



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1997

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Class of 1997,

This letter is long past due, and it arrives with much happening in the world. The significant changes in the economic landscape are evident all around me, and I hope you have been able to manage through this time in a healthy manner.

So, in the spirit of believing our beer mugs are ½ full, this letter starts with some **CLASS UPDATES**. There is definite good news here.

Andy Perkins writes: I recently became a partner at Peterson & Waggoner, LLP law firm, Rochester IN.

Michael Quach writes: Just a quick update for me. Recently completed my fellowship training. Currently working at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston as an assistant professor of pediatric neurology, specializing in surgical epilepsy.

Jose Estrada writes: I am currently teaching alternative education at El Sausal Middle School in Salinas, Ca. I have worked for the Salinas Union High School District for approximately 3 years. My son Jordan Estrada is now 14 years old and is currently finishing the 8th grade. Friends may contact me at [<mailto:jestrada@salinas.k12.ca.us>].

James Walworth writes: Greetings from Cleveland, Ohio. My wife and I just had our second child (Patrick) on February 27th. Our two year old son (Benjamin) is adjusting well to the new addition to the family. Attached is a photo of what I hope are graduates of the classes of 2027 and 2029. Best wishes to you all.



Roscoe Wilson writes: The BIG news is that I have just been granted Tenure at Miami University (OH) after 6 years of teaching Painting, Drawing and Sculpture for the Department of Art. I am still happily married to Cassie and we live in our new (84 years old) house in Hamilton Ohio with our three cats. No kids yet. Check out my website, www.roscoewilson.com for updated images of my artwork.

Parker Lyons writes: We welcomed the newest addition to the Wabash family: Cameron Wilson Lyons, born April 28. Baby is doing great, and daddy is surprised by how well he is functioning without sleep. Cameron joins his older brother Owen in celebrating the Wabash tradition of staying up all night and trashing their respective living unit!

As for **COLLEGE NEWS**, here are some quick items you should review.

Stay connected to Wabash and alumni in new & different ways:

- Linked In <http://www.linkedin.com> “Search Groups” and enter Wabash College. You will see several Wabash groups to join, with the obvious one being Wabash College Alumni.
- Wabash Stories <http://www.wabashstories.com/> This site collects and publishes stories about Wabash sent in by those connected to the College in some direct or indirect way.
- Facebook <http://www.facebook.com> Search for Wabash College, and you will find an Alumni group to join

College Finances and Annual Alumni Gifts

- President White published a letter to Alumni in early April detailing the impact of the significant financial market decline on Wabash’s operating budgets. Within that letter President white detailed several “budget responses” the College was initiating in order to deal with the financial contraction. Those responses included reductions in departmental budgets, no salary or wage increases for faculty and staff (with the exception of the faculty earning promotion), a 10% reduction in personnel costs by 2013, a reduction in the number of students allowed to study abroad in the traditional Wabash program that sends the student off campus with all their Wabash financial aid and scholarships, and a postponement of construction on several sports related projects (baseball stadium, soccer field, etc).
- As with many institutions and business who find themselves in a cost cutting mode, those affected and concerned often worry about how things will “work out” over time. The actions noted above are part of a diligent planning process involving several qualified and caring alumni and administrators. I admit there is an element of trust in accepting these actions as prudent and appropriate, so please feel free to contact me or the Alumni office with questions or concerns.
- Finally, based on the information here, you can see how alumni contributions to the College are more important than ever. I understand that just as the economy has affected Wabash, so has it affected individuals. But if you are in a position to give, please do so. You can give on line by going to <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift>

To wrap, I asked many of you to offer some **RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOUR FELLOW CLASS MATES** (books, music, etc). One of the great things about being at Wabash was the experiences I had as a result of friends passing new things on to me. I’ve included the responses below.

- Frank Duncan offered the following libations: “Bell's Hopslam is an awesome seasonal/annual beer that I have been enjoying lately... But you still can't beat a Hendrick's martini on a hot summer day (or any day).”
- Roscoe Wilson offered the following: “The book I would wish upon my friends is Tom Freidman's Hot, Flat, and Crowded, and check out one of my favorite artists right now, Do-ho Suh, a Korean sculptor living in NYC.”
- I (that’s me, Justin) would recommend the book Robert Kennedy: His Life by Evan Thomas and some music by My Morning Jacket (if you are just getting started with them, try the album *It Still Moves* or the album *Z*). I also try to hit Paul Krugman’s NY Times blog weekly. He carries significant weight in the current economic debate (like his politics or not), so whether you buy into his perspective, or want something else, it’s a decent place to reference. Finally, Pearl Jam is in studio, so I’m going to blindly “pre-recommend” their new album.
- Parker Lyons wrote, “I recently got my hands on an advanced copy of THE STRAIN, a vampire novel by Guillermo Del Toro and Chuck Hogan. It comes out June 2nd and I think it will be an awesome summer read. Think BLADE II meets CSI. Note: Obviously I gave up fine literature after I completed my English major.”

That is all for now. Enjoy your summer, and hopefully I’ll see you at a football game come fall.

Wabash Always Fights.

Justin Castle