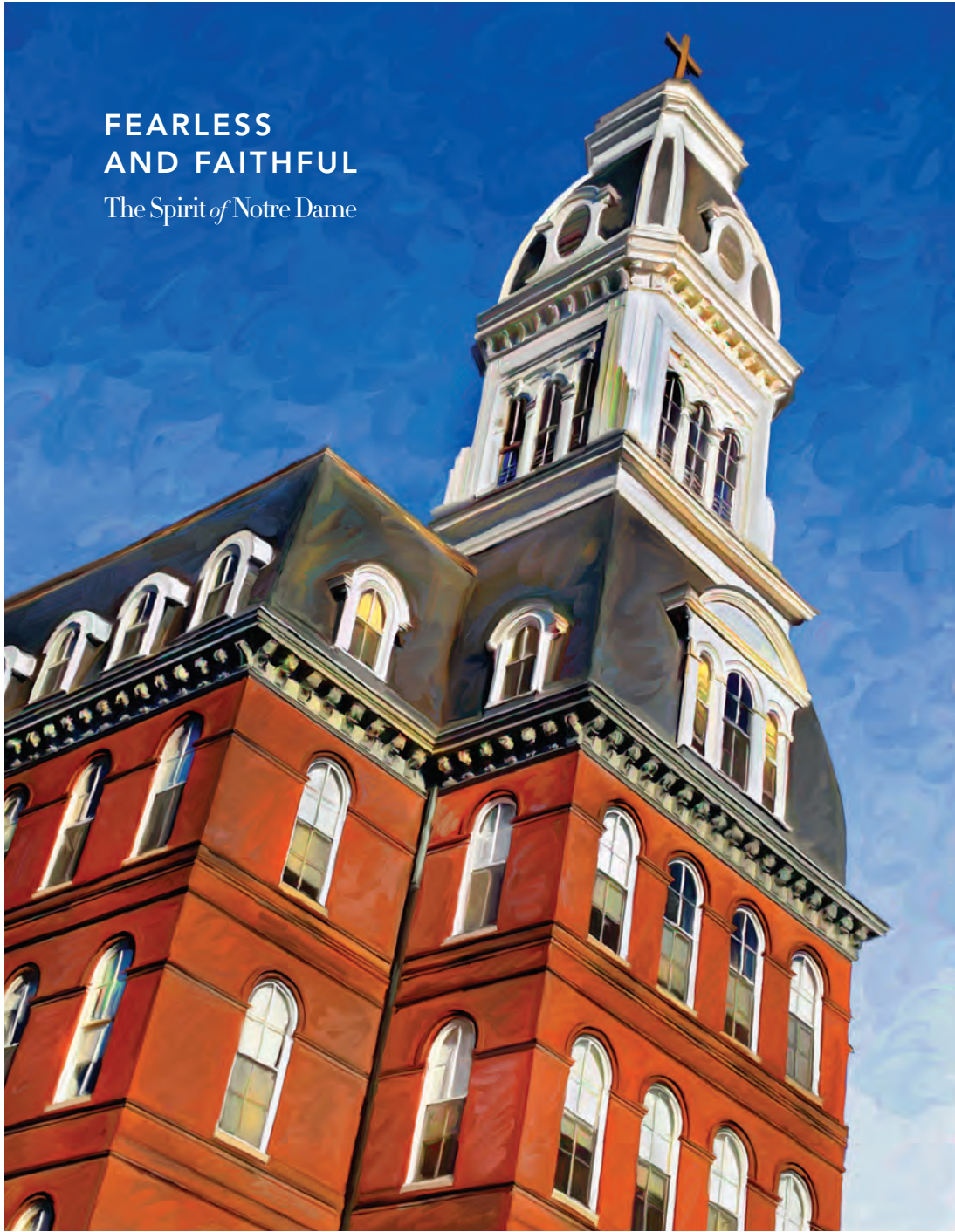


# UNIVERSITAS

NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2014

**FEARLESS  
AND FAITHFUL**  
*The Spirit of Notre Dame*



Dear friend,  
I am pleased to present the inaugural issue of *Universitas*, the magazine of Notre Dame of Maryland University.

*Universitas* is a Latin word with several meanings—the whole, the total, the sum of all things, the community, the world, the universe—all of which have obvious significance to us. The name reflects our transformation from college to university as well as our reach outward to our community and the world.

It also fits nicely with a meme that's captured everybody's imagination on campus: We, the people of Notre Dame, are fearless and faithful. We hold dear our cherished traditions while confidently moving forward to embrace challenges and opportunities the future presents us. This is especially true as we look forward to the imminent announcement of the 14th president of the University.

It has been my privilege this past year to accompany Notre Dame of Maryland University on this journey. I hope you'll enjoy reading about it in these pages.



Sincerely,  
Joan Develin Coley, Ph. D.  
President

Dear reader,  
Welcome to our first issue of *Universitas*! This new publication of Notre Dame of Maryland University will highlight the exciting scholarship, service and campus life that every day make Notre Dame a warm community that educates, enlightens and inspires.

The name *Universitas* connotes wholeness. We are one University with many elements: colleges, schools and programs, students, faculty, staff and alumnae and alumni. Through our Catholic, liberal arts tradition, we offer a global and comprehensive Notre Dame education that strives to develop the whole person.

The pages of *Universitas* will reflect that reality. As we commemorate the 180th anniversary of the founding of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, we reflect on the fearless and faithful spirit that has been our legacy from the beginning. We highlight some cutting-edge research that, thanks to collaboration among our biology and pharmacy faculty and students, will help millions of people in the developing world who suffer from malaria. And we celebrate Notre Dame's continuing literary tradition with news of some major recent and upcoming faculty publications.

Finally, each issue will feature a guest columnist in a section called "The Last Word." This month includes a reflection by Joshua Parker, a Baltimore County teacher and NDMU alum who was named Maryland's Teacher of the Year in 2012. He writes from a first-person perspective, as a teacher and a father, on how we might improve outcomes for black males in our education system.

It is possible you may be surprised by Notre Dame's many accomplishments. But there is no doubt you will be proud of them.



Sincerely,  
John Rivera  
Director of University Communications

## UNIVERSITAS

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On the cover: Baltimore artist Robert McClintock's vibrant portrait of Gibbons Hall was commissioned in honor of President Emerita Mary Pat Seurkamp. Copies of the print may be ordered through his Fell's Point gallery or at robertmclintock.com.



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### University Mission

Notre Dame of Maryland University educates women as leaders to transform the world. Embracing the vision of the founders, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the University provides a liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition. Distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs challenge women and men to strive for intellectual and professional excellence, to build inclusive communities, to engage in service to others, and to promote social responsibility.



FEARLESS AND FAITHFUL

# The Spirit of Notre Dame

By John Rivera and Susie Breaux McShea '87

In June 1847, five women led by Mother Theresa Gerhardinger set out from their motherhouse in Munich, Germany, for the port city of Bremen, where they boarded the *SS Washington*, bound for the United States. These women, vested in the habit of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, faced an uncertain future on a path that would eventually lead to a hilltop campus in Baltimore.

They had been invited to start a school in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Benziger and Eschbach Company of Einsiedeln, Switzerland, had purchased the land with the intention of selling plots to emigrating German Catholics and developing a town called St. Mary's. A certain Baron von Schroeder, sent by the company as an emissary to accompany the Sisters, assured them they would be welcomed upon their arrival by the bishop of Pittsburgh. What could be more auspicious than to begin a new venture in a place named after *Notre Dame*, Our Lady, the mother of Jesus?

But troubles began soon after Mother Theresa and her companions disembarked in New York. The Redemptorist Fathers they visited warned them not to commit to St. Mary's: it was sparsely populated, and, most importantly, it was not located on a trade route. The town faced a bleak future. Then, on the journey overland, one of their band, a novice named Mary Emmanuel, fell ill in Harrisburg, Pa., and died. The grieving Sisters buried her and continued by coach on the rugged road. According to a diary entry by one of the Sisters, "The muddy water from the puddles through which we drove splashed over our heads and fell upon our clothing. Hanging boughs struck us in the faces; we were sorry-looking objects."

1873



Notre Dame of Maryland Collegiate Institute opens.

1876

President Ulysses S. Grant attends commencement.



1895



College of Notre Dame of Maryland is established.

1899

First baccalaureate degrees awarded.





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1873 1876 1895 1899



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First baccalaureate degrees awarded.



