

The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Notre Dame Alumni Association
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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

MAY 2011 EDITION



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Alumni Business Directory

From the Desk of the V.P.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 1961

Paul Baeckeroot '61 has already heard from a few of his **Class of '61** classmates about forming a committee for your 50th anniversary reunion. He would like to get feedback from all members with their opinions on the reunion. Paul can be reached by phone @ 586-484-0370 or e-mail @ ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net

Dave Curcuru '69

I previously had asked that you remember Dave in your prayers. He was born with just one kidney that failed. He has been on dialysis for at least six months to a year. While kidneys had become available, they were not from healthy donors. On Wednesday, April 27th, he was notified that a healthy kidney was available and on Thursday, April 28th, a successful transplant operation was performed. He is recuperating and should be back at home by Monday, May 2nd.

Fr. John Bryson, s.m.

Earlier in April, I spoke with Fr. Bryson's sister, Irene. She requested that the Alumni please keep Fr. Bryson in your prayers. She described his condition as half dementia and half depression. He refuses to get out of bed, just lying there all day. She said it is as if he was just waiting to pass on.

Special Thanks

I would like to personally thank the rather large group of alumni and friends of Notre Dame we heard from over the past several weeks. Your kind words of support have re-energized us! We look forward to serving you for years to come.

Thank you to **Rich Adamo '89**, **Jerry Alderman '62**, and **William Schroeder '66!** They recently made very generous donations to the Friends of Notre Dame.

Thank you,

Jim Mandl '66
Vice President – Notre Dame Alumni Association
goirish1966@yahoo.com



Detroit Milestone Hits Home for Zeweke '83

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing reached his first-year demolition goal by tearing down the 3000th home on Saturday, April 30th on the city's east side. Bing, along with Karla Henderson, group executive for Planning and Facilities, stood outside the structure on Grayton street behind Denby High School as a crane began tearing the home down.

The mayor said he's keeping his promise to tear down dangerous structures in neighborhoods. His goal is to tear down 10,000 abandoned buildings by the end of his term in 2013. "A lot of people looked at us and thought we were nuts," Bing said. "They thought we were crazy and lying to them. "For those of you who live in this neighborhood, this is an eyesore. It's things like this that bring our neighborhoods down. We're going to commit to the neighborhoods in the city and we're going to try and bring them back. We're going to invest in these stable neighborhoods."



The 3000th home demolished in Detroit in 2011. The home once belonged to the grandparents of Rob Zeweke '83.

The address on the 300th house: 11819 Grayton. Not an eyesore to **Rob Zeweke '83**. The home belonged to his grandmother. "I happened to be watching Fox 2 News when they announced that the 3000th abandoned home was being demolished. To my surprise, it was my grandma and grandpa's house on Grayton in Detroit," said Zeweke. "They passed away in 1990, and their home eventually went into ruin after they passed on. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. All of those memories... gone." he concluded.

Funding for the demolition project comes from \$20 million in federal monies that have been set aside for the city's neighborhood stabilization program.

Security Business is Good for Luks '58

A bad economy forces most businesses to make changes as public consumption needs tend to vary widely. When you're in the security business, however, those changes can be more necessary and immediate.

"Unfortunately, we do get busier when the economy is bad because it seems crime goes up," said **Hank Luks '58**, owner of Controllor Security Systems in Eastpointe. "We do get a lot of people who call us after the fact, after they've had a home invasion or after they've been robbed. I guess that's just the nature of the business," he said.

Luks established Controllor Security Systems in 1970. Today, the company continues to be a family owned operation that focuses on ensuring the privacy and safety of its clientele. "My son and my grandson work with me, and so does my wife," Luks said. "I think no matter what changes in the economy, security is still a necessity for a lot of people," he added.



From Left: Hank Luks '58, president; JoAnn Luks, office manager; Daniel Luks '84, vice president; John Luks, accounting manager.

Controllor Security Systems, named business of the year by the Eastpointe/ Roseville Chamber of Commerce in 2010, boasts a 24-hour monitoring center at its Eastpointe facility. "That's very important to us," Luks said. "We have a direct line that has no automation. When people call here, they get a live person. We have someone watching their interests all the time. That's an important part of our business plan," Luks noted.

Controllor Security Systems is certified for both fire and security, meaning they had to go through a rigorous screening process on the local, state and federal level. In addition, anyone who works for the company has to go through a background check. "We want our clients to feel comfortable," Luks said. "They're putting their safety in our hands and we take that very seriously," he concluded.

Luks estimates that 60 percent of their business is residential customers, while the remaining 40 percent is commercial properties. "Residential properties are, in most cases, easier to do," Luks says. "When you're doing commercial

properties you have to have some sort of experience. Burglars are getting smarter and smarter and we want to keep up with that," Luks said.

At a residential property, Luks says most trespassers either go in through a window or a door. However, at a commercial property, ingenious thieves are trying to get in through air conditioning ducts and even the roof, at times. "I can tell you right now that people are scared," Luks said. "In past years we've had to sell security as something people need. Now people are contacting us because they already know they need security and they want to know what we offer," he concluded.

Controllor Security Systems offers special pricing for Eastpointe/Roseville Chamber of Commerce businesses and residents. Interested parties can call for a free security survey and estimate for burglar alarms, fire alarms and security cameras. For more information, please call 586-772-6100 or visit the company's website at www.controllor.com.

Source: The Macomb Daily

Friends of Notre Dame On-Line Store

<http://friendsofnotredame.flyingcart.com>



The Muggs Release 3rd Album

Danny "Muggs" Methric '90 and Tony "Muggs" DeNardo '90 released their 3rd full length album to a sold out crowd at the Magic Bag in Ferndale on Friday, April 29th. For anyone who has been a fan during their eleven years together, you know what to expect in a Muggs record: heavy blues rock with a hint of psychedelia.

What sets The Muggs apart from hoards of other bluesy rock bands is the more subtle, yet distinct, quality of their songs. There is a natural reverb that Protools plug-ins can only dream of achieving, the Fender Rhodes bass, delivering a low-end that is as heavy as it is smooth, and there is the not-so-obvious influences. Anyone with a classic rock station preset on their car stereo can identify the Zeppelin-y, Beatles-y parts of the album, but more educated listeners can pick out tributes to Howlin' Wolf, Rory Gallagher, and Humble Pie.

Born Ugly, The Muggs' third LP, is the band's first full-length release with new drummer Todd Glass. While Glass may be a relative newcomer to the blues-rock trio, his rolling drum fills and aggressive snare hits make a snug fit behind Dan Methric's '90 dirty, reverb-laden guitar riffs and Tony DeNardo's '90 melodic, locked-in bass lines. The title track, first on the album, comes on like fireworks, with a heavy hitting build-up that culminates in drawn-out minor chords, wailing vocals, and perfectly-tweaked feedback. The dynamite dynamic between Methric and DeNardo is evident in their harmonically-complementing guitar and bass lines.

Track two is "Blood Meridian," a brighter, crunchier track than its predecessor, driven by Methric's '90 frantic vocals. His dreamy-yet-abrasive voice sounds like a cross between Brian Connolly and Ozzy Osbourne, spiked with an all-American sense of cockiness. The album's third song "Home Free," ventures into more mellow, visceral territory, but the boys don't slow down for long. The next track, "Clean Break Blues," picks up with Methric's unapologetic slide guitar talents.

The thirteen tracks on *Born Ugly* definitely retain the classic blues-rock sentiment that makes The Muggs The Muggs. They also cover more ground than on the band's previous albums. You'll find more vocal harmonies than before, more depth in the layers of guitar tracks, and more attention paid in the production. "Hats Off to Mr. Beardsley" is the stand-out track on the record, with spacey riffs that absolutely mesmerize.

The Muggs have one of the most loyal fan bases around, and they remain so because The Muggs, in turn, are loyal to their fans. They continue to remain true to themselves and true to the original mission of the band. This is a band that sticks to its guns. They don't waste time trying to "find themselves." They're not exploring their "spiritual side." And they certainly aren't going to alienate any fans with an "experimental" album. The Muggs just continue to do what they do best - deliver blazing guitar riffs, booming bass lines, and bombastic drum beats in a way only a gritty blues-rock band from Detroit can.



Danny "Muggs" Methric '90 and Tony "Muggs" DeNardo '90 at their record release party on April 29, 2011



The Muggs New Album *Born Ugly*

on CD, Vinyl, and MP3.

