

MOUNT NOTRE DAME DEVELOPMENTS

being
bold



*Graduating young women who are strong in their
Catholic faith, prepared for life and empowered to
transform the world.*

2023 ISSUE 2

In this Issue

- 2 Letter from the President
- 7 Paving the Future
- 9 Living the Legacy
- 11 A Lasting Gift – 20th Annual Golf Classic
- 12 Academic Highlights
- 13 Athletic Highlights
- 14 Alumnae Legacy
- 15 Alumnae Events
- 17 Class Notes
- 22 A Sister for all Sisters



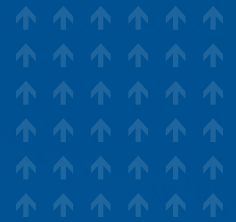
Features

- 4 2023 Graduation – Stepping into a Bold Future
- 6 Global Showcase
- 8 Living our Hallmarks
- 10 A MAP for Success



Letter from the President

Judy Back Gerwe '78



Dear Friends and Family,

Another year has gone by, and once again we celebrate our graduating class – Congratulations to the MND Class of 2023! Please take a moment to look at all their achievements and activities in the following pages. I am sure you will agree that our students are empowered to “use their unique capabilities to learn, live, lead and serve”. We are so proud of them and how they have learned to embody the MND Empowerment Characteristics of creating a just world, possessing a solid sense of self, pursuing life-long learning, leading while serving, communicating effectively, seeking and accepting challenges, solving problems with critical thinking, valuing differences and acting purposefully with integrity.

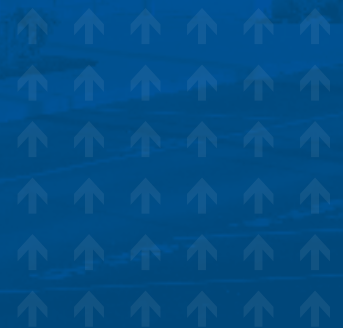
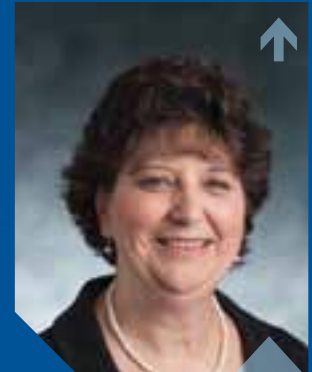
This issue of Developments features our partnership with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and our service trip to Big Laurel. Big Laurel focuses on helping their community through outreach projects such as home repair, assistance with food and partnerships with local schools. This is one of several service opportunities we provide for MND students and we are proud to partner with the SNDdeN in offering this trip.

Inside this issue you will also get a glimpse into the many wonderful things going on at MND through shared stories. I hope these stories resonate with you as part of the MND family, whether you are an alumna, parent of an alumna, current parent or friend of MND.

Over these summer months, I hope you have some time to reflect on the many blessings in your life because you are truly a blessing to the Mount Notre Dame Community. May we always proclaim, as St. Julie did, “How Good is the Good God!”

Sincerely,

Mrs. Judy Back Gerwe '78
President





163rd Graduating Class

Mount Notre Dame held its Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2023, the 163rd graduating class, at Xavier University on May 30, 2023. The Bridging and Recognition ceremony in the morning kicked off the day, with commencement capping off the evening. Valedictorian Elizabeth Mansfield delivered an incredible commencement address that inspired her classmates to boldly embrace their future as they embark on new adventures. Sophia Madden, Student Government Province President, addressed the graduating class with a final farewell speech highlighting the connection and sisterhood of the Class of 2023 which transcends far beyond graduation. More than \$23.6 million in scholarships were reported by the members of the Class of 2023.



\$23.6 million
in scholarships

SENIOR RECOGNITION AWARDS

St. Julie Billiart Christian Leadership Award
Colleen McKenna

**Academic Excellence (Valedictorian) &
Excellence in Mathematics**
Elizabeth Mansfield

Excellence in English
Christina Henning

Excellence in French
Maria Luffy

Excellence in Latin
Isabella Biernat & Maria Kilgore

Excellence in Performing Arts
Daphne Laufersweiler

Excellence in Religious Studies
Carrington Jackson

Excellence in Science
Tara Konkoly

Excellence in Social Studies
Sadie Wiwi

Excellence in Spanish
Maria Bevilacqua & Sophia Madden

Excellence in Visual Arts
Kelly Ernst

BACCALAUREATE MASS

Our traditional Baccalaureate Mass began with Senior Colleen McKenna singing as her classmates entered in a flower processional that celebrated the 35 faith communities that nurtured them. After communion, Senior Carrington Jackson delivered a student reflection that focused on gratitude. The evening concluded with a candle ceremony and closing prayer that united the senior class in sisterhood.



“Love your good Jesus, live only for him by the greatest simplicity of heart, with a boundless charity for one another.”
– St. Julie Billiart

BRIDGING AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Bridging and Recognition ceremony was held at the Cintas Center on the campus of Xavier University. Each student was recognized and officially presented with a special silver medallion. In 2007, Edyth Janszen Schloss '45 sent MND a letter with a picture of her mother, a graduate of the class of 1907, wearing a gold medallion that she received at her graduation. In the letter, Mrs. Schloss asked that in honor of her mother, the graduating senior who ranks first in her class wear her mother's gold medallion at graduation.

