

# *The Leprechaun*

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

MAY 2009 EDITION



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## Celebrating a Life Too Short

Linda Sengstock appreciates the last two years she had with her son. She knows she could have lost him some time ago. **Joe Sengstock Jr. '95**, died April 18, more than two years after suffering severe injuries in a car crash involving a drunken driver.

"I had 50,000 more seconds with him, and every second was precious," Linda said. "It was a miracle. He wasn't supposed to live, but he was a strong guy with a strong heart."

Joe, a Sterling Heights resident, suffered life-threatening injuries in a January 2007 crash, including a closed-head injury, head and facial fractures, torn arteries, and stroke. He was also blind in one eye and partially blind in the other.

Joseph Wojtas, 73, of Center Line, a former Detroit police officer and retired Warren court officer, pleaded guilty to drunken driving causing injury and was sentenced in July 2007 to 90 days in jail, six months house arrest, and five years probation by Judge James Biernat of Macomb County Circuit Court.

Wojtas had a blood alcohol content of at least .19 percent. At about 4:40 p.m., Jan. 11, 2007, his Mercury Marquis hit a boulder, went airborne and plowed into Joe's 1976 Cordoba that was stopped at a traffic light at 10 Mile and Sherwood Road in Center Line.

Linda and her family still maintain Wojtas received a lenient sentence and hope now that her son has died, Wojtas will face a more serious charge. She wants Wojtas and other drunken drivers to realize the devastating consequences of their actions.

"Drunk drivers don't know the effect they've had on people's lives," she said.

Macomb County prosecutors could try to charge Wojtas with a more serious offense — such as drunken driving causing death — if they can show Joe died as a result of injuries from the crash, according to John

Courie, a former chief assistant prosecutor in Macomb County and currently a criminal law professor.

"An expert will have to say that there was not an intervening variable that caused the death," Courie said.

According to Center Line police Detective Robert Plotzke, Center Line police are waiting on the medical examiner's autopsy report, which will provide a cause and manner of death. The report will be key to determining whether prosecutors would seek a new charge.

The offense that Wojtas was convicted of carries a five-year maximum penalty while drunken driving causing death is punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Because he had no prior convictions, Wojtas' sentencing guideline range was low — between no jail time and 14 months of incarceration.

"If Wojtas is convicted of the more serious offense, his sentence on the first charge would be credited against the second sentence," Courie said.

Courie said the fact that Joe was injured more than two years ago could make it "difficult" to prove a direct link to the injuries and his death. On the other hand, Joe was only 32 years old and had no prior health problems.

Linda said her son's death came quickly and was a surprise since he had been doing well, although she said he "had three bouts with the flu" in recent weeks. His health took a sudden turn Friday, April 17. They took him to a doctor and brought him back home, but "he couldn't sit up straight at the kitchen table," she said. So they took him to the hospital, where he died the next day.

"I've got to know how my son died," she said. Despite his obvious disabilities, Joe had a quality life, his mother said. When he got injured, Linda vowed to personally take care of him forever.

"It was my honor to have him here," she said. "I didn't want him to live in a nursing home. It told him I would never not be by his side."

She said he was mentally aware and could understand things, but he couldn't function on his own or work. He couldn't talk and could barely see. He tired easily so had to take six to eight naps per day," she said.

"How much more could he fight? He wanted to live," she said. "He laughed every day in this house."

"In-between naps, he played cards, watched the 'Ellen' show on TV, listened to music and went on outings and to family gatherings," Linda said. The Sengstock household often buzzed with activity. Joe had a lot of visitors and was constantly surrounded by family and friends, including his three siblings.

...Continued on Page 3

...Continued From Page 2

“He was trying to be normal,” she said. “We took him everywhere we could.”

The only time she saw him “depressed” since the crash was when he saw a Cordoba outside his house. It was similar to his Cordoba that was crushed by Wojtas’ vehicle.

He spent Easter Sunday dinner sitting next to his grandfather, Anthony Bugliesi, at Bugliesi’s home in Center Line, where Joe was traveling to when the crash occurred.

Linda used \$11,000 monthly in insurance payments to hire people to provide his around-the-clock care, many of them family and friends; she also hired professional caregivers.

“State Farm was glad to send me the check because doing it this way saved them \$30,000 a month,” she said.

Her son’s estate sued Wojtas, and they reached a settlement of \$600,000, she said.

The money doesn’t come close to replacing the son she had.

