



The Leprechaun

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

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2011 EDITION

Bob Lantzy '64
300 Wins

Plus...
Charlie Langton '79
Jack Pertile '90
Mike Smartt '06
Tom Strasz '68
Mike Happy '82
Reunion News

Lantzzy '64 Earns 300th Career Victory

The long tradition of Eisenhower football begins with **Bob Lantzzy '64**. He is the only head football coach in school history. In his 41st year as head coach, Lantzzy has reached a milestone few coaches come close to reaching - 300 victories.

On Friday, October 7, Eisenhower played host to Dakota and there was much more on the line than trying to get Lantzzy his 299th win. The Eagles and Cougars were playing for a share of the MAC Red Division championship.

In a game that featured a little bit of everything, the Eagles provided Lantzzy with a memorable second-half rally. They scored 20 unanswered points, including two touchdowns in the final quarter, defeating the Cougars 33-21. This gave the Eagles at least a share of the MAC Red Division championship and moved Lantzzy within one win of his 300th victory.

"It's hard to believe," said Lantzzy, when asked about the opportunity to earn his 300th victory while going for a league championship at the same time. "It seems like it has flown by. This season has gone by so fast; it's hard to believe it. I'm looking forward to every game, every moment and every practice. I don't get tired of any of it. I enjoy the kids and my assistant coaches have been great all year," he added.



Bob Lantzzy '64 addresses his team after a hard fought victory.

The mood was festive and upbeat at Chippewa Valley on Friday, October 14, as the home crowd packed the stands for Senior Night against Eisenhower. It was the Eagles, however, who walked away with the lifetime memories. Ike scored on all seven of its possessions while wrapping up the outright MAC Red Division title with a 45-0 victory against the Big Reds. It was the Eagles' first since 2004. "This has been a long time coming," Lantzzy said. "I think the Macomb Daily said we had five (championships) in a row from 2000-2004 and then we had to wait a long time to get another MAC championship," Lantzzy said. "It was well worth it," he added. "We worked really hard. We had a lot of years where we had to fight and be very tough. I thank every player from over those years where we had to fight and keep hanging there to be competitive," Lantzzy said. This win was also No. 300 in the storied career of the head coach. He is just the ninth coach in state history to reach this milestone. "I just can't believe it," Lantzzy said. "I don't feel old enough to have 300 wins and have

coached in 400 some odd games. It just doesn't feel that way. It's been a pleasure. I still love practice," He added.

Lantzzy ran his career record to 300-114-1. Eisenhower (7-1 overall, 5-0 MAC Red) held Chippewa Valley (3-5, 1-4) without a first down while racking up 214 yards of offense in the first half. The Big Reds gained just four yards in the first 24 minutes. The Eagles' offense outgained CV 332-29 in the contest. "I thought every aspect of the game - the kicking game, the defense, offense - it was really a picture-perfect day for us," Lantzzy said.

Eisenhower quarterback Joe Zerafa was precise all night, going 12-of-16 for 162 yards and two touchdowns. Four of his passes were caught by Dan Chmielewski, who gained 71 yards and a touchdown. On the ground, Shane King rushed for 61 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries. The Eagles established the run early in the contest. On its first drive of the contest, Ike rushed 11 times, finding pay dirt as King rushed for a two-yard gain on third goal.

After the Eisenhower defense quickly got off the field, it was back to work for the offense. This time, it took just three plays for the Eagles to go 37 yards across the goal line. Zerafa's 34-yard pass to Daniel Venditti set up a three yard rush into the end zone. Seconds into the second, Eisenhower started its third drive from the 50 with similar results. This time, Ike used three passes and three rushes, with Zerafa finding Yousseff Bujaidar in the back of the end zone.

The Eagles scored again midway through the quarter following a Big Reds fumble on the 20. Orlando Meeks eventually rushed seven yards into the end zone to give the Eagles a 28-0 lead. Late in the quarter, Ike showed its prowess in the kicking game as well, as Danny Gojcaj booted a 37 yard field goal that split the uprights and may have cleared the posts from 50 yards out. Gojcaj was involved in every Eisenhower score, as he also finished 6-of-6 on point-after tries.

The Eagles started the second half with the ball and worked the clock on the opening drive. Ike took 5:11 off the clock before Zerafa connected with Chmielewski on a 29-yard touchdown pass, giving the Eagles a 38-0 lead. By rule, the running clock was put into effect with 6:44 remaining in the third quarter.

After taking over with 8:03 left, Jay Miron added a one-yard score to put the icing on the Eagles' cake. Eisenhower will finish the regular season with a home contest against MAC White champion Cousino. While some coaches might use next week as a chance to rest some tired legs and work in some reserves, don't expect to see anything different on the Eisenhower sideline. "You can't go into the playoffs thinking anything but, 'Now it's six straight games,'" Lantzzy said. "Cousino is going to be a smash mouth team. We aren't going to do anything but go after it just like it's the biggest game we've ever played. "All we're looking at - just like Cousino - it that it's a six-game playoff."



Click the photo above to see video of Bob Lantzzy '64 talking about earning his 300th coaching victory.

Brother of Motyka '85 Victim of Drive-by

Reports state that Moe Motyka, brother of **John Motyka '85**, left his Hamtramck residence on his way to perform at the legendary Harbor House. On his way, he stopped by a friend's house on Holbrook and Brush to drop off apples and candles. Upon leaving the residence, he entered his vehicle and closed the driver's side door. Another man approached on the passenger side and asked for a ride. When the man opened the door and began to enter, another vehicle pulled along side and opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon. The would-be passenger fled with graze wounds. Moe wasn't so lucky. He was killed instantly.