Elizabeth Mansfield '23 wears Mrs. Schloss' mother's medallion. MND's administration decided that it is important for all graduates to have a visible reminder of the lessons learned while at Mount Notre Dame. The medallion is a symbol for our graduates to find and spread the goodness of God in all the experiences of their lives. Each member of the Class of 2023 received a replica of the 1907 medallion at their Bridging and Recognition Ceremony.





GROWING COMMUNITY

MND Global Showcase

Global experiences can be an integral part of an education. It is a time for experiential learning and self-discovery. Research attests to the value of a global education.

The number of American students who go abroad has more than tripled in the past two decades and this increase is likely to continue. International education is on the rise, and for good reason.

Study abroad programs take substantial resources for planning and execution. Curriculum design, or the development of a formal course of study coupled with informal opportunities for learning about the place visited, requires significant planning and logistical support.

The exchange programs at Mount Notre Dame offer numerous benefits to our community. We strive to provide global opportunities for all MND students. In fact, the experiences are so important to our school vision that we have a dedicated faculty member, Ms. Julie Yorn, who serves as MND's International Program Coordinator. Ms. Yorn delivers seamless integration and coordination of global immersion and is an invaluable asset to the program.

Visiting students from our exchange countries (Chile, France, Japan, and Spain) typically attend a full schedule of MND classes, join clubs, attend extracurricular events, and interact with MND students. MND students who travel to our exchange schools share their experiences through video sessions with classes while they are in the host country and/or through classroom presentations when they return to MND.

Students who participate directly (as travelers and hosts) in our programs gain new world perspectives, expanded cultural knowledge and experiences, international relationships, improved language skills, and potential for personal growth and responsibility.

97%

studying abroad served as a catalyst for increased maturity

96%

increased self-confidence

98%

better understand their own cultural values and biases

86%

studying abroad influenced subsequent educational experiences

75%

acquiring skill sets that influenced their career path

Positive impact of study abroad

Students who took part in the survey reported



GROWING COMMUNITY

Paving the Future

Remember when....

- MND was a stop for many public school buses?
- More than one non-family member could drive in a car with a newly licensed driver?
- Students could park on Columbia Avenue and all of the side streets?

Things have come a long way and we are happy to announce that we are adding additional parking spaces for our students. The new parking lot, which will be built on property owned by MND, will add 70 new spots and be accessible through the Reading Auxiliary Lot. MND is excited to pave the path forward to enable all students an easily accessible place to park.



THRIVING COMMUNITY



Living our Hallmarks and Seeking God's Goodness

On the side of a mountain in rural West Virginia, a contingency of teenage girls from Mount Notre Dame High School made their way from the large rambling "main house" of the Big Laurel Learning Center down to the woodshed as two unbothered horses looked on. The gregarious man, known to the girls as "Angel's Dad," greeted the students with a cheerful and contagious enthusiasm as he quickly began to explain the large pieces of foreign-looking equipment that stood before them.

They listened attentively as he described how to engage the blade, when to reverse it and how far back to keep hands when holding the logs. He told them where and how to stack the finished firewood and kindling and made clear the value this fuel would bring in keeping the learning center warm. They learned they'd get to meet Ms. Becky who lived further down the mountain when they delivered wood for her later that day. And with that, the girls put on their work gloves and got to the business of splitting and stacking hundreds and hundreds of pounds of wood while their laughter and buoyant conversation lilted through the crisp October air.

Big Laurel Learning Center is, "...a mountain community inspired by the voice of God among us," and a Notre Dame Mission Volunteers AmeriCorps initiative which strives to promote healing and help by providing education, outreach and spiritual renewal in Southern West Virginia. The voice of God was evident in every moment of this 4-day service immersion trip - the glorious changing leaves decorating the mountain, the songs sung at the nightly bonfire, hands sticky with roasted marshmallows, hearts reflecting on the work of the day.

There was a rhythm to the daily agenda: cook, eat, pray, work, reflect and relax and always together. This togetherness, a reinforcement of the sisterhood that Mount Notre Dame fosters in its students with such great care, was aided by the usual immersion trip ritual of confiscating phones except for

an hour each evening. That was merely a formality as reception was essentially non-existent, and the girls would happily concede defeat returning to card games and hide-and-seek after stretching their devices in vain toward the star-filled sky unable to get a single bar.



Narcotic addiction is often considered a disease of despair. Mingo County had, for a time, the dubious distinction of being an epicenter of this disease even making its way into the national headlines. The girls learned of this despair and the economic disparity faced by residents from the manager of the free thrift store that serves members of the community. The manager informed them that of the over 5000 counties in the United States, Mingo County is ranked in the bottom 1% for household income. Jobs in coal mines can lead to injuries leading to pain pills and joblessness. Flooding is a regular threat for those who live in town and infrastructure, both physical and digital is iffy. Life there is hard.



Life there is beautiful. As the students sorted and racked donations in the store, they learned of the strength and unity of this community. There was nothing special about that Friday afternoon, but it was astonishing to see the steady flow of donations process through the loading dock, a blessing as it was equally matched by the customers in need—a young family found a car seat, an older woman chose a beautifully-knitted scarf, a couple left with clothing and a lamp.

