



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Office of Alumni Affairs

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: www.wabash.edu

Email us: alumni@wabash.edu

Phone: (765) 361-6369

Class of 1997

Class Agents

Justin Castle

jcastle@covad.com

Parker Lyons

parker.lyons@covance.com

Craig Miller

cmiller@progressivecancercare.com

October 22, 2008

Class of 1997,

Here's the latest edition of the Class Agent Letter. Content includes:

Where are they now? Some stories of our classmates

College News & Notes

Class Updates

Where are they now?

I ordered a package of diapers for my one year old from Amazon.com recently, and while "shopping" I added a copy of a book by economist Paul Krugman to my cart. Later, I wondered what this amusing mixture of products said about me as a person.

What's the point? This random story is indicative of a recent bout of self reflection, which has included some thoughts of friends and connections from Wabash. It has been a long time since we graduated, and we are all evolving as people. So if we individually shift over time, then what's become of others? Are we simply farther apart and less familiar? Where are folks now? How are they doing?

With this in mind, I asked several of our class mates to respond to some basic questions with the intent of including an update on them in this letter. They were kind enough to open up about where they are in life. While their updates are individually interesting, when combined with the Class Updates at the end of this letter, they all collectively help to create an identity of our greater class. We are artists, teachers, doctors, business owners, military officers, fathers, partners....all of us good Wabash alumni. I hope you enjoy reading the updates.

Jim Brennan

Jim has given 11 years of service to the United States Navy, serving as an intelligence officer both "afloat and ashore". In September he earned his Master of Arts degree in National Security Studies with a focus on the Far East. Following graduation, Jim was to take over as the targeteer for Carrier Air Wing 17 stationed in Virginia.

Frank Duncan

Frank is a proud, new father. He and his wife Betzie had their first son in May and named him Brant. Frank is the Assistant Director of the Emergency Medicine Department at Mercy Hospital in Muskegon, MI.

Matt Gunty

Matt just celebrated his five year anniversary with the FBI as a special agent. A job he "loves". He's been married to Makisha Litten of Bloomington, IN for two years, and in his words, "no kids yet, but we plan on heading down that adventurous path next year." Matt makes his home in southeastern Arizona, and his job has provided him with some incredible experiences. He was deployed to Iraq in 2006/07 and worked on the prosecutions of Saddam Hussein and his cabinet members, he is an operator on the FBI Phoenix division SWAT team, and now in October he deploys to Afghanistan on a four month counter-terrorism mission.

Ethan Kirchner

Ethan is a chiropractor in Bel Air, Maryland (20 miles north of Baltimore), running his own practice for the past five years. Check him out at www.kirchnerchiropractic.com. His ability to help people in pain is a rewarding aspect of his career. Finally, Ethan let me know that he is engaged to a great girl who is very intelligent and driven, which helps since he still tends to procrastinate (his own words, not mine). Ethan and his fiancé make their home in Abingdon, Maryland with two cats and a rescued greyhound, spending most of their free time working on their yard and house.

Parker Lyons

Parker is a software developer for Covance Central Labs in Indianapolis. He's married and has a 2 year old son named Owen. Parker makes his home in Westfield, and offered up some personal interest information: "I run a fan website for film director Guillermo Del Toro. This summer I got to go to Hollywood and see a sneak peak of Hellboy II. I...like to play golf when I can, and essentially I spend my evenings watching any number of my favorite TV shows. Those include 'Battlestar Galactica' (the new version), 'Always Sunny in Philadelphia', 'Heroes', and 'Lost' ".

Deon Miles

Short and sweet: Deon is an associate professor of Chemistry at Sewanee: The University of the South.

Josh Robinson

Josh will soon complete his general training in pediatric cardiology at Children's Hospital Boston, the primary pediatric teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, and will remain in Boston for an advanced fellowship in interventional cardiac catheterization. He is a father of two sons, Theo (just born in April '08) and Gabe. Josh adds, "Gabe has adjusted well to being an older brother. Despite spending most of his young life here, Gabe has managed not to pick up the Boston accent but enjoys "lobsta and chowda" as much we do". The "we" also includes Josh's wife, Jenny.

To close this section, I wanted to leave you with some general comments made by the individuals detailed above regarding how they feel Wabash prepared them for their diverse careers and life choices. Here are the themes that kept recurring:

- The challenge of the classroom, class size, professor involvement, and campus activities offered a great learning environment for life and job skills. Matt Gunty described this as "The Wabash Experience: the all-male lifestyle; the bonding opportunities offered through classes, clubs, sports, and fraternities; the idiosyncratic challenges that are unique to the Wabash Degree (i.e. Comps)"
- Wabash teaches students to teach themselves and the value of learning over the course of their lives.
- Wabash gave many the financial assistance required to achieve our undergraduate liberal arts degrees; therefore, providing the foundation for "earning a great living" while "living a great life". Regarding the latter, Frank Duncan credited Wabash with preparing him for the "sheer enjoyment of personal indulgences like small batch bourbon".

