



Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama



November 2011

Club Events in 2011

Club Members, have you ever wondered about all the activities we have during the year? It is quite a few more than just the UND Celebration and game watches! Here's a quick list of all the events we've had and plan to hold. Find something interesting? Keep an eye out on your email and on the club website for details and times. There's always something going on for you to attend at the club and enjoy the Notre Dame Spirit!!!

Held this year:

- Communion and Breakfast at Holy Spirit
- Rebuilding Together Service Event
- Summer Service Learning Program Sponsorship
- Liz Hurley Ribbon Run and Celebration Party
- "The Shirt" Drive
- UND Celebration with Coach Brian Kelly
- Senior Alumni Bat for the Cure with the Huntsville Stars
- Game Trip to Notre Dame to watch the Irish take on USC
- Young Alumni Dinner and Get Together this Spring
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Sending a Teacher from Pope John Paul II Catholic High School to the Notre Dame Excellence in Teaching Conference
- Lenten Club Event at St. Mary of the Visitation
- Night at the Huntsville Stars
- Annual St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Drive
- Game Watches every Notre Dame Football Weekend at BW3's in Jones Valley
- Attendance at the Alumni Senate held at Notre Dame

Still to Come:

- Big Brother Big Sisters Bowling Event
- contact Sonnie Hereford
- Christmas Family Service Event
- contact Erin Betts
- Advent Club Event and Christmas Party
- contact David Williams

As you can see, there are plenty of ways to volunteer and enjoy your club membership! Come out and join us for our remaining events and plan for these events next year!

UND Celebration Funds Support a Local Catholic School Teacher

If you have not yet heard, the Northern Alabama May 2011 UND Celebration was a huge success in many ways! This luncheon event, which hosted Coach Brian Kelly and over 200 attendees, was able to raise enough funds to send a local Catholic school teacher to the Excellence in Teaching Conference from October 14-16 at the University of Notre Dame.

This is a weekend in which The Notre Dame Alumni Association annually invites K-12 educators for a weekend of personal reflection and professional renewal at the University of Notre Dame. This award-winning conference is open to all teachers and administrators from public, Catholic, and private schools nationwide, not just Notre Dame alumni. It combines practical application and inspiration to empower educators emotionally, intellectually, and psychologically. English teacher Lori Pepper from Pope John Paul II Catholic High School was honored to attend this resourceful and deeply meaningful weekend at Notre Dame.

Laura

Christmas Family

This year the Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama will again sponsor a family for Christmas with gifts and food. We will work with Big Brother Big Sisters of North Alabama to find a good family with several children that are in need this holiday season. Details will come out in early December, so please keep an eye on your email and let me know if you are able to contribute this year! Erin Betts, muldooner @ gmail.com.

Erin

ND Club Christmas Party

The club is having a Christmas party at the home of David and Kelly Williams on Thursday, December 8th, from 6-9 p.m. Their home is located at 103 Old Vinings Way, Madison, AL, 35756.

Wine and beer will be provided. Please bring a dish of heavy hors d'oeuvres to share.

RSVP to David at drocket@knology.net by December 5th and include the number of people coming with you.

SSLP Student Letter

I have never been to Alabama before. This simple thought was the determining factor for my SSLP placement. As summer drew closer, I began regretting my decision. In an attempt to figure out how I would be spending my eight weeks in Alabama, I did some research on Huntsville, Alabama: population 180, 105. Nickname: The Rocket City. The two short paragraphs on Wikipedia did not have much more to offer. My attempted research only made my fear of spending the summer in isolation worse. I was the only Notre Dame student at my site, I was eleven hours from my home in Dallas, and my closest friend was six hours away in South Carolina. Furthermore, I did not know what to expect at either Big Brothers Big Sisters or the Downtown Rescue Mission as it was the first time an SSLP student had worked with these programs. Trying to be optimistic, I decided that I would wholeheartedly embrace the experience for whatever it turned out to be. I would immerse myself in the service and readings, getting the intended experience of the SSLP and distracting myself from my feelings of isolation. I did not realize this at the time, but my experience in Huntsville introduced me to the importance of displacement in service.



Club Members Adam and Laura with 2011 SSLP Student Maggie Duffy

It is a great place. Granted I came in kicking and screaming, but I'm very blessed to be here. These are the words of a woman I met living at the Downtown Rescue Mission. I now understand the displacement she feels and I can infer that many people who live there feel similarly. Simultaneously experiencing my voluntary displacement, I was able to easily connect with the people I met this summer. The relationships I formed were understanding and joyful, and can be characterized by a certain sense of simplicity. Displacement made forming relationships easy, because we discover each other as members of the same human family (Nouwen 62). A family loves you no matter what, so through this "discovery" I was able to be myself, knowing that I would be accepted. I did not consider myself a volunteer, coming in my designated number of hours per week, but as a member of the community doing my part.