Moe, a local musician, was well known in the Detroit music scene. He performed with some of the top Rock and Blues entertainers including Dale Robertson, Bennie Reeves, Thornetta Davis, C.C. Collins, and Mitch Ryder's guitarist Chris Brantly. His tenor blues vocals are legendary in venues throughout Metro Detroit.

He motivated others around him with a compassionate loving energy. He often sang at the Salvation Army Gospel Choir and performed work with Fr. Ray at The Capuchin Soup Kitchen. His moniker was his gentle, warm smile and hug. His rigorous schedule consisted of 7-night-a-week performances, often performing at several venues in one day. He was considered a musical genius who played guitar and piano. He will be best remembered for writing and singing 'Raining in Detroit,' 'These Four Walls,' and 'Why Cant I Cry'".

He was laid to rest October 10th. His funeral took place at St. Florian Church in Hamtramck. Hundreds paid tribute on October 9th at Jurkiewicz and Wilk Funeral Home in Hamtramck. "This was the saddest funeral I have seen in 30-plus years in this business," said Mr. Wilk.

"As far as I'm concerned, he saved a life because he was the shield for someone else, but he was definitely in the wrong place at the wrong time. He should've never, ever been shot. He didn't deserve it," said Moe's brother, John Motyka. Moe's family is also involved in helping the community. Moe's family is now hoping someone will step up and help police catch his killer. Right now, they're raising money through Crime Stoppers to increase the reward for an arrest in this case. They are also asking for tips at **1-800-SPEAK-UP**. They say this man, who would do anything for others, deserves justice.

Source: www.prlog.org and FOX 2 News



Brian "Moe" Motyka, brother of John Motyka '85. Click the photo above to see the FOX 2 news story about Moe.

Langton '79 Leads Next Generation of Detroit Talk Radio

The next generation of talk radio launched on Monday, Sept. 12 on Talk Radio 1270 WXYT (WXYT-AM). The voice of morning drive on the station is ND's own **Charlie Langton '79**.

Home to lively conversation and debate, the talk station focuses on the issues affecting Americans with an edge that didn't exist in Detroit Talk Radio before. Talk Radio 1270 will be available on-air, online here at cbsdetroit.com, and via the Radio.com application for a variety of mobile devices. In addition, listeners will have an interactive platform to voice their opinions through Facebook, Twitter and other social media options.

Talk Radio 1270 WXYT's weekday line-up includes the following shows:

- 6 a.m. – 9 a.m. Charlie Langton
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Glenn Beck
- 12noon – 3 p.m. Laura Ingraham
- 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Todd Schnitt
- 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Jason Lewis
- 9 p.m. – 12 a.m. Rusty Humphries

Home improvement programming returned to weekends with Adam Helfman and Hire It Done, Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8:00-10:00 a.m. The remainder of the schedule will be announced at a later date. 97.1 The Ticket, Detroit's Sports Station, will be heard exclusively on WXYT-FM. "I'm extremely excited about the launch of this new station," said CBS RADIO Detroit Sr. Vice President and Market Manager Debbie Kenyon. "It will take an edgy and engaging point of view about issues on listeners' minds," she said.

Mornings with local host Charlie Langton will not only cover the issues Detroiters care most about, but he'll be asking the questions listeners want answered from the major newsmakers. More than that, Langton will bring talk radio that's not only informative but highly entertaining. Langton is a regular contributor to FOX 2 and WWJ-AM.

Source: www.cbsdetroit.com



Charlie Langton '79

A Gut Shot

By Michael Happy '82

From his Detroit New Blog: Going Home

I got shot in the gut Friday night (August 26). And I'm sure many of my former brothers from Harper Woods Notre Dame High School felt the same figurative bullet in the belly when they heard the news.

A 15-year-old girl was wounded in the stomach by gunfire at a football game Friday, August 26 on the campus of Chandler Park Academy High School, the site of Notre Dame for more than 50 years until its closure in 2005. Although I was too short and skinny to play football at Notre Dame, I know and love that field: the block ND painted in the center of the 50-yard-line; those tall home bleachers, sitting in them on a chilly Friday night in October; the chants we used to holler – "We are the Irish, the mighty, mighty Irish..." I'm totally familiar with the architecture of the school building to the west of the field. Nearly 35 years since graduation, I could still likely navigate it in the dark – might even be able to find my locker from senior year. I recall exactly where my parking space was during junior and senior years – on the Eastland side of the Tom Kelly Memorial Gym, almost right in front of the side door leading to the vestibule between the gym and the classrooms.

Places and buildings speak to us through echoes of our past. They are part of our very marrow, regardless of who resides there now or the names on the front of them. That's why so many of us who stepped through the doors of Shield of Faith on March 29, 2008, were totally emotionally charged. We can see ourselves making our Holy Communion there, or standing at the altar with our new husband or wife. We can visualize the casket of a loved one being wheeled down the center aisle on its way to a hearse and nearby Mt. Olivet Cemetery. We can hear Mr. Reyes playing the pipe organ in the loft, leading us through a rousing Easter morning rendition of "Ye Sons and Daughters." Our memories make 13600 Van Dyke forever Holy Name of Jesus. And for me and the other loyal sons of Harper Woods Notre Dame, a gunshot on the football field behind 20254 Kelly Road can be heard and felt in places all across the state – and probably far beyond.

Strasz '68 Ordained as Deacon

On Saturday, October 1st, **Tom Strasz '68**, was ordained as a Deacon for the Archdiocese of Detroit by Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron. He became permanent deacon for the Archdiocese. He has been assigned to St. Joan of Arc Parish in St. Clair Shores. Strasz is the brother **Fr. Jim Strasz '70** and the father of **Thomas Strasz '97**.

