
✦ **Echoes: A Force for Good — in Rhinestones**

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 **Echoes**

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Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

A few weeks before the world lost Dolly Parton, someone—I don't know who—left a fabulous sticker on my desk that read “Dolly Vibes Only,” a message that means something a bit different to me now. Though we share a name, Dolly was a singular talent. She knew exactly who she was and, through her art and her actions, taught us all a little more about the human condition. If anyone had good vibes, it was Dolly Parton.



As far as I know, Dolly had no connection to Notre Dame. Then again, in an increasingly polarized world, she didn't belong to just one audience. Here was an American icon whose kindness, humility, and unwavering faith spoke volumes—perhaps far more than the glamour and rhinestones. She was proof that genius doesn't look a certain way, and personal success doesn't mean leaving others behind. After she founded the Dollywood Foundation to improve educational outcomes in Sevier County, Tenn., the high school dropout rate fell from 35 percent to 6 percent. I'm sure more than a few students on our campus today were once beneficiaries of Dolly's Imagination Library, which provided more than 332 million books to children during her lifetime. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

In her memoir, Dolly wrote, "When someone shows you their true colors, believe them." Dolly's true colors were bold and bright and accented with glitter, and she left the world a shinier place for it. I think there's a lesson there for all of us: ability, joy, and goodwill can go hand in hand. In fact, I think there's no better recipe for becoming a force for good.

All the best,

Dolly Duffy '84
Executive Director

WHAT WOULD YOU FIGHT FOR?



Fighting For Nonverbal Communication

Notre Dame researchers are developing AI technology designed to help caregivers better understand and interpret the nonverbal communication of people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities.

UNIVERSITY STORYTELLING



25 Years After 9/11

The Center for Citizenship and Constitutional Government invites the Notre Dame community to honor those we lost on 9/11 and reflect on the ways that day continues to shape our lives and nation.

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Celebrating 10 Years at Kylemore Abbey

Kylemore Abbey and the University of Notre Dame celebrated 10 years of partnership during the Threshold

COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS



“The Band Always Wins”: Paul Popiel’s Notre Dame Homecoming

Win or lose, rain or shine, the Notre Dame Band shows up to bring the

Festival, a four-day celebration of literature, music, theatre, art, and scholarship.

energy. Incoming band director **Paul Popiel '95 M.M.** knows firsthand what makes the Band of the Fighting Irish so special, and why he was ready to come home.



Pete Bevacqua on a Changing Era for College Athletics

Explore how Notre Dame's "choose hard" mindset is shaping the athletics department, from preserving its independence to investing in student-athletes and their future.

[Watch Now](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Adriana Pérez '22 & Madeline Buckley '11 | *Chicago Tribune*

“Everyone at the *Tribune* was so dedicated and committed to telling the story,” Buckley said. “Everyone feels so connected to the city and really wants to do right by Chicago, and I think all of that came through in the reporting.”

As ICE raids intensified across the city, *Chicago Tribune* journalists investigated the stories and claims emerging from their communities. Among them, **Adriana Pérez '22** and **Madeline Buckley '11** challenged misinformation and worked to provide a clearer picture of what was happening in their communities, contributing to the *Tribune*’s Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage.

FOCAL POINT



Photo of The Week: In Motion

Ballet Folklórico Azul y Oro dances at the annual Multicultural Student Programs and Services kickoff on North Quad.

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT



We're all alright after the Shamrock Series!

AROUND THE UNIVERSITY

Newsroom

[Enter to Win Tailgate of The Week](#)

[Two Notre Dame Faculty Members and Trustee Appointed by Pope Leo XIV as Vatican Consultors](#)

[The One Thing You Should Know About Notre Dame Santiago](#)

[Out With The Invasive, In With The Native: Upkeep of St. Mary's Lake](#)

[Liu Institute Launches Korea Working Group](#)

[Let's Walk: Meeting The Moment In Mental Health](#)

Athletics

[Irish Access: Let's Go Get Team Glory | Notre Dame Football vs. Wisconsin](#)

[From Freshman to Veteran Leader: Anthonie Knapp's Notre Dame Journey | The Book Report](#)

[Women's Soccer Dominates in 8-0 Win Over IU Indy On Senior Day](#)

[Men's Soccer Gets Two Late Goals in 2-1 Victory Over Michigan](#)

Research

[How New Moms Cope with Stressful News May Matter More Than the News Itself, Study Finds](#)

[Peace Accords Matrix Brings Implementation Expertise to Africa's Great Lakes Region](#)

['Equipping The Next Generation': New Economics Concentration Prepares Students For Careers In Poverty Alleviation](#)

[Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem to Launch Academic Forum in Partnership with Notre Dame](#)

[Notre Dame and REAL Services Collaboration Uses VR to Teach Middle and High School Students About Dementia](#)



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