

twenty-five years of

Voix de

Fall 1986
to
Spring 2012

University of
Notre Dame
Women's Liturgical
Choir

Femme

For twenty-five years the Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir has faithfully served the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as one of its principle choirs. Regularly singing at the Sunday Vigil Mass, it has assisted literally countless thousands of worshippers to lift their hearts and voices in thanksgiving to God. The commitment of the choir to sing at this Mass, particularly on football weekends, is not without its challenges! After cheering the Notre Dame football team on to victory, and after standing for hours in the stadium, sometimes in rain, snow, or unseasonably cold temperatures, choir members must dash to the Basilica, put on their robes, and be ready to sing at the Mass scheduled to begin one half hour after the game has ended. Whether Notre Dame has won or lost, the choir needs to be "up", singing their best, assisting the assembly which always fills the Basilica to overflowing for the "post-game" Mass. While many of their peers have taken off for victory parties or, occasionally, are in mourning after a loss, the women of the Notre Dame Liturgical Women's Choir are faithfully at the Basilica singing in praise and thanksgiving to God.

On this occasion marking the choir's twenty-fifth anniversary, I wish to thank all the young women who, over the years, have given of their time and talent to faithfully assist at the Sunday Vigil Mass in the Basilica. I wish to thank them as well for the many inspirational concerts they have performed as part of our regular concert series in the Basilica, and for being ambassadors of Notre Dame as they have toured around the United States, giving concerts and assisting other faith communities in celebrating the Eucharist through music which inspires and draws us ever closer to God.

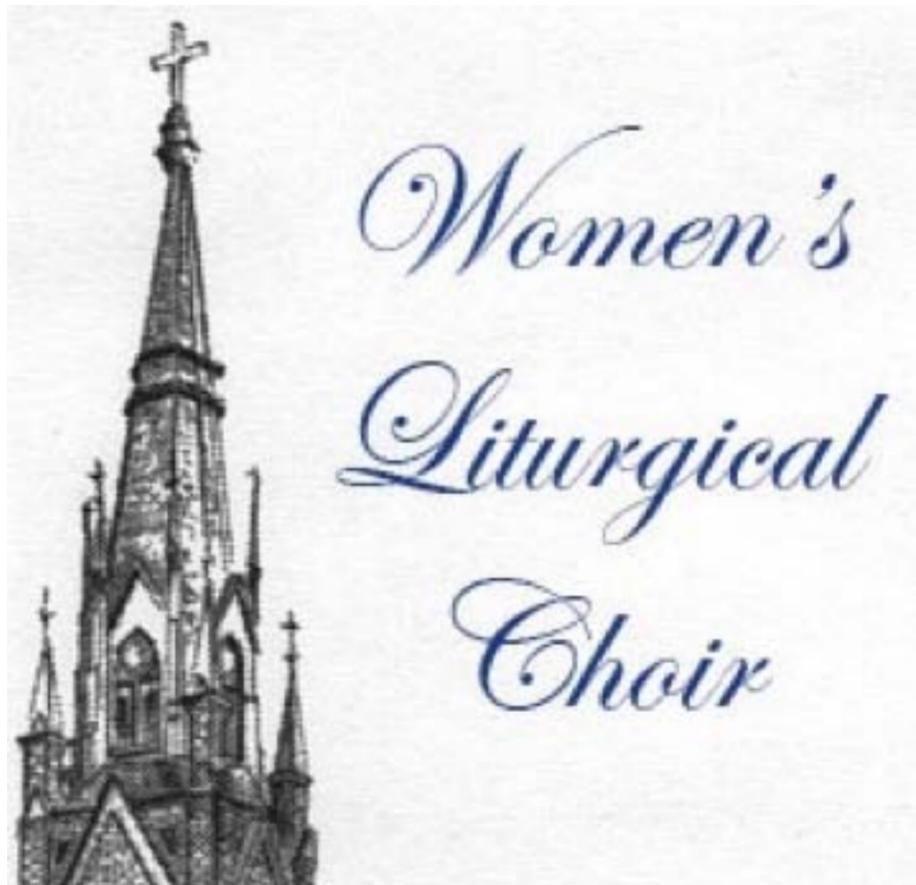
May the Basilica be blessed for many years to come with the voices of the Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir!

