

THE NETWORKING COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

A PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING INDUSTRY EXPERTS



Saturday, January 24, 2015
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Doyle Formal Lounge
 Notre Dame of Maryland University
 Free and open to the public

Snow date: Saturday, February 7

Caring for a loved one can be challenging and, at times, overwhelming. A panel of caregiving experts will offer advice and answer questions for family caregivers.

Our panel includes:

- **Michelle Bruns**, Manager of the Baltimore County Department of Aging Caregivers Program
- **Sue Collins**, Hospice Nurse and Co-Author of the book *OK, Now What? A Caregiver's Guide to What Matters*
- **Ellen Platt**, Geriatric Care Manager, The Option Group/Senior Management Options
- **Ilene Rosenthal**, Program Director, Alzheimer's Association
- Moderator: **Connie Matsumoto**, Owner, Pabrique Interior Design, and Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist

A resource fair and afternoon tea reception will immediately follow the panel discussion.

For more information, please contact Megan Lentz at 410-532-5542 or mlentz@ndm.edu.



ROOTED IN SCHOLARSHIP, REACHING OUT THROUGH SERVICE:
THE NOTRE DAME MISSION IN ACTION

From President Yam



I am pleased to share with you my first issue of *Universitas* magazine as president of Notre Dame of Maryland University, an institution with a long and distinguished history of scholarship and service.

As you read these pages, I think you'll find the common themes of collaboration and partnership. When Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger had a dream of educating children, she knew she couldn't do it alone. She formed a community of like-minded women that became the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Similarly, 120 years ago, when the School Sisters saw the need for a college to educate women, they collaborated with a number of partners to realize their vision.

Today, collaboration and partnership continue to thrive in our community: in the classroom, where our students work closely with professors on research projects and first-rate scholarship; in the community, where we work with a broad and diverse group of partners, including the United Way of Central Maryland, Catholic Charities of Maryland, the city of Baltimore, city and county schools, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, corporations like Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. and Walgreens, and organizations such as the Maryland Independent Colleges and Universities Association (MICUA), among so many others. These partnerships and collaborations extend our reach into and influence on the community, and provide rich and valuable opportunities for our students.

Above all, our partnerships with our faithful alumnae and alumni, benefactors, and friends help us make a difference every day. Thank you for all you do for Notre Dame. Your support enables us to continue transforming the lives of our students, and they in turn will go out to transform our world.

From the editor



Every day I walk the halls of the Knott Science Center on the way to and from my third-floor office. Along the way, I pass science labs filled with students and professors in white coats, sometimes wearing goggles, holding test tubes or Petri dishes, peering into microscopes or operating sophisticated equipment.

You would be amazed at what they're up to. This issue of *Universitas* takes you inside the classrooms and labs and gives you a close-up look at some of the impressive work that's going on here, led by professors who are teachers and researchers. This is impressive research that will make a difference in people's lives. And every professor works closely with students who are learning

alongside them, gaining the laboratory skills and confidence that make our Notre Dame science graduates stand out in the field.

Another aspect of life here at Notre Dame that impresses me every day is the depth and breadth of service that our entire community is engaged in. Both last year and this past October I had the privilege of attending Project Homeless Connect at the Baltimore Convention Center. The army of blue Notre Dame baseball hats among the crowd of volunteers is always an impressive sight. It makes a powerful statement to the city of Baltimore that we are transforming the lives of its residents.

As you turn the pages of this issue of *Universitas*, you'll see a Notre Dame community that is embracing and advancing the pillars of our mission: striving for academic and professional excellence, building inclusive communities, engaging in service to others, and promoting social responsibility.

UNIVERSITAS

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Marianne Amoss '04
John Rivera
Joan Wisner-Carlson

Photographers
Larry Canner
Christine De Vinne, OSU, Ph.D.
Howard Korn
Christopher Myers
Brian Schneider

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410-532-5546
magazine@ndm.edu

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magazine do not necessarily reflect
the opinion of the editor or the
official policies of the University.



The cover painting, *Spruce or Fir?* by NDMU professor of art Kevin Raines, depicts a peaceful winter encounter amid natural beauty. It reflects the philosophy of environmental journalist Richard Louv, who spoke at Notre Dame in March about how immersing ourselves in nature results in better psychological, physical, and spiritual health.

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NOTRE DAME COMMUNITY



Baccalaureate Mass
Friday, May 22
Commencement
Saturday, May 23

ADMISSIONS



First Thursday information sessions are a great way to learn about our flexible and convenient undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs for working men and women.

First Thursday Open House

Our graduate and undergraduate programs for women and men offer flexible schedules, making it easier than ever to earn or finish your degree. Choose from semester-long, weekend, and accelerated courses.

Join us on the first Thursday of each month in Fourier Hall. Wine and cheese reception at 5:30 p.m., program begins at 6 p.m. Visit ndm.edu/essentialcredential or call 410-532-5500.

Women's College Winter Open House

Meet the Notre Dame admissions team, get great tips on the admissions process, tour Notre Dame's campus with a student ambassador, and attend special information sessions.

Saturday, January 17, 2015
8:30 a.m.–noon
ndm.edu/admissions/womens-college

ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Caring for Caregivers: A panel discussion featuring industry experts

A panel of caregiving experts will offer advice and answer questions for family caregivers.

Saturday, January 24, 2015
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Doyle Formal Lounge

SAVE THE DATE

Please plan to attend the inauguration of

Marylou Yam, Ph.D.

as 14th President of
Notre Dame of Maryland University

»»»» * ««««

Friday, April 17, 2015

Details about the inauguration of Dr. Yam will be available online at ndm.edu/inauguration in January 2015.

Center Club Breakfast with Debbie Phelps

Thursday, March 12, 2015
8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Center Club, 100 Light St. #16, Baltimore
\$35 per person
ndm.edu/alum

ART



Women in All Together Inside Out

The second annual art exhibit featuring the work of artists from MakeStudio, a community-based arts organization that provides multi-modal arts programming to individuals with disabilities.

February 2 through March 6, 2015
Reception: Saturday, February 7
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

26th National Drawing and Print Competitive Exhibition

The exhibition features the work of artists from the local, regional, and national art community.

March 23 through April 24, 2015
Reception and gallery talk:
Saturday, March 28, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Senior Thesis Exhibition

This exhibit highlights the thesis and capstone projects of graduating students.

May 4 through May 23, 2015
Reception: Tuesday, May 5
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
ndm.edu/gormleygallery

MUSIC



Ernest Ragogini, piano

Ernest Ragogini has toured the North, Central, and South American continents, performing in some of the most prestigious venues including Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, and Teatro Olimpia in Rome. He has recorded for National Public Radio, WQXR, New York, and WETA, Washington. He is founder/director of "Arts for Heart's Sake," a series to which artists contribute their services. In 2007, Ragogini was the interview/cover subject of *Clavier* magazine.

March 21, 2015, 7 p.m.
LeClerc Auditorium

Across the Seas: From Opera to Tango A fundraiser concert

General admission \$20
March 28, 2015, 7 p.m.
LeClerc Auditorium
www.lisztgarrisoncompetition.org

Laura Strickling, soprano Liza Stepanova, piano

These extraordinary artists were awarded first prize in the 2013 Liszt-Garrison Festival and International Competition and received the Franz Liszt Award for Best Performance of a work by Liszt.

April 11, 2015, 7 p.m.
LeClerc Auditorium

Commodores Jazz Ensemble
Senior Chief Musician Philip M. Burlin
In celebration of the inauguration of our new president, Dr. Marylou Yam, The Commodores, the United States Navy's premier jazz ensemble, return to LeClerc Hall.

April 18, 2015, 7 p.m.
LeClerc Auditorium

Ernest Ragogini, piano A Treasured Half-Century Relationship

A reflection on and performance of Franz Schubert's piano masterpiece, Sonata in B-Flat major D. 960, Op. Posth.

May 2, 2015, 7 p.m.
LeClerc Auditorium

Sundays at Two Concert Choir of Notre Dame of Maryland University

Dr. Jennifer Brimhall, Director
In Celebration of Spring
May 10, 2014, 2 p.m.
Marikle Chapel

[ndm.edu/community-and-tradition/
music-at-notre-dame-concert-series](http://ndm.edu/community-and-tradition/music-at-notre-dame-concert-series)

ATHLETICS



Root the Gators on to victory! For a schedule of athletic events, go to notredamegators.com

About Notre Dame of Maryland University

Notre Dame comprises four Schools—School of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy—offering premier academic programs through three divisions: Women's College, for full-time undergraduate women of traditional college age; College of Adult Undergraduate Studies and College of Graduate Studies, for flexible and convenient classroom, online, and hybrid courses for adult women and men.



NDMU HITS THE ROAD

President Marylou Yam will be traveling to Florida this winter, from February 23 to 27. She'll be meeting with alums in Fort Myers, Naples, Palm Beach, and Vero Beach. If you'd like to be part of one of the gatherings, please contact Eleanor Smith, Director of Donor Relations, at 410-532-5556 or esmith7@ndm.edu.

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Notre Dame of Maryland University Mission

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.

① - Streptococcus mutans

- Actinomyces oris

- Actinomyces odontolyticus

- Lactobacillus casei

② CFU counts



③

Temp. Change → killing bacteria

focus more resistant?



Notre Dame Women in STEM

There is significant work being done by the scientists at Notre Dame of Maryland University. And because student collaboration with professors is a hallmark of a Notre Dame education, these scientists conduct their research with **students by their side.**

CSI*:NOTRE DAME



*Collaborative STEM Investigation

BY JOHN RIVERA

If there were a patron saint of STEM at Notre Dame of Maryland University, it would have to be Alma McNicholas, SSND '26.

Sister Alma, who excelled as both a teacher—she was known for delivering 90-minute lectures without so much as glancing at a note—and a researcher who inspired generations of young women to pursue vocations in science, is the embodiment of a Notre Dame scientist. And she is a model of what Notre Dame science faculty strive for today: to be excellent teachers in the classroom and mentors in the lab. Small class sizes with engaged faculty offer students plenty of opportunity to work with their professors, who often share credit in scientific presentations and published research. This close collaboration is a hallmark of a Notre Dame education and is something you won't find readily on larger, more impersonal campuses.

"I think the small size of classes is what really helped me—having that one-on-one connection with profes-

sors," says Saba Shahzad, Class of 2015, a biology major from Allison Park, Pa. "They have their doors open to us anytime. All you have to do is walk in, and they help you. That's something that Notre Dame gave me that I don't think I would have gotten anywhere else."

The Sister Alma Science Year

One of Notre Dame's marquee programs for student research is the Sister Alma Science Year. This is a competitive program that grants three students each year an opportunity to work in the research laboratories of top scientists at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

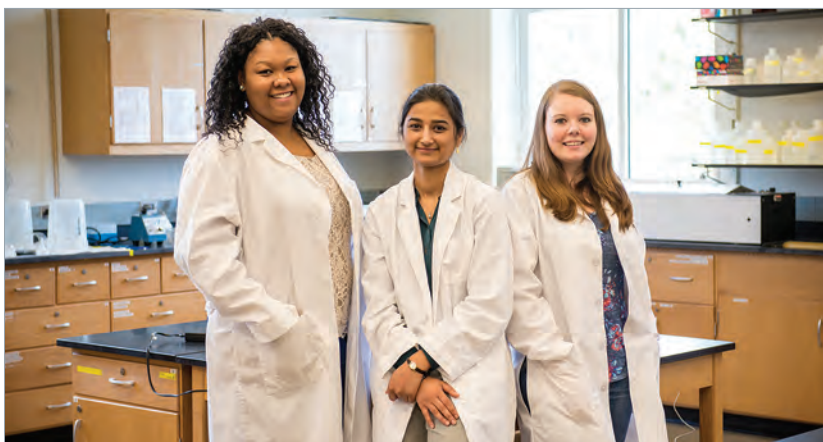
"The Sister Alma scholars experience the best of both worlds: the intimate classes and personal education at Notre Dame and the world-class research atmosphere at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine," says Peter Hoffman, Ph.D., chair of the biology department and a founder of the program. "They can literally bump into

Nobel Prize winners in the hallway."

