



# The Gates

ACADEMY OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

VILLANOVA, PA

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Spring 2014

## GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW FIVE MAIN

BY MARGAUX STELTZ ('14)

*The Purpose of this interview is not to be "ask the Hard questions and get Real Answers." I am not Barbara Walters. The purpose of this interview is allow you to better know the fabulous five main who will be serving you next year!*

### President: Corin Barker

*How did you feel when you won the election?*

-I was obviously extremely happy, but I can honestly say that I had to catch my breath and I'm 97.38% sure my heart skipped a beat...it was probably awkward for everyone else in the room because I was treading upon the fine line between wheezing and heaving. I was overwhelmed with joy. There isn't really anything else to say without repeating myself! I was so excited!

*Who is your ND role model?*

-Presidentially, my role model is definitely Colleen Hickey. She was the president my freshman year and I held her in such high regard. She was so awesome and a great president.

*Tell me something interesting about yourself.*

-I have done some pretty cool stuff in my day. I really enjoy singing and performing. I have auditioned for *The Voice*, I have performed an off-Broadway monologue, I have a YouTube channel and a Soundcloud page, I do occasional live broadcasts on the Internet for singing, just because. But I guess you can say I'm a singer.

### VP: Rachel Smith

*Can you give us any details about next year's theme?*

-Nope, sorry!! I can tell you that we're all really excited about it, though!! We all went to Meredith's house the week after elections to solidify our theme and there was a moment when everything came together and we were all going nuts. Actually it was probably just me but they were excited too!

*What made you decide to run?*

-It was funny because freshman year before I was even on student council I told basically everyone that if I ran for 5 main, I'd run for VP and have my video be Vice Vice Baby. It's so strange that now it's almost 4 years later and here we are. I don't know why I wanted to run back then, but I ultimately decided to run because I want everyone at school to be as excited about what's going on at school as I am.

*Who is your role model?*

-If I thought about it really hard, I'd probably come up with a more thoughtful response, but the first person to come to mind was Elle Woods. I have unhealthy obsessions with many things and one of them is *Legally Blonde*. Elle is so amazing; she's true to herself and not afraid to follow her heart! I've literally written an essay for Mrs. Burke about how much I love her and why she's an awesome role model.

### Treasurer: Maura Dougherty

- "Margaux hold the phone. I need to become witty in the next few hours/days so my answers make me seem more exotic."

*How did you feel when you won the election?*

-I literally have never been so excited in my entire life. I didn't believe it at first, but when I convinced myself that I wasn't dreaming, the first words out of my mouth were "Mrs. Burke, can I hug you right now? I need to hug you right now." I was so happy, and it's all still so surreal!

*What do you want to do for our school?*

-My biggest goal is to see people get more excited about ND events. I know that the more excited people are about events, the more fun events will be, and I really think our plans for next year are going to get everyone excited!

*What do you do on the weekend?*

-When I'm not crying about having to run in a track meet, I'm probably either spending time with my sisters or my friends or maybe even (mostly) Netflix and a pint of ice cream.



Meredith, Maura, Emma, Rachel and Corin!

### Secretary: Emma Spaeder

*What was running through your mind waiting to hear the election results?*

-The day of the election I basically cried all day. Those in my history class witnessed it. I have never been more nervous in my entire life. I just kept thinking things like they definitely took my commercial seriously, they must think I'm so weird; no one voted for me; they used such an embarrassing school picture on the ballot.

*What do you want to do for our school?*

-Fall Fling is my favorite event and I want to help raise the attendance this year. I think our theme can really work with all of our events, so next year will be very fun.

*How about a fun fact about yourself?*

-My favorite animal is a tortoise, particularly the big Galapagos Tortoises at the zoo. One time, I got to pet them and it's safe to say that was one of the best moments of my life.

*Who is your role model?*

-Dead tie between Ariel from *The Little Mermaid* and Chase Utley.

### AA: Meredith Hughes

*What made you decide to run?*

-M.C. McDonald... but I've honestly looked up to the position of 5 Main AA as someone who is organized, a leader, and sporty at the same time. I think this is a really admirable mix of traits, and I've always wanted to attempt to fill the shoes of the previous AAs.

*How do you think the new track will affect our athletic department?*

-I'm really excited about the new turfs and the improvements to Launfal because I think they'll raise the level of the lacrosse program dramatically. I'm not too excited about the track, though, because it'll probably just lead to more sprints at lacrosse practice :)

*I understand that you are what we consider to be a "lifer" here at Notre Dame. Do you have any regrets regarding this?*

-I have absolutely no regrets whatsoever!!! These last six years have been amazing and I'm so glad that I came to ND in sixth grade and went through the Junior School. Some of my best friends were made during Junior School, and I'm really happy that I was able to come to ND when I did.

## PRESENTING: THE 2014-15 EDITORS OF THE GATES!

MARGAUX STELTZ,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
ISABEL PELLEGRINO,  
SENIOR EDITOR  
KATHERINE TAGUE,  
MANAGING EDITOR  
TORI ROONEY,  
SPORTS EDITOR



## FAREWELL

FROM MARISSA BAUM, GATES  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, 2013-2014

I want to thank Mrs. DaCrema

for this past year and the amaz-

ing opportunity and privilege of

being Editor-in-Chief of *The Gates*.

