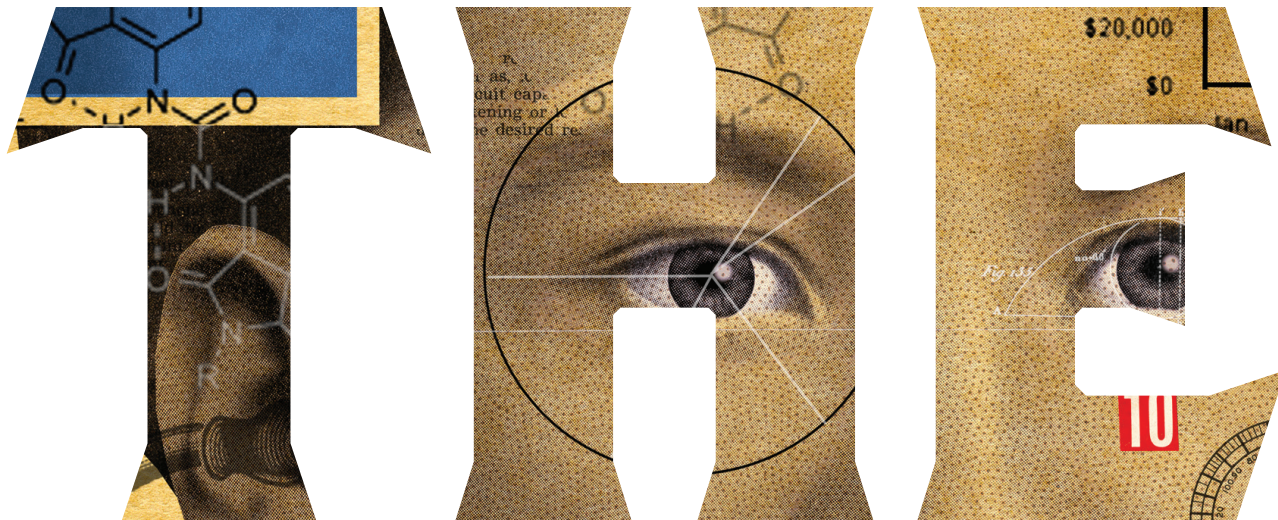


UNIVERSITAS

2020

NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY



THE BEST YOU > IMPRINT, THE SIGNATURE WOMEN'S COLLEGE EXPERIENCE > HEROES LEARN HERE



Illustration by David Plunkert

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT YAM



“At NDMU we partner and support the empowerment of all of our students and graduates to become the best versions of themselves.”

Changing the world for the better is the charge our great University has been leading since our foundresses, the SSNDs, first conceptualized Notre Dame as an institution for higher education.

At NDMU we partner and support the empowerment of all of our students and graduates to become the best versions of themselves. We found this call to service to be so very relevant not only in our NDMU experience but also in the world today. This founding principle is the backbone of the University’s new marketing brand. We know, not only as educators but as a community accomplishing great things, that being at the top of your game, giving your 100% with all heart and hustle, and being your best is what the world needs now.

In this issue of Universitas, we will introduce you to the new University marketing brand “The Best You.” Developing and launching this brand has been a two-year process and a goal of the strategic plan.

The challenges of 2020 have been life-altering. Not only has the global pandemic impacted every aspect of our lives, but our nation and communities have faced more issues related to our civil liberties, equality and overall justice. We offer a comprehensive look at populations of women left behind by the passage of the 19th Amendment and a call for re-evaluating our role in social justice. You will also read about how your University and our community responded and continues to respond to COVID-19.

IMPRINT, the University’s signature Women’s College experience, and it how aligns so well with the University’s commitment to advancing the education of women is featured in the following pages. You will also read to learn about NDMU’s national rankings and how we are recognized for the high ROI our graduates receive.

We thank you, our supporters and benefactors, for the fundraising success the University had in the fiscal year 2018–2019. However, I would be remiss if I did not offer a preview to next year’s issue of Universitas. There we will focus on those who faithfully supported us in the most recent fiscal year (2019-2020), where the University made history and raised record-breaking funds! My sincere gratitude to you for your generosity and support.

Please share the good news you learn from Universitas 2020 and continue to stay safe and be well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marylou Yam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Marylou Yam, Ph.D.

President

NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY MISSION

Notre Dame of Maryland University educates leaders to transform the world.

Embracing the vision of the founders, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the University promotes the advancement of women and provides a liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition.

Notre Dame challenges women and men to strive for intellectual and professional excellence, to build inclusive communities, to engage in service to others, and to promote social responsibility.

UNIVERSITAS

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this magazine do not necessarily
reflect the opinion of the editor
or the official policies of the University.

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NDMU's "The Best You" brand
illustration was created by David
Plunkert, an American artist based
out of Baltimore. His illustrations have
appeared in advertising campaigns
for Fortune 500 companies as well as
major newspapers, magazines and
recording labels.

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CONTENTS

4

Campus News

The University jumped ahead in its local and national rankings, had a record-breaking fundraising year and responded to a global pandemic.

8

The Best You

Notre Dame launches its new inspirational brand.

14

News from the Schools

18

IMPRINT

NDMU's distinctive Women's College experience.

20

Athletics

The Gators secured another CSAC championship and gained national recognition for diversity and inclusion.

22

The 19th Amendment

Looking back at the progress that was made in the 100 years since women earned the right to vote.

28

Class Notes

Check out the latest news from your fellow alums.

30

Heroes Learn Here

Students and alums on the frontlines in the battle against COVID-19.

32

Giving at Notre Dame

44

Final Word

Dr. Brandy Garlic asks the NDMU community an important question.



Amayah Charles '22 (2000-2019)

This issue of *Universitas* 2020 is dedicated to a dear daughter, sister, and friend to many.

NOTRE DAME RANKINGS

when compared to colleges and universities in Maryland and the nation

MARYLAND RANKINGS



#1

Best Private College/University in Maryland

Baltimore Style Magazine

#2

Best 10-year return on investment (ROI) in Maryland (private, non-profit colleges & universities)

Georgetown University Report on College ROI

#11

Top Performers on Social Mobility in Regional North and #1 in Maryland (Tied)

U.S. News & World Report

NATIONAL RANKING



#2

Best 10 year ROI for Women's Only Institutions

Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce

#20

Most Affordable Online Masters Degrees – Communications (tied nationally)

SR Education Group

#59

Best College

U.S. News & World Report – Regional Universities North

Staying Healthy and Safe During COVID-19

NDMU's Pandemic Preparedness Plan



How can we best protect ourselves, loved ones and each other? These questions were posed by all as the COVID-19 pandemic started to appear across the United States. At Notre Dame of Maryland University, leadership started preparing and educating the campus community well before cases impacted Maryland and our region.

The NDMU COVID-19 Task Force was established to develop a comprehensive plan of action to maintain the health and safety of the campus community. The response team was made up of members representing all facets and specialties of campus life, including leadership, academics, public safety, facilities, communications and risk management.

In March, students were sent home for remote instruction just prior to spring break when President Marylou Yam announced to the campus community that safety was paramount. All-remote instruction would remain in effect for the remainder of the spring semester. "By extending the cancellation of face-to-face classes, we are lowering all of our chances of being exposed to COVID-19," said President Yam in her email to the campus, citing the health and safety of the NDMU community as the top priority.

As faculty and staff quickly transitioned and launched their all-remote spring plans, the NDMU COVID-19 Task Force continued to work around the clock to build out the University's plans for sanitizing campus and the eventual return to campus. The comprehensive plan became the framework for the *NDMU Together: Keeping NDMU Healthy & Safe* return to campus campaign.

The *NDMU Together: Keeping NDMU Healthy & Safe* campaign was launched by the NDMU COVID-19 Task Force, preparing faculty, staff and students for a safe return to campus. *NDMU Together* laid out the plan for safety measures, expectations and standards that were adopted by the campus community. The more than 30 safeguards include a mask mandate inside all buildings, daily health screenings, surveillance testing, increased sanitation campus-wide and a strong emphasis on social distancing.

NDMU *Together* signage was installed at every building and campus entrance, establishing the protocols in place. Members of the campus community also signed a pledge that focused on personal responsibility and recognized that staying safe is a team effort:

"Being a part of the Notre Dame of Maryland University community means we each must take daily actions on and off campus to protect each other and our community. The only way we can be successful is if we all work together to keep our campus safe and healthy. I pledge to take responsibility for my own health, the protection of others and help keep the NDMU community safe from the spread of COVID-19 and other infections as identified and instructed by the University."

In the weeks leading up to the return of students to campus, COVID-19 still showed strong signs of growth locally and beyond. Despite NDMU's comprehensive and solid planning for a return to campus, all-remote instruction was the best way to ensure safety for the NDMU campus community.



The safety process and procedures remain in effect for residents, students, faculty, staff and visitors. Through *NDMU Together*, the University has continued to implement layers of protection including adding random weekly testing for the members who come to campus on a regular basis. NDMU's health and safety remain a top priority as the University navigates this global pandemic.

New Doctorate in Occupational Therapy Announced

NDMU kicked-off its new Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program this summer and began the student enrollment process. The new OTD program is designed as an entry-level pathway for those with a non-occupational therapy bachelor's degree to pursue a career in this field. Beyond the rigorous coursework, NDMU brings to the program the emphasis in compassionate care of patients and consideration for the whole person. This focus is the main pillar of all of NDMU's health care programs to develop effective leaders in health care.

"This program increases the University's reach to passionately impact people's lives in a sustainable, positive and long term-manner," says OTD Director Myrtle Evans, DrPH, MSPH, OTR/L. "Our doctors in occupational therapy will graduate and move on to directly helping their patients to live more functional and productive lives."

The full-time program is year-round and to be completed in three years.

Breaking Records: More than \$17.2 Million Raised

NDMU Goes Beyond Fundraising Goals for 2020

From July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, Notre Dame raised the highest dollar amount in gifts, grants and pledges ever in the institution's history. A total \$17,292,473 was raised, surpassing the previous record of \$8.45 million reached in 2016. "Thanks to the

extraordinary generosity of our campus community and the commitment our friends and donors have made to the University, this history-making year will influence Notre Dame to continue to go beyond and fulfill our mission," says President Marylou Yam. The funds

raised will support the University's planned capital projects, program advancements, annual fund and student scholarships.

The Honor Roll of Donors for fiscal year 2020 will appear in the next issue of Universitas.



Top Honors for NDMU President

President Marylou Yam was once again named to the Maryland Daily Record's prestigious Top 100 Women list for 2020. Maryland's Top 100 Women is an annual award and recognizes high-achieving Maryland women who are making an impact through their leadership, community service and mentoring. "It is an honor to be recognized by such a respected publication and group of women," says President Yam. "The work I do in leadership and service is inspired by the amazing outcomes I see when women are successful and make a positive difference."

This year's award winners also include NDMU alumnae and friends of the University:

- Janine L. Good, M.D. '81**
- Pat Bonner McElroy '82**
- Michelle Wright '94**
- Tenyo Pearl '02**
- Sherry Jones '04**
- Robin Thomas '07**
- Carol Vandervoort Goodman**
- Debbie Phelps**
- Lynn Selby**

NDMU's Day of Action #NDMUProud



In response to the shortage of face coverings that swept the nation, the NDMU Facemask Initiative was born. The initiative, developed by co-chairs AVP for Academic Affairs Suzan Harkness and Dean in the School of Pharmacy, Anne Lin, helped create hand-sewn facemasks for the NDMU campus community during its time of need.

Dean Anne Lin, Cecelia Crowell, AVP Suzan Harkness, Associate Professor Debby Naccarini, Amy Rohrs, Assistant Professor Marleen Thorton and Associate Professor Jennifer Kerr.

Degree Pickup Day

Celebrating accomplishments even during a global pandemic



Due to Maryland's restrictions and minding the health and safety of the Notre Dame of Maryland University community, in-person commencement was postponed and will be celebrated in spring of 2021. Although there was a virtual event celebrating its graduates, the University also wanted the pick-up of diplomas to be something special as well.

With strict safety protocols in place, graduates commemorated their accomplishments by participating in a drive-through campus celebration where they took socially distant photos with President Marylou Yam, picked up their

diplomas, and were welcomed into the Alumnae and Alumni Association.

