

UNIVERSITAS

NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2016



THE PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Notre Dame community members,

From the first moment I stepped on campus as a presidential candidate, I sensed the great opportunities that await Notre Dame of Maryland University. That is why from the earliest days of my presidency I was so eager to finalize a new strategic plan to serve as our guide on the exciting journey to our University's future. Now the work of developing our plan, titled "Inspired by Tradition: The Path to Transformation," is completed and swiftly moving from concept to action.

Our vision for the University includes creating innovative programs in the arts and sciences and professions, inspiring students to lead and serve globally and promoting the

advancement of women. Five key strategic goals provide the architecture for this vision including the promotion of Catholic identity, SSND charism and service; advancing transformative education; creating opportunities for student engagement; ensuring the institutional effectiveness; and expanding our partnerships—local and beyond. The advancement of women and the promotion of global initiatives are themes woven throughout the plan.

It's important to note that the heart of the plan is based on our mission statement:

Notre Dame of Maryland University educates leaders to transform the world.

Embracing the vision of the founders, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the University promotes the advancement of women and provides a liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition.

Notre Dame challenges women and men to strive for intellectual and professional excellence, to build inclusive communities, to engage in service to others, and to promote social responsibility.

Throughout our 120+ year history, this mission statement has changed little—and work based on its affirmations benefits from the strength and promise they provide.

This issue of *Universitas* serves as your invitation to learn about our ambitions for NDMU. In the following pages you will come to know the focus, details, and status of our plan. And I hope you will be inspired to support the work necessary to make our planning a reality.

Marylou Yam, Ph.D.
President

UNIVERSITAS

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About the cover artist:

Stacy Bauer graduated from NDMU in 2015 with a self-designed photography and marketing communications major. She is currently a fine art portrait and wedding photographer who has captured moments from the mountains of the West Coast, to the cities of South Africa. Visit stacybauerphotography.com to see more of her work.



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INSPIRED BY TRADITION: THE PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

Notre Dame of Maryland University Strategic Plan 2015–2020

A FEARLESS AND FAITHFUL PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

“A goal without a plan is just a wish.” With these words, French writer, poet, and journalist Antoine de Saint-Exupéry sums up the importance of Notre Dame’s new strategic plan. Developed to guide University decision-making through the Year 2020, the plan envisions nothing less than transformative change for NDMU in the coming years. This issue of *Universitas* focuses on this roadmap for our success, the ambitions it sets for the University, and ways Notre Dame has already realized key action items.

Growth and evolution are called for across five focus areas and the plan is animated by two overarching themes: the University’s commitment to the advancement of women and to an enthusiastic embrace of the global community in which Notre Dame operates.

The plan is the result of eight months of work supported by nearly two dozen administrators, faculty, and a student representative, as well as by 90 volunteers who participated on various task forces. “The Path to Transformation” is now the roadmap by which decisions large and small are made throughout the University. “The proof of a vibrant university is its drive to periodically evolve and transform through thoughtful, comprehensive planning,” explains President Marylou Yam.

Committed to ensuring the achievement of the strategic plan under President Marylou Yam’s leadership, the Board of Trustees in January extended her contract by five years. Board Chair Gino Gemignani notes, “During a time of great challenge and change in higher education, we have the utmost confidence in Dr. Yam’s vision and commitment to NDMU, and fully support her initiatives as outlined in the strategic plan.”

Although still in its early phase of implementation, “wins” have come fast, including the successful completion of a \$6.5 million fundraising campaign for the renovation of the landmark Gibbons Hall.

New local, national, and international partnerships are a key goal of the plan. Early results include a new agreement with Learning House, a leading provider of educational solutions, to offer more fully online academic programs to national and global audiences, and a new partnership with Keswick Multi-Care Center in Baltimore to provide senior citizens with educational programming.

Next up for action is the University’s plan to reignite the Women’s Institute of Notre Dame, an initiative launched in 1992 to aid women in optimizing their personal, family, professional, and spiritual lives. The relaunch begins with the University hosting Women of the World (WOW) Baltimore, part of a series of international festivals that celebrate women and girls and explore remaining barriers to gender equality. WOW will be held on the Notre Dame campus October 7–8, 2016, in a collaborative partnership with leading nonprofit organizations, corporations, and individuals.

“All of us who love Notre Dame will accept nothing less than the full realization of the plan’s ambitions,” expressed President Yam. “We are off to a strong start and our momentum is building. The plan will serve to move our institution forward.”



