

MOUNT NOTRE DAME DEVELOPMENTS



***bold
community***



Graduating young women who are strong in their Catholic faith, prepared for life and empowered to transform the world.

2024 ISSUE 1

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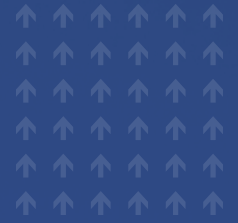
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Letter from the President

Judy Back Gerwe '78



Dear MND Families and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that 2024 brings an abundance of graces and blessings to each of you as together we celebrate our Good God. It was a busy first semester here at school and we look forward to the rest of the year. Please pray for our faculty, staff and students and know that we pray for you as well.

This edition of Developments offers a feature story on the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community. Mount Notre Dame is owned and sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and we are proud to partner with them in living out these hallmarks. You can also read about the LIFE group (Living in Faith Experiences) and how our students celebrate their Catholic faith through this organization. There are many more stories in this issue that I hope you will enjoy reading as you experience the goodness of our Good God through the MND community.

Please stay informed about all the amazing happenings at MND by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Be sure your contact information is current so you can receive important information from MND via e-mail or snail mail. If your information needs to be updated, please go to www.mndhs.org and click on the Contact Us button at the top of the page. And please encourage others to check out Mount Notre Dame if they are looking for a premier Catholic high school for their daughters.

You probably heard that I made the decision to retire as MND President after almost nine years in this role and 40 years in Catholic Education. I have enjoyed my time back at my alma mater and am so proud to finish my career where it all started for me. I am also pleased with the many accomplishments that we were able to make as an MND Leadership Team with the help of the MND Board of Trustees. We continue to grow the endowment, built an amazing Performing Arts Center, created a Learning Commons for our students, added enhancements to the Sr. Dorothy Stang Field and continue to improve programming to make MND the premier Catholic high school for girls.

May we proclaim "How Good is the Good God" in our words and actions every day,

Judy Back Gerwe '78
MND President





Living our Hallmarks

Walking the hallways of Mount Notre Dame, you are greeted by a beautiful wall proclaiming the seven hallmarks of a Notre Dame learning community. These hallmarks were the result of a coalition within the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 2003, who were charged with defining exactly what makes a learning community stand out as a Notre Dame learning community. The hallmarks serve as the essential characteristics, values and activities of a Notre Dame learning community. The hallmarks are not just a beautiful expression of a Notre Dame learning community, they clarify and drive our daily mission at Mount Notre Dame High School. In fact, our vision of empowering young women comes out of how we live the hallmarks.



We proclaim by our lives even more than by our words that God is good.

We honor the dignity and sacredness of each person.

We educate for and act on behalf of justice and peace in the world.

We commit ourselves to community service.

We embrace the gift of diversity.

We create community among those with whom we work and with those we serve.

We develop holistic learning communities which educate for life.

Each young woman at Mount Notre Dame will rotate through the seven hallmarks throughout her four years of education. For the 2023-2024 school year, the focus is on hallmark 2 (we honor the dignity and sacredness of each person) and hallmark 5 (we embrace the gift of diversity). The focus of these hallmarks culminates beautifully into our theme for this year “Wonderfully Made” from “I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!” Psalm 139:14. Our theme drives us as a community to explore the many ways that our unique gifts as children of God bless our community, our work and each other.

At the start of this academic year, MND faculty and staff were fortunate to have Sister Donna Jurick, SNDdeN from the Ohio Province Leadership Team, speak about the hallmarks. This presentation brought into focus even more how both tradition and the future work together to bring the hallmarks to life. When reflecting on our young students today, Sr. Donna remarks “We live in a very different world, and we must understand the hallmarks in a world that is constantly changing. Our students today need the gifts of the hallmarks to go into the future.”

Sister Donna reinforced to faculty and staff that she is certain the teachings of the hallmarks are a driving force at MND because she sees the proof everywhere. She sees it in our students taking leadership opportunities at school events, it is evident in the output of every senior Capstone project, and witnessed through the countless community service opportunities that take place throughout the year. Her proclamation that, “MND gives young women the basis to not only enter an

“Hallmarks take the abstraction of a charism and make them concrete. A hallmark takes a charism and gives it direction in terms of knowing and talking about God’s goodness.”

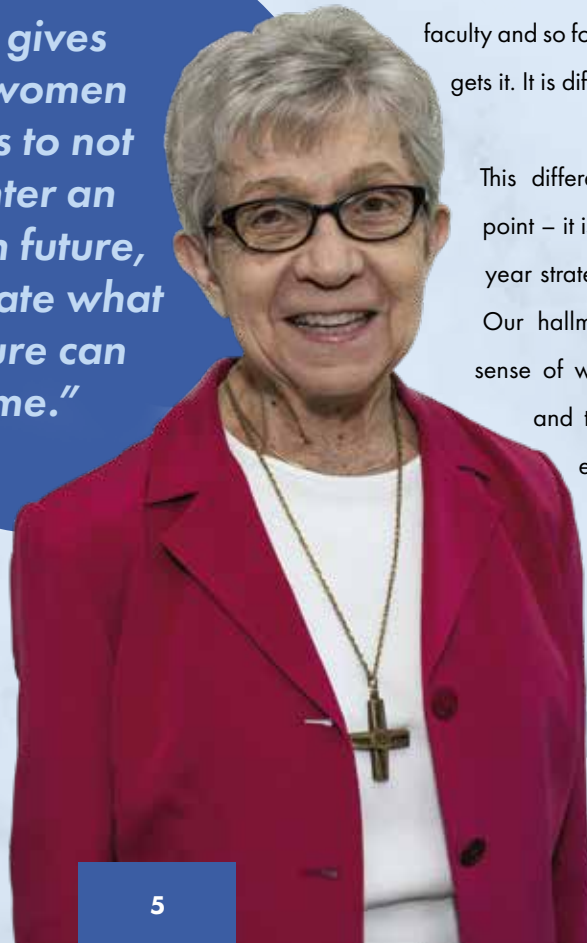
unknown future, but to create what that future can become” is the reflection of the hallmarks in action.

But the gift and point of differentiation of a Notre Dame Learning Community is the hallmarks. As Sister Donna explains, “Hallmarks take the the abstraction of a charism and make them concrete. A hallmark takes a charism and gives it direction in terms of knowing and talking about God’s goodness.”