The Sisters began wondering if they would ever reach their destination, according to an account written by Sister Mary David Cameron, SSND: "On the evening after the third day out of Harrisburg, they looked around them at the log huts scattered sparsely over a clearing in the forest and asked the baron how soon they would reach St. Mary's. 'Why,' he said, 'you are already in the heart of the city!'"

To top it off, the bishop of Pittsburgh had never heard the Sisters were coming and wasn't particularly welcoming. Mother Theresa later recalled his greeting: "I am very much surprised at your arrival."

The Sisters had every reason to retrace their steps onto the decks of the first boat back to Bremen. But they didn't. They moved into a small frame convent, got to work and soon had the school up and running. But Mother Theresa was soon convinced that St. Mary's was no place for a motherhouse, and she traveled to Baltimore to consult with Father John Neumann, the future saint who was then provincial leader of the Redemptorists. With his encouragement, she accepted an offer from the Redemptorists to start schools in their parishes, and by the autumn of 1847 the Sisters began teaching in three parishes in Baltimore.

These School Sisters of Notre Dame were not easily discouraged. They were fearless. And they were faithful. That spirit continues today.

"Today, School Sisters of Notre Dame remain dedicated to educating women globally, as we have for almost 180 years," said Kathleen D. Cornell,

SSND '69, provincial leader of the School Sisters' Atlantic-Midwest Province. "The call of our foundress Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger to follow the Gospel mandate has taken us to the poverty-plagued streets of America's cities and has inspired our work with women and children in Nepal, South Sudan, East Timor and dozens of other nations in need.

That same fearless and faithful spirit led the SSNDs to dream big when they established the first Catholic college in the United States to award four-year baccalaureate degrees to women.

As the SSNDs celebrate the 180th year of their founding, there is a sense of excitement and momentum on the campus of Notre Dame. The changes in the past five years have been dizzying. The G. Avery Bunting Hall and the University Academic Building have transformed the eastern part of campus. The graduation of the first class from the School of Pharmacy and expanding programs in the School of Nursing have kept Notre Dame on the cutting edge of health care delivery. An innovative program in Analytics in Knowledge Management has helped the University keep pace with the move toward harvesting Big Data. And we anticipate the appointment of the next president, who will provide the vision for the next phase of Notre Dame's rich history.

At the same time, we hold fast to our traditions and our liberal arts core. Honors Convocation and the recitation of the Honor Pledge never fail to move us, whether attending as a brand-new student, a graduating senior, an alumna or alumnus, or a member of our distinguished faculty or staff. We maintain

ties with our classmates during Reunion Weekend. The images of Gibbons and Theresa halls stir fond memories. And the call to service beckons each new class, as it did this fall when hundreds of Notre Dame students, faculty and staff volunteered to help their impoverished brothers and sisters as part of Project Homeless Connect.

This stance, grounded in tradition while reaching to the future, was eloquently expressed recently by Christine De Vinne, OSU, Ph. D., vice president for academic affairs.

"As a university, Notre Dame of Maryland has a strong foundation and is reaching for the sky," she said at the fall dedication of the University Academic Building. "The tradition and solid liberal arts values are symbolized by the front of campus and the time-honored buildings that are beloved by current students and alums alike."

The eastern part of campus, she said, "a bit more contemporary in architecture, represents the current growth, the dedication to meeting the current needs of our students and all of society."

Together, the two areas of the campus represent two trajectories with a common root. "The strength of the past and the courage to build for the future meet here at Notre Dame," she said.

Jon Fuller, senior fellow with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, notes that Notre Dame's emphasis on its tradition and its evolution into new educational ventures is consistent with its Catholic identity. Catholic institutions, he says, "are particularly adaptive places." They are inventive and driven by their missions, which typically relate to address-

ing the needs of underserved populations, which are continually changing.

Adaptability is certainly one key to Notre Dame's continued success. Notre Dame is a well-respected academic leader with an increasingly multi-faceted commitment to expand its educational reach to diverse populations. During the year-long assessment that ultimately led to Notre Dame's transition to university status, the leadership team articulated a vision for the University that confirms an allegiance to its core mission as a Catholic liberal arts college for women as well as a commitment to meet the changing needs of society by educating both women and men in graduate and part-time undergraduate programs. In fact, such duality is seen by many as a distinctive strength of Notre Dame, expressed succinctly in the title of the collected words of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger: "Trust and Dare."

This duality is also reflected in how the University has restructured itself in recent years. Sister Christine, as vice president of academic affairs, oversees the four Schools that are the foundation of the University structure. In discussing the Schools, Sister Christine's choice of words implies grounding and exploration—a duality that resonates with students, past and present. Sister Christine describes each School as a "home" or "anchor." The Colleges are the "pathways" through which students enter and progress on their educational journey.

## SCHOOLS: THE ANCHORS

The **School of Arts and Sciences** remains the historical anchor of the University and traces its roots to the

founding of the College in 1895. Under the leadership of Debra Franklin, Ph.D., dean, longtime professor of communication arts and Notre Dame alumna, class of 1976, the School's curriculum ensures a solid liberal arts foundation for all students. The instructional program of the School includes courses in the arts and humanities, the natural sciences, the social sciences, and professional areas of study such as pre-law, communication arts, business and radiological sciences. The School of Arts and Sciences touches every student on campus, delivering a full 50% of the University's student credit hours and partnering closely with the professional schools. Master's degrees in English, Leadership in Management, Non Profit Management, Contemporary Communication, and Analytics in Knowledge Management provide advanced studies for today's workplace.

The **School of Education**, formerly a department, was officially named a School in 2009. Sharon Slear, SSND, Ph.D., is the founding dean of the School of Education, which continues to be the largest private provider of new teachers in Maryland. The School boasts 18 certification programs and 12 master's degree programs, several of which are unique among Maryland's colleges and universities, including those in gifted and talented education and mathematics instructional leadership. In addition, the School graduates more K-8 STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) teachers than any other institution in the state. Flexible and accelerated program options provide multiple pathways for initial certification through Ph.D. In

the past six years, 14 of our graduates have been named Teacher of the Year in Maryland. In 2012, the most recent data available, 100% of M.A. in Teaching graduates received job offers, and 95% of graduates of initial certification programs work in their field.

The **School of Nursing** focuses on the discipline of nursing to prepare and further the careers of professional nurses as the nation faces significant workforce shortages. Katharine Cook, Ph.D., R.N., serves as Dean of the School. The nursing program offers entry level B.S.N., R.N. to B.S.N. and M.S.N. degrees; all programs are based on caring science curricula that transform learning by focusing on interactions among students and faculty. The new University Academic Building that houses the School of Nursing incorporates state-of-the-art facilities as a result of funding from the Knott Foundation, the Middendorf Foundation, Hearst Foundations and the State of Maryland. The Center for Caring with Technology provides a technology-rich environment to prepare bedside nurses. New labs feature realistic patient simulators where students can practice clinical scenarios for labor and delivery, pediatrics and adult medical surgical practice in a safe environment. Nursing transitioned to a school in July 2011.

The **School of Pharmacy** launched its innovative professional doctorate in pharmacy (Pharm.D.) in 2009. The School of Pharmacy's labs, classrooms and offices are centralized in a \$13 million, 25,000-square-foot building made possible in part by a generous donation from Mary Catherine Bunting, the grand daughter of George Avery Bunting,

1910



Cardinal Gibbons blesses the cornerstone of College Hall (now Meletia Hall).

1927

SSND gift establishes endowment fund.



1936



Honor Code is adopted.

1948

Athletic teams enter intercollegiate competition.



1959



Opening of Doyle Hall residence for students.

1963

Dedication of the Knott Science Center.



1970



Quest '70 affirms identity as a Catholic women's college.

1973

Loyola/Notre Dame Library opens.



a pharmacist and founder of the Noxema Chemical Company. The addition is named in his honor: G. Avery Bunting Hall. Founding Dean Anne Lin, Pharm.D., leads the School, which emphasizes women's health across the lifespan, care of diverse populations, leadership, teamwork and communication, all of which are vital to quality patient care. Pharmacy students provide services to Baltimore's medically underserved populations through the AdvoCaring Program. The School celebrated its first graduating class last May.

### COLLEGES: THE PATHWAYS

The **Women's College** serves traditional college-age women, offering an education rooted in the Catholic traditions of liberal arts and service to others. Research has shown that women's colleges provide an exceptionally supportive learning environment, with great potential to foster collaboration, academic achievement and leadership. Graduates of women's colleges are more likely to pursue advanced degrees, earn higher salaries and achieve leadership positions in their careers. As Maryland's women's college, Notre Dame offers a vibrant learning community where women can excel in many fields. Graduates of Notre Dame are trailblazers—whether becoming a four-star general, a federal judge, a renowned surgeon, a research scientist, a poet or a successful entrepreneur.

