



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1962

Class Agent

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Dear Gentlemen of '62,

As the last of those fall leaves give way to wind, rain and dare I mention it – snow, we look forward to those wonderful family holiday events. Our letter this time embraces both the celebration of activities on campus and sadness at the loss of one of our brothers.

First the celebration – On Saturday Wabash won the Monon Bell for the fifth straight year. Here is an account of that game as written by Howard Hewitt for the Wabash.edu website.

The Little Giants celebrate five straight years of holding the Bell.



There is no better tonic for a disappointing loss than a win in the Monon Bell Classic. The Little Giants lost an automatic NCAA playoff berth last week but Saturday claimed that old railroad Bell for the fifth straight year with a 38-21 win.

“Obviously, this game is critical,” said Coach Erik Raeburn “All losses are devastating but a loss in the Bell

game is 10 times worse. I’m happy for our players, our students and our fans. This is important to everybody, particularly for our seniors to be able to say they graduated with a 4-0 record. Students can say they got to celebrate four victories in the Bell game and that is an important thing.”

The Little Giants (9-1) returned to recognizable form from



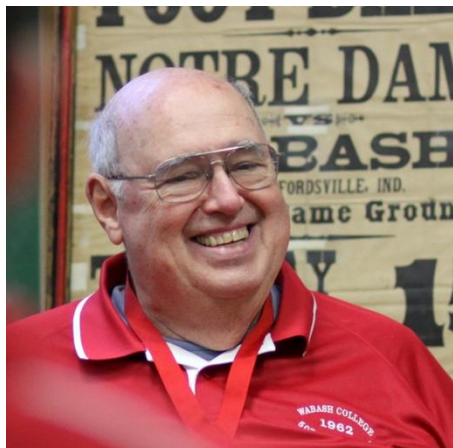
the game's first snap. DePauw (4-6) couldn't gain a yard in three attempts and had to punt the ball away. Wabash rolled out a little razzle-dazzle with quarterback Michael Putko handing the ball off to receiver Drake Christen who then tossed the ball to Sean Hildebrand running the opposite direction. The senior wide receiver waltzed into the end zone thanks to a nifty quarterback block, 7-0.

The dominant defense and quick strike offense gave Wabash complete control from the start.

"They were playing extremely aggressive and were jumping on the shorter routes," Quarterback Putko said. "We were able to throw behind them. (On the Laird score) I bought myself a little more time, the safety came up and Jon just snuck right in behind him."

Raeburn was really pleased with his sophomore quarterback's play. "Getting the passing game going in that first half was critical," Raeburn is now 5-1 in Bell contests.

So for those of us who failed to see a Monon Bell win during our years at Wabash, this may well help to sooth that wound by getting this revenge upon those Dannies.



Our Lost Brother:

FREDERICK DeCROES OBENCHAIN

Frederick DeCroes Obenchain of Manassas, VA, passed away peacefully November 1, 2013. Born in Indiana to the late Howard S. and Anne D. Obenchain, Fred graduated from Wabash College and earned a PhD at Ohio State University. At OSU, he met his wife of more than 40 years; together they have always championed scientific research and education.

After teaching at Georgia Southern College, Dr. Obenchain spent six years with an international science organization in Africa and then as R&D director for a natural pest control firm in Manassas. In addition to operating their own consulting firm, Fred loved teaching biology and zoology at Northern Virginia Community College's Manassas Campus for 21 years. Outside the lab and classroom, Fred was an amazing cook and a loving son, brother, father, uncle, friend, and husband. He helped establish swimming as a recognized sport in Prince William County high schools, was a member of the Manassas Lion's Club, alumni leader for Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, avid recruiter and fan of Wabash College, puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and engaged member of the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association.

Fred was preceded in death by his mother, father, and sister Jeanne A. Webb. He is survived by his wife, B.J. Ellis; brother, Robert L. Obenchain of Carmel, IN; son, Howard E. "Obie" Obenchain of Cincinnati, OH; and beloved in-laws, nephews and nieces.