Rev. Peter D. Rocca, c.s.c.
Rector, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

The Chorister's Prayer

Bless O Lord us your servants
Who minister in your temple,
grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts
and what we may believe in our hearts
we may show forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St. Cecilia, pray for us.



University of Notre Dame
Department of Music
presents

in the
The Women's Ensemble
beginning...
and
University Schola

1986
Patrick Gorman, director

Patrick Gorman, a graduate assistant in music and liturgy, founds the Women's Ensemble in the Fall of 1986. Craig Westendorf, the Chapel Choir director at the time, is the supervising professor.

The choir begins its long-standing tradition of singing quality sacred music from all stylistic periods with special attention given to choral literature written specifically for women's voices.

in a
SPRING CONCERT

1988

In the Fall of 1988, Teresa Kniahynycky (DuSell) assumes directorship of the choir.

The Women's Ensemble becomes the Notre Dame Women's Choir in 1988.

The choir sings for two concerts and a Mass in both the '86-'87 and the '87-'88 school years. These performances took place in Anenbunrg Auditorium in the Snite Muesum, Moreau Seminary Chapel, and Lafortune Student Center.

Saturday,
March 26, 1988

2:00 p.m.

The choir begins singing the 5pm Vigil Mass in Sacred Heart Church (now the Basilica of the Sacred Heart). Fr. Daniel Jenky, CSC, Rector of Sared Heart, (now Bishop of Peoria, Illinois) gives the choir a unique name: "Les Petites Chanteuses de Notre Dame", which translated is "The Little Singers of Our Lady".

Annenbunrg Auditorium
The Snite Museum of Art

In the Fall of 1989, Sr. Patricia Clark, SVM, becomes the director of the Women's Choir. Under the leadership of Sr. "Trish", the choir blossoms.

Sr. Trish establishes the choir as one of the principle Basilica choirs.

Membership increases from 15 women to more than 40 in a short time.

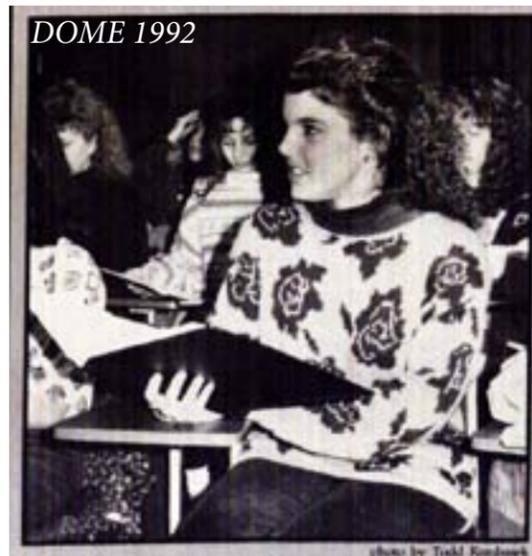


Sr. Trish introduces pieces such as Mozart's setting of "Ave Verum Corpus" and Mendelssohn's setting of "Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains" which remain foundational to the choir's repertoire today.



a time of Fall 1989

Spring 1995 growth...



Registering with the Club Coordination Council makes the choir an official club of the University under the jurisdiction of Campus Ministry. This warrants the birth of the officer board, the need for a budget, and the purchase of music. Sponsoring a concession stand for home football games is (to this day) a primary source of income.

The Department of Music and Campus Ministry assign graduate assistants and organists to the choir.



Rehearsal before the Spring Concert 1995. Sr. Trish's last rehearsal.

Fall 1995

Dr. Andrew McShane becomes the director of the newly-renamed University of Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir in the Fall of 1995.



Retreat 1997



Spring Dinner 2000

Membership continues to grow, leveling out at around 50 women.



The Women's Liturgical Choir collaborates with the University's Basilica Schola and Liturgical Choir on the recording "Cantate Domino" in 1999 and "Ave Maria" in 2004.

Spring 2008

"Lift Thine Eyes," the first recording exclusively featuring the Women's Liturgical Choir, is released in 2001.

The completion of Coleman-Morse Center in the Spring of 2001 gives the choir a new home for its rehearsals, offices, and choral library.



Christmas 2003

The choir begins hosting a retreat each Fall for its members to grow spiritually and as a community.