I began my summer "kicking and screaming" to use to words of the woman at the Downtown Rescue Mission. Not yet understanding the gifts of displacement, I was dwelling on my vulnerability as a negative. However, the gifts of my displacement are now evident, and I could not be more thankful. The two greatest gifts I received this summer were learning to see God in every aspect of my life and experiencing the joy of relationships; two gifts that are the greatest when closely intermingled. Though I have not talked about this much, when dealing with displacement, having God in your life is crucial. Displacement reveals our brokenness, and it takes God's love to give us the courage to address this vulnerability. Once I made God a constant presence in my life, everything else seems to easily follow and properly fall into place. The comforting power of God's presence will allow me to make decisions that may lead me far from home, but I know not to fear because I will always be home with God.

The most impacting relationship I formed this summer was with the Notre Dame Alumni family I stayed with for five weeks. Veterans of hosting college kids over the summer, this family of six welcomed me into their home with no reservations. The second I stepped out of my car, the ten-year-old girl ran up to me "Hi! I'm Ivy! This is my little sister Mae!" She proceeded to ramble on at a mile a minute telling me about her brother, and the

Name: _____	Home # _____
Address: _____	Work # _____
	Date: _____
E-mail Address: _____	Membership Year: 2011-2012
(You'll receive e-mail messages about club activities.)	
Graduation Year(s) _____	\$100 Gold (Preferred access to 2 game packages) \$35 Blue (Regular) \$20 Green (Senior Members & Young Alumni)
Membership Amt. \$ _____	
Scholarship Amt.* \$ _____	Please make check payable to: ND Club of Northern Alabama
* Contributions to Scholarship Fund are tax deductible. Also, remember to check for the availability of matching funds from your company.	
Clip and Mail to: ND Club of Northern Alabama 7806 Bridgewell Run Huntsville, AL 35802	

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July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012

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other brother that was currently at swim camp who she missed a lot but not to worry because he was coming home soon. During this not so brief introduction, I was deciding how I would interact with this family for the summer. I decided that to make the most of my experience I would try to be as involved with them as I could, since they were "my family". This was the best decision I ever made. They accepted me for who I was who I truly was as my vulnerable displaced self. As the summer progressed, I came to love them as if they were my real family. I no longer felt displaced; I was at home. I began the summer essentially without family and friendless, but I left Alabama much like I entered kicking and screaming. "Is there any way I can extend my stay?" I asked my dad over the phone a few days before I was to return. "What do you mean by extended? Later in the day or to a later date?" was his response. Well I was really hoping a later date, but from the looks of it I would have to make a compromise.

One of the reflection questions found in the

Confronting Social Issues course packet is: "What brings me lasting, deep joy?" I found the answer to this question in Doing the Truth in Love: "If you hold on to your life, you will not have any life, but if you give your life away, you cannot exhaust your life. It becomes everlasting life. You become absolutely you" (Himes 78). What can be more joyful than "becoming absolutely you"? My experience this summer revealed to me the importance of service. I have always done service, and I have always loved doing service, but I have always done it within the comforts of my walls. My displacement ripped down my walls so that I was able to serve as "absolutely" me.

Maggie Duffy

Huntsville Stars Outing

The club held its Annual Huntsville Stars Baseball Outing on Thursday, September 1st as out Huntsville Stars took on the Mobile BayBears. We had about 10 members in attendance and a good time was had by all!

In addition to the Baseball Outing, we held our annual food drive for The St. Vincent de Paul Society. Canned goods, paper towels, and non-perishable food items were donated. Club Member Jim Oppman helped collect the donations and club member Paul Dvorsky delivered the donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry. Thanks Jim and Paul for your help and to all those who donated to those in our area in need.

We'll be holding the event again this coming year. Come out and enjoy a good ball game and help in our donations to the SVdP food pantry. Go Irish!!!

Liz Hurley Ribbon Run

Ann Kvach, Jim Swain, and Erin Betts ran in the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run on October 15. The team raised money for the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at our local Huntsville Hospital. The money will go towards the purchase of breast cancer imaging and diagnostic systems. All of our club's runners hit a personal record (PR) on the run and had a great time running on a beautiful morning!