Joe loved football, and in his youth played for the Warren Jets, Bemis Junior High School, and **Notre Dame Harper Woods**. Well over 6 feet tall and 200-plus pounds, he was a lineman. After graduating in 1995, he coached the youth team he once played for.

John Guzzardo, 46, of Shelby Township, was president of the youth football league and varsity coach in the late 1990s when Joe was an assistant coach. He was one of hundreds of people who visited the family Tuesday and Wednesday at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home in Sterling Heights.

“He was good at relating to the kids,” Guzzardo said. “Any coach can draw up plays, but Joe also was able to talk to the kids. He would individually coach the kids, tell them his experience.”

Guzzardo also knew Joe in his days of playing with the Warren Jets in about 1990-91, and remembers him playing at **Notre Dame**.

“He loved **Notre Dame**; he was really into it,” he said.

Before the crash, Joe trained in robotic engineering and most recently worked making robots for Utica Enterprises in Shelby Township. He also worked part time at a group of bowling alleys.

He had lived on his own for several years, but had moved back to his parents’ home to be with his sister, Christina, who at the time was a senior at Henry Ford High School in Sterling Heights. He also is survived by his two brothers, David and Nicholas, and father, Joe Sr.

Source: Macomb Daily



Linda Sengstock, from left, is joined by her three surviving children, David, Nicholas and Christina, while looking at a collage of photographs of the late Joe Sengstock Jr. at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home in Sterling Heights.



# When Life Deals You Lemons...

When Circuit City announced it would liquidate all of its stores on January 16, 2009, it meant the end of a nine-year long stint at the electronics giant for **Brian Hayner '02**. Realizing the absence of Circuit City's Fire Dog electronics service left a huge gap in the service industry, Hayner decided to turn this lemon into lemonade.

The day after the bad news was announced, he and a partner began planning. They formulated a business plan, recruited experienced service technicians, and scouted for a business location. They found a vacancy in Oakland Mall that was a perfect fit for their first location. "We worked diligently to get the store ready for our grand opening," Hayner said. The goal was to be open shortly after Circuit City closed its doors. When those doors closed on February 21, 2009, Hayner and his partners were just about ready to fill the void. Less than two weeks later, on March 1, 2009, *Smart Guy Services* opened for business. "Business has been going great so far," said Hayner. "We've built some strong relationships with other businesses inside Oakland Mall, as well as in the Troy & Madison Heights communities."

*Smart Guy Services* specializes in computer repair, upgrades and initial setup. They offer home theater setup, TV calibration and TV wall mounting. They can repair all video game consoles, including the Xbox 360 red ring. *Smart Guy Services* is also an authorized dealer for Comcast. Interested in signing up for a Comcast service such as Digital TV, High Speed Internet, Digital Voice, or HDTV Upgrade? They can help you! "We are strongly focused on getting our name out there while providing quick, quality service for the best price," said Hayner. "We pride ourselves on beating any competition and are 10-20% cheaper than Best Buy's Geek Squad across the board."

[www.smartguyservices.com](http://www.smartguyservices.com)  
586.943.7775

**Smart Guy Services  
Offer to the ND  
Community**  
*Bring a copy of this  
newsletter to  
Smart Guy Services and  
receive a free  
PC diagnostic (\$50 value)!*



## Videos

The Friends of Notre Dame has been storing many videos recovered from Notre Dame High School. We mainly have football videos and a few other miscellaneous events. We have invested in a video converter and will begin the process of converting the videos to a digital format this summer. At that time we will provide you with information as to how we intend to share the footage. We *will not* be releasing any of the original videos. If there is a specific video you are interested in, please email us at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com).

# Upcoming Events

## Classes of 1985 - 1988 Golf Outing

A Golf outing for ND classes 85-88 is planned! We are currently looking for 50 plus golfers. The date is Saturday, May 23rd at Sycamore Hills in Macomb, MI. Cost is \$99 per man and includes 18 holes with cart, unlimited beer and pop on the course, hotdogs and chips at the turn, 2 meat buffet dinner, and 2 hours of open bar with top shelf liquor. Time will be Noon to ??

## 25th Anniversary Celebration

Honoring Fr. Kiselica's 25 Years in the Priesthood  
Saturday, June 20, 2009  
(See Page 6 for Complete Details)

## Annual Alumni Softball Tournament

September 2009 At Total Sports  
Start recruiting your classmates!

# The Muggs

See the Muggs  
(Tony DeNardo '90 and Danny Methric '90)  
Live!

