SUMMER 2018

IMPACT

The Magazine of Notre Dame High School

INSIDE

A Day of Honoring Mary Brings Joy in Service

ND Theatre Benefits from the Talents of Mark Halstead '80

Lancers Win First Basketball Title After 61 years

LEARNING WITH PURPOSE

ND's Strategic Vision Moves Boldly Forward

From Our Principal

Dear Friends,

To say that it was an exciting school year would be an understatement!

A year that began with the implementation of our numerous Strategic Plan initiatives culminated with the 127 members of the Class of 2018 receiving their diplomas at graduation and over $17 million in scholarships and grants to college. In between, students continued to grow in character, faith and intellect on a daily basis. As you read through *Impact*, we will share some of the highlights of the year with you - from a group of students using 3D printers to build prosthetic devices for children in need to our tremendously successful first Our Lady Day to winning state titles in basketball, baseball and golf. As always, I am so proud of our community for all that they have accomplished and how well they have represented our school.

All the best,

Chris Cipriano

Christopher Cipriano
PRINCIPAL

Summer 2018

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ON THE COVER
Ben Clark '19 applies his passion for environmental science at Lake Mohegan.

Manjot Singh '19, Science Teacher Kathy Almeida and Alexys Ryan '19

SCIENCE AND DANCE

Programs Awarded Grants

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL recently received two grants from Foundations in Education, a non-profit initiative created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport's mission to support Catholic education.

The first, "Community Building with 3D Printing," was awarded to Kathy Almeida, chair of the Notre Dame Science Department and moderator of the school's STEM Club. The $12,000 awarded helped purchase three 3D printers, which students will use for the "The Helping Hand Project," which focuses on providing prosthetic devices for children in need.

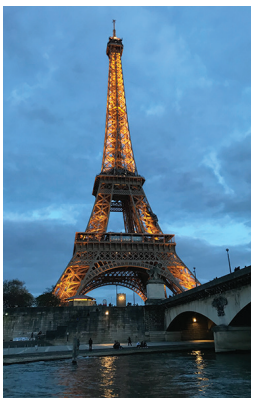
"I am very excited to be able to implement 3D printing into our science curriculum and service projects," said Almeida. "Imagine being able to print a 3D human organ, fossil, airplane engine, robot, or prosthetic device for a needy child. In addition, our students will have the opportunity to think outside the box as they design and create solutions to real world problems using this innovative technology."

Sally Hong, Notre Dame's dance teacher, received the second grant, called "Performing Arts in Catholic Education." She will use the $4,800 award for a new portable sound system as well as costumes for future performances, including tap shoes, jazz shoes and props.

"Dance is inherently appealing to young people and is a vehicle where we can connect with our youth and help them find themselves by using their God-given talents," said Hong. "One of the ways Notre Dame is unique is through its approach to a holistic Catholic education by integrating a strong arts program into the curriculum."

Megan Loiz, a sophomore dance student, said that the improved sound system is going to make it possible for the students to hear the music while they're on onstage, which will help them work together more easily. "We were all so thrilled when we heard the exciting news," she said.

BY SANDI SHELTON



The Eiffel Tower at twilight

Paris in the Springtime

SIX VERY LUCKY NOTRE DAME students and their two language teachers, Mary Guarino and Elizabeth Anderson-Zaczkowski, spent spring break week in Paris, France, on a trip that Spanish teacher Guarino described as "one big blur of happiness."

The week-long trip included bus tours of the Latin Quarter, the Bastille, Champs-Élysées and the Montmartre. The group took a trip down the Seine and visited the Arc de Triomphe, as well as museums, cafes, and—of course—The Louvre. They watched the Eiffel Tower light up at night. They learned about art at the Picasso Museum. They attended Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral.

Their favorite part? "Well, Notre Dame Cathedral is breathtaking," said junior Andrea Rueda, who was on her second trip to France with the spring tour. "I spent a really long time just walking around and looking. I loved learning the history of how they built it."

Guarino said she couldn't have asked for a better group of students. All six girls were juniors and seniors, and they were fascinated by the historical and cultural aspects of Paris that they were learning. "They were beside themselves with all they saw," she said. "They all became such good friends and were so excited with every one of the activities they got to do. I can't wait for next year."

BY SANDI SHELTON

LEFT TO RIGHT: Spanish Teacher Mary Guarino, Andrea Rueda '19, Caitlin Trutt '18, French Teacher Elizabeth Anderson-Zaczkowski, Medalissa Kampmann '18, Nicole Posade '18, Alex Lucke '18, Angie Guzman '18

LEFT TO RIGHT: Manjot Singh '19, Kaylan Walcott '19, Anabella McDonough '19, Chris Taylor '19, Angelica Zacarola '19

A DAY OF HONORING MARY

Brings Joy in Service

Tamauri Attaud '18, Connor Steer '19

On December 11, Notre Dame students joined in the first annual "Our Lady Day," a school-wide day of activities to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of the school.