Promote Our
Catholic Identity



Advance Transformative
Education



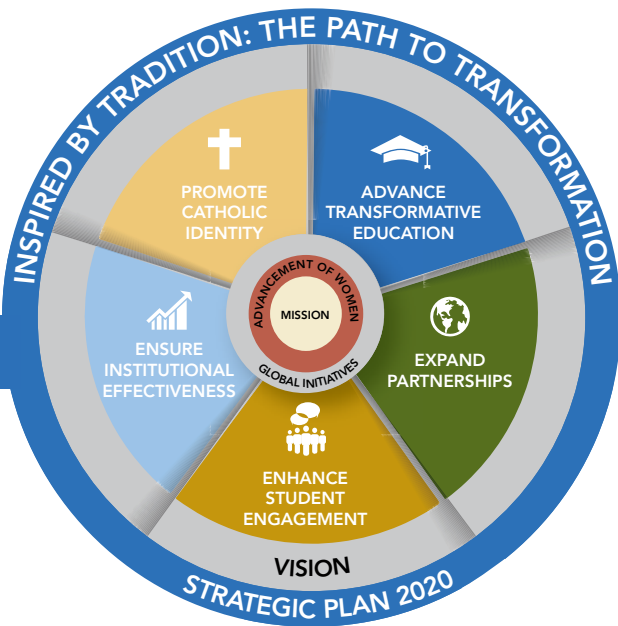
Enhance Student
Engagement



Ensure Institutional
Effectiveness



Expand Community and
Global Partnerships



New Leadership for a Leading Nursing Program



When your institution is among the region's leading sources of nurses, the quality of the nursing program's leadership matters to everyone. The right person for the job appeared in the candidacy of Kathleen Wisser, Ph.D., RN.

Dr. Wisser joined NDMU from Alvernia University in Reading, Pa., where she served as Associate Dean of Graduate Assessment and Healthcare Program

Development, and directed the MSN and RN-to-BSN programs and program development.

"We work to improve the health of the Baltimore metropolitan area's most vulnerable residents through outreach and service," said Dr. Wisser. "Nursing students at Notre Dame learn to create deep caring connections with patients, clients, fellow students, colleagues, and the discipline of nursing. Students experience ways in which the power of relationships can heal and transform not only the lives of their patients and clients, but their own as well."

NDMU's School of Nursing has prepared nearly 2,000 nurses, nurse administrators, and nurse educators over the past three decades. More than 95 percent of NDMU's nursing graduates find work in hospitals and health care facilities within Maryland.

Celebrating Research Day



From original art, to scientific research, to concert performances and poetry, NDMU's annual *Nancy Kreiter Student Research Day* was one to remember. This year, 52 students participated, showing off their work in Fourier Hall. Ten students were recognized for their research in arts and sciences.

Posters

- Science: **Esther Apraku Bondzie**
- Nursing Care: **Ria Smith**
- Health Care: **Sarah Arafat**
- Technology, Math & Environment: **Gabrielle Jacobson**

Sessions

- Session 2 & 3 (Traditional Presentations): **Katie Ketter**
- Session 4 (Postcolonial Literature): **Lauren Santi**
- Session 5 (Art Exhibits): **Summara Abaid**

Grand Prizes

- Poster: **Marie Angele Messou**
- Presentation: **Micah Castelo**
- Art Exhibit: **Emily Hurd**

The research forum honors the late Dr. Nancy Kreiter, an associate professor of biology who was a strong advocate for undergraduate research.

TOMS[®] Shoes: Lessons Learned in Social Entrepreneurship



Through its annual *Charles J. Busta III Lecture in Business*, Notre Dame brings women leaders to campus to share their insights on a broad range of professional fields, and stories of their career paths. This year's Busta lecture on April 19 welcomed Shira Shafir, Director of Social Innovation and Impact at TOMS Shoes, who talked about what her company has learned about using business to do good in the world.

Known for their One for One[®] giving program that includes shoes, sight- and water-giving, maternal and health-giving interventions, TOMS is transforming the well-being of women, children, and communities in the developing world. "TOMS' work is fully aligned with NDMU's mission of social responsibility," said Joan Davidson '93, Chair of the Busta Lecture Planning Committee. "Shafir's message was compelling and powerful, as evidenced by the lively Q&A session that followed her talk."

Prior to the lecture, Shafir (see above on the right) met personally with a select group of Notre Dame students to discuss the relationship between business and social responsibility.

Eight years after hosting the Olympics, Sarajevo became a war-torn region.

Despite coming to an end in 1995, the effects of the Bosnian war are still being felt.

