The Spring in Our Steps

An Elegant Senior Prom...at Home
Isabella Langley '21

Last weekend, the senior class enjoyed a fun (and safe) evening at prom. Held outside on the mansion lawn, the event featured delicious food, a dance floor, lights, croquet, and a photobooth. It was a wonderful opportunity to join together as a class, and the beautiful setting that lit up the mansion made the night—with its dancing, laughter, games, backflips from the DJ, and absolutely perfect weather—even more unforgettable. Especially given the pandemic, the seniors were grateful to have such a special event, truly a night to remember.
(See the photo gallery on pp. 2-3.)

A Spirit Day Worth the Wait
Jordyn Williams '22

May 21, 2021, will go down in Notre Dame history as a true representation of the unique love we share with one another, the ND sisterhood. Spirit Day was a phenomenal closing to a turbulent year. The middle schoolers dazzled in their best orange, purple, and pink fashions while participating in Tug of War, Potato Sack races, and a Water Balloon toss. The high schoolers impressed all by performing fantastic skits with such few weeks, even days of preparation. The new kids on the block, our freshmen, outdid themselves with a Little Mermaid performance that made all of us want to go under their sea. Our rays of sunshine, the sophomores, told a tale of exploring the magic of Notre Dame in the most humorous way with Ferris Bueller’s Day Off. The green class of Juniors showed as the main act with their Greatest Showman skit and displayed that they will be the Greatest Show next year. Lastly, our hearts were filled with complete joy as we watched our Seniors complete their final skit as “College is coming!” and the toys (our seniors) were well on their way in Toy Story 3. We concluded the day by honoring Dr. Judith Dwyer with a photo time capsule of her remarkable seven years at Notre Dame. This Spirit Day is one to remember and will be an example of what it means to carry the Spirit of St. Julie.
(For more Spirit Day memories, see the photo gallery on p.5.)

Spirited students from every grade celebrated springtime at ND, and the Blue Class of 2021 claimed the Spirit Day trophy.
Seniors, guests and chaperones make merry on the Mansion lawn.
From the Archives

National Honor Society Flashback
Then: 1971

Officers: President Kat Lanzalotto (front row far right), Historian/Webmaster Stephanie Winterdal (second row, third from the right), Faith Officer Sydney Worrell (second row, fourth from left). Not pictured: Ella Donohue (Vice President) and Catherine Wynne (Secretary).

Now: 2021

The Gates Flashback!
Then (2001):

Now (2021):
From the 2020-21 Gates editorial board: Sports Editor Maddie Frank, Senior Writers Kiera Chambers, Hannah Jackson, Isabella Langley, Ava Maclaughlin, and Contributing Editor Molly Hughes.

Five Main Flashback!
Then (Five Main, 1981, pictured with Student Council advisor Barbara Gallagher):

Now (Five Main, 2021-22):
AA rep Micaela McCloskey, Vice President Maggie Krein, Treasurer Caroline Crossed, Secretary Kelly McGlinn, and President Kyleigh Calvert (all Class of 2022).

The Show(s) Will Go On!
Charlotte Lignowski ‘22

While ND was unable to have a theater season this year, the future looks bright for next year. Says Upper School Director Mrs. Burke, “We are excited to get back on stage in some capacity, but currently we are waiting to see what the guidelines will look like in the fall of next year.” Everyone has missed the theatre community immensely, and we cannot wait to see everyone back on the ND stage. For now, we hope you supported the arts at Notre Dame by viewing the Spring Concert and Dance Recital this past April.
Spirit Day!

Spirited Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors process to the gym, where—later—the Class of 2021 basks in victory!
Winter Sports Final Recap!

**Basketball**
ND basketball played a shortened season of nine games. The team played Inter-Academic League games only this season with an impressive record of 8-1 for the varsity team. ND varsity basketball finished with the best record of the season with wins over last year’s league champion Germantown and an overtime win against Episcopal. JV basketball also had a good season with an 8-1 record. Congratulations to the basketball teams on a great season!

**Swimming and Diving**
ND was able to participate in just four meets this season, but the team still had an impressive performance! Our swimmers set two new ND records and an EA pool record. Not only that, but many swimmers also won first place awards in the last meet of the season. Congratulations on a record-breaking season!

**Indoor Track**
While the team competed in no official meets during the season, Indoor Track continued to work hard and have fun, including outdoor practices in chilly conditions. For some friendly competition, team members competed twice against each other in two timed trials.
Spring Sports Recap

**Lacrosse**
Although the 2020 lacrosse season was canceled due to COVID, ND Lax returned with gusto in 2021! Varsity lacrosse started off strong with scrimmage wins over Garnet Valley and Villa Maria, plus an Inter-Academic League win against Agnes Irwin. Ultimately, they lost the IAAL Championship semifinal to Penn Charter, but it was a great season anyway, including for JV, which also played well in both league and out-of-league competition.