Available now for purchase at the following:

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/muggs>

<http://store.bellyachecandyshoppe.com/br-026br-027.html>

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/born-ugly/id433881436>

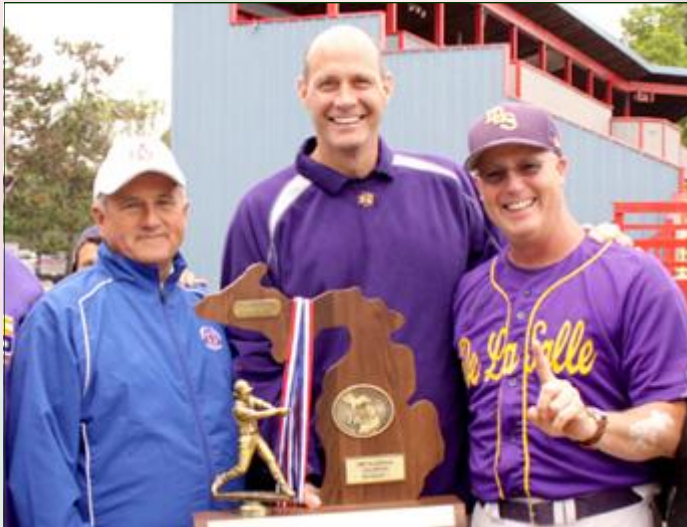
http://www.amazon.com/Born-Ugly/dp/B004Y138BY/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=dmusic&qid=1304111433&sr=8-2

<http://mp3.rhapsody.com/the-muggs/born-ugly>

Adams '77 and Kelly '77 Team to Make De La Salle the Safest Learning Environment in Macomb County

Recognizing the growing threat of substance abuse to children in our culture, De La Salle has added an important tool to insure that the school maintains a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Under the leadership of **Principal Pat Adams '77** and **Vice Principal Brian Kelly '77**, the school has begun conducting random drug screening program of students, faculty, and staff. The goal is to provide a deterrent to use amongst students, and is consistent with the partnership De La Salle forms with parents in the education of their young men. This screening is the first program of its kind in the metro-Detroit area.

"The harsh reality is that nationwide use of illegal and prescription drugs among young people has risen dramatically over the last 10 years," said Adams. "We have taken steps such as conducting canine-team sweeps to insure there is not a wide-spread problem in our school, and thankfully we have found very little in those instances. But we hold ourselves to a high standard in what we provide families, and I don't think we would be the successful school we are if we were not proactive about addressing this serious issue," Adams added.



De La Salle head football coach Paul Verska '63, Principal Pat Adams '77, and Athletic Director/Vice Principal Brian Kelly '77.

The program has been in the planning for more than a year. The school's administration consulted with other Lasallian schools such as De la Salle New Orleans, and Bishop Kelly High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma before drafting its own policy. With valuable input from the Board of Trustees, legal counsel, parents, and local law enforcement, a final policy was put into place. Parents and students are now asked to sign a consent form as a condition of enrollment.

De La Salle has received praise for its pro-active approach to school safety and the health of its students. "This is a cutting edge program," said the Honorable Linda Davis, Chief Judge of the 41B District Court, Clinton Township, one of the experts consulted in the policy. "It is a great service for students and their parents, and parents should applaud the school for doing something about drugs," she concluded. Davis said she witnesses a very disturbing trend involving substance abuse by young people: "Kids are using very deadly drugs. They can act normal using prescription drugs, and no one knows they have a problem. No child starts experimenting thinking

he is going to become addicted. One student using drugs is destructive to other students in the school. Parents need to know they can get help to deal with this problem," she added.

Adams said that the purpose of the random testing program is "to give young men an excuse NOT to use. We want to give our students another reason to say no and to withstand peer pressure. Our purpose is not to punish, but to help. Any student, faculty or staff member who tests positive would be required to enter a treatment program. Our aim is to partner with parents in fighting the temptation of drugs head on and with resolve," he added.

No other school in Southeast Michigan has instituted a mandatory random test policy, according to Assistant Principal/Athletic Director **Brian Kelly '77** who is administering the program. Henry Ford Macomb Hospital has been selected to conduct the program, utilizing its expertise to ensure the accuracy of the random selection of those tested to the testing itself. A safe and healthy learning environment encompasses a lot of things," said Adams. "A safe physical campus, fostering relationships built on trust, and policies such as this initiative all hold equal importance. We are committed to being the safest campus in metropolitan Detroit," Adams concluded.

The testing program is part of the overall effort that De La Salle utilizes to address substance abuse. Kelly indicated that the canine team sweeps as well as education programs will continue, including Families Against Narcotics (FAN). FAN is a community-based program created to educate schools, students, and parents about the use of illegal substances.

Interview With Jim Mandl '90

By **Charlie Langton '79** - Attorney and FOX 2 News Legal Analyst

Recently, while checking the FOX 2 news updates, a press release came across the wire with a name that was very familiar to me - Jim Mandl. The news release was regarding accomplishments his students had made in a recent engineering competition - The Real World Design Challenge. Literally, the article was about the students and only made mention of Jim's involvement at the very end, almost as an after-thought. I thought it would be a great idea to offer to interview Jim on the success of his students, his career, his life, and his involvement with the Notre Dame Alumni Association. He has been reporting the news on ND grads for so long, I just figured I could help provide a look into what Jim's life is like for all of you. What you are about to read is the result of a 60 minute conversation Jim and I had on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. Enjoy.

CL '79: The first thing I really want to know is... What do high school seniors know about testing a wing for a 737 jumbo jet?

JM '90: Well, at the beginning of the whole process, they knew nothing. That's part of the learning process. The Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) gives high school students and instructors exposure to "real world" engineering challenges in a team-based environment.

CL '79: So how do they do that?

JM '90: This competition accomplishes that through mentoring. There are national mentors that the students have access to. We also recruited a local mentor. So, if the students have an issue with the software or with the design process or with anything, for that matter, they can call or email the mentors and they guide them in the right direction. The whole premise of the challenge is to make it as "real world" as possible. That includes working in a team environment to solve a problem, contacting people from other parts of the country, and having access to millions of dollars worth of software.

CL '79: Wow. And who provides that?

JM '90: Mainly aerospace companies - Lockheed Martin, Parametric Technologies Corporation, Pratt & Whitney, Cessna - to name a few. They all donate resources to make sure the students have access to the best available people and engineering tools available.

CL '79: You also worked with NASA and the FAA... These are heavy hitters. Why are they trying to excite students in Warren and Sterling Heights, Michigan?

JM '90: They are trying to excite kids all over the country, because, believe it or not, there is a dangerous shortage of home-grown engineers in this country. They are trying to fill that gap. By creating this competition three years ago, they were hoping to inspire students to pursue a career in engineering.



The state championship RWDC team - Motor City Aerospace Design. David Kuras, Aaron Flynn, Rick Sukiennik, Mike Sukiennik, Duong, Vo, Andrew Viviano, Mike Scarchilli, and Jim Mandl '90.

CL '79: So how did your team, from the Detroit area, where we're all about cars, do so well in a competition that deals with airplanes?

JM '90: They understand that we're the "Motor City" and our area of expertise is the automobile. But if you understand the principles of design and engineering and the stages of product development, you should be able to be successful working on any product. The students also learned a lot about planes and flight through hours and hours of research.

CL '79: So tell me about this competition.

JM '90: The competition is called the Real World Design Challenge. It gives students an opportunity to utilize professional engineering software to develop a solution to a given problem. This year, the students were challenged to design a wing for a 737 jumbo jet. It had to include internal structure and a fuel tank that would hold 20,000 pounds of fuel. They also had to choose the materials for their wing, test it for flight-worthiness, and calculate the fuel range of their plane. Our plane had the best fuel range in the country at 2188.92 miles. That's enough fuel to fly round trip from Detroit to Washington D.C. two-and-a-half times without refueling.

Mandl '90 Continued on Page 7...

Mandl '90 Continued From Page 6...

CL '79: How did they test for flight-worthiness?

JM '90: They were given access to two pieces of analysis software to use – NEi Nastran and Zona Zearo. These programs allowed the students to test for stress, strength and wing flutter. The wing they designed showed very little stress, was very strong and showed zero flutter. They did their design work using Pro-engineer, CATIA V5, and MathCAD.

CL '79: What is flutter?

JM '90: Flutter is movement in the wing of an aircraft. All wings on all planes move during flight. But the kind of movement you don't want is flutter which is sort of like a bird flapping its wings. Flutter leads to instability and makes for an unsafe aircraft.

CL '79: I went to Notre Dame High School and I wouldn't even know where to start on something like this. Where do you start?

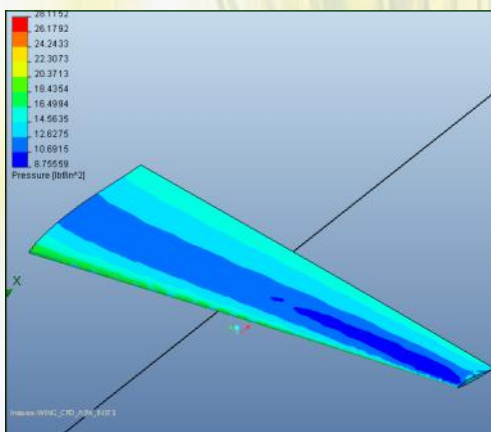
JM '90: At the beginning... of the school year, that is.

