

Alumni E-Newsletter, February 15, 2024



Last Women-Only Graduating Class, 1968 Alums **In Conversation with Mary Ellen Horwath and Kris Zavoli**

We recently sat down with Mary Ellen Horwath and Kris Zavoli, class of 1968, to talk about their experiences at Notre Dame de Namur University, then-College of Notre Dame. As members of the last all-women graduating class, they share their stories and reflect on their own journeys during a time of great global and societal change. We hope you enjoy their recollections as much as we did.



Please share with us a little bit about your background.



Please share with us a little bit about your background.

Mary Ellen: I'm an only child, born to traditional Democrat-leaning, Irish-Catholic parents in Boston. I grew up the typical baby boomer; my father was in the service during World War II, he worked at IBM. He was stationed out West during the war, and saw the future as being out there, so after the war, our family relocated to southern California. It was a great place to grow up. After college, I couldn't leave this area. There's just so much to offer here. I worked for Stanford in Fundraising and Events for over 20 years. Now, I'm retired, but I still teach one class at Stanford, English as a Second Language, and I get a great deal of joy out of that.

Kris: I'm the second oldest of seven children, and my father was a Sergeant in the Air Force, which meant that my family moved around a great deal. I attended 10 different elementary schools growing up. You either loved it or you hated it. For me, I enjoyed it very much. I loved traveling around, meeting new people, and seeing different places. It was truly wonderful to explore the world. When I thought about my future, I realized most women became teachers, nurses or secretaries. I didn't like hospitals so I chose "teacher." Thankfully, I learned to type in high school and helped pay for college working as a Kelly Girl!



I've supported the educational system for decades. Most notably, I worked for the College Board for 28 years, implementing AP courses in low-income areas. Like Mary Ellen, I'm also retired, AND I teach a weekly English as a Second Language class for adult learners. Diversity and accessibility have always been priorities in my life and I'm happy that I'm still able to work with a wide range of individuals.

[Read more >>>](#)

NOTRE DAME
DE NAMUR UNIVERSITY

POETRY READING & BOOK SIGNING

WITH PH.D AUTHOR

Sheila Smith McKoy



Dr. Smith McKoy, a seasoned higher education leader and the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in English from Duke University in 1994, specializes in restorative justice.

Actively contributing to community peace-making efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area, her scholarly works break new ground in conversations about race, violence, diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.



The Bones Beneath

"The Bones Beneath" is a poetic exploration of American and Southern identity, diasporan experiences, and the search for home. It delves into themes of race, health, Africa, and mysticism, prompting reflection on forgotten histories and fostering a deeper understanding of our shared humanity.

Register Today!
7:00pm - 8:00pm
Wed, Feb. 28, 2024



Notre Dame de Namur University Taube Center
1500 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, CA

SCAN ME

Get Your NDNU Swag Online Now!

Dazzle your friends and family with sleek NDNU apparel and accessories. Our updated online store features tons of NDNU swag to wear, enjoy and/or gift to a fellow alum!

Visit our [updated online store](#) to get your NDNU gear and support your alma mater. Best of all - it's open 24/7!



Please Support the Next Generation of Leaders with a Charitable Gift to the NDNU Annual Fund



Please consider supporting Notre Dame de Namur University with a gift to the **NDNU Annual Fund**. As an alum, friend or supporter of our beloved university, you know first-hand the value of NDNU's educational program. You can help future generations of students enjoy the same high quality education with your tax-deductible gift. Gifts to our Annual Fund support scholarships, programs, and critical operational needs. [Click here](#) to make a secure online gift.

[**Make your gift now to continue the tradition of giving NDNU students a transformative education.**](#)

[Support NDNU](#)

Notre Dame de Namur University | 1500 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002

[Unsubscribe advancement@ndnu.edu](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by advancement@ndnu.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!