The program started in 2004, when Dr. Hoffman heard from a friend of a friend that Langdon King, M.D., an esteemed researcher at Johns Hopkins, was looking for a student to work in his lab. Dr. Hoffman recommended an outstanding student, Thao Vuong '04, for the position. Apparently, Dr. King liked her work. "He came back and said, 'Do you have any more like her?'" Dr. Hoffman says. "Sure do" was the answer. Hoffman worked with Cathy Will, a Johns Hopkins administrator, and the Sister Alma Women Scientist program was born. This program funded students to work in Johns Hopkins laboratories during the fall and spring semesters.

With additional funding, this year a paid summer internship was added to the school year experience, and the program was renamed the Sister Alma Science Year. The addition of the summer experience is vital, Dr. Hoffman says. "Before, it took time to get them up to speed in the lab in the fall. This

Dental health: Jennifer Kerr, Ph.D. (left), assistant professor of biology, is working with senior biology major Allison Klein on an innovative new way to treat cavities.



Fast-forward: This year's Sister Alma scholars—Candace Wright, Saba Shahzad, and Brittany Dunkerly, from left to right—will graduate with the kind of research and publication experience that is rare for undergraduates.

way, they'll be able to do full-time research in the summer and be much more productive in the fall and spring."

The current Sister Alma scholars are senior Brittany Dunkerly of Glen Burnie, Md., who is doing research into heart disease in a lab led by Charles Steenbergen, M.D., Ph.D.; Shahzad, who is working with Susan Michaelis, Ph.D., looking at how misfolded proteins aggregate, research that could ultimately be used to help design treatments for cystic fibrosis

"I think the small size of classes is what really helped me—having that one-on-one connection with professors. They have their doors open to us anytime."

Saba Shahzad, senior biology major

and Parkinson's disease; and junior Candace Wright of Effort, Pa., who is researching HIV in the lab of Joel Blankson, M.D., Ph.D.

Dunkerly, a biology and chemistry dual major, says she values the process of discovery in lab research—so much so that she changed earlier plans to become a pharmacist. She now intends to pursue a Ph.D. so she can continue doing research.

"With the research I am doing through the Sister Alma program, there are often times where I have no idea what my results are going to be like, and even when I do have expectations the results can come out to be completely different," she says. "Learning how to troubleshoot and come up with a different plan when experiments go wrong has definitely been an experience of the Sister Alma program that I value in terms of my independence as a scientist."

In fact, Dunkerly's experience stands out in that she already has two poster abstracts and one peer-reviewed publication to her name and has two more poster abstracts in the pipeline. Her research output has impressed her Hopkins supervisor, Samarjit Das, Ph.D. With him, Dunkerly was a co-author on the paper published in *PlosOne*, a peer-reviewed

Sister Alma McNicholas, SSND '26, was a Notre Dame science legend, teaching and mentoring generations of students. She was a member of the biology department for more than 50 years, leading it as department chair for 38 years. She retired from full-time teaching in 1991 at the age of 88 and continued to teach part-time until she was 93.

Cynthia Wang, Ph.D. '69, who until her retirement earlier this year was a member of the biology faculty, recalls her years as Sr. Alma's student, remembering her as a professor who cared deeply about her students, of whom she had high expectations.

"In the classroom she had this amazing ability to explain complicated concepts in a way that all her students could grasp," Dr. Wang says.

And she couldn't bear to see her students' noses buried in their notes as she lectured.

"She would say, 'Put down your pens and listen.' And she would scan the classroom and wait until you did it," Dr. Wang says. "After a certain point, Sr. Alma would say, 'OK, now I will dictate.' And she would dictate specific definitions and concepts you needed to have in your notes."

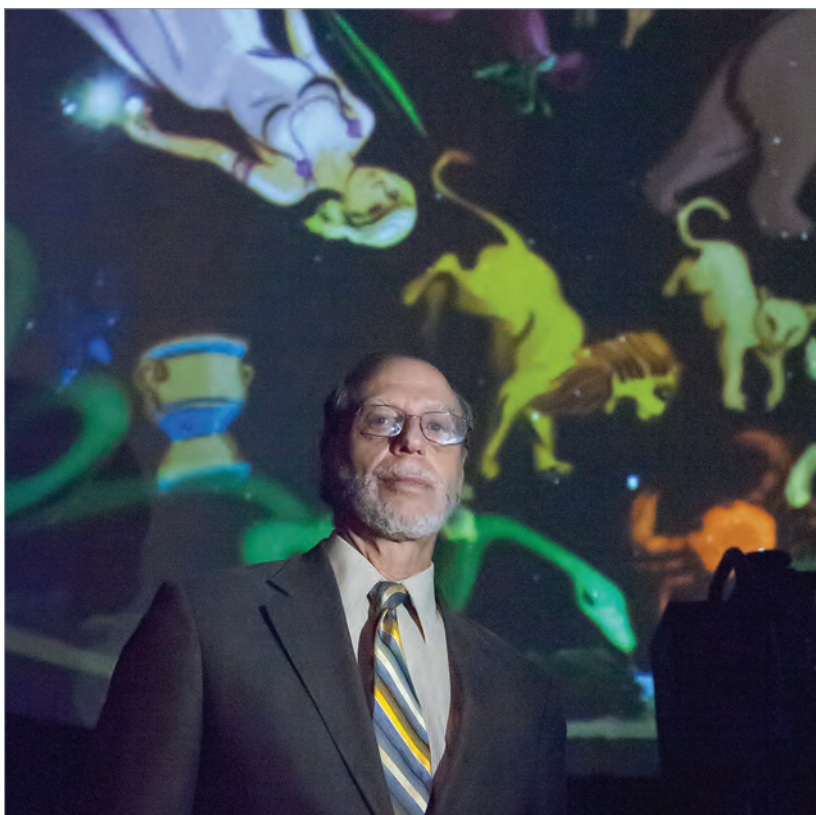
During the summer, Sr. Alma would go into the lab to do full-time research. Over the years, she worked on cardiovascular research at the Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago, the University of Birmingham in England, and the University of Illinois Hospital in Chicago.

Perhaps Sr. Alma's greatest legacy is her students, who have gone on to careers in science research, medicine, and academia.

"She was very exacting in the lab, very exacting in instructing in laboratory techniques," Dr. Wang says. "Biology graduates from Notre Dame have a very excellent reputation. People knew if they had Sr. Alma, they were really well trained."

When Sr. Alma retired, a scholarship fund for biology students was started in her name. It was this fund that financed the Sister Alma Women Scientist program, which has since evolved into the Sister Alma Science Year program.





Sky bright: Joseph Di Rienzi, Ph.D., professor of physics, in NDMU's Kathleen Price Bryan Planetarium. He and senior Suzanne Hamdy are studying how antimatter reactions affect the sun's ability to reflect light.

journal published by the Public Library of Science.

"Co-authorship [of a peer-reviewed paper] is a big deal. It means that whatever experiments she performed, those results are so good that you can publish it," he says. "At the end of her time here, she'll have three publications. I never met anyone who had a publication at her stage."

The Sister Alma students aren't the only ones getting to try their hand at real, world-changing research. Professors at Notre Dame are doing significant scientific investigation, with student researchers.

Healing Cavities in Space

Jennifer Kerr, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biology who specializes in oral microbiology, has teamed up with a dentist and with NASA to solve a potentially serious problem: What if an astronaut spending a prolonged

time in space develops a cavity that could become infected? After all, there are no dentists in space.

Their answer is a handheld device that delivers focused microwave energy (FME) to the area of the tooth that has a cavity and kills the bacteria causing the problem, leaving alone the other useful organisms in the mouth. The idea is that there are minerals in our saliva that can then repair the tooth in a process called remineralization.

"In theory, what that means is that if someone had a toothache, they could take this handheld device and apply it to the tooth that was causing the problem," Dr. Kerr says. "And then with their body's natural salivary mineral content, the tooth could actually fix itself."

Right now, she and her student researcher, senior Allison Klein of Baltimore, are growing bacteria to create cavities on pieces of teeth in Petri

dishes. "And then we treat that area with the focused microwave energy and ask whether the bacteria were killed and if the tooth was able to repair itself," she says. And so far, "FME is actually very effective in killing cavity-causing bacteria."

Klein, who is considering a future as a forensic anthropologist, says she feels honored to work on this NASA project with Dr. Kerr. "She has been a treat to work with, so approachable and patient, always gently nudging me forward to understand and to learn, and keeping me at ease while I assist her as best I can," she says.

The team is applying for grants to continue testing the device and will eventually move on to human trials. "We're looking at safety, because everyone wants to know, is it equivalent to sticking your head in a microwave?" Dr. Kerr says. "And it's not. It's a very focused area, only targeting the bacteria."

And they see applications of the device beyond space. "We would love to envision this technology in someplace like Africa, where many don't have access to a dentist except once every couple of years, or in dental clinics that service rural areas in the U.S.," Dr. Kerr says.

Theorizing about the Sun's Intensity

Joseph Di Rienzi, Ph.D., a professor of physics at Notre Dame, has been doing research the past 15 years at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., in theoretical atomic physics. Dr. Di Rienzi and his NASA colleague, Richard J. Drachman, Ph.D., have recently become interested in certain matter-antimatter reactions that may affect the sun's ability to radiate light.

The sun has been radiating energy for almost five billion years and will continue to do so for another five billion years before it loses its ability to produce the nuclear reactions that generate starlight. Throughout its

existence there have been effects that have caused the sun to shine more or less brightly. Drs. Di Rienzi and Drachman want to determine if antimatter has any part in this variable intensity.

Specifically, they are looking at how matter and antimatter interact in the upper atmosphere of the sun and similar stars. The ultimate matter/antimatter interaction results in mutual annihilation, but the researchers want to know what happens before that point is reached. Do these reactions have any significance in the opacity of a star and its ability to radiate light?

"There has always been interest in understanding reactions with negative hydrogen ions, H-minus, which we know are present in the upper atmospheres of stars like the sun," Dr. Di Rienzi says. H-minus ions absorb visible light, thus regulating the sun's opacity, which is the amount of light absorbed in the sun's upper atmo-

"It's fabulous doing research with undergraduate students. I really enjoy working as a supervisor and a mentor to them."

Dr. Jocelyn McKeon, associate professor of chemistry

sphere before it is radiated out into the solar system. The project is exploring the scattering of positrons, the antiparticles of electrons, off H-minus ions. When this happens, the extra electron in the hydrogen ion attaches to the positron and forms positronium. Then the H-minus becomes neutral hydrogen, which would lower the atmosphere's ability to absorb light.

Using the principles of quantum

physics, Drs. Di Rienzi and Drachman are developing a mathematical model with the help of specialized computer software to do calculations that will help them make predictions about the likelihood of the formation of positronium and neutral hydrogen in the sun's upper atmosphere. This fall, senior Suzanne Hamdy, who is a National Science Foundation Pathways to Excellence scholar, is working with Dr. Di Rienzi on the project.

"In the first phase of the project Suzanne and I are doing diagnostic calculations," he says. "We trust the computer, but we still have to look at the answer and see if it's physically viable."

The MacGyver of Notre Dame

We've all heard that the antioxidants in things like tea, red wine, and grapes are good for us, promoting heart health by increasing levels of high-

Zooming in: Jocelyn McKeon, Ph.D., and student Amanda Willingham are taking a close look at how antioxidants bind with a protein in the blood, to figure out which antioxidant-rich foods deliver the biggest benefit.





A bug's life: Dr. Kenneth G. Sossa and his dedicated team of student researchers are conducting experiments on giant cockroaches—including putting them on tiny treadmills.

density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol (the “good” cholesterol). But can we determine which foods with antioxidants are the most efficient delivering the biggest benefit, because they are absorbed more readily by our cells? This is the research focus of Jocelyn McKeon, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry.

Dr. McKeon, along with her student researcher, senior Amanda Willingham of Atlanta, is studying the degree of binding that takes place between certain antioxidants and albumin, which is a protein present in blood. The theory, based on scientific literature, is that there is a correlation between antioxidant-albumin binding strengths and the overall antioxidant capacity—in general, the greater the antioxidant capacity, the greater the potential efficacy and health benefit.

To measure this binding, Dr. McKeon uses a technique called capillary electrophoresis, which involves placing the compounds suspended in a liquid solution in a tiny capillary tube about the width of two hairs, applying an electric field across the capillary that separates the antioxidant compounds and monitoring the

amount of binding with the protein that takes place.

But at the outset of her research, she lacked one crucial piece of equipment: a capillary electrophoresis (CE) unit. So Dr. McKeon decided to “MacGyver” a solution. She applied for grant money and purchased several individual components that she and lab director Patrick Bell fit together into what she calls a homemade capillary electrophoresis machine.

