

# LIVING THE LANCER LIFE

## ALUMNI CORNER

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*After graduating from Notre Dame in 1971, **Mary Anne O'Connor** would make history as she embarked on a remarkable journey in the world of basketball.*

Mary Anne attended Southern Connecticut State University where, as a freshman, she was selected to play on the varsity women's basketball team. In her time playing basketball at Southern, the team reached the semifinals of the national championship in 1973, 1974 and 1975. Mary Anne went All-American and was selected to play on the US National Team in 1974 and 1975. She was also awarded the Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award. After graduating with a degree in psychology, Mary Anne took an assistant coaching position at Southern and led the team to nationals in 1976.

As a member of the US National Team, Mary Anne traveled across the US and played six exhibition games against the USSR. In 1975, she was on the team that competed in Colombia for the FIBA World Championship Games. At the Pan AM Games in Mexico, she won a gold medal. On top of all these opportunities, Mary Anne had the honor of playing for the US Olympic Women's Basketball Team at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, where she won a silver medal.

Not long after the Olympics, Mary Anne was recruited by French basketball team Clermont UC, and moved to France. She won the Championne de France, the French National Championship, in both 1977 and 1978, continuing the team's long reign as national champions. In 1978, Mary Anne moved to Paris while she played for the team Stade Francais. In her six years on the team, she won another three national championships in 1980, 1983, and 1984.

After retiring from basketball, Mary Anne sought out a bridge from the basketball world to the business world. She remained in Paris while she earned her MBA in Management Information Technology and Corporate Finance through the University of Hartford, Paris. Mary Anne returned to the US in 1990 and worked as an independent IT consultant in New York City. She relocated to California in 1992 and co-founded her own IT and operations consulting firm in the San Francisco Bay Area, O'Connor and Harrigan Associates, LLC, where she continues to consult to this day.

Mary Anne looks back on her time at Notre Dame very fondly. She was a three-sport athlete who lettered in softball, field hockey and basketball. Her younger sister, Eileen, who Mary Anne credits as helping to mold her into the player that she is, played on all three teams with her. Mary Anne thanks Eileen for always giving her the push to be better and work harder in her athletic endeavors. The sisters were both part of the girls' basketball team during two undefeated seasons in 1970 and 1971 and Eileen also played basketball with Mary Anne at Southern. Mary Anne credits physical education teacher and girls' basketball coach Miss Ann DeLuca as being extremely influential and inspiring during her time at ND. Mary Anne and Coach DeLuca were among the first group to be inducted into the Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame in 1986. Mary Anne also remembers Miss Mary Jane Windeler's English class, mentioning how she could be challenging to students in terms of work, but an incredibly smart woman. Mary Anne believes her time at Notre Dame was instrumental in helping to build the critical thinking skills that she has carried throughout her life.

Congratulations, Mary Anne, on all that you have accomplished. Thank you for being such a great representative of Notre Dame in both the sports and business world! We wish you nothing but the best in all of your endeavors!

Below is a list of Mary Anne's honors and hall of fame inductions:

- Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, 2023, member of 1976 Women's Olympic Basketball Team
- Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame, 1986 (softball and basketball)
- Preseason All-American, 1974-1975
- Southern Connecticut State University Hall of Fame, 1987
- Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, 1988
- New England Basketball Hall of Fame, 2003
- Stade Francais Centennial Award, 1983, awarded by the French Minister of Sport
- Women Institute on Sport and Education Hall of Fame, 1996
- Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, 1976 Olympic Team Member, "Trailblazers of the Game," June 2014

***Sydney Beaton '21*** has hit the ground running in her time at Stonehill College. She is currently studying criminology with a double minor in ethical leadership and communications, and has been involved in the athletics department since the very beginning of her freshman year.

Now a junior, Sydney is the head student manager of the football team, the head equipment manager of the hockey team and oversees the student managers for all 23 of Stonehill's Division 1 teams. Through these roles, Sydney has been afforded the opportunity to travel all across the country. This year, she'll be spending her spring break with the hockey team in Alaska!



When speaking about her time at Notre Dame, Sydney remembered some wise words from former athletic director, Jim Olayos. He told her that she could accomplish anything she set her mind to and she truly took those words to heart. On day one of her freshman year at Stonehill, Sydney went to the football coach in hopes of working with the team as a student manager. The rest, as they say, is history. Sydney also cites Jessica Lapadula, Mary Guarino, Maris Bogan, Sue Alberti and Sue McGowan as always being very kind and encouraging as they helped her to become the best version of herself.

Sydney continues to keep in touch with current Notre Dame students as well as many faculty and staff members. Despite half of her high school career being impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, she believes that Notre Dame truly set her on a path to succeed in college. In addition, ND taught her incredibly valuable lessons, such as getting involved however you can and to never doubt yourself. Congratulations to Sydney on all that she's accomplished. We wish her the best of luck!

## IN THE COMMUNITY

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### Prayer Intentions

Notre Dame has a long-standing tradition of using prayer to facilitate healing. In this spirit, we invite you to submit prayer intentions to be shared with our Lancer family. It is our hope that through the power of prayer we can shine light on those in the community who need it most.

Click [HERE](#) to submit an intention and we will be sure to offer it to our school in the days ahead.

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# LANCER



The Office of Alumni Relations invites all alumni, alumni parents and current families who own a business to submit their information to the

Lancer Business Directory.

The purpose of the Business Directory is to give members of the Notre Dame family the opportunity to support each other in business and professional endeavors! We will share this information on our website and will strive to keep the list updated as we receive new submissions.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Business Directory and complete our form.



**Extra! Extra! Read all about it!**

Click [HERE](#) to view Notre Dame's Lancer Life newspaper!