

# *The Leprechaun*

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

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JANUARY 2010 EDITION



## Inside This Issue...

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## Basta '65 Receives Michigan State Bar's Highest Honor For Pro Bono Service

Dykema, a leading national law firm, announced Joseph C. Basta '65 has been selected by the State Bar of Michigan to receive the John W. Cummiskey Award. This is the organization's highest honor for pro bono service. Basta, a member in Dykema's Litigation practice in Ann Arbor, was honored with the award at a reception in September. "We are proud the Michigan State Bar has recognized Joe's unyielding commitment to pro bono work and his dogged dedication for his clients," said Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr., Dykema's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "He is a tireless advocate for each individual he represents, and truly deserving of this award. We congratulate him on this recognition."

The Cummiskey Award is presented annually to a Michigan lawyer who has made a significant pro bono contribution delivering legal services to the poor. The award was established in the name of John W. Cummiskey of Grand Rapids, a leading advocate and activist in the cause of making legal services available to all, without regard to economic status.



Joseph C. Basta - Class of 1965

Throughout Basta's 33 years at Dykema, he has been an active participant in the firm's pro bono program and has spent over 1,500 hours of his legal career on pro bono matters. His first pro bono case with the firm involved pursuing a prisoner rights case. He later accepted the firm's first death penalty case, that of Robert Newland, which Basta saw to conclusion earlier this year. Newland was convicted of murder in Glynn County, Georgia, in 1987 and was on death row for over twenty years. The ABA Post-Conviction Death Penalty Project recruited Basta to represent Newland in post-conviction proceedings. As with many death penalty cases, Newland's previous lawyers had failed to adequately represent their client and preserve arguments through the appeals process, complicating the avenues for appeal. Despite these complications, Basta pursued all arguments, including claims of ineffective assistance of counsel, the failure to adequately raise mitigating factors at the sentencing phase, and other serious constitutional errors. Basta also pursued all avenues of appeal, including filing petitions for writs of certiorari to the United Supreme Court. When these final steps proved unsuccessful, Basta traveled to Georgia to assist in arguing for clemency before the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles. Although clemency was denied and Newland was executed, throughout the entire process Basta provided his client with outstanding counsel and access to justice that he

had previously been denied. "Joe's work on this death penalty case required a dedication and a stamina that is incomparable to anything else he'll be involved in through his legal career," said Charles LeMoine, Chairman of Dykema's Pro Bono Committee. "Despite an uphill battle, Joe remained committed to the case and to his client for over 20 years by ensuring he had access to his basic legal rights. We're proud of Joe's dedication to pro bono service and his commitment to protect the rights of those whose voices are denied or ignored."

Basta has also been active with the Wayne Mediation Center, a community dispute resolution center that serves the needs of persons and organizations in Wayne County. Since 2004, he has contributed more than 500 hours to the organization as a pro bono mediator and has mediated a broad array of cases ranging from small claims and general civil matters, to complex multi-party cases sent by the Probate Court involving adult guardianship, child custody and estate distribution. Basta is also on the board of the Dispute Resolution Center in Washtenaw and Livingston County. The DRC serves the local community and also relies on volunteer mediators to provide a low cost option to resolving legal and other disputes.

Basta's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation with emphasis on business, environmental, and intellectual property disputes. He also has extensive experience in jury and non-jury trials and appeals in many fields: personal injury, wrongful death, and product liability involving chemicals, pharmaceuticals, aircraft, automotive and industrial products; automobile dealer relocation and contract termination. He received a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. summa cum laude from Boston College. Basta also served as a member of the Notre Dame High School Board of Directors.

# The 19th Annual Alumni Hockey Games!

Continuing Harper Woods Notre Dame's day after Christmas tradition for the 5th straight year, the Friends of Notre Dame alumni hockey games took place on Friday, December 26, 2009. About 35 guys came out to skate and re-connect with old friends at The St. Clair Shores Civic Arena. A game for the younger guys and one for the older guys took place. A social gathering with pizza and refreshments followed each game.



Photos by  
Randy Walters '05



Visit the Photo Gallery on Our Web Site to See All of the Photos From the Event!



## Kelly '77 Honored as Regional Coach of the Year

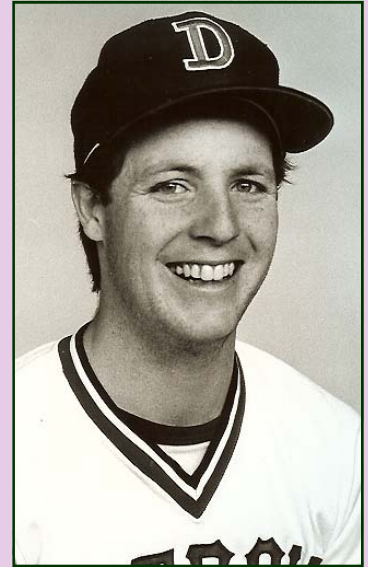
Brian Kelly '77 has been named a regional baseball coach of the year by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA). The award, sponsored by Diamond Sports, will be presented to Brian at a banquet in Dallas, Texas in January of 2010. In addition to this award, Brian was also recognized by the ABCA as the organization's district coach of the year.

