

MOUNT NOTRE DAME DEVELOPMENTS

Relic to Rome

*A Pilgrimage Rooted in the Hallmarks
of a Notre Dame Learning Community*

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



2025 ISSUE 2



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Letter from the President

Michelle L. Robinson

Dear Mount Notre Dame Community,

As we begin the 2025–2026 school year, I am filled with gratitude and anticipation. Each Fall brings renewed energy and purpose as we welcome students, faculty/staff, families and alumnae back to campus, reconnecting with our shared mission and the enduring spirit of the MND sisterhood.

This issue of The Developments Magazine offers a powerful reflection on the many ways our community continues to grow and thrive and offers much to celebrate. From the remarkable academic achievements of the Class of 2025, whose impressive scholarship awards and prestigious college acceptances are a testament to their dedication, to the cherished traditions of our commencement celebrations, we are reminded of the excellence that defines an MND education. The Class of 2025 is commended for their leadership, service, and dedication as their legacy will continue to inspire the classes that follow.

Whether it's through international outreach like the pilgrimage to Rome with Sr. Dorothy Stang's relic, global service efforts in Africa tied to our common read, or the extraordinary academic rigor and expansion of our CCP and AP program offerings, our students continue to engage with the world in bold and compassionate ways. These opportunities are not merely educational, they are transformational. Supporting these experiences is an exceptional faculty whose work continues to elevate our academic programs and inspire students to reach their full potential.

Embedded throughout every page of this issue is the theme of connection—connections among students and teachers, alumnae and current families, mission and community. The engagement of our alumnae, through events such as the Golden Guild, summer reunions, and the Alumnae Awards, continues to enrich our community and reinforce the lifelong bond that is so uniquely MND.

As we turn the page to a new academic year, may we remain rooted in our mission and inspired by the stories shared in these pages. Together, we continue to form empowered young women who are faith-filled, compassionate, and confident leaders.

Warm Regards,

Michelle L. Robinson

Michelle L. Robinson
President



Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Mount Notre Dame held its Commencement Exercises for the 165th Graduating Class – the Class of 2025 – on Tuesday, May 27 at Xavier University's Cintas Center.

Members of the Class of 2025 reported

\$32 million
in scholarships and grants

The Class of 2025 will matriculate to

44 different
colleges &
universities

96% pursuing
college degrees

SENIOR RECOGNITION AWARDS

MEDAL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (VALEDICTORIAN)

Sophie Healy '25

EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH

Mary Lu Lacey '25

EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH

Grace Plagge '25

EXCELLENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS

Nicole Eutsler '25

EXCELLENCE IN LATIN

Mary Wallbrown '25

EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Caroline Jennings '25

EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS

Christen Fessler '25

EXCELLENCE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Ella Nawroth '25

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE

Sarah Campbell '25

EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Laura Fagan '25

EXCELLENCE IN SPANISH

Miranda Koch '25

EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS

Addison Vilaboy '25

BACCALAUREATE MASS

The Class of 2025 united for a beautiful Baccalaureate Mass on campus where students representing 36 parishes and faith communities carried a flower that built a beautiful bouquet to serve as a reminder for us to continue to pray for the ministry of these communities and for all whom they serve. Senior Lilly Milton delivered a moving reflection to her peers, and parents and special guests read heartfelt letters written by their daughters.



BRIDGING AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Seniors took center stage at the Bridging and Recognition Ceremony, marking their transition from MND students to proud members of the Alumnae Association. Each senior received a special medallion from Director of Development, **Abby Dean Held '02**, symbolizing this important milestone, and each student was recognized for all they accomplished during their high school journey. Legacy students shared a touching moment with their mothers or grandmothers, honoring generations of MND tradition.



HEAD START TO HIGHER ED

A record 81% of the Class of 2025 earned college credits through College Credit Plus (CCP) courses available at MND. In addition, 11 students graduated with 36 or more college credit hours through the Ohio Transfer 36 program (OT36). The OT36 is a set of courses that fulfills the general education requirements at public universities in Ohio. Notably, **Caroline Jennings '25** who, in addition to the OT36, completed her Associates of Science and Associates of Arts degrees in July from Cincinnati State. MND offers 13 College Credit Plus courses. All CCP courses are conveniently offered on campus and taught directly by MND faculty members.



ST. JULIE BILLIART CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

The St. Julie Billiart Catholic Leadership Award recognizes both an alumna of MND and a graduating senior who have demonstrated a deep personal commitment to Jesus Christ through contributions to the spiritual life of the MND community, as well as through their active participation in the life of their parishes and service in the broader community. This year, **Erin DeNicola Flege '99** and **Caroline Jennings '25** were our esteemed recipients.

Erin is a devoted wife, loving mom of eight, active coach (including MND's Cross Country and Track teams) and active parishioner of Saint Margaret of York where she has led and grown the Respect for Life Ministry. Erin truly radiates kindness and compassion while fiercely advocating for the dignity of every human life.

Caroline, an Extraordinary Minister of communion at Crescent Family of Parishes, models what it means to live with eyes fixed on God. Radiating a deep awareness of others, she models what it means to walk with Christ in everyday life. While at MND, she served as a leader for Morning Scripture service and lead various ministries and Campus Ministry activities. In her senior year, she served as a Kairos leader and walked alongside her peers with grace and compassion.





↑↑↑↑↑ ↑↑↑↑↑ ↑↑↑↑↑ ↑↑↑↑↑ ↑↑↑↑↑ *Outstanding Faculty Recognized for Excellence in Education*

MND celebrates two faculty members who were honored this past school year with prestigious educator awards in recognition of their outstanding contributions to teaching.

2025 OHIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: LUMEN FIDEI AWARD.

Physics teacher, **Dr. Matthew Fletcher**, was the recipient of the 2025 Ohio Catholic School Educator of the Year: Lumen Fidei (Light of Faith) Award. The Lumen Fidei award is sponsored by the University of Dayton's Center for Catholic Education and honors an outstanding educator in a Catholic school in Ohio.

Dr. Fletcher embodies the spirit of Catholic education by creating a respectful, joyful, and faith-centered environment that invites students to explore or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. His teaching goes beyond academics; he integrates Catholic values into his lessons, promoting a compassionate and ethical approach to learning and living that resonates with his students.

An innovative educator, Dr. Fletcher works to engage all his students to love not only science but learning itself. He combines hands-on demonstrations, real-world examples, and personalized instruction to reach each student. For instance, he once illustrated the importance of observation by disguising a cheese stick as a candle, surprising students and teaching them to look beyond initial impressions—a skill essential to scientific inquiry.

Dr. Fletcher's impact extends beyond the classroom and is evident through his contributions to the broader community. He collaborates with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on their Water Lab project, bringing his engineering expertise to support global sustainability efforts. Within the Saint Margaret of York parish, he actively participates as a Vincentian through St. Vincent DePaul. He also finds time to volunteer with the non-

profit organization Sleep in Heavenly Peace, where he helps provide beds for children in need.