Graduates and their families were welcomed to campus by faculty, staff and alums to help celebrate their accomplishments. The drive-through feature of the event ensured social distancing and limited face-to-face interactions could safely take place while also properly honoring the Class of 2020. Commencement 2021 is currently scheduled to recognize both the Class of 2020 and 2021 in the combined celebration.

The Class of 2020 celebrated 100 Nights on February 7 in Fourier Hall. The time-honored tradition, celebrated annually, signifies the countdown to Commencement.



one twenty-five CELEBRATING 125 YEARS NDMU



NDMU kicked off its 125th anniversary celebration with an official mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Baltimore William E. Lori in the University's Marikle Chapel. The institution's barrier-breaking history, storied traditions, bright future and strong mission of educating leaders to transform the world were all on display as alumnae, alumni, students, faculty, staff, community leaders and friends of University attended events and gatherings throughout the year both in-person and virtually.

The 125th anniversary concludes in early 2021.





NDMU's New Inspirational Brand

THE BEST YOU

The best teachers, the best health care professionals, the best artists, the best scientists, the best business professionals... THE BEST YOU!

Notre Dame of Maryland University has launched new branding for the University with inspiring words for students and potential students: "The World Needs the Best You."

This summer, the University began its official launch of "The Best You;" new banners along North Charles

Street and a refreshed website send an important message of vitality and welcome. Notre Dame is recruiting new students for all programs—Women's College, College of Adult Undergraduate Students (formerly the Weekend College), Graduate Studies and The School of Pharmacy.

Like all good branding, this platform rests on a significant foundation to ensure authenticity. The branding initiative was part of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan "Inspired by Tradition: The Path to Transformation," specifically in support of institutional effectiveness and enrollment growth goals.

NDMU conducted original research, agreed upon a brand platform and tested creative concepts.

President Marylou Yam explains: "As an institution, we have to know ourselves. The research helps us to know who we are and how we are perceived."

At Notre Dame, branding is rooted in mission. Yam describes the outreach process that is integral to gaining input from students and potential students: "Here's our mission, here's what we believe in, but we want to hear what you need, what's helpful to you."

Alumnae/i were also an important part of the process. Yam says she is thankful to all of the alums who participated in the research and offered their time and perspective. Feedback from alums about how Notre Dame helped to shape their lives, both personally and professionally, is key in developing strong and accurate branding.

Although many people will be most aware of the new visuals and marketing materials, the branding initiative was a multi-year effort that now informs decision-making across the University.



RESEARCH

Listening to Students, Alumnae/i, Parents, Faculty and Staff

The first step of the branding initiative was gathering information from key constituents about their perceptions of Notre Dame of Maryland University.

The University hired SimpsonScarborough, a leading higher education marketing, branding and research firm located in Alexandria, Virginia.

SimpsonScarborough zeroed in on overall awareness of the University, comparison to peer schools, key brand associations, distinctiveness, appealing messaging and negative perceptions. They also measured levels of alumnae/i pride and loyalty.

Dr. Yam stressed the need for significant input from a range of constituents. She says "It was important to us...to give voice to those who have love for the university so that they all would be represented. Those audiences that know us really well [include] students, alums, faculty and staff, community members."

It was also important to reach out to prospective students and, in the case of traditional undergraduates, their parents.

A branding initiative task force of staff and faculty members worked with SimpsonScarborough throughout the process, identifying constituent groups, fine tuning questionnaires, answering questions and helping to facilitate the firm's work.

Maricka Oglesby, director of Notre Dame's Women's Leadership Institute of Baltimore, served on that group. She says, "this initiative brought together time, effort, thought leadership--real consideration for who we are as an institution and how we want to portray ourselves."

The firm brought not only its expertise but also its objectivity to ensure a valuable process. The consultants started by reviewing existing branding, marketing and communication efforts. Then, there were two rounds of online surveys: the first to gather data and the second to test messaging and creative approaches to convey the brand.

The resulting data was shared with the task force, the Board of Trustees and faculty/staff.

Yam remarks "The research confirmed for us that our stakeholders, all of them, are interested in the empowerment of our students to be successful." All internal constituents rated the University highly for empowering students to play a key role in the world today.

Current students value diversity, faculty relationships, women's issues, and openness to all faiths. According to Yam, "It is refreshingly positive when you get affirmation.... that what constituents really want is something that the University is delivering on, is applying, is doing well." Other identified

strengths of Notre Dame include student support and hands-on learning.

Prospective students are looking for colleges with strong outcomes, hands-on learning, rigorous academics, high quality faculty and diversity, the research found. Potential students for graduate programs and adult programs are most interested in flexibility and strong faculty.

Prospective students in all programs indicate that they want a school that challenges them to be their best selves.

Survey respondents indicated the top NDMU academic programs as education, nursing (including RN to BSN) and pharmacy. External audiences were not as aware of specific programs at the University. Traditional undergraduate students understood the University to be for women, while adult students think of NDMU as a university for both female and male students.

Traditional undergraduate students, current and potential, reported that they are drawn to a community that has a passion for helping others in need. Adult students are attracted to a community that expects respect for self and others. Respect for and celebration of diverse opinions was either ranked highly or as the top consideration across all student audiences.

CORE MESSAGING FOR NOTRE DAME

We've never followed the status quo. From our expert and intimately engaged faculty to our open-minded philosophy and diverse community, our campus is like no other – not by accident, but by design.

In 1895, our founders built an institution to open doors for women and knock barriers down – and we've been knocking them down since. As society has evolved, so has Notre Dame of Maryland University. Founded on truth and justice, on faith and reason, we continue to press the issues and push for progress – providing a foundational education for all who seek to change their world.

Ours is a campus culture where women and men discover the inspiration, gain the wisdom, and build the confidence to become who they want to become. One where you write the origin story for the rest of your life. Where the company you keep is also a community that carries you forward. Where all voices are welcome. All perspectives are valued. All programs provide a firm foundation in the arts, the sciences, and the deeper question of who you are and what you want to achieve.

Because if you're going to create a better version of the world, you'll need to become the best version of yourself. That's always been our founding principle.



STRATEGY Building a Brand Platform

According to ResearchGate, a “brand” is “a set of tangible and intangible attributes designed to create awareness and identity, and to build the reputation of a product, service, person, place or organization.”

Dr. Heather Carpenter, associate professor and director of the nonprofit management program at Notre Dame, describes the branding process as determining “distinguishing characteristics that set an organization apart from its competitors.”

The Notre Dame research results helped to identify and clearly articulate which attributes make up the brand, can be communicated proudly and consistently, and will help attract students who will be successful at the University.

SimpsonScarborough presented a “brand platform” featuring several different ways to conceptualize NDMU branding.

The “brand essence” of the University is described as: Raising the world to a higher standard by empowering individuals to make exceptional impacts.

“It was amazing when the final platform was refined and completed because the words, the imagery, the feeling and the spirit was right on point with what the Notre Dame people know and love,” says Christian Kendzierski, associate vice president of communications and advancement marketing, who was charged with leading the primary phases of the branding initiative.

The three pillars, strengths of NDMU that support this brand essence, include “passionately impacting others; accepting and supporting all; and transforming individuals.”

Marketers articulate a brand personality to describe organizations as if they had human characteristics that everyone can relate to. The research clarified the University's personality as accepting, compassionate, confident, determined and diverse.

Finally, the brand platform outlines a “foundation”—facts about the University which are critical to the mission. These are characteristics which may not translate to critical marketing messages, but are important parts of the overall package:

- ▶ Comprehensive liberal arts university with a strong sciences core and nationally recognized programs for women and men
- ▶ School Sisters of Notre Dame affiliation
- ▶ Best of both world's location – Baltimore (opportunities for big-city internships, culture and socialization/recreation at the same time on a green acre campus in a suburban setting)
- ▶ Strong return on investment (ROI)
- ▶ Successful alumni

The final stage of research tested messaging and visuals to help to convey that brand platform.

Based on that feedback, SimpsonScarborough presented a message that directly addresses students and potential students: The World Needs the Best You.

Dr. Yam was pleased, saying, “The idea of being your best self resonated so well with our mission.”

The approved brand platform was the launch pad for new visuals and messaging to represent the Notre Dame brand to the community.

DESIGN

Creating a Campaign to Capture Attention and Imagination

When Scott Briell came on board as vice president for enrollment management and marketing in September 2019, he knew that translating the new brand platform into recruitment efforts would be a key undertaking in his first year. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 that resulted in few students, faculty and staff on campus, NDMU launched “The Best You” branding, (a shortened version of “The World Needs the Best You”) in late August.

The Best You

Briell was pleased with the clarity offered by the research and branding platform, and he brought in Robert Rytter, the principal at Jensen Design, to work with his team to develop new marketing materials. Not only had Rytter worked with Notre Dame on a logo project in 2000, but his wife is a proud alumna. Rytter has worked with institutions across the country, but as a local resident, he was particularly familiar with the competitive environment in the Baltimore area.

Briell feels it’s important to let students and others tell the story of the University, so marketing efforts are largely driven by testimonials in video, print and on the website.

In addition, “we wanted to do something to turn heads,” Briell says. He wanted to make sure that visuals did not conform to the standard look of so many universities. The concept: use illustrations as part of the narrative.

The illustrations are featured on the covers of the principle marketing pieces for potential students, but perhaps get the most exposure on light pole banners on Charles Street and throughout campus.

There are two versions of the artwork—one featuring a young woman’s face (on the cover of this magazine) and the other a young man, both in a complex environment. Rytter explains that the illustrations reflect the liberal arts foundation of the University. The abstract ideas pictured invite analysis appropriate to an academic institution. Banners also feature “The Best You” tagline and smaller icons of student life ranging from a soccer ball to a stethoscope.

Nationally acclaimed artist David Plunkert of Spur Design in Baltimore created the illustrations in his distinctive style. His work has appeared on the covers of *The Atlantic* and *New Yorker* magazines.

The artwork features four pillars representing IMPRINT, the distinctive Women’s College experience based on the University’s research study on Women’s Education in the 21st Century. (see related story, page 16) IMPRINT focuses on personal leadership; mentorship and sponsorship; global awareness-diversity and inclusion; and teamwork and communication.

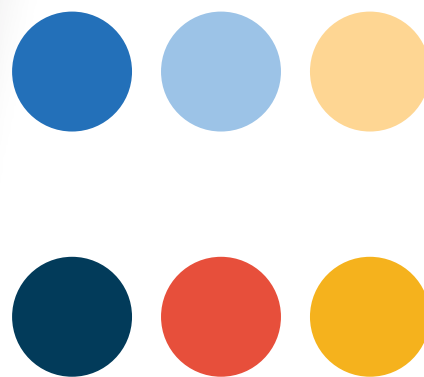
The viewbook (pictured left, below) for the Women’s College, a central publication for undergraduate student recruitment, features the artwork with the woman’s face and represents the small and powerful nature of the University—it’s 80 pages long and about the size of a paperback book.

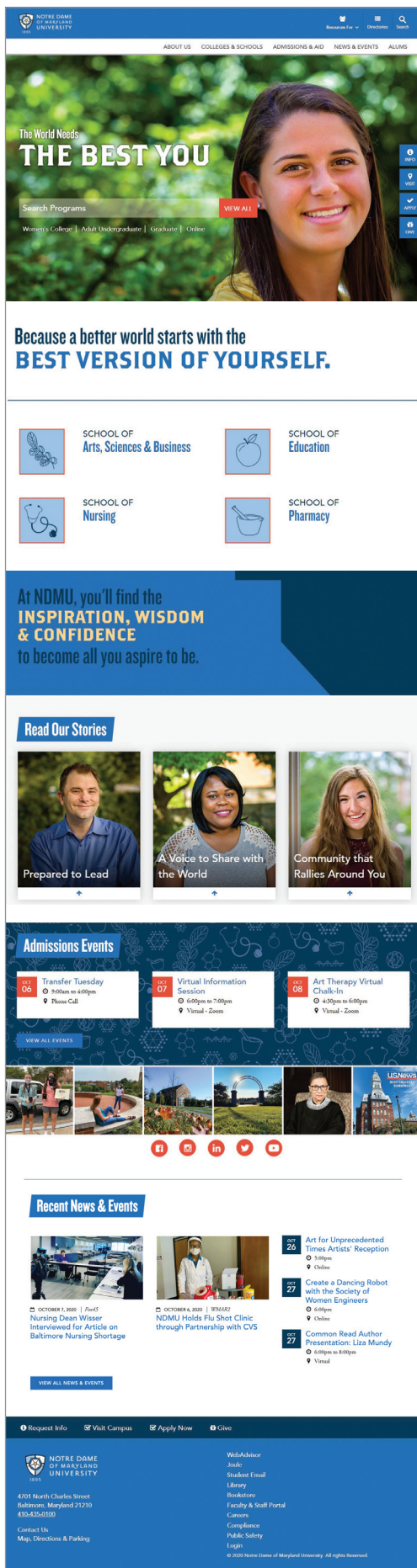
Adult and Graduate Studies materials feature the male student face on the cover. Messaging begins with “You know what you want” to appeal to these students’ needs for flexibility and professional advancement.

