

Dear First Year Men of St. Edward’s Hall,

On behalf of our Rector, Fr. Ralph Haag, C.S.C., our Assistant Rectors, our Hall President, Peter Nichols, Hall Vice Presidents Brendan Moriarty and Mark Giugliano, the St. Edward’s Hall Staff, and the Welcome Weekend Ambassadorial Team, we (Henry Bergstrom, Alec Lis, Greg McKenna, and Michael Lynch), your friendly neighborhood Welcome Weekend Captains and Assistant Captains, would like to welcome you to St. Edward’s Hall, the best residence hall known to man (and, of course, to women from across Notre Dame’s campus and beyond). If you aren't excited yet or don't know what to think, time will change that. Luck be a lady tonight, because we are here to explain why you should be leaping out of your chair and jumping with unrestrained joy over the fact that you are lucky enough to have been selected to join Notre Dame’s oldest and most storied residence hall on campus. St. Ed’s is first and foremost a place of gentlemen, and we mean that in the very best sense of the term. We wholeheartedly welcome you to a brotherhood of some of the most wonderful people and truest friends that you will ever meet.

Some call us St. Ed's, but most people are fond of calling us Steds. Steds is one of the three smallest men's halls on campus. The smallest residence hall is Carroll Hall, which is located closer to Buckingham Palace than it is to the Golden Dome. Finding Carroll is a task akin to catching a leprechaun, sans the guarantee of a Lucky Charms reward in the end. But worry not! St. Ed’s is blessed with one of the most central locations on campus, planted right next to the Dome, across from the LaFortune Student Center, a short walk away from the Grotto, and no more than a 5-10 minute walk to anywhere on campus (except Carroll…).

There are numerous advantages to living in a smaller hall. You will get to know your hall-mates, your fellow Stedsmen, much better than you would in one of the congressional-district size halls like Dillon or Alumni. You also won’t need a map or global positioning satellite to find your way around the building. If you understand the geometry of the letter “L” and can navigate yourself in three dimensions (i.e. take stairs), you have already mastered the layout of St. Ed’s. (Congratulations – we knew you weren’t accepted to Notre Dame for nothing!).

St. Ed’s also has the distinction of being the oldest hall on campus. This is a terrific attribute in a residence hall because we get all the benefits that accompany old age (such as tradition and character) without any of the undesirable side affects (such as senility and incontinence). Now some uninformed (to put it nicely) but nevertheless well-intending young lads from Sorin Hall will claim they live in the oldest hall on campus. For now, just know that they cannot do basic math and that this distinction belongs to St. Ed’s and only St. Ed’s alone.

St. Ed’s is a very tight-knit community. Whether it comes to dominating interhall sports, eating together at the dining hall, or plodding through first-year Chemistry, Stedsmen stick together and support each other. St. Ed’s is really more like a fraternity than an ordinary residence hall – but without any painful or demeaning initiation rituals. For all of the moms out there who are reading this (probably before your sons), we know you may see “fraternity” as an ugly word. We agree. Rest assured that the fraternity you’ll find here is one with true Notre Dame character and St. Ed’s class.

Many of the newer halls have fancy accessories such as basements or fireplaces. St. Edward’s has neither of these; partly because we don’t need them, and partly because our hall was built in 1882. But our two lounges can hold their own against anything the rest of the campus has to offer. In fact, we have recently undergone millions of dollars worth of renovations, which only serve to increase the gap between life in Steds and life anywhere else. We now boast a newly enlarged fitness center in which you can tone your muscles from the comfort of your own home. Instead of a dining area we have Ed’s, a classy late night snack option that’s relatively cheap like QD’s (Quarter Dogs), but that actually tastes like real food. We also have a recently rededicated study room on the second floor featuring a wall-sized mural depicting all of the Rectors of St. Edward's Hall past and present, the most recent being our fearless leader, Fr. Ralph Haag. St. Ed’s is about personality, tradition, unity, character, and finding contentment with a box fan. You could say that St. Ed’s is like a bottle of fine wine…“growing finer with age.”

Hard as it is to believe, though, St. Ed’s is just one of the many great things about Notre Dame. You’ll find yourself wanting to be involved in far more activities than you could ever possibly have time for (you’ll sign up for all of them anyways). There are so many possibilities on and off-campus that it can seem a little overwhelming. Take, for example, some of the staples such as football games, which are unlike anything you’ve ever experienced before, and hall dances, which are proof that it is indeed possible for a man’s dance moves to be less coordinated than the color scheme of his shirt and tie.

By enrolling at Notre Dame, you have inherited a tradition of excellence both in the classroom and on the field. A Notre Dame diploma is your ticket to go anywhere in the world and pursue any career you want, and a Notre Dame Football hat will win you the immediate friendship, or sympathy, of countless strangers in awe of the trademark monogram. Every time you tell someone that you attend Notre Dame, chances are that his or her eyes will light up like Clark W. Griswold’s house on Christmas Eve. It seems that most people know someone who went here (even if it is only Regis), or have been to a football game, or at least seen Rudy. And everything you hear is positive. This place is truly incredible.

Everyone loves to talk about Notre Dame Football. We're sure many of you shared the rough burden of a relatively bad season of Irish Football this past year, but we promise (read: pray) that this new season will bring much excitement to the student body and all those bleeding blue and gold. But don’t let the Notre Dame tradition fool you – Notre Dame is more than just football. In nearly every sport, the Fighting Irish show the rest of the nation the nasty brute strength that a seemingly wee leprechaun can bring to bear in athletic contest. In the past few years, we’ve even had national championships in sports such as fencing, men's soccer, and women’s soccer. The hockey team has been consistently dominant for a few years, as has the lacrosse squad, which narrowly lost the NCAA Championship three years ago. Then there's our women's basketball team, who had recently competed in back-to-back-to-back NCAA National Championships (that’s a lot of backs). You can’t turn the corner here without hearing about a playoff victory or tournament win for Notre Dame Athletics. And the best thing about it is that everyone – students, faculty, staff, alumni – wants Notre Dame to win; you’d be hard pressed to find a Domer who would ever root against the Blue and Gold.

By choosing to attend the University of Notre Dame, you have set yourself on a path that will change your life forever. It’s crazy how quickly this place will become a second home to you. It may sound corny, but every time we come back after break and see the Dome in the distance we get goose bumps. Notre Dame is truly special. We just love this place, and we know you will too.

The rest of this booklet has some pretty useful information, so actually take the time to read it. (You won’t find a summary on Sparknotes). The most important piece of information is probably the location of St. Edward’s Hall. We can be found to the right of and just behind the Golden Dome (a.k.a. the Main Building a.k.a. the place of reckoning for troublemakers). So when you arrive on campus in August, don’t ask where St. Ed’s is. No one seems to be able to direct you properly, and the streets around and through campus can be confusing. To help you out, we’ve included a map at the end of this booklet with directions to St. Ed's. There have been some changes to on-campus roads over the past few years, so even those of you with alumni parents may get confused. Just follow our directions and you should be fine. Or better yet, stop a cute girl and ask her. Even if she doesn’t know (or doesn’t even speak English), it’s money in the bank if she knows you're from St. Ed’s. (Santo Eduardo…just two words and you’re in).

