

## Tyranski '90 Beating M.S.

Soon after *Robert Tyranski* '90 was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, he volunteered to let a local researcher take thousands of images of his brain and neck. The images were used to examine a new phenomenon - CCSVI - that has generated enormous debate in the M.S. community, especially in Detroit, where Wayne State University researchers are experimenting with a new treatment for M.S. Rob has recently undergone the new experimental treatment. He has allowed us to share in his journey with the hopes of informing those who may be helped by this new procedure.

## JM '90: When were you diagnosed with M.S.?

RT '90: I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in May 2005, just two months before my first child was born.

## JM '90: What were your symptoms?

RT '90: I began experiencing bouts of double vision in 2002. My first episode of double vision lasted about one month and wasn't terribly intense. Each episode progressed with intensity and duration. I was told I had vertigo by my doctor, which fit with my symptoms at the time (dizzy, lightheaded, fatigued, and unbalanced). I found myself staring at an object across the room one morning to ground myself, since keeping still seemed to calm the dizziness. As I sat, I slowly started to turn my head to the right while keeping my eyes focused on the object and was fine. I then began slowly turning my head to the left while staying focused on the object and as I turned, the object started to split into two and at an extreme angle, my left eye began bouncing back and forth and a massive energy draining, dizzy wave forced me to shut my eyes. I had just diagnosed myself as having double vision; the next question was why? Over the next 3 years, my hands went numb at times, I experienced difficulty walking (serious foot drop on my right side), sexual dysfunction, bladder urgency, odd,



Rob Tyranski '90 and family

burning headaches, muscle spasms, brain fog, fatigue, and the M.S. hug (like someone is giving you a bear hug and no matter how hard you try to take a deep breath, you can't). All of these would come and go, and then come back again, but my constant companions were double vision and fatigue. I recall a train roaring through my bedroom one morning or at least I woke up to what sounded like that was happening. I picked my head off the pillow and the train vanished. I laid it back on the pillow and the train came back! I lifted it once more and it was gone!! My first thought was, OK, now what? My second thought was "am I having a stroke?"; little did I know that my query wasn't that far off from what was happening to me. As it turns out, the train sound was the result of a spasm that had developed at the corner of my left eye and the constant pulsing against my pillow

sounded like a train. Accompanying the eye spasm, were two others: one at the corner of my lip on the left and a deep pulsing on the left side of my chin. Soon after, my lips went numb. The night before I went to my doctor to have him write a script to get an MRI, I was watching a movie with my wife and my left eye slowly dimmed and then went dark. I started to panic in my head, but wouldn't allow myself to express it, since my very pregnant wife was sitting next to me. I stood and went to inspect this new development in a mirror. My left eye looked normal from what I could tell, but it wasn't working; I was now blind in my left eye! Fortunately, the blindness only lasted a couple of hours and when I woke the next morning my vision was back. After experiencing all of these 'system failures', I began researching the symptoms and found the words, Multiple Sclerosis. My doctor confirmed my fear and sent me for an MRI, which did indeed provide the proof that I had M.S.

## JM '90: For the readers who may not know, what exactly is M.S.?

RT '90: As it turns out, the medical community isn't quite sure. The current leading theory, and I emphasize the word 'theory,' is that M.S. is an autoimmune disease - where your immune system enters the brain and spinal cord, aka: central nervous system (CNS), and begins attacking the protective coating of the nerves called myelin. When myelin is destroyed, the CNS has difficulty, or stops transmitting nerve impulses - messages - between the brain and other parts of the body. The resulting attacks leave scars and are responsible for the myriad of M.S. symptoms a person with M.S. experiences. I never bought into the whole autoimmune theory for M.S., since there is no explanation of how or why the immune system was able to cross the blood brain barrier.

#### JM '90: What is CCSVI?

RT '90: Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI) is a condition where people have obstructed blood flow in the veins that drain the central nervous system - the brain and spinal cord. Research indicates that CCSVI is significantly correlated with multiple sclerosis. As a result of these venous abnormalities, the blood flow rate through the central nervous system back toward the heart may become slowed, and blood may reflux back toward the brain and spine.

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People with CCSVI have one or more of the following blockages of the veins that drain blood from the central nervous system: Stenosis, an abnormal valve, septum, flap, or membrane that blocks or inhibits blood flow through the veins, or atresia, hypoplasia, or agenesis. Stenosis is an abnormal narrowing of the veins that restricts blood flow. Types of stenoses include the collapse of the vein, twisting of the vein, ring-like narrowing in the vein, and other similar obstructions. Atresia, hypoplasia, and agenesis are severe venous problems, including veins that are partially closed, underdeveloped, minimally formed, or almost entirely missing.

#### JM '90: Upon learning of CCSVI, what did that lead you to believe about your diagnosis?

RT '90: I believe CCSVI creates endothelial dysfunction of the blood brain barrier and diffuse hypoxia (a pathological condition in which the body as a whole or region of the body is deprived of adequate oxygen supply) in the brain, and that this is what MS really is. More research is elucidating how slowed perfusion affects the M.S. brain, and BOLD MRI technology is showing how lower levels of oxygen are found in situations of slowed perfusion. An interesting thing to note is that elevated expression of alpha-B crystallin shows up in the brains of those suffering hypoxia, MS, and stroke.

