

# MOUNT NOTRE DAME DEVELOPMENTS

*Empowered Women  
Leading in Business  
and Leadership for  
generations.*

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



2026 ISSUE 1



# In this Issue

- 3 Letter from the President
- 6 Lasting Impact: MND Student Ambassador Program
- 14 Athletic Highlights
- 18 Alumnae Events
- 19 Class Notes

# Features

- 4 Historic STEM Partnership
- 5 Building the Future One Line of Code at a Time
- 8 Alumnae Spotlight
- 12 Board of Trustees Leadership
- 17 Donor Spotlight



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# Letter from the President

**Michelle L. Robinson**

Dear Mount Notre Dame Community,

As we begin the second semester of the school year, I am proud to reflect on the many ways Mount Notre Dame continues to form confident, capable young women prepared to lead in an ever-changing world. Rooted in our mission and guided by the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, MND is a place where leadership is learned, practiced, and lived, beginning in the classroom and continuing throughout a lifetime.

This issue highlights the powerful presence of women in leadership, with a special focus on the growing impact of women in STEM fields. At Mount Notre Dame, students are encouraged to explore, innovate, and lead with curiosity and confidence. Through collaborative problem-solving, hands-on learning, and real-world applications, our students are developing the skills and perspective needed to address complex challenges and shape the future.

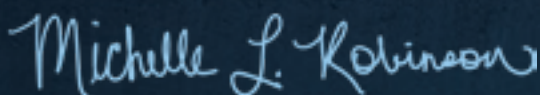
Equally important, we celebrate the leadership of our alumnae, who embody the strong foundation formed at MND. From STEM professionals and educators to healthcare leaders, entrepreneurs, and community advocates, our alumnae continue to serve as role models and changemakers. Their leadership reflects the values instilled at Mount Notre Dame of faith, integrity, service, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

At Mount Notre Dame, leadership is grounded in faith and inspired by Christ's call to serve others. We strive to form women who lead with compassion, courage, and humility, women who seek not only success, but purpose. Our students and alumnae alike are encouraged to use their gifts in service of the greater good, responding to God's call wherever they are led.

Leadership at MND is not limited to titles or positions. Our students lead in classrooms, laboratories, and service opportunities, while our alumnae lead in their professions, families, and communities. Together, they illustrate a continuous legacy of women who are prepared to lead with confidence, compassion, and purpose.

As you read this magazine, I invite you to celebrate both the students and alumnae of Mount Notre Dame, remarkable women who are shaped by their MND experience and who, in turn, are shaping the world.

Warm Regards,



Michelle L. Robinson  
President



# Historic STEM Partnership Empowers Future Women Leaders

In a remarkable moment for Catholic girls' education in Cincinnati, Mount Notre Dame joined four area Cincinnati all-girl institutions in securing a **historic \$2 million STEM education grant**, a partnership poised to transform opportunities for young women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

For the first time in their storied histories, five all-girls Catholic high schools, **Mount Notre Dame, Mercy McAuley, Saint Ursula Academy, Seton, and Ursuline Academy**, have united to receive this three-year grant from **The Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund**, with Fifth Third Bank, N.A. serving as trustee. Each school will receive \$400,000 to strengthen and expand STEM programming beginning with the **2025-2026 academic year**.

## What the Grant Will Support

The flexible nature of the grant allows each school to invest in areas that best meet the needs of its students and faculty. Funds may be used for:

- Upgrading STEM classrooms and laboratory spaces
- Purchasing specialized equipment
- Enhancing curriculum and extracurricular offerings
- Extending experiential learning and career pathways
- Providing professional development for teachers

These investments aim to break down traditional barriers to participation in STEM and ensure that MND students have access to resources that spark curiosity and fuel ambition.



**"We're commonly seen as competitors in the community. But what better way to lift each other up and collaborate together to be an example to our students."**

Michelle Robinson, MND President

## A Collaborative Vision for STEM Excellence

This unprecedented collaboration grew out of shared conversations among the presidents of the five schools, who chose to pursue the grant as a unified group. This intentional partnership serves as an inspiring example of how schools can elevate one another and the young women they serve.

MND President, Michelle Robinson framed the initiative as a defining moment of solidarity: "We're commonly seen as competitors in the community. But what better way to lift each other up and collaborate together to be an example to our students."

The collaboration illustrates a shared commitment to preparing students not just to participate in STEM fields, but to lead and innovate within them.

## Continuing a Legacy of Female Empowerment

The Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund has championed empowerment for young women since its founding in 1908, and this grant continues that legacy by investing in the next generation of female STEM leaders across the Cincinnati region.

Heidi Jark, Managing Director of the Foundation Office at Fifth Third Bank, emphasized the Fund's mission: "We are honored to continue that legacy by supporting these five esteemed academic institutions as they advance STEM education for the next generation of female leaders."

## Student Excitement and Future Possibilities

Students across the five schools are already looking forward to how this support will enrich their learning experiences. For MND and its peers, this grant is more than funding, it's a platform for ambitious growth, strengthening programs today while inspiring students to pursue bold futures in STEM careers tomorrow.



## Building the Future One Line of Code at a Time

When MND received a historic STEM grant to expand opportunities for young women in science and technology, it affirmed a future that students like Lily Sauser '26 were already helping to build. Long before the announcement, Lily was immersed in robotics - coding, collaborating, and discovering her passion for engineering, showing exactly what is possible when curiosity meets opportunity.

Lily's journey into robotics began close to home. When her brother received a robotics kit, curiosity quickly turned into passion. What started as a family project soon became a shared commitment with her dad stepping into the role of coach, her mom provides behind-the-scenes support, and Lily discovered a field where her talents and interests could truly thrive.

Today, Lily serves as the lead Java coder for her robotics team. Beyond programming, she plays a critical role in shaping the team's public presence by creating content for their Instagram account, leading presentations, and helping craft the narrative shared with judges on competition nights. Through these experiences, Lily has learned that success in STEM isn't only about building a robot; it's also about telling a compelling story. Along the way, she has grown tremendously in confidence, communication, and public speaking.

That hard work paid off in a remarkable way this past spring. Lily's team earned

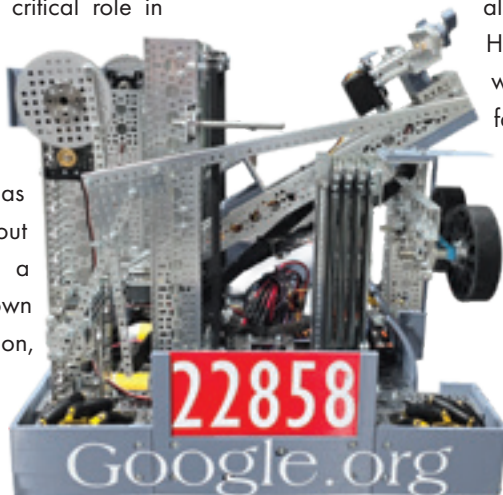
1st place at the Ohio FIRST Robotics Championship, qualifying them for the prestigious FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas. There, they competed among 256 of the top robotics teams from around the world, an achievement that places Lily firmly among the next generation of STEM leaders. Not surprisingly, Lily has qualified for state again this year!



