

The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Notre Dame Alumni Association
www.friendsofnotredame.com - www.notredame-hw.com

Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

SUMMER 2011 EDITION



**ND Grads Are
Hooked on Fishing**
Page 3

Plus...

Josh Lavigne '07
Eric Woodhouse '91
Ron Naski '66
Mitch Koleczko '90
David Biondi '95

Jamey Embree '02
William Wylie '86
Bart Kocik '92
Matt Ziolkowski '90
David Rock '74

Congratulations Are in Order!



Congratulations to **Sgt. William Wylie, Jr '86** of the Shelby Township Police force. William received a Lifesaving Citation award for saving the life of a person in distress. A lifesaving citation is among the highest that can be bestowed on Shelby Township police officers. Wylie, Jr. was recognized for performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a victim who had stopped breathing.



Congratulations to **Brian Kelly '77!** On April 30, 2011, Brian's affiliation with baseball and De La Salle was permanently noted as De La Salle dedicated its baseball field to him. Kelly Field celebrates a coaching

career that saw over 600 victories, five Catholic League Central Division titles, three state championships (1993, 2000, and 2009), and inductions into the Catholic High School League, Michigan High School Baseball Coaches, and Michigan High School Coaches Halls of Fame. Kelly retired from coaching the varsity baseball team at DLS in 2010 when his role as Athletic Director expanded to include Assistant Principal duties. The dedication of Kelly Field follows in the family tradition of mentoring student-athletes. The gym at Notre Dame was dedicated to his father, Tom, a legendary coach in the Catholic League with a long association with Notre Dame as a teacher, coach and athletic director.

Congratulations to **Jamey Embree '02** and his bride, Katie! They were married May 30, 2011.



Katie and Jamey Embree '02.



David Blondi '95 and Abby Schnieders.

Congratulations to **David Blondi '95!** He was engaged to Abby Schnieders on June 2, 2011.

Congratulations to **David Rock '74!** He successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro this February. "It was the most exhilarating and challenging thing I have ever done!" he said.



Congratulations to **Mitch Koleczko '90** and his bride, Tara! They were married June 4, 2011 by Fr. John Kiselica. The wedding party included **Mark Gajewski '93** and **Chris Gajewski '90.**



Tara and Mitch Koleczko '90.



Congratulations to **Brennan Kelly, son of Brian Kelly '77!** Brennan became the first wrestler at De La Salle to earn All-State honors. A senior, Brennan finished eighth at the state championships in his weight class. Kelly also became the first wrestler at De La Salle to win his weight class in the Macomb County Championships.

Brennan Kelly - DLS '11



The Leprechaun Staff

- Jim Mandl '90:** Reporter, photographer, researcher and layout editor
- Jim Mandl '66:** Researcher and contributing writer
- Marge Mandl (Regina '66):** Editor
- Chet Szerlag '66:** Artifact contributor
- Rob DeBruyn '89:** Contributing photographer
- Eric Woodhouse '91:** Contributing writer
- Charlie Langton '79:** Contributing writer
- Mike Olechowski '05:** Distribution

Hooked on Fishing

Eric Woodhouse '91 Shares His Own Fish Stories and Interviews Several ND Grads About Their Memories of Fishing in SE Michigan.

It is spring time and the mornings are still cold. The water temperature in the Detroit River is about 45 degrees. The lilacs are getting ready to bloom. This can only mean one thing for a handful of Notre Dame Alumni: spring walleye fishing! Like every season that passes in the State of Michigan, a new outdoor season has sprung. From March to May a select few brave the wind, rain, and cold in order to fill their freezers up with the finest table fare our Great Lakes have to offer.

As a kid, my dad would wake me up at the crack of dawn to hit the river for some walleye fishing. We would start the night before. Packing a lunch, hunting for worms in Mom's flower beds under a flashlight, checking our gear, and loading the camera were all part of our routine. Little did anyone know at Notre Dame that we had access to the best fresh water fishing in North America. Not up north near Traverse City, not near the Au Sable River, not even in the tri lakes of Mullett, Black, and Burt. It was right in our backyard in Lake St Clair and the Detroit River! What would a bunch of private school kids chasing Regina girls around and practicing to beat De La Salle want to do with fishing? I thought I was the only one, or so I thought...

Walleye are caught in the spring using a couple different techniques. They get very selective with colors and baits. They move all over the river from Belle Isle all the way down to Grosse Isle. You often have to go into Canadian waters to find their favorite breeding grounds. That is why the river is so productive during this time of year. The walleye migrate from Lake Erie and Lake St Clair into the Detroit River to spread their love only a fish can appreciate.

Many people question consuming fish caught out of the Detroit River. I'm here to squash those "old" beliefs. As many of you know, the auto industry just isn't what it used to be. Because of this and an increased emphasis on enforcing Federal Environmental Regulations, the river is not full of industrial waste pollutants like the 1960's, 70's and 80's. Recently, the DNR announced that white fish, a very pollution sensitive fish (called an indicator species), spawned in the Detroit River for the first time in 100 years. We have come a long way since the 50's and 60's as for pollution and the Great Lakes eco-system. These fish are very safe to consume, much safer than tilapia that is often sold as "the new walleye".

As I got into my 30's I got the itch to start fishing again after college. I figured I would join a local club and start fishing with other guys that had the same passion as I did. Little did I know I would run into some very familiar faces. I couldn't believe the reconnection I had with Notre Dame Alumni. We laughed and talked about all the fish we caught with our dads as kids during our high school days wondering why we hadn't fished together earlier. The next section will give you some insight on fishing with these Notre Dame Alumni. One of them you could even hire to charter your next Detroit River walleye excursion.

