

Notre **D**ame **S**enior **A**lumni **N**ews **N**otes

The Senior Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2008

NDSA Board News

The Fall Meeting of the NDSA Board was held on September 7 - 9 at the Ivy Court Inn. Some highlights of the meeting are:

- The transition of administrative responsibility for the operation of the Hospital Support Program from the NDSA Board to the Alumni Association is underway and going smoothly. **Katie Zakas** of the Association staff, working under the capable direction of **Kathleen Sullivan**, is compiling information needed for rapid and effective response to calls for assistance made to the toll-free number. Future plans include publicizing the program to make all members of the Notre Dame family aware of its existence. Oversight responsibility for the Hospital Support program will remain with the NDSA Board.
- NDSA's **God, Country, Notre Dame Scholarship** that will provide financial assistance to children of veterans who gave their lives or were disabled in military service to our country is in the process of being established. NDSA Regional Director **Frank Whitton '56**, who proposed the scholarship, has worked tirelessly to take it from an idea through the approval process to a reality.
- Past NDSA Board Chairman **Paul Scagliarini '60**, used a novel baseball format to report on ND Alumni Club involvement in the **Bat for the Cure** prostate cancer awareness program sponsored by minor league baseball teams during the 2008 season. ND Clubs participated in 25 of the 72 programs held throughout the country – a batting average of .347 during the program's 'rookie year'. The 'MVP Award' goes to Region 12 for having the most Clubs participate. More information on Bat for the Cure is on page 2 of the newsletter.
- Working with **Melonie Rhodes** of the Alumni Association staff and **Paul Scagliarini**, NDSA Board Vice Chairman **Phil Roehrig '51** and Internal Activities Committee Chairman **Mike Squyres '63** developed a managerial format to account for NDSA revenue and expense, and restated the actual numbers for the fiscal year which ended on June 30 in this format. Mike then formatted a 'Quick Books' computer program that will track revenue and expense during the current year..
- Former NDSA Regional Director **John Studebaker '62** suggested, as a fund raiser to support NDSA programs, conducting a raffle on football weekends with a sculptured Notre Dame Rug valued at several hundred dollars as the prize. **Mike Squyres** obtained the necessary approvals, and former NDSA Board members **Mike Pinter** and **John Studebaker** along with NDSA Regional Director **Bob Drajem '64** offered to conduct the raffle and have manned the NDSA tent located just north of the Eck Center on football weekends. Results to date have exceeded expectations. The winner of the raffle will be announced during November.
- Board Chairman **Bill Kreps '55** presented NDSA's theme for the 2008 – 09 year: **Alumni in Action**. Bill discussed several of the goals the NDSA Board plans to accomplish during the year. A major goal is to "Aggressively develop the Diocesan Support Program."

What's New?

- Alumni Association Senior Director - Service and Spirituality, **Kathleen Sullivan, '87 Ph.D.**, has written a new book entitled **I Had Lunch with God** which she describes as "Gospel inspirations for tough times." Written in a very readable style, *I Had Lunch with God* is a collection of short essays that each begin with a relatable story about people like you and me in everyday circumstances - and then God enters the story. Reading a page or two just before bedtime is guaranteed (by me) to ensure a night of pleasant dreams. Kathy's book is available on campus at the Hammes Bookstore, or it can be ordered by your local bookseller (ISBN 0-9776458-5-5).

HINT: The book would make a wonderful Christmas gift - for everyone on your list.

- The campus is taking on a new look. Almost everywhere a person looks there are major construction projects underway. Among them are the new Engineering Building dedicated to NANO Technology, the addition to the Law School, and two new student residence halls.
- Work has begun on the Eddy Street Commons, a commercial-residential project just south of the Melissa Cook Softball Stadium at the southeast corner of the campus.
- As the familiar saying goes, **“they laughed”** when a ‘facelift’ project was announced for the Power Plant at Notre Dame, but it’s worth the walk to take a look. You’ll be impressed with what has been done to enhance the appearance of this purely functional facility.

