



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1988

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Dear 88ers,

Just a week removed from the latest Class Agent Symposium, and as always I am inspired to write and try to help you all feel the same sense of connection with Wabash, past, present, and future, that even the shortest of visits brings me.

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the Class Agent system, which has recently won awards at the annual CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education – a professional organization for educators and administrators) seminar. So many of us in attendance noted the same thing: it doesn't matter what generation or era we are from, Wabash men (and women) tend to have remarkably similar experiences and memories of our alma mater. The names and faces might be different, but the stories are the same.

One of the events that has helped other alums to figure this out for themselves has been the new "Big Bash" format for reunions. The whole idea is to separate the reunions from Commencement and Homecoming, when there are so many other events to pull classmates away from each other. For example, at our most recent reunion, other than running into guys randomly at the game, I really didn't get the chance to talk with anyone from our class until 5:00 or 6:00 in the evening, when the cocktail hour started. And then, after dinner, everyone parted ways. It just wasn't enough time to visit with everyone, catch up on lives and events, and have a little fun to boot. The Big Bash format takes the reunions away from the hullabaloo of Commencement and Homecoming weekends and plunks them down on a quiet summer weekend on campus. A few summer workers, the faculty, staff, and administration, and your classmates, as well as those from other eras... otherwise, the campus is empty and refreshingly serene. Not only is there ample opportunity to have quality time with classmates, but there are many opportunities to mix with the other reunions as well, and see firsthand how remarkably similar their experiences were.

I elaborate on this only because we will be having our 20th Reunion in a few short years (just under three years), and I'd like to get you all started thinking about it. We've done some really good things in the last year or so, having increased both our giving percentage and our total giving in terms of dollars. We are a lot closer to where we should be (still a bit behind), with respect to how the classes around us are giving. But I know we can do better, and not just in terms of dollars. Our class is lagging on referrals to Admissions, for example. And, at least in the Indianapolis area, where the bulk of us reside, we are noticeably absent at IAWM or other College-sponsored events. Anyway, if you are interested in helping out with a reunion committee, drop me a line. At the very least, I'd like someone from each living unit to spearhead getting attendance up.

As most of you probably know, President Andy Ford has announced that he will be stepping down as president at the end of the academic year, and a search committee is already deep into the process of finding and hiring the next president. There is a link on the College website for the presidential search process, if you'd like more information. Just as an aside, Andy had never even thought about the job until he was approached by the search committee that existed at that time... Wabash is not just going to sit by and take what it can get. It will go out and find the right person for the job. I wish that he would have stayed through 2007, and our 175th year celebrations, but I won't begrudge the man more time with his grand-daughter!

Okay. I'm picking this letter back up after a protracted bout of illness. Anyone else out there ever get Bell's Palsy? It's pretty weird to wake up and not be able to move half of your face... when it's not the day after Pan-Hel!

The Little Giants have just won the Bell back from the Heathens from the South, and are entering the playoffs with a sterling 10-0 mark. Oh... and our Bell Game victory kept the Dannies from a sure berth in the playoffs as well, making the win twice as sweet. Wabash ended the season ranked No. 1 in the region, and as such will be assured of home games in the playoffs as long as it keeps winning, at least up through the quarterfinals. Our first opponent is a well-known foe, Albion (as in "Albion, Albion, Albion your girlfriend!"), whom we last beat in Crawfordsville during our senior year. We're 17-17-1 against them lifetime, and 8-8 against them in Little Giant Stadium. They play in a rugged conference, and their losses have been against quality opponents, and early in the season. They've also hammered some tough teams, and put up some insane offensive numbers. That's a pretty tough match up for a No. 1 v. No. 8 game. If we beat the Britons, we'll either face Capital, of the tough Ohio Athletic Conference, who were runners-up to Mt. Union (of the recent 99-game win streak, and who knocked us out in the quarterfinals a few years ago at their place), or North Central, which was ranked No. 1 in the region until a late-season loss against its rival. And if we win that game, our reward would be the winner of, in all likelihood, the Augustana and Mt. Union second round game. For more info, as always, check the Wabash website, as well as d3football.com. Go Little Giants! Wabash Always Fights!

