



# The Leprechaun



A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association  
www.friendsofnotredame.com - www.notredame-hw.com  
Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!  
NOVEMBER 2008 EDITION

## '63 Grad Pens Book About Baseball's Leadoff Hitters

**Herm Krabbenhoft '63** is a retired research chemist. He spent his career researching polymer chemistry and plastics for General Electric at their research and development facility on in Schenectady, NY. Since retiring in 2001, he has plenty of time to pursue his other passion - baseball research. In 2006, his first book about baseball was published by McFarland. Entitled *Leadoff Batters in Major League Baseball*, it is a book about the one subtlety that can make or break your team - the leadoff hitter. It covers the men who have taken that position and how they have performed in this important role over history. The book is a great reference work covering the major leagues' leadoff batters for more than 160,000 games from 1900 through 2005. Broken into five parts, the book covers the annual records of the leadoff hitters, principal leadoff batters by team and top career leadoff batters, composite statistics for those players with five or more principal leadoff batter seasons, leadoff home runs, and an essay section on assorted leadoff batter achievements, such as RBIs, runs scored, and awards and honors.

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### What's Inside?

- ♣ Football at ND Stadium?
- ♣ Upcoming Reunion Info.
- ♣ Upcoming Events
- ♣ Trophies and Yearbooks
- ♣ Wall of Fame
- ♣ ND Grads Coaching Football
- ♣ Notes From You!



## ND Grads Leading Area Football Teams '82 Grad Gives Shorians Something to Cheer For



**Tom Iwanicki '82**  
Directing Practice

**Tom Iwanicki '82** has instilled a winning culture at St. Clair Shores Lake-shore. In just four years, he has led the Shorians from wondering if they'd win to expecting to win. In 2005, his first season at the helm, Lake Shore went 1 - 8, but the players bought into the system and knew the future of Shorian football looked bright. "We've been growing since day one and the players are the biggest reason," said Iwanicki. He has instilled in them a work ethic and sense of personal responsibility. "Every group of Senior football players has made it a priority to work hard, be an example to the younger players, and try to be positive leaders within the school community," said Tom. Tom credits his former coaches at HWND for giving him the foundation needed for success in coaching. "I've been blessed to learn under some great Hall of Fame football coaches," said Iwanicki, "Bob Lapointe at ND, Ray Barr at Fraser, John Maltese (HWND'78), and Roger Swijak - I would like to thank them, as well as my ND coaches Al Baumgart, John Rinaldi, and Brandon Oliver for teaching me the game and most importantly, how to help young players mature into good, decent adult members of the world." With the foundation set in the 2005 season, Iwanicki's Shorians qualified for the state playoffs in 2006, going 6-4. In 2007, they fell one game short of qualifying for the state playoffs, finishing with a 5-4 record. The 2008 season has seen the Shorians make a return to the state playoffs for only the 3rd time in school history. "We've qualified for the playoffs for the second time and led Lake Shore to three consecutive winning seasons - the... Continued on page 2



**Iwanicki '82...** Continued from page 2

first time since 1982,” said Iwanicki. A head coach can’t do it alone. Parental involvement has been instrumental in the success of his program. “I revived the parent support group (QB club) which helps with fund raising and provides the team pre-game dinners,” said Tom. A head coach is only as good as his staff and Iwanicki has a good one. “I have an excellent staff that has been with me for all four years,” he said. Tom credits them for the success of the Lake Shore program. “Pat Dailey, Will Puvalowski, Lloyd Slabaugh, Angelo Plouffe, and Joe Bongiovanni - they've taken my vision and have run with it,” Iwanicki said. Tom Iwanicki has a great team with senior leadership that is poised to make a long run in the state playoffs.

**Capac in Good Hands**

**Tom Manney '82** is enjoying his 21st season of coaching high school football. “Coach Bob LaPointe gave me my first coaching job at ND,” said Manney. “I coached ND's freshmen with Tom Iwanicki and Jim Cali--Both still coaching,” he said. Tom has spent the last 11 seasons coaching at Capac, the last two as head coach. He has also held the head coaching jobs at Cardinal Mooney and Detroit St. Hedwig. Manny has incorporated a new weightlifting program to ensure his players are better conditioned to finish games. Commitment to the weight room has put his players in better shape. “They know how we seemed to fade in games in the past,” he said. When asked which season has been most rewarding, Manney replied, “This season stands out the most for me because my son is a senior on the team.” Tom has coached his son’s class of players “since they were in the seventh grade.” Coaching your own son in any sport is definitely a very special opportunity. “It will be very hard to say goodbye,” he said.