Welcome to a lifelong brotherhood of pride, friendship, and memories that will truly last a lifetime.

**HALL HISTORY**

**THE HALL**

Our hall, one of the oldest structures on campus and one of several campus buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, was first constructed in 1882. (Don’t worry. Since then, they have put in running water and electricity). Believe it or not, St. Ed’s was actually built using bricks shaped and baked by Holy Cross Brothers from the marl of the campus lakes. And they walked five miles in a foot of snow to get it there, not like you lazy kids today with your wheelies and hoverboards. Initially, the building was not used to house collegians, but instead children from Notre Dame’s grammar school, whom Fr. Sorin affectionately called “Minims.” (Not to be confused with M&M’s, a delicious chocolaty treat, nor with Eminem, a guy with a knack for rapping and relationship issues).

At that time, one could attend Notre Dame from the cradle to the grave, and many took advantage of this to become “lifers.” Fr. Sorin, the founder, president, and patriarch of Notre Dame until his death in 1893, was very attached to these children and demanded only the best for them. He was the driving force behind St. Edward‘s Hall, which was named for St. Edward the Confessor, King of England, and Sorin’s patron saint. Sorin considered St. Ed’s a castle and its residents as his princes. It was indeed a sight to behold: wrought iron staircases, murals inside and out, and a beautiful garden surrounding a statue of St. Edward (which still stands). In 1898, the St. Ed’s annex was constructed, containing a gym, a roller skating rink, and a library for the grade school. The annex survived until 1930 when it was razed to make way for Zahm Hall (the Zahm guys live on what used to be our land, and after three quarters of a century we are still bitter).

In 1928, the same year Mickey Mouse and penicillin were created, the grade school was phased out and St. Ed’s was converted to house 200 men, about 40 more than its current capacity. In those days, halls were assigned by grade point average. St. Ed’s was the home of the sophomores with the lower GPA’s (although some things change, based off of our recent Interhall Academic Bowl Championship).

During World War II, the armed forces controlled most of the buildings on campus, so the student body consisted primarily of military personnel. Only St. Ed's and Sorin were reserved for civilian students. This civilian tradition has continued to this day, as no Stedsman has ever had to drop and give anyone twenty within the confines of the hall.

Over the years, St. Ed’s gained a tenement-like appearance. Finally, in 1976, the university gave our hall a face-lift, which resulted in a brighter, cleaner, and more modern looking hall. Unfortunately, in June of 1980, St. Ed’s was extensively damaged by fire while crews were installing a fire-suppressant system (Definition of irony, anyone?). For a while, the future of St. Ed’s was in doubt as the university contemplated whether or not the hall was worth rebuilding. Fortunately, the administration came to its senses, due in part to alumni contributions. St. Ed’s was therefore rebuilt and the original architectural plans were adhered to as closely as possible. Reconstruction brought a new wing and a revamped fourth floor…and not to mention the elevator which will be extremely convenient during move-in! The latest renovation was in 2014, and there was no fire that time.

Many ND luminaries have resided in St. Ed’s; most famous being Heisman Trophy winning and, uh, “somewhat outspoken” quarterback Paul Hornung. The most notable event to ever occur in the hall happened in November of 1924 when recently converted Knute Rockne was baptized and received First Holy Communion in the St. Ed’s chapel. We have a vivid history and a vibrant future at St. Ed's.

**LOCATION**

Although St. Ed’s is literally in the shadow of the Golden Dome (at least when the sun is out, which is rare during South Bend winters), its location is not widely known. St. Ed’s is situated behind what is known as “God Quad,” about 20 feet off the northeast corner of the Dome. It is adjacent to Zahm and Washington Halls (Washington Hall is a theater), diagonal to female Cavanaugh Hall, and it is the closest male hall to Notre Dame’s biggest female hall, Lewis Hall (location, location, location…). Lost and need to find St. Eds? Look up. See that shiny thing? That’s the Golden Dome…probably the most radiant sight in all of Indiana. (It’s either the Dome or a bunch of cornfields…) Get in front of it. Then walk down the pathway to the right of the Dome, and you’ll see St. Ed’s. This is a good way of explaining to First Year girls how to get to St. Ed’s.

**HALL LEADERSHIP**

**RECTOR**

To every football team a captain, to every Star Wars Rebel Alliance Fleet an Admiral Ackbar, and to every hall a rector. The rector is in charge of virtually everything within the hall, running it from top to bottom. And commanding our ship this year, from the hoppin’ party town of Omaha, Nebraska, is Fr. Ralph Haag, C.S.C. After experiencing his “Ralph-ship” for fourteen years, we are confident in saying that he is the best rector of the best hall on campus…ask anyone. But since Fr. Ralph ultimately knows more about Fr. Ralph and how awesome he is than we do, we’ll let him tell you about himself…uh…himself. We encourage you to peruse his attached letter if you haven’t done so already. Everyone on the Welcome Weekend Team is very excited to have Fr. Ralph once again lead the St. Ed’s community, and we hope you are, too. His only weakness: the WNBA and the Phoenix Mercury.

**ASSISTANT RECTORS (AR)**

This year, St. Ed’s will have one new and one returning assistant rector whose job it is to ensure peacefulness and safety in the hall and assist the rector in operating the hall. Peter “Pete” McKeon, a third year law student. BUT as Yodi said to Obi Wan *The Return of the Jedi*, “There is another!” Indeed, there is another. This year we are lucky to have Nate McKeon join us. While he and Pete both lived in other halls during their undergraduate days- hey, no one is perfect- they DID have an older brother who lived in Steds. Pursuing his law degree too, Nate will enter his first year as an AR at Steds. Pete and Nate round out the Head Staff Triumvirate.

**RESIDENT ASSISTANTS (RA)**

The resident assistants are seniors whose main function is to serve as liaisons between the residents and head staff Fr. Ralph, Peter and Nate. In St. Ed’s, each floor has RA or RAs. If you ever have a problem or just need someone to talk to, your RA (or any RA for that matter) is always willing to lend an ear. Don’t worry, these guys aren’t crazy or anything, they’ve been tested and passed with flying colors. The RAs are exceptional people who have proven themselves in their first three years at Notre Dame. These guys, while members of the Hall Staff, are also students, seniors, so they are very receptive to your needs. They make sure that the hall and university rules are enforced, yet they aren’t there watching over you like parents. Perhaps the best way to describe them would be peer authority figures. It is good to get well acquainted with your RA early in the year. Always remember that, like the rest of the Hall Staff’s, their doors are always open.

The RAs for this year are:

Joe Herilhy, 1st floor, Johnny Welsch, 2nd floor, John Swift, 3rd floor,

Josh Chapple, 4th floor, main, and Ben Cook, 4th floor, wing.

**HALL GOVERNMENT**

The governing of St. Ed’s takes place mostly in Hall Council, a legislative body that unifies the Hall Officers and the Hall Staff. This year’s Hall President, Peter Nichols, is a shining example of what it means to be a St. Edward's Gentleman.  He brings that huge amount of vim and vigour (as the Brits like to say) to hall life. We also have exceedingly competent vice presidents in Brendan Moriarty and Mark Giugliano. These three will help the hall commissioners plan events, design apparel, and may even bring a famous speaker to Steds. And just like Miss America’s runner-up, if Peter is unable to perform his duties, Brendan and Mark are always ready to assume the throne.