IT WAS A DAY DESIGNED and coordinated by Notre Dame's Director of Campus Ministry, Jessica Medoff, who said she created the event to help students see more clearly just how the lessons they learn in classes can be brought to real life. She said she wanted to use the Christmas season to celebrate fellowship, generosity of spirit, and faith.

In addition to being entertained with music and games and an inspirational speaker, the students were given the chance to work on a service project, packaging 10,000 meals of rice and protein to be sent to undernourished children in Africa and South America by an organization called Rise Against Hunger.

They also designed and made Christmas cards, rosary beads, and nativity scenes, which were then donated to nursing homes in the area.

"It was faith in action. It's always really nice for the students to connect the things we teach, and to put a face to the people we can serve and to realize the different opportunities for giving that are out there," Medoff said.

The day began with Mass in the Sacred Heart Chapel of the Holy Spirit, which was led by Fr. Ed McAuley '65. Because Mary is "Our Mother," Medoff invited the mothers of current students to sit in the front pews with their children, where they were given flowers and prayer cards.

Attendees were treated to a special musical performance by Mixed Company, an *a cappella* group from Yale, along with a performance by Notre Dame's band and choir. Later, ND students presented a special Our Lady Day video during homeroom.

Medoff also arranged for a speaker known

TOP LEFT: Andrew Prpich '19 and Eric Araujo '19; **TOP RIGHT:** Students and their moms enjoy the celebration of Mass.; **BOTTOM:** Honoring ND's moms.

as "Rob the Drummer" to give a talk about character and intellect. His message and music emphasized the importance of the arts and using energy for positive things and making good choices.

Even the special luncheon honored Mary by featuring selections from Mexico, Ireland, France, Italy and China, all places in which she has appeared.

At the end of the day, students, faculty and staff were recognized for their faith, outstanding moral character, patience and generosity with the presentation of Marion Awards.

"It really was a full day of activities that celebrated who we are and our dedication to our faith," Medoff said. She said the plan is to have this become an annual event, a chance to bring the school together and perform service projects and reflect on the meaning of giving.

Our Lady Day had another positive effect, too. It amplified an important aspect of Notre Dame's new strategic plan, *Raising the Bar: ND2020*.

"Mary Day was a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to come together to celebrate our patroness," said Principal Christopher Cipriano. "From the celebration of Mass to the preparing of thousands of meals for African families to a cultural lunch to our special assembly, the day was a tremendous success and provided students, staff, and parents with a unique experience during a school day."

A highlight, he said, was the announcement of the Marion Awards at the end of the day. "I loved spotlighting those students and staff who serve others in such a special way," he said. "I am so appreciative to Jessica Medoff for all her hard work in organizing this, and I certainly look forward to next year's celebration."

Deacon John DiTaranto, Notre Dame's Chaplain, was involved in the planning and said the day was incredibly successful. One of his favorite parts came during the closing assembly, as students lined up with blue and white balloons, which they lifted up as they prayed decades of the rosary in several languages. "It was a beautiful representation of our community of faith," he said.

BY SANDI SHELTON

> "I loved spotlighting those students and staff who serve others in such a special way."
>
> — PRINCIPAL CHRIS CIPRIANO

Dakota Chavez '20

STRATEGIC PLAN: YEAR ONE A SUCCESS—ONTO YEAR TWO

Raising the Bar:ND2020

One year after adopting its ambitious three-year Strategic Plan, Notre Dame is marching forward. *Raising the Bar: ND2020* has brought a new excitement about reaching its impressive goals, as faculty and staff and community members have joined forces to help Notre Dame continue to grow and flourish in the twenty-first century.

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF SUSTAINED GROWTH, *Raising the Bar* was adopted last year as a way of keeping the school's momentum moving forward, according to Principal Christopher Cipriano. Committees were formed and ambitious goals were outlined around four priority areas of institutional development and growth. These priorities are: Inspired Learning, Transformative Faith, Christian Leadership, and Responsible Stewardship.

"We are so proud of the progress our committees are making," says Cipriano. "The specific goals for year one have come together, and we're now looking to pass the baton to year two for those objectives to fall into place as well."

STRATEGIC THEME 1:
Inspired Learning

Notre Dame has always been committed to developing the whole student, but the learning goals go even deeper. Academic department heads have been working on a comprehensive curriculum review, with an eye to providing more opportunities for student-centered learning—more active, collaborative, and problem-based learning that

History Teacher Anthony Guerrera with Brian Essing '21

"We've set our goal to the outcome: the knowledge and skills our students need to have."