"It is with great joy that I congratulate Deacon Tom Strasz on his ordination to the permanent diaconate. It was a wonderful celebration for the Church of Detroit and for our parish. The other great news is that Deacon Tom has been assigned to St. Joan of Arc Parish! Deacon Tom Strasz will no doubt become a significant part of what I'm convinced will be known as the phenomenal legacy of diaconal ministry in our parish," said Rev. Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin, S.T.L., J.C.L., the pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish.



Standing ready for his diaconal ordination at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Thomas Strasz Sr. '68 6th from left.

Source: www.themichigancatholic.com



Smartt '06 Helps Lawrence Tech Hockey Program Grow

Click the image to the left to see Mike Smartt '06 featured on State Champs.

Happy '75 is Building a Neighborhood Not Bound by Geography

Mike Happy '82 wasn't happy. The year was 2006. Happy had recently been hired as an online editor by the Detroit News and was trying to convince his friend and former colleague, Jonathan Morgan, to apply for a job there as well. The two had previously worked together at the New York Times online division.

"I came to Detroit for a visit and Mike took me around to the neighborhood where he grew up," said Morgan. The scene that met them on Dobel Street, on the city's northeast side, was appalling. The neighborhood had been a modest blue collar suburb in the 1960s and 70s. Now the homes Happy remembered as being filled with children, bicycles, and games were derelict - abandoned, boarded up, covered in graffiti. Fletcher Field, the park where Happy had played ball as a kid, was buried in weeds and trash. The streets were empty of pedestrians. "I could see he was pretty shaken up," said Morgan.

Morgan decided to accept an offer from the Detroit News and the two friends began discussing what to do about Dobel Street. The option of doing nothing did not occur to them.

Not long after that first visit, Happy and Morgan rolled out the "Going Home" neighborhood blog at the Detroit News. Their first step was to find out who else cared. "We blogged about fixing up the park and invited former residents to a cleanup and picnic at Fletcher Field. Then we invited them back to a reunion at the local church. Almost a thousand people came. It was amazing," said Morgan.

The blog quickly became the communication hub for the "Friends of Fletcher Field." Since the first summer, said Morgan, the Friends have continued to hold reunions every year, work on and in the park, and recruit more people. "Mike and I are still active but now it's mostly perpetuated by current and former residents. They've reconnected with local businesses and organizations. They're building a network around a location that is not bounded by geography." Current activities include a summer reading program, softball, a community garden, and holiday events.

The Fletcher Park project has been a success by any standard. As Happy noted, "People often want to help but they don't know how. 'Going Home' told folks a not-so-happy story and then offered them a solution, a way to assist in changing the ending. The Detroit News is supposed to be the guardian of the city's citizens, ensuring a strong democracy. Unfortunately, as the city shrank over the decades, the focus of the paper turned more toward the suburbs. 'Going Home' brought people from both sides of Eight Mile Road back together for a common good. That's how it should be," Happy said. But for Morgan, the success of the project led to more questions than answers - questions about how to hold onto the gains of a short-term success.



Mike Happy '82

Enter Dr. Jane Briggs-Bunting, MSU professor of journalism, and the Tandem Project. "The idea was developed from a Knight Challenge grant," said Briggs-Bunting. "We partnered with the Detroit News neighborhood blog to train citizen journalists to cover their community in an impoverished Detroit neighborhood. Software was created to assist in posting and collecting information. The hope was to replicate this in other areas," Briggs-Bunting added.

The software developer for the project was Morgan, who holds a bachelor's degree in computer science as well as a master's in journalism. "Jane had the Tandem Project and we had the blog," he said. "At first we just wanted to make it easier for people to participate. Then we hatched a plan to use this way of doing journalism to teach students. We combined efforts and started looking for money," Morgan concluded.

The two developed a community journalism class and in 2008 they started teaching it at Wayne State University and University of Detroit Mercy. "We had kids out in the neighborhoods, trying to figure out what it took to get a blog started," said Morgan. "At the same time, Michigan State University was adding 300-level community news classes and a capstone 400-level 'virtual newsroom' class to its journalism curriculum. We're still trying to figure out what the learning objectives are. For example, is it better to follow the same neighborhood or switch around? The 400-class students step back and help the 300-level ones. They're starting to build resources for new kids from those who have done it before," said Morgan.

In the fall of 2008, Morgan enrolled as a Ph.D. student at MSU. His long-term goals include "rebuilding the social networks that used to support local papers, which made for better journalism at the bigger papers also. Jane and I are trying to figure out how to template this and scale it up using students as reporters. The challenge is how to get kids out to work there without doing any damage. They learn accountability - it's live news! Their reports go directly online," said Morgan. The Tandem Project has been a good start. "We're learning to be smarter about citizen contribution," he mused. "They're not expected to do it all. They gather the information and the students synthesize it. We create the continuity and get people excited about helping. We've become a source for people looking to invest in Detroit," Morgan added.

Source: MSU Alumni Outreach Office

The Men of Notre Dame Continue to Call on Fr. John Kiselica

Fr. John Kiselica continues to support men of Notre Dame, despite leaving the school in the early 2000's. He considers us to be his family and always will. Below is a list of weddings Fr. Kiselica performed in 2011. If you are interested in having Fr. Kiselica perform your wedding, baptize your child, etc, please contact us and we will put you in contact with him.

4 June 2011

Mitch Koleczko '90 and Tara Richards

3 September 2011

Jeff Bruss '99 and Jessica Maxwell

10 September 2011

Jeremy DeSmet '94 and Courtney Bushmohle

10 September 2011

Vincent Strongarone '97 and Theresa DiLaura

7 October 2011

Patrick McCabe '94 and Jennifer Guzman



Fr. John Kiselica in Australia.