As it turns out, her CE machine has several advantages, aside from being relatively inexpensive. It also allows for a quick method of developing experiments using a minimum amount of sample. And unlike commercial machines, big boxes that do the analysis inside and out of view, Dr. McKeon’s machine allows students to see what’s happening through a Plexiglas box.

It won’t be long before Dr. McKeon will be able to submit the results of her research in a paper for a peer-reviewed journal that will include the contributions of her students. “It’s fabulous doing research with undergraduate students,” she says. “I really enjoy working as a supervisor and a mentor to them.”

The Roach Motel of Knott Science Center

A door on the third floor of the Knott Science Center has a note taped to it: “Experiment in Progress. Enter only in case of emergency!”

On the other side of that door are hundreds of cockroaches. It’s not an infestation. It’s the home of the Giant Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, the insect of choice for Kenneth G. Sossa, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biology.

“These guys are actually somewhat cute. They don’t look like your garden-variety cockroach,” says Dr. Sossa. The Malagasy cockroach grows to about the size of a small mouse and eats leaves, and 100 can fit in a 10-gallon tank, which makes it an inexpensive and convenient specimen for study.

The cockroach has been traditionally used in biology classes to teach the rudiments of anatomy and the nervous system. Despite its small size, its nervous system is analogous to that of humans. And because the Giant Madagascar Hissing Cockroach is bigger than its more conventional cousin, the American cockroach, it makes for a better teaching tool.

But Dr. Sossa is taking it a step further and is studying the behavior of the cockroach. Specifically, he is looking at the effect on the nervous system of changes in environment, such as an absence of light or the presence of certain odors, in an effort to better understand cross-modal plasticity—the strengthening of other sensory systems due to the lack of one sense, such as sight.

“I’m manipulating the sensory world and looking at the nervous system and behavior to see how they adapt,” he says. That explains why he is raising cockroaches in total darkness. He wants to see how the nervous system adapts in a cockroach that has never seen light. Other experiments involve putting the insects on a tiny treadmill or in a Y-maze and seeing if placing the odor of another cockroach in one of the branches will affect its choice of direction.

“By asking the question in a simple

model, we can apply it to a more complex model,” he says. “It’s so cool we can observe something like this in insects.”

Victoria Meadows, a senior who is Dr. Sossa’s student researcher, says her experience has offered her opportunities for both mentorship and leadership. A poster on her research recently won a first prize in a UMBC research symposium.

“In Dr. Sossa’s lab, you are not only working alongside him, but also doing research alongside other students,” she says. “It gives me an opportunity to mentor other students who are interested in research.”

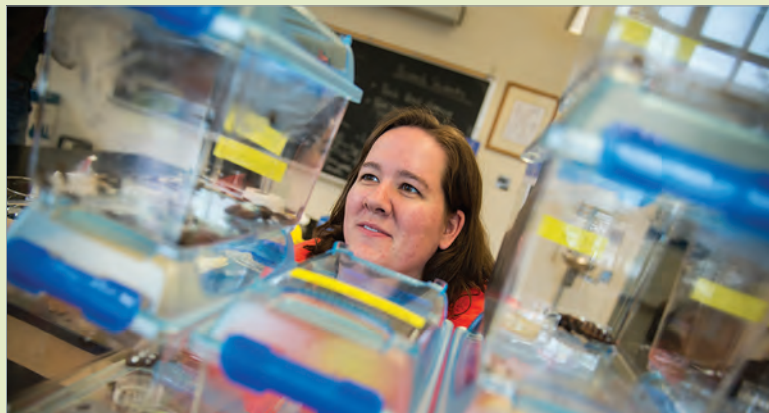
Meadows’ work at Notre Dame has put her on a track to enter a Ph.D. program next fall. “I’m lucky to be on this campus,” she says. “To experience such wonderful things and now to be part of award-winning research—it’s just something that I don’t think I would have gotten at another university.”

Victoria Meadows is fascinated by animal behavior.

On the weekends, she cavorts with birds and reptiles as a volunteer at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, but almost any time during the week, you’ll find her in a Notre Dame biology lab, working on a much smaller scale: studying the behavior of the female *Gromphadorhina portentosa*, aka the Giant Madagascar Hissing Cockroach.

Meadows’ research focuses on behavioral aggregation, sex preference, learning and memory, and cross-modal plasticity in the female insect, which has not been studied as much as the male. In October she took first prize in her category at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) 17th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences, in addition to prizes she’d already won at Morgan State University’s 21st Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, as well as Notre Dame’s own Nancy Kreiter Student Research Day.

After she graduates, Meadows plans to pursue a Ph.D. in animal behavior research with an eye toward working in a zoo or aquarium. “I’d like to take what I’m learning and apply it to bigger organisms,” she says. “That’s my dream.”



Notre Dame School of Education Is Leading the Way in STEM Education

- In the critical shortage area of STEM-trained K–8 teachers, Notre Dame prepares more STEM teachers than any other Maryland university.
- Notre Dame’s STEM Summer Institute is a popular destination for teachers who want to hone their skills. The STEM Summer Institute is a week-long, graduate-level program that provides teachers with the resources, knowledge, and methodology to engage their students with subject matter related to natural resources. This interdisciplinary program is a great opportunity for teachers of all grade levels and disciplines.
- Notre Dame’s STEM Summer Camp is a program for students who want to have fun while exploring their budding interests in science, technology, engineering, and math. This past summer, campers were introduced each day to a new STEM concept focused on the Chesapeake Bay and participated in hands-on learning. Campers worked in small groups with counselors who are pre-service or in-service teachers enrolled in a School of Education degree program at Notre Dame.



MY SUMMER OF WAR

By Hanadi Kaleel, Class of 2017

Over the past 60 years, few international issues have generated as much rancor, terror, and sorrow as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To many observers and participants, this conflict is the very definition of intractability. Convictions on both sides are deeply held, goals appear irreconcilable, cycles of retaliatory violence seem self-perpetuating. Among Israeli and Palestinian citizens, the desire for peace and security is pervasive, but the hope for its achievement is agonizingly elusive. In this atmosphere of violence, sustaining a dialogue of peace and mutual learning is imperative. We are fortunate to be part of a Notre Dame community that is committed to this dialogue. Faculty, staff, and students create space for respectful discourse, whether by inviting Middle Eastern English Language Institute students to an international relations class, attending a religious service of a different faith tradition, or sharing intercultural perspectives and experiences over a meal in Gator Alley. In her essay, Notre Dame student Hanadi Kaleel contributes her voice to this ongoing dialogue. Her recollections of a summer in a war-torn place are wrenching, but they constitute a call to positive action rather than despair.

—Anne Ellen Henderson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science

When my plane landed at Dulles International Airport at the end of August, I can't say I was excited. While I've always enjoyed school, after spending most of my summer in a country suffering from three months of exacerbated conflict, I wasn't sure I was ready to be back. A part of me didn't want to leave Palestine, knowing my family was still there. The bigger part, however—the guilt-ridden part—wanted desperately to escape. I longed for the version of me that lived in a place where politics didn't dominate every aspect of my life. But I kept asking the same question: "What gives me the right to live in a peaceful country, where my biggest problem will be finding an empty washer and dryer in Meletia, while my family and friends' lives consist of waking up to death tolls, decapitated children, and obliterated cities?"

On June 12, shortly after my arrival in Jerusalem, three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped while they were hitchhiking home. Many blamed Hamas, the dominant political party in Gaza, for the kidnapping. The resulting crackdown on the West Bank in search of the teens led to the death of several Palestinians and the imprisonment of hundreds more.

When the three teens were found dead in a field, the already unstable situation erupted into a full-fledged war. As the Israeli government prepared its military for a Gaza offensive, ordinary citizens took matters into their own hands. In an incident very close to

home, Israeli settlers from a nearby community came into my neighborhood at 4 a.m. and kidnapped my best friend's cousin, 16-year-old Mohammed Abu Khdeir, who was walking to prayer. His charred body was later found in a field, the autopsy revealing that he was doused in and force-fed gasoline before he was burned alive. Overnight, my quiet neighborhood turned into an unrecognizable battleground, with soldiers, tanks, and masked stone-throwing children on every street.

Soon after, the war on Gaza began. Israel's objective was to cripple Hamas. While Gaza's citizens were the victims and not the perpetrators of this war, they sustained the overwhelming majority of the casualties. By the end of August, airstrikes and military intervention resulted in 2,000 Palestinian deaths and 35 Israeli deaths.

From my bedroom, I felt the ground shake every time a missile fell on Gaza and would see people in the city running to shelters during bomb threats. The summer of fun I looked forward to became three months of war, fear, and sadness. Looking back I could almost believe it was a dream, if I didn't still flinch every time I heard thunder.

Hanadi Kaleel, class of 2017, is a physics major at NDMU. She originally wrote this for NDMU Columns, the University's student news publication.



A GREATER





R PURPOSE

BY MARIANNE AMOSS '04

AFTER 120 YEARS, NOTRE DAME'S FOCUS ON SERVICE IS **STRONGER THAN EVER**

On a warm morning in early October, more than 200 students, faculty, and staff descended on the Baltimore Convention Center to volunteer at the United Way's third annual Project Homeless Connect, an event that connects the homeless and those at risk for becoming homeless with essential services and information. The Notre Dame contingent was easy to spot among the 2,300 volunteers, as they were decked out in blue Notre Dame of Maryland baseball caps.

Of all the local college and university volunteer groups, Notre Dame's was the largest by far—for the second year in a row. President Marylou Yam was invited to speak, along with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and United Way President and CEO Mark Furst. "Today will be an important and powerful experience for all of you," Dr. Yam said. "This is a great way to put the idea of serving others into action."

Service is in the DNA of this institution—it's what drew the brave School

Sisters of Notre Dame across the ocean to America from Bavaria, to continue their work educating poor German girls and young women in a new setting. Vice President for Mission Eileen O'Dea, SSND '66, notes that Notre Dame's core values are inextricably linked to those of the School Sisters—intellectual and professional excellence, service to others, and social responsibility—"not because the SSNDs imposed those values on the institution, but because we share those ideas with other people and they say, 'Yes, we want to do that, too.'"

Notre Dame students engage in service from their first weeks at the University. Many of the volunteers at Project Homeless Connect were first-year students, participating through NDMU-100, the first-year seminar. Students take part in reflection activities before and afterward, comparing stereotypes and myths about homelessness with factual information. "Students always talk about the bubble of Notre Dame, and this forces them out of that bubble right away their first year. But it's in a safe environ-

ment," says Melissa Lees, director of campus ministry and service. "There are a lot of negative stereotypes about Baltimore and about homelessness, and this opportunity breaks both of those."

First-year student Allyson Whitacre says she learned a lot about the struggles of the homeless to access basic health care and services—and about her obligation to help. "Responsibility is key at Notre Dame, because we always talk about being independent, being leaders—and being here, we're basically the leaders to these people that need our help," she says. "We need to be able to take charge and help them get what they need." For her, it was a fitting way to begin her time at Notre Dame. "It's mostly about, over the next four years, becoming better women—better people overall."

The Principle of Transformation

The SSNDs' goal at Notre Dame has never been less than transformation—the tagline "transforming the world

Strength in numbers: The Notre Dame community completed an astounding 104,000-plus hours of service during the 2013–2014 academic year.



through education” still rings true. According to Sr. Eileen, like all religious congregations, the SSNDs’ goal was to address unmet needs—and she traces that goal throughout Notre Dame’s history. In addition to the Women’s College, it can be seen in the establishment of the Weekend College in 1975 to serve working women and men (now known as the College of Adult Undergraduate Studies) and the Graduate Studies program in 1984 to provide opportunities for further advanced education. In more recent years, it can be found in the establishment of the Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations in 2004 and the Schools of Arts and Sciences, Education, Nursing, and Pharmacy—all of which are distinguished by a profound commitment to service and community-building.

The proof is in the numbers: During the 2013–2014 academic year, the Notre Dame community completed an impressive 104,612 hours of service and service-learning, the equivalent of \$2.3 million.

People skills: NDMU student pharmacists spend many hours in the community, conducting health fairs, flu clinics, blood pressure screenings, and more.