In the Spring of 1997, the choir plans its first-ever appearance outside of South Bend: Dayton, Ohio. The trip is only over a weekend, but this begins the long-standing tradition of a spring tour. Locations and photos for subsequent tours appear on the following pages.



Retreat 1999



The Class of 2008 poses for a photo after their last Mass together, with Director Andrew McShane, Organist Carrie Groenewold, and Director of Music of the Basilica Dr. Gail Walton. The university suffered a great loss when Dr. Walton lost her long battle with leukemia on February 24th, 2010. She was instrumental in the formation of the choir and often assisted with rehearsals and Masses. A rehearsal room in Coleman-Morse Center has since been dedicated in her memory.



1997 Dayton, OH



2012
Chicago, IL. Louisville, KY. Nashville, TN



2005 Boston, MA



2007 New York City, NY



2006 Omaha, NE. Des Moines, IA

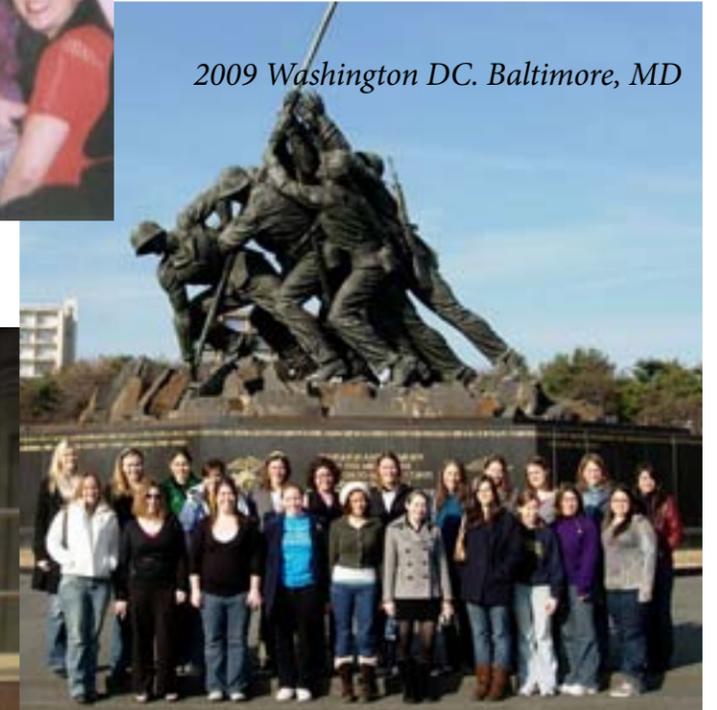


2000
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

music...



1999
Pittsburgh, PA. Columbus, OH



2009 Washington DC. Baltimore, MD



2008
St. Louis, MO

sharing

1998 and 2003
Chicago, IL. St. Louis, MO



2001 and 2010
Madison, WI. St. Paul, MN. Minneapolis, MN



2011
Boston, MA. Manchester, NH



2004 Louisville, KY. Nashville, TN



Fall 2008 to the Present

In the Fall of 2008, Daniel Bayless assumes directorship of the Women's Liturgical Choir.



Retreat 2009



Concession Stand 2009

keeping the traditions



Spring 2012

from the desk of the director...

Greetings from Notre Dame! It is a joy and pleasure to be the director of this choir filled with gifted and talented women during this 25th anniversary year. As you can see from the pages of this newsletter, this has been a very busy year for the Women's Liturgical Choir, but as always the dedicated members of this year's choir have worked hard, played hard, and created beautiful music to praise our God and to lift hearts and minds in worship.

In addition to our busy schedule singing Masses and devotions at the Basilica, the choir traveled to sing at St. Mark's Church in Niles, MI and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elkhart, IN. Recent graduates from Notre Dame's Master of Sacred Music program serve as directors of music at these parishes—David Williams and Kevin Vaughn, a former graduate assistant with the Women's Liturgical Choir. It is wonderful to see the good work our recent graduates are doing!

The highlight of this year was our February tour with stops at St. Clement Church in Chicago, the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, and the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. Choir members loaded the bus early Friday, singing concerts and liturgies at all of our tour stops and returned to campus Sunday evening in time for classes on Monday. We were delighted to see so many alumnae along the way.