This concrete direction is important, especially in the world today. As a school committed to educating for life, MND is able to use the hallmarks to permeate everything we do. This clarity allows us to do a better job of making our mission clear because we can live it in everything we do. Sister Donna emphasizes this point directly. “This day in age we can’t just assume that people get it. We must live it and we must facilitate it from the head of school through administration, faculty and so forth. And at MND, everyone gets it. It is different, it is done right.”

This difference is not just a talking point – it is the foundation of our five-year strategic plan for a Bold Future. Our hallmarks give each student a sense of who they are in this world, and they provide the action for empowering young women to build their bold future grounded in a tradition of hallmarks based on gospel values and Catholic teachings.

“MND gives young women the basis to not only enter an unknown future, but to create what that future can become.”





GROWING COMMUNITY

Parents Club

Building community is a proud tradition and an important part of creating a positive experience at MND. The Mount Notre Dame Parents Club is a group of current parent and guardians who strive to engage all parents and guardians in social events and volunteer opportunities and was brought back to MND the beginning of the 2022 – 2023 school year and led by Chris Graue and Sam Kemp.

“High school is a time when it’s important but also increasingly challenging to meet your students’ friends and their families. MND’s Parents Club is important because it provides many opportunities throughout the year to meet other parents, serve the local community, and have fun! Parents Club allows us as parents to support our school community while demonstrating leadership to our daughters. Parents Club is also a great way to get to know members of the MND faculty and administration in a less formal setting than most school events typically allow,” Chris shared. She continued with, “It’s important to help lead Parents Club efforts because they enhance our school community.

The common thread woven through all events that MND’s Parents Club organizes is bringing people together to celebrate MND. Through events like the annual Mother/Daughter Service Day where we create friendship bracelets to give local children who could use an encouraging word to social events supporting our theatre productions, we gather to share our

amazing school. So, consider donating an item for a student appreciation event, chairing a social activity, or even leading a committee; You will not regret it!”

Over the past 18 months, the MND Parents Club has hosted service events such as Mother/Daughter and Father/Daughter service days, celebrated students, faculty, and staff as well as organized fun social gatherings like an evening at Montgomery Inn, Bunco and theatre receptions.

The MND Parents Club leadership welcomed new Co-Chairs for the 2023-2024 school year, Katie Craft and Nicole Russell didn’t miss a beat in the transition!

When asked about the importance of leading this group, Nicole said, “I feel a sense of community is so important for schools. We all want to be a part of our children’s lives and having a community brings parents and kids together, especially in high school when that can be most difficult. Leading these efforts has helped me to understand MND better and how to help make it an even better place to be for our girls. It has brought many new friendships and has taught my daughter about planning social and service projects.”

As a parent or guardian of a current student at MND, your membership in the Parents Club is automatic, just take the first step and join us for an event!





GROWING COMMUNITY

Living In Faith

It's almost 7:00 PM on a Wednesday night. Students from Mount Notre Dame and Moeller are arriving, greeting each other with smiles, high fives, and hugs. Many of them just saw each other at school only hours before, but observing the energy and enthusiasm of coming together, one would think it's a long-awaited reunion.

LIFE, or Living In Faith Experience, is special.

A national faith-formation program rooted in Catholic and Marianist tradition, LIFE provides juniors and seniors with an opportunity to deepen their faith and grow in Christian community in a caring and encouraging atmosphere.

For 90 minutes, students engage in small and large group activities, reflect on various themes, pray together, and talk about God with their friends. "LIFE has given me a group of people to learn from and share with and has connected me to the Church in a time when I needed it the most. I've become more open to share my faith and my story, and I have made incredible friends," shares **Dani Burt, '25'** a senior, and one of the trained student leaders of the group.

LIFE offers a sense of community, where students can build meaningful relationships with peers who share similar values and beliefs. This sense of belonging can be particularly comforting and supportive as teens navigate the complexities of adolescence. It's a place for students to share their experiences, struggles, and joys, receiving support from their peers and adult leaders who genuinely care about their well-being.

With a regular meeting attendance of 60-70 students, it's clear that LIFE is providing students with something they have been craving and need.

Sarah Campbell '25 says LIFE has given her opportunities to grow in ways that she never expected. "LIFE has challenged me to ask questions about many facets of my faith, and I have grown closer to God through this. Knowing and understanding more of my faith has helped me to have a deeper connection with God and the people around me."



Caroline Lorio '25, agrees. "I have definitely strengthened my relationship with God, and I think it's because talking with other people has helped me to realize more about my life. The small groups, talking with leaders, or just playing games, has led me to think more about what my life with God is like and has led me to make better decisions with God at the center." LIFE also encourages leadership development by providing opportunities for the teens to take on responsibilities, lead discussions, and organize meetings. Each gathering is planned and led by four students – two from each school, with the support of a LIFE adult. "I've grown so much in my confidence as a result of leading and talking with new people," **Emma Ganz '24** comments. Ganz says that working with others in the planning process has given her "inspiration for new ways to pray and connect with God."

MOELLER | MND MARIANIST LIFE



Participation in LIFE lays a foundation for a lifelong commitment to the Catholic faith. It equips teens with the knowledge, values, and relationships that will serve as a solid anchor as they move into adulthood.

"This group connected me with God in new way, one that made me excited to pray and to ask for guidance more often," says **Sydney Reith '24**.

The students gather in the school chapel for closing reflections and prayers. At the first sound of the year's theme song, "Overflow," the students cheer and jump to their feet. There's singing, and dancing and so much joy. **LIFE is special.**



THRIVING COMMUNITY

On Another Level

Students Reach New Heights with MND's Collegiate-Level Curriculum

According to the U.S. Department of Education, more than a third (34%) of all students take courses for college credit while in high school. Mount Notre Dame is committed to providing a collegiate-level curriculum that prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of higher education.

MND's premier academic programming includes 20 Advanced Placement® and 12 College Credit Plus courses – unparalleled among Cincinnati Catholic high schools. All collegiate-level courses are taught on MND's campus by MND faculty members, providing students with convenient access to gaining college credit for minimal additional costs.

The success of MND's collegiate-level curriculum is greatly attributed to the dedication and expertise of its faculty members. Their commitment to nurturing students' minds, fostering intellectual curiosity, and creating a supportive learning environment is unparalleled. In 2023, five MND instructors were chosen by the College Board to be AP® Readers, highlighting their skills and expertise in their subject areas. Additionally, MND has 11 certified College Credit Plus faculty members on staff. These faculty members have graduate level degrees, in the content area, allowing them to serve as adjunct faculty with our partner universities.