CL '79: Are you almost casting students at the beginning of the school year?

JM '90: At the beginning of the school year, I immediately start sizing the students up. As a teacher, we aren't really supposed to do that. However, when you are involved in a competition such as this one, it's a privilege to be a participant. I look for my best and brightest students and offer them the privilege. Just like a football coach looks for leaders, I have to do that with this team.

CL '79: And it is a privilege, isn't it?

JM '90: Absolutely it is a privilege. I start off the school year by looking for leaders. Who are my leaders going to be? Who are the students who are the go-getters? Who are the students who want to do more than just the required assignments? That's how I start to build a team. Starting the actual work on the project is a totally different story.



The MCAD 737 wing during the stress analysis phase.

That's where my years as a design engineer come in.

CL '79: What do you see in a student that would lead you to believe that this student could do something as technical, difficult, and competitive as this competition?

JM '90: One advantage that I have is the structure of my program. It's a two year pre-engineering program. Most of students spend two full school years with me. Over the summer, ya know, when all teachers supposedly do nothing, I'll reflect on the previous school year and make notes on the students who are returning for the 2nd year of the program. I make notes on their strengths. Prior to the start of this school year, I put a list together of seven students who I thought would form a solid team and I was pretty accurate because those seven kids stepped up.

CL '79: Your team was only seniors?

JM '90: Yes, the team that won the state championship was all seniors.

But the competition is open to 9th through 12th graders, public and private schools. I also had a team of juniors who participated this year. They now know what it takes to win the competition and I think they are ready for next year.

CL '79: You won the state championship... How many teams did you compete against?

JM '90: There were 24 in the state – over 450 nationally – from 29 states.

CL '79: Why only 29 states?

JM '90: Each state's governor has to sign on and hire a state coordinator for the competition. There are 21 states that haven't signed on yet and I really have no idea why they haven't.

CL '79: What did you and your students physically have to do in the state wide competition?

JM '90: We competed against 23 other teams at the state level. They had to do the design work, do the analysis work, and then put a report together to submit to judges. The report was 50 pages and detailed everything they did from the day they formed their team to the day they submitted their solution. Judges from NASA, the FAA, and aerospace companies then reviewed the report, the CAD data, and the analysis and used a rubric to score them. Two judges looked at our entry – one gave us a perfect score and the other deducted 2 points. This was enough to give us our 2nd state championship in a row.

Mandi '90 Continued From Page 7...

CL '79: Who are you competing against at the state level?

JM '90: We competed against teams from all over the state – from Grand Rapids to Traverse City to the Detroit area.

CL '79: And at the national level?

JM '90: You first have to win your state. We did that. We were then qualified to compete against the state champions from the other 28 states in Washington DC on April 16th. The team had to prepare a 20 minute presentation and deliver it for NASA, FAA and aerospace engineers. When the day was over, we ended up winning the *Best Presentation Award*.

CL '79: What set them apart from the other teams?

JM '90: I suggested they set their team up as if it were a legitimate company. The name they gave their team was Motor City Aerospace Design. They even designed a logo. They then designed their presentation as if they were selling their wing design to an actual customer. Everything looked professional. When each member of the team stepped forward to present, he introduced himself and handed a business card to each judge. I even taught them the proper way to hand a business card to someone. The judges were really impressed with this.

CL '79: How nervous were they?

JM '90: Three days before we left for D.C., they started practicing the presentation. They were all a ball of nerves and didn't show much promise that day. I explained that they needed to go home that night and practice in front of a mirror and go over their part of the presentation in their heads as many times as possible. The next day, they got a little better. The third day of practice got even better. That afternoon they presented for our principal, our counselor, their classmates, and a few other adults. This time they nailed it. When we arrived in D.C., I explained that teams win games in preparation, not in performance, because how you prepare is how you will perform. The nerves all came back as soon as we entered the presentation room. Luckily for us, they got to see a few presentations. They knew they were more prepared than those teams.

They knew their material better and had a better solution. The nerves just went away. They delivered their presentation and actually looked like they were having fun while doing it.

CL '79: Who pays for the travel to D.C. in these tight economic times?

JM '90: The corporate sponsors foot 100% of the bill. The founders of the competition insisted that students be allowed to participate free of charge. They felt if you made students or schools pay, that you'd eliminate participants for economic reasons.

CL '79: So your teams won two straight state championships and you won the *Best Presentation Award* at the national competition... What's in it for you? What do you get out of the success you've had in this competition?

JM '90: This is something extra that I don't get extra pay to do. I don't really get anything material out of it. But I'm not in it for material or monetary gain. I get pats on the back. I

get congratulated. I get my picture in the local newspapers. I really get two things – a reputation as the one to beat and I get satisfaction. I'm in it for the experience of seeing the students grow. I see myself as the facilitator of an invaluable experience for these kids. I teach them that every aspect of life is a competition. At work you will be competing against your co-workers for promotions, for example. If you can excel in these arenas in high school, you're going to be that much more successful when you get to college and then to the workforce. I saw these kids grow incredibly through working on this competition and that's where the satisfaction comes in. And that's really enough for me.

CL '79: Is this the only competition your students participate in?

JM '90: This year it was, but we've participated in many in the past.

CL '79: And how have your students done?

JM '90: Very well. In the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society (MITES) annual competition, we won the



Mandi '90 Continued From Page 8...

regional grand award 6 out of the 7 years we competed. We also won the MITES state grand award 3 of those 7 years. I've had 42 students place in the top 25 of the American Society of Body Engineers' (ASBE) annual competition with one ASBE champion. One of my students won the Samsung Hope for Education essay contest. Another won an international re-invent competition called Extreme Re-Design a few years ago.

CL '79: Have you received any awards as a result?

JM '90: ASBE named me their teacher of the year in 2008. MITES named my Pre-Engineering and CAD program its career and technical education (CTE) program of the year in 2008. This was a pretty big deal because there are hundreds of CTE programs in the state. I have also been nominated for teacher of the year in Warren Con a few times.

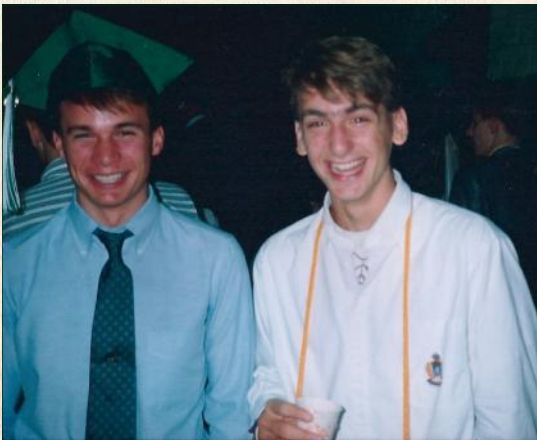
CL '79: This would be a good transition point... Let's talk about you. You're a Notre Dame grad, president of the Alumni Association - Friends of Notre Dame. What are some of your memories of Notre Dame?

JM '90: If I can be brutally honest, I hated Notre Dame for my first 2 ¾ years there. I fought going there tooth and nail. I grew up at 17 & Garfield. All of my friends went to Chippewa Valley so that's where I wanted to go. Towards the end of my junior year at ND, I realized that I lost that battle and I really needed to make the best of the time I had left there. I have a lot of good and bad memories from my time at ND, but my senior year was one of the best years of my life.

CL '79: Was there a particular teacher or staff member who helped you see the light about ND?

JM '90: There were a few, actually. The one that comes to mind right away is Fr. Kiselica. He was a great teacher. I wasn't the best student, partially because I didn't care all that much and partially because I was bored most of the time. Fr. Kiselica wasn't boring. He is responsible for my understanding of the importance of history and my love for it. He's a great person and I'm glad to still have regular contact with him to this day. Dr. Konopacki was another great one. He taught Spanish. He took us to Mexico for spring break my senior year. I think that's where I developed

my interest in travelling. Fr. Bryson was another great human being. I never had him as a teacher, but he always said "hi" to me. In fact I might be one of the very few he actually referred to by name instead of "Hollywood." Then there was Mr. Borton who was the yearbook moderator - another great guy. Coach Shoemaker - the basketball coach. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Holmes come to mind as well. When I keep the financial records for the Alumni Association, I apply what I learned in Mr. Holmes' accounting class. In addition, there were some great guys that I went to school with at ND that also helped - **Dan Howard '90, Tom Olejar '90, Danny Methric '90, Paul Stieber '90, Bernard Richmond '89, Joe Heilig '89** - just to name a few.