During the 2012-2011 academic year, we began the custom of staying 15 minutes after our Monday rehearsals for opportunities to grow as liturgical musicians by exploring topics related to our mission as a choir but not specifically related to learning music for Masses. We continued the tradition this year, watching segments of a video from the World Science Festival called *Notes & Neurons: In Search of the Common Chorus*, which explores the way in which the human brain processes and interprets music. Along with academic scientists and sociologists who study the effects of music on the brain, Bobby McFerrin (of *Don't Worry, Be Happy* fame) serves as a panelist, illustrating many of the theories discussed.

To all of our alumnae, I am most grateful for your participation in the tradition of fine choral music at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Thanks especially to all of you who submitted information and photos to be included in this anniversary edition of *Voix de Femme*. As always, we appreciate alumnae support of the choir in prayer, in words of encouragement, and in financial contributions to aid us in our musical work both on campus, in the Michiana area, and in our annual tours.

Thank you to all current and former choir members. I am extremely grateful to Dr. Andrew McShane and Sister Patricia Clark, SVM for their wonderful leadership of the choir. Thanks also to the university administration, Fr. Jim King, Fr. Joe Carey, Fr. Peter Rocca, the past directors of Campus Ministry and rectors of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for your support of the Women's Liturgical Choir over the last 25 years. I ask for your prayers and support for the years to come.

Sincerely,
Daniel Bayless

twenty-fifth year-in-review...

In addition to singing the 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and practicing two evenings a week, the choir has a number of other commitments throughout the year.

August:

--Opening of the School Year Mass in the JACC

September:

--Mass for Our Lady of Sorrows
--Red Mass with Bishop Kevin Rhodes
--Mass after the Michigan State game

October:

--Mass after the Air Force game
--Mass after the USC game
--Mass after the Navy game

November:

--Vespers
--sponsored a concession stand for the Boston College game and sang at Mass afterwards

December:

--Advent Lessons and Carols

The first Monday of each month is reserved for Choir Dinner in South Dining Hall after rehearsal. In addition to monthly meals, the vice president plans other fun social events for the choir, like Valentine's Day cookie decorating!



Graduate Assistant:

Katie Burchfield

Katherine Burchfield is a first year graduate student in the Masters of Sacred Music program at the University of Notre Dame. She is currently studying organ with Delbert Disselhorst. Katherine is the graduate assistant for the Women's Liturgical Choir at Notre Dame. She earned her Bachelors of Music in Organ Performance at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. At Trinity she studied organ with David Heller and piano with Carolyn True and Christopher Guzman. While also at Trinity she had the opportunity to perform in master classes for organists such as Dame Gillian Weir, Michel Bouvard, and Christoph Grohmann. In 2010 she earned the Ballard Prize for Organ Performance.

January:

--Sunday Vespers

February:

--TOUR 2012:
~Vespers and a concert at St. Clement Church, Chicago, IL.
~Mass with prelude and postlude at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, KY
~Mass and a concert at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Nashville, TN
--Memorial Mass of Sr. Jean Lenz
--Mass for Junior Parents' Weekend in the JACC

March:

--Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart, IN
--Mass celebrating the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
--Stations of the Cross

April:

--Passion Sunday Mass at St. Mark's Church, Niles, MI
--8th Annual Eucharistic Procession

May:

--End of the Year Dinner

Officer Board 2011-2012

President: Senior Helen Padden

Vice President: Senior Corinne Vittori

Secretary: Sophomore Monica Rhee

Treasurers: Junior Brittany Neisewander (Fall) and Sophomore Michelle Paek (Spring)

Tour Director: Sophomore Julia Steiner

Alumnae Relations Commissioner: Sophomore Aubrey Zielinski

Liturgical Commissioner: Junior Nicole DeRoche

Librarian: Senior Ann Marie McCabe

Thanks to the initiative of our VP Corinne, we now have color-coordinated heavy-duty plastic hangers for our robes instead of their almost-bent-too-far-out-of-shape-to-actually-hold-a-robe wire predecessors.

Thank you Corinne!



One of our challenges this year was learning the Glick settings of Psalms 92, 47, and 23, the lyrics of which are almost entirely in Hebrew. After much count-singing and stumbling over the pronunciation, we prevailed and included the three pieces to our tour concerts.