## JM '90: What path did you choose for treatment?

RT '90: After 2 years of research into CCSVI and participating in a study at Wayne State University with Dr. Mark Haacke, I determined that it was time to put this Monster to rest. I went to Rush University Hospital in Chicago to see Dr. Hector Ferral for an angiogram and angioplasty on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2011.

### JM '90: Take us through the procedure.

RT '90: The image data from the Haacke study I was in, showed no or undetectable flow in the upper portions of both my right and left internal jugular veins (IJVs) and was virtually undetectable. I was concerned that they were either missing or not viable. The procedure was surreal, in that I did not accept the twilight sedation for the procedure and just had the shot of lidocaine for the catheter in my left groin area. I felt, saw and remember everything. I was able to watch the monitors as Dr. Ferral maneuvered the guide wire into my IJVs. First, the left and a splash of dye to assess blood flow. The majority of blood in my left IJV flowed back into my brain, but I had no vein abnormality in my left IJV. I was puzzled and slightly concerned. At this point, we still had the intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) to take a better look. So out comes the balloon catheter and in goes the IVUS. We only had a couple of minutes of imaging with the IVUS before it stopped working.



An X-Ray of Rob Tyranski '90 showing the balloon inserted in his vein.

## JM '90: The procedure stopped working or the equipment?

RT '90: There were technical issues with the box. They're ordering a new one.

#### JM '90: What happened after that?

RT '90: It was time to move to the right side. On the way over to the right IJV, the guide wire dove into my Azygos vein. The doctor took a peek since he was there. No reflux or vein abnormality here. Now he moved to the right IJV. Now a splash of dye - interestingly enough, you can totally hear the dye being injected into the vein from the inside of your body. Again, more reflux flowed into my brain on this side. Now we needed to see if we could find out why the blood is travelling the wrong way. And there it was - a thickened valve that wasn't functioning so well and was pinching off blood flow - about a

SISMENS

Zahid Latif, chief MRI research technologist for Wayne State University, works with Rob Tyranski '90.

80~90% stenosis. Dr. Ferral ballooned the valve with a 10mm balloon. I wasn't sure how this would feel, but was ready for anything. I was just so happy Dr. Ferral found it. I felt the balloon inflating, but it was not painful as I was expecting. The blood flow was still not as good as we would like, so Dr. Ferral inserted a 12mm balloon. I felt this one more, but it wasn't truly painful. It just felt very mild discomfort. The balloon was inflated 3 times and held for about 45 seconds each time. I then had good flow through the right side and no reflux. The reflux on the left seems to have been resolved as well. Interesting, huh!?

#### JM '90: It certainly is.

RT '90: OK, geek alert here... I'm going to need to understand this one better, but I think it's a simple matter of fluid dynamics through the brain. I'd really like to see a mathematical model on this one!

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#### Continued from page 3...

## JM '90: How have you felt since receiving the treatment?

RT '90: The overall experience was fantastic and I'm so happy I did this. I immediately noticed that a sense of pressure I had in my head and neck was gone. Going in, my only symptoms were fatigue, headaches and brain fog. My fatigue is gone and I think my [OFF] button is broken! Still no pressure in my head and the brain fog has cleared. I was back to work 5 days after the procedure. Shout out to General Motors and my boss Sue! They have been very supportive of me and I'm blessed to have so many wonderful people in my life.

#### JM '90: Anything else you'd like the readers to know?

RT '90: We're witnessing history in the making for the way a disease is managed. We have social networking to thank for that. If it wasn't for facebook, this science would have been crushed by those with money, power, and influence - Big Pharma. It would have been swept under the rug in order to protect their profits! I encourage anyone who has been diagnosed with M.S. to research and consider this treatment.

For more information on M.S. and some of the items discussed in this interview, please visit the videos and links below:



Click image to watch a video of CCSVI procedure.



Click image to watch a video about M.S.

Intravascular ultrasound - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intravascular\_ultrasound

CCSVI: www.ccsvi.org



See Tony DeNardo '90 and Danny Methric '90 perform live!

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011 Green Lantern Bar (Lexington, KY)

Friday, Dec. 12, 2011
Cadieux Café
(as Rattlesnake Shake)
(Detroit, MI)

Friday , Jan. 13, 2011
The Loading Dock
(Traverse City, MI)

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2011 Upfront & Company (Marquette, MI)

Click the elephant to see
The Muggs perform 'Down Below' at the Magic Bag.

# Vicari 75 Reflects on 20 Vears of Feeding Metro Detroiters

Over the course of 20 years, *Joe Vicari* '75, has built a portfolio of restaurants that include the Andiamos, four Country Inns, one Cheli's Chili Bar, the Rojo Mexican Bistros, Mesquite Creek steakhouse, and a Post Bar and Restaurant. His company, Andiamo Restaurant Group, now employs over 1,000 people.

## What is your favorite part of the restaurant industry?

"I really like the deal-making aspect of the restaurant business. I like opening new restaurants, the negotiations, and the selection process. Watching a new building come together is really neat."

