



Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama



August 2003

2003 Summer Service Internship

One of the most important Community Service projects our Club supports is the Summer Service Internship, which is run by the Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns. This year our intern was Soquel Harding of Slidell, LA. Below is her summary of her experience in Huntsville this summer.

-- Sonnie Hereford, SSI Coordinator

My decision to live in Huntsville this summer was the result of my desire to work with children for my Center for Social Concerns' summer service project internship. However, I had no preconceived idea of the great extent of my summer-service learning and of how far my expectations for my summer service work would be exceeded. These past eight weeks have been an incredible period of learning, meeting countless remarkable people, and encountering great personal growth in both my spirituality and compassion.

I divided my time in Huntsville between several local organizations. My project base was at the Volunteer Center of Madison County, a non-profit agency that coordinates volunteers and volunteer needs in the community. I worked on a variety of projects with the staff of the Volunteer Center, (Continued on page 2: SSI)

College Days

Every year about this time the Huntsville City Schools sponsor College Day at the local high schools. Representatives from regional and national colleges and universities are invited to provide information to prospective applicants and their parents. Notre Dame, through your Alumni Club, has participated in this event for a number of years. With materials provided by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, local ND alumni participate in the College Day events at many of our high schools.

The schedule is:

15 Sept	8:30am	Huntsville High
15 Sept	1:00pm	Lee High
16 Sept	8:00am	Johnson High
16 Sept	1:30pm	Butler High
16 Sept	7:00pm	Butler (city-wide for parents)
17 Sept	7:45am	Grissom High
17 Sept	1:00pm	New Century Tech High

FSU Ticket Raffle

The Club is raffling off two tickets to the Florida State game that will be played on November 1. The proceeds from the raffle support our Scholarship program for incoming and current ND students from our Northern Alabama area. The cost of the raffle tickets are \$5 each and 6 for \$25. The tickets will be sold at the Club sponsored TV game watches or by contacting David Tarkowski or Sonnie Hereford. The raffle drawing will be held on the Pittsburgh game. You need not be in attendance to win. The previously announced game, USC, was in error.

Club Scholarship Award

The Club's Officers have selected Wyetta Palmby, a Junior from Decatur, to receive a scholarship for the 2003-2004 Academic Year. Thanks to everyone who has supported the scholarship program through the annual football game raffle and direct donations to the Club's Scholarship Fund.

BYU Game Packages

Game packages for the BYU game on November 15 are still available. Each package includes a game ticket, two nights at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall on campus, reserved seats at the Friday night Pep Rally, and a Saturday morning continental breakfast. The cost is \$170 per package. Contact David Tarkowski at 890-3318(W) or 883-4868(H) for more details. For those who have previously purchased packages, please contact David and give the names and relationship of each person in your group. A trip letter will be mailed out approximately 4 weeks prior to the game.

Student Sendoff and Summer Social

The Club held its annual Summer Social and Student Sendoff at the home of Hugo Hardt '55 on July 31. We welcomed one of our new students, Stephen Hutchings of Decatur, and a returning student, Matt Dvorsky, along with our Summer Service Intern, Soquel Harding. Not attending was Wyetta Palmby, a Junior from Decatur. Before and after the BBQ dinner, much talk was on the upcoming football season and the availability of tickets.

2003 SSI continued from page 1 including the annual Father of the Year benefit auction and the coordination of volunteers for this year's Big Spring Jam in downtown Huntsville. I also assisted in the organization of the 2003 Helping Hands Book, a booklet that the Volunteer Center distributes annually to provide a list of various non-profit organizations and their volunteer needs.

One of my most interesting experiences at the Volunteer Center was assisting Yen Andrews with the Kindness in Progress (K.I.P.) program. This was a summer-long service-learning curriculum with the primary objective of motivating children and teenagers to participate in community service activities. Yen would coordinate a service activity for the kids two mornings each week. Examples of our projects included planting at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, picking up trash at Palmer Park, dog walking at Huntsville Animal Services, and cleaning and organizing at the Asbury Thrift Shop. One of our best activities was the Flaming Bingo Luau party at Edenbrook Senior Living Center. The kids spent the morning playing bingo with the residents and learning how to hula dance. We had so much fun, and it was wonderful seeing how the kids were able to brighten up the day of the residents. Throughout the program, I assisted Yen in the coordination of these activities and participated in the various service events. The experience provided me with valuable knowledge and showed me the importance of involving children in service. I feel that the participation in such service activities builds self-confidence in children and enables them to understand the importance of their contributions to their community.

My work at the National Children's Advocacy Center was likewise very interesting because it showed me the workings of an agency specifically designed to prevent child abuse. Since this is a field in which I am interested for a future career, I feel that interning there and learning the views of the employees provided me with valuable insights into the field.

At the Huntsville Child Care Center, I assisted in the Eagles' classroom, which consisted of four and five year olds from low-income households. I truly enjoyed my experiences there. I spent a good number of mornings during my project at the day care, so I got to know all the kids at the center. They all knew me as well, and it was always heartwarming upon my arrival each day when they would run to me to give me hugs. My work at the child care center gave me constructive views into the lives of these children. Although my childhood experiences were completely different from theirs, I was nevertheless able to relate to the children. For the duration of my work there, I strove to serve as a positive role model for the kids.