2024 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD FOR THE GREATER CININNATI REGION

Social Studies Department Chairperson, **Ms. Jennifer Koutnik**, was awarded the 2024 Excellence in Education Award for the Greater Cincinnati region. This award is presented annually to one private/parochial educator by the Cincinnati Association and the Schools of Education at Mount St. Joseph University, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University.

Better known as "President Koutnik" at MND for her love of teaching US Government, she fosters an environment where students feel safe, engaged and eager to learn. She uses diverse methods to help her students understand the material. These provide students with clear, concrete representations of abstract concepts, which helps solidify their understanding and makes the content accessible to a wider range of learners. Her skillful use of these tools reflects her commitment to diverse teaching strategies that cater to all students.

In addition to her classroom strategies, Ms. Koutnik's inclusion of historical and current events throughout her lessons showcases her vast knowledge and passion for the subject. As students pose questions and share their thoughts, she confidently addresses them, helping students connect their ideas to the larger content at hand. This fluid integration of relevant events not only keeps students engaged but also helps them understand the broader implications of what they are learning.

MND congratulates Dr. Fletcher and Ms. Koutnik on these well-deserved honors. Their commitment to excellence and the empowerment of young women has rightfully earned them this recognition.



Faith, Formation, and Faculty: Inspired at Mount Notre Dame

KAREN M. DAY, PRINCIPAL



At Mount Notre Dame, we believe every student is on a transformative journey—one shaped by faith, guided by knowledge, and nurtured by community. Each day, our mission to educate young women becomes reality through the dedication of exceptional faculty and the aspirations of students who embrace learning, leadership, and service. Within this faith-filled, supportive environment, students grow into empowered young women ready to pursue their dreams.

This spring, as we celebrated the regional recognition of two of our outstanding educators—Dr. Matthew Fletcher and Ms. Jennifer Koutnik—it was a powerful reminder of the strength of MND’s faculty and their role in helping students thrive at our nation’s top colleges and universities.

With the Commencement of the Class of 2025, a unique story has emerged: three of our top graduates are continuing their journeys at the University of Notre Dame—the namesake of their alma mater. From Mount Notre Dame to the University of Notre Dame, these students carry forward the values, confidence, and commitment cultivated during their high school years.

At Mount Notre Dame, our faculty know, challenge, and celebrate each student’s unique, God-given potential. This is excellence in action—an education that prepares young women to lead, serve, and shine at the colleges and universities of their dreams.



Sarah Campbell '25 exemplifies the leadership cultivated at MND. Faith, scholarship, and involvement have defined her journey, but it was through the encouragement of faculty role models like Dr. Fletcher and Ms. Koutnik that Sarah discovered her own voice. Whether emceeing events or welcoming prospective families with grace and authenticity, Sarah embraced her role as a leader. Her humility, optimism, and deep sense of purpose will guide her well as she pursues Biological Sciences and Spanish at the University of Notre Dame.



Sophie Healy '25 combined academic excellence with spirited involvement. Completing six AP and five CCP courses, Sophie challenged herself to “summarize, not memorize,” especially in Ms. Koutnik’s AP US Government and Politics class, where content came alive through contextual learning. A four-year Tennis team member and named Class of 2025 Valedictorian, Sophie now continues her journey at the University of Notre Dame on a pre-med track—prepared, grounded, and joyfully determined.



Caroline Jennings '25 embodies the integration of opportunity and mission. Through MND’s robust College Credit Plus program, she earned both her high school diploma and two associate degrees. In Dr. Fletcher’s AP Physics class, she discovered the intersection of science and faith, and throughout her years at MND, she lived her values boldly. Her deep integrity and commitment to service earned her the prestigious Saint Julie Billiart Catholic Leadership Award. At the University of Notre Dame, she will continue her journey on the pre-med path, rooted in compassion and guided by purpose.



Relic to Rome: A Pilgrimage Rooted in the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community

In January 2025, Mount Notre Dame had the profound honor of participating in a historic pilgrimage to Rome to accompany the relic of Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, for a special ceremony held at the Basilica of San Bartolomeo, the sanctuary of which was specially dedicated by St. Pope John Paul II for commemorating modern-day martyrs. There, Sister Dorothy became the first woman from the U.S. honored as a Christian martyr. This sacred journey, rooted in the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community, was both a tribute to her extraordinary life and a call to continue her mission, especially poignant as the global Notre Dame community marked the 20th anniversary of her martyrdom this year.

MND Director of Spiritual Development, Jen Dodds, and Angela Pucci, MND math teacher, alongside twelve MND students, represented the school and the wider SNDdeN family during the pilgrimage to Rome. Alongside Sisters, friends, and members of Sister Dorothy's family who travelled from Brazil, the U.S., and Europe, they celebrated the life and legacy of Sister Dorothy, participating in a special ceremony presenting her relic to the larger community of faith. Throughout the week, the group reflected on the impact Sister Dorothy has had on their lives, joined together in prayer, and deepened their understanding of the historical church, exploring places like the Vatican and Assisi.

Shot by hired gunmen on February 12, 2005, Sister Dorothy, at age 73, was left to die on a muddy country road in the Amazon, where she defended the rights of poor settlers and worked to save the rainforest for nearly four decades. At MND, her story of courage inspires students year after year. "Sister Dorothy's compassion and service to the poor and vulnerable, her care for creation and her deep respect for the dignity of all people align closely with the hallmarks that guide MND," said Jen Dodds. "Her life reminds us of the power of standing firm in one's belief, even in the face of adversity." From their first year at MND, students build a relationship with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, in part by touring provincial offices and visiting retired sisters who live next to the school. By a student's junior year, Sister Dorothy's life is a focal point in their studies, and they read *A Journey of Courage: The Amazing Life of Sister Dorothy Stang* during their morality class, and later discuss it with the Sisters – many who knew her personally.



This pilgrimage was a moment to honor her, and a moment to ask: how will we continue her mission? That mission is profoundly rooted in the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community:

We proclaim by our lives even more than by our words that God is good. Dorothy lived her belief in God's goodness in every encounter — with the poor, with nature, and with her persecutors. Her unshakable trust in God remains her legacy.

We honor the dignity and sacredness of each person. She gave her life to protect others' dignity - particularly the rural families and Indigenous peoples of Brazil's Pará region - seeing Christ in those the world often overlooks.

We educate for and act on behalf of justice and peace in the world. Sister Dorothy's mission challenges MND students to use their education not just to succeed, but to serve - to become agents of justice in their communities and beyond.

We commit ourselves to community service. Dorothy lived immersed in the communities she served. Her model of compassionate accompaniment is woven into MND's service programs and spiritual life.

We embrace the gift of diversity. The pilgrimage itself was a diverse gathering of voices and cultures, demonstrating the global impact of Sister Dorothy's witness and the universal call to solidarity.

We create community among those with whom we work and with those we serve. Dorothy's community-building in the Amazon mirrors what we strive for at MND - a culture of inclusion, listening, and mutual respect.