Szymanski '72 Plays Detroit Jazz Fest

Trumpeter Plays Tribute at Annual Labor Day Festival

On Sunday, Sept. 4, **Walt Szymanski '72**, trumpeter and band leader directed the J.C. Heard Orchestra in a rousing tribute to the late drummer at the 2011 Detroit Jazz Festival. Szymanski has traveled the globe playing with such jazz luminaries and bands as Clark Terry, Thad Jones, Dizzy Gillespie and the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

Szymanski started performing with legendary jazz musician J.C. Heard during the late 70's and early 80's as his music director and arranger. Heard attended a gig by the trumpeter at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Szymanski went on to tour extensively around the world with Heard and his band until the drummer's death in 1988. Since then, Szymanski, has been extremely busy with projects ranging from the Mingus Big Band and the Jazz Composers Orchestra, to serving as official Jazz Ambassador for the U.S. State Department and the Kennedy Center. He also served as principal music arranger at President Barack Obama's 2009 Inaugural Event. He soon will be heading to South America for a teaching stint at a prestigious university in Ecuador. He currently resides in New York City.

Szymanski began his musical career at St. Raymond's parish at the age of seven when he was a soprano soloist in their choir. As a high school student at Notre Dame, Szymanski quickly changed from vocalizing to playing the trumpet. He soon captured first chair in wind ensemble and orchestra. He also played lead trumpet in the jazz big band and school pit orchestra. In his senior year at ND, Szymanski was presented the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia award for the "Best Jazz Trumpet" in the state of Michigan. After graduating from Notre Dame High School, he went on to study jazz at the University of Michigan and Oakland University. For more information on Walt and his career, please visit his website: www.waltszymanski.com



Walt Szymanski '72

2011 Alumni Hockey Game

When: Monday, December 26, 2011

Time: 2:00pm

Where: Mt. Clemens Ice Arena

Cost: \$15 per player

Format: 90 minutes of ice time for all ND graduates

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

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

***** If you are a goal tender who is attending, please let us know *****



jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com

Vicari '75 Debuts Seafood Restaurant in Ren-Cen



Joe Vicari '75 with Daughter Theresa.

After several nights of preview and charity events, the new Joe Muer Seafood restaurant opened its doors for business on Monday, September 26. The restaurant, owned by **Joe Vicari's '75** Andiamo Restaurant Group, is located in the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit.

Joe Muer Seafood aims to combine the traditional style and favorite dishes of the former Joe Muer's restaurant with a more contemporary look and menu, according to the company.

Located in the prime space of the long-closed Seldom Blues, the restaurant offers views of the Detroit River, Ambassador Bridge and Windsor skyline. Its interior has been redesigned. "I can't wait for everyone to see it," Vicari has said. "It's really spectacular," he concluded.

The dining room will seat about 350, with an additional 60 in the bar area. Private party rooms and chef's tables are also available. On its opening night, the restaurant only served dinner. Beginning Tuesday, September 27, both lunch and dinner are served daily. Hours of operation are 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday, 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday; and noon-9 p.m. Sunday. Reservations can be made at 313-567-6837. The joemuerseafood.com web site will be active soon.

Source: The Detroit News

Congratulations Are in Order!



← Congratulations to **Joe Hindelang '68** (front left) and **Leon Olszamowski '65** (back right)! They were recently appointed to the Society of Mary in the US Provincial Council.

Congratulations to **Rodney Williams '88**! He was recently chosen to appear in Carhart's Everyday Icon campaign. →



The Muggs

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

Friday, Oct. 21, 2011
V Club
(Huntington, WV)

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011
Cadieux Cafe
(Detroit, MI)
CJAM Radio Benefit

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011
Small's
(Hamtramck, MI)

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011
Court Street Grill
(Pomeroy, OH)

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



← click the elephant to see **The Muggs** perform 'Mr. Beardsly' live on FOX 2 News!

Possible Botulism Outbreak Claims Life of Pertile's '90 Dog

When dozens of ducks in the ditch behind **Jack Pertile's '90** Koss Farms home began to act strangely and then die, he took notice. When a number of neighborhood dogs began to act the same way, including his 13-year-old Lhasa Apso mix, Macy, Pertile knew there was a problem.

"Macy suddenly didn't have a clue where she was. She had never run away from home before, but she started running away. I thought it was because she was getting old," he said. "Then, we started seeing other symptoms. She couldn't hear me, and she became very unresponsive. That led to her not being able to walk, swallow or eat," Pertile added.

As the number of dead ducks increased, Pertile said he started to talk to his neighbors. He was shocked at what he discovered. "Three other older dogs on our street had died, and another four were very sick," he said. "They all had the same symptoms Macy had - pumping their hind legs, difficulty eating and then paralysis," he said.

On July 28, neighbors contacted the Department of Natural Resources. The following day, the Macomb County Animal Control came out to collect some of the dead ducks for further testing by the state.

In a subdivision letter, neighbor Valerie Buckley said Animal Control officials, as well as those from the Macomb County Health Department, told her that the culprit was most likely botulism C. "This particular toxin is very common," Buckley wrote. "It occurs naturally in the environment, it is not harmful to humans or pets unless they were to ingest the contaminated animal remains," she added.

"This does happen periodically, and it will clear up on its own, and there is no treatment. It is not airborne. It only occurs when the ducks feed on the organisms in the mucky bottoms," said Cole Shumaker of the Health Department.

According to the Michigan DNR, botulism C bacteria is widespread in soils in North America, and the toxin produced during the growth of the bacterium is one of the most poisonous substances known. The only meaningful sign of botulism poisoning is the loss of strength due to muscular paralysis. Seagulls show wing droop and difficulty getting airborne before succumbing to complete paralysis, and ducks are unable to hold up their heads.