My final summer service experience was probably the most touching and influential for me. I

worked as a volunteer counselor at the Valley Garden Activity Center, a summer day camp program for underprivileged kids. The group I usually worked with was between the ages of nine and twelve. It was an amazing group of kids. Many of them, recently immigrated to the United States from Mexico, were unable to speak much English. However, they were great kids and it was a wonderful program for them. One of the best aspects of the program was the kids' involvement in a service project of their own. Each week, we would take them to a retirement home in Huntsville, and the kids would spend time playing games with the residents, singing songs, and just visiting. It was so wonderful to see how considerate and polite the kids were, whether they were performing or painting the fingernails of some of the residents. I had a wonderful time helping out at Valley Garden. This program reinforced to me the value of involving children in service activities at a young age. I believe these hands-on activities truly show them the worth of volunteering their time and energy for the benefit of the community. Service work develops qualities of kindness, compassion, and diligence in children.

My time in Huntsville would not have been possible without the helpfulness and hospitality of the members of the Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama. I want to thank you all so much, especially my host families, the Dvorskys, the Bergs, the Harveys, and the Richards. Thank you so much for your welcome, generosity, and kindness. You all truly made me feel at home in Huntsville. Thanks also to Hugo Hardt for allowing me to go along with him on one of his Meals on Wheels runs-that was truly an incredible experience. I would like to especially thank Sonnie Hereford, who served as my project coordinator and made my whole summer experience possible. Thank you all so much again for everything-I will definitely be an enthusiastic proponent of the SSPI in Huntsville for next year's candidates. I look forward to seeing you all up on campus again this fall-God bless!

Soquel Harding



John Harding, Soquel Harding,
Paula and Paul Dvorsky

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

Membership Year 2003-2004

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
 7806 Bridgewell Run
 Huntsville, AL 35802

Club Use Only
 Treasurer
 Membership

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

Board of Directors
 August 1, 2003 through July 31, 2005

<p><i>President</i> Sonnie Hereford '79 H 722-0369 W 961-1637 SWHereford@knology.net</p> <p><i>Vice President</i> George Harvey H 353-6280 W 544-0406 george.harvey@msfc.nasa.gov</p> <p><i>Treasurer</i> Dave Tarkowski '68,'70 H 883-4868 W 890-3318 dtarkows@mitre.org</p> <p><i>Secretary</i> Joe Szedula '80,'82 H 828-1343 W 489-5832 x102 szedula@mindspring.com</p>	<p><i>Community Service</i> George Harvey H 353-6280 W 544-0406 george.harvey@msfc.nasa.gov</p> <p><i>Community Service (deputy)</i> Barbara Breithaupt '87 H 721-1101 W 544-5401 barbara.breithaupt@msfc.nasa.gov</p> <p><i>Alumni/Schools</i> Bill Mordan '68 H 883-1701 W 544-2011 bill.mordan@msfc.nasa.gov</p> <p><i>Membership</i> Sonnie Hereford '79 H 722-0369 W 961-1637 SWHereford@knology.net</p>	<p><i>Communications</i> Joe Szedula '80,'82 H 828-1343 W 489-5832 x102 szedula@mindspring.com</p> <p><i>Publicity</i> Jo Ann Harvey H 353-6280 jaharvey@pclnet.net</p> <p><i>Social Events</i> Dave Tarkowski '68,'70 H 883-4868 W 890-3318 dtarkows@mitre.org</p> <p><i>UND Celebration</i> Mark Richards '85 H 880-8519 W 319-0216 mrichards@knology.net</p>	<p><i>Summer Service Project</i> Sonnie Hereford '79 H 722-0369 W 961-1637 SWHereford@knology.net</p> <p>Vacant Positions: Continuing Education Young Alumni</p>
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Membership

Payment of dues will keep a member in good standing until July 31, 2004. The dues are used to cover the cost of club activities. The Summer Service Project and the Student Send-off are two such activities. Another benefit of membership will be an opportunity to purchase Game Trip packages (tickets & rooms on campus) for the game in 2004. 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 \$25 payment per member to: ND Club of Northern Alabama/7806 Bridgewell Run/Huntsville, AL 35802

- Paul Dvorsky
- Hugo Hardt
- Ron Liedel
- Bill Mordan
- Sue Mordan
- Gerry Richards
- Larry Richards
- Mark Richards
- Joe Szedula
- Michael Payer
- James Kaelin
- David Tarkowski
- Connie Tarkowski





ND Club of Northern Alabama
7806 Bridgewell Run
Huntsville, AL 35802

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 Huntsville, AL
 Permit No. 651



Coming Events

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where/Who</u>
• BYU Game Weekend Ticket Requests	A.S.A.P	Contact: David Tarkowski
• Game Watches	each game	Diamonds and/or Chips and Salsa
• College Days	15-17 Sept.	Contact: Bill Mordan
• BYU Game Weekend	November 15 th	Notre Dame

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/

Game Watch

Again this year, Northern Alabama Notre Dame fans will have a place to watch the ND football games and bring the family! The location is Chips and Salsa; which is located in Creek Side Corners at 10300 Bailey Cove Road (just south of Weatherly Road). Their phone number is 880-1202. This establishment is colocated with El Camino Real (Mexican) restaurant, and children are welcome everyday until 10:00 pm. Any Chips and Salsa customer may order from the full El Camino Real menu.

Our ND Club will maintain its relationship with Diamond's on South Parkway, for those who prefer that location.

Any questions? Call me at - 520-0240.

Sonnie

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/
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.