God's voice was speaking at the free childcare center visited as the director recounted her path from client to director now positioned to help so many. God's goodness reverberated at the aquaponics center built over a reclaimed coal mine where wastewater from in-house tilapia tanks grew vegetables that, along with the fish, would help supply the local foodbank. God's goodness

beamed from the faces of those teenage girls who eagerly looked forward to sharing God's voice back home in a brand-new way.



THRIVING COMMUNITY



Mount Notre Dame 20th Annual Golf Classic

Presented by Flynn & Company

MND GOLF CLASSIC PRESENTED BY

Flynn & Company
CPAs & Business Consultants

DCS
DIVERSIFIED COMMUNITY SERVICES

Patel Law Offices, LLC

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On May 5, 2023, more than 100 members of the greater Cincinnati community came together to celebrate Mount Notre Dame's mission of educating and empowering young women to learn, live, lead and serve for the MND 20th Annual Golf Classic presented by Flynn & Company at The Mill Course.

Event participants couldn't have asked for a better day on the course. The weather was perfect, not a cloud in the sky, and the energy was contagious. The course was filled with sponsors, MND alumnae, students, families, and friends. The investment of time and treasure benefits our thriving community which encourages each student to reach her greatest potential through a personalized learning experience, exceptional student development programs that build strong and positive character as well as spiritual growth and Christian leadership.





LASTING COMMUNITY



Learning How to Lead By Serving Others

Mount Notre Dame's My Action Plan (MAP) Program is a four-year empowerment journey that provides challenging and engaging experiences to encourage growth in the nine Empowerment Characteristics. Through this program students become active members of the MND community, write and assess personal and academic goals, create a four-year academic plan and participate in grade level activities. The program is based on four key themes of MND's mission statement that challenge our students to recognize and develop their unique capabilities to learn, live, lead and serve.

The MAP Program begins the summer before an incoming student's freshman year. Every MND student is assigned a MAP guide; a faculty or staff member that meets with the student and her parent(s) to introduce them to MND, the MAP program and answer questions.



A notable component of the MAP Program is the yearly goal setting that is done by every student. At the beginning of each year, students create goals for themselves and then

assess them periodically throughout the school year. This has a profound impact on the ability for a student to self reflect, work towards growing in a variety of areas and having a plan to make it happen. This program, which is unique to Mount Notre Dame, prepares students to be proficient in goal setting and accomplishing goals.

The culmination of the MAP program is the presentation of the Senior Capstone Projects. The event is attended by MND alumnae who serve in various panel capabilities as well as notable business

leaders from the community. The showcase of projects is a true testament to our BOLD Future!



Named Endowed Scholarship Program

Mount Notre Dame first established an endowment in 2003 to ensure long-term sustainability of our school. Since then, MND's endowment has reached \$10.6 M with more than 80 named scholarships and endowed funds.

Most scholarships are awarded to students who need financial assistance, therefore your gift helps deserving students and their families with the cost of tuition. This year, 39% of our students are receiving financial assistance from MND in the amount of \$1,221,000. Next year's tuition, for an incoming freshman, will be \$13,855 plus a \$1,200 common class level fee which includes the student's tablet. As you can imagine, the rising cost of an all-girls, Catholic education is challenging for many families.

multiple children in Catholic school at the same time," states Teri Dean, Mount Notre Dame Board Trustee.

Teri continues, "The Holy Spirit must have smiled on our idea, because our 'someday' dream came true the summer of 2019. When our youngest, Becky '19, graduated from MND, and Jim (Teri's husband) and I retired from full time work, we were able to establish the Dean Family Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will be endowed at MND, in gratitude for the great educational foundation and character formation that was provided to our five daughters in our 17 years as part of the MND community."



"The Holy Spirit must have smiled on our idea, because our 'someday' dream came true the summer of 2019."

"As a family with six children, we were very grateful when our daughters and son were awarded named scholarships over the years, and the extra 'breathing room' that was provided for our tight budget. I often dreamed that 'someday' it would be great to give back by endowing a scholarship ourselves. Since we experienced first-hand the challenge of private school tuition for our six children, I really wanted to establish a scholarship for families with

If you or your family is interested in learning more about the Mount Notre Dame Named Scholarship Program, please contact Amy Merritt '96, Director of Development and Alumnae Relations, via email at amerritt@mndhs.org or by phone at 513.821.3044 ext. 113.

INVEST IN THE FUTURE:



Empowering Young Women in Finance



Financial literacy refers to the ability to understand and apply different financial skills effectively, including personal financial management, budgeting and saving. The U.S. Department of Education says that 3.8 million American adult women have financial literacy skills below a basic level (Annuity.org).

Enter MND's Economics and Personal Finance class! Social Studies teacher, Mr. Bill Hughes, is committed to helping his students develop the foundational financial skills to succeed. This year, his students in the Class of 2023 completed a personal finance project where they engaged in a variety of activities designed to empower them to take charge of their own financial well-being. Activities included:

- Researching salaries for potential careers and using those salaries to create household budgets
- Tracking their present-day spending habits
- Investigating the home and car buying process and learning to calculate taxes and interest rates
- Exploring different types of home and auto insurance and how to find a policy that is best for their individual needs

- Analyzing how changing interest rates at the Federal Reserve impacts the price of monthly loan payments
- Learning how to file their taxes with the IRS with all students filling out 1040 tax returns based on their project salaries

Mr. Hughes noted, "So often throughout the course of this project, students would come to class and say, 'I was talking to my dad about this last night,' or 'my brother is majoring in Finance and we were talking last night.' It was rare to hear a student say she talked to her mom about this project or even the course. I hope this project shows my students that they can take charge of their personal finances now and in the future."

