



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 2004

Class Agents

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Dear Friends:

We hope this finds you well, enjoying the weaning days of summer. On August 18, President White rang in another freshmen class. The Caleb Mills bell also echoed the beginning of Wabash's 175th anniversary. It's been more than three years since we graduated (and likewise, a little less than two years until our five year anniversary). Sometimes it seems like forever ago that we entered Wabash as freshmen. I remember somewhat clearly where I sat in the Chapel and how I felt hearing that bell ring.

Since then, I've heard many bells. Working in a high school which signals class changes by bell does that. Like Nick Dawson below, I've watched my unfettered idealism turn into a more guarded realism. Thankfully, I've come to realize I cannot change the whole world in one day; in fact, some days it feels like quite an accomplishment to just make someone else's day a little brighter. (Many of our classmates, too, heard bells: wedding bells. See the classmate updates below.)

It's with those wishes of brightness, Mark and I encourage you to stay abreast of Wabash's happenings; campus still buzzes with excitement.

We hope to see you at **Homecoming on September 29** and at the 3rd annual **W.A.B.A.S.H. Day on October 6-7**. To date, 33 regional groups have agreed to sponsor a service project in their communities. The national goal for W.A.B.A.S.H. Day is to have more than 40 sites and 600 alumni participating. This nationwide service project could become the largest Wabash event of the year, aside from Monon Bell, and can impact the lives of many in our communities. To learn more or to volunteer, please visit: <http://www.wabash.edu/wabashday>.

Speaking of volunteering time, classmates Galen Collins and Tyler Simpson presented research during the Thomas Cole Biology Lecture Series on August 30 and 31. Galen, a graduate student at the Watson School of Biological Sciences Cold Spring Laboratory, presented on "Stimulating by Instability: Paradox, Controversy, and Plain Bad Luck." Simpson, attending Purdue's Veterinary School, joined him in an open reception later.

That's one way of giving back. Another, the Annual Fund, is the most direct way to support those "typically Wabash" students and activities which helped us become the men we are today. You can make a gift online: <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift>.

Classmate Updates:

- Nick Dawson ndawson81@hotmail.com

Nick Dawson recently returned to the US after living and working in Turkmenistan with the Peace Corps: “The Peace Corps was an incredible experience. I taught ESL in Turkmen public schools for almost an entire school year and learned how to speak Turkmen reasonably well. Turkmenistan is filled with remarkable talent from the US. There are volunteers over there that have masters degrees, and RNs that speak hosts of various languages including Mandarin Chinese, Hebrew, and Farsi. I grew immensely as an educator. I've now relocated back to Texas where God blessed me with another opportunity to teach US History at the middle school where I had taught the two previous years. If I went overseas as a very jaded idealist looking to make the world a better place, I'm coming home as a very hopeful realist knowing that even the smallest decisions in our own communities hold enormous potential to do a lot of good.”

- Bob Shaver rashaver@gmail.com

Bob Shaver is also back in the US, living in New Haven, Connecticut, with his new wife, Lea. Both are graduates of Yale University – Lea in Law and Bob in Divinity. Bob was in South Africa working through the Johannesburg Catholic Schools Office at a couple of primary schools in Soweto to improve literacy and reading skills instruction. They since have moved to New Haven, CT and can be reached at: The Shavers • 30 Avon St. Apt #12 • New Haven, CT 06511 • Cell (203) 535-2559. And online: <http://gautango.wordpress.com>. Bob sent photos from his wedding at the Wabash College Chapel:



- Dan Ruge breakoutoffline@yahoo.com

“Since I got back from Peace Corps last year, I have been really busy. I spent the end of last year visiting family and friends and living at home. After the holidays, I packed up my stuff and moved out to Denver. Actually, I was staying with Dan Sweet for a while when I first moved out here. I have been working for Denver Housing Authority (government housing) running a job development program during the week and bartending on the weekend. Besides that, finally got back into running and ran my first half marathon. Got 10th out of 1700, not bad for a first timer huh? Looking to go back to school this winter but for now just working and staying busy. My new address is at the bottom. Hope everyone is doing great.” Dan Ruge • 1335 Pearl St. #38 • Denver, CO 80203

- Jesse Becerra onewhomisses9buses@yahoo.com

Jesse Becerra sent photos of his journeys around the world. Since our last communication, Jesse has traveled to (among other places!) South Downs England, Yuctan-Chiapas Mexico, and Coban Guatemala. Jesse is currently living in San Marcos de Lago Atitlan, Guatemala.