Jim Mandl '90 and Danny "Muggs" Methric '90 on graduation day in May of 1990.

CL '79: Where did you go after Notre Dame?

JM '90: I did a tour of schools. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life. I started out at Oakland University, transferred to Macomb, and then transferred to CMU. I had two interests - broadcasting and engineering. I left CMU and went to Specs Howard. I realized

broadcasting wasn't going to happen. Luckily I had taken some courses in design at Macomb and CMU. I had enough background to get hired as a contract employee at GM. I worked for Lear and Toyota also. I spent about 8 ½ years doing design and engineering work. I continued going to school during that time and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Automotive Design from CMU. This all started at Notre Dame, though, in the drafting class, which was one of my favorite classes.

CL '79: How did the teaching come about?

JM '90: I grew tired of sitting at a computer all day and engineering just wasn't fulfilling to me. I still had a love for developing ideas and an interest in mechanical things. My mom is a teacher and my sister works as a school psychologist. They suggested I try teaching. I updated my resume, sent it out to some school districts and ended up being hired by Warren Consolidated Schools a few months later. They hired me to revive a dying computer-aided design program.

CL '79: How did that work?

JM '90: I teach a CTE course. To get hired, you just have to have worked 4,000 hours in the field you'll be teaching. You then have to go back to school to get a teaching degree, which I did. I've been going to school since I started

Mandi '90 Continued From Page 9...

teaching. I just started working on an administrative degree. Contrary to popular belief, the public school system does value work force experience. They understand that we can bring something to the classroom - real world experience. And experience is always the best teacher, in my opinion. That's sort of why I think no one should be allowed to become a teacher until they've put in a few years working in the real world. There is very little in schools that resembles what goes on in the real world.

CL '79: How long have you been at the Career Prep Center?

JM '90: This is my 8th year.

CL '79: Is this the last stop for you?

JM '90: I'd love to tell you that 17 years from now I'll be retiring from the Career Prep Center. In a perfect world, that's what I'd like. However, I really don't know. I don't know if I'll pursue administration or if another opportunity will arise that I can't pass up. I love working for Warren Consolidated Schools at the Career Prep Center, but I don't rule out staying open to opportunities.

CL '79: So you have a design degree, a Specs Howard degree, a teaching degree, and now you're working on an administration degree... How did Notre Dame high school prepare you for that and for your career?

JM '90: I think what Notre Dame did for me was provide needed structure. In some ways I also learned to be a perfectionist there too. In drafting class, I had to be precise with measurements and with lines and make sure my drawings were smudge free. We didn't have CAD back then. Everything was still done with pencil and paper. I learned to do and re-do until things were perfect. I also learned to write pretty well. That comes in handy with reports, paper work, applications, and in putting the Leprechaun together every month.

CL '79: Were you upset when Notre Dame moved out of Harper Woods?

JM '90: I think the question is incorrect. It needs to be reworded.

CL '79: Ok, what is the question?

JM '90: The question should be "Was I upset when Notre Dame High School closed?" The answer would be yes, I was pretty upset. Not so much that the school closed, but the way it happened. Had Notre Dame High School actually moved, I don't think we'd be having this conversation.

CL '79: You were very involved when the school was closing... Talk about that.

JM '90: I got involved in the period when ND closed. My dad (*Jim Mandl '66*) got re-involved with the school when I was a freshman in 1986. He stayed involved right through the closing. He worked fund raisers, bingo, did security at sporting events. He was one of the Emerald Award winners for his dedication to the school. He always wanted me to be more involved, but my iron was always in too many fires, so I didn't get involved much. I almost always gave to the annual fund and went to a football and basketball game each year, but I didn't physically get involved until March of 2005.

CL '79: What prompted you to get involved?

JM '90: I started paying more attention to things I heard were happening at Notre Dame. There were plans being made to move Notre Dame to a new location in northern Macomb County and I thought that was something I would be able to assist with. My dad attended an alumni meeting where these plans were supposed to be discussed. Unfortunately, the premise of that meeting changed because earlier that day, the Archdiocese of Detroit informed the principal - Mr. Reese, and Fr. Sajak that they were closing ND. When plans were made to fight that decision, I decided to get involved.

CL '79: So when exactly did Notre Dame close?

JM '90: It closed in June of 2005.

CL '79: What was the tuition at the time ND closed?

JM '90: I'm not positive on that, but I'd guess it was in the area of \$8,500 per year.



Mike Sukiennik and Rick Sukiennik, members of the Motor City Aerospace Design team, working on their wing design for the RWDC competition.

Mandl '90 Continued From Page 10...

CL '79: My understanding is that enrollment declined and tuition was up and Notre Dame needed to close. Do you disagree?

JM '90: Both facts are very true, but nothing is as black and white as that.

CL '79: Fr. Leon at Notre Dame Prep calls it a "move."

JM '90: Of course he does. That's what you guys in the media call *spin*. Allow me to ask you a question. Notre Dame Prep opened in 1994 and Notre Dame High School closed its doors in 2005, so how is that a *move*? Notre Dame Prep existed for 11 years prior to Notre Dame High School closing.

CL '79: That's very true. So, NDP was a completely different school to begin with?

JM '90: Of course. They started in 1994. They are co-ed and they have a different mission than Notre Dame had.

CL '79: It is a different model. Did Fr. Leon run both schools at the same time?

JM '90: No. He left Notre Dame and founded Notre Dame Prep in 1994. That marked the end of his involvement with his alma mater.

CL '79: Do you think the Archdiocese of Detroit wanted Notre Dame to stay open?

JM '90: No. They owned the property and they made the decision. Once they made that decision, it was final. But, we did do a whole lot to fight the closing and the AOD wasn't going to hear any of our arguments or proposals. One thing I'm proud of is that ND didn't go down without a fight. Most of the other Catholic schools just folded their tents and went away. And I don't think the AOD expected to be challenged. It's that old fashioned Catholic adage that you do as you are told and don't ask questions. Well, times have changed and that philosophy doesn't sit too well with a lot of us.



Football goalpost pads rescued from ND by Jim Mandl '90 and Jim Mandl '66. The pads were recently given a home by Brad Michaels '03.

CL '79: Why did you want to see the school stay open?

JM '90: For a lot of reasons. I'm willing to admit that ND was a shell of its former self. One reason for that is because Fr. Leon hired away a lot of the best teachers in the first few years Notre Dame Prep was opened. However, we all saw a lot of positive change happening at ND with the new staff. The development director had a lot of good ideas and plans. One of the ideas was to move the school and one was to stay put and start a marketing campaign to turn ND into a destination school similar to U of D Jesuit. The physical plant was old, but was still in excellent shape. The closing didn't make sense in the respect that it would leave Macomb County's male students with only one Catholic school option - De La Salle. Notre Dame drew most of its student body from Macomb County. ND had the most students of any that was closing with 300. The next closest one was Trinity with 175 students. We thought ND could have picked up several students from the other schools that were closing - Trinity, St. Clement, etc. The AOD even refused to sell the property to some prominent business men who offered \$5 million for the property with a plan to put the school in control of the alumni. Then there was the history and ND's reputation - 50 years of it. That was something to build upon. I also felt incredibly bad for the students who were currently attending Notre Dame. They didn't deserve the treatment they got. The underclassmen were being uprooted and the class of 2005 would never have a place to return to visit. That bothered me.

CL '79: Who offered to buy ND?

JM '90: Joe Vicari '75 and Jim Riehl of Friendly Automotive Group, who sent his sons to the school, were the two main guys. There were others, but their names escape me right now.

CL '79: Why did the AOD balk at that offer?

JM '90: They claim the meeting never took place. I know differently. I can only speculate that they just wanted ND to close and they weren't thinking about anything other than ridding themselves of the responsibility of owning the school. Any other answer I can offer to that question could probably get me in trouble.

CL '79: Are you on the Notre Dame Prep email and mailing list?

JM '90: No. I asked that they remove me from their records.

CL '79: It's been six years. You seem like you were bitter. Doesn't time heal? Can't you put the ND thing out of your mind?

Mandi '90 Continued From Page 11...

JM '90: Yes, time definitely heals. But time doesn't change convictions and beliefs. It also doesn't change right and wrong. I'm over the bitterness I've felt and I focus mostly on the service we provide for the ND alumni. There are very few people over the past six years who have tried to talk us into working with Notre Dame Prep. The ones who have tried always seem to have a vested interest. They either work at NDP or they send their kids there. There is a ton of support for the way we've operated over the last 6 years and very little for us working with NDP.

CL '79: They will be reading this... So, is there something NDP people would have to do to bring you back into the mix?

JM '90: That's very true. They are all on my distribution list.

CL '79: How many people are on your distribution list?

JM '90: Over 3,300.

CL '79: And how many people are on NDP's distribution list?