The **College of Adult Undergraduate Studies** encompasses the innovative programs that were launched in the early 1970s with the introduction of Weekend College and has been continually refined to meet contemporary needs. Today,

undergraduate classes for women and men are offered in flexible schedules including accelerated, weekend, evening and online options to fit busy work and life schedules. Fast-track programs enable working adults to earn degrees more quickly by taking courses throughout the year.

The **College of Graduate Studies** provides all post-baccalaureate offerings. Advanced study options include 10 master's degrees, a Ph.D. in instructional leadership for changing populations in our School of Education and the doctorate in pharmacy, as well as a number of professional certificate programs.

Although the hilltop campus of Notre Dame is a sanctuary of study, we are not a cloister. Our fearless and faithful students continue to work and volunteer in our community, as exemplified by our School of Pharmacy's AdvoCaring program, which pairs each student with a community organization for all four academic years of that degree.

"As a first-year pharmacy student I was able to go out and interact with the community and apply skills we were taught in the classroom from my very first semester," says Adda Massah, Class of 2016. "I was able to play with children in my AdvoCaring group and meet the wonderful teachers completely dedicated to them. The look in those children's eyes when we had a health fair geared towards them is something I will never forget. They felt important, and they were eager to participate because we were not talking to their parents. We were talking to them."

During summers or Winterim, Notre Dame students can be found learning through service far from home

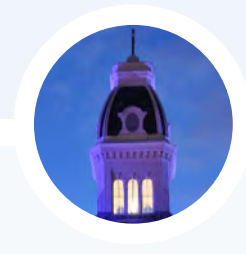
in Brazilian favelas, Guatemalan schools and a women's cooperative in Swaziland.

"We went there to try and teach a group of women a skill that might help them," says Andreina Mijares-Cisneros, Class of 2016, one of three Notre Dame students who traveled to Swaziland on a Davis Projects for Peace grant during the summer of 2013 to teach crocheting to a women's sewing cooperative. "And they ended up teaching us more than we ever imagined."

We are fearless and faithful women, men, alumnae, alumni, faculty, staff, friends and School Sisters of Notre Dame. The spirit that led the five SSNDs in 1847 to take a leap of faith, leave their homes and travel to an uncertain future is very much present today in the people of Notre Dame of Maryland University. In the words of Pope Francis, we are not afraid to leave our areas of comfort and "go out to the margins of existence," to face challenges, embrace adversity and seize opportunities. That spirit is captured in a quote from Mother Caroline Friess, one of those original five missionaries who would be appointed by Mother Theresa to be the first leader of the congregation in North America:

"Look not forward in anxious care but upward in a spirit of faith and hope."

—John Rivera is the director of university communications at Notre Dame.  
Susie Breaux McShea '87 is a contributing writer to Universitas.



## THE BEACON: GIBBONS HALL READIED FOR RENOVATION

By Joan Wisner-Carlson

One hundred forty years ago, a five-story red-brick building crowned with a bell tower and a simple gold cross opened its doors on a hilltop in north Baltimore to educate those whose education was neglected by society—girls and young women. Completed in 1873, the building now known as Gibbons Hall would 22 years later house the administrative offices, classrooms and dormitory of the first Catholic college for women in the United States to award the four-year baccalaureate degree.

Today, University leaders are embarking on a major renovation of Gibbons Hall, with plans under way to identify the steps necessary to restore its historic beauty as well as to equip it to meet the instructional needs of 21st century students.

The first phase of the so-called Gibbons Project will be a comprehensive planning

survey to begin this spring to document and prioritize the work required to preserve the building's exterior, says Patricia A. Bosse '81, vice president for institutional advancement. A \$10,000 gift from a friend of the University will partially fund the planning survey by an architectural engineering firm, she says.

The goal of the planning effort will be to survey the exterior envelope of the building, including the structural integrity of the monumental tower and the condition of its 278 windows, the slate of its mansard roof, red bricks and paint.

Faculty who teach in Gibbons welcome the technology updates. English professor Ray Bossert appreciates the tin ceiling and historic charm of his classroom on the fifth floor. But he notes that the technology carts that instructors must wheel

from room to room make it challenging to incorporate videos or other multimedia sources into instruction.

Some School Sisters take a characteristically pragmatic approach to the Gibbons Project. Kathleen Marie Engers, SSND '47, recalls that one prominent feature of the building, a grand wooden staircase leading to the second floor known as "the pope stairs," was later removed when the open expanse was deemed a fire hazard. "We would like to retain as best as we can certain historic elements of Gibbons' interior, but we need to look at the broad picture of how we can sustain the building well into the future for the benefit of our students," says Sister Kathleen. "We are called here to educate students above all."

—Joan Wisner-Carlson is Notre Dame's director of corporate, foundation and government relations.

1975



Weekend College opens to serve employed women and men.

1980

Students choose the Gator as the official athletic mascot.



1983



English Language Institute is established.

1984

Graduate Studies Program opens with first master's in management.



1989



Renaissance Institute opens for students over 50.

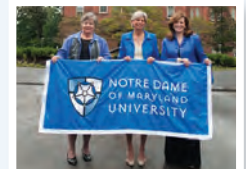
1997

Mary Pat Seurkamp named first permanent lay president.



College becomes Notre Dame of Maryland University.

2011



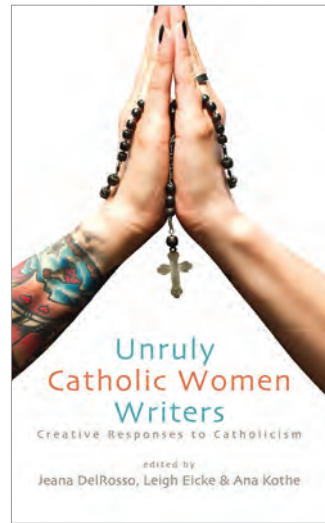
2013

School of Pharmacy graduates first class of students.



The poetry of Maura Eichner, SSND '41, brought national recognition to Notre Dame of Maryland and put it on the literary map. Sister Maura inculcated a love of writing in many students over her 50-year career teaching creative writing and literature at Notre Dame. More than 350 of her own poems appeared in literary magazines and journals, newspapers and collections, including *After Silence*, a collection of poems chosen by her friends and colleagues that was published after her death in 2009.

The tradition Sister Maura established continues with the publication of three new works this academic year by members of the English department: Jeana DelRosso, professor of English and Women's Studies and director of the Morrissy Honors Program; Shelley Puhak, assistant professor of English and holder of the Sister Maura Eichner Endowed Chair in English; and Gene Farrington, professor of English and drama.



It's exciting news, to be sure, but it comes as no surprise to department chair Margaret Ellen Mahoney, SSND. "One of the great strengths of the English department has always been the scholarship of the faculty, particularly in publishing books," she says. "The recent publications of critical analysis, fiction, and the collection of poetry indicate the diversity of our professors and our continuation of the tradition of department faculty publications."

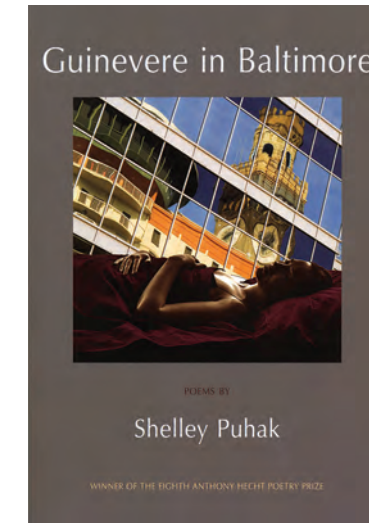
**Jeana DelRosso (co-editor)**  
*Unruly Catholic Writers: Creative Responses to Catholicism* (2013)

The image on the front cover of *Unruly Catholic Women Writers: Creative Responses to Catholicism* is of a woman's hands pressed together in prayer, a rosary wound through her fingers; her right arm sports a colorful tattoo, while her left hand bears a simple silver wedding band. For Dr. DelRosso, a co-editor of the book, the image perfectly captures the experience of the unruly women writers it features—women who, as Dr. DelRosso puts it, can often be found "mixing things up a little, creating some difficulties in a good way."