The University introduced and expanded its official colors of blue, white and yellow to include navy blue, red and gold. (See color palette below). The addition of the vibrant colors helps the University to stand out especially at admissions events and college fairs.



New Brand Palette





The website has been updated to reflect the new branding. Mallory Cerda, director of marketing, notes that there are two phases of the refresh. Phase I replaced the video images with a single image of a student face, which changes each time the page is refreshed. The headline: “The World Needs the Best You.” The home page content has been overhauled, and there is new copy in every major section to reflect the branding.

Cerda described the [NDM.EDU](https://www.ndm.edu) website as “the major vehicle for the University to tell its story.” Visitors to the site are most often looking for academic information, so there is a new search bar with links to each program.

Phase II will feature additional navigation improvements to “help improve the user experience for everyone,” she says.

The final marketing tool unveiled in late August is significant video footage to be edited and shared for targeted purposes. Students, President Yam and other administrators and staff members tell the story of Notre Dame.

Recent alumnae/i were interviewed in their homes or workplaces, demonstrating “life after Notre Dame.” Briell says it’s important to show “outcomes;” students want to see that graduates are not only making a living, but also making an impact on the world.

When classes switched to remote learning in early March, the ability to video classroom interaction and indoor

facilities was lost. Instead, filming was done primarily outside with socially distanced, individual interviews. According to Briell, more footage will continue to be added to the arsenal.

There is a slight change to the University logo which was adopted as College of Notre Dame of Maryland became Notre Dame of Maryland University in 2011. To emphasize the history and longevity of the institution, “1895,” the year of its founding, has been added.

Branding the University

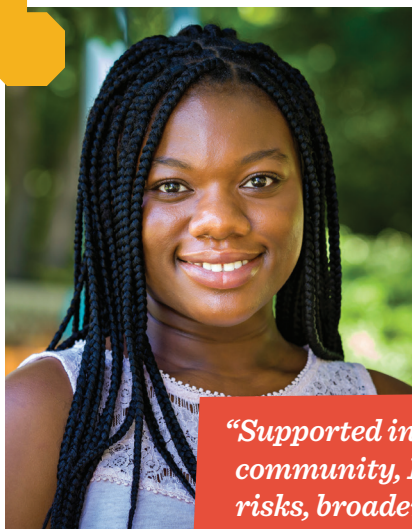
Dr. Yam emphasizes that one of the strengths of the branding is that it is comprehensive, working across the whole University.

The research results and platform continue to inform decision-making.

The data and brand platform are touchstones to help evaluate undertakings throughout the University, something, Yam says, “we can refer to, to ask ourselves: is this the work that we are doing? Is this matching up with our brand platform, matching up with our mission?”

Effectively branding an institution requires ongoing effort; the University will likely revisit the branding initiative in another three to five years.

Yam notes “It’s a great process. It gives a comprehensive picture that then can inform us. It’s sort of that ‘reality check.’ It’s also a journey of discovery.”



“Supported in every way by this caring community, I am confidently taking risks, broadening my perspective, and becoming my best self.”

Dr. Brenda Jews Completes Tenure as Chair of the Board

Joins WLIB Advisory Board



Dr. Brenda Jews completed her tenure as chair of the NDMU Board of Directors after nearly 10 years of total of service to the University. She was appointed to the board in 2011, and served as vice chair for four years prior to being appointed chair in 2017.

"Working with her as our board chair, Dr. Jews was a valuable and strategic thought partner. On behalf of the entire community, we are very grateful to Brenda and for her unbounded gifts of time, talent and treasure," said President Marylou Yam.

A respected leader and passionate advocate for higher education, Dr. Jews served on the board during transformational times. In 2011, Notre Dame attained university status with the addition of several graduate-level programs including Education, Leadership and Management, Nursing Administration, and Pharmacy.

"During my time on the board, one of the challenges I am most proud to have worked through was the shift to university status and sharing with the outside world all Notre Dame has to offer in the capacity of a university. It was an opportunity to see ourselves differently," shared Dr. Jews.

A graduate of Yale University, Dr. Jews received her education doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and her masters of education from the University of Virginia. She has served as assistant head of school for Maret School in D.C., one of the nation's top independent schools, and as the assistant director of admissions for Wellesley College in

Massachusetts, one of the country's top women's colleges.

NDMU embarked on a strategic plan during her tenure as board chair.

"As board chair, it was an honor to work with Marylou (NDMU President Dr. Marylou Yam) as she improved the University's positioning financially, academically, and philanthropically with an appropriately aggressive, lofty and optimistic strategic plan," adds Jews. "We were able to work through each component of the plan and meet or exceed a large percentage of it."

Dr. Jews shared that it was inspiring to set and meet goals in partnership with change leaders and innovators. She believes NDMU's greatest opportunity is marketing and branding the institution so that more students know the power and social mobility an NDMU degree offers.

Fortunately, NDMU is able to retain Dr. Jews's leadership and passion as she transitions to serving on the University's Women's Leadership Institute of Baltimore (WLIB) board.

WLIB Director Maricka Oglesby says, "As a past board chair for

New Board of Trustees Members 2020

Kathleen Beres '70
Patrick Cimerola
Cathryn Curia '69
Tom Galloway
Amanda Rumsey-Ballard '08
Vernon Wright

NDMU, Brenda's depth of experience, knowledge and context are key to poise NDMU and WLIB to advance gender equity in very meaningful ways."

Through innovative and responsive programming, WLIB provides enriching opportunities for the greater Baltimore community while serving as an engaging resource for NDMU students, faculty, staff and alumnae. The mission of WLIB is founded upon recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding women while curating workshops for leadership development and convening discussions on issues of gender equality. The institute offers programming pertinent to the advancement of women, promoting dialogue and inspiring action.



Pictured upper left: Debbie Phelps, Maricka Oglesby, Brenda Jews, Denise Koch, Tere Geckle & President Marylou Yam

SCHOOL OF ARTS, SCIENCES & BUSINESS



Celebrating NDMU's Choir

The NDMU Choir, directed by Leah Inger, performed throughout the year including a Notre Dame Day appearance and their Holiday Choir Concert. In the spring, they found ways to perform remotely. They closed out the academic year, performing virtually for the Women's College Senior Celebration.

"I loved being in choir at NDMU because everyone's individual personalities added to the music. Leah did a great job of incorporating our individual uniqueness with traditional choir sounds. We had singers of all levels and we all supported and learned from each other which made my experience that much more special. I was the only senior this year and all of the members, Leah and the music department chair, Anne Laro, gave me a send off that perfectly capped my college music career."

—Isa Carunungan '20
(Isa, pictured above, right)

Student Awarded Prestigious Fellowship

Jolissee Gray '23 will represent Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) as the University's first-ever recipient of the Newman Civic Fellowship. A passionate student leader, Jolissee is highly invested in advancing the voices and stories of those of Latin American descent.

"My on-campus participation at NDMU has led to opportunities to speak about issues and policies around the world with official ambassadors and consulates," said Jolissee. "Through the Newman Civic Fellowship, I seek the tools to further develop my global advocacy work for Latin America and continue my service to this community I call family."

Jolissee, a Morrissy Honors student, studies international relations and political science as a double major and dedicates much of her time to NDMU's United Nations Club and Model Organization of American

States (MOAS). The University's United Nation's NGO status allows for Jolissee to participate and get hands-on experience in global affairs at the UN.

"Ms. Gray approaches social issues through community-based and community-centered platforms as evidenced through her documentary work highlighting those of Latin American descent and issues directly affecting their communities," said President Marylou Yam.

The Newman Civic Fellowship, a yearlong program, provides students with a variety of learning and networking opportunities that emphasize personal, professional and civic growth. The students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities locally, nationally and internationally.



Visiting Ambassador

On October 30, the University welcomed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to the United States of America, H.E. Hunaina Sultan Al Mughairy for the 5th Annual Visiting Ambassador Program.

Ambassador Al Mughairy is an economist, who obtained a B.A. in business and economics from the High Polytechnical Institute in Cairo and a master's degree from the New York University, New York. Her

Excellency was the first Arab woman appointed to serve as ambassador to the U.S. She connected with students, giving a lively speech, and was candid during the open discussion.

As part of the Joan Develin Coley Visiting Ambassador Program, the University invites a speaker to campus each year for discussions on politics, ethics, international affairs, women's rights, service abroad and other topics related to global issues.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Teacher of the Year



Dr. Christa De Kleine, TESOL program coordinator, was named 2020 Teacher of the Year for Adult/Higher Education by Maryland TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). Dr. De Kleine has taught at NDMU for more than 20 years, developing NDMU's TESOL Program in 2000.

According to Maryland TESOL, Dr. De Kleine was nominated for her "inspiring leadership, mentoring of students in the MA TESOL program, knowledge and passion for the field, and commitment to professional development."

An immigrant with a strong sense of social justice, Dr. De Kleine believes ESOL – English for Speakers of Other Languages – is critical to ensuring immigrant students have a voice to advocate for themselves and their families as well as a solid foundation so that they can learn, grow and adapt to life in the U.S.

"For immigrant students, language is the foundation for learning. For refugees who have had long periods of interruption in education, literacy is already low so a lack of language compounds the challenges to learning. For other immigrants who

had a strong education in their home country, language is an easier barrier to overcome," shares Dr. De Kleine.

Since creating the TESOL program for NDMU 20 years ago, De Kleine has seen a shift in focus in education to acknowledge the needs of non-English speaking students. De Kleine believes there are two qualities a good ESOL teacher should have: an understanding of the needs of children K-12 and a good understanding of a second language.

Dr. De Kleine was nominated for the Maryland TESOL 2020 Teacher of the Year Award by a former NDMU TESOL student.

Dean of Education Retires



Gary Thrift, dean of the School of Education, retired after serving at NDMU in a number of roles for 12 years.

"The success of the education program today is attributed to Sister Sharon who laid the foundation of the program. As Notre Dame has evolved into a university in recent years, its education program is particularly unique for two reasons. It has an incredibly strong faculty grounded in K-12 experience and produces strong

emerging young educators grounded in research," states Thrift.

In the past 40 years, he has seen a shift in the workforce. Teachers today have different skill sets as many are entering the field as career changers, bringing with them passion, maturity, new perspectives, and, often, insights that come from experience as parents of young students.

With many young teachers entering the workforce out of college, teaching is no longer a career path, but a springboard for another career. As the workforce changes, NDMU has had to adjust how it educates teachers, focusing more on teaching the whole child, how to be attuned to the child's needs aside from the content they are learning, and more awareness for teaching a diverse population of students.

Dr. Thrift states that a few of his proudest accomplishments as dean of education include diversifying faculty, providing more professional development, growing the Ph.D. program, and expanding Notre

Dame's representation at prestigious education conferences.

"In our role as faculty and staff, we can't just talk. If we aren't walking the walk, we aren't making a difference. I walked the walk," Thrift proudly shared.



Kathryn Doherty, Ed.D., was named the new dean of the School of Education. Dr. Doherty previously served as the associate provost and executive director for the Robert Welch Center for Graduate and Professional Studies at Goucher College and as an associate vice president at NDMU.

Faculty Member Named Editor of Popular Nursing Magazine



Dr. Sabita Persaud, NDMU's associate dean of nursing, was named the editor of *The Maryland Nurse*, a peer-reviewed journal. The journal is a publication of the Maryland Nurses Association, a state-wide non-profit, professional

membership organization for registered nurses in Maryland that provides direction and a voice for the profession of nursing in Maryland.