College News & Notes

Student Life

- As you may have heard, Johnny Smith, a freshman from Tucson, AZ, died on campus Sunday, Oct 5th. An article dated Oct 9 can be found here: http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=6263
- The Bachelor is available on-line at <http://bachelor.wabash.edu/>

Sports

- The Wabash Football team is undefeated after it's most recent victory over conference foe Wittenberg. With many sports seasons underway, see all the sports detail at <http://www.wabash.edu/sports/>
- Wabash has released information on upgrading outdoor athletics facilities. See information here http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=6189

Class of 1997 Financial Gifts

- 51 members of our class made a gift to the Annual fund this year, up from 45 last year. Thanks to everyone who made a contribution.

Campus Events and General Information

- The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies established the John W. Evans Lecture in Black Studies, and the inaugural address was given by Bob Wedgeworth '59 on Sep 20, 2008. Read more at http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=6199
- Information regarding Wabash's 2007-08 Budget is below

College Expenditures – \$40.54 mm

- Personnel – 45%
- Facilities and equipment – 33%
- Programs – 22%

Total Revenues - \$40.54 mm

- Investment income – 52%
- Student related income – 19% (tuition payments)
- Gifts and Grants – 17%
- Misc. - 12% (including room and board and Bookstore income)

Notes:

- Wabash continues to support deserving students spending a little over \$12 mm in Grants and Scholarships funded by the College.
- The Annual Fund accounts for 7.6% of the College's total revenue - a significant portion.
- Prudent use of Endowment assets would call for the amount to be taken out of the endowment for spending on operations should not be greater than the net earnings of the endowment (interest, dividends, plus market growth) less annual inflation.
- A volatile market and or high inflation can significantly impact the College's financial position as these directly impact the performance of the Endowment investments.
- A steady growth in the Annual Fund is necessary for long term growth and strength.

Class Updates

Todd Sarti writes:

I've been working as a Quality Assurance/Regulatory Affairs Associate for a small pharmaceutical company on the near south side of Chicago (by US Cellular Field). On November 1st, I will be moving to the north side of Chicago in the Lakeview/Buena Park area.

Evan Brown writes:

My wife Jill and I have two sons, Austin (3) and Tyler (1). We live in Aurora, Illinois, and I am an attorney in Chicago with Hinshaw & Culbertson. Email: internetcases@gmail.com

Roscoe Wilson writes:

First of all, this is not a baby announcement, not yet. My wife and I actually just purchased our first house in Hamilton, OH and would like to share our excitement. Now I need to buy a lawn mower! Also, I have just submitted my tenure document to Miami University and am currently awaiting a decision. Lastly, next August my wife and I will be moving to Differdange, Luxembourg for a full year. I have been given the opportunity to teach for the university at their European campus. Sprechen sie Deutsch, oui, oui (they speak both German and French)? Anyway, wish us luck and if you're interested, check out my website, www.roscoewilson.com

Matt Stockton writes:

You can let folks know that my wife, Mary Ellen and I will be moving to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for a 2 year assignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Global AIDS Program. I will be the Deputy Director for Management, working with our Cooperative Agreement partners in Tanzania and Zanzibar to implement the second phase of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (www.pepfar.gov).

Matt Armentano writes:

I am a Lieutenant Commander in the Commissioned Corps of the United State Public Health service. I currently serve as an Orthopedic Certified Physical therapy specialist for the Cherokee Nation in

Tahlequah Oklahoma. I have a wife (Laura) and two children (Nicholas and Jessica) and am expecting our third child (Jacob) in November. I also leave Monday on a short deployment to Texas to provide medical care for victims of Hurricane Ike (Note from Justin – this update from Matt was provided in early/mid September).

Clay Acton writes:

I'd like to add an update to the letter that I've recently moved to Manhattan from Philadelphia and if there are any alumni in the city who would like to reach me, they can do so at clayton.acton@gmail.com.

Jeff Nicoson writes:

I moved from the east side of Crawfordsville to the west side (1311 Country Club Rd). I think I'm officially a townie now. Should I ask Ryker if there is some special ceremony to certify me as a Crawfordsvillian?

Rob Mohr writes:

I just recently separated from the Air Force after 6 years of service. I moved to Williamsburg, VA to take a job with SAIC as a Geospatial Analyst at Langley AFB. It is quite the move from Omaha, NE, but I already know my co-workers and have met fellow Freemasons to help ease the transition. If anyone is in the area or looking for a job in the intelligence industry, please look me up...

John Castro writes:

It's been a while since I've submitted anything, so I had a few things to report. First, I'm still living in Chicago with my wife Renee, who I married July of 2006 (yes, I actually found a woman that liked me enough to marry me – must be those charming social skills I learned in college – Thanks Wabash!). The wedding was held in Napa Valley, CA (because we both really like to drink wine) with a few Wabash men making the trek (Frank Duncan, Rex Ryker, and Justin Castle). More recently, we welcomed our first child into the world on July 23, 2008, and named her Elisa. I'm still working for a small institutional brokerage firm, trying to live my rock star dreams playing drums in a band called Riot Inside (www.myspace.com/riotinsidemusic), getting involved in some voice-over work, and have flirted briefly with improv comedy at the Second City. Did I mention I have a very supportive and understanding wife?

To Conclude...

I hope you've enjoyed this class agent letter. As always, if you have feedback related to our work as Class Agents, or general questions about the College, please send them to me. Craig, Parker and I will do what we can to help.

Go Vote!

Yours in Wabash,

Justin Rojas-Castle
jcastle@covad.com
317-518-9436
8883 Flagstone Dr.
Zionsville, IN 46077