Cancer Awareness: “Bat for the Cure”

Again in 2009 Notre Dame is partnering with **“Bat for the Cure”**, a not-for-profit prostate cancer awareness organization with offices in New York City, at minor league baseball parks across the United States. “Bat for the Cure” was started a couple of years ago by Ed Randall, a popular New York sports talk show host, who is a prostate cancer survivor. He came up with the idea of promoting cancer education at minor league ballparks as a way to reach a large number of people.

Minor league baseball teams who participate in the program schedule “Bat for the Cure” nights. The teams usually set up a table inside the park that is staffed by volunteers who distribute literature containing a brief description of prostate cancer and the importance of early detection of the disease. During 2008, ND Club members manned many of the “Bat for the Cure” information tables at minor league parks across the country.

The “Bat for the Cure” organization provides public address announcements about the program on game day, an attention-getting poster, literature, and blue sweat bands for the players. In addition, the organization sponsors a year-long free raffle for major league memorabilia prizes.

The goal of “Bat for the Cure” – promoting early detection of prostate cancer - parallels the goals of NDSA’s **Prostate Awareness Cancer Education** initiative, called P.A.C.E., and programs the Alumni Association has had in place for a number of years. Partnering with “Bat for the Cure” furthers Notre Dame’s objectives. Also, many Notre Dame Clubs include attendance at a baseball game on their calendar of Club activities. And since the vast majority of ND volunteers wear Notre Dame apparel when working “Bat for the Cure” tables, their involvement is good publicity for their Club and for Notre Dame.

Members of the ND Clubs listed below manned the “Bat for the Cure” information table at a game during this past summer:

- Region 5 - **Cedar Rapids, Omaha**
- Region 7 - **Grand Rapids**
- Region 9 - **Erie, Akron, Mahoning Valley**
- Region 11 - **Boston**
- Region 12 - **Delaware, Harrisburg, Southeast Virginia, Washington D.C., Lehigh Valley, Maryland, Williamsport**
- Region 14 - **Huntsville, Chattanooga**
- Region 15 - **Charleston**
- Region 17 - **Stuart, Tampa, Lee County**
- Region 18 - **Buffalo, Syracuse**

A heartfelt “Thanks!” to all of the participants from these Clubs. You truly have “made a difference.”

Notre Dame’s involvement with “Bat for the Cure” is being championed and coordinated by the capable direction of Paul Scagliarini ’60, himself a prostate cancer survivor and NDSA Immediate Past Chairman.

The NDSA Regional Director for your Club’s area will notify your Club about “Bat for the Cure” nights scheduled in your Club’s area during 2009, and ask for volunteers to distribute literature about the

importance of early prostate cancer detection. “Thank You” in advance for your cooperation with this life-saving campaign.

Pillars for the ‘Age of Returning’ - The Six Cs

Father Louie Putz, C.S.C. saw life as a chain with three links: the ***age of learning***, the ***age of earning***, and the ***age of returning***, the last being that point in a person’s life when there’s time available to give back accumulated knowledge, talent and experience to the needy and less-fortunate members of society.

During 2000 the Alumni Association introduced the “**Six Cs**” – **C**amaraderie, **C**ommunity Service, **C**atholic Christian Spirituality, **C**urrent Student Support, **C**ontinuing Education, and **C**ommunication – to give the Alumni Clubs a better framework to plan events and activities as a way for ND alumni to pool their talents for the good of their communities. Stated another way, these Six Cs are the foundation, the pillars upon which Notre Dame alumni can build a meaningful legacy during their personal ‘Age of Returning’, keeping alive the vision of Father Louie Putz.

A different one of the Six Cs is being featured in ***NDSA NewsNotes*** along with a list of ideas taken from Success Stories reported by Clubs around the country. Consider these ideas as ‘**bones**’ that can be assembled by individual Clubs, ***if they choose to do so***, into a ‘**skeleton**’ upon which the Club is able to add its own ‘**flesh**’ creating an event / activity / project / program that is truly the ***Club’s own unique creation***.