— KATHY ALMEIDA, TEACHER AND CO-CHAIR OF THE INSPIRED LEARNING COMMITTEE

Katarzyna Zawadzki '19, Toni Domingos '21, Guidance Counselor Wayne Mones, Jazmine Fred '20

cultivates critical reasoning, depth of understanding, effective communications, and problem solving.

One initiative for this first year has been developing a profile of a Notre Dame graduate. "We've looked at what knowledge, skills, values, and sensibilities we want our graduates to have, and we are working to develop our curriculum around that," says Kathy Almeida, co-chair of the Inspired Learning committee and a Notre Dame teacher. "We've set our goal to the outcome: the knowledge and skills our students need to have."

Helping students grow, develop, and achieve—at all levels—is the impetus for another exciting initiative: developing an integrated, four-year guidance and academic success program for every student. "We are expanding our guidance involvement with students across all four years of their Notre Dame experience, particularly to mentor and empower freshmen and sophomores to become active and involved students, both in and out of the classroom. This will allow us to work with them on developing their interests and skills in these early years, making their college preparation as juniors and seniors all the more meaningful and successful," says Cipriano.

According to Sue McGowan, director of guidance, this expanded guidance program will help students—particularly those who need a little more direction and encouragement—to take risks and explore new interests. "Notre Dame is passionately committed to the holistic growth and flourishing of every student," says McGowan. "This program will give students a personalized roadmap to discover and develop their fullest potential, one that sets them on a course for success and happiness in college and in life."

STRATEGIC THEME 2:
Christian Leadership

Raising the Bar is bringing about a concerted effort to inspire students, faculty and staff to answer the call to become Christian servant leaders. Notre Dame has framed this program around the cultivation of "Four C's"—Character, Calling, Competence, and Confidence. These words are showing up around the campus in posters and artwork, to inspire a model of active, responsive servant leadership, urging students to think about their commitment to others and their responsibility to become leaders in the community.

Danna Aguilar '21

Plans are also under way for a Student Leadership Institute, to help turn students into leaders and to celebrate their accomplishments. The formal structure and model for this Institute is coming together, with the goal of launching it next year. "Leadership has always been celebrated at Notre Dame," says Anthony Guerrera, teacher and co-leader of the Christian Leadership committee. "This new Institute will formalize and focus our efforts to cultivate Christian leaders whose first priority is lifting up those around them."

STRATEGIC THEME 3:
Transformative Faith

Helping students to know, to love, and to serve God has always been a high priority for Notre Dame. To further and deepen this commitment, efforts this year have focused on expanding the presence of religious art and icons throughout the school. Notre Dame's chaplain, Deacon John DiTaranto, directed the selection and purchase of new crucifixes that are now prominently displayed in all classrooms. In addition, art students are painting and refurbishing a group of statues, brought over from the original school on Park Avenue, of Catholic saints, which will become part of an effort to deepen students' appreciation for the model of Christian virtue exemplified by the saints.

Deacon John is also leading the effort to help students develop a more meaningful prayer and spiritual life, one that leads them to a closer relationship with Jesus and regular participation in the sacraments. "Our motto calls us each to be an Imitator of Christ," says Greg Vigliotta, Notre Dame theology teacher and member of the Transformative Faith committee. "We are challenging students, and our fellow faculty and staff, to go deeper in reflecting on what that actually means in terms of living in relationship with Christ and with one another."

> "Notre Dame will give students a personalized roadmap to discover and develop their fullest potential, one that sets them on a course for success and happiness in college and in life."
>
> — SUE MCGOWAN, DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE

STRATEGIC THEME 4:
Responsible Stewardship

Notre Dame is always seeking to attract and enroll and retain "best-fit" students, those who will flourish and reap the benefits of all that Notre Dame has to offer. This initiative seeks to ensure that the Admissions and Advancement departments are operating with the necessary skills and resources to ensure their success in reaching and engaging all of Notre Dame's audiences and communities.

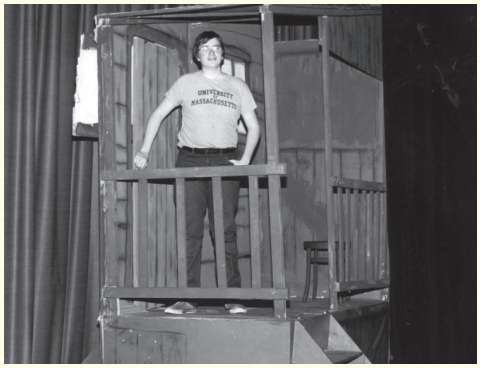
Responsible stewardship, says Cipriano, is dedicated to "raising the bar to ensure continued growth and strengthen Notre Dame's role as a leading Catholic high school in Connecticut." In this first year of *Raising the Bar*, this committee has worked to define the infrastructure needed to support higher goals going forward into year two—in the areas of staff, technology and resources, professional development and training, and communications.

