

# NDNU

Notre Dame de Namur University

VOLUME 5 | NUMBER 1

MAGAZINE | Fall 2004

## New Hall . . .



*new home,  
new beginnings*

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



For the first time in over a decade, Notre Dame de Namur University opened a new building on our beautiful campus. We'd like to thank again the many people who were involved for their clear thinking, excellent communication, and hard work at bringing our new residence hall (New Hall)

in on time and on budget. New Hall has been well received by our students and there is a better mix now in the residential portion of our campus. Speaking of New Hall, there are several naming opportunities listed in this magazine related to New Hall. The most important naming opportunity would be to have the New Hall lettering removed and put up the name of a generous benefactor.

There are many other exciting features in this issue, including a scholarship donor profile and a feature on our Coca-Cola® Scholarship recipient. Both articles highlight the importance of scholarship dollars in the education of our students. Many of our students are first generation college students and need the scholarship support that we can give them. Our donors feel good knowing that they have helped a young person with his or her education. Join us in becoming a scholarship donor by contacting Steve Kinney at (650) 508-3581.

We are especially pleased with the Residential Learning Community Project. It speaks to our concerns for educating students both inside and outside the classroom. This project will involve the development of a partnership among faculty, professional staff, departments, and administrators.

We thank the Class of 2004 graduate and undergraduate students for their class gift of \$4,000. The money was applied to the creation of the Millennial Lounge, a new space where non-resident students can relax between classes. We appreciate the class

gifts and we hope our newest alumni will “give back” to NDNU in appreciation for the education they received here. We hope that all of our alumni will “give back” in one way or another.

This year marks the inaugural year for our Center for Student Leadership. The Center is focusing on leadership development for all of NDNU's constituencies.

Our athletic program has had both an active and a successful fall semester. Faculty members continue to point out that some of our best students are athletes. Athletics, along with music, theatre, musical theatre, distinguished speakers, and art exhibits at our highly respected Wiegand Gallery, add a very special flavor to our NDNU campus.

Let me say a word about financing this institution. We have had several difficult budget years and this past fiscal year seems to be pointing toward recovery. This institution is heavily dependent on tuition for its survival. We are meeting now with a special Capital Campaign Committee that is committed, at the direction of the Board of Trustees, to raise money for buildings, endowment, scholarships and, most importantly, to raise money for general operating funds. You heard the call for support in early parts of this letter. Let me be more direct here. We need all of you to help in our efforts to continue quality education at Notre Dame de Namur University. A key factor in foundation giving and in individual giving is the question “how well does your alumni support their institution?” We need your help and we need it annually. “Give back” so someone like you, but in the beginnings of adult life, can have the chance of the wonderful NDNU education that you have had.

Sincerely,

John B. Oblak, Ph.D.  
President, Notre Dame de Namur University

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Cover Photo (L to R): NDNU Board Chair Cressey Nakagawa, President Oblak, Vice President for Campus Life Dr. Raymond Jones, NDNU President Emerita Sr. Veronica Skillin, and Belmont Mayor George Metropulos.

## Gallo Fundraiser

Sunflowers greeted guests as they joined hosts Marie '57 and Bob Gallo at a spectacular fundraiser for Notre Dame de Namur University at their Faith Ranch, National Wildlife Refuge in Modesto, CA on August 29.

St. Julie Billiart, foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame, was born in Cuvilly, France, situated near fields of sunflowers. She used them as a symbol for the Sisters when she told them to always turn toward God as the sunflowers always turn toward the sun, even in darkness. Sister Roseanne Murphy, NDNU's Executive Director of Planned Giving, said "It could not have been a more perfect setting for the event where the guests were invited to contribute to the University and honor the mission of the Sisters."

The Gallo family insured fundraising success for the University at their event by pledging \$100,000 to NDNU and encouraging other guests to be as generous as they had been.

More than 70 guests enjoyed the event, which included a tour of the ranch, mass at the River House by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, and a delightful barbeque where NDNU students preformed selected musical numbers from the upcoming spring production of *Oklahoma*.

"As an alumna, Marie's commitment and support of the University has been paramount in providing the next generation of students with the fundamentals they need to succeed," emphasized Steven Kinney, NDNU Vice President for Development and Public Relations. "Funding such as the Gallos' allows us, at the University, to encourage students to develop their potential in a fully supportive environment."



Jack and Janiece Oblak with Heritage Society members Gordy MA '81 (Art Therapy) and Carol Loughlin.



Marie Gallo greets Bishop Blair and Cori and Donald McKenzie.



Bob and Marie Gallo with President Oblak.



Sr. Roseanne Murphy and Frances Kump '54.

*"Always turn toward God as the sunflowers always turn toward the sun, even in darkness."*

# New Hall, New Friends

New Hall officially opened its doors for the fall semester during a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 23. Guided tours of the \$12 million state-of-the-art residence hall followed the well-attended ceremony with remarks by NDNU President Dr. John Oblak.

“This magnificent addition to our campus is the first new construction in over ten years,” said Oblak. “Everyone in the campus community is delighted with it as we now look forward to the next phase in our Master Plan, funding a new campus center.”

Roomies Liz Schooler '07, Ann Mary Astrinos '07, Ashley Smith '05, and Liz Whitehorn '06, invited ceremony attendees to tour their new home.