Catholic Christian Spirituality is the featured ‘Six C’ in this issue. ***Catholic Christian Spirituality*** is simply loving God by loving one another and acting accordingly. In demanding that we love one another Jesus is not expecting us to love “everybody” – that’s too easy because “everybody” is only an image of people pleasing to us that we have in our mind – we’ll never come in contact with “everybody”. Jesus is asking us to love ***anybody*** – especially those persons who are unattractive to us – like the sinners and tax collectors and social outcasts with whom he dined. Here’s a few ideas. . . .

- Visit the Grotto each time you are on campus
- Institute a one-on-one program for unwed mothers-to-be.
- Sponsor a multi-year series of Theology-based Hesburgh Lectures.
- Organize free healthcare services for the homeless by a retired alumni-physician
- Establish a Catholic Diocesan Professional Assistance Program in your Diocese.
- Assist in food distribution at a food pantry serving the needy.
- Kick-off your Club/s activity year with a Mass followed by breakfast or brunch.
- Attend Mass as a body on the first Saturday of each month.
- Conduct a Tax Assistance program (T.A.P.) for the downtrodden members of society.
- Combine Mass attendance with a weekly / monthly Senior Breakfast.
- Hands-On support of an athlete at *Special Olympics*.
- Volunteer at a day care center for homeless women
- Give underprivileged children a summer camp experience.
- Visit with the persons living at a shelter for battered women and children.
- “Hydrate the Homeless” with bottled water during oppressive summer heat.
- Attend the funeral of a local policeman / fireman / serviceman killed in the line of duty.
- Conduct monthly “Birthday Parties” for patients at a local nursing home.
- Provide outreach assistance to a spouse experiencing post-funeral problems.
- Regularly visit a child living in an orphanage.
- Attend the funeral / burial service of a local serviceman killed in the line of duty.
- Take VA hospital patients to a sporting event.
- Sponsor a ‘Blue Mass’ to pray for local police and firefighters.
- Write to the men and women from your Club-area serving in the armed forces.
- Conduct game watch parties for hospitalized veterans in a VA facility.
- Offer ‘handyman’ services to the families of servicemen and women on active duty.
- Share your family with a homeless person in your home on Christmas.
- Make every day a ‘Christmas’ for somebody.
- Pray daily at Notre Dame from wherever you are by clicking on www.alumni.nd.edu, then on “Service and Spirituality, then on “Pray.nd.edu”.

Let's Take a Break

A person sees some interesting **Seniors** bumper stickers these days. Here's a sampling . . .

- When I was younger all I dreamed about was having a BMW. Now I don't care about the W.
- I'm so old I don't buy green bananas
- Goodbye tension. Hello pension.
- She was at the beauty shop for two hours. And that was only for the estimate!
- Florida – God's waiting room.
- At my age flowers scare me.
- Have you tried the new large-type alphabet soup?
- Quit worrying about your health. It'll go away!

Feature Stories

One or two of the Success Stories reported by the Clubs are featured in more detail than is possible in the condensed versions listed under each of the Six Cs. It is hoped that these stories will both inspire and be a source of ideas for your Club. They are reproduced here as passed on by the Clubs with only a minimum of editing.

WELCOMING OUR TROOPS HOME

The Dallas ND Club continues their program to welcome troops home from Iraq. Each day of the week a planeload of about 200 troops rotate from Iraq to the US for leave or redeployment. On each of these days over 200 people welcome these troops at the Dallas – Fort Worth Airport with cheering, music, handshakes, etc. It is a very emotional experience, both for the troops and the people welcoming them home. The Dallas Club has been involved in the welcoming one day each month since February 2008, with an average of 8 to 12 different Club members participating. The Dallas Club expects attendance to keep growing. Everyone who has participated in a welcoming ceremony has said that they would attend again.

