

Alumni E-Newsletter, August 22, 2024



Alumni Spotlight: Reverend Dr. Dale Weatherspoon



We recently sat down with Dale Weatherspoon, Class of 1994, who shared with us his interesting journey from project manager to pastor and passionate learner/advocate/trainer for fostering cross-cultural awareness. He and his wife Debbie, also a pastor, live in the East Bay.

Dale is currently Senior Pastor, Easter Hill United Methodist Church (UMC), a predominately Black congregation, in Richmond, recently entering his 8th year this past July. Since 1999, he previously pastored four churches in cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments.

A San Francisco native, Dale describes himself as a “cradle Methodist, born and raised in the church. “Faith has always been a big part of my life. The church is my extended family and has truly shaped me and my passion for cross-cultural ministry work.”

He recently attended a reunion with members of his home church from high school. “We had a 70-voice choir back then. What a reunion weekend we had as folks traveled from near and far. We rekindled friendships and sang hymns and other songs we enjoyed together so many years ago. It was very powerful, as was learning that so many of us are still actively involved with our respective churches.”

You came to then-College of Notre Dame (CND) as an adult learner. Can you share some of your academic highlights?

After high school, I attended City College of San Francisco and then transferred to Laney College to get my Associate of Arts degree. I worked for a number of years at UPS, Wells Fargo Bank and then VISA. My parents had always impressed upon me the value of a good education so as a 40th birthday present to myself, I decided to go back to school and get my bachelor's degree. I heard about the evening accelerated program at CND and decided to take a look at it. The College was easy to get to from work, and there was a new degree program in Human Services that I was very interested in.

My schedule for the next couple of years was intense. I'd leave my San Francisco home early in the morning to get to work in San Mateo, and four days a week, immediately following work I drove over to CND to attend four-hour classes. Some nights I would stay and talk with my professors and classmates until 10:30PM.

[Read more >>>](#)

NDNU Alumni Soccer Game Recap

Thank you to everyone that came out and played in the NDNU Alumni Soccer game last weekend. Afterwards, over 40 alums, friends, and family members visited Village Host in Belmont to grab a bite to eat and reminisce on good times. It was a great opportunity for those that have been involved with soccer at NDNU to return to campus and relive their time at the University.

Take a look at our soccer stars below!



SBM Speaker Series, Aditya Challapally



[RSVP here](#) to join us on **September 18th at 6PM** for Aditya Challapally's virtual discussion about *Unlocking AI Potential: Debunking Common Myths*.

Are you interested in learning more about what's really going on with AI? Avoid getting sidetracked by the latest trends. Join Aditya Challapally, a Stanford instructor, machine learning authority, and seasoned product manager, as he demystifies common AI myths and shares actionable insights derived from interactions with over 300 users and more than 50 executives.

In this focused, data-driven session, you will:

- Discover the realities behind prevalent AI myths
- Learn how industry leaders are pioneering AI innovation
- Identify the most promising AI opportunities ahead

Aditya Challapally is a machine learning engineer and product lead at Microsoft, where he develops GenAI products used globally. Previously, he spearheaded AI initiatives at McKinsey & Company and Uber. He advises Silicon Valley startups and Fortune 500 companies on GenAI execution. His book, *The Product Management Interview Handbook*, is part of the curriculum at Stanford University and other institutions. Aditya lectures on product management and AI at Stanford and graduated with distinction from Western University in Canada with a BEng and BA. Find him on LinkedIn [here](#).

CPD Hosts Summer BBQ



Expanding the SOE Collaborative Network



The School of Education (SOE) continues to broaden its reach and impact through new partnerships. In addition to our established relationships with local school districts like San Bruno Park, Sequoia Union HS, and Palo Alto Unified School Districts, we're excited to welcome national organizations International Society for Technology in Education and Center for Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child; as well as international institutions EdPodium (Hyderabad, India) and the Center for Teacher Education at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University or NYCU (Hsinchu, Taiwan) to our collaborative network.

Pictured above: NDNU's new SOE Interim Dean Kelly Vaughn with the Director and faculty at NYCU in Taiwan.

These connections will foster meaningful relationships, promote knowledge sharing, and enhance our collective impact in education.

Sisters Celebrate Years of Service

On Sunday, August 11th, the East-West Province Jubilarians in California were honored at a celebration on NDNU's campus. The Jubilarians celebrated their many years of dedication and service with a special Mass surrounded by friends, loved ones, and fellow Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Honored this year were Sisters Aileen Marie Bermingham, Avelina Garcia, Celeste Pagliarulo (75 years), Noreen Morgan, Carole Proctor, Gertrude Boraeca (70 years), Paula Tak and Magdalena Yang (60 years).

Go NDNU!

As you can see, there's a lot going on at NDNU, and it's just the beginning of the new school year! We hope you're inspired by this newsletter and moved to show your support with a gift to the **NDNU Annual Fund**. Your tax-deductible contribution helps current and future students enjoy a premier education at our beloved University. Contributions to our Annual Fund support scholarships, programs, and other critical operational needs.

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