“The private living space per person is definitely larger in New Hall and I think that makes a difference,” explained Schooler, a business management sophomore, who lived in Julie Billiard Hall last semester. “We also love that it’s so clean and new.”

Besides featuring suites for 200 students, the 36,000 square foot structure, includes a resident director apartment, a multi-purpose lounge, laundry facilities, and outdoor congregational areas. Fully wired for Internet access, the suites are designed to allow for maximum flexibility so students can configure their living quarters according to individual preferences. Each student has his/her own private room, while sharing a common living area and common restroom/shower. Two students share a sink and vanity area.

“I always heard that you meet your best friends while you’re in college, and I never really believed it until now,” said Schooler, referring to her roommates as new found friends.

Several hundred interested community members attended the ceremony, including Belmont Mayor George Metropulos, San Francisco Archbishop William Levada, who blessed the building, and San Mateo County Supervisors Mike Nevin, and Jerry Hill. Also in attendance were President Emerita Sr. Veronica Skillen, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Cressey Nakagawa.

Dr. Thomas Hannen, NDNU’s Vice President for Finance and Administration, said, “This is the happy culmination of true teamwork among the City of Belmont, the Gensler architectural firm, Nibbi Brothers Construction, the University, and our patient and understanding neighbors.”

Left to right: NDNU Board Chair Cressey Nakagawa, President Oblak, Vice President for Campus Life Dr. Raymond Jones, NDNU President Emerita Sr. Veronica Skillin, and Belmont Mayor George Metropulos.



Liz Whitehorn '06 enjoys her new home in New Hall.



# naming opportunities

sharing your name,  
supporting a time-honored institution

<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Residence hall complex	\$6,000,000
Courtyard	500,000
Sky lounge	250,000
Residence hall office(s)	100,000
Resident assistant apartment	100,000
Residential suites (53)	80,000
Gardens (4)	2,500
Courtyard benches (6)	2,500
Trees	500
Engraved pavestones	250

What's in a name, Shakespeare asked. For one thing, it could be a tangible and enduring record of your support for a worthy cause. NDNU is now making available some wonderful naming opportunities with the completion of New Hall.

The modern design offers planned vistas of the campus and an increased sense of community. Suite designs allow for maximum flexibility so the students can configure their living quarters according to individual preferences. Angled around a bluff, the hall captures afternoon breezes and creates cross ventilation in every suite. New Hall is fully wired for Internet access. The radiant floor heating under the quarry tile creates a warm ambience throughout the building.

For further information on how you can be forever associated with one of the new residence halls, suites, offices, benches, or other naming opportunities, contact Manny Nungaray, Director of Annual Giving and Operations, at (650) 508-3442 or [mnungaray@ndnu.edu](mailto:mnungaray@ndnu.edu).

Donor Profile:

**The Frank and Jackie Schiedeck '91 Endowed Scholarship**

A proponent of life-long learning and a mature adult with a full-time job, Jackie Schiedeck was drawn to Notre Dame de Namur University because she wanted to broaden her perspective and earn a college degree. Armed with an associate's degree from Skyline College, she enrolled in the evening intensive program at NDNU in the fall of '86. Jackie remained an evening student until she retired in 1990 and then enrolled full-time as a day student, graduating in '91 with a degree in behavioral science.

Her interest in the social sciences was stimulated by her position as the administrative assistant to the Chief of Police in Burlingame. Much of her work involved people in difficult situations, and she wanted to learn more about psychology, behavior, and the social sciences. After graduating from NDNU, she enrolled at San Francisco State University where she obtained a master's degree in education and a graduate certificate in rehabilitation teaching for the blind. Jackie began working with the visually impaired,

teaching adaptive living skills and helping them to become oriented to their environment.

When Jackie's husband died in October of 2000, she began to think about a way she could honor him and help others at the same time. Establishing an endowed scholarship became her goal. With some encouragement, she endowed the scholarship in both of their names, in hopes that her return to college as a mature woman would encourage others to do the same.

Jackie remains busy volunteering with Marin County State Parks. She is also active with the California Alpine Club and the Sierra Club.

Both native Californians, Jackie grew up in San Jose and Frank grew up in San Francisco. They met in the workplace, which at that time was Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Frank became a general building contractor. He, too, liked the outdoors; a favorite hobby was trapshooting. The Frank and Jackie Schiedeck '91 Endowed Scholarship will assist students who plan to major in English or communication.



Jackie hiking in the mountains.

**Jessica Bull: NDNU's Coca-Cola® Scholarship Recipient**

When Jessica Bull made the decision to attend Notre Dame de Namur University in the fall of '03, she did not know that she would be chosen for one of the most prestigious scholarships awarded at NDNU: the Coca-Cola Foundation First Generation Scholarship. Once she was selected, based on her leadership experiences in high school, her academic promise, and being the first in her family to attend college, it became evident to all who know her that she is most deserving of this award.

The Coca-Cola Scholarship is a four-year award worth a total of \$20,000, which means a great deal to her and her family. Jessica knew she wanted a small college with many opportunities for leadership, and NDNU is proving to be the right place for her. Jessica demonstrates the truth to the adage "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it."

She is the publicity commissioner for the Residence Hall Association and a member of the Programming Board (the group that plans and coordinates all activities on campus). Jessica is also an orientation leader and spent her summer on campus doing orientation sessions for incoming students. She can often be found in the Center for Student Leadership (newly renovated space in the Rosenberg Campus Center), working on a project or answering the phone. In her spare time, she is trying to form a cheerleading group on campus, which has been dormant for the past few years.