At MND, Lily's excellence extends far beyond robotics. She is a Billiard Scholar, an active member of National Honor Society, Graces & Blessings, Respect for Life, and Worship Commission, and a dedicated athlete on the Cross Country and Track teams. Whether in the classroom, on the course, or in service to others, Lily approaches every opportunity with focus, leadership, and purpose.

With aspirations of becoming an engineer, Lily is already laying a strong foundation for her future. Her story is a powerful example of what happens when young women are empowered through faith-based education, meaningful mentorship, and innovative STEM opportunities.

Lily Sauser '26 embodies the Mount Notre Dame mission to learn, live, lead, and serve, and as the historic STEM grant opens even more doors for young women, her journey offers a powerful glimpse of the impact this investment will have for generations to come.





## A LASTING IMPACT

# MND Student Ambassador Program

For decades, the Mount Notre Dame Student Ambassador Program has stood at the front of MND’s mission to empower young women to learn, live, lead and serve. What began as a small team of student volunteers has grown into MND’s premier student leadership organization that is recognized for its significant impact on the school community. For the 2025-2026 school year, a record 219 students were selected as Student Ambassadors.

In the beginning, the program focused primarily on assisting with a handful of admissions events throughout the year. As MND grew and the need for authentic, student-driven connection increased, so did the expectations for the ambassadors who represented the school. Over the years, the group has developed into a selective, application-based program known for its high standards and meaningful participation.

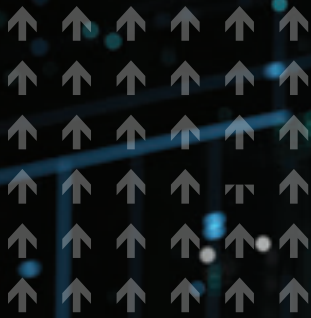
Students must complete an application and interview process, demonstrate strong communication skills, and embody the values of the MND sisterhood. Once selected, ambassadors commit to maintaining participation expectations to ensure that every member reflects the spirit and excellence of MND.

Their role is far more than giving tours. These young women are often the very first faces future families meet. They shape first impressions, answer questions, and bring MND’s values to life through their own personal stories and experiences. Whether welcoming prospective students to Open House, leading shadow days, or greeting guests at special events, ambassadors help families feel the warmth, tradition, and joy that define the MND experience.

Alumnae can be proud knowing that today’s ambassadors carry forward the legacy of excellence, hospitality, and service that has always defined MND. While our ambassadors may have traded in their former navy blue blazers (with shoulder pads!) for more trendy Columbia Blue sweaters, they still remain a shining example of how MND empowers young women to lead with purpose and reminds us all of the lasting impact of that very first welcome.

2025-2026  
**219**  
Student  
Ambassadors





# MiNDing Our Business at MND

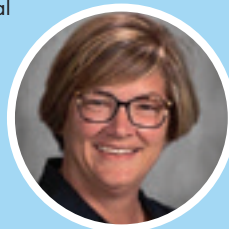
KAREN M. DAY, PRINCIPAL



MND’s strategic plan calls us to “create a premier community of learners through a spirit of collaboration and innovative teaching.” MND Information Technology and Business Teacher and Department Chairperson, Mrs. Krista Brehm, has helped bring this vision to life. For more than 15 years, MND has been **MiNDing Our Business** by growing enrollment in course offerings, expanding curriculum, and building meaningful partnerships.

At one time, MND students primarily took their required Digital Literacy & Learning course and a few enrolled in Yearbook. Today, students engage in a wide range of offerings, including Business Principles, Business Organization & Management, Entrepreneurship, Excel Analytics, Marketing Principles, Microsoft Office Essentials, and AP Computer Science Principles—our newest course. When speaking about this growth, Brehm attributes the increased interest to the natural inquisitiveness of MND students. Guided by the words of St. Julie Billiart, she thoughtfully considers both curriculum and course offerings. “St. Julie said, ‘Teach them what they need to know for life,’ which was such a wise statement that transcends the ages and fits now, too. I seek to offer courses that help our students become effective communicators in the business world.”

To support this mission, Brehm has embraced lifelong learning. Already holding both a bachelor’s and master’s degree, she continues to expand her skill set through professional development and advanced coursework. From earning multiple Microsoft Office certifications, to becoming qualified through the University of Iowa to teach Entrepreneurship, to recently completing a three-semester program through Mount Saint Joseph University resulting in a Computer Science Endorsement, Brehm consistently brings her learning back



Mrs. Krista Brehm

MND Information Technology and Business Teacher



into the classroom. She shares, “My commitment aligns with MND’s Empowerment Characteristic that ‘a Mount Notre Dame empowered young woman chooses to pursue intellectual curiosity.’ By continuing to learn and grow as an educator, I aim to show students that intellectual curiosity is not confined to the classroom but is a lifelong pursuit.”

Equipped with both knowledge and innovative courses, Brehm brings the curriculum to life through real-world partnerships. In the Entrepreneurship course, students can earn three college credit hours from the University of Iowa and compete in an entrepreneurial pitch competition through the nonprofit Square1 for a \$30,000 renewable scholarship at Thomas More University. Additionally, MND’s Marketing course includes a partnership with Xavier University, where students collaborate on a real-world marketing campaign. Through these and other projects, students come alive as they discover the purpose of these skills beyond the classroom. As discussions deepen, confidence grows—leading to collaboration, problem-solving, and a clearer vision for future careers.

MND raised the bar this year with the addition of AP Computer Science Principles, enrolling fourteen students in the inaugural course. Junior Mihret Schmidt said she signed up to “continue learning about using technology” and because she enjoys Mrs. Brehm’s teaching style. What excites her most is the hands-on learning: “I am learning how to create functioning apps through code—something I never thought I’d be able to do!”

Additional dreams and visions are being discussed in the areas of STEM and business. While we are MiNDing Our Business, we certainly are not finished dreaming, innovating, or preparing students for the future.



## ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT



# Gratitude isn't just a feeling, it's a way of life.



In 2010, **Rachael Grubbs DesRochers '01** began her entrepreneurial career with Grateful Grahams, a vegan graham cracker company, as she looked to pursue a lifelong dream of creating her own job. Over the next fifteen years, she established The Gratitude Collective, an umbrella of five programs: Incubator Kitchen Collective, Good n' Local, Grateful Grahams, and, most recently, Power to Pursue. With the help of her dear friend, **Tara Schuh Litmer '95**, Power to Pursue, is now running full speed ahead, and her heart couldn't be happier.

