

MOUNT NOTRE DAME DEVELOPMENTS



**Do Justice.
Love Goodness.
Walk Humbly
With God.**



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

2025 ISSUE 1

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Letter from the President

Michelle L. Robinson

Dear Mount Notre Dame Community,

As we move forward through this academic year, I am filled with both pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements of our students, faculty, staff, and alumnae. Together, we embody the spirit of Mount Notre Dame, where our mission remains the heart of all we do: to educate and empower young women to recognize and develop their unique capabilities to learn, live, lead and serve.

At Mount Notre Dame, we are guided by a clear vision for the future, one that is rooted in our rich history and aligned with the values and mission that have shaped our community for over 160 years. Our strategic plan is designed not only to ensure that MND remains a place of academic distinction but also to provide our students with a holistic educational experience that prepares them for leadership, service, and meaningful impact in the world.

In this edition of our magazine, you will find inspiring stories that reflect the impact of our strategic plan in action. From innovative academic programs that challenge our students to think critically and creatively, to new initiatives that foster personal and spiritual growth, the pages ahead will showcase how we are making our vision a reality. These stories are a testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff, and students who fully embody the mission of Mount Notre Dame.

We remain steadfast in our mission to inspire and empower the next generation of women leaders who contributes to our MND story. The continued success of Mount Notre Dame relies not only on the strength of our strategic plan but also on the passion, support, and commitment of our entire community. Together, we will continue to build on the foundation of excellence that has defined MND for so many years.

I am incredibly excited for what the future holds, and I am deeply grateful for each of you who contributes to the MND story. May we continue to support one another and remain united in our shared purpose: to shape young women who will lead with faith, integrity, and strength.

With blessings and gratitude,

Michelle L. Robinson

Michelle L. Robinson
President





CELEBRATING SR. DOROTHY STANG, SNDdeN

Two Homes, One Heart

The hard and unforgiving frozen ground of an Ohio winter covered with a foot of compacted snow marks a stark contrast to the Brazilian rainforest found a continent, a hemisphere, away. In Anapu, Brazil, it is now the peak of summer. The sweltering air is heavy with humidity, humming and buzzing with insects and birds whereas the Ohio snow muffles and mutes the red cardinals and the dark-eyed juncos visiting from the north. These two scenes seem to have little in common, but to Sr. Dorothy Stang, they were both were considered home.

This February 12th marked the 20th anniversary of Sr. Dorothy's assassination. She was shot 6 times by a gunman hired by a local cattle rancher on a muddy road in Anapu, Brazil. She died fighting to protect the rights of the Brazilians who were promised and assigned land by the government, land that was being taken by the cattle ranchers and the loggers who would burn the houses and murder anyone who stood in their way.

Sr. Dorothy knew she was on a death list. When she came back to Reading in 2004 to visit her Sisters at the convent, she made it clear she was likely heading back to her death. She told her dear friend, Sister Jo



"I have to fill myself with scripture and spirituality, so I have the strength to go back and keep working."

Anne Depweg, why her visit to the convent was so important. Sister Dorothy said, "I have to fill myself with scripture and spirituality, so I have the strength to go back and keep working."

Though the stakes are nowhere near as dire, that same ethos of retreat and service is a long-standing tradition of Mount Notre Dame. It is evident in the yearly retreat opportunities provided for every student in every grade. Here, students are fortified with scripture, spirituality and prayer. MND does not require service hours as a graduation requirement, yet every single student has contributed to the service-oriented culture of the school. It is from their hearts that they serve, not from a mandate.

Sister Dorothy, declared a modern martyr, is a paradigm example of the service and prayer-filled life so integral to MND. She is a shining example, one that has a devoted and robust following here at MND. It is that of selfless service and love as an expression of God's goodness, even in the most difficult and dangerous of times.

The world is better because of Sr. Dorothy's determination to answer God's call, no matter how frightening or hard it may have been. Individually, it is unlikely that most will be called to such harrowing and selfless service. Yet the world is still magnificently better when we heed God's call. It is in that spirit that we tend to the hearts of MND students-- to strengthen their resolve to serve God by serving others done so with prayerful retreat, scripture and spirituality.



Living the Hallmarks

KAREN M. DAY, PRINCIPAL

What does it mean to educate for justice, peace, and care for all creation? At Mount Notre Dame, these questions are not just theoretical—they guide our mission and inspire our students to act. This year, our school community is deeply engaged with two of the **Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community**, a vital legacy that connects us to the **Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur**. The seven Hallmarks are the guiding principles that shape the spiritual and educational journey of every student. Each year, MND emphasizes specific Hallmarks so every student experiences their profound messages during her four years. This year, we focus on:

HALLMARK 3
We educate for and act on behalf of justice, peace, and care for all creation.

HALLMARK 6
We create community among those with whom we work and with those whom we serve.

Additionally, our school administration and student **Worship Commission** draw inspiration from these Hallmarks to formulate an annual theme. This year's

theme, **Do Justice. Love Goodness. Walk Humbly With God**, is inspired by Micah 6:8 and the 20th **Martyrdom Anniversary of Sr. Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN**. Sr. Dorothy's life and legacy remind us of the profound impact of living out these values with courage and humility.

Our commitment to honoring the Hallmarks and theme extends beyond symbolic gestures. This year's **MiND-fuel Reads** Common Read selection, **A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park, weaves together the stories of two Sudanese children navigating the challenges of water scarcity. This powerful book aligns seamlessly with the **Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's Clean Water Project**. During our **October Common Read Day**, students shared insights from the book and learned more about Sr. Dorothy's work and the Clean Water Project's transformative impact in Africa.

This fall, our freshmen visited the **Photovoltaic Water Learning Lab** on the Sisters' property adjacent to our school. This innovative space allows students to see firsthand how clean water technology can change lives. Building on these experiences, our freshmen will develop and implement a school-wide leadership project to raise awareness and funds in support of the **SND Clean Water Project**. Saint Julie Billiart's words, **"Teach them what they need to know for life,"** propel us forward. Through the Hallmarks and shared learning opportunities, we embrace our role as educators and mentors, integrating the values of justice, community, and care for creation into every facet of our school life. As we continue this journey, we invite you—our community—to **reflect on how we can all do justice, love goodness, and walk humbly with God**.



ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

Student Intern Transforms School Website

In an inspiring display of talent, initiative, and technological innovation, Stephanie Waning, a junior at Mount Notre Dame has redefined what it means to make a lasting impact. Over the course of the summer, she undertook the monumental task of working with the MND Marketing team in redesigning the school’s website—a project that has transformed how students, parents, and faculty engage with the school community.

A Vision for Change

The project began with the desire for an update to the website that was both visually appealing and increased functionality. The outdated interface struggled to keep up with the needs of its users, often leaving visitors frustrated or unable to find important information. Enter Stephanie, who took on the challenge of reworking the structure of the website to better align the functionality and user interface of the website. “I had heard about user experience,” Stephanie explained. “When I saw the issues with the current website, I knew I could help make it better for everyone.”

Rising to the Challenge

Under the guidance of the MND Marketing department and with input from stakeholders, Stephanie was an integral part of the redesign from concept to completion. She began by researching competitive sites both locally and nationally, and then created wireframes that enhanced the functionality of each button on the website. The end result was an updated design that prioritized easy navigation, accessibility, and responsiveness across devices.

Stephanie explains, “I contributed to the MND Marketing team by helping them update the website. I think it was beneficial on both sides

because the marketing team got to see what the website should look like through a student’s perspective. It was beneficial for me because I got to see how much work goes into updating a website.”

Learning Through Experience

While the project showcased her natural skill, it also pushed Stephanie to grow in new ways. She learned to work collaboratively with various departments, experienced presenting her ideas to department managers, and worked to create revisions based on feedback. The opportunity gave her a huge advantage in networking for future academic, career and personal endeavors. “This job gave me an opportunity to build professional skills and connections. When I update my resume, I’ll be able to share specific examples of what I’ve learned and accomplished.”

A Legacy of Innovation

The first section of the redesigned website launched in the fall of 2024, right before the start of admission season. Additional sections were released in early winter. Final updates are scheduled to be complete this spring of 2025. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and has elevated the MND’s digital presence.

In 2026, Stephanie will graduate from MND, but she will leave behind more than just a revamped website—she has made her mark towards a legacy of innovation. Her journey is a testament to our mission of empowering young women to learn, live, lead and serve. The next time you visit MND’s website, remember: its sleek, user-friendly design is the product of a high schooler with big dreams and the determination to make them a reality.



ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

Empowering Young Women: The Case for Women’s Health

High school is a critical time for personal and physical development. While general health class is a State of Ohio curriculum requirement, there is a growing need for specialized classes that address the unique health concerns of women. Women’s Health encompasses a broad range of topics, including reproductive health, menstrual health, mental health, nutrition, and disease prevention—all of which are vital for young women to understand as they transition into adulthood.



“Over the last 20 years, the evolution of the women’s health movement has led to important scientific advances. All of these in an effort to address the unique needs of females across their lifespan. I am so excited to learn that Mount Notre Dame is leading the way by empowering our young women to take control of their health by learning and exploring together.”

Mount Notre Dame’s Women’s Health class was developed after a group of students shared their interest in such a course during a focus group with Mrs. Day. The course provides our students with the knowledge and tools they need to lead healthy, empowered lives. Some course topics include personal safety, fitness, nutrition, relationships, stress/anxiety reduction, mental health and first aid. The course also provides activities to encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Taught by MND veteran teacher, Mrs. Sally Knoll, this elective has proven popular with our students. Over 40% of the Class of 2024 took Women’s Health in addition to the required Health course. The class creates an environment of support and well-being.

“I look forward to teaching this class every year,” expressed Mrs. Knoll. “It’s been rewarding to witness the significant personal growth of the seniors over the past three years. It’s inspiring to see how their experiences at MND have shaped them into more confident, capable and well-rounded women.”



Deborah Fritz Hayes ‘80
President and CEO
The Christ Hospital Health Network



SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

The Billiard Scholar Program

At the heart of our school’s commitment to academic excellence lies the Billiard Scholar Program. Named after St. Julie Billiard, the foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, this program recognizes and honors our brightest students by offering unparalleled academic and experiential learning opportunities, along with a monetary scholarship. It’s a transformative journey that begins with an invitation extended to exceptional incoming freshmen.

A Program of Distinction

The Billiard Scholar Program is an exclusive opportunity available to incoming freshmen who meet rigorous academic criteria. By accepting the invitation, these students commit to an enriching academic schedule, which includes enrolling in Honors English, Honors Math, Honors Biology, and AP Human Geography. Elective courses are also tailored to match each student’s recommended level, ensuring a well-rounded and challenging academic experience.

Exceptional Academic Benefits

HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Billiard Scholars begin an academic journey that places them in advanced coursework. In a to their freshman-year honors and AP courses, scholars gain access to a robust selection of 20 Advanced Placement courses and College Credit Plus (CCP) opportunities throughout their four years.

ACCELERATED TESTING PROGRAM

Preparation for standardized tests is an integral part of the Billiard Scholar experience. Scholars follow an accelerated testing schedule designed to enhance their readiness for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT, providing them with a competitive edge for college admissions.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

The Billiard Scholar Program goes beyond academics by incorporating experiential learning opportunities that prepare students for real-world challenges:

FRESHMAN YEAR: Scholars participate in a career exploration speaker series, where alumnae and community leaders share insights about various professional pathways.

SOPHOMORE YEAR: Students engage with philanthropic organizations to hone communication, collaboration, and creative problem-solving skills.

JUNIOR YEAR: Scholars take part in collegiate-style seminars on ethical development, exploring morality and ethics through real-world scenarios and personal reflection.

The Legacy of Saint Julie Billiard

The program’s namesake, St. Julie Billiard, inspires the core values and mission of this initiative. Known for her charismatic leadership and dedication to quality education, St. Julie’s mantra, “How good is the good God!” serves as a guiding principle for the program. Her belief in the integration of faith and learning continues to influence the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the educational opportunities they provide. As Billiard Scholars, students are encouraged to recognize God’s goodness in themselves and others, fostering a sense of purpose and connection through academics and service.