Interview with Bart Kocik '92 Director of Sales & Marketing MPS Group, Inc.

Bart and his wife Jessica have two sons, Nate and Ben, and they live in Grosse Pointe. His boat is named *Lil Jesse*.

EW '91: When did you start walleye fishing in the Detroit River?

BK '92: I began fishing the Detroit River at a very young age with my father and other family members. As I look back, some of my finest childhood memories start with climbing into a rented 14' aluminum fishing boat with my Dad at the foot of Alter road at Jefferson. Fishing is an excellent opportunity to spend quality family time (boys & girls) and make wonderful memories. I have started to make many new memories with my own kids, Nate and Ben.

EW '91: What area of the river is most productive for you? (Sturgeon hole, Belle Isle, Sinbad's, whiskey plant, etc.)

BK '92: Come on Woody you know I can't tell you that! As my Grandpa would always say, when asked where the fish were biting.... "....in the river, of course."

As all fishermen know, a hot spot one day can unfortunately result in an empty cooler the next, but I have had most of my success fishing the American and Canadian sides of the River between Belle Isle and the mouth at Angel Park. In the spring when the water warms to about 50 degrees and the fishing is hot, you pretty much have to try to "not" catch fish... as the walleye are literally stacked in there like cord wood.



Eric Woodhouse '91 with a 34 pound, 54 Inch Muskie caught on the Detroit River.

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3...

EW '91: What is your favorite technique? Jigging or hand-lining?

BK '92: It's hard for me to answer that question, as I enjoy all types of walleye fishing for different reasons. Over the years I have come to really enjoy hand-lining... a very unique and simplistic method first introduced by the American Indian – mostly because I enjoy the peace, quiet, and serenity of the river after the sun goes down – especially if there's a Tigers game on the radio! Anyway you cut it though... Walleye fishing is a blast, whether it comes on a rod - jigging, by hand - hand-lining or through a 6" hole in the ice on a tip-up in the winter. For beginning fishermen, I have found that jigging or trolling crawler harnesses in Lake St. Clair is the most productive and the easiest.



Bart Koclk '92 on the Detroit River.



Nate Koclk.

EW '91: Any fishing experiences with ND guys?

BK '92: I have run into a lot of ND guys on the water. Better yet I have helped to introduce many ND guys to fishing the river, and they now share the same love for the pastime (including Scott McCabe, PJ McCabe, and Shawn Guzman).

EW '91: Best fishing story or fish you're most proud of?

BK '92: Well Woody, as you are writing this article I'll choose one that involves you, although I have a million of them! It's a cold spring morning, and raining I pick Woody up for a morning of hunting of the elusive and illustrious walleye. The entire drive there Woody can't keep quiet about this new pair of waterproof fishing pants that he is wearing... first time in use. Blah, blah, blah – NONSTOP about how he is going to be dry and warm and I'm going to get wet legs and be cold... He kept this up all the way to the boat ramp, blah, blah, blah. Let's just say we weren't even away from the boat ramp yet and Woody is lying in the bottom of my boat: soaking wet, in the dark, in the rain, cursing profusely, with his beautiful new pants split from his ankle to his hip! Little tip Woody: When you take a step into a boat, take your other foot off of the dock! Classic! As you know, many fishing stories/memories do not involve actually "catching" the fish!

Interview with Dan Maison '90, New and used car sales at Roy O'Brien Ford on 9 mile and Mack.

EW '91: When did you start fishing?

DM '90: I started fishing for walleye in the river about 10 yrs ago. I've fished my entire life, but started to notice the great walleye fishing then.

EW '91: What is your favorite area to fish in the Detroit River?

DM '90: I've had the most success over the years fishing in front of the whiskey plant on the Canadian side of the river. My main technique for walleye is vertical jigging. For some reason, my jig of choice and that area produce big numbers.

EW '91: Well, of course, you're going to have to tell us what your favorite jig and color is?

DM '90: Woody, I can't tell you that... You know the rules.

EW '91: (Well, I tried) Do you ever fish with any other ND alums?

DM '90: I fish a lot of the time with my brother Rich Maison '86 and my buddy Aaron Malinowski '86. We enter a few local walleye tournaments during the year and do pretty good. Considering an important part of jigging is boat control, I let my brother deal with that. It gives me more time to catch fish.

EW '91: Boat control?

DM '90: In the river you have to make sure your jig is vertical. The current is so strong in the river and the wind is so unpredictable, you have to use a trolling motor to make sure your boat and your jig are moving down river at the same speed. Considering they are different weights, you have to use the trolling motor to catch up to your jig.

Continued on page 5...

Continued from page 4...

EW '91: How has your dad influenced your fishing considering he is a local fishing lure maker? (Maison Lures are available at Lakeside Fishing Shop on 10 mile and Jefferson)

DM '90: He taught me the game. What I know about fishing has a lot to do with my dad. His lures are mainly used for Muskie fishing, but like any kid, you start fishing with your dad at a young age with worm and bobber. He has taught me a lot about what colors to use, what time of day is best, how to give bait "action", and basic stuff like knot tying.

EW '91: What's your best fishing story?

DM '90: I was still at ND and one day after school some neighborhood buddies and I jumped on our bikes with our fishing poles and waders on. We waded out into Lake St Clair near 10 mile and Jefferson. We caught a lot of bass and junk fish. As the sun went down, we started casting for walleye. I ended up catching the biggest walleye of my life at 13 ½ lbs. I haven't come close since... well close but not that big. Usually at that age and how random this was, you usually don't catch a wall hanger. I guess that's when you do catch them though, when you least expect it.

