

307 Carroll Hall
Notre Dame, In 46556

February 14, 2005



Dear Members of the Notre Dame Club of Memphis,

Hello from snowy South Bend! While it is *very* cold (a lot more than I'm used to in Memphis), there is no place I'd rather be. Thank you for making it possible for me to attend the University of Notre Dame. I had a great first semester, and it affirmed my belief that this is the place for me. My classes were: Introduction to Physics, Calculus I, World Literature Seminar, Introduction to Philosophy, and Introduction to Jazz. All of these classes proved to be challenging and interesting. In particular, the World Literature Seminar was a survey of western thought, from the *Odyssey* through Machiavelli's *The Prince*. In between these two works, we read and discovered Plato, Aristotle, the *Koran*, Dante, Aquinas, and Augustine. All of these kept me busy, for sure, but they also exposed me to a wide array of classical thought.

I got lucky with my dorm assignment, and I was placed in Carroll Hall. I have found Carroll to be a community of genuinely good guys. We have fun playing volleyball on the front lawn, and we also fill up the chapel each Sunday for mass. From the very beginning of the semester, all of the upperclassmen welcomed us freshmen into the dorm. I have become good friends with a lot of the freshmen in my dorm, and I know almost every guy in Carroll because of its small size. Our big dorm event last semester was Carroll Christmas, a social gathering and the lighting of our giant Christmas tree. For football season, we constructed a large white banner with green letters saying, "GO IRISH!" We hung this on the front of the dorm, and it was obviously the decisive factor in the Michigan game victory.

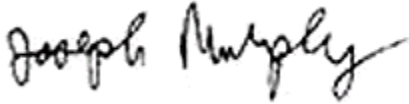
Of course, I went to all the home football games and faithfully watched all the away games. I cheer extra loud to represent the NDC of Memphis. Football season was truly amazing, from the bagpipes to the student section touchdown pushups. No matter what the outcome of the game, it is always fun to be in Notre Dame Stadium, especially in the Sea of Green. Last Tuesday night, Fr. Theodore Hesburgh visited our dorm and told his stories of his time at Notre Dame. One instance that he related to us was of bumping into a Notre Dame graduate on the South Pole. His point was that Notre Dame establishes ties and connections that continue throughout life; and this is evident in the Notre Dame Club of Memphis. I really enjoyed getting a chance to meet Fr. Hesburgh and hear about the growth of the University to where it is today.

Outside of the classrooms, I have gotten involved in Campus Ministry, intramural soccer, Circle K Service Club, Amnesty International, and after school tutoring at the Robinson Community Learning Center. The brand new, state of the art DeBartolo Performing Arts Center has enabled me to experience some wonderful cultural events. Last semester, I attended concerts by Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra performance later this week in the DPAC. So, this new center for the arts has been great.

All in all, my first semester at Notre Dame has been tremendous. I have met the great people of Notre Dame, attended the challenging and interesting classes, experienced an array of cultural events, and become a football fanatic. Once again, I would like to thank you for all of your generous scholarship this year. In addition to donating the money, you work diligently to gather

the funds, to promote Notre Dame, and to support the University in many other ways. I am grateful to you for making my Notre Dame experience possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joseph Murphy (Class of 2008)
jmurph13@nd.edu

P.S. Feel free to give my contact information to any Memphis area high school seniors who are looking at Notre Dame in case they have any questions.

[Ed. Note: Joe's letter was retyped and reformatted to fit the web page. The letter is posted on the website with Joe's permission. See Joe at the 2004 Student Sendoff below in the green shirt].

