

Captain's Log Book (November, 2009)

It's the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the sun is shining in Cincinnati, and even though it's 60 degrees it's time to think about winterizing the boat for the coming season. As I'm sitting at the helm enjoying being at the Marina even while *Tranquillity* is securely tied in her slip, I recognize that soon she will be out of commission and wrapped in plastic to protect her from the elements. I'm also reflecting on the various tasks ahead for NDSA and mainly the importance of the successful implementation and completion of the new Initiative "**Enhancing Senior Connections to Notre Dame**".

Much work needs to be done prior to going forward with the Initiative's Special Survey designed to help NDSA sponsor the specific type of programs and initiatives in coordination with the clubs and AA board that will draw our senior alumni to the clubs and to Notre Dame. The NDSA Board recognizes the boundless talent pool our Seniors possess. Our hope is to define, challenge, and recapture their energy and spirit so as to direct it to its best use in the name of Notre Dame!

So, as I continue sitting at the helm, the thought comes to me: are we missing the boat (no pun intended)? Well, maybe!!!

While we are waiting to officially start this Initiative, why shouldn't NDSA **communicate** with the Clubs, our AA Board counterparts, and the Senior Classes to explore not only the charitable "Good Works" our alumni might be doing within the framework of their clubs but also on an individual or private basis? Many of our alumni do so much that benefits their communities, their church, and those in need that goes unnoticed. Much of what they do could be considered "Mini Initiatives". If the information about these worthwhile activities were shared and made available to other Clubs, AA, and NDSA Regional Directors, it could spark an interest in setting up a similar activity in another area of the country. The good work of our alumni could be magnified if it were shared with fellow alumni and in turn would multiply the giving and loving results!!!

We have been told by the Alumni Office that the ND Information Highway is in place. We can reach almost any select group of Alumni with the touch of a button. If we can gather this information from our alumni, we can now make sure it is shared by the ND Clubs and other Alumni that may just been waiting for that one idea or opportunity to "get involved" in thanksgiving for all their blessings. So, with the serious economic conditions facing our world, **why not get started NOW?** When the Full Initiative is underway, we will fill in the missing parts and data. But starting this project **now** will jump-start the impact and service NDSA will provide in the future years.

What do you think? Let me hear from you, and this Spring come to Cincinnati and we will go boating on the Ohio!!! (jegibbons@fuse.net)

Thanks for all you do for Notre Dame, and Happy Thanksgiving,

Jim Gibbons '55 NDSA Chair