"The publication is one way in the state to give a voice to the nurses in Maryland, connect with what they are thinking, seeing and experiencing that is specific to their work here in Maryland," shared Persaud.

Dr. Persaud's vision for the publication is to provide more relevant content, soliciting more stories of the nurses and sharing their experiences working in the field. Recently, she leveraged the journal to highlight the tremendous work of the nurses working through COVID-19 to propel the profession and elevate the perception of a nurse's role in healthcare.

According to Persaud, nurses receive just 2% of health care-related media coverage, yet nurses outnumber doctors 8 to 1. Nurses are not considered experts, and she aims to showcase the expertise of nurses and leverage COVID-19 to amplify the voices of nurses in Maryland.

In developing new sections of the publication, she intends to further amplify the voices of nurses and build awareness for the diversity of the profession.

"I am intentionally working to highlight all the faces of nursing – diversity across the state, not just by gender and culture, but also geography. Nursing in urban environments can be very different than nursing in rural areas. The *Maryland Nurse* represents all nurses," shares Persaud.

NDMU Expands Robust Nursing Program



Aiming to fill a dire shortage of nurses throughout the state, NDMU is adding to an already robust program with two ways to earn an accelerated bachelor's degree in this high-demand profession.

The accelerated second degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSBN) is a 15-month program that enables students to hone their skills through either on-campus coursework or an interactive, e-learning environment in partnership with Orbis Education Services.

In both programs, students will benefit from comprehensive coursework, state-of-the-art simulations, rigorous preparation for the NCLEX-RN exam and hands-on experience in delivering real-world, patient-centered care through clinical rotations at top Baltimore-area hospitals.

"The programs are a boon for students and our state, which is in dire need of highly trained, caring nurses who want to transform their communities and the world," said Dr. Kathleen Wisser, dean of the University's School of Nursing.

A report released by the Maryland Hospital Association last year showed that the nursing shortage in the state is growing. In the report, the association noted that the vacancy rate for nursing positions increased to 13% in 2006 from 10.3% the previous year. Additionally, to meet the current demand, hospitals would need to hire an additional 2,340 nurses and could face a shortfall of 10,000 nurses in the next 10 years.

"The ABSBN program will enable Notre Dame of Maryland University to work hand in hand with local health providers to plan for their workforce needs and then deliver a pipeline of talented, work-ready nurses," said Daniel Briggs, founder and CEO of Orbis Education Services.



Dean Lin Adds Leadership Roles



Dean Anne Lin from NDMU's School of Pharmacy added new leadership roles, continuing to grow her impact in the pharmacist community.

In June, Lin was elected to the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Task Force on Structural Racism in Pharmacy. The APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States that highlights the needs for both pharmacists and their patients.

Lin joins 10 APhA colleagues from across the nation to help put an end to structural racism within the pharmacy community. In addressing this issue, the task forces will develop strategies that can be implemented for both the short and long-terms to protect the marginalized and end discrimination within the pharmacist communities and the communities they serve.

Lin was also recently elected president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). The AACP is also a national pharmacy organization that focuses on "advancing pharmacy education, research, scholarship, practice and service to improve societal health." The charge of the Board of Directors is to develop policy and programs, and address other operational needs, for the AACP and its members.

Masks4Hope

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) is dedicated to serving underserved populations and addressing the health issues that are prevalent in the community. In response to the growing need for facemasks during the pandemic, the executive board decided to do a facemask drive to help the homeless population in the Baltimore area. The chapter reached out to alumni, students, faculty, pharmacists and other SNPhA chapters to collect facemasks and monetary donations. In two weeks, SNPhA collected 2,005 masks, donating them all to Our Daily Bread in Baltimore City in June.



Partnership Established with Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

A diverse workforce is important to ensure research in health issues that affect different races, ethnicities and cultures, and to provide people of all backgrounds with health care providers they can trust.

A new partnership between School of Pharmacy and Universidad del Sagrado Corazón in Puerto Rico has created a path for Hispanic students to strengthen the talent pipeline and narrow the gap in representation of Hispanics in health careers. This affiliation provides

high school-aged Latinos interested in a career in pharmacy to participate in an accelerated program that results in earning two degrees – B.S. and PharmD – in seven years instead of eight, saving money and jump-starting their careers.

According to the Pew Research Center, Hispanics comprise just 7% of all STEM workers in the U.S. And among employed adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, Hispanics represent just 6% of the STEM workforce. In the pharmacy industry,

research has found the gap even wider with just 5.4% of the pharmacy workforce comprised of Hispanics.

Through this visionary new partnership, students will complete three years of prerequisites in Puerto Rico before transferring to NDMU. Upon acceptance to NDMU, students will spend four years in the doctoral program, eventually earning their PharmD. After their first year in the program at NDMU, students will earn their B.S. degree from Universidad del Sagrado Corazon.

IMPRINT

NDMU'S DISTINCTIVE EDGE IN EDUCATING WOMEN



"I want to be in a position to have a voice and to speak for people who cannot speak for themselves. And I want to do that for an organization that has a lasting social impact," said Gabrielle Taganas, a Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) sophomore who is pursuing dual degrees in international business and business administration. "That's why I want to serve in the United States Foreign Service."

"I am a double major but it's still not everything, or even enough, to accomplish my goals," she added. "As a young woman, I also need to supply myself with the skills and other resources that are developed outside of the classroom."

Taganas' remarks correspond with the key findings of the Educating Women of the 21st Century Task Force established by NDMU President Marylou Yam in January 2016 to identify the knowledge, skills and values women need to thrive in today's world. Consisting of faculty and student life staff, as well as highly successful professional women in fields ranging from business and journalism to health care and government, the Task Force performed in-depth research and conducted a literature review of related readings.

"For many decades, Notre Dame's mission has been to transform women into leaders who change the world. Since the world is ever-changing, we need to periodically assess how best to deliver on that mission in our Women's College," said President Yam. "It is important for us to communicate and showcase the distinctive difference that our Women's College education provides because it has such an impact on our students and ultimately their communities, cities and the world."

The Task Force's efforts culminated in a research report concluding that women, similarly to men, benefit from developing leadership knowledge and skills that complement the knowledge they gain in their major areas of study. However, the gender roles, life-stage issues and workplace challenges of today's women make the following skills particularly important to their life success:

- ▶ Understanding and valuing diversity through adopting a global mindset;
- ▶ Honing strategic thinking, negotiation and communication skills through problem-based teamwork;
- ▶ Striking a work/life balance by nurturing one's spiritual and physical development;
- ▶ Forming relationships with mentors who can guide and encourage through both failures and success;
- ▶ Recognizing and being equipped with change strategies to identify gender bias and working to affect change in these cultures, and
- ▶ Building confidence, courage and skills necessary to effect change leadership, particularly regarding gender injustice.

"Women today want to be successful in all aspect of their lives, including but not limited to their careers," said (Retired) Rear Admiral Pamela A. Schweitzer, the first woman appointed chief pharmacist officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, who served as chairperson of the Educating Women of the 21st Century Task Force. "Our efforts clarified the enhancements Notre Dame can make to its overall offering to put each undergraduate student in her best position to succeed."

Based on the research report, the University established a comprehensive educational experience for the Women's College that includes both curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities that will enable each student to cultivate the knowledge, skills and values to be successful in life. Dubbed IMPRINT, the experience is designed to cultivate strong leaders who can make a positive impact in the world based on four key pillars:



1 PERSONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Each Women's College student crafts a personal mission statement reflecting her work-life ambitions, while subsequently developing the ethical, spiritual and physical attributes she needs to fulfill them.

2 BUILDING A NETWORK OF MENTORS & ADVOCATES

In addition to peer-to-peer and mentor-mentee relationships, Women's College students learn the value of establishing long-term relationships with sponsors—high-level advocates who leverage their influence to advocate or recommend up-and-coming professionals for promotions and stretch assignments within organizations or professional disciplines.

3 A GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Each Women's College student grows in her appreciation for the value of diversity and inclusion—a prime element of Notre Dame of Maryland University's mission—by adopting a global mindset and building inclusive communities.

4 TEAMWORK & COMMUNICATIONS COMPETENCIES

Women's College students sharpen their strategic thinking, negotiation, interpersonal skills and communication competencies through collaborative, real-world problem solving.



The entirety of a student's four-year experience, including academics, athletics, campus activities and events, will adhere to these pillars. In addition to earning an NDMU degree, graduates will develop the knowledge, skills and values, while honing the confidence and courage, to achieve career and life success.

"IMPRINT recognizes that each of our students is a whole person whose success in life is tied to the skills and value she develops, not simply the knowledge she acquires," said Kate Bossert, an associate professor for English and a member of the Educating Women of the 21st Century Task Force. "If you approach your life more holistically, you'll be more successful and more happy."

Brandy Garlic, the associate vice president for student life, underscored the importance of co-curricular programs in the holistic development of each student: "As much time as our students spend in the classroom, they spend even more outside of it engaged in a variety of activities that are critical to their undergraduate experience," she said. "IMPRINT's four pillars give these activities even greater purpose."

The cornerstone of IMPRINT is a personal mission statement that each Women's College student authors in the first semester of her freshman year. An efficient distillation of a student's priorities in various aspects of her life, the exercise proves highly valuable in shaping key decisions in college and beyond.

"The personal mission statement helps each woman to better understand what's important to her," said Admiral Schweitzer. "There is no shortage of bright, shiny objects that we encounter in life and knowing what's most important enables us to determine which of these objects is of true value."

In addition, the University's Women's Leadership Institute of Baltimore and

M. Lee Rice Institute for Global Leadership & Diversity provide opportunities for leadership growth. For example, the Global Leadership Institute on campus which houses our United Nations NGO status hosts visits to the United Nations and provides students the opportunity to learn about international issues on a real-life global stage.

Another distinguishing characteristic of IMPRINT is the personal network of supporters that each student develops. While peer-to-peer and mentor-mentee relationships are not uncommon to an undergraduate education, NDMU also offers a significant focus on obtaining sponsorship. Alexandra Chaillou, associate professor of mathematics who serves as IMPRINT co-chair, says "Our students will be equipped with the tools for searching for, identifying and engaging with an accomplished professional who will play an active role in advancing the career of a young professional. This a rare feature that will benefit graduates of the Women's College years after they graduate."

The level of supporters a good leader requires can often change during one's educational, personal and career pathways. "At NDMU, we engage immediately and our students enter a community of support that is designed to enable them to find voice and practice leadership skills," said President Yam. "A leader benefits from a support circle, especially one that reflects a diversity of perspectives and experiences."

When asked how IMPRINT will help her achieve her goal of joining the United States Foreign Service, Taganas responded: "As a first-generation immigrant, I didn't come to Notre Dame with a network of supporters beyond my family, but I'll certainly leave with one. I'll also have the added resources and determination to get there."

"I want to make a positive impact on the world, and IMPRINT will enable me to do that," she added.

GATORS ARE #1

Championship Title Remains with the Gators

Gators volleyball program earned its second consecutive Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Championship title in fall 2019. After securing the University's first CSAC Championship in the 2018–2019 season, the volleyball team went back-to-back defeating the Cedar Crest College Falcons in front of a home crowd, being crowned the 2019–2020 champions.

The Gators in their championship season also had six student-athletes earn postseason honors, including sophomore Alyssa Kerns, who was named the CSAC Player of the Year and freshman Ivanella Figuora who was named the CSAC Defensive Player of the Year. The team also took home the CSAC 3D Award for the third time in program history. Student-athletes across the conference vote for the team they believe deserves this distinction.

Unfortunately, due to the impact the COVID-19 pandemic took on spring

sports nationwide, NDMU lacrosse did not get the opportunity to defend their championship in the 2020 season. The CSAC spring schedules faced early game postponements throughout March, but as universities across the nation transitioned to remote learning, all spring sports for the CSAC were eventually canceled.

The 2019–2020 student-athletes did get the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments both virtually and in-person. At the conclusion of the school year, the Athletics Department held a virtual awards ceremony to announce both team and departmental award winners. In late September, the department also held a drive-through awards celebration, bringing student-athletes back to campus to be issued their 2019–2020 awards including the 2019 lacrosse championship team rings.





