

MND Honors the Class of 2011

Each year, the entire Mount Notre Dame community gathers to honor the graduating class during the Academic Signing Day Program. This exciting day marks the completion of what we call "*The Road to College.*"

The program celebrates the academic achievements of the Senior Class, as well as the Top Ten academic leaders. These students have excelled throughout their four years of high school and have challenged themselves with difficult course work. Immediately following the program, a reception was held for these students and their families.

This year's Top Ten Seniors are:

- **Lauren DiNardo** - The Ohio State University
Major: Mechanical Engineering
- **Rachel Drumm** - University of Notre Dame
Major: Electrical Engineering
- **Chloe Meyer** - The Ohio State University
Major: Healthcare
- **Melinda Reed** - University of Tennessee
Major: Psychology with a minor in Spanish
- **Katie Roundtree** - Saint Louis University
Major: Physical Therapy
- **Rebecca Ryan** - University of Notre Dame
Major: Engineering
- **Theresa Schmidt** - The Ohio State University
Major: Undecided
- **Margaret Steele** - DePauw University
Major: Mathematics with a minor in Education
- **Casey Towle** - University of Georgia
Major: Business
- **Alice Trent** - Xavier University
Major: Philosophy, Politics and the Public Program

Kara Driscoll '11 Named Simon Lazarus, Jr. Human Relations Award Finalist



Senior Kara Driscoll was one of four named finalists for the 2011 Simon Lazarus, Jr. Human Relations Award. This award honors area high school students who are "outstanding volunteers."

Katelyn Sussli '12 was also a junior nominee for this award.

The MND community is very proud of both Kara and Katelyn for their service and this achievement.



In This Issue...

Dean Speak	2
Junior Takes the Stage	3
Counselors' Corner	4
Spanish Honor Society	5
Scholars of the Month	6
MAP - Capstone Update	7

Challenging and Empowering

Experience Required!

If you are an avid *MNData* reader, you are probably aware from a previous article that MND's student newspaper moved to a digital format in December 2010. In keeping with the 21st century skill-set required of modern students, MND has found tremendous success with our digital "paper." I encourage you to check it out if you have

not already done so at www.mndpawprints.com.

Although the "plug" for *PawPrints* is a nice perk from this article, my focus today is to use the journalism course to provide a snapshot of an "MND education." As adults living our day-to-day lives, we sometimes neglect to investigate and reflect upon the "current" high school classroom experience. Without that view, it is truly difficult to understand the complete value of the MND experience!

Led by journalism teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Dodds, *PawPrints* is a cutting-edge, digital publication that provides a real-life glimpse into the world beyond the classroom walls. This is the type of experience from which MND students benefit the most - experiences that go beyond the "book" help our students apply their knowledge. Just recently, Mrs. Dodds updated me on her Journalism plans for the month of May. She wrote, "I'm so excited! I am about to start a unit on careers in journalism, and I have several speakers lined up for the class." MND's Journalism students will have the opportunity learn from:

- **Krista Ramsey - Opinion Columnist and Editorial Writer for the Cincinnati Enquirer**
Ms. Ramsey will describe her academic and professional background, her path in print journalism, what her job as a columnist and editorial board member requires and what she loves most about what she does.
- **Brian Combs - Assistant News Director for 700 WLW at ClearChannel Communication**
Mr. Combs will host six students to attend an on-site visit to the studio in Kenwood for a tour, introduction to various behind-the-scenes positions and people and discussions about writing for radio.
- **Dr. Elizabeth "Buffy" Barkley - Professor and Department of English Chairperson at the College of Mount Saint Joseph**
Dr. Barkley teaches courses in literature and communication and will discuss her writing career at *The Catholic Telegraph*, freelancing as a feature writer, writing books, and teaching news writing at the college level.

- **Tom Ramstetter - Web Editor and in Marketing/Communications at Northern Kentucky University**

Mr. Ramstetter was a reporter, editor and page designer for *The Cincinnati Post* for 10 years until the paper was closed in December, 2007. He currently works part-time as a sports reporter for *The Cincinnati Enquirer* covering high school and college sports and often covers the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in journalism from NKU in 2001 and his Master of Arts in Communications from NKU in 2008. He will discuss his academic and professional background, his path in print journalism and how his journalism skills have helped his new direction in media.