- ♣ Saturday, June 21, 2009, Cadieux Cafe...  
Detroit, MI
- ♣ Tuesday, June 23, 2009, Scotia Park...  
Huntington Woods, MI  
Concert in the Park  
7:15pm
- ♣ Saturday, July 11, 2009, Machine Shop...  
Flint, MI



# Yearbooks

Almost all years are available for a small fee (\$7.00) to cover storage and shipping costs. Send us an email and we'll make arrangements to get you a yearbook!

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

1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1970, & 1972

\*\* A 1956 and a 1957 yearbook were donated to us recently.  
They are for sale only through our new store. \*\*

\*\* A 1970 yearbook was recently donated to us. If you need a 1970, please email me at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com) \*\*



# Congratulations to...

Tony DeNardo '90 and Danny Methric '90 - The Muggs!

The Muggs' album *On with the Show* was named *best recording* at the Detroit Music Awards on Friday April 17, 2009.



To Purchase *On With The Show*,  
please visit  
[www.themuggs.com/merch](http://www.themuggs.com/merch)



## Celebrating 25 Years of Priesthood

In June, Father John Kiselica will celebrate 25 years of priesthood.

Please join us in honoring him, his dedication to God and the community he serves, his commitment to education, and his many accomplishments over the last 25 years.

**WHO:** All ND grads, family, friends and guests who wish to honor Fr. K. in achieving this milestone

**WHAT:** Hors d'oeuvres, Beer, and a Good Time

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 20, 2009 @ 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**WHERE:** Fishbones in St. Clair Shores, MI (9 Mile & Jefferson)

**COST:** \$25 per person

**HOW TO RSVP:** Email to Paul Nahra '93: [pnahra@comcast.net](mailto:pnahra@comcast.net)

**Checks** can be sent to:

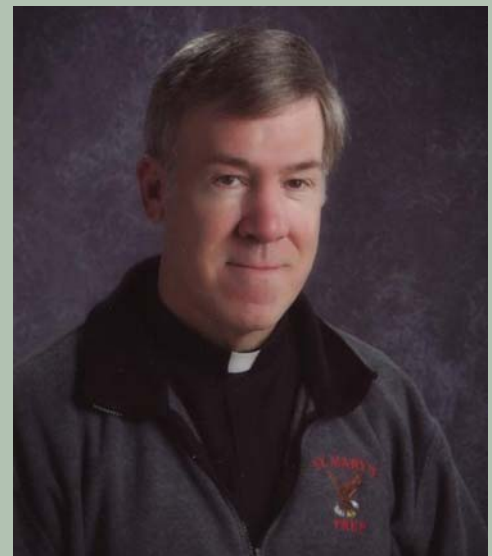
Friends of Notre Dame  
c/o Jim Mandl  
54361 Pine Street  
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Make Checks Payable to  
Friends of Notre Dame

**Credit Card Payments:**



To pay by credit card, visit  
[www.friendsofnotredame.com](http://www.friendsofnotredame.com) and  
click on the "Donate" button at the  
top right of the home page.



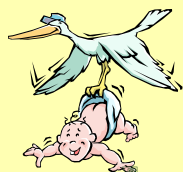
facebook®

The Facebook Group was deleted and replaced with a Harper Woods ND Fan Page. If you'd like to become a fan of HWND on Facebook, simply search for our fan page. You may also search for groups we've created for each class!

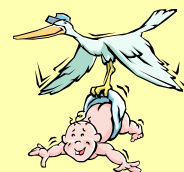


Our website has eclipsed 20,000 hits!





## Births



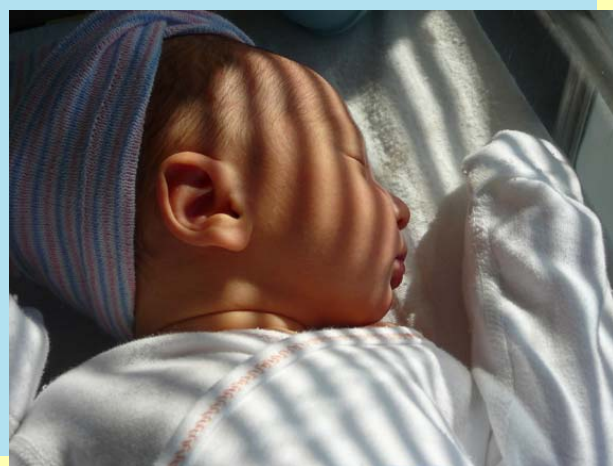
**Jackson Patrick Stieber**

Born March 26, 2009 To  
Olivia and Paul Stieber '90.