Pertile, who sits on the board of directors for Koss Farms, said he believes his dog contracted the same disease from coming into contact with contaminated duck feces, and then licking her paws. "There's always water in the drain, but when we get heavy rains, it floods to about 3 feet high, and looks more like a lake," he said. "You'll see ducks, cranes and all types of waterfowl and even muskrats. But now we're seeing the muskrats die, too. I've lived here for seven years and have never seen anything like this," Pertile said.

Although the residents have yet to hear back on the test results, the ducks are still dying. Pertile said there have been at least 10 more, and his neighbors are taking no chances. "You won't see anyone who lives on the drain letting their dog in the backyard, and if they do, it's on a short leash," he said. "I'm a science teacher, and I understand this is all part of nature, but we all have kids and dogs. We have a play set in our backyard, and I'm not even letting my kids out in the backyard until we've had some really cold weather to neutralize the bacteria," Pertile concluded.

Source: C&G Newspapers



Jack Pertile '90 and Family.

Friends of Notre Dame On-Line Store

<http://friendsofnotredame.flyingcart.com>



In Memoriam

Harrington, Emmett M. - Class of 1963

Age 66, of Grand Rapids, died October 4, 2011. He was an avid reader and was interested in history and family genealogy. Emmett is survived by his family mother, Jennie Harrington; siblings, Tom, Brian and Tim Harrington, Kathleen (Dave) Orsi, Jane (Ron) Bulgarella, Noreen (Jeff) White, Margaret Deming; and several nieces and nephews. Contributions may go to Vietnam Veterans of America. Burial at Resurrection Cemetery.



LaFata, Salvatore "Sam" - Class of 1963

Age 66 of Macomb, died September 9, 2011. Loving father of Elizabeth (fiancé Jeremy Quast) LaFata and Nicholas (fiancé Trista Paul) LaFata. Dear brother of Pat (Stuart) Clemens and the late Joseph (Suzanne) LaFata. Also survived by the mother of his children, Donna LaFata-Manley. Suggested memorials to Rochester Neighborhood House. Online guestbook www.modetzfuneralhomes.com.

Michael, Henry - Class of 1960

Age 69, a resident of Warren, Michigan, former resident of Madison Heights, Michigan died on Tuesday September 20, 2011 at Beaumont Hospital-Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Hank was born March 12, 1942 in Detroit, Michigan, he is survived by his wife Linda, children, Dawn (Brent) LeVasseur of Utica, Michigan, Robyn (Todd) Gustafson of Rockford, Illinois, Karen (Kurt) Kitterman of Sterling Heights, Michigan and David Taylor of Warren, Michigan, Hank is also survived by 3 grandchildren.

Kaminske, John - Class of 1959

Age 70, of Rochester Hills, passed away October 7, 2011. A graduate of Notre Dame High School and the University of Detroit, he retired in 2000 from TACOM as a Logistics Supervisor. Beloved husband of Denise. Dear father of Michael Kaminske, Maria Kaminske, and Christina (Jon) Watt. Loving grandfather of Greta and Garrett. Brother of Janet Kaminske. Son-in-law of Henry Klebans. Memorial contributions in John's name may be directed to Save the Children or the Michigan Humane Society.

Nehra, Michael William - Class of 1966

Age 63, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident, died peacefully Sunday, Aug. 7, 2011, surrounded by his wife and children at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He fought a long and courageous battle against kidney cancer. He was born June 9, 1948, in Detroit to Backus "Turk" and Barbara Nehra and graduated from Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods in 1966. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army who served in the Vietnam War. Mr. Nehra enjoyed golfing, boating and sports and was a member of the American Legion. Mr. Nehra is survived by his loving wife, Laura; adoring children, Kellie (James) Fanaras, Jennifer (Eric) Hoffman, Jade and Michael R. and dear grandchildren, Joshua and Autumn Fanaras and Michael, Kathryn, Jane, Colin and Sydney Hoffman. He also is survived by his mother, Barbara; mother- and father-in-law, Shirley and Robert Elliott; sisters, Michele Leonard, Mary (Kim) Waldo and Joan Sherburn; brothers, John, Vern and Phil (Jil) and many loving family members and friends. He was predeceased by his father. Memorial contributions may be made to The Michael W. Nehra Memorial Fund.



Extended Family

Somyak, Helen - Mother of Mike '67, Dave '69, and Tom '76

Passed away at the age of 83 on April 30, 2011. To view Mrs. Somyak's obituary, please click [here](#).

Somyak, John - Father of Mike '67, Dave '69, and Tom '76

Passed away at the age of 87 on August 30, 2011. To view Mr. Somyak's obituary, please click [here](#).

Motyka, Brian "Moe" - Brother of John Motyka '85.

Passed away suddenly at the age of 37 on October 7, 2011. To view Moe's obituary, please click [here](#).

Kopitz, Robert - Father of Bruce '68, Kevin '79, Keith '84

Passed away on August 8, 2011. To view Mr. Kopitz's obituary, please click [here](#).

Klucens, William - Father of Raymond '78

Passed away on July 22, 2011. To view Mr. Klucens' obituary, please click [here](#).

Litch, John - Father of Jim '77 and Jeff '80

Passed away on July 7, 2011. To view Mr. Litch's obituary, please click [here](#).

Simony, Helen A. - Mother of Rick Simony '71, Mother-in-Law of Ron Naborczyk '77

Passed away on June 8, 2011. To view Mrs. Simony's obituary, please click [here](#).