Rose Lavelle Teaming up with TIAA

MND alumna and USWNT member Rose Lavelle '13 previously teamed up with financial service provider TIAA in their campaign to empower women to invest for retirement. Rose served as an ambassador to help spread the word that on average, women retire with 30% less. As part of the campaign, Rose passed an autographed TIAA #RetireInequality soccer ball to MND. **Enter for your chance to win the ball by scanning the QR code! The winner will be announced following completion of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.**



ENTER
HERE



Athletic Highlights



Winter Sports:

Swimming

The Swim team finished 3rd in the GGCL and had 7 swimmers qualify for the OHSAA District Meet.

Bowling

Senior Elizabeth Steil qualified as an individual for the OHSAA District Bowling Tournament.

Basketball

The Varsity Basketball team finished 20-5 overall and 8-0 in the GGCL to win the league championship for the 6th year in a row. The Cougars took down undefeated Talawanda 50-49 in the District Semi-Final game before falling to Princeton in the District Final. Senior Taylor Stanley was named GGCL Basketball Player of the Year and coach Dr. Scott Rogers was named GGCL Basketball Coach of the Year.

Spring Sports:

Track and Field – The Track and Field team finished 3rd overall in the GGCL, their highest league finish in over 20 years. Kali Smith finished 5th at the District meet in the 100 meter dash.

Softball – The Softball team finished with a 15-4 overall record and 8-0 GGCL record to win back-to-back league titles. Head Coach Julie Joseforsky was named GGCL Softball Coach of the Year.

Coaches Retiring:

Judy Dennis – Coach Dennis is leaving the MND Tennis program after 13 years as Head Coach. She lead the Cougars to 3 GGCL titles and was named GGCL Coach of the Year in 2008. Thank you, Coach Dennis!

Dr. Scott Rogers – Coach Rogers retires as one of the most successful high school girls basketball coaches of all time. In his 15 years as head coach, he lead the Cougars to 5 OHSAA State Championships, 7 Regional Championships, 14 GGCL Championships, and over 350 wins. Coach Rogers was also named GGCL Coach of the Year 10 times. Thank you, Coach Rogers!

Mark Vonderbrink – Coach V is retiring after 16 years with the MND Lacrosse program. During his time, Coach Vonderbrink compiled a record of 128-44-4 as the JV Head Coach. Coach V also helped lead the Cougars to several GGCL championships and a State Final Four appearance in 2017. Thank you, Coach Vonderbrink!

Spring Athletic Signing:

Riley Gerwel – Dance – University of Cincinnati

Natalie Keller – Cross Country / Track & Field – Cleveland State University

Allyson Koch – Dance – Thomas More University

Elizabeth Steil – Bowling – Thomas More University

Hailey Weingartner – Dance – Thomas More University





ALUMNAE LEGACY

Alumnae Association Board

Each fall, Mount Notre Dame welcomes a new class of young women into our family. Each of these young women build on a long-standing tradition of excellence and sisterhood experienced as a current student and alumna of MND. Our community wouldn't be what it is without the impact each of our alumnae have had on it and to continue to celebrate and inspire each other, Mount Notre Dame is excited to bring back the Alumnae Association.

The MND Alumnae Association's goal is to bring MND alumnae together in engaging and meaningful ways throughout the year. The MND Alumnae Association is led by the Alumnae Association Board which is comprised of alumnae from various classes. These leaders will meet monthly to discuss opportunities for engagement, evaluate past events and overall communications and plan future events.

The MND Alumnae Association Board Chair, Katie Heenan '94, shares, "We're excited to re-establish the Alumnae Association to foster the special relationships that were built through our time at MND. Our hope is not only to reunite classmates, but to provide opportunities for alumnae across all classes to come together in different (and fun) ways throughout the year."

If you are interested in learning more about the Alumnae Association Board and how to become involved, please contact Director of Development and Alumnae Relations, Amy Merritt '96, via email at amerritt@mndhs.org. Don't miss out on some of our upcoming events listed below. For a full list, please visit our website: www.mndhs.org/alumnae/.

Alumnae Association Board

Board Chair –

Katie Heenan '94

Board Vice Chair(s) –

Jodi Vastine Stanton '93

Abby Dean Held '02

Communication Chair –

Skylar Halpin '08

Sisterhood Event Series Co-Chairs –

Jodi Vastine Stanton '93

Allison Hauck Dunaway '96

Athletic/Special Interest Event Co-Chairs –

Anissa George Cundall '97

Fallon Lane-David '00

Minority Network Chair – Open

Golden Guild Chair – Open

Young Alumnae Chair –

Bridget Logan '19

Parents of Alumnae Co-Chairs – Open



**Save the Date for our annual
Christmas Cocktails party!
December 5, 2023!**



**Keep your eyes and ears open for exciting
monthly Sisterhood Series Events!
You don't want to miss the fun!**

Top Row L to R: Katie Heenan '94, Skylar Halpin '08, Jodi Vastine Stanton '93

Bottom Row L to R: Allison Hauck Dunaway '96, Bridget Logan '19

Not Pictured: Anissa George Cundall '97, Fallon Lane-David '00, Abby Dean Held '02



Alumnae Events



MND Easter Egg-Stravaganza

This past March, the Easter Bunny came to MND for the Easter Egg-Stravaganza! MND welcomed over 250 alumnae, friends of MND, and guests of MND's Big/ Little Sis Service Program to enjoy donuts, face painting, games and crafts! Guests were separated into various age groups for 3 different egg hunts in the gym, and a great time was had by all.



LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION

MND welcomed local author, Tammy Bundy to speak to alumnae and members of the MND community to celebrate the Lenten Season. Tammy shared her journey of following God's whispers and being led to work with the late Fr. Jim Willig. After her talk, guests were able to meet in the Learning Commons to reflect on how God answers our prayers in sometimes unique and miraculous ways.



Alumnae Events



BUNCO NIGHT

MND's Parent Volunteer Corps hosted a very fun Women's Bunco Night. It was so great to see so many moms, grandmas, and alumnae in attendance!



THEATRE NIGHT: TUCK EVERLASTING

MND had a great turnout on May 4th as we invited Alumnae and guests to a cocktail party before MND Theatre's Spring production of "Tuck Everlasting."



MND on the MOVE: CHICAGO

MND traveled to Chicago to visit with alumnae and take in a Chicago Cubs game on April 20th.

**Do you want
MND to visit
your city?**

Email us at
ameritt@mndhs.org
to request that
MND hold an alumnae
event in your area!

Class Notes

1940's



Mary Ellen McGraw Wisman '48 fondly remembers her days at the Academy as she is pictured on Christmas Day 2022 with her new MND sweater and book.

1960's

Marilyn Heichelbech Gruber '61 is recovering at home after breaking her hip. She enjoys reading, watching old movies and going to lunch with friends.

Sr. Carol Lichtenberg '64, SNDdeN, has moved to Massachusetts to serve as the General Treasurer of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. In her new role, she coordinates the financial activities for the 13 SNDdeN Units on five continents.

Jenny Santel Valerius '64 is enjoying her retirement and living in Loveland, OH.

Linda Fladung Meiser '65 shares that she is working every day at Matthew 25: Ministries in Blue Ash, OH.

1970's

JoAnn Bergheger Kaplan '70 retired in December 2022 after 40 years at Towne Properties. She writes, "I am enjoying my time with my grandchildren and spending more quality time with my mom."



Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram administered the oath of office to **Associate Justice Linda Strite Murnane '70** on November 2, 2022. She will be serving as an Associate Justice on the High Court of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a two-year appointment. Linda participated in a workshop at the Vatican in Rome in March 2023.

Patti Fuchs '78 retired in 2017 and is living in Cincinnati, OH.

1980's

Tina Hacker Schlaechter '83 is currently a full-time mom and her youngest son will be 15 this year.

1990's

Molly Kennedy Cunningham '92 is Director of Ministry, Pastor for Crossroads Community Church. Molly and husband Michael celebrated their 26th anniversary this year and have five children, Ben, Kennedy, Libby and identical twins Finn & Isaac. Molly shared, "We took a pandemic-narrowed trip to celebrate 25 in 2021 to Yosemite and the CA Big Sur Coast dodging wildfires."

Angie George Arengo '94 was awarded the Wyoming City Schools Model of Excellence Impact Award on March 8, 2023. She was also awarded the Hamilton County Education Foundation 2023 Celebrate Excellence Educator of the Year for Wyoming City Schools.

Kim Beiting Chesnut '98 and husband Jesse have two children, Dylan and Emma. Kim is a Giving Officer, Cincinnati Foundation Team for Bons Secor Mercy Health. The family resides in Springboro, OH.

2000's

Amy Stenger Eudy '04, husband Tracy, and sons Sebastian and Jacob live in Camden, SC. In addition to being a mom, Amy writes grants for non-profits and co-owns their family auto repair shop, Tracy's Alignment & Repair.

Bryn Henry Hocht '05 earned her Bachelor's of Communications degree from Ohio University in 2009 and is currently Beam Account Specialist for Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits. She and husband Jake have four children: Hank, Gus, Jack and Rose.

Betsy Cammett '06 earned her Master's in Occupational Therapy from the University of Southern Maine in 2022 and was on the Dean's List each semester. She is working as an Occupational Therapist in Neuro-Rehab and lives in Lisbon Falls, Maine. Betsy also earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in 2013 in Early Childhood Education (with a special area of autism childhood) from the University of Cincinnati.

Julianne Smith Bell '07 graduated from both the University of Charleston (WV) in 2011 and Ohio University in 2014. She is currently the VP, Regional Marketing Manager for Fifth Third Bank. She and husband Justin welcomed baby Kameron on Thanksgiving Day 2022.

2010's

Ariel Chachoff Murphy '10 earned her Bachelor's of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in 2014. She and husband David have two children, Philip and Neve.

Kaley Zeuch Yoder '11, husband Kevin and daughters Lilah and Scarlett live in West Chester, OH. Kaley is a Bank Manager for Fifth Third Bank.

Kelsey Capano Barrow '12 is a Director for Saint Michael School in Sharonville, OH. Kelsey and husband Matthew have two children, Colton and Greyson.

Kelsey Wolf '12, graduated from the University of Kentucky and is a Partner Manager for Walmart Connect and living in Chicago, IL.