## What is the most important factor in opening a new restaurant?

"The old saying is location, location, location. It's really true. You can set yourself up for success but you have to make sure the area needs your concept. But maybe even before that is the deal. You have to make sure it makes good business sense. You cannot bury yourself by carrying a fixed expense you can't pay. When we open a new restaurant, we have an entire team in place, from cooks to hostesses, who know how to run a restaurant. We can do this because we are a larger company. This lets us hedge our bets."

Not a lot of people know you own so many types of restaurants. How did you choose which ones to open?

"Well, the Mesquite Creek was a good opportunity and was my first venture outside of the Italian theme. The owner of Post Bar came to me and asked if I was interested in opening one since I was already in Dearborn. One of my cooks at Andiamo would make such good Mexican food on Saturdays, we always said we should open a Mexican restaurant. And I think Rojo has the legs to go out of state."

## How did you deal with the economy in 2009?

"Well, sales were down about 15 percent in 2009 but we never closed a restaurant. Up until then, we had the right formula but this economy is challenging. Before the market crashed, I felt the economy going a little soft and decided to go on television and radio and advertise a two-for-one deal. Our customers overwhelmingly supported it. That was in July, the market crashed in September. But I want to say that we have never, not once, closed a restaurant in the 20-plus years I have been in the business. I am really proud of that."

## Any interesting facts?

"When Chrysler merged with Daimler, the deal was made in the back room of the Andiamo Warren location. It was announced nationally the next day. Jimmy Hoffa was last seen at the Machus Red Fox (near Maple and Telegraph roads in Bloomfield Township). That restaurant is now an Andiamo."

## Do you have a favorite deal?

"The one that made the most money... Honestly? The deals that took place for two of our most successful locations, the Renaissance Center and Farmington Hills, took a lot of convincing. "I really had to be convinced that these locations would work. I am an eastside guy. Now, I would cross Woodward but I didn't know too much about that space. When they pitched me on it, I needed a lot of coaxing. At that time we were paying at most \$14 per square foot; this called for \$30. The Renaissance Center deal, I don't want to say General Motors begged us, but they begged us, to come down. They gave us provisions to cover any losses but we never had to use them."

#### Any advice for those looking to open a restaurant?

"So many people get into the restaurant business because they see the glamour of a Saturday night when the drinks are flowing and there is a wait to get in. The problem is you have to learn how to survive on Mondays and Tuesdays when the restaurant is empty. When doctors or lawyers ask me for advice on a restaurant project I always say do yourself a favor, unless you want to lose a lot of money, don't invest in the restaurant business. And if you do, you cannot be a passive owner. You have to be in the restaurant."

Source: Crain's Detroit Business

# Eisenhower Coach Bob Lantzy '64 Missing One Thing: A State Title

**Bob Lantzy** '64 isn't ready to cash in his 401K plan just yet. There has been speculation Lantzy will retire from coaching after this season, his 42nd. He isn't saying. His assistants say he hasn't told them. And why should Lantzy say anything? That would spoil all the fun. Plus, there's a score to settle.

As Utica Eisenhower's only coach in its history — the school started football in 1970 — Lantzy wants a state title. "Nobody has brought retirement up," said Lantzy, 65. "I'll make a decision after the season. It's too much fun right now after winning the Macomb Area Conference Red Division and now with a chance at winning a district title. I have a strong feeling about what I want to do. It would be a distraction if I said something now. This is the most important season just like every other one was," he added.

Eisenhower has had just four losing seasons — the last coming in 1984 (3-6) — during Lantzy's tenure. It has been to four state championship games and has won 13 league titles. But with Friday night's Division 1 district final against Romeo (8-2), Eisenhower (9-1) continues its quest to give Lantzy state title No. 1.

#### **Impressive Resume**

As a running back for Harper Woods Notre Dame, Lantzy played his last high school football game Nov. 22, 1963 — the day President John F. Kennedy was killed — at Tiger Stadium. After Notre Dame closed in 2005, the Friends of Notre Dame presented Lantzy with the trophy from that game. He went on to Northern Michigan, where he was a star defensive back, before landing the job as Eisenhower's coach.

Since then, Lantzy has made winning the norm at Eisenhower. He has compiled a 302-114-1 record, good for eighth in state history. He is one of only nine coaches to win 300 games. Most, however, would agree this year's team is Eisenhower's best since 2003, the season Lantzy last reached a state final.

Void of a superstar, this team seemingly has no weakness.

Quarterback *Joey Zerafa*, son of *Don Zerafa* '81, is mobile and has a strong arm. The offense is balanced averaging 123 yards passing and 144 rushing per game. The defense is big up front with linebackers who pursue and a secondary that is fast. Special teams are strong, led by Yousseff Bujaidar (four punt returns for touchdowns) and Danny Gjochaj, one of Macomb County's top kickers. At 5-foot-7 and 180 pounds Daniel Venditti, a two-way starter at running back and linebacker, exemplifies Eisenhower football. "He is my coach on the field," Lantzy said of Venditti. "When you're a



Bob Lantzy '64 and Quarterback Joey Zerafa, son of Don Zerafa '81.

kid and come to the games and see what Eisenhower has, the coaches here, it's a dream come true to play here," Venditti said. "It's an honor to play for Coach Lantzy, to play for a Hall of Fame coach. You can't think of anything else you'd like to do. He's very enthusiastic. He's always energetic on the field. He's a players' coach. He understands not to beat us into the ground. He was a player himself. He understands," Venditti concluded.