Jessica, a sophomore from San Leandro, is a Dean's List student majoring in marketing and advertising in the School of Business and Management. One of her favorite pastimes is practicing yoga, which helps keep her centered as she juggles all her activities and leadership roles on cam-



pus. Jessica is proud to be the recipient of the Coca-Cola Foundation First Generation Scholarship and is an outstanding example of the kind of student who makes NDNU a better place.

## Living and Learning Together

It is a moment – and an experience – you simply never forget. Your first moments in the residence hall.

You find the building, you find the room, you introduce yourself to those strangers who are as nervous as you are.

All are the first impressions of those who will evolve, very, very quickly into people you'll always remember, the people you'll see down the hall in their “jammies,” with whom you will sit down to meals, people who will share (in agonizing detail, very late at night) the stress intrinsic in that first glorious week of finals.

Beginning this year, Notre Dame de Namur University is structuring a new context for that indelible experience. By fusing the academic and residential experience at NDNU, the Residential Learning Community Project seeks to foster the student's potential, their sense of social justice, and a 24/7 atmosphere that allows students to find the path that's right for them.

The Residential Learning Community Project is a pilot program that will be centered in the residence halls this year. A collaborative effort between the First Year Experience, Campus Life professional staff, Center for Student Leadership, and Office of Mission and Diversity, it combines the residential and academic aspects of college life that, in this inaugural year, will investigate the impact of residential living-learning communities on student performance, while assessing the participant's level of satisfaction.

Based on a model that has been proven effective across the country, the residential living-learning community (RLLC) movement has become one of the more successful innovations in enhancing student



learning and development. Three residential living-learning communities are being built at NDNU around three separate themes: Emerging Leaders, Cultural Diversity and Social Justice, and the Human Experience. The Emerging Leaders and the Human Experience communities are focused on first-year students and are academic-based, with academic enrichment activities and events linked to one or more courses. The Cultural Diversity and Social Justice community will include sophomores, juniors and seniors and is driven by academic enrichment-based activities as well as events not linked to a course.

Partnerships between faculty, professional staff, departments and administrators will prove to be fundamental to the pilot's success. Intentional restructuring of curriculum and a purposeful alignment

of academic enrichment, activities and events will form the backbone of the effort.

Through the staff support of Resident Directors and their staff of Resident Advisors, each RLLC develops its own program, but they typically will include social and cultural events, eating meals together, guest speakers, and connecting to the hundreds of educational programs available in all the residence halls. To stimulate community development, living-learning community labs will meet bi-weekly and cover an array of student-driven issues ranging from time-management to sharing of personal narratives.

The project began this fall and holds a promise of deepening the learning experience at NDNU by blurring the boundaries between lecture hall and residence, roommate and classmate, the social and the academic.



Millennial Lounge

## Class Gift 2004

Graduate and undergraduate students alike contributed \$4000 toward the Class Gift of 2004, the creation of the Millennial Lounge in the Rosenburg Campus Center. Non-residential students are enjoying the remodeled lounge, which has a new couch, three new computer stations, and a TV.

If you're graduating this December or next May, please consider a contribution to the class gift. For more information, contact Manny Nungaray at (650) 508-3442.



Dr. Michael Schmitz

### Summer Inspiration

Dr. Michael Schmitz, Chairperson of the Music Department, instructed twenty of the Bay Area's most talented young piano and string players this summer at NDNU's Summer Music Camp. The camp is designed to promote extraordinary musical talent, teach collaborative and solo performance skills, and bring young piano and string players together in a setting where

they can devote themselves to musical understanding. "For eight intensive days," says camp director Schmitz, "we cultivate these young musicians' love for music with classes that emphasize practical application of skills and knowledge, and increase their appreciation of music in its many forms. This music camp gives each of the students an enormous charge of musical inspiration that lasts through the school year."

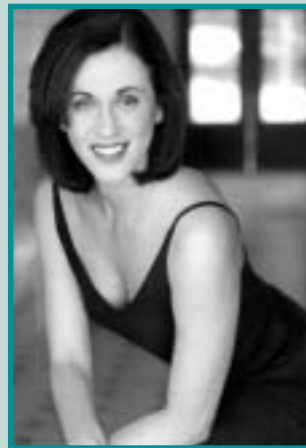
### Community Based Learning Project in Guadalajara, Mexico



Valerie James and Norma Perez-Carranza with their group of 6-7 year olds.

From July 17 – 31, ten students and two faculty members provided summer camp activities of arts and crafts, singing, dance, and sports to some 240 underprivileged children in Cerro del Cuatro, Tlaquepaque, a poor parish neighborhood in the sprawling outskirts of Guadalajara, Mexico. Living with local families found by Guadalajara liaison SND Janet Grim, the group experienced total cultural immersion, personal challenge, and meaningful service. Exhilarated, the majority of the group are already

organizing to return next year, with plans for fundraising activities beginning early in the academic year. This year's group consisted of NDNU students Princess Rodríguez, Norma Pérez Carranza, Edwina Pereles-Agront, Starli McLemore Hampton, Valerie James, Ruben Mora-Román, Sherry Estrada, Katy Foley, and Deborah Eaton Kosi. Shannon Swim from the University of Nevada at Reno, also participated, as well as NDNU Spanish instructor Misha McLaird, and Dean of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Christine Bennett, who founded the program in '99.