Marist House Closes

After 72 years of educating scores of Catholic priests, raising sheep and hosting religious retreats, the Marist House on Pleasant Street in Framingham, Massachusetts has closed doors. A budget deficit and more than \$1 million in deferred maintenance forced the closure. "It was a very painful decision," the Rev. Ted Keating, U.S. provincial for the Marists, said.

He and house director, the Rev. Paul Freschette, said the closing was forced by the amount of maintenance that needed to be done and years of budget deficits. "The more we looked at it, the more impossible it became with our limited resources," Keating said. "The Marists plan is to move to Waltham, where they will rent a floor in a more modest house from the Stigmatine congregation," Freschette said. "I think it's going to be hard for us to not be in Framingham," Keating said.

He said he expects the Marists will put the 35-acre parcel up for sale. The property, located at the corner of Temple Street along the Massachusetts Turnpike is assessed by the town at \$4.5 million. The Roman Catholic order, also known as The Society of Mary, opened the Marist House as a seminary in 1939 on a plot then known as Cherry Meadow Gardens. By 1980 the seminary had become a religious retreat and conference center, which the Marists operated until the closure. "It's also home to a family of elderly priests who have retired to the stately brick house. Two years ago there were nearly 20," Freschette said. Now there are five who eat, live and pray together every day. "Now our brothers are pretty much all in retirement homes," said Freschette, who, at 64, considers himself "the kid" in the house.

For years, young priests kept up the property and worked on carpentry and machinery in a workshop. They tended flocks of sheep in the field, grew herbs in a hothouse and harvested corn and carrots from a garden across the street. Nuns living at the adjacent Bishops' Hall would cook for the seminarians. "There's a lot of history for sure," said 89-year-old Rev. Raymond Fournier. "I myself started over here in '39 to '49, on and off," he said. "I used to mow the whole lawn," he recalled. "It used to take us two days," he concluded.

Following his seminary training at the Marist House, Fournier returned to teach in the '60s. After ending his career ministering over two parishes in Vermont, he came back to retire about five years ago. "Living here is a wonderful experience for anyone," he said.

The retired priests and leadership team at the Marist House have grudgingly accepted the closing. "It's not been easy," Freschette said. "Especially for the older priests who don't want to leave a property that's so rooted in history," he said. "They planted the trees out front and have lived to see them mature," he added.

"Naturally it's difficult to let go of all of that," said Rev. Walter Gaudreau, one of the three house leaders. "However, life goes on. It's like a new beginning for us," he concluded.

St. Bridget's Parish on Wheeler Avenue honored the Marists May 22nd with a Mass and reception. "It's a beautiful gesture," Freschette said. "We had a chance to say goodbye," he added.

Selectmen Chairman Dennis Giombetti said the Marists have been a good neighbor. "Very quiet neighbor actually," he said. The sprawling house features 31 bedrooms, conference rooms, an auditorium, two chapels, a large kitchen, dining hall and gift shop. Outside, seminarians built a religious stone shrine to Mary. There's also a pond, crab apple trees from the early orchard, and a football field that Marian High School uses. "Decades ago the seminarians used it to host opposing teams," Freschette said.

Framingham Planning Board director Jay Grande said planners are interested in the future use of the land, which is zoned residential. "It's a very key parcel," Grande said, envisioning it could be turned into a housing development, ideally with open space. Keating, who is based in Washington, D.C., said the Marists are mindful of the impact a sale and property changes could have on neighbors. "We would want to be concerned about them," Keating said.



**Above Left: The Rev. Paul Freschette, director of Marist House in Framingham.
Center: The Marist House in Framingham Massachusetts.
Right: The Rev. Robert Champagne sits under a picture of Saint Peter Chanel during Friday afternoon prayers at the Marist House in Framingham.**

Attention All Lawyers / Attorneys



The All Catholic Dinner

Presented by:

Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Dinner



Bishop Gallagher residence in Palmer Woods, Detroit MI (photo: Andrew Janacek)

The Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Dinner LLC is a non-profit organization of lawyers that share a common bond of a Catholic education. Many metro Detroit area attorneys and judges were educated at area Catholic elementary and high schools. Sadly, many of these wonderful places are now closed. The Society wishes to recognize and celebrate the shared tradition, values and culture of our Catholic education. Memory of many area Catholic schools has faded, but the history deserves to be preserved. Catholic education, present and future, needs support to carry on the wonderful education and enrichment that has benefited us all.

The Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Dinner LLC will sponsor its first event, the All Catholic Dinner, on **Tuesday, November 15, 2011** at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi. The evening will begin with Mass at 6pm. The Mass will be concelebrated by Fr. Richard Elmer (Detroit Catholic Central), Fr. John Riccardo (Shrine), Fr. David Mastrangelo, S.J (Detroit Loyola), Fr. John Huber (Detroit Catholic Central) and Fr. Richard Ranalletti (Detroit Catholic Central). A casual dinner and social hour will follow Mass. Speakers for the evening's program include U.S. District Court Judge Victoria Roberts (St. Martin dePorres) and Tom Rashid (St. Alphonsus). All members of the legal community and friends of Catholic education are invited.

Event cost: \$35/person pre-registration; \$45/person at the door

Checks can be made out to the Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Dinner LLC and sent to Mike Butler at 16730 Golfview, Livonia, Mi, 48154

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Reunion News

Class of 1991 Reunion - Sept 10, 2011

By Eric Woodhouse '91

The day started off with a chance of showers and ended a dry, beautiful day for baseball. The Notre Dame Class of 1991 started off their 20 year reunion with a taste of Detroit at Cheli's Chili Bar. We assembled with hopes of another Tiger victory and some good ole fashion reminiscing. Slowly, more and more alums flooded the first floor of Cheli's as we watched the end of the Michigan State football game. Some of the faces were familiar, the others, not so much. We all pretty much lost some hair or gained a belt loop. All in all, we were healthy and ready for a great day. Ron Stempin set the reunion up with help from Rick Nowicki. Rick came equipped with four Juggler yearbooks from 1988 thru 1991. The early group consisted of Mike Orlovski, Brian Buckley, Craig Brown, Scott Bania, Jeff Chernisky, Jim Lumetta, Tom Schramm, and Corey Riggs. Pretty much everyone was escorted by their beautiful wives who later became designated drivers. After MSU's victory we headed over for the start of the ballgame.