A memorial service was on Saturday, November 16 at 1 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, Manassas, VA. Memorial donations in Fred's name may be made to: Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Canine Development, Attn: Nancy Lothrop (FDO), 611 Granite Spring Rd, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 or at www.guiding-eyes.org. For those who may wish to leave an online condolence, they may be made at: www.covenantfuneralservice.com/obituaries

Condolence cards may be sent to: Dr. B.J. Ellis, 9619 Evans Ford Road, Manassas VA 20111. I shall remember with great fondness the conversations we had during our reunion. He shall be missed.

Keep Those Referrals Coming!

Alumni referrals are critical to the College's future. Prospects referred by alumni are much more likely to apply to, get admitted to, deposit and attend Wabash than other prospects.

In past years, our goal was to receive 1,000 alumni referrals from July 1 to June 30. Starting with this 2013-2014 recruiting year, the College is looking to enroll of freshman class of 275 students. We need to step up our efforts to support the Admissions team by generating 1,200 referrals.

The Class of 2017 is made up of students from 22 states and 8 countries. Other impressive stats from this class: 8 Valedictorians, 30 Boys State delegates, and 31% ranking in the top 10% of their graduating classes. Upon reflection, other than I was a Boys State delegate, I don't believe this writer would have made the cut.

Recognition for Richard Stephenson



Richard J Stephenson '62 was the NAWM Clarence A. Jackson Career Service Award winner given during Homecoming weekend. "You have been exceptionally generous to a wide range of philanthropic causes through the Stephenson Family Foundation, including your *alma mater*. Not only have you given of your treasure, you have purposefully recruited young Wabash men for positions in your companies, including many who hold senior leadership posts."

Stephenson, Chairman and CEO of Cancer Treatment Centers of America, is also Gateway for Cancer Research chairman, which held its annual [Cures Gala](#) on October 26 in Chicago — raising nearly \$2.1 million for clinical trials for cancer treatment.

Chapel Sing & President Hess



The annual Chapel Sing took place during Homecoming. Here is a Sigma Chi under the watch of Sphinx club members. Bring back any memories? For my part, I do not recall such intense scrutiny and that we Rhyne were locked arm in arm for self-protection and support.

Also during this past fall was the installation of Dr. Gregory D. Hess as the 16th president of Wabash. In his first address Dr. Hess commented, *“Our true academic mission — to liberally educate each and every student — is a timeless reminder of the lives we change here at Wabash College, one young man at a time,”* President Hess said. *“For while the problems facing higher education and the world are complex, the solutions need not be. Amidst the jostle and the fray and the haranguing static and noise that often surround our academic endeavor, stands our foundation: the simple gifts of the liberal arts. These profound gifts — the ability to act, to see, and to speak — are the bedrock that underpin teaching and learning at Wabash College.”*



In other bits and pieces from the campus include information that Wabash has retained a national architectural and planning firm, to study and make recommendations regarding residential life, and in particular, independent men’s housing. Over the last decade, Wabash has acquired enough property on the western edge of campus to house new residence halls and other curricular and co-curricular facilities. Addressing the residential life for Independents is something that has not happened since we were in school and the opening of Martindale Hall. A preliminary plan is to raze Wolcott and Morris halls and to construct a new facility for the Independents on the new property. As one who lived in those two halls and would miss them, however I applaud this move.

Terry Fewell attended the Class Agent meeting this fall and sent this comment: *Dr. Hess said the return of Delta Tau Delta is not a matter of "if" but "when." They intend to bring it back "at the right time and at the right pace." Apparently the litigation involving Wabash College is virtually concluded. There is some ongoing litigation involving the national and perhaps some conditions which may be imposed on the local chapter by the national concerning the re-instatement. Overall though I think this is good news for the Delts. I sure hope so because they were and are one of the strongest groups in our class.*

Some final thoughts. If you have not done so – please do make that pledge to Wabash. It would be a great way to finish out the year. An update shall be given in 2014.

Let me know what is happening in your life. Barb and I have great plans for 2014, but more on that in the next letter. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Peaceful New Year.

Thom