Erin



From Matt Dvorsky ND'06 - WSO, son of club member Paul Dvorsky:



Membership Dues

Dues are based on our Club's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. To date, we have received dues from only 40 members. Dues are used to support our Community Services activities, Club social events that are no-fee, attendance at the Alumni Senate for one Board member, and the speaker fee for the Hesburgh Lecture, as well as extremely small administration costs. Make out your checks to the 'Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama' and send to David Tarkowski at 7806 Bridgewell Run, Huntsville, AL 35802.

Jackie Albrecht	Trace McIlvain	Tim Sottek
William Barry	Bill Mordan	Paul Stumpe
William Berg	Sue Mordan	Chris Sturgis
Erin Betts	Ed Muldoon	Aidan Sullivan
Jason Betts	Fr Phil O'Kennedy	Linda Szedula
Ladonna Bowers	Kevin, Jr Oneill	John Town
Fred Campbell	Kevin, Sr Oneill	Gibert Verkamp
David Cox	Jim Oppman	David Williams
Gregg Delisle	Joe Pace III	
Danny DeVaughn	Joe Pace Jr	
Jennifer Doss	Michael Payer	
Larry Foreman	Joann Perez	
Robert Geist	Tim Porter	
Tom Giel	Cara Quadrini	
George Harvey	Michael Quadrini	
Joann Harvey	Michael Riley	
Ken Ille	Mike Roddy	
Vincent Kearns	Margaret Sanders	
John Kennedy	Dwight Smith	
Gary Ledbetter	James Smith	
George Lewis	Jan Smith	
Jeremy Lordan	Michael Smith	

Club Facebook Page

If you haven't already found us, the Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama is now on Facebook! The group site is available for anyone to join, and is a great resource for finding out about club activities and for socializing with other members. You can join us by searching "ND Club of Northern Alabama" on Facebook, and then simply requesting to join. You'll be instantly connected to club members from around the Huntsville area, and will always be up to date on the latest club happenings. It's a great tool we can use to help strengthen and grow our club, so we encourage everyone to give it a try.

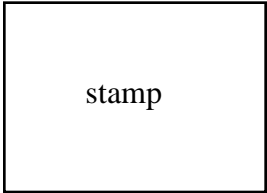
Coach Kelly's Donation

At a recent club event, Coach Brian Kelly, head coach of Notre Dame Football, visited our area and witnessed the destruction caused by the tornadoes. As such, Coach Kelly donated \$5000 to your local Notre Dame Club to distribute across Northern Alabama through his Kelly Cares Foundation. This reflects what Notre Dame hopes to instill in our society and in our world: Service to God and Service to our Fellow Men.

After meeting with club members who work with St. Vincent de Paul, the club has decided that Coach's gift would be best used through the society in reaching the long-term needs of those who suffered most in our parishes. We have made donations to Saint Vincent de Paul Societys that are coordinating support within Limestone, Madison, Franklin, Marion, Cullman, Dekalb and Marshall counties in an effort to reach as many as possible who were affected.



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



Coming Events

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where/Who</u>
• Christmas Party	Dec 8th 6-9 PM	Home of David and Kelly Williams
• Rebuilding Together	Apr 28th 2012	Morgan County, Jo Ann Harvey

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://home.earthlink.net/~nd.club.n.al/>

Bat for the Cure Strike Out Prostate Cancer

Bat for the Cure is an organization whose main purpose is to increase the public's awareness of prostate cancer and to educate the American people on cutting edge techniques in treatment, prevention, and detection.

One in six American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, and nearly a quarter of a million will be diagnosed within the next calendar year.

But regrettably, this often preventable killer does not receive the degree of national attention it deserves even though with early detection it is almost 97% curable.

We believe that a nationwide education campaign around the prevention, detection, and treatment of

prostate cancer is absolutely essential.

Our goal is to communicate with the American people about this potent deadly disease which leads to action, so that no man will die needlessly due to lack of information.

On Fathers' Day, June 20, 2010, the Notre Dame Senior Alumni, in conjunction with the Huntsville Stars, participated in the Bat for the Cure Program by distributing informational pamphlets about prostate cancer at the Stars baseball game against the Montgomery Biscuits at Joe Davis Stadium.

Over 200 informational pamphlets were distributed to fans entering the game. Fans who received the pamphlets had the opportunity to register for a drawing to receive a bat autographed by the Stars. The winner of the drawing was won by a prostate cancer survivor.

George E. Harvey