We develop holistic learning communities which educate for life. Sister Dorothy's life and martyrdom are not just remembered - they are taught and lived. Her story is integrated into MND retreats, environmental initiatives, and social justice reflections that help students discern how to use their gifts to transform the world.

Sister Dorothy's presence at MND is more alive than ever. Her portraits hang in our hallways. Her values guide our curriculum. Her legacy calls us to action. The journey to Rome was not a conclusion, but a commissioning. We are called, like Sister Dorothy, to walk boldly, to speak truthfully, and to live faithfully, grounded in the Hallmarks and guided by the light of a woman who showed us that one life, rooted in love, can change the world.



Clean Water, Community, and Courage in Action

Each year, Mount Notre Dame selects a Common Read book that connects not only to curriculum, but to our mission. This year's selection, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, did more than just inform students about the global water crisis, it transformed learning into action. Inspired by the courageous journeys of young people in South Sudan, our MND community responded in true MND spirit: with empathy, innovation, and a call to justice.

Rooted in the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community, this initiative quickly expanded beyond the pages of the book. At our fall school-wide reflection event, faculty and students connected the story's themes to the life and mission of Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN who was martyred in 2005 for defending both people and the planet, and to the Clean Water for Life Project, a current global initiative of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

As part of this deeper engagement, in the fall, all freshmen visited the Photovoltaic Lab in small groups. They learned firsthand how solar power enables the Sisters' clean water systems in remote villages in Africa and South America. They reflected on how technology, when paired with mission, becomes a tool for dignity, health, and life. Their learning didn't stop in the lab!

In January, freshmen gathered in new small groups to dream up a school-wide fundraising and awareness campaign to support the Clean Water for Life Project. Mentored by senior leaders, these student-led teams planned creative, carnival-style activities to be held throughout campus this past spring.



The campaign's core challenge? For every student to give up one \$4 "luxury" item, whether coffee, fast food, or an online impulse buy, and donate that money during lunchtime. The donation not only earned Province Points and four activity tickets, but more importantly, contributed to the larger goal: raising \$1,600 to fund one photovoltaic panel for the SND Clean Water for Life Project.

The culminating event took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 8, the anniversary of the death of St. Julie Billiart (1751), foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. On this meaningful day, our freshmen led the school in a joyful, mission-centered afternoon of games and activities, using fun as a platform to highlight the global need for clean, sustainable water.



"The Clean Water for Life Carnival Day certainly was a day full of fun," said Principal, Mrs. Karen Day, "however, this day was more about transformation. For the SND Clean Water villages, our students helped transform dirty water into life-sustaining water. In turn, our students were intricately involved in a transformation of mind and spirit – linking literature, science theology and global citizenship. St. Julie Billiart wanted student to learn what is needed for life. Today, they learned to courageously lead!"

The entire project not only embodies the Hallmarks of a SND Learning Community, but it is also a proclamation of how good our good God is!



↑↑ ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

↑↑ Sydney Mukes '16: From Cougar Athlete to ↑↑ HR Leader—Empowered at Every Step

Mount Notre Dame High School continues to shine as the #1 girls' athletic program in Ohio and #5 overall in the state, according to USA Today High School Sports. That same culture of excellence and empowerment shaped Sydney Mukes (Class of 2016), whose journey from MND varsity volleyball standout to human resources leader at The Coca-Cola Company reflects how the school prepares women to thrive—with purpose, discipline, and community.

Cougar Roots, Diverse Exposure, and Early Leadership

Sydney grew up in Morrow, Ohio, attending St. Margaret of York until eighth grade before discovering MND through a junior high summer camp promoting diversity. She recalls, "MND valued and appreciated all people"—a foundational belief that drew her in and shaped her high school experience. At MND, she joined the varsity volleyball team as a freshman. She helped lead the team to three back-to-back Ohio High School Athletic Association state championships. Her senior year she was named the Cincinnati Enquirer Co-Player of the Year, leading the league in kills with 306, while being a second-team all-state selection (Isusports.net). Under Coach Joe Burke, whose mantra "It's not a me—it's a we" became her guiding philosophy, she was not only an athlete, but also a leader molded by faith, emotional maturity, and deep bonds with her teammates.

Collegiate Resilience and Leadership at LSU

Sydney attended LSU, playing Division I volleyball in the SEC under Coach Fran Flory. She balanced the rigors of athletics, academics, and leadership from day one, treating volleyball as a job—with long hours, travel, and constant preparation. She was a starter as a freshman (2016) and posted strong stats: 186 kills, 2.02 kills per set, and earned SEC Academic Honor Roll honors all four years. In 2019 she was named the Jesse Owens Athletic Award which is awarded to the female and male athlete of color with the highest GPA (Isusports.net). An injury in 2017 started her season off on a challenging

note, but she embraced a new role—staying ready, staying supportive, influencing culture, and embodying leadership. By her junior and senior years, she was team captain—leading with positivity, accountability, and the servant leadership lessons first learned at MND. Off the court, she majored in Leadership Human Resource Development (with a psychology minor) and earned academic distinction.

Launching a Career—MND to Coca-Cola HR

While completing her master's at LSU, Sydney interned at Success Labs, a woman-owned organizational behavior and leadership development consulting firm. She gained hands-on experience in leadership development, talent strategy, and organizational effectiveness. Her time there affirmed her passion for guiding others and helping teams grow. She moved into Coca-Cola as a human resources specialist at an Orlando flavor-manufacturing site, responsible for onboarding, talent development, and coaching for over 140 employees. Today Sydney has had the opportunity to travel to Singapore, Ireland, and London through global assignments and cross-functional project work. She's SHRM Certified (SHRM CP), holds a Master of Science in Leadership & Human Resource Development, and is a licensed Franklin Covey "7 Habits, 5 Choices, and Speed of Trust" facilitator. In 2025, Sydney was promoted to the Director of Learning and Leadership Development for North America with Coca-Cola and will be relocating to Atlanta this October to work out of HQ for the role.

The MND Way Lives On

Throughout her career, Sydney's unwavering motto echoes her time at MND: "This life isn't about 'I'—it's about 'we.'" She rises early—strength training, scheduling, coaching, and mentoring in present time—all habits seeded while a student at Mount Notre Dame.

Sydney defines an empowered woman as someone who brings others along—through faith, friendship, professional growth, and shared mission.





William and Elizabeth Haas Memorial Scholarship

When we were asked to share a little about our connection to Mount Notre Dame, we were a little surprised. We feel like our story probably is not much unlike many of you.

We have been married nearly 28 years, after having been friends in high school. We have raised three great kids, Noah, Aidan, and Maria '23. Before we even had our first son, we were committed to Catholic education. We knew this was a priority and would require some sacrifices to make sure it happened. Even through a couple of moves for work, finding a Catholic primary education for our kids was top priority. Fortunately, John's work brought us back to Cincinnati in time for our kids to attend high school at our alma maters. It brought us great pleasure when each of them chose to continue their higher education at a couple of the premier Catholic universities in Ohio. As they each graduate and move on to their own paths, we are looking forward to the next new chapter and whatever it might bring.