**'63 Grad Leads Rival to Best Football Season Ever**

“It reminds me of the glory days of N.D. Football,” Paul said when asked about the program he has built at Warren De La Salle. “I guess Bazy (legendary coach Walt Bazelewicz) taught me a few things about the game,” he said. After a slow start in the beginning of the century, De La Salle football experienced a rebirth with the hiring of **Paul Verska '63** as head coach. With Verska (2002-Present) at the helm, the Pilots made an impressive 6 game turnaround from the 2001 season, finishing 8-4, winning the school's first ever MHSAA District title in football and giving hope for the future. Verska led the Pilots to another playoff appearance in 2003, then experienced some turbulence as his football team went through two consecutive 4-5 seasons. Then, in 2006, he guided De La Salle to a break out season when De La Salle again qualified for the state playoffs. The 2006 season saw the Pilots defeat all of their league foes for the first time since 1994. The football team won their first ever MHSAA Regional title with a win over Birmingham Brother Rice in the USA Today National Game of the Week, and their first ever MHSAA Finals appearance in what was arguably the most exciting MHSAA State Finals game ever. The Pilots came up short in their bid for the school’s first ever state championship, but their run in the 2006 season set the standard by which future De La Salle football teams would be judged. Verska’s 2007 De La Salle football team appeared poised to make another run at a state championship as the Pilots won each of their first 6 games. Unfortunately, injuries took their toll on the team as they finished 6-4 with a disappointing loss in the district semi-finals against Rochester Adams. “Coaching at De La Salle is awesome,” said Verska. He has coached at 7 different high schools and “DLS is the best of both worlds,” he said. “Academics and athletics go hand in hand here.” 2008 could prove to be **THE** season for De La Salle football, as Verska has led the Pilots to an 9-0 start and its first Catholic High School Central Division Championship since 1994. Verska has led the Pilots to their 3rd Prep Bowl appearance in 7 years, this time winning the championship in a come from behind victory over Catholic Central at Ford Field. DLS will be making their 5th state playoff appearance under Verska’s leadership. “Our team is blessed with many Indians and no chiefs,” said Verska. “Every member of this team has contributed to our success.”



**DLS head football coach, Paul Verska '63**

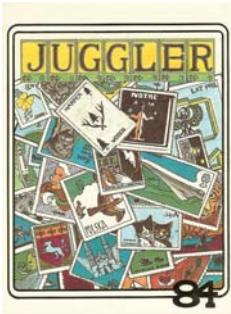


# Yearbooks

Need a replacement yearbook? Just want a piece of ND history? Want an *extra* yearbook? We've got over 1,000 of them! Almost all years are available for a small fee (\$7.00) to cover storage and shipping costs. Send us an email and we'll make arrangements to get you a yearbook!

We're sorry, but we are sold out of the following yearbooks:

- 1956
- 1957
- 1958
- 1961
- 1970



# Trophies

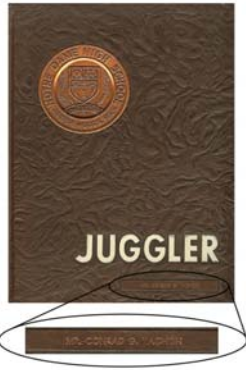
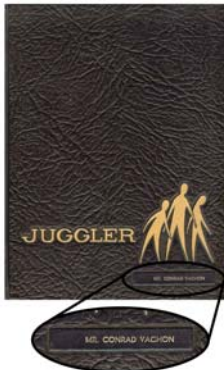
For the past three years, we have been storing over 160 of the school's trophies. We've decided that it is no longer economically wise to continue storing them. We have taken photos of all the trophies and uploaded them to the photo gallery on the website. Please browse through them. If you see any that you would like, please contact us, and we will make arrangements to get them to you. We will continue to store them through June of 2009. After July 1, 2009, we will begin recycling them and/or donating them to establishments that decorate with old trophies.