What does Hall government do? THEY WORK. Yes, they work to promote order (or at least the appearance of order), run hall elections (or rig them, as the case may be), control hall funds (when we have them), and, most importantly, to coordinate participation in St. Ed’s and Notre Dame events. Everyone is encouraged to attend the hall council meetings, where hall issues and events are discussed. Meetings are every Tuesday night in our first floor lounge (also known as the Flounge), and if you attend there is always free something and an always entertaining round of sock-wrestling. Be sure to get there early and claim your seat within reach of those glorious Domino’s® boxes or Taco 12-Packs so that when Josh is done yakking, you are assured of a slice or two.

**HOUSEKEEPING**

You will also quickly get to know the friendly cleaning personnel of St. Ed’s. All you new Stedsmen will be in good hands with Billy Gene and crew. We’ll touch on this during Welcome Weekend, but they do a fantastic job cleaning the hall, and you will be respectful to them! They aren’t your Mom (Right Mom? That’s you!). That being said, they are nice people who always have the gentlemen of St. Edward’s interests at heart. Say hi to them when you see them, talk to their about lives, and most importantly take care of them the way they takes care of us.

**IN-RESIDENCE PRIEST**

We also have a live-in priest at St. Ed’s--Fr. Kevin Sandberg, C.S.C.--who helps preside at Mass and who is also available, including your need or for comedy, namely, Mel Brooks' films. Get to know him because he truly cares about the St. Ed's community--after all, he was an undergrad resident of St. Ed's himself (back when you couldn't use the elevator)!

**DAY TO DAY LIVING IN THE HALL**

**ROOMS**

St. Edward’s Hall is comprised of singles, doubles, triples, and quads, as well as a few multiple room suites. While floor space may seem small (most doubles are 12’ by 16’), the ceiling height makes up for this. Our hall is actually the object of much campus jealousy for having the most spacious rooms. Everybody in the new halls has to waste most of their space on storage while we can just throw our stuff on a shelf 10 feet overhead. Ceilings are 9.5’ tall on the first floor, 13’ on the second floor, 12’ on the third floor, and 10.5’ on the fourth floor. In other words we get to be kind of like Japan: built up instead of out. When you arrive, you will be pleased to find a sink with a mirrored medicine cabinet as well (No little shampoo bottles or towels. This isn’t the Holiday Inn.). Also supplied for all students are a desk with a chair (you will want to bring your own small lamp), 3-drawer dresser, a lofted bed, and a closet (shared by roommates). Also, be sure to bring sheets and a pillow – you might be able to survive for the first few months on a bare mattress, but come winter-time you’ll freeze without a sheet or two.

Closet space often becomes cramped, so it is advisable to bring some sort of organizing device with drawers. If you don’t feel like lugging a dresser out from home, you can usually purchase one at the start of the school year from flea markets or Goodwill/Salvation Army stores. Please don’t bring your grandma’s antique cherrywood dresser because we wouldn’t want dad to give himself a hernia trying to carry it to your room. The best value is a set of stackable plastic drawers, which can be bought at any K-Mart/Target type store for around $10. Also very popular among most guys are milk crates or more stylish Yaffa Blocks (also available at K-Mart type places).

Other important additions to your room to aid survival might include a carpet, additional furniture (futons, easy chairs, etc.), refrigerator, and television/DVD player.

Carpeting is extremely important during the cold winter months since the tile floors can be a rude awakening from the warmth of your bed. Carpeting can also be pricey, costing as much as $100 when new, but it is well worth the expense. There is a carpet sale on campus during the first weekend, and also a store about 2-3 miles from campus. Upperclassmen also try to get rid of theirs at the beginning of the year, so if you don’t mind a used carpet, the price is usually right.

You should also have room for an easy chair or couch and a table. These items can be bought at Goodwill/Salvation Army or the campus flea market in late August. Also, refrigerators are quite handy (GET A FRIDGE). You are limited to a size of 3 feet high by the university regulations. And sorry, no microwaves or toaster ovens are allowed in the hall rooms. This includes George Foreman’s line of Lean, Mean, Grillin’ Machines. There is a full kitchen on 1st floor that you’ll have access to, as well as a small kitchenette in the 4th floor lounge. So as long as it’s kept clean, it’s open for all Gentlemen to use. St. Ed’s also has microwaves on the floors for resident use. If you have a favorite chair or other furniture in your basement or garage, you may want to bring that if possible. Many cities and regions sponsor ND Club trucks, run by students, which, for a reasonable fee, will transport nearly anything to school. Check your nearest Notre Dame Alumni Club to see if this service is available to you.

Be sure to bring your favorite posters, pictures, personal belongings, and musical instruments, unless it is a drum set, which are strictly prohibited (ask anyone who lived on the fourth floor three years ago)! These items are what transform an empty, cold room into your home for nine months. THIS IS KEY! Don’t forget to contact your roommate(s) over the important questions like who is bringing the TV, carpet, or whatever so that you both don’t bring the same stuff!!! It’s also good to remember who bought certain things so there are no discrepancies over ownership when the end of the year comes around. \*\*\*Also, it’s better for one person to own each item rather than four people owning one-fourth of a TV. It makes end of the year ownership so much easier.\*\*\*

One other quick thing you should be sure to bring is a fan (actually, bring multiple fans), for it gets pretty hot and sticky in South Bend during the Indiana summer months. The drone works great for covering up your roommate's obnoxious snoring. The more fans, the better…especially if you have a big room. Your best bet is to bet is to buy a box fan to place in the window. It’s almost like air conditioning! But then again…not at all. Also a couple to put around the room or up in the lofts give the room a much needed breeze that makes you dream of the tropics.

One last thing to note is that St Ed's has lofts. Yes, every room has a custom made, University loft that raise beds six and half feet off the ground. Moms, don't worry. THEY ARE VERY SAFE. Why lofts? Because lofts allow us not only not to take advantage of our Victorian architecture but also to have the space for all our other things. You'll love them; we guarantee it.

**ROOMMATES**

The most important fact to remember about roommates is that it’s spelled with two “m’s” and not one. People get that wrong almost as often as they pronounce nuclear as “nook-you-lurr.” You have all been randomly assigned up to three roommates, and you can be assured that these people won’t be just like your best friends from high school unless they just happen to be your best friends from high school (which won’t happen). Over the course of the year, though, you will grow and change with these people. You don’t necessarily have to be best friends with your roommate(s), but you should make the best effort to become friendly with him/them, because it will make life much easier. The two words to ensure a good relationship with your roomie here are “compromise” and “communication”. If you haven’t noticed, you should have already received your roommates’ names, addresses, and home phone numbers, SO CALL EACH OTHER AND START TALKING!!!!!!!!!!!!! Or ‘friend’ them on Facebook and send them a message. Or just use Facebook to surreptitiously stalk them.