The Billiard Scholar Program is more than an academic honor; it’s an invitation to excel and grow in unique and meaningful ways. The program’s rigorous coursework and experiential learning components challenge students to think critically, apply knowledge in practical settings, and cultivate leadership skills. By balancing academic rigor with hands-on experiences, Billiard Scholars emerge as well-rounded individuals ready to make a difference in the world.

MND takes immense pride in its accomplished alumnae, who are eager to give back to their alma mater. As part of the career exploration speaker series, these women bring to life the possibilities that lie ahead for Billiard Scholars. From leaders in healthcare and education to innovators in technology and business, their stories inspire and motivate students to dream big. This fall, the Billiard Career Speaker Series welcomes:

BILLIART CAREER SPEAKER SERIES



Ashley Schaffeld Lundberg '02

Founder/Owner,
Surround Interior Design



Maria Merritt Morris '02

Vice President, Assistant
General Counsel,
Fifth Third Bank



THRIVING COMMUNITY

X-citing Partnership!

MND launched a new partnership agreement with Xavier University that provides direct admission status with a stackable scholarship to MND students who qualify.

Through this partnership, students at MND who meet specific academic and admission criteria will be offered direct admission to Xavier University, streamlining the traditional college application process. In addition, qualifying students will receive an annual \$1,831 stackable merit scholarship in recognition of the partnership. This agreement aims to reduce stress, assist in affordability, and provide guaranteed admission for qualifying students. The partnership supports the shared commitment of both institutions to make higher education more accessible and affordable.

MND Principal Karen Day notes, “Our students are bright, driven, and ready to carry their Mount Notre Dame legacy into the next chapter of their education. This partnership with Xavier University gives future MND alumnae a direct pathway to continue their academic journey at an institution that shares our commitment to excellence in academics, faith, community engagement and service and will further encourage them to be compassionate leaders and women of integrity, prepared to make an impact in the world. It’s a true testament to the enduring value of an MND education.”

The partnership will begin with MND’s Class of 2025 and eligible students will begin receiving their offers of direct admission. In their shared commitment to Catholic education, both institutions look forward to working together to support the academic and career aspirations of students.

MND’s premier academic programming prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of higher education. MND currently offers 20 Advanced Placement courses and 13 College Credit Plus Courses all of which are taught on campus but MND faculty members. Last school year, MND students outscored the national test score average in 14 AP test areas with a 100% pass rate in five test areas.



What's Brewing?

A new coffee shop is brewing excitement at Mount Notre Dame! Beginning this school year, MND opened a professionally equipped coffee shop located in the former snack shop area of the cafeteria. The MND Café menu features cold brew coffee, a variety of hot tea selections and hot chocolate. Each new season brings new flavors and offerings to the menu. The coffee shop adds a nice little “perk” to student life at MND. With coffee being a beloved (and sometimes necessary!) treat for many students, we are excited to conveniently offer this amenity to students on campus. Students are even permitted to drink their coffee/tea in classrooms.

We were blessed with the guidance and expertise of several community partners during this process, including current MND parent, Alex Blust (and Thunderdome Restaurant Group), Andy Dalton (C&T Design and Equipment Co., Inc.) David Gaines (La Terza Coffee). As we enhance our campus operations and offerings, we are grateful for the continued support of the MND Administration. We would also like to extend our thanks to Lisa Harmon Rousseau '80 for her contribution to the start-up funding of this exciting project. Stay tuned for what's coming next!



THRIVING COMMUNITY

MND Dance Team: Dancing to Excellence

Each year, the Mount Notre Dame Dance Team is comprised of dedicated young women, from freshmen to seniors, who strive to uphold and grow the legacy of the team. These student-athletes work tirelessly to balance academics with their passion for dance, dedicating countless hours to perfecting their two Nationals routines: Pom and Jazz. Each routine, lasting two minutes, serves as the cornerstone of their competition season.

The team's journey begins with rigorous technique training and participation in Universal Dance Association (UDA) Camp during the summer, followed by choreography sessions later in summer and early fall. Their competitive season starts in November and culminates with the National Championship in Orlando, Florida, the first weekend in February.

While the MND Dance Team embodies excellence on the dance floor, their dedication reflects a broader commitment shared by high school athletes nationwide. According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), approximately 8 million students participate in high school sports each year in the United States. Of these, only about 495,000—roughly 6%—go on to compete at NCAA schools*. Remarkably, the MND Dance Team consistently sends anywhere from 6% to 15% of its dancers to perform at the collegiate level, showcasing the exceptional talent and preparation cultivated within the program.

Beyond their athletic achievements, MND Dance Team members excel in the classroom and actively participate in other clubs and extracurricular activities at MND. They embody the school's values of hard work, determination, and excellence in every aspect of their lives.

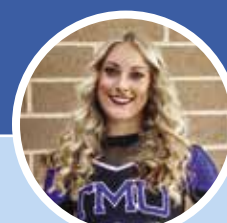
This year, the team's motto, “All You Got,” reflects their unwavering commitment to giving their absolute best in every practice, performance, and competition—for themselves, their teammates, and the legacy they continue to build for years to come.

“To me, The MND Dance team is not just a team, it's a FAMILY. These ladies and their coaches, dedicate countless hours... in practice, performing at competitions or special appearances for MND or Moeller, and in their own private lessons/studios to ensure they are the best dancers that they can be for themselves and for their team. Our dance families are amazing and super supportive! We also have the BEST coaching staff, who all were former high school and college dancers... we are so blessed to have Lauren Hawkins Crook and Morgan Quatman as our Varsity coaches, and former MND Dance team member Rachael Horst '20, as our Junior High Dance team coach, and Alexis Weigel their assistant coach. Amanda is my second daughter to dance on the MND Varsity team, after dancing 3 years on the MND Junior High team. My older daughter, Allyson '23, was also on MND Varsity and now dances for Thomas More University. A few other families share this same story with sisters both dancing for MND Dance and then dancing in college! I am forever grateful to MND for providing this opportunity for my girls to do what they love, to dance for their high school as part of a Nationally Ranked dance team!”