Visit our eBay Store!

<http://stores.ebay.com/Friends-of-Notre-Dame>

**Football Jerseys and classic ND Flex Fit hats are now available!**



# Upcoming Events

## Annual Alumni Hockey Games

Friday, December 26, 2008

At Gosse Pointe Community Ice Rink - 3-6pm

50's, 60's, 70's & 80's - 3pm

90's & 00's - 4:15pm

(You can play in whichever game you feel most comfortable.)

## Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament

March 6, 7, & 8, 2009

At De La Salle

Details to come.

## Annual Alumni Softball Tournament

September 2009

At Total Sports

Start recruiting your classmates!

Interested in hosting a Notre Dame Alumni night at your establishment?

E-mail Jim Mandl '90

at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com)





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*The Leprechaun*

# See Dave Coulier '77 at Younger's Irish Tavern

*November 7th & 8th*

*2 shows each night - 8:00pm & 10:30pm*

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!**

*call 586-752-4400 for more information*

## **Younger's Irish Tavern**

120 S. Main St.

Romeo, MI 48065

Phone: (586) 752-4400

Email: [info@YoungersTavern.com](mailto:info@YoungersTavern.com)

***Tickets Just \$25.00***



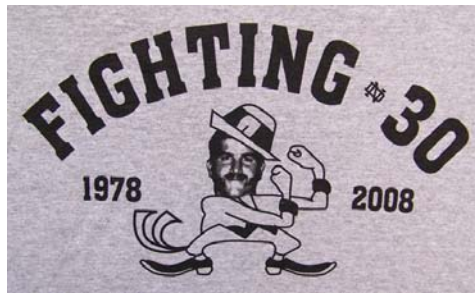
*Dave Coulier '77 on Family Guy  
Season 7, Episode 2.*





# Football Played Again at Notre Dame Stadium

To celebrate Casey Wakula's 30th birthday, his wife and members of the classes of 1994, 1995, and 1996 surprised Casey with a flag football game on the old school's football field. The Friends of Notre Dame was there to capture the action!



Happy 30th  
Birthday,  
Casey!







# Wall of Fame

If you see your name listed below, we have your Wall of Fame plaque that hung on the wall behind the gym. We would like for you to have your plaque if you want it. Please email us at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com) and we will make arrangements to get it to you! These plaques will only be released to the actual graduate or to a family member.

Gary Lytle '61  
 Dave Debol '74\*  
 John Giordano '61\*  
 John Blum '77\*  
 David Bonior '63  
 Bob Navetta '64  
 Joe Przybycki '64  
 Mike Boccia '65  
 Chris Hacias '65  
 John Kraft '65  
 Tom Van Doorne '66  
 Jim Navetta '67  
 Rick Wenner '67  
 Rick Zamon '67  
 Dan Richards '67  
 Glenn Radzik '69  
 Gary Radzik '69  
~~Bob David '70~~

Frank Lutostanski '71  
 Jerry Guinane '71  
~~Jerry Druzinski '71~~  
 Terry Cirocco '72  
 Dave Guinane '72  
 Al Provenzano '72  
 Mike McGreevy '73  
 Tim Flannery '73  
 Greg Urquhart '73  
 Chris Lamilza '74  
 Pat Srock '74  
~~Jim Berra '74~~  
 Joe Vicari '75  
 Jim Romeo '75  
 Kevin Flannery '75  
 Tom Bentley '75  
~~Larry Lewandowski '75~~  
 Brian Monfils '75

Mark McGreevy '76  
 Tom Gadawski '76  
 Tim Cummins '76  
 Marco Caporuscio '78  
 Don Brosky '79  
 Craig Gerbe '79  
 Dave Wolfbauer '79  
 Gary Bass '80  
 Kevin Paterson '80  
 Mike Smith '80  
 Jim Forsgren '81  
 Craig Mitchell '81  
 Walt Dixon '81  
 Brett Nowak '82  
 Chris Gust '82  
 Paul Tripp '82  
 Brian Barney '83  
 Andy Nanasi '83

