



# Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama



August 2001

## Summer Social

The Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama will converge on the Teakwood Drive home of club members Jackie and Tom Berg '57, '59 for our annual Summer Social and General Membership meeting. This gathering will be held on Sunday, August 19, 2001 at 4:30 in the afternoon, and will combine several events into one fun-filled evening with our local Notre Dame community. All dues-paying club members who attend will be eligible for a special Door Prize - a pair of tickets to the September 22nd home opener against Michigan State!

The Summer Social is primarily an opportunity for our club membership to meet and visit. Of course, such endeavors are usually more successful when there's food involved, so the ND Club of Northern Alabama will provide barbecue, "fixins," dessert and beverages. An additional feature of this gathering is Berg's pool, which provides welcomed relief from the Alabama August heat, and has proven instrumental in keeping younger club members entertained.

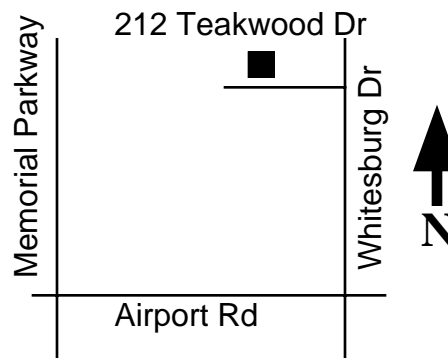
Another aspect of this event is the opportunity to meet our local Notre Dame-bound students and wish them well as they head off for their academic year. This year we are fortunate to be sending off two students, both of whom will be entering their junior year at Notre Dame. They are, Johnny Dias (Grissom) and Kimberly Talianko (Grissom). I'm sure you'll find Johnny and Kimberly to be quite impressive young adults, and it is pleasure to support them as they progress through their Notre Dame experience.

A final aspect of our gathering will be the General Membership Meeting. This will involve addressing a few key club business issues, including the election of club officers for the upcoming year. After the election, the drawing for the Door Prize will be held. The lucky winner will receive a pair of tickets to the Notre Dame - Michigan State game on September 22, 2001.

The directions to Berg's home at 212 Teakwood Drive, Huntsville are:

- From Memorial Parkway, take Airport Road east to intersection of Airport and Whitesburg Drive
- Turn left on Whitesburg and head north (toward downtown Huntsville)
- Go through the next light (you'll see Chick-Fil-A and Outback to your right)
- The next left is Teakwood. Turn left from Whitesburg to Teakwood
- The Berg's home is near the end of Teakwood on the right

We look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Social!



## Summer Service Project 2001

For the sixth straight year, the Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama has sponsored a Summer Service Project (SSP) intern from Notre Dame. Every summer the University's Center for Social Concerns coordinates these projects at locations around the country. Each Notre Dame student who chooses to participate spends about eight weeks performing community service in a project at a location set up by the local Notre Dame club. This year, our intern was Pam de los Reyes, who is from Marion, Ohio. Below are Pam's thoughts about her assignment with us this year.

Question: "What's in Alabama, of all places ?!"

"You're going to be stuck in a mud hole with only a shovel and no computer." "You will wash your clothes in a washing machine that sits on the front lawn." This past spring, so many comments, sprinkled with preconceived Southern stereotypes, popped out of the mouths of friends and family when I informed them of my forthcoming Summer Service Project Internship sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama. After spending my childhood in Ohio and never having seen the South, I often blanked at that question until uttering some general description of the SSPI, but when they ask me again (Continued on page 2 - SSP 2001)

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at my return home, I can confidently push their humor aside and answer them without a wavering hand.

Getting to that point, I formulated my weekly schedule through Ms. Shawn McEniry of the Volunteer Center of Huntsville. She made arrangements so that I could build my own schedule from day to day, which enabled me to divide my time at the Central Boys and Girls Club, Cogburn Nursing Center, and the Adult Day Health Center. Originally, I wanted a variety of sites in case things failed to work out in one place. Eventually, the variety just provided more for me to anticipate each new day.

At the Boys and Girls Club, I helped out as a teaching assistant to Ms. Clarinda Perry, first year Education Director at the Central facility, on Mondays and Wednesdays. I assisted her as she piloted a new structural summer program where the children divided into their age groups and rotated in and out of different classrooms. We had the good fortune to have the 8 & 9 year-olds, 10 & 11 year-olds, and the teens (12 and up) with us each day. In our classroom, we dipped into a palette of many subjects from history to math to grammar to prevent the usual summer stagnancy of children's creativity. On days off they created many artful masterpieces with construction paper and crayons and received guest speakers. I honed my public speaking skills while strengthening my vocal chords.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I spent time at Cogburn Nursing Center working in the Activity Department, headed by Ms. Angie Dreyer and assisted by Ms. Felicia Thompson and Ms. Rhonda Crutcher. In the morning I went around and visited one-on-one with residents who decline participation in group activities. We talked to each other, sometimes I read stories or fetched coffee, or I placed barrettes in their hair. Mostly, they just wanted hugs. After

Pam de los Reyes (center) was greeted at the Huntsville airport by several club members.



lunch, I assisted with the afternoon social activities, which included bingo, bowling, exercises, puzzles, and many other games.