Tour 2012

Tour this year took us to three cities during the first weekend of February (3rd-5th). We left campus at a reasonable time Friday morning and drove to Chicago, where we explored and shopped for most of the day before heading to St. Clement's. After singing Vespers and a short concert, we stayed the night at a nearby hotel. Early the next morning, we piled onto the bus and drove the several hours to Louisville, passing the time by watching a few movies and putting off doing any schoolwork. Upon arriving in Louisville, we went directly to the Cathedral of the Assumption to sing for the Vigil Mass along with a brief prelude and postlude. After scarfing down a delicious dinner of pizza, salad, and fruit, we dispersed to the homes of several parishioners who graciously offered us their hospitality for the night. Very early the next morning, we groggily reassembled for the drive to Nashville. After sleeping on the bus in our Sunday best, we arrived at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, where we sang for Mass and a concert. Sadly, we did not get to explore Louisville or Nashville because of time constraints and the multiple time zone changes. The last leg of our tour was the longest, about eight hours from Nashville to South Bend. Thankfully, we did not run into any traffic around Indianapolis where the Super Bowl was being played that night. All in all, we enjoyed the weekend of traveling, fun, and sharing our music with the parishioners of the three churches we visited.

more than "just a choir" . . .

words from the alumnae

The Notre Dame Women's Choir was such a large part of my life while I was at Notre Dame (1992-1996). I often get tears in my eyes when I remember how incredible it was to be a part of Women's Choir! It feels like just yesterday that I was a freshman standing in Crowley Hall auditioning for the Women's Choir. Not only did my knowledge of singing and music grow throughout the four years I was in the choir, but through our extensive sacred music repertoire, I grew spiritually as well, learning even more about the Catholic faith. Our choir was blessed with being led by two talented and gifted musicians and directors, first Sr. Trish Clarke, and then Andy McShane; both inspired me to continue pursuing music throughout my life. Most memorable, though, were the experiences to sing beside other wonderful and talented young women, who also became great friends of mine. Outside of Wednesday night rehearsals and Saturday afternoon/night Masses, I remember fun social events like a spaghetti dinner at Badin Hall and dinners at the original Macri's on Grape Rd. (the one that existed before the new Macri's, which is now closed, too). Another one of my favorite memories is thinking about Christmas time and caroling for the retired Holy Cross Brothers across the street from Notre Dame; it was so rewarding to bring the gift of music to such an important group.

I was a member of the choir in its infancy – before there were tours and before we even had an alumni relations position! It's hard to believe the choir is 25 years old. But each time I hear the Women's Choir perform or receive a newsletter, I am elated to hear how the choir continues to grow and thrive. Happy Anniversary, Notre Dame Women's Choir, and congratulations to all the talented young women who continue to make it the inspirational and vibrant musical group that it has and always will be!

-- Tanya (Krywaruczenko) Galer '96

One memory that will stick with me from Women's Liturgical Choir is standing at the Football games, usually chilled to the bone, clutching my choir folder and ready to run to the Basilica as soon as the game ended to sing for the evening mass. My friends and I usually followed mass with the Candlelight Buffet!

--Erin Gaffney Dwyer '99

When I was a choir member, the sense of community was incredible! There were several of us who were together for four years and our closeness influenced the underclassmen too, making it one big happy family.

--Sarah Greene '06

Auditioning for the WLC was one of the scariest moments of my life. I had never auditioned for anything before nor song solo in front of career musicians. I was surprised by the outcome and became a member of the Alto II section of the WLC. Although there were lots of exciting experiences from that school year: our tour, visiting the Mall of America (lol), recording an album, "Lift Thine Eyes," what stands out in my memory was the Advent scripture study I participated in with three other women from the choir. We were a funny mix—two alto IIs, a freshman and a senior, a soprano I senior, and a soprano II sophomore... at first I was dismayed by the fact that no one else from our large choir joined our group. However, I think the fellowship we experienced was even stronger because there were only four of us! The two seniors had signed us up for the Emmaus bible study through Campus Ministry and we all got neat binders with lots of reading and prayers. I don't remember specifics from our meetings but I do remember how I felt: included. Like I belonged. Seeing these women sharing their faith openly showed me there was more than one way to live out my Notre Dame student career. I don't fit into groups easily but with these choir sisters I had family. The Notre Dame family.