Greg Placidi '83  
 Brian Dittmer '83  
 Ken Zazula '84  
 Bob Urban '84  
 Chris McDonald '85  
~~Chris Luongo '85~~  
 Bruce Smith '85  
 Paul Seibert '86  
 Paul Amodei '86  
 Dave Walczyk '86  
 Steve Zacharias '86  
 Joe Trombley '87  
 Andy Booth '87  
 Scott Klott '88  
 Jim Maher '88  
 Eric Taylor '89  
 John Pierce '89  
 Eric Stanczak '89

Kevin Messing '89  
 DeJuan Reynolds '90  
 Jeff Miller '90  
 Chris Messing '90  
 Matt Ziolkowski '90  
 Mark Staples, Jr. '91  
 Steve Jansen '92  
 Pat Brandimore, Jr. '93  
 Terrance Porter '93  
 Anthony Vitale '94  
 Rick Rewiako '95  
 Preston Brandimore '95  
 Phil Ruggerio '95  
 Dave Biondi '95  
 Jason Selleke '96  
 Jason Stoicevich '97  
 Tom Gallus '97  
 Nick Holliday '97  
 Greg Stempin '97  
 Dave Porada '98  
 James Fields '01  
 Adam Fujita '01



Paul Verska '63  
CMU Football



Steve Zacharias '86  
U of M Football



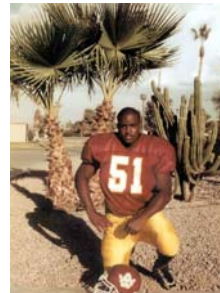
Terrance Porter '93  
U of D Basketball



Greg Urquhart '73  
U of M Hockey



Chris McDonald '85  
Kalamazoo Basketball



James Fields '01  
Arizona Western

**Red Strikethrough =  
Plaque Delivered to Graduate**

\* Pictured on the same plaque - University of Michigan Hockey

***If you live out of town, we will gladly ship your plaque if you can cover the cost of shipping. The cost to ship the plaques is \$7 - \$10 depending on your location.***



# 28TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' DINNER



Thursday, April 30, 2009

Penna's of Sterling

Cocktails: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm

Tickets \$200



Builders of Boys;  
Makers of Men



This is a stag dinner that includes silent auction. Approximately 1000 attend this east side catholic schools reunion each year. Graduates of DLS, St. Joe's, Austin, Bishop Gallagher, Harper Woods Notre Dame, and others attend yearly. Tables of 10 are available and there are advertising opportunities available in the program. The proceeds are directed to families needing financial assistance with their De La Salle tuition.

Contact John Monigold for more information at 586-778-3356 or [jmonigold@delasallehs.com](mailto:jmonigold@delasallehs.com)

### The HWND Connection

Pat Adams - HWND '77 - DLS Principal  
Brian Kelly - HWND '77 - DLS Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach  
Paul Verska - HWND '63 - DLS Head Football Coach  
Plus many DLS teachers are HWND grads & many HWND grads have sons at DLS.

### Tid Bits

- Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Cy Saverino '66** who recently underwent surgery to place a steel rod in his back. Thanks to **Doug Shahady '66** for the news.

### In Memoriam...

**Staniec, Dennis Casimere - Class of 1968 (April 14, 1950 - October 21, 2008)**

Age 58, a resident of Warren formerly of Sterling Heights passed away on Tuesday October 21, 2008 at St. John Hospital in Detroit. Mr. Staniec grew up in East Detroit and graduated from St. Veronica grade school in 1964. He attended and graduated from Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods. He received a Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Michigan University in Government. He completed his Master's Degree program at Central Michigan University. Mr. Staniec worked for several of the smaller hospitals in the area over the years in the accounting and accounts receivable departments.

Mr. Staniec is survived by his children Sean Staniec and Marissa Staniec. His mother Dorothy Staniec and a brother Gary (Colleen) Staniec. He was an uncle to Rachelle Staniec and Casey Staniec. Mr. Staniec is also survived by his former wife Phyllis Staniec. Mr. Staniec was predeceased by his father Casimere Staniec who passed away in 2002.