Assistants like Chris Smith, the defensive coordinator since 1996, and Dave Brzezinski, a 1993 Eisenhower graduate who coaches special teams and defensive backs, have been with Lantzy 10 years or more. Smith said Eisenhower's practice schedule hasn't changed in his 15 years.

#### Is this the year?

What has changed the past two seasons is the talent level. "We're bigger and more physical than we have been," Smith said. "We have three guys (juniors David Curle and Jared Matte, and senior Garrett Bush) who weigh between 280 and 300 pounds. We've always had good, fast linebackers. Our size has really helped our run defense. Bob trusts all of us coaches. And I trust all of my assistants. That's why people like to coach here," Smith concluded.

It's why Eisenhower is strong. Lantzy had 65 players on varsity and 65 on the junior varsity this season. It's not a program loaded with Division I prospects. It's one that attracts average-size students who love to play football. Alfonso Vultaggio is 5-8 — on his toes — and 170 pounds, yet he's one of Lantzy's best players. Vultaggio plays slotback, defensive back and receiver and returns kicks. Against Romeo this season, Vultaggio returned a fumble and a blocked punt for a touchdown that proved vital in a 26-14 victory. "We talk about winning a title all the time," he said. "You have to talk about it. You have to dream about it. And then you have to do it. That's Lantzy's line. He says it to us every game. We want to win it for him. He deserves it," Vultaggio said.

Source: The Detroit News

## Congratulations Are in Order



Congratulations to *Patrick Green '83*! Pat won reelection to the City of Warren City Council in District 1 on November, 8, 2011. He defeated his opponent earning 79% of the votes.

Congratulations to *Kevin Ketels '89*! Kevin won election to the City of Grosse Pointe Woods City Council on November, 8, 2011. He defeated his opponent earning 57% of the votes.



Congratulations to **Joe Heilig '89**! Joe was married on Sunday, October 23, 2011. His lovely bride is singer, Deena Shields. Performing at the wedding was **Simone Vitale '67**. Lighting was provided by **Mike Olechowski '05**. The best man was **Jim Mandi '90**. **Bill Prantera '89** was a groomsman. Also in attendance were **Eric Schmidt '89** and **Dave Bourgeois '89**.







Congratulations to former HWND teacher, *Mr. Norm Kotarski*! He was honored for his 47 years of service to the Catholic High School League at the CHSL Prep Bowl on October 22, 2011 at Ford Field.

Congratulations to *Paul Verska* '61! Paul is the varsity football coach at Warren De La Salle Collegiate. He led the Pilots to a district championship on Friday, November 4, 2011, defeating Warren Mott 35-6. This marks the 6th time he has led the Pilots to a district title since taking over as head coach in 2002.





Congratulations to *Bob Lantzy* '64! Bob is the varsity football coach at Utica Eisenhower. He led the Eagles to a district championship on Friday, November 4, 2011 and a regional championship on Friday, November 11, 2011. Bob is in his 42nd season as head coach of Ike's football team.

## Langton '79 Podcasts

Charlie Langton '79 is the morning drive host on the new talk radio 1270am in Detroit. He has a podcast page where you can listen to segments and interviews he conducts on his show.

To listen to them, please visit his podcast website at: http://detroit.cbslocal.com/audioon-demand/charlie-langton/

Below is a selection of just some of the podcast's available on the site.



Click on the image next to the description to hear the podcast.



## Who's Your Daddy?

Charlie talks about the legal implication over the allegations the teen pop sensation, Justin Bieber, may be a father, with an exclusive reading of the sworn statement from the accuser.

#### Joe Paterno Fired

Charlie is surprising people with his opinion that Penn State Football Coach followed the chain of command. Charlie says since Paterno was not an eyewitness, he took appropriate action. But listeners disagree.





Interview with Jim Thomas
On the heels of a Judge's
decision to throw out the Tamara
Greene law suit against the City
of Detroit, Charlie speaks with
Kilpatrick's attorney, Jim
Thomas.

Source: CBS Radio Detroit

## 2011 Alumni Hockey Game

When: Monday, December 26, 2011 Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm (ice time)

3:30pm - 4:30pm (food and refreshments)

Where: Mt. Clemens Ice Arena

Cost: \$15 per player

Format: 90 minutes of ice time for all ND alumni

*Included in the cost to play:* Ice time, referees, pizza, pop, and snacks after the game.

\*\* Please RSVP if you are attending \*\*

\*\*\* If you are a goal tender who is attending,

please let us know \*\*\*

jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com

## A Notre Dame Education Really Pays Off

Macomb County Assistant Executive *Al Lorenzo* '61, retired Macomb Community College president, earns the highest public pension in Michigan at \$170,910. When his compensation from two current government jobs is included, Lorenzo's pension and pay reaches nearly \$300,000 a year.