Nearly half of all enrolled students participated in service at least once. Many participated numerous times—through clinical experiences in the School of Nursing, student teaching in the School of Education, the AdvoCaring program in the School of Pharmacy, and various volunteer and service-learning opportunities in the School of Arts and Sciences. Even members of the Renaissance Institute for lifelong learning and the youngsters in A Child’s Place nursery school and kindergarten pitched in. “It’s a very engaged campus,” says Lees, who in December received the news that Notre Dame was selected for the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Lees has long felt a calling to service. A religious studies major at Marywood University, she volunteered all four years with women inmates at the Lackawanna County prison, helping the inmates record books on tape to be sent home to their children. After college, Lees completed a year in AmeriCorps, an intensive commu-



The long haul: The Bonner Leaders program—the first at a Maryland school—pairs students with community organizations for all four years of college.

nity service experience that’s known as the domestic version of the Peace Corps; she later served as site director of Notre Dame Mission Volunteers AmeriCorps. Lees then went on to earn an M.A. in pastoral ministry at University of Dayton, where, as a graduate assistant in Campus Ministry’s Center for Social Concern, she realized the inextricable link between service and faith. “As a Catholic, it’s part of who I am,” she says.

At Notre Dame, Lees has been director of campus ministry and service since 2009. She’s overseen service-learning since January 2013; since then, there has been a significant increase in the number of students participating in civic engagement initiatives. In fall 2013, first-year students at Notre Dame completed 1,023 service hours and 29 service projects at 12 service sites—including My Sister’s Place, Beans & Bread, and Our Daily Bread, where students work on a regular basis. Her achievements were publicly recognized this fall, when Lees received the Governor’s Service Award in the Service-Learning Leader category and was named a Leading Woman by the *Maryland Daily Record*.

In August, Lees was busy planning the new Bonner Leaders program, her big project in the Women’s College this year in collaboration with Dr. Rebecca Sawyer, vice president for student life. Funded by the Bonner Foundation, the program pairs students with community organizations to provide the kind of long-term, intensive service that the foundation believes is critical to effecting real change. The students commit to providing 300 hours of service each year, all four years of college, at the same site. In exchange,



In the field: In English in Action, English Language Institute students learn about social issues and then put that knowledge—and their English skills—into practice by volunteering.

they receive work-study funds and free campus housing; they also attend special Bonner conferences and meetings, as well as weekly workshops at NDMU on leadership, social issues, personal growth, and related topics. Notre Dame is the first school in Maryland to offer this program.

The Bonners, as Lees calls them, will be a small group—just five students from each class. This year, the program is launching with five first-years and five sophomores. Micah Castelo, Class of 2018, assists with programming and serves meals to the residents of the Wein-

berg Housing and Resource Center, a Catholic Charities homeless shelter. “I really like how Notre Dame focuses a lot on giving back to the community. I don’t think that service is really required or endorsed in my friends’ colleges as greatly as here at Notre Dame,” she says.

Other Women’s College students are finding ways to collaborate on service projects as well. Omega Phi Alpha, the Women’s College service sorority, has a full lineup of activities in the works, from collecting soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House to selling crafts to benefit economically depressed people in the Philippines as part of Threads of Hope. And a group of students, inspired by their experience on a United Way alternative spring break trip to Washington, D.C., last year, have just launched a campus United Way group. “We formed Student United Way primarily to provide service opportunities to the students at NDMU focusing on the Baltimore community—dealing

with education, financial stability, and health,” says president Sarishma Thapa, Class of 2017. “Our community needs volunteers, especially young students like us. I believe that when students come together, they have the power to change the world and make a difference.”

According to Sr. Eileen, it’s that belief that motivated Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, the foundress of the

Preparation for Real Life

SSNDs. “[There was] always the idea that we enrich people with an education, and always the idea that they will share their gifts with other people. We see that in the many service projects here, the many ways we encourage faculty and staff and students to become involved in outreach programs. That is very consistent with our history.”

All four Schools offer service-learning courses, which connect what students learn in the classroom to reality. Through this experience, students are compelled to ask why certain conditions—homelessness, disenfranchisement, poverty, and more—exist and what they can do to ameliorate them. “It’s preparation for real life, and really that is the desired outcome of Catholic social teaching,” says Debra Franklin, Ph.D. ’76, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. “Once you are exposed to great ideas and ways of thinking and ways of engaging the world, that leads you to a call to action. That is the ultimate goal: call to action and future leadership.”

The longest continuously running service-learning course in the School (and perhaps the institution) is Introduction to Women’s Studies, offered every year in the spring. Under the direction of

“OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY YOUNG STUDENTS LIKE US. I BELIEVE THAT WHEN STUDENTS COME TOGETHER, THEY HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

Sarishma Thapa, Class of 2017, president of Student United Way

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associate professor of history Susan Barber, Ph.D. '84, students learn about violence against women and women's experiences in prison—and then work with inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women to create T-shirts for the Clothesline Project, which bears witness to experiences of domestic violence. Students help hang the shirts on Doyle Lawn and organize events relating to domestic violence awareness. "This kind of project fits perfectly with our mission and with the SSND ministry—to improve the lot of women and girls that are in some kind of distress," Dr. Barber says. "The students learn great compassion through this experience. They learn to let go of stereotypes, so that they're not afraid because they know that someone has been in a prison."

In the School of Nursing, among the various service and service-learning opportunities for students is a project helmed by faculty member Sabita Persaud, Ph.D., R.N. For the second year, she is directing a service-learning partnership with Wolfe Street Academy and the Baltimore Curriculum Project. In spring 2013, she arranged for 15 Notre Dame nursing students to tutor 33 Wolfe Street Academy students once a week. Students will continue that work again this academic year as part of a course called Nursing Research. "Service on behalf of vulnerable populations is at

the heart of Notre Dame, the School of Nursing, and the nursing profession. Our faculty, staff, and students take that commitment seriously," says Katherine Cook, Ph.D., R.N., dean of the School of Nursing.

In the School of Education, faculty members conduct in-service presentations at Baltimore County and Baltimore City schools on topics requested by the faculty—strictly on a volunteer basis.

from us," says Dean Sharon Slear, SSND '66, "but it's a service. They offer a lot of service to the schools."

The School of Pharmacy is in the fifth year of its innovative AdvoCaring program, which gets student pharmacists out into the community to work with partner nonprofit agencies to determine their health care needs. In this program, student pharmacists conduct health fairs, blood pressure screenings, medication

"ONCE YOU ARE EXPOSED TO GREAT IDEAS AND WAYS OF THINKING AND WAYS OF ENGAGING THE WORLD, THAT LEADS YOU TO A CALL TO ACTION. THAT IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL: CALL TO ACTION AND FUTURE LEADERSHIP."

Dr. Debra Franklin, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

And through ACES—Academy of Catholic Educators—Gail Donahue, Ph.D. '12, provides professional development to staff in area Catholic schools on such topics as technology integration, math instruction, and assessment. (To read more about ACES, see NDMU News on page 18.)

And of course there's the well-regarded Operation TEACH, now in its 14th year. The popular two-year program enables aspiring educators to earn an M.A. in Teaching degree at Notre Dame while teaching in Catholic schools and living in community. "It's true they get a degree

take-backs, flu clinics, and more. This year's sites include Gilchrist Hospice Care, Greenmount Senior Center, and Arc of Baltimore—which over the summer awarded the School its 2014 Intern Service Award to recognize four years of service.

Beyond AdvoCaring, students are required to complete three hours of direct patient care service every semester—and many, says Dean Anne Lin, Pharm.D., do more. "All of our student organizations, particularly our [Academy of Student Pharmacists] chapter, do a lot of activities. Students go way beyond the require-

Show of support: Women's College students work with inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women to create T-shirts for the Clothesline Project, which bears witness to experiences of domestic violence. The project is displayed every year at Notre Dame.





Mission-driven: Operation TEACH enables aspiring educators to earn an M.A. in Teaching degree at Notre Dame while teaching in Catholic schools and living in a community with other members of the program.

ment that we have,” she says. All told, before the start of the fall 2014 semester, the School of Pharmacy could boast of 14,813 service hours since 2009.

An International Perspective

Undergraduate students interested in education and international service can take IDS-310, Service Abroad: Women in Leadership and Service, a four-credit course that developed out of a partnership between the SSNDs at Notre Dame and those in Latin America and Africa. Students learn about the politics, culture, and history of their destination country—in recent years, it’s been Brazil or Peru—and then spend up to six weeks volunteering in the country. Many participants have found it life-changing. “I learned so much,” says Julie Carter, who spent time in Brazil in 2013; she will graduate from the BA/MAT program this spring. “I came to love the culture and the people I worked with, who went out of their way to work with me and to help me in both understanding the culture and the educational system that is so different from the American one I’ve grown so used to.”

Global reach: In IDS-310, Service Abroad: Women in Leadership and Service, students volunteer for up to six weeks in Latin America and live with the SSNDs.





Leading by example: The School Sisters of Notre Dame encourage students to get involved in important social causes, such as women's rights.

International students at Notre Dame are involved in service, too. One such opportunity is the English in Action course, created by Mary Burch "MB" Harmon '93, special programs coordinator in the English Language Institute. Students learn about social issues like homelessness and poverty, and then put that knowledge—and their English skills—into practice through volunteering at a variety of organizations, from Habitat for Humanity to the Maryland Food Bank. "Experiential learning is very important. I find it changes them so much," Harmon says. "Sometimes we just need to provide the door for students to go through to understand how they can be a part of something, because sometimes they don't know how to get there or what to do. I really believe that that's part of my job and part of what I'm about."

Service-learning is the perfect expression of what Notre Dame is all about, says President Marylou Yam, Ph.D. "Notre Dame's integration of academics and service shows our students that the two go hand-in-hand. Here, students experience the transformative power of education in their own lives, and then go on

to impact the lives of others. That's Notre Dame's mission in action."

Notre Dame alums continue to live out their commitment to service after graduation. There's Antoinella Peterkin '12, who completed the AmeriCorps Public Allies national service program and is now developing a program to connect Baltimore students with entrepreneurs in art and fashion. There's Chris Sachse '11,

history.

Space doesn't allow for comprehensive coverage of the many service-oriented courses, activities, and initiatives taking place on and off Notre Dame's campus. However, even this small sampling demonstrates that Notre Dame of Maryland University's orientation toward service still resonates today as it did at the institution's start. "As we begin our 120th

"THE VISION AND VALUES OF THE SSNDS ARE ALIVE AND WELL IN THIS INSTITUTION ON NORTH CHARLES STREET."

Sr. Eileen O'Dea, SSND '66, Vice President for Mission

M'12, the principal and co-founder of the IT services firm Horsetail Tech; he mentors young people in the Year Up program and serves as vice president of the board of Maryland CASA. And there are Andrea Bowden, Ph.D. '69, and Betty Contino '89, who received Notre Dame's Service to Society Award at Reunion 2014 for their contributions to the Baltimore community. Thousands of other graduates have committed their professional and personal lives to serving others over the course of Notre Dame's

year, we can see the pattern of continuity and change over the years. We have been true to our traditions and true to the principle of transformation," says Sr. Eileen. "The vision and values of the SSNDs are alive and well in this institution on North Charles Street."

BRICKS AND MORTAR

In her poem "Heritage," Maura Eichner, SSND '41, Notre Dame's unofficial poet laureate, describes repair work on Gibbons' Merrick Tower a quarter century ago. The bell tower atop the tall, stately building opened by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1873 is "a bird to be saved for its song; an ikon cherished for wonder," she writes.

The latest restoration of the campus ikon is scheduled to be completed in mid-December, according to Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. The Notre Dame community watched in awe in late summer as the 12 tower windows were removed for restoration and scaffolding sprouted on the east side of Gibbons Hall and wrapped the tower. Since then, crews have been working an estimated 350 feet above sea level to strip paint from metal and wood components and to replace rotted wood, and deteriorating metal ribs, eyebrow vent frames, and the skirt metal below the base of the cross to restore the structural integrity of the tower.

The tower restoration project, estimated to cost \$500,000, was identified as the top priority in a comprehensive planning survey of Gibbons' exterior undertaken by a preservation consultant. Exterior work on the west and south facades of the building is expected to continue next spring and will include reconditioning some of the 278 windows, replacing slate tiles on its mansard roof, and repainting wooden trim.

