

### **NDSA Board News**

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> was a busy time on the campus at Notre Dame. The NDSA Board held their spring meeting, the Alumni Association and Minority Alumni Boards also met, and the Alumni Senate was held. The weekend concluded with the inauguration of the **Spirit of Notre Dame** campaign. Highlights of the NDSA Board meeting include

- Four newly appointed Regional Directors who will take office on July 1st were introduced and welcomed to the NDSA Board: **Emil Herkert '60** (Region 10), **John Hoffman '71 '73** (Region 14), **Dick Erlenbaugh '64, '65** (Region 15), and **Robert Drajem '64** (Region 18).
- **NDSA Initiatives** was the featured topic of an Alumni Senate concurrent workshop. The purpose and value to the clubs of each of the seven NDSA Initiatives was presented by a panel of NDSA Directors. During the presentation on Hospital Support a workshop attendee asked how much time would elapse between an out-of-towner asking for support and receiving a response from the local alumni club. He explained that one of their club members would be going to St. Louis for a medical procedure and would need assistance. Immediately, **Debbie White** – NDSA Director of Region 5 which includes St. Louis – replied that she would provide the needed support. The instant response was impressive. As a result, several attendees expressed a desire to install Hospital Support in their ND alumni clubs.
- Senior Alumni Participation Awards were presented to five Clubs in 2007: **Washington, DC (AA)**, **Milwaukee (A)**, **Ann Arbor (B)**, **Western Carolinas (C)**, and **Hilton Head (F)**.
- Alumni Association Executive Director **Chuck Lennon**, following an inspiring Senate presentation by Kathy Sullivan, commented that the features which distinguish Notre Dame Alumni are **Spirituality** and **Service**.
- **George Harvey**, Chairman of the Communications and Public Relations Committee, introduced an attractive new NDSA brochure entitled “Notre Dame Senior Alumni is ‘Making a Difference’ Through Initiatives”. The brochure contains a brief description of the seven NDSA Initiatives. It will be distributed at Class Reunions in June and at football games in the Fall.
- **Looking for a way to increase Club membership?** Contact all Alumni living in an area when the Club has a new project, inviting them to participate. Stress, particularly to Senior Alumni, that help is being sought on a project basis – not for a long-term commitment. You might also consider a “Come Join Us” announcement in the Parish Bulletin to recruit Friends of Notre Dame who have the skills and knowledge needed for the project. Many recruits will join the Club.
- **Bill Kreps '55**, Region 13 Director, was elected by acclamation as Vice Chairman of the NDSA Board for the year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations and best wishes, Bill.
- The NDSA Board thanked retiring members **Dick Griffin '60**, **Jim Slattery '50**, **George and Jo Ann Harvey HON '03**, **Mike Neumeister '69**, and **Pete Campbell '56** for their years of service to Notre Dame and wished them well in their future endeavors.
- The 2007 **Reverend Louis J. Putz CSC Award** was presented to **George Talbot Oser '58** during the Alumni Senate for contributions he made to improve the school system in Houston, Texas.

## **What's New?**

The Alumni Association is launching a new website during June that includes a completely revamped **Irish Online**. More than merely a more attractive looking site, it will make it much easier for individual alumni to keep in touch with each other and with the University. In addition, it promises to be a tremendous communication and marketing tool for Notre Dame Alumni groups.

The new **Irish Online** was demonstrated to the NDSA Board by **Tom Monaghan '88** of the Alumni Association Staff. Developed by the software firm *Kintera*, the new Irish Online has many features that will benefit ND Alumni Clubs, Classes and other Groups. Some of its features include

- **Customized Websites** . . . that can easily be created and updated. It will be possible to post news items, photos, information about coming events, and much, much more.
- An **Enhanced Database** . . . that will facilitate searching the database and printing customized mailing lists in a few simple steps.
- **Event Registration** . . . capability that will allow members to register for events online.
- A **Fee Collection** . . . feature that will allow members to use credit Cards to pay dues and other fees.
- **Improved E-mail Functionality** . . . that will make it easier to create and send attractive e-mails.