According to a published report, Lorenzo is among a select group of 49 public sector retirees who pocket pensions in excess of \$100,000 a year. Lorenzo said that his retirement pay is all "above board" and based on the same pension formula that applies to approximately 500,000 retired Michigan educators. His pension is so high, he said, because he worked 42 years at MCC, including 29 years as president, which put his computations far above other educators. "It's computed by a factor that's impersonal, it's purely quantitative," said Lorenzo, 68. "It's driven completely by a formula, not something I negotiated," he added.

In response to a Freedom of Information Act request, The Detroit News reported that many of the top pensions in the state belong to retired community college presidents and intermediate school district officials. The retiree closest to Lorenzo's retirement compensation, according to the News, is former Southfield Public Schools Superintendent Cecil Rice who receives \$134,313 per year.

Lorenzo said his MCC pension is based on his three highest-paid years, his final years, when he earned \$176,000 in salary. When his contributions to a tax-sheltered annuity were added in, his final average compensation rose to \$231,000. In addition, he exercised an option to "purchase" five years of service time. This meant that 47 years of service was applied to the pension formula. One other factor was that he declined a survivor benefit option. This means his pension ends when he dies and cannot be transferred to his wife. That move substantially boosted his yearly retirement pay.

Al Lorenzo '61

As MCC president, Lorenzo was CEO of a school that competed yearly with

Oakland Community College for the title of largest Michigan community college. But, Lorenzo said he was never the highest paid community college president in the state and often ranked third or fourth.

Lorenzo receives his pension through the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System, not a separate fund for MCC employees. Officials from education groups insist that the MPSERS is a fund largely developed through years of investments, with no infusions of taxpayer dollars.

Leon Drolet, leader of the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance and a vocal critic of public sector wages and pensions, said Lorenzo is simply taking advantage of a lucrative system. "Unfortunately, he didn't do anything different than any other public employee. This is an example of why every public employee in Michigan should be moved to a ... 401(k)," said Drolet, a former state representative from Macomb Township. "They (government employee unions) want to maintain their definition of middle class at the expense of the rest of the state," Drolet added.

Like many public sector retirees, after calling it quits, Lorenzo went on to land another government job — or, in Lorenzo's case, two jobs. The day after he retired from MCC on Sept. 30, 2008, he took a job as the Oakland University Executive in Residence. In December 2010, County Executive Mark Hackel appointed Lorenzo as one of his three assistant executives. Initially, Lorenzo worked on a 50-50 part-time basis, spending half his time at OU and half his time at the county executive's office. That arrangement eventually evolved into a 75-25 split, with Lorenzo spending three-fourths of his time working for Hackel. He is paid \$40,000 a year, with no benefits, by OU and \$88,000 a year by Macomb County. That puts his total annual pay at \$128,000 and his annual compensation at \$298,000

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# Musings From the Desk of Your Vice President

#### **ALUMNI REUNIONS:**

One of my assignments is to attempt to make an appearance at HWND reunions to take photographs for the Leprechaun and for the website. What would the odds be that three classes that each graduated 10 years apart would have their reunions on the same date? The classes of 1961, 1971 and 1981 did that on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. I spent over four hours visiting '61 at Penna's in Sterling Heights, '71 at Club Venetian in Madison Heights and '81 at Ciccarelli's Sports Bar Theater in Shelby Township. It was great meeting alumni that I had not previously met and visiting with those that I already knew. It was heartening to hear the "good jobs" and "thanks for keeping the spirit of Notre Dame alive" from many of you. Sometimes, the work that is done to publish the Leprechaun and organized events can drain us, but we know it is worth it when we hear these compliments.

#### THE LEPRECHAUN:

Another of my assignments is to handle 'complaints' and 'constructive criticisms' that are occasionally received. One was that it seemed to the reader that the Leprechaun only had articles about the same people from issue to issue. There are two reasons for this. First, many of these folks appear in the news frequently. Second, we can only report on those we can research and news we know. Remember the "we" is a very small number. The Leprechaun is **YOUR** alumni news. There are births, weddings, deaths, events, etc. that we would love to publish. But, we cannot do it unless you, the alumni, report it to us. Please assist us in reporting more alumni news.

#### FOOTBALL ROUND-UP:

In a previous edition of the Leprechaun, it was reported that there was a shooting at our football field in Harper Woods. On a more pleasant note, on October the 20<sup>th</sup>, a state record was broken on our field. Congratulations to my friend, Coach Al Fracassa, who became the only football coach in Michigan to win 400 games when his Brother Rice Warriors defeated Chandler Park Academy in Harper Woods, 38-2. The Coach came into the season needing 5 victories to reach 400. His team finished a disappointing 1-3 in the Central Division, with the losses coming by a total of 4 points. The Warriors made it into the Division 2 playoffs and pulled major upsets over North Farmington, Farmington Hills Harrison and Southfield to reach the semi-finals against Detroit King on November 19th - a rematch from their season opening 28-21 win. Good Luck, Coach!

John Maltese '78 led his Eagles to a 4-5 record and a 2nd place record of 3-2 in the Kensington Lakes-North Division.