The collection centers on unruly Catholic women's responses to the many mysteries that the faithful accept. Cited by the co-editors in the introduction are the doctrines of papal infallibility, the Holy Trinity and the Catholic Mass itself, which centers on the transformation of bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood—as well as Church teaching that limits women's achievement of leadership positions within the institution and regulates some of their personal decisions about

such issues as homosexuality. For some Catholic women, this leads to a conflict, between, as Dr. DelRosso puts it, religion and spirituality. "I think [*Unruly Catholic Women Writers*] speaks to a lot of the issues that those of us who were raised Catholic and who have also come to some sort of feminism in our lives struggle with."

In essays, plays, short stories and poetry, the contributors explore this intersection of the Church and the world. The pieces are organized thematically in three sections called *The Joyful Mysteries*, *The Sorrowful Mysteries*, and *The Glorious Mysteries*—terms that Catholics will recognize from praying the rosary, an activity linked closely to women and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. (In fact, as the co-editors write, "Many women continue to envision Mary as an unruly woman, choosing to become the mother of God, embracing her fate, and standing strong as she watches the murder of her only son.") Each section both reflects the traditional understanding of these mysteries and refracts them in a more modern prism: for Catholics the *Joyful Mysteries* include the visitation of Mary by the Angel Gabriel, the birth of Jesus and Mary and Joseph finding the lost, young Jesus teaching in the temple; the *Joyful Mysteries* section of *Unruly Catholic Women Writers* explores the contributors' perspectives on motherhood, childhood and growing up. Appearing in that section is "My Soul Sisters—or, How the Nuns of my Childhood Inspired a Feisty Feminist," by Renée Bondy. She writes with great warmth about the religious sisters she knew as a young woman—notably Sister Bernadette, her tenth-grade religion teacher, who sounds a lot like many of Notre Dame's own SSNDs. "She had just returned from 10 years' missionary work in Lesotho, Africa, and had countless stories to tell about her adventures. I didn't, even for a second, want to be a missionary, but Sister Bernie's compassion and zeal were contagious, and I know I wasn't the only



student who walked away from her classes ready to take on the world."

The collection closes with *The Glorious Mysteries* section, which charts a new possible course for Catholic women and explores the ways that "Catholic sacrament and ritual, combined with female unruliness, offer new visions for a Catholic future for women." Altogether, it's an emotional and gripping read; the contributors are clearly grappling with their complicated relationships with the Church.

This is the second collection about unruly Catholic women that Dr. DelRosso has co-edited with two colleagues: Leigh Eicke, an independent scholar, and Ana Kothe, a comparative literature professor at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez. In 2007 Palgrave Macmillan published their first book, *The Catholic Church and Unruly Women Writers: Critical Essays*, for a mostly academic audience. The more-accessible writing in this new collection, published in November by State University of New York Press, will likely appeal to a broader readership. Readings and other events to mark the book's release will take place later this year, including a session at the National Association of Women in Catholic Higher Education's conference in Seattle this coming June led by Dr. DelRosso and several contributors. "I really hope that it will

speak to a lot of women and to their experiences," said Dr. DelRosso, "and maybe help them also to start to find ways to live within that tension that the Church creates for us."

**Shelley Puhak**  
*Guinevere in Baltimore* (2013)

*Guinevere in Baltimore*, the second collection of poetry by Notre Dame's Shelley Puhak, recasts the Arthurian legend in the modern day: Arthur is CEO of Camelot Transatlantic Shipping, Lancelot his Most Trusted Salesperson. Ms. Puhak places these beloved historical characters squarely in Baltimore, with poem titles like "Guinevere, Meeting Lancelot at the Walters Art Gallery" and mentions of such well-known features of our city as the Bromo Seltzer Tower, Fort McHenry and the old streetcar tracks still visible around town.

*Guinevere in Baltimore* provides an insider's perspective on the doomed love affair that causes the downfall of Arthur's kingdom and the end of the glorious age of Camelot. It's a story we know well, both from history and the present day. As Baynard Woods wrote in his glowing review in *Baltimore's City Paper*, "*Guinevere* is also a decidedly post-financial-collapse collection, which perfectly sets the corporation's financial difficulties in line with the marital troubles between Arthur and Guinevere and the end of an era of legends and myths and heroes. We can understand the demise of the Round Table more clearly having seen Lehman's once-gallant knights fall and bring down a entire economic order with them." Ms. Puhak said more reviews of the collection are forthcoming this year; she was also profiled in *Baltimore* magazine's February issue.

Ms. Puhak has also put a contemporary feminist spin on her retelling. "In all of the Romantic poems about [Guinevere] there is one where she gets to speak for a little bit, but generally it's men deciding the fate of these women," she said. "It was fun to give her the

# Continuing a Literary Tradition

BY MARIANNE AMOSS '04

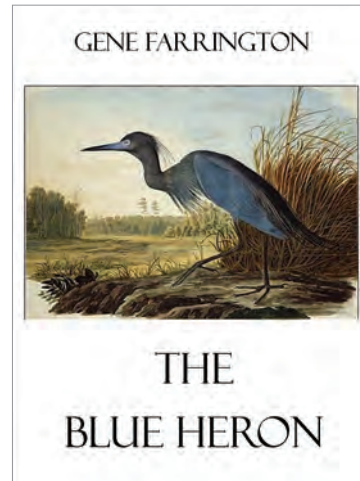


opportunity to talk back to the Romantic and Modernist poets who have used her as a launching pad for their own ideas—to give her a chance to speak for herself.”

Ms. Puhak graduated in 1997 from Notre Dame and returned to the English department in 2008 as a writer in residence and 2012 as full-time faculty. She holds the Sister Maura Eichner Endowed Chair in English. She also runs the Sister Maura Eichner Award for Young Poets competition, which recognizes promising high-school-age female poets, and organizes 4 Under 40, an annual fall reading series featuring young women writers. Ms. Puhak continues Senior Maura's tradition of writing economic, striking verse. In “Arthur, Pantoum for an Empty Table” (perhaps the Round Table?), she writes, “We were two but it seemed there was a third / walking the white road home, the city wavering / before us. At the table bare, its varnish chipping, / we waited for servants who had already fled.”

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Simic selected the collection as the winner of the eighth annual prestigious Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize, which included publication and release of the book by The Waywiser Press, both here and in the UK. He and Ms. Puhak gave a reading at the Folger Shakespeare Library in mid-November to celebrate her award. In the book's foreword, Simic praised Ms. Puhak's craft.

“What makes *Guinevere in Baltimore* work as a whole is the sheer brilliance of the individual poems,” he wrote. “The finest poetry, the kind one wants to keep re-reading, mostly comes down to memorable turns of phrase and vivid detail, and that is what one finds here. ... *Guinevere in Baltimore* is masterfully crafted, a veritable feast for any lover of words.”



**Gene Farrington**  
*The Blue Heron (Forthcoming in 2014)*

Dr. Gene Farrington's new novel, *The Blue Heron*, opens with an online chat between “dsharpe”—aka David d'Ersby, a novelist—and “themoll”—aka Molly Sharpe, a historian. The two live on opposite sides of the world and have met only online. Their conversation has just turned to Jamestown, North America's first successful English colony, when an unexpected third person joins in, with the screen name “opech.” He claims to be Opeacanough, a Powhatan chief who led a Native American uprising against the Jamestown settlers. David assumes that this intruder is simply a nuisance, someone pretending to be the controversial historical figure just for a lark, but something isn't quite right. This Opeacanough knows a lot about David's novel-in-progress, which exists only on his computer, and about what happened at the Jamestown colony, which Molly happens to be researching.

Is it possible that “opech” could indeed be the fabled chief who led the Jamestown massacre of 1622, in which one-quarter of the English settlers were killed in the Native Americans' attempt to force them to leave Virginia?

This is just the first of many questions that crop up in the beginning chapters of *The Blue Heron*. There are others: How does Opeacanough know that Molly's last name is Sharpe? And why does the main character in d'Ersby's

novel, David Sharpe, have the same name as Molly's deceased father, who was descended from those original Jamestown settlers?

As the novel progresses, more questions are raised, and more details about the characters are revealed. Slowly, a web is knit that connects them all, characters and events both fictional and historical. In this way, *The Blue Heron* evokes themes of identity, history and truth—made even more pointed by the book's postmodern novel-within-a-novel construct, in which d'Ersby is constructing the narrative of the fictional David while in real life his family and their estate are crumbling around him. It all leads d'Ersby to wonder, “Was he, himself, only a construct of words or a deconstruct?”

“The book, thematically, is about the way we were developed by language,” Dr. Farrington says. “[It asks] the question, is it possible to exist without language?”