The new **Irish Online** will also benefit the individual alumnus by offering

- **ND Online Community** . . . that will enable creation of a personal webpage and uploading of photos to share with fellow alumni. It's like 'My Space' with an Irish spin.
- An **Enhanced Directory Capability** . . . with more ways to search for alumni – by class, dorm, major, activities, employers, etc.
- **Expanded Career Networking** . . . that will make it easier than ever to develop career contacts and find mentors.

The Alumni Association is planning an intensive training program in the use of the new software . . . watch for the introduction of the new **Irish Online**.

## **Incoming Regional Directors**

Meet the four new NDSA Regional Directors who will take office on July 1, 2007, and join us in extending a warm welcome to them. They will each serve for a term of three years.

### **Emil Herkert '60, Region 10** (New Jersey, Southern Connecticut, Southern New York)

Emil earned a BS in Civil Engineering at Notre Dame, retired in 2004 as CEO of a consulting engineering company, and has since been involved in "giving back" with a number of non-profit organizations. He and Ann have six children (2 ND Grads) and four grandchildren. Emil's goals include a Senior Alumni Coordinator in every club, and greater involvement by the Clubs with NDSA Initiatives.

### **John Hoffman '71, Region 14** (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee)

After a long career in the medical device industry, John now teaches business strategy at the University of Tennessee. He served on the ND Alumni Board from 2000 – 2003. He and Susan, a '71 SMC Alum, have two adult children. John looks forward to providing thoughtful commentary and leadership with the many programs initiated by NDSA.

### **Dick Erlenbaugh '64 '65, Region 15** (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina)

Dick has a BA in Government and International Studies and a MA in Education from Notre Dame. Watch the Fall issue of NDSA Club Notes for the rest of the information about Dick and Patti.

### **Bob Drajem '64, Region 18** (Northern New York, Toronto)

Bob is a member of the class of '64 with a BA in Economics. After retiring as a secondary Mathematics teacher and a professor at three colleges in the Buffalo area, he continues to be involved with charitable causes that he has supported since graduation. Bob and Linda have two sons. Bob's goals include having a Senior Alumni Coordinator in each active club in Region 18 and being personally active with NDSA Initiatives in his local ND Club.

### **An NDSA Initiative: PACE**

Sam Davis, who lived in a little town in southern Illinois, loved cars. In fact, friends said he lived and breathed cars. Sam could tell the make and model of any car from the early 30's onward. His pride and joy was a 1965 Ford Thunderbird. Sam loved that car. Even after 196,342 miles it looked and ran like the day he drove it off the showroom floor. He attributes the car's performance to years of tender loving care: religiously changing the oil every 3000 miles, the transmission fluid every 25,000, the weekly washing, and never driving in the winter when there was salt on the road. Sam's friends planned a surprise party for him when the speedometer rolled past 200,000 miles.

Sadly, Sam won't be around for the party. You see, Sam died last week of prostate cancer. He died needlessly. Too bad Sam never found time for an annual prostate examination. The cancer would have been discovered early on and treated and Sam would be alive today. If only . . .

Do you have a friend who neglects to give his body the same loving care he gives his car? Tell him about Sam . . . and 'bug' him until he sees his doctor. What are friends for?

When you tell a friend about Sam and ask him if he changes the oil in his car every 3000 miles you are participating in NDSA's Prostate Awareness Cancer Education Initiative – "PACE" for short. It's that simple, but it can save a life. Imagine how many men's lives will be saved if everyone talks to their friends about oil changes and yearly physical check-ups.

Your local ND Club can get involved with sponsoring a seminar on prostate cancer, working with the American Cancer Society, encouraging prostate cancer victims to join a support group. For more information about PACE and ways that your local ND Club can get involved, log on to the NDSA website at [www.ndsenioralumni.org](http://www.ndsenioralumni.org) or call Tom Monaghan at the Alumni Office at (574) 631-2724.