Collegiate-level courses at MND introduce students to different majors and fields of study before committing to them in college. Exposure to subjects such as Psychology, Statistics and Engineering can help students make more informed decisions about their academic and career paths.

Earning college credit while at MND can also offer several significant financial benefits for students and their families. Students can enter college with a head start, having completed general education requirements in order to reduce overall tuition

costs. In addition, it can also lead to a shorter time to degree completion, further saving money on tuition, room and board, and other associated expenses.

MND is committed to not only preparing its students for college but also bringing collegiate opportunities to high school.

2022-2023 By The Numbers

372 AP® Tests
were administered to MND students

87 students were named
AP® Scholars

MND students **outscored**
the **national average** in
15 AP® subject areas

MND students had a
100% passing rate
in **5 AP® subject areas**

58% of the Class of 2023
earned college credits
from CCP courses



ALUMNAE LEGACY

Class Colors to School Communities

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, Mount Notre Dame stands out for its bold decision to shift focus from individual class pride to a culture of community and sisterhood that spans beyond grade level bonds.

For years MND rotated through four colors – blue, green, yellow, and red. Each color was assigned to a class and that was your MND “class color.” Now, some of you reading this article may be thinking, “What was my class color? Why can’t I remember it?” Not to worry, you’re not alone. After connecting with a variety of alumnae, some who are also current faculty and staff members at MND, it became clear that a class color was very meaningful to some, but perhaps not to all. So, while it was a long-standing tradition to be assigned a class color from the primary color wheel, times have changed and MND has adapted. When you hear or see the words, Mount Notre Dame, you don’t think of green, red or yellow.” You think of blue. And not just any blue, but columbia or navy blue to be specific.

Recognizing that the world around us needs more leaders who know how to work effectively in groups and teams, Mount Notre Dame decided to emphasize the importance of sisterhood across

grade levels, encouraging students to look beyond their individual class affiliations and to embrace a collective sense of community. In 2020 the MND Province System began and was named as a nod to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur provincial structure. This system unites groups of students from all grade levels into a “province” with subsets of “communities.” Communities have replaced the traditional single – grade homeroom model and students remain in the same community for all four years. By blending grade levels into one community, we are fostering sisterhood and shared experiences between the four grade levels.

We are fostering sisterhood and shared experiences.

So, although the different class colors have gone away, MND found a new way for students to connect with one another and feel that sense of belonging. This transformative journey hasn’t just brought students closer together, but has laid a foundation for a more inclusive and holistic learning environment at MND for years to come.





LASTING COMMUNITY

Embracing Community

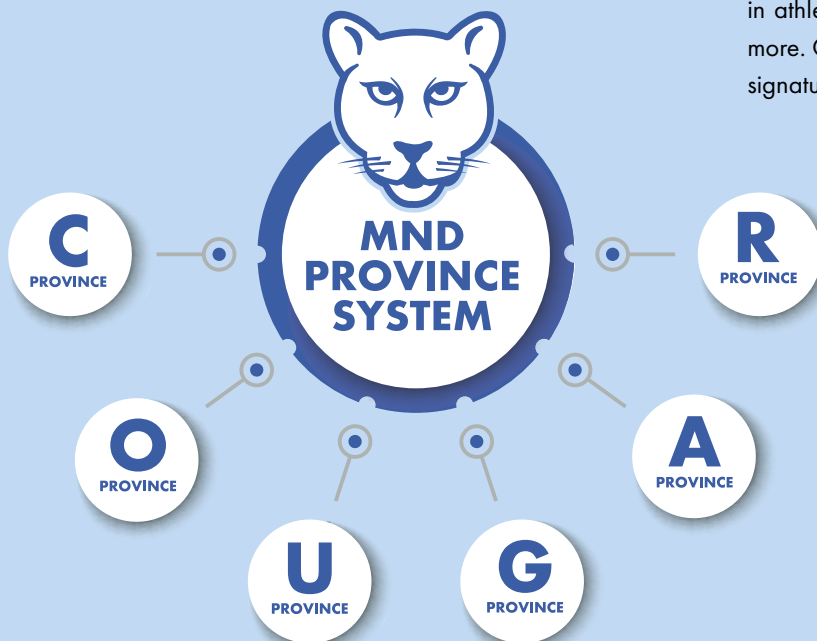
The MND Province System was built to support Community in various ways. Blending grade levels into one community allows students to have the opportunity to fully embrace the MND sisterhood, enjoy shared experiences, and encourage leadership. Each community consists of a group of approximately five students from every grade level.

C-Days are a special way to unite community weekly, with tailored activities that happen in addition to academic classes. C-Days give each community opportunities for team bonding, prayer, goal setting, service projects, presentations, and fun!

Celebrating Traditions

Roo-Ha is our signature spirit event. The essence of Roo-Ha is celebrating the spirit and joy of MND with students joining together in worship, community, and friendly competition. Roo-Ha comes from the Hebrew word Ruah, which means “breath of God” – another name for the Holy Spirit is an outward expression of a sense of pride in our school, and something that only an MND Cougar can understand.

MND’s Girls Athletic Association (GAA) is known for their epic themed pep rallies. Members of this spirit squad take charge in leading all efforts to generation excitement in athletic games, pep rallies, state send-offs and so much more. GAA girls are easy to spot – just look for them in their signature nun habits!



Our beloved school song has been sung by students for nearly 100 years! From pep rallies, school masses, guest presentations, and graduation events – and many events in between, the occasion is marked with students linking arms and joyfully singing together – “To the glory of Mount Notre Dame!”

The **MND Senior Dance Marathon** is an overnight experience that unites the entire senior class in joy! The seniors learn a choreographed dance routine throughout the night and perform it in front of the entire student body the following morning.



Cultivating Innovation

LLM stands for Lifelong Learning Module. St. Julie Billiart is known for saying, “Teach them what they need to know for life.” At MND, the LLM’s serve as a unique part of our spiritual and or social/emotional development. LLM’s offer us the unique opportunity to give students a flexible school day for growth in academic, spiritual or social/emotional development. Sessions have included a focus on Women in Finance, STEM, the art of interviewing, technology and prayer, and science and faith. The opportunities to learn from alumnae and other friends of MND has been incredible and the flexible school day allows for special on-campus activities for a break in the routine and opportunities to bring the real world applications to students. These sessions are planned to promote lifelong skills and involve the outside community, and often our alumnae.