Tara Koch

Mother of current and former dance team members, Amanda '28 and Allyson '23

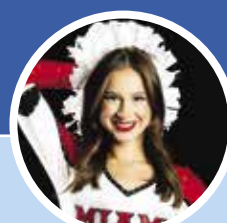
MND DANCERS IN COLLEGE



Allison Koch '23
Thomas More University



Gianna Monaco '20
Ohio University



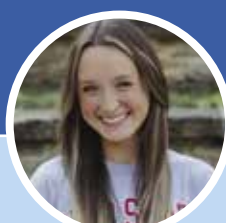
Kelsey Horst '22
Miami University



Rachael Horst '20
Miami University &
MND Dance Team,
Junior High Coach



Riley Gerwel '23
University of Cincinnati



Abby Williams '19
Ohio State University

*Catchmark Sports: <https://catchmarksports.com/the-journey-to-becoming-a-college-athlete-a-comprehensive-guide/>

Athletic Highlights

Fall 2024 Athletic Highlights

Cross Country

The Varsity team finished in 4th place in the GGCL this season and placed 9th overall at the OHSAA District meet.



Golf

The varsity team finished the season with a 10-5 record and finished in 3rd place in the GGCL. They finished in 7th place at the OHSAA Sectional tournament. Junior Campbell Drum qualified as an individual for the District tournament after posting an 18-hole score of 84. She went on to win the OHSAA District tournament at Pipestone Golf Club after shooting a 74. This qualified her for the OHSAA State tournament at NCR Country Club where she finished in 38th place out of 72 golfers. Congratulations Campbell!



New Varsity Head Coach:

Don Minning – Coach Minning wrapped up his first season as Head Varsity Golf Coach this fall. Don started at MND as the Varsity Assistant Coach in 2023 and was promoted last winter. He led the Cougars to a 10-5 record and helped Campbell Drum reach the State Golf tournament.



Field Hockey

The Varsity team continued the streak of appearances in the state final four after taking down Ursuline in the Regional Final by a score of 1-0. The Cougars went on to lose to Shaker Heights 3-1 in the State Semi-Final game. They finished the year with a 16-5 overall record and went undefeated in the GGCL and the Southwest Ohio Field Hockey League. Head Coach Sarah Pisciotta was named GGCL Field Hockey Coach of the Year. This was their 6th consecutive GGCL title, 4th consecutive SWOFHL title, and 4th consecutive regional title. The JV team finished with a 9-6-1 record and were GGCL champs.



Soccer

The varsity soccer team made another deep postseason run after making their 4th straight appearance in the OHSAA Regional Final game. They would fall to Loveland in the Regional Final after going into extra penalty kicks. On their way to the Regional Final, they won their 5th straight District title. The JV soccer team finished with a 10-3-3 overall record and a 5-2-1 GGCL record. Head Coach Kiersten Roof was named GGCL Soccer Coach of the Year. This is their 4th GGCL championship in the last 5 years. The Cougars finished the season with a 12-3-5 overall record and a 7-0-1 GGCL record which crowned them GGCL champs.



Tennis

The Varsity team finished 10-8 overall and 4-4 in the GGCL, earning them a 3rd place finish in the league. Senior Charlotte Scharfenberger and Junior Madeline Mannarino finished in 2nd place at the OHSAA Sectional Doubles tournament and qualified for the District tournament. The JV team finished 5-9 overall and 2-6 in the GGCL. The JV team also won the Coaches Classic Tournament.



Volleyball

The Varsity volleyball team finished the year with a 16-10 overall record after playing one of the toughest schedules in the country. They won three postseason matches and won a District Championship. The JV and Freshman teams both finished with a 14-7 overall record and a 3-5 GGCL record.



Celebrating 30 Years at Mount Notre Dame:

Congratulations to MND Athletic Director Mark Schenkel

on being recognized for his 30 years of service in high school athletics at the annual Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association conference luncheon.

Fall Signing Day

Kailee Bransford – Basketball – University of Akron
Malia Brinkman – Volleyball – East Tennessee State University
Audrey Gildea – Softball – Wilmington College
Olivia Lang – Gymnastics – University of Maryland
McKenna Manley – Softball – Marist College
RJ Marques – Soccer – Wright State University
Riley McKenna – Soccer – Marian University
Maggie Mirizzi – Soccer – Wilmington College
Grace Pitzer – Basketball – Southeastern University
Molly Smiddy – Volleyball – Thomas More University



↑↑ LASTING COMMUNITY
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Scholarship Granting Organizations: Your Tax Dollars, Your Choice

By donating to the MND Scholarship Granting Organization, you take control of where your tax dollars go. You can transform lives, support Catholic education, and receive a full tax credit in return. It's a win-win for everyone—students, MND, and you as the donor! If you're unfamiliar with Ohio's Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) and how they work, don't worry—you're not alone! Here's a simple breakdown to help you understand what they are, why people donate, and how you can use your tax dollars to support the young women of Mount Notre Dame.

What is an SGO?

An SGO (Scholarship Granting Organization) is a state-approved nonprofit that collects donations and distributes scholarships to help students attend private K-12 schools. The goal is to make a high-quality, faith-based education more accessible, particularly for families in need of financial assistance. Mount Notre Dame partners with the MND Scholarship Granting Organization, meaning all donations designated to Mount Notre Dame SGO directly benefit students attending Mount Notre Dame by providing tuition assistance. Ohio state law requires that at least 90% of all donations to an SGO go directly toward student scholarships, making this an incredibly efficient way to support MND students who need it most.

Who Can Donate to MND's SGO?

Any Ohio resident who pays state income tax can donate, including:

- ✓ Individuals
- ✓ Married couples filing jointly
- ✓ Businesses that owe Ohio state taxes

If you live in Ohio and pay state income taxes, you can redirect a portion of what you owe to support MND students instead!

Why Would Someone Donate to MND's SGO?

There are two major reasons:

1. A Dollar-for-Dollar Tax Credit for the Donor

- The State of Ohio allows you to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for your SGO donation.
- You can claim up to \$750 per individual or \$1,500 for married couples filing jointly if they both donate in their own name.
- Instead of paying that money in state taxes, you can redirect it to support scholarships for young women at MND—at no additional cost to you!