Comerica Park was at capacity for the AL Central battle between the Tigers and Twins. It was Star Wars day which excited Rick Nowicki to an uncomfortable level as he crossed paths with Bobba Fett. We entered into Suite 150 down the left field line to meet the rest of the class of 1991. There stood a motley crew of Tiger fans and Notre Dame Alumni. As we scanned the room, it was like we were in the cafeteria on Kelly Rd. The Tiger loud speaker was blaring Dirty Deeds from AC/DC as if Father Bryson was up in the press box pressing F11 on the old jukebox. There they stood adding to the early crew; Rich Moeller, Curt Makowski, Ryan Braathen, Eug Gunnery, Paul Carta, Kevin Bradley, Jeff Mertz, Adam DeCausin, Marc Gunn, Mike Comito, and John Rapp. As with the group at Cheli's, many wives and girlfriends joined along as we all stood for the national anthem.



Class of 1991 Reunion at Comerica Park

As I made the rounds and talked to everyone, not much had changed. The stuff that has would make any Fightin' Irishman proud. We had many new additions to the ND Family with the latest from the Buckleys, Orlovskis, and Mertz. Paul Carta's wife is due in a week or two. Cory Riggs birthed a dance team. Scott Bania's family is led by a St Joan of Arc football star, Ben. Jeff Chern's kids are soccer stars and his son Sam happens to be my godson. Mike Comito's son, Rocco is the next Steve Yzerman. Life

was good in Suite 150! Professionally things were very solid in a hard economy. We were all employed with great prospects ahead. Not one was unemployed and quite honestly, no one had bad stories about alums who couldn't make it to the game. Jim Lumetta's family moved their produce business. Craig Brown was back on the Detroit fire department after a back injury joined by Brian Buckley and Eugene Gunnery. Mike Orlovski is living in Philly at VW. We even had some surprise guests in Andy Dold '98, James Embree '02, and 2 of the Pierce brothers. The proud men of Notre Dame are all living the American dream.

The game ended with a 9th inning walk off home run by Brandon Inge. Marc Gunn was so proud of him, as Inge is Marc's favorite Tiger (please see the sarcasm). After the game we all headed over to Kevin Bradley's bar, Firewater. Firewater is located on John R and the blvd. Kevin and his dad treated us to a fantastic dinner as we watched the UM vs ND football game. The drinks were going around as we talked about our days at NDHS. There were a lot of smiles, a few hugs, and a ton of laughs. Our wives couldn't believe the pictures in the Juggler. Rich Moeller lost his mustache, Paul Carta lost his glasses, John Rapp lost a lot of weight, and I lost my hair. As we all separated for the night, one thing stayed constant (other than our wives having to drive), we were all better people for attending the high school that brought us to Detroit for the reunion. 20 years has been a long time. It's a shame it's been so long since we were all together. Just because our school has fallen does not mean the men of Notre Dame have. We are all living proof.

Reunion News

Class of 1976 Reunion - Sept 10, 2011

By Dean Ricci '76

Members of the class of '76 got together for phase one of their 35th reunion. We had a great time! The majority of us had not seen each other since leaving our old school in May of '76. The event was held at Comerica Park where our Central Division Champion Tigers didn't disappoint.

The game ended in spectacular fashion with little Brandon Inge hitting a walk off home run to win it in the 9th inning. There was also a promotion going on for the re-release of one of our favorite 70s era films, Star Wars, on Blue Ray discs. Many of the characters from the film, including Darth Vader himself were in attendance at the game. Pictures from the event are located at: <http://deanricci.com/ndhs76/091011/>

Phase 2 of our 35 year reunion is Saturday, October 22nd at 7:30pm at our old stomping grounds, Gilbert's Lodge. We hope to have a full report in time for the December issue of the Leprechaun.



(l to r) 'Fast Eddie' Szfranski, Joe Godell, Mark Adamo, Marty Tepatti, Dave Chetcutti, Dave Dobek, Tony David and Phil Jeske.



(l to r) Tracy Fischer, Bibi Somyak, Dave Fischer, Tom Somyak and Gary Ferro



Dave Dobek, Pat Sporka and Dean Ricci

NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1961

THE REUNION COMMITTEE IS FINALIZING OUR PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF OUR 50TH YEAR OF GRADUATION FROM NDHS.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR R.S.V.P. AND YOUR CHECK BY OCTOBER 1, 2011.
PLEASE SUBMIT \$75 PER PERSON FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE CELEBRATION AT PENNA'S OF STERLING IN STERLING HEIGHTS, MI.

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER, 5, 2011 AT 6 P.M.

NOTE: DRESS IS BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE.

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SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT:

KEN ENGLER
586-949-4005
ken.engler@sbcglobal.net

PAUL BAECKEROOT
586-286-6654
ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIMELY RESPONSE.
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THIS ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME EVENT.

RESEPECTFULLY, YOUR NDHS CLASS OF 1961 50TH REUNION COMMITTEE

Reunion News

Notre Dame Class of 1971



40

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

We are creating a video/photo presentation. Please send a current family photo and any vintage shots from your ND days.

Want to be part of the celebration, but cannot attend? We will be skypeing that night!