"Power to Pursue was a pre-Covid idea I had." Rachel had attended several networking events for women that centered on the messaging of having to change something about oneself to find success.

"I don't believe any of that. I think we know, as women, we're inherently built to know [what we need], we just need to get quiet and listen," Rachel explained as she shared the foundation of Power to Pursue.

Rachel sat with that idea and concept and asked herself, "What would a room look like that was built with that intentionality?" The pandemic allowed Rachel to create that space during a time when she felt women had a level playing field and the opportunity to build connections was front and center.

"The mission of Power to Pursue is to create a safe space for women to be seen, heard, and loved in." Rachel and Tara began working together back when both of their children were young and in school together. Tara was teaching at the time at Sans Montessori where Rachel's children attended school: "We knew each other long before we realized we knew each other," Tara commented when reflecting on their relationship.



Rachel remembered that their friendship grew out of mutual support: "There was a gaggle of women who consistently showed up to volunteer" while she was in the early stages of Grateful Grahams.

Rachel and Tara began to use that blueprint of working alongside each other to create Power to Pursue which was destined to be an inclusive, empowering group for women.

Tara began with Power to Pursue as a volunteer with a build team. As the organization took shape, she and Rachel became closer and more in sync with each other's vision for the program. By year two, Tara took on more and the two played to each other's strengths. While

Rachel is the dreamer, Tara covers the back end of operations as the Chief Operating Officer.



Tara reflects on the program's success, noting that "the reason it worked post-Covid is because it was planned during Covid. We were trapped at home, and we came out of that knowing how much we need to gather. So, 400+ women showed up Year 1, and it's grown since then."

Power to Pursue (P2P) has grown into a variety of events for women in all walks of life. Monthly Power Hours are

hosted at women owned and/or operated businesses. P2P hosts a bi-annual MakeHers Market featuring local women artists and entrepreneurs. Their Ascending Women Event Series is a monthly event which is centered around various themes such as self-love, authorship, grief, etc. These meetings include at least three speakers from diverse backgrounds to share their experience on a common theme or topic.

Power to Pursue also hosts a Spring Summit which includes a variety of local and national speakers which focus on self-empowerment. "You have to experience it to understand it... because it somehow feels different than anything, I think, women experience," Tara reflects. In 2025, Power to Pursue Spring Summit sold-out Music Hall's 850 seats without any advertising. The 5th annual Summit is planned for May 15, and Tara and Rachel are already planning on the event's significant turn out.

So how does this team continue to draw more women in without any advertising? "The formula is heart, and that's intimidating," Rachel shares. "It's vulnerability

'cause you have to be seen, but I think that's where we've created an environment where it's working, where people are like 'Oh, this is what it's like to be seen' because no one's judging them."



Rachel noticed that there is a deeper connection between her work now and her time at MND. "I loved [MND]. We had an experience around girls and seeing [the need for community]." The idea of embracing each other's unique experiences is at the core of the work of Power to Pursue. Tara commented that she could be herself at MND: "I could go and I could just be." And that ability is at the heart of Power to Pursue, to create a space where women can come be themselves. "This work has taught me to step out of my vulnerability and into my power."

***"I could go and I could just be."***

So what do they want in five years? They want to see Power to Pursue go across the globe, to have the number one women's empowerment podcast. But more than that, Rachel shared that she "want[s] every woman in the world to feel loved." And if that happened in less than five years, Tara and Rachel would feel extremely grateful.





ANGEL EDUCATOR:  
MRS. JUDY METCALF

## *The Teachers Who Lift Us: Celebrating Angel Educators*

At Mount Notre Dame, gratitude is more than a feeling. It is a practice rooted in faith, reflection, and relationship, and one that shapes how our students come to understand leadership. One of the most meaningful expressions of this gratitude is our tradition of honoring Angel Educators, a practice that has become a cherished part of our annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service.

Angel Educators are teachers, youth ministers, and school or parish staff members who have made a lasting impact on a Mount Notre Dame student or alumna at some point in her educational journey. These are individuals whose leadership is expressed not through titles, but through presence; those who recognized potential, offered encouragement, modeled patience, or believed in a young person at just the right moment. As one student wrote in her nomination, "She made her classroom a place where it was okay to mess up and ask for help."

### ABOUT MRS. JUDY METCALF

*"I remember being able to breathe and be myself and embrace my love for learning during her classes."*

### PAST STUDENT

For many years, the school honored Angel Educators during the spring semester. However, the recognition has found a natural and meaningful home within our annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service, where gratitude, reflection, and faith intersect most powerfully. This shift has allowed our community to celebrate Angel Educators as formative

leaders in students' lives, people whose quiet influence helped shape confidence, resilience, and self-worth.

Rooted in the spirit of St. Julie Billiart, this tradition reflects a simple but profound truth she often proclaimed: "How good is the good God!" The Angel Educators tradition invites students to recognize God's goodness made visible through the people who have guided, challenged, and accompanied them along the way.

Each fall, current students are invited to reflect on their educational journey prior to arriving at Mount Notre Dame and to nominate an Angel Educator who helped shape who they are today. Students submit nomination essays describing the ways these educators encouraged them, believed in them, or helped them grow during formative years. One student reflected, From these submissions, a group of Angel Educators is selected and invited to campus to be recognized during the prayer service.

Last school year, the tradition expanded to include alumnae nominations, allowing graduates to honor members of the Mount Notre Dame faculty and staff who were “angels” in their own high school experience. This year, two beloved retired faculty members, Mrs. Judy Metcalf and Mr. Wayne Peppercorn, were recognized for the profound and lasting impact they had on their students. One alumna shared of Mrs. Metcalf, “I remember being able to breathe and be myself and embrace my love for learning during her classes.” Another reflected on Mr. Peppercorn’s lasting care, writing, “Not only did he care about his students, but he also cared about them when they were already graduated.”

During the Thanksgiving Prayer Service, students present their Angel Educator with a certificate that includes their nomination essay. This simple but powerful gesture reminds all present that gratitude is most powerful when it is named, shared, and celebrated together.