*The Blue Heron* is to be published this spring by Water Street Press. This year will see several other publications by Dr. Farrington, who has taught literature and creating writing (playwriting, screenwriting and fiction) at Notre Dame for twenty years. [In early 2014, Doubleday reissued his 1984 historical novel, *Breath of Kings*, set just before the Norman Conquest of England in the 11th century.] Six of his plays have been collected into a book (appropriately titled *Six Plays*) that is slated for March publication. And several of his other works—a coming-of-age novel set in 1940s rural Iowa called *Aperture* and a series of detective novels featuring Michael Roland-James, an openly gay criminology professor living in Washington, D.C.—are also awaiting publication. As Dr. Farrington writes on his website, [genefarrington.com](http://genefarrington.com), “Prospects for 2014 are excellent. It should be a really good year.”

—Marianne Amoss '04 is a communications officer for Notre Dame of Maryland University.

✿ NDMU will host an **Evening with Faculty Authors** at 5:30 p.m. on April 2. Information: [ndm.edu/facultyauthors](http://ndm.edu/facultyauthors)

If you haven't set foot on the campus of Notre Dame recently, your next visit could be a revelation. The past several months have seen a slew of openings and dedications.

#### The University Academic Building

The newest addition to the campus landscape is also one of the most dramatic. The University Academic Building, located on the hillside overlooking Alumnae Field, features three floors of brick and glass with classrooms,

Counselman Atrium, an open space rising from the first floor, was dedicated in honor of longtime NDMU friend and benefactor Catherine Roloson Counselman '41.

#### The Otenasek House of the Morrissy Honors Program

The Otenasek House of the Morrissy Honors Program was dedicated during Family Weekend in October. The ceremony included a tribute to the house's namesake, Mildred B. Otenasek '36, Ph.D., who passed away in 2012.

#### The President's Residence

Notre Dame of Maryland University has acquired our first-ever President's Residence at 100 St. Albans Way, a block away from campus. Trustee Chair Patricia J. Mitchell '69 directed the renovation and furnishing of the house. During seven months of renovations, the house has been complemented by generous donations of elegant furnishing from close friends, alumnae and alumni of Notre Dame—notably through those who are members of the

the University's Fitness Center into what is now Gator Lair on the second floor of the MBK Sports and Activities Complex and the acquisition of new exercise equipment, including treadmills, bicycles and elliptical machines. The current Fitness Center, on the first floor of the complex adjacent to the gymnasium floor, will be converted to a weight room.

## The Evolving Landscape of Notre Dame

meeting rooms and offices that house the School of Nursing and feature the latest in communications and instructional technology.

Construction was funded in part with a grant from the State of Maryland. Grants from the Hearst Foundations, the Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation and the Middendorf Foundation funded simulation laboratories in the School of Nursing's Center for Caring with Technology. This included the purchase of SimMan™ computer-operated human patient simulators for use in the classroom.

Two additional gifts have helped to beautify the building. The Civera Family Gallery, made possible through the generosity of Ed and Judy Civera, is on the second floor of the atrium and features work by NMDU students. And the



The Otenasek House provides welcoming study areas, a seminar room for classes as well as individual and group activities and a comfortable lounge where Morrissy Honors Program students can interact with other Honors students and faculty. The house has been furnished with many generous gifts of furniture appropriate to the Craftsman-style home.

100 St. Albans Society—which ensures that Notre Dame's President's Residence will be elegantly appointed, serve as a point of pride and become the premier gathering space for our campus community and guests.

#### The Civera Fitness Center

A gift from Ed and Judy Civera has enabled the expansion of

#### The Grotto of the Sacred Heart

The Grotto of the Sacred Heart has been a place of refuge for many generations of students. A gift from Sheila Kirchenbauer Zimmer '63 will fund a renovation of the Grotto, including the repair of the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, repointing and refacing the stone wall and replacing the slate stone walkway. The Grotto will be beautified with enhanced lighting

and landscaping as well as new seating that will encourage individuals and groups to sit and meditate awhile.

—John Rivera

Clockwise from upper left: The University Academic Building; the view from the UAB's Counselman Atrium; the President's Residence; the Otenasek House of the Morrissy Honors Program.

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**Fever. Headache. Muscle pain.** For most Americans, these familiar symptoms announce the onset of the annual flu season. But for millions of others who live in tropical and subtropical countries, these initial symptoms are followed by more invasive and serious affronts to the body—fatigue, nausea, anemia and jaundice. And for more than 700,000 people each year, most of them children, the end result is death.

THE DIAGNOSIS:

# MALARIA

BY CAROL VELLUCCI

## *Research from the ground up*

In the global fight to eradicate malaria, a laboratory in the Knott Science Center is the setting for research that is playing a role in this quest.

The NDMU research team—Dr. Peter Hoffman, Dr. Paulo Carvalho and two students, Becky Unfried, Class of 2015, and Saba Shahzad, Class of 2015—is investigating how a fungus extracted from soil impacts the malarial drug artemisinin, a medicine derived from chemical compounds extracted from the leaves of the sweet wormwood plant *Artemisia annua*. Katlyn Gourley '13 also worked in the project until her graduation last year. Her enthusiasm for chemistry is leading her toward an eventual Ph.D. in medical research.

"Artemisinin is an effective drug against malaria," says Dr. Carvalho, a professor of medicinal chemistry in the School of Pharmacy. "We are replicating an experiment that tries to make

artemisinin even better—more water soluble and therefore more available to be administered and better absorbed by the body."

Dr. Carvalho works in tandem with Dr. Hoffman, a professor of biology, who starts the experimental ball rolling in his lab by showing Becky, a dual major in biology and nursing, and Saba, a major in biology, how to culture mycelial fungus in a rich nutrient broth. The students are attempting to find the optimal growth conditions for the fungus; they try varying the contents of the solution or the temperature of the culture.

The students add artemisinin to the fungal culture and, after a few weeks, the culture medium is filtered and the metabolites that are the result are extracted and analyzed by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), a technique used to separate the components in a mixture, to iden-

tify each component and to quantify each component.

The results so far have been very positive, says Dr. Carvalho. "We are looking for the conversion of artemisinin into its 7-hydroxy metabolite, which can be used to further semi-synthetic work (on new drug compounds). We have observed a 94% conversion rate as a result of the fungus enzymatic activity," he says.

As exciting as the results may be, scientific research can be tedious. Dr. Hoffman and Dr. Carvalho acknowledge that long waits are part and parcel of research. They take care to point out that there often isn't a specific timeline attached to scientific research. Reactions happen when they happen, and the wait itself can be a significant aspect of the research.

Dr. Carvalho readily admits that many students find scientific research boring. Students who take a laboratory





course see results much more quickly. Since much of the prep work has already been done by the professor, students can report to their laboratory stations, complete and discuss an experiment within the parameters of class time. The procedures and results in an experimental course are also already established, so there are no surprises.

"In research, a student may come and ask: 'What happened?' and the professor might answer: 'I don't know. Let's find out!'" says Dr. Carvalho. "Research is exciting even when we get unexpected or 'bad' results, because we are always learning."

But Becky, Saba and Katlyn are problem-solvers and appreciate that a little bit of boredom is a small price to pay for a potentially significant outcome.

"I can see the applications that this research has," says Becky, a Morrissy Honors Program student. "Malaria has a global impact, and our research can promote learning and help those around the world. In addition, some preliminary studies indicate that artemisinin may have anti-cancer properties, so building a platform for that would be exciting."

She had the opportunity to present her research at an honors conference in Maryland, where Morrissy scholars and students from other universities had the chance to learn from her experience.

What's next for the experiment and the professors who guide and mentor these students?

**"Research is exciting even when we get unexpected or 'bad' results, because we are always learning."**

"We need to scale up our project now and go beyond the original published research. We replicated the research on a small scale, and now we need to produce larger amounts of the metabolite for semi-synthesis," says Dr. Carvalho.

Scaling up the project can be expensive, with a \$4,000 price tag for 40 grams of artemisinin. So the team decided to grow its own *Artemisia annua* plants in a campus garden. The plants were used as part of a special topics course in organic chemistry of natural products, where three senior Chemistry students learned how to work on the extraction, purification and characterization of artemisinin.

Notre Dame's small-scale project may not make large-scale headlines, but these Notre Dame students, among others, are learning to appreciate the structure, rigors and implications of carefully documented experiments. They are learning to become the critical thinkers and careful, patient observers that make good scientists.

—Carol Vellucci is a contributing writer to *Universitas*.