You have taught me so much, not only

about editing, writing, and journalism, but also life. I will use your wisdom

you have passed down to me in this exciting new chapter of my life. I would

also like to thank Dr. Califf and Ms. Nobles for being my English teachers

these past two years and helping me make my writing and knowledge of Eng-

lish grow; you two have helped our paper thrive. It has been such a pleasure

to write and be in charge of *The Gates* for you, ND. Even through the infa-

mous snow this winter, you stuck with us and

I could not be more appreciative of you all. I

will miss this school more than anything, and

while some things may come and go in my

life, I know Notre Dame will stay in my heart

forever. Good luck, new Editors! Keep the

legacy alive. (And keep *The Gates* in print,

none of those online shenanigans [OK, except

for **this** issue...]. We're too classy for that.)

Always, Marissa

Pictured, left to right: Marissa Baum (Elon University, Class of '18), with fellow Gates editors Kelly Cary (University of Pittsburgh) and Mackenzie Bonner (Temple University)



*The Gates* is the newspaper of record for the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova, Pa.

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Special thanks to Mrs. Kim Nicholl, Mrs. Kathleen McGuinness and Coach Jen Carlo.

# Tori Rooney's Sports Page

## SPRING SPORTS RECAP (AND SOME UNFINISHED SPORTS BUSINESS)

The 2013-2014 school year for ND high school sports was one for the books. Many of our teams finished off their seasons with noteworthy records, some of which possessing prestigious league titles. Let's take a look at this year's highlights for some of our teams:

**Soccer:** ND Varsity soccer finished with an overall record of 14-6-3, one of the best records in quite some time. After this past season, the team has five graduating seniors. Not only was sophomore Phoebe McClernon granted 2013 First-Team All Inter-Ac, but also a player of First-Team All Delco. Additionally, sophomore Lexie Odgers and senior Katie Schneider were granted Second-Team all Inter-Ac titles. This upcoming fall, the team looks forward to the new season with two new captains, Carolyn Riegel and Aria Fish.

**Field Hockey:** As should come as no surprise, Notre Dame field hockey clenched the Inter-Ac and PAISAA Champion title with a 22-1 record this past fall. Senior captains Maggie Fitzgerald and Moira Putsch helped guide the team to a notable reputation and success. Putsch, a Maryland commit, was named 2013 First Team All Inter-Ac, Delco Player of the Year, First Team All-Main Line, First Team All-Southeastern PA/Player of the Year, NFHCA High School All-Region First Team and last but certainly not least, NFHCA High School First Team All-American. Wow, talk about a trophy wall.

**Crew:** As for the crew team, ND was victorious at Stotesbury and City Championships, placing five out of seven boats in semis and finals with medals the weekend of May 16-18, 2014. While the semis were cancelled due to course conditions, Varsity 2X (double) senior boat of Kelly Mannion and Maria Biancaniello (captain), as a top finisher in time trials, went directly to the finals and powered to third place to receive a Bronze Medal. This year Stotesbury featured 188 schools and 950 boats. This is the second Stotesbury medal in the club's history. On Sunday at City's ten ND boats raced in 8 events and a record 6 boats advanced to the finals. Kelly and Maria won the girls varsity double, novice quad of Serena Ruggieri, Maura McDonald, Reilly Bonner and Casey Phelan won a silver medal.

**Lacrosse:** After a solid win against Shipley in the first round of the PAISAA Tournament (17-7), High School Lacrosse ended its season on May 20 with a Quarterfinals loss to Agness Irwin. Still the future looks bright for the team, whose stars include rising senior Kat Land, named Main Line Times Athlete of the Week back in April for her impressive average of more than 10 saves a game. The team bids a fond farewell to its senior veterans, Jess Derstine, Tori DiGiacobbe, Kelsey Mangano and Katie Schneider. And speaking of Katie Schneider...

**Katie Schneider:** ND named lacrosse senior, Katie Schneider as the 2013-2014 Inter-Ac Athletic Director Award Winner. The Girls' Inter-Ac Athletic Directors' Award is given by the league in honor of past athletic directors. The award is presented annually to a senior girl who has been a multi-sport varsity athlete and has exemplified the following characteristics: dedication to their team and school, outstanding representative of the Inter-Ac League, sportsmanship and leadership. Katie is a three-sport varsity athlete competing in soccer, indoor track and lacrosse. As a senior, she was named team captain for all three seasons. In her senior year, she was named second team All Inter-Ac and All-Delco for soccer as a midfielder. She also qualified for the Indoor Track Nationals meet in NYC as part of the 4x400 relay team. In her junior year, she was named first team All Inter-Ac and second team All-Delco for lacrosse.

**Golf:** ND golf had another outstanding season this spring. They were undefeated for the 5th straight year along with Inter-Ac champs 6th straight year and 7 golfers in the Individual Championship; Grace Desjardins, Caroline Barker, Coryn Mullen, Corey Loftus, Bridget Pyott, Maddie Keane, and Meghan



Fahey, all of whom broke the school team record twice in one week from the 2012 record of 221 with the new record being 206. For her amazing work on the course, sophomore Maddie Keane was named Athlete of the Week by the *Main Line Times*.

**Indoor Track:** Indoor Track 4x400 relay team capped off an incredible season with a trip to the New Balance Indoor Nationals meet on Friday, March 14, 2014 in New York City at the Track & Field Armory. Despite no consistent track to practice on in the midst of a cold, snowy winter, their fitness, speed, and racing tactics progressed throughout the season. Each member of the relay team recorded a lifetime best either at the Pennsylvania State Meet or at Nationals.