2. Helping MND Students Access a Transformational Education

- Your donation provides scholarship assistance to families who want their daughters to experience MND's outstanding academics, strong faith-based education, and empowering all-girls environment.
- Donating ensures that talented young women, regardless of financial circumstances, can benefit from all that MND has to offer.

What's in It for the Donor?

✓ It's a no-cost way to support MND

You're using money you'd already be paying in taxes but redirecting it to empower young women at MND.

✓ You strengthen the legacy of MND

Whether you're an alumna, parent, or supporter of all-girls Catholic education, your gift makes a direct impact.

✓ You receive a tax benefit

Your Ohio state tax bill is reduced by the amount you donate (up to the limits above).

How Do MND Students & the School Benefit?

✓ Students receive life-changing scholarships

More young women can access an MND education, ensuring they receive an excellent academic and faith-based foundation.

✓ MND receives additional funding

These scholarship dollars help MND maintain a strong and diverse student body while continuing to provide top-tier programs and facilities.

✓ The MND community grows stronger

Your generosity helps sustain the mission of MND, creating a ripple effect that benefits not just students but their families and future generations.

How to Donate to the MND SGO

1. Visit www.mndhs.org/sgo to make your gift.
2. Complete your donation up to the day you file your taxes.
3. File your Ohio state taxes and claim your dollar-for-dollar credit using the donation confirmation paperwork provided to you by MND ensuring your tax dollars support MND students instead of going to the state.

Would you like help making your SGO donation today?

Your generosity strengthens MND and empowers the next generation of strong, confident women! If you have any questions about how to donate, please contact:

Abby Dean Held '02
Director of Development
513-821-3044 ext 105
aheld@mndhs.org



Mike and Melissa Veith,
Hailey '28, Mia '26,
Bella '26, Molly, and
Michael

Learn About SGO From MND Parent and Financial Analyst, Mike Veith

? When did you learn about SGO's in the State of Ohio?

I'm currently a volunteer on the MND Finance Committee which is where I first learned about the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). It's such a powerful and impactful initiative. As a first-time participant, I'm excited to share this valuable opportunity with others.

? What did you do to learn more about SGOs

I started to look into it further and discovered that is a separate non-profit organization for the school that is singularly focused on tuition assistance for students and that donors receive a state tax credit (not deduction) up to \$1,500 for joint filers. The donations can be made up until the filing deadline for tax year 2024, so families still have plenty of time to support and take advantage of the program. In other words, Ohio allows you to "spend" some of the state income taxes you must pay anyway to provide tuition assistance for students seeking an education at MND. SGO at MND is a win-win-win for our school, taxpayer donors and students.

? How would you describe this opportunity to donate to someone who's never heard about it before?

While it may seem too good to be true, believe me, everyone should take advantage! You directly benefit while giving back to MND. To put it simply the SGO tax credit authorizes donors who contribute to directly to the MND SGO to receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their state taxes up to \$750 per individual taxpayer. The school website is also a great resource that offers all the information you would need to learn more and I am sure anyone in the MND Development Department would be happy to answer any additional questions.

? There are so many wonderful local Catholic schools to support via the SGO. Why support MND?

We couldn't think of a better place to support and a better investment. MND has been such a blessing to our family and we will continue to do whatever we can to pay it forwards ensuring other young women and their families get the chance to experience being part of the MND family!

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH

Golden Guild Celebration 2025 – Class of 1975

We are excited to celebrate the Class of 1975's 50th Reunion at our Golden Guild Celebration on Friday, June 6th. Members of our Golden Guild and those who graduated 50 or more years ago, are welcome to join us at the luncheon.

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH

Summer Soiree for All Alumnae

Featuring a special pinning ceremony for the Classes of 2000, 2015 and 2020.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

Class Reunions

Individual class reunions for those classes ending in '0s and '5s.



Class of 1979

The class of 1979 held their 45th reunion at Silver Spring House in November. Everyone who attended received sunflower earrings and a bookmark with a quote from St. Julie created by the planning committee.



Class of 1994

The Class of 1994 celebrated their 30th reunion in September at Hops and Barry Taproom with over 20 alumnae in attendance. Special thanks to **Jill Huninghall Barnes '89**, owner of Hops and Barry Taproom!



Class of 2014

The Class of 2014 recently gathered to celebrate their 10th reunion at Bishop's Quarter. A big thank you to **Karen Gertz Weihe '89** and her husband Mark, owners of Bishop's Quarter!



Senior Religion Panels

We were thrilled to host over 30 alumnae from the Classes of 2021-2024 for our Senior Religion Panels in November. These alumnae helped to prepare the Class of 2025 for their next stage in life by providing advice on everything from registering for classes to keeping their faith in college.

1960's

Barbara Sciarrino Masterson '60 retired in 2015 after working 52 years as a registered nurse. Barbara is living in a senior community, independent housing. She is close to her daughter, granddaughters, and their families. Her son recently moved in with her after living in Arizona for 25 years. She thanks God every day that she can get out of bed and walk five miles with a neighbor.

Mary Wersel Engel '62 and husband Phil have 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mary shared that they are so much fun and make life interesting! Mary and Phil have traveled a lot, have and had many adventures, and are happy they started their family young.

Barb Mertz '63 was a licensed optician in the states of North Carolina, Virginia, and Ohio. She was nationally certified in 1973 and earned a masters in ophthalmic optics in 1978. Barb retired in March 2022 after 50 years of a wonderful career serving the community and traveling. Barb is enjoying retirement and stays busy taking care of her home in Timberlake, North Carolina.

Sherry Brofft Guess '64 just moved back to Ohio after living in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains in North Central Arkansas for the past 15 years. She enjoys traveling across our great country, visiting with her grandchildren, and is getting ready to welcome her second great-grandchild this September. Sherry has enjoyed serving as a Marriage Advocate for the Diocese of Little Rock in her parish of St. Francis of Assisi while in Arkansas.