Kelly led his De La Salle Pilots baseball team to the Division 1 State Championship in June of 2009. This was the third state baseball title for Kelly and De La Salle.

This past fall, Kelly was honored by the Michigan High School Coaches Association (MHSCA). He was inducted into the MHSCA Hall of Fame at a formal induction ceremony at Central Michigan University on September 20, 2009. Kelly is honored to join the prestigious Hall of Fame, but is modest about his coaching accomplishments. "My most important job is to help young men reach their potential."

Kelly joined the De La Salle staff as a teacher in 1982. He assumed the role of varsity baseball coach at De La Salle in 1985. He won state championships in 1993, 2003, and 2009 and his entire 1993 team was inducted into the De La Salle Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. Kelly also serves as De La Salle's athletic director. Under his leadership, dozens of Pilots have gone on to play college baseball, several have been drafted by professional major league baseball teams, and many have played minor league baseball.

Kelly and his 2009 state championship team were honored at half-time of the De La Salle basketball game on December 18, 2009.



Brian Kelly - Class of 1977 - as seen on the ND Wall of Fame.

## The Muggs

See the Muggs Live!

(Tony DeNardo '90 and Danny Methric '90)

♣ Friday, January 29, 2010

The Montrose Room - Rosemont, IL

♣ Saturday, January 30, 2010

Mac's Bar - Lansing, MI

♣ Saturday, February 5, 2010

TNT's - Clinton Twp, MI



## Trophies

For the past four years, we have been storing over 160 of the school's trophies. We would like to put these trophies in the hands of the guys who earned them for Notre Dame. We have taken photos of all the trophies and uploaded them to the photo gallery on the website. Please browse through them. If you see any that you would like, please contact us, and we will make arrangements to get them to you. We will continue to store them indefinitely.



## Upcoming Events

### Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament

March 5, 6, & 7, and March 13, & 14, 2010

Where: De La Salle High School, Warren, MI

Cost to play: \$30 per player

Format: Double Elimination

Winning team to face the winner of the DLS Alumni Tournament

On Sunday March 14, 2010



### Annual Alumni Softball Tournament

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Save the date!!!

## Recent Alumni Passings

### **DIFRANCO, FRANK E. - Class of 1969**

Passed away November 23, 2009, age 58. Loving son of Domenica and the late Serafino. Dear father of Amy E. (John) Fencyk and Michael C. DiFranco. Also one granddaughter. Dearest companion of Jacqueline Plotzke. Devoted brother of Tony (Mary) DiFranco. Frank was very social and reached out to all those around him. Very proud of and appreciative of his Italian heritage and let everyone know it. He was Past President and current committee member of the Bariscianotti Club.

### **SEPOS, JOSEPH STEPHEN - Class of 1967**

Passed away December 1, 2009 at the age of 60. Loving husband of Anne. Dearest father of Ann-Marie, Joseph, and Elizabeth. Grandfather of Lincoln. Son of Stasia and the late Joseph. Brother of Marie (Jerry) Manofsky. Joe's sister, Marie, requested prayers for the family from his friends at Notre Dame. Joe was diagnosed with lung cancer in April 2009



## We Heard From...



### **Edward J. Kowalczyk, Class of 1974**

We (I) appreciate your efforts. I actually skate with another ND alumni in my league in Troy (Bob Puskas-"70") and I will try to get him to join us for Alumni Hockey.

### **Shirley DeCoopman, Wife of Tom, Class of 1960**

My husband, Tom DeCoopman, and I always supported the Alumni Association even though we moved to Texas. When he passed away in 1998, I notified the Alumni Association. Never heard another word. I would be very interested in knowing who has passed away from the class of 1960. Thank you.

### **Lamarr Woods, Class of 1995**

I'm glad to see others who appreciate that fighting Irish spirit.

### **John Motyka, Class of 1985**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the class of '85!

### **John Krebs, Class of 1981**

Hello class of 81! I ran into one of my best friends from ND, Greg Wandzel, this summer. Of all places - Home Depot in Houghton Lake, in the paint department - after all these years. We both have cottages in the same area. My other ND bud, Paul Tines, had to move to S.C this year due to this great economy we are in. Good to be a part of the Irish history.

### **Jim Rohnkohl, Class of 1984**

Nice to see there are still people who remember the True Notre Dame High School.

### **Tom Schusterbauer, Class of 1984**

Hello classes of 76 and 78. Thanks for choosing me as your commencement speaker. I loved my 8 years teaching at ND. Just retired after 41 years. Am an old drooling fool now, but still managed to get onto facebook. I have the skeeeeeeeels.

# Friends of Notre Dame On-Line Store

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Alumni Softball Shirts Are Available in Our On-line Store

Yearbooks are Now Sold Exclusively Via Our On-Line Store



## Wall of Fame

If you see your name listed below, we have your Wall of Fame plaque that hung on the wall behind the gym. We would like for you to have your plaque if you want it. Please email us at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com), and we will make arrangements to get it to you!

