



# THE SLATE

The IND Alumnae Association Newsletter

Summer 2025

## *A Note from our President*

In our most recent issue this past winter, I speculated about how we got here and why — how we went from an alumnae association with no school to a non-profit that is now providing tens of thousands of dollars of support each year. I posited that perhaps there was something intangible within the building of IND that made us a bit more driven and fiery than our Baltimore peers. (I know that sounds weird, so maybe just read the whole thing [here](#).)

But there is another reason we're here that I didn't mention in the last issue. There is a small group of about fifteen women that have spent countless hours over the last five years getting this thing off the ground. I'm not going to list them (even though I want to) because I will inevitably forget someone, and can you imagine how terrible that would be?! But you likely know who they are. Their names have been (and continue to be) all over our Facebook page, this newsletter, and our website. They were (and are) board members, committee participants, and dedicated volunteers running our events and our Heritage Room. They have taken this school-less alumnae association and turned it into a functioning non-profit. But this small but mighty group of women is tired. Having done so much work over these last five years, they are getting burned out, as anyone would. They have carried us this far and they shouldn't have to continue to carry us as we move forward. They deserve to kick their feet up at the crab feast and enjoy the fruits of their labor! But they can't. Because we don't have anyone to fill their place.

I happened to be on the Board of Trustees when IND closed. And when it was announced we were closing, so many people came out of the woodwork to express their outrage. (Many of the most vocal, ironically, had not recently donated to the school or volunteered their time at any events.) We were asked, "Why didn't you say something? Why didn't you tell us we were in such dire straits so that we could DO something?!" Well, the main reason is that publicizing the fact that we were on the brink of closure doesn't exactly help when trying to attract new students.

We currently find ourselves in a similar position, but now I can actually say it: We are heading down the same road as IND. We ARE in dire straits. We need help. Thankfully, this issue isn't as complex as the ones that faced IND-- we simply need volunteers. The time commitment per year is minimal. Whether you have one hour a month or four hours a year, we have a place for you. And more than just your time, we need new ideas and fresh perspectives. The lack of diversity — both in age and race — in our committees and our volunteer pool is a problem.

I agreed to take this position not because I had a bunch of free time to spare, but because the education I received and the experience I had at IND made me a better person. And I want more girls to have that same experience. Watching this group come together to put a little more "good" into our community — whether it's through tuition support or turkey dinners — helps bolster my faith in humanity. What a different world we would live in, if everyone took a little bit of their spare time to do some good. So if you believe in the work we are doing, and if you believe IND made you a better version of yourself, please reach out and help us keep this ship afloat.

Kelly Eick '06

# 2025 INDAA Awards

We are seeking nominations for INDAA's 2025 Distinguished Alumna Award. Nominees should embody "The Spirit of IND," in all facets of her life, an alumna who:

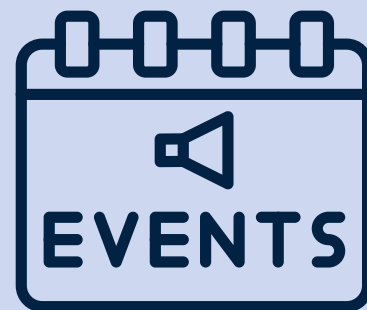
- Has demonstrated sustained devotion to her alma mater, including service to IND and/or the IND Alumnae Association
- Has contributed to her community through volunteer service and/or her professional endeavors and accomplishments

All alumnae of the Institute of Notre Dame are eligible for this award, except current members of the INDAA Board of Directors, i.e., officers and committee chairs. Posthumous and previous nominations are welcome. Anyone familiar with a potential nominee's qualifications may submit a nomination. The person who nominates need not have an affiliation with IND or the IND Alumnae Association. Nominations will be open until September 15th this year. Head to our [website](#) to download a nomination form.

## Be sure to follow us on social media!



We are active on both [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) - like and follow both pages to stay up to date with all things INDAA! Please note, our Facebook page is not the same as the private IND Alumnae Facebook group, so if you aren't following our public page, you won't see the latest news from us!



