

## **Class Agent Letter Summer 2005**

### **Ford to Step Down**

President Ford has announced that he will be leaving Wabash at the end of this school year after thirteen years of unbelievable leadership. The popular president, known for his personal relationships with Wabash community members and an uncanny ability to raise large sums of money will be sorely missed.

Rather than spend three paragraphs bemoaning his loss, I would like to share with you the best joke I ever heard him tell (at the 2004 Monon Bell Stag). At the Stag, DePauw's president Bottoms once again refused to attend or allow any current DePauw administrators to help their alumni association organize the event. The DePauw alums have even had to cultivate their own mailing list, because their alumni office will not give them the current list. In reaction, one of their alums brought a "safety dummy" dressed in a DePauw shirt and hat and sat the dummy at the head of the DePauw table next to the podium. Over the course of the evening, the dummy collected several empty beer bottles. Then, president Ford took the microphone and said (paraphrasing): "I see that President Bottoms has collected several beer bottles this evening. He would probably tell you that he's actually a Knob Creek man. I would tell you that he's secretly a Zima man."

I think that pretty much sums up President Ford. He's leaving some massive shoes to fill. I'll be keeping the search committee for Wabash's 15<sup>th</sup> president in my thoughts, and maybe even a prayer or two. After all, we don't want a jerk like the guy who just got ran out of Rose-Hulman.



## Con-graduations

On Sunday, May 15, Wabash College held its 167th Commencement, which graduated members of the last class that was at Wabash when we were students. 171 seniors graduated; not a large class but still larger than our measly 144. Ryan Feedback and Justin Grimmer served as commencement speakers. Two honorary degrees were given out as well, which like every other year served as the most pointless part of graduation (in this writer's opinion).



## “Some people call him Maurice”

Dean of the College **Mauri Ditzler**, a 1975 Wabash graduate who speaks of “the pompitous of love”, was named the 13th president of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois. President Andy Ford has this to say about Dean Ditzler: “In his six years as Dean of the College, he has had an extraordinary impact on every aspect of life here. His unfailing optimism, good humor, wise judgment, and boundless energy have made a difference in everything we do.” That being said, has anyone even talked to Dean Ditzler? Maybe it's just me.

Ditzler returned to his alma mater in July 1999 when President Ford named him Dean of the College. In his six years at Wabash, Ditzler helped conceive and secure funding for the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts, which I realize I already made fun of in the 2002 Barrickman's Revenge that nobody knew what the hell it was, and the joke still stands.

All joking aside, Dean Ditzler is a great guy and Wabash will definitely miss him next year. No word yet on who his replacement will be.



## Campus Renovation Update

I was recently able to visit campus on a quiet weekend to once again tour the new science buildings and fraternity houses (note: I didn't go just for that reason). Ground has been broken for the new **FIJI** house, which is situated south of the current house, directly across from the main Jefferson St. entrance that leads to Center Hall.

The **Phi Delt** house is near completion and should be ready for **Phi Deltas** to study in within a matter of months. Local rumor has it that when finished, Phi Deltas will paint the house blue (see this page for artist's rendition). The **TKE** and **Phi Psi** houses are still ugly as crap, though supposedly they are working on plans for new houses of their own.



Current  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$  House



Future  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$ , artist's rendition

## Wabash Top Ten List

1. Rated as a top tier National Liberal Arts College by U.S. News & World Report
2. Ranked in the Princeton Review for the following categories:
  - Best Overall Academic Experience for Undergraduates**
  - Schools Where Their Students Never Stop Studying**
  - Professors Bring Material to Life**
  - Professors Make Themselves Wheelchair Accessible**
  - Students Happy With Financial Aid**
  - Best Bargains (ranked 2nd for private schools)**
  - Lots of Race/Class Interaction**
  - Everyone Plays Intramural Sports (ranked 3rd)**
3. One of the 40 colleges and universities featured in Loren Pope's *Colleges That Change Lives*
4. 97% of our faculty holds a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree and there are no TAs at Wabash (also no Ts and As)
5. 50% of our students participate in an off-campus study program
6. Currently have an 85% acceptance rate into medical school
7. Currently have a 95% acceptance rate into law school
8. **1/8 of our graduates hold the title of CEO, president, or chairman**



9. 44% of our students participate in a varsity sport
10. 13% of our graduates have earned a Ph.D.