Make a difference . . . become a **PACEmaker**. *And remember, the life you save may be your own!*

### **Let's Take a Break**

While visiting the third grade class at St. Peter's School, the newly ordained priest told the children the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. He described the situation in vivid detail so the students would catch the drama.

Looking around the room at the intent young faces, the priest asked, "If you saw a person lying on the side of the road, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

After a few minutes, a thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence. "I think I'd throw up!"

### **From Around the Country**

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 Spring NDSA Meeting.

#### **CAMARADERIE**

- For the past three years the **Denver Club** has averaged ten basketball watches each season that are attended by 12 to 14 members.
- The **Northwest Indiana Club** has been varying their Club functions in an attempt to have something that will appeal to the different age groups in their membership.
- The **McHenry Club** is planning to conduct monthly breakfasts at different local restaurants on a rotating basis for seniors and other members who are interested.

- The **Greater DuPage County Club** has instituted a program called “Lunch Bunch” for senior alumni and members who work in the vicinity of Quigley’s, a local restaurant. The group meets there on the first Friday of each month.
- In a first event of its kind for the **Cincinnati Club**, a Senior Alumni Luncheon during March was attended by 50 ND Seniors. Attendees were asked to bring ND memorabilia from their student days to share with fellow alumni. They brought everything from football programs to year books, to a watch once worn by Knute Rockne. The event was a super success, and the seniors voted to have four such luncheon meetings each year. The Club picked up a good share of the cost, and in turn, picked up some new members. An added bonus: one attendee volunteered to be the Club’s Senior Alumni Coordinator.

## **GOD, COUNTRY and NOTRE DAME**

- As the first event in their recently installed God, Country and Notre Dame Initiative, the **St. Louis Club** celebrated Mass during February.
- Senior members of the **Ann Arbor Club** continue to visit veterans in the Ann Arbor VA Hospital on the second Sunday of each month. The team is led by **Al Bailey**.
- **The Northern Alabama, Alabama, and Northern Louisiana** Notre Dame Clubs have each initiated VA/Military Hospital Visitation programs. Members of the Northern Alabama Club have made visits to the Blind Unit Program at the VA Regional Medical Center in Birmingham, and the Birmingham Club plans to join them in future visits.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Each month, a different family from the **Black Hills Club** provides a birthday party at a local nursing home to celebrate birthdays of patients that month.
- The **Tucson Club**, working with VA volunteer coordination personnel, is providing assistance in a number of areas of identified need.
- The **Black Hills Club** has conducted a **TAP** program each year since its inception by the University that continues to grow in popularity.
- **Ron Szweda ’61**, who started and still runs the **St. Louis Club’s TAP** program, was featured in a recent article about TAP in the Notre Dame Business Magazine.
- The **Rockford Club** kicked-off their ‘**Traveling Irish**’ initiative during April. Members who travel bring home unused toiletries from hotels where they stay. These are collected periodically and given to a homeless shelter. Members who don’t travel participate by purchasing travel/trial size items from a drug or grocery store.
- **Dr. Jim Boutrous ’60** will again be the featured speaker at a **PACE** seminar the **Detroit Club** is conducting in the fall.
- Senior members of the **Greater DuPage County Club** served as hosts and coordinators for the Club’s **TAP** program at the Naperville Library on four Saturdays during March. Over 130 low-income families were served by the **TAP** program.
- The **Greater Louisville Club**, starting with visitation of deceased members, is expanding into the **Hospital Support Program**. Initially, they plan to support club members who are hospitalized. A cadre of 15 to 20 seniors is involved, headed by the enthusiastic leadership of four individuals.
- A majority of the senior members of the **Northwest Indiana Club** are involved in volunteer activities in their parishes or with other organizations.
- Different information about prostate cancer that was obtained from the American Cancer Society was e-mailed to the **Rockford Club’s** membership each week during a 6-week period to launch the Club’s **PACE** program.
- The **Detroit Club’s TAP** program, chaired by **Pat Callahan ’61** for the third year at two inner city parishes, resulted in \$102,149 in refunds for families in need. Total refunds during the 5 years the program has been in operation exceed \$344,000.
- Senior members of the **Greater DuPage County Club** support the work of “Naperville Cares”, an organization that provides assistance to families in need. Club members coordinate a Car Donation program, serve as intake coordinators and fund raisers, and assist at the organization’s annual fund-raising dinner.
- The **Kalamazoo Club’s** Outreach program, headed by **John Chmiel ’52**, serves meals to 250 people four times each year.
- The **Rockford Club’s** “Month of Service” projects at St. Elizabeth’s Center to honor Father Hesburgh’s 90th birthday include donating new men’s and women’s underwear and children’s