DIOCESAN PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Northern New Jersey ND Club has placed three of its members on the Hope House Board of Directors. Hope House is a Catholic Charity of the Diocese of Patterson which serves a population of immigrants, the aged, AIDS patients, runs a food bank and provides newborn supplies and education to young immigrant parents. Members of the Club volunteered to guide Hope House in developing their first Strategic Plan which currently is being implemented. The Hope House budget is about \$2.5 million per annum. Before the Plan was developed this agency was losing money. The Strategic Plan included new initiatives and made recommendations for revamping financial controls and the accounting function and outsourcing management functions where practical.

Members of the Club's Senior Alumni met with the new CEO of the Diocese of Patterson and developed a work plan to address the Diocese's management needs. Included is a review of their benefit plans, an analysis of their Information Technology Systems, and making recommendations for improvement. The team is also reviewing Diocesan financial management systems and accounting methods, undertaking a legal review of leases and contracts, and making recommendations for a purchasing system. The Diocese of Patterson consists of 111 parishes and 55 schools.

ONE MAN HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

Don Gothard '56 continues to help men all across the United States win their battle against prostate cancer. Interviewed on TV news broadcast this past summer, Don told of his experience with proton beam treatment for cancer. He had been asked by the firm that handles public relations for Beaumont Hospital, located in Detroit suburb Royal Oak, Michigan to help them sell proton beam therapy to the people who need to approve the addition of a treatment facility for this technology. Two years earlier Don had been asked by the President of Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia to testify on their behalf when they were requesting approval to build a proton beam treatment facility. Both Beaumont Hospital and Hampton University have received the approvals needed to proceed.

There are now 5 operating proton beam treatment facilities in the U.S., 5 more are being built, and 40 all across the country are in the planning stage. Proton beam therapy will probably be the preferred way to treat early-stage prostate cancer in the future as more and more hospitals and oncologists become familiar with this technology.

Unsung Heroes

While working in Guatemala some years ago, **Pete Campbell '56**, became aware that poor natives living in areas remote from larger cities had need for skilled medical attention that was not available to them where they lived. Using computers donated by IBM and cameras donated by Kodak, Pete created a system capable of transmitting patient information from semi-skilled technicians in the field to a hospital in Guatemala City, where physicians on staff could review the data and advise the field technicians. The system has not as yet been used as extensively as Pete envisioned because of the political climate in Guatemala.

Back home in the Raleigh, North Carolina area, Pete drove a truck for a local charity, picking up food at restaurants, hotels and airports and delivering it to organizations that distribute it to the needy.

Recognizing the need for support of people experiencing medical emergencies while traveling, Pete envisioned a nationwide network of volunteers ready to respond at a moment's notice to a call for help to a toll-free "800" number. Working tirelessly over several years to make his vision a reality, Pete developed and "fathered" what we know today as NDSA's Hospital Support Program. Since completing his term on the NDSA Board of Directors, Pete continues to serve as an advisor to the program.

Success Stories from the Clubs and Classes

The items presented below, grouped by the 6 C's, are taken from reports of successes, best practices and newsworthy items reported by the Regional NDSA Directors at the Fall NDSA Meeting, and from information supplied by the Class Secretaries.