As for our connection to the Mount Notre Dame Community, it stretches back before even Tricia '91 attended. Tricia's mom, Kathy Haas Huston, graduated from Mount Notre Dame in '67. As we mentioned, our daughter, Maria, graduated in 2023. Our three-generation legacy, from Mom's time in the old building to Maria's, has given us an appreciation for what Mount Notre Dame does so well, which is to develop and prepare young women for their futures.

Around the 150th anniversary, Tricia read an article about what the school was like in the 1860's. As she shared with her Mom what she had learned about Mount Notre Dame, Tricia also noted the changes to the school since the early 90's. Mom mentioned all the changes from her time at Mount Notre Dame as well.

Even now seeing what Mount Notre Dame has been for our daughter, it is clear in a new way that Mount Notre Dame has constantly been finding ways to evolve to continue to meet the needs of the young women who go here. As an alumna, one of the things Tricia is most proud of, while changing to meet the needs of the students, Mount Notre Dame has stayed true to its core values and Catholic identity.

For the 2020-2021 School Year, we were honored to be asked to chair The Annual Fund. As you may recall, it was an unusual year, and many people were impacted in different ways. It was very rewarding to be able

to see the Mount Notre Dame Community come together, despite their own situations, and rise to the occasion to provide exactly the help the school and many families needed.



As we fulfilled our commitment to the recent capital campaign, we began to think about how we can continue our support of the young ladies on a longer-term basis in a meaningful way. Through consultation with the Development Office, we found the perfect opportunity with a Named Endowed Scholarship. We were very excited to establish a new scholarship in 2023 in the name of Tricia's grandparents, William and Elizabeth Haas. They began the family legacy by making the choice to send their daughters to Mount Notre Dame. We wanted to recognize their sacrifices and honor the choice to make Catholic education a priority with Mount Notre Dame a key part of that choice.

Wherever you are and whatever situation you find yourself, we want to encourage you to connect with and support Mount Notre Dame. For some that will be simply continuing what you have done for years. For others, maybe that is renewing something you had stepped away from, or maybe this will be a new opportunity altogether. The Leaders at Mount Notre Dame are very welcoming and open to meet you where you are. If you are able to support the school financially, there are numerous options from the Annual Giving Fund, the spring Girls School Unite event, the Named Endowed Scholarship, and more. If you live in Ohio and pay taxes to the state, we would encourage you to learn about the recent tax benefits enacted and connect with Mount Notre Dame through the SGO program.

If you are not in a position to provide financial support, then we would still encourage you to connect in other ways. Attend a performance in the theater. Come cheer on one of the sports teams. Follow the school on social media so you can help spread the great news and wonderful accomplishments of the young ladies there today.

Whether you are new to the Mount Notre Dame community or have been connected with the school for many years, we thank all of you for your support and investment in the futures of our young ladies and the communities they will go on to serve.

Thank you, and God bless.
Tricia Huston Kilgore '91 and John Kilgore



Ann Tassone Poirier '03 and
her daughter, Alice.

↑ ↑ SISTERHOOD SERIES

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↑ ↑
↑ ↑
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Bound By Love: MND Moms Find Unexpected Sisterhood Through Down Syndrome Journey

LIZ ENGEL BURGER '01

It initially came as a shock – a surprise that seemed to simmer for weeks. Ann Tassone Poirier '03 didn't know prior to delivery that her daughter, Alice, would be born with Down syndrome. There was doubt, even as she leaned head-first into her faith. "I remember thinking that I didn't know this world. I didn't know anybody with Down syndrome. At the same time, I knew God and that this child was meant for me and me for her."

Now she's the one fielding the questions. She pens blog posts, maintains a Down syndrome focused Instagram account and jumps at the chance to do interviews on the subject. A key takeaway? There's support, and she's found a good dose of that within the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati (DSAGC).

She's in good company, it seems. At least four other MND alumnae in her small DSAGC moms group – including **Erin Halpin Kirschman '94**; **Kristen Hendrix Weisel '03**; **Karen Gertz Wiehe '89**; and **Melissa Berens Wolf '01** – also have a child with Down syndrome.

The five only realized this common thread of all being MND alumnae during a DSAGC moms dinner in recent months; the revelation falling

like dominos among the roughly 15 attendees in the room. Poirier credits the foundation she built during her time at MND for giving her the tools she needed to seek that support. She's not sure she could navigate this journey without it.

"We have formed this friendship now because we all have the same foundation," she said. "Now there's this sisterhood aspect. For the five of us, this isn't something we planned, but we wouldn't change our kids for the world."

Chicken Nuggets and Dinosaurs

Today Alice, age 7 and a second grader at Milford Elementary School, is happy-go-lucky, headstrong, an "extrovert to the extreme," Poirier said.

Poirier learned quickly the ins and outs: 1 in 700 children are born with Down syndrome, a condition that occurs when an individual has a full or partial copy of the 21st chromosome, and while there's certainly a spectrum of ability, they can ultimately grow up to live independently. There's a plethora of resources available if you're willing to seek it out. For some, it takes time.

"I did feel empowered coming from (MND). I have carried that throughout my life – and into this experience as well," she said. "It's trusting that God's plans are better than our own."



Melissa Berens Wolf '01
and her son, Eli.

Kirschman, who has attended the DSAGC meetups since before Covid, also said the connections – and additional family support – have proved key.

Like Poirier, her first segue into the group was through Wiehe, whose daughter, Becca, age 15, also has Down syndrome.

“The first thing I was told was this is going to be an amazing journey.”

Kirschman’s son Jack, age 9, loves dinosaurs, McDonald’s Happy Meals and is obsessed with Smurfs. Currently, he’s pushing for more independence. “We’re starting to enter the ‘I can do it on my own’ phase,” she said.

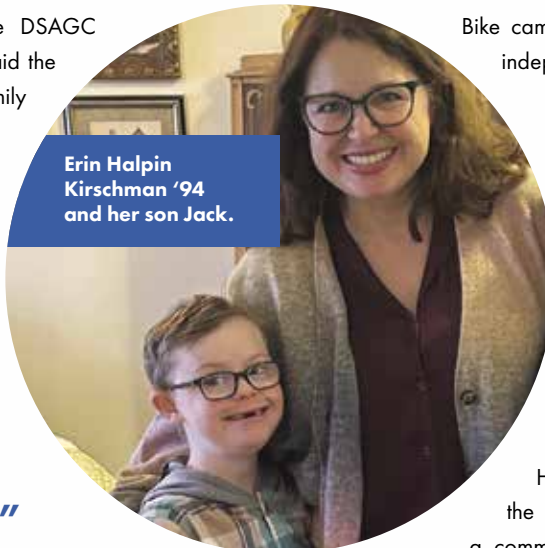
Kirschman found out Jack was likely to have Down syndrome when she was 11 weeks pregnant. A planner by nature, she dug in. “The first thing I was told was this is going to be an amazing journey. Definitely feel your feelings. But know you have faith and find support as soon as possible,” Kirschman said. “Don’t isolate yourself.”