# Road Scholar

## Commuting From New York to Study Knowledge Management



It's not uncommon to hear students in Gator Alley snack shop complain about monster commutes to school. But it's doubtful anyone can top Kerry McDonald, who travels nearly 200 miles each way to class at Notre Dame.

Luckily, he only has to do it once a week.

Kerry, a health care consultant who started the M.S. in Analytics in Knowledge Management in August, rides the train every Wednesday

from New York to Baltimore for class. But why?

"I looked at some other schools and didn't find in their curriculum the depth of what I was looking at in terms of knowledge management," he says. "Notre Dame did a good job of putting together a competitive program."

The phenomenon that is attracting students like Kerry to Notre Dame's Analytics in Knowledge Management program is the trend toward mining Big Data. In Kerry's case, he wants to design systems to manage the increasing amounts of health care

data, especially with the rollout of the Affordable Care Act.

"I think this program will give me the educational competence to help design some of the databases for managing knowledge in health care," he said. "It's definitely going to be an expanding field in the next number of years."

—John Rivera

✿ For more information on Analytics in Knowledge Management: [ndm.edu/knowledgemanagement](http://ndm.edu/knowledgemanagement)

# Reunion 2013!

In late September, hundreds of Notre Dame graduates and their families and friends returned to campus for Reunion 2013. Many drove onto campus via the new North Charles Street entrance and were warmly greeted by the enormous “Welcome Alums!” banner mounted on Gibbons Hall. It set the tone for a festive and nostalgic weekend, where alums rekindled friendships and celebrated community at a variety of events and activities—from the Maryland Crab Feast and the Faculty Happy Hour to the Alumnae vs. Students Soccer Game and Classes without Quizzes.

The Class of 1963 celebrated their 50th Reunion, and it was a joyful and

poignant experience. After their Friday luncheon on campus, each member of the class stood and shared her life story over the last 50 years, relating professional and personal triumphs and challenges. “I found it remarkable that we ‘pre-Women’s Liberation’ women had achieved so much, both personally (family) and career[-wise],” said Carole Michalski Beyer ’63. The next morning, each member of the class received a gold pin from President Joan Develin Coley, engraved with “College of Notre Dame” on the front and her initials on the back—a special honor reserved for the 50-year class.

The weekend wrapped up with the Remembrance Mass, which included

the Montrose Pinning Ceremony that officially welcomed new members of Notre Dame’s legacy giving society. Afterward, all gathered for the Farewell Jazz Brunch in Murphy Gathering Space and said their good-byes. “I have never felt so warmly welcomed and embraced, beyond family and close friends,” wrote Judy Flannery ’63 after the weekend. “Notre Dame will always be in my heart.”

—Marianne Amoss ’04

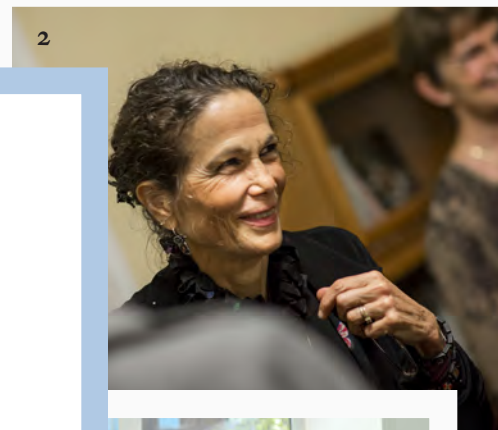
✿ **SAVE THE DATE: REUNION 2014 IS SEPTEMBER 19-21.** For more information: [ndm.edu/reunion](http://ndm.edu/reunion)



**“NOTRE DAME  
WILL ALWAYS BE  
IN MY HEART.”**

# The Year in review

1. Campus visit by Julia Alvarez, author of *In the Time of the Butterflies*, the 2013 Campus Common Reading 2. Julia Alvarez 3. Catherine Roloson Counselman '41 at the dedication of the Counselman Atrium in the University Academic Building (UAB) 4. Move-in Day 5. Nursing students at the UAB dedication 6. Valerie Hogue, Pharm. D., associate dean and professor in the School of Pharmacy and Deborah S. Phelps, trustee, at the UAB dedication 7. Project Homeless Connect service project 8. Nursing students at the annual Lighting of the Lamp 9. Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski at the UAB dedication 10. Alexandra Filsinger, Class of 2017, speaks at the Honors Convocation. 11. Christmas Tree Trim 12. Helen Marikle Passano '69 and her husband, E. Magruder Passano, Jr. at a Christmas reception at the President's Residence 13. Project Homeless Connect service project 14. Dedication of the Otenasek House of the Morrissy Honors Program 15. Nancy E. McColgan '92 trustee and Patricia J. Mitchell '69, Board of Trustees chair at the UAB dedication 16. President Coley presents the Elizabeth P. Hoisington '40 Distinguished Alumna Award to Margaret "Peggy" Haskell Farnham '92 during Honors Convocation.



NEW PROGRAMS

## Leadership in Action

When the Department of Business and Economics was seeking seasoned professionals to coach its students in the art of leadership, it had to look no further than the roster of alumnae and alumni.

The result is a new program that pairs graduate students in the **Leadership and Management and Nonprofit Management** programs with professionals in the business community who volunteer to act as leadership coaches. During the **Leadership in Action: Coached Leadership Practicum**, the students will lead a project in their workplaces or communities while being supported by trained



Lori Pollack '08 coaches M.A. in Leadership and Management student Ginny Seeley.

volunteer coaches. While the projects are expected to have a positive impact on their targeted groups, students will receive the “learning by doing” practical benefit that is expected to greatly enhance their leadership development.

“The coaches bring their experience to bear for the students as they encounter obstacles and problems in the execution of their leadership project,” says John Pollard, a long-time associate faculty member who directs the program. “It’s not their job to tell students what to do,

but to encourage, assist, ask questions about, ‘Well, you have this problem, what are you going to do about it, what options are you considering?’”

The nine coaches trained so far come from diverse backgrounds—economics, government, the financial sector, health care, public relations, publishing and nonprofit management—and are paired with students by Mr. Pollard and Deborah Calhoun, Department Chair of Business and Economics, based on shared interests.

One of the coaches, Lori Pollack '08, says her mentors during her years at Notre Dame were professors like Dr. Charles Yoe and Dr. Patricia Brelsford, and she still calls on them for advice from time to time. Ms. Pollack, who has a background in business and economics and will soon embark on a Ph.D. in biostatistics, relishes the opportunity share her experience.

“It just seemed like such a great way to give back to the school—a way to be there for somebody, to be someone they can bounce ideas off of,” she says. “It helps you step up your game a bit when you have an accountability partner. The ball is in their court to come to us, so we don’t have a new job ourselves. But we’re there for them if they need it.”

—John Rivera

✿ More information: [ndm.edu/leadership-in-action](http://ndm.edu/leadership-in-action)

## NETWORKING

As an undergraduate, Kristi Fogle Halford '01 discovered the power of the Notre Dame alumnae and alumni network. “I had the experience when I was a student at Notre Dame with alumnae who were extremely supportive,” says the senior account executive at Nevins & Associates, a public relations firm based in Towson. “I started my career through the support of alums.”

After graduating, Ms. Halford

found that although graduates were routinely invited to events on campus, no formal networking events were held that would connect Notre Dame graduates and allow them to leverage the professional knowledge, experience and connections of their fellow graduates. In 2011, she joined forces with Emilia Poiter, director of Alumnae and Alumni Relations, to do just that.

Ms. Halford now chairs the **Networking Initiative Committee of the Alumnae and Alumni Association**. The group is made up of graduates

working in business, law, education, grant writing, event planning and other fields; it meets several times a year to plan **Power Hour Plus**, a series of networking events, just-for-fun activities, and professional and personal development workshops. Events are generally held on evenings and weekends throughout the academic year and are open to Notre Dame graduates as well as the general public. “The job market is really competitive today,” Ms. Halford says, and professionals need a strong support network to be

successful. “And where else better to start than your college?” —Marianne Amoss '04

For details on upcoming **Power Hour Plus** events, turn to the calendar on the back inside cover of this issue. For more information on the **Networking Initiative Committee**, contact the **Office of Alumnae and Alumni Relations** at 410-532-5201 or [ndmalum@ndm.edu](mailto:ndmalum@ndm.edu).

## STAY IN TOUCH



This spring Notre Dame of Maryland University will announce the launch of MyNDM, an online destination for our alumnae, alumni, and friends to get acquainted and to stay connected with fellow Notre Dame graduates and classmates—at no charge. It will be a secure website, accessible only by registered members of the Notre Dame community. When you register on MyNDM you will be able to:

- ✦ Get in touch with classmates.
- ✦ Update your contact information—and select the information you want shared with Notre Dame alums and friends.
- ✦ Use **Class Notes** to share your accomplishments, family updates and other news.
- ✦ Register for Notre Dame programs and events—quickly.