What's Next?

With year one goals accomplished, Cipriano says that the planning committees are looking eagerly into deepening and completing their year-two goals. He meets often with committees to encourage and chart their progress, and he's been excited by the enthusiasm the new initiatives have brought about.

Scott Bannon '92, who started last year as assistant principal, said it's been exciting to watch the planning and implementation process unfold. "Our community is dedicated to the future success of Notre Dame High School," he said. "On a personal note, I am proud to be a contributing member. The work that we conduct as a team is powerful and meaningful because it directly impacts our students today and into the future."

BY SANDI SHELTON



MARK HALSTEAD '80

The Play's the Thing

Mark Halstead '80 thought the set he created for his senior year spring musical, *My Fair Lady*, would be his last. Boy, was he wrong.

"I never really left," he laughed. "I really am a true Notre Dame lifer." Halstead's mother (Marie Halstead) was teaching at Notre Dame back in the 60s, and left only when Mark was born. He was baptized in the Notre Dame chapel, and his five brothers and sisters and two of his children are Lancers.

As for designing and building theatre sets, Halstead, now an architect based in Fairfield, has spearheaded the task for twelve of the spring musicals over the last 40 years.

Halstead's initiation into the world of theatre began when he signed up to help build sets for *Hello, Dolly!* in his sophomore year. "It was supposed to be me and a bunch of seniors, but the seniors never showed up," he claimed. It was Principal Sr. Marion Rielly, director of the musicals in those days, who put him in charge. "She really challenged me to be creative and constantly goaded me into doing better," he said. "When I think back on that, I realize how important that was. She was putting so much trust into a 17 year-old kid."

A theatre set has to be mechanically sound and strong, of course, but it also has to meet the functional requirements necessary for the play. That meant Halstead had to work closely with the director to make sure he understood what she wanted and where the action would be taking place. "It was great training for a future architect because I had to take functional requirements, plus the needs and vision of other people, and blend them together into something that looked good," he said.

His most challenging designs? "Well, for *The Drowsy Chaperone* we had to land a plane onstage . . . and we did!" he recalled. And for *Grease*, he and the students were tasked with designing a set that would accommodate a real 1950s car that was to pop out of the set midway through the show.

Halstead's goal is to see students take the lead and be creative in their approach to design and building challenges, and he hopes that he encourages them in the same way that Sr. Marion encouraged him. "I'm happy to be there as a guide, but it's important for them to have the responsibility, and they get a boost of confidence as they see it all come together."

BY NINA RICCIO

A Tribute to Jim

WHILE THE SPRING MUSICAL has always been a major event at Notre Dame, this year's spring production of *Footloose* is special in another way as well. The show is dedicated to Jim Stewart '03, who played the role of Coach Roger Dunbar in the 2003 production. Jim lost his battle with cystic fibrosis in 2015.

"Jim was not into theatre at all," one of his good friends, Maura Crossin '03, remembered. "But he got out of his comfort zone to do the play, partly because he liked to do things that he was told he 'couldn't' do, like dancing, because of his disease." Jim had battled cystic fibrosis since he was born, but that didn't stop him from playing sports. "The craziest thing is that he tore his ACL right before opening night, so he not only did all that dancing, he did it with a brace!" said Crossin.

A scholarship has recently been set up in Jim's honor. Please visit our giving page for information.

photo by Brian Pounds | *CT Post*

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

Lancers Win First Basketball Title After 61 Years

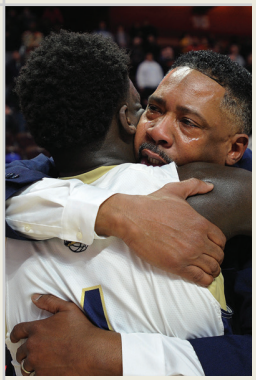


photo by Brian Pounds | *CT Post*

Coach Watts celebrates with an emotional hug.

We all know that miracles can happen—but it's a special kind of miracle that takes place on a basketball court in the final minutes of a very tight game, and leads a school to become the state champions for the first time in its history.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED this year with Notre Dame's Lancers. They romped their way through an undefeated season, 27–0, ending Sacred Heart of Waterbury's 107–game winning streak against in-state competition with a 65–60 victory in the Division I championship game at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

Not that it was easy, you understand. Head Coach Chris Watts, in his second year of coaching the Lancers, said that he and Assistant Coach Tom Sparks '06 knew they had a team that was determined to win, and he searched for ways to keep them focused on their goal.