# Upcoming Reunions

## Reunions in 2009

The following classes are celebrating reunion years in 2009:



2004 - 5 Years  
1999 - 10 Years  
1994 - 15 Years  
1989 - 20 Years  
1984 - 25 Years



1979 - 30 Years  
1974 - 35 Years  
1969 - 40 Years  
1964 - 45 Years  
1959 - 50 Years



Interested in forming a reunion committee for your class?  
E-mail Jim Mandl '90 at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com).

We are your only source for the most up-to-date alumni contact information!

### Celebrating 15 Years!

Who: HWND Class of 1993

What: 15 Year Reunion

Where: Hamlin Pub

22 & Hayes, Shelby Township, MI 48316

When: Saturday, November 8, 2008

Why: \$25 per person for Pizza, Salad, Pop, Domestic Draft Beer, House Wine, Tax, & Tip is a great deal! Plus, you can enjoy all of this while spending five hours with people you haven't seen in a long time.

Wives or significant others are welcome to attend, too!



### Celebrating 25 Years!

Graduates of the *Class of 1983* are organizing a 20 year reunion!

*Rob Zeweke '83 and Tom Salerno '83* are chairing the planning committee.

More information will be released as the planning progresses.

### Celebrating 10 Years!

Graduates of the *Class of 1999* are organizing a 10 year reunion!

*Brett Ceriotti '99, Kevin Dunbar '99* and others have started planning the class of 1999 10 year reunion.

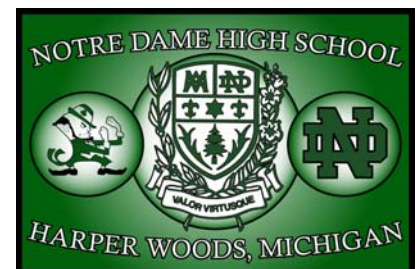
More information will be released as the planning progresses.

We have several items available for you to use as display items your reunions.

The 3' by 5' sign (pictured on the right) is a sign we designed and ordered that can be used at all alumni events and reunions.

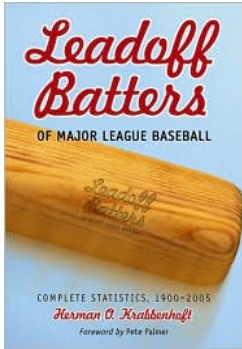
Other items we have:

- 1) School Crest Banner, 2) Fighting Irish Banners, 3) Football Field Goal Post Pads, 4) Football Jerseys, 5) Trophies,
- 6) Paper Items - Folders, Brochures, etc., 7) Football Helmets, 8) A desk from the school, 9) old HWND publications, 10) Yearbooks, and much, much more.





Five Question with Herm Krabbenhoft '63



Herm Krabbenhoft's book about leadoff batters.

**What inspired you to write Leadoff Batters in Major League Baseball?**  
 As I stated in the Preface -- "Some years ago (in the autumn of 1984), noted baseball researcher Bill James wrote the following: 'Rickey Henderson is one of the greatest players in baseball, one of the most exciting players in baseball, and possibly the greatest leadoff man in the history of baseball.' No comparative information was presented to support the phrase, 'the greatest leadoff man in the history of baseball.' When I read that statement (in 1987), several questions jumped out at me -- First, was James' assertion consistent with the baseball record? Second, if the claim was accurate, then who was the greatest leadoff batter in MLB history -- before Rickey Henderson. Next, since (at that time) Henderson was a junior circuit player, who was the greatest leadoff batter in the American League -- before Rickey Henderson? And, fourth, who was/is the greatest leadoff batter in National League history? Casey Stengel said, 'You could look it up.' However, a thorough check of the baseball literature revealed that there was NO substantive information on leadoff batters -- who they were and how they performed. If I wanted to find out the answers to my questions, I would have to conduct a comprehensive research effort. So, that's what I did, starting back in early 1988." For each decade from 1900 forward, I examined the boxscore (as presented in The New York Times or The Sporting News) for each game for each season and recorded the leadoff batter for each team along with his at bats, runs, and hits. So, over the course of some 16 years I pored over hundreds of reels of microfilmed newspapers and checked out the boxscores of some 160,000 games. I then put everything together to write the book.