Suzze Meyer '13 has signed to the 2023 Cincinnati Cougars Women's Tackle Football Team! Suzze graduated with her Bachelor's from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2017.

Lizzy Schnicke '13 graduated from the University of Alabama in 2017 and The Ohio State University Human Nutrition Dietetic Internship Program in 2018. She is currently a Registered Dietitian with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and lives in Columbus, OH.



Megan Desrosiers Adams '15 and **Chris Clark Robbins '15** ran into one another at the Yankee Medical Center in Dayton, OH! Megan is a physician assistant and Chris is finishing up her doctorate in occupational therapy.

Madi Gall '15 graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 2019 with a Marketing degree. She is currently Marketing Director for NCW in Indianapolis, IN. She and Austin Brinkley became engaged on March 18, 2023.

Haley Miller Michel '15 and husband John are celebrating five years of marriage and have two daughters, Riley and Elena (Laney). Haley says, "I plan to keep tradition alive by sending my girls to MND. My husband's cousins also graduated from MND, as well as his aunts. Funny how life pans out and we're able to talk about all the teachers we had!" Alumnae family members include

Class Notes

Haley's mom, **Christy Lucidi Miller '86**, and sister **Caitlin Miller Brudnicki '13** as well as her husband's aunts and cousins **Nancy Michel Bose '68**, **Mary Gail Michel Kappler '71**, **Jane Michel '72**, **Jackie Michel '78** (deceased), **Jill Proud Nash '93**, **Tracy Proud Yount '95** and **Anna Proud Minera '01**.

Rachel Brinkman Reese '15 graduated from the University of Dayton in 2019 and the University of Cincinnati in 2021 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology and her Master's of Education in Applied Behavior Analysis, respectively. She is currently a Behavior Analyst for New Story Schools in Monroeville, PA. She and her husband were married on October 3, 2020.

Lexi Rodgers '17 is a second-grade teacher for Charles E. Boger Elementary School in Kannapolis, NC. She earned her BA in Elementary Education from High Point University in 2021. She just finished her first-year teaching and received the "Beginning Teacher of the Year Award" for her school. Lexie and fiancé Dylan were engaged on April 8, 2023.

Anna D'Agostino '18 graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering magna cum laude. Anna will be moving to Oahu, HI, to pursue a Project Engineering position with Helix Electric Inc.

Erin Kavanaugh '18 graduated from The Ohio State University in 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing Science. She is currently attending La Salle University working towards her Master's of Science degree in Speech Language Pathology with graduation planned for 2024.

Emma Benz '18 earned her BSN degree from Xavier University in 2022. She is a Registered Nurse for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. "I will be going back to school this fall to start a Master's program at NKU. The plan is to earn my MSN by 2024!"

Madison Mullinger '18 earned her Bachelor of Business Administration Marketing degree in 2022. She is currently living in Cincinnati and is the Media Coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Cara Wagner '19 graduated from the University of Missouri in May 2023. Cara earned her BA in Psychology with a Journalism Minor, Political Science Minor, Peace Studies Minor, Honors Certificate, Multicultural Certificate and Summa Cum Laude Latin Honors.

2020's

Ellie Kowitz '21 is attending Lipscomb University with plans to graduate in May 2024.

Mary Catherine Conaway '21 is a student at Muskingum University, studying to be an early childhood educator.

Class notes are only published when received directly from the individual who is the key focus of the photo/update. This is to ensure the safety and privacy of our alumnae and their families. There is no guarantee that all submissions will be published due to space limitations and printing deadlines. Please submit your news via the What's New form available on our website.

In Memoriam

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



**Shirley Theis
Nieters '46**
(date not available)



**Mary Grace Zins
Honerlaw '47**
03/30/23



**Phoebe Rosselot
Borman '54**
09/18/22



**Judy Henderson
Wakim '56**
02/18/23



**Patricia
Alfin '58**
01/05/23



**Martha
Buelterman '60**
07/28/22



**Barbara Brackmann
Hardewig '62**
01/04/23



**Mary (Sis) Eysoldt
Stofko '62**
03/16/23



**Kendra Garrison
Zienkewicz '65**
04/21/23



**Bette Blocker
Feldhaus '66**
05/16/23



**Sarah (Sally)
Uehlin Benkner '68**
03/29/23



**Angela Billiter
Maccani '70**
03/13/23



**Jackie Heglin
Isaacs '73**
01/12/23



**Ann Lynch
Hughes '79**
04/13/23



**Chrissy Luken
McGuire '93**
03/08/23



**Lenaia
Mancini '96**
03/03/23



**Shannan
Rieder '97**
02/17/23



**Lindsey Romes
Compton '04**
03/26/23

Engagements/Weddings



Engagement Cara Smith '16

Congratulations to Cara Smith '16 and Jeremy Gibson who were engaged on June 18, 2022. Their wedding is planned for October 7, 2023.



Wedding Laura Long '00

Michael and Laura Pflanz-Finney Long '00 were married on October 27, 2022. Michael is the son of former MND faculty member, Mrs. Julie Hagerty.



Engagement Stephanie Tieman '98

Stephanie Tieman '98 and Duane Freeman are engaged and planning a fall wedding. They live in Florida.



