kathy, Rebecca '15
6. Jeff Velecca '05, Brian Estrada '05, Garrett Mendez '05, Ben Mason '05, Joe Schoonbeck '05
7. The Stone family — John, Mary Beth '66, Kristen, and Jeff '98
8. Frank Martire '65 and Chris Cipriano
9. Dorrine Sopko, Marianne Spinelli, Theresa Marzik '79, Debbie Tietjen '79

TEAMMATES SPARK FOND MEMORIES

For Former Coach

To say former Head Football Coach Mike DoBosh '60 was a big influence on Tom Intelisano '73 is a bit of an understatement.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Mike Dobosh with the football signed by 20 of his former student athletes.

Greg Beach '74,
Randy Chiarenzelli '70,
Tom Norton '75,
Gary Pia '74,
Pete Mila '71,
Tom Intelisano '73,
Fred Poole '72,
John McGuinness '74,
Jerry Susi '73 and
Jim Pjura '74

WHEN MIKE DOBOSH WARNED his talented tackle about the dangers of drugs, Tom Intelisano '73 made a silent—and successful—pledge to never use them.

When he told the teen he had a natural head for business and should look into accounting, that's the career path Intelisano chose.

So when Intelisano learned from a Notre Dame Facebook post by ND teacher Radley Manzo that his former coach, teacher, and mentor had dementia and his family hoped to help him hold tight to fond memories, he knew he had to act.

"I saw that and this great light went off," said Intelisano, who had lost touch with DoBosh, who had moved away, eventually retiring to Bolivia, North Carolina. "It was like a Christmas miracle. I thought, 'Wow, here's Coach again.'"

While Mr. Manzo created a collage of photos and stories he received, Intelisano gathered old scrapbooks and yearbooks. Then he sat down and wrote his coach a heartfelt, three-page letter, letting him know that he ranked alongside Intelisano's father and grandfather as role models.

"I wanted to let him know he was such an influence to me," said the Milford resident, who didn't know how the letter would be received. "Michael told me his dad had (the letter) at the table and he read it for hours, just over and over."

That got Intelisano thinking. Maybe DoBosh, who played football when he was an ND student, would like to reconnect with other former players. In December, Intelisano used the power of social media to gather together about 20 teammates from the

Classes of 1970 through 1975.

Each signed a football that they mailed to North Carolina with a Lancers jersey. Others were inspired to send cards and letters for the coach to enjoy. Even former Assistant Coach Terry Tiernan '65, who lives in Milford, got into the act and signed the ball.

Better still, the men got a chance to spend a few hours reminiscing about their time with DoBosh, who was remembered as "compassionate, but tough," Intelisano said.


"He was very family oriented," he said, remembering DoBosh often found himself scrambling for a babysitter for young Michael and would turn to his squad for help.

"There would be six or seven linemen at his house babysitting Mikey," he said with a laugh.

With three sisters and a father who worked "crazy" firefighter hours, Intelisano sometimes complained he couldn't get a good night's sleep at home.

"He'd say 'come sleep over here tonight,'" said Intelisano, who knew he was always welcome in the home DoBosh shared with his wife Cheryl, whom he nicknamed "Sugie," short for Sugar.

When the team was at a football camp for a week in upstate New York, players even got to meet DoBosh's own parents—because they made dinner for all 19 players every night.

"They had picnic tables going down the driveway!" Intelisano said. "That was a thing I'll never forget." 

BY MEREDITH GUINNESS



HAIL TO THE CHAMPS!
 Girls' Soccer
Still Best
 in State

Brianna Kydes '17

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER—AGAIN—to the ND girls' soccer team, named 2016 Class M state co-champions. The final November match-up against Immaculate High School of Danbury was officially declared a tie after the teams completed 30 minutes of overtime with neither taking the lead. The Lancers, who won the 2015 championship, will wave goodbye to six graduating seniors this year, but Athletic Director Rob Bleggi has high hopes for the team's future.

"In the last few years, they've really been something," says A.D. Rob Bleggi.



State Championship Team

Girls' Basketball

The girls' basketball team celebrated its third straight year of winning 20 or more games, with a regular season record of 20-5. The #1 seed heading into the league tournament, they lost in the semifinals in February. The squad went as far as the state quarter-finals, falling to Colchester's Bacon Academy in March.



Gabrielle Joseph '18

College Signings



TOP Chris Cipriano, Wayne Mones and Rob Bleggi with soccer players: Brianna Kydes '17—AIC; (American International College); Erica Quinones '17—Post University; Sam LaValle '17—Wagner College; Nazae Craw '17—St. Peter's University

BOTTOM LEFT Chris Cipriano, Rob Bleggi, Mrs. Silva and Liv Silva '17 (Central Connecticut State University), Volleyball

BOTTOM RIGHT Mr. and Mrs. Dorosh, with their daughter Jenna '17 (Sacred Heart University), Track and Field

Outstanding Sportsman Award

The Greater Bridgeport Athletic Association (Old Timers) honored a group of eight at its 60th annual awards dinner on Monday, May 15 at Testo's Restaurant, including ND's own Jim Olayos, Director of Athletic Advancement with the AI Bike Outstanding Sportsman award.