**Do you plan to do any more writing?**

Yes. I'm working on two books focused on the Detroit Tigers. One is Tigers Uniform Numbers -- i.e., the uniform number(s) worn by each Tigers player in each season from 1931 (when Detroit first used uniform numbers) forward. There are a lot of very interesting stories to help bring the "dry" numbers to life. The other book deals with certain statistical achievements in consecutive games -- i.e., consecutive games (a) getting a hit, (b) getting on base, (c) scoring a run, (d) batting in a run, and (e) producing a run (i.e., either scoring a run or batting in a run). With regard to other works published, I've published my baseball research in several magazines/journals/newspapers (e.g., Baseball Digest, Baseball Weekly, Baseball America, The Sporting News, the Baseball Research Journal, The National Pastime, The New York Times, the New York Daily News, etc.) [I've also had numerous publications and patents on my chemistry research.]

**How was Notre Dame instrumental in your career success and in your writing?**

Mr. Ron Cook was an outstanding chemistry teacher -- really helped make chemistry fascinating. With that starting point, I pursued chemistry in college and became a research chemist. With regard to my writing, I'll credit Mr. Cosky (my freshman "English" teacher) with giving me a good start in effective, grammatically-correct, no-nonsense writing.

**How were you able to get the book published by McFarland?**

I provided them with a summary of my research. They then asked me to write the book.

**Who are your favorite authors?**

I've read -- and re-read numerous times -- all of the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Similarly, I've read -- and reread numerous times -- Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, as well as many of Twain's other writings. I've also read -- and re-read -- many books on shipwrecks in the Great Lakes (by several authors).

The Muggs  
 See the Muggs... Live!

- ♣ Saturday  
 November 1, 2008  
 ⇒ The Dawg House... Clinton Twp., MI
- ♣ Saturday  
 November 7, 2008  
 ⇒ Elbow Room... Ypsilanti, MI
- ♣ Saturday  
 November 22, 2008  
 ⇒ The Magic Bag... Ferndale, MI
- ♣ Saturday  
 December 13, 2008  
 ⇒ The Cadieux Cafe... Detroit, MI
- ♣ Saturday  
 December 20, 2008  
 ⇒ The Token Lounge... Redford, MI



Danny Methric '90 & Tony DeNardo '90





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Casey Wakula '96 - Owner

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David Moroz '76 Owner

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Dave Bourgeois '89 - Owner

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Ben Holmes '87 - Owner



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Scott Baumgart '84 - Owner

**Gratiot**  
Wheel & Tire Supply  
Custom Wheels & Tires from 13" - 24"  
586-776-1600

Michael Coley '86 - Owner

If you are interested in promoting your business in our newsletter, please email us at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com).





# We Heard From...



## **Ernest J. Jermo, Class of 1960**

I am a 1960 Notre Dame grad---and proud of it!!! Although I was an average student during high school I am convinced the principles I was taught at ND enabled me to prosper going forward and come to realize the importance of the pursuit of excellence. I retired three years ago as Managing Director for Spherion - the fourth largest consulting firm in the country. I would very much like a 1960 yearbook, if you could facilitate that I would be most appreciative.

- No Problem! It's on it's way too! - Jim Mandl '90

## **Jeff Edge, Class of 1993**

Hey all, Just wanted to say you are doing a great job on the newsletter and with keeping the HWND pride alive. I was wondering if the group has a Facebook entry or something similar? If not I think it would be a good step forward and a real easy way to start to coordinate people and events. Thanks for all you have done.

- [www.myspace.com/friendsofnotredame](http://www.myspace.com/friendsofnotredame)

- Face Book = FriendsOf Notre Dame

## **Richard Helka, Class of 1958**

I retired to Tellico Village just south of Knoxville, TN. in 2002. I was a senior electrical designer for GM at time of separation. Best place in the country to retire to. Only go back to MI. to see the grand kids when necessary.

