



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Office of Alumni Affairs

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### Class of 1997

#### Class Agents

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Class of 1997,

Fall brings many things to us: The harvest of a spring and summer's worth of work, the need for most of us to carry a jacket during an evening out, and for the lucky ones like Matt Gunty a shift from hot, sunny and beautiful to simply warm, sunny and beautiful.

And now, the latest dose of the class agent newsletter arrives. How fortunate you are to be part of this class of 1997! The following content includes campus news highlights, followed by updates from some of your classmates. Hopefully this information strikes your interest.

More detail on Wabash news stories can be found on the Wabash College website [www.wabash.edu](http://www.wabash.edu). There is a series of links along the left of the home page, and a pull down menu that allows you to jump directly to campus and college "news".

Remember, even if there are few days in October free of some NFL game, college football game, baseball playoff game, or NASCAR race, you do have a life to live. I don't care if you have HDTV!

All the best,

Justin Castle

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### **College News**

#### **Enrollment and Recruitment**

Wabash began this academic year with an all-time record enrollment of 917 students. This broke the 2002 mark of 912 at the start of the fall term. This strong enrollment mark is due in large part to consistently strong recruiting efforts by the Admissions Office staff and alumni around the country. This year's freshman class consists of 250 students. Also worth noting is the strong retention from last year's freshman class, with 90% returning for their sophomore year.

As mentioned above, alumni referrals and recruiting efforts are a valued and effective part of the Wabash Admissions experience for many potential students. If you are interested in volunteering your efforts to help the Admissions Office visit <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/admissions>

You will find information on alumni involvement there, or you can contact Chip Timmons on 765-361-6054, or email [timmonsc@wabash.edu](mailto:timmonsc@wabash.edu)

#### **Homecoming & Football**

Wabash defeated Earlham during homecoming weekend 54-20, bringing their overall record to 4 – 0. Remaining home games: Wittenberg 10/13, Oberlin 10/20, and Denison 11/3. The Monon Bell game is at Depauw on 11/10.

Winners of the traditional homecoming contests:

OVERALL:

- 1 Phi Kappa Psi
- 2 Delta Tau Delta
- 3 Sigma Chi
- 4 Theta Delta Chi
- 5 Beta Theta Pi

Winners of the traditional homecoming contests - continued:

CHAPEL SING

- 1 Sigma Chi
- 2 Theta Delta Chi
- 3 Lambda Chi Alpha
- 4 Delta Tau Delta
- 5 Phi Kappa Psi

CHANT

- 1 Phi Kappa Psi
- 2 Phi Delta Theta
- 3 Delta Tau Delta
- 4 Theta Delta Chi
- 5 Kappa Sigma

FLOAT

- 1 Phi Kappa Psi
- 2 Delta Tau Delta
- 3 Beta Theta Pi
- 4 Tau Kappa Epsilon
- 5 Independents

BANNER

- 1 Phi Kappa Psi
- 2 Beta Theta Pi
- 3 Delta Tau Delta
- 4 Tau Kappa Epsilon
- 5 Lambda Chi Alpha

QUEEN

- 1 Sigma Chi
- 2 Kappa Sigma
- 3 Phi Kappa Psi
- 4 Independents
- 5 Delta Tau Delta

**Career Services**

In case you haven't noticed, the Wabash College Career Services' tools have changed significantly since we were on campus. There are many programs and initiatives now at the disposal of both current students and alumni. Check out the latest at the following link <http://www.wabash.edu/careers/>

Also, there are many opportunities for Alumni to volunteer with Career Services. As an example, the first "Job Search Bootcamp" was hosted by Career Services this past August. This event involved about 50 students and 21 Wabash alumni and staff, and was designed to allow Alumni to provide insight and skills necessary to assist students as they prepare for internship interviews and work. To get involved visit <http://www.wabash.edu/careers/alumni/involved>

You will find volunteer information there, or you can contact Scott Crawford on 765-361-6355, or email [crawfors@wabash.edu](mailto:crawfors@wabash.edu)

**Rogge Lecture**

As an Economics major I could not resist including a note on the recent Rogge Lecture (Mr. Van J...Kimbler...Lovlace...Kevin Futa..Steve King...What, there must be 13 or 14 of you Econ people out there listening!).