Interview with Matt Ziolkowski '90 USCG Captain of Eyes N Z's Fishing Charters

Matt is on the pro staff for Daiwa and Starcraft Fishing Boats. He has been a licensed Captain for 6 yrs. He was an All State selection in baseball at ND and part of the State Championship team of 1989. Matt can be reached at 586- 291-4020.

EW '91: When did you start fishing the Detroit River?

MZ '90: I started about 10 yrs ago. I've been fishing my entire life in Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River with my dad and grandpa. We decided to start fishing the Detroit River because that is the best walleye action in metro Detroit by far.

EW '91: What is your favorite area to fish the river?

MZ '90: I have had my best success from the Ambassador Bridge to Ecorse. The big females show up in that area pretty early and the males stick around until June. I usually fish the deeper water to stay away from the other fish like bass and silvers.

EW '91: How many trips per year for walleye do you book and do you fish for anything else?

MZ '90: I usually book 10 to 15 trips in the spring for walleye jigging. The walleye will move back into Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie after they spawn, so spring is your best chance for limits. After that I charter perch trips, bass casting, and muskie trips during the summer and fall. We live in an area that allows for world class fishing all year. These four species of fish are generally the most sought after in freshwater lakes.



Click the photo above to watch Matt Ziolkowski's '90 video.



Matt Ziolkowski '90 fishing the Detroit River.

EW '91: Did you fish when you went to ND?

MZ '90: I did a lot. My grandpa lived on the North Channel as a kid. My dad and I fished with him for perch and walleye since I was 6. We spent a lot of time there in between baseball practices and games.

Continued on page 6...

Continued from page 5...

EW '91: How is your dad? (Ralph Ziolkowski '63)

MZ '90: He's loving retirement. We generally get out on the river 15 times a year in between charters. He still loves to get out and wet a line any chance he gets. He ended up retiring as a fire marshal and lives in St Clair Shores.

EW '91: Any other ND grads you have fished with besides your dad?

MZ '90: There are too many to name... I just took a guy out that graduated in 1960 from ND. He and his son had a blast. During a lull in fishing, we figured out the ND connection. The alums from the 1960's really do appreciate getting up at the crack of dawn for a day of jigging, talking about fish stories, and bringing home dinner.

EW '91: What is your best fishing story?

MZ '90: I was doing a fund raiser. Every year I donate a fishing charter to be auctioned off to raise money for SIDS. My buddy lost a child to SIDS so it's the least I can do every year. The people that won the trip had never been fishing. I had to do a little training before we started our adventure. Little did I know the adventure had already begun. When you jig, you have to "walk" the jig down the river. I was giving them a lesson out in front of the marina. All of a sudden my fishing rod doubled over! I had something huge on and it wasn't a walleye. After a 20 minute Battle, the fish started to surface; it was a sturgeon. This 6 foot monster jumps completely out of the water right next to the people who won the trip. They all ran to the front of the boat screaming and carrying on. They actually asked if I had a shark on because of the features of a sturgeon. It was one of the funniest things I have ever seen. They were actually scared to go fishing! They ended up getting over it and we got them their limit of walleye for dinner that night.

As you can tell, a day of fishing with family, friends, or clients will bring you a lifetime of memories. If you're still in the metro Detroit area or you're coming home to visit, don't forget about us walleye fishermen and the great resource we have. Please be conscious of your outdoors and keep it clean. Tight lines!

Eric Woodhouse '91, MBA

**Associate Vice President of Investments, Ameriprise Financial
(248) 925-4357**

Upcoming Events

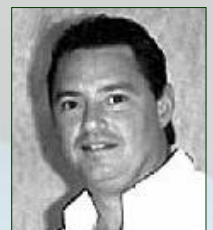
**2011 Alumni Softball Tournament
September 17, 2011
Double Elimination Format
At Total Sports in Harrison Township, MI
\$30 per player**

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

Alumni Obituaries

Pappas, Michael G. - Class of 1984

Age 44, died May 24, 2011. Loving son of Linda and the late Peter Pappas. Dearest brother of Christine (Jon) Potter. Proud uncle of Amanda, Michael, Elena and the late Jonathan. Dear nephew of Paula (Stanley) Gadulka and godson of Des Pangalos. Also sadly missed by Mary Farrell, Helen Pangalos, nieces, nephews, cousins and many dear friends. "Michael had a great faith in God and was truly devoted to his loving family. He was deeply loved and will be forever remembered..." Interment VanHoosen-Jones Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church or Holy Family Regional School are appreciated. Share memories at Wujek-Calcaterra.com.



Son of Byron Miller '90 Honored

Boys Rescued Friend After Falling Through Ice.

Kamden Miller, son of Byron Miller '90, and Anthony Tocco have received the Macomb County Sheriff's "Civilian of the Year Award" for saving the life of a fifth-grade student who fell through the ice in a retention pond and almost drowned.

The award and others were presented at a special ceremony hosted by Sheriff Anthony Wickersham. The boys were home from school on Dec. 14, 2010, because of a snow day. Gianmarco Delisi, a fifth-grade student at Duncan Elementary School in the Utica school district, was snowboarding with his friends near 25 Mile and Romeo Plank roads when he broke through the ice that covered a 20-foot-deep retention pond.

Kamden used ice rescue techniques learned as a Boy Scout, according to Wickersham. He dispersed his weight crawling on his stomach and quickly worked his way across the ice to Gianmarco, Wickersham said.