JM '90: I couldn't tell you, but it's at least that many because they took all of the email addresses from the alumni directory we put out and started contacting the ND alumni.

CL '79: I'm not sure if you answered my question. So, again... is there something NDP people would have to do to bring you into the mix?

JM '90: Not likely. I, personally, am not interested in the place. I have no connection to the place. I really have no interest in doing anything all the way out in Pontiac. And again, the overwhelming majority of ND grads feel the same way. My personal opinion is that the people who run NDP are really only interested in the wallets of the ND alumni. One of their current employees even wrote an article for one of their publications where he all but admitted it was his job to go after our wallets and check books. Why else would they make such a push to get ND guys involved out there over the last couple of years? It's almost to the point where they've placed more importance on

our alumni than their own. If I was a graduate of NDP, I'd be insulted. Having said that, I wish NDP the best of luck in their mission because I know how difficult it is to keep a Catholic school going in the year 2011.

CL '79: So there was nothing they could have done to get you on board?

JM '90: I'm not going to say they could or they couldn't have gotten us on board. Their methods over the past few years have been, in my opinion, the wrong way of trying to make that happen.

CL '79: How so?

JM '90: I'll give you a few examples. They hired a former ND employee and sent him to our alumni basketball tournament a few years ago. He spent the entire weekend talking to as many ND grads as he could. The message he was

delivering was that the Friends of Notre Dame was no longer their alumni association. He told them that all alumni events would be coordinated through NDP and would take place there. He did this without saying a word to us. I found out he was doing this when guys started thanking me and my dad for continuing the traditions and then they started asking questions about how we'd make the transition to NDP. We had no plans to make any such transition. Another example is the letter you probably received from them stating that NDP was the new home of the Notre Dame High School alumni. They sent that to the entire ND alumni database. Again, all behind our backs two years after my dad and I established the Friends of Notre Dame as a viable and successful alumni association.

CL '79: Why do you think they did that?

JM '90: In my opinion, I think they did that because they saw what we were building, saw that it was already successful and wanted that for themselves. In my opinion, they saw that there was a large group of ND alumni who were still interested in events and alumni news and they wanted to capitalize on that. So, they did all of this as if we didn't matter.



2011 Alumni Basketball Champions - the Class of 2003. The alumni basketball tournament is just one of the ND traditions carried on by the Mandis through the Friends of Notre Dame.

Mandi '90 Continued From Page 12...

CL '79: So, do you matter?

JM '90: Again, my opinion... I believe that, yes, we matter very much so. I don't want to sound arrogant or cocky, but I believe in the last six years, we've done more for the Notre Dame alumni than anyone had in the previous 50 years that the school was open. I'm very proud of what we've been able to accomplish. We do it on a shoe-string budget - don't ask for a nickel from anyone.

CL '79: Doesn't the Friends of Notre Dame need money to survive?

JM '90: Of course. But the day we became the alumni association, I turned to my dad and said "We are never, ever asking the alumni for money without giving them something of value in return." He agreed. I said that because every time I heard from ND after I graduated, it was always a solicitation for a donation. We've been very successful in maintaining that promise - that we'd never ask for money. We have received unsolicited donations and we've made items from ND available for sale. This is how we've been able to pay the expenses we incur. We don't even charge for advertising in the Leprechaun. We are here to serve the alumni and promote them. And quite frankly, I'd rather spend my own money to do that than ask the alumni for money.

CL '79: How many hours do you think you dedicate to ND alumni each week?

JM '90: It varies. Some weeks I don't do much, and some weeks, it's a full time job. If you are looking for an average, I'd say I put in about 5 to 7 hours per week. The newsletter takes about 10 - 12 hours to put together each month. When we started out, the news just came in the body of an email. Then I decide to create an actual newsletter that started out as four pages and has now expanded to 16 - 24 pages each month. I love doing it, but it is a time investment.

CL '79: And you do that all yourself?

JM '90: Not completely, but mostly, as far as the newsletter goes. I have to give credit where credit is due. My dad



A plastic model of the MCAD 737 designed by students of Jim Mandl '90. The plane is made from ABS plastic and was created by a Dimension 3D printer in the Pre-Engineering and CAD classroom.

does a lot of things I ask him to do - errands, deliveries, etc. **Randy Walters '05** and **Ricky Winowicki '04** also help out a great deal with the website and other things. **Tom Jenkins '97** helps out by running alumni softball and **Mike Olechowski '05** takes care of the communications through Facebook. A few people have contributed articles. You're contributing by interviewing me, and I appreciate that. We could always use some more involvement by alumni.

CL '79: It doesn't seem like that would leave much time for you to do things for yourself. What do you like to do when you do have time?

JM '90: I don't sleep a whole lot. Even on the weekends I get up between 5 and 6am. So, I find time to do things. I play poker. I'm into photography. I've had season tickets for U of M football for over 15 years. I go to a lot of Tigers games. I do a lot of biking in the summer as well.

CL '79: What does your dad think about what you've done for the alumni of Notre Dame?

JM '90: I'm a pain in his ass a lot of times, but all in all, I think he's pretty proud. He even looks forward to the newsletter because ND was huge part of his life for so many years. So, I'd say proud is the right word.

CL '79: That's a good note to end on.

JM '90: Agreed.

Upcoming Events

2011 Alumni Softball Tournament

September 17, 2011

Double Elimination Format

At Total Sports in Harrison Township, MI

\$30 per player

2011 Alumni Special Fall Event... Details to follow...

Esquire Magazine Brings Blackwell '00 Back Home to Pen Song About the D

When Esquire magazine brought five musicians to Detroit during the first week of March, it wasn't just to see the town. But it had everything to do with the city and its musical heritage. Their tour guide: **Ben Blackwell '00**.

For its May music issue, which hit newsstands the last week of April, the magazine flew in country star Dierks Bentley, R&B artisan Raphael Saadiq, the late Beatle George Harrison's son Dhani of thenewno2 and Detroit natives Brendan Benson and **Ben Blackwell '00** to make some music. Esquire gave them a line, "Last night in Detroit," and asked each to write a song using it in some way.

The results are available at www.Esquire.com and iTunes for 99 cents per song or \$3.99 for all five, with proceeds going to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Detroit. Videos for the songs, shot by photographer Danny Clinch, are streaming at Esquire's website.

It's the second time the magazine has done the project, based on a game Austin, Texas based singer-songwriter Bob Schneider plays with his colleagues. Last year's was held in Clarksdale, Miss., but Esquire's Andy Langer, who coordinated the trip, says the desire to add a charity component pointed the project northward. "Both years we wanted a music city, some place that had a rich music history, and some place that has places of historical significance that we could put these guys in for photos. When we decided to introduce the charity component, it was like, 'Who can you help?'" Langer explained. "I think Detroit fit all of those criteria," he added.

Weather concerns led Esquire to push the issue back a month (last year's music issue came out in late March), but otherwise, the trip went smoothly. The entourage ensconced itself at the Westin Book Cadillac and ate at the restaurants Roast and Slows Bar BQ, the latter near High Bias Recordings, where the musicians recorded their songs.

Photos, meanwhile, were done at the Masonic Temple, the Heidelberg Project and at now-Nashville resident Benson's old house near Belle Isle. The troupe also shot at the Motown Historical Museum, where it was allowed the rare privilege of taking photos in Studio A and where Saadiq was the first person in many years to be allowed to actually step foot in the usually roped-off control room.

"These guys had been to Detroit at various times to play shows," Langer notes, "but like any other city... generally they're on and off the tour bus. This was, for a lot of them, their first chance to really see the places of Detroit, albeit in a condensed time frame. 'The idea was, 'You're going to collaborate. You're going to hang out.' This was more like a little summer camp kind of vibe than anything else," Langer said.

The city certainly weighed heavily on the songs the musicians created — especially Benson ("Last Night in Detroit"), "who really did have a last night in Detroit before he left," and Blackwell, whose "Bury My Body at Elmwood," referencing the famous cemetery, Langer calls says "sounds like a Detroit song — not the Motown Detroit, though." Saadiq, meanwhile, wrote "Breaking In" about "being sort of drunk and lost in the Motown building," while Harrison lends a British flavor to his "One Way Out."

Bentley, meanwhile, penned his "Line No. 7" from the perspective of the machines at a stamping factory that was moved from Detroit to Mexico but still turns out parts that are shipped back to the Motor City. "I wrote and recorded it all in less than 24 hours, honestly," Bentley recalls. "I started it on the airplane on the flight up there, and I was in the studio at 9 o'clock the next morning recording it. It was a cool thing to do. I'm proud of that song," Benson concluded.