Catherine Burkhardt Steinher '64 retired from Hamilton Co. Juvenile Court and Department of Jobs & Family Services in 2007. She has two sons, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Catherine is a 1993 Graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a BS in Humanities and a Minor in Psychology.

Linda Wiesner Clark '66 has lived in Mason, Ohio for the past 20 years. Linda has been a widow since 2001. She has three grandsons and one granddaughter. Retired life has allowed her time to enjoy doing things with her family.

Phyllis Wilson Aileen-Donohew '66 retired after many years of service in public relations and marketing, during which she decided to return to college to complete multiple degrees. She received an Associate of Arts degree in 1993, followed by her BS and MA degrees in Communication in 1995 and her PhD in 2003. During her career, Phyllis mentored women searching for successful careers, and participated with numerous organizations. Phyllis's husband, Lewis, passed away in 2019. She lives full time in Sarasota, Florida enjoying her seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She also keeps busy participating in various organizations at her parish, St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church.

Dottie Hessler Hathorn '67 graduated from Good Samaritan School of Nursing in 1970. Dottie and her husband Mike have three daughters, **Missy Harthorn Palmer '91**, **Amy Hathorn '94**, and **Julie Hathorn Menning '98**. Dottie is the proud grandmother of seven, including MND sophomore **Marissa Menning '27** and great-grandmother of one.

Connie King Baker '67 is active with her eight grandchildren and in various activities with St. Simon the Apostle Parish. Doug, Connie's son, is a Captain with the Cincinnati Fire Department, Engine 12. Joann, Connie's daughter, is in her 27th year teaching 3rd grade at St. Dominic in Delhi and daughter, Chris, is a VP at the Better Business Bureau. Connie is very thankful that everyone lives in the Delhi/Green Township area. She and her husband, Terry will be married 55 years this May.

Cathy Reagan Buffington '67 shares that she lived in California for 20 years after living in Cleveland during her husband's residency. Cathy was in computer sales for 25 years. Cathy's husband invested in a construction project in California and loved that more than medicine. They now own a construction company on Kiawah Island.

Elaine Johnson Davis '69 and husband John are enjoying their life in California with their children and grandchildren.

1970's

JoAnn Bergheger Kaplan '70 retired from Towne Properties as Accounts Payable Manager after 41 years in December 2022. She has three children and four grandchildren. JoAnn and her husband Keith live in Cincinnati.



MND on the MOVE: FLORIDA



NAPLES: **Dottie Harman Eveleigh '77** hosted over 20 MND alumnae at Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club for a luncheon on February 4, 2024



SARASOTA/BRADENTON: A lunch hosted by **Joni Roelker Zai '75**, **Amy Roelker Groene '96** and **Ann Roelker Buyniski '73** gathered nearly 15 MND alumnae on February 5. The Lakewood Ranch Skyline was serving cake to celebrate their 5th anniversary this same day!



TAMPA: Happy Hour with guests **Lillian Leahy McCabe '66** and **Jadlyn Hughes Johnson '02** at American Social.

Class Notes

Jane Hammergren Urlage '71 retired in December 2023 from Champion Graphics after 35 years. She is a 1975 graduate of the University of Cincinnati's College of Education.

Connie Samuelson '71 received her BSN in nursing from the University of Cincinnati in 1975. She is team manager for VITAS Health. Connie lives in Maitland, Florida.

Joni Riga Wolffe '72 is enjoying retirement and travelling to many parts of the world as well as North Carolina, Cincinnati, and Seattle to visit her seven grandchildren. Joni resides in East Peoria, Illinois.

Maura Meyer Day '74 is still working full time. She does all her own yard work, plays golf and tennis, enjoys art and woodworking. She loves travelling with her children and grandchildren. Maura also volunteers with ProKids as a CASA.

Mary Jo Rahe '75 retired after 30 years driving a school bus and working in the Sycamore Community school system. She has two sons, three grandsons and one great grandson. She recently moved to Loveland from Blue Ash. Mary Jo loves being retired and spending time outdoors.

Pam Puthoff Hesse '79 is enjoying her grandchildren, golfing, and travelling. She recently went to Africa. She is happy to have her granddaughter, **Paige Hesse '28** at MND.

1980's

Joan Sontag '81 works at Bethel-Tate Local Schools and started her 40th year teaching special education in the 2024-25 school year.

Amy Bissmeyer Galarowicz '84 shares that in 2015, earned her Montessori teaching certificate for ages 6-12. After a few years as an elementary guide, she made the leap of faith to open her own business! Amy loves offering Christian Montessori homeschooling support as the founder and lead guide of Vine Montessori Elementary in North Caldwell ,New Jersey.

Audrey Kardasz Gorman '84 retired in May 2021 from Mason City Schools after 33 years teaching. She taught 20 years in Mason City Schools and 13 years in Northwest Local Schools.

Sherry Mack '84 has returned from a fantastic vacation aboard a yacht to Croatia where she explored the Dalmatian Coast on the Adriatic Sea. She travelled with her daughters, **Kristy Lyons '09** and **Stephanie Lyons '13**, friend **Jennifer Ossim Blomer '84** and Jennifer's three daughters.

Dawn Stiens '85 is a veterinarian at Kettering Animal Hospital. She has been practicing for 31 years and is still at the same clinic where she started all those years ago!

2000's

Jennifer Hahn-Petrusco '06 and husband Kevin welcomed son Caleb into their family on November 19, 2023. Jennifer currently works as the Director of Ministry Formation at Ascension Health in St. Louis.

Regina Herre Acree '06 graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 2010 with a BS in Forensic Science with an emphasis in Chemistry. She received her MS in Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs in 2019 from Temple University. Regina works as a Quality Assurance Senior Manager for P&G. She has been married to Nick since 2012. They have three children Kayla (11), Evelynnn (8) and Wyatt (4). The family resides in Milford.



Monica Weber '06 graduated from the University of Cincinnati with an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Veterinary Technology in 2022. She was named the 2022 Honor Student of the year at UC Blue Ash, graduating Magna Cum Laude. In September 2022, she passed the national board exam for veterinary technicians and is now a registered veterinary tech/nurse. Monica is currently a member of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America and works with various types of animals, enjoying canine and feline dentistry, phlebotomy and radiography among many other things. She also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from NKU. In her free time, Monica sings and performs in various productions throughout the Greater Cincinnati area.