Some notable LLM speakers for this academic year include:

- **Erin Satzger '04**
President and CEO
Northern Cincinnati Foundation
- **Emma Campbell '21**
The Ohio State University
- **Jessica Mitsch '20**
The University of Notre Dame
- **Rachael Adams '08**
Alumna, Olympian,
Founder of Journey Strength
- **Becky Jasontek Tomsic '93**
Alumna, Olympian
- **Father Jim Schutte**
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

WOMEN IN MEDICINE PANEL

- **Dr. Allison Carr Albright '12**
TriHealth
- **Emma Benz '18**
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
- **Tess Meyer '15**
Nationwide Children’s Hospital
- **Cami Ray '15**
Northwestern Memorial Hospital

On LLM days, multiple modules are offered to provide choice for students. Each session delves into areas related to MND’s pillars of Spiritual, Academic and Student Development.

Athletic Highlights

Fall 2023 Athletic Highlights



Cross Country

The Cross Country team finished 3rd in the GGCL, their highest finish since 2007. At the OHSAA District meet, the Cougars would finish 5th, qualifying them for the OHSAA Regional meet for the first time in 19 years. Congratulations to Coach Jeff Johnson and his team on an historic season.



Soccer

The Varsity Soccer team was seeded 5th in the region at the start of the OHSAA tournament. The Cougars went on to take down #4 Mason, #2 Oak Hills, and #1 Milford to advance to the Regional Final game. They would fall to Seton 2-1 for the second year in a row. Varsity Soccer won their 4th straight District title as well. JV Soccer had another impressive season, finishing 13-3 overall and 6-2 in the GGCL.

Tennis

The Varsity tennis team finished the season with a 9-11 overall record. The Cougars finished in first place at the Cincinnati Country Day Tournament. The JV Tennis team finished 8-9 overall and 4-4 in the GGCL.

Golf

The Varsity Golf team finished 6-2 and in 2nd place in the GGCL. The team finished second at Sectionals, which qualified them for the District tournament for the first time since 2014. The Cougars played well at Districts but would fall short of qualifying for State by one stroke. Mo Burns '24 finished 4th at Districts and would qualify for State as an individual. She went on to shoot a 79 and a 70 to finish 10th overall. Mo was named 2nd Team All-Ohio. The JV Golf team finished the year with a 9-6 overall record and a 4-2 GGCL record.



Field Hockey

The Varsity Field Hockey team made their third straight OHSAA State Final Four appearance this year, falling to New Albany 3-0 in the State Semi-Final game. They defeated Ursuline 2-0 in the Regional Final to send them to the Final Four. They ended the season with a 13-4-3 record and won the GGCL (5th year in a row) and Southwest Ohio Field Hockey League (3rd year in a row). Junior Laura Fagan '25 won GGCL Player of the Year and Sarah Pisciotta was named GGCL Field Hockey Coach of the Year. The JV Field Hockey team finished the season 7-4-2 with a perfect 5-0 record in the Southwest Ohio Field Hockey League.

Volleyball

The Varsity Volleyball team finished the season as District Runner-Up, losing to Ursuline in the District Final. They finished the year with a 16-9 overall record. The Freshman and JV Volleyball teams won their end-of-season GGCL tournament.



Fall Signing Day

Ella Garrett '24 - Lacrosse - Young Harris College
 Jillian Lester '24 - Soccer - Jackson State College
 Kenzie Cogan '24 - Volleyball - University of Illinois
 Mo Burns '24 - Golf - Youngstown State University
 Kira Blomeke '24 - Lacrosse - Queens University of Charlotte
 Allie Lammers '24 - Soccer - University of Evansville
 Avery May '24 - Soccer - University of Dayton
 Allison Charleston '24 - Soccer - Wright State University
 Danielle Charleston '24 - Soccer - Wright State University
 Reese Baker '24 - Rowing - University of Tennessee

Hall of Fame Class of 2024 Inductees



Danielle Meyer Greaves '04
Volleyball

Rose Lavelle '13
Soccer

Sandy Niehaus Cameron '13
Tennis

Grayson Fitzhugh
Basketball, Golf & Softball Coach



Ranked #1 for Girls Schools in Ohio for best sports!

By Stacker.com

Flag Football at MND

MND has been invited by the Cincinnati Bengals to launch a new Girls Flag Football league in the Cincinnati area. On September 30th, 20 MND seniors were invited to Paycor Stadium to play in a Flag Football jamboree with other league schools. The girls learned the rules of the game, played in pick up games, participated in a photo shoot, and got to meet some of the Bengals players. The Flag Football league will start this spring, with the Cougars playing games every weekend.



New Varsity Head Coaches:

Charlene Laverty '07 – Char completed her first year as Head Varsity Tennis Coach. She led the Cougars to a first place finish at the Cincinnati Country Day Tournament this year.

Greg Ulland – Greg has returned to MND as Varsity Head Coach. He was a longtime Assistant Coach under Donna Mechley. Greg led the Cougars to a District Runner-Up title this year.



ATHLETIC LEGACY SPOTLIGHT

Samantha Leshnak Murphy '15

A Soccer Star's Journey from MND to International Success

Samantha Leshnak Murphy '15, a distinguished alumna of Mount Notre Dame, has carved a path in the world of professional soccer. Samantha has ties with MND through her grandmother, **Elizabeth Willke Sleeman '55** and fellow soccer enthusiast sister, **Sydney Leshnak '17**. From her early days on the MND Soccer team to her current role as a goalkeeper for Piteå IF in Sweden, Samantha's journey showcases her passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Samantha expresses gratitude for the legacy mentioned and credits her family for instilling in her the drive to excel. Her journey has strengthened her faith, emphasizing the importance of perseverance and reliance on a higher power.

Samantha's soccer journey began at MND, where she not only captained the team during her senior year but also earned a spot in the 2014 state all-star game. Her skills and leadership qualities caught the attention of UNC Chapel Hill, where she continued to excel. Graduating with a degree in exercise and sports science, Samantha led the Tar Heels by not giving up a goal for 1,119 minutes and helped lead them to the ACC Championship.