In January 2016, as part of a Winterim service-learning class, several NDMU students and faculty traveled to the region to look at the effects of social, religious, and psychological trauma in Bosnia and Croatia. What they discovered was eye opening. Twenty-plus years hasn't been enough time to forget. The fire may be over, but students learned emotional wounds take longer to heal.

Service/Study Abroad



"Even though you can see these people are hurting, you can also see that many of them are recovering. It was both powerful and rewarding to see."

—Amanda Knutilla '15

"I heard stories of tragedies that I never could imagine living through, but I also heard stories of incredible strength and resilience ... I hope to become fluent in the Bosnian language and to return to Sarajevo."

—Amber Williams '16



Haiti

This spring, 12 students from NDMU's School of Nursing traveled to Haiti for Global Nursing Grounded in Caring: The Haiti Experience. The trip provided students an incredible experience learning, working, and caring for residents in some of Haiti's poorest regions. Students and faculty immersed themselves in the culture, learning firsthand how nursing bridges social justice.



A service aboard trip becomes the inspiration for a Davis Projects for Peace submission (see box for details). Last summer, Cristina Barrios-Lopez '17 and Maggie Linz '16, along with other NDMU students, traveled to Peru to immerse themselves in the culture. They made friends, learned how to navigate without the use of their GPS, and learned a lot about themselves in the process.

"Peru has changed the way that I think and the way that I act on my feelings. The peace that I felt translated into patience. I became much more adventurous and open. I learned that I am capable of more things than I thought I was ... I have taught sign language to a deaf child. I have hiked a mountain at 5 a.m. ... I have found an honorary grandfather while assisting at a program for elderly adults at the chapel who never fails to embrace me warmly and invite me to dance. I have eaten guinea pig brain, alpaca tongue, and cow intestines, among many other things."

Maggie Linz '16

"We depended on different types of transportation to get us places and that was the most rewarding part—knowing that although we were not familiar with everything, we did not let that stop us from exploring and getting to our destination. Although we lived in a completely different area, we stuck together and figured out how to get around. We were able to sightsee and take pictures of very memorable moments; this is what led to such a phenomenal trip."

Cristina Barrios-Lopez, '17

DAVIS PROJECTS FOR PEACE

Notre Dame undergraduates stand shoulder to shoulder with students from Harvard, Princeton, Georgetown, Duke, and (that other) Notre Dame in successfully competing for project awards from the Davis United World College Scholars Program.

This year NDMU students Cristina Barrios-Lopez '17, Maggie Linz '16, and Diana Liz '18 had their proposal, Uno Sobre Nuestra Comunidad (The Roof Over Our Community) selected. As part of the award, they will receive a \$10,000 grant to bring their proposal to life. The three will travel to Peru to work with the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Canto Grade (a neighborhood on the outskirts of Lima) to replace the roof on the community center.

Since its inception in 2007, 23 Notre Dame students have had their proposals for projects selected. Previous Projects for Peace have taken place in Bolivia, Pakistan, Kenya, and Tanzania.



This summer, the eyes of the world will be focused on Brazil as it plays host to the Olympic games. As part of a study abroad spring break experience, several NDMU students can say they were there as the country was gearing up for the festivities. Students got to explore and experience the culture while also attending lectures at the Pontifical University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC RIO). In addition to exploring Rio, the group flew to Manaus and spent 2½ days immersed in the Amazon Forest.

NDMU Women Sweep Top 100!



Five Notre Dame alumnae, a trustee, and a member of the President's Advisory Council were named to the prestigious *Daily Record's* 2016 Top 100 Women list. From left (with President Marylou Yam in green) are honorees Mary Beth Lennon '89, President, Mercy High School; Christina Bolmarcich '97, Principal, Attorneys Semmes, Bowen & Semmes; Melissa Delaney '92, Vice President, Global Web Services at Legg Mason & Co, LLC; Karen Heyward-West '02, Homesharing Director for St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center; and Leslie Simmons '94, R.N., F.A.C.H.E., President of Carroll Hospital Center.

Trustee Patricia Brown, Esq., Senior Vice President of Managed Care and Population Health of Johns Hopkins Medicine, President of Johns Hopkins HealthCare LLC, and Senior Counsel for The Johns Hopkins Health System, and Ava Lias-Booker, Member, NDMU President's Advisory Council, and Managing Partner, McGuire Woods LLP, were named to the Circle of Excellence, an honor bestowed upon those who have been on the Top 100 list three times. Our fearless and faithful graduates and others associated with NDMU have been honored among the Top 100 Women every year since the program's inception in 1996.