We have some exciting events scheduled for the rest of 2025!

### 32nd Annual Crab Feast

at Conrad's Ruth Villa

Saturday, September 20, 2025

1:00PM - 5:00PM

### Alumnae Weekend

#### Cash Bingo

at Columbus Gardens

Saturday, November 8, 2025

12:00PM - 4:00PM

### Celebration Sunday

#### Alumnae Mass and Luncheon

at St. Isaac Jogues Church

Sunday, November 9, 2025

12:30PM

Keep up to date with upcoming events and get-togethers by visiting our [website](#), or by following us on social media.



# Penguin Picnic '25

We had another excellent Penguin Picnic this year, replete with sunny skies, great wine, and good friends! As is tradition, we presented our 2025 INDAA Alumnae Awards to their most deserving recipients. Our Sutherland Unsung Hero Award was presented to JoAnn Stelmack '72 by her niece and nominator, Diane Montier '84. Here is a bit of what JoAnn had to say about her time at IND and what it means to her to be an unsung hero:

*"In closing, I want to echo the beautiful words of Sr. Kathleen Jager, IND Class of '70, that was shared recently on the celebration of her 50th Jubilee:*

*'I am the person I am today mostly because of IND. IND is not a school or a building, but an experience. There are thousands of alumnae who have that experience in them, so the IND spirit, the IND values will go on.' I believe each of us carry that IND spirit on in everything we do. Again, thank you for this incredible honor. I accept it on behalf of all the quiet helpers out there who simply loved IND and the people and volunteers who made it so special."*

Our Kateri Tekakwitha Young Alumna Award, presented to a young alumna who embodies the steadfast nature of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, was awarded to alumna Erin Saul '00. Erin has volunteered with multiple animal shelters over the years and has also worked closely with House of Ruth, a center for victims of domestic violence and their children. Here is what Erin had to say about her nomination:

*"I am so grateful and extremely humbled to receive the 2025 Kateri Tekakwitha Young Alumna Award for my volunteer work with BARCS, WRFAS, and House of Ruth. Thank you to the IND Alumnae Association for choosing me as the recipient, and to Susan Citrano Karasinski '73 for nominating me. What an honor! None of us involved in animal welfare ever expect awards or accolades, we're just trying to be a voice for them and save as many as we can."*

Thank you to all our alumnae who participated, nominated a fellow alumna, or gave their time and services to make the Penguin Picnic a success! We would once again like to extend a special thank you to Jessica Shearer '00 for lending us her beautiful winery for the day and Liz Flores '00, owner of Highland Graze, for providing delicious food options. We hope to see you all next year!



# Crab Feast Sponsorships & Auction

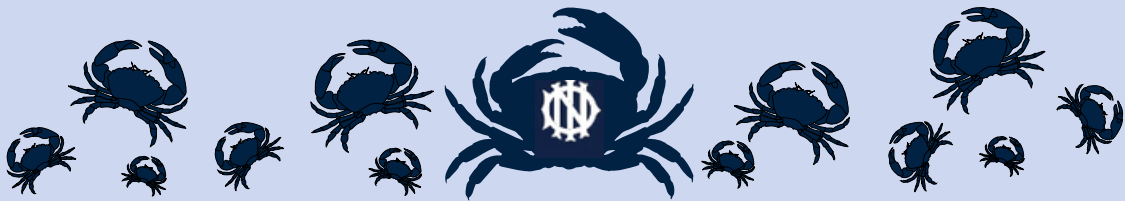
We are currently seeking sponsorships from businesses and individuals for our 32nd annual crab feast!

This is our biggest fundraising event of the year, and sponsorships are critical to its success. The funds raised at this event allow us to continue our missions of service to our community and support to local Catholic high schools. All sponsorships and donations are fully tax deductible and include publicity for your organization along with other incentives. Find our [sponsorship form](#) here!

We are also adding the option this year to participate from a distance with our Crab Feast Online Auction! Items can be bid on until September 20, 2025 at 9:00am EST. We want everyone to have the opportunity to win some incredible items, even if you aren't able to attend the crab feast! Winners will be announced at the crab feast and notified via their provided contact information.

