



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1968

Class Agent

Jim Roper

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June 8, 2013

1968 - a year of tumult and change.

After Wabash, the first obstacle we encountered was the Selective Service, and each of us stood one way or another to face serious challenges that would shape our entire lives. *How wonderful to spend a weekend of laughter and enlightenment of the lives of dear friends across the years!* These reunions are fun on so many levels. If you didn't make this one, make the next one. Emotions ran deep as 33 of us had great tales to share at our 45th Reunion.

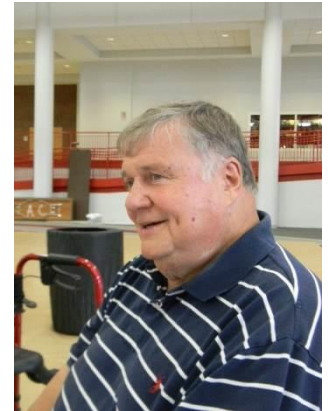


Dan Vannatter (Colonel, US Army, Retired) gave us funny stories of bumbling lieutenant days--blowing things up--and an Army career alternating between conventional and special operations. Said he would repeat every day of his Wabash experience and wishes he could. Retired in northern Virginia.



What a treat to enjoy the company of Veterinarian **Dr. Doug Jones**, who made his first trip back to Wabash. His youngest son is in college, so he finally found some time to travel. He served his Army years right after graduation, and he now operates a small animal clinic in Orlando. He was one of 6 Hammond Gavit alumni who came to Wabash. He reminded me of our bicycle jaunt to Crawfordsville after HS graduation. Wow! Be sure to look him up and hear his wonderful perspectives at the 50th gathering! He's baaaaack!

Ronnie Hill has retired from the active practice of law, but he serves as a part time judge in the St Louis area. Has two successful daughters, 5 grandsons and another on the way. Selective Service rated his back 4F, and subsequent surgeries have slowed him some. He told about falling 57 feet off a bridge onto railroad tracks when he was 12. Still, he was an all-state tackle, and a fierce lineman for the LittleGiants! Remembers the fun times at Wabash with great relish!



Tom Hill seemed a bit more extroverted today than I remembered him at Wabash. Navy spy ship off Vietnam after graduation, he retired from a law career and lives in Munster. Enjoys traveling around the country visiting his successful children: 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren. He described “Tom’s Bad Year—2004” when he lost both parents and was diagnosed with the big C. On the bright side, he defeated cancer and met his wife Marlene when he “needed a date for a funeral” (his words). Ask Tom for details at the 50th!



Your Reunion Chairman, **Jim Millikin** and Helen, passed though C’ville. Their daughter Keri was performing in an original ballet of Alice in Wonderland, and she was *Alice*. So they headed to Missouri on Saturday. Jim proposed to Helen at the Senior Bench.





Director of Alumni and Other Things, **Tom Runge '71** gave us his funny but hard-driving leadership at the Chapel Sing and other venues. Reminded us of Chuck Barris on "The Gong Show" where they pulled out "the Hook." With minutes to go, we only had 4 arrive for our turn at Old Wabash. Eventually we had about 20. Fun, but the Grunge called it "dirge-like." We'll bring buckets to our 50th for your non-tune-carriers.

Dr. Jim Dashiell has given us some amazing pages of fun on Facebook. He took about 6 months to complete a hike of the Appalachian Trail. He met a lady there and joined her to help build/repair her home in Australia—actually an island near Tasmania. Keep living that humane life, and thanks for keeping us in the loop!



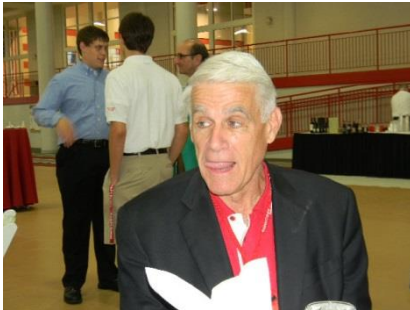
Dr. Jim Cromer practices Pediatric Medicine in Indianapolis. Another unique Wabash man quietly making the world better.