--Katie (Zakas) Rutledge '04

The very first time I heard the Women's Choir sing was when I visited campus as a prospective student. My parents and I attended the Saturday Vigil Mass after an ND basketball game. Because I couldn't see the choir in the loft, I was pleasantly surprised when they started singing. To me, it sounded like a choir of angels and really brought the Mass to life! I was excited to become a member when I returned for my freshman year. I learned a lot about music from the Directors and always enjoyed singing with the other women. After graduating, I took a few years off from singing but through a friend's invitation, joined the Naperville Chorus in Naperville, IL and sang with that group for a few years. After moving to PA and starting a family, I once again really started to miss singing. One of my Women's Choir friends, Katie (O'Clair) Birmingham ('98), happened to live nearby and we were lucky enough to find a choir to join together - the United Schwenkfelder Choir in Worcester, PA. Sitting next to her again during rehearsals always brings back memories of our time in the Women's Choir and I feel very fortunate that we still get to sing such beautiful sacred music.

PS: It feels great when I hear a song that we sang in the Women's Choir and I still remember my part!

--Dana (Russo) Fennell '97

I had many good times and made some wonderful friends from my years in the choir. Our choir group liked to change the words to songs for laughs. Our tour to Louisville and Nashville was during Valentine's Day Weekend, and we rearranged a song called "Little Lamb," and dedicated it to Andy. It was renamed "Valentine," and we sang it to him during the bus ride. I think we also forced him to watch "Sister Act" on the bus during that particular trip, so I'm sure he was relieved to make it back to South Bend on Sunday night!

--Gina Bufalini '06



nothing but treble...



I think Andy mentioned "the-pencil-you-bring-to-every-rehearsal" at least once during each rehearsal.

--Gina Bufalini '06



For the spring 2004 WLC tour, the choir went to Louisville and Nashville. Though initially mocked by our friends for going to Kentucky on a choir tour, we managed to have an amazing time. The trip was set for Valentine's weekend, and you know what that means: we sang to Andy on the bus! The lyrics of the Robert Harris setting of "The Lamb" were, ah, revised to become "Andy Valentine." Here are the lyrics as we sang them:

"Valentine! Will you be our valentine?
Give us flowers by the dozen and conversation hearts?
Give us candy, nice and sweet, yummy candy, good to eat?
And take us to dinner too, because we like to be with you!
Valentine, will you be our valentine?
Who is he? I'll tell thee.
He is called by one name, and that name is McShane!
He is meek and he is mild; he really like dark vowels.
We a choir he directs. We are called WLC!
Valentine, please Andy, Valentine, please be mine!"

--Kristin Dormuth '06 (quoted from the '05 edition of Voix de Femme)

letter from the editor...

Please allow me a moment to personally thank each and every person who contributed to this project. Whether you shared photos, stories, or even just a blurb about your time in choir, your contribution was essential to this project's success. Without all of you, this special-edition newsletter would be all paper and no ink, so to speak.

With each email I read and picture I downloaded, my perspective of the project evolved into something more than a just a newsletter about a choir. Previously, I had been looking at the choir as a whole, its progression from small, unattached ensemble to a renowned Basilica choir. But that quarter-century is not a collective unit; rather it is made up of overlapping fragments of time, each ranging in size from several years down to only a semester. These fragments, one for each choir member, director, and graduate assistant, overlap and interlock to create the history and successes of this choir. This anniversary celebration is not about the choir; it is about the fragments from which it was built. With that said, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ALUMNAE! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, DIRECTORS! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ALL!

It has been an honor working on this project with all of you and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help and for sharing your special thoughts and memories with me.

*God Bless,
Aubrey Zielinski '14
WLC Alumni Relations Commissioner*

PS One last thought: "Lift thine eyes, oh lift thine eyes to the mountains..."

Photo Credits:

DOME

Morgen Anyan, Daniel Bayless, Gina Bufalini, Nicole DeRoche, Kristin Dormuth, Dana Fennell, Jennifer Fong Govea, Mary Liz Kaltenbach, Melissa Mundo, Helen Padden, Anna Plecha, Tiara Torres

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