**Track and Field:** The track team finished its season at the Independent School State Championships with a number of excellent performances. The 4x800 meter relay of Molly Stevenson, Meghan Reckmeyer, and seniors Colleen Hilbert and Kaylee Mulgrew came in 7th place. In the 100 meter hurdles, Margaux Steltz came in 6th place and Katrina Seykora finished 5th, both running lifetime bests. Katrina also placed 5th in the 300 meter hurdles. Mikayla Schneider placed 2nd overall in the 800 meter run, covering the half-mile race in 2 minutes, 17 seconds. Finally, the 4x400 meter relay team of Quinn Maguire, Sophia Recchilungo, senior Jill Battista, and Mikayla Schneider capped the meet with a silver medal, finishing just a step behind Episcopal Academy in the most exciting race of the day. The final race of Jill's track career was also her best ever, as she took more than a second off of her personal best with a leg that brought Notre Dame storming back into the front of the race. The relay's time of 4:00.9 broke the old meet record and is the second-fastest time in school history. Congratulations to everyone who competed!

**Softball:** The High School Softball team finished their season with 4 wins and 10 losses this season (not including a 4-1 loss to the faculty!). But even so, more often than not, the team had a ball, boasting nine seniors, all of whom started on Senior Day vs. Germantown Academy. This was the highlight of the season, as Alex Quigley, a first time softball player, had her first RBI in the extra inning 1-0 win. Also of note: the team plays a mean Ultimate Frisbee. Congrats to Emily Sheehan and Kelly McCabe who were All-InterAc honorees (for softball, not frisbee).



## ON THE RIGHT TRACK AT LAST

BY KATRINA SEKYORA ('15)

What does a track mean to Notre Dame? A track and new turf field would improve practices for every sports team for practice, and would be a monumental blessing for the track team in particular. As a member of the track team, I am delighted by the possibility of never needing to take a bus to practice, hurdle in the hallway, or nearly get hit by flying lacrosse balls at Villanova EVER again. In the past, I've found other schools' runners to be shocked when they hear how we do not have our own track, that we clear hurdles in school hallways and run distance runs on campus. At last, it seems we're on our way to bidding a bitter-sweet goodbye to those days of playing music and nearly hurdling through people; I'm sure teachers and students alike will breathe more easily knowing that they will not be trampled when walking the high school hallway after school.

Of course, regardless of our unconventional practices, the track team has been making the best of what they had and has seen unprecedented success in the last ten years. After all, ND teaches us to use what is given to us in order to improve ourselves. However, a new track and turf field will be a great reward for years of compromising and worrying about logistics instead of playing a game. A track and turf field constitute a major step in the right direction for providing students with the best resources available and encouraging them to fully invest themselves in their sport. I am optimistic that I will be able to practice and compete on this track during my final year at Notre Dame.

With the plans nearly finalized, construction is impending and will have its unofficial beginning at the groundbreaking ceremony on June 2nd. All are encouraged to attend as the school embarks on a new project with the intent of providing students with the necessary facilities in order to succeed. The phrase attached to this project is "Our Time to Inspire," and there is no doubt that this track and turf field will inspire students to try out for a sport and become generally invested in athletics. Visiting teams will marvel at our facilities, and the pride and school spirit we all have will shine even stronger. This campaign has seen over-whelming support from both athletes and nonathletes, because a track for ND is finally more than just a place to run laps: it's a venue that allows all student athletes to support each other and celebrate their talents. The time to inspire is now.

# The Thon Look

BY MARGAUX STELTZ ('15)

There is something about the girl who can pull an all-nighter and be fully functional the next day. When you see her, congratulate her because she is rare. Odds are you probably only know a handful of girls who fit this description. And the girl who can "pull an all-nighter" and surpass functional by looking flawless? She is the stuff of legend. If you see her... well, you won't see her. A person is more likely to see a mermaid than a girl who is flawless without sleep. To see what an average girl looks like without sleep, I took pictures of girls throughout the night during our recent in school all-nighter, a Thon, to benefit the Laurel House, a shelter and short term housing facility for women and children in Norristown.

At the start of the night, all the girls look pleasant and full of energy. Their hair is swept back in the style of their choosing; straight down, a pony tail, or the famous ming mings. Each girl is excited for the night ahead. The next stage is the rave. It is still relatively early but the style has begun to fade. This is one of the most anticipated Thon events. The girls dance their hearts out, working up a sweat. "Girls flying everywhere" is one way to put it. To be honest, I did not even intend to take a picture of the girl in the blue t-shirt; she kind of just flew into the shot. I went to get a picture of Mel Derderian dancing in the circle, but instead I captured this girl in the moment. She is the epitome of the rave stage.

After the dance girls are pretty worn out, looking tired. Many girls start to disperse to lie down. This is also about the time shenanigans tend to begin. Someone decided that it would be a good idea to put whip cream on one arm, hit that arm, and then try to catch the flying blob of cream...by mouth. There were many attempts, and many failures. Gabby Carlini, in the yellow with the whipped cream on her nose, perfectly captures this stage. She looks tired, obviously too tired to wipe the dessert topping from her face. However; she also looks content. It's only around midnight. There is a long night ahead of her and she is ready.

As the night progresses the girls grow more tired but continue with the fun and games. It is common knowledge that the more activities a person attempts at an event like Thon the easier it is to stay awake. Girls are now doing anything they can to stay awake: dodge ball, mat ball, kickball, Twister...you name it. I played more sports in that one night than I have... well, ever. My right arm was sore for a solid week. The look of this stage is basically the same as the last but more tired, and less content.

