

Hello All,

Since I had no real school related news from August, I figured I'd wait until the end of September to send my first newsletter. Also, I will give a brief description of my summer activities in this email. If anyone wants to know more about my summer trips, let me know; if you want to see pictures from my trips, check out www.TheJes.net.

First of all, at the beginning of the summer, as I alluded to in my final email last year, I traveled with the ND Chorale to Hawaii and New Zealand. We had a lot of fun and did surprisingly little singing, which left plenty of time for site-seeing. This included: climbing Diamond Head in Hawaii, climbing a glacier in New Zealand, riding a gondola in New Zealand, and taking a cruise of Milford Sound. New Zealand was amazing, probably the most beautiful place I've ever been. The rest of my summer was pretty much filled with working at the Y, though I did get away for two major swim meets. In early July, I went to Omaha for a few days to watch Jordan swim in the Olympic Trials (where he finished 46th in the 100 freestyle and was the youngest competitor in the field), and, at the beginning of August, I went to Minneapolis to watch him swim at the Junior National Championships, where he continued to swim well.

I came back to campus the weekend of August 22-24 to prepare with the Chorale to perform for the new freshmen during their orientation. We also performed with all of the University choirs at the opening mass that first Tuesday. Classes so far have been going well. My classes this semester are: Colonial American History, Early American Literature, Spanish Conversation and Writing, Intro to Psych, and a seminar (small group discussion) class on agriculture (mostly the processing of food and the big companies that control ag business).

A major event on campus was the ND-Michigan game the weekend of September 12-14. Lou Holtz was on campus to sign autographs and speak at the pep rally on Friday. Along with Lou, the members of his 1988 national championship team were also in town in celebration of the 20th anniversary of their championship (ND's most recent one). On Saturday, with rain coming on and off throughout the day, the University unveiled a statue of Lou in one of the gates of the stadium and he was the honorary captain for the coin toss. Playing through the rain and with the 1988 team on the sidelines, ND jumped out to a 21-0 lead on a couple of Michigan fumbles and never relinquished the lead. It was a great win and, though we were all soaked through and voiceless, we finally had a real football win to celebrate.

The following weekend, while the Irish played (and lost to) Michigan State, I

went on a weekend long retreat. It was a lot of fun, and a welcome break from the busy schedule of on campus life. On Wednesday the 24th Notre Dame hosted its annual Academic Forum. This years topic was the green movement, and featured expert speakers from academia and industry. It was an informative event and has been incorporated into many of my courses this week.

I will be back in Dubuque the week of Oct. 20, and I hope to be able to see several of you during that period. As always, if you wish to be removed from my list or know someone who would like to be added, just let me know. Also, if you have any specific questions about anything I've done in the last few months, feel free to shoot me an email. Finally, I'd like to encourage you once again to visit the newly updated TheJes.net, with all kinds of pictures and more frequently updated news.