1971-2011

Mike Scharl at notredame71@att.net

NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1976

PHASE 2 OF YOUR 35 YEAR REUNION IS PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND AT 7:30PM. LOCATION IS GILBERT'S LODGE. GILBERT'S IS LOCATED AT 22335 HARPER AVENUE IN ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI.

NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1981

YOUR 30 YEAR REUNION IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011 AT 7:00PM. LOCATION IS CICCIRELLI'S SPORTS BAR THEATER. CICCIRELLI'S IS LOCATED AT 46793 HAYES ROAD IN SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN. FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT TONY DELVILLANO AT DELVILLANO@WIDEPENWEST.COM OR 586-415-0640. OR CONTACT PAT CASASANTA AT PATCASASANTA@GMAIL.COM

NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1972

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

NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1962

YOUR 50TH CLASS REUNION IS CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER OF 2012. CONTACT WILL SOON BE MADE WITH YOU VIA EMAIL AND SNAIL MAIL. IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS OR CONTACT INFO FOR LOST CLASSMATES, PLEASE CONTACT JERRY LESPERANCE AT JERRYLESPERANCE@YAHOO.COM OR AT 231-818-0791

NOTRE DAME CLASS OF 1965

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

Reunions in 2012

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

- 2007 - 5 Years
- 2002 - 10 Years
- 1997 - 15 Years
- 1992 - 20 Years
- 1987 - 25 Years



- 1982 - 30 Years
- 1977 - 35 Years
- 1972 - 40 Years
- 1967 - 45 Years
- 1962 - 50 Years

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!



We Heard From...



Mike Hycki - Class of 1990

I have just spent the last couple of hours reading over all of The Leprechaun newsletters and it really brought back some fond memories. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication. I look forward to keeping up to date with everyone and wish all alumni continued success.

Tom Kohut - Class of 1976

I want to shout out to all my ND Peeps (I'm not certain what exactly that means). I ran into Henry Hojanacki today in a meeting at work. Henry works as a manager for an auto supplier, Woodbridge Foam, in the Metro Detroit area. We didn't have much time to talk, but I know he's not on Facebook.

David Smith - Class of 1986

I am a 1986 graduate trying to get in touch with fellow classmates. I have not kept in touch and just wanted to see what others were doing in Christ. smitty1206d@yahoo.com

Tony Mardrosian - Former Teacher and Head Baseball Coach

I just had a chance to read the last issue, particularly about Doug Weight. I still remember how sad I was when he told me he wasn't going to play baseball his senior year. I wasn't just sad about our loss on the field. I already knew from having him in class how awesome a person he was, and I knew I wanted him on the team, in whatever capacity. What I didn't realize then (and not for a few years after) was how awesome a hockey player he was. Just another example of the tremendous people who were part of the Notre Dame community. Thanks, again for the work you do.

Paul Kotas - Class of 1989

I'd like to extend a hearty congrats to my classmates Doug Weight and Joe Heilig. I'd also like to send a shout out to the crew at Friends of Notre Dame. Hopefully you are all aware that your continued efforts with the Leprechaun, newsletters, website, and emails are all very appreciated. Nice job!

Jack Jensen - Class of 1969

Thank you for another great issue! The dedication of the Mandl family is inspirational. Best wishes to you all.

Mark Place - Class of 1965

Thanks for another great issue, and the coverage of a great hockey player, Doug Weight.

Chris Cameron - Class of 1996

I just want to get in contact with everyone. I am curious about any projects. As a Realtor here in Michigan and friends with so many of my alumni I can help buy, sell or just chat. The large commercial inventory here in the state creates many options. The low value in residential property for lower Michigan makes selling hard for current owners. My team and I can help. The beautiful Northern and Middle Michigan property seems to be holding its value. "Let me find it for you." Other than our business, I am here in Howell, MI. living right on Grand River above the Thai Cafe in front of the court house. Free concerts every Friday in front of the court house. Come on down. agent.chris.cameron@gmail.com

Kevin Ketels - Class of 1989

Great job on the Doug Weight edition of the Leprechaun! In February of this year I was appointed to the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council and am running to hold my seat in November. My campaign officially kicks off this week with the launch of my website - www.ketels.us. Thanks again for keeping the spirit of the Fighting Irish alive!

Jim Belloli - Class of 1967

My wife Sharon and I now have 9 grandchildren with the birth of Marco DePonio on August 29th. The grandchildren are 10 years old and younger with 7 being boys and two beautiful girls. With 7 grandsons, it's too bad none of them will have an opportunity to attend (the real) Notre Dame High School. On the other hand, they do have the opportunity to visit the multi-million dollar Pope museum in Washington D.C. (Thank you very much Cardinal Maida.) Jim, thanks for the continued great work and effort with the Alumni Association.

Dave Couller - Class of 1977

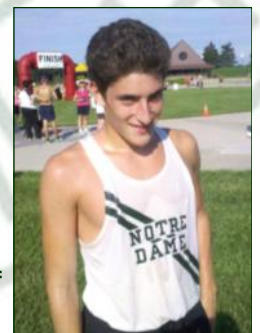
So sorry to hear about Moe Motyka. So damn young.

Kevin Smith - Class of 1974

Thanks for everything, Jim.

Joe Ciolino - Class of 1977

Attached, is a picture of my nephew, Jacob Ciolino, who ran in the Wood Duck Run this summer in the Lake Erie Metro Park dressed in a Notre Dame track uniform circa 1972. His Uncle Tony '73, now deceased, played football and was a shot putter for the track team and had the uniform for years. I have no idea how he got it. His father John '79 and I also played football and have fond memories of Notre Dame. Thanks for all you do to keep those memories alive and well.



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