Kamden initially tried pulling Gianmarco out of the icy water, but his hands became too slippery, according to a sheriff's report. He slid around and told Gianmarco to grab his foot. Anthony arrived, which allowed the boys to form a human chain to give Gianmarco the right amount of leverage to get out of the chilly water.

"Kamden and Anthony, it's because of your quick and calm response that a potential tragedy was prevented," Wickersham said. "We are proud to present both of you with the Sheriff's Civilian Recognition Award," he concluded.

Macomb County Jail Administrator Michelle Sanborn said she was touched by the heroes' actions. She said it isn't often when two young men pull together as calmly as Tocco and Miller did to save a life. "These two young men were outstanding," Sanborn said. "The young man who fell into the pond was only a minute away from drowning or suffering hypothermia," she added.



Anthony Tocco, Kamden Miller, Gianmarco Delisi and Sheriff Anthony Wickersham.

Source: The Macomb Daily

Friends of Notre Dame On-Line Store

<http://friendsofnotredame.flyingcart.com>



Support Our Sponsors



Gifts Afloat Anchors in New Location

Flaherty's Move Store After 22 Years at 10 Mile & Jefferson

When **Donna and Paul Flaherty, parents of Kevin '89 and Bill '88**, opened their first store in St. Clair Shores more than 25 years ago, it looked nothing like it does today. "At that time, we were more of a marine and survey business with a few gifts thrown in," said Donna Flaherty. "When my husband passed away a few years later, that's when I turned it into strictly retail," she added

Gifts Afloat spent the next 22 years being must-stop shopping at 10 Mile and Jefferson along the Nautical Mile in downtown St. Clair Shores. "We definitely have our regulars," Flaherty says. "I like to think that we have something for everyone that relates to water. We have gifts for boaters and people who just love the water, too," she added.



Donna Flaherty, mother of Kevin '89 and Bill '88, is moving Gifts Afloat to the Nautical Mile.

A few months ago, Flaherty got notice that the owner of the building she'd rented for more than 20 years was selling and she'd have to move. "I looked at it as an opportunity," Flaherty said. Ultimately, Gifts Afloat didn't move that far. Flaherty found space in a deserted building about a half mile down the road.

"I like the building a lot," Flaherty said. "We have about 100 more square feet of space and it's been kind of fun to be able to set things up from scratch in a whole new location," she said. Gifts Afloat sells picture frames, paintings, furniture and collectibles. "I think a lot of people shop here for different reasons," Flaherty said. "We have a lot of people come in looking for gifts and we have a lot of people who come in shopping for something for themselves. I always tell people we're like a mini department store," she concluded.

The majority of inventory is collectibles and decorations, but includes jewelry, T-shirts, boat shoes and even a few food items — like bloody Mary mix. "We're still getting our inventory in and settling in right now, but I think

we're doing pretty well so far," Flaherty said. "I think most of our customers have managed to find us," she said.

Colin Paul, a resident of Grosse Pointe who likes to shop at the store a few times a year, is one of those patrons who found the new location. "At first I was scared when I saw the old store was empty, but then I saw the arrow pointing down the road," he said. "I was just relieved that it wasn't closed. I needed a new pair of boat shoes and this is the place I like to go to get them," he added.

Gifts Afloat's new address is 24601 Jefferson in St. Clair Shores. Their hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Source: The Macomb Daily

Lavigne '07 Helps GVSU Win Title

The Grand Valley State University Men's Division 2 Ice Hockey team claimed the ACHA National Championship in San Jose, California. After winning their pool with 3 straight victories, the Lakers advanced to the national semifinal where they beat Eastern Washington University.

In the championship game against Central Region rivals Michigan State, the Lakers came out firing and 33 seconds into the game, they took a 1-0 lead on Captain Ryan Welch's goal. The Lakers continued the onslaught by scoring 2 goals within 3 minutes of each other. CJ Pobur and Scott Rood gave the Lakers a 3-0 lead after 1 period.

Michigan State gained some momentum back early in the 2nd with a goal of their own, but the Lakers proved to be too tough, depositing 3 more past MSU goal Drake Todd en route to a 6-1 victory and a National Championship.

Grant Lyon was named the games' 1st star after making 37 saves on 38 shots. Lyon won all 4 of the games he started in the tournament and finished with a 1.50 GAA. **Josh Lavigne '07** won the only game he started in net at Nationals in a thrilling 6-5 OT victory during pool play. Lavigne stopped back to back Colorado State odd-man rushes before Welch scored the game winner with just 38 seconds left in overtime. The Tournament MVP was awarded to Laker forward Brad Keough. Keough scored 3 goals and dished out 5 assists in the Lakers' 5 National Tournament games.

The Lakers finish the season ranked #1 in the final national rankings.



Josh Lavigne '07 hoisting the national championship trophy he helped GVSU earn.

Source: GVSU Student Life

Maski '66 Helps Hoops Star Complete Degree

Earl (The Twirl) Cureton Graduates at 53.

The youngest of Minnie Mae Turner's eight children entered her home Friday afternoon and handed his 94-year-old mother a certificate. "Sari wanted you to see this," said her son, whose pictures dominate the living room mantel, particularly the one of him shaking President Ronald Reagan's hand while standing next to Julius Erving after helping the Philadelphia 76ers win the 1983 NBA championship.

Earl (The Twirl) Cureton was back on the east side again only a few blocks from Detroit Finney, where he went to high school and played basketball – not necessarily in that order. The certificate he gave his mother was one his 11-year-old daughter received from the West Bloomfield school district after earning her third straight 4.0. The certificate he hands his mother Saturday will be her belated Mother's Day present. It will be his college diploma from the University of Detroit Mercy.