Langer says that one of the best parts of the trip was having Blackwell, another expatriate to Nashville, where he works for his uncle Jack White's Third Man Records conglomerate. Despite "the slightest resume of the bunch," Blackwell was the most valuable player in terms of indigenous insight. "He's like this walking encyclopedia of Detroit folklore and trivia," Langer recalls. "He had an answer for virtually everyone's questions regarding anything in Detroit. He was probably the most nervous of the bunch, sort of 'Why am I here,' and then he really delivered. He really enhanced everyone's Detroit experience," Langer added.



Ben Blackwell '00

Valentic '77 and Family Help with Retreat for Cancer Patients

Stunning views and water centric recreation abound along the shores of Lake St. Clair. But research also shows the area yields a disproportionate number of cancer diagnoses, according to Ted Huebner, board president for The Lake House, a new nonprofit operation funded by donations and scheduled to open May 1 to those touched by cancer. Its name, Huebner explained, celebrates the natural amenities of Detroit's eastern suburbs and conjures images of a soul-easing retreat.

"We are extremely fortunate in southeast Michigan to have access to several outstanding medical care institutions, but living your best life with a diagnosis of cancer requires more than medicine," said Huebner, a retired banker. "The goal is to create a comfortable and home-like gathering place for patients, survivors and families to go to for social and emotional support."

Traveling to Royal Oak-based Gilda's Club isn't always the most convenient option. Just ask Sue Valentic, wife of **Bob Valentic '77**. Sue Valentic of St. Clair Shores was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, at the age of 40. Her children were 7, 11 and 14. Valentic was surprised at how angrily they seemed to react to her diagnosis, and unsure of what to do next.

Valentic's physician, Dr. Carri Dul, a Karmanos oncologist and Lake House board member, suggested she try Gilda's Club. "At first I went by myself, just to see what it was all about," said Valentic, who is now cancer-free. "I was greeted by the laughter of women playing Bunco. 'How could this be a happy place?' I wondered,"

But the question was how to get her husband, Bob, and their then 14-year-old son, on board. It turns out they became the concept's most enthusiastic supporters. "Being there kind of makes cancer real and bearable at the same time," Valentic said. "Right away we signed the kids up for guitar lessons. While they were doing that, my husband and I learned how to knit. We all learned how to knit. It was so nice to just sit and talk with other people who had been through it," she said.

But trying to get across town, between work and school and extracurricular activities, was a constant challenge. "We really need a place on the East Side," said Valentic, who is eager to donate her time and energy to The Lake House. Its mission is simple: to address the social and emotional gaps cancer creates by providing "a safe harbor to support, educate and empower those touched by cancer," Huebner said.

Working with an active and committed board of directors has fueled the launch, said executive director Katherine Daudlin Shubnell. "It feels good to be a part of such a great group of people and be doing such meaningful work," said Daudlin Shubnell, who's worked in healthcare fundraising for the past six years.

The long-term vision includes providing support groups, educational lectures, workshops, social activities, exercise classes, arts and crafts, grief and cancer-specific support, children's and teens' programming, nutrition guidance and a resource library.

"Initial offerings will include afternoon and evening support groups, social opportunities, and stress management programs. An evening education series will feature speakers on relevant topics for patients, survivors and families," Daudlin Shubnell said.

The Lake House is located at 26701 Little Mack, one block north of Frazho Road in St. Clair Shores in the building formerly occupied by Sylvan Learning Center. Summer hours are noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

For more information or to volunteer your time, talent or resources, email info@MiLakeHouse.org or call 586-777-7761. Also, visit www.MiLakeHouse.org.



Bob Valentic '77 and family.

Joe Vicari '75 to Revive Legendary Restaurant Name in Detroit

Legendary for generations, Joe Muer's seafood restaurant is making a Detroit comeback this fall, prompting hope for a downtown dining scene stung by a series of closures. Wearing his signature bow tie, Muer joined Mayor Dave Bing and Andiamo Restaurant Group CEO **Joe Vicari '75** on Thursday, March 31st to announce that Joe Muer's will reopen in the space once occupied by Seldom Blues in the Renaissance Center.

Muer is selling the rights to his name and logo to Andiamo, which will operate the restaurant. "It's more like a dream come true, and it's great to come back to Detroit," said Muer, whose original restaurant on Gratiot Avenue closed in 1998. "This is a historical event for me and my family. It's going to be exciting."

Muer and Vicari talked about the difficulties of the restaurant business, with Muer calling it the "highest death-rate industry in the nation." Other downtown mainstays and hotspots have closed in recent years, including Carl's Chop House, Sweet Georgia Brown, the Detroit Fish Market and Detroit's Breakfast House & Grill.

But both men with more than a lifetime in the business combined said they were optimistic that Joe Muer's can regain its magic and become one of the busiest restaurants in the city. They made the

announcement in front of a sign at Andiamo's RenCen restaurant that read "A Legend Returns."

Although getting a bank loan was difficult for even the profitable 21-restaurant Andiamo chain, organizers said the remodeling of the 14,000-square-foot space would cost \$1 million and that no city funds would be used for now.

Opening is planned for September. Derek Meisner, 40, can't wait. He grew up in West Bloomfield, now lives in Boston, but still visits four times a year and said he ate at Joe Muer's as far back as his first birthday. "My fondest memories are between 1978 and 1985 when my father took me to the restaurant several times prior to a Tigers or Red Wings game so we could get a quick piece of their unparalleled flounder stuffed with Virginia crabmeat," Meisner said. "The funny part is that many times, I only wore a worn-down T-shirt during most of these occasions and frequently I'd have to put on a Joe Muer-provided makeshift sport coat to meet the relatively formal dress code, he added. Both he and his father have collected Muer bar stools that came with a certificate that they were sat on by Jimmy Hoffa and Henry Ford II, along with menus and a waiter's bow tie.

Bing, a Detroit Pistons legend and longtime businessman before running for mayor, said he frequented the restaurant on Gratiot and is elated the seafood spot is choosing Detroit for its comeback. "For any of us that are above 40, I'm sure that we can remember great food, great nights, great people," the mayor said. "As we all know, downtown is the heartbeat of our city. When you talk about a first-class restaurant that most urban cities have, this is just one more addition to downtown Detroit," Bing concluded.

Joe Muer is likely to attract an older, moneyed demographic that doesn't visit Detroit often, said Farmington Hills-based retail consultant Ken Dalto. "It's a legendary restaurant in Detroit that was always packed," Dalto said, "and that demographic is very excited about the restaurant coming back. Today is sort of a win for Detroit.," Dalto concluded.

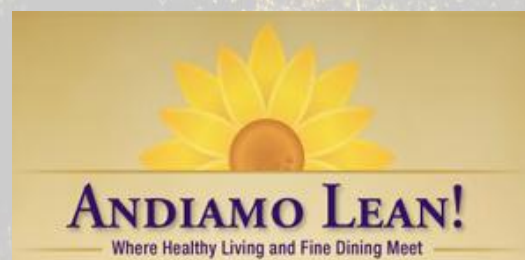
For the grand opening, a new Muer cookbook will be produced.

Source: The Detroit News



Joe Vicari '75 (left) and Joe Muer.

Support Our Sponsors



Upcoming Reunions

Reunions in 2011

The following classes are due to celebrate reunion years in 2011:



2006 - 5 Years
 2001 - 10 Years
 1996 - 15 Years
 1991 - 20 Years
 1986 - 25 Years



1981 - 30 Years
 1976 - 35 Years
 1971 - 40 Years
 1966 - 45 Years
 1961 - 50 Years



Interested in forming a reunion committee for your class?

E-mail Jim Mandl '90 at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com.

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

Celebrating 25 Years Class of 1986

Please contact John Kaminski or Dan O'Brien at:

John Kaminski: jkaminski1700@yahoo.com

H:(612) 822-4759 C: (952) 261-5546

Dan O'Brien: dobrien734@comcast.net

(248) 840-8391

Celebrating 45 Years Class of 1965

Asking all classmates of '65 to plan ahead... will be here before we know it.

1. Please make sure you or classmates are still in contact with or get on the Friends of Notre Dame mailing list.
 2. Not too soon to be suggesting when, where and events.
- GO IRISH! Dennis Berger '65.
dennisaberger@aol.com
 909-223-4483

Celebrating 20 Years - Class of 1991

Date: September 10, 2011

Location: Comerica Park Suite - Detroit vs. Minnesota

Time: 4 pm * Cost: \$100

Contacts: Ron Stempin 313-642-5267, Eric Woodhouse 248-925-4357, Rick Nowicki 586-295-1338

Details: Spouses/Sig Others Welcome. First 60 paid people are in.

Get money to one of the above contacts or send payments to:

Ron Stempin

27704 Cameron Court

Harrison Twp, MI 48045

Celebrating 50 Years - Class of 1961

Paul Baeckeroot of the class of 1961 contacted us. He needs your help organizing your 50th anniversary class reunion. Paul can be reached by phone at 586-484-0370 or e-mail at ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net

Notre Dame Class of 1971



40

1971-2011

Save the Date!