From 4 to 6 am, many are sleeping, or feeling very sleep deprived. The look and feeling here is comparable to the look and feeling people have after being hit by a truck (no offense). Looking at these pictures, one can see how impossible it must be to look flawless after a sleepless night. We look...how can I say this nicely? Less than prime. It is almost unfair to evaluate anyone other than myself during this rough time. My look includes bags under my eyes, wild hair, bloodshot eyes, and stickers. If you have not spotted me yet, I am in the top right corner of that group of pictures. If you don't know me, "Hi, I'm Margaux. Nice to meet you. Please don't judge me by this picture... I'm not that scary in person."

The next 3 photos were taken at 7 am. Elise is on the floor. Mel looks angry. Somehow the sophomores look alive. This is the final look. You go through a lot to get this natural grunge look, and personally I think the experience is more than worth it. You not only get a great look, but enjoy an amazing bonding experience for the school, and for an amazing cause: this year's Thon look raised \$5600 for Laurel House.



Above: On May 19, 2014, Christina Dietzler, Anne Marie Crinnion, Jordan Pietrafitta and Claire Thompson (all Class of 2016) joined Ms. France for the beautiful Serra Mass celebrating the six newly ordained priests in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Students from 14 area Catholic schools attended the service, held at Center City's St. John the Evangelist Church, as well as the festive lunch that followed at the Union League.



## The APocalypse

BY KATHERINE TAGUE ('15)

It is 7:50 am, and hardly any noise can be heard inside the Aimee Willard Gym- besides the drone of the loud air conditioner, and the click-clacking of Ms. Pal's heels as she walks across the floor. You're a little bit anxious and hyper from the amount of coffee you nearly inhaled this morning, and you're thanking your lucky stars for the socks on your feet. Soon, the proctor announces that it is time to remove the shrink-wrap from your exam, and says "It is 8 am, May 14th, and this is the United States History Exam". From there, the results of your exam have been left up to fate, and nearly taken out of your hands. You have studied as much as you could, you have gotten as much sleep as you allowed yourself to, and you have eaten the breakfast you saw fit. But lets rewind- shall we? There were many ways, and continue to be many ways to not only survive, but to thrive in the APocalypse.

In the weeks leading up to the AP, students should begin to organize and sort through the information they have learned this year, as well as de-cluttering that over flowing binder, organizing handouts with handouts, current events with current events, and in-class notes with notes. From there, students should decide how much time they'll need to accurately review all of the subject matter they have learned this year, and should designate a time to fully engage themselves in studying for AP tests. Depending on the student you are, you may find it helpful to meet in a study group with other girls taking your AP, whereas others may find it useful to study alone in deep concentration and solitude.

In the days prior to your exam, it is important that you cover two orders of business with your teacher in class. The first, is be sure to ask any questions about course material you may still have questions about. From there, you should research questions and essays pertaining to the topics you have now reviewed with your teacher. The second order of business you should cover, is test-taking strategies and guidelines. Teachers should definitely review test taking procedures, complete with everything from AP number labels and shrink wrapped FRQ packs, to how many points are deducted for answering multiple choice questions incorrectly. Bottom Line: there is no reason your score should suffer from a teacher's failing to review how the test will proceed for those who have never taken an AP exam.

The night before your exam, you know the drill. Don't cram, in fact- stop studying by nine at the latest. Eat a good meal, and be in bed by ten pm. The next morning, you should dress comfortably, eat a good breakfast, and leave your house early enough to arrive at school with plenty of time to prepare for your exam (which begins at 8am sharp!). At the end of the day, some basic preparation and taking care of yourself will likely result in AP success, and you too will be able to survive the APocalypse.

# THE VIEW FROM HERE

AT THE LAST MENTORING SESSION OF 11TH GRADE, THE JUNIORS WERE ASKED TO REFLECT ON WHAT THEY MOST HOPE TO HAVE ACHIEVED 31 YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN THE CLASS OF 2045 INVITES AT LEAST ONE OF THEM—IF NOT ALL OF THEM—TO SPEAK AT THE ND GRADUATION. THESE ARE THEIR RESPONSES. WE'LL LET THE FULLNESS OF TIME REVEAL THE AUTHORS' NAMES TO YOU. THE GATES PROMISED TO KEEP THAT PART CONFIDENTIAL.

*By 2045, when I address ND's graduating class, I am...*

- a trauma surgeon with Doctors without Borders, and I have two chocolate labradors
- married with two kids, with my BFA in dance, and working in a chem lab
- a successful psychologist helping as many people as I can
- a physical therapist for the Miami Heat
- a doctor seeking a cure for a disease like cancer or Alzheimer's
- a three time Oscar winner (at least) for best screenplay
- using my knowledge to better the world, perhaps a Nobel Prize winner, whose discovery saved someone, or an author whose books made a difference to others
- traveling in Liberia helping children
- a nurse in the Peace Corps
- a successful woman with a good life
- CEO of a major company
- helping underprivileged children with disabilities
- happy and bringing happiness to others
- helping children
- a caring and loving person making an impact on others, maybe by helping out with nonprofit organizations such as the Make-a-Wish foundation or starting one of my own--either way. living out the message of Saint Julie through service
- seeing the world with (Taylor) Mordy
- using what I've learned to create new medicines to cure cancer and MS
- making a difference in the world
- creating tougher legislation to fight animal cruelty
- well known in the film industry for my inspiring films and creative set/costume designs
- helping people in third-world countries by improving their health care systems
- a successful recording artist who gives back to the community
- a criminal prosecutor trying to protect communities from crime --CEO of my own fashion line, inspiring girls to be influential in the professional world
- working for a big-name magazine (like *Rolling Stone*) as a journalist/photojournalist and traveling the world with a happy family
- happy with my family and career traveling the world helping others and experiencing new cultures
- helping to save at-risk animals and endangered species
- perhaps a doctor helping people in deprived areas, or maybe an architect or civil engineer helping such communities improve their infrastructure
- happy, having traveled to Africa and worked to help villages secure enough food and water to thrive
- a successful doctor