"I am really proud because I had trouble with him going to school," his mother said. "All he had on his mind was basketball. He wanted to be a good basketball player, but he didn't care about studying. It was hard for me to get him to come in and study. Now it caught up to him," she added.

For the longest time, Earl Cureton did not envision himself walking across a stage and accepting his diploma from the University of Detroit Mercy. Don't get him wrong – Cureton knew he would eventually receive his degree, no matter how long it took.

But as far as all of the pomp and circumstance involved with graduation ceremonies, well, Cureton didn't need it. Just mail him that degree. "It was sort of embarrassing to a certain extent," said Cureton, 53. "It is something that you should just go ahead and take care of and do. It was nagging to me. I felt it was a responsibility that should have been taken care of," he said.

There is no need for Cureton to be embarrassed about anything. In fact, his perseverance in pursuing his bachelor of science degree in human services is something to be celebrated. This is a story of a guy who grew up on Detroit's east side, played in the NCAA tournament for his hometown school, spent parts of 12 seasons in the NBA, won two championship rings, played in Europe, coached in basketball's minor leagues and broadcast the game he loves, but never lost sight of a promise he made years ago to his mother. It was the promise to earn his college degree.

"I think it's important, and my mother reminds me of that every time I see her," Cureton said. "Without her saying a word, just looking at her, I would think that here's a lady that didn't even have an opportunity. She didn't have a chance – no money, no way to do it – and I had a scholarship. Regardless of what I had accomplished basketball-wise, it is something I never should have neglected. Kids need to know that regardless of how old you are or where you're at, it's something you need to do," he concluded.

Cureton wasn't kidding when he said his mother had no chance to attend college. She didn't progress past third grade. His father, Johnny Frank Cureton, who died in 1997, never learned to read or write.

So much for Cureton being read to by his parents, which is what Cureton has done for his 11-year-old daughter, Sari. "That was unheard of back then," he said. "When I was her age, when I got out of school I worked a job from 3 to 8 at night. I was working at the corner store. Then, at age 12, I worked 8 hours after school at the Mack Bewick Market and made 50 cents an hour. I'd get home at 11:30. There wasn't an emphasis put on me for reading and doing homework," he said.

But his mother cared deeply about him getting an education she could not receive in Louisiana, where she spent her youth picking cotton. "I couldn't go school," she recalled. "My boss would tell my mother and father to keep me out of school. I'd go to the field crying a lot of times." That is when she made up her mind to provide a better opportunity for her children.

"I could read a little bit down South," she said. "I could see where Northern children were getting a good education, and I said that's where I wanted to go when I got married," she said. Some 60 years ago, she and her husband and their first five children made their way to Detroit. It was before they had Cureton, who became a 6-foot-4 star at Detroit Finney but was overlooked by major college coaches when he graduated in 1975.



Earl "The Twirl" Cureton playing for the University of Detroit.

Continued on page 10...

Continued from page 9...

Cureton signed with Robert Morris, which had a junior college basketball program but a four-year business school. Unbeknownst to Cureton at the time he signed, Robert Morris was in the process of becoming a Division I program. Since he had planned to be there for only two years, Cureton, who by then had grown to 6-9, transferred to U-D after his sophomore year and sat out a season. The transfer was a train wreck for his academic transcript. U-D didn't accept more than half of his credits from Robert Morris.

Because he sat out a season, Cureton was a junior eligible for the NBA draft and was selected in the third round by Philadelphia in 1979, but returned for his senior season before going to the NBA.

When he finished playing at U-D in 1980, Cureton had not finished his education, which bothered him.

"I've always wanted to do it," he said. "I didn't want to leave it. The way things went is I was young, I didn't take care of it then and then once I started working it was hard to get it done," he added.

Ron Naski '66 helped make getting a degree easier. He works in the registrar's office at UDM overseeing transfer credits and is a degree audit specialist.

In 1985, Naski oversaw the school's Center for the Study of Sport, which attempted to give athletes an opportunity to earn their degree tuition-free. He has worked closely with Cureton even after the program was discontinued. "There were times he'd go back to school to try to finish and all of a sudden an opportunity would come up to play ball again," Naski said. "I'd tell him: 'You're not going to make that kind of money in the real world. So if you get a chance to go back, go ahead, I can always get you started back at school.' So I am tickled pink he's finishing," Naski said.



Earl "The Twirl" Cureton with his mother.

One of the reasons Naski and Cureton's professors are so happy for him is the way in which he went about earning his degree. "Talk about a guy who never used celebrity," Naski said. "He'd come in for an advising session with me and sit down and sometimes wait for over an hour to see me. There aren't a lot of athletes who would be like that," he added.

Earning a degree became a protracted adventure. "He disappeared for long periods of time," said Michael Witkowski, who teaches criminal justice. "He'd go to China (to play basketball), and we wouldn't hear from him for a couple of years, then he'd pop back up. But he was persistent, and I'm just real proud of him," he concluded.

This semester Cureton took a world religion course from Father Justin Kelly to fulfill a graduation requirement. The two often spoke before and after class. "He was a delight," Kelly said. "He said he learned a lot about things he didn't know much about and it was interesting. He was a pleasure to have in class," he concluded.

Over the years Witkowski had Cureton in several classes and enjoyed how he would share his life experiences with classmates. "Earl is inquisitive, he loves to learn and he came back with a real passion to finish his degree," Witkowski said. "He was a joy to have because he had a lot of experience from the streets in Detroit growing up and he had a lot to contribute to the young kids there who hear about stuff, but they didn't live it," he said.