Some strong Delt personalities arrived with a flourish. **Mark Sutton**, wrestler at Wabash, taught and coached 32 years, now in the antique business. **From LaPorte** came **Jim Williams**. After Wabash he joined Navy EOD, (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) that included diving and jumping. Had some fun with that. Earned a PhD in history, and taught at US Naval Academy. And defensive back **Dick Callaway** brought his smiles. Went from Crawfordsville to the Field Artillery, Vietnam, then (and still) with Morgan Stanley. Three daughters, four grandchildren. **Three wonderful Wabash fellas.**



Hey, that looks like **Professor Joe O'Rourke!** He and **Dr. John Zimmerman** were around the campus to chat and smile about the good old days when we ruled or thought we did.



Charlie Kraft, a terrific reunion organizer became **Chuck** in the Navy, then went back to big business in his old neighborhood. A proud member Of the Glee Club back in the day, but this time he ducked out of the Chapel Sing! He did!

Harold Jason Reed from Chalmers, Indiana, had to Kabuki dance for his draft board, but he was sent away with his 4F and attended divinity school in Scotland and Chicago. Served God for 39 years, the last 12 in his United Methodist Church in Naperville. Will retire on July 1.



Who else came back for number 45 but the *Lone Phi Delt*, the omnipresent **Dan Susie**. Served in the Army medical corps, then went to Law School. He has been here every time I have come back plus a lot more. He loves Wabash, and works to make the right things happen here. I think he knows where stuff is buried. Go Dan!



Pete Allen '73 wasn't in our class, but what a great guy he is! One of the benefits of coming to a Big Bash is meeting super people.

Here's another Wabash man who may know where stuff is buried: the inimitable **Nick Pitz!** Drafted into the Army after Wabash, he was actually sent to Germany to use his German as a translator. In Bettendorf, Iowa, he plans to teach high school one more year before bailing out. His wife, Barbara Ann, is finishing a teaching career at St Ambrose College in the quad-city area.





Dr. Dave Cook has quasi-retired from pulmonary medicine after an interesting career. Served in the Coast Guard. He travels a lot, having just returned from some of the lesser toured parts of France. He is doing some work with “software.” Ask him about it at the 50th. That’s **Jason Reed**, looking for earthworms or plastic barf to hold up before the class of '63 while they sing Old Wabash.

“Iron Mike” Gallagher just returned from some hiking adventures in the high Himalayas. Like



Everest base camps. I have seen a ton of Facebook notes from Mike where he visits places I have never heard of. He is on the cutting edge of the energy story, as his company begins to produce engines that run on natural gas—the fuel of the future. He gave a terrific colloquium on the subject. Wants to see EVERYONE back for the 50th!



This Wabash man is pushing for software solutions that make cities work better. Wonderful to see **Steve Goldsmith** again. He is still teaching at Harvard and writing books. A very good man.



Meet **Michele Ward**. She actually sends this letter out to you and does tons of other things to make **Tom Runge** look good in the Alumni Office. Make it a point to thank her when you come to the 50th Reunion.

Steve Goldsmith took off a bit early to cheer the Pacers playoff hopes.

Jim Hutcheson has finally retired from the nursing profession in Peoria. He did Vietnam in the middle of his Wabash experience—like a Sabbatical. He is active in Kiwanis, and manages to contribute volunteer time to worthy causes. One selfless guy and Some Little Giant! The good-looking young man from Ghana, West Africa, in the photo below was christened *Leslie Kwasi Hutcheson Mensah*, and is considered to be the grandson of our Gentle Jim. How can this be, you ask?



Jim says, “Leslie is the son of Samuel Mensah who was a chemistry student of mine that I helped with high school and college fees. He considered me his father so by extension his son becomes my grandson. People say we don't look much alike. I know, he has more hair than I have.”

Is that amazing or what?

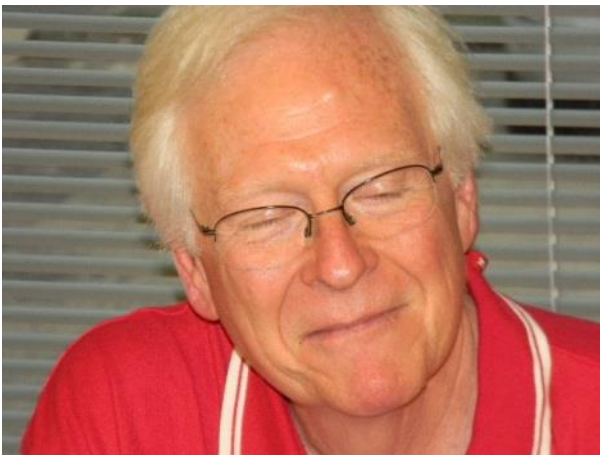


Bill Nie served 3 years in the Army after Wabash. Went to language school, then Vietnam. Bill retired in December from his law practice in Indianapolis. Great to see him and his companion. The smiles say it all.