Gators are Nominated for a National Award #GoGators

The NCAA LGBTQ working group created an initiative named OneTeam, which promotes the inclusion of all genders, races and sexualities. "Initiated by the Division III LGBTQ Working Group, the awards program was unveiled during the LGBTQ and Allies Reception at the 2019 NCAA Convention," said the NCAA. Nominations were submitted for three new awards that support the OneTeam Program: LGBTQ Student-Athlete of the Year Award, LGBTQ Administrator/Coach/Staff of the Year Award and LGBTQ Athletics Department/Conference of the Year Award.

Among the nominees for inaugural Athletics Department/Conference of the Year award, is NDMU. This award honors an athletic department or conference that has demonstrated proactive efforts to create and sustain an LGBTQ-inclusive culture. This nomination stems from the dedication from NDMU student-athletes, coaches, and administrators that established support of the OneTeam Program throughout the 2019–20 seasons. In spring 2019, the softball and lacrosse programs kicked off their OneTeam initiatives by holding the first of many OneTeam games. The teams hung OneTeam banners, decorations and signs around the field, while student-athletes wore ribbons and temporary tattoos in support.

Helping to bring the OneTeam initiative to campus was senior Samantha Kastner '19. Kastner was a member of the NCAA Division III National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), where she was able to learn about the inner workings

of the program and the strong meaning it held. This inspired her to bring back the powerful initiative to NDMU on a grander scale.

To start the new academic year in 2019, the Notre Dame of Maryland University Department of Athletics celebrated its first OneTeam Week, which was a week dedicated to the Division III OneTeam program.

NDMU's Director of Athletics and Wellness Renee Bostic became a OneTeam program facilitator, getting trained to teach OneTeam programs on campuses across the country. With the theme of the 2019–2020 school year being diversity and inclusion, Bostic facilitated a One Team training for all student-athletes, athletic administrators and coaches during the OneTeam week. During that week, roughly 120 student-athletes, staff and coaches received the NCAA OneTeam training. The training helped the NDMU athletics community learn how to be more aware, supportive, and good allies for the LGBTQ+ community.

In addition to the OneTeam training, each of the University's fall and winter sports also held OneTeam games in celebration and support of the programming. Similarly to the spring sports the year prior, they showed their support with ribbons, signage and passed out information regarding the program.

Diversity and inclusion remain at the forefront of the NDMU athletic department mission and the NCAA.

The 19th Amendment

“As this is an American story, it is, inevitably, about race.”

By Niamh McQuillan M.Ed '99

One hundred years ago, women in America won the right to vote when the 19th Amendment was ratified in the summer of 1920. The conflict was between the rights women wanted and the rights men deemed they should have. A Tennessee Democratic Party leader at the heart of the anti-suffragist movement succinctly captured the matter when he said, “...it is not a question of what women want, but what they ought to have, and...it is a question for men alone to determine.” (Weiss 40). The fight to turn the tide of this strident opinion began in the 1820s. It required thousands of marches and protests, millions of fliers, spanned a civil war and a world war, and culminated in 28 simple words:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.



Wells-Barnett marching with other women suffragists in a parade in Washington, D.C., 1913

But, as author Elaine Weiss writes, “As this is an American story, it is, inevitably, about race.” While white women can celebrate the centennial anniversary of their right to vote, Black women are marking the 55th anniversary of their right to vote with the 1965 Voting Rights Act that outlawed discriminatory

voting practices that prevented people of color from casting a ballot.

This is a “Wait, what?” moment, a moment that belies the narrative of America as the gleaming city of democracy on the hill, and it demands a pause.

Three factors have to be confronted here. First, in 1776, “all men are created equal” was not the gender inclusive use of men. “Men” meant white men with property. Second, the wealth and power of America was built in large part on the labor of enslaved people, and the only way the idealistic founders of this country could allow slavery was to agree to the lie that enslaved people were less than. Third, while the hold-out southern states anti-suffragists argued that the vote threatened their very way of life—the wife and mother as the soul and keeper of the home—beneath that posture lay the refusal to see Black people as equals and to give them power and voice through the vote.

And white women, in their fierce struggle for equality, played the game that had been played against them, in order to win the vote. They closed the circles of their power and privilege, and in the final decades of the fight, their agenda was strictly white women’s suffrage.

Another painful irony lies at the convergence of these two anniversaries. While America celebrates women winning the right to vote, the story is centered around the experience of white women, not women of color. And just as women and their stories were sidelined by men for centuries, the stories of Black women have been sidelined.

The fight for full and safe enfranchisement for women of color was decades longer and more fraught with peril than that of their white

counterparts. Historian Martha Jones traces the roots of Black women's suffrage to Maria Stewart and Jarena Lee, two women in the 1820's who spoke and published about Black women's rights and the confluence of racism and sexism.

Social reformers and activists Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman were clear voices for women's rights. In the spring of 1848, Black women were organizing to attend a conference in Philadelphia to address the rights of church women who wanted a required license to preach (Waxman). Later that year, at the Seneca Falls Convention led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, the suffragists presented nine declarations, called the Declaration of Sentiments, largely based on the Declaration of Independence. The ninth, demanding the right for women to vote, was contentious and adopted by a slim margin, in part because of the support of Frederick Douglass, a lifelong supporter of women's enfranchisement.



Ida B. Wells-Barnett

The white women who were early advocates of legal rights launched their activism as abolitionists and worked as ardently to end slavery during the Civil War as they did to gain the women's vote. But when the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870 granting Black men the vote, a deep schism occurred between the two groups. From that point on, Weiss writes, "When forced to choose between truly equal rights and (white) women's rights...the Suffs [Suffragists] almost invariably chose the easier, less noble, path" (138).

Black suffrage leaders Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell continued the fight on their own terms.

When Alice Paul organized the famous 1913 suffrage march on Washington, she refused to allow Wells to march with the Illinois delegation and told her to march at the rear of the parade with the other Black suffragists. Wells waited on the sidewalk and joined the white Illinois contingent when the procession marched by (Weiss 139).

Wells-Barnett, like all other Black women since the beginning of the suffrage movement, had to confront her double consciousness. "This is a racial theory, first proposed by W.E.B. Du Bois in *The Souls of Black Folk* in 1897. It discusses various pressures on oppressed peoples. In the case of Wells-Barnett, Sojourner Truth, Baltimore-native Frances Ellen Watkins Harper and so many others, they had to fight for equal rights as women while also fighting for equal treatment as African Americans," adds NDMU Professor of History Jennifer Erdman.

When the 19th Amendment was passed, multiple barriers such as poll taxes, literacy tests, voter purges and violence still stood in the way of Black women and men voting safely.

For the next 45 years, the work continued. Voting rights activists like Amelia Boynton Robinson and Fannie Lou Hamer fought to secure voting rights with the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. For the first time in American history, the law finally protected the right of Black women to vote.

Because attempts of voter suppression continued, vigilance was essential. In 2005 Indiana passed a law requiring voters to show government-issued photo identification before casting a ballot. That law, and ones like it in other states, overwhelmingly affected people of color who could not afford state-issued identification. Then, in 2013, the Supreme Court curtailed the protections of voters by judicially eliminating the mechanisms to monitor state's voting regulations, gutting the crucial provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Still, in 2020, the battleground of voting is the battleground of race.

Odette Ramos, co-founder of Baltimore Women United and Democratic candidate for the 14th District, who, if elected, will be the first Latinx to hold office in Baltimore City, points out that Baltimore women's suffrage groups were segregated 100 years ago. "We have to make sure we are not doing the same thing 100 years later. There are many women who want to... be a partner in trying to make sure Black and Brown people have all their rights. And we want them to join us. You have something to contribute. You have your allyship."

Nykidra Robinson, founder of Black Girls Vote, makes America's history current and personal when she asks, "As an ally, what are you doing to fight against current voter suppression?"

The story of the 19th Amendment shows that democracy is a messy business and begins at the doorstep of every citizen. Today.

"Speak out against the injustices against Black women," Robinson concludes.

"When you speak out for one, you speak out for all, so we don't feel like we are out there on an island by ourselves."

About the Author: Niamh McQuillan is coordinator of leadership development in Baltimore County Public Schools. She also works with women and leadership and women's organizations to close the political gender gap.

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Connecting in the Virtual Space

The past seven months have taught us all how to embrace the word 'pivot.' Whether used around the office, hospital, public venues, our kitchen tables, or around our social activity—Zoom dinner parties, anyone?—pivoting is officially part of our lifestyle now.

Notre Dame's Office of Alumnae and Alumni Relations is embracing our ability to pivot and offering dynamic virtual opportunities for connectivity. It has always been our office's purpose to keep you closely connected to your alma mater. Many of you already are physically close, with most of our alums living in Maryland. Because of that, in-person programming has been the norm. With our new virtual



programming opportunities, we now can connect with our alums across the globe on a grander scale.

In late March, our team unveiled a new website showcasing alum-affiliated small businesses, tips from our School of Education and Career Center, as well as occasions to connect. A popular venue has been our 30-minute informal chat series we lovingly call "How Do You Fix Your Coffee?"

Whatever form it takes, there is always something happening at NDMU. We are looking towards the future while we continue to pivot to a virtual, and eventually, hybrid suite of programming.

Please visit ndm.edu/alums and keep an eye out for our digital newsletter "Tower Talk" in your email.



Networking with Fellow Alumnae and Alumni

Elizabeth Brescia has been part of the Networking Committee since she graduated with her masters from Notre Dame in 2012. She sees her service as a way to give back to the community and meet other alumnae and alumni. She currently serves as chair of the Networking Committee, a role which Elizabeth sees as enhancing what the University is already doing, and providing events in line with the NDMU mission, saying "We have both events about professional excellence and building inclusive communities."

The Networking Committee serves the whole alumnae and alumni community, offering opportunities for professional development. Past programs have included happy hours, LinkedIn training sessions and career transition workshops. One of the benefits of the switch to virtual events going forward is the ability to reach audiences across the country and around the world.

In addition to events for alumnae and alumni, the Networking Committee has some programming to bring together current students and alumnae and alumni.

They especially work with First Impressions students, a program to prepare students for the professional world.

"When alums get together and support each other through this kind of professional and personal networking, it's a great example of how our Notre Dame family and our connections stay strong long after graduation," said Vice President of Institutional Advancement and University Communications Kelley Kilduff.

For more information on the Networking Committee, please contact ndmalum@ndm.edu.

“BE BOLD, BE BRAVE AND BE DYNAMIC”

Q & A with New President of the Alumnae and Alumni Council



NOYES ALUMNAE
HOUSE

Meet Nichole “Nikki” Gatewood, Esq. ’01: As the newly elected president of the NDMU Alumnae and Alumni Council, Nikki makes history as the first woman of color to serve in this position. She is eager and excited to embrace this new role in the community she calls home.

Nikki is an accomplished attorney, legal and business strategist, and change agent who has practiced law for over 15 years and is the founder of Gatewood & Associates, LLC. She is wholeheartedly dedicated to her alma mater and finds her extensive civic involvement and volunteer work offers her the opportunity to be a strong voice for people, enabling them to garner the success they deserve.

Q: What made you first choose NDMU?

A: I was searching for a collegial environment where I was more than just a number in a lecture hall. When I arrived for my admissions interview, I was magnetized by the energy of the campus. I immediately knew that I was home. This place created leaders, demanded scholarship, fostered a sense of community, and the architectural beauty of the campus wasn’t bad either. Here, I knew, I would be nurtured and challenged to cultivate all of my potential.

Q: Memories...tell us about your favorite NDMU one.

A: As a new student, one night I went to the gym to work out and struck up the best conversation with some of my new classmates. After encouraging one another throughout our workout, we were having so much fun that we all decided to pile in my car and go explore Baltimore. We rode around laughing and eating hot fudge sundaes and learning about one another. That was NDMU sisterhood at its finest!

Q: Being your best is important to you, how does NDMU support that?

A: “To whom much is given much is required.” At NDMU, everyone championed my growth and cushioned my falls. Each student was made to feel that their contributions are valuable and that they have limitless potential. Here, I was taught that I must use and trust my voice, intellect, gifts, talents and abilities to help others. Professors stretched my mindset and challenged me to always think globally. More importantly, I learned how to give back and uplift others because my professors were never too busy for me.

Q: You are a top-notch attorney, the best community advocate, and a great speaker. What is your secret?