Volleyball

Lancers sports fans have a new team to root for—the boys' junior varsity volleyball team. With a girls' team already well established, AD Rob Bleggi said ND hopes to give boys a chance to spike at the club level. They'll square off against several local squads this spring.

Boys' Basketball

ND's boys' basketball team won the regular season league title and were South-West Conference champions for 2017 with an impressive 25-3 record. They also won the Harold Swaffield Sportsmanship Award presented by the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials Board 9 Referee Association. The boys headed back to the Class L state finals in March, losing to Sacred Heart High School of Waterbury. With just four seniors graduating, AD Rob Bleggi said the squad should be "back in the mix" next season.



Noreaga Davis '18

Remembering Ed Wysocki

ED WYSOCKI NEVER MISSED OPENING DAY at Yankee Stadium. From 1967 until 2016, Ed and his son—and later, Ed’s grandsons—would anticipate that season’s early April afternoon when they could cheer on their favorite team on its home turf.

Most years, Notre Dame alumni would join Ed at Yankee Stadium. They loved to catch up with their former coach, sharing in his excitement for the team.

Ed was the coach and teacher Notre Dame athletes never forgot—or lost touch with. From 1961 to 1966, Ed coached ND freshman football and basketball, varsity cross-country, and junior varsity and varsity baseball. He led the Lancers to countless wins and championships, including two in 1964: the All-Metropolitan Bridgeport Interscholastic Athletic Conference (MBIAC) and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference State Championship (CIAC), as well as a runner-up spot in the 1965 state tournament.

Ed’s rapport with his students in the math classes he taught, especially geometry and algebra, was special. Alumni remember how Ed would take them under his wing, teaching them the importance of teamwork and sharing personal stories and wisdom. The impact he made on their lives stretched far beyond subject and sport.

“Out of all the people who touched my life, Coach Wysocki is at the top of that list,” reflects Paul Gleason ’64, who ran on the Cross-Country team starting his freshman year. “If you talked to 10 people, you would hear the same thing. He had that kind of effect on all of us.”

Ed worked his teams hard, challenging them to push themselves in directions they never imagined they would reach. For example, a Friday afternoon track practice meant a seven-mile run from the front of the school on Park Avenue to Capital Avenue—and back. And the course the team had to run on, along North Park Avenue, had not one but three significant hills. But those practices paid off for runners, football players, and especially baseball players. Several went on to play on professional teams.

Among the many stories surrounding Coach, and the life lessons he taught in those few years, there’s one that resonates with all of the boys who were on his roster. “He taught us how to play as a team and prepare as a team,” Paul continues. “It was never about the individual. It was always about the team. It’s an



ABOVE

Paul Gleason ’64,
John Martone ’64,
Ed Wysocki,
George Burr ’64

AT LEFT

Bob Lundequist ’64,
Bob Skarupa ’64,
Bill Steele ’64,
Ed Wysocki,
John Martone ’64,
Lou Segneri ’64,
Bob Bracci ’64

experience I’ve carried with me throughout my life—in business, with my family.”

After Ed left Notre Dame in 1966, he dedicated his life to his family and to many non-profit organizations, working for the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association. But he never forgot his Lancers—and they never forgot him.

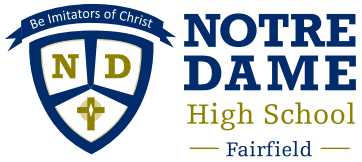
Notre Dame inducted Ed into the Athletic Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. Nearly 30 alumni from 1961 to 1966 came to cheer for their favorite coach and teacher.

In 2014, Ed attended the Class of 1964 Reunion, where he was in his glory. Beaming with a grin from ear-to-ear, scores of former students and athletes came up to him in his wheelchair to say hello and to share a memory or two. A year after that, at his 80th birthday, more than 10 of Ed’s athletes came to celebrate.

Ed died on December 20, 2016, at the age of 81. At his Celebration of Life in January, former faculty members Armand Fabbri and Vito Montelli, along with many former Notre Dame athletes, drove up to the Fox Parish Center in Middletown. There, they traded more than 50 years’ worth of stories, hugged each other, and bid a final farewell to their beloved coach, colleague, and friend.

This year, Opening Day at Yankee Stadium may have had one fewer fan seated in the stands. But there’s no doubt that Ed was there—in spirit. 🇺🇸

BY JILL K. CASERIA



Building Character, Faith and Intellect

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**Notre Dame
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