

# REVIEW



## INTRODUCING DR. MARYLOU YAM, 14TH PRESIDENT OF NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

*Just weeks after being named President-elect of Notre Dame of Maryland University, Marylou Yam, Ph.D., is busily preparing for the start of her term on July 1. She had a few minutes to share a bit about her background and some reflections on why she wanted to be the next President of Notre Dame and what she sees as some of the work ahead.*

### What drew you to Notre Dame?

The mission and legacy of Notre Dame is powerful. It caught my attention and was the impetus behind my application for the presidency. Educating leaders to change the world is a very empowering mission—one that I felt would fuel my work as President. Notre Dame was the first Catholic women's college to award the four-year baccalaureate degree, and I felt that with this legacy, this mission, it would be an honor for me to serve.

Notre Dame has a rich blend of the liberal arts tradition and professional programs. Students learn about critical thinking and communication. They learn how to work in groups. They learn about civic engagement. With this knowledge and skill base, students are well-prepared to excel in the 21st-century workforce.

### What would you say is the value of a Catholic liberal arts education?

It is documented that a Catholic liberal arts education helps to promote a dialogue between faith and reason. Catholic values—ethics, education and research for social betterment—empower our students and help them grow, both in reason and in faith. They prepare students both for career readiness as well as life satisfaction. The Catholic tradition encourages students to engage in reflection, prayer and liturgy, all of which promote the spiritual growth of the student.

### What do you think the future holds for Notre Dame?

Our future looks very promising. The University has so many strengths: the blend of the Catholic, liberal arts tradition with the Women's College at its core; its professional programs, especially the programs in education and health care; the English Language Institute and a commitment to global citizenship; and programming for first-generation students—all of these positions Notre Dame for growth. I'm looking forward to working together with the Notre Dame community to develop a strategic plan that will promote the University's distinctiveness, expand enrollment, establish innovative partnerships, engage in program development, strengthen and expand infrastructure and grow our financial resources.

## What is the value of women's colleges in higher education?

It's well-documented that those who attend women's colleges are twice as likely to pursue advanced study at the master's and doctoral levels and to pursue careers in the STEM disciplines as those who attend co-ed institutions. We know that women's colleges do a phenomenal job in engaging students and providing them with exceptional leadership opportunities.

## Advocating on behalf of battered women has been important to you. How did you first become involved in this issue?

I first became interested in domestic violence as a professional practicing nurse. I saw first-hand the trauma that those women endured. We treated them physically, but I felt there was more we could do in terms of preventing violence and empowering these women. That led me to take on the study of the issue through my master's and doctoral work. It certainly shaped what I did as an educator. I was able to develop courses and coursework related to domestic violence in the nursing curricula. And my publications and my research agenda have focused on the empowerment and enhancement of self-efficacy of battered women.

## Was there any particular experience that opened your eyes to this issue?

I remember one woman who came to the emergency department and then to our nursing unit because she needed to have surgery due to injuries related to abuse. It was really in caring for her and talking to her that I began to understand the emotional trauma she went through. She eventually began to open up during post-op, and I began to see that it's important to not just treat these women physically but also to think about what's going to happen when they leave the hospital. That was really the impetus for my work.

## What excites you about becoming president of NDMU?

I can't wait to get started. We are embarking on a new strategic plan, and it's very exciting to be part of that. Our strategic plan will provide us with our blueprint for going forward with our mission and advancing the institution.

I'm looking forward to working with everyone and getting to know the Notre Dame community. My husband, David, my son, Michael, and I certainly had a very warm welcome at the official announcement on campus. And I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and being part of the community.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

We are delighted that an educator and leader of Dr. Marylou Yam's caliber will lead Notre Dame of Maryland University as its 14th president. Dr. Yam's breadth and depth of experience, as well as her record of achievement and innovation in Catholic higher education, are a perfect fit for our University.

Dr. Yam's leadership experience in the development and delivery of leading-edge professional programs rooted in the liberal arts will serve Notre Dame well in the continued expansion of our four Schools: Arts and Sciences, Education, Nursing and Pharmacy. Dr. Yam's track record of innovation will further strengthen our leadership position as a renowned university that prepares fearless and faithful leaders who effect real change in their communities and beyond.

Dr. Yam is the ideal choice for the Notre Dame approach to education, which prepares students as leaders not only in their careers, but also as leaders in life and service to others. And Dr. Yam's commitment to some of the most marginalized members of our society, especially victims of domestic abuse, is solidly aligned with Notre Dame's mission of serving the under-served.

We look forward to the many contributions Dr. Yam is sure to bring to the premier educational opportunities Notre Dame offers to our students.



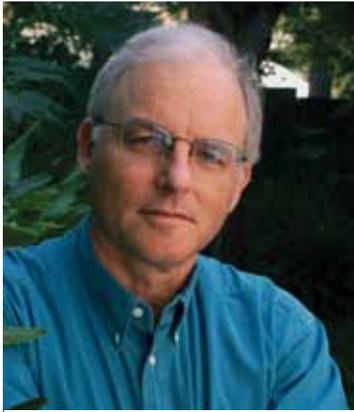
Patricia J. Mitchell '69  
Chair, Board of Trustees



The Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall  
Friedman '62  
Chair, Search Committee



On February 20, the Class of 2014 celebrated the beloved Notre Dame tradition of 100 Nights, beginning the countdown to Commencement. As part of the celebration, President Joan Coley was made an honorary alumna of the Class of 2014!



◀ Several hundred people came to campus on March 18 to hear journalist and bestselling author Richard Louv speak about reconnecting children with nature in the digital age, as part of the School of Education Speaker Series.