## **Sandra A. Lesperance, Regina Class of 1970**

Great Job!! I look forward to reading the Leprechaun each month. I also reported that my husband John A. Lesperance '70 passed away on 8/1/07. Please add this to your list. John and I were high school sweethearts married for 35 years.

## **Mike Jamroz, Class of 1972**

I was very close to Joe Trocino, class of 1976, who is on your list of deceased alumni that remained to be verified. I regret to report that Joe died of a heart attack in November of 2005. I have attached his obituary.

## **Garry J. Boyd, Class of 1974**

I was so sorry to here about Notre Dame, it was my beginning, in Astronomical research, Such Boyd Observatories was formed, as a result, servicing J.P.L., NASA, Stanford U. not to mention 77 other Amateur Astronomers, Thank You, Bill Welliver, Physics, Thank You Cas Kosky, for insight. I wish I had the money to donate, to keep ND alive, so sad.... ND was a very special place for education, what a loss!

## **Janet Riehl, Former President ND Parent's Club**

Once again, Jim, great Job on the newsletter. I loved all the responses to the editorial. I didn't even go there (of course I couldn't I'm a girl!) and I love reading up on the news of the alumni. What a quality school it was.



## **Herm Krabbenhoft, Class of 1963**

I am a proud Notre Dame alumnus -- Class of 1963. Congrats on a great job of keeping the Notre Dame alumni together and viable; I always enjoy hearing about the successes of the guys I knew during my days at Notre Dame. Here's a little bit about me.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and teaching skills of Ron Cook, my ND chemistry teacher, I pursued chemistry in college (Macomb, Wayne State, Michigan, California-Berkeley) and eventually became a research chemist (polymer chemistry and plastics) for General Electric at their R&D Center in Schenectady, NY. Since retiring in 2001, I've been pursuing another passion of mine -- baseball research. In 2006 my first book was published by McFarland -- "Leadoff Batters in Major League Baseball." Currently I'm working on my next book -- the uniform numbers worn by the Detroit Tigers players from 1931 forward -- anybody out there have any old Tigers scorecards? I've been married to my wonderful wife, Patti, for 32 years; we've got two daughters who live in Boston. All the Best to the Harper Woods Notre Dame alumni and teachers! Whatever happened to Mr. Cook?

- We're not sure what happened to Mr. Cook. Can anyone help Herm out with this one? - Jim Mandl '90

## **Bob Cunningham, Class of 1959**

Is there a reunion committee for the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion for the class of 1959? I'm living in Columbus, Ohio and would love to come up for the reunion.

- Not yet, Bob. No one has stepped up to lead the planning for a 1959 reunion yet. GO BLUE! :-)

- Jim Mandl '90

## **Jim Primeau, Class of 1962**

As always, nice job on the newsletter. I get monthly letters from the Marists home in Massachusetts. It would be nice for all grads to hold a benefit of some sort, with proceeds going to that home, where Fr.'s Champagne, Chase, Boulanger and Bryson are living (just to name a few). They could surely use the financial assistance. If you have any ideas, I would like to be a part of it.

- Great idea, Jim! Let's put our thinking caps on and start working on it. - Jim Mandl '90

## **Chuck O'Brien, Class of 1974**

Thanks so much for all you do!

## **Ruth Babcock, Vietnam Vets Of America**

I'm working with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 154, Roseville, MI. Eastpointe is rededicating a new memorial to their Vietnam Veterans Killed in Action on Nov. 3. Thank you for supplying a photo of Kenneth S. Gniewek '65. He was the one picture missing from the booklet I was asked to create for their 19 soldiers. Please thank Kevin Flaherty '89 for putting the list of Alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Leprechaun. Without it, I may never have been able to find a photo of Kenneth.

- Glad we could help honor, in this small way, those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Kevin reads this newsletter.

He'll appreciate that his list helped make a difference.

- Jim Mandl '90



# And We Heard From...



## **Mike Olechowski, Class of 2005:**

After church on Sunday my parents and I went over to Eastland Mall & afterwards went around ND for a bit. They had some kind of "Marching Band" thing going on by the football field. There's about 25 - 30 broken windows and some graffiti by the back cafeteria door. It hurt just to see the school like that.

## **Todd Driscoll, Class of 1992:**

Thanks for the newsletter. As always it was great to read and keep up on things.