### **A Touching Story, Followed by a Lame Fundraising Technique**

A couple weeks before he graduated, I talked to my good friend **AJ Lyman '05**, former Sphinx Club president, who told me that he doesn't know how he's going to



handle leaving Wabash and what life holds for him afterwards. For the past 4 years, Wabash has been his life. Makes me think back to having the exact same thoughts at the end of my senior year, and I suspect it was the same for most everyone else. Such thinking explains why our first year out, our gift giving percentage was at an all-class high. In fact, that's the reason why Ryan and I won class agent awards that year, even though we did nothing more than create poorly written letters and go to free

dinners. It's easy to forget the great time we had at Wabash (although I can't possibly speak for everyone), and maybe that explains why a year after that we had the lowest giving percentage of any class whose members are younger than 80 years. Every time I think that my paltry donation isn't going to make a difference at all, and that I would rather keep that money to buy something I need, like an iPod or some toothpaste, I think of what the College means to those recently graduated students, what it meant to me 3 years ago, and what it will continue to mean to me in the future. Anyway, in a couple years I can just have **Adam Christman** give me some nice teeth.

Like AJ, four years of my life were spent at Wabash. It seems extremely difficult to let go after he'd invested so much in the College. However, he also knows that he won't be leaving Wabash forever; it is always there in our minds to remember, in Crawfordsville for us to visit, and on our beer mugs so that we can be proud whenever we drink.

I forgot to send this before the 2005 deadline. So you have 11 months to get your next donation in. If you want to get that payment out of the way, then please consider making your gift online at [www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift) or by calling 877-743-4545. Let's get our class back into the highest giving percentages.

Members of the class of 2002 who had given as of 5/23/05 are: **Brooks Cannon, Allen Clingler, Ryan Clougherty, Ryan Daming, Craig Demaree, Shane Fimbel, Joe Fuerst, Grant Goshorn, Nick Guzik, Joe Hisch, Scott Hoyer, Eriks Janelsins, James Johnson, Derek Jones, Danny King, Mike LoPrete, Aaron Logan, Doug Lukins, Drew McAllister, Shawn Morris, Jeremy Ott, Adam Ping, Jon-Myckle Price, Matt**

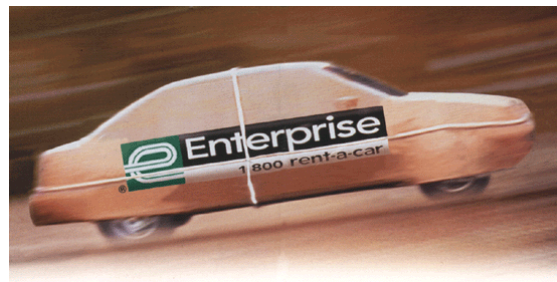
**Ralstin, Steve Renfro, David Seabeck, Ben Seib, Eric Shreve, Rick Strasser, Jordan Vaughn, Ben Wagner, Scott Wishart.**

### **Big Shoos to Fill**

**Mark Shreve**, the current Assistant Director of Annual Giving, accepted a job at The Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy. The College is looking for his replacement; it is an excellent position for someone who is looking to gain some experience in fundraising, college advancement, annual fund work, marketing, and/or working with volunteers. If you or anyone you know is interested, you are encouraged to submit your application materials as soon as possible. They plan to begin interviewing candidates during the week of August 15, 2005. If interested, contact me, Ryan, or Joe Klen ([klenj@wabash.edu](mailto:klenj@wabash.edu), 765-361-6052).

### **Correspondance**

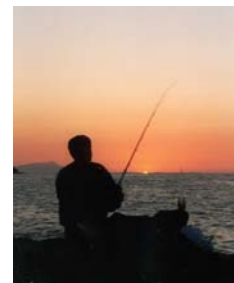
**Jordan Vaughn** - I am currently a manager for Enterprise Rent-a-Car moving as quickly up the ranks as I can. On June 4th, I will be married to Melissa Paxton (University of Wisconsin-Madison '01) at the White River Gardens in Indianapolis. We are currently building a house in the Noblesville/Westfield area.



**Blake Harness** – My wife Charlotte and I had our first child, a girl, on November 30th. Her name is Bailey Alena and she weighed 4-15 and was 18 inches long. Both Charlotte and Bailey are doing well at home with me and our dog, Bruno.



**Derek Jones** - I am engaged to marry Kari Smith on 10/15/05 and recently received a promotion to commercial lender with FORUM Credit Union in Fishers, IN.



**Grant Goshorn** – Rumored to have graduated from law school. Still hasn't learned how to return phone calls.



Again, the alumni office has started sending out class agent letters by email. If you would like to get this by email, visit [www.wabash.edu/alumni](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni) and update yourself on eServices. Our class reunion is in two years; Ryan and I would like representatives from each living unit for help with correspondence; let us know if you are interested. Continue to send me or Ryan emails about what you're doing; I want to hear about everybody graduating from law school or grad school.

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