President Yam Expands Role in Advocating for Maryland's Women

Supporting and promoting the advancement of women and girls is a commitment as old as the University itself, so it's fitting that NDMU's President has been appointed to the Maryland Commission for Women by Governor Larry Hogan.



www.marylandwomen.org

Dr. Marylou Yam will represent Baltimore City on the Commission, which advocates on behalf of women and girls to expand their social, political, and economic opportunities.

Dr. Yam's background and experience are particularly applicable to her role on the Commission. She began her career as a registered nurse and a nursing educator, and is a nationally recognized researcher on domestic violence. Her commitment to some of the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society is aligned with the goals and mission of the Commission.

"I look forward to serving alongside my fellow commissioners to continue to push the agenda for the advancement of women in Baltimore and across Maryland," said Dr. Yam.

SAVE THE DATE NOW FOR WOW! OCTOBER 7-8, 2016

In collaboration with leading nonprofit organizations, corporations, and individuals, Notre Dame is excitedly planning for the WOW—Women of the World—festival, to be held on the NDMU campus October 7–8. Attended worldwide by more than one million people, WOW is a global movement of festivals that celebrate women as forces for positive change and take a frank look at remaining barriers to gender equality. Festivals are planned through "Thinkins"—public, inclusive, and organic gatherings that generate topics that matter most to area women and our city (see right for photos from the April Thinkins). This world-class event will inspire and engage women and men throughout the region, and shine a positive spotlight on our city. Mark your calendar to attend and visit wow-baltimore.org for more details and programming.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND REACH, ENHANCE IMPACT

For more than a century, Notre Dame of Maryland University has forged partnerships as a means to grow its presence and fulfill its mission of educating leaders to transform the world. NDMU is aligned with dozens of organizations including hospitals, human service agencies, parochial and public schools, corporations, and even the United Nations.

These new partnerships serve as prime examples of how collaboration creates opportunity.

Helping Homebound Seniors Continue to Grow

 **KESWICK** Combine two century-old organizations equally eager to transform lives, and you

have the partnership created earlier this year between NDMU and Baltimore-based Keswick Multi-Care, one of the region's premier provider of services for older adults. The partnership is creating additional educational and service-learning opportunities for Notre Dame students, and is deploying technology to aid homebound seniors in accessing interactive online programming, education, and social activities.

In addition to producing online content for the Virtual Senior Center (VSC), the partnership will aid curriculum development and support for Notre Dame's School of Pharmacy and School of Nursing students, as well as for instructors and members of NDMU's Renaissance Institute, a lifelong learning program for those age 50 and older.

Expanding Online Programs for Fall 2016

The Learning House, a leading technology provider of higher education solutions, is partnering with NDMU to support several degree programs in a fully online format, with classes beginning in the fall of 2016. These programs include Business (B.A.), Analytics (M.S.), Leadership in Teaching (M.A.), Leadership in Higher Education (Ph.D.), and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Risk Management.

NDMU is a recognized leader in adult education, and was among the first institutions in the state of Maryland to provide part-time undergraduate and graduate-level programs designed specifically for working adults. "These additional online offerings enable us to go well beyond our campuses and to meet students where they are—so we can help take them where they want to go," explains Dr. Marylou Yam, NDMU President.



Expanded Reach, International Opportunities, Global Exposure

NDMU is pleased to report that it has been granted NGO status by the United Nations—the only college or university in Maryland with this designation. Notre Dame students, faculty, and SSNDs already attend annual meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. NGO status affords our students and faculty members expanded opportunities to address global issues on an international stage.

Now in its second year, the *Joan Develin Coley Visiting Ambassador Program* welcomed in early May Ambassador Claudia Fritsche (*top left*), who became the first resident Ambassador of Liechtenstein in Washington in 2002. She previously served for 12 years as the Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations. The Ambassador presented NDMU community members with an engaging and informative address, later tweeting, "Inspiring visit and discussions with students and faculty @NotreDameofMD—'She believed she could, so she did.'"

Tina Newton '18 (*bottom left*) was selected as Youth Representative to the United Nations for NDMU, and is the first student in the state to receive this title. The roles of representatives vary, but typically includes providing input to their delegation on issues related to youth, and participating in various meetings and informal negotiations.



KEEPING SATELLITE CAMPUSES WITHIN NOTRE DAME'S ORBIT



With a growing number of online courses and with satellite campuses stretching across the state, how do NDMU students, who rarely, if ever, set foot on the main campus, feel connected with the wider University community? That question has gained increased importance as the University's strategic plan calls for expanded efforts to enhance student engagement in the life of the University.