If you are anything like me, you probably are already thinking, "I'd like to be a fly on the wall of that classroom!" MND Journalism students are already ahead of the curve. Besides their hands-on experience of writing for a digital publication, they will now have numerous career exploration components woven into the curriculum. These experiences will provide a direct link to the content they are learning and will help them get excited about the future opportunities in this field of study.

Journalism is just one detailed example. There are also students building sample web pages for MND teachers; sophomores becoming "historians" through their study of repeated patterns in history; juniors and seniors building reflective media journals; and mathematics and engineering students collaborating on the designing and building of an electrical logic machine. I could continue...the list is impressive! Each of these experiences involves a realistic component from which our students are practicing the skills that every MND student strives to develop - the Characteristics of an Empowered Young Woman.

At MND, our faculty realizes the importance of the experiential component to student-learning and makes it a priority to pull in these aspects to the classroom setting. Our modern education is more than the conveyance and comprehension of traditional bookwork. Instead, it is the blend of content with application through which each student is provided with a challenging venue to learn and gain experience.

Mount Notre Dame is, of course, always committed to providing the best education for every student.

Journalism students visiting the newsroom at WLW.



Young Women for the Future

MND Junior Takes the Stage!



Shelby Shepard '12 has been a fixture on the MND stage since the summer before her freshman year. However, last month, Shelby went from amateur to professional actor when she joined the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's production of *Peter Pan*.

Shelby auditioned for the company last August and received the role of "Vidia the Fairy" and "Andrina the Mermaid." She was thrilled to be hired and has learned so much from the experience! "Being part of the *Peter Pan* cast has made an extreme impact on my life," Shelby said. "I feel like I am becoming closer to achieving my dream of becoming a professional actor. I've also had many role models to help me. I feel like their guidance, plus the hard work I've put in

is really starting to pay off!"

Shelby credits her experience with Mount Notre Dame Theatre (MNDT) with helping to prepare her for this leap into professional acting. "Being part of MNDT has really prepared me. This is where I really first started and it inspired me to work on my theatrical skills. I take as many classes as I can to improve," Shelby said.

Her role in *Peter Pan* presented Shelby with another "first" in life - the first time she ever missed school! "I had never missed a day of school, but the week of the show, I had to take time off." The experience was completely worth it in Shelby's opinion!

MND Gymnasts Flip Out at Regional Championship!

Congratulations to Khloe Widmeyer '11 and Sarah Schnicke '11 who recently competed at the Regional Gymnastics Championship in Cleveland, OH.



Khloe placed:

- **2nd on balance beam**



Sarah placed:

- **2nd on balance beam**
- **2nd on floor**
- **4th on vault**
- **2nd place in the all-around competition, qualifying her for Nationals in Massachusetts**

Celebrating More than 150 Years of

Counselors' Corner

Challenging & Empowering
Young Women for the Future

FRESHMEN

The counselors met with freshmen in small-groups during April. Freshmen began building their college resumes by adding to their template. Counselors gave examples of activities and extra-curriculars that should be added and encouraged students think about the types of things they would like to achieve in the next four years. Students were encouraged to share a College Planning PowerPoint with their parents.

SOPHOMORES

The counselors will meet with their sophomores in small-groups in May. The discussions will center on the students' progress with the first-half of their high school careers and their goals for their second half. Sophomores who took the PSSS will also receive their results.

JUNIORS

Parents of juniors - we are hoping that you are filling out the Parent Reflection sheet. These sheets are available in the *Road to College Resource Guide* and are used by the counseling staff to gain insights into your daughter when we are writing recommendations for colleges.

It's a great time for juniors to begin working on their college resumes. Your daughter's activity sheet is in the front of the "Resume" section in the *Road to College Resource Guide*. Along with their counselors, they have been collecting this data for the last couple of years. Please review this section between now and next fall.

Be sure to ask your daughter to show you copies of the junior newsletter or find it posted on the College Counseling and Guidance section of MND's website. We encourage the students to keep copies of the newsletters in the *Road to College Resource Guide* in the "Newsletters" section.