summer clothing, unloading a truckload of food items collected by the U.S. Postal Workers, and staffing the food pantry during May.

- The **Indianapolis Club** is in the process of expanding its TAP program, and has formed a senior alumni committee to explore additional NDSA Initiatives.
- Seven senior members of the **Greater DuPage County Club** order, unload and stock approximately ½ ton of food items each month at St. Thomas the Apostle food pantry. Another 5 to 10 seniors assist the Chicago Food Pantry in sorting and packaging food that is distributed to over 500 agencies in the Chicago area. Also each month, 5 to 10 seniors pack about 200 bags of groceries at the local “Loaves and Fishes” pantry for delivery to less fortunate senior citizens.
- Two ND Clubs in Indiana – **Tri-State and Kokomo** – are involved in Habitat for Humanity projects.
- The **Dallas Club** conducts **TAP** programs for parishioners in 4 of the 10 South Dallas Catholic parishes where the Club supports Catholic Schools. Other parishes have asked the Club to conduct TAP programs for their parishioners.

## CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

- The **San Diego Club**, as a first project in their **Diocesan Support Program**, has formed an Information Technology Committee to assist the Diocese in evaluating a proposal for a comprehensive and costly IT system. Also, a committee of retired executive management level personnel has been formed to evaluate and define Diocesan needs in varied functional areas.
- At their very successful UND Celebration during April, **Eastern Illinois Club** president **Jim Mulvaney '71** announced that two Communion Breakfasts would be held, one in each of the two major population centers in the club's area, in order to accommodate a greater number of alumni.
- A comprehensive Market research study was completed for the Everest Academy by the **Detroit Club** team of **Charlie Kitz '58, Steve Harvath '59, Ron Wagner '59, and Pete Higgins '54**. The next step in the Club's **Diocesan Support Program** is preparing a communications strategy, a demographic analysis and architectural study.
- The **Dallas Club** has implemented a program to promote Catholic school education in the city. Since early 2007, they have been working with the South Dallas Catholic Schools to develop a marketing plan to increase enrollment in the 10 participating Catholic Grade Schools. The principals of the 10 schools and 6 Notre Dame Alumni made up the task force working on the program. The club has been asked for assistance in grant writing. The Dallas Club also organizes and conducts an annual golf tournament to benefit the schools which has broad parishioner support.
- The **Alabama Club** in Birmingham organized a most successful event during April called “**Six 'C' Saturday**” that included: (1) preparing packages of goodies and gift cards for the Club's current Notre Dame students, (2) Group celebration of Mass, (3) a Hesburgh Lecture following mass, (4) A reception and dinner following the Lecture, and (5) a community service project that included serving lunch at a downtown rescue mission. There was outstanding participation by all club members and NDSA members who helped to organize the various events.

## CURRENT STUDENT SUPPORT

- **John Freitas '67**, NDSA Coordinator for the **Ann Arbor Club**, is running the Club's Summer Service Program again this year. One student arrived on May 14 and a second will arrive on June 19. each serves for 8 weeks.
- Members of the **Knoxville Club** hosted the ND men's and women's crews during the week in March they were in Knoxville for spring training. Club members provided meals and visited with the students.
- The Notre Dame Women's Lacrosse Team was hosted by members of the Nashville Club when they were in town during mid-April. A dinner capped their two-day visit to Nashville.