“Everybody’s journey is a little bit different. Every kid is not the same, but there is a throughline,” she added. “I can ask questions of the moms of older kids like, ‘How do you advocate for this?’”

Education is key

The Down Syndrome Association offers multiple mom and dad groups, swim lessons, birth year cohorts and more. Karen Gertz Wiehe ‘89’s daughter, Becca, now a freshman at Loveland High School, has done DSAGC’s cheer squad and its iCan

Erin Halpin
Kirschman ‘94
and her son Jack.



Bike camp (she’s able to ride a two-wheeler independently).

For her mom, education is an important component when sharing her story. Becca thrives with positive encouragement. It’s important at school she be seated with peers and given clear, direct goals.

Jack, Kirschman said, is also with classmates in a general education classroom as much as possible. He’s starting gymnastics soon through the DSAGC. He’s not always happy, a common stereotype, but he is sweet and empathetic. “Yes, he is very tuned in to the emotional mood of the room, but he’s also still a stinker of a boy,” she said.

Karen Gertz Wiehe ‘89 and daughters,
Becca and Rachel Wiehe ‘19.



When it comes to Alice, Poirier has learned to take things day by day. “I thought a lot about the long-term when she was born. But now I see Alice just living in the moment and I try to do that too.

As she grows, I just want to support her in whatever she wants to do.” She’s positive there are other MND grads in the DSAGC – and beyond. She’s issuing an open call to connect and help educate all around.

There’s a level of camaraderie, even if the women never walked the hallways at the same time together.

“I can’t speak for the other moms, but I know but I know we all thank God for these kids and all they’ve taught us. They bring so much to the world. They’ve changed our lives for the better.”

Kristen Hendrix
Weisel ‘03 and
her son, Max.



Liz Engel Burger ‘01 is a journalist with more than 20 years of experience. She’s currently an editor at the *Cincinnati Business Courier* and has written for outlets like *Forbes*, *WCPO*, *Cincinnati Refined* and *Cincy Magazine*.

Athletic Highlights

Winter 2024-2025



Basketball

The Varsity Basketball team continued their GGCL dominance, finishing 8-0 for the 7th consecutive season. The Cougars earned the number two seed in the state tournament, and defeated Colerain in the District Championship game. They would fall to Walnut Hills in the Regional Semi-Final game, ending the year with a 22-3 overall record. Coach Drew Fladung was named GGCL Basketball Coach of the Year, his second time winning this award. The Junior Varsity Basketball team finished the year with a 17-4 overall record. The Freshman Basketball team finished with a 11-9 overall record.

Bowling

The Varsity Bowling team finished one place higher than last year in the GGCL standings, finishing third this year. The team finished with a 9-5 overall record and a 3-5 league record. At the Sectional Tournament at Crossgate lanes, the Cougars bowled three regulation games and six baker games for a total of 3,330. This put them in 6th place out of 18 teams which qualified them for the District Tournament for the first time since 2021. They would go on to finish in 13th place out of 24 teams. Senior Kaylee Braun was named GGCL Bowler of the Year.



Photo credit: Geoff Blankenship, The Enquirer

Diving

The Diving team had another successful season, starting with the GGCL Diving Championship. Freshman Piper Cady finished in 10th place, Sophomore Marissa Zang finished in 3rd place, and senior Averie Heizman finished in 1st place, which earned her the title of GGCL Diver of the Year. All three girls qualified for the District meet, with Piper Cady finishing in 24th place, Marissa Zang in 10th place, and Averie Heizman in 9th place.



Swimming

The swim team had a great season with several individuals improving their times from last season. Four individuals qualified for districts: Rachel Gellner (200 Free, 500 Free), Avari Gruber (200 IM, 100 Breaststroke), Ellie Preissler (200 IM, 500 Free), and Zaida Wagner (200 IM, 100 Backstroke). The 200 Medley, 200 Free, and the 400 Free relay teams also qualified for the District meet by swimming great times at the Sectional meet. Freshman Ellie Preissler qualified for the OHSAA State Meet in the 200 Yard IM and the 500 Yard Free. She qualified for the Finals in the 500 Yard Free and finished in 16th place.

Spring 2025



Flag Football

The flag football team followed up their incredible 2024 season with another great season. The Cougars finished the regular season with a 7-2 record and earned the number three seed in the Cincinnati tournament held at Paycor Stadium. They defeated Mercy McAuley, Gamble Montessori, and Shroder to make it to the championship game against Badin. MND would come out on top and would win the Cincinnati Flag Football Championship. The Cougars qualified for the Inaugural State Championship Tournament held at Massillon Washington HS and received the number one seed in the tournament. They defeated Massillon in the first round, but would fall to Badin in the semi-final game. They finished with a 12-3 overall record.

Lacrosse

After losing several great players in the class of 2024, the Varsity Lacrosse team had another good season. They finished with a 9-11 overall record, but finished in third in the GGCL. They faced Lakota East in the first round of the OHSAA tournament and won 9-8. They would lose to a talented Kings team in the next round 9-4. The JV Lacrosse team finished with a 5-9-2 overall record.



Softball

The Varsity Softball team had one of the best seasons in MND softball history in 2025. They went 8-0 in the GGCL to win their 4th consecutive league title. Over the last four seasons, the Cougars are 31-1 against the GGCL. They earned the number two seed in the OHSAA tournament and defeated Anderson in the first round. In the District Championship game, they faced Troy and won 5-1 to win MND's first ever District Championship in softball. The Cougars would lose to Kings in the next round. They finished the year with a 15-6 overall record. Senior Grace Pitzer won GGCL Softball Player of the Year and Head Coach Julie Joseforsky won GGCL Coach of the Year of the Year.



Track & Field

The Track & Field team finished in third place at the GGCL Championship meet for the third year in a row. The following girls qualified for the final of the District meet: Kali Smith (100m, 200m), Camren Watson (100m Hurdles, 300m Hurdles), Leah Seeger (Long Jump), Carine Harris (400m), Grace Kollstedt (800m), Piper Cady (800m), and Mya Famble (High Jump). Kali Smith ran a 12.21 in the 100m dash, setting a new Mount Notre Dame record and qualified for Regionals in the 100m and 200m dash. The 4x100m relay team of Kali Smith, Camren Watson, Leah Seeger, and Mya Famble also qualified for Regionals. They ran the second fastest time in school history with a time of 49.50.