That is precisely what occurred in Witkowski's global justice class. "We were going over the history of all the crimes and stuff that went down in Detroit," Cureton said. "I was like: 'I'm studying this, but I lived through this.' That's what went on in my neighborhood when I was a kid," he added.

Growing up in that environment prepared Cureton for his 12-year NBA career where persistence was a needed virtue. "Just going over the way things have gone for me, it's been a struggle pretty much my whole life," he said. "I played for seven different NBA teams. I never had a guaranteed contract. I never made the big money. I had to make the team every year. It was constant pressure through my whole career," he said.

And now he hopes to get the most out of a college degree, which could help him land a college coaching job. The constant motivating factor that enabled Cureton to keep pushing forward was a mother who never reached high school. "My parents didn't have an opportunity to go and I knew the sufferings they had gone through trying to make it," he said. "I felt it was really important that at some point in my life to make sure it happened. Fortunately for me, my mother is still living to see it," he concluded.

Source: The Detroit Free Press

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!

Class of 1961: Celebrating 50 Years

Hello Gentlemen,

How are you? Hope you are healthy and enjoying life.

WHO: The Notre Dame Class of 1961 Reunion Committee currently consists of your fellow classmates: Paul Baeckeroot, Denny Bolen, Joe Brigulio, George Clausen, Pat Doyle, Ken Engler, Larry Ferrin, Terry Kozikowski, Ray Lucas, Pat Milostan, Tony Pecoraro. We extend a warm and hearty greeting to each one of you.

Please consider helping us in any way you can. Especially, we need your assistance in locating members of our class

WHAT: The 1961 Reunion Committee invites you to attend your 50th High School reunion. It has been a mere fifty years since we shared time together at Notre Dame shaping the direction of our lives. We have a lot of history and memories to share with each other since then.

WHEN: Saturday, November 5, 2011

WHERE: Penna's of Sterling Heights located at 38400 Van Dyke near 17 Mile Rd.

RESPONSE: (ASAP) Please take time to let us know if you will or will not be attending your 50th Reunion by calling or emailing one of your classmates listed below.

Paul Baeckeroot '61
 Tel: 586.286.6654
 Email: ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net

Ken Engler '61
 Tel: 586.949.4005
 Email: ken.engler@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for your cooperation regarding the reunion so that we can make timely and cost effective decisions.

VALOR VIRTUSQUE

Class of 1965: Celebrating 50 Years in 2015

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

Please make sure you or classmates are still in contact with or get on the Friends of Notre Dame emailing list.

It is not too soon to be suggesting when, where and events.

Contact Dennis Berger '65 * dennisaberger@aol.com * (909) 223-4483

GO IRISH!

Notre Dame Class of 1971



40

1971-2011

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 skypping that night!

Mike Scharl at notredame71@att.net

Class of 1991: Celebrating 20 Years

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

Class of 1959: Golf Outing

Date: Saturday, July 30, 2011

Location: Fern Hill Golf and Country Club

Time: 8am * Cost: \$40 (includes cart)

Luncheon: Approximately 1pm

Cost of \$8.00 per person for light food, along with cash bar.

Spouses/Significant Others are Invited.

Contacts

Bill Lafranca: (586) 747-4113

Phil Demercurio: (810) 797-2174

Class of 1986: Celebrating 25 Years

Saturday, August 13, 2011

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

Paul Arnone paul.c.arnone@gm.com

Stephen Schultz stephen2000_fl@yahoo.com

Jonathan Zaidan jkmzc@sbcglobal.net

Class of 1976: Celebrating 35 Years

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

Class of 1962: Celebrating 50 Years

Target date is the week before the 2012 Dream Cruise.

Contacts will be made soon via email and snail mail and if

anyone has any questions or information on any of our

classmates they can contact me, Jerry Lesperance '62 at jerrylesperance@yahoo.com or on my cell (231) 818-0791.

Support Our Sponsors



ann arbor T-SHIRT COMPANY

www.annarbortshirtcompany.com

For Your "Best Deal" it's

Jim Riehl's
FRIENDLY



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, INC.

www.jimriehl.com



"Your Corporate Branding & Identity One Stop Source"

Jason McBride

21836 Schmeman • Warren, MI 48089
Office: 586.563.1020 • Fax: 586.563.1025 • Mobile: 586.306.8684
e-mail: jm@labelstop.com • www.labelstop.com

• For All Your Printing Needs •

- Corporate Branding • Full Service Graphic Design
- Posters • Banners • Decals • Catalogs
- Newsletters • Imaging, Mailing & Fulfillment • Web Design
- Vinyl / Vehicle Graphics • Exterior Signage • Business Forms
- Wearables • Promotional Items • Brochures • Self Mailers
- Booklets • Tax Forms • Trade Show Displays

Alumni Business Directory

If you are interested in promoting your business in our newsletter,
please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com

Pure Water Pools

More than 20 years of experience
servicing and repairing swimming pools!



Ask about our eco-friendly products.



15699 Hall Rd. - Macomb, MI - 48044 - 586-566-4600



www.purewaterpools.us

Jim Grabowski '79



MACOMB BENEFITS

A new approach to employee benefits

50258 Van Dyke Ave., Suite A Phone: 586-726-7800
Shelby Twp., MI 48317 Fax: 586-726-8835

Dan Beauregard - '99

50258 Van Dyke Ave., Suite A Phone: 586-726-7800
Shelby Twp., MI 48317 Fax: 586-726-8835
Email: dan@macombbenefits.com

Alumni Business Directory

If you are interested in promoting your business in our newsletter, please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com



Light Mike.net
Event Lighting Service

- Weddings
- School Dances
- Pep Rallies
- Festivals
- Homecomings
- Birthday Parties
- Fashion Shows
- Proms & More!