A: I learned to not allow life to intimidate me and to give each task my all. As a student in the Women’s College, it was drilled into me that my contributions in any room were valuable and worthy of expression. Being fearless, passionate and bold were not a detriment but an asset that I would harness to propel me to greater opportunities.

Q: What inspires your dedication to your alma mater?

A: I LOVE NDMU and know that I must use my voice for someone else’s victory. This university has always been my special place. It’s filled with love, compassion, dogged determination, brilliant thinkers, and change agents who are crazy enough to believe we can do anything! NDMU is part of the fabric of my DNA; together students and alumnae sow seeds for future generations to harvest.

Q: What message would you give to new graduates as they look to be their best in their futures?

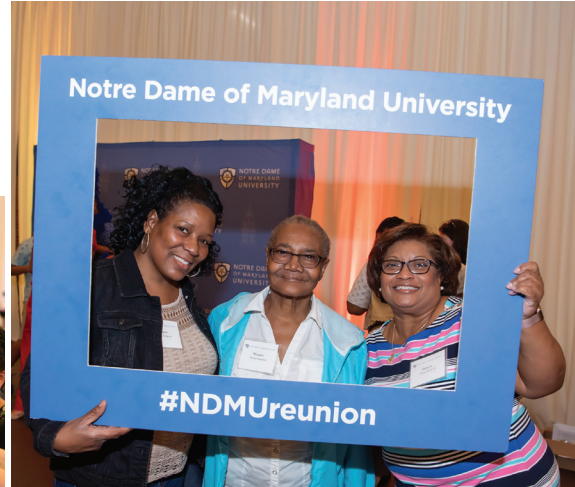
A: Do not allow yourself to become intimidated by the fear of the unknown. You are more than enough and have the ability and skills to do inspiring things. Be bold, be brave and be dynamic knowing that greatness has been nurtured in you. Always do more than what is required, choose to be kind, and never settle. Lastly, always keep moving, recognizing that you cannot soar if you do not leap. We will be here to catch you!

REUNION 2019



**"Fun times making new
Notre Dame memories!"**

—Julie Kaster '74



Reunion 2019 was spectacular! In three days we saw over 350 alums, toasted milestone celebrants, raised funds for NDMU's students, and kicked off our 125th Anniversary in both fun and meaningful ways, including a semi-formal evening and a morning mass celebrated by Archbishop William E. Lori.

The 2019 Alumnae and Alumni Award Winners



With an endowment of over \$125,000 in honor of the University's 125th anniversary, the Class of 1969 created a scholarship to mark its 50th reunion. The class leaders won the distinguished alumna award, as a group, for their leadership efforts.

The Elizabeth P. Hoisington '40 Distinguished Alumna Award

- Victoria M. Genco Bell '69
- Julie Courtney Ben-Susan '69
- Andrea R. Bowden '69
- Cathryn Archibald Curia '69
- Mary Ellen Vanni '69



Service to Society Award
Sara Martinelli de la Guardia '69



**Regina Russo Hammel '41
Outstanding Recent
Graduate Award**
Queenstar Akrong '14



**Alumnae and Alumni
Engagement Award**
Mary Ellen Steiner Gunther '54



“What a moment in time!”

—Amy Schnerr '89

“So often, we are speeding through life and forget the people that are there for us.”

—Dr. Linda Marie Weaver '09



“I felt like I was going home as soon as I drove onto campus.”

—Cathy Surlis Gress '94



CLASS NOTES

1950s



Mary Katherine Annan '55 after graduation became a flight attendant for American Airlines. She hosted the weather segment on WMAR-TV and then a radio talk show called "Open Line" for eight years. Today, she is a unity minister in Carlsbad, Ca., with a YouTube channel under her current name, Cathy Ellicott Carver. She is celebrating her 65th Reunion in 2020.

1960s



Sallie Mullen '68, and her partner, Peter Cole, completed construction of their new house in the rolling hills of central Umbria, Italy.



Jean Smiley '69 authored Ask Mrs. Smiley. It is a compilation of the most common problems students face in the classroom along with the time-proven methods that have made her one of the most respected and constantly busy tutors in Southern California.

1970s



Debra Adelita Brown-DeLone '75 M'05, retired from 36 years in the government and private enterprises. She splits her time between the U.S. Virgin Islands, Palm Beach, Florida, and Venice, Italy with her husband Bill.

1980s

Pat Bonner-McElroy '82 for the second year in a row was named to The Daily Record Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2020. She serves as the president of Tim's Automotive & Towing.

Kathleen Birrane '83 was named as Maryland's Insurance Commissioner by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in May 2020.

Georgene Auman Searfoss '87, book, Longings of the Heart: The Story of Elsie Machle White, was published in December 2019 and is available on Amazon.

Cynthia Edmunds '89 was named the University of Maryland Athletic Department's Senior Associate Athletic Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Organizational Effectiveness.

1990s

Amy Rosenkrans '93, '16 Ph.D., has been volunteering with the Maryland Women's Heritage Center to document the Maryland women who participated in the Suffragist Movement. Her work will be featured in Preservation Maryland's Ballot and Beyond podcast series. Amy was also successful in lobbying to get a historical marker in Havre de Grace commemorating the work of Harford County suffragists. The marker will be dedicated in March 2021.



Crissa Holder Smith '95 attended a Disco Cruise in February, seeing some greats including The Jacksons, Sister Sledge, KC & The Sunshine Band and several cover bands. The cruise included theme nights, disco dance lessons and contests.

Jessica Murphy '96 was named Employee of the Year in 2019 for her national staffing company in Fredericksburg, Va.



Anne Wozniak Freedman '97 recently took over as director of marketing and communications at Sisters Academy of Baltimore. In addition, she was appointed to her fourth term on the executive board of North Baltimore Aquatic Club.

2000s

Nanyombi Lubimbi '01, MS '12 was selected for a 2020-21 Fulbright U.S. Student Award in Rwanda. She is currently a UIC Nursing Ph.D. student studying human resources for their health.

Kristi S. Halford '01 is celebrating her one year anniversary of launching her consulting practice, C3 Visionary Strategies, full time. She provides revenue-generating marketing and communications strategies to emerging businesses, professional services firms, and non-profits, as well as capacity building and board training. She is also proud to announce the engagement

of her son, Derek, who graduated from Towson University in 2019. Her son Kevin will graduate from North Harford High in 2021.

Anna Barvir-Boone '05 was named partner at the law firm of Michel & Associates, P.C., where she practices civil litigation and appeals with emphases on constitutional law, firearms litigation, LGBT discrimination law, civil rights advocacy and civil appeals. In June 2020, she was named by Southern California Super Lawyers Magazine as a Rising Star for the eighth straight year.



Heather Stapf '09 was promoted to the vice president of marketing operations at Persona, a Nestle Health Sciences Company.

Kitty Ellis '09 married Andres Mata in January 2020 in California including friends and family from all over the globe.

2010s



Heather Green Tranello '10, her husband Jonathan, and their six kids and dog moved out of their home of the past nine years in August. The family of eight will travel the country for the next year in an RV. One of their first stops was Shenandoah National Park.



India Scott '11 is in her 6th year teaching math at Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis. She recently started classes at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, pursuing her Ph.D. in Urban Education Studies. Her long term goal to open a school.

Queenstar Akrong '14, in this time of uncertainty, was inspired more than ever to live fearlessly in pursuit of transforming the world. She launched her business, Adisa Advising, an online platform that helps families financially prepare for college. She also serves as a part-time facilitator for FACTUALITY, a crash course on structural equality in America. During election season, she continues to work with the Running Start ElectHer program to train young women to be civically engaged and run for office.



Victoria Meadows '15 published her first peer-reviewed, co-first authored paper in the Journal of Neurotrauma, a highly respected publication in the traumatic brain Injury field.



Cleaya Antes '17, a BSN graduate, is currently a member of the Biocontainment Unit at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC). The Biocontainment Unit was recognized for Nurses Week with one of the chief nursing officer (CNO) team awards for excellence as they continue to work diligently during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Brenda Diazdelvalle '19 got engaged to Daniel Torres on July 18. Daniel popped the question at the gazebo at NDMU where they had their third date during undergrad. With the gazebo decorated with daffodils, both their family and friends surprised the couple after their magical moment.



Sammy Kastner '19 is continuing her work post-graduation with the NCAA as a member of the NCAA Board of Governor's Student-Athlete Engagement Committee for the next two years. She is also starting work towards earning her master's degree at NDMU.

HEROES LEARN HERE



NDMU Students and Alum Make the Difference During COVID-19

Since COVID-19 arrived in the U.S. in early 2020,

first-responders, health care providers, teachers, pharmacists and educational administrators have been thrust into the spotlight along with systemic social issues such as health care access, housing, employment, and the digital divide.



For Sam Aung, a Ph.D. student at Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU), who immigrated from Myanmar and became a U.S. citizen in 2015, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic meant finding opportunities to volunteer.

Aung volunteered with Maryland Responds Medical Corps and the American Red Cross when the

pandemic first hit. "I was able to help lower-income family members, who don't have health insurance or proper documents, and older people within Montgomery County," he shared. "I believe that we have to be kind and help each other. I believe that everyone can help each other from everywhere and anytime."

Service is engrained in the NDMU culture, and many Notre Dame students, faculty, staff, alumnae and alumni have heeded the call to respond to the pandemic in some way.

"Notre Dame attracts the kind of person who has something in their DNA it seems, that makes them want to make a positive difference in the world," says President Mary Lou Yam. "Our alumnae, alumni and our students can recognize a need and know they can move forward in that area with confidence, because the University prepared them well to make things better for people."

Ricelle Taganas, School of Nursing Class of 2020, is a medic in the Army Reserves and was called to New York City early on in the pandemic to care for patients at the Javits Center in Manhattan.

According to Taganas, her care philosophy is directly tied to the nursing program's emphasis in teaching "caring science" when interacting with patients. Beyond understanding the science behind the different illnesses that patients present with, "I also learned how to care for and understand the patient as a human being," says Taganas. When she arrived at the Javits Center in NYC, she didn't view her patients as just COVID-19 patients, "they were someone's husband/wife, son/daughter, friend and were at the mercy of this disease." Keeping care science in mind and focusing on the individual patients helped her find success during her deployment.

For students, the sudden disruption of their education, and for low-income students, much-needed resources such as meals, caused tremendous impact. For students of immigrant families who are part of an ESOL program, the language barrier made it more difficult to understand the pandemic and how to respond.

Fabian Painemilla just recently completed his Accelerated Certification in Teaching and was interning at a



middle school in Silver Spring when the pandemic hit. Today, he teaches 8th grade as an English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher at the school.

“Like most of the population, this has been traumatic, but for immigrant families it’s even harder. Most are living in small apartments. They have lost jobs,” said Painemilla.

Since March, Painemilla has been calling or texting students and their families. In some cases, he has delivered food when a family is sick, which also allows him to see his students from afar and ensure they are okay.

The call to respond didn’t end at the U.S. borders. Masha Malenica, class of 1996, is the head of the child neurology department in Zagreb, Croatia. Croatia was the first neighboring country to Italy that was badly hit with COVID-19, following a strong earthquake that hit the capital of Croatia on March 22, destroying most of the city.

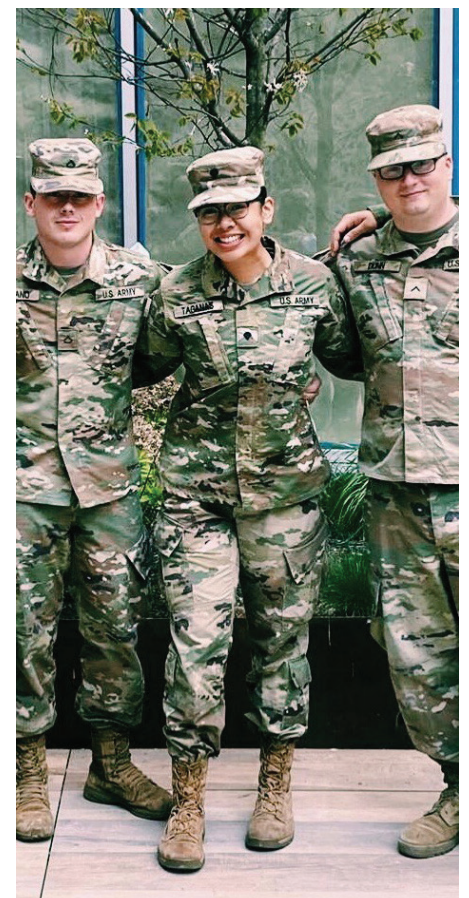
Malenica shares, “Being evacuated from our homes in the midst of the corona pandemic was very frightening both for adults and for kids. Gathering clothes and basic food supplies, and finding a safe place to stay, yet continue to work in a big university hospital as a

pediatrician was quite a challenge. Now a few months later, we are all used to basic epidemiological measures and we are adapting to providing our services to our patients any way possible - through video conferencing, telemedicine and, if necessary, home visits.”