*By 2045, when I address ND's graduating class, I have...*

- successfully recovered art work lost to the Nazis in the 1930s and '40s
- brought justice to people, possibly as a lawyer
- started a charity to cure melanoma
- achieved fame for my work as a journalist, through which I spread awareness of worthwhile causes
- been living out the message of St. Julie and Notre Dame through service and making a positive impact on others' lives
- achieved success and happiness
- made a difference in people's lives
- achieved total freedom
- my doctorate and now I'm bettering the world through my involvement with the Peace Corps
- been working toward human rights and education opportunities in less fortunate countries
- a great family and a successful job, and I'm helping others
- created the biggest nonprofit organization ever to help the poor
- established an educational system to better the lives of those in India's slums, nurturing hope for the future and the desire to learn, helping to end the cycle of poverty
- won the Nobel Peace Prize
- been helping to put an end to cancer

- a family and I'm happy in my dream career
- enjoyed a successful career as a dermatologist, and now I am just starting a nonprofit to help people with skin diseases in third-world countries
- spent my life helping and improving the lives of those in great need
- saved a life
- helped children
- been working for the FBI and helping the community, enjoying my family and living in D.C.
- pioneered advancements in engineering
- changed my community by sharing my love of teaching and establishing my own school, instructing children with special needs and caring for them each and every day
- started a successful company that betters our world

*By 2045, when I address ND's graduating class, I will be...*

- happy and bringing happiness to those around me
- happy and successful, enjoying my loving family, having helped a lot of others become the best they could be
- making people happy and making them laugh
- training others to improve living conditions for animals
- working toward curing cancer and helping the poor
- famous
- the first female president
- traveling the world helping those less fortunate
- simply the best I can be, with a loving, healthy family, and working as a nurse helping people
- a college grad with a job that helps people and makes the world better off
- someone who accepts others without judging them, and someone always trying to make others happy
- a nurse who helps the sick
- someone who travels and helps people
- a great cardiac surgeon
- a lawyer or politician, but someone who helps others around the world
- a financial engineer working on Wall Street
- president
- successful enough to contribute money and time to a cause I believe in
- seeing the world with BT ("BT phone home!")
- not sure
- helping others by being an advocate for social justice and trying to end discrimination in the world
- putting the values I learned at Notre Dame into action in worthwhile way, but I don't know just how yet
- discovering a cure for a disease
- living unafraid, boldly and confidently accomplishing my dreams, and making



- others happy
- living simply and helping to improve the living standards of people around the world, or even in my own community
- an aerospace engineer working for NASA
- much more patient, and fulfilling my dreams
- more understanding among all of my friends and family members, staying close to all of them
- a writer for a magazine, so that I can shed light on cultural and educational issues around the world, working hard and loving the whole journey
- bringing happiness to the people around me and providing for my family. I hope I can look back on my life and be happy with everything I have done
- finding a way to make every kid happy and know that he or she is special
- understanding, patient and successful, with many friends and a big family
- a steward of God's word and St. Julie's mission; staying true to myself and my values; and engineering the first community of life on Mars.

*Congratulations to Notre Dame's Rising Seniors, and Rising Stars.*

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES: WELCOME SPRING! AND A FOND FAREWELL TO FAMILIAR FACES



With so many wonderful teachers leaving ND this year, *The Gates* is pleased to pass along in this space a few of your best wishes for their happy retirement, along with some memories of their many happy years on our campus.