In 2019, Samantha signed her first professional contract with North Carolina Courage, contributing significantly to their NWSL Championship victory that same year. It was also during this time that she tied the knot with her husband, Kyle Murphy. Samantha and Kyle ventured beyond U.S. borders when she signed with Keflavík ÍF in Iceland in 2022. Her performance earned her the title of player of the year on the team and a spot



in the "Best 11" Goalkeepers of the year in the league. Currently, Samantha is the goalkeeper for Piteå IF in Sweden, where her team is making waves in the league. Samantha's stellar performance has not gone unnoticed. Nominated by Sport Bladet in Sweden, she attended a prestigious banquet alongside other top athletes. Her impact on the Damalsvenskan, the top women's league in Sweden, is evident, and Samantha is eager to continue making a positive contribution.

A Global Perspective:

Living and playing in various international cultures has broadened Samantha's worldview. Samantha values the sense of belonging that comes with joining a team, emphasizing the gift of shared experiences and camaraderie.

Off the Field Contributions:

Beyond the soccer pitch, Samantha dedicates her free time to coaching goalkeepers and organizing camps and clinics, reflecting her commitment to the next generation of talent. Together with her husband, Samantha manages an online marketing company based in Sweden. Proudly contributing to the health and wellness sector, they help individuals find products and services tailored to their needs.

Samantha remains ambitious, with dreams of being called up to the national team. Undeterred, she approaches her goals with determination, relying on her faith and readiness for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Samantha reflects on her remarkable journey, expressing gratitude for the support received along the way. As she continues to chase her dreams, Samantha remains a shining example of excellence

and perseverance, inspiring aspiring athletes both on and off the field.

Sisterhood Event Series



Goats and Mimosas Yoga

In August, MND offered Goat Yoga at Hops and Berry Taproom owned by Jill Huninghake Barnett '89, and yoga was led by Erin Currin Morris '01.



Wine Down Wednesday

For September, Alumnae enjoyed select wine and bourbon while socializing at Bishop's Quarter Bar owned by Mark and Karen Gertz Wiehe '89.



Bengals Watch Party

In October, alumnae, families, and friends cheered on the Cincinnati Bengals while at Blondie's in West Chester, OH.



Fowling For Fun

In November, A special welcome event to MND's newest alumnae from the Class of 2023 was held at the Fowling Warehouse in Cincinnati, OH. It was an evening of fun and excitement!

Have an idea for a future Sisterhood Event? Please contact Alumnae Engagement Officer, Amanda Clark '19, to make a suggestion!

Alumnae Events



RECOGNITION NIGHTS



FIELD HOCKEY



SOCCER



VOLLEYBALL



MND on the MOVE: SOUTH CAROLINE

MND was on the Move again visiting with alumnae in Bluffton and Charleston, South Carolina. Thank you to all those who were able to join us and special thanks to Amy McGrath Bruno '85 and her husband Linus for hosting the MND Alumnae scenic cruise around Charleston!



College Religion Panel

In November, some of our more recent graduates from the Classes of 2020 to 2023 came back before Thanksgiving Break to share their stories of life while in college. Students spoke about continuing their Catholic faith after MND, tips on speaking with professors, and making friends outside of high school.



NEXT STOP

MND on the Move to Florida!

- **February 13 – Naples, FL**
Hosted by Dottie Harmon Everleigh '77
- **February 15 – Sarasota, FL**
Hosted by Beth Feichtner Baxter '97
- **February 16 – The Villages, FL**

Interested in hosting an MND on the Move event in your city to bring together other alumnae? Please contact Alumnae Engagement Officer, Amanda Clark '19, to get you on the schedule!

Class Notes

1960's



Marge Ryan Shields '60 lost her beloved husband Joe last year. Together, they had 58 wonderful years as husband and wife. Marge lives in Naples, FL, and enjoys the warm winters. She keeps busy visiting and corresponding with her 12 grandchildren, three who live out of the United States and one great-grandchild. Marge cannot believe that it has been 62 years since high school!

Joyce Sabino Rose '61 celebrated her 80th birthday in August along with her and her husband Tim's 60th wedding anniversary.

Dorothy Knapp Kampman '63 has been married to Don for 54 years and together they have three children. Dorothy graduated from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More) with a degree in Elementary Education in 1967. She has been a teacher and librarian during her career working at Bishop Howard Nongraded Elementary, St. John the Evangelist, St. Vincent Ferrer, and Nativity.

1970's

Patricia Soellner Younce '72 resides in Vermont and is an artist and life coach at www.kumaripatricia.com. She is also the owner of a Restorative Forest Retreat that is currently being built with plans to open in 2024. More information can be found at www.kumariofthewoods.com.

Wanda Blasing DeMar '79 tried something new by starting her own Tastefully Simple business and is loving what she does! She enjoys getting together with her party hosts and seeing them bond with their friends. Through her business, she has reconnected with some of her former MND classmates, and they try to get together at least once a month to catch up! Her consultant email is wanda.demar@gmail.com.

1980's



Mary Fago Justice '80 is a Nursing Professor at the University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash campus. Mary and her husband Steve completed a second mission trip to Belize,

Central America where she served as a nurse in the village clinics and Steve was part of a construction team who built a home for an in-need family.

Kathy Kettler Schemine '82 became a grandmother for the first time last year. She shares that she is enjoying every moment she spends with her grandson.



Laney Bender-Slack '86 is a Professor of Literacy, Co-Director of the School of Education, and the Program Director for Reading/TESOL at Xavier University. She also is the Faculty Director of the Center for International Education and study abroad programs for faculty and students in Peru, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. She has published a variety of academic journals and four books that center around global perspectives, curriculum studies, education abroad, and adolescent literacy.

Amy Bonham Steingraber '87 is Vice President of Standard Aero, an aviation MRO and manufacturing company. Before this position, she worked at GE Power and GE Aviation for nearly 30 years. Amy and her husband Dan have three children together, one who is a senior at St. Xavier along with a 6th grader at St. Gabriel who may attend MND in a few years!

1990's

Joni Huninghake Wagner '90 opened Goosehead Insurance – Joni Wagner Agency, in Loveland in July 2019. She is a proud female entrepreneur who offers home, auto, renters, boat, landlord, and life insurance and is licensed in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Joni and her husband Randy have two children, Andrew and Taylor Wagner '19 and have lived in her hometown of Loveland for the past 22 years.

Jennifer Smith Damiano '93 was named Cincinnati Market President for KeyBank. This is in addition to her role as Market Leader for Key Private Bank for both Cincinnati and Dayton. Jennifer is a 1997 graduate of Marquette University with a major in psychology and a minor in business administration. She has been married to Vito since 2003 and they have one daughter, Francesca.