- |                       |                      |                  |                        |            |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Gary Lytle '61        | Jerry Guinane '71    | Walt Dixon '81   | Jim Maher '88          |            |
| Dave Debol '74*       | Mike McGreevy '73    | Brett Nowak '82  | Eric Taylor '89        |            |
| John Giordano '61*    | Tim Flannery '73     | Chris Gust '82   | Eric Stanczak '89      |            |
| John Blum '77*        | Jim Romeo '75        | Paul Tripp '82   | DezJuan Reynolds '90   | * Pictured |
| David Bonior '63      | Kevin Flannery '75   | Brian Barney '83 | Matt Ziolkowski '90    | on the     |
| Joe Przybycki '64     | Tom Bentley '75      | Andy Nanasi '83  | Mark Staples, Jr. '91  | same       |
| Mike Boccia '65       | Brian Monfils '75    | Greg Placidi '83 | Steve Jansen '92       | plaque:    |
| Chris Hacias '65      | Mark McGreevy '76    | Ken Zazula '84   | Anthony Vitale '94     | University |
| John Kraft '65        | Tom Gadawski '76     | Bruce Smith '85  | Preston Brandimore '95 | of         |
| Rick Wenner '67       | Marco Caporuscio '78 | Paul Seibert '86 | Phil Ruggerio '95      | Michigan   |
| Pat Srock '74         | Dave Wolfbauer '79   | Paul Amodei '86  | Jason Selleke '96      | Hockey     |
| Dan Richards '67      | Gary Bass '80        | Joe Trombley '87 | Jason Stoicevich '97   |            |
| Glenn Radzik '69      | Kevin Paterson '80   | Andy Booth '87   | James Fields '01       |            |
| Gary Radzik '69       | Jim Forsgren '81     | Scott Klott '88  | Adam Fujita '01        |            |
| Frank Lutostanski '71 | Craig Mitchell '81   |                  |                        |            |

## Looking for Talent!

The **3rd annual Detroit Comedy Festival** is looking for talent! If you are a standup comedian and want to be considered for inclusion in the 2010 Detroit Comedy Festival, please submit the following information and fee by January 15, 2010:

1. Demo: (5 minute minimum)
2. BIO
3. Head shot
4. \$25.00 fee made payable to Aspen Talent

Submission materials can be e-mailed to [moroz@aspentalent.com](mailto:moroz@aspentalent.com) or mailed to:

David Moroz  
c/o Aspen Talent

Dave Moroz is a 1976  
Graduate of Notre Dame

March 21 - 27, 2010  
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle  
Royal Oak, Michigan



# Upcoming Reunions

## Reunions in 2010

The following classes are due to celebrate reunion years in 2010:



2005 - 5 Years  
 2000 - 10 Years  
 1995 - 15 Years  
 1990 - 20 Years  
 1985 - 25 Years



1980 - 30 Years  
 1975 - 35 Years  
 1970 - 40 Years  
 1965 - 45 Years  
 1960 - 50 Years



Interested in forming a reunion committee for your class?

E-mail Jim Mandl '90 at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com).

We are your *only* source for the most up-to-date alumni contact information!

## Celebrating 50 Years - Class of 1960

Members of the class of 1960 have organized a 50th reunion!

When: Saturday, September 25, 2010

Where: Best Western Sterling Inn

15 Mile Rd. and Van Dyke, Sterling Heights, MI

Reunion Committee:

Eddie Kay at [ewk51110@comcast.net](mailto:ewk51110@comcast.net)

Gary Wilson at [gwdc2@aol.com](mailto:gwdc2@aol.com)

If interested in joining the reunion committee, please email Eddie or Gary

For complete reunion information, please visit the class of 1960 web site:

[www.notredamehw1960.org](http://www.notredamehw1960.org)

## Celebrating 20 Years - Class of 1990

Members of the class of 1990 have started organizing a 20th reunion!

When: TBD

Where: TBD

Reunion Committee:

Jim Mandl at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com)

Matt Sokol at [mattsokol@gmail.com](mailto:mattsokol@gmail.com)

Mike Balow at [MikeBalow@gmail.com](mailto:MikeBalow@gmail.com)

If interested in joining the reunion committee, please email Jim, Matt, or Mike

## Celebrating 10 Years - Class of 2000

Members of the class of 2000 have started organizing a 10th reunion!

When: TBD

Where: TBD

Reunion Committee:

William Pokriefka at [willbbad69@yahoo.com](mailto:willbbad69@yahoo.com)

If interested in joining the reunion committee, please email William

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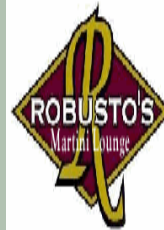
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David Moroz '76 Owner



Greg Schultz '76 - President and Manager  
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Patrick Stieber '92 - Owner

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