Spring Athletic Signing Day

Kaylee Braun
Softball – Manchester University

Rosali Colangelo
Lacrosse – Lee University

Maddison Griga
Basketball – Wittenberg University

Genevieve Hascher
Lacrosse – Anderson University

Nyah Migal
Soccer – Radford University

Molly Ottopal
Volleyball Manager – Xavier University

Claire Rieder
Gymnastics – Utica University

Zaida Wagner
Swimming – University of Findlay

Athletic Department Special Awards:

All-Around Athlete of the Year
Grace Pitzer – Softball and Basketball

GGCL/MND Scholar Athlete of the Year
Laura Fagan – Field Hockey

Huismann Award
Molly Ottopal – Volleyball and Softball Manager

OHSAA Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award
Rachel Benne – Lacrosse
Kathleen Jennings – Field Hockey

New Varsity Head Coach

Sophia Fischer – In her first year as varsity bowling head coach, Coach Sophia lead the Cougars to a 9-5 overall record. The team also qualified for Districts for the first time since 2021.

2024-2025 Three-Sports Athletes

Isla Baumgartner '28
Cross Country, Swimming, Track & Field

Miranda Cady '26
Cross Country, Swimming, Track & Field

Piper Cady '28
Volleyball, Diving, Track & Field

Isabelle DelRosario '26
Cross Country, Swimming, Track & Field

Myawna Famble-Thompson '28
Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

Savanna Gault '28
Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball

Alice Heyl '26
Cross Country, Swimming, Track & Field

Anna Phillips '26
Cross Country, Swimming, Track & Field

Elyse Ridgway '28
Cross Country, Basketball, Track & Field

Leah Seeger '27
Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

Bella Triff '28
Field Hockey, Basketball, Track & Field

Julie Westerman '26
Cross Country, Swimming, Lacrosse

Alexandra Zang '28
Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse

Alumnae Events



MND GOLF CLASSIC

In May, the annual MND Golf Classic took place at The Mill Course. The event brought together current and future parents, coaches, friends, and twice as many alumnae as last year for a fun-filled day on the greens in support of Mount Notre Dame.



ALUMNAE AWARDS

In April, we honored 5 alumnae and one MND community member in the annual Alumnae Awards Ceremony. Recognized for their work in the community, their career successes, and their spirit for Mount Notre Dame, we celebrated **Teri Dean**, **Kara Driscoll '11**, **Mary McGing Duckworth '75**, **Julie Dean McMahon '06**, **Sarah Pisciotta '15**, and **Ellie Privitera '16**. We even got a surprise visit from a few McGing Irish Dancers coordinated by **Madeline Duckworth '10**!



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

In March, the Easter Bunny hopped over to campus for our annual Easter Egg-Stravaganza. Alumnae, their families, and MND's Big/Little Sis Service Program joined us for a morning full of egg hunting, crafts, games, and a meet and greet with the Easter Bunny.

MND on the MOVE: Texas

In March, we took a trip to Texas to reunite with some of our non-local alumnae. In just four days, we met up with alumnae in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Trinity, and Dallas.



AUSTIN



SAN ANTONIO

HOUSTON



DALLAS



TRINITY

Class Notes

1950's

Mary Ann Mogan Blome '52 is a graduate of Our Lady of Cincinnati and Marquette University. She is a widow and resides in Lebanon, Ohio.

1960's

Jeanne O'Connell Sharpe '63 is enjoying retirement in South Carolina. She golfs, plays tennis and bridge. She sees her eight grandchildren as often as possible. She hosted her 22-year-old granddaughter when she worked at the Masters Golf Tournament in 2025. Her oldest granddaughter is a teacher. Her youngest grandson is four years old.

Connie Leinberger Pettit '64 is still active in her Mary Kay business - 32 years! She enjoys staying in touch with MND girlfriends and time spent eating out with family and friends. Connie is thankful for all the blessings that God has given her.

LouAnn Beresford Robb '65 has been spending her retirement doing art and being a "grandma Uber".

Patty Buckmaster '67 keeps busy coordinating monthly lunches for the Class of 1967.

1970's

Deborah Knueven Gannaway '70 sold her business "Gramma Debbie's Kitchen" located at Findley Market in OTR. Her youngest son and daughter-in-law took over. Debbie helps on weekends.

Phyllis Sherrer Butterworth '71 retired in 2018 from Marion General Hospital Foundation, Inc. as Director of Development. In October of 2024 she moved into a new stand-alone condo. She is the proud grandma of three, Colton, Gabi, and Boston. Phyllis continues to lead a busy life by volunteering at the hospital and serving on several community boards. She resides in Marion, Ohio.

Sue Riesenberger Levo '75 celebrated 40 years working in Sales/Service for Alpha Liberty Company. Sue lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Amy Keegan Case '75 shares that her favorite MND memory was Mrs. Chang teaching about "parabolas". Amy lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Anne Scollard Fredrickson '75 shared that her favorite MND memory was senior skip day at French Park and her favorite teacher was Kathleen Schnelle Hipkind Maier. Anne permanently moved to Port Saint Lucie, Florida in 2022 to escape the tough winters in Cincinnati and lives in a 55+ community where there is something to do 24/7.

Mary Buckmaster Weyman '75 shares that her favorite memory of MND was the freedom of fun in an all-female classroom. Charming and kind Sister Gertrude was her favorite teacher. Mary is the grandmother to six granddaughters. In 1997, Mary finished 1st in the NYC marathon and has competed in over 10 marathons ... knee replacement next!?

1980's

Sue Wordeman McGrath '80 recently retired from teaching fifth grade at Madeira Middle School for the past 19 years. She is enjoying playing tennis, pickleball and spending time with her four grandchildren. She regularly meets fellow MND 1980 classmates for a book club.

Amy Durchholz Farr '80 keeps busy these days working the family lavender farm. Onederings Lavender Farm is in Clarksville, Ohio.

Jennifer Holtmeier McCullough '83 resides in Maineville, Ohio. One of Jennifer's favorite sisters, Ann Detmer, works at MND in the Business Office.

Julie Ebbeler Leonard '85 is a hobby potter! She took up wheel throwing during the pandemic and now has a full studio and kiln in her basement.

Beth Case Hornsby '85 is a production supervisor at Standard Textile Co. She is working with a friend to establish a new business, Joyously Sweet.

Judy Disser Hester '85 just RETIRED!

1990's

Michelle Maloney Fowler '91 studied Biology at the University of Cincinnati. She has been married to William since 1992. They have a son, Zachary. Michelle resides in Monroe, Ohio.

Monica Bird Young '96 spent Christmas 2025 in Hilton Head with family, Linda Sliter Bird '65, Monica Bird Young '96, Vanessa Bird Miller '99, Emily Young '21 and Ella Young '28.

Rachael Garibay Culpepper '97 was recently named National Executive Director of American Heritage Girls. She serves as cohost of a podcast, "Raising Godly Girls", which is dedicated to parenting daughters in a Christian household.

2000's



Caley Burke '00 visited Patagonia in 2023. She hiked the mountains of El Chaltén and saw thousands of penguins in Punta Ninfas and the Antarctic Islands. She loved trekking on and boating by glaciers and blue icebergs. The views in the Torres del Paine Mountains, while sailing through the Beagle Channel, were amazing! In March 2025, Caley transitioned from being a Flight Design Analyst (i.e.: launch vehicle trajectories) for NASA's Launch Services Program (LSP) to a Mission Manager. She leads the Mission Integration Team in integrating the NASA and NOAA robotic spacecraft with the rocket.