Please contact the Office of Alumnae and Alumni Relations at 410-532-5201 or [ndmalum@ndm.edu](mailto:ndmalum@ndm.edu) for more information.

## First Impressions

Victoria Azera, **Class of 2015**, knows that these days, a college degree doesn’t guarantee a job. So the business major jumped at the chance to apply for **First Impressions**, a program that helps juniors and seniors in the **Women’s College** successfully make the transition from the classroom to the workforce. Through the academic year-long program, these young women learn resumé-writing, interviewing, dining etiquette, and dress and grooming—skills that are essential to professional success but not often taught in the classroom.

The program was launched in 2011 as a joint venture of Deborah Calhoun, chair of the Business and Economics Department; Emilia Poiter, director of the Office of Alumnae and Alumni Relations; and Diane MacKenzie, director of the Career and Student Success Center. The program has kicked off every year in October with a personal brand-building workshop conducted by WBAL sportscaster Gerry Sandusky.

Another popular workshop

is the **Dress for Success** fashion show at Macy’s, where students learn do’s and don’ts of dressing for the office. Those who successfully complete the program earn a \$150 Macy’s gift card, which they use to purchase professional clothes under the guidance of a Macy’s personal shopper.

Graduates are involved in a variety of ways: They plan each year’s programming as members of the **First Impressions Committee**, conduct mock job interviews with the students, and serve as mentors—sometimes even taking the young women to professional networking events or hiring them as interns. For Victoria, this opportunity to build relationships with Notre Dame graduates is what makes the program special. “First Impressions also gives you the opportunity to network and meet women who have been through what you’re about to experience and can teach you things you would never learn until you made the mistakes they made,” she says. “I feel as though in today’s society there is not much room for error if you want to succeed in the workplace.” —Marianne Amoss '04

## A Season of Successes

Notre Dame has celebrated a number of athletic achievements so far this academic year, as the **Gator volleyball team** advanced to the playoffs and the field hockey team was honored by its peers for its sportsmanship.



Cleaya Antes

The campus followed along as the volleyball squad won their first five games. They were an especially formidable team at home, where they finished with an 8-3 record. By the end of the season, the team improved its 2012 win total by six games and reached the **Colonial States Athletic Conference Playoffs** for the first time since the 2010 season. In addition, freshman Cleaya Antes and senior Cortney Silvis earned **CSAC** postseason honors: Antes earned the league’s **Rookie of the Year** award and was also named **Honorable Mention All-CSAC Team**, while Silvis was named to the **All-CSAC Second Team**.

In another honor, **NDMU’s field hockey team** was named a recipient of the **CSAC’s 3-D Award**, which honors the teams from each sport that best exemplify the **NCAA Division-III** principles of “Discover, Develop, Dedicate.” Following each conference contest, participating teams were asked to evaluate their opponents based on the three **Division-III** principles, giving a rating of 1 to 10 in each “D” category. Based on those ratings, **NDMU’s field hockey squad** received 3-D accolades from their peers.

“I want to thank and congratulate Ashley Demski and Mike Harnden, our field hockey coaching staff, for their leadership of the **NDMU Field Hockey program**,” says Erin Foley, **NDMU Athletics Director**. “This award is especially meaningful because it is voted upon by the student-athletes of the **CSAC**.”

—John Rivera

✿ Follow NDMU athletics at [notredamegators.com](http://notredamegators.com)



Tessa Schwartz

## ATHLETICS

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

THIS HONOR ROLL OF DONORS RECOGNIZES  
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THE MARY MELETIA SOCIETY comprises Notre Dame's most generous benefactors, and it is the University's hope that our graduates will one day aspire to join its ranks.

For Theresa M. "Tess" Maseda '13, it took about six months.

Ms. Maseda, who graduated in May with a degree in biology and a minor in music, recently became the youngest member of the Meletia Society, which is made up of donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to the Notre Dame Fund in a single fiscal year. She is now working as a lab technician at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine before entering medical school in 2016.

It was during the busy time before Christmas when Ms. Maseda opened her mail and found an ornament from Notre Dame depicting the Grotto of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which she received because of her membership on the Alumnae and Alumni Association

Executive Board. "It reminded me that, 'Oh, it's the season of giving!'" she says. "And I knew I wanted to give back to Notre Dame in as many ways as possible."

Ms. Maseda made her gift to honor a professor who she says had a profound influence during her education at Notre Dame: Christy Izdebski, D.M.A., an associate professor in the music department.

"I really had a wonderful experience in the music department as a science major, and that's what made me decide to make a donation," says Ms. Maseda, who is proficient on trumpet and piano. "They even let me have my own senior recital.

"The music department has had such an influence on me," she says. "I wanted to support that department as much as I could."



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NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY IS BLESSED WITH MANY "PARTNERS IN MISSION" WHO DEMONSTRATE EXTRAORDINARY FAITHFULNESS, INCLUDING GRADUATES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED NOTRE DAME WITH AT LEAST ONE GIFT EACH YEAR YEAR FOR DECADES. IT IS WITH THEIR UNWAVERING SUPPORT THAT NOTRE DAME RETAINS THE VALUES AND THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUR HALLMARK, WHILE EXPANDING THE MISSION TO INCLUDE NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES RESPONSIVE TO CONTEMPORARY NEEDS.

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MONTROSE IS THE NAME OF THE ORIGINAL ESTATE ON WHICH  
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AND WAS THE NAME OF THE VERY FIRST CAMPUS BUILDING,  
NOW KNOWN AS NOYES ALUMNAE HOUSE.

THE MONTROSE SOCIETY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES  
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AND THEIR FAMILIES—WHO HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION  
TO REMEMBER NOTRE DAME IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS.

THE INVESTMENT OF THESE FORWARD-THINKING  
SUPPORTERS WILL STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN  
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**Mildred Buzek Otenasek '36, Ph.D.**

The Notre Dame community lost one of our greatest champions with the passing of Mildred B. Otenasek '36, Ph.D. in November 2012 at the age of 98. For more than 80 years, Dr. Otenasek was a leader, teacher, benefactor and friend to us all.

Dr. Otenasek's love for Notre Dame is legendary. As a professor of economics and political science at Notre Dame for 23 years, she mentored and inspired countless women with her wisdom and wit. She was a political trailblazer, the first woman member of the Democratic National Committee for Maryland, and shared her passion for politics with her students. In Dr. Otenasek's honor, the University established the Mildred Otenasek Award for leadership and civic engagement.

Dr. Otenasek remained devoted to Notre Dame throughout her life. She served on our Board of Trustees from 1973 to 1974 and was a Trustee Associate from 1985 until her passing. She served on the University's historic

Legacy of Leadership and Answering the Challenge capital campaigns and was a member of the Montrose Society. In gratitude for Dr. Otenasek's service to the University and to the community, Notre Dame presented her in 1993 with the Elizabeth P. Hoisington '40 Distinguished Alumna Award and the President's Medal. The new Otenasek House of the Morrissy Honors Program is a tribute to Dr. Otenasek and her life of service, generosity and love to her *alma mater*.



**Marie-Helene Gibney '65, Ph.D.**

In April 2013, the Notre Dame community lost a devoted, spirited and capable alumnae leader with the passing of Marie-Helene Gibney '65, Ph.D.

From 1971 until 1977, Dr. Gibney served as Notre Dame's dean of admissions and director of financial aid. Her warmth, her sense of humor and her wonderful *joie de vivre* made Dr. Gibney a most beloved member of the campus community.

In 1977, Dr. Gibney left Notre Dame to become the assistant vice president for academic affairs at Georgetown University, and from 1988 until her retirement in 1994 Dr. Gibney served as Georgetown's associate provost.

In 1995, Dr. Gibney was named to Notre Dame's Board of Trustees, and from 1996 to 1997 she served on

the presidential search committee. During a time of transition three years later, President Mary Pat Seurkamp appointed Dr. Gibney to a year-long term as interim vice president for academic affairs. Her term concluded, Dr. Gibney continued her involvement, serving on the Legacy Giving Committee and as regent of the SSND Family Chapter, which connected School Sisters and former School Sisters more closely to their *alma mater*. She was a member of the Alumnae and Alumni Association Executive Board as well as the Meletia Society, Notre Dame's premier circle of donors.