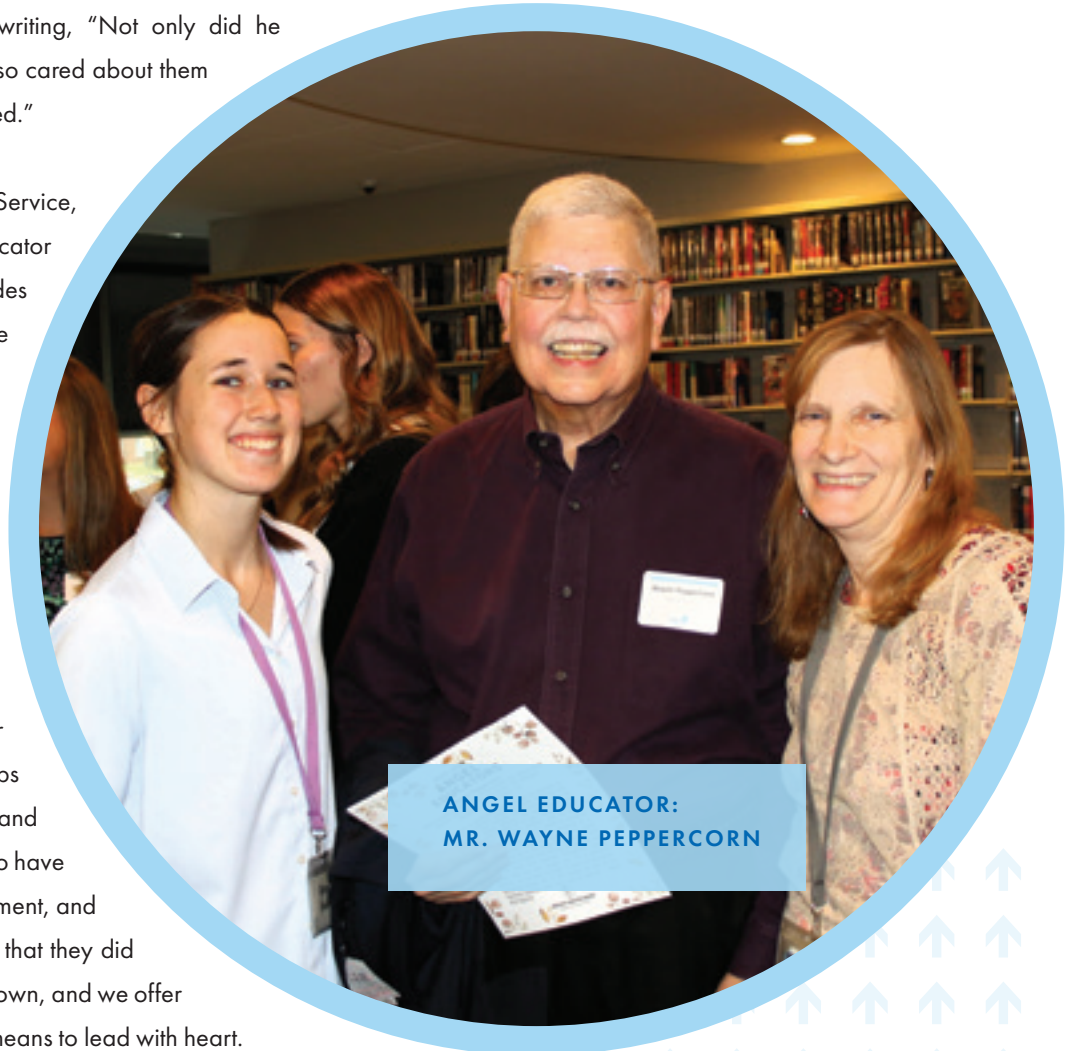
The Angel Educators tradition is a living reminder of Mount Notre Dame’s mission to empower young women through relationships grounded in faith, compassion, and community. By honoring those who have led through example, accompaniment, and care, we help students recognize that they did not arrive where they are on their own, and we offer them enduring models of what it means to lead with heart.



#### ABOUT MR. WAYNE PEPPERCORN

*“Not only did he care about his students, but he also cared about them when they were already graduated.”*

PAST STUDENT



ANGEL EDUCATOR:  
MR. WAYNE PEPPERCORN



MND BOARD OF TRUSTEES LEADERSHIP



## *Mount Notre Dame Alumnae Shaping Our Community*

For more than a century, Mount Notre Dame has been forming young women of faith, intellect, and purpose who are leaders prepared not only for success, but for service. Today, that legacy lives on through alumnae who are shaping our communities, professions, and families with courage, compassion, and conviction.

Across Cincinnati and beyond, MND graduates are leading in classrooms and courtrooms, hospitals and boardrooms, nonprofits and neighborhoods. They are educators inspiring the next generation, healthcare professionals caring for the whole person, entrepreneurs building innovative solutions, and advocates standing up for those most in need.

Rooted in the mission to learn, live, lead, and serve, MND alumnae carry forward the values instilled during their formative years on campus. At MND, young women learn early that their voices matter and their gifts are meant to be shared.

Many alumnae point to the strength of the MND sisterhood as a defining force in their leadership journeys. The

relationships formed in classrooms, on teams, and through service projects continue long after graduation, evolving into professional networks, mentorship opportunities, and lifelong friendships. This sense of connection reinforces a powerful truth: leadership is strongest when it is grounded in community.

Faith also remains central to the legacy of Mount Notre Dame leaders. Guided by the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, alumnae are called to lead with humility, integrity, and a deep respect for the dignity of every person. Their leadership reflects a commitment to justice, compassion, and the belief that meaningful change begins with serving others.

As MND looks to the future - investing in academic innovation, leadership development, and expanded opportunities for young women, the impact of its alumnae stands as both inspiration and affirmation. Their lives are living proof that when young women are empowered with knowledge, faith, and confidence, they go on to make extraordinary contributions to the world around them.



## MND BOARD OF TRUSTEES LEADERSHIP

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR  
**Kathy Kissel McQueen '81**

Kathy Kissel McQueen '81 is a visionary entrepreneur and business leader who recently sold KDM P.O.P. Solutions. Kathy and her siblings grew the company founded by her father into a nationally recognized printing company that provided retail solutions. Throughout her career, Kathy has credited MND with instilling the confidence and leadership foundation that empowered her to take risks, build a business, and create opportunities for others. A proud alumna and Distinguished Alumna honoree, Kathy's journey reflects the power of perseverance, faith, and the MND sisterhood, demonstrating how vision can leave a lasting impact on her industry and community.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR ELECT  
**Erin Satzger '04**

Erin Satzger '04 is the President & CEO of the Northern Cincinnati Foundation, where she leads initiatives that strengthen communities and expand opportunities across the region. A recognized civic leader, Erin has been honored with the Cincinnati Business Courier's *Forty Under 40* award and multiple leadership and service distinctions, including Mount Notre Dame's Distinguished Alumna Award and the Spirit of St. Julie Award. Her commitment to servant leadership and community impact reflects the values first nurtured at MND, where she began her journey of learning, leading, and serving others.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
**Cristina Seda-Hoelle '92**

Cristina Seda-Hoelle '92 is a nationally recognized leader at GE Aerospace, where she plays a key role on the GE9X Product Line, supporting one of the most advanced jet engine programs in the world. Her leadership and innovation have earned her numerous honors, including recognition as a *Fortune Most Powerful Women NextGen* leader, along with GE Aerospace's Overall Performance Award and Empowering & Inspiring Leader Award. Cristina's remarkable career in aerospace reflects the confidence, resilience, and passion for STEM first nurtured at Mount Notre Dame, where she began her journey of learning, leading, and breaking barriers.