"When we got to the 20th game, the stakes were much higher. Any time we lost after that, we were going home," Watts said. "I told them to just live in the present, to see each game for what it was, not think back and not think ahead. I said, 'You are writing a history book, and as long as you have the pen in your hand, you have total control of your history.' And they lived that every day."

To give a little context, this was the Lancers' fourth consecutive CIAC championship game. Historically, they had been 0–5 in championship appearances, losing to Pomperaug in 1980 and to Hillhouse in 1965. More importantly, they had been defeated by none other than Sacred Heart (Waterbury) in the last two championship games.

They were mad, and they were ready to prove they could win. They'd already proven they had the chops to fight hard. In the quarter finals against Danbury, they were down 21 points in the fourth quarter and came back to win.

"When they did that, I thought, 'Wow, this just

might be our year to finally win a state championship!'" said Bob Naedele, '72, an alum who came to every single home game for the past two years. "That was the most exciting basketball game I've ever seen."

Throughout the championship game, Sacred Heart and Notre Dame battled each other for every basket. Tensions ran high. The lead changed eight times, the score was tied seven times. And at halftime, Sacred Heart, the four time defending champion, was ahead 26–25.

But then came the last quarter. With just 3:20 minutes left to play, Sacred Heart still had a one-point lead (55–54). It looked like it was going to be the same old heartbreak for the Lancers—but then, with under two minutes left in the game, senior Tyler Bourne made a free throw that put the Lancers ahead 59–57. With two more free throws to take, Bourne brought the score to 63–57, and although Sacred Heart put up a fight, it was never able to regain the lead, and the game ended with the Lancers winning 65–60.

As the final buzzer sounded, the whole Mohegan Sun Arena erupted, the kids went crazy, and Coach Watts turned to face the crowd and held his arms up into the sky.

"I was very emotional and happy for the kids, particularly for the seniors who worked so hard and had lost before to this team," Watts said. "My mom was there, and I made my way into the bleachers and gave her a hug. I was crying. To tell you the truth, I'm *still* amazed and happy, all these months later. I can't get over it."

Watts has since been named *USA Today*'s Coach of the Year for Connecticut, as well as the *New Haven Register* Coach of the Year, and the whole Lancers team received the Team of the Year award by the Connecticut Coaches Association. Also, Bourne and senior Noreaga Davis were named to the CHSCA All-State First Team, Division I, as well as the All State First Team, Division I by the *New Haven Register*. Josh Reaves was named to the All State Second Team, Division I by the *New Haven Register*, and all three were named All Conference by the SWC.

The win cemented two years of team-building that relied on trust and truth between the players, he said.

"It was the kids who did this," he said. "It was all the kids! They were a tight-knit group from the beginning of the year, and from my years of coaching, I've seen that the best teams are the ones who are close. I encouraged them to coach each other and be positive. We'd watch games together, and we'd eat together. I told them when I started at the school two years ago, 'I'm going to hug a lot, and I'm going to cry. I'm an emotional guy, and I believe in prayer.' I told them to get on their knees and thank God for the talent they've been given."

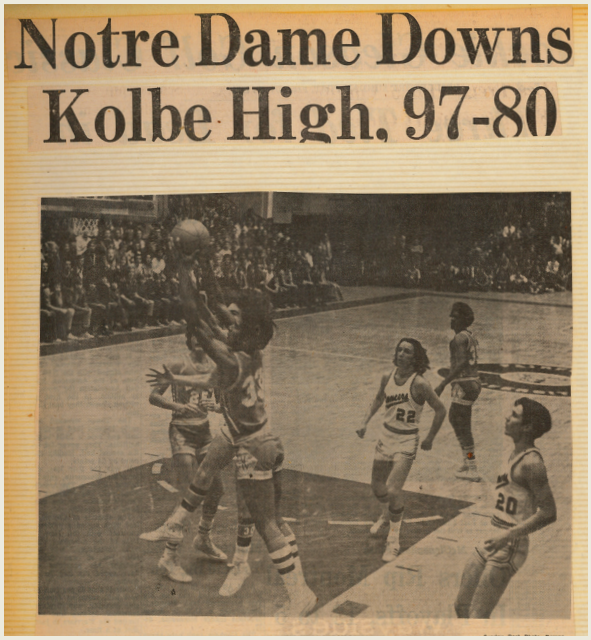
Principal Chris Cipriano said it was an amazing season. "This was quite the fun ride the kids and coaches took us on this year," he said. "An undefeated season and now number one in the state! After 61 years, to bring in our first championship—and to do it by representing the school with such sportsmanship! It was a lot of fun to watch the games!"