## COMMUNICATION

- On April 20 – 22, **Region 12** (Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC) held what is believed to be the first-ever NDSA Regional Meeting in Gettysburg, PA, located about 2 hours driving time from most of the clubs in the region. Thirty-five members, representing 8 of the 16 clubs in the region attended at least part of the weekend. A welcoming buffet on Friday evening was followed on Saturday morning by a 3-hour business meeting. Mike LaFortune and Ken Hendricks from ND's Development Office spoke to the group. Other topics included Club's NDSA best practices, NDSA resources and how to obtain them, and the regional

communications network. A highlight of the weekend was a tour of the Gettysburg battlefield which emphasized the participation of Fr. William Corby, C.S.C. The weekend concluded with a Fellowship Dinner on Saturday evening where plans were made for the next year's meeting.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

- The **Denver Club** mentors Annunciation School students, assists with career day and other activities throughout the school year, and provides an annual Christmas party.
- **Mark Levandoski '66**, NDSA Coordinator for the **Grand Rapids Club**, continues to run the club's outreach program tutoring young people and adults in literacy reading.
- The **Dallas Club** tutors students in four of the 10 South Dallas Catholic Schools. Other Catholic Schools are asking for tutoring assistance by ND Club members.

## Senior Moments

During the late 1940's the Bookstore was located in the southeast corner of Badin Hall. Brother Bookstore, as we affectionately called the Holy Cross brother who managed the bookstore, got an FM radio during our junior year at Badin Hall. He played the radio so loudly it interfered with our studies – and we lived on the fourth floor! One of our gang - an EE student – suggested a solution to the problem.

Several of us chipped in and ordered a signal generator in kit form, a low power radio transmitter used in radio servicing. After assembling it and adding a short wire as an antenna, we tuned in different frequencies until we heard Brother Bookstore's radio let out a loud squeal. By turning the dial on our signal generator back and forth the radio emitted all sorts of wild noises. Chalking it up to interference on the air waves, Brother Bookstore turned his radio off and we studied in peace. It worked every day for two entire semesters.

Do you have a favorite story about your student days at Notre Dame that still gives you a chuckle when you recall it? Please send it to [NDSAClubNotes@aol.com](mailto:NDSAClubNotes@aol.com) so that we can all have a laugh.

## On The Horizon

The Fall Meeting of the NDSA Board will be held at Notre Dame on September 23 - 25.

A new book entitled "**Notre Dame and the Game that Changed Football**" by **Frank Maggio '63** will be in bookstores on September 1<sup>st</sup>. About Notre Dame's coach at the time of the memorable 1913 win over Army, the book explains "How Jesse Harper made the Forward Pass a Weapon and Knute Rockne a Legend." You won't want to miss this one!

For up-to-the-minute news of the NDSA please log onto our website at [www.ndsenioralumni.org](http://www.ndsenioralumni.org). New features are being added continually. You can even listen to Notre Dame music while you explore the website. It don't get no better than this!!

## A Last Laugh

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting. Well, for example, the other day I went downtown and went into a shop. I was in there for only about five minutes and when I came out there was a cop writing a parking ticket.

I went up to him and said, "Come on, man, how about giving a retired person a break?" He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. I called him a "Nazi." He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tires. So I called him a "doughnut eating Gestapo." He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote. Personally, I don't care. I came downtown on the bus, and the car that he was putting tickets on had a bumper sticker that read "Hillary in '08."

What do I do to make my days interesting now that I'm retired? I try to have fun! It's good for my health.

## A Parting Thought

Our Blessed Mother promised at Fatima that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century would either be a "Century of Annihilation" or a "Century of Peace". The choice is up to us. Please pray the rosary for peace.