Kimberly Eberl Van Byssum '95 daughter of **Mary Lynn Moran Eberl '72**, recently expanded her business back to Cincinnati. Kimberly opened an advertising agency,

The Motion Agency, in 2006 which has been headquartered in Chicago, IL. 17 years later, she's adding another branch to her office in her hometown of Cincinnati.

Annie Maciariello Mall '98 celebrated her first anniversary with GE Aerospace. She and her husband Jim reside in Union, KY.

2000's



Colleen O'Connell Smith '00, traveled to Corozal, Belize, with a group of 20 doctors, nurses, and assistants from all over the United States to help provide medical care and surgery to patients with various conditions. Colleen traveled with Dr. Yen Hsieh, a facial plastics surgeon from UC Health, where together they spent a week operating on patients. Pictured above are Colleen and Dr. Hsieh doing a complex ear reconstruction on a teenage boy.

Megan Muldoon Overbey '02 graduated from The Ohio State University in 2006 and is currently the Chief Growth Officer for Olivet International. Megan and her husband Patrick have two children, Avey and Jack.

Amanda LaBarbera Hodapp '03 and her husband Chris welcomed their son Benjamin Michael Hodapp into the world on April 30, 2023.

Caroline Sora Ahlers '04 and husband Alex have been happily married for 12 years. Together they have two wonderful children, Preston (12) and Olivia (9). The family resides in South Lebanon, OH.

Brandi Forbes '04 graduated with a master's in social work in 2022 from the University of Cincinnati. Brandi works as a Social Worker in the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and is the Coordinator for Bag It Cancer's Escape to THRIVE Leadership Conference for Cancer Advocates.

Lindsey Stanchfield Rinesmith '04 and husband Matthew welcomed their daughter Emery Grace Rinesmith on August 11, 2023. Emery receives much love from her big brothers, Aiden (5) and Benton (3).

Emily Dunlea Katz '05 and husband Stefan welcomed their first child into their family with the birth of Oliver Hudson Katz in March 2023. Emily currently works for the United States Air Force as a Policy Advisor for the National Security Council in Washington, DC.

Class Notes

2010's

Clare Bunning '10 graduated from Xavier University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science along with a Master of Science in Executive Human Resource Development. Clare was recently promoted at Cincinnati School District as their Assistant Supervisor of Benefits and Finance. Clare also shares that she recently became engaged and will get married in October 2024 at St. Clare Chapel.

Maggie Speed Collard '10 has been a registered nurse for six years. She has worked in open-heart surgery and step-down open-heart units. She is currently a case manager for Quantum Health. Maggie has an amazing husband and two sons. She and her family reside in Columbus, OH.



Holly Laub Brown '11 completed her four-year Neurology Residency at Indiana University in June 2023. She married Austin in May 2019 and moved to Phoenix, AZ, where she will complete a two-year fellowship in Movement Disorders at Barrow Neurologic Institute.

Grace Werms Stegeman '11 holds a bachelor's in marketing from the University of Cincinnati and a Master's from Xavier University. She and her husband Alex reside in Cincinnati with their newborn daughter Nora.

Elissa How '13 is a Senior Forecast Analyst for Abercrombie & Fitch. She graduated from Miami University of Ohio in 2017 with a degree in Business Administration.

Emily How '13 has worked with Abercrombie & Fitch for 7 years as a senior merchant and oversees the merchandising strategy for the adult women's jeans team. Emily is a 2017 graduate of Miami University of Ohio with a double major in marketing and business analytics.

Erica How '14 recently became engaged and is getting married in 2024. Erica graduated from Miami University of Ohio with bachelor's degrees in marketing and supply chain management. She works as a Merchandising Manager for Bombas and resides in NYC.



Rachel Rein '15 recently moved back to her hometown of Cincinnati after graduating from The Ohio State University of College of Veterinary Medicine and is now practicing Veterinary Medicine for Noah's Ark Animal Clinic.

Meredith Shaffer '15 graduated from the University of Northern Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology in 2019 and an MS in Health Administration in 2021. She is currently in medical school with St. James School of Medicine and recently moved to Naperville, IL where she is beginning her clinical rotations. Meredith will graduate with her medical degree in 2025.

Katherine Stuhlfire Butts '16 currently resides in Atlanta, GA, with spouse Kyle. The two married on September 23, 2023. Katherine currently works as a Senior Inventory Planning Analyst for HD Supply.

Julia Barnes '19 is currently working as an Undergraduate Admissions Counselor for the University of South Carolina where she received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology in December 2022.

Kallie Halas '19 completed her Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from the University of Cincinnati this past Spring. She will be moving to the "windy city" of Chicago and will be living with fellow MND classmate **Ashley Fasola '19**.

Jordan Ford '19 earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Africana Studies from the University of Dayton. She will be starting law school in the fall of 2024 and currently resides in Washington, DC.

Abby Nelson '19 recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Mary White '19 is a graduate of Mount St. Joseph University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She is currently attending Good Samaritan College of Nursing working towards an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing.

2020's

Julia Feldmann '20 is a senior at Miami University of Ohio majoring in Marketing with a minor in Corporate Entrepreneurship. She works as a Leadership Development Program Analyst at JPMorgan Chase.

Amy Friemoth '20 participated in a ten-week National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, NC. Her project centered around the effects of boat traffic on the foraging behaviors of two Amazonian River dolphin species using passive acoustic monitoring (PAM). Amy shares that she learned so much about bioacoustics and programming by gaining and improving skills in RavenPro and PAMguard.

Isabella Geraci '20 graduated from the Aveda Fredrics Institute in 2021. She recently opened her hair salon called Shear Edge Studios which is in Newport, KY.

Bailey Hall '20 attends the University of Colorado Boulder. She is studying data science/statistics and plans to graduate in 2024.

Maggie Keenan '22 is studying at Xavier University, Environmental Science and Communication Studies. She is currently the community outreach chair of Xavier's Students for Life group, a member of Muskies for Life and is working at the Xavier Reaction Center and doing a lot of volunteering through Xavier.



Rachel Steffen '22 competed with Team World in the para ice hockey women's world challenge and placed 3rd!

Alana Tucker '23 is a DAAP student at the University of Cincinnati majoring in Industrial Design with a minor in Marketing. She is expected to graduate in 2028.