# Athletic Highlights



## Cross Country

The Cross Country program finished fourth in the GGCL this year. At the OHSAA District Meet at Voice of America Park, the Cougars finished fifth overall, qualifying for the OHSAA Regional Meet. Senior Janie Deglow was the top runner for MND, finishing with a time of 20:56. Senior Isabelle DelRosario was MND's second-best runner, finishing the race in 21:18.



## Golf

The varsity Golf team had another solid year, finishing 9-7 overall and 5-3 in the GGCL. Two of their league losses were by one stroke, just short of winning a league title. The team finished fourth in the OHSAA Sectional Tournament, which qualified them for the District Tournament for just the second time in the last 10 years. The Cougars finished 12th at Districts. Senior Campbell Drum was named GGCL Golfer of the Year, finishing with a nine-hole average of 38.2, which led the league. She was also the medalist at the GGCL Tournament, firing a 73 at Glenview Golf Course.



## Field Hockey

Led by Varsity Head Coach Sarah Pisciotta '15, the MND Field Hockey program continued its dominance against other teams in Southwest Ohio. The varsity team finished 13-8 overall, went 7-0 in the Southwest Ohio Field Hockey League, and 4-0 in the GGCL. The varsity team outscored teams from Cincinnati and Dayton 55-1. They defeated St. Ursula in the Regional Semifinal and Ursuline in the Regional Final to advance to the State Final Four for the fifth year in a row. The Cougars battled to the very end but fell to eventual state champion Thomas Worthington, 1-0. Head Coach Sarah Pisciotta was named GGCL Field Hockey Coach of the Year. The JV team also had a fantastic year, finishing 13-2-2 and going undefeated in both the SWOFHL and the GGCL.



## Tennis

The varsity Tennis team, under new head coach Tami Kilgore, made significant progress this season. They finished 8-12 overall, placed second at the Dayton Coaches Cup, and first at the Greater Cincinnati Tennis Coaches Association Coaches Classic. At the OHSAA Sectional Tournament, all seven players won their first-round matches: Skye Schmidt (singles), Pietra Vanderputten/Adrina Brinkman, Madeline Mannarino/Evie Schray, and Sarah Habegger/Ella Hoermler. Freshman Skye Schmidt also won her second-round match before losing in the third round 6-2, 6-0. The JV team had a great year, finishing 10-7 overall and 5-3 in the GGCL, placing second at the Coaches Classic.



## Soccer

The JV and varsity Soccer teams battled injuries all year, which led to less success than in previous seasons. Playing one of the toughest schedules in the state, the varsity team finished 5-9-4 overall and 3-3-2 in the GGCL. They defeated Kings in the first round of the playoffs before losing to Little Miami in overtime in the District Final. The JV team finished 5-7-4 overall and 3-4-1 in the GGCL.



## Volleyball

The entire Volleyball program had a successful year. The varsity team battled through a challenging regular-season schedule, finishing 17-9 overall and 4-4 in the GGCL. The Cougars played 96 sets, with six matches going to a fifth set. During the postseason, they defeated Edgewood, Troy, and Anderson to advance to the Regional Final against Dublin Scioto. The Cougars won the first set 25-23, dropped the second 21-25, then rallied to win the next two sets 25-19 and 25-18 to claim the Regional Championship. In the State Semifinal, the Cougars battled Anthony Wayne High School but lost in three sets 24-26, 21-25, 23-25. The JV team finished 14-7 overall and 5-3 in the GGCL, while the freshman team finished 16-5 overall and 6-2 in the GGCL.

## New Varsity Head Coach

**Tami Kilgore** – In her first year as varsity tennis head coach, Tami led the Cougars to a second-place finish at the Dayton Coaches Cup and a first-place finish at the GCTCA Coaches Classic.



## New Turf for the Sr. Dorothy Stang Memorial Field

## Fall Athletic Signing Day

- Hayden Elmlinger – Soccer – Baldwin Wallace University
- Gwen Garneret – Lacrosse – Lindenwood University
- Sydney Geselbracht – Volleyball – Binghamton University
- Gabrielle Johnson – Lacrosse – Colorado State University Pueblo
- Cara Richter – Volleyball – University of Rhode Island
- Pyper Russel – Volleyball – Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Avery Searls – Soccer – Virginia Military Institute
- Olivia Trick – Soccer – East Carolina University
- Julia Wieland – Soccer – Tennessee Tech University

## 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees



**Fallon Lane-David '00**  
Track & Field, Soccer,  
Soccer and Track & Field Coach



**Elizabeth "Biz" Goslee Brink '12**  
Lacrosse



**Kendall Hackney Udofia '09**  
Basketball



**Michelle Strizak '13**  
Volleyball, Track & Field

# Day of Giving

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

## BY THE NUMBERS

Mount Notre Dame's first-ever Day of Giving was a tremendous success. In just 24 hours, our community came together in support of our students, helping close the \$3,870 gap between tuition revenue and the true cost of educating each young woman this year. Because MND operates on a zero-based budget, every dollar given directly advances our mission. We are deeply grateful to each and every donor whose generosity made this day possible.



**TOTAL NUMBER  
OF DONORS**



**\$145,672**

**TOTAL RAISED**

Exceeded goal by 46%



**24 HOURS**



**\$45,000**

in Matching Donations



## FIRST MND DAY OF GIVING

84% increase in total raised from 2024 Giving Tuesday

21% increase in number of donors from 2024 Giving Tuesday

33% of donors were new donors

3x increase in parent participation from 2024 Giving Tuesday



**\$**

**\$3,870 GAP**

## Thank You

For helping us close the gap between tuition and the cost to educate each student.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

**William and Doreen Beckham,  
Parents of Brianna '15 and Carissa '18**

When our daughters Brianna and Carissa Beckham, graduated from Mount Notre Dame in 2015 and 2018, they stepped into the world with confidence, curiosity, and a strong academic and spiritual foundation. What they have accomplished since reflects not only their determination and talent, but also the values instilled during their years within MND's Catholic educational community. Today, as their parents, looking at where they are now fills us with deep pride, gratitude, and admiration for the paths they have forged.

Brianna began her academic journey at DePaul University, where she excelled as a student but soon felt called to pursue an environment where creativity took center stage. Drawn to a deeper and more immersive artistic experience, she transferred to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), one of the most prestigious art schools in the nation.