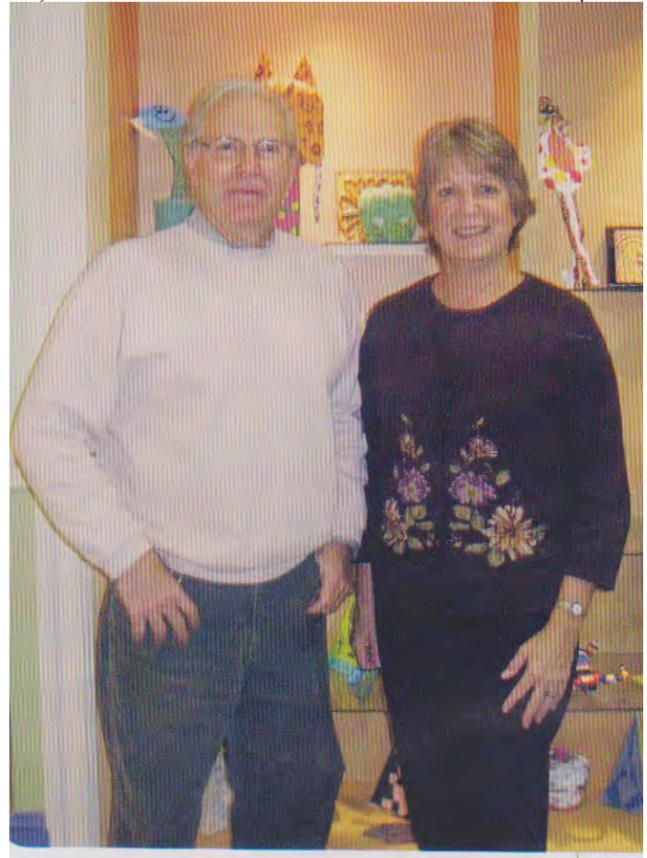
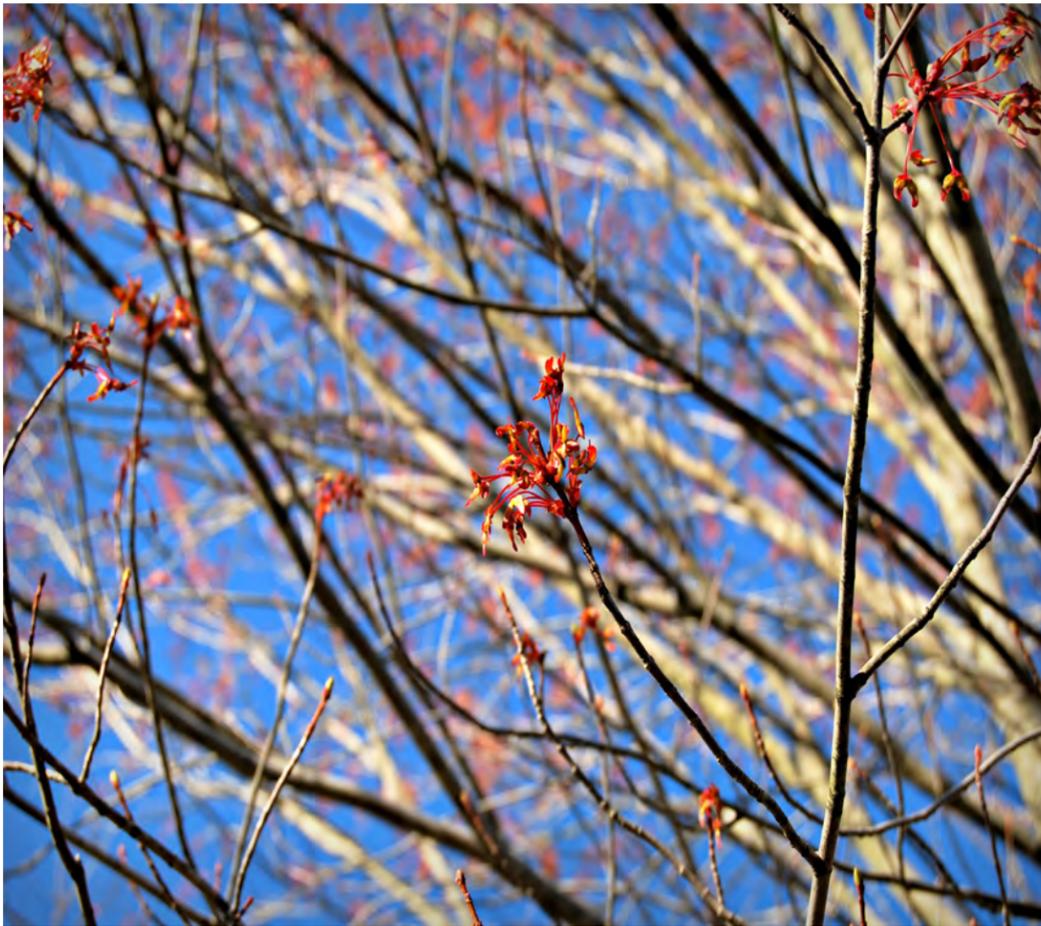
**Gail Sabatino, Art**

Dear Mrs. Sab,

Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to the art program here at ND. This was my second year taking art, and I have found it a great way to express myself and make something I might not have thought I could. You have taught me not to give up on a project when it gets rough: my coil pot was a disaster in the beginning, but you told me to keep going and it turned out to be my favorite piece this year. I know that everyone you have taught, and even those you haven't, know that you are the nicest teacher, willing to drop everything and help a student when she needs it. I know I am going to miss your ceramics class so much next year, especially our fun talks about the shore or just talking about what's new in our lives. I hope that you enjoyed your last year here and that you find time to visit, because we all will miss you so much! Thank you again for doing all that you have done for the arts and caring for every student you meet. You have truly set a great example with your caring and upbeat attitude. Thank you for being you. You're the best!

Love, Rachel Weber

[Below: Reprinted from old editions of *Launfal*, especially the 2008 one, which was dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Sabatino.]



## THINKING SPRING

PHOTOS BY JANET WU ('16)

We usually think of spring as the beginning of life. This contradicts with its placement in our school year – spring always occurs as our year is winding down. However, the blossoming flowers, weeds, leaves, and plants bring us a renewing reminder of the life around us (especially after the bleak and treacherous winter we experienced this year!). The chirps of birds and the mild weather is a nice refresher this late in the school year and an annual reminder that this school year is coming to a close.

**Irene Vecchione, English**

Dear Mrs. Vecchione,

Thank you so much for your awesome contribution to our community. We will greatly miss you. We'll never forget all the lessons you taught us and the ways you did it--from dressing up like Greasers and Socs while reading *The Outsiders* to all of the creative projects that left your room messy every day for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Memorizing the "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" was no one's favorite part, but it was a great learning experience--and we can still do it for anyone who asks, and even if they don't ask. We've used similar techniques to memorize monologues ever since. Your nurturing environment helped us become the young ladies we are today. We still use the grammar skills you taught us, especially the endless pages of sentence diagrams. Our favorite memories from 7th grade were all from the random closet. Whenever we asked for something, you somehow managed to have it in there, yet you always kept much of the content of the closet a mystery. We truly love you and will miss you so much. Thank you for your years of dedication to Notre Dame.