2010's

Macenzie Reed '14 graduated from Wittenberg University in 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science. In 2020, Macenzie graduated from Miami University with a Master's Degree in Environmental Science. Macenzie currently works as an Environmental Specialist for Duke Energy and resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Emily Webb Crawford '15 and husband Harrison are first time homeowners! They reside in Sycamore Township, Ohio and are enjoying their new home.



Avery Larkin '15 has recently been promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Air Force. She is currently a pilot at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas.

Beth Heimbuch '17 received her CPA in April of 2024. She works for a financial services company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sydney Leshnak '17 recently purchased her first home in Ft. Thomas, Kentucky! Sydney graduated in 2021 from Ohio Northern University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Minor in Business Administration. She works as an Electric Response Service Specialist for Fidelity Investments.



Erin Bell '19 graduated from the University of Southern California in 2022 with a degree in Global Health, Public Health Administration. She recently moved to New York where she works as a Human Resources Coordinator.

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.



Sr. Paula Marie Becker, SNDdeN
11/1/2024
former faculty member



Sr. Mary Bridget Murphy, SNDdeN
12/7/2024
former faculty member



Sue Nordloh Winstel '55
10/29/2024



Mary Ann Burgdorf Parr '56
7/6/2024



Martha Schmitt McCarthy '58
7/23/2024



Marilyn Johnson Sexton '59
10/30/2024



Eileen Lang Anderson '60
8/20/2024



Nancy Middendorf Smith '60
10/23/2024



Janet Flynn Vance '60
11/28/2024



Janet Brossart George '60
8/12/2024



Dottie Meyer Dailey '61
9/21/2024



Martha Ann Wieman Richardson '62
6/2/2024



Kathy Fischer Blackmon '63
11/20/2024



Donna Condo Orr '63
12/09/2024



Ruth Eigel Pulskamp '64
7/23/2024



Mary Martin Ferguson '65
5/7/2024



Janis Horn Ferguson '66
5/26/2024



Linda Brockmeyer Wright '66
10/19/2024



Ruth Ann Beresford Hendrix '67
12/1/2024



Cynthia Dillon Simmons '67
7/18/2024



Genemary Packer Oberlin '67
7/4/2024



Betsi Connett Walton '71
11/12/2024



Laura Baumgartner Henize '78
8/14/2024



Jennifer Lynn Meyer-Haag '81
5/29/2024



Kamyia Fletcher '13
11/13/2024



Engagements/Weddings



Meghan Bohannon Bees '16 married Conrad Howell on August 2nd at St. Mary Parish in Hyde Park. They held a reception with friends and family, many of whom are also MND Alumnae, on August 3rd at the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati.



Robyn Kerley Shover '12 married Mitch on June 1, 2024 at St. Columban Church in Loveland. A celebration with family and friends followed. The couple was surrounded by tons of MND Alumnae ranging from the Class of 1960 to the Class of 2017.



Ciara Tucker Wittich '20 married her high school sweetheart, Owen Wittich on September 14, 2024. The two bought their first house in Cincinnati. Ciara works as the Alumnae Relations Coordinator at MND.



Joan Young Arnold '81 is engaged to James Hesse. The couple are planning a wedding for June of 2025.



Megan Fair Mikol '17 married Collin Mikol on June 15, 2024 at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Shaker Heights. The newlyweds reside in Twinsburg, Ohio.



Brittany Cobb Benzing '10 married Eric Benzing on September 14, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Church in Dry Ridge. The couple currently reside in Hamilton, Ohio.



Skylar Halpin '08 said YES to her fiancé Greg Jeter this past May. Skylar, who is thrilled for their upcoming wedding, also serves on Mount Notre Dame's Alumnae Committee as Communications Chair.



Madison Mullinger Sabol '18 married Dylan on July 20, 2024. They had many Mount Notre Dame Alumnae in the wedding party and even more at the wedding.



Kimberly Recinella Walker '10 married David Walker at The Italian Club in Tampa, Florida on August 30, 2024. MND alumnae in attendance were **Ashley Towle Dutton '10**, **Molly Heister Hance '10**, **Kelly Dennis Sipocz '10**, **Rebecca Stiens Hughes '10** and current faculty member Bill Hughes. Kimberly works as a Flight Nurse with a Civilian Medevac program at Tampa General Hospital. In her free time, she and David love spending time with their two german shepherds, Ari & Apollo, traveling, boat days, and bike rides. The newlyweds reside in Tampa.



Julia Recker Colosky '22 married Jack Colosky this past August. The newlyweds live in Georgetown where Julia is currently finishing her undergraduate degree.



Georgia Kircher Veihl '19 married Nathan on August 17, 2024 in Mason. The newlyweds recently returned home to Cincinnati after living in Raleigh, North Carolina and have purchased their first home not far from MND.



Lauren Joseph '02 is recently engaged to Jonathan Blasiak. The two are very happy to be planning their wedding, and look forward to a fabulous day with family and friends!

Births/Adoptions



Emily Ryan Radley '04 and husband Jay welcomed their son James, Jr. on April 3, 2024. James tipped the scale at 6lbs, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.



Katie Powell Frider '05, husband Josh and children Mason and Cullen welcomed baby Quinn MacKay into their family on September 18, 2024.



Megan Heimbuch Tiemeier '10 and husband Joey welcomed daughter Nora Patricia on July 6, 2024.



Carolyn Eggenberger Jansen '10 and husband Joe, welcomed their second child, son, Parker Joseph, on June 13, 2024. He joins big sister, Juliette Rose, who is thrilled to have a new best friend living with her, in addition to the family's two dogs.



Danielle Damon Hamby '14 and husband Parker welcomed daughter Talia Belle on August 23, 2024. The family resides in Hyde Park.



Elyse Tollefson Suddendorf '03 and husband Mike welcomed Marjorie Celia, "Macy," on July 3, 2024. She joins older siblings, Peter, Heidi and Jimmy.