At SAIC, Brianna's creativity expanded, her technical skills sharpened, and her artistic identity gained new depth. Her dedication paid off when her work was selected for the Juried Art Exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Later, she completed an internship with EXPO Chicago, one of the world's leading contemporary art fairs, where she engaged with global artists, curators, and galleries—an experience that provided her with a firsthand look into the international art world.

In 2021, Brianna moved to New York City and joined Hauser & Wirth, one of the world's most renowned contemporary art galleries, as an Assistant Artist Liaison. During her years there, she developed hands-on skills in gallery operations, artist relations, and curatorial practice. The role broadened her understanding of the global art market and solidified her commitment to building a career in the arts. Eager to blend her artistic background with her growing interest in business and art history, Brianna applied to graduate school abroad. In 2025, she was accepted into the Courtauld Institute of Art — one of the world's leading institutions for art history, curation, and cultural studies. Today she is thriving in London, engaging in rigorous coursework, collaborating with peers from around the globe, and immersing herself in the rich cultural landscape of the United Kingdom.

Carissa's path took shape through her love of science, service, and athletics. After graduating in 2018, she chose to attend Ohio Northern University for its strong academics, close-knit campus, and nationally ranked Division III women's soccer program. Majoring in biology and minoring in exercise physiology, she found the perfect blend of athletics and academics as she prepared for a future in medicine.

At ONU, Carissa graduated Magna Cum Laude and earned several academic distinctions such as Presidential Scholar. Additionally, ONU's

women's soccer program ranked in the top 25 in the nation, giving her the opportunity to compete at a high level while excelling academically. As a student-athlete, Carissa helped lead her team to a NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearance. She earned numerous athletic honors, including both All-American and Scholar All-American awards. Balancing academics, athletics, and service, Carissa worked at a nursing facility and volunteered for the American Red Cross. As a SURF intern at Cincinnati Children's, she contributed to the development of communication materials supporting infectious disease prevention in underserved communities. During the internship, she had the opportunity to coauthor two published journal articles—experiences that deepened her commitment to healthcare and broadened her understanding of medical research.

After graduating, Carissa accepted a position as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Cincinnati Children's before transitioning to Gastro Health. There, she excelled and became the leading recruiter for participants in a major clinical drug study. These roles, combined with her academic background and her natural empathy for patients, confirmed her desire to become a Physician Assistant (PA).

Accepted into four PA programs, Carissa chose to stay close to home and enrolled in the University of Dayton's PA Program. In December 2025, she received her white coat—a milestone she has long awaited—and will begin clinical rotations in January 2026. This year also brought a meaningful personal milestone: in August 2025, she married Alfonza "Tre" Jones, a St. Xavier alumnus. Surrounded by 200 guests, she described the day as "the best day of her life." From the soccer fields of Ada, Ohio, to the art studios of London, from clinical research labs to international galleries, our daughters have shown that the foundation laid at MND can lead to extraordinary journeys. Their stories exemplify resilience, creativity, leadership, and a commitment to living out their passions with purpose.

Watching both Brianna and Carissa step boldly into their future as empowered young women has been one of our greatest joys. Our commitment to MND through the Beckham Family Scholarship helps ensure that future generations of young women have opportunities to grow, explore, and flourish. As a former Board of Trustees member, my wife and I know firsthand how the foundation at MND helped shape their accomplishments. The strength of the MND community and the impact of your generous support will continue to nurture young women and the communities they serve.

Thank you and God Bless,  
William and Doreen Beckham

# Alumnae Events



## ALUMNAE TRIVIA

In January, over 40 alumnae came together for trivia night at MVP Sports Bar and Grill, courtesy of owner Jennifer Brady Baughan '00. Our host for the evening, Jodi Vastine Stanton '93, put together great questions and teams from a variety of classes enjoyed a great evening of fun testing their knowledge of iconic women, school facts, and T.V. theme songs.



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

We welcomed Santa back to campus this year! Families enjoyed their time visiting with him, making some holiday crafts, and the kids had a blast playing various games. Wonderful memories were made and we're excited to have Santa return December 2026!



## BUNCO NIGHT

Ladies Bunco was a winning night on Thursday, November 6, as more than 50 alumnae and current parents rolled the dice, sipped some cocktails and enjoyed some lite bites and sweet treats for an evening of fun hosted by our beloved Technology Coordinator, Desmon Gault. Thank you to the Parents Club for making the event a success. We're already looking forward to another spirited Bunco Night in Fall 2026.



## CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS

On December 11, 2025, Alumnae gathered for a festive evening at Mount Notre Dame's Christmas Cocktails, enjoying holiday cheer, seasonal shopping with over 15 vendors, and great conversation alongside both familiar faces and new connections. Thank you to all who joined us to keep the MND alumnae community vibrant, and we look forward to celebrating together again soon.

# Class Notes

## 1950's

**Marilyn Benken Frush '50** is retired and living in Georgetown, TX.

## 1960's



**Marie Horn Jacobs '63** celebrated her 80th birthday on August 17, 2025 with about 80 of her friends, family, MND classmates, St. John's grade school classmates and students who she taught that are now friends. The party was hosted by her son Doug and his wife Kathy at their beautiful home in Loveland, OH.

**Kathy Wessler '68** is enjoying her retirement with a good deal of travel. She recently underwent treatment for breast cancer.

## 1970's

**Jill Jackson Jones '70** is still office manager and officer at the family owned business, Bluford Jackson & Son. Still married to her one true love, Mike, for 53 years in November 2025. Still riding horses and competing in team roping events and still living on the farm that was purchased in 1975. Jill has eight grandchildren and two great-grands. She has been a member of St. Louis Church in Owensville, OH for 50 years. All sounds a little boring, right? LOL



**Cindy Judd '73** joined nine other members of the Class of 1973 in celebrating their 70th birthdays in Mexico!

**Maryann Nardini '76** is recently retired and loving it!

**Ellen Edelmann Marks '78** is living in Milford, OH.

**Kim Keels '79** loves living in Nevada where she moved to care for her mother. She started a business that helps people plan Celebration of Life events. Services include being a travel assistant on bucket list trips. She is engaged in activities that are fighting to preserve women's rights.

## 1980's

**Joan Sontag '81** is in her 41st year teaching special education in the Felicity Franklin District. She works with students living with multiple disabilities.

**Jennifer Jacobs McConnell '87** started a foundation whose sole mission is to fund the mental health therapy of young people under the age of 25, who are uninsured or underinsured, in order to help them become mentally healthy adults. The foundation is called Mental Matters Mission/ Marty and Bob Jacobs Foundation.

**Pamela Gerstemeier Kalb '88** and her husband, Kelly, moved to Sandford, NC in October 2025 for a corporate relocation.