CAMARADERIE

- Heisman Trophy winner John Huarte will be the featured speaker at the West Valley Senior Luncheon at Westbrook Village in Peoria, Arizona.
- Senior members of the Notre Dame Club of Buffalo/Western New York are meeting monthly for breakfast where they share stories and plan volunteer involvement.
- Thirteen seniors couples attended a dinner and theater night out that was designed to promote camaraderie within the Tucson club.
- The San Diego Club's seniors have had two theater nights that younger club members also attended.
- **Dick Jacob '56**, Senior Alumni Coordinator for the ND Club of Lake County (Illinois), reports that attendance at the Club's monthly breakfast for seniors continues to grow. In the first six months of 2008 there have been 36 different participants. Since its inception during 2005 a total of 47 different seniors representing 24 classes have attended the breakfasts.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Senior members of the Buffalo/Western New York Club participated in painting a Catholic elementary school. They also staffed a "Bat for the Cure" informational table at a Buffalo Bison baseball game, and were a significant part of the local contingent who joined the Young Alumni at the annual Komen "Walk for the Cure" of breast cancer. ***As a result of their involvement in these activities, the Seniors have indicated a desire to participate when other volunteer opportunities are presented.***
- Seven members of the Central New York/Syracuse Club handed out prostate cancer information at the Syracuse Chiefs "Bat for the Cure" program.
- An extremely well-received colon and breast cancer information night was presented by the San Diego Club. A repeat performance has been requested.
- Over sixty senior members of the Orange County (California) Club are engaged in community service activity and volunteerism, including participation in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, knitting scarves and hats for the homeless, and packaging and serving food to the homeless.
- Senior Alumni of the Greater DuPage County (Illinois) Club each contribute \$25 annually to the Peoples Resource Center Family Connections Program, an organization that provides special families \$100 to \$300 per month to give them enough stability to keep trying to move to a life of self sufficiency.

- The Hilton Head ND Club, in partnership with the Parishioners of St. Francis and local Knights of Columbus Councils, is sponsoring a Prostate Cancer Awareness Education program for those in their community that need to be informed about the disease.
- The Northern New Jersey ND Club is an active Club having members involved with Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and Newark's Boys and Girls club. They still find time for 'fun' activities like game watches to promote camaraderie within the Club.
- The Eastern North Carolina ND Club conducted another successful TAP program under the leadership of **Kirk Wagenseller** during the 2008 tax season at three VITA sites in the Club's area. Of the 36 Alumni who participated in the program, 14 qualify as 'Seniors'. The TAP teams filed State and Federal returns for 633 low income tax payers and achieved tax refunds for them totaling \$618,798.
- For its participation in Notre Dame Alumni activities, the Hilton head Club received the 'Outstanding Club of the Year' Award from the Alumni Association during Alumni senate 2008. Under the leadership of club president **Jack Battel '55** and senior Alumni Coordinator **Buz Berger '52**, the Hilton Head Club is involved with TAP, the Diocesan Professional Assistance program, and the Hospital Support Program.

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

- The Notre Dame Club of Mahoning Valley and its senior alumni are deeply involved with the University in a campus-wide program called "Hands and Hope for Haiti Project." Notre Dame students are collecting over 80,000 pounds of new and slightly used clothing, as well as medical supplies, which will be shipped to Youngstown, Ohio in trucks donated by K-Mart. The clothing will be boxed by the Mahoning Valley ND Club and shipped to Haiti in US Air Force C-130 cargo planes. Catholic organizations in Haiti will distribute the clothing to the poorest of God's poor. Club President **Bob Vanes** and **Katie Zakas** of the Alumni association are both heavily involved in the project.
- The Notre Dame Club of Phoenix collected over 4,200 bottles of water for the second annual "**Thirst Aid**" event. "Thirst Aid" is designed to provide water to homeless persons who have no other means of hydration.
- The Northern New Jersey Club is in the process of "adopting" a unit of the 50th New Jersey National Guard who have been activated for duty in Iraq and currently are undergoing training in Texas..
- The Mid-Hudson Valley Club received a Certificate of Appreciation from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom for their donation of toys and clothing for distribution to injured Iraqi children.
- The Boston ND Club reports that a retreat for Senior Alumni at Stonehill College during August was well attended. **Dave Bush** coordinated the event.

CURRENT STUDENT SUPPORT

- Ninety-six Notre Dame students, including thirteen incoming freshmen, were hosted by the Phoenix Club at their annual student send-off during July.
- Following a successful student sendoff, the Board of the Rockford Club voted unanimously to establish dues-free membership in the club for students attending Notre Dame. All students are being invited to attend the annual Senior Christmas Luncheon on December 22nd as guests of the Club. The Club plans to schedule some activities/events during the summer that will have a special appeal to students.