**Colin Robert DeSmet**

Born Feb. 2, 2009 To  
Kimmy and Eric Desmet '97.



## This.. Is... Jeopardy!

On Friday, April 24, *Peter Latouf '02* appeared on the TV game show *Jeopardy*. Unfortunately, Peter was not victorious in his appearance, but he did learn quite a bit through the experience. "Playing Jeopardy is much harder in person than it is at home," he said. "The lights, the cameras, the millions of people watching you trying to answer trivia questions - not to mention trying to get the timing of the buzzer down! It's very, very frustrating. Being on the show was a great experience, and I'm honored to even have been selected." he said. He credited ND for his success on the show, especially with one question in particular. "My Final Jeopardy category was *Shakespeare's Title Characters*, and the first Shakespeare play I ever read was part of an assignment for AP Lit class," he said. "Being on the show has helped me appreciate just how important a little random knowledge can be." Peter finished the day with a score of \$13,200 which was good enough for 2nd place. He was rewarded with a \$2,000 check for his efforts. For a complete answer by answer recap of Peter's appearance please visit:



*Alex Trebek and Peter Latouf '02*

[http://www.j-archive.com/showgame.php?game\\_id=2989](http://www.j-archive.com/showgame.php?game_id=2989)

## Hunks

Dan Ryan '01 (left) and Patrick Lipa '02, two 26-year-old friends and graduates of Notre Dame High School, will launch the Oakland County franchise of College Hunks Hauling Junk. The service hauls away residential and business garbage for a fee. Most of the items are donated to charities or recycled. For more information, call 586-713-3355 or visit [www.1800junkusa.com](http://www.1800junkusa.com).



# Upcoming Reunions

## Reunions in 2009

The following classes are due to celebrate reunion years in 2009:



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



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



Interested in forming a reunion committee for your class?

E-mail Jim Mandl '90 at [jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com](mailto:jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com).

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

## Celebrating 25 Years - Class of 1989

Dear Classmates, We are upon our 20 year reunion, and it is time for all of us to get together, enjoy spirits, tell lies, and catch up on what we've all been doing since the dawn of the 90's. Our reunion committee looked at many different ideas, and we have decided to have a party at the Gazebo Banquet Center in Warren, *Saturday May 16, 2009*. This venue allowed us to keep the price reasonable, and we feel the event will be something everyone will enjoy. I hope that many of you will set the date aside, and join us for a fantastic evening. The evening will include entertainment, buffet dinner, and open bar for five hours.

Ticket Prices: (Please note the Fr. Bryson Special)

Pay before March 31st: \$50 each or two for \$90.

Pay April 1st - May 1st (latest): \$55 each or two for \$100.

Please make your check payable to John Pierce and mail to:  
John Pierce, 38713 Woodmont, Sterling Heights, MI 48310.

If anyone has any questions, please contact  
Eric Schmidt at: [schmidty1967@yahoo.com](mailto:schmidty1967@yahoo.com) or  
John Pierce at: [lakelooper@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelooper@yahoo.com)

## Celebrating 10 Years - Class of 1999!

What: Cocktail Party

When: Saturday, June 27, 2009 at 8:00pm

Where: Luna Kai / Gino's Surf - 37400 Jefferson Ave., Harrison Township, MI 48045

Please email me at [joedudek2007@yahoo.com](mailto:joedudek2007@yahoo.com) or by phone at 586-945-9310

Casual Attire is appropriate; please note that this is an outside venue.

Cash bar. Please bring any significant others.

## Celebrating 50 Years - Class of 1959

Members of the class of 1959 have started organizing a 50th reunion!

Members of the class of 1959 are asked to contact:

*Rudy Munoz* at [ramdam@charter.net](mailto:ramdam@charter.net) or 989-821-5555

Or

*Don Pierce* at [dpierce@pierce-company.com](mailto:dpierce@pierce-company.com) or 313-343-0000



## Wall of Fame

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

Gary Lytle '61  
 Dave Debol '74\*  
 John Giordano '61\*  
 John Blum '77\*  
 David Bonior '63  
 Bob Navetta '64  
 Joe Przybycki '64  
 Mike Boccia '65  
 Chris Hacias '65  
 John Kraft '65  
 Tom Van Doorne '66  
 Jim Navetta '67  
 Rick Wenner '67  
 Dan Richards '67  
 Glenn Radzik '69  
 Gary Radzik '69  
 Frank Lutostanski '71  
 Jerry Guinane '71  
 Al Provenzano '72  
 Mike McGreevy '73  
 Tim Flannery '73  
 Pat Srock '74