**Paul Verska** '63 led his De La Salle Pilots to a 9-3 record this season. They finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the tough CL Central Division. Their season ended when they lost to Cass Tech, 6-0, in the Division 1 regional final. Paul is in his 10<sup>th</sup> year at De La Salle and is assisted by **Brandon Oliver** '66.

**Tom Iwanicki '82** led his Lake Shore Shorians to 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the MAC Gold Division with a 3-2 record; overall they were 4-5. Tom is in his 8<sup>th</sup> year at Lake Shore.

**Bob Lantzy's '64** Utica Eisenhower Eagles finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the tough MAC Red Division with a 5-0 record. They are currently 11-1 and are scheduled to play Cass Tech on November 19<sup>th</sup>. In a previous edition of the Leprechaun, we reported that Bob reached the 300 victory plateau this year. Bob is in his 42<sup>nd</sup> year at Eisenhower, the only head football coach that the Eagles have ever had. Another ND connection is junior quarterback **Joey Zerafa** who was named to the Macomb Daily All County 2<sup>nd</sup> team. He is the son of **Don Zerafa '81**. Congratulations to Don and Joey and Good Luck, Bob!

#### THE HARPER WOODS NOTRE DAME ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:

I was not sure how to title this section. A few alumni that I have met recently were confused as to why we are operating in opposition to the Marist school's 'Notre Dame Preparatory Alumni Association' in Pontiac. I wrote an article in late 2007 or early 2008 regarding this situation. I will attempt to repeat it here.

Their question should be: Why is the Marist school's 'Notre Dame Preparatory Alumni Association' in Pontiac operating in opposition to us? We are an outgrowth of the group that attempted to convince the Archdiocese to allow Harper Woods Notre Dame to remain open. When that effort failed in June of '05, people basically abandoned the building leaving all ND memorabilia (yearbooks, trophies, class photographs, newspapers, *EVERYTHING*) behind. At the request of the Marists, the administration at N.D., the alumni and parents, our group formed to recover and store all Notre Dame's history and live on as the *Notre Dame Alumni Association*.

We took over the operation of the HWND Alumni Association in June of 2005. A website was developed. The traditional basketball tournament and Christmas hockey games were organized. We oversaw the Alumni Association without any income or dues - haven't asked for a penny in the seven years we've been doing this. Occasionally we do receive some donations. Then, during the 2007 basketball tournament at Bishop Foley High School, Ken Parent made his

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#### Continued from page 9...

way through the stands announcing to everyone that the new home of the Alumni Association would be in Pontiac. This was news to us as Jim and I were never spoken to about this. We first learned of it on the last night of the tournament when we were questioned about it by several of the tournament participants. Obviously, we knew nothing of it. Our Alumni Association was never given so much as a 'good job' by the folks in Pontiac. They just attempted to push us to the side of the road. So, if we were operating for *two full years* prior to Pontiac's alumni association, it appears that they began an operation in opposition to us.

In my article I made two points. The first was half joking. I said once they have your contact information, they will be coming for donations. That has proved to be true. The second point was dead serious. For numerous reasons, a Catholic education is becoming out of reach for most folks. One of these is a lack of Catholic schools. Since taking over that building in 1994, the Marists have been highly successful in saving a floundering school and producing a first class campus in Pontiac. We know that some alumni have sent their children there. If any alumni wish to donate to that school or be involved with it, of course, you are free to do so. I have even purchased their \$10 raffle tickets in the past. Our major bone of contention is how they have attempted to hijack the Alumni Association after doing nothing

for the first two years that Notre Dame had been closed. They saw we were operating a successful alumni association, and rather than start their own association with their own alumni, they tried to do it with ours. Having said that, I wish the school continued success. They will just have to succeed without our help as we plan to continue with the Notre Dame Alumni Association we started back in June of 2005.

Thank you!

#### Jim Mandl HWND '66

Vice President, Notre Dame Alumni Association goirish1966@yahoo.com







#### Gregory Furchak - Class of 1961

For some unknown reason I have not been able to open the monthly news letters lately that you have been sending. I really enjoy them and miss reading them. Is there another format that you can use to send them? Maybe word pad? Thanks, and keep up the good work!

Editors Note: We will be attempting to upload the newsletter in multiple formats in the very near future.

#### John Kowalski - Class of 1983

Just want to take a moment and say "Thanks" for the Alumni News letter that I receive. I smile every time I read it. Really... "Thanks a million!"

## Major Jeff Rosenberg - Class of 1988

I am glad I found the Friends of Notre Dame website. I have been out of contact with ND alumni for some time. I unfortunately missed the class of 88' 20 year reunion because I was deployed with the US Army to Eastern Afghanistan. I am interested in getting re-connected.

#### Steve Ries - Class of 1981

I would like to thank Jim Mandl '66 for attending our 30th reunion at Ciccirelli's Sports Bar Theater on November 5th. It was great to see everyone who attended, where has the time gone?? I would also like to express my thanks on behalf of myself and my son, Matt '07 for all that the Friends of Notre Dame have done over the past 6 years. We look forward to the Leprechaun to keep up with our classmates. Thanks again.