Gia Solari-Welch

### Dance Captain for Evita

Gia Solari-Welch, Musical Theater/Dance faculty member and choreographer for last year's production of *Songs for a New World*, is taking a leave of absence from NDNU to join the cast (and also serve as dance captain) of Hal Prince's new production of the musical *Evita*, which begins touring the United States and Canada in November '04. Gia's performance credits include projects with American Musical Theatre of San Jose,

Disney, Nickelodeon, and Royal Caribbean. Other recent professional ventures include assistant-directing the west coast tour of *Dreamgirls* starring American Idol's Frenchie Davis in January '04 (Frenchie joined NDNU's Vocal Performance Class for an afternoon as a visiting artist). Gia has also worked as a casting assistant on Broadway, with national touring projects such as *Rent* and *Saturday Night Fever*, and is a judge for the National Dance Team Championships as seen on ESPN.

### Food for Thought

Dr. Ali Ferdowsi has cooked up a new multi/interdisciplinary course for spring semester '05 on the subject of food. Taught by more than a dozen members of the NDNU faculty, this course focuses on food as subsistence and as symbol. It brings together views on arts and eating from history, sociology, geography, psychology, philosophy, ethics, theology, economics, cultural studies, literature, and arts



Dr. Ali Ferdowsi

on food and eating. Food keeps people alive, but there is much more to eating than the satisfaction of hunger. Food is inescapably related to profound questions of ethics, economics, and politics. Students will investigate the complex relationships among economy, polity, society, and culture through the examination of practices relating to food and eating.



Dr. Bobby Vaughn

## Welcome

The NDNU community welcomes new Director of the Office of Mission and Diversity, Dr. Bobby Vaughn. Bobby holds a BA in Political Science from Lafayette College (PA), and an MA and Ph.D in Cultural Anthropology from Stanford. He has studied and done extensive research on black history in Mexico and is fluent in Spanish. In addition

to his responsibilities in the Office of Mission and Diversity, he will teach part time as Assistant Professor in the School of Science in the psychology and sociology departments.

## Newly Retired

Dr. Elizabeth Center, Chair, Natural Sciences, Dr. Anna McQuinn, Chair, MACP/MA Gerontology Departments, and Dr. Birgitte Moyer, Professor Music/Visual and Performing Arts have recently retired.

Dr. Elizabeth Center made NDNU her home for 27 years. She served as division chair in biological sciences for 17 years and then

as chair of the department of natural sciences. Elizabeth belongs to numerous scientific societies and has a lengthy list of publications. She was responsible for obtaining the grant that turned



Dr. Elizabeth Center and Dr. Anna McQuinn

classrooms into biology laboratories in the '80s and helped write the grant to fund the refurbishing of the chemistry lab. Elizabeth was a consummate faculty advisor, taking great pleasure in guiding her students. During her last sabbatical, Elizabeth continued working on her textbook on embryology. Last spring, the faculty senate voted unanimously to name the Natural Science and Mathematics Scholarship in her honor.

Dr. Anna McQuinn was a member of the NDNU community for 15 years, all of which she served in the position of Chair of Counseling Psychology, now Clinical Psychology and Gerontology. Anna took the department from a faculty of one with no students, to a faculty of four with over one hundred students. Anna's personal charisma, enthusiasm for her field, and extensive knowledge of psychology made a lasting impression on her students. Anna's attention to individual students increased retention in the graduate program. Devoted and loyal to her colleagues and friends, Anna's leadership promoted an environment for faculty and staff to be creative. In recent years, Anna worked tirelessly on curriculum development and put two new programs into place, Clinical Gerontology and Clinical Psychology. During all of these years, Anna maintained a private clinical practice, keeping her experience fresh and relevant for her students.

Dr. Birgitte Moyer served as chair of the music department for 25 years. She taught classes in theory, history, and many other essential aspects of music. Birgitte produced nearly 30 concerts a year and was primarily responsible for the high caliber lecture recitals and final documents produced by NDNU graduate students. Birgitte demonstrated what it is to be a scholar in music; not just to

play an instrument, but to understand the background of the music from the concepts of history, society, and even theory. She has always challenged the students, demonstrating that there is always room to grow. Birgitte arranged to have Master Sinfonia and Redwood Symphony orchestras perform on campus. She also performs in these orchestras, as concert master, or associate concert master. She is now married to stage director David Ostwald. She will be spending time with him in her Portola Valley home, as well as in New York City, and will continue to travel abroad.



Dr. Birgitte Moyer

## NDNU Becomes a Student Civic Engagement Regional Center for the Bay Area

**N**otre Dame de Namur University has a long history of community service and collaborative involvement as it strives to uphold its mission by challenging students “to share what they have learned through service and the promotion of social justice and global peace.” Similar to other institutions of higher education, NDNU has begun to build on this tradition and become more intentional in connecting students’ community service with civic engagement. Recently, NDNU has included the study and integration of dialogue into its curricular and co-curricular programs.

During the past two years, Gretchen Wehrle, Associate Professor of Psychology at NDNU, and Katie Howard, Manager of Civic Engagement and Facilitation Programs of the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC), have developed a partnership in which students have been trained in facilitation/dialogue skills, discussed and reflected upon civic and democratic engagement, participated in community dialogues, and planned and facilitated dialogues on campus. Not only

have members of the NDNU community participated in these dialogues, but a number of Belmont city residents, community organizations, and elected officials have also joined us in these conversations. What started out as a single Community Psychology class, has grown to include undergraduate as well as alumni students from different classes and disciplines. The success of these efforts was recognized this year when NDNU received a grant to expand the work to other institutions.