Find our live [auction link](#) here!

With your support, we will be able to not only continue but expand our mission. If you're interested in learning more about sponsorship options, please visit our website, [INDAlumnae.org](http://INDAlumnae.org).



## Sr. Kathleen Engers turns 100!

Sr. Kathleen Marie Engers has been a School Sister of Notre Dame for 74 years. Sister Kathleen graduated from IND in 1943 and professed her final vows as an SSND in 1951. She taught at Notre Dame of Maryland University for 62 years and was a communications and drama professor at the University until her retirement in 2012. She founded Pumpkin Theatre of Baltimore at the college in 1967 with the mission to "entertain, empower, and educate" young children. In 1982, following the dissolution of Notre Dame's drama department, the theater moved off-campus and became a non-profit organization. Sister Kathleen remains on the Board of Directors as an Emeritus member. She was a fervent supporter of the theater programs offered at NDMU and worked to make her students stronger speakers. Happy birthday, Sr. Kathleen!



# CLASS REUNIONS

This year we will continue our tradition of honoring jubilee classes (25th and 50th anniversaries) at Alumnae Mass. Jubilee classes will process into the church, as was the tradition at IND graduation ceremonies. In 2025, the classes of 1975 and 2000 will be honored. The Celebration Sunday Mass is on November 9, 2025 at 12:30PM at St Isaac Jogues Church with lunch to follow.

## **Class of 1970 (55th) – INDAA Crab Feast and/or Celebration Sunday**

INDAA Crab Feast – Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 1PM - 5PM

Conrad Ruth's Villa (3301 Edwards Ln, Baltimore MD) - \$80 per person

and / or

Celebration Sunday Mass and Luncheon – Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 12:30PM -4PM

St. Isaac Jogues Church (9215 Old Harford Rd, Parkville MD) - \$30 per person

Contact: Debbi Nesbitt - [Dnesbitt989@gmail.com](mailto:Dnesbitt989@gmail.com)

## **Class of 1975 (50th) – Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 1PM to 5PM**

Fallston Commons Community Center (1800 Ashland Dr, Fallston, MD 21047)

Contact: Janice Hand Stangroom - [stangroomjanice@gmail.com](mailto:stangroomjanice@gmail.com)

## **Class of 1980 (45th) – Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 12:30PM to 3:30PM**

Jimmy's Famous Seafood (6526 Holabird Ave) - \$80 per person (due by 8/31/2025)

Contact: Robin Dice - [rldice918@AOL.com](mailto:rldice918@AOL.com)

## **Class of 1985 (40th) – Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 4PM to 8PM**

Power Plant Live in the Leinenkugel German Beer Garden - \$100 per person

Contact: Sue Sappington (619-315-6769)

## **Class of 1990 (35th) – No reunion is planned for 2025**

## **Class of 1995 (30th) – Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 1PM to 5PM**

INDAA Crab Feast

Conrad Ruth's Villa (3301 Edwards Ln, Baltimore MD) - \$80 per person

Contact: Nicole Rykowski Green - [rycoleski@yahoo.com](mailto:rycoleski@yahoo.com)

## **Class of 2000 (25th) – No date yet**

To help plan the reunion or to share your updated contact information, email

Katina Dawson at [Katina.Dawson@yahoo.com](mailto:Katina.Dawson@yahoo.com).

## **Class of 2010 (15th) – Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 11:30AM to 3PM**

Cruise departs from 561 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 - \$100 per person

Dress Code: All White Attire. Spouse or partner welcome. RSVP by September 9, 2025.

Contact: [indclassof2010@gmail.com](mailto:indclassof2010@gmail.com)

## **Class of 2015 (10th) - Already Celebrated!**

Contact: Megan Rowan - [meg.rowan18@gmail.com](mailto:meg.rowan18@gmail.com)

## **Class of 2020 (5th) – No date yet**

Help plan your first reunion!