Mike Olechowski '05 (586) 275-7729
Owner www.LightMike.net



S. K. Schultz Funeral Home


www.schultzfuneralhome.com

Eastpointe Phone: 586-775-2200
Clinton Township Phone: 586-286-6400

Greg Schultz '76

Crook Electric Company

PH: 248-888-9881
CELL: 734-754-1610
www.crookelectric.com



10% Discount to HWND Grads
Residential and Commercial Energy Audits

Brandon Morrison '99 & Kevin Dunbar, CEM '99



ASPEN TALENT

www.aspentalent.com

Dave Moroz '76

Andiamo
RESTAURANT GROUP

WWW.ANDIAMOITALIA.COM

Joe Vicari '75

FOR YOUR BEST DEAL IT'S

Jim Richl's FRIENDLY



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

www.friendlyautogroup.com

Jim '00, Joe '04, and Jeff '06

KIRK, HUTH & LANGE, PLC

PATRICK S. MCKAY – '01
ATTORNEY AT LAW

19500 Hall Road, Suite 100
Clinton Township, MI 48038
Ph: (586) 412-4900 Fax: (586) 412-4949

www.khlplc.com
pmckay@khlplc.com

Michael Zelinski '65




42 Piquette Detroit, MI 48202
313.874.2680

www.zsvilladet.com

Alumni Business Directory

If you are interested in promoting your business in our newsletter, please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com

RS Simony JEWELERS
 FINE DIAMONDS PRECIOUS STONES GOLD JEWELRY

We Buy Gold!

Richard Simony - '71

Ph: 586-758-7500

www.simonyjewelers.com

Gigliotti & Associates, P.C.
 Law Firm & Debt Relief Agency

Paul B. Gigliotti, Esq. '83

15400 19 Mile Road, Suite 190
 Clinton Township, MI 48038
 Phone: 586-228-3636
 Fax: 586-228-5419
 Email: paul@paulgigliotti.com
 Web: www.paulgigliotti.com



- Bankruptcy
 - Social Security Disability



33250 Ryan Road
 Sterling Heights
 Michigan 48310
 586-939-7200
info@aofuneralhome.com

Adragna OBARZANEK FUNERAL HOME

Jerry Adragna - '90

Steven Rago - '83
 D.D.S.

35525 Garfield Road
 Clinton Township, MI 48035
 586-792-4550



Family Dentistry

"For Those About to Rock...We Will Rock You"
 Mobile Disc Jockey & Music Service

MC Buz
 586-215-3054
 Dave



Polish Prince
 586-872-6847
 Paul Zarkowski '83

We are Eastside Old School and We Like It!
 Weddings Anniversaries Reunions



URBAS BROS.
 HOME IMPROVEMENTS LLC

ROOFING • TEAR-OFFS • RE-COVERS • GUTTERS
 VINYL SIDING • ALUMINUM TRIM • FINISHED BASEMENTS • & MORE

WASHINGTON, MI
 LICENSED & INSURED


CALL JEFF @ 586-246-9969 or 313-938-9088 (CELL)

"LET OUR FAMILY WORK FOR YOURS"
www.urbasbros.com
 Jeff '90, Brian '91, Mike '93
 Ask About Our Custom Finished Basements!



COLLEGE HUNKS
HAULING JUNK.
 1-800-JUNK-USA.

AMERICA'S JUNK REMOVAL SPECIALISTS™
 Dan Ryan '01 and Pat Lipa '02



DETROIT
 River Outdoors

Eric Woodhouse '91

Alumni Business Directory

If you are interested in promoting your business in our newsletter, please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com



Your Total Outdoor Services Company

Paul Hayes '86

P.O. BOX 46355
MT. CLEMENS, MI 48046

PH: 586-421-1769
FAX: 586-421-1780

CONSERVATION SERVICES, INC.



Two Locations...

44375 Twelve Mile Road
Suite G-147
Novi, Michigan, 48377
Phone: (248) 374-4600

And...

401 N. Main, Rochester
Michigan
248-601-9300
www.rojomexicanbistro.com

Joe Vicari '75



Michigan Back Pain Institute

32004 Harper Ave
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082
PH: 586-296-1111

- Spinal Decompression
- Cold Laser Treatment
- Accident & Injury Specialists
- Wellness Care

Dr. Jim Osiwala D.C. '90

O'REILLY RANCILIO P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PH: 586-997-6458
cschoenherr@orlaw.com

A diversified, full service law firm providing consulting, general counsel, and legal representation to businesses, financial institutions, governmental entities, and individuals.

Sterling Town Center
12900 Hall Road, Suite 350
Main: 586-726-1000
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
Fax: 586-726-1560
www.orlaw.com

Craig S. Schoenherr Sr. '73

Cottages by the Bay

CAPE COD Vacations

Beach Point Club #25 963 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657 1 Bedroom w/ Loft	Weekly Rentals	White Village 334 Shore Road Truro, MA 02652 2 Bedroom Ocean Front
---	-----------------------	---

PH: 586-566-1641 ~ CELL: 586-822-5153 ~ mjenwmu@aol.com

John McCabe '63

EASTSIDE AUTO CLASSICS

Complete Auto Detailing
Buffing & Waxing ~ Steam Cleaned Interiors
Auto Appraisal & Sales



19240 Kelly Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225

Phone: 313-527-1044
Fax: 313-527-1055

Dave Somyak '69

Elite Ink Discount & Piercings
Presents **Tattoos**

Serving the Metro Detroit Area
Elite Ink at an affordable price.

