



## WABASH COLLEGE

*Class Agents Letter*  
Office of Alumni Affairs  
P.O. Box 352  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
Web site: [www.wabash.edu](http://www.wabash.edu)  
Email us: [alumni@wabash.edu](mailto:alumni@wabash.edu)  
Phone: (765) 361-6369

---

Class of 1968

Class Agent  
James E. Roper  
[jimroper@ropersbooks.com](mailto:jimroper@ropersbooks.com)

February 2011

Dear Class of 1968,

If you need a reason to go back to Wabash, here it is in a word: **SPORTS!** After the football team capped a great season with a 47-0 thrashing of the Dannies, the basketball, wrestling, and track teams have excellent records.

**Basketball Drama:** Currently 17-4, ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in Division III. They started 13-0, including their own thumping of DePauw, 57 to 40, then lost a squeaker to Number One, Wooster. THEN, on February 5, the Little Giants went to Ohio and took Wooster down in overtime. Yeah, they beat number one. If I lived in Indy, I'd make the trip to see these guys in action in the final regular season game versus Oberlin on Feb 19.

**Wrestling:** Coach Anderson Brian Anderson's grapplers went 4-0 in quad duals at Knox College on January 8, earning the team rank of #28 in Division III. Further success in the Budd Whitehill National Duals moved them up to #20. They finished the regular season 11-4 and are in the fight to qualify for the national tournament. If I lived less than 1000 miles away, I'd go back on February 25 for the Alumni gathering at Creekside Inn, and for the NCAA Midwest Regionals hosted by Wabash on Feb 26.

**Indoor Track:** Last Saturday, the Little Giants took home the crown at the NCAC Indoor Relay meet at Oberlin College, finishing first in the eight-team competition.

*An announcement about **one of our guys** who can take a lot of credit for this great athletic year:*

### **Bambrey Announces Retirement as Athletics Director**

By Brent Harris, February 2, 2011

**Dr. Thomas E. Bambrey**, Wabash College Director of Athletics, has announced his plans to retire from that position at the end of the academic year.



Bambrey, a 1968 graduate of Wabash, was named athletics director in May of 2008 after serving for 11 years as his alma mater's Dean of Students.

"Throughout his life, Tom Bambrey has shown his love for and dedication to Wabash," President Patrick E. White said. "He has long been a diligent student of Wabash history and lore and has helped further the great Wabash traditions of student empowerment, the Gentleman's Rule, and the highest standards of athletic achievement.

Read the full article here: [http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=8674](http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=8674)

Someone referred me to a *NY Times* headline that said, ***Hands-On Job Has Deputy Mayor Taking His Lumps***. Hey, they're talking about **one of our guys, Steve Goldsmith!** Overall, the article gave Steve a lot of credit but described many challenges ahead. Do you think sixty-four might be too old to be taking lumps? Let us know, Steve!

**From Charlie (Chuck) Kraft**, mid-January: We spent Becky's birthday (Oct 10) in the ER in Door County, WI. The Good Lord was kind enough to give me a couple of kidney stones (minor) - but because I had a CT scan for that, the CT scan picked up a cyst on my pancreas. Thanks to the kidney stones, they caught the cyst when it was still pre-cancerous, but it was the size of a grapefruit by the time they dug it out December 7. Anyway, for the last five weeks I have been recuperating from something called a Whipple procedure - 42 staples down the front, the doc removed the head of my pancreas and my gall bladder, and dusted everything else off - so I'm clean, no cancer (anywhere), no chemo. My doc has done this to 700 others so he was pretty experienced, got me off the table in 3.5 hours and out of the hospital in 6 days. The three hoses I had in front are gone, and I hope to get the last drain line removed from my back next week. Becky is following all this up with foot surgery at the end of this month, so I am on a four-month leave of absence from work (not sure if I will ever go back - but I am also getting kinda impatient - this thing has really knocked me on my butt). Anyway, sorry for no communication at Christmas - I am just now starting to catch up.

**Referrals to Wabash:** The Spread the Fame alumni bunch sez Wabash alumni and friends of the College submitted 56 referrals in January raising our total to 854 referrals. We're now 148 from the goal of 1,000 referrals with 4 months to go. I guess I can claim one of those 854, and I'll make another visit to high schools in the local area in the spring. If I can do this, anyone can! Shoot me an email if you need ideas.



When I spoke to **Jim Dashiell** at our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion, he said he especially loved his time with grandkids. Looks like he spent some time in the Bookstore, too. What a great looking group! Congrats on your priorities, Jim.

**Wabash College Board of Trustees Chairman Stephen S. Bowen '68** and President Patrick E. White announced on Saturday the creation of the William C. Placher Fund for Faculty Support. The Placher Fund honors the memory of Dr. Bill Placher '70, a loyal alumnus, generous donor, prolific writer, internationally acclaimed theologian, and outstanding teacher.