For Beth Hancock '14, who earned her B.A. in Liberal Arts and certifications in Early Childhood and Elementary Education at NDMU's off-site location at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM), the answer is easy. "NDMU is so accommodating and understanding of student goals," she shared, "I took the initiative to be a part of the community, and the community reached back out to me."

Even though she was a student at an off-site location, Hancock took advantage of an accelerated summer course in Baltimore during which she lived on the NDMU campus temporarily.

"Everyone is welcome," Hancock emphasized. "I even served as a United Nations delegate for the School Sisters of Notre Dame on the Commission on the Status of Women." Currently, Hancock is a pre-K teacher in Charles County, but she isn't saying goodbye to NDMU yet. "I am halfway through my master's program in Educational Leadership." Thanks to the unique student teaching, she was able to complete in Ghana through the auspices of Notre Dame, she is now applying as a Title 1 preschool teacher.

A similar experience is relayed by retired Navy Captain Barbara A. Ives M'12, who earned her M.A. in Leadership in Teaching, Certification: Math & Administrator I from NDMU, also at the CSM off-site location. Captain Ives, a member of the first class of women at the United States Naval Academy, retired from the military with almost 27 years of service to our country and has pursued a second career in teaching.

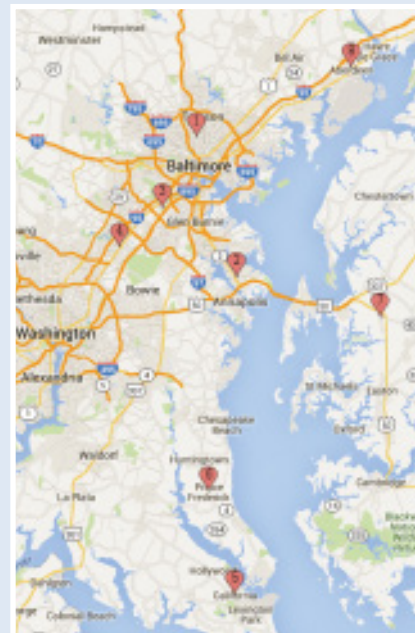
"I encourage all my teacher buddies to go to Notre Dame because the process was so easy," comments Captain Ives. "Everything is so well done from registration through enrollment, and it's a very caring environment. Notre Dame does a great job staying in touch by email, and folks from the main office come down and talk to us." Captain Ives admired the accessibility of Dr. Karen Wooten, Assistant Dean, and Dean Sharon Slear, SSND, Ph.D. '66. "I was so impressed that they answer their own phones!" she noted. "They made me feel so at ease and comfortable."



All NDMU students, no matter their "home" campus, receive email and other communication and invitations to participate in the life of the main Baltimore campus. This includes students registered for online courses, such as Notre Dame's fully online Risk Management Certificate program. Recently, the first group of risk management students, many of whom knew each other only virtually, gathered for their graduation ceremony in Washington, D.C. There to celebrate their certificate

completion was Notre Dame President Marylou Yam, who made the special effort to assure online students that they are as much a part of the University community as any traditional student.

"The strategic plan challenges us to expand our reach, which online courses and satellite campuses enable us to accomplish, but the plan also demands that we increase engagement with our students and alumni," Dr. Yam said. "We are committed to doing both well."



NDMU's off-site programs in Maryland include undergraduate and graduate Education degrees and courses at :

- Anne Arundel Community College (Arnold and Hanover locations)
- College of Southern Maryland (Prince Frederick campus)
- Eastern Shore Higher Education Center (Wye Mills)
- Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (California)
- University Center Northeastern Maryland (Aberdeen)

NDMU also provides courses at local sites through partnerships with Maryland school systems, businesses, and hospitals.

TRIBETA'S TREE PLANTING PROGRAM BEAUTIFIES CAMPUS



A college campus can have an indelible mark on students' lives—years after graduation, they will recall fond memories of late-night study sessions at the library, a crisp fall day walking to class, or gathering with friends. However, what if students could leave a lasting legacy on their campus so that when they return years later they can directly see the fruits of their labor? Students in TriBeta, a biology honors society at NDMU, are indeed changing the campus landscape through an ambitious initiative involving the planting and nurturing of beautiful trees.

Each year, around Earth Day, the student organization organizes a community service day to plant approximately six to eight native trees to help beautify the campus and promote a culture of sustainability. "We study plant life in the classroom, but to experience and see it first-hand is so rewarding," says Candace Wright, a senior biology major and president of TriBeta.

Mattie Kobus, horticultural coordinator of TriBeta and a senior biology student, concurs. "We learn the importance of native species. I've become so passionate about it that I only plant native species at home."