Dave Bike, '65, was on the team that lost the championship game fifty-three years ago, and he went on to coach at Sacred Heart University for 35 years. He was in the stands to watch this year's team capture the honor. "They had some talented players," he said. "They were well coached and played hard. I was very impressed."

Tony Tozzi, '72, said he was there to celebrate with the team when it won. "This was so well-deserved," he said. "Chris Watts is such a good coach, and he pulled some of those games out of his hat. He's a true gentleman, and you can't help but root for him. He stayed calm through all those games, kept his vision, kept his team focused."

As for Naedele, he said the championship game was everything he'd hoped. "It was like watching a heavyweight fight with one team delivering blow after blow only to have the other team respond," he said. "One thing I believe is, 'Once a Lancer, always a Lancer!' Several times this season, I would talk with the players before the game, and I told them they weren't just playing for themselves, they were playing for every alumnus. It just doesn't get any better than this!"

BY SANDI SHELTON


Notre Dame Downs Kolbe High, 97-80

FLASHBACK TO THE 1971–72 BASKETBALL SEASON—Walt Luckett (33) of Kolbe appears to have a firm grip on this rebound under the Notre Dame basket at Fairfield University last night. Notre Dame dominated the overall rebounding battle as it took a 97–80 decision from the Friars to gain the MBIAC Championship. Seen vying for the ball with Luckett is Mark Gildea of Notre Dame. To the right are Dennis McLaughlin (22) and Barry McLeod (20) of Notre Dame.

NOREAGA DAVIS '18

Soaring to New Heights

MOST HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYERS probably aren't dreaming of careers as neurosurgeons when they're out on the court—but then most basketball players haven't had the tough, extraordinary life that senior Nori Davis has had.

Davis, a 6'4" forward who averaged 20 points per game in the 2018 championship season, came to ND as a freshman from circumstances that would have defeated a lot of kids.

He is one of 11 children, living in a neighborhood filled with crime and drug use. His parents were incarcerated from the time he was a baby, and he is being raised by his aunt, whom he calls Mom. He lost a cousin to gang violence just before Christmas. And five years ago, he lost his 4-year-old cousin to cancer.

That was when he decided that he wanted to ease others' suffering by becoming a neurosurgeon. "I made up my mind that I was going to help people," he said. "I didn't want to see anybody hurting the way my family was hurting."

His dream of helping other people is closer to coming true. Davis, who had a 3.9 grade point average at Notre Dame, will attend St. Joseph University in the fall, majoring in biochemistry, and playing basketball for former University of Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun.

He said he could not be more excited and grateful to be pursuing his dream—and for the help that Notre Dame teachers, administrators and students have given him.

"When I came to Notre Dame, even though it wasn't easy at first, I knew I had to stay focused," he said. "Being here opened my eyes to the fact that life is way more than it seemed where I came from. I learned to carry myself a different way. I saw how my life could be."

At first, times were hard, he admitted, and he didn't feel he belonged. Playing on the basketball team at Notre Dame helped a lot. "It gave me a family," he said. "I really felt like I belonged, and I opened up to people. Pretty much every teacher here has helped me in a different way. Coming to Notre Dame was the best decision I ever made."

He mentioned Mr. Pete Cofrancesco, his math teacher; Mrs. Mary Guarino, his Spanish teacher, as well as Mr. Frank Sweeney, his religion teacher, as people he has always been able to turn to. Coach Chris Watts, who called Davis "the backbone of the team," has helped him with the college process and has shown him that he will always be in his corner.

"He is well-respected by his peers," said Watts. "He is smart and helps the younger players. He doesn't talk much, but when he does, everyone listens."

Principal Christopher Cipriano said, "He has risen above every challenge that's been put in front of him, and he's a better person for it. He knows what he wants to do. It's a testament to what type of person he is."

BY SANDI SHELTON

Get Ready, Fans! Lancer Football Has a New Coach

NOTRE DAME HAS HIRED JOHN JOHNSON as the new football coach, and he's determined to bring the Lancers to a whole new level.

Johnson comes from Bullard-Havens Technical High School in Bridgeport, where he coached for 13 years, the last 10 as Head Coach. He is replacing Chris Sadler, who resigned after three seasons at Notre Dame.

Johnson says that Notre Dame has the administrative structure in place to build a championship program, as evidenced this winter when the basketball team took home the Division I state championship. "I look forward to competing at a level this season that will put Notre Dame Football back into the conversation as one of the area's top football programs," he says.