Julie Uecker Meek '00 was unable to attend the 25th Reunion but shares that she cherishes all her MND memories. Julie resides in Springfield, Virginia.

Carrie Snider-Dearth '00 writes that her favorite MND memory was winning state in volleyball and the feeling of pride she has when she encounters other MND alumnae over the years.

Ashley Shanteau '00 shares that her favorite MND memory was when Mrs. Reeb dressed up as her own guest (boa, hat etc.) and the students had to ask her questions in Spanish to figure out who she was impersonating. Ashley is an elementary school Spanish dual language teacher in Vancouver, Washington.

Katherine Schall Raabe '00 owns and operates three locations of Kraken Vape Smoke Kratom. Katherine lives in Springboro, Ohio.

Brigid Fletcher Warren '00 shares that her favorite memory at MND was Kairos. Brigid is a forensic nurse and the mother of a six-year-old daughter. She resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Angela Fiore Jones-Ray '00 shares that her favorite MND memory is track & field. Angela lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Colleen O'Connell Smith '00 works for UC Health doing facial plastics and reconstructive surgery.

Lindsay Willis Pereira '00 shares that her favorite MND memory is playing soccer with the best teammates!

Class Notes

Tina Valerius Beis '01 is the Associate Professor and Director of Collections Strategies and Services at the University of Dayton's Roesch Library. She holds a BA from Wittenberg University and an MA from Kent State University. Tina has been married to Shannon since July 2012. They have three children, Dylan (11), Desmond (8) and Dexter (6).

Bethany Rahilly Break '05 has been married to husband Phillip since July 2012. They have three children, Elliott (10), Scarlett (8) and Colton (5). The Break's reside in Paris, Tennessee.

Carolyn Doerning '05, DVM received her MBA from the UC Lindner College of Business in December 2024. She was named the 2025 MBA Student of the Year. Carolyn is the Assistant Director, Veterinary Service at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Allison Herre '05 is the managing attorney at a nonprofit legal aid organization in south Texas. Her team provides pro bono representation to asylum seekers detained by U.S. immigration authorities along the Texas/Mexico border.

Gabrielle Givens '08 received her Juris Doctor degree from Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law in May 2025. She is a Law Clerk for Judge Melba Marsh at the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Common Pleas.

Alysia Murray '08 is a 2012 graduate of Ohio University and holds a BS in Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences. She works for PL Marketing and resides in Batavia, Ohio.

2010's

Christina Ochs Forster '11 is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BA of Science in Industrial Engineering. She lives in California with her husband Danny.

Kelly Gurren '12 works in marketing for Bell Flight in Fort Worth, Texas.

Molly Morgan Koutny '14 and husband Ian, welcomed daughter Hollis Noelle on November 22, 2024. Baby Hollis weighed 10 pounds and 9 ounces and was 22.5 inches long.

Maria Brandell '15 earned degrees in Philosophy, Theology and Catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2019. She earned her Master of Theological Studies with a concentration in Biblical Studies from the University of Notre Dame. Maria shares that she spent some time discerning with a cloistered monastery in Connecticut and is happy to be a resource for any MND student or alumna who is considering a religious life and looking for guidance as to next steps.

Kate Jennings Dubell '15 is a 2019 graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering. Kate works as an Analyst for Google and resides in Chicago, Illinois with her husband Cole.

Christine Clark Robbins '15 earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology & Neuroscience with a minor in Spanish and Disability Studies from Miami University. She also holds a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy from Kettering College. Christine resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado where she works as an Occupational Therapist at UC Health Memorial Hospital Central. Christine has been married to Marty since July 31, 2021.

Kelsey Donahue '15 is a 2019 graduate of Miami University with a BA in Zoology. She is a Zookeeper for the Fort Worth Zoo and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Tess Meyer '15 graduated from The Ohio State University in 2019 with her BSN. She started online classes at the University of Alabama in May 2025 and will graduate in May 2027 with her MSN in Nurse Administration. Tess lives in Los Angeles, California and works as a nurse at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Molly Savage '15 had a hard time picking one favorite memory, her top three are singing in the 7 AM choir with Ms. Gillman, building bridges with "Doc" Fletcher, and "urine trouble" with Mrs. Rutschilling.

Madison Romano Toomey '15 and husband Daniel welcomed their first child, daughter Elizabeth, in March 2025. The family lives in Butler, PA.

Annie Bayer Crasto '15 shares that her favorite memories are the senior service trip to Haiti, dance marathon and all the faculty and staff.

Libby Kowitz '17 is the Communications Director at Joshua's Place, a nonprofit located in South Lebanon, Ohio, that helps individuals and families overcome barriers in their lives that cause instability. She recently had a short story published in an anthology.

Ashley Becker '17 graduated from Creighton University School of Medicine in May 2025 and is working as a Pediatric Resident Physician at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital which is affiliated with Case Western in Cleveland, Ohio.

Amy Wanamaker '17 received her BA in Early Childhood and MA in Literacy & Language from Miami University. She is a fourth-grade teacher at St. Catharine School in Columbus, Ohio. She got engaged on December 7, 2024.

Kylie Arvin '18 found her dream career in 2023! She is an investigator for Child Protective Services. In this role, Kylie investigates reports of child abuse and neglect to ensure child safety and works with families with prevention services.

Nicole Tonyan '19 received her BA in Speech & Hearing Science from The Ohio State University in 2023. She is currently working on her MA in Speech Pathology at the University of Cincinnati.

Kristeena Bright '19 earned a BA in Communication Studies & Media Production from the University of Dayton. She is an Executive Administrative Assistant at The Healthcare Connection. Kristeena lives in Fairfield, Ohio.

2020's

Gretchen Waning '20 received a dual degree from Marian and Purdue Universities in Engineering Physics and Mechanical Engineering. Gretchen works as a Supplier Quality Engineer for Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, LLC. Gretchen lives in Shelbyville, Indiana.

Isabel Sommer '20 shared that her favorite memory was the senior walkthrough during the individual graduations. She clearly remembers that bittersweet moment, seeing Mrs. AC at the end of the hallway. The memories made with her, making rosaries in her office, the random friends made there ... PERFECT!

Allie Brickner '21 holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Xavier University in Psychology. She shares that her favorite MND memory is Kairos. Allie lives in West Chester, Ohio.

Zoe Mattimore '21 is getting ready to start a pre-law program after working as a mechanic since graduating from MND.

Devyn Johnson '22 attends the University of Cincinnati working on her BA in Biological Sciences.