California Campus Compact and the Corporation for National and Community Service: Learn and Serve America awarded NDNU a grant to serve as the student civic engagement regional center for the Bay Area. NDNU, in partnership with PCRC, will be collaborating with four institutions – College of San Mateo, Saint Mary’s College, San Francisco State University, and San Jose State University – to host a fall gathering focusing on capacity and skill building of students in order for them to become more effective leaders and collaborators. This gathering will include workshops on communication skills,

working with diverse communities, conflict resolution skills, and event planning; presenters will include students, faculty, staff, and community members. It is our hope that the work NDNU does as a regional center with students from other institutions will have a multiplier effect as these students develop plans for civic engagement activities on their own campuses.

The partnership that NDNU and PCRC has developed provides students with an opportunity to become engaged and excited about their own learning. Many of these students have worked on this project during their own time, have participated since the beginning two years ago, have recruited other students because of their enthusiasm and commitment, and continue to expand their skills and knowledge. Making students aware of the connections between community service and civic engagement is a first step in creating active citizens and, as Sister Julie Billiard used to remind us, it is our responsibility as educators to “teach [students] the skills they will need for life.”

## Students Teaching Students

**B**rian Marchetti '07, perhaps feels most at home in an itchy wool combat uniform straight out of the Civil War. As an NDNU history and political science double major and die-hard history aficionado, Brian has always found comfort in the confines of history.

“I was having a difficult time in elementary and middle school,” explained Brian. “History was my retreat. I could go into a history book and find my place.”

His passion for Robert E. Lee and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain is evident as for the past three summers he’s taught at risk seventh and eighth graders in a national educational enrichment program that prepares motivated, low-income middle school students for success in rigorous college preparatory programs. The internship program “The Breakthrough Collaborative” selects outstanding high



Brian Marchetti '07

school and college students to serve as teachers, role models, and mentors.

“Not everyone has someone pushing them to succeed,” said Brian, who credits his family, and mother, who raised him as a single parent, for giving him the support he needed during a difficult time. “These are kids who have the potential to succeed, they want to succeed, but they don’t necessarily have all the resources they need to succeed. I can relate to them, because I was in their position.”

Besides teaching, Brian enjoys football, reenacting Civil War battle scenes, and singing in his church choir. Brian’s work ethic has also earned him a merit-based Belmont Scholarship worth \$40,000. “I really enjoy the close-knit community at NDNU and the close contact with all my teachers,” he said. “They (teachers) can really make a tremendous difference. I hope my love of history inspires someone’s passion someday.”



**Center for  
STUDENT  
LEADERSHIP**

**D**uring the summer, the Student Activities Office went through an exciting transformation. The office is now the Center for Student Leadership (CSL) and has a new location in the Rosenberg Campus Center.

This new center has been the result of two years of hard work – visioning, developing, and collaboration between dedicated members of the faculty and staff. The CSL will still encompass the Programming Board, new student orientation, ASNDNU, student clubs and organizations, and Tabard Inn. However, the CSL will also focus on leadership development for all NDNU constituencies.

The center's design includes computers and work stations for student clubs and organizations, a conference area for meetings, leadership resource publications and materials, information regarding leadership opportunities, and mailboxes for clubs and ASNDNU officers.

In addition to the new design and location, the CSL has a student intern; and NDNU was granted preliminary chartership for a national leadership honor society, Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK).

The transformation increases collaboration among student clubs and organizations, Associated Students, Programming Board, Residence Hall Association, and the Resident Advisors. In addition to the collaboration, one of the center's main objectives will be to continue to expand its services to NDNU students and the surrounding community.



NDNU staff toast the new center.

## Matthew Brandon Hutchens

**S**ometimes an unexpected phone call can make your day.

Over the summer, Matthew Hutchens, a senior musical theatre major, received a phone call from a major New York casting company, asking him to audition for the role of Phil Davis in the world premier stage version of "White Christmas." This role, which was played by Danny Kaye in the movie version, is a "plum role" and Matthew was thrilled to be invited to audition.

Casting directors were looking for strong male tap dancers, singers, and actors. Knowing his abilities in all three areas, numerous theatre companies in the Bay Area had recommended Matthew. He was one of six actors chosen out of thousands who auditioned. Matthew was cast as part of the male ensemble and the Phil Davis understudy. The musical is being

produced by the Irving Berlin family and Paramount Pictures, and is directed by Walter Bobby, who recently directed *Chicago* on Broadway.

Matthew was flown to New York for the month of October to rehearse on Broadway and back to San Francisco for opening night, November 2, at the Curran Theatre. The show will run in San Francisco until January 2005 and, if successful, will go on to Broadway.

When asked about this opportunity, Matthew's comments were, "Thank you, NDNU friends, faculty, and staff for your support. Thank you, Mom, Dad, and family, Marc Jacobs, Debra Lambert, Dr. Lee Strawn, Berle Davis, Vassili Mountain, and everyone else who has been a constant source of inspiration and support." Matt plans to finish his degree at NDNU in the spring.