Love, Olivia Whytosek, Amanda Clement, Grace Leasure, Anna Noblitt

**Aurora Lopes, Foreign Language**

Muy Estimada Sra. Lopez,

¡Muchas gracias por su dedicación a Notre Dame! No puedo dar suficiente gracias a usted. Este año, aprendí mucho y estoy segura que mi habilidades para hablar y escribir están mucho mejor que antes. (Probablemente encontrará errores en este mensaje, pero permíteme, por favor.)

Usted es una persona muy admirable. Es cariñosa y amable. Siempre preguntanos sobre nuestras vidas y nos da consejos. ¡Por ejemplo, me dijo que Penn State es una universidad muy buena y ahora voy a Penn State! Otro ejemplo es que siempre nos da cumplidos sobre cada cosa, incluyendo nuestro español y nuestra ropa. Por supuesto, usted es una profesora fabulosa también. Nuestra clase era muy preparada para el examen. Su suposición sobre el ensayo era correcta y ninguno otro profesor ha adivinado correctamente en todo de mis otros cursos.

Estoy muy feliz que yo tenía la oportunidad para conocerle. Siempre recordaré este curso, nuestras dificultades con la tecnología (pues, cada persona pero no Anita), la cena en Coyote Crossing, y mucho más.

Muchas gracias otra vez por todo. ¡Tengo mucha suerte porque tenía el honor de ser un parte de una de sus clases! Deseo que tenga un futuro increíble. Afectuosamente, Graciela Desjardins

Which teacher would you be for one day if you could?

"Mrs. Vecchione. She's funny and she picks on us."  
--Ali Weirman, Danielle Antonini

"Mrs. Vecchione, because she's very nice and everybody likes her."  
--Stephanie Powers



The three "Mrs. Vecchiones"

Reprinted from the 2004 Launfal



Image at right and text below excerpted from the 1994 edition of Launfal

**Dedication to Mme. Napier and Sra. Lopez**

Señora, Thanks to you, we not only know what the "pluscuamperfecto" is. but we know that you love Andy Garcia, Julio Iglesias and... "Come on dju guys!"--don't forget the Phillies! We also know that cats are the favorite theme of your jewelry collection. But Señora, "el gato esta muerto."

Mme. Napier and Sra. Lopez, we the 50th graduating class of NDA would like to dedicate our yearbook to you. Both of you have shared many lunches and countless hours with us, and now it is our time to say "merci" and "gracias" for all of your hugs and love, as well as being "nos amis" and "nuestras amigas."

**Anne Carroll, Junior School Principal**

Dear Ms. Carroll,

I just wanted to let you know how much you will be missed. Your tenure at Notre Dame was filled with your joy and guidance. Thank you for always setting an example with your exuberance about life and your good intentions. I have enjoyed our hallway talks and it always touches me when you show your care for me and my schoolmates. I hope that you will realize what a difference you have made at Notre Dame. Just look at all the young ladies of the Junior School. Their progress would not have been possible without your dedication. May you continue to spread your joy and love wherever you go. It's from you and the security I learned from you that I learned to really believe these lines from one of my favorite prayers (nonsectarian--sorry!):

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.  
And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.  
Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.  
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

Gratefully, Olivia Chow



**Michele McLaughlin, Math**

Dear Mrs. McLaughlin,

For five years, I shied away from you as you came into the hallway with a stern "Girls! There are classes going on here, please be quiet!" At 14, I found your petite strength just as intimidating to me as a freshman as it had been to me as a 6th grader, when you would proctor my junior school lunch. This year, though, I had the pleasure of learning from the real Mrs. McLaughlin: a woman who is so personable and has a wonderful sense of humor, a woman who is a dedicated mother and grandmother, a woman who is a best friend to Mrs. Sajeski and Mrs. Connelly, and a teacher who showers her students with tough love and her own unwavering commitment to academic excellence. Over the course of the year, I've sat among 16 other girls, listening as you entertained our 3rd period class with warm narratives of your family coming for dinner on Sunday nights, your time spent in Ocean City, your years on the basketball team in high school, and your many adventures as a mother and wife (your husband changing a diaper for the first time, and words you did not allow your children to say). All of these became lessons we will undoubtedly apply in years to come, as we go on to womanhood and the raising of our own families. Not to mention the math party--also likely to come in handy. Thank you for all you have done for me this year, Mrs. McLaughlin. I know I am a better student--"Take your time, Katherine." "Be neat, Katherine."--and a stronger young woman because of your influence on me. Good luck in this next chapter of your life, and I hope I will be seeing you, Katherine Tague

**Dolores Sajeski, Math**

Dear Mrs. Sajeski,

You are a teacher with whom I developed the sort of amazing relationship over a short amount of time that other people take years to realize and perfect. You have been not merely my mathematics instructor--though you were obviously that--but also someone I could always talk to, whether it's about schoolwork or social issues, someone I know I will miss too much for words, but also someone with whom I know I will stay in contact for years and years. A teacher is someone who teaches you the material for the course; but Mrs. Sajeski, you are a teacher who taught me so much more than that. I can't thank you enough for your guidance. I hope that you will have the best times with your grandchildren now and through the years. I know if you are even half the teacher to your grandchildren that you were to me, they will have a truly amazing person in their lives.