Contact: Moly Kihn - [mollyk862@gmail.com](mailto:mollyk862@gmail.com) or 443-862-2858

If you are in a class with no designated class agent and would like to help plan your milestone reunion, contact Maureen Ciesielski at [contact@INDAlumnae.org](mailto:contact@INDAlumnae.org).

# THE HERITAGE ROOM

The IND Heritage Room houses years of history and memories from the beloved Institute of Notre Dame.

If you have any items to donate please contact

Debbie Batchelor

([dbatchelor212@gmail.com](mailto:dbatchelor212@gmail.com)) or Monica

Crusse ([mcrusse@verizon.net](mailto:mcrusse@verizon.net)).

We are currently looking for a blazer with piping to complete a uniform display from the early 1960's.

## **ALUMNAE WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE**

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9AM to 10:30AM

## **OPEN HOUSE DATES**

(All open houses are from 10AM to 2PM)

September 13th, 2025

October 18th, 2025

December 13th, 2025

January 24th, 2026

February 21st, 2026

March 14th, 2026

April 18th, 2026

May 16th, 2026

June 13th, 2026

The Heritage Room is located at  
Notre Dame of Maryland University  
Caroline Hall, Room 201

We are also looking for someone to make embroidered name tags like the one pictured below. Please email Debbie and Monica at the email addresses listed above if you are able to help. Thank you!

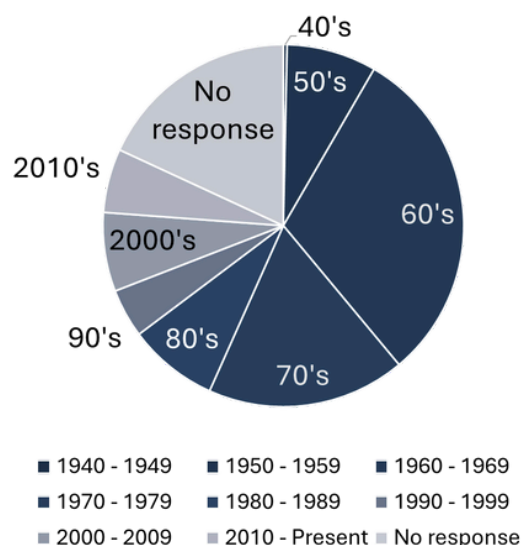


# The Survey Results Are In!

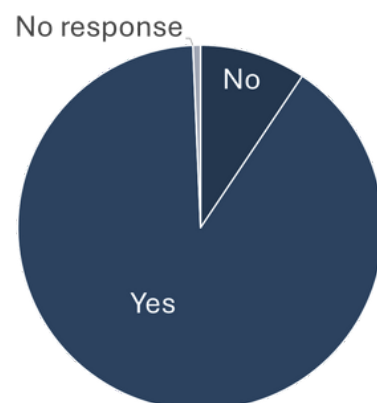
Almost exactly 300 of you responded to our survey this winter! We don't have the space to show a full summary of responses to every question, but here are some of the highlights.

The results of the survey were discussed at length by the board at our spring meeting. During our first few years as a nonprofit, we were frequently asked why we were raising money and what we were doing with it, so we were glad to see that most now understand our mission. Given the responses provided, we agreed there was no reason to change our approach or frequency of communication. That said, it's important to note the lack of age diversity in the responses. About half of the survey responses were from the classes that graduated in the 60's and 70's. And while those responses are of course important, we don't want to assume that members from other classes would have responded to these questions in the same way. And though it's only a small sliver of the chart shown below, we have been told (both in the open feedback portion of this survey and in person) that we need to do a better job at engaging young alumnae. Moving forward, we will be having more events that we believe will attract younger alumnae, but if you have thoughts or ideas for an event, please reach out! Additionally, we learned that we may not have been doing a good job soliciting for volunteers. Our asks were too broad – people were hesitant to raise their hand to help because they didn't know exactly what they were signing up for. We will be correcting that, with the hope that we will get some more people to help with events and sit on our committees. Lastly, as a reminder, know that we would love to hear from you at any time – not just when we put out a survey. If you have questions or general feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out via social media or email.