Matthew Hutchens

## Student Athletes Become Teachers at Belmont Elementary School

This fall, ten members of the NDNU Men's Lacrosse Team are teaching the basics of lacrosse as part of the physical education program for 4th and 5th graders at Central Elementary School in Belmont. The six-week program that began on September 24 was the result of a meeting of several people: the principal of Central Elementary, Cori McKenzie; parent Russell Sherman; NDNU lacrosse coach, Joe Romano; and the 4th and 5th grade teachers at Central. Russell Sherman, whose daughter is a 3rd grader at Central, is one of the directors of the Burlingame Coyotes, an organization comprised of several boys and girls lacrosse teams. He received a grant from US Lacrosse that provided 23 full sets of lacrosse equipment for both boys and girls and at that point the school decided



Geoff Farrer '06 (Ontario, Canada)

to introduce lacrosse to the 4th and 5th grade PE classes.

NDNU lacrosse players provide the instruction for the boys, while Russell Sherman provides instruction for the girls. He is assisted by Becky Morrison, an NDNU volleyball player who played lacrosse in high school in Pennsylvania. Two members of the Stanford women's lacrosse team also assist Russell.

According to NDNU lacrosse coach Joe Romano, the players are thoroughly enjoying sharing their skills with the young students. "They can share their love of the sport and test their own ability to teach, coach, and mentor the kids. What a great example of NDNU students helping in the community and feeling a part of the local 'scene.'"

### NDNU's Argonaut Booster Club

In the early fall, the Department of Athletics launched the Argonaut Booster Club, which has raised over \$5,000 to date. Alumni, parents of students, and friends of the university can express their support for student athletes by becoming a member. The club will provide NDNU athletic programs with much needed resources and help student athletes excel in the classroom as well as compete at a championship level on the playing field.

For more information about the various giving levels, contact Jessica Mazeau, Booster Club coordinator and assistant women's basketball coach, at (650) 508-3686 or by e-mail at [jmazeau@ndnu.edu](mailto:jmazeau@ndnu.edu).

## Fall Sports in Action



Left: Yang Zhou '06, China

Bottom Left: left to right, Eric Maldonado, Riverside, CA; Ruben Mora-Roman, Santa Rosa, CA; Efrén Tirado, West Covina, CA; and Jose Gonzales, Lomita, CA; all class of '07

Bottom Right: Ana Hannah '05, Guam



## Alumni Decade Donation Challenge

The Alumni Association and the Office of Development have created the Alumni Decade Donation Challenge, a competitive way for alumni to show their support of the University. Alumni from each decade will compete to raise more money than alumni from other decades. We will be showing updates of how each decade is doing on the Alumni Association website. The contest has already begun and will continue throughout the year, concluding at midnight on June 30, '05. The decade that has raised the most money will receive recognition in the Fall *NDNU Magazine* Honor Roll, as well as a special mention in the magazine. Will the '60s decade be able to raise more than the '90s?

Check [www.ndnu.edu/alumni](http://www.ndnu.edu/alumni) to find out how everyone is doing. If you would like to participate in the Alumni Decade Donation Challenge please send your checks to the University care of the Alumni Association and do not forget to indicate your class year and that your donation is for the Alumni Decade Donation Challenge. May the decade with the most school spirit win!



Members of the fifth annual alumni trip to Ashland celebrating the "Shakespearean Feast" with "King Ardavan Davaran" presiding. They had attended an outstanding production of *The Comedy of Errors*.



The first official delegation on behalf of Belmont to its new Sister City, Namur, Belgium, took place June 28. In the front row: (L to R) Yvette Destree, Deputy Mayor of Namur; Sr. Roseanne Murphy, NDNU; Bernard Anselme, Mayor of Namur, and Terri Cook, City Clerk of Belmont. The group of alumni and friends of the University visited places important to its origin and of historical significance.

## Alumni Welcome Back Weekend

Fellow Alumni! The Alumni Association is excited to present a brand new kind of reunion weekend. The Alumni Welcome Back Weekend is set to take place February 4 – 6, '05 right here on campus. Three very special faculty members will be honored for their years of service to the students of NDNU/CND, Dr. Mary Ellen Boyling, Dr. Elizabeth Center, and Dr. Don Stannard-Friel. Join us at the Alumni Tail Gate Party and basketball game vs. Menlo College, as well as the Welcome Dinner and auction. In addition, there will be update discussions with the faculty we are honoring, mass, and much more. We will also be holding reunions for the classes of 1954, 1955, 1959, 1960, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1970, 1974, 1975, 1984, 1985, 1994, and 1995. Please save the date on your calendar and come celebrate this wonderful weekend with us! Visit our website for more information: [www.ndnu.edu/alumni](http://www.ndnu.edu/alumni).

## Our e-mail list is missing an important address . . . Yours.

The NDNU Alumni Association has a monthly e-mail communication program.  
We hope you're already on it. If not, please fill out this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

and mail to: NDNU Alumni Association, 1500 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002-1908

or e-mail your address to: [jrose@ndnu.edu](mailto:jrose@ndnu.edu)

Alumni Association (650) 508-3515

## Give Us Your Class Notes

### '70, '71

**Carla Webster Repetto**, BA in French and later received her teaching credential at NDNU, began teaching at Convent of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco, first as a second grade teacher, then as a French and Spanish teacher for grades K-8. She taught for 17 years. She returned to NDNU in '73 and received her Masters of Art in Teaching. In '80 she became licensed to sell real estate and did that part time while continuing to teach full time. In '87, she and Bob Webster were married. At that time, she left teaching to devote full time to running her real estate business. She became a Certified California General Real Estate Appraiser in '93. For the past 24 years she has been running her real estate/appraisal business in San Francisco. She is also an active member of the NDNU Board of Trustees and Alumni Board.

