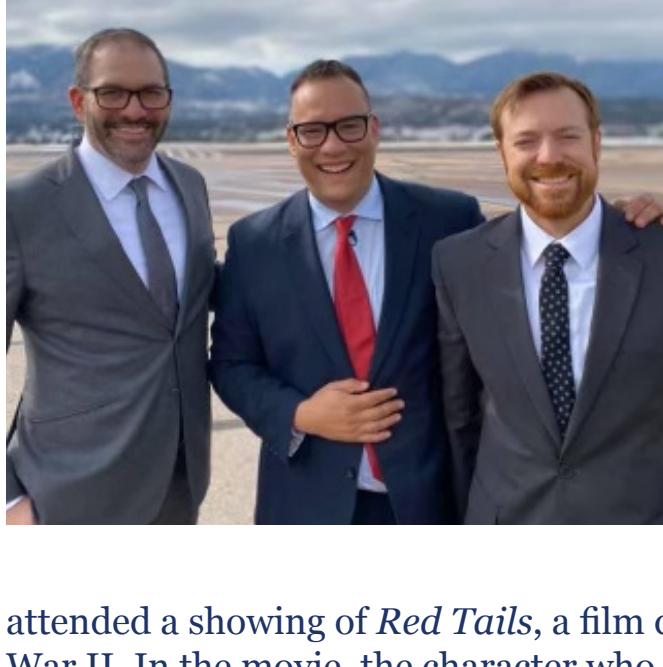


LIVING THE LANCER LIFE

ALUMNI CORNER



Doug Melville '94 navigates life with passion and curiosity. From traveling the country in the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile to starting a business with his childhood friend, **William Sidarweck '94**, Doug sees the potential in new opportunities and is fearless in the pursuit of his goals.

In his most recent endeavor, Doug took on the role of author as he penned the forgotten story of Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. and Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., the first Black generals to serve the United States of America.

This journey began in 2011 when Doug attended a showing of *Red Tails*, a film depicting the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. In the movie, the character who portrays Doug's great-uncle, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. was renamed Colonial Bullard, and thus a campaign to "make sure the invisible are visible" was born.

In researching his family legacy, Doug learned the extent of their influence on the United States. "They helped lead the effort to create the 55 MPH speed limit, airport security (TSA) and the US Air Marshall program," Doug said. "They created solutions to make America safer." He went on to share how in 1998, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. was elevated to the rank of Four Star General by President Clinton – a distinction that was previously unawarded due to the color of his skin.

Fast forward to present day and Doug's family is starting to receive the recognition they deserve. Thanks to Doug's efforts to research the past and speak with the military, the airfield at the United States Air Force Academy and a barracks at West Point have both been named in Davis Jr.'s honor.

Congratulations, Doug, on investing your talents in this important piece of American history. We are blessed to see you thrive as an author and we could not be happier to know you were working alongside fellow graduates from the Class of 1994, **Attorney David Kozlowski, Accountant J.P. Rizzitelli and your longtime business partner, William Sidarweck**. We look forward to reading your book and we hope to see you on campus soon!

Any Lancers in the NYC metro area are welcome to stop by Doug's local book-signing at the Tribeca Barnes and Noble on November 9th at 6:00 pm. Come show your support as he works to further spotlight the contributions of the Davis men in our military history! RSVP [HERE](#).

Laura DeFrancesco Ross is a proud member of the Notre Dame Class of 2004. With her brother, Vincent following suit as an '08 grad and her mother, Lori working in the school cafeteria for several years, the DeFrancesco family is well-rooted in the Lancer tradition.



Upon graduating, Laura initially attended West Point before returning to Connecticut. She transferred to Fairfield University and graduated in 2008 with degrees in International Studies and Math. Laura then attended Georgetown University for graduate school in pursuit of International Development and International Business. She currently serves as the managing director of Procure Impact, a tech startup of which she is one of the founding team members. Procure Impact helps corporations to source and procure products and impact strategies that create jobs and social impact in the communities that they serve.

Outside of the office, Laura is a proud author who recently self-published two children's books, *The Giving Farm* and *Mariposa Rainbow*. Laura shared how *The Giving Farm* was inspired by the nursery rhymes she recites with her clever three-year-old daughter, while *Mariposa Rainbow* was a product of the desire to teach her young children Spanish. The book blends the two languages into a digestible learning experience for young children.

Upon reflection of her time at Notre Dame, Laura spoke highly of **Mr. LaTorre's** calculus class. She explained how it helped mold her analytical skills that she has carried and built upon well into her professional career.

Congratulations, Laura, on all of your achievements. We wish you nothing but the best and we cannot wait to check out your newly published work!

IN THE COMMUNITY



Join us in welcoming **Mike Cody** to his new role as freshman integrated science teacher!

Mr. Cody is a graduate of Springfield College and has served as our athletic trainer since 2015. Last year he also became our assistant athletic director, and this fall marks his debut working in the classroom.

Thank you, Mr. Cody, for all that you do to support our Lancers here at ND!



Congratulations to **Michael Toth '17**, who was sworn in as a recruit officer for the Fairfield Police Department on Wednesday, October 4th!



Congratulations to guidance counselor **Mrs. Hyvarinen '08** and her husband, **BJ** on the arrival of **Jude Michael**. Happy to report that mom, dad and big brother, Leo, are all doing well!



Congratulations to dance teacher **Mrs. McAfee** (who is on a year-long maternity leave) and her husband, Charles on the arrival of their son, Michael. Wishing the McAfee family all the best!



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.

always a 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!