#### Dave Moroz - Class of 1976

Thanks for your continued hard work on behalf of Notre Dame alums.

#### Jeff Bidigare - Class of 1959

Just wanted to thank you for the pics you sent me from the 50th ND reunion. It was great fun to see some of our fellow grads from the class of 1959. I also wanted to let you know that we now live in Las Vegas. Also, enjoyed the golf this Summer for the 70th Birthday gathering. I didn't play very well but enjoyed catching up with Dave Kopitzke. I wish I could have joined you @ Fern Hill for a beer and some hot dogs. Tom Matlas told me that it was fairly well attended.

## In Memoriam

## Burmeister, Judd - Class of 1959

Age 70, passed away August 11, 2011 at William Beaumont Hospital in Troy. He is survived by his children: Dave (Denise) Burmeister, Mike (Shawn) Burmeister, and Jeff (Mary) Burmeister. He was a cherished grandfather to Amanda (Greg) Schilkey, Andrew, Melissa, Michael, Mitchel, Allison, Claudia, and Tyler. Judd Burmeister was a brother to Marian Wampler and a former husband to Charlene. Judd Burmeister was a sports fan. He especially loved rooting for the Detroit Tigers. Judd was an avid golfer and enjoyed his time spent on the golf course. Interment at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, Michigan. Please direct memorial donations to: American Cancer Society 20450 Civic Center Drive Southfield Michigan 48076.



## DiFranco, Jay - Class of 1986

Age 42, passed away November 12, 2011 He was born at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe on November 23, 1968; son of Joseph and Adelle (nee Rivers) DiFranco. He was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed golfing and bowling. Mr. DiFranco was very proud and honored to have coached his son's baseball team. Jay married Dorothy Kaczmarek on November 30, 1996 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. They resided in St. Clair Shores. Jay loved to joke around but had a big heart and would always be there for family and friends. His biggest love in life was his family. He leaves behind his loving wife Dorothy. He was proud of his son J.J. He is survived by his mother Bunny; and siblings Joseph, Jerry, June, Jim, Jeff and John. He will be missed by his numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Joseph.

## Extended Family

Licata, Antoinette D. - Mother of Sam '65 and Tony '68.

Passed away at the age of 88 on July 21, 2011. To view Mrs. Licata's obituary, please click here.

Biafore, Antonia T. - Mother of Eric '77.

Passed away at the age of 78 on July 1, 2011. To view Mrs. Biafore's obituary, please click here.

Rybak, Walter - Father of Howard '76, Walter '82, and Tom Rybak '84.

Passed away at the age of 87 on May 25, 2011. To view Mr. Rybak's obituary, please click here.

Yeager, Ruth M. - Mother of Chuck '77.

Passed away at the age of 89 on July 13, 2011. To view Mrs. Yeager's obituary, please click here.

Joyce, Robert S. - Father of Bob '70, Ed '76, and the late John '66.

Passed away at the age of 88 on May 31, 2011. To view Mr. Joyce's obituary, please click here.

Muczynski, Sharon A. - Mother of Dave Muczynski '90. 9-28-2011

Passed away on September 28, 2011. To view Mrs. Joyce's obituary, please click here.

Farnin-Clancy, Helen - Mother of Joe Farnin '73 and Paul Farnin '83.

Passed away at the age of 82 on Oct. 19, 2011. To view Mrs. Farnin-Clancy's obituary, please click here.

Parent, Isabel F. - Mother of Former HWND Teacher, Coach, and Alumni Director Ken Parent

Passed away at the age of 86 on Sept. 6, 2011. To view Mrs. Parent's obituary, please click here.

## Please Remember in Your Prayers...

Ronald Chorzempa '60 is gravely ill. Requesting prayerS from all Fighting Irish alumni.

Addison Puma, the young daughter of Vince Puma '92, is undergoing radiation treatments at St. Jude Children's Research Center in Memphis, TN for an inoperable brain stem tumor. Since her diagnosis in September, 2011, Addison's parents say, "Addison has endured various treatments, an MRI, radiation simulation and a surgery to implant a port to receive sedation, not to mention numerous meetings and consultations. Through all of this she has been extremely brave, tough, feisty, patient and amazingly happy. She is so strong and kind and fun to be around even though she is facing more than any child should ever have to endure. We know her tough attitude and fighting spirit will make her one of the 1 percent to survive this terrible disease."

Paul Vago '66 is recovering from a stroke.

Former HWND teacher, Norm Kotarski. He will soon begin chemotherapy as treatment for cancer.

**Edward Goralewski** '59 is recovering from a bi-lateral amputation. His says his goal is to dance with his wife, Carol, at their 50th wedding anniversary on December 30, 2011.

Joey Caretti is the ten year old son of Joe Caretti '84 and Lisa (Verkest) Caretti (Regina '84). Joey has been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and will be undergoing chemotherapy and radiation for the next six to eight months. Joe wrestled, ran track and was the captain of the football team during his time at HWND. He currently resides in Washington Township with Lisa, Joey, son Richard (12) and Maggie (10).

Dave Moroz '76 is recovering from double knee replacement surgery.