**LAVATORIES (fancy word for bathrooms) AND SHOWERS**

At some point during your stay at St. Ed’s, you will eventually have to use the bathroom and the showers. Anyone who gets around this deserves a pat on the back, but then again, you probably wouldn’t want to get close enough to them to give said pat. There are bathrooms on every floor. There are no bathtubs, however, so leave your rubber ducky and Mr. Bubbles at home. There are plenty of showers to minimize the wait during the morning rush, and they are located within a few feet of your room. Don’t forget to bring some towels, shower sandals (AN ABSOLUTE MUST), and you may also want to bring a robe since it does get cold during the winter months.

**STUDY LOUNGES**

Quite likely, you will find the need to visit one of St. Ed’s study lounges at some point in time. There are three study lounges: one on the second, third and fourth floors. Each has a distinctive feeling, but if you should find yourself unable to study in your room or one of these study lounges, the library is only four or five minutes away. Other places to study include many classroom buildings such as Nieuwland Science Hall, Bond Hall, and LaFortune Student Center. A favorite of many is the relatively new Sandner Hall, which just opened a few years ago. But enough about that. We’re sure that when it comes time to study, your intellectual divining rod will lead you to a suitable spot. After all, you were accepted to Notre Dame.

**CHAPEL**

The Chapel of St. Edward and St. John can be found on the second floor’s east side. It is a moderately sized and beautiful chapel that was remodeled this past year, and includes chairs and benches for seating, a large piano, and the best stained glass windows on campus after the Basilica. It’s usually the first room to go during room picks, and year after year the “Holy Triple” gets that coveted first pick and snatches it up. It is here that you will find the strength of the St. Ed’s community as the Sunday Mass (at 10:00 p.m.) is always overflowing and daily Mass has consistently high attendance, not only with St. Ed’s residents but also people from other halls, who trek across campus and even from St. Mary’s College to St. Ed’s. The chapel is always open and may be used at any time for prayer or solitude. If you would like to become more involved with St. Ed’s Masses, talk to the Liturgical Commissioner when you get here.

**FIRST FLOOR LOUNGE (FLOUNGE)**

You will probably find yourself in the TV lounge quite often this year where there’s a large screen HD-TV (hence, TV lounge). The lounge is the place to go if you are addicted to ESPN or MTV (if you like the O! network or Home & Garden TV, you may be in for a remote battle). There are plenty of comfortable seating choices down there and it is pretty well-sized. Many lecturers from campus speak here (among them in the past Lou Holtz, Monk Malloy, Fr. Hesburgh, Mike Brey) and Hall Council meetings are held in the lounge. A full kitchen with a microwave and oven, cooking and baking utensils, and a large refrigerator, is connected to the lounge and is also always open. More importantly, the lounge serves as the only 24-hour space in the hall in which you may entertain female guests after parietals (to be explained later). Oh, and by “entertain” we mean stand-up comedy, parlor tricks and the like.

**LOBBY**

Besides featuring many pictures of the Great Fire (it happened in 1980 but it makes us sound even more historical, no?), the lobby is the information center of the hall. The rector’s room is also located here. Saint Edward himself updates the bulletin board to keep you up to date on campus events and hall activities. The girls are always lined up there to gawk at the First Years’ pictures. Don’t they know that beauty isn’t just skin deep? \*Sigh\*. It is definitely important to check the bulletin boards daily to keep abreast of the latest news.

**MAIL**

Every room in St. Ed’s has its own mailbox on the first floor, and there is one delivery in the afternoon each day by the USPS (which also happens to have a post office on campus). Be sure to tell your friends and relatives to address their letters (and hopefully care packages) as such:

Your Name (Please don’t write ‘Your Name’. You won’t get any mail.)

### St. Edward’s Hall

University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame, IN 46556-5623

Please note that Notre Dame has its own post office and zip code. Don’t have any letters sent to South Bend—you might never get them.

Also, UPS and FedEx deliver packages straight to the doors of the residence hall. So don't worry, you have lots of ways to get those highly desired care packages from home.

**LAUNDRY**

For you men who are laundramationally impaired (and lazy), the University provides a laundry service. St. Michael’s Laundry picks up your laundry, washes it, dries it, and folds it. All you have to do is drop off your bag at the designated spot and pick it up when it’s ready, which is usually in a couple of days. St. Michael’s is directly behind St. Ed’s, so it takes less than five minutes a week to do laundry through St. Michael’s. It’s incredibly easy, and you will probably get details from them soon through the mail. If you miss that registration opportunity, you can always stop by there when you arrive. It’s also a great place to get your dress clothes dry cleaned or tailored for dances.

For the men whom ladies love—those who do their own laundry—there are coin-operated machines all over campus. A few years ago the laundry-stork came and blessed our hall with five washers and six dryers. There is a change machine, a soap dispenser, and a card swipe thingamajig that uses Domer Dollars (you should have received info about this). The vending machines are all “card swipe-able” too. We highly recommend doing laundry with Domer Dollars because it is cheaper, and you can use that extra Domer Dollars “cash” that you saved at Chipotle on Eddy Street. If you are going to do your laundry, be sure Mom shows you the right way so you don’t shrink, tear, or fade your favorite clothes. Both laundry methods work well – St. Michael’s is easier, the machines are cheaper. Either way, buy extra boxers, underwear, and undershirts, as other clothes seem to be able to go through multiple uses without having to be washed. If it passes the smell test and the not-squishy test, it’s good to go. We think the hall record is something like 7 weeks without laundry, and the guys on the third floor seem like they’re always involved in one of their “Boxer Conservation Programs.” Yuck.

**ELEVATOR**

St. Ed’s is the tallest four-story building in the universe. When it is hot outside, a trip up the stairs will leave you covered in sweat and you’ll be dead tired. Remember that the elevator is a privilege and not a toy.

Although it is quite convenient to be effortlessly lifted skyward, it might actually be beneficial to take the stairs every now and again. Stairs are a good way to stay in shape, and, if you are anything like some of the guys in St. Ed’s, the Freshman 15 will end up being more like the Freshman 30. So take our advice: use the stairs every once in a while, do the occasional Tae-Bo, and minimize the late-night pizza – your chiseled physique will thank you.

**TELEPHONES & CABLE**

Courtesy of the endless quest for nifty gadgetry that has guided humanity since the beginning of time, the University has decided to phase out the old land lines in hall rooms in favor of better cellphone reception equipment and free DirectTV in every room. Most students use cellphones instead of hall phones as their primary means of telecommunication anyways, so they should not be missed too much. If you don’t have a cellphone, we would recommend getting one. Plans can be pretty inexpensive, though if you do your homework and shop around, you should be able to find a good deal. If you are shopping for a new cell phone plan, take an extra look at either Verizon or AT&T– these two companies just spent goo-goo bucks upgrading their service around campus and, as such, usually provide much better service than other providers. But for those who still like to do things the old-fashioned way, rumor has it that you will still be able to opt-in for a land line. You should receive more info about this, as the land lines might cost you some extra dough.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

For the first couple of weeks at ND, you will have rules shoved down your throat, but here are some of the most important:

**PARIETALS**

As you have probably already heard from someone you know or from the DuLac Handbook, Notre Dame has parietals and all halls on campus are single sex. It’s reality, so we have to deal with it. The term “Parietals” refers to certain periods of time during the day/night when members of the opposite sex have to be out of the halls. The opposite gender moratorium is in effect Sunday through Thursday from 12 midnight to 9am the next day and Friday and Saturday nights from 2am-9am the next day. It sounds like a pain, and, to be honest, it can be. But you will learn that the parietals system has its positive side as well. According to the administration, it has nothing to do with sex. The main purpose of parietals is to quiet down the halls so people can sleep. Parietals also make it more comfortable to walk around the hall in your boxers in the morning (please wear boxers in the morning – there’s no need to show off what we’re sure is an utterly fantastic gluteus). Breaking parietals is a major offense and we don’t recommend that you try it, unless you want to suffer severe consequences such as crippling amounts of community service and ejection from the hall system for life. More to come on this matter when you arrive. CONSULT THE DuLAC HANDBOOK FOR DETAILS (more information can be found at <http://dulac.nd.edu>).