One last bit of College news: at a recent Board meeting of the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men, we were pleased to be introduced to the College's new Director of Career Development, Scott Crawford. Scott came to us by way of Johns Hopkins University, and is enthusiastically diving into an ambitious overhaul of that office. He is ready for your call **now**, especially if it involves hiring Wabash graduates, or even students as interns. But he is also happy to connect with you about your own career. It was something that was discussed to some extent when I was in Alumni Affairs back in the late 1990's, but Scott assured us that the College is moving towards implementation of a more full-service jobs connection of some sort for the greater Wabash community. Eventually, whether you have jobs to fill, or you're looking for one, it looks like the Schroeder Center for Career Development might be a good place to start your search. Check them out on the website (http://www.wabash.edu/career_services/), or connect with Scott by phone at 765-361-6355.

Class Notes:

Steve Prince e-mailed earlier this summer to say, "About a year ago a Latin reader that I co-edited with Dr. Gil Lawall from UMass (where I did my masters) called "Ovid, Heriodes 7: Dido's Letter to Aeneas" was published by the Classical Association of New England. I actually worked on part of this at the first summer teacher's seminar that the Ed. dept at Wabash put on back in 2000 or so. My wife, Debbie, and I had our second child, Nicolas James, on April 12 of this year. Speaking of my wife, she graduated in May from Notre Dame, with a Ph.D. in theology and is currently looking for a job. She may have a doctorate, but I am still the only one in the family who is Phi Beta Kappa! Tomorrow I leave for Italy! I am taking about 30 students and 10 adults to Sicily, Sorrento and then on to Rome for non-stop touring of museums, archaeological sites, churches and gelato shops! John Fischer would be proud!" His signature line, by the way, reads, "contendere, petere, invenire neque cedere: to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield." Steve teaches at....

By the way... the following is the “code” to enter “Old Wabash” as a ring tone on your Motorola cell phone, according to another Class Agent from a few years after us.

*4a1&b2b2*5c2*4f2g2#g2a2.&b3*5c2.*5d3*5d1*4e2r2

Lee Hargitt recently wrote to let us know that he and his wife, Emiko, had their second child, Florence Ann Hargitt, on May 4th. Florence joins the proud parents and their son, 4- year old Paul (the 4th?), at their home in Carmel. Congrats Lee, Emiko, and Paul! I had lunch with Lee, following a great chat with him and Emiko at our 15th, at which Lee informed me that he was being inducted as the Master of the Broad Ripple Masonic Lodge. Lee is now the past Master, but is still quite active with the Lodge and the Masons in Indianapolis (currently serving as Treasurer and Trustee). Lee has also been elected to the Board of Directors of Thurston, Spring, Miller, Herd & Titak, Inc., a north side investment firm.

According to the latest edition of one of Boone County’s local newspapers, **Tom Johnson** has left Crown Point following a successful 13-years as a coach (complete with a winning record) and educator, and has taken on the task of returning the Lebanon Tigers to their traditional winning ways as the new head basketball coach. Coach Johnson was quoted in the story as indicating that his Tigers would apply pressure on offense and defense, so if you’re a fan of good D and an offense that moves the ball up the floor quickly, and you like high quality Hoosier high school hoops, head on up I-65 a few miles from Indy to support Tom and his Tigers. Good luck, Coach!

Erik Dove has been in touch, and has shifted careers again. He has stepped down from his position at US Bank to become the Chief Operating Officer of Denny Hecker Automotive, which is the umbrella of a far-flung network of enterprises owned by a gentleman of, coincidentally enough, the same name. Erik’s chief motivation was so that he and his wife, Tona, could spend more time with family and, more importantly, spearhead the formation of a new charter school in the Minneapolis area, the Paideia Academy. Check out their website at <http://www.paideiaacademy.org> . They have commenced operations this year as a K-4 school, and plan to add one grade level each year thereafter until they reach a full K-8. Congratulations on the career change and on your new endeavors, Erik and Tona!

Keep the news coming in guys, and keep on sending in your donations and student referrals!

Wabash Always Fights!

Scott