Engagement Alyson Utterback '98

Alyson Utterback '98 and Kevin Strong are engaged and planning a commitment ceremony for July 15, 2023. Alyson is a teacher with Crème de la Crème and resides in West Chester, OH.



Wedding Maria Mattei Dunn '12

Maria Mattei '12 married Aaron Dunn on May 21, 2022 at St. Columban Church in Loveland, OH. Maria is a Radiologic Technologist at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center and resides in Pataskala, OH.



Wedding Jackie Seigal Jones '13

Jackie Seigal '13 and Collin Jones were married in October 2021 and reside in Fairborn, OH. Jackie graduated from Wright State University with an Industrial Systems Engineering degree and is employed as a Process Engineer for Konecranes.



Engagement Paige Rieman '18

Paige Rieman '18 and Wesley Obermeier became engaged on May 22, 2022 on Ball State's campus where they met, surprising Paige with both their families present to celebrate with them! Paige was on the Ball State Cheerleading Team and Wesley played tight end for their college football team. Their wedding date is set for July 2024 in Hamilton, OH. Paige earned her B.S. Exercise Science degree from Ball State in 2022 and is working on her Master of Occupational Therapy degree at UC with a 2024 graduation date.



Engagement Ivy Walsh '18

Ivy Walsh '18 is a Programmatic Coordinator for PMG and resides in Dallas, TX, since graduating with her Strategic Communication degree from TCU in May 2022. Fiancé Grant Davis proposed on a beautiful private catamaran sunset cruise in Saint John in August 2022. The couple will be married in Ireland at Dromoland Castle in August 2023.

Births/Adoptions



Christina Capehart Bruscino '00 and husband William welcomed son Ethan in March 2023. Ethan's two big sisters, Alexis and Sophia, are excited to add a new member to their family.



Samantha Hau Collett '04 and husband Steven welcomed daughter Isla Rose in July 2022.



Sarah Carter Baum '05 and husband Steven welcomed son Austin Carter on December 16, 2022.



Abby Freeman Cajka '06 and husband Joe welcomed daughter Cameron on February 21, 2023. Abby is currently working at Beacon Orthopaedics as Dr. Timothy Kremchek's Medical Assistant and Surgery Scheduler.



Katie Poulin Knight '07 and husband Jake shared this adorable photograph of their sons. Jordon was born in June 2021 and Jett was born in December 2022.



Katelin Buehler Heidel '08 and husband Kyle welcomed their son Charlie on January 11, 2023.



Brittany Heskamp Gerbus '08, husband Bradley and big sister Elsie Rose were blessed with the arrival of Ethan Bradley, born on October 5, 2022. Brittany is a CVICU Nurse for Bethesda North Hospital.



Lauren Cengel Casale '08 and husband Bill welcomed their son Charles Ralph Casale on June 24, 2022.



Maria Schworer Bowman '09 welcomed Anne (Annie) Darby Bowman on March 2, 2023. Annie will be a fourth generation Cougar! Annie is pictured with her great grandmother, **Linda Ferkenhoff Knapmeyer '61**.



Ian and **Gabrielle Maresco Kerley '10** welcomed son Jackson on November 21, 2022. Gabrielle teaches fifth grade and lives in Mason, OH.



Joseph and **Carolyn Eggenberger Jansen '10** welcomed daughter Juliette Rose on August 12, 2022.



Brady and **Megan Schmidt Hood '11** welcomed their first child, Langley Faye, on Thanksgiving 2021.



Austin and **Jaci Damon Lay '12** welcomed baby Sebastian Nikolas on March 14, 2023.

Reunions



Golden Guild – 1973 Celebrated Their 50 Year Reunion

The halls of MND were alive with tradition, nostalgia and sisterhood at our annual Golden Guild Induction and Luncheon this Spring. The class of 1973 celebrated their 50 year reunion together as a class. After a prayer service and lunch, the class toured the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur convent and then strolled the hallways of MND relishing in the things that have stayed the same and admiring the changes that build our bold future! Congratulations, class of 1973!



Members of the Class of 1964 took their 31st Girlie Trip together, with ten days together in Siesta Key Beach, FL! Their Friends Forever shirts have their high school graduation picture of the whole group that once was. Pictured left to right: **Connie Leinberger Pettitt '64**, **Linda Bagford Kopriwa '64**, **Jenny Santel Valerius '64** and **Joyce Carlisle Harpring '64**.



Some Members of the Class of 1960 enjoying lunch at Slatt's. It's always a wonderful time for members of the **Class of 1960** who still enjoy getting together for lunch at Slatt's in Blue Ash, OH.



The Class of 1977 celebrated their 45-year reunion on October 29, 2022. **Pam McGrath Murdock '77** chaired the event and **Bev Long Birri '77** hosted classmates at her beautiful property in West Chester, OH.



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SISTERHOOD SERIES

A Sister for all Sisters

The hallways of Mount Notre Dame were lined with students, staff, and faculty. The air carried an anticipation that seemed to slow time in a way that few things can in today's fast-paced society. Faces were not glued to cell phones or other electronic devices. Rather, heads were craned in all directions looking for any glimpse of what was about to happen. Parades through the hallways are nothing new to the spirit of MND. The senior class does it every year, state-bound athletes do it before major athletic endeavors...but this felt different.