**ALCOHOL/DRUGS**

The legal drinking age in Indiana is 21. Notre Dame’s policy is simple: it is illegal to buy alcohol if you are under 21. It is against the rules to have alcohol in the halls if you are under age. It is against the rules to have alcohol in the hallways. Alcohol in the hallway, if caught, is punishable by immediate fines, and repeated offenses can lead to disciplinary action. Don’t be stupid.

In addition, abusive use of alcohol—including drinking games and the use of drinking paraphernalia—is prohibited. A new alcohol policy has been in effect for a few years now which allows NO HARD ALCOHOL ON CAMPUS! The official policy can be found in the DuLac handbook (more information can be found at http://dulac.nd.edu). Also, please pay attention to the AlcoholEdu Videos that you are supposed to watch before coming to campus!

No Drugs! We won’t dignify this with a discussion. But in the words of Tim McCarthy of the Indiana State Police, “Remember: if you’re getting stoned, you might hit rock bottom.”

**“QUIET” HOURS**

To cultivate a peaceful and studious atmosphere, quiet hours are in effect Sunday through Thursday nights 7-11pm and during parietals. Don’t panic now, this doesn’t mean you can’t play your stereo or make noise. Just keep it within a reasonable limit. (Hall Staff reserves the right to define the term “reasonable”…). Guys living above or near the chapel should be extra respectful of this rule during Mass hours. During finals week, quiet hours are in effect all 24 hours of the day except for 15 minutes from 10:00-10:15pm when we let out our stress and frustrations by blasting the stereos and banging on everything and anything in sight. Trash cans, recycling bins, and Nick Grasberger (class of ’12) are suggested.

**CARS**

First Years (you) are not allowed to bring up their cars until the second semester (and even then you need Mom and Dad’s permission – so call home often to stay in their good graces...we sure didn’t). Notre Dame has almost everything that you would possibly need, so it’s not a big deal to be in want of a car. If you do get an urge to go off-campus to do or get something, cabs can take you everywhere you need to go and there are also plenty of people with cars who would be happy to lend them to you in exchange for candy and other treats. In addition, there’s always the public TRANSPO bus that goes to the mall and into downtown South Bend every half hour. During Welcome Weekend, you will also have the opportunity to take a bus tour of South Bend.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**CLOTHING**

Clothing in St. Ed’s is mandatory. Because closet space can be somewhat limited, you may only have room for one season of clothing at a time. You won’t need your heavy winter clothes until after fall break (most of the time), unless you are accustomed to a warm climate (Arizona, Florida, and people who live in saunas). Summer clothes and a fan are essential for the first weeks of school and for after spring break (if we’re lucky…\*crossing fingers\*). Rain gear is also a must in both the spring and fall. Remember that the Midwest is essentially one long, flat stretch of land, and thus there is no drainage. (With a good step-ladder you can see the entire state of Indiana). Lots of people bring “duck boots,” but you’d be fine in a pair of hiking-type boots. In the winter, these hiking-type boots or some form of snow gear are a must since it gets really slushy when (and if) snow melts. A heavy coat, hats, gloves, and scarves are also a necessity, as Notre Dame receives a great deal of snow and wind from Lake Michigan.

Those of you who are ski junkies are sort of out of luck. There are no real mountains here, but if you are super die-hard, there are some slopes relatively close in Michigan a little less than an hour away. Cross-country skiing, on the other hand, is very easy to do on this campus…unless you’re out of shape like us.

**BICYCLES**

If you have an old bike and have a way to get it to Notre Dame, you might want to think about bringing it. Bikes can come in handy, especially for trips into town or just making it to class on time. However, there are a few drawbacks to having a bike at Notre Dame. In the past few years, there have been some problems with bike theft. This is not uncommon for a college campus; luckily, this is the only real crime problem we’ve had, except for Zahm Hall’s “bun runs.” But if you invest in a decent bike lock (we recommend the U-shaped Masterlock style), you’ll be fine. Also, due to the rough winter months, bikes get little use and become weather-beaten from November to March if not taken care of. Every year the stadium opens the usher rooms for winter bike storage that is free for students. Ideally, the best bike to bring is not your brand new $2,000 Cannondale mountain bike. Bring one that you can leave to the elements without worry of being stolen, but still gets you where you want to go. If you are unable to bring a bike, never fear; there are places and events where you can find really cheap bikes—we’re talking in the two dollar range. A little work and it’s as good as new. A couple of St. Ed’s RAs did this a while back and came away with really nice bikes. Both were women’s bikes…but they were still nice.

**COMPUTERS**

Even if you are not a science or math major, computers can come in handy because of their word processing capabilities and the quasi-social life they provide known as Facebook (which in all seriousness you will probably spend more time with than your math homework). No matter what your major is, a computer (we highly recommend a laptop if it is an option) will be of great assistance. If you own one at home, you should consider bringing it. But if you don’t, it doesn’t mean that you necessarily have to go out and buy one—there are many computer clusters around campus which all students inevitably make use of. Many of you will end up composing your greatest works at one of these computer clusters, especially at 7:00 am in a lab full of procrastinators. These labs are located at Hesburgh Library, DeBartolo Hall, Mendoza (the Business Building), LaFortune Student Center, Nieuwland Science Hall, Bond Hall (the Architecture Building), the Coleman Morse Center (aka CoMo), and Fitzpatrick Hall (the Engineering Building). Most clusters are open during the week as late as 1 or 2 a.m., and some—such as LaFortune—are open 24 hours a day. The lines can be a pain—especially around finals—but there are plenty of computers to ensure a quick turnover rate. Laser printing is available in all clusters and in the first floor lounge of the hall. You get $10 for your printing quota each semester. At 2 cents a page (for black and white…color is a different story), it is near impossible to use up your print quota. So when the end of the semester rolls around and you’ve still got a huge sum left in your account, think of something creative to do with your surplus of pages (paper airplane party?), because if you don’t, the university will think of something creative to do with your wasted money (paper airplane party?).

