



### Mike Marra - GCP Class of 2014

“Success is where preparation and opportunity meet.” This sports quote from racecar driver Bobby Unser perfectly describes the approach of Guerin alum Mike Marra ‘14. Currently a junior at Illinois State University, Marra, a hard worker and ambitious student, is majoring in journalism and enjoying every minute of it.

In high school, Marra knew his future would hold sports and reporting – something he made clear in his journalism class. Now, his growing portfolio is bursting with accomplishments. Last semester he was able to be a special guest on the school’s weekly sports show, “The Redzone”, where he talked about fall sports at ISU. He was a reporter for a monthly show called “Birds-I-View” last October, and created a piece where he interviewed current 18<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Darin LaHood and his opponent, Junius Rodriguez. Marra also had the chance to do play-by-play and color analysis for ISU athletics as well as get a taste of television reporting for the campus station, TV-10.

Marra stays busy as a member of the staff of 103.3 WZND, the student run radio station at ISU, where he is a news and sports reporter, specifically covering the women’s basketball beat. He also works for Redbird Productions, which through ESPN, produces all of the Illinois State home games for ESPN3. He does behind the scenes work such as audio, graphics, and even camera work. He was recently awarded “Best New Staff Member of the Semester,” which he says was a humbling experience.

When recalling his Guerin experience, Mike mentioned how the teachers at Guerin knew how to push him enough to make him successful in the classroom. While the reminders about being on your own in college prevailed, Mike said, “At Guerin, I never found myself alone or searching for a faculty member to help me; everyone lends a helping hand and that is what makes Guerin so great.”

Marra concluded by adding, “Students will always be put in a situation (at Guerin) where they can succeed and feel good about what they are doing – going to Guerin was the best decision I made and hopefully more parents and students make the same decision and feel the same way.”

Mike is proof of how preparation and opportunity create success. He is driven and has a winning attitude. “I never go into WZND and see it as work – I love what I am doing and I love the people I am working with,” said Marra. He has always had a goal of hosting a sports talk show on the radio and hopes to one day become an on-air talent. Good luck, Mike!