



## Young Alumni Update: Letting the Good Times Roll

By Christopher Placek '06

Less than a month after graduating from Notre Dame, four Dons from the Class of 2007 didn't want to walk away from their high school days yet. Now officially alumni, the college-bound friends decided to participate in the Inaugural Young Alumni Golf Outing before heading their separate ways in the fall.

Now a year of college behind them, the foursome of **Matt Hanna**, **Bob Draths**, **Michael Smith** and **Phil Szachowicz** reunited this past June for the annual outing. At \$60 a head for nine holes of golf, the high school buddies decided to take advantage of the YAP outing, a mini-version of the Annual Alumni Association Golf Outing.

"The whole event was a lot of fun and I enjoyed being a part of what makes Notre Dame such a great school not only when you are a student, but also after you have graduated," said Draths, a sophomore at Marquette University.

Held at Rob Roy Golf Course in Prospect Heights on June 21, alumni from the classes of 1985 through 2008 joined together for a day of golf and good times - all for the benefit of the current students of Notre Dame. Proceeds raised from the outing, including raffle ticket sales, go to support scholarships and programs at the school.

And it seemed that for most of the participants, the day wasn't even that much about golf.

"It really is a great way to reconnect and have a good time, even if you golf as poorly as our foursome did," said Hanna, a sophomore at the University of Michigan. "This is the second year our foursome has played and we plan on playing for the next 1,000 years."

Added Draths: "I thought the event was competitive enough to make it interesting but it was also laid back enough to make it fun and enjoyable. I had a lot of fun playing some golf with my friends, seeing old teachers and coaches, and seeing old friends and those who have graduated along with me."

With two outings complete, plans are in the works for next year's event. While alumni golfers filled the course this past year, golf committee members emphasized that there is still room to expand next year.

The committee also wanted to thank those who helped make the outing a success, including all of the volunteers, donors and alumni participants.

"Notre Dame is more than a high school – it's a community – and everybody's efforts displayed how strong the ND community is and is becoming," said **Joe Lococo '00**, who serves on the golf outing committee.

**Poker Tournament Update:** The numbers are in from the April 12 Texas Hold 'Em Tournament: over 100 alumni of all ages attended the inaugural event at the ND Cafe and helped raise \$4,500 for the Athletic Department, YAP scholarships and other programs at Notre Dame.

Congratulations to **Jim Amatore '98**, who won the entire event. Prizes were awarded to the top ten finishers.

Tournament organizer **Bill Stanton '98** said the next three tournaments have been scheduled for October 18, 2008, January 17, 2009 and April 18, 2009. Each event will begin at 5 p.m. at Notre Dame.

YAP President **Michael Sachaj '05** said events like the Texas Hold 'Em Tournament and YAP Golf Outing, along with the successful Alumni Perspective Seminar held in January, are some of the ways to get alumni – no matter the age – involved in the exciting times at Notre Dame.

"We are truly maximizing our alumni reach through this multifaceted approach. I am optimistic about the future of the Young Alumni Program," Sachaj said.