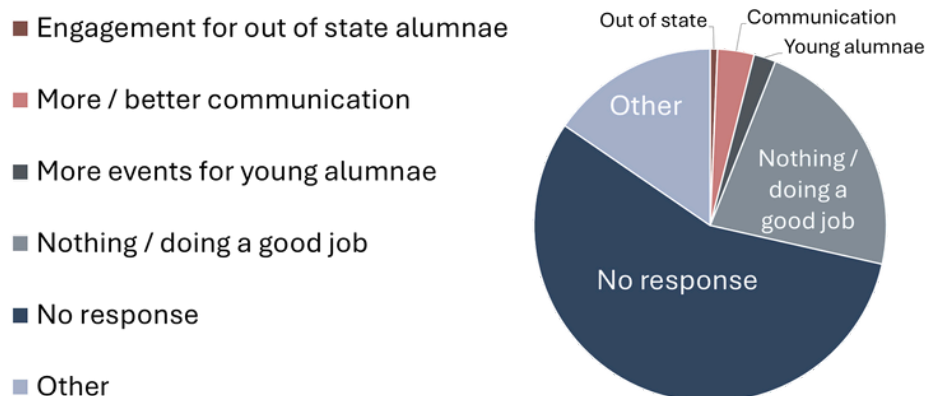
Which classes responded?



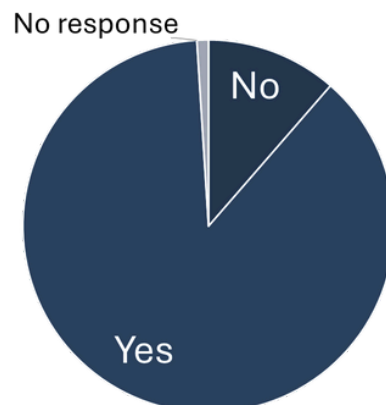
"Do you get enough communication (via email and social media) from us?"



"What can we do better to continue to serve the legacy of IND and support our alumnae?"



"Do you feel you have a good understanding of the INDAA's mission?"



# CURRENT COMMITTEES

Below are very brief and simple descriptions of our current committees. All committees meet virtually via Google Meets or Zoom, so distance is not a barrier to participation! Many of these committees only meet once a quarter, and all of these committees need additional members. If interested in joining a committee or learning more, please send an email to [contact@INDAlumnae.org](mailto:contact@INDAlumnae.org).

## MISSION COMMITTEE

This committee ensures our operations and charitable giving are aligned with our existing mission.

## EVENTS COMMITTEE

This committee plans and runs our events throughout the year. Signing up for this committee does not mean you need to work at every event. We have some volunteers that only work one event a year.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee oversees the spending and investments of the alumnae association, prepares budgets, and works with our bookkeeper to ensure the accuracy of our financial statements.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

This committee creates The Slate, develops advertisements and graphics, and manages all of our social media content.

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee solicits and reviews nominations for awards that are given by the alumnae association. It also oversees the elections of executive committee members on a bi-annual basis.

## HERITAGE ROOM COMMITTEE

This committee runs our Heritage Room at NDMU by collecting, curating, and displaying donated items. They also coordinate the open houses and other visits as necessary.

## ALUMNAE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee oversees our class agent program, general alumnae outreach, and reunions.

# Hildie's Helpers

## HELP WANTED!

We are excited to announce our new volunteer program, the INDAA's Hildie's Helpers! Inspired by both the club and Hildie's spirit of generosity, we come together to lend a helping hand wherever it's needed most—whether it's running a wheel at the Crab Feast, distributing Thanksgiving boxes, or giving your time and expertise to an INDAA committee.

This group is perfect for the alumna who doesn't think they would be able to hold a permanent position but would be able to help out here and there! For the remainder of 2025, we need volunteers to ensure our events run smoothly.

We are currently seeking:

- Mission Committee Members
  - Time Commitment: four virtual meetings per year
- Young Alumnae Subcommittee Chair
  - Time Commitment: You decide! (new committee)
- Volunteers for our Crab Feast
  - Time Commitment: Various (see [SignUp Genius](#))
- Volunteers to assist with sponsorship solicitation for the Crab Feast (sending letters, calling local businesses, etc.)
  - Time Commitment: You decide!