On Sept 28, Michael Mandelbaum presented a lecture on "Democracy's Good Name: The Rise and Risks of the World's Most Popular Form of Government". Mandelbaum is the Christian A. Herter Professor and Director of the American Foreign Policy Program at Johns Hopkins University. Mandelbaum has been on the faculty of Harvard University, Columbia University, and the U.S. Naval Academy. His latest book, which conveniently shares the title of his lecture, was released in September 2007. The book investigates the reasons for democracy's exponential rise in the last century and critically examines democracy's potential in the Middle East, Russia, and China

**Class Giving Statistics & Goals**

After 10 years into life as a Wabash graduate I don't have to tell you how important alumni gifts are to the Wabash day to day operations and quality of student life. At this stage in our lives many of us are likely transitioning into roles of husbands/partners, fathers, and/or homeowners. Discretionary spending is

something that not so long ago was used on important budgetary items like beer. Now discretionary may define whether it goes towards principal on your home, in your 401K, or toward a family trip.

The question for all of us is, "Does Wabash get a share of my wallet based on all my other responsibilities?" If it does, then great. If it doesn't, then no worries.

To give you some perspective, 45 of us made a contribution last fiscal year (22.3% of our class). This compares to an overall Wabash giving percentage of 36.3%. It would be great to see our class increase our giving percentage to a range of 32-36% this fiscal year. This means that we would add about 21-29 donors, assuming the 45 of us who gave last year are able to give again. Please consider a gift if you have not in the past, and if you have given, please continue.

### ***Class Notes and Updates***

**Jonathan Byrd II** writes:

My wife and I had a daughter, born June 2nd. Weighed 7lbs. 1 oz. Name is Evelyn Rose Byrd. Everybody is doing great. Her older brother, Jonathan III (Jebbie Boy) just adores her!

**Marcus Doshi** writes:

On August 3, I got married at the Château de Villette, in Ménéstreau-en-Villette, France (just outside of Orléans). My wife, Camille Assaf-Doshi, is French. Of note in attendance was my good friend Karsten Alva-Jorgensen, Wabash '88. Camille and I live in Brooklyn, NY. I continue my world travel working as a lighting designer. Right now I am designing the lighting for a number of interesting projects including upcoming new musical QUEENS BLVD in NYC, the National tour of PAMINA DEVI, a classical Cambodian Ballet, and the permanent exhibition lighting for a new as of yet untitled sculpture by Maya Lin which will be installed at the Indianapolis Museum of Art sometime this fall. Further info and contact at [www.marcusdoshi.com](http://www.marcusdoshi.com)

**Evan Brown** writes:

Evan Brown and his wife Jill live in Naperville, Illinois with their 2-year-old son Austin and are expecting a second child (another son) at the beginning of November. Evan can be reached at [ebrown@internetcases.com](mailto:ebrown@internetcases.com).

**Rob Mohr** writes:

I have returned from 6 months at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar with a special operations forces unit. It was good work - very timely and tactical. It's good see the direct results of my work. I can't say much else about the mission. I am back safe and sound in Omaha. I am Junior Warden of the local Freemasons Lodge (and will be Master next year). Things are starting to ramp up as I separate from the service in about a year and starting a Master's program in Liberal Arts at Creighton. So, if anyone needs a good geospatial/imagery analyst in a year, I'll be available...

**Mike Black** writes:

My wife Beth and I celebrated our 5th wedding anniversary last July. We currently reside in Hobart, IN (yep, that's the Region) with our two daughters, Kelsey (4) and Addy (1). I teach Chemistry and Advanced Placement Chemistry at Hobart High School ([blackclass@hobart.k12.in.us](mailto:blackclass@hobart.k12.in.us)) and will begin my 8th year as the Boys Varsity Basketball Coach this November. Our basketball team has posted 4 straight 10+ win seasons - which marks the 1st time that has happened at Hobart since 1946-1950 and just the 4th time ever. I also serve as the Varsity Girls Track Coach in the spring.

The past two years, I've raced in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon. However, this year I will be unable to run a third straight due to Joe Klen's wedding - thanks a lot Joe.

Hope everyone is well and enjoying life.

**Chris White** writes:

I married Erin Moore on December 30th 2006. We reside now in Tucson Arizona where I am archaeological conservator at the Arizona State Museum, and Erin is an architecture professor at the University of Arizona.

**Steve King** writes:

Annie and I had a baby girl Clara on 1/15/07.