Besides restoring the historic beauty of Gibbons' exterior, the \$10.5 million renovation planned for the building also will include renovations to meet the instructional needs of Notre Dame's

Scaffolding / sheathes the sky / about the tower / like poplar boughs / Above, planets / delicately trace / the circling area / banding the tower, / a bird to be saved / for its song; / an ikon, / cherished for wonder.

Sister Maura Eichner '41, from "Heritage"
Hope is A Blind Bard, 1989



Gibbons Restoration Project Launches

Merrick Tower renewal just the beginning

21st-century students. Enhanced technology, improved lighting, and more comfortable and flexible seating are some of the updates planned. Other renovations will create informal learning spaces for student and faculty collaboration and provide greater accessibility for all students.

NDMU was recently awarded two grants to support the Gibbons Project. An \$80,000 grant from the Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation will equip a 21st-century classroom in Gibbons Hall to teach educators how to integrate technology into K-12 classrooms in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The grant will contribute to \$4 million in private matching funds that the University seeks to raise for a pending state grant request to fund Gibbons' renovation, says Patricia A. Bosse '81, vice president for advancement and marketing. The Maryland General Assembly is expected to vote on whether to approve the state funds during its next session beginning in January 2015. A recent \$3,200 planning grant from the Preservation Maryland's Heritage Fund will help fund the preservation plan now being developed for Gibbons, in addition to a previous grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a gift from a friend of the University.

—Joan Wisner-Carlson

Please consider becoming a part of this effort to preserve Notre Dame's heritage through a gift to the Gibbons Hall renovation.

You can learn more about how you can contribute by contacting Kelley Kilduff, campaign and major gifts director, at kkilduff@ndm.edu.

Joan Wisner-Carlson is NDMU's director of corporate, foundation, and government relations



BY MARIANNE AMOSS '04

School of Arts and Sciences

STUDENTS DEBATE ETHICAL DILEMMAS

This semester, a team of Women's College students represented Notre Dame in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, where they defended their assessments of real-life ethical dilemmas. The four students—Becca Corun, Lillian Doyle, Morgan Stanley, and Tina Topper—spent months developing their arguments, fine-tuning their presentations, and honing their critical thinking and reasoning skills. Coaching them was philosophy faculty member Maria Kulp, Ph.D., along with Desirée Melton, Ph.D. '98, and department chair Maeve O'Donovan, Ph.D.

As a member of the northeast regional group, NDMU competed at Sacred Heart University in

Connecticut on December 6. Among the cases that the students prepared for the competition are a law recently passed in Belgium that allows terminally ill children to commit euthanasia and the use of a nutritional drink called Soylent to address world hunger. The winners of the regional competition will go on to the national competition.



50th among Best Regional Universities in the North—10 places higher than last year.

This improved top-50 ranking reflects deliberate steps taken by the University to be more selective about the academic strength and

preparedness of accepted students. This effort has yielded higher GPAs among accepted students and an average SAT score that has increased by 60 points in the last two years. The University also showed improved

financial strength.

Notre Dame is making a significant investment in increasing student retention. These efforts include individualized Student Case Management; the NDMU-100 course that teaches first-year students strategies that will help them succeed academically; the Trailblazers Scholars Program for first-generation students; the Anchorage Program that pairs incoming students with "big sisters"; the First Impressions program that teaches students professional skills; and a number of student life initiatives. These efforts have already resulted in a nearly 10 percent increase in the first-year-to-sophomore retention rate.

NDMU'S RANKING RISES

In September, Notre Dame received the good news that the Women's College rose in the *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges" rankings to

School of Education

PROJECT ON IMMIGRANT STUDENTS WINS AWARD

In May, professor Christa de Kleine, Ph.D., received the Maryland TESOL Professional Development Award for her project, "The Writings of Generation 1.5 Students at the Community College Level." It analyzes the linguistic challenges of immigrant students who came to the United States at a young age but who grew up speaking a language other than English at home.

Dr. de Kleine served as principal investigator on the project, working with colleagues Rachele Lawton, Ph.D., of the Community College of Baltimore County, and Minah Woo, of Howard Community College. (Both earned master's degrees from NDMU—Dr. Lawton in 2000 and Ms. Woo in 2008. Ms. Woo is currently enrolled in NDMU's Ph.D. program in Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations.) The team presented their research at the Maryland TESOL

Conference in October and at the Symposium on Second Language Writing in Arizona in November.

ACADEMY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATORS (ACES) EXPANDS

Since 2013, Notre Dame has been providing professional development to teachers in Catholic schools through ACES, or Academy of Catholic Educators. The program is directed by Gail Donahue, Ph.D. '12, who travels to NDMU's 19 partner schools in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., to conduct onsite trainings.

ACES recently received a big boost in the form of an \$80,000 grant from the Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation. The grant will equip a 21st-century classroom in Gibbons Hall to provide professional development for teachers. The focus will be on enhancing instruction and student learning with digital devices and integrating technology into the



curriculum. Teachers will receive hands-on training on such devices as surface tablets, iPads, SMART boards, gaming applications, and other

digital resources that are representative of the technologies at Catholic schools. The classroom is scheduled to open in April 2015.

School of Nursing

STUDENTS LAND NOTABLE SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Over the summer, 17 seniors in the School of Nursing obtained prestigious internships, externships, nurse residencies, and jobs at area hospitals. Although not required as part of the Nursing curriculum, these experiences provide students with invaluable professional experience at a critical time in their education—and demonstrate their motivation to attain professional excellence.

Cristina Aquia and S. Rebecca Unfried were accepted into the highly competitive summer nurse resident program at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Sarah Nickerson also obtained a position at UMD Medical Center's pediatric intensive care unit. Others worked at branches of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, including Jessica Cottrell (Johns Hopkins Hospital), Eliane Murangi (Johns Hopkins Hospital), and Zoe Travers (Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center). Some students will continue on in their positions during the academic year.

ACCREDITATION: SUCCESS!

In February, the School of Nursing had two successful accreditation visits from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Preparation for these visits was time-consuming and arduous,



especially because both took place in the same month. But thanks to the hard work of the faculty, staff, and students, the visits ended with very positive findings from the ACEN teams, who recommended the full reaccreditation of the M.S.N. program and the addition of the entry-level B.S.N. to the School of Nursing accreditation. In particular, the visitors were impressed with the Caring Science curriculum and the way that faculty, staff, and students live out the School of Nursing program outcomes.

In August, the ACEN commission upheld these recommendations. The M.S.N. program is now reaccredited until spring 2022. The entry-level B.S.N. program is now accredited under the B.S.N. accreditation for the R.N. to B.S.N. program until spring 2017, a full cycle.

Gator Report: On the Court and the Field

Notre Dame's fall sports season ended with four student-athletes receiving recognition from the conference coaches. The soccer team placed senior Laura Kaufman (Baltimore) onto the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Honorable Mention team, while field hockey saw junior Kelsey Jones (Mountain Top, Pa.) named to the Honorable Mention squad.

Volleyball led the way as senior Marylu Ortiz (Oceanside, Calif.) and sophomore Cleaya Antes (Carson, Calif.) both earned a spot on the All-CSAC Second Team.

In addition, the four fall teams each placed one player onto the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team: sophomore Liz Tran (Clarksville, Md.) from tennis; senior Kate Donadio (Reisterstown, Md.) from soccer; Antes from volleyball; and senior Tessa Schwartz (Baltimore) from field hockey.

Playing most of the season with five first-year students, the young volleyball squad ended the year 11-14 and with the program's second straight CSAC playoff appearance. Antes and freshman Ashley Pasker (Newark, N.J.) each garnered accolades by earning CSAC Volleyball Player of the Week honors, while Ortiz was named to the CSAC Honor Roll.



The field hockey team had its most successful year since 2008, posting three victories. During their CSAC schedule, the Gators scored goals against Marywood University, Gwynedd Mercy University, and Cabrini College for the first time in several years. Their 13 season goals are their highest output since 2011 as well.

The soccer team started out the year outscoring their opponents 12-1 in their first two games, and nearly doubled both their goals scored and shooting percentage over the 2013 season.

Notre Dame's young tennis squad won two matches and was led by freshman Catherine Bruzdinski's (Baltimore) four individual victories in singles play. Sophomores Carrie Naylor (Elkridge, Md.) and Natalie Smith (San Diego, Calif.) each won three singles matches. Tran paced the team by combining to win three doubles matches.

School of Pharmacy

STUDENT PHARMACISTS VOLUNTEER IN CENTRAL AMERICA



Over the summer, several rising fourth-year pharmacy students—Pilar Davila, Christine Miele, Vera Pattah, and Chukwudi Ihekire—completed the international advanced pharmacy practice experience in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Eight to 10 students take part in this opportunity every year, spending four weeks volunteering in a clinic run by the nonprofit Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children as part of the experiential education component of the curriculum. In her reflection, Miele shared her observations of the long wait times for patients, a lack of oversight of prescriptions, and large

distances between health-care facilities. "I appreciate the health-care access that people have here in the U.S. now much more, and I will work even harder to provide the best health care possible to my patients in the future."

SCHOOL RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD FOR ADVOCATING

On June 19, the School of Pharmacy received The Arc Baltimore's annual Intern Service Award. Through the innovative AdvoCaring program (read more about the program in "A Greater Purpose" on page 10), student pharmacists are assigned to The Arc

Baltimore, which provides services to adults and children with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Student pharmacists have hosted health fairs, conducted medication reviews, and provided child care so that parents can attend educational programs. "The Arc is grateful for this service and is thrilled that these future pharmacists will be more effective due to their rich experience in supporting adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Stephen Morgan, executive director of The Arc, in an article published in *North Baltimore Patch*.

For more Notre Dame news, please visit ndm.edu/newsroom



NDMU HOSTS STUDENT DELEGATION FROM MEXICO

Notre Dame of Maryland University welcomed a group of 20 students representing various universities in Mexico as part of the first exchange of Proyecto 100,000, a bilateral educational diplomacy initiative that the presidents of the United States and the Republic of Mexico signed in May 2014. The goal of Proyecto 100,000 is to promote cross-cultural understanding between the two countries, as well as to equip students from Mexico with English language skills to enhance their academic and professional endeavors. During the month of November, the students participated in classes at Notre Dame's English Language Institute (ELI) during the weekdays and took trips around Baltimore and to Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and New York on weekends.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKERS VISIT NOTRE DAME



Notre Dame welcomed two distinguished speakers to campus during the fall semester. Liz Murray, author of this year's Campus Common Reading, *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard*, spoke on

October 7. Born to loving but drug-addicted parents, Murray found herself living on the streets at age 15 but managed to complete high school in two years and gain admittance to Harvard University. Murray told her compelling story with humor and inspiration, emphasizing the help she received from key people along the way, particularly from a high school teacher who believed in her and refused to let her give up.



Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D., of the sociology department at Georgetown University, was the keynote speaker at Community Day on October 16. Dr. Dyson, an ordained Baptist minister, challenged and inspired the audience of students, faculty, and staff as he spoke on this year's theme of "Diversity and Inclusion: Social Justice and Social Responsibility." Afterward, students and faculty held workshops to further explore such issues as racial inequality, domestic violence, and

environmental justice. Community Day is an annual campus-wide event honoring Notre Dame's SSND heritage.



THREE NDMU ALUMNAE FEATURED IN THE SUN'S 50 WOMEN TO WATCH

Two NDMU alumnae were featured on the cover of *The Baltimore Sun* magazine's recent "50 Women to Watch" issue: PJ Mitchell '69, immediate past board chair, and Sheri Booker '04, author and NAACP Image Award winner. Leslie Simmons, '94, M'97, president and CEO of Carroll Hospital Center, is also featured in the publication. NDMU owned that magazine cover!



STEM GRADS SHARE THEIR SUCCESS STORIES

Successful women in STEM fields is the rule, not the exception, at Notre Dame. Three accomplished Notre Dame graduates were part of a panel discussion for the annual National Science Foundation Scholarships in STEM: Pathways to Excellence Career Night on November 11.

The Pathways to Excellence Scholars program prepares promising Women's College students for careers in high-demand STEM fields where women are traditionally underrepresented. Selected students receive scholarships of up to \$10,000 annually; they also work closely with a faculty mentor and attend scientific conferences and other professional development events.

The alumnae are seated in front, from left to right:

Jolanta (Krywonis) Coffey '98 was an international studies major and psychology minor. She is now a senior international trade specialist for the U.S. Export Assistance Center, International Trade Administration (ITA), United States Department of Commerce.