The tree planting program began in 2008. Since the program's inception, 47 native trees have been planted.

In order to pay for the trees and all necessary supplies, TriBeta organizes a campus-wide laser and inkjet printer-recycling program. Cartridges are sent to a company that sells them and credits TriBeta's "bank account." Funds are used to purchase trees, fertilizer, topsoil, Gator watering bags, and posts and fencing to protect the trees.

Students learn what it takes to plant a tree and, more importantly, how to nurse it along and take care of it. "There is no instant gratification when planting a tree," adds Lab Director Pat Bell, who also helps plan and execute tree plantings. "It's an important lesson for students that this is a multi-year project that must be carefully managed."

In addition to the annual Tree Planting Day, trees are also planted for special occasions, such as in honor of retiring faculty or staff members.

TriBeta also works to protect older trees. In recent years, deer were causing serious damage to some of the trees. Rather than plant new trees last year, TriBeta implemented a strategy to protect the trees, while remaining sensitive to the deer's natural habitat and behaviors. All trees planted in the future will include protective measures, helping ensure that TriBeta's efforts can be enjoyed by future students and faculty for years to come.

RUNNING WITH A NEW PROGRAM

This fall there will be a lot of running around campus, but it will have nothing to do with going from class to class. The University is adding **Cross-Country** to its athletic line up.

The addition aligns the institution more closely with the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) by providing a sport that all CSAC member schools offer. Cross-Country is an increasingly popular sport. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations more than 221,000 high school girls nationwide run cross country; in Maryland that number is more than 2,800.



SPORTS ROUND UP

Rookie of the Year



Congratulations to two-sport stand-out **Megan Morales** for being named conference rookie of the year in both field hockey and lacrosse. As a member of the field hockey team, she finished the season with 11 goals, placing her in the CSAC rankings, and a Second Team All-CSAC selection. On the lacrosse field, she set a new school record for goals scored in a game at 11, and broke NDMU's top ten list for single season goals. She is ranked fourth nationally for goals per game, and eighth for free position goals per game. In addition to CSAC Rookie of the Year honors, she was named First Team All-CSAC.

BIDDING FAREWELL WITH THE FINAL SPLASH



It was a walk down memory lane as Notre Dame bid farewell to its swim team and long-time coach, Curt Jordan. In his 27-years as head coach of the NDMU swim team, Curt Jordan amassed six conference championships. From stories of training in Florida and sets of 400 IMs, to Coach Jordan's famous "HUP" call, "The Final Splash" against Bridgewater College was all about the history of the program and the impact Jordan had on it and the women he coached.

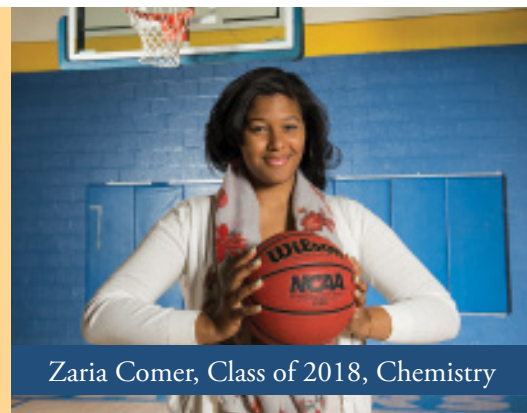
The day began with a welcome reception that turned into a mini-reunion. Current and former swimmers got the chance to meet one another and share stories. There were folks in attendance from as far away as Texas, Indiana, Florida, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

The biggest highlight of the day, was the unveiling of the memory wall behind the starting blocks. It lists the names of every woman that has swum for Notre Dame since 1939, proving "Once a Gator, always a Gator."

In the end, the Gators fell to Bridgewater 24-67. Jordan finished his tenure as coach with one "Final Splash" in the pool and a 167-121 record.

“Thank you for helping me achieve my goal being the first person in my family to graduate college. Your gift will be my motivation to continue to follow my dreams because you believe in me. I hope to be as kind to another hopeful student in the future.”

Thanks to donors like you, more than 90% of students receive financial assistance.



Zaria Comer, Class of 2018, Chemistry

NDMU Chaplain Father William O'Brien

“Faith plays a role in all we do.”



Universitas recently caught up with new NDMU chaplain, Father Bill O'Brien, accompanied by his Irish Setter, Hugo, who seems destined to become a campus favorite.

Before his ordination to the priesthood, Father Bill worked at various businesses and government agencies, but he has always been called to his Catholic faith.

What's your favorite place to pray on campus?