As a liberal arts institution rooted in service, Notre Dame attracts students and faculty who are interested in more than a career to make money. They want to make a difference.

“In our nursing program, caring science is woven into our students’ education. They are learning how to be present for someone – transformative leadership. Our students learn that as a nurse they become the voice for patients and families who may not have a voice, which is the case for most marginalized patients and their families,” states Dr. Kathy Wisser, dean of the School of Nursing.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Notre Dame has been represented well locally, nationally and around the world as students and alumnae heed the call, working every day in a wide range of fields demonstrating compassion, concern and leadership.



Ricelle Taganas '21 in NYC serving as a medic during early days of COVID-19

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Aileen Mize Scholarship
Valerie and Ajit Choudhury Scholarship as of February 2020
Alice Kirkham Burk Scholarship
Alma Elizabeth Robeck Scholarship
Alpha Sigma Lambda Scholarship
Alumnae Undergraduate Scholarship
American Citizens for Italian Matters Scholarship
Ann Boyles Knipper Scholarship
Anne Lindsey Otenasek Scholarship
Arts and Scholars Scholarship
Audrey McCarthy Turner Memorial Scholarship
Aurora G. Granofsky Scholarship
Barbara McDonnell and Sister Doris Ann Gentry Scholarship
Beatrice Fitzgerald Dunning Memorial Scholarship
Bonnie A. Vogel Scholarship
Caroline Reynolds Mitchell Scholarship
Catherine and John O'Dea Scholarship
Catherine Roloson Counselman '41 Endowed Scholarship
Clare and Robert Moore Endowed Scholarship
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Continuing Studies Scholarship
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Cornelia Creel O'Neill Scholarship
Daniel Carroll Bicentennial Scholarship
Daniel J. & Evelyn Murphy Family Scholarship
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Elizabeth Breeden Monroe Scholarship
Elizabeth Kelly Murphy '35 Scholarship
Elizabeth Sullivan Clem Scholarship
Ethel Clay Price Scholarship for Continuing Education

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Frances Elizabeth C. Stern Scholarship
Frank and Bertha Chlan Centenary Scholarship
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Mabel Costich Miller Scholarship
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 Rosemary Falkner
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 Ethel M. Fusaro '64
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 Brandy Riley Gregg '97
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 Christopher D. Gress '99
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 Sharon Rivera Groh '92
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 Tracy Winters Guarini '91
 Elizabeth Lee Haden '89
 Olivia Hafner '70

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 Emily Bianco Harman '00
 Stephany Smith Harper '89
 Mary Midgett Harrison '67
 Rosemary Garrett Hartley '48
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 Michael Hartnett
 Doreen Zinnert Harwood '89
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 Lachele Hazell '16
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 James Comber
 Claudia Thomas Kairoff '73
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 Joyce Marie Kane '94
 Paula James Kaplan '80
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 Kavanagh

Class of 1969 Endowed Scholarship

Even before planning began for their 50th Reunion, five members of the class of 1969 started work to create an endowed scholarship at Notre Dame. Inspired by their college experiences and the profound impact it had had on their lives, Victoria M. Genco Bell, Julie Courtney Ben-Susan, Andrea R. Bowden, Ph.D., Cathryn Archibald Curia, CPCU, and Mary Ellen Vanni set a goal of \$125,000, in line with the 125 anniversary of the University. Through outreach to classmates including numerous emails, phone calls, and letters, the group reconnected and rekindled friendships. By sharing their NDM stories and why giving back is important, they succeeded in surpassing their goal!

At their Reunion in 2019, group members were awarded the Elizabeth P. Hoisington '40 Distinguished Alumna Award in recognition of their fundraising efforts and support of current student aid, as well as their individual service to Notre Dame of Maryland, spanning decades.

Ben-Susan said, "Isn't that what the University is there for? Quality professors and promising students. We hope you will participate so that we can grow the endowment in the name of the Class of 1969."

Their efforts will go far for students in the next 125 years and beyond.

Margaret Merkert Hoffman '79
 Kathleen O'Neill Hogan '72
 Kathleen Gill Hogan '67
 Eileen Donegan Hogan '59
 Eleanor Nolan Holcomb '50
 Crissa M. Holder-Smith '95
 Maura Mohan Hook '66
 David Hoover and Lin Romano '93†
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 Patricia Hoppa '00
 Toyah Houck Nastanovich '94
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 Hunter
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 Maxine R. Ignolia

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 Karen L. Kehring '17
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 Caroline S. Kennedy and Jerome
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 Kathy Kernan '64
 Regina Ferri Kidd '82
 Jane Henzi Kiefer '67
 Maria Hoban Killingstad '84 and
 Bernt Killingstad
 Margaret Petty Kim '84
 Martha Marano Kimery '64
 Karen Kinloch
 William Kissinger
 Michael Klahr '85
 Jeanne Bange Klinge '63
 Mary Shelley Darling Knach '79
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 Gary Kratz
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 Suzanne Sheehan Lanahan '62 M'78
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 Nancy M. Lane '66
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 Anita Langford
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 Juanita Franco Lasorte '66
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 Elizabeth Sinnott Lawrence '68
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 Ann Mogilnitsky Lawson '58
 Rosann Lawson '00

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 M. Linda Martinak '69
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 Joseph and Jacquelyn Mascolo
 Gina Rochelle Mast '84
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 Anne McCarthy '06
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 Anne Scanlan McCrory '71
 Marilyn R. McDonald '92
 Ann Marie Coleman McDonnell '69
 Warren McElroy
 Carol Baumiller McEvoy '61
 Jayne Hepburn McGeehan '82
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 Joseph J. McGlinchey
 Linda M. McGrillies '98
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 Marie Murphy '66
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 Kelli Langley Russell '99
 Laurie Russell '86
 Mary Ellen Russell
 Ruth Donovan Ruth '45
 Patricia A. Sanders '84
 Mary Ann Muller Sarni '66



Amanda and Kevin Idstein

If you attended Reunion in the past 20 years, you probably saw Amanda and Kevin Idstein. Amanda, Class of 1997, has been to every Reunion since her 5-year reunion in 2002! Along with attending events on campus, the couple are active donors and members of the Mary Meletia Society (NDMU's leadership giving society) and Montrose Society (NDMU's legacy giving society).

Amanda emphasized the education she received at NDM as a reason for giving, "It provided me with an education I would not have gotten elsewhere." The couple also appreciate the school's commitment to educating women in STEM, and the enduring women's college.

Maureen and Roy Lawson
 Elizabeth Dippold Leadley '68
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 Michelle Gehrig Lipka '90
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 Eunice M. Lynch '62
 Sam Mace, M.D. and Jane Mace
 Bridget Stencil Malloy '92
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 Kathryn Christensen Mills '99 and
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 Sandra Compston Silverman '93
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 Elizabeth B. Steele '02
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 Cynthia Stouffer-Mesher '76
 Melvina V. Stricklin '91
 Kathleen Mary Stromberg '97
 Mary Fran Besche-Stromyer '88
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 Tara E. Suite '02
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 Janet Talley '08
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 Jackie Ward
 Todd D. Warre '07
 Daniel Warrenfeltz
 Victoria S. Washington
 Christina Brockmeyer Weber '03 and Keith Weber
 Kay Raptis Webster '85
 Denise Bessie Weeks M'05
 Joan Balcombe Weigel '72
 Jay H. Weiss
 Sharon Welling
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 Colleen Baum West '76 and Donald West
 Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP
 Carole Mattox Wild '63
 Mary Elizabeth Welsh Wildberger '53
 Dolores Lancelotta Wilkie '70
 Barbara Corey Willey '66
 Bethany Litzenberg Williams '81
 Bonita Kreimer Williams '68

Christine Brown Williams '82
 Pauline Stephanie Williams '88 and David N. Williams
 Betty Willinger '55
 Beverly Jenifer Willis '06
 Kathleen Harrison Wills '69
 Beate Opalka Wilson '93
 Marisa Schuhart Wilson '80
 Morris Wilson '91
 Wayne T. Wilson '88
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 Judith Wyche Wise '07
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 Sophia Caryk Wolff '81
 Jarritus Boyd Wolfinger '63
 Maxine Johnson Wood '63
 Carol Jager Woodworth '91
 Louise Rhodes Wright '68
 Jennifer Schwab Wrzyszczyński '95
 Patricia Brooks Younkings '68
 Virginia A. Zawodny '99
 Lois Schisler Zelina '54
 Jennifer Waldt Zellinger '01
 Nancy Bosco Zernel '66 and John Zernel
 Dereje Getahun Zewdu, Pharm.D. '13
 Jeanne Nelka Zucker '86
 Kathleen Cook Zumbar '85

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 Sarah Quinn Abato '68
 Wajiha Abdallah, Pharm.D.
 Catherine Brown Abel '75
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 Nancy J. Ago '66
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 Judith Alexander '80
 Mary Celeste Caldwell Alexander '63
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 Ann Hughes Balderson '65
 Madelyn Ball
 Ladaisha Ballard '12
 Jeffrey Baran
 Elizabeth A. Bardelli '89
 Kimberley A. Barnhart '14
 Caroline-Anne H. Barringer '84
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\$6,195,356
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 Shanell Byrd '14
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 Cecelia Perrone Daniels '78
 Chetta Daniels '89
 Elizabeth Dannettel '92
 Erin Sturgis DaSilva '02
 Eunice Davage '00
 Barbara Davidsen
 Adelaide Friend Davis '93
 Keith Davis
 Kenley Davis
 Kroix Davis
 Peggy Wilson Davis '67
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 Zina M. Fatemi '02
 Mattie V. Faulkner-Burton M'06
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 Irena Fedorovsky
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 M. Feiler
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 Stephanie D. Ferguson '04
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 Ann Freeman
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 Micheal Galligan-Stierle
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 Robin Gamble '02
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 Brandy M. Garlic
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 Amy Gibson '71
 Barbara Gibson
 Sharon Gibson '06
 Elizabeth A. Gielner
 Thomas Gill '03
 Kisha Gilliard-Buckson '15
 Jameeka Gillis '12
 Donnetta C. Gingles '99 and
 Micheal Gingles
 Muriel O'Flynn Giroux '03
 Patricia H. Glinka, SSND '61
 Melinda A. Godack '18
 Lakita Godsey '10
 Jason Goetz '12
 Ann Gold '91
 Karen Gonano '11
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 Jenna Goodman '10
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 Janine Smith Greene '06
 Robert Greenfield
 Christy M. Gretsinger '10
 Madeleine E. Grewell '13
 Sarah Delaney Grieco '51
 Nicole A. Griffin '12
 Marcia Lewis Grimes '61
 Robin Gross-Sutton '06
 Leona Gruzynski
 Barbara J. Guanti
 Catherine Guay '08
 Catherine R. Gugerty, SSND '81
 Martha C. Guillet '88
 Elizabeth Murtha Guseman '82
 Anita Aidt Guy '78
 Helen Grace Haas '60 and Steven Haas
 Maria C. Habacon '09
 Sandra L. Hackett '17
 Lauren C. Haggerty
 Ruth Haggerty '16
 David M. Hagy '07
 Susan Hahn '18
 Sandra Hale
 Kristi Fogle Halford '01
 Pamela Rick Hall '93
 James Hallock
 Leslie A. Halloran '17
 Patricia A. Hamilton '97
 Palma A. Hampton '02
 Margaret Handy
 Amy S. Hansen '02
 Lynne Lauer Hardesty '60
 Margaret McLoughlin Hardiman '57
 Althea Hardman
 Linda Hare '05
 Christine Rene Harris '15
 Michaela Harris '89
 Alvarine Harrison '11
 Diana Gauthier Harrison '81
 Tangee Harrison '16
 Tammie Hart '00
 Rita M. Hartman '86
 Mary Ann Hartnett, SSND '68
 Dorothy N. Hasson '82
 Jenna C. Hastings '99
 Margaret McQuay Hauf '70
 John Mary Hayes, SSND '68
 Susan McGraw Heindel '72
 Myra Susan Heinz '97
 Alice Feinroth Heller '87
 Maria Hellman-Rochfort '86
 Leona Henderson
 Margaret Alter Henrichon '64
 Merisa Hernandez '16
 Kristy Herring '02
 Margaret J. Hervieux '17
 Meredith W. Heyl '16
 Angela Hicks '05
 Joseph Hillery
 Diane M. Hillocks '07
 Deborah Charvat Hinkle '85