Jessica Arfaa '03 was a business/information systems technology major and computer science minor. She is a Ph.D. candidate in information systems at George Washington University. She is also an information and technology services consultant and an associate faculty member at Notre Dame.

Nicole Kotulak '09, a physics major, recently received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, solar energy, from Delaware University. She is now a postdoctoral associate at the Naval Research Labs in Washington, D. C., Optoelectronics and Radiation Effects Branch, doing research adapting organic molecules to solar cells.

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE



Notre Dame of Maryland University has appointed Jeffrey W. Warner director of the Renaissance Institute, a lifelong learning community for adults age 50 and above that recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Warner brings a wealth of experience in adult education to his new position, including five years as director of continuing education at the Penn State University York campus. His previous work at the Art Institute in York, Pa., where he was the first academic director for digital design, combined marketing with digital design, including web design, digital arts, and 3-D animation.



COMMENCEMENT



More than 700 students in the Women's College and our undergraduate and graduate programs for adults received degrees at Commencement 2014.

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, delivered the Commencement address.





Reunion 2014 was a great success! More than 500 celebrated a weekend of festivity and fun, setting new records for class participation and giving! The Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th Reunion, receiving their gold engraved pins from President Yam at a special breakfast on Saturday morning. Celebrants gathered under the tent on Doyle Lawn for the biggest events: the always-popular Crab Feast on Friday, the Reunion Luncheon on Saturday, and class dinners, dessert, and dancing on Saturday evening. The weekend wrapped up on Sunday with the SSND Breakfast, the Remembrance Mass and Montrose Pinning Ceremony, and the Farewell Jazz Brunch.

A big thank you to this year's Reunion Committee, and especially our committee chair, Natalie Mistichelli Ramirez '94!



REUNION



Lower left:
Margo Cuniffe '89,
Kristen Ritchey '94,
Natalie Mistichelli Ramirez '94,
Maureen Roecker-Comer '89,
Amanda Mitzman '09

Left:
Carol Callaban '54,
Kathleen Feeley, SSND '50

Inset:
Andi Raber Ditsky '94,
Paula Cooney Bathras '94

Inset 2:
Missy Evans-Moreland '84,
Lisa McMurtrie '93

Center top:
Helen Marikle Passano '69,
Carol Bleistine '69,
Lynn Holloway Hunter '69

Center right:
Father Joe Breighner,
Mary Beth Lennon '89

Center right corner:
Helen Maroney '64,
Dr. Jack Galotto,
Mary Kay Shartle Galotto '64,
Suzanne Janes Peck '64

Right:
Amy I...
Canda...
Diane...
Dr. G...
Laura...
Lower:
Gimmy...
Sarel...
Bonni...



2014

Right:
Amy Lookingbill Graziano '04,
Candace Summer-Robinson '04,
Diane Powe Webbert '04,
Dr. Gene Farrington,
Laura Shirk Ray '04

Lower Right:
Ginny Lipscomb '64,
Sarel Fuchs '64,
Bonnie Genevich '64



SAVE THE DATE:
REUNION 2015 IS
SEPTEMBER 18-20.
 For more information:
ndm.edu/reunion

CLASS NOTES

A SELECTION OF NEWS AND UPDATES FROM **MYNDM**,
NOTRE DAME'S ONLINE COMMUNITY. SUBMIT YOUR NEWS!
SEE PAGE 26 FOR MORE DETAILS.



1960s

Mary Grace Concannon '60 was included in a prestigious art exhibit at the National Arts Club in New York City of artwork made with the silverpoint technique. She has been studying art at the Janus Collaborative School of Art.

The Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman '62 received Notre Dame's *Pro Urbe* award at this year's Honors Convocation for, as the citation stated, "her visionary and effective leadership in the law, and her advocacy on behalf of women, children, and the underprivileged in the City of Baltimore." She was also named a recipient of the 2014 Leadership in Law award from the Maryland *Daily Record*, which recognizes legal professionals who have demonstrated remarkable dedication to the field and the community.

Mary Kay Shartle Galotto, Ph.D. '64, received this year's Distinguished Alumna Award at Reunion 2014. Mary Kay has had a distinguished career in academia as a teacher, counselor, professor, and college administrator. Her career formally ended with her 2009 retirement from her position as executive vice president for academic and student services at Montgomery College; she currently directs the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Johns Hopkins University, which offers noncredit courses and events for retired and semiretired people.

Ann Hughes Balderson '65 sent in a note to share that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Notre Dame Concert Choir's performance in the Vatican Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. She writes, "Our director was [faculty member] Martha Williams Pointer. There were 37 of us in the choir from all four classes, and

we performed twice on that day. Sister Mary Theresine, chairman of the music department, and Sister Margaret Mary, president of the College, accompanied us. Michaelangelo's *Pietà* was on display at the Pavilion, adding to the excitement of this memorable day."

This past March, **Marilyn Whited '66** coordinated a lovely alumnae event in Seattle to welcome Joan Coley, Ph.D., who served Notre Dame expertly as president during the 2013–2014 interim year. During Florida travels, Dr. Coley was also graciously hosted at alumnae events at the homes of **Diana (Torres) Lopez '83**, **Julie (Courtney) Ben-Susan '69**, and trustee Stanton Ades and his wife, Renée.

In June, **Carol J. Malone '69**, a beloved English teacher at Maryvale Preparatory School, retired after 34 years of teaching. "During her tenure, she has guided

generations of girls (in some cases, mothers and daughters) through the literary and writing worlds. The positive impact of her masterful teaching will be her legacy," read the news release on Maryvale's website.

Andrea Bowden, Ph.D. '69, was one of two winners (along with **Betty Contino '89**) of the Service to Society Award at Reunion 2014, for her tireless work cultivating a love of science among Baltimore's young people. Currently the founding assistant principal at Digital Harbor High School, Andrea has served as a science educator and central office administrator with the Baltimore City Public School System for more than 40 years.

1970s

Students in **Cathy Bonfield, SSND '76's** sixth-grade class at St. Martha's Catholic School in Sarasota, Fla., received a 2014 Innovations in Catholic Education Award from *Today's Catholic Teacher*. The students created 17 videos of New Testament parables, rewriting each parable as a play for younger children.

In August, **Patricia (Dugan) Christopher '79** received a Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials. She is one of just six winners in the state.

1980s

Pat Bosse '81 was named one of the *Daily Record's* Top 100 Women in 2014. Pat serves her alma mater as vice president for advancement and marketing.

Anne (Corbett) Cross '83 was named Baltimore County's 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year. Ann teaches fifth grade at Gunpowder Elementary School. In the coming year, she will compete for the honor of Maryland State Teacher of the Year.

Mary Beth Lennon '89 became president of Mercy High School on July 1—the first alumna of the high school to take its helm.

Mary Beth left her post as director of communications and assistant to the president at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, which she helped launch in 2007. In June, Cristo Rey's board of trustees established a fund in Mary Beth's name, citing her "kindness, honesty, integrity and high standards for the benefit of students and colleagues" and the ways that she "championed the establishment of the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School brand in the greater Baltimore community."

Betty Contino '89 was named one of this year's Service to Society Award winners at Reunion 2014, along with **Dr. Andrea Bowden '69**. Betty is a dedicated advocate for Catholic and charitable causes; she currently chairs the Women's Education Alliance, which provides support services and scholarships to students at Catholic community schools that serve economically disadvantaged families.

1990s

Mia (Childs) Redrick '92, a speaker, business owner and coach for moms, has a segment on *America Now*, a nationally syndicated newsmagazine show hosted by Leeza Gibbons and Bill Rancic.

On July 1, **Lisa McMurtrie '93** became president of Notre Dame's Alumnae and Alumni Association for a three-year term. She was passed the baton by retiring President, **Missy Evans-Moreland '84**.

Leslie R. (Lawton) Simmons '94, M'97, was appointed to the board of Roland Park Place, Baltimore's only nonprofit continuing care retirement community. The president of Carroll Hospital Center, Simmons was named one of the *Daily Record's* Top 100 Women in 2012.

In September, **Shelley Puhak '97** was named Baltimore's Best Poet by the *City Paper* for her most recent book of poetry, *Guinevere in Baltimore*, which was awarded

the 2013 Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize. Shelley holds the Eichner Endowed Chair in English at Notre Dame.

Kate Christensen Mills '99, assistant director of the Office of Congressional Relations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has been named one of the *Daily Record's* 2014 Leading Women. The award honors women 40 and younger who have made tremendous contributions to their community and profession.

2000s

The debut novel by **Leah M. Ferguson M'03**, *All the Difference*, will be published by Berkley (Penguin) in 2015.

Sheri Booker '04 won a 2014 NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Literary Work from a Debut Author for her memoir, *Nine Years Under: Coming of Age in an Inner City Funeral Home*. Sheri appeared at the Baltimore Book Festival in September and returned to campus in October for a reading and book-signing event, sponsored by the Continuing Education Chapter of the Alumnae and Alumni Association.

Portia McConnell M'04 has been named director of children's services for the Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency.

In March, **Laura Jones '07, M'08**, was the subject of a CBS Baltimore Q&A about teachers who have completed their bachelor of arts and master of arts in teaching degrees in five-year programs like Notre Dame's B.A./M.A.T. program. Laura teaches third grade at Berkshire Elementary School in Baltimore County.

Class Notes photographs, left to right
Top row: Mary Kay Shartle Galotto, Ph.D. '64 and Katy O'Ferrall Friedman '62; Rachel Jones '13
Middle row: Andrea Bowden, Ph.D. '69; Sheri Booker '04; Kyle Rickbeil M'07
Bottom row: India Scott '11; Betty Contino '89; Shelley Puhak '97

CLASS NOTES

In August, **Ambrose E. Edebe M'07** published *The Manager's Handbook*, which provides students, supervisors, managers, and others with a proven solution to the people problems they face on the job in an easy question-and-answer format. He previously published *Your Women Did Prophesy* and *The Basic Principles and Practice of Business Administration*.

Matthew Layton M'07 has been named academic director of special education for Baltimore City Public Schools. He will direct the provision of special education services for approximately 13,000 students with disabilities within the district.

On July 1, **Kyle Rickbeil M'07** became middle school head at Trinity School in Ellicott City, where he was a religion teacher.

Lauren Ackerman '08 received the Regina Russo Hammel '41 Outstanding Recent Graduate Award at Reunion 2014. She is principal analyst for the Federal Housing Finance Agency's Office of Strategic Initiatives.

Lori Pollack '08 has been named the co-chair of the Alzheimer's Association 2015 Memory Ball, which last year raised more than \$600,000 for the cause.

Laura Collins M'08, a science teacher at Plum Point Middle School, was named the 2014 Calvert County Teacher of the Year. In the coming year, she will compete for Maryland State Teacher of the Year.

Jonathon Rondeau M'09 is president and CEO of the Family League of Baltimore City. Rondeau, a graduate of Notre Dame's program in nonprofit

management, previously served as the chief program officer of Melwood Horticultural Training Center in Upper Marlboro. Melwood provides employment and community supports to people with differing abilities and is the state's second largest provider of services to people with disabilities.

2010s

In September, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation named **India Scott '11** a 2014 Woodrow Wilson Indiana Teaching Fellow. India, a mathematics major at Notre Dame, received a \$30,000 stipend to complete a special intensive master's program at Purdue University; in return, she committed to teach for three years in the Indiana schools that most need strong STEM teachers.

Denise Mason '12 was the winner of the 2014 Albert Clark Award for the best undergraduate paper in this year's competition sponsored by Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK). In addition to winning a check for \$500 and a \$100 award for the NDMU chapter of TAK, Denise will see her essay, "The Power of Redemption: A Comparison of the Book of Ruth to *A Raisin in the Sun*," published in the fall 2015 issue of the Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa. Denise is currently enrolled in Notre Dame's Master of Arts in Contemporary Communication program.

Elizabeth Brescia M'12, foster care and adoption resource specialist at Adoption Exchange Association, was named one of the *Daily Record's* 2014 Leading Women. The award honors women 40 and younger who have made tremendous contributions to their community and profession.

In February, **Kristina Collins M'12** received the 2014 Loyola Literacy Educator of the Year Award at Loyola University Maryland, which honors Maryland teachers for contributions to literacy education in their teaching, support for the literacy learning of all students, and collaborative work within the school community. Kristina teaches sixth grade at Archbishop Borders School in Baltimore City.