The Trustees have designated \$5 million for the fund, including a \$1.4 million leadership gift from Professor Placher's estate, and seek to raise another \$5 million in Placher Fund gifts from alumni, faculty, staff and friends during the [Challenge of Excellence](#) campaign.

*The Bachelor* interviewed **Steve Bowen**, where he gave good insights on where the Trustees want to steer Wabash. Read it here: [http://bachelor.wabash.edu/issues/2011s/Issue\\_15.pdf](http://bachelor.wabash.edu/issues/2011s/Issue_15.pdf)

If you watch the internet go by, you will always find good reasons to support Wabash College. Here are highlights of Class giving statistics that I have received:

- 50 classes increased by one or more alumni donors in the first half of FY11 **We Are Here!**
- 5 classes increased by 10 or more alumni donors in the first half of FY11 (1959, 1984, 1992, 1995, 2003)
- 23 classes decreased by one or more alumni donors in the first half of FY11
- 12 classes have the same number of alumni donors in the first half of FY11 as they did in the first half of FY10
- 1976 is the only reunion class that had a decrease (-9) in the first half of FY11.

*Email me for gory details. The fact of giving is as important as the amount.*

**Buzz Madsen** sent these (much edited) tidbits of Indiana history:

**The first regulated speed limit (20 - 25 mph!) was initiated on Indiana roads in 1921.**

**The steepest railroad grade in the world is in Madison, Indiana.**

**An average of 400 funnel clouds are sighted each year in Indiana.**

**Josie Orr, wife of former Indiana Governor Robert Orr, flew bombers and cargo planes during World War II.**

**The Indianapolis Methodist Hospital is the largest Hospital in the Midwest.**

**One of the first complete bathrooms in Indianapolis was in the home of Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley.**

**Aviatrix Amelia Earhart was once a Professor at Purdue University.**

**Crown Hill Cemetery (Indianapolis) is the largest cemetery in the U.S.**

**Wabash, Indiana, was the first electrified city in the U.S.**

**Pendleton, Indiana, was the site of the first hanging of a white man for killing Indians.**

**The Courthouse roof in Greensburg, Indiana, has a tree growing from it.**

**The world's first transistor radio was made in Indianapolis.**

**The American Beauty Rose was developed at Richmond, Indiana.**

**Elkhart, Indiana, is the band instrument capitol of the World.**

**U.S. 231 is the longest highway in Indiana (231miles).**

**Johnny Appleseed is buried at Fort Wayne, Indiana.**

**The main station of the Underground Railroad was in Fountain County, Indiana.**

**There are 154 acres of sculpture gardens and trails at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.**

**Crawfordsville, Indiana ( Montgomery County ) is the only site in the world where crinoids are found. (What is a crinoid, you ask? A form of deep-water marine life that looks something like a starfish.)**

**Pendleton, Indiana, was the site of the 'Fall Creek Massacre'. A museum housing 3500 artifacts of pioneer heritage now exists on that site.**

**A buzz bomb (German - WWII), believed to be the only one on public display in the nation, can be found on the Putnam County Courthouse lawn in Greencastle.**

**You can't ship wine to Indiana. (So how does it get there?)**

**90% of the world's popcorn is grown in Indiana? (Orville Redenbacher was what percent?)**

**Buzz also sent this:**

Talked to my daughter-in-law, Sunny, yesterday. She's a podium presenter for a timeshare company in Las Vegas. A couple weeks ago, as she was talking to that day's group of prospective timeshare owners, one woman said she and her husband were from Wisconsin. As Sunny questioned the woman about just where in Wisconsin, it turns out that she was originally from Wausau, but they now have a place in Door County. Sunny excitedly said that's where her in-laws have a place and asked if she knew where Sister Bay was--and then, getting a nod-- and Hill Road was--and getting another nod--whether the woman remembered the place with the red tower painted like a Danish flag. "Oh, yeah!" the woman replied, "That's where that crazy old guy stands in the field and yells at speeders." Sunny cracked up as she responded, "That's Buzz!! He's my father-in-law!" Happy New Year, y'all... and please drive safely, y'hear?

**Dan Vannatter is another Wabash classmate that I crossed paths with several times in my Air Force career. Whenever I began to brush up against Special Ops, Dan would stand up with a smile. Looks at though he has a great job in a bad location. Dan sends:**

I am in Afghanistan as the PM for a group of contractors supporting Petraeus' think tank, the Counterinsurgency Assistance and Advisory Team (CAAT). I will be here through the summer and may extend through Sep; not a lovely country, Afghanistan, probably the dustiest place I have ever been, but the effort here feels real to me. Politics aside and setting aside the argument of whether we should be here, you would be very proud of the work being accomplished daily by both the special operations folks, active and contractor, and the conventional forces in daily contact with the enemy and friendly forces. Though my role is to herd these cats, I find myself entering the discussions informally and adding my elder soldier's views now and then.