I would say the Marikle Chapel of the Annunciation because that is where the community gathers for prayer. When I need to talk and to listen to God in a personal conversation, then I like to be in the gazebo in the fresh air and sunshine.

What role can faith play in one's education?

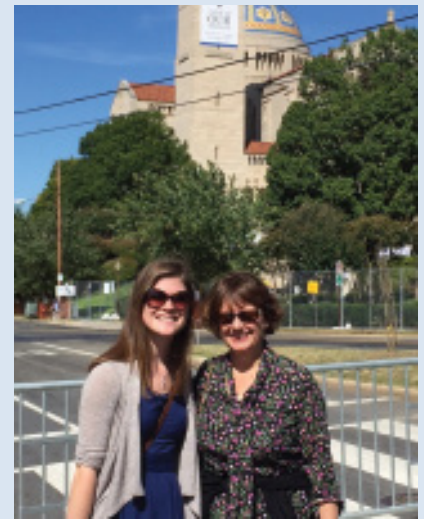
Faith plays a role in everything we do. God's grace is the source of all knowledge, and it is God as creator who gives us as mortals the desire and the grace to search out meaning and understanding of our world.

How is faith lived on campus?

We have to tell our best friend the good news that we passed a tough exam, that someone has returned our love, that we have a candy bar to share. We also need to tell someone who loves us when we are hurt or when we are in need. That expression comes in our prayers as individuals and as a community. Faith can help us in answering the difficult questions we face as human beings, and our education can help us to see more clearly the need for faith to answer existential questions.

How does Hugo like life on campus?

Hugo accompanies me most of the time on the campus. He is almost six and was a show dog in his early life. Hugo is more than willing to be a stress reducer to anyone who just needs to pet him. The source of joy for me is in ministering to others, and Hugo shares in that.



PAPAL VISIT

President Marylou Yam and nursing student Elizabeth Schachterle '17 were among a group of NDMU community members who travelled this past fall to the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. for the canonization Mass of Blessed Junipero Serra with Pope Francis.

A CELEBRATED MARIAN IMAGE ENRICHES NOTRE DAME'S CATHOLIC IDENTITY



For nearly 48 years a painting depicting the Annunciation hung in the St. Mary's of the Annunciation Church in Lonaconing, Md. Commissioned for the church's centennial celebration in 1965, the five-by-eight-foot painting is a reproduction of a famous 1450 fresco by Renaissance artist Fra Angelico. The original, regarded as a masterpiece of Renaissance art, adorns a wall in the San Marco Museum in Florence, Italy.

When the church was closed and razed by the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2013, a Notre Dame alumna recognized the opportunity to find a new home for the painting. Fearing that the painting would disappear from view, Dr. Andrea Bowden '69, a former St. Mary's of the Annunciation parishioner, helped have it cleaned and entrusted to her *alma mater*.

The public revealing of the painting, which now hangs prominently in the Murphy Gathering Space located at the entrance to Notre Dame's Chapel, occurred during this past Christmas Eve Mass—a special date for more than one reason.

“2015 Christmas Eve would have been the 150th anniversary of the first mass at St. Mary's of the Annunciation,” Dr. Bowden said to those gathered at the unveiling.

Dr. Bowden has been a teacher and administrator in Baltimore City Public Schools for 47 years.

Said art professor Dr. Domenico Firmani, “Seeing this painting on our campus takes me back to a hallway in the Monastery of San Marco in Florence, Italy, where the original—considered the artist's finest work—remains today. It is only fitting that this beautiful copy of his masterpiece greet us as we move towards our Chapel, named for this most important of church feast days, in this University, dedicated to Our Lady.”

Fearless and Faithful, Dr. Yam Installed as President

With all the academic pageantry befitting the inauguration of the University's 14th president, Dr. Marylou Yam was installed in office declaring, "I pledge today, and every day, to serve our mission with all I have to offer: words, actions, energy, values, and, of course, faith. You have my fearless and faithful promise of enduring love and resolve to all that Notre Dame is today and all she will be in the future!"

Themed "Tradition and Transformation," the inaugural events included the installation ceremony attended by representatives of universities and colleges from across the country, a Mass in Marikle Chapel celebrated by Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, and a day of community service in partnership with the United Way of Central Maryland.

In her inaugural address, Dr. Yam talked about the challenges that face higher education, the need for better access, the competition for grant dollars, and the ongoing questioning of the value of the liberal arts. Another challenge, she asserted, is the unrealized dream of equal opportunity in the workplace where women still earn 78 cents for every dollar men earn.