Kelly Cutter Burger '12 and husband Chris are excited to share the arrival of Frances Marie on April 2, 2024. Frannie joins big sister Ellie(4) and big brother Jack(2). great grandma **Mary Frances Gessing Costello '45** and grandma **Liz Costello Cutter '82** are over the moon.



Katy Lindhorst Hoffman '13 and husband Ben welcomed their second daughter Lainey James in to their family on July 8, 2024.



Sara Kuhlman McGinnis '10 and husband David were thrilled to meet their daughter Elizabeth Ann on July 12, 2024.



Angie Tollefson Haag '10 and husband Tim welcomed baby Max on May 8, 2024.



Elizabeth Bayer Paxson '14 and husband Nick are now sharing time with AJ, born June 11, 2024. The happy family resides in Cincinnati.



Andrea Knollman Gier '04 along with husband Nick and big sister Clare (2) welcomed Jude Kenneth on March 18, 2024.



Kelly Flynn Shough '07 and her husband Chris are excited to share the birth of their son Ryan Rodney on August 22, 2024.



Rebecca Buxsel Schmidt '09 and husband Josh, welcomed son Barrett to the family in May 2024. He joins big brothers, Bentley (8), Beckett (5) and Braxton (3). Rebecca works as an emergency room nurse manager at TriHealth Bethesda, Butler. The family resides in West Chester.



Lauren Cengel Casale '08 and her husband Bill welcomed their son, Thomas John on June 27, 2024.



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ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT
**Tommi Lea Harsch '09 Returns to
Mount Notre Dame as Theatre Director**

Mount Notre Dame High School proudly welcomes home one of our own, Tommi Lea Harsch '09, an alumna whose passion for the performing arts has brought her full circle. Harsch, a graduate of the class of 2009, has recently been named the new Artistic Theatre Director at MND. Her appointment marks a new chapter for the school's acclaimed theatre program, one that promises to inspire and elevate future generations of students.

A Journey Rooted in Passion

Harsch's love for theatre flourished during her years at MND, where she was an active participant in a countless number of the school's theatrical productions. From her first audition to her final curtain call as a student, she embraced a love for storytelling, collaboration, and performance that would shape her career. After graduating in 2009, Harsch pursued her passion by earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from Wright State University. Following a few years residing out west in Las Vegas, NV, Tommi spent 3 wonderful years

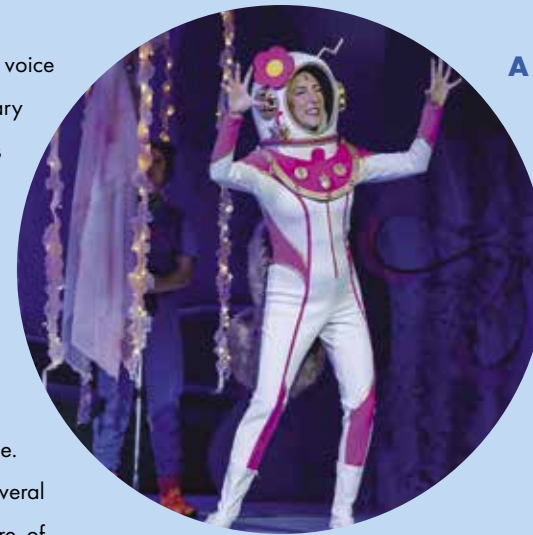


traveling the world and serenading audiences at sea, working for Royal Caribbean International! While she loved the time spent seeing the globe, she was certainly missing her close-knit family, and a move back to Cincinnati seemed to be the answer. Though unsure of what it would bring in terms of her work, she felt strongly called to return home.

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought hardships to many in the world of the Arts, it brought her an undeniably amazing opportunity. Alongside her mother, Harsch took on the renovation of a nearly 100-year-old building in the heart of the Reading Bridal District, with the intention of turning it into an Arts Education and Enrichment facility. The Reading Community Arts Center building was renovated and officially established in 2021. This gave Tommi the space to begin teaching Performing Arts group classes and private lessons to children of all ages. "I truly believe if you have a passion for something, it's your responsibility to pass it on to future generations," says Harsch. Through the RCAC, she was able to teach everything from ballet to 3-5 year old students to

Dance Fitness classes for adults! Private voice lessons, Theatre classes for elementary students, and "Story To Stage" camps for elementary ages were just some of the ventures accessible through the RCAC.

As if she weren't busy enough, Harsch continued to pursue performance opportunities of her own during this time. Audiences may have seen her in several productions with The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati - most recently as Dory in Finding Nemo Jr.! Tommi frequently spends her weekends playing live music with a selection of bands around Cincinnati, including her own original music project.



**"Returning to MND just
feels like coming home
in the best way."**

**Bringing Expertise Back
to the Stage**

"Returning to MND just feels like coming home in the best way," Harsch shared. "MNDT was such a special place for me as a student, and I'm so thrilled to have the opportunity to give back by inspiring the next generation of performers." Her vision for MND's theatre program combines a commitment to excellence with a focus on creativity and community. "I want these students to see theatre not just as an art form, but as a chance to share their God-given gifts with as many audiences as possible," she explained. "I believe wholeheartedly in these students, and am so grateful to be a motivating force in their lives at such a transformative time- it's truly an honor."

A New Era for MND Theatre

Under Harsch's leadership, the MND Theatre Program is set to expand its offerings, with plans for a diverse slate of productions, chances to showcase our elite technical theatre program, and even more student-led opportunities. Harsch also hopes to foster meaningful collaborations with local theatre professionals, providing students with mentorship and real-world experiences.



A Legacy of Inspiration

As Harsch steps into this new role, she reflects on the teachers and mentors who shaped her journey. "The encouragement I received from my mentors at MND gave me the unabashed confidence to pursue my dreams," she said. "I hope to be an overflowing source of inspiration, motivation and positivity for my students."

Harsch's return to Mount Notre Dame is not just a homecoming; it's a testament to the enduring impact of the school's mission to empower young women to achieve their full potential. With her at the helm, the future of MND's theatre program shines brighter than ever.



MOUNT NOTRE DAME

Empowering Young Women

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