- Kyle Havlik havlikk@gmail.com

Kyle Havlik reports that he is still riding the bulls. “This is my rookie year on the PBR. It’s tough to compete without a sponsor on the PBR. Flights, entry fees, hotels, and gas is coming out of my pocket. I am ranked down in the 400’s or something like that. I am the branch manager of an ABC Supply company in Benton Harbor, MI. One of the youngest in the history of the company.” Perhaps the Class of 2004 can collectively sponsor Havlik’s rodeo career...

- Sebastian Peers sebastian.peers@gmail.com

We recently heard from Sebastian Peers: “I just started my last year of medical school and am looking at places to do residency. This summer I trained for and competed in a few triathlons. They were my first and went pretty well.”

- Seth Ditchcreek seth.ditchcreek@mac.com

“I am currently living in Shanghai, China, where I am teaching English and continuing work on my MA. I have recently finished my TEFL certification from Jiao Tong University Shanghai and have begun work on my master's thesis. Although I cannot tell the future, plans currently have me pegged down in Shanghai until January 31, 2008, or at least that is the end of my current visa. Although teaching is a full time job, I have found some time to travel a bit. The first picture is of my girlfriend, Joanna, and me in Xi'an at the Terra Cotta Warriors. Seeing the warriors firsthand was amazing, but the touristy side of things left me with a bad impression. The second picture is of my classmate from Concordia, Chris, and me in Hong Kong. The great part of this picture is the fact we just bought two bottles of PBR from the local 7-11 for a mere 22 HKD (\$3). Here in Shanghai, a bottle can be had for 2.80 RMB (\$0.40). Well, other than that, there isn't too much new with me. As I said, I will be in Shanghai a little while longer, so if you fly this way feel free to email me. I know a couple of watering holes here.”



- Roger Neal roger_w_neal@yahoo.com

“I’m still working for the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority (the small, four people big, state agency responsible for managing the construction of Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indiana Convention Center Expansion). The clock is ticking...literally. We have a countdown clock (counts down to the second) in our office that is set to expire on August 15, 2008 (the date we are scheduled to have the stadium game ready for football). It’s really hard to believe we broke ground in September of 2005...almost two years ago.” Roger also helped arrange a last-minute visit of Governor Mitch Daniels to Wabash for the Big Bash reunion weekend.

- Jeremy Robinson jeremyrobinson@mac.com

I’m in Oxford at the moment and am enjoying the final weeks of my summer vacation. In addition to a balanced diet of reading, running, playing soccer, and hanging out with friends, I’ve started working part-time at an outdoor clothing and equipment store called Blacks (www.blacks.co.uk). Overall, I’m keeping busy and things are going well -- and I hope the same can be said for you.

Right now I’m writing to ask a favor. Please consider sponsoring me in the upcoming Cancer Research UK running race at Blenheim Palace on September 30th. You can learn about the event and donate online by visiting the following secure website: <http://www.10ksponsorme.org/jeremyrobinson>.

A modest contribution of £5.00 (roughly \$10.00) or more would go a long way to ensuring the future effectiveness of the UK’s leading cancer charity.

If I haven’t been in touch with you in a while, drop me a line and let me know what you’re doing.

- Sean McNulty seanmcnulty81@hotmail.com

“Since we have graduated, I have enrolled at the University of Indianapolis in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program and recently started my third and final year in the program. In about a year I will graduate and finally be able to contribute to the upward march of humanity as an employed citizen and finally plan to be done with school (for a long time). I also got married recently to my longtime girlfriend and love of my life, Jacki Bader. We were married on June 9th in Fort Wayne. We currently are living in Greenwood while I finish up school and she makes money for us.”

• Speaking of weddings – word has it that John Morgan and Val Benoit also were married this summer. Nick Bourff is also engaged to be married this fall. We are awaiting formal announcements and photos (and any leftover beer)...

Yours in Wabash,

Jacob Pactor & Mark Shreve,
pound for pound, Wabash’s biggest Class Agents