## **Jim Belloli, Class of 1967:**

Again thanks for all your work and for the great job you do in keeping the REAL alumni association going. One thing I'd like to know from other '67 grads is their grandchildren count. I'm up to 5 with number 6 due in January and number 7 in May.

## **Bill Schroeder, Class of 1966:**

Jim - you, your dad (fellow classmate) and all of your team deserve a lot of credit for keeping the Alumni movement alive. I was under the impression it died with the school. Please keep me on your list and keep it active.

## **Jeff Konal, Class of 1989:**

Just wanted to commend you and your father on your work in keeping the HWND family together. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated. I know I speak for most, if not all alumni when I say there has only been one true Notre Dame and we were all fortunate to benefit from it's existence. On a personal note, I am proud to say that I have been married to my beautiful wife Lori for 5 years and have two handsome boys, Eyan (3) and Caden (1 month). I am employed with the US Department of Justice as a United Stated Probation Officer for the Eastern District of Michigan and remain an "eastsider". Hello to the class of '89, looking forward to the 20 yr! Still trying to make one of the monthly gigs. Keep up the good work. God Bless!

## **Gary Spezia, Class of 1969:**

Great News! I am an alum of the OLD Notre Dame and I do not appreciate the New one, whatever its now called.

## **Steven L. Giannotta, Class of 1965:**

Great job with this! Thanks for keeping the memories alive especially for those of us who ended up on the other side of the country.

## **Matthew F. Gonzalez, Class of 1975:**

Thanks for the email. Good stuff!

## **James Iwanacki, Class of 1984:**

Thanks for the newsletter.

## **John M. Berra, Class of 1972**

Hello and thanks again for the alumni news emails. I enjoy keeping up with the ND news.



## **Dave Drwencke, Class of 2003:**

I had a quick question for you, do you know how Notre Dame Prep was able to get my information (home address, phone number, etc.). I would prefer not to be contacted by a school that I never attended (and in my opinion) shares only the name with my school. What bothers me is that they are attempting to solicit funds and pose as "my alumni association" when nothing could be further from the truth. I support this alumni association 110%, and as I am more capable, definitely plan on giving money and participating in more events. I look forward to the future editions of "The Leprechaun" and whatever else this organization/association has planned - I would certainly love to be as involved as I can. I love Notre Dame! Thanks for hearing-out this mini vent session! I appreciate everything you are doing.

*- I think I know how they got your contact information. Allegedly, the Marists guilted one of the former alumni directors into turning the alumni database over to them. If you are not interested in contact from them, simply ask to be removed from their database. - Jim Mandl '90*

## **Steve Dobek, Class of 1996:**

Thanks for the great issue. I really felt betrayed when I read the "Irish." I felt much better with the responses in the "Leprechaun." I knew the brotherhood of HWND would remain strong. When I received the issue of the "Irish" and their pleading to bring the two alumni associations together, I was on the verge of writing a response back to them (may still do it, time permitting). I am strongly opposed to the merging of alumni. It doesn't make sense in my book other than financial gain for them. What all graduates of HWND have is something special. The same great stories, no matter what year you graduated (never look out Vachon's window, Fr. Bryson's slushes, etc.). In my case it was walking the same halls that my dad and uncle once walked, having the same teachers, and being part of the same history. I don't have anything against ND Prep personally; I just feel zero connection. I am pretty sure their alumni feel the same way. Can you imagine a gathering of alumni from both schools? You would have half the room telling old stories about HWND and the other half talking about their days at NDP. Neither would really care about the other. Keep up the great work. While I am not an active member in alumni events, I still follow along from a distance and really look forward to updates like this one.

*- Many share your same feeling of betrayal. They felt it in 1994 when NDP opened and they continue to feel it today. I also felt personally betrayed upon reading "Irish." Most of it's content was taken from my newsletters. They stole our name and traditions, so I'm not sure why I'm surprised. Our HWND memories are all very special. We don't feel we need to be involved with a look-a-like in order to keep those memories and traditions alive. We are looking forward to having you get more involved with us when you can. Thanks! - Jim Mandl '90*