COMMUNICATION

- Rather than present specific programs on prostate and breast cancer, the San Diego ND Club elected to have a presentation on the availability of web sites on a cross section of health issues to which the Pima County Library system has subscribed. The presentation was given at a Club luncheon in the Spring.
- Clubs in NDSA Region 12 attended another very successful Regional meeting in Alexandria, Virginia during the May 16 -18 weekend. On Friday evening attendees had Congressional VIP passes for the Marine Corps Taps Parade Concert. Following the business meeting on Saturday morning in Mount Vernon, where business was conducted around the same table used two weeks earlier by presidents Bush and Sarkozy, the group enjoyed a luncheon together, a tour of Mount Vernon, and then attended Mass. On Sunday two ND grads ('88 & '89) serving in the military escorted the group on a guided tour of the Pentagon. This was the second such meeting, which includes spouses, held in Region 11. The popular format was conceived by Regional Director **Mike Squyres '63 & '64**.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- The El Paso Club sponsors an annual “Border Mass” on November 2nd which provides opportunities for Club members to discuss the topic of “immigration” from a Catholic perspective.
- For the third consecutive year, the Rockford Club has sponsored two students who attended the University’s ND Visions program, designed to help young people identify a direction for their lives. At the conclusion of their week-long experience, the students write an essay summarizing the benefits of the program in their lives.

Senior Moments

During their freshman year in Breen Phillips Hall, members of the Class of 1956 discovered several bottles of sunscreen in the 4th floor maid’s closet. They correctly concluded that there must be a way to get onto the roof to soak up the sun’s rays. A trap door in the ceiling of the maid’s closet led to an attic crawl space with a second trap door that opened onto the roof. There was a flat area with a low decorative wall on both sides that made it possible to sunbathe without being seen from the ground.

All went well until one day when one of the guys slipped and almost fell through the 4th floor ceiling into the corridor below. He wasn’t hurt, but a number of tiles and a pile of insulation fell to the floor near the top of the stairs. Naturally, there was quite a bit of hilarity until someone dashed up the stairs to tell the students that the Floor Rector had just entered the building and was heading up the stairs.

With no time to repair the damage the students grabbed a broom from the maid’s closet, swept the insulation into the closet and threw the ceiling tiles in, too, before scurrying to their rooms. All was quiet as the Rector, who had stopped to chat on the second floor, entered his room without noticing (or pretending not to) the missing ceiling tiles (which were silently replaced by the students in the dead of night).

Relating the incident at a reunion years later, one of the participants remarked, ‘The sun god was with us that day!’

On The Horizon

The Winter Meeting of the NDSA Board will be held in San Diego on January 15 – 18, 2009. NDSA Board members pay their own travel, lodging and meal expenses to attend the Winter Meeting.

The Spring NDSA Board meeting will be held on the Notre Dame campus in conjunction with the Alumni Senate on April 22 – 25, 2009. (For Senate dates in subsequent years, see below)

For up-to-the-minute NDSA news please log onto our website at www.ndsenioralumni.org. New features are being added all of the time.

A “face lift” for the exterior of the Joyce Center is on the drawing board. Several changes to the interior of the building are underway or will begin soon, including a new hockey rink and renovation of the basketball arena.

For those who like to plan (way) ahead, dates scheduled for the Alumni Senate in the next few years are

2010 - April 14 – 17

2011 - April 13 – 16

2012 - April 18 – 21

2013 - April 17 – 20

A Last Laugh

When told the reason for daylight savings time, the wise old Indian remarked, “Only a white man would believe that a person could cut a foot off one end of a blanket and sew it on the other end of the same blanket and have a longer blanket.”

A Parting Thought

Tonight as you close your eyes in slumber do you think that you could pray, “Lord, I’ve earned one more tomorrow by the service I’ve performed for others today”?