**Willard Hackerman**

Notre Dame of Maryland University received word on February 10 that our benefactor and friend, Mr. Willard Hackerman, president of Whiting-Turner Construction Co., had died. He was 95.

Mr. Hackerman's company, Whiting-Turner, has been a wonderful partner to Notre Dame for more than two decades, helping fulfill much of the work of the master facilities plan that has transformed the face of the campus. In addition, Mr. Hackerman

has generously supported Notre Dame through the years. A Baltimore native and graduate of Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Hackerman was appointed to the Whiting-Turner board in 1946. In 1955, he became the firm's president. Under his leadership, Whiting-Turner has grown to become the fourth-largest domestic general builder in the U.S. Its headquarters is located in Towson and it has 33 regional offices across the country.

You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it. —Atticus Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**B**ursting into my room, before my eyes are even open, comes my son, all 44 inches of him. He climbs on me and begins an elaborate set of gestures and sounds to engage me. As I wake, these sounds and gestures morph into a torrent of words, phrases, hops and jumps.

This is him, all the time: a bright and energetic boy who is eager to engage, to play and to please. He is not unlike many black boys who enter our schools, eager to learn and with dreams of who they might become.

Sadly, those dreams often start to dissipate with each advancing year. A recent report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress found a significant gap in the achievement of African-American males compared to their White and Latino counterparts in reading, math and vocabulary. Educational achievement gaps contribute to significant life gaps.

A young black man fresh out of high school is more likely to go to prison, more likely to have a low-paying job and more likely to die a victim of homicide than a man of any other ethnicity.

Since I received my Master of Arts in Leadership in Teaching at Notre Dame in 2010, the school's motto has stuck with me: *Veritatem Prosequimur. Pursue Truth*. This phrase always pulls me toward the plight of black boys in American classrooms. We have known the truth. For decades. (I recently uncovered an article about this topic written in the 1960s.) It has not gotten appreciably better.

What are the consequences if this trend continues for another 50 years?



## TRANSFORMING THE EDUCATION OF BLACK MALES

By Joshua Parker M'10

What are the costs to individuals and society as our brothers and sons continue to underachieve? Above all, one question stands out for me as an educator: *What can we do?* Here are a few suggestions:

- Colleges and universities need to renew their focus on scholarship related to effective strategies and programs that result in high achievement, holistically, for black boys.
- Active, early recruitment of more African-American males to the teaching profession must be a top priority.
- Educators should work to develop empathy for black male students, endeavoring to understand the root causes of the energy, enthusiasm and

even aggression that many black boys display. Culturally responsive instruction depends upon a foundation of understanding.

One late night not too long ago, while in a grocery store checkout line, I encountered a young man I had taught in high school. I was so happy to see him. We shook hands and exchanged pleasantries, and as we parted, I wished him the best, hoping to myself that he had been able to overcome the struggles he'd faced as a teenager. As I loaded my car in the parking lot, I found myself transfixed on him as he drifted towards the sidewalk, seemingly without a destination, into the night.

I flashed back to my own son's energetic morning wake-up calls. My former student was once that same boy. He once flashed that same smile. He once ran through bedroom and schoolroom seeking warmth, knowledge and approval. At that moment, it was difficult for me to decide what was worse: watching that young man walk away alone in the dark or envisioning what he had to look forward to in his life.

Let's not let any more of our young boys turn into victims. Let's accept the challenge to change how we educate black males and refuse to give up on them. Let's educate them as leaders and transform lives.

*Joshua Parker M'10 was a teacher at Baltimore County's Windsor Mill Middle School when he was named Maryland's 2012 Teacher of the Year. He is now a Title I compliance specialist for Baltimore County Public Schools.*

### ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI RELATIONS EVENTS

#### Power Hour Plus: Breakfast with the Baltimore Ravens' Gabrielle Dow

Guest speaker: Gabrielle Dow, Vice President of Marketing for the Baltimore Ravens  
Thursday, March 13  
8 to 9:30 a.m.  
Center Club, Downtown Baltimore  
\$30  
Registration:  
ndm.edu/powerhourplus

#### An Evening with Faculty Authors

Hosted by the Continuing Education Chapter of the Alumnae and Alumni Association  
Guest Faculty: Dr. Gene Farrington, Shelley Puhak and Dr. Jeana DelRosso  
Wednesday, April 2  
5:30 to 8 p.m.  
For details: ndm.edu/facultyauthors

#### 2014 Busta Lecture in Business

Featuring a panel of Baltimore women leaders in the arts:  
Marin Alsop, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; Doreen Bolger, Baltimore Museum of Art; Rebecca Hoffberger, American Visionary Art Museum; Julia Marciari-Alexander, Walters Art Museum  
Tuesday, April 22  
Lecture at 7 p.m.  
LeClerc Auditorium  
Free and open to the public  
Registration: ndm.edu/busta

#### Power Hour Plus: Wine Tasting at the President's Residence

Guest speaker: Zach Armiger, Armiger Imports  
Wednesday, May 14  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
President's Residence, Homeland  
\$20; includes tasting and hors d'oeuvres  
Registration:  
ndm.edu/powerhourplus

### ART

#### 2nd International SPE Combined Caucus

The 2nd International Society for Photographic Education Combined Caucus Juried Show is organized in conjunction with the 2014 SPE National Conference, *Collaborative Exchanges: Photography in Dialogue*. Catherine Lord, Emerita Professor of Art at UC Irvine, and Leslie King-Hammond, Graduate Dean Emeritus and Founding Director of the Center for Race and Culture at Maryland Institute College of Art, will serve as co-jurors.  
February 3 through March 9  
Gallery talk with  
Leslie King-Hammond:  
Monday, March 3 at noon  
Reception: Saturday, March 8 at 8 p.m.  
Gormley Gallery  
Admission is free.  
ndm.edu/gormleygallery

#### 25th National Drawing and Print Competitive Exhibition

A national exhibit of works on paper juried by Ann Shafer, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs, Baltimore Museum of Art  
March 24 – April 25  
Reception and gallery talk:  
Saturday, March 29 from 4 to 6 p.m.  
Gormley Gallery  
Admission is free.  
ndm.edu/gormleygallery

#### Senior Thesis Exhibition

May 5 through May 24  
Reception Tuesday, May 6 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Gormley Gallery  
Admission is free.  
ndm.edu/gormleygallery

### ATHLETICS

Root the Gators on to victory! For a schedule of athletic events, go to [notredamegators.com](http://notredamegators.com)

### COMMENCEMENT

#### Baccalaureate Mass

Friday, May 23  
LeClerc Auditorium

#### Commencement

Saturday, May 24  
Hilton Baltimore

### EDUCATION

#### Author Richard Louv

The New Nature Movement: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age  
Richard Louv, author of the bestselling book *Last Child in the Woods*, spawned an international movement to reconnect kids and nature. He coined the term "nature-deficit disorder" to describe problems that result from spending so little time outdoors.  
Tuesday, March 18  
7 to 8:30 p.m.  
LeClerc Auditorium  
Admission is free.  
ndm.edu/louv

### MUSIC

#### Jose Miguel Cueto, violin, Nancy Roldán, piano

The Cueto-Roldán collaborative performances have been praised by major critics throughout the world. Their recordings have introduced new works to the repertoire as well as a fresh approach to classical standards.  
Saturday, March 8 at 7 p.m.  
LeClerc Auditorium  
Admission is free.  
More information: 410-532-5386

#### Ernest Ragogini, piano

Acclaimed for his musicianship and pianistic gifts, Ernest Ragogini has toured the United States, Canada, Europe, Central America and South America in important venues such as Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires; Tully Hall, New York; and the Teatro Olimpia, Rome.  
Saturday, March 22 at 7 p.m.  
LeClerc Auditorium  
Admission is free.  
More information: 410-532-5386

#### Arabesque Duo: Kathrin Murray and Troy King

Wife and husband Kathrin Murray and Troy King have performed as a duo to critical acclaim at prestigious concert venues in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Baltimore, Honolulu and Cheltenham, England.  
Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m.  
LeClerc Auditorium  
Admission is free.  
More information: 410-532-5386

#### Commodores Jazz Ensemble

The Commodores, the United States Navy's premier jazz ensemble, has been a United States Navy Band unit since 1969. Deemed a national treasure, this stellar ensemble is on the cutting edge of today's big band jazz scene.  
Saturday, April 26 at 7 p.m.  
LeClerc Auditorium  
Admission is free.  
More information: 410-532-5386



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**Tuesday, April 22, 2014  
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