**Matt Armentano** writes:

My wife, Laura, and I just had our second child, Jessica Ann Armentano on 18 August 2007. I also have a 2 year old son Nicholas. I am currently a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service and serve as the Chief of Physical Therapy at Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility in Chinle Arizona. It is an Indian Health Service Facility located in the middle of the Navajo Reservation. I was also recently promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

**John Cole** writes:

10 years goes by quick. I am married with 2 daughters living on the Northwest side of Indianapolis. I opened my own State Farm agency in Fishers. My contact information is 317-570-0854 and [john.cole.prdg@statefarm.com](mailto:john.cole.prdg@statefarm.com).

**Josh Kendrick** writes:

I'm doing well teaching and coaching at Brownsburg High School in Brownsburg Indiana. My wife, Samantha, continues to touch young lives as a teacher in the elementary schools throughout Brownsburg. The life that has touched us the most thus far is our two year-old son, Nathan. He is a ball of energy and we are constantly amazed and humbled by him.

Our basketball program took a heavy blow this fall, while the Little Giant Program tremendously benefited. Antoine Carpenter, two time ICAC defensive player of the year and IHSAA State Champion, had been making a huge impact on our players. Then Coach Petty called him to fill the void of Coach Mulligan. Obviously Coach Petty knows talent, and we couldn't be happier for Wabash and Coach Carpenter. But we sure will miss him.

**Jim Brennan** writes:

I am currently a Navy Lieutenant stationed in Monterey, CA. I will graduate from the Naval Postgraduate School in September 2008 with my masters degree in national security affairs (Far East Asia focus). Following this tour, my family and I will transfer to Fallon, NV where I will serve as the targeteer for an airwing aboard an aircraft carrier for 2 years. Sarah and I currently have 2 children (Katelyn and Addison). My email address is still [jimbrennan2@aol.com](mailto:jimbrennan2@aol.com)

**John Jefferson**...was recently profiled in an Indianapolis Star article which appears on the next page. John was named Linguist of the Year in the United States Army. The article tells you that John is now fluent in Arabic, Polish, French, Latin, and German and is currently teaching himself Turkish. John has served in Iraq and is now stationed in Germany.

## Polyglot sergeant wins Army prize for language skill

John Jefferson is as comfortable discussing Socrates in Latin as he is analyzing "The Simpsons" in English, according to his older brother, Paul Jefferson, an attorney at Barnes & Thornburg.

John Jefferson, a sergeant in the U.S. Army, certainly has a way with words. The Indianapolis native was recently named Linguist of the Year by the United States Army and will be in Washington, D.C. later this month to accept the award at the Pentagon.

Fluent in Arabic, Polish, French, Latin and German, Jefferson, 32, has served in Iraq and is currently stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, working in military intelligence.

The Chatard High School/Wabash College grad received a master's in history from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Before joining the Army in 2003, he was a teacher, book editor and correctional officer at Plainfield Correctional Facility.

"I remember sneaking a Latin edition of Erasmus of Rotterdam's 'The Praise of Folly' when I was on tower duty there," he confessed in a recent e-mail, "with one eye on the text, one on the prison fence and a third on the lookout for my supervisor."



Photo provided by the Jefferson family

**Sgt. John Jefferson is currently stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he's learning Turkish and working on a Ph.D.**

Jefferson admits he wasn't a whiz at French in high school or college, but became fascinated with foreign languages when he began studying Latin in his 20s.

His 4-year-old son, Henry, is already fluent in German and English. The lesson of learning another language goes well beyond words. "(W)e never fully understand the rest of the world without understanding the languages they speak," Jefferson said.

Jefferson, who has another son, Oliver, with his wife, Alison, is teaching himself Turkish, which he describes as a "very difficult and very different language."

— *Stories by Susan Guyett*

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### As for me...

My wife, Fanny, and I just had our second child on 8/10/07. We named her Sophia. Our son, Miles, just turned two on 9/6/07. We now live in Zionsville, IN after roaming the country for the past six years (From Chicago to Denver to San Jose and finally back to Indiana). This weekend (Oct 5) I'll be watching our classmate Rex Ryker coach his Crawfordsville High School varsity football team against North Montgomery. Frank Duncan and his wife will be coming along. I love being back "home" in order to experience my friendships, rather than hearing about things from afar!