Juniors should register to take both the ACT and SAT college entrance tests. Both tests will be given here at MND in June. The ACT will also be given at MND in September, both tests will be given at MND in October.

SENIORS

May 1st is the universal deadline to accept or decline admission to colleges and universities.

Counselors will be asking seniors on May 3rd to indicate to which college they would like to have their final transcript mailed. These transcripts will be mailed during the third week of June. Also, transcripts for junior and senior athletes who have applied to the NCAA Eligibility Center will be mailed at that time. Questions about any of these final records should be addressed to your daughter's counselor.

Seniors who have received any scholarships (academic, athletic, service, leadership, artistic), whether or not they plan to accept them, should bring a copy of this information to their counselor as soon as possible so that they can be recognized for their achievements.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

A total of 224 students will be taking 354 AP exams this month in 13 subject areas. The entire MND community congratulates these students for pursuing academic excellence and wish them success on these challenging tests.



Positioning Young Women for Success

SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION



Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the Spanish Honor Society on May 4th

- Kaitlyn Apking '12
- Rian Boland '13
- Dominique Davis '12
- Courtney Fasola '13
- Elissa How '13
- Sarah Huster '13
- Claudia Kerrigan '13
- Allie Lang '13
- Ellen Molinaro '13
- Megan Reilly '13
- Mara Schappacher '12
- Michelle Strizak '13
- Caroline Walsh '13
- Kaitlyn Ballachino '13
- Lindsay Darkins '13
- Andrea Deyhle '13
- Samantha Fisher '12
- Emily How '13
- Laura Jansing '13
- Courtney Kinman '13
- Clare Lees '13
- Erin Reilly '13
- Erin Rice '13
- Taylor Simmons '13
- Teresa Vigil '13
- Briana Young '13

MND Accreditation Process

Mount Notre Dame is accredited by the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association as well as the AdvancED/Ohio North Central Association. A key component of the process is that the school follows a six-year accreditation cycle in which we perform a self-study, write goals and implement those goals; the goals become a part of the school improvement plan. MND is currently in the final year of our cycle and, as such, has assessed the progress made on our current goals. Last month we submitted the report, called Progress Report II, to the state office of OCSAA. As a part of that process, MND parents, faculty, staff members, and students were asked to complete a survey in order to help us gauge the school's progress on its goals. Thank you to those of you who completed the survey.



On May 9, 2011 MND received word that our Progress Report II was granted Full Acceptance by the OCSAA Commission!

Some of the new initiatives that were implemented as a part of our school improvement plan included the yearly administration of a learning-styles survey to every student. The results of this survey are communicated to students and parents and the information is made available to teachers. Additionally, all students are now directed through a goal-setting and goal assessment process each year. It is hoped that this will help the students focus on goals in significant areas of their lives and that it will bring about a lifelong habit of setting and following goals. Our Catholic identity goal encouraged the school to have an annual Catholic-identity focus for the year (this year's is God's Work is our Work). Also, a new academic course was designed called MND- Her Story. As the course description says this class invites the student to "explore the rich history of Mount Notre Dame High School and MND's connection to the heritage and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame".

Next year, MND will enter the first year of a new accreditation cycle. The school will be looking for new challenges and new ways to continue to improve.

Spirit • Tradition • Success

Clothing Drive!



DePaul Cristo Rey High School, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, provides an opportunity for young women and men with economic need to obtain a Catholic, college preparatory education made affordable through an innovative Corporate Work Study Program. The school is holding a clothing drive for its female students and is looking for:

- Dark or khaki dress pants
- Solid-colored blouses - can be short or long sleeved (no polo shirts)
- Dark-colored dress shoes with closed toe and heel (no spike heels)
- Belts
- Socks
- Purses

If you would like to donate, please contact:
Norah Mock - Development Director at
norah.mock@depaulcristorey.org or
513.861.0600.

Kate Dexter '11

Spirit of Sr. Dorothy Stang Award Winner



Senior Kate Dexter was recently named as one of the ten 2011 Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Award Winners.

The committee had many strong candidates from which to choose, and "preference was given to those nominees who have demonstrated the following values of Sister Dorothy Stang: solidarity with the poor, care for the Earth and a love for Jesus and His mission and/or application of Catholic Social Teaching in cross cultural service or teaching ministry," said Ms. Teresa Phillips of the Archdiocesan Mission Office.