Yvonne Hne '03
 Lyla M. Hogle
 Yvonne Holcomb '10
 Guy Hollyday
 Edward W. Holmes
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 Sharon A. Hood '87
 Deborah L. Hoover '81
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 Kathleen M. Houser '04
 Elizabeth S. Howard
 Victoria R. Howard '09
 Tawanda Howe '01
 Ethel M. Howley, SSND '56
 Ann Borowy Hughes '72
 Antonia Hughes '95
 Ashleigh L. Hughes '15
 Marie Hughes '77
 Charlotte Hunter
 Donna Hunter
 Shantay C. Hurt '05
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 Debbie Hyman '03
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 Jill Iracki '10
 Mary M. Irving, SSND '60†
 Derrick Jackson '08
 Jane Jacob '09
 Pamela Fuchs Jacobs '75
 Jesse Jacox '89
 Emmanuel Jaff '15
 Corinne Poulin Janes '85
 Cheryl L. Janowich '09
 Jane F. Jansen '84
 Charles Jefferson
 Dr. Christine Jenkins
 Diane Denman Jenkins '71
 Dimetria C. Jenkins '14
 Yolanda Jenkins '14
 Francine John
 Christianna-Lee Johnson
 Dessie Johnson '07
 Devin Johnson '09
 Jennifer Norris Johnson '95
 Mary Elizabeth Prominski Johnson '81
 Natalie Johnson '09
 Susan B. Johnson '12
 Carlita D. Jones '14
 Charles Jones '10
 Diane Dobson Jones '83
 Paul Steven Jones '94
 Shawna Jones '11
 Teresita Fernandez Jones '62
 Tiffany Jones '15
 Lou-Ann Jonske-Gubosh '84
 Bernice Jordan '94
 Amanda Joyce
 Diana Lee Jubb '02
 Christine Murray Kaiser '72
 Roberta Viverito Kappler '62
 Theodora Mallek Karpovich '62
 Pawandeep Kaur '18
 Isaac Keene IV '15
 Patricia B. Keith '94
 Regina Keith
 Akeesha K. Kelly '12



Valerie Choudhury '58

Meet Valerie Choudhury, a NDMU alum and believer in the NDMU mission.

Valerie graduated from Notre Dame in 1958 with a French and Spanish major, and says NDMU "prepared me religiously and professionally." She began her career teaching French and Spanish, and went on to be a senior librarian at the Library of Congress where she was in charge of all acquisitions from Haiti, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Together with her husband, Dr. Ajit Choudhury, Valerie has been a dedicated supporter of the University. The couple felt that their money should go towards scholarships at universities as a way to pay back and help others go to college. After her husband's death, Valerie established a scholarship in his honor.

M.L. Lee Kelly '69
 Claudette Kessler '02
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 Zahra Khanssari '95
 Ruth W. Kibe '16
 Janise A. Kilar '03
 Anne Mikinski Kimball '69
 Marjory L. King '08
 Ronald King
 Willie Mae King
 Devin A. Kirby '18
 Terrance Kirch
 Ann Klaes '69
 Carol A. Kleemann '65
 Kathleen Klein '13
 Mary M. Klima '92
 Skye A. Knickman '14
 Marta Musick Knobloch '88
 Debra Knop '93
 Amanda L. Knutilla '16
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 Charlotte M. Kovalchik '69
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 Claire A. Krabbe '81
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 Jo Freeman Krause M'95
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 Ellen Kuhn, Esq. '92
 Zorka Kuljich-Bronchu M'00
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 Etaka N. Labule '18
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 Christine Langr and Richard D. Swenson
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 Vickie and Joseph Lapicki
 Denise LaRossa
 Elizabeth S. Lasker '09
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Akeembra N. Lawrence
 Melissa Lawrence '84
 Noreen Lazarus '98
 Diane J. Lehmann '06
 Roshelle Lemon-Howard '15
 Megan Elizabeth Lentz '18
 Natosha Levine '03
 Raina Zelenka Lewis '72
 Vanessa Lewis '14
 Ellen Manela Libao '95
 Kayla S. Linowski '18
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 Lockheed Martin
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 Judith Holmes Lohn '79
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 Brian M. Losinger '16
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 Maureen Kelly Love '67
 Zachary Lovelace '10
 Deborah Luciano '98
 Anthony N. Lundy '11
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 Kristin Kucaba Lyden '94
 Jacquette A. Lyles-Harris '85
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 Kara A. Lynch '17
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 Janice M. MacKenzie '91
 Shirley Macneal '86
 Helen Zeidler Magida '06
 Andy Magwizi-Odiewuor '12
 Natasha Monique Maith '18
 Mary Makowski '73
 Joseph and Edna Mancias
 Laura Mancini '10
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Lynette Marshall-Harper '08
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 Maria Martin '11
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 Joyce Masterson '89
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 Patricia A. McCloskey M'94
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 William D. Mitchell
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 Norman C. Molz
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 Ronald W. Moore
 Yvonne D. Moore-Jackson '12

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 Joseph Olson '15
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 Michele Shropshire Parker '08
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 Roy Patout
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 Mildred Purdie '85
 Pal Ignac Pusztai '98
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 Tanny Bixler Quigley '62
 Mary Harry Quinn '74
 Ines Quintana '08
 Alicia Ragsdale '03
 Fahad Rahman '12
 Maureen Raimo '11
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 Michele Lynn Rakowski '94
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 Nichelle Brown Rashid '92
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 Ada Rodriguez '08
 Myrna Rodriguez '80
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 Frank Romeo '12
 Shannon Hammang Ronald '01
 Steven Rookwood '06
 Barbara J. Rooney '85
 Amanda M. Rosas '01
 Mary Jacqueline Scally Rose '62 and
 C. Bowie Rose
 Welburn Louis Rose

Katy O'Ferrall Friedman '62

Since her graduation in 1962, The Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman has continued to be involved with Notre Dame in a variety of ways. She helped plan the Renaissance Institute, chaired two presidential search committees, served on the Board of Trustees, and was even the first lay chair of the Board of Trustees. "Those endeavors allowed me to flex my leadership muscles in an environment significantly different than the legal profession and to demonstrate my appreciation for the preparation my college education gave me for a meaningful life," Katy remarks.



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 Irene Susan McNulty '09
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 Jamie McVicker '18
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 Susan Arroyo Meadow-Bennett '65
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 Kimberly Mentzell '05
 Jeanne P. Merritt '48
 Anna Esposito Messmer '66
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 Linda Michel '87
 Lauren Galeano Milan '11

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 Alice Carrico Moreland '77
 Claudia Morgan
 Jane-Marie Morrison '89
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 Kathleen O'Grady Mulhall '77
 Theresa Mullen
 Sonia Munn '09
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 Olgarina Munoz '18
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 Mary Mulcahy Murphy '77
 Patricia Murphy '74
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 Mary Louise Natoli '75
 Chibuike Nduanya '18
 Claire L. Negas '79
 Andrew T. Nelson
 John and Margaret Nelson
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 Marcelia S. Ngaujah, Pharm.D. '16
 Katherine Mary Nichols '95
 Colleen Lammers Nick '80

Aliza Ross
 Judith Griffith Rosso '73
 Charles Roth '05
 Jean Sewell Rothwell '75
 Erin Routzahn '05
 Shubha Roy
 Elisabeth Goldman Ruchkin '93
 Mary Callahan Ruck '64
 Francine Gehrman Russell '66
 Roberta Russell '03
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 April Evans Ryan '06
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It Can All Begin with a Question

By Dr. Brandy Garlic

Notre Dame of Maryland University, with more than 125 years serving as a leader in the transformational field of higher education has graduated women and men to become doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers and so much more. You name it, NDMU has assisted the best in their education pursuits. It has challenged students to be their best selves and to ultimately impact the world. Those of us in the NDMU community are charged with upholding and supporting our great mission, including the challenge to build inclusive communities and promote social responsibility. Our world continues to evolve and social justice, civil rights and human equity and equality are taking the forefront in headlines and movements across the globe. Naturally, these movements are occurring in our own community here at NDMU as well.

This is an important time in our history and is driven by our mission which helps us maintain our course and sets us up properly to achieve the outcomes our foundresses envisioned. I am dedicated to the mission and I often ask myself "How am I upholding the NDMU mission of building inclusive communities and promoting social responsibility?"

This is a fundamental question we all should be asking ourselves.

Marking our 125 year anniversary should prompt story sharing and reflection. What an amazing accomplishment for our Notre Dame! Instead, we find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic, fighting against racial injustice, and searching high and low for something that looks like equity. I cannot help but wonder what has changed in our world from then until now in terms of diversity and, better yet, inclusion?

Our nation watched as George Floyd was murdered at the hands of police. This act and the senseless killings of many other Black men and women by police has triggered protests around the world. Not to mention the disproportionate amount of Black people that have been infected and killed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Individuals, foreign and domestic, Black and white, young and old, north and south are paying attention to the high-profile deaths of Black Americans, the ongoing concerns about systemic racism in the criminal justice system, and the disparities when it comes to health care. The WNBA and all other national sports organizations are being played with very limited, if any, fans in the stands. Students, young and old, are making the most of virtual education. "Masks" and "quarantine" are among Google's top words searched list, and for the first time in our nation's history, a Black woman who graduated from a Historically Black College or University, just may become vice president of the United States of America. We are currently living in a time of intense pain, anger, and certainly confusion. Even when presented with a glimmer of hope, for some of us, our lights are still dim and at times are just flickering due to so much oppression. Day after day. Year after year.

A huge component to addressing the impact of inequity is showing empathy instead of being defensive. You see, empathy is a skill. It's the ability to understand the experiences of others even though you have not shared those experiences. It is important for those who have privilege to hone in on and use these skills. Listening to and reading about the experiences of people that may not look like you will increase your understanding of experiences that are unfamiliar.

Listening requires you to make a conscious effort to step out of our human habit of responding and just listen to the perspective(s) carefully. Active listening demands empathy for the person sharing. This requires you to accept how antagonizing this may be to your own bias. This encourages trust in the person that is bravely sharing. Listening is not about you. In fact, it is the complete opposite. Active listening is about avoiding the spotlight. The more diverse experiences we are exposed to, the more likely we are to gain a better understanding of those with whom we hope to be allies. We begin, even from a distance, to have a better understanding of the personal experiences and barriers others, oftentimes those that do not look like us, have faced.

We must begin with introspection; not just digging up our own ways of being, beliefs and ideas. Part of building inclusive communities is having the conversations that are uncomfortable, learning about those who are around us, and providing them with an environment in which they are not just present, but accepted for what they can contribute. Inclusion is a sense of belonging that engages all individuals and enables them to function at full capacity. Just as important, what you do outside of the University matters. Stand up for and in solidarity with the oppressed, use your voice and privilege to enact change. A University that is diverse and policies, processes and procedures that are inclusive is essential as we navigate another 125 years.

So, I end the same way I began, with a question. How are you helping to build inclusive communities and promoting social responsibility at Notre Dame of Maryland University and beyond?

Dr. Brandy Garlic serves NDMU as the associate vice president for student life and dean of students and as an associate faculty member. She has worked in higher education, advocating for change, for over 15 years. Her research focuses on the impact self-efficacy has on a leader's ability to perform their duties effectively and efficiently. (During her down time, Dr. Garlic gives back to the community through her church and her daughter's school.)

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-Sallie Mullen, Class of 1968, Montrose Society Member since 2013

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