Rachel Jones '13 and **Marilyn Ehm '14**, both graduates of the English department, read from their writing at the 2014 Baltimore Book Festival in September, as part of a session titled called MFA/University Writers Slam. It was co-hosted by NDMU English professor **Shelley Puhak '97**.

Submit your Class Notes at **MyNDM.ndm.edu**, the secure online community for Notre Dame alums and friends, where you can also update your contact information, review your giving history, and register for events. Submissions to Class Notes may appear in upcoming issues of *Universitas* and in other print and online publications of Notre Dame; they may be edited for length.

STAY IN TOUCH



MyNDM.NDM.EDU

NDMU by the Numbers

NOTRE DAME'S 2014 FISCAL YEAR WAS MARKED BY STRONG SUPPORT FROM ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI, FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTION, FACULTY, STAFF, AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE UNIVERSITY WAS ALSO AWARDED SEVERAL MAJOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GRANTS.



in fundraising
revenue collected

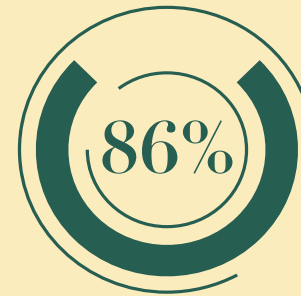
\$823,135

in unrestricted support raised for
the Annual Fund

17.5%

 increase over FY13

100%

 participation by the
Board of Trustees

86%

of faculty
contributed!

\$100,000

anonymous gift to
create The Health
Assessment Lab in
the School of Nursing



The new Civera
Fitness Center
made possible
through the
generosity of trustee
Ed Civera and his wife, Judy,
is open **19 hours** a day.



\$100,000

awarded from the Hearst Foundation
to support the Center for Caring
with Technology

Grants from the Maryland Hospital Association's Who Will Care? Fund for Nurse Education:



\$200,000

 to expand clinical
placements for nursing students

\$250,000

 to support the success
of entry-level BSN students

\$1.5M

gift from The Pitts Family
Foundation funded the
Frances Kay Pitts '96
Endowed Chair for Nursing
Leadership in Women and
Children's Health





NAMED IN HONOR OF SISTER MARY MELETIA FOLEY, FIRST DEAN OF NOTRE DAME, THE MELETIA SOCIETY RECOGNIZES THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY THROUGH ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$1,000 OR MORE. MEMBERS OF THE MARY MELETIA SOCIETY ARE PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS IN THE DRAMATIC GROWTH AND DYNAMIC INNOVATION TAKING PLACE AT NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY.

THIS LISTING RECOGNIZES MELETIA SOCIETY MEMBERS FROM JULY 1, 2013, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014

THE COMPLETE HONOR ROLL RECOGNIZING ALL OF OUR CHERISHED DONORS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE NOTRE DAME WEBSITE, NDM.EDU, IN JANUARY 2015

Meletia Society

Anonymous
 Francesca Cassilly Adams '51
 Stanton G. Ades, Ph.D., and Renée Ades
 Nancy Dunn Akeson '64 and
 Kenneth W. Akeson
 Kathleen Schoonover Alexander '69 and
 Leigh Alexander
 Mary Lou Donnelly Armstrong-Peters '60 and
 Joseph Peters
 Ladonna Weisser Baginski '66 and
 Raymond J. Baginski
 Ademar Bechtold, Ph.D.
 Rebecca Quinn Beck '69
 Polly E. Behrens '98 and and Bruce Behrens
 Victoria Genco Bell '69
 Julie Courtney Ben-Susan '69 and
 Paul Ben-Susan
 Kathleen A. Beres '70 and Miller D. Einsel
 Leonor and Marc P. Blum
 Sharon Bogdan
 Patricia A. Bosse '81 and Frank A. Gunther III
 Andrea R. Bowden, Ph.D. '69
 Laura R. Brooks
 Dorothy M. Brown '54
 Helen Manley Brown '43
 Patricia M. C. Brown and Joseph P. Gill
 M. Kathleen Buetow, M.D. '50
 Mary Catherine Bunting

Anne Furlong Burke '85 M'92 and
 James P. Burke Jr.
 James H. Buzzelli
 Carol Knoeppel Callahan '54
 Candace Caraco, Ph.D.
 Joan Bennett Carey '52 and
 Maj. Gen. Gerald Carey
 Elizabeth Ann Gessler Carpenter '44
 Dr. Theodore R. Carski
 Kathleen Marsh Casey '70 and Paul Casey
 Judith and Edward S. Civera
 M. Kathleen Clucas '68
 Joan Develin Coley, Ph.D., and M. Lee Rice
 Jane M. Conlon '79
 Drs. James and Becky Conneely
 Rosalie Jones Connor '51 M'92
 Mr. and Mrs. James W. Constable, Esq.
 Francis and Betty Contino '89
 Katharine Cook, Ph.D.
 M. Gale Costa '71
 Catherine Roloson Counselman '41 and
 Charles C. Counselman Jr.
 Susanna Peters Coy, Ph.D. '60
 Mary E. Crow M'91
 Cathryn Archibald Curia '69
 Joan Beach Davidson '93 and Thomas Davidson
 Janice M. Davis '92
 Jane McIvor Deal '69

Joseph Di Rienzi, Ph.D., and Joyce Di Rienzi
 Jane Cafone Dietche '63
 Janice Fraser DiGrazia '79
 Judith Geilfuss Dobson '62 and
 James W. Dobson III
 Marie Corasaniti Dombrowski '49 and
 William F. Dombrowski, DDS
 Carolyn Troy Donohue '86 M'89
 Edith McParland Donohue, Ph.D. '60
 Anna-Lisa Dopirak '63
 Kathleen Dinsmore Dubia '71
 Donna Ringger Easton '70 and John J. Easton Jr.
 Susan Power Eavenson '73
 Elizabeth Williams Elder '82 and
 Charles B. Elder
 Ellen F. Emery '65
 Missy Evans-Moreland '84 and
 Richard T. Moreland
 Joanne B. Falkowski '68
 Marilyn Falvey '55 and Paul Falvey †
 Grace Vullo Finn '52
 Mary Willett Fisher '64
 Joan Murphy Flaherty '57
 Heidi Lippmeier Fletcher
 Taylor and Gary Foss
 Debra M. Franklin, Ph.D. '76
 R. Gregory and Kathryn B. Freeland

† Deceased during FY14

Lillian P. Freudenberger '87
 The Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman '62
 and Richard W. Friedman
 Pat Fuchsluger '00 and John Fuchsluger
 Benita M. Furman '70
 Kathleen Herron Gansereit '62 and
 Raymond Gansereit
 Gino J. and Margaret Gemignani
 Marguerite Getty Greenman '06 M'08
 Peggy Greenman
 Frances Flannery Gunshol '88 M'94 and
 Lou Gunshol
 Mary Ellen Steiner Gunther '54 and
 Frank A. Gunther Jr.
 Stephany Smith Harper '89
 Sheila Fahey Haskell '59 and Donald F. Haskell
 Rose Marie Meadow-Croft Hellmann '52
 Charles E. Herget Jr.
 Patricia Mosellen Hillman '69 and
 Donald Hillman
 Susan Morris Hoag '61
 Jean Marie Diesenberg Hofstetter '76
 Margaret Delaney Holland '47 and
 Captain John P. Holland
 Nancy Burch Hunter '55
 Amanda A.M. Idstein '97 and Kevin Idstein
 Jane Roycroft James '52
 Brenda Jews, Ed.D. and William L. Jews
 Ruth E. Johnson '83
 George Justice Jr.
 Julia Kennedy Kaster '74
 The Honorable Irene Keeley '65 and
 Mr. John P. Keeley III
 John J. Keenan
 Ann Gillespie Kelly '46
 Reverend Robert T. Kennedy
 Ann C. Kessler, Ph.D.
 Randolph S. Kiefer
 Betty Wintz Klare '43
 Marion I. Knott
 Dr. and Mrs. James E. Landes
 Maureen Casserly LaPorta '10
 Susan Gardiner Larkin, Ph.D. '65, and
 James T. Larkin
 Stephanie Ann Lawrence '66
 Sally A. Lawrence '71
 Stephanie Poche Lawrence '66
 Katherine R. Lears '81
 Patricia Murphy Lewis '69
 Aaron and Anne Lin, Pharm.D.

A Notre Dame Nurse Gives Back



Kay Pitts '96 rocks a SimBaby, a realistic infant patient simulator that is used to train students in the School of Nursing's Center for Caring with Technology.

As a young nurse, Kay Pitts '96 came to the conclusion that the best way to advance her career was to earn a bachelor's degree. But, as a working mother, where would she find the time?

The Notre Dame of Maryland Weekend College, now the College of Adult Undergraduate Studies, provided a solution. Taking one class a semester, she worked for 15 years to finish her degree.

"Life happens, things happen, but I persevered," she says. "I had a wonderful group of friends and family. The faculty was very committed to helping students like me to stick with it and was very devoted to the adult learner. They wouldn't give up on us."

Mrs. Pitts graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1996 from Notre Dame and subsequently earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Georgetown University, becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife in 1999 as part of a 37-year nursing career. Her husband, James F. Pitts, retired in 2012 from the Northrop Grumman Corporation as a corporate vice president and president of the electronic systems sector.

Now Mrs. Pitts is overjoyed to have the opportunity to give back to Notre Dame. The University has received a \$1.5 million gift from The Pitts Family Foundation, among the largest gifts received from a University alumna. It will fund the first endowed chair in the University's School of Nursing. The Frances Kay Pitts '96 Endowed Chair for Nursing Leadership in Women and Children's Health will provide funding for scholarship, research, and special projects in the School of Nursing.

Mrs. Pitts says she is glad that her family's gift will help to sustain the high level of scholarship and the sophisticated clinical simulation labs in the School of Nursing's new home in the University Academic Building.

"These students will be prepared when they enter the workplace. It's amazing to see the level of technology that is helping them to learn the many skills you need as a nurse," she says. "To think that this endowed chair will enable these opportunities to expand even more—it's exciting for me. It makes me proud to be part of it. And it seems fitting to make this gift as Dr. Yam, with her background in nursing, begins serving as Notre Dame's president."

Meletia Society

continued

Margaret B. Logan '46
Dianne E. Francesconi Lyon '60
Jean Schramm Monier Lyons '53
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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. Please contact Anne Malone, advancement services, at amalone1@ndm.edu or 410-532-3170 with questions or adjustments.



Trustees

PJ Mitchell Completes Service

As we warmly welcome our new board chair, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Patricia J. "PJ" Mitchell '69**, who has served as chair of the Board of Trustees for the last five years. Her expert leadership enabled the board to navigate smoothly through a time of great challenge, new opportunity, and bold expansion—most notably Notre Dame's transition from college to university. All told, Mitchell has devoted 18 years to the Notre Dame of Maryland Board of Trustees.



When asked to perform in extraordinary ways, Mitchell delivered with excellence and integrity. She served as international chair of the Legacy of Leadership Campaign, raising an unprecedented \$34 million. Mitchell took the helm of the Blue and White Ball, generating \$1 million in commitments to honor retiring president Dr. Mary Pat Seurkamp. She also led the planning, purchase, renovation, fundraising, decorating, and furnishing of the President's Residence in Homeland.

Mitchell's service to Notre Dame has been tremendous, and we are truly grateful for her leadership, vision, and generosity.

New Board of Trustees Members

Gino Gemignani, Chair



Gino Gemignani is the newly elected chair of the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame of Maryland University. After 52 years of service, Gemignani recently retired from the Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. as a senior vice president. He spent his first 25 years managing a wide variety of building projects throughout the country including the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Gemignani earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Loyola College and is a graduate of The LEADERship program of the Greater Baltimore Committee and Leadership Maryland. He served as a trustee or advisor to Loyola

THE NDMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES BRINGS EXPERTISE FROM A NUMBER OF DISCIPLINES, INCLUDING ACADEMIA, BUSINESS, THE LAW, PHILANTHROPY, AND RELIGIOUS LIFE TO GUIDE THE UNIVERSITY TO BEST SERVE ITS STUDENTS AND FULFILL ITS MISSION.