Here are **Dr. Bill and Mrs. Karen Peele**. Bill is a urologist in Kokomo. Life must be good. He still knows all the urologist jokes.

On the right is **Stan Kowaleski** and his bride, **Nancy**. He is still working in Tipton, Indiana, as director of human resources for four companies which are expanding. Keepin' on keeping on!!!



Here is another Region Lad, **Claude Wise**. He claims to have officially finished "last" in the class, but I don't believe him. Sue, his wife of 45 years, is a Depauw grad. They have a son in the paint business and a lawyer daughter. Two grandkids. He still shows that easy-going style that enabled him to cruise through the tough times at Wabash.





Dave Hizer made his first trip back to Wabash. He survived his local draft board, then tried grad school in social services. He is now established with the family business in lumber and hardware in Aurora, Indiana. He and his wife enjoy doing volunteer work.

Tom Bambrey came home to Wabash for his 45th. He gave a lifetime to the profession of education, earning a PhD along the way. He was then set up to become the Dean of Men for 11 years, then Athletic Director. Dean Norman Moore's family had commissioned a large painting of the good Dean and it was installed in his office. All Tom could think of when he entered the room each day was, "Don't screw up." He enjoys his family, a son, a daughter and 2 grandchildren.



Dr. John and Mary Greves in the foreground, came in from God's Country, the great Northwest. John is working his way toward retirement from cardiology. Sez he is down to an 8-hours per day schedule. Our class dinner Saturday night was at the Phi Gam House, and John led the way for the evening. He loves Wabash and wants everyone back for the 50th!



Bill Schaekel graduated into the world of US Marine Corps aviation. Flew the F-4 and A-4 across the unfriendly skies of Southeast Asia, based at Danang. He told a great story of his adventures after the Marines, where he was asked to fly some suspicious cargo, reported it to proper authorities, then participated in a large successful undercover operation. This opened the door to a 22-year career in law enforcement where he still works.

Mike Dybel is president of Strategic Technologies International in Mundelein, IL.

He picked up a Masters at Northwestern and PhD at Notre Dame. He has traveled worldwide in the field of bio-technology. Got his 15 minutes of fame when CNN did a feature on his work in Japan. Mike is a trustee on the National Youth Science Foundation which annually brings two under privileged kids from each state and 10 from overseas to a Science Camp in West Virginia. Focus is to bring these kids into careers in science and medicine. It has great support from the DC politicians.



That's **John Schlechte** who has enjoyed a long career with the Indiana National Bank. I think he did a tour as Class Agent for awhile. In the foreground is **Jon Factor**, the pride of the class of 1971. He attends ALL the Big Bash celebrations, and he graced us for dinner on Saturday night. He can help you get re-blued into the Little Giant mold very quickly. Look him up at the 50th!

Had a nice chat with **Stan Baker**. He retired disabled after he was hit in a T-Bone-type car accident. Mostly, Stan is proud of his 3 sons. Grant is a teacher of English for Speakers of Other Languages (fluent in French). Dillon is a university provost officer (fluent in Spanish). Soren is an LA journalist, specializing in the California rap/hip-hop culture (fluent in Ebonics). In addition, Soren has published a ton of articles and a series of small books.



Others who attended but my camera did not bring home a photo:

Geoff Michels- Married his high school sweetheart, visited Vietnam after graduation, worked as an engineer. He has 6 kids and 14 grandchildren.

Ben Austin- Retired from teaching in Valparaiso, still flying, riding motorcycles, living well.

Dr. Brad Thurston- The only class member I did not get to chat with last weekend. Our last correspondence said he was teaching at IU Med School. I don't have a good phone number, Brad. Please send me an update, and maybe a photo?

People who had excuses (weak and otherwise)!

Dr. John Hudson celebrated his wedding anniversary in Hawaii. Daughter had bought tickets etc. before advising John...