**Keep your fellow alums up-to-date!** Send your news to the Alumni Office, Notre Dame de Namur University, 1500 Ralston Ave., Belmont, CA 94002. Please include your name at the time of graduation, your graduation year, your degree, and your phone number. You can also help us keep our records current by including your occupation and title, your work and home street addresses, and your work and home e-mail addresses.

### '84

**Maria Teresa Magaña**, BS in Psychology, currently teaches Spanish to kindergarten through 4th grade at Woodside Elementary School in Woodside, California. She is married and has two beautiful daughters Alexandra, 9, and Sofia, 6.

### '73

**William Brent Parsons**, BA in Art, has a home in Sutter Creek, a beautiful little gold rush town on Hwy 49. He has lived there for 15 years, was the mayor for eight years, and owns a small art gallery and retail hardware store. He has been married for 25 years and has two children, Taylor, 18, and Kayley, 16.

### '90, '95

**Frank Besnyi**, BS in Business Administration, MBA, is currently serving his third year as the NDNU Alumni Board president.

**Recently Married?**



Send us your wedding pictures and we'll include them in Class Notes!

## Music For Life

### Claire Spencer, CRE '70, '75, '03

It's difficult to imagine Sister Anthony Marie Herzo, the former chair of NDNU's Music Department, chiding anyone for playing the piano. However, Claire Spencer remembers such a time.

"I used to place one of my friends as a look-out, so I wouldn't get caught playing the piano in St. Mary's," Claire recalls fondly. Apparently, Sr. Herzo wished the talented Claire had majored in music rather than behavioral sciences, so she told her only music students could play the piano, hoping that Claire's passion for music would change her mind about her major. Well, nearly three decades later, Sr. Herzo's wish has come true.

"Returning to school to get my degree in music was the best thing I ever did in my whole life," said Claire, who received her bachelor's degree in music in '03, and is currently studying full-time to earn her master's in pedagogy and piano performance. "I wasn't committed to being a music major in the '70s. Everything has to be memorized. You have to give it 100 percent."

Music was never far from Claire's life, as she was known as the teacher who played the piano when she taught first grade in both Santa Rosa and San Bruno schools. She also served as



president of the local Community Service League, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the mental health of children and adults, and suicide prevention for teens. Today, Claire serves on their volunteer committee and is also involved with the SF Auxiliary for the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Stanford.

Claire is planning her recital for next spring when she hopes to play Beethoven's Piano Sonata, two Rachmaninoff preludes, and two Scriabin preludes. For her senior recital last year, more than two hundred friends and supporters came to show their enthusiasm for Claire's music. "It was an out-of-body experience to see all my friends and fel-

low students there. It's all about support. That's the biggest thing and they were all there for me. It was really something."

She credits her professors, the retiring Dr. Birgitte Moyer, and Dr. Michael Schmitz, for their brilliance and passion for music. "I told Dr. Schmitz that there are so many musical compositions that I want to learn in my lifetime. He told me to tell him what I didn't want to learn, because I really want to learn everything, and you know, he's right."

'92

**Alexander Agopovich**, BS in Biology, MBA '01, has his own consulting company. He has been working closely with the Alumni Association to plan the Alumni Welcome Back Weekend in February '05. He still travels a lot and usually spends the month of November in Tuscany. He is looking forward to seeing all Sciences Alumni at the Alumni Welcome Back Weekend in February '05!

'93

**Julie Parry** graduated with a major in liberal studies and received her teaching credential from NDNU. She is currently an elementary school teacher for the Madera Unified School District in California. She and her husband, Mario Rendon, who is also a graduate from NDNU, were married in Ralston Hall Mansion in '01.

**Mario Rendon** graduated with a BA double major in Latin American studies and behavioral science. He is currently working for San Mateo County supervisor Jerry Hill. He married Julie Parry who is also a '93 graduate of NDNU.

'97

**Jennifer Crutchfield** recently accepted the marriage proposal of Gregory David Ingram '97, whom she met while they were students at NDNU. It was the most picture perfect setting, right outside Cuvilly Hall at the tables by the Tabard Inn where they met back in '95.

'00

**Adrienne Harbottle**, BA in Political Science, graduated in May of this year from Seattle University School of Law *Cum Laude* and received her juris doctorate (JD). She is busy taking both the Washington and California bar exams and finds out if she passed the Washington exam in October.

'02

**Jason Blandon**, BA in Psychology, works for Compass Family Services as an employment specialist, offering pre-employment classes. For clients who want to return to school he provides assistance in filling out applications and researching financial aid. He also networks with outside agencies that provide similar services and/or support services for clients, and general computer maintenance.

'03

**Ryan Boyle**, BA Social Science, is an apartment living coordinator at California State University, Monterey Bay. He is responsible for the daily leadership and implementation of the Residential Life program in a multicultural, residential community, housing approximately 400 students.

**Gary Krippendorf**, BS in Math, BS in Electronics Engineering, Masters in Computer Engineering, and Masters in Management from NDNU, worked for 15 years as a design engineer followed by 10 years in different engineering management positions. He serves as a volunteer in several community organizations. Currently he is the president of the Redwood Shores Lions

Club, a community service organization, and president of his local home owners association. He will also be serving as the secretary for the NDNU Alumni Association.