If you or someone you know is interested in lending a helping hand, please let us know at [contact@indalumnae.org](mailto:contact@indalumnae.org).



# Your Rights as a Donor to the INDAA and The Responsibility of the INDAA Mission Committee

The purpose of the INDAA Mission Committee is to honor the legacy of our alma mater by celebrating our abiding sisterhood, championing education in the SSND tradition, transforming our communities through service and stewarding its financial resources in accordance with the mission.

The INDAA is a public charity that depends on donations from alumnae and friends to sustain its mission. As a donor to the INDAA, you have the right to:

- Be assured that the gifts you make to the INDAA are used to fulfill its mission.
- Be informed of how your donations are used and be aware of the organizations being supported.
- Deduct your contribution from your federal and/or state income taxes, with proper documentation.
- Review the INDAA's most recent financial statements.
- Have confidence that your personal information is kept confidential and is not sold or shared with anyone.
- Ask questions when making a donation and receive a prompt and truthful answer.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the INDAA has the responsibility to:

- Maintain its charitable purpose and operate to fulfill its stated mission.
- Refrain from benefiting any individual or private entity. This means that the INDAA cannot use funds to benefit an alumna, a family member of an alumna, or any other particular individual.
- Engage in activities that reflect its mission, but not lobby or make contributions to lobbying activities.
- Refrain from endorsing or opposing any political candidates or making political contributions.

The Mission Committee is grateful for the generosity of the alumnae and friends of the INDAA.

## Accounting Officer's Report

Our financial position remains strong and we continue to be thankful for the generosity of our alumnae. We are excited to share that a Finance Committee has been established. This committee will oversee the spending and investments of the alumnae association, prepare an annual budget, and work with our bookkeeper to ensure the accuracy of our financial statements.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Alumnae

**Dorothy Jane Vavrina Bittner '48**, sister-in-law of Patricia Bittner Barnaba '51 (deceased)  
**Rose Marie Mascari Petti '48**, mother of Sue Petti '74  
**Margaret M. Sellmayer '48**, sister of Mary Therese Sellmayer Tiedemann '42, sister-in-law of Jane Rosendale Sellmayer Beck '46 (deceased), aunt of Peggy Sellmayer Rickter '70, great aunt of Sarah Rickter Sentman '95, Betsy Rickter Roe '97 (deceased), aunt-in-law of Gail Rickter Bennett '72  
**Marilyn Mack Mengele '49**, aunt of Jeannie Lewandowski Mack '83, great aunt of Lauren Mack '23  
**Katherine Herr Holes '51**  
**Joan Zimmerman Folt '53**, sister of Eleanor Zimmerman Troy '46 (deceased), grandmother of Tara Bent Trout '02  
**Geraldine Banachowska '54**  
**Margaret Krach '57**, mother of Joanne Krach Bennetti '80, cousin of Mary Margaret Cooney '47, Loretta Gaetano '51, Shirley Belz '58 and Mary Beth Belz '83  
**Dolores "Dolly" Doyle Rizzi '58**, mother of Anna Rizzi Friedly '82, Mary Rizzi-Ayd '86, Natalie Rizzi '87, grandmother of Nancy Ayd Jasion '14 and Alena Ayd '23  
**Kathleen P. Snyder Snider '62**  
**Rosemarie Lapachinsky Homberg '63**, mother of Denise Homberg Bustard '85  
**Nancy Ehrhardt Castle '64**  
**June Herpel Nemec '64**  
**Rita Eichelman Post '64**, daughter of Anna Rita Kennedy Eichelman '42 (deceased), sister of Jeanne Eichelman Lupinek '67  
**Patricia Schlotthober Estrada '67**  
**Karen Kresslein '67**, daughter of Doris Prince Kresslein '40 (deceased), niece of Helen Prince Culpepper '42 (deceased)  
**Karen Muller Casanova '68**  
**Kathy Czawlytko Corkran '69**, mother of Mary Corkran Laudenklos '01  
**Claudia Cunningham Walker '70**, sister of Mary Gail Cunningham Hare '64 and Connie Cunningham Hiegel '67  
**Teresa "Terry" O'Neill Brashears '73**, sister of Judy O'Neill Bopp '79, aunt of Deidre O'Neill '03 and Caitlin Bopp Koch '09  
**Ann Fisher '79**, daughter of Mary Charlotte Hartnett Fisher '42 (deceased), sister of Mary Eileen Fisher Lang '67, niece of Sr. Maryann (Margaret) Hartnett SSND '57, and Sr. Ann Hartnett SSND '57 (deceased), Patricia Hartnett '60, aunt of Mary Ann (Fisher) Saccone '89 and Madeline (Fisher) Coleman '90  
**Mary Kathleen Puskar '88**, daughter of Mary Cole Puskar '64  
**Jennifer Pawloski '93**