President Yam affirmed Notre Dame's commitment to the advancement of women. She said, "Notre Dame has all the ingredients for continued success and growth: a strong legacy, a compelling mission, robust and distinctive academic programs, the identity of a Catholic university, and a talented faculty who model commitment to our students, to our city, and its residents ... to our world. This is the Notre Dame that is in my heart! I ask you to join with me as we work together, rooted in our values and energized by our vision to achieve the transformation that our mission promises. We are the authors of the next chapters in Notre Dame's history!"



2



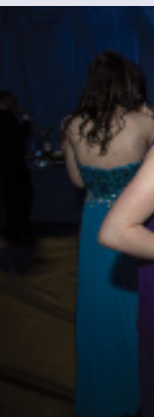
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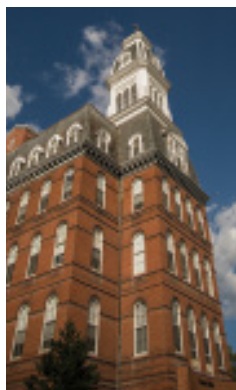
1. Five Notre Dame presidents gather for Dr. Yam's inauguration. Left to right: Dorothy M. Brown '54, Ph.D.; Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.; Marylou Yam, Ph.D.; Sister Kathleen Feeley, SSND '50; Joan Develin Coley, Ph.D.
2. Dr. Yam processes in to a full house in LeClerc Auditorium.
3. Archbishop William E. Lori presides over the Inauguration Mass.
4. Dr. Yam and her son, Michael, share a warm moment before the ceremony.
5. David Yam, Marylou Yam, Sister Kathleen Cornell, SSND '69 and Gino Gemignani
6. Dr. Yam is toasted at the President's Gala.

“I ask you to join with me as we work together, rooted in our values and energized by our vision to achieve the transformation that our mission promises. We are the authors of the next chapters in Notre Dame’s history!”



7. Women’s College students celebrate at the NDMU Community Inaugural Ball 8. Dr. Yam and a student make bagged lunches at the Stone Soup Project, a service activity in honor of Inauguration.

NDMU HAS MET ITS MATCH!



The **Gibbons Project** is a \$6.5 million endeavor to make critically needed repairs to our iconic Gibbons Hall, and to help equip it with the latest in teaching and learning technologies. The project made a giant step toward its goal in spring 2015 with the State of Maryland’s approval of a \$3.2 million matching grant, contingent upon the NDMU raising matching private funds by June 1, 2017. Ambitious? To be sure. But commitment and perseverance have driven Notre Dame for more than 120 years. In less than a year, NDMU raised the \$3.2 million—more than a full year ahead of the state deadline.

Special thanks go to the Chairs of the Gibbons Final Mile Campaign, including Mary Lou Armstrong-Peters ’60 and Joe Peters, Missy Evans-Moreland ’84 and Rich Moreland, and Kay Pitts ’96 and Jim Pitts, and leadership gifts from Mary Catherine Bunting, the France-Merrick Foundation, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Dr. Tanya Easton: Our New Fearless Fundraiser



Dr. Tanya Easton joined Notre Dame of Maryland University in July 2015 as the new Vice President for Institutional Advancement, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge on donor relations, alumnae and alumni engagement, and using data to drive results. Originally from West Virginia, Dr. Easton previously served as Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Alderson-Broaddus College and at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

While focused on the long-term strategic success of the University, Dr. Easton also brings a warm personality and a solid dose of our patented Notre Dame fearlessness, all of which has allowed her to quickly acclimate herself and swiftly begin achieving success on behalf of the University. During her first year, she helped lead the launch of the Gibbons Project, the final mile of the \$42 million comprehensive Campaign for Notre Dame of Maryland University, and worked closely with President Marylou Yam and campus partners to see its completion in less than a year. “We worked hard to achieve the minimum \$3.2 million needed to meet a state matching grant for Gibbons Hall,” said Dr. Easton. “We’re thrilled to have met our goal, and to have done so well ahead of the deadline.”

When asked what she would like to share with our donors, alumnae, and alumni, Dr. Easton immediately responded on the importance of participation in the annual fund—which matters as much as the dollars. “A high level of participation helps us when talking to other funders, and foundations in particular,” she explained. “The participation rate of our alumnae and alumni is often a key benchmark that outside funders use in their decision-making about supporting the University. A gift to the Notre Dame Fund tells funders that you love and believe in your *alma mater*, a critical outcome that is hard to assess in any other way. Your gift—your vote of confidence—is so important!”

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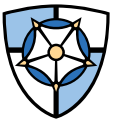
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