Ken Koepke had the flu ...

From **Stephen S. Bowen** '68, Chairman of the Board of Trustees to the Class of 1968: I regret that I will be unable to join you for Big Bash. As I have previously written to my pledge brothers, there are not many things that would keep me away, but my daughter's wedding is certainly one of them. I will look forward to seeing all of you in another five years. Have a wonderful Big Bash weekend.

Here is the best one, from **Todd Eads, Colonel, Special Forces, Retired:**
(Duke and Gunner also pictured)



We will not be attending this year's 45th reunion in spite of what I had told Charlie earlier. I had not checked our "social" calendar for a while...and, of course, Valorie informed me that we were already committed to a family reunion that has been in the planning (and resched stages) for a long time...so, I lost! Been hoping that it would be postponed again, but it's not happening.

It seems impossible that it has been five years since the 40th, let alone 45 since we graduated (49! since we were pledges...omg!). I firmly believe that Wabash College "...educates men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely"....definitely a no bullshit statement, but one that sez it all.

To update, since I will not see those of you attending, I tend to keep fairly well occupied with Board activities and volunteering. I am on the board of the MOAA (Military Officers Ass'n of America) Michiana Chapter, and the board of the Humane Society of Elkhart County (not because I'm a bleeding heart animal lover...but because we are in the early stages of a \$4 million building program). When I retired from the military, I wanted to do something for veterans, thinking that it would be with those young folks who had served and were getting out of the service....hasn't turned out that way! I am currently the Veteran Volunteer Coordinator for the Center for Hospice Care, a non-profit hospice organization serving eight counties in Indiana surrounding South Bend. We set up the program about two years ago. It is "We Honor Veterans", a program that honors veterans who are CHC patients. The program is a partnership between the Veterans Admin and the national hospice organization. I spend between 15 and 25 hours a week on this, and currently have a dozen vet volunteers who help with the ceremonies. There is no way that I will say that it is exciting or fun...but I will tell you that it is a Mission that needs to be accomplished to recognize the service and sacrifices that these veterans who are facing death have made. When a WWII or Korean War vet tells you that no one has ever thanked him before, it tears at your guts (guess it was after I had been in for over 16 years and standing in the middle of a

rice paddy in Korea that someone finally thanked me for my service...and that was a ROK civilian who thanked me for helping his country..that's another story!) It's one thing when honoring a WWII or Korean War vet, but it's another when it's someone younger than us...lots of VietNam vets...and many who really never had the war end for them. I do consider it a privilege to in some way recognize these vets.

Valorie retired from Elkhart Community Schools as Director of Child Nutrition Services after a 30 year career. She took off a couple of years, started volunteering with our two registered Golden Retrievers who are therapy dogs. Three or so years ago, she took a position with Center for Hospice Care as Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator. It, like mine, is a "part-time" position. She recruits and trains volunteers for CHC, a never-ending job! Of course, her p.t. psn is one at which she is working 45 or more hours a week...but, she loves it. It her calling...what more can a man want?

All of our off-spring are doing well. We have 2 grandchildren (9 and 6 in Indy) and another on the way (Denver). We have them living in Denver, Indianapolis, WDC, and South Bend (he just took a psn in SB, moving from Indy, and hopes to get the hell back outta SB within a year..cannot blame him).

Well, enuff! Please pass on to whomever that if they are travelling I-80/90 across the top of IN to exit at exit 92 and come visit or stay...either. We are 1 1/2 miles from the exit and would truly enjoy having anyone stop. Of course, I can fully understand why you might speed right past this part of flat land, corn country, rv capital of the world, crossroads of the Detroit/Chicago/Mexico drug traffic network (Detroit and Chicago send their delinquents to Elkhart, then they go to the schools here, another issue....).

I look forward to our next big one, and regret that we cannot attend our 45th. Todd

Wabash President Pat White is leaving us for Millikin. New president Greg Hess, will arrive July 1. Pat's wife has accumulated an incredible resume with charity organizations in the local area. Pat and Chris were brought into honorary status with the classes of '07 and '10, so we plan to see them again in Crawfordsville. [Dr. Gregory Hess as the 16th President of Wabash College](#)





On a sad note, we lost a real achiever in Bob Layne. Bob is the second loss for '68 in 2013. Please take time to read and remember Bob:

March 30

4A • Sunday, March 17, 2013

Robert Duane (Bob) Layne, 75

FARMLAND - Robert Duane 'Bob' Layne was surrounded by the love and compassion of close family when he passed peacefully on Tuesday evening, March 5, 2013, at Reid Hospital in Richmond, Indiana, after complications from a heart attack. He was 75 years old.