Class notes are only published when received directly from the individual who is the key focus of the photo/update. This is to ensure the safety and privacy of our alumnae and their families. There is no guarantee that all submissions will be published due to space limitations and printing deadlines. Please submit your news via the What's New form available on our website.

In Memoriam

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



**Joy Fanger
Cronin '45**
10/2/23



**Virginia Volz
Bonomini '52**
11/11/23



**Angela Pottebaum
Buehler '52**
10/9/23



**Joan TenBieg
Schulte '54**
6/13/23



**Justine Cornett
Uhrig '57**
10/27/23



**Mary Helen
Portmann
Tegenkamp '58**
10/25/23



**Virginia
Benken '60**
9/13/23



**Nancy Collins
Diesel '60**
11/1/23



**Sister Marietta
(Roslee) Fritz '60,
SNDdeN**
8/12/23



**Kathleen
Mack '60**
11/3/23



**Carolyn Ries
Adams '61**
9/4/23



**Karen Konrad
McCrory '61**
6/25/23



**Janice
Woebkenberg
Morris '61**
7/29/23



**Sandra Moore
Benvie '64**
1/28/20



**Betty Vonderhaar
Evans '65**
10/23/23



**Mary Brady
Crisp '66**
6/13/23



**Joyce Kerkhoff
Overstreet '66**
7/10/23



Deborah Thobe '66
6/12/23



**Janet Gebing
Klug '68**
6/16/23



**Norine
Wietmarschen
Brandstetter '70**
11/13/23



**Barbara Lockwood
Siciliano '71**
10/12/23
Former Faculty Member
1998-2003



**Victoria Cappa
Casciato '72**
7/26/23



Sue Gutzwiller '75
11/25/23



**Sister Eleanor
Colgan, SNDdeN**
8/11/23
Former Faculty Member

Engagements/Weddings



Jamie Melish Drewry '93 married husband Ryan on June 17, 2023. The two met while teaching at the Villa Madonna Academy. Jamie shares that she is a religion teacher and recently started an adopt-a-sis program at the school!



Alyson Utterback '98 committed to Kevin Strong in a Star Wars-themed commitment ceremony on July 15, 2023. The newlyweds reside in West Chester, OH.



Eric Benzing proposed to **Brittany Cobb '10** on May 31, 2023, atop Mt. Mitchell, the highest mountain in Morganton, NC, with an elevation of 6,687 feet. They will marry on September 14, 2024.



Sara Kuhlman McGinnis '10 and David became engaged on November 23, 2022, and married on July 22, 2023. The bridal party consisted of **Laura Kuhlman Stoffer '06**, **Ellen Crema '10**, and **Ashley Towle Dutton '10**.



Megan Heimbuch Tiemeier '10 and Joey, Elder alumnus, married on May 27, 2023. The bridal party consisted of MND alumnae, **Kaitlin Heimbuch Schaengold '06**, **Sam Malone Grimes '10**, **Annie Heimbuch '17**, and **Beth Heimbuch '17**.



Kennedy Hart DeMoss '14 married her college sweetheart, Kevin, on June 10, 2023. She shared her special day with fellow MND sisters and volleyball teammates **Holly Luncan '14**, **Jess Towle '15**, and **Cara Smith Gibson '16** who wore their volleyball state championship rings in honor of Kennedy getting a "new ring".



Kate Jennings Dubell '15 married her high school sweetheart, Cole (Moeller '15) on March 18, 2023. Their first official date was at the MND Sophomore dance in the cafeteria where Cole was one of four boys to attend. Kate had her MND bridesmaids (left to right) **Natalie Eckels '15**, **Annie Eramo '15**, **Elizabeth Pugh '15**, and **Samantha DeVore Speyer '15** on her special day.



Madeline Lees '15 recently became engaged to fiancé Joe Muldoon on October 22, 2023. The couple share their engagement photo that they took along the Little Miami River. Madeline and Joe will marry on June 8, 2024.

Hannah Jones '17 and high school sweetheart Mason Davy became engaged on February 4, 2023. Their wedding will be held at the Manor House with their family and closest friends on October 5, 2024.



Kristen Emlinger '17 said "YES" to Joe Miller on the beach in Miami, FL, on April 7, 2023, and looks forward to tying the knot in July 2024.



Emily Crowe Rake '17 and husband Michael married on September 30, 2023. The two share they recently moved into their first house together and that Emily is finishing her second-year teaching as a Community Connections (SEL) teacher at Sycamore Community Schools where she is teaching a social-emotional learning specials class for grades kindergarten through 4th grade.



Dylan Linn proposed to **Lexi Rodgers '17** on April 8, 2023. Lexi is currently a 2nd grade teacher in Kannapolis, NC. The two will be married on October 12, 2024.



Megan Powers Merrill '18 and husband Zack became engaged on June 18, 2022, while in the Great Smoky Mountains and were married on October 7, 2023. The two share their engagement photo at the barn where they board their horses.



Ivy Walsh Davis '18 and Grant's fairytale wedding took place at Dromoland Castle in County Clare, Ireland, on August 8, 2023. Surrounded by the warmth of 25 of their family and friends, they exchanged vows in the walled garden.

Births/Adoptions



Rachel Creeden '19 said "YES" to Evan Yablonsky's marriage proposal on September 20, 2023, outside of True West Coffee in Hamilton, OH. The couple have been best friends since 6th grade and have been dating for 1.5 years. They plan to marry in June 2024.



Katie Kenny '19 became engaged on February 11, 2023, to Gabe O'Neill while on a trip to Catoctin Mountain National Park in Maryland. Their wedding is planned for May 18, 2024.



Georgia Kircher '19 and Nathan Veihl became engaged over the summer at a winery in the Tuscan Mountains at sunset. A wedding is being planned for August 2024. Georgia and Nathan reside in Raleigh, NC.



Ciara Tucker '20 became engaged last July to her high school sweetheart Owen Wittich. Their wedding date is scheduled for September 14, 2024.



Megan Witte Black '04, husband Erich, and daughter Emyrson Rose moved back to Cincinnati in August 2023. They celebrated Emyrson's 1st birthDEY with a Bengals - themed party and are excited to celebrate many more milestones now that they are home!



Kristin Riepenhoff Zelinskas '07 graduated from Xavier University in 2011 and currently works as a Program Officer for the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Kristin and husband Ben welcomed their child Harper into the world in October 2022.