If you don’t have a computer and want to buy one, there is a university computer store on campus that has great deals on Macs, IBMs, Gateways, and Dells. The best option is to check out the OIT website (they also have some great deals on software). Buy it online now through them, get it over the summer, and come to school ready to geek it up! Computers are fairly secure in residents' rooms and there have been no problems with theft at St. Ed’s in the past. There is one problem: COST. The price of a Macintosh, IBM, or Dell system can run upwards of $1000. The Office of Information Technologies (OIT) should be sending you mail about this soon, but if you can’t wait, go to their website at http://oit.nd.edu/. Whatever you buy, make sure it has Wifi (which all new laptops should unless you are buying used on EBay) - OIT should have more details about which card you should have. But, whatever you do, talk to your parents (and roommates) and find out what is best for you.

You may want to bring your own music from home because the University restricts downloading speeds on media sharing programs like Kazaa, Morpheus, etc. We’re talking like 8 hours for a song. Also, it’s a pretty serious offense to be caught using one of these programs, and we’ve heard of people around here who’ve had to pay big fines because of it. Be smart: invest in iTunes, Spotify (they have student deals), or Pandora.

If you're planning on bringing a printer with you, reconsider, though at times they can be convenient. There is a printer in almost every building on campus including one on the 1st floor of St. Ed's. You can easily connect to any of these printers wirelessly from your computer. Go to <http://oit.nd.edu/> and click on the "Software Downloads" tab and install print@ND. After you've installed the software you're just a few clicks away from printing to almost anywhere on campus. In summary, campus printers are conveniently located all across campus and are quick and easy to print to so unless you absolutely feel you need one in your room, you're better off leaving the printer at home.

**MONEY AND BANK ACCOUNTS**

The subject of money, namely how much to bring and where to put it, has probably already come up in discussions with your parents. Most of your large expenses will be at the start of each semester. Books can easily cost you as much as $500 a semester, especially for science, math, and engineering majors. They really get away with murder at the bookstore. Other major expenses are related to room preparation, including lofts, carpets, furniture, and refrigerators. All these room expenses can usually be split among roommates. Football and basketball season tickets are a must and are sold for roughly $250 (football) and $70 (basketball). Altogether you should be able to survive on $1000-$3000 a year, depending on how often you order out for late-night pizza, whether you have a girl back home or in Switzerland (high phone bills, but fantastic army knives), and whether or not you have one of those $1500-a-day addictions (such as collecting rare Faberge Eggs). You can get by spending less than that if you are smart with your money. If you get a job at the dining hall or elsewhere (ED’S), this should generally cover your miscellaneous expenses. For life guarding jobs (higher pay, less work), contact the aquatics director A.S.A.P., as spots fill up quickly (look up this info and other job related queries on the ND website).

Where can you store your money? Many students opt for an account at the Notre Dame Credit Union, which has offices located a little beyond Stepan Fields. Those with on-campus jobs will probably need a Credit Union account for direct deposit of earned wages. NDCU is the most accessible bank, as they have several ATMs located around campus. First Source Bank also has a branch in LaFortune, making it another popular option for bank accounts. Piggy Banks never go out of style either, though their electronic banking services are far below the industry standards.

**FOOD**

There are two dining halls on campus: North Dining Hall (NDH) and South Dining Hall (SDH). North is closer, recently renovated, a little smaller, a little brighter, and a lot better. South looks like an enormous cave. Trying to get your food in South is like trying to navigate through a pinball machine. North is the dining hall of choice for Steds, and we even have a dining hall HQ. The St. Ed’s tables, where you can always have a classy meal with a fellow gentleman, are the two tables on the right when you first walk in to North. Strategically located, they conveniently allow for “spontaneous” conversation with any lady friend that might happen to enter the dining hall.

The dining halls have many different kinds of food that seem especially good at first. After a while, though, you may become tired of the food and want to eat elsewhere. LaFortune has several restaurants and a convenience store. South Dining Hall contains a separate restaurant called Reckers, which was renovated to be more like the Central Perk coffee shop in Friends. Sorry guys…the women of Notre Dame are not being renovated to look like Jennifer Aniston. Off-Campus, there are dozens of quality eating establishments; if you can’t get there, then you can always order delivery. The campus-wide favorite is Papa John’s Pizza. 574-271-1177, though Marco’s is cheaper with their $6 large pizza deal. There’s also Jimmy John’s, Golden Dragon, and others. For more info on campus food services, see http://food.nd.edu.

**ACADEMICS**

The academics at Notre Dame will require more effort than high school, as well as the development of personal study habits. This ain’t Benedict Arnold Community College. It will all be very challenging, but don’t become overly concerned about academics or GPAs. As time goes by, you will find that you have plenty of extra time for socializing, recreation, and just hanging out while maintaining good grades.

A warning is probably in order right here. Most of your classes will not ask you to turn in assignments, nor will they take attendance every class. They assume that you are motivated enough to show up and do the work; otherwise you wouldn’t be here at Notre Dame. However, if your professor does assign homework, DO IT! The temptation is very great to blow off schoolwork………and then comes time for the test. It’ll be midnight the night before the test and you’ll be looking at materials for the first time that should have been read a month ago. At this point, you will learn a most important lesson—DON’T FALL BEHIND! That’s when the downward spiral starts. You fall behind, you get stressed, and you get sick. You get sick, you need rest, and you skip classes. You skip classes, you fall farther behind, you get more stressed. See where this leads? It’s easy to say you won't do this, but very difficult to actually follow through; most of you probably won’t heed this warning. If this happens, then take comfort in the words of an astute former (or is it formerly astute?) Stedsman: “The sooner you get behind, the more time you have to catch up.”

The First Year of Studies (FYS) program in which all of you will be enrolled is headed by Dean Hugh Page. This year is Dean Page’s eighth year as King of the Freshmen. Dean Page is a very thoughtful person who will keep a close eye on all you freshmen and will provide a great deal of assistance in adjusting to the college workload. Don’t worry too much, for you will find many seasoned residents of St. Ed’s who prove that unwavering psychotic devotion to academics is not necessary to survive at Notre Dame.

**SOCIAL LIFE**

**YOUR FIRST WEEKS HERE**

Your first weekend at ND will be action packed and full of adventure. You will be thrust into countless situations in which you and all the other classy First Years from St. Ed’s will have to “mingle” with whole groups of people. It’s safe to say that all of you were revered as demigods in high school, and that you still have pretty strong ties to girls and guys from high school. Many of you will still have girlfriends back home. Basically, you’ll probably feel pretty awkward having to meet a whole bunch of new people, people who don’t know anything about you and don’t realize that they’re in the presence of greatness. (This doesn’t mean, however, that you should brag about it.)

Despite any sort of social hesitation, it would be to your advantage to meet as many people as possible and to be as friendly and outgoing as you can. Don’t be afraid to introduce yourself to complete strangers. We’re still doing it after 2 years, and people don’t think we’re creepy (to our knowledge). Don’t be afraid of saying something stupid, because most people really don’t care. Be gregarious and talk to as many people as you can in the time allowed, and you’ll soon find yourself very much at ease in your new home and discover that a whole new world is really a cool thing.

Below are what our predecessors called the Big Four Questions. You’ll ask them to everyone, and everyone will ask them of you…but if you want to stick out in someone’s mind, ask something more interesting:

1)What’s your name?

2)Where do ya live?