## IND Family and Friends

**Robert Francis Boemmel**, brother of Carol Boemmel Joan Boemmel '83 and Kristin and Boemmel-Covey '85  
**David Wayne Chrismer**, husband of Margaret (Maggie) Wright Chrismer '64, father of Nancy Chrismer Duke '95  
**Charles Foos**, husband of Patricia Zulty Foos '54, cousin of Kathleen Miller '65  
**Catherine Constance Hupfeld**, mother-in-law of Joanne Richardson Vendetti '78 and grandmother of Lena Vendetti Petrik '09  
**Alma Meagher**, mother of Margaret Meagher Stringer '70, Daria Meagher Filippelli '74 (deceased), Mary Rebecca Meagher Heininger '81, Sheila Meagher Gemignani '85 and Moira Meagher Kukla '87  
**Peter Selhorst**, brother of Frances Selhorst Garrison '61, Margaret "Daisy" Selhorst Greaves '65, Helen Selhorst Topper '66, Mary Selhorst '67, Barbara Selhorst '69, Paula Selhorst Cameron '70, and Roberta Selhorst Moran '74  
**Jerome Singer**, brother of Judith Singer Hanhoff '67  
**Carl Smearman**, nephew of Suzanne "Sue" Smearman Maltby '82, cousin of Claire Smearman '74  
**James "Jim" Staiti**, husband of Lilian Anita Gardiner Staiti '54  
**Rosalinda Reyes Stamatelaky**, mother of Joanne Stamatelaky Miller '85  
**Michael John Van Stone**, father of Maureen Van Stone '93, uncle of Katherine "Katie" Van Stone Bennett '11, former IND bus driver  
**Helena Weber**, mother of Jeannine Weber Williams '72

**To share the news of an alumna, family member, or friend of IND who has passed, please email [contact@INDAlumnae.org](mailto:contact@INDAlumnae.org).**

## Committee Feature: Alumnae Relations

The Alumnae Relations committee is more than a repository of alumnae information for class agents and reunion support materials. We are also hoping to build/expand on the following initiatives:

- Alumnae-Owned Small Business Compendium
- Retirement Community Outreach
- Young Alumnae Engagement
- Alumnae News, Support, and Comfort

If any of the above activities are of interest to you, or if you simply want to find out more, please reach out to the committee by sending an email to [contact@indalumnae.org](mailto:contact@indalumnae.org).

## Congrats, Leah!



Congrats to our very own Leah Benzing '83, who was recently promoted to Principal of Mother Seton Academy, beginning with the 2025–2026 school year! Reflecting on her new role, Leah shared: "I am honored and excited to take on this new role as principal of Mother Seton Academy. This community has given me so much over the past 14 years. I look forward to building on the incredible legacy created by our faculty, staff, and leadership over the past three decades." Leah, we know Mother Seton Academy is in excellent hands with you as it's leader!

With the increased commitment of her new role, Leah has stepped down as INDAA Vice President. We are so grateful to Leah for her service to the INDAA, and we are thrilled to share that Debbie Henry '93 has agreed to assume the role of interim Vice President. The board of directors will work closely with Leah and Debbie to ensure a smooth transition.