▶ At the annual Notre Dame Day in February, the School Sisters of Notre Dame presented the Mission and Ministry Award—Notre Dame’s version of Outstanding Person of the Year—to a person who in a short time has made a major impact: our 13th President, Joan Develin Coley, Ph.D.



## Notre Dame’s New Online Community: MyNDM

This spring, Notre Dame will launch MyNDM, the free online gathering place exclusively for Notre Dame of Maryland University alumnae, alumni and friends.

Registered MyNDM users will be able to:

- Reconnect with your friends and classmates via the online directory.
- Update your contact information—and select the information you want shared with fellow alums and friends.
- Share your accomplishments, family updates and other news in Class Notes—and search for Class Notes submitted by your friends and classmates.
- Review your giving history and make additional gifts to the University with ease.

The launch of MyNDM is scheduled for April 22.

## Introducing *Universitas*

Notre Dame has published the inaugural issue of our community magazine, *Universitas*. This exciting new publication features writing and stunning photography that highlight the exciting scholarship, service and campus life that every day make Notre Dame a warm community that educates, enlightens and inspires. The current issue includes a reflection

on the fearless and faithful spirit of Notre Dame and the School Sisters of Notre Dame; a look at cutting-edge research our biology and pharmacy faculty and students are conducting to improve a medication for malaria; and a celebration of Notre Dame’s continuing literary tradition with news of several major recent and upcoming faculty publications.

Look for *Universitas* online at [ndm.edu/universitas](http://ndm.edu/universitas).

## Food and Fitness News

If diet and exercise are the keys to well-being, two new campus projects should help us stay on track. The Civera Fitness Center has recently been completed. The center, in the former Gator Lair in the MBK Sports and Activities Complex, was made possible by a gift from Ed and Judy Civera. It features flat-screen TVs and all-new equipment, including treadmills, elliptical machines and free weights. Students, faculty and staff will continue to have access to the gym at no cost.

Over the next several months, work will progress on a \$750,000 renovation of Doyle Dining Hall and Gator Alley. The transformation of Gator Alley began over spring break, with a new serving line and salad concept and the reintroduction of Towson Hot Bagels and Italian gelato. Over the summer, demolition and major renovations of the dining hall will begin. The renovation will include updated

seating, the addition of booth seating, a free-standing salad bar and deli bar area, a bake shop, a pizzeria, a new serving line with state-of-the-art equipment and more. Gator Alley will remain open during the summer months for meal service.

## Trailblazers Graduates First Class

In May, Notre Dame will celebrate the graduation of the first group from the Trailblazer Scholars Program, an initiative launched in 2010 to provide ongoing and essential support to first-generation students in the Women’s College, ensuring that these young women will be the first in their families to graduate from college.

Graduating senior Cindy Contreras, who will continue her education at Notre Dame in our Master of Arts in Teaching program, credits Trailblazers with her academic success. “As a first-generation college student, I had many questions my parents were not able to answer; the Trailblazers Program was able to step in whenever I felt lost or confused,” she says. “From the first meetings four years ago, discussing my prospective major, to having financial planning and career sessions my last year, Trailblazers always assisted my parents and me.”

Data indicate that Trailblazers who were active in the program consistently performed at higher academic levels and had significantly higher retention rates than their first-generation peers and, in some cases, than all students.



# NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

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## BE FEARLESS WITH NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

The Notre Dame Fund continues the mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame—to transform the world through education—by providing critical resources for financial aid, faculty support and programs that make NDMU special. Be Fearless with Notre Dame: Make a gift to The Notre Dame Fund—of any amount—by returning the enclosed envelope or making a secure online donation at [ndm.edu/giving](http://ndm.edu/giving). Please note that Notre Dame’s fiscal year ends June 30.

Alumnae and alumni making their first gifts will be recognized as members of The Fearless 180 in honor of the 180th anniversary of the founding of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Go to [ndm.edu/fearless180](http://ndm.edu/fearless180) to learn more about The Fearless 180 and to read profiles of fearless NDMU alums, faculty

and students. We also invite you to submit your own story about what makes you a fearless Notre Dame graduate!

### SUMMER AT NOTRE DAME

**CAMP NOTRE DAME** is a weekday program for girls and boys ages 5 to 11. Activities include swimming, sports, music and drama, arts and crafts, nature activities and special events. **Information:** [ndm.edu/campnotredame](http://ndm.edu/campnotredame)

### A CHILD’S PLACE SUMMER CAMP

is for children ages 3 through 6 (entering first grade). It offers five two-week themed sessions, including Little Green Thumbs, Art-o-Rama, Dinosaurs, The Ocean and Buggin’ Out. **Information:** [mashon@ndm.edu](mailto:mashon@ndm.edu)

### THE STEM SUMMER DAY CAMP

focuses on science, technology and mathematics for students entering grades

3 to 5. Each day, campers are introduced to a new STEM concept focused on the Chesapeake Bay—with plenty of time for swimming, team building, crafts and lunch. **Information:** [ndm.edu/STEMcamp](http://ndm.edu/STEMcamp)

### THE STEM SUMMER INSTITUTE

is a 3-credit, week-long graduate studies program that provides teachers with the resources, knowledge and methodology to engage their students with subject matter related to natural resources.

**Information:** [ndm.edu/STEMinstitute](http://ndm.edu/STEMinstitute)

### THE SCHOOL EMERGENCY AND SECURITY INSTITUTE

is a 3-credit (undergraduate or graduate), week-long course to enhance the development and implementation of school/district plans that help create and maintain secure and safe school environments. **Information:** [ndm.edu/security-institute](http://ndm.edu/security-institute)