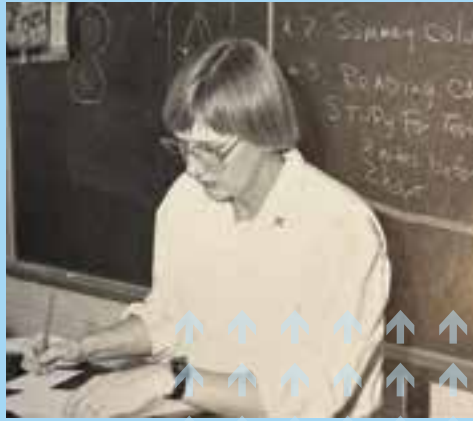
And then the rumblings increased, cheers began echoing, hands were clapping, and our sisterhood united across generations as we all became witness to the main event – the culmination of our day of honor as our beloved Sr. Ruth began parading the halls on her farewell tour to begin her retirement tour. Sr. Ruth Day - May 11, 2023 - was a day for the MND history books.

Sr. Ruth was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to Mary and Bill Bedinghaus. As the oldest of nine children, Ruth was a born leader. She recalls first feeling a call to become a sister in first grade. She believes her desire to become a sister was directly due to the inspiration and admiration of the sisters who taught her. Her calling remained a part of her, and she secured a role to be a teacher's aid for summer religious education classes at St. James when she was only in the seventh grade. As Sr. Ruth tells it, "The idea just stuck and became stronger such that I felt I wanted to respond."

The high school years at Mount Notre Dame instilled in Sr. Ruth a desire to teach. The role she carved out at St. James as a religious education teaching assistant grew to commanding her own class at St. James for the four years she attended MND. While at MND, Sr. Ruth participated in many activities in addition to her religious dedication. She was a member of the MND Swimming, Volleyball, and Softball teams, as well as Chorus.

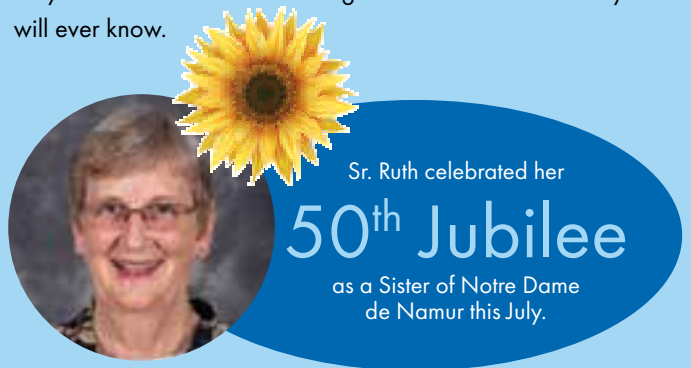
After graduation from MND in 1969, Sr. Ruth focused on her calling and entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. After she became a teacher, Sr. Ruth spent a year teaching at MND before working a half a year at St. Vincent de Paul school in Cincinnati and four years at Bishop Harley High School in Columbus. Then, she was called home to MND to begin her legacy. Sr. Ruth was a true and dedicated servant leader during her time at MND. She has made an invaluable impact on the lives of countless students, athletes, and colleagues through her gift of teaching biology and anatomy, coaching volleyball and softball, her academic curiosity, and sharing her natural humor with everyone. Her ability to let her students guide her throughout her career was invaluable as evidenced by everyone's favorite namesake...Sparky. For anyone who had Sr. Ruth for Biology, you know that Sparky was born out of genius intuition. Sr. Ruth had to turn a topic that some students viewed as uncomfortable into a lifelong learning memory.

When asked, Sr. Ruth is resolute in why she chose MND saying "I specifically wanted to teach at MND because I wanted to give back what I had received. MND is a community of learners. The learners include adults, who are dedicated to being and modeling lifelong learning as well as the students who are being guided towards the same. I see us as collaborators with parents and each other to be that village that is referred to in the African proverb that I have often heard 'It takes a village to raise a child'. I hope I have given to MND at least some of what I have received."



The culmination of Sr. Ruth Day was a parade of legacy, memories, tears of joy, and surprises! As Sr. Ruth turned the last corner entering the final stretch of the hallway parade route, she was stopped at the closed chapel doors. As the cheering continued, and the signs and pom poms were waving, the doors slowly opened. Behind the doors, in the cocoon of the MND chapel stood over 40 of Sr. Ruth's "sisters" standing arm in arm. A group of Sisters from the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, of course were there to celebrate this momentous occasion. Behind them stood many classmates from the MND class of 1969 who have their unique sisterhood with Sr. Ruth. The sisterhood bonds have no limits. The sisterhood of MND was omnipresent and somehow transcended the past and the future.

How do you put into words what Sr. Ruth Bedinghaus '69 means to MND? You can't. The words could never convey it all – but that moment, when time stood still for generations of the MND sisterhood, you could feel it. Thank you, Sr. Ruth for all you are to MND. You have given so much more than you will ever know.





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You've Got A Friend in Hank

This past Spring, MND officially welcomed a therapy dog through Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati! Hank, a Golden Retriever owned and handled by MND alumna Lisa Wagner Jennings '93, is on site regularly to provide animal assisted intervention visits to those interested in the various physical, social, and emotional health benefits of the human-animal bond. The presence of Hank has served as another opportunity to positively impact the well-being and mental health of students and has been a wonderful addition to the MND Counseling Department.