Jim Navetta '67  
Loyola Basketball



Brian Monfils '75  
Kalamazoo Tennis

Jim Romeo '75  
 Kevin Flannery '75  
 Tom Bentley '75  
 Brian Monfils '75  
 Mark McGreevy '76  
 Tom Gadawski '76  
 Marco Caporuscio '78  
 Dave Wolfbauer '79  
 Gary Bass '80  
 Kevin Paterson '80  
 Mike Smith '80  
 Jim Forsgren '81  
 Craig Mitchell '81  
 Walt Dixon '81  
 Brett Nowak '82  
 Chris Gust '82  
 Paul Tripp '82  
 Brian Barney '83  
 Andy Nanasi '83  
 Greg Placidi '83  
 Ken Zazula '84  
 Bruce Smith '85  
 Paul Seibert '86



Jason Selleke '96  
Toledo Baseball



Jeff Miller '90  
Oakland Baseball

Paul Amodei '86  
 Joe Trombley '87  
 Andy Booth '87  
 Scott Klott '88  
 Jim Maher '88  
 Eric Taylor '89  
 Eric Stanczak '89  
 DeJuan Reynolds '90  
 Jeff Miller '90  
 Matt Ziolkowski '90  
 Mark Staples, Jr. '91  
 Steve Jansen '92  
 Anthony Vitale '94  
 Preston Brandimore '95  
 Phil Ruggerio '95  
 Dave Biondi '95  
 Jason Selleke '96  
 Jason Stoicevich '97  
 Nick Holliday '97  
 James Fields '01  
 Adam Fujita '01

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

*We will gladly ship your plaque if you can cover the cost of shipping.*

*The cost to ship a plaque is \$8.00.*



*Make Checks payable to: Friends of Notre Dame*

*Mail to:*

*Friends of Notre Dame*

*c/o Jim Mandl*

*54361 Pine Street*

*New Baltimore, MI 48047*



## Trophies

For the past four years, we have been storing over 160 of the school's trophies. We would like to put these trophies in the hands of the guys who earned them for Notre Dame. We have taken photos of all the trophies and uploaded them to the photo gallery on the website. Please browse through them. If you see any that you would like, please contact us, and we will make arrangements to get them to you.

We will continue to store them through July of 2009. After July 31, 2009, we will decide what to do with them.



# Introducing the All New Friends of Notre Dame On-Line Store

<http://friendsofnotredame.flyingcart.com>



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

## Support Alumni Owned Businesses



Eric Woodhouse '91 - Co-Owner



David Moroz '76 Owner



Greg Schultz '76 - President and Manager  
Eastpointe ~ Clinton Township



Scott Baumgart '84 - Owner



Dan Ryan '01 and Pat Lipa '02 Co-Owners

**Light Mike.net** Extreme Lighting For Extreme Events

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- Festivals
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- Fashion Shows
- And More!

Mike Olechowski '05 Owner (586) - 293 - 5652 [www.LightMike.net](http://www.LightMike.net)

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- Lighted Table Decor
- Strobe Lighting
- Stage Lighting
- Rope Lighting
- Fog Machines
- Outdoor Lighting
- And More!