## 2000's



**Colleen O'Connell Smith '00** and her daughter, **Olivia Smith '22**, are both working at UCHHealth together. They spent a week in Corozal, Belize with Partners for Medical Relief providing life-saving surgeries for over 75 patients.



**Kelly Rohlf's Moore '01** is remotely working full time, happily married for 18 years, raising two amazing teenagers in the Kings School District, and running between all kids' athletic events on the weekends and evenings.

**Kaitlin Corbett Bowlin '06** recently moved back to Cincinnati from Charlotte, NC. She and her husband are excited to be back!

**Dr. Lee Hong, M.D., Ph.D. '06** started a new position as a thoracic oncologist at City of Hope in Irvine, CA in September 2025. Her research is focused on lung cancer and bringing new therapies to the clinic through phase 1 trials.

**Jenn Ackerman Freeman '07** recently remarried. Her oldest daughter (13) is on the MNDJH Dance Team, following in mom's footsteps. She also has a 10-year-old daughter, an 8-year-old stepson, and a new four-month-old baby girl.

# Class Notes

**Liane Rousseau '08** recently returned to working with Dinsmore & Shohl LLP after working for another private law firm and in-house at Medpace, Inc. She has triplet girls who recently turned one and her son turned two in July.

**Kaitlyn Degaro '08** has been working with Dinsmore going on two years in February. She loves her hybrid role. Being able to work on the computer and listening to music is way better than answering the phone like in her previous roles at other companies. She also bought her first house with her mom in Alexandria, KY in July 2024.

## 2010's



**Emily Snyder Back '10** and her husband, Michael, live in Amelia, OH with their three children: Serenity, Aiden, and Hailey. Emily is the Executive Director of Back Tile Services.

**Nicole Seigal Ervin '10** was awarded the Outstanding Young Engineer Award from Speed School of Engineering Homecoming Alumna Awards in 2024. Nicole graduated from the University of Louisville with her BS in Industrial Engineering and Concordia University in Chicago in 2020 with her M.S. in Applied Exercise Science.



**Mackenzie Beard '14** will be graduating with her Masters in Psychology this year. She and her son, Phoenix, are enjoying their new home! She also turned 30 last year!

**Katie Tkacz '14** is in her "career girl era" living in New York City and finding big success! She started at a small South African Shopper Marketing firm in 2019 then took a position at PepsiCo in the spring of 2023 on the experiential design team working with their beverage brands Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Gatorade, etc., creating physical experiences and spaces around the country, often surrounding big events such as the Super Bowl, F1 and FIFA World Cup. Katie was recently promoted to Associate Design Manager.

**Meredith Shaffer '15** is the Allocation Coordinator for Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Network. She resides in Naperville, Illinois.

**Holly Denny Yates '15** is currently working at Marathon Petroleum as a Project Control/Project Engineer. She lives in Grayson, KY with her husband, Kyle, and their daughter, Charlotte.

**Molly Bonino '17** recently started a new position as Manager of Data and Reporting for Eventim USA, the world's #2 event and entertainment ticketing company, and official ticketing organization for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. She also got engaged in June 2025, in Paris, France; the wedding is set for March 2026 in California.

**Erin Mahan '19** will be moving to Stockholm, Sweden to pursue her PhD in Neuroscience at the Karolinska Institute. She will be doing research that integrates quantum sensors and the brain's natural magnetic field to detect the start of seizures in epileptic patients.

## 2020's

**Hannah Eversole '21** recently graduated from Ohio Northern University with a BS in Psychology. She is now attending Bowling Green University pursuing her Doctor of Occupational Therapy.

**Abby Casavant '21** graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering. She works as an engineer for OHM Advisors in Columbus, OH.



**Natalie Armbruster '22** broke the ONU (Ohio Northern University) school record in the 3k Steeplechase this past outdoor track season! The previous record stood for 18 years, and Natalie broke it by seven seconds, also running a ten second personal record.

**Maddie Griga '25** is a freshman at Wittenberg University and is excited for basketball to be underway as she is on the team. She is currently studying sports management.



**We want to hear from you.**

Scan QR code and fill out the new *Class Notes* form.

*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.



**Mary Carolyn  
Obermeyer Blair '45**  
June 17, 2025



**Mary Frances  
Gessing Costello '45**  
August 2, 2025



**Barb Apking '49**  
November 3, 2025



**Rita Hollmann  
Johantges '50**  
December 3, 2025



**Joyce Whalen  
Rees '60**  
October 6, 2025



**Pauline Sunderman  
Henson '61**  
October 22, 2025



**Hilde Baumann  
Naegele '61**  
November 30, 2025



**Pat Murphy  
Butz '62**  
August 22, 2025



**Carol Major  
Sextro '63**  
July 21, 2025



**Mary Koop  
Sowder '63**  
June 3, 2025



**Wilma Rohlf  
Vonderhaar '63**  
January 4, 2026



**Fran Seidel  
Goldschmidt '65**  
October 5, 2025



**Hilda Kohus  
Bough '65**  
July 14, 2025



**Debbie  
Villari-Miller '67**  
December 7, 2025



**Virginia Matre  
Murray '68**  
December 10, 2025



**Roseann Jones  
Powell '68**  
December 19, 2025



**Irma Topmiller  
Sadler '69**  
July 26, 2025



**Angela Hopkins  
Martini '71**  
September 1, 2025



**Rita Wahler  
Craft '75**  
September 13, 2025



**Kate Hill  
Tapia '79**  
November 17, 2025



**Debbie Hartmann  
Combs '82**  
July 31, 2025



**Devin Lewis '05**  
October 26, 2025



# Engagements/Weddings

**Joan Young Hesse '81** recently married her husband, James, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Fayetteville, OH on June 28, 2025.



On May 10, 2025, **Carla Albrinck Bronner '01**, married Daniel at the Reading Community Arts Center Hall of Grace. The ceremony was officiated by her father, Dennis Albrinck. Many MND alumnae were in attendance: **Kathleen Albrinck '66, Angie DiNardo Kandil '87, Jennifer Hagedorn Woolf '88, Barbara Feldhaus Bronner '64, Julie Lichtenberg Bronner '91, Katie Bronner Eadicicco '97, Jenny Ashbrock Koetter '92 and Bonnie Higgins Miles '01** and Suzanne Albrinck Bischoff.



**Alysia Murray '08** is engaged to Will Earle who proposed on March 8, 2025. They met in Summer of 2023. Will is from Western Kentucky and landed in Cincinnati for work after law school at the University of Dayton. They both work at Kroger: Will in personal finance and Alysia in Marketing. They're excited to share their life together along with Will's children, Madeline (7) and Noah (6), and their dog, Roo.