On Fridays, I ventured to The Adult Day Health Center, located in the Senior Center. There, I socialized with clients who have dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, or other mental conditions. Ms. Nancy Cook, the classroom supervisor, assigns a monthly theme full of projects and activities to occupy everyone's concentration throughout the day. I acted as a magnet, going around the room and stopping, drawn to talk with anyone who wants extra individual attention. They really enjoyed that.

None of this would have been possible without the coordination of my ND alumni contact, Mr. Sonnie Hereford, who supervised my trip down here. I'd also like to thank the families who generously hosted me in their homes: the Breithaupts, the Lewises, the Mark Richards family, the Minguses, and the Chamberlains. Also a special thanks to the Larry Richards family, who lent me their car that safely transported me to my sites. I enjoyed each family and all they did to welcome me to an unfamiliar community, which brings us back to the original question: "What's in Alabama?!"

No longer is Huntsville just a volunteering opportunity to immerse myself in problems of social concerns. People from each family and site taught me essential lessons and reminded me of my priorities. Because of them, I unearthed more possibilities of how I will make myself useful in the future. Here, I learned more about others that I wouldn't have if I were not so removed from everything familiar. Thank you for your support of the Summer Service Project at Notre Dame, "y'all." Go Irish!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (You'll receive e-mail messages about club activities.)

**Club Use Only**

Treasurer

Membership

Graduation Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Amt. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25/year/person)

Scholarship Amt.\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
ND Club of Northern Alabama

Clip and Mail to:  
ND Club of Northern Alabama  
2612 Craft Ave.  
Huntsville, AL 35816

\* Contributions to Scholarship Fund are tax deductible. Also, remember to check for the availability of matching funds from your company.

<b>Board of Directors</b> August 1, 1999 through July 31, 2001			
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### Membership

It's that time of year...time for ND Club dues. The Board of Directors has voted to increase the dues this year to \$25. The reason for this change is to better cover the costs of running the club and supporting its projects. For example, the Summer Service Project costs have increased from \$1500 to \$1700.

Payment of dues will keep a member in good standing until July 31, 2002. One of the benefits of membership will be an opportunity to purchase Game Trip packages (tickets & rooms on campus) for the Michigan at ND game in 2002. Members also receive regular newsletters.

Remember, all ND supporters are welcome; membership is not limited to alumni. Please tell your ND-supporting friends about the Club!

Make checks out to ND Club of Northern Alabama, and send your payment of \$25 per member to: ND Club of Northern Alabama / 2612 Craft Ave / Huntsville, AL 35816

### Paid 01-02:

Peter Beucher  
 Frederick Campbell  
 Brian Duerr  
 Sonnie Hereford IV  
 Patrick O'Neill  
 Michael Roddy III  
 Al Spain  
 Nancy Spain  
 Jane Wyatt



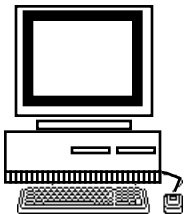
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 Huntsville, AL 35816

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## Coming Events

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>
• Summer Social	August 19 4:30PM	212 Teakwood Drive, Huntsville
• Game Watch	Each Football Saturday	Diamonds, 11220 S. Memorial Parkway
• ND vs. Tennessee Game Trip	November 3	Notre Dame
• Christmas in April	April 27, 2002	Morgan County



Updates to the club's "Coming Events" are regularly posted on our web site. This newsletter and information on club activities can also be found on our web site. While you're there you can sign up for the club's e-mail list. When you sign up you'll find out about the club's activities sooner. Our web site is located at:



[http://alumni.nd.edu/~ndc\\_n\\_al/](http://alumni.nd.edu/~ndc_n_al/)

### Millennium Series T-Shirt Sales

Our club, along with the Knoxville club, is selling T-shirts for the Notre Dame vs. Tennessee game on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Currently the T-shirts will cost \$16 (short sleeve) and \$20 (long sleeve) and will be available in the sizes L, XL, and 2XL (\$1.50 extra). The prices may go up if we have to reorder, so get your T-shirts early! The profits made on the T-shirt sales will be used to support our Adopt-a-Family program.

For more information or to purchase a T-shirt contact Dave Tarkowski at 883-4868 (home) or 890-3318 (work).



### Membership E-mail List

We are trying to compile a list of e-mail addresses for our club membership. This list will be used to keep you informed of club activities. We have also used the e-mail list to send out notices when game tickets are available. It is easy to add your name to our address list. Simply:

1. Go to our club's web site at:  
[http://alumni.nd.edu/~ndc\\_n\\_al/](http://alumni.nd.edu/~ndc_n_al/)
2. Click on the "Subscribe to our e-mail list" link
3. Send the e-mail message

Sending this message will automatically add your e-mail address to our list of members. You can also send an email to "szedula@mindspring.com" with the subject "Subscribe to ND Club Newsletter" (no quotes). Using either method, your e-mail address will be added to our address list.