Class of 1971 40th Reunion
 Saturday, November 5, 2011
 Club Venetian, Madison Heights

Details to follow.

We could use your help! Please contact

Mike Scharl at
notredame71@att.net

Celebrating 35 Years - Class of 1976

Saturday September 10, 2011

First pitch 4:05 pm

Comerica Park - Detroit, Michigan

Tigers vs. Twins

Tiger Terrace Seats - section 116

Bring your wives - bring your kids -

Event is open to Alumni, family and friends

For info, contact **Dean Ricci '76** at dean@deanricci.com



We Heard From...



Mark Wisniewski - Class of 1980

Someone has to say it. I was on the board of directors at Idle Hour Yacht Club for 7 years. You know the time and effort that goes into it. I was Vice Commodore when I resigned and no one even called from the board to ask if I really wanted to resign or why (when I did). But when I was on the Board there was all kinds of advice how to do it better, what kind of events to have.... and no volunteers to work on their ideas. What you do for the news letter is truly great. I know you put a lot of your personal time and money into this so I just want to thank you for all the effort (and great results). After putting many successful events together myself and all you hear is how to do it better but no one helps to do better. Thanks again.

Chet Szerlag - Class of 1966

Sorry to hear that Father Bryson's health is failing. I have really fond memories of him as a teacher and the Friday night sock hops. By the way, I really appreciate what you're doing to keep the ND spirit alive.

Mike Mortier - Class of 1959

Apparently I missed all information on what sounds like a health problem with Fr. Bryson. When you have time would you kindly fill me in. Just a little trivia – the idea for Record Hops (dances) was conceived in Fr. Bryson's religion class – 1957. I was a sophomore and we settled after much debate on 50 cents a ticket, big money then.

Jim Carnagle - Class of 1967

Keep up the good, satisfying work!

John Monigold - DLS Alumni Director

I'm a De La Salle guy and I appreciate receiving the Notre Dame information!

Jerome Vangheluwe - Class of 1983

Thanks again for all you do!

Mark Jamroz - Class of 1979

Rock on, Jim. We appreciate what you're doing.

Kent McCombs - Class of 1969

Thanks Jim, for all you do!

Chris Gajewski - Class of 1990

Nice job as always.

Daniel Borninski - Class of 1973

As for me I appreciate what you do. In fact even if the tournament did make a few dollars to cover the time you spend organizing it and keeping us informed-anyone who does nothing would still have zero to complain about. The fact is a few spoil good things for many, often. Even though I never heard the rumor and if I did it wouldn't have mattered, I'll bet the people who said it and spread it never said they were sorry, what has happened to civility! Again Thanks for the service you provide, from the goodness of your hearts.

Rich Adamo - Class of 1989

I have to take my hat off to you guys, you do a great job for our old alma mater!

Kevin Kettles - Class of 1989

Nice job with the basketball tournament. We had a great time, especially because we lasted so long.

Cheryl Ibkoko

A much deserved break indeed, you have given countless hours keeping up this newsletter and it is greatly appreciated. Enjoy your time and maybe catch a few Tigers games.

Mike VanderWeele - Class of 1985

You do a phenomenal job in putting this together. I'm sure everyone appreciates the update, and hope it's been worth the considerable effort on your part.

John Dozois - Class of 1978

Really appreciate your dedication and all of the hard work that you put into this newsletter... (and also very sorry for the handful of pathetic fools that have the audacity to complain about anything. THEY have some serious issues, it has absolutely nothing to do with you or your efforts. just tune them out.)

Daniel Lesosky - Class of 1993

Thanks for your hard work; I look forward to your newsletters...and all the way from North Carolina.

Ron Mack - Class of 1972

Thanks keep up the good work!

Kevin Smith - Class of 1974

You deserved a break. Keep up the good work!

Tony Hansen - Class of 1994

I'm not sure if this is something that is new or you've been doing for a long time and I just now noticed it, but I think that extra personalization using our names in the greeting line of the email is a nice touch. I just wanted to let you know that whatever work you had put into it, which i hope was not too much, is definitely appreciated.

Paul Tines - Class of 1981

Keep up the great work!!!

Doug "Wink the Elder" Winkler Class of 1960

I just read the April issue and wish to thank you and your son for your maintaining of the HWND newsletter. As one of the older Irish, I'm not really able to participate in the tournaments, but certainly can understand the time and efforts involved to make such events happen. Keep up the god work and God bless!

Gary Wilson - Class of 1960

You both do a great job in keeping Notre Dame Harper Woods alive. Keep up the good work.

Tom Wiater - Class of 1988

Thank you so much for the newsletter.

Tom Somyak - Class of 1976

I just read the newsletter. So sorry to hear some ***** was running his yap. I just want to thank you and your dad for your efforts, and to let you know your efforts **ARE** appreciated.

Gregory Goleski - Class of 1993

Many of us who attend these yearly events appreciate all of your hard work! thank you!

William Hammers - Class of 1997

Sorry to read in The Leprechaun about the hurtful insinuations. Keep up the good work.



We Heard From...



Tom Fallucca - Class of 1967

In the most recent newsletter, you wrote of comments made during the basketball tournament that you and your son somehow profit from alumni activities and the publication of the newsletter that thrive from your efforts. You also wrote of your son's disenchantment as a result of those comments. First of all, those comments were unfortunate, made from ignorance, and do not warrant a response. You and your son perform a valuable service for those of us who are graduates of the true Notre Dame High School. Your newsletter, sales, basketball tournaments and the like allow the graduates of a wonderful, but vanished school, to maintain contact with our fellow alumni, purchase a piece of our history, and reminisce about our high school past. Unfortunately, many of us take what the two of you do for granted. No more. I want to thank you and your son for all of your efforts and extremely hard work, and hope you will continue to do what you do to preserve our legacy in the future. If you need a donation of funds to meet the obvious expenses to maintain the alumni project, please let me know. Thanks much.

Tony Mardrosian - Head Coach 1989 Baseball State Champions

I was sorry to read about the negative insinuations you all had to endure during the alumni basketball tournament. I can't tell you how much I look forward to reading about the young men I taught and coached at Notre Dame. I would have loved to see the names of the people in the pictures from the classes of '89 and '91. They are a little hard to recognize after 20 plus years. Thank you again for your efforts. I hope you will continue to send out the newsletter.

Tom Srock - Class of 1972

You and your son are the true voice for all of us. Can't tell you how much I look forward to your monthly notes. For those of us who have moved away you bring us back home every issue.

Thomas J. Kirchner - Class of 1964

I am very sorry for what you and your dad have been put through lately. The insinuation I received was that you may not consider continuing with the Alumni News. I only hope you will reconsider as you are both very much appreciated by so many of us Alumni members. Thanks!

Mark Place - Class of 1965

Please don't let the misguided comments of a few spoil the wonderful job you are doing. I appreciate very much receiving the HWND Alumni News each month, and I am quite sure that is true for all the other alumni. Keep up the good work; we all know whose opinion **REALLY** counts in the end, don't we?

Jim Belloli - Class of 1967

I'm bothered by the "insinuations" your father wrote about in the April Leprechaun. I guess there will always be those cynics out there that cannot see the good that people do and who always think some one has to have money as their motive for what they do. I hope you and your father know that the vast majority of those that read and look forward to the Leprechaun appreciate your efforts and understand why you do it.

Timothy Brower - Class of 65

Its hard to believe some people would question you about making a profit on all the events that you and your son plan. Although I haven't participated in many of them, I'm well aware of the effort involved to insure the success of these type of things. I think you and your son should make sure your expenses are covered and you are compensated for your time and efforts. Please keep up the great work.

Diana Hallifield

Sorry to hear about the negative comments. I want to thank your son and you for keeping this going. I enjoy reading the newsletter as does my son who lives in California. I hope you both continue the job of keeping Notre Dame Harper Woods alive.

Jeff Bidigare - Class of 1959

I just wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU for all you and your son do for the ND Alumni. If it wasn't for you 2 there would be no news at all except for what comes out of Pontiac. I read your personal note in this issue and can only wonder what those people complaining have as their motivation in doing so. Please keep up the great work you do. I really appreciate these updates.

Rich Walendowski - Class of 1962

Thanks for all of your very hard work. Still reading and listening. Thanks for the great newsletter; it keeps my spirits up and keeps me well informed. Do not let the small percentage of negative comments get to you. They have bigger problems. Help them out by praying for them; a very positive move. The large silent majority is totally behind you. When and if you need help, just holler.

Jerry Alderman - Class of 1962

I was sorry to hear that there were "accusations". Personally, I feel you **SHOULD** be compensated!!!! You guys are doing a great job keeping Notre Dame alive and well....if only in our hearts and minds. I am sure our reunions would be 'flops' if it would not be for your efforts.