3)No…not what hall…I mean where are you from originally? (If the answer is Chicago, you can always go with the «which suburb?» response)

4)What’s your major right now?

Try talking about movies or music. It’s much more interesting than geography. (And be sure to get their number…)

**SIGNATURE EVENT**

Most halls have a “signature event” that they put on each year. These range from pep rallies to comedy shows to chariot or boat races to concerts. Each hall has its own traditions and unique personality that goes into the festivities. While most halls’ events last only a day, St. Ed’s instead has a signature week shortly after fall break called “Founder’s Week.” This 5 day event includes a hall dinner and awards reception, SYR dance, sports tournaments, and Mass. Our biggest event of Founder’s Week is “St Edward's Shuttlecock Showdown,” a campus-wide badminton tournament. Last year's show was a big success. Other halls can only wish that their events were so sweet. But they get used to coming in second place to St. Ed’s in everything after a while.

Every year, Steds hosts the fundraiser "Mullets Against Malaria" for the charity Nothing But Nets, which purchases mosquito nets and does preventative work against Malaria in third-world countries. So start growing out that flow, and prepare to bring the 80s back! We bring in the hair stylists from the University Salon in LaFortune Student Center, and they shave our gorgeous manes into mullets! Last year, the hall raised over $10,000 for the charity. And if none of this sounds exciting enough, one lucky freshman will get to continue the tradition of getting the "skullet" which has been worn wonderfully by Noah Mattapallil, Danny Felton, and Corey Gayheart and many other Stedsmen before you. So start growing out that hair!

We also have an annual basketball tournament against our sworn enemy (all because of the old Annex that they live upon) Zahm hall. This tournament is called “Battle for the Shadow” because both halls seem to be in the shadow of the golden dome. Steds dominated this tournament last year and plans to do so again.

There are many other hall events that happen throughout the year such as our lecture series “Gentlemen Ponders”, our paintball trip in the spring, or Steds Mom’s Weekend, but more to come on those at a later date.

**WHAT GOES ON DURING AN AVERAGE (NON-HOME FOOTBALL) WEEKEND?**

Anything you want. Unless you’re a Chemical Engineer, then you study. There are always things to do and people to see. The Student Union Board (SUB) provides a lot of fun opportunities if you are looking to break out of a social rut. SUB shows a different recent blockbuster movie each weekend about five times from Thursday-Saturday night. Every Thursday night, SUB hosts Acousticafé, where talented students show off their musical stylings. In addition, they regularly bring concerts, such as Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and B.O.B., and comedians, such as Seth Meyers, to campus. Outside of SUB, other campus organizations put on events all the time, from the class councils, to ethnic clubs, to the theater department. If you absolutely can’t find anything to do on campus, there is always Chicago just a short train ride away. Your social life is what you make of it, which is something you’ll hear a lot during Welcome Weekend. Interpreted, this means that if you want to have fun, it’s ultimately up to you to make plans, dates, etc. It’s all up to you!

**FUN THINGS AROUND CAMPUS**

**FOOTBALL**

Notre Dame = Football. Definitely a generalization, but definitely true (we lied earlier). Football weekends are incredible; they are some of the best weekends you will experience at ND, so take advantage of them. Do everything that you can—your days here are numbered. On Friday evenings of home football weekends, there is always a pep rally at the JACC starting at 7 p.m. You’re lucky to be in St. Ed’s because we’re in charge of security at the pep rallies; this means we escort VIP personnel, football players’ families and relatives, and celebrities (such as Joe Montana, Jerome Bettis, Regis, Lou Holtz, and Tim Brown). Some of us even got to walk through the Stadium for the USC and Michigan Pep Rallies in recent years (ooh…it still hurts thinking about those game). Another cool thing about pep rallies is that several halls plan and sponsor each pep rally. We host the COOLEST, the WILDEST, and THE BEST pep-rally of the whole year. St. Ed’s Men all don shirtless kilts (start doing those situps now) and green face paint a la Braveheart. Game days always start early, as the whole school gets in the spirit of ND football. However, they start especially early for us due to the somewhat-new Steds floating tradition (you'll learn more about that before the first game; there are also photos on the Steds website from previous years). A couple hours before kickoff, the players walk from the Basilica to the Stadium, flanked on both sides by the Irish faithful. About an hour before kick-off, the band starts at the steps of the Dome and plays rah-rah songs (yes, the fight song too) and then marches all the way to the stadium followed by a mob of people. This is a must do for your first home game (this means you have to get up extra early to tailgate first and then go see the band!). We still do it for most games.

If your parents wish to attend any games, it is crucial to secure tickets and lodging very early! You should start the process about three months ago, since both are in short supply and high demand. Also, make sure to get a head start on fall break travel arrangements this year, because there is a home game on the first weekend of fall break. South Bend Regional Airport will be swamped with alumni and other fans, but you can easily fly into O’Hare or Midway airports in Chicago and take the CoachUSA/United Limo bus back to campus. The bus costs about 35 bucks each way and has comfy seats along with plenty of room for all your baggage (both personal and emotional). You can buy bus tickets (like airfare, it is cheaper to buy round trip) in the travel agent office in the basement of LaFortune.

**SPORTS/RECREATION**

Notre Dame is a very athletic community. Sports Illustrated ranked us as the #1 Jock School in America a few years ago due to our renowned RecSports program, which includes the only full-tackle interhall football league in America. Even if you are not a member of a varsity sport, the university provides numerous outlets for pent-up frustrations by giving students sledgehammers to hit one another with (still awake Mom?). Just kidding…but seriously, the non-varsity athletics program is extensive. Intramural sports at Notre Dame are one of the best ways to get to know people from both within and outside of the hall. It seems like everyone on this campus is involved in some intramural sport or another. Interhall athletics, run by RecSports, sponsors all sports from badminton to full-contact football (for you high school football players who weren’t recruited by Coach Kelly, there are plenty of moments of glory left). St. Ed’s has not traditionally been a football powerhouse, but as traditional powerhouses have fallen upon hard times (see “Notre Dame Football, 2007-08”), St. Ed’s has started to turn things around and is coming off of a strong semi-final run last season. As always, the football team is in need of some talented First Years this year, preferably highly motivated, blood-and-guts animals willing to give their all for the Hall.

St. Ed’s participates in nearly every sport offered, achieving considerable success in most. Playing opportunities are available all year round for prospective soccer players, including both indoor and outdoor league. Lacrosse is also a popular sport if you want to try something new. Other RecSports include beach volleyball, cross-country, boxing (called Bengal Bouts), and horseshoes. In any RecSport, though, the key to success is NUMBERS! We need everyone (especially freshmen) to show up and play!

Pickup basketball is also very big at Notre Dame. On a nice afternoon, all the outdoor courts (there are a lot of them) are filled with games. The 5 indoor courts are usually packed as well. In addition, St. Ed’s is fortunate to have its very own outdoor basketball hoop in the back parkway. In the spring, Notre Dame plays host to Bookstore Basketball, the largest single-site 5-on-5 basketball tournament in the world, attracting around 700 teams from all over campus. This is a must-participate event come springtime. All sorts of student athletes live in the hall, and it’s great to make friends with guys who’ll be playing video games with you one night then playing on national TV the next.