Sincerely, Maggie Curry



From the 2002 edition of Launfal

# Dedication

Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Sajeski: Our very own slitherers

When we tried to choose a person who has had an impact on our lives and who has defended us at every turn in all our needs, two came to mind. When we thought of a teacher who is enthusiastic about dances, maybe even more than the students, we came up with two. Maybe they have different views (one a pro slitherer and the other an activist against), but while many teachers walk into our lives, these two have danced through. This year we dedicate the yearbook to Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Sajeski.



Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Sajeski as seniors

Mrs. Sajeski country line dancing

Mrs. McLaughlin in her wedding dress

Mrs. Sajeski



Mrs. Sajeski's favorite math class

Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin



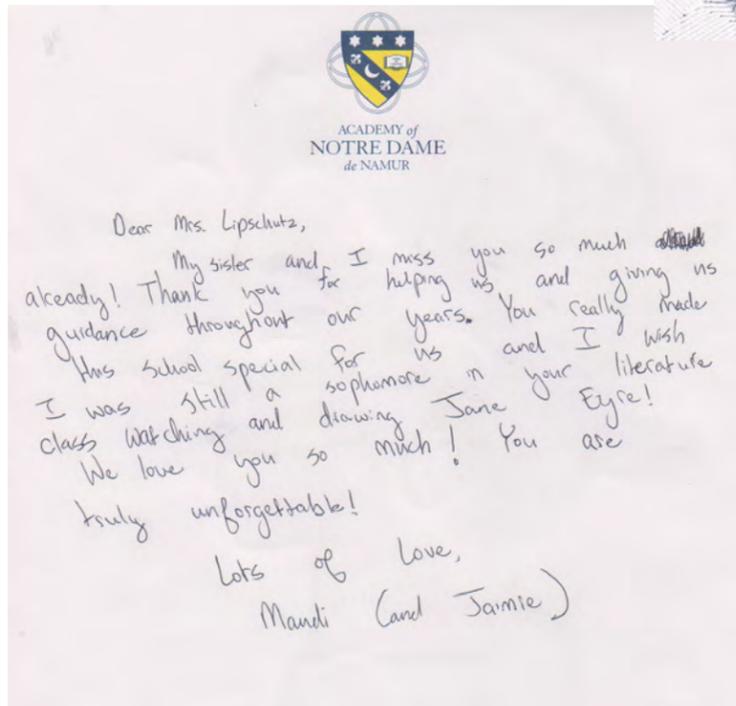
Mrs. Ellen Lipschutz, Dean of Students, Former Interim Principal, English Department



"Mrs. Lipschutz," by Amanda Lafferty, Class of 2016. Image at far right reprinted from the 2006 Launfal



Mrs. Lipschutz has constructed our understanding of the honor code, and she has always been there to model it for us. The Dean of Students for much of our time at Notre Dame, and this year our interim principal, she filled both roles as an understanding and compassionate advocate for the student body. Mrs. Lipschutz is a model of leadership for each student, and her love for us extends far beyond what is plainly visible. So does ours for her.



Dear Friends,

After I watched the array of soon-to-be-retired talent on-stage last week, I reflected on the many years some of these teachers had given to our school. When younger teachers hear how long some of their colleagues have been at ND, it's natural these days to wonder why. Why does a person choose to stay at the same school for so long? What keeps a person at the same workplace for an entire career? To know some of these answers, it's as easy as looking at the group of women who devoted so many years to teaching our girls.

Dolores Sajeski, Michele McLoughlin, Ellen Lipschutz, Aurora Lopez, Gail Sabatino, Irene Vecchione, and Anne Carroll are retiring after teaching for over 200 years combined. These teachers brought not only their teaching expertise to the school, they brought their devotion, loyalty and love to our students. Teaching course content and making sure our girls were prepared for high school and college were just the beginnings of what they gave. Their extraordinary gift, simply put, is that they gave themselves. It seems like such a simple statement, but there is nothing more profound than teachers teaching with their hearts and souls, and even sharing extra-curricular talents like dancing, singing and knitting. Kids don't forget that. In fact, they hold on to it (as their own words in this paper make plain). How many of us have been approached by an alumna and asked, "Is Mrs. Sajeski still there? I loved her," or "Is Mrs. Lipschutz still teaching Brit. Lit? She was a good teacher." This dedicated group shaped ND's loving community and wrote the rules for taking care of our own. They cared with passion about the kids' experiences in so many ways outside the classroom. Who else but Mrs. Sab would host an exchange student for a year and care for her even after she graduated from ND, even helping her find an apartment? How many teachers are determined enough to make dances and proms special and memorable that they organize the details with more fastidiousness than even the girls' parents might have put to the task?



The humor and affection these women had for our girls will be missed by us all. How can we forget Mrs. V.'s enthusiasm for her *Hound of the Baskervilles* unit, during which her classes made stuffed dogs to represent the hound? The girls couldn't resist pranking her one April Fool's Day by dressing the class hound in a purple brassiere. To this day the hound sits on her shelf, clad in undergarments. The owner of the exotic accessory? Yet another mystery to be solved.

There are so many stories that illustrate how these women inspired the girls that it would take an entire newspaper to do them justice--a big newspaper, like a *New York Times* Sunday edition. But please know, all of you, how much you have inspired the faculty as well. Life inside ND's gates will be very different without you, but you have permanently left your mark on the school community, not just the the students but also the teachers who love you and will miss you. In reflecting on your incredible careers, it turns out I don't really that many questions for you after all. What I do have, what we all have, is a smile as big as St. Julie's that we had time to work alongside you and learn your stories. And I have one thing more to say to you: Thank you.

Kathleen McGuinness, Chairperson, English Department