Paul Kotas - Class of 1989

I was a little taken back by the fact that I couldn't recognize most of the guys in the class of '89 alumni basketball picture! Shame on me I suppose. LOL!! keep up the good work!

Ron Stephens

Talk gets going every day in the halls - about everything. The best way to deal with it is what you've done, just put the facts down for all to see. And if you don't make some money off alumni activities - then someone has to fund the other expenses out of their pocket. Just keep up the good work. Anyone who knows you folks and the facts behind the ND organization knows what the truth is.



We Heard From...



Chris Henness - Class of 1989

I just read this month's issue of the HWND Alumni News and read the article by your father. It is very unfortunate to read that some immature "kids" made inappropriate insinuations toward you and your father regarding the distribution of fund raising proceeds. I can speak on behalf of the class of '89, when I say how appreciative we are for all your hard work. I feel that you and your father do an outstanding job each month organizing all the events and developing this issue of the HWND Alumni News. With the closure of our school, I look forward to reading updates and keeping a pulse on events from our high school. With a hectic schedule juggling family, friends and work it is difficult keeping in touch with fellow classmates from my graduating year and others. I look forward each year in March seeing all the guys and participating in the basketball tournament while representing our class. Despite the fact that we are some of the old dogs in the tournament, we still give it a shot competing against the younger guys. Please keep up the hard work as it is noticed by most.

Gary Nadlicki - Class of 1966

Just finished reading the newsletter and was surprised someone could think you and your son would take advantage of anything regarding the Alumni Assn. Your efforts are truly appreciated by everyone. It is a thankless responsibility. I fear that if you were not taking on this task, it would go away. Please let me know where to send a contribution.

Vern Navock - Class of 1974

Though I am not active in a lot of what is referenced in the Leprechaun, I sincerely enjoy reading it and very much appreciate the effort you all put into this publication and the planned activities. Again, thank you for all that you do to maintain this correspondence.

Ronald Mattei - Class of 1962

Thank you, Jim. Appreciate you and all you do!

Dan Beauregard - Class of 1999

First off I want to say thank you for keeping the Spirit of the Irish alive and well. I've been following the Leprechaun for some time now and appreciate the time and effort you are putting forth with it.

James Mazzola - Class of 1983

Thanks to you and your son for doing this. I have enjoyed it and it is sad to hear that some harsh words were said in regards to your efforts. Keep it up if you enjoy doing it and I would understand if you decided to give it up. Your efforts are appreciated!

Curtis Rybski - Class of 1998

We all appreciate the hard work you put into making ND's alumni association what it is. The brick and mortar of HWND may be gone but the spirit is still alive and thriving in many of our alumni. Thanks again for all the effort you and your father put into keeping our alumni together, the work you two do with the help of a few others is priceless.

Tony Jaboro - Class of 1989

I usually don't respond but I do appreciate all the time and effort you put into the alumni papers and events. I just want to say Thank you!

Tom Knoll - Class of 1980

I was just wondering how many former Notre Dame high school alumni are offended by notre dame prep trying to make our school a part of their alumni association. I just made a request to them not to send me anymore mailings or e-mails as I was never a part of that school and I know you probably feel the same way. Also thanks for a job well done in keeping our alumni association going and for all of the alumni info.

James Bleszki - Class of 1980

Too bad about Father Bryson he was always a great guy and you can't think of ND without thinking about him. His dances were legendary. Thanks for all the info. Keep up the great work!

Robert Navetta - Class of 1964

Great work Jim. Please add me to your distribution lists

Ron Stempin - Class of 1991

Sorry to see that someone made some stupid comments regarding any benefit from you running the association. I appreciate all that you do and I know what a pain it is to do this. I know that you do not get any compensation from it. I believe that you should. That is also why I have believed that an association needs an operating school to survive in the long run. You have frankly surprised me that you have been able to keep this going as you have. I am so thankful. Unfortunately, people make commentary on things they do not understand, put thought into or have the work ethic or guts to get involved with themselves. It is easy to sit in the stands and criticize. Please do not think these people - whoever they are - are representative of the alums in general. I have always experienced positive comments about what you do.

Michael D. Potocki - Class of 1981

Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate all the hard work you do in putting the newsletter out. I know you won't say, but I wish I knew who the person or persons were who would make those accusations. I would have a few "choice words for them!!! I for one have never been hounded by you for money and enjoy reading the time and effort you put in in keeping the HWND spirit alive. Please don't let these people deter you from doing the great work that the majority of us like to read to keep up with the goings on of our beloved alma mater.

Todd Driscoll - Class of 1992

As always keep up the good work. Everything you and your Father do is much appreciated. You guys are keeping the Fighting Irish spirit alive and well. If it was not for you guys we would not have any link to Notre Dame. Take care and God Bless.

Pat Adams - Class of 1977

Thanks for all you do. Don't listen to the negative people. They have the issues, not you.



We Heard From...



Don Brosky - Class of 1979

I think that you are doing a fantastic job with the website and the monthly newsletters. You'll never please everybody, but still I think the negative comments your dad mentioned in the newsletter were totally out of line. Many HWND grads are appreciative of your hard work and dedication to keeping the Spirit of the Fighting Irish alive. Keep up the great work.

Mike Olex - Class of 1979

I want to thank you for your efforts in keeping the Notre Dame Alumni Associate active. I appreciate receiving the newsletter and email communications. I sensed in the April newsletter that you do not receive positive feedback from everyone and have heard some negative comments. I wish to offset those comments by expressing my appreciation of your efforts.

David Bourgeois - Class of 1989

Your hard work is truly appreciated. Don't let some negativity get you down. Hopefully this person(s) will come to their senses and realize what a thankless job you are doing and that they should be grateful for you carrying on the tradition.

Mary Ellen Servitto

Thank you for your continuing work for Notre Dame and all its alumni. Have a Blessed Easter!

Janet Riehl

I am so proud of what you've done. I know how hard you work on this and appreciate it! Keep up the good work! Keep in touch.

Fr. John Kiselika

Thank you for your work and for keeping me in the loop.

Joe Glinski - Class of 1991

If I have not said it in the past, great Job with everything you do for the Notre Dame Alumni! You and your Dad are good people and tell him thanks for me too.

Mike Cosky - Class of 1967

Many thanks to you and your dad for all the time and work that you put into the NDHS newsletter and your roles in organizing and communicating alumni events. I have lived out of state since 1971, and I am not able to attend any of the events, but it's always reassuring to know that the spirit of Notre Dame High lives on in the gatherings of its alumni. So, when I read with considerable disappointment—and amazement—that you were subject to some unfair and unfounded accusations about personally profiting from the recent basketball tournament, I thought it best to drop you a note and tell you how I feel. I understand that the *huge* investment that you and your dad make is a thankless task, but to be subject to second-guessing is just plain ridiculous. So, again, thanks for all you hard work to keep us alumni (erstwhile and local) informed. I truly appreciate your efforts.

Scott Frederick - Class of 1986

Count me in among the many that appreciate what you're doing here. You're doing a great service to the alumni base and I'm glad to hear that you plan to continue.

Joe Heilig - Class of 1989

I have personally witnessed the amount of time and effort you spend on researching, writing, and publishing the alumni newsletter. I have also seen how much time you spend putting together alumni events. So I was shocked to hear about the comments made by a fellow alumnus at a recent event. I would just like to say thanks to you and your father for the amount of work you both put in to help keep alumni informed and connected. I'm sure many alumni will agree that your determination to keep the spirit of our great school alive is very much appreciated.

Scott Frederick - Class of 1986

Count me in among the many that appreciate what you're doing here. You're doing a great service to the alumni base and I'm glad to hear that you plan to continue.

Mike Happy - Class of 1982

From his Blog - De La Salle Purple: Orange is my favorite color, but purple is a close second. It's regal, deep, soothing, makes me think of lent and the coming spring. It's also the team color of the high school I grew up dreaming of attending – De La Salle. I wasn't alone. Most east side Catholic boys saw themselves as future Pilots, spending the final four years of their youth taking classes – growing muscles and facial hair – in the shadow of City Airport. It didn't happen for me, though. We moved to the 'burbs, Roseville, in 1976, and I ended up at Harper Woods Notre Dame. Just after I graduated from N.D. in '82, De La Salle also left the old neighborhood, settling in Warren. Ironically, Notre Dame shuttered its doors a few years ago, and De La Salle is thriving in its new neighborhood. Duck and move, I guess, duck and move. Last night, we started the search for the high school for my oldest son, Louis. We visited the University of Detroit Jesuit campus, which was impressive and felt very comfortable. But there will be many "open houses" for us to come in the near future. And, yes, De La Salle is at the top of that list. There just might be a Pilot in our family yet.



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