Marianne Falci '23 worked as an intern for Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects (SCBA) based in Lexington, Kentucky as part of the University of Cincinnati College of DAAP program. It gave her "hands-on experience beyond the classroom, from mastering Revit to site visits and meetings, it helped me grow professionally and reach my co-op goals". SCBA added, "We've been incredibly grateful to have UC DAAP intern Marianne Falci with us over the past few months. Her passion and dedication truly stood out during her time here. We know you're going to do amazing things!"



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.



**Jeanne Finen
Clark '47**
2/3/2025



**Sr. Mary Ann
Connolly '50, OP**
5/28/2025



**Audrey Sieber
Koch '53**
4/17/2025



**Ellen Vennemeyer
Lehr '55**
5/23/2025



**Viola "Midge"
Kuntz Kouba '56**
4/8/2025



**Mary Kay
Herschede
Collins '57**
6/21/2025



**Laverne
Mattscheck
Stockham '60**
2/4/2025



**Dee Finkbeiner
Lynd '60**
5/6/2025



**Julie Watson
Roth '61**
2/1/2025



**Kathy Cunningham
Rothenbach '61**
4/17/2025



**JoAnn Michel
Stoeckel '62**
6/2/2025



**Carol Rockel
Land '63**
7/8/2024



**Lois Albrinck Wiehe
Martin '64**
5/27/2025



**Carolyn "Lynn"
Rost Todd '64**
5/29/2025



Connie Ernst '65
3/24/2022



**Gail Lindhorst
Eschmeyer '65**
4/15/2025



**Jeannie
Bergheger '72**
5/21/2025



Engagements/Weddings



Laura Evers '07 married Michael Dexter-Luffberry in Sarasota, Florida on February 1, 2025. In attendance were many MND alumnae including Matrons of Honor and sisters **Kat Evers Solove '09** and **Andrea Evers Roberts '12**, Maids of Honor and bridesmaids **Kate Carroll '07**, **Lucy O'Brien '07**, and **Christine Groh '07**. Laura and Michael currently live in St. Louis, Missouri.



Megan Heidel Stare '10 got married on October 5, 2024 to Cameron Stare in Cincinnati. The couple lives in Indianapolis, IN. Megan graduated from West Virginia University in 2014 with a BS in Interior Design. Left to right: **Laine Rousseau '10**, **Lauren Deutch '10**, **Samantha Malone Grimes '10**, **(Megan)**, **Kathleen Trubee Anderson '10**, **Jenna Pilipovich Bailey '10**.



Emily Hornback Reckner '17 married Ronald on May 24, 2025 at the Oasis in Loveland, Ohio surrounded by family and friends. They met on a blind date. Both work in the field of addiction counseling. Emily works as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor at Sojourner Recovery Services in Hamilton, Ohio. She is passionate about what she does as she has had family and friends that struggle with the disease of addiction. The newlyweds live in Hamilton, Ohio.



Clare Bunning Lucal '10 married Devon in October 2024 at St. Clare Chapel with several MND alumnae in attendance. Her husband is a Cincinnati native who attended Lakota West. The newlyweds live in Milford, Ohio.



Leah Callahan '14 got engaged to Douglas Kurtz in December 2024. They are getting married at Catholic Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park, California in August 2025.



Sarah Schwartz Solomond '17 married Jozef on October 26, 2024 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Columbus, Ohio. Sarah works as a Designer for Between State. She and Jozef live in Columbus, Ohio.



Amanda Puthoff Buckel '16 married Justin on August 31, 2024. She is currently one of the assistant swim coaches for MND and coaches water polo for a high school club team. She also works as a Forensic Scientist for the Hamilton County Coroner's Office.

Births/Adoptions



Samantha Villegas '03 and partner Carol, welcomed Arlis on January 24, 2025. The growing family lives in Durham, North Carolina.



Samantha LaBarbera Arrowood '06 and husband Chris welcomed their second child, daughter Penelope Catherine, on December 22, 2025. She joins big brother Henry, who loves spending time with his little sister. The family resides in Dublin, California.



Molly Heister Hance '10 and husband Dustin welcomed Nicolai "Nico" Drufner on November 11, 2024. The family resides in Galena, Ohio.



Katie Weisbrod Freson '06 and husband Dean welcomed their third child, Nolan Joseph, on December 18, 2024. He is being loved on at home by big sister Hannah and big brother Grant.



Allison Muennich Bredestege '06 and husband Gregory welcomed their first daughter, Adelaide Ann, on March 9, 2025. She joins brothers, Theodore (8) and Oliver (6) at home in West Chester, Ohio. Allison is the Manager of Health Accreditation at Kroger. She is a 2010 graduate of NKU.



Cassidy Miller Newport '11, MND's own Intervention Specialist, and husband Scott, welcomed daughter Sophie Grace on April 21, 2025. Big sister Ellie is thrilled with her little sister.



Julie Dean McMahon '06 and husband Shea welcomed Frances AnneMarie in November 2024. She joins big sister Cora and big brother Dean. The growing family resides in Columbus, Ohio.



Gabrielle Maresco Kerley '10 and husband Ian welcomed their second child, Connor John, in April 2025. He joins big brother, Jackson, at their home in Mason, Ohio.



Melissa Emming Coeling '12 and husband Aaron, became a family of three on December 10, 2024 when they welcomed son, Theo Robert. The family lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

GOLDEN GUILD

Celebrating the Class of 1975

In June, the halls of MND were filled with nostalgia and tradition. Our annual Golden Guild Induction and Luncheon celebrated 50 years since the Class of 1975 became Mount Notre Dame graduates. The day included a prayer service, a pinning ceremony, lunch, and even a performance from the Class of 1975 as they sang their class song.



Summer Soiree

Summer Soiree

In June, alumnae from across the decades gathered for our Summer Soirée and Pinning Ceremony. This celebration highlighted the strong bonds within the MND community and recognized the milestone anniversaries of the Classes of 2000, 2015, and 2020 with a pinning ceremony. Each alumna was given a unique pin representing their specific milestone year and our sisterhood has never felt so strong! Thank you to all the alumnae who joined us for this memorable evening!



Alumnae from the Class of 1980 celebrated 45 years at the Summer Soiree in June at MND!



Pinning ceremony for the Class of 2000's 25 year reunion.



Class of 2015



Class of 2020



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This edition of Developments and other news can be found on our website at www.mndhs.org.

2025 - 2026 SAVE THE DATES

THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 2025

Ladies Bunco Night

THURSDAY, NOV. 20, 2025

MND Day of Giving

SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 2025

Breakfast with Santa

THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 2025

Alumnae Christmas Cocktails

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 2026

Alumnae Trivia Night

SATURDAY, MAR. 21, 2026

MND Fashion Show

SATURDAY, MAR. 28, 2026

Easter Egg-stravaganza

THURSDAY, APR. 23, 2026

Alumnae Awards

APR. 27-29, 2026

Girls Schools Unite

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

MND Golf Classic

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

Golden Guild Luncheon

CLASS OF 1976 & ALL PREVIOUS YEARS

Summer Soiree

FOR CLASSES ENDING IN 1 OR 6

SCAN FOR
THE LATEST
EVENTS