I was both shocked and pleased to learn that Wabash beat DePauw so convincingly; I was there at the last shutout and have very pleasant memories of that event. We have been blessed with the highest quality of the coaches at Wabash and I was tickled to hear that you had tracked Ernie down. Do you remember the sign he had above the weight room door?

Believe it was "Ernie's Gym: Now get to Work!"

I hope you and your family have the Happiest of Thanksgivings. Betty will be with our girls and grandsons in NJ. I have invited the contractors who are not deployed to join me at our mess for dinner; have included our Afghan drivers and interpreters as well. Will not be the same as being home, but will be opportunity to share a great meal as well as our thoughts of thankfulness that we will at some point return to the finest place to live on the face of this earth.

All the best, my friend. Dan

**Send photos and do let us know if you need something, Dan. I was the goodie-box champ when my son was there!**

Our own Iron Mike Gallagher stays in the quest for a cleaner environment:

**The merger of FAB and Enviromech creates a new standard of service and engineering excellence in fueling systems for the natural gas vehicle industry. Element Partners invests in Agility Fuel Systems** NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 6, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Effective today, FAB Industries (FAB) and Enviromech Industries (Enviromech), two leading providers of alternative fuel systems for heavy duty trucks, buses and specialty vehicles, announced an agreement to merge to form Agility Fuel Systems. Element Partners, a clean technology-focused private equity fund, provided equity capital to complete the transaction. Sam Gabbita and Michael DeRosa from Element, and **Michael Gallagher**, Senior Advisor and Former President and Chief Operating Officer of Westport Innovations (Nasdaq: WPRT) will join Agility's Board of Directors.

**Football Flicks:** I still have CDs of 1960's Wabash single-wing football. **Dan Susie** has taken a look. If anyone else would like to view them, please let me know. The package consists of 8 disks, each with five to seven minutes of old black and white footage from 1961 up to 1966. You will see why Wabash frequently ranked number one in the NCAA in rushing, with student-body right and left sweeps. Opposing teams only had one or two days to prepare to read and defend against this thing, and with spinner plays, key breakers and lots of deceptive ball handling, the single-wing was hard to stop. Leading the charge is quarterback (aka blocking back) #24 Rich Chilowski, one tough dude. Carrying the pigskin is often #45, Johnny May (a Hammond boy). Also featured is the jump-pass (about the only Wabash air-attack option) and the old quick-kick, that usually went for 40 or 50 yards. Good stuff.



**Dr. Rich Gower** (left) sends: I am still in practice in Spokane, Washington and am only doing allergy/asthma/clinical immunology at this time. I also practiced internal medicine for 27 years before cutting back. Jan and I have two grandchildren, ages 2 years and 4 months.

**Bruce Gras** continues to improve. Right now he is applying his amazing creative skill to resurrecting the Wabash Stories webpage, begun before his nasty IED experience in SW Asia. As he was refining the website, he asked me for a video and I sent a 20 second clip of my #3 kid having a good day. He asked me for a story, and I sent this:

So ... What's in a Name?

Here's a trivia question for you. How many Wabash students showed up for varsity football practice during the summer of 1965? The answer is 45. So how would I know and why would I care?

At the end of the second week of three-a-day practices, Coach Keuffel announced a live scrimmage, pitting the first offense versus the third defense, and the first defense against the second offense, or something similar. In any case, I figured this would be a good way to find out, as a sophomore, where I stood in the pecking order. I figured I could hit pretty good, started both ways as a freshman, but I wasn't recruited for football. And I didn't come to Wabash for the football.

So the good coach read eleven names and sent them north, another eleven to pick up red shirts and follow, and repeated the process for the south end of the practice field. He didn't call my name, so I was left there, still unsure, but quickly forming a pretty good idea of where I stood.

Alone, I sought a vantage point where I could see both scrimmages and perhaps learn something. This place happened to be in the shade of a large tree on the far side of the field. Since I would not participate in the big scrimmage, I took off my helmet. I sat down and leaned back against the tree.

After about 20 minutes, Coach Ernie Fritsch noticed me, and ran over excitedly, followed by the entire coaching staff and the equipment manager. They thought I was ill or injured. I stood and assured them I was okay, just watching both scrimmages. No one smiled. I think Coach Keuffel wanted to toss me right there, because he said something fairly nasty. I said, "Coach, you called everyone's name but mine."

Other coaches advised me as to exactly what I should have done, so I repeated, defiantly, "You called everyone's name but mine." I didn't play much that year.

\* \* \*

This is your letter. Make it better by sending me your updates. Shoot those stories or videos to Bruce Gras, [bgras@trirock.com](mailto:bgras@trirock.com) , and do those health screens, guys and gals.

Here's to the good ol' days!  
Jim Roper