Bob was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, on February 6, 1938, the beloved son of the late Robert B. and Mable A. (Zook) Layne. The family relocated to Muncie, Indiana, in 1953.

Bob graduated magna cum laude from Culver Military Academy in 1956, achieving the rank of Regimental Personnel Officer after only a three-year enrollment. He received his BA degree with honors from Wabash College, majoring in both economics and political science.



During his four year enlistment in the United States Marine Corps, he served as an electronic instructor, specializing in radar and guided missiles. He was also a scratch player on the Marine Corps golf team. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal.

In his last two years at Wabash College, Bob was assistant manager for the Crawfordsville Holiday Inn, during which time he gained a wealth of hands-on experience in the food and beverage industry. Upon returning to Muncie in 1968, he purchased the long-established Flamingo Restaurant. The "Bird" continued to flourish under Bob's ownership, and was widely considered to be the place to "meet, greet, and eat" for many, many years. Its reputation for both exceptional service and excellent bill of fare was surpassed only by Bob's warm and welcoming demeanor, his remarkable ability to recall names and faces, his penchant for storytelling, and his never-ending generosity for buying rounds of drinks for his patrons. He was a gracious host and a true gentleman.

Bob began a career in insurance after selling the Flamingo in 1983. He eventually became a personal financial planner, acquiring his Series Seven licensing. At the time, he was among the nation's top seven scorers in the history of the Series Seven exam. He continued to specialize in the fields of securities and life insurance until his retirement in 2013.

Bob served as past President of both the Indiana Restaurant Association, and the East Central Indiana Association of Life Underwriters. He was a thirty-second degree Mason, member of The Scottish Rite; former member of the Elks Lodge No. 245, Delaware Country Club, Green Hills Country Club (now Cardinal Hills), Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, and the National Rifle Association.

Although he was a devoted fan of all sports, if you knew Bob, you knew he loved golf and that golf loved him. It was his true passion. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, traveling to either Wyoming for elk and deer or to Canada for wall-eyed bass.

Bob stayed abreast of world events and valued being well-read and politically and culturally savvy. He could invariably offer knowledgeable and thoughtful commentary on any situation, and his keen sense of humor and engaging nature never faltered.

Survivors include his wife of fourteen years, Dorei-Jayne Layne of Farmland, IN; children, Brian Layne of Bloomington, MN, Michale (wife, Elizabeth) Layne of Atlanta, GA, Tracy Perry (husband, Ian) Willoughby of Atlanta, GA, Kimberly

Dear Wabash Alumni,
Enclosed is a copy of my husband's obituary which I thought you could put in your Class Agent Letter.

Thank you for all the wonderful photography in your publications and newsletters.

Sincerely,

Dorei-Jayne Layne
(Bob's widow)

Final Notes

-The fiscal year ends on 30 June at Wabash. If you have overlooked contributing, now's the time. Any amount helps! Alumni can make gifts in three easy ways:

- a. Online at www.wabash.edu/egift or www.wabash.edu/getserious
- b. By phone at 877-743-4545
- c. By mail to:

Wabash College
Annual Giving
PO Box 352
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

-Make a plan to visit a high school in your neighborhood and find out when "College Day" will be. Get on the list to man a table and talk about Wabash. Who doesn't enjoy talking about Wabash, and the kids seem to enjoy it. In 2013, college recruitment is greatly changed from even ten years ago. The pool of students who are ready for college is smaller. Many top students and families begin their search by reviewing college surveys and college web sites. In Indiana, State Universities can give many top students a full scholarship and others a partial scholarship. Developers are building resort type apartments for students at big universities. Most small private colleges that compete with us have money for scholarships, immersion learning trips, internships, as well as updated student living and athletic facilities. In this very competitive world Alumni referrals and help in recruiting are more important than ever.

-Plan now for the 50th reunion in 2018, so you can work around the anniversaries and family reunions.

-Take good care and get those health screens. Life is short.

With warmest regards,
Jim Roper '68