University Maryland, St. Mary's Seminary & University, Notre Dame, UMBC, and the community colleges of Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Gabrielle Dow

Gabrielle Dow is vice president of marketing and fan engagement for the Green Bay Packers. Previously, Dow served for eight years as vice president of marketing for the Baltimore Ravens. With the Ravens, Dow in 2007 created "Purple," a first-ever female fan club, and launched the Ravens' "Purple Friday" campaign, an effort in which fans were encouraged to wear purple on Fridays before games. Dow earned her bachelor's, M.B.A., and law degrees from the University of Oregon.



Janese Murray

Janese Murray currently serves as the vice president of diversity and inclusion for Exelon Corporation, where she is responsible for leading a team in the development and execution of effective strategies to increase workforce diversity and create an inclusive environment. Murray previously served as the executive director of talent development and inclusion for Constellation Energy, where she started in April 2007. A native of New Jersey, Murray is a graduate of Morgan State University.



Tamara "Tammy" Passano Wiggs

Tamara "Tammy" Passano Wiggs is a vice president of T. Rowe Price Group Inc. and T. Rowe Price Associates Inc., and a Baltimore-based equity trader in global trading. Prior to joining T. Rowe Price in 2007, Wiggs was a vice president of institutional equity trading at Merrill Lynch, where she was a position trader for six years. She earned a B.S. in finance, cum laude, from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University and an M.B.A. from the Johns Hopkins Carey School of Business.



Geoff Delaney

Geoff Delaney, associate professor of art and chair of the art and music department, is the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. Delaney is a visual artist whose work includes photography, digital imaging, and video installation. Delaney earned a B.F.A. in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design and an M.F.A. in photography and digital imaging at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore.



Elizabeth Tran

Elizabeth Tran is the student representative to the Board of Trustees. Tran is a sophomore majoring in marketing communications and minoring in business. She is originally from San Jose, Calif., but now resides in Clarksville, Md. At Notre Dame, she is involved in a multitude of activities, including the tennis team, Omega Phi Alpha (the service sorority), and the Anchorage Program; she is also the class of 2017 treasurer and a voting member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.





MONTROSE IS THE NAME OF THE ORIGINAL ESTATE ON WHICH
PART OF THE CAMPUS OF NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY SITS,
AND WAS THE NAME OF THE VERY FIRST CAMPUS BUILDING,
NOW KNOWN AS NOYES ALUMNAE HOUSE.

THE MONTROSE SOCIETY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES
THE COMMITMENT OF GRADUATES AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY—
AND THEIR FAMILIES—WHO HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION
TO REMEMBER NOTRE DAME IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS.

THE INVESTMENT OF THESE FORWARD-THINKING
SUPPORTERS WILL STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN
NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND LONG INTO THE FUTURE.

Montrose Society



Mary Ellen Vanni '69 and Andrea Bowden, Ph.D. '69, joined fellow Montrose Society members for the Remembrance Mass and Montrose Pinning Ceremony during Reunion weekend.

Carol Nevin Abromaitis, Ph.D. '60, and
Mr. Michael J. Abromaitis
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Clyde C. Anderson
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Julie Courtney Ben-Susan '69 and
Paul Ben-Susan
C. William Bennett

Kathleen Bennett '67 and Bill Bennett
Kathleen A. Beres '70 and Miller D. Einsel
The Greene Family—Doug, Colleen,
and Lucas
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Cary McSherry Black '77
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Jane Brown
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 Frank A. Gunther Jr.
 Marjorie Williams Gutierrez '90
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 Diane Spedden Harrison '81
 Mary Midgett Harrison '67
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THE ENTIRE NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND COMMUNITY THANKS AND SALUTES THE MEMBERS OF THE MONTROSE SOCIETY, WHOSE FORESIGHT AND GENEROSITY WITH NAMING NDMU IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS WILL HELP STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN THE UNIVERSITY INTO THE FUTURE. HERE, TWO MONTROSE SOCIETY MEMBERS DESCRIBE THEIR DECISION TO JOIN.

The Decision to Give: Montrose Society Member Spotlights



Vanetta “Netta” Handy Wallace ’93, left, attributes much of her success in life to her time at Notre Dame. A communication arts major, Mrs. Wallace was deeply involved in campus life, serving on the executive board of many student clubs and organizations. She especially recalls the positive influence of communication arts faculty member Dr. Karen Stoddard and Concert Choir Director Sister Joseph Mary Zimmer. “Those four years were the most impressionable years of my life,” she says. “I was inspired to become a leader with a purpose, a force to be reckoned with.”

“Keeping the dream alive for future generations of women is not something I had to think about twice.”

Now, Wallace is a certified day care provider and owner of Netta’s Nest Family Child Care. Married with a daughter and a son, she is active in her church, serving as the volunteer assistant director of the children and adult choirs. For her, joining the Montrose Society was a no-brainer. “With so many fine institutions closing due to lack of support—such as my elementary and high schools and the graduate school where I earned my master’s degree in early childhood education—I had to make a decision that I felt was best to help support Notre Dame. Keeping the dream alive for future generations of women is not something I had to think about twice.”



Edith McParland Donohue, Ph.D. ’60, has focused her professional life on helping others—specifically, those in career transition. Dr. Donohue’s doctoral dissertation focused on discovering one’s passion before choosing a career path. A human resources professional, she was selected as the 1999 Martin County Woman of Distinction in the Business Professional category, among other honors. She is the co-author of *Communicating Like a Manager* and *Life after Layoff: Six Proven Courses of Action*, as well as a contributor to *Eavesdropping: As Real Women Talk About the Gifts and Challenges of Aging*.

Dr. Donohue—who received Notre Dame’s Elizabeth P. Hoisington ’40 Distinguished Alumna Award in 2010—is a long-time, committed supporter of Notre Dame. The former director of Notre Dame’s Continuing Education program, she has been a member of many University committees and giving societies, including the Montrose Society. She is also serving as chair of the 2015 Reunion Committee. “My experiences as a student, alumna, volunteer, staff person, and parent of two graduates of Notre Dame were so outstanding that it has affected my life in many wonderful ways,” she says. “When my husband and I planned our legacy gifts, we both agreed—with very little discussion—that Notre Dame would be a beneficiary of our estate. We hope that the wonderful education and opportunities at Notre Dame will continue into the future for students. So we trust that our gift, in some small way, will help to make that possible.”



In Memoriam

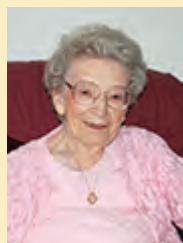


Isabel H. Klots

In August 2013, the art world lost a great champion in **Isabel H. Klots**, the widow of renowned portrait painter Trafford P. Klots. After their marriage in 1942, the couple split their time between her family home in Reisterstown's Worthington Valley and his family estate in Rochefort-en-Terre, France. From 1989 to 2010, their French estate served as the headquarters for the International Program for Artists, a residency program for American visual artists that Mrs. Klots (a painter herself) founded in memory of her husband and her father-in-law, Alfred, also an artist.

After Mrs. Klots' death at the age of 96, Notre Dame received a generous gift from her estate. "Mrs. Klots was deeply religious and a lifetime contributor to Catholic causes, including education. She felt that Notre Dame was unique in Baltimore in providing a path to leadership and social responsibility to women through liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition," says James Constable, a member of Notre Dame's Board of Trustees.

Photo courtesy of Maryland Institute College of Art



E. Catherine Dunn, Ph.D. '38

E. Catherine Dunn, Ph.D. '38, was a Latin major and English minor at Notre Dame, and her life's path reflected her love of language and of education. She earned her Ph.D. in English from the Catholic University of America (CUA) in 1947, at a time when the academic community was almost exclusively male. She was able to break the glass ceiling that existed in Shakespeare and medieval studies and went on to enjoy a 34-year career at CUA, where she was named professor emerita upon her retirement.

A recipient of an Outstanding Educators of America citation, Dr. Dunn published many

articles and several books, including *The Gallican Saint's Life and the Late Roman Dramatic Tradition* in 1989; she also served as a consultant, contributor, and editor for other publications. A member of the Montrose Society, Dr. Dunn designated that a generous contribution from her estate be combined with that of her brother, William K. Dunn, who was a teacher and chaplain at Notre Dame. The Monsignor William Kailer Dunn and Dr. E. Catherine Dunn Endowed Scholarship Fund now benefits students demonstrating academic capability and financial need.



Virginia Kelly Rice

Virginia Kelly Rice, for whom Rice Hall is named, passed away on January 1, 2014. Virginia and her late husband, Hallie Rice Sr., gave many decades of service and friendship to Notre Dame of Maryland University.

The Rices provided the impetus in 1990 for the creation of a large computer center on the main floor of what was then called Economy Hall, which at one time had served as a kitchen, bakery, and laundry for Notre Dame. Mr. Rice, who at that time served as a special advisor to President Kathleen Feeley, SSND '50, and had served on the Board of Trustees, renamed the newly renovated building after his wife. A portrait of Mrs. Rice

Painted by noted Maryland artist Cedric Baldwin Egeli hangs in the entryway of Rice Hall.

Mrs. Rice was raised in Key West, Fla., and attended a Catholic boarding school as a child. She was known as a gourmet cook and taught a culinary class at the Renaissance Institute in the 1990s.

Mrs. Rice had seven children and leaves seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The Rices were regular participants at Notre Dame's events and celebrations and supported each chapter of the University's growth with pride. Virginia is deeply missed by her friends at Notre Dame.

Notre Dame Women in STEM

La Vida Cooper '03 advocates encouraging girls' natural curiosity, even if it means breaking a few eggs.



I have a confession to make. I was an exceedingly inquisitive child.

As a young girl, I was always curious to understand how things worked. I also had a learning style that demanded that I touch and interact with objects in order to truly understand them. This led to a significant number of broken electronics, lamps, and other household gadgets—the results of my early quest for knowledge. One time, I tore apart a radio to understand how it worked and what it was made of. I conducted several tests on the radio and its disparate parts before ultimately putting it back together in a state that was at least *some-what* functional.

My mother affectionately referred to me as a “destructive child,” and she soon learned to buy household items in pairs in order to accommodate my investigative tendencies. She was eternally patient and, rather than growing frustrated, would simply ask what I was doing and what I hoped to achieve. Her questioning allowed me to explain my early version of the scientific method: to pose my research question, to state my hypothesis and decide on my research plan (i.e. path of destruction), to make a statement on the benefit of my investigation and, upon completion, to summarize my results.

Once I was old enough to take a science course with a lab at school, the sun, moon, and stars all aligned for me at once. I discovered that all of my natural tinkering, destruction and deconstruction, and impromptu experimentation around the house were forms and stages of the real scientific method. And I was in heaven.

I soon learned how to systematically design experiments, carry out baseline proce-

CONFESSIONS OF AN INQUISITIVE CHILD

By La Vida Cooper '03

dures, and perform analysis, all building on the core foundation of basic science and engineering principles. My teachers and professors drilled this into me relentlessly over the years. This mental conditioning ultimately taught me the “how” of approaching, investigating, and solving problems. It also helped me to discover my passion for innovation, which for me is a creative outlet

I AM THANKFUL EVERY DAY THAT MY MOTHER DIDN'T TRY TO DISCOURAGE ME AS I TOOK APART THE HOUSE, BUT SAW THE VALUE IN MY TINKERING.

that keeps me inspired and excited about what I do every day as an engineer.

Today I work in the space industry as a telecommunications/network engineering supervisor. I have worked in the industry for 10 years now, initially starting out as an electronics engineer designing circuits and eventually migrating to management.

I am thankful every day that my mother didn't discourage me as I took apart the house, but rather saw the value in my curiosity and tinkering. I must admit that it drives me crazy when I hear kids told that they are being naughty when they are really being inquisitive. If you take anything away from this piece, let it be this:

- The next time you ask a child, especially a young girl, not to touch something ...
- The next time you are low on patience and short on answers for a young child who is incessantly asking “why?” ...
- The next time you chastise a child for breaking or pulling apart common household items ...

Ask yourself, Are you stifling the seeds of her curiosity and creativity, which are important foundations for those who pursue STEM career fields?

Instead of viewing these behaviors as something to correct or limit, view them as opportunities for exploration and empowerment of a child's natural gifts and interests. Spend some time viewing the world through her eyes. You might be surprised at what you about the world and yourself.

La Vida Cooper '03 is an engineering supervisor working in the space industry. She was presented with the Regina Russo Hammel '41 Outstanding Recent Graduate Award in 2012 for professional achievement and contribution to the community.