The Mount Notre Dame community congratulates Kate and celebrates her choice to follow in the footsteps of Sr. Dorothy Stang.

Scholars of the Month

English	Kennedy Hart '14	Performing Arts	Jessica Carter '13
Foreign Language	Maggie Lohmann '13	PE/Health	Liz Gilkey '13
IT/Business	Lauren Meacham '11	Science	Courtney DeJoy '14
Math	Michelle Niesen '14	Social Studies	Allison Taney '11
Religion	Katie Schwegman '11	Visual Arts	Shelby Sheperd '12



Spring Athletic Signing

Mount Notre Dame recently hosted its 2011 Spring Athletic Sports Signing to celebrate 11 seniors continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Family, coaches and friends of the signing seniors joined in the celebration at the MND Salerno Center for the Performing Arts.

The entire Mount Notre Dame community wishes these scholar-athletes all the best in the future. Congratulations to the following seniors:

The MND soccer program is excited to announce that four seniors will be continuing their careers at the collegiate level this fall. **Carolyn Hartman** will play for Lynn University (Boca Raton, FL). **Melissa DeWitt** signed to play for the University of Dayton (Dayton, OH). **Anna Rutousky** will continue her soccer career at Ashland University (Ashland, OH). Finally, **Jamie Naber** will play for Tiffin University (Tiffin, OH).

Two MND seniors will continue their volleyball careers this fall. **Holly Bronner** will join the volleyball team at the University of Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY). **Janna Reilly** signed to play for Slippery Rock University (Slippery Rock, PA).

MND's basketball program is proud to announce that three seniors will sign to play at the collegiate level. **Cassie Lastivka** signed with Ohio Northern University (Ada, OH). **Gabby West** will continue her career at Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA). **Erika Ripperger** will become a member of the basketball program at Centre College (Danville, KY).

Two seniors from the MND field hockey team will be continuing their careers this fall. **Beth Warning** signed to play for Wittenberg University (Springfield, OH). **Maggie Steele** will play for DePauw University (Greencastle, IN).

Candace Crowley will join Purdue University's (West Lafayette, IN) cheerleading team.



MAP - Senior Capstone Project Update

The Class of 2012 pioneered the MAP Program. Beginning June 1st, each incoming senior will be creating and implementing a Senior Capstone Project which demonstrates MND's Characteristics of an Empowered Woman. After receiving more than 170 proposals, an eight-member faculty committee met to read and approve the proposals. The committee was very impressed with what they found. A couple of examples are:

- In her *Bags to Bags* project, **Liz Sanz** plans to collect plastic grocery/shopping bags and donate them to a local women's support group. The women are African refugees who crochet purses using "yarn" created from the donated plastic bags. The sale of the bags will create income for the women and Liz will also be providing a purse sale at MND.
- **Annelise Tsueda** is organizing a group of her friends to provide entertainment to residents of Seasons Retirement Community. Annelise's *Singing for Seniors* group is based on her desire to provide entertainment to those who are unable to seek it outside of the retirement community.

MND's Youth Philanthropy Council has generously established a Capstone Grant Fund to help off-set costs on projects that required funds to get started. YPC is generously awarding grants to a dozen projects, including:

- **Brooke Dennis'** *Racquet Roundup* will use grant money to purchase materials to refurbish used racquets she is collecting. The racquets will be donated to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission tennis program so that the cost of a racquet does not prohibit any child from participating.
- In her *Delicious Meals that Appeal* project, **Megan Grout** will use her grant to fund the cost of a cookbook she is creating for St. Vincent DePaul. The recipes in Megan's cookbook will use standard items found in food pantries and the cookbooks will be distributed to St. Vincent DePaul food pantry clients.

A Few Points of Clarification:

- Completion of the Capstone Project is a graduation requirement, but it does NOT count in the student's GPA.
- Mark Your Calendar: The Capstone Showcase Event is on March 19, 2012 at 6:30 PM. It will be an evening of celebrating our seniors and their successes as they present their projects.
- Information about the Senior Capstone Project can be found in each junior's Capstone Binder, as well as on Edline.