**Track and Field**
Track and field returned to ND, competing in meets against Inter-Ac league schools, as well as at the IAAL Invitational. The team saw several Top 6 finishes, including the 4x800 team (Reese Czajkowski, Ava DelVescovo, Cara Stevenson, and Maura Brady), 100m (Grace Galia 6th), 400m (Saylor Milone 4th and Gabriella Recchilungo 5th), 800m (Maura Brady 3rd and Therese Trainer 4th), 1600m (Therese Trainer 1st and Kyleigh Calvert 5th), 3200m (Kyleigh Calvert 3rd), 100m hurdles (Emma McGuinn 2nd and Caroline Crossed 5th), 300m hurdles (Emma McGuinn 5th), high jump (Kiera Pappano 3rd), triple jump (Sarah Kichula 5th), and 4x400 (Gabriella Recchilungo, Saylor Milone, Maura Brady, and Therese Trainer 2nd). Amazing job, Track!

**Softball**
ND softball had a competitive season ahead with both Inter-Ac and out-of-league games. The team enjoyed a big win against Bonner-Prendie, but they lost in the first league game against Springside Chestnut Hill and ultimately lost to Penn Charter in the first round of the IAAL Championship.

**Crew**
ND crew trained during the fall and winter season sport seasons, and had the opportunity to compete again on the water this spring. The team competed in its first regatta of the season on April 11th. Rowing had a strong first race, and the team has continued to perform well throughout the spring.

**Fencing**
High-school fencing club returned this spring. Meetings twice weekly gave the club members opportunities for fencing practice and fun competition.

**Golf**
ND golf returned for a strong season, opening with a win in the team’s first match, against Baldwin. The team remained undefeated in both league and out-of-league competition all season, and closed the Inter Ac Championship with a first place finish. Go, golf!

[Some photos in our Sports section are courtesy of Jay Gorodetz Photography (jaygorodetz.com).]
Grace for Dignity
Molly Hughes ’22

Back in 2018, Grace Ganley (pictured) visited Kenya on a trip facilitated by the nonprofit group Come Unity. While there, she helped shop for and assemble “dignity kits” filled with basic sanitary essentials that young women in the U.S. often take for granted. At the time, the organization could only provide each girl with one pair of underwear and one pack of pads per year. Grace was so moved by her experiences that she launched the organization Grace for Dignity upon her arrival back home. Inspired by the powerful young women she met on that first trip to Kenya, Grace—now an 11th grader at Notre Dame—has since helped each girl served by her group to receive a “dignity kit,” containing five pairs of underwear, two packs of pads, soap, laundry detergent, a toothbrush and toothpaste, toilet paper, and Vaseline, three times per year.

It is crucial to the girls’ education and to their wellbeing to receive the things they would otherwise not have access to or be able to afford. These are the tools they need to succeed. The girls want to create a future for themselves, and hygiene products help them focus on their education and break the cycle of child marriage by creating a life of their own. Grace has met many inspirational people along the way, such as Namaiana, who was accepted into one of the best secondary schools in Kenya because of her determination; Elisabeth, who created a sustainable source of income for the women in her village; and Stella, who provides for her family during her school breaks. According to Grace, “These women do the hard work. It’s the least I can do to provide them with basic needs.” Providing these young women with everyday essentials allows them to grow into the confident and motivated leaders they are meant to be. If you are interested in helping Grace reach her goals, you can donate on her website, gracefordignity.com. A $25 donation provides one girl with basic needs for three months; a $75 donation provides her with basic needs for a whole year.

Farewell, from the Editor-in-Chief

Joining the newspaper club when I came to Notre Dame in the sixth grade was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. The past seven years of working collaboratively with so many talented girls have been amazing, and the experience has made me love writing even more than I already did. I was honored to have been Editor in Chief this year, and I know that I am leaving The Gates in the very best hands! I’m so excited to be passing the paper on to Madison Frank ’22 (pictured at right!), and her editorial board, featuring the amazing talents of Molly Hughes, Jordyn Williams, and Charlotte Lignowski (all ’22), along with veteran underclassmen writers like Sadie Mordan ’23 and some other talented players to be named in the fall.

Think you might like to write for The Gates? Do you have a great idea for a new feature or column? An opinion piece? Some cartoons? Let Maddie know about that.

The Gates is the newspaper of record for the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, in Villanova, PA.
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Sports Editor: Madison Frank ’22
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Contributing Editors: Jaiden Kennedy ’21, Molly Hughes ’22, Sadie Mordan ’23