## Reunion News









The Notre Dame class of 1971 celebrated their fortieth reunion on November 5, 2011, with a gathering at Club Venetian. Thirty-seven alums, along with their wives and guests, brought the total in attendance to a magical "71". Alums from as far away as Arizona and Pennsylvania were present, and one flew his plane from Ohio to attend the event.

A classic Club Venetian meal was enjoyed by all, including penne bolognese, beef tenderloin, chicken picante, sausage, potatoes, green beans almandine, fresh salad and rolls. This was topped off by warm apple pie and red velvet cake. For those who still had room, pizza was served later in the evening.

Alums and guests enjoyed a video presentation along with a memory booklet. Bottles of wine were awarded to the alum who attended college the farthest from ND (Florida Atlantic), alums who sent the most sons to ND (two alums tied with two sons each), and to those who had the youngest child (five years old), and the most grandchildren (two alums tied with five grandchildren each).

As the party wound down, many expressed the desire not to wait ten years for our next get-together, so it looks like we will be doing it all again in 2016.







## Reunion Rews NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1961

The HWND Class of 1961 enjoyed a fantastic time reminiscing and sharing memories and kinship of fifty years that have gone by so quickly. Dreams shared, places we have been, as well as, major events in our lives, both past and current filled the evening with pleasurable banter. There were a total of eighty-eight persons who attended the event. Fifty-four students were present, as well as, thirty-four spouses or significant others.

Some prizes were given for special distinction. Dan Munoz traveled the farthest to attend our event. Daryl Laethem's family recorded the most number of grandchildren with nineteen (19).

Additionally, Rick Pastrick received recognition for the first person to pay to attend the event.

Favorable comments were made by all that attended. There was a great atmosphere produced by the combination of a great meal, the listening and dancing to the music of the former ND record hops, as well as the sharing of high spirited conversation. The memorable gift of a pen and address book signifying the event was appreciated by all registering for the gala. Identification badges of their high school senior picture generated noteworthy discussion.

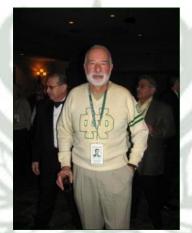
If you have any pictures and/or comments to share please send these to Paul Baeckeroot, who may be contacted at 586-286-6654 or <a href="mailto:ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net">ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net</a>. These items will be forthcoming in an e-mail. If you feel comfortable and are willing to share your e-mail for publication to our class members only, please send me a note to that effect. Many persons expressed an interest in updating and renewing previous relationships.

THE COMMITTEE: Paul Baeckeroot, George Clausen, Ken Engler, Pat Doyle, Terry Kozikowski, Ray Lucas, and Tony Pecoraro, were highly appreciative of all those who attended our event.

FUTURE EVENTS: Some discussion with a few classmates produced speculation of having future events that would involve classmates only. One suggestion made would be to have a 70th birthday event on the weekend following the 2013 Labor Day. What are your thoughts about having future events? Please send to Paul Baeckeroot.

PEACE BE WITH YOU.











## Reunion Rews NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1981

THE CLASS OF 1981 GATHERED FOR A REUNION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2011.
THE REUNION TOOK PLACE AT CICCARELLI'C SPORTS BAR AND THEATER IN SHELBY TOWNSHIP.







## **NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1972**

YOUR CLASS REUNION COMMITTEE IS IN THE EARLY PLANNING STAGES FOR YOUR 40<sup>TH</sup> CLASS REUNION. PLEASE CONTACT JOHN BERRA AT 949-357-3926 IF INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

## **NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1962**

YOUR 50<sup>TH</sup> CLASS REUNION IS CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER OF 2012.

CONTACT WILL SOON BE MADE WITH YOU VIA EMAIL AND SNAIL MAIL.

IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS OR CONTACT INFO FOR LOST CLASSMATES, PLEASE CONTACT JERRY LESPERANCE AT JERRYLESPERANCE@YAHOO.COM OR AT 231-818-0791

## **NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1965**

WE ARE ASKING ALL CLASSMATES TO PLAN AHEAD. 2015 WILL BE HERE BEFORE WE KNOW IT! PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU AND OUR CLASSMATES ARE ON THE FRIENDS OF NOTRE DAME EMAILING LIST. WE ARE SEEKING SUGGESTIONS FOR EVENT IDEAS FOR THE REUNION. PLEASE CONTACT DENNIS BERGER AT DENNISABERGER@AOL.COM OR AT 909-223-4483. GO IRISH!

## Reunions in 2012

The following classes are due to celebrate reunion years in 2012:

2007 - 5 Years

2002 - 10 Years 1997 - 15 Years

1992 - 20 Years

1987 - 25 Years



1982 - 30 Years

1977 - 35 Years

1972 - 40 Years

1967 - 45 Years

1962 - 50 Years

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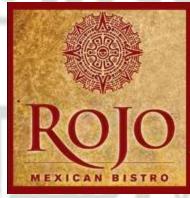


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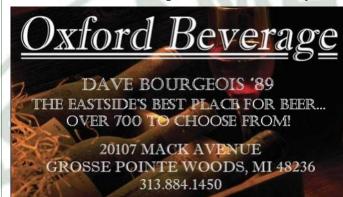
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