24/7- Request an appointment... or just walk in based upon availability.
This is a lifelong decision, call us now...
Or when you are 100% sure, call us later!

25543 Van Dyke Ave ★ Center Line, MI 48015 ★ (586) 759-8446
21329 Telegraph Rd ★ Southfield, MI 48033 ★ (248) 827-3300
32750 Mound Rd ★ Warren, MI 48092 ★ (586) 759-8120

John Motyka '85

Complete Wellness and Injury Solutions



Nutrition ~ Health
Wellness
Accident Injury Relief

30325 Gratiot Ave.
Roseville, MI 48092
586-774-6301

www.michiganspinecenterhealth.com

Dr. Jason Stanczak '94

Alumni Business Directory

If you are interested in promoting your business in our newsletter, please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com

FRANKLIN | GOLF

FRANK J. BUASTELLA '70
DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS/MARKETING

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
MARKETING SOLUTIONS
CONSULTING
EVALUATIONS

7000 DAKHURST LANE | CLARKSTON, MI 48348
248-393-1721 | CELL: 906-360-7787
FAX: 248-391-2106
FGUASTELLA@FRANKLIN-GOLF.NET
WWW.FRANKLIN-GOLF.NET



Capital Banquet Center
The place for quality and service

John Bendzinski '82

12350 31 Mile Road
Washington, MI 48095
Phone: 586-752-6655
Fax: 586-752-6695
www.capitalbanquet.com

Clegg & Guest
PHYSICAL THERAPY

Stan Guest '80

P.T., O.C.S., F.A.A.O.M.P.T.
Board Certified Orthopaedic Specialist

35413 Schoenherr (586) 978-7900
Sterling Heights, MI 48312-4258 Fax: (586) 978-7710

www.CG-Therapy.com

Extreme Gymnastics USA



Tim Kelly '90

14124 East 10 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48089

(586) 791-9097
Fax: (586) 791-9164
info@extremegymnasticsusa.com

Www.extremegymnasticsusa.com

Mancuso's Florist

A Heritage of Excellence Since 1923

Frank Mancuso '74

24440 Harper Avenue
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 777-5600
1-800-mancusos (626-2876)
www.mancusos.com



STRAIGHTSHOT SHOOTING



Quality Firearms Instruction
Dave Edwards '80

www.straightshotshooting.com * 586-770-8882

William C. Cirocco '77
MD, FACS, FASCRS

Macomb Medical Campus
17900 23 Mile Road, Ste. 306
Macomb, MI 48044
Office: 313-885-1520
Fax: 313-647-3995

Van Elslander Cancer Center
19229 Mack Ave. Ste 38
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
Office: 313-885-1520
Fax: 313-647-3995

Specialist in Diseases of the
Colon, Rectum and Anus

Elite Limousines LLC
PERFECT FOR ALL OCCASIONS



586.557.5157
MIKE COLEY '86

Alumni Business Directory

If you are interested in promoting your business in our newsletter, please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com

Oxford Beverage

DAVE BOURGEOIS '89
THE EASTSIDE'S BEST PLACE FOR BEER...
OVER 700 TO CHOOSE FROM!

20107 MACK AVENUE
GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MI 48236
313.884.1450

ALLIED SIGNS INC.

 The Installation and Service Leader
for Southeastern Michigan
Patrick Stieber '92

33650 Giftos Drive
Clinton Township, MI 48035
Phone (586) 791-7900
Sales & Quotes: patrick@alliedsignsinc.com
Customer Service: alliedsigns@alliedsignsinc.com

BIONDE'S
Pizza & Subs

CHESTERFIELD: 586.948.4990 ROSEVILLE: 586.775.2740
www.biondespizza.com
For GREAT Weekly Specials!

Ben Holmes '87

Gratiot
Wheel & Tire Supply

Automotive Footwear Specialists
Since 1951

28335 Gratiot Ave.
Roseville, MI 48066
PH: 586-776-1600
EMAIL: gratiotwheel@earthlink.net
www.gratiotwheel.com

Michael Coley '86

Lucia Landscaping Inc.

Premier Full Service Landscape Company
Serving Grosse Pointe & The Surrounding Communities Since 1993

Jeff Meldrum '02
P.O. Box 34445
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
PH: 313-881-9241
FAX: 313-332-1539
jmeldrum@lucialandscaping.com
www.lucialandscaping.com

Altissimo Recording Studio
www.altissimorecordingstudio.com

William C. Hammers
altissimo.rs@cox.net
480-860-4066

Audio Recording, CD/DVD Duplication,
Video Editing, Media Conversion:
LP, Reel, Cassette, 8-trk, DAT, Victrola to CD
VHS, Beta, Camcorder, PAL to DVD/Blu-Ray
Radio/TV Cart to CD

10144 E. Topaz Drive
Scottsdale, AZ. 85258

 **Olympia** entertainment

 Detroit Red Wings

Kevin Lao '03
Premium Sales Account Executive - Outside Sales
Corporate Partnership Sales
Olympia Entertainment / Detroit Red Wings

600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, MI 48226
PH: 313-396-7512 FAX: 313-396-7993 MOBILE: 313-289-1790
EMAIL: Kevin.Lao@hockeytown.com

CARCO
WHOLESALE

Quality Cars Bought and Sold
Please Call 586-822-9955



Greg Wills '90

The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

www.friendsofnotredame.com - www.notredame-hw.com

Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

SUMMER 2011 EDITION



NEW ADDRESS

Notre Dame Alumni Association

Friends of Notre Dame
c/o Jim Mandl '90
34322 Brookshire
Sterling Heights, MI 48312