Guys take part in many casual athletic events within the hall such as section football. Nothing is more refreshing than waking up on Sunday morning for a competitive game of football out at Stepan Fields. Especially awesome is snow football, where the 3 feet or so on the ground makes tackling and diving all but painless…partly due to numbness.

Campus is home to a multitude of athletic facilities that you can take advantage of. “The Rock,” located at the end of South Quad, houses male and female locker rooms, two basketball courts, eight racquetball courts, two weight rooms (one for girls and once-a-week warriors, the other for the real men…..that’s us), a climbing wall, and a swimming pool. The Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center (JACC), which houses the home floor of Coach Brey’s boys, also has five basketball courts, a track (runners only – no horses), numerous racquetball courts, and Rolf’s Aquatic Center, a multi-million dollar swimming complex. The Loftus Center is an indoor track facility that also boasts a full-length artificial turf field. Finally, there is a newer student/faculty recreation center near the JACC, the Rolfs Center, which has an indoor eighth of a mile track, an excellent weight room, a floor hockey/soccer court, and 3 basketball/volleyball courts. All in all, it’s pretty impressive.

In addition to these indoor facilities, there is a great deal of open grassy spaces on both North and South Quads, as well as fields by the Stepan Center and McGlinn Hall. Notre Dame also has a 9-hole golf course located just south of The Rock. Another beautiful 18-hole course designed by Ben Crenshaw is also just a short walk off campus. There are also over 20 tennis courts, indoor and outdoor, at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. If you happen to be a jogger, Notre Dame is a wonderful place. There are numerous paths around campus and around the two lakes that allow for a good six mile run with minimal traffic interference. St. Mary’s is not too bad of a place to run to either – they have a beautiful nature trail. LaFortune Student Center also houses plenty of America’s finest bar room sports, including billiards, darts, and many arcade games if that’s your thing.

**FUN THINGS IN THE HALL**

At this very moment, a team of experts is mapping out an extensive social calendar. Among the most important events are the fall and a spring formals. We have the tradition of holding THE BEST dance of all, where we get bussed to Chicago, go out to dinner, and then party on a yacht. This...is...awesome. If you can’t get the hottie in your English class to go with you, she must need counseling because no girl in her right mind can turn down this dance. Worry not: if you ever find yourself desperate for a date, we will find someone for you.

In the first few weeks of school, we, the First Year Indoctrination/Brainwashing Crew, will provide many opportunities for you to get to know both your fellow hall members and a myriad of ladies from Notre Dame and St. Mary’s. You will be thrust into unfamiliar surroundings very shortly. Just remember a few things: we’ve all been there before and lived through it, so don’t be overly concerned. We will be there to get you started on your way to a fun-filled college career at Notre Dame. The best thing to do is just to try to meet as many people as you can. Before long, you will discover that these people who were once complete strangers have become your best life-long friends.

One more thing, don’t try to bring everything you think you’ll need. This may sound like strange advice, but it comes from people who have taken home unopened boxes of “necessities.” You’ll also probably forget things you really do need or want, but it’s not impossible to get them here or have your parents ship them to you at school. You will do more than survive…you will enjoy yourself and love thee Notre Dame (It’s a line in the Alma Mater). Enjoy the remainder of your summer and we’ll see you on Thursday, August 20 if you’re taking entrance exams/trying out for band/sports, or Friday, August 21 (these dates may be a couple days...or a week...off) for everyone else. You will be tested extensively on the materials in this packet upon arriving on campus. We have faith that all of you will pass with flying colors. Included in this packet are the lyrics to the Notre Dame Fight Song and the Alma Mater. Memorize them (if you haven’t yet) as they are a lyrical staple of sporting events. In addition, a carefully selected group of Sophomores will begin preparing a dance to a popular song (most likely a party anthem of the early to mid-2000s) that you will also have to perform to various halls during the first week. Even though some of the dances in recent years have been questionable to say the least, rest assured it will afford you the opportunity to showcase your best cha cha slides, bernies, and Elvis hip thrusts.

Well, it’s been a pleasure writing this handbook for you. We hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer and arrive on campus in the fall ready to begin the best four years of your life.

Your Welcome Weekend Captains,

Henry Bergstrom and Alec Lis

PS: Questions about anything? Don’t hesitate to give us a call/shoot us a text (contact information in the Welcome Letter). We get lonely over the summer. It will make us feel special. Both of us will be more than happy to answer any questions or you may have. Really, though call us whenever. If we don’t pick up, we promise to get back to you ASAP. Please read our other letter on the website, and look around on our site! We are all looking forward to meeting all of you in August, and welcome to the brotherhood of a lifetime.

**CHECK OUT THE ST. ED’S WEBSITE:** <http://steds.nd.edu>

**CHECK OUT THE ST. ED’S BLOG SITE:** <http://stedwardshall.blogspot.com>

**Steds Colors:** Green and Gold

**Steds Mascot/Nickname:** The Gentlemen

**Notre Dame Victory March**

Rally sons of Notre Dame: Sing her glory and sound her fame, Raise her Gold and Blue And cheer with voices true: Rah, rah, for Notre Dame We will fight in ev-ry game, Strong of heart and true to her name We will ne'er forget her And will cheer her ever Loyal to Notre Dame

Cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame, Wake up the echoes cheering her name, Send a volley cheer on high, Shake down the thunder from the sky. What though the odds be great or small Old Notre Dame will win over all, While her loyal sons are marching Onward to victory.

(You only really need to know the second paragraph for game days0

**Alma Mater**

No-tre Dame our Mo-ther

Ten-der strong and true,

Proud-ly in the heavens,

Gleams they Gold and Blue.

Glo-ry’s mantle cloaks thee,

Gol-den is they fame.

And our hearts for-e-ver,

Praise thee, No-tre Dame,

And our hearts for-e-ver

LOVE THEE, NO-TRE DAME

**Directions to St. Ed's**

Due to construction over the past few years, Google Maps does not have an updated picture of how to get to St. Ed’s. These directions should help you out:

**FROM THE NORTH (EASIEST):**

1. Exit the Indiana Toll Road and turn right (south) at the stoplight onto MAIN ST.

2. Turn left (east) at the very first stoplight onto DOUGLAS RD.

3. Continue East on Douglas Road past Holy Cross House/Parish and turn right (south) onto WILSON RD. NOTE: The old northern entrance to campus via JUNIPER RD. has been closed permanently. So alums, watch out!

4. Continue down Wilson Dr. to the stop sign. Turn right (west) onto HOLY CROSS DRIVE.

5. Look for PARKING LOT A 15 on your left. Turn left (south) into it and continue to the southeast corner to find an access road.

6. Follow the access road between the Medical center and the Keenan/Stanford Complex, St. Ed’s will be dead ahead. Look for the outdoor basketball court with green paint and a crown logo.

**ALTERNATE ROUTE:** Enter ND through the main gates on NOTRE DAME AVE off of ANGLEA BLVD/EDISON RD. Turn left at the watch station on HOLY CROSS DR. and go 1.5-2 miles until you reach parking lot A15 on your right. Use the access road in the Southeast corner; follow it all the way back to St. Ed’s. Ushers will direct you.