'04

**Remy Williamson**, BA in Sociology, recently enrolled in the University of Hawaii, Hilo to get her teaching credentials.

**Elizabeth Prejean**, BS in Intensive Human Services Administration, works as the Admission's office manager at NDNU.

**Kasey Nelson**, BA double major in Sociology and Psychology, works at Peter Pan BMW in San Mateo. She will begin law school in January at Golden Gate University, San Francisco.

## BIRTHS

**Kimberly Huegle-Marengo**, Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, and her husband welcomed a baby boy named Austin Sean on July 4.

**Margarita Rodriguez**, '01 BA in Sociology, and her husband **Gilbert**, '01, '02 BA and MA in English, welcomed a baby boy named Esteban, 6 lbs. and 18 inches, on August 9, '04.

**Kelli Davis**, '03 MA Counseling Psychology and her husband welcomed their daughter Natalie Elizabeth on September 11, '03.

## In Memoriam

Ricardo Suarez Hurtado

## We Invite You to be a Part of Our Future

Please consider joining NDNU's Cunningham Heritage Society, named for Sr. Catherine Julie Cunningham, president of College of Notre Dame for 24 years. Composed of people who believe in our work of Catholic higher education, Heritage Society members participate in one of several types of planned giving which ensures their permanent involvement in the University. Membership is not limited to alumni/ae and is open to interested persons who appreciate the work we are doing.

In addition to strengthening the University's financial future, you will be invited to special events on campus and we will update you on University news and activities. By remembering NDNU in your will, designating the University as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, or leaving a property asset, you will be supporting future generations of students. For more information regarding the Heritage Society, contact Sr. Roseanne Murphy at (650) 508-3551 or [rmurphy@ndnu.edu](mailto:rmurphy@ndnu.edu).

# Events Calendar      October-December 2004

## October

- Ralston Concert Series  
Composers' Festival**
- 2 **Panel/Symposium**  
Henry Mollicone, Craig Bohmler, David Conte, and Conrad Susa discuss the art and business of composing for the concert hall and musical theater stage; Taube Center; 2-5 p.m.; \$10
- 3 **Concert**  
Music from Henry Mollicone and Craig Bohmler; Taube Center; 7 p.m.; \$25
- 7 **Creative Writers' Series**  
Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James Houston; Wiegand Gallery; 7:30 p.m.; open admission
- 12 **Catholic Scholars Series**  
Dr. Jerome Baggett; Ralston Hall Mansion; 7 p.m.
- 16, 17 **Wine Country Tour**  
Visit to the Martini Winery just purchased by the Gallo Wineries
- 19 **Why the Death Penalty is Bad  
Public Policy**  
Wiegand Gallery; 2 p.m.; open admission
- Dead Man Walking, the play**
- 21 **Preview**  
NDNU Theatre; Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

- 22 **Opening Reception and  
Stage Premiere**  
Sr. Helen Prejean and invited guests Mike Farrell, Sean Penn, and Susan Sarandon; NDNU Theatre; 5 p.m.; tickets for reception, performance and post-performance discussion \$200 (\$125 tax deductible)
- 23 **Exhibit Reception**  
Art From The Inside: Perspectives of Chicano Prisoners; Wiegand Gallery; 2-4 p.m.
- 23, 24 **Additional Performances**  
28-30 NDNU Theatre; 8 p.m.
- 31 **Matinee**  
NDNU Theatre; 2 p.m.
- 29 **Halloween/Opera  
Masquerade Ball**  
Ralston Ballroom; 8 p.m.

## November

- 2 **Catholic Scholars Series**  
Dr. Ruth Wallace, Prof. Emerita, Sociology, Author of *They Call Him Pastor*; Ralston Hall Mansion; 7 p.m.
- 4 **Creative Writers' Series**  
Ruth Lum McGunn; Wiegand Gallery; 7:30 p.m.; open admission

- 5, 6 **Dead Man Walking, the play  
Additional Performances**  
NDNU Theatre; 8 p.m.
- 7 **Matinee**  
NDNU Theatre; 2 p.m.
- 7 **Little Women's Tea**  
Sponsored by the Alumni Association; Ralston Hall Mansion; 3 p.m.; \$45
- 11 **Latino Film Festival**  
NDNU Theatre; 7:30 p.m.
- 14 **Quartet for the End of Time**  
Olivier Messiaen's quartet; Ralston Ballroom; 3 p.m.; \$25

## December

- 10-19 **The Music of Dickens'  
A Christmas Carol**
- 13, 14 **NDNU Theatre Dance  
Showcase and Musical  
Theatre Workshop**

Events, times and dates subject to change. For a full listing of events, visit our web site at [www.ndnu.edu](http://www.ndnu.edu).

For information about alumni events, call (650) 508-3551. art events, call (650) 508-3595. music events, call (650) 508-3429. theatre events, call (650) 508-3456.

## GET CONNECTED!

Receive regular updates on University activities by subscribing to our *Events E-List*. Receive information on all University activities including theatre performances, concerts, lectures, sporting events, art exhibits, and other special events that contribute so much to our exciting and vibrant campus environment. Subscribe to our *Events E-List* by sending an email to: [events@ndnu.edu](mailto:events@ndnu.edu).



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