Jazmin Hayes Miller '12 and her husband Benjamin have two children, Malachi (3) and Ezra born on June 2, 2023. Jazmin graduated from Lafayette College in 2016 and currently works as a Business Operations Manager for Sanderling Waldorf School in Vista, CA



Jackie Seigal Jones '13 and husband Collin welcomed their daughter Riley Danielle Jones on May 7, 2023. Riley was born at 4:25 am and weighed 6lbs 8oz and 18.5 inches.



Kate Anderson Grimm '06, our very own English teacher at MND, and husband Alex added one more to their family with the birth of Adelyn Elyse (Addie) on July 6, 2023. Addie has one big brother, Max (3).



Andy and **Annie Johnson DuVoisin '09** welcomed their first child, Tessa Lynn DuVoisin on March 1, 2023, exactly one week after Annie passed the Level III exam to become a member of the Chartered Financial Analyst Society. This took her over 1,000 hours of studying and a little under three years to complete!



Katie Hack Zimmermann '12 and her husband Anthony welcomed their first child, Henry Anthony on September 19, 2023. Katie is the Pharmacy Manager at CVS in Clifton. She is a proud graduate of OSU and the University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy.



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SISTERHOOD SERIES

Jeanne Finen Clark '47: A Lifelong Connection to Mount Notre Dame

Mount Notre Dame has a rich history of shaping the lives of its graduates, and one shining example is Jeanne Finen Clark, a member of the Class of 1947. With a connection spanning an incredible 77 years since her graduation, Jeanne's journey reflects the enduring spirit of MND and the deep bonds formed within its walls.

Early Years at MND:

Jeanne's MND story began when her family moved from Massachusetts to Wyoming, OH, just down the street from the original Mount Notre Dame building. Her father, the owner of a Leather Co. store in Cincinnati, sent Jeanne and her two sisters, **Dorothy Finen Drury '43** and **Patricia Finen Schneider '44**, to MND. At that time, MND provided education from first through twelfth grade, and Jeanne spent her time at the school from 6th through 12th grade. She was one of the 19 graduates in the Class of 1947 and cherished the close-knit relationships she formed with her classmates.

Post-Graduation and Family Legacy:

After graduating from MND, Jeanne continued her education at Edgecliff College, now merged with Xavier University, where she was joined by several graduates of the Class of 1947. Marriage followed, and Jeanne, along with her husband, John Clark, raised three children. Her connection to MND endured with time, as she continued the legacy by sending her daughters **Nancy Clark Naber '75** and **Betsy Clark Pharo '78** to MND, and her son, Kevin Clark '77, to Moeller. Her granddaughters **Christy Clark Lansing '97** and **Amanda Clark '19** also became proud alumnae of MND.

Recently, Jeanne's granddaughter and current Alumnae Engagement Officer, **Amanda Clark '19**, visited

her at The Seasons, Jeanne's current living community. During this special visit, Amanda shared MND yearbooks spanning from 1941 to 1947. Jeanne reminisced about her dear classmates and the friendships forged during her time at MND.

Senior Year Reflections:

One touching moment captured in Jeanne's senior yearbook reveals a snapshot of her aspirations and interests at the time. In the "As We Are" section, Jeanne expressed her love for Massachusetts, shared dislikes (crutches due to a senior year foot injury), and noted that she could often be found at Vedder's, a store down the street from MND. Her prized possession mentioned was her family's summer home, "Tradewinds," and her ambition was to become a nursery schoolteacher.

Jeanne's MND journey extended beyond the classroom. She participated in the Senior play, contributing to the production of "Shubert Alley," and was a part of MND's Epsilon Hall. Additionally, Jeanne showcased her musical talents by playing the piano alongside fellow students for the high school music department.



At 94 years old, Jeanne is engaging with new friends at The Seasons and maintains connections with loved ones. Reflecting on the changes MND has undergone over the years, she expresses joy that the school's Catholic ideals remain a core aspect of the school and the sisterhood connections continue to flourish in various ways. Jeanne looks forward to what the future holds for MND, expressing excitement about the school's evolution. She hopes that the legacy of MND girls in her family and others continues with the next generation, ensuring that the spirit of Mount Notre Dame endures for years to come.

Sisterhood through the Decades



1960s

Members of the **Class of 1960** enjoyed their bi-monthly lunch-in at Slatt's on September 20, 2023. The members of the class enjoy spending time together and sharing stories during these get-togethers.



1990s

Some members of the **Class of 1997** took a Girl's Trip to Gatlinburg, TN to enjoy a weekend hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains and exploring the Gatlinburg, TN area. Pictured left to right in photo: Elizabeth Bough Hounshell '97, Lauren Vonderbrink Holtman '97, Christy Clark Lansing '97, and Jonelle Estep Eversman '97.



1970s

The **Class of 1970** had a wonderful pool party hosted by Ron and Jeri Ihlendorf Murray '70 on August 23, 2023. Their class enjoys staying connected to one another by continuing to do fun activities!



2000s

The **Class of 2008** celebrated their 15-year reunion on October 14, 2023. Rachel Creevy D'Errico '08 and Jill Stephens Majo '08 chaired this event at 50 West Brewing Co. in Cincinnati, OH.



1980s

In September of 2023, a few members of the **Class of 1988** met up to share memories of the "good ol' days" while they were students at MND. Pictured left to right: Vicki Beebe Rohlfs '88, Sara Mueller '88, Jeanne Buehler Peddicord '88, Carrie Buschermann Gause '88, Lynne Kraemer '88, and Jeannie Krummen Monroe '88.



2010s

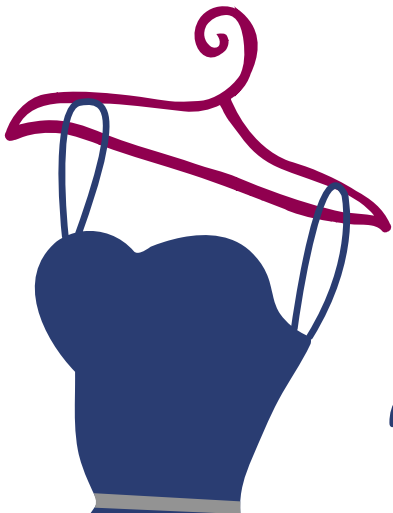
On September 21, 2023, members of the **Class of 2011**, alumnae from other classes, and MND families attended the Carly Pearce concert and MND alumna Tana Matz '11 benefit bash concert for the Boys and Girls Club. Some classmates got to meet up with Tana after performing!



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