**Laurn Page Cramer '09** married Mark on May 31, 2025, at St. Francis Xavier Church in downtown Cincinnati, followed by a reception at The View at Mt. Adams. Three of her bridesmaids are also Mount Notre Dame alumnae: **Annelise Page Gorski '12, Krista Adkins '09 and Julia Burks '09.**

**Allison Grant '12** is engaged to Theodore Broker and planning a May 2026 wedding. Allison graduated from The Ohio State University ATI in 2015 with an Associate of Horse Science degree and in 2017 with a Bachelor of Animal Science.



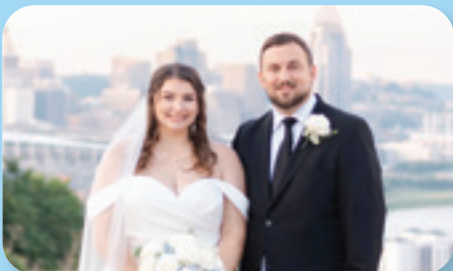
**Katie DiMario Zimmermann '12** married Andrew on July 12th of summer 2025 in Cincinnati! Many alumnae were in attendance: Top Row: (L to R): **Andi Evers Roberts '12, Taylor Luckhaupt '15, Lauren Adams Ray '15, Mary Ellen Stecz Adams '80, Shae Douglass '12, Libby Evans Rose '12, Kendra Adams Marais '12, Ashley Keppler '12, and Katie Hack Zimmermann '12** Middle Row(L to R): **Megan Budde Schneider '15, Maeve O'Connor Madsen '12, Abby Nance Shaver '12, and Jenna Nance '12.**

Bottom Row (L to R): **Erin Nance Cohen '12, Shannon O'Connor '12, Sam DiMario Hayden '10, Katie DiMario Zimmermann '12, Mel Emming Coeling '12, and Abbie Day '12.**

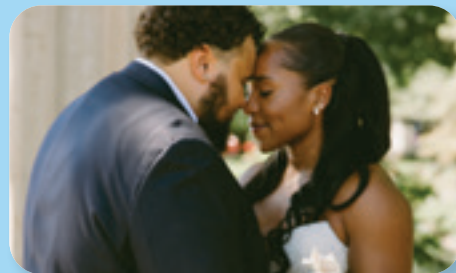


**Maria Lingardo Belongy '15** married Alex Cross in September 20, 2025! The wedding day was perfect and included her high school friends traveling for the big day!

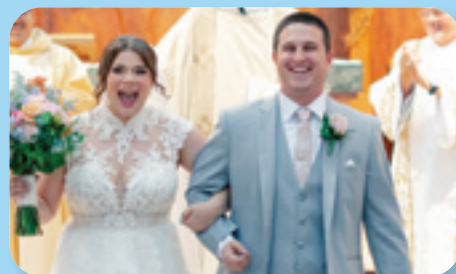
**Katie Hohman '16** is engaged to Tim Kramer. They will be married on February, 14, 2026.



**Maria Pisciotta Yuhasz '17** and Cameron got married on August 16, 2025, at Holy Cross Immaculata Church in Mt. Adams, OH.



**Carissa Beckham Jones '18** married Tre' this past summer. She started a Physician's Assistant program last fall and will graduate in 2026.



**Veronica France Szalay '18** married Adam on June 21, 2025 in Loveland, OH! It was a wonderful day and they were lucky to have so many MND graduates in attendance! If that wasn't enough excitement, in August she began her legal education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She is so thankful for her MND education and the friends that she made at MND- which will last a lifetime.



**Katherine Lemmons Shtrahman '19** married Alan, on October 4, 2025 and started a new position as a 1st grade instructional assistant at Saint James Catholic School in Falls Church, VA.

**Tyana Holm '24** is engaged to Cooper Morath. The couple will wed on August 23, 2026. Tyana works as a nurse's aid at The Lodge Retirement Community and lives in Loveland, OH.

# Births/Adoptions



**Lindsay Branco White '05** and her husband Patrick welcomed their son Brooks on October 5, 2024 who was born at 26 weeks. Brooks recently celebrated his first birthday and is the light of his parents' lives!



**Audrey Eggenberger McCray '09** and her husband Andy welcomed their third child Kieran James McCray. He is adored by all, especially his older brother and sister!



**Katy Lindhorst Hoffman '13** and husband Ben welcomed their third baby on June 2, 2025. Their first son, Beau David, joins proud big sisters Aubrey & Lainey.

**Kimberly Cutter Korst '09** and husband Jon welcomed Katherine Ann to their family on February 21, 2025. She joins big brothers Benjamin (3) and Joseph (2), who are very proud. Grandma **Liz Costello Cutter '82** is also very excited about Katherine's arrival. Katherine met and spent time with Great Grandma **Frances Gessing Costello '45** before GG Fran passed away on August 2, 2025.



**Melissa Emming Coeling '12** and her husband, Aaron, welcomed Theo to their family in December 2024.



**Katelyn Schaeper Guckiean '14** and husband Tyler welcomed their first child on September 5, 2025. Her name is Lily Grace and she weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz.!



**Caitlin Kloppenburg Timmons '09** and husband Patrick welcomed their first child, Imogen, on September 28, 2025. They are excited to share her with the community.

**Charli Folzenlogen Harpen '12** and husband Martin, welcomed their second son in July 2024. Riley joins big brother Lucas (4). The growing family resides in Cincinnati, OH.



**Kennedy Hart DeMoss '14** and husband Kevin, welcomed their first child, Cooper Robert DeMoss on June 6, 2025. The growing family lives in Hilliard, Ohio.



**Jazmin Hayes Miller '12** and her husband Benjamin welcomed their third child, Asher, in May 2025. The family enjoys spending time together out in their community.



**We want to hear from you.**

Scan QR code and fill out the new *Class Notes* form.



# MOUNT NOTRE DAME

*Empowering Young Women*

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## 2026 SAVE THE DATES

- SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026  
**MND Fashion Show**

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- SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026  
**Easter Egg-stravaganza**

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- THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026  
**Alumnae Awards**

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- APRIL 27-29, 2026  
**Girls Schools Unite**

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- FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026  
**MND Golf Classic**

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- FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026  
**Golden Guild Luncheon**  
CLASS OF 1976 & ALL PREVIOUS YEARS

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- **Summer Soiree**  
FOR CLASSES ENDING IN 1 OR 6

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## MND ALUMNAE AWARDS

*A Celebration of  
Empowered Women*

APRIL 23, 2026 | 6 PM

### 2026 HONOREES

Clare Strauss Fister '61	Jonelle Zachary '03
Bridget Cassidy Frost '04	Emma Frey '22
Drew Fladung	Maureen Baldock

*Registration Required*

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