RUN LIKE A GIRL

Bernadette Boyle '03 Finishes Boston Marathon

IN WIND AND DRIVING RAIN, Bernadette Boyle '03 reached another milestone in her running career when she competed in April's Boston Marathon, finishing in just over four hours. An avid runner for most of her life—she ran cross-country at ND and was founder of the indoor track team—Dr. Boyle put up with punishing weather conditions to raise scholarship money for Sacred Heart University, where she is an associate professor of math.

The Boston Marathon is so popular that entry is tightly limited. Dr. Boyle got the chance to compete through a Sacred Heart board member who works for John Hancock, the primary race sponsor. Although she has run nine half marathons (each just over 13 miles), "this was my first full marathon, and I was proud to represent SHU in it," she said. At the close of race day, the grand total raised on her fundraising page was $7,500.

Training for a marathon requires commitment...and plenty of it. Dr. Boyle ran six days a week, even during that long stretch of below-freezing weather this past winter. "Running in the bitter cold is a mental challenge, and you need that mental toughness to get through a marathon," said Dr. Boyle, who is also a faculty mentor for SHU's track and cross country teams.

"I love running and I always have," said Dr. Boyle. "I couldn't be happier to have used my passion for running to raise money for Sacred Heart scholarships."

BY NINA RICCIO

MEDICINE MAN: Joe Iluore '08

Mention the name "Joe Juice" to anyone who was hanging around Notre Dame in 2008, and the response is always the same: A huge grin.

JOE WAS A TRANSPLANT, a kid from Nigeria who came to ND by way of the Bronx, landing in Fairfield for his sophomore year.

As a member of the Notre Dame football team, Joe felt an instant click. "Being on that team taught me friendship and loyalty and consistency," he said. Those teammates formed the core of Joe's friend group and continue to be among his best friends today.

But football wasn't the only thing Joe was good at doing. "He was a great student because he was motivated, and he'd do what he needed to do to reach his goal," said his math teacher Ms. Sherrie Zembrzuski. "He wanted to become a doctor and realized he'd need to make sacrifices to get there, and he was willing to do that."

Family was another motivator for Joe. He has always had tremendous respect for his family, and has been a great support for them as well. He recognizes all the opportunities he's been given, and has the sense that those opportunities come with tremendous responsibility.

After ND, Joe attended Syracuse University on a full scholarship, and upon graduation landed a prestigious and highly competitive fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, where he spent two years doing research on neurodegenerative diseases in children. He's now in medical school at the University of Buffalo, and closer than ever to reaching his dream of becoming a doctor—he's interested in emergency medicine with a concentration in pediatrics.

Success, Joe has said, is not about how much money you make or how much power you have, but about the ability to do what you love most.

BY NINA RICCIO

2018

Lancer Legacy Gala

THE 225 PEOPLE WHO FILTERED INTO THE WATERVIEW IN MONROE on a chilly night in March were all there to celebrate Notre Dame, share some fond memories and honor those in the Notre Dame community who have gone above and beyond in living out the mission of the school. The Lancer Legacy Gala is always a special night, and this year's celebration was no exception.

"The addition of our two new awards, the "Excellence in Education Award" and the "Parent Award," made the evening even more noteworthy," said Director of Advancement/Alumni Relations Theresa (Saia '79) Marzik, P'04,'06,'10, adding that these awards gave the school the opportunity to thank a broader range of people who have worked so hard to make Notre Dame the unique community that it is.

"As always, it's gratifying to see so many alumni and friends of Notre Dame gather to congratulate our honorees. It's a fun event, of course, but above all, it's a great way to celebrate all that is Notre Dame."

Sister Marion Rielly Leadership Award

Fr. Tom Lynch '62, pastor of St. James Parish in Stratford, serves as a Dean within the Diocese of Bridgeport. Co-author of *After the Diagnosis: A Guide for Living*.

Carole Christy Surina Educator Award

Dr. Michelle Carbone Loris '64, associate dean in the College of Arts & Sciences at Sacred Heart. Serves as Chair of the Department of Catholic Studies and Director of the SHU Journey.

Notre Dame Community Impact Award

Russell Colon, president of Colonial Coating. Supports the Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders program and funding for private high school and college scholarships.

Notre Dame Excellence in Education Award

John J. Reidy, Notre Dame teacher from 1964 to 2010. English Department Chair for 24 years and Dean of Students for 14. Coached 42 seasons of sports at Notre Dame.

Notre Dame Parent Award

Michelle McGuire, active member of the Parent Association and co-chair of the grandparent's mass and breakfast and the annual scrap booking fundraiser. Assists or chairs Open House, the fall flower sale, the spring musical and annual Gala.

Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees

Chanel Cathey '04, Patricia Silk Popp '86, Matthew Reale '82

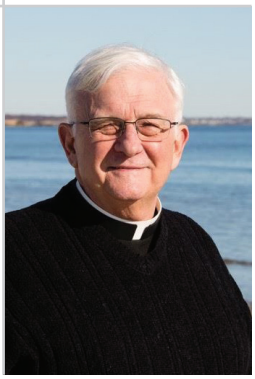
Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Jeff Velleca '05, Lindsey Russo '10
Team Inductee: 1986–87 Hockey

1 Michelle Loris; **2** The Reidy Family; **3** Chris Cipriano and Michelle McGuire; **4** Patti Popp and Family; **5** Chanel Cathy with her mom and dad; **6** Fr. Tom Lynch with Chris Cipriano; **7** Matt Reale with Friends and Family; **8** Matt Reale and Chris Cipriano; **9** Retired Notre Dame Faculty Members; **10** Lindsay Russo with Chris Cipriano

AFTER THE DIAGNOSIS

A Guide for Living



Father Tom Lynch

The Reverend Father Thomas F. Lynch '62 has been the pastor of St. James Parish in Stratford for the past thirty years, and in that time, he's counseled a lot of people who are grappling with loss and death.

NOW HE'S THE CO-AUTHOR, with Barbara Mariconda, of a book, *After the Diagnosis: A Guide for Living*, which offers help for anyone who is facing loss, or a difficult diagnosis for themselves or a loved one, and who seeks a loving approach to making the most of the precious time they have left.

The book came about, he says, because he has seen again and again the personal suffering people feel when life is drawing to a close, and the way they feel radically isolated from everyone and everything they've loved. And he knows from his experience as a counselor and pastor that there is a much better way.

"We don't talk about death in our society," said Father Lynch. "Every single one of us is going to die, and yet when we get a diagnosis, everything we're told by society to do—to fight it, to avoid death at all costs—is the wrong thing. That only intensifies our suffering. I want this book to begin a new conversation."

This book, he said, is more about living than dying. While offering concrete strategies to help patients and caregivers, he hopes it will empower people to have the open, honest, and loving conversations people need to have with their loved ones as they walk this path together. So often people waste the precious time they have by fighting, yet he said he has seen people transform the time before death into being the best time of their lives.

After the Diagnosis: A Guide for Living is available for sale. Go to www.journeyofthesoulbooks.com for more information or to read an excerpt.

Jay and Mary Jane Reidy

Faculty Legend Wins Excellence Award for 42 Years of Teaching

Jay Reidy, a former English teacher at Notre Dame High School for 46 years, was named the first recipient of the Excellence in Education Award at the school's annual Gala.

KNOWN FOR HIS DEDICATION and commitment to his students—and for the excellent magic tricks he would perform—Reidy was also chairman of the English department for 24 years, dean of students for 14 years, and coached 42 seasons of sports at Notre Dame, including baseball, cross-country, swimming and tennis.

Principal Christopher Cipriano called him a "Notre Dame faculty legend," and quoted several of the many nominations from colleagues and students that Reidy received for the award, praising him for his fairness, his work ethic, and for challenging students to do more than they thought they could. As one student put it, "I will be forever grateful to this teacher and mentor who has made such an enormous impact on my life."

Claudia Miller, who taught with Reidy for many years, called him a "gentleman and a scholar" and said, "He has a deep sense of integrity, and he taught us about the love of learning, caring about our students, and the pride that is Notre Dame."

Reidy said he was deeply honored by the award. "I couldn't have spent my life at a better place," he said. "One of the great rewards of teaching is seeing that even students who found high school to be a challenging time of life turn out to be successful adults. Seeing them go on to college and be successful there and beyond has been so rewarding.

BY SANDI SHELTON

Be Imitators of Christ
NOTRE DAME
High School
Fairfield
Building Character, Faith and Intellect

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Fairfield, Connecticut 06825

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LANCER HIGHLIGHTS

ND's First Individual State Golf Champion

AJ Bouvier '18 won the individual portion of the Class S State Tournament—shooting a 73!

Lancer Baseball Secures 4th State Title in Program History

"We had hopes of doing this at the beginning of the year, but the feeling . . . you can't describe it."

—BOB KAROSY '18

photo by Brian Pounds | *CT Post*

Basketball's 1st Title in 61 Years!

As the final buzzer sounded, the whole Mohegan Sun Arena erupted, the kids went crazy, and Coach Watts turned to face the crowd and held his arms up into the sky.

READ THE full story on page 8