# Support Alumni Owned Businesses



Jim '00, Joe '04, and Jeff '06 Riehl



Joe Vicari '75 - Owner



Casey Wakula '96 - Owner



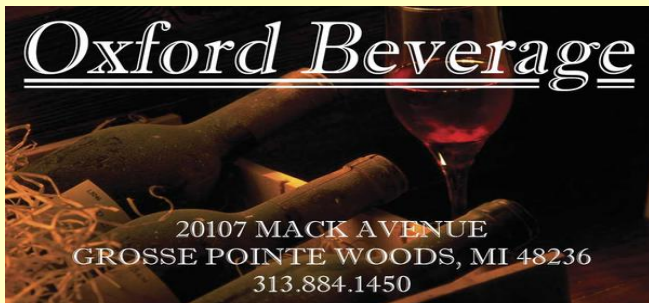
Samir Thomas '89 Owner



Jeff Meldrum '02 - Owner



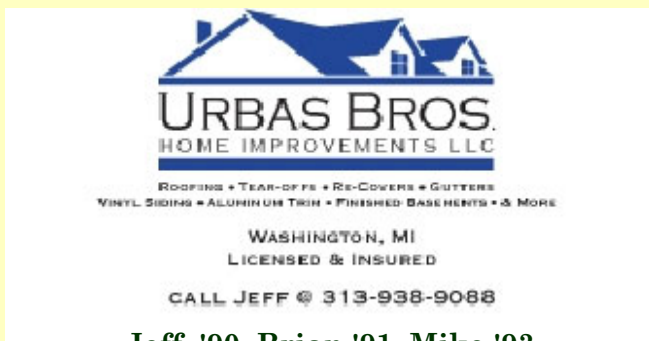
Michael Coley '86 - Owner



Dave Bourgeois '89 - Owner



Ben Holmes '87 - Owner



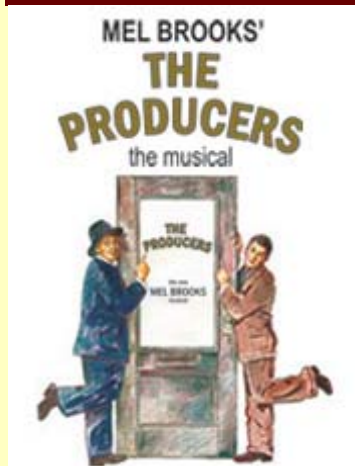
Jeff '90, Brian '91, Mike '93  
Ask About Our Custom Finished Basements!



Patrick Stieber '92 - Owner



## See Brian Jones '96 In...



### Show Times

Friday, May 29  
 Saturday, May 30  
 Thursday, June 4  
 Friday, June 5  
 Saturday, June 6  
 Thursday, June 11  
 Friday, June 12  
 Saturday, June 13

All Shows 8:00pm

For an evening of escapist entertainment that will put a song in your heart and a spring in your step, there's one must-see production this season: **THE PRODUCERS**, presented by St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook in the fabulous outdoor Cranbrook Greek Theatre.

*Staring Brian Jones HWND Class of 1996!*



*Brian Jones '96 Appearing  
 In A Streetcar Named Desire*

## We Heard From...

### *Paul Gigliotti, Class of 1983*

I had a hearing the other day with the Honorable John Rabaut ND '81. After the hearing we chatted about ND and he brought up Conrad Vachon. I told John how I was recently helping my daughter with an English paper and all of Mr. Vachon's little grammar rules had come back to me, crystal clear. I thought I had repressed all of those memories! It's amazing how one person can affect so many lives.

### *Timothy Egan, Class of 1988*

I received the plaque today. Thank you so much! As I opened it, I said to my wife, "this is the first thing I own of my fathers' after 14 years." Sad but true! Thank you so much!

### *Dan Ryan, Class of 2001*

My business partner, Patrick Lipa of '02, and I have recently opened up a business called **College Hunks Hauling Junk**. Pat and I are real excited and wanted to get the word across the Notre Dame community. **College Hunks Hauling Junk** helps you **FINALLY** get rid of those unwanted items by providing friendly and collegiate teams to remove junk quickly from anywhere within your commercial or residential property. We proudly donate a portion of revenues from each job to local college scholarship programs.. We take pretty much everything from a TV, desk, concrete, you name it. The only thing we do not take is hazardous waste. The cool thing about our business is that we donate most of the items to local charities and we recycle over 60% of what we take.

### *Jimmy Dewinter, Class of 1987 (Via Facebook)*

You guys are doing a Great thing bringing all ND brothers together. We need to keep in touch with all ND brothers and friends. Please keep me advised of any changes in the communications with Jim Mandl. I salute him in his efforts. Thanks Jim really appreciate your time and effort

### *Paul Ruggerio, Class of 1995 (Via Facebook)*

Great work Mike. Hope you know that we as fans of Notre Dame appreciate what you are doing. You have a pretty large task on your hands. Good luck and thanks again for keeping the ND facebook community together.

### *Michael Balgenorth, Class of 1964*

Received 2009 Alumni Directory. Keep up the good work!

### *Bill Hammers, Class of 1968*

Early morning on Feb 27, 2009 my Mom died after a three-year battle with advanced Alzheimer's. Her body was flown from Michigan to Florida and after the funeral she was buried next to Dad. In celebration of the 85+ year life of this loving and devout woman, I ask that you do something with yellow roses - her favorite - in her memory to enliven your home.

### *Tom Konal, Class of 1983*

Thanks! We truly appreciate everything you are doing. You can't imagine how much all of your support means to all of us. Thanks Again, God Bless and Hug Your Children.

### *Eric DeSmet, Class of 1997*

The April '09 Leprechaun looks great as always! Thanks for all the HARD work you and yours put in to keeping our memories alive.