

# Pactoracles

Class Agent's Letter For The Wabash College Class of 1971

December 4, 2006



## Classmates Help Team To Retain Monon Bell

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### Class Loses Jim Czarniecki

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### Alumni Achieve At Second Annual Wabash Day: Wabash Alumni Benefiting And Serving Humanity

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### Pots Return To Campus



A herd of '71 Delts gathered for a post-Monon Bell party on November 11. Sitting is Andy Young. Left to right are Jon Pactor (an interloper), Steve Wildman, Kai Chin, and Steve Hays. The back row from left to right are David Ault '70, John Lathrop, Beck Hannaford, Bill Lee, and Jeff Eaton. Not pictured are wives and Alex Miller. Thanks to Connie Lathrop for the photo.

Many classmates, braving chilly weather and the threat of rain, rooted the Little Giants to a 23-20 Monon Bell victory on a muddy field, November 11.

The Delts had a mini-reunion, as shown in the photo. Other classmates at the game were Jim Bromley, Joe Cassell, Skip Adams, Brad Johnson, and Tom Runge. There probably were others. Thad and Polly Seymour were also among the largest crowd in Monon Bell history, with approximately 12,000 people in attendance at Crawfordsville. *(continued on next page)*

## Wabash Retains Monon Bell

*(continued from prior page)*

Although the score was close, Wabash dominated the game. DePauw, which has had four head coaches in four years, scored a touchdown at the very end of the game. For almost the entire game, the Tigers were unable to defend the Little Giant receivers or maintain any offensive punch. Wabash has won five of the last six games. Wabash leads the overall series 53-51-9 while DePauw leads the Monon Bell series 35-34-6.

Wabash finished the season 8-2. It missed the NCAA play-offs because Wittenberg and Wabash tied for the conference championship, but Wittenberg got the tie-breaker. Wabash lost its season opener to Franklin in overtime and lost to Wittenberg when a Little Giant field goal attempt in the closing seconds went awry. The team came very closing to being undefeated two years in a row.

## Campus News

**Fund Honoring John Fischer Is Established.** The Fischer Fund for Cross Cultural Experiences has been established to encourage and enable students to study abroad and to delve into immersion programs. The fund may be used for a class to travel abroad in any discipline or to bring international educators and experts to campus to share in the exchange of information and experiences. He taught at Wabash from 1964 through 2004.

**Basketball Team Off To A Slow Start.** The Little Giants are off to 1-4 record in a rebuilding year with only one senior on the team. Many of the losses, however, have been close.

**Wrestling Team Off To A Good Start.** Three Little Giants took first place in the recent 11-school Indiana Little State Invitational. They were Garrett Pino, Will Clarke, and Keith Garrard. Clarke '08 is son of Jack Clarke '69. Bart Bridge '08, the son of John Bridge '72, is also on the team. Wabash and the University of Indianapolis with five first-place winners outclassed the other schools.

**Wabash loses Mike Bachner '70.** Mike succumbed to a heart attack at age 58 a few weeks ago. Mike was the manager of the book store for as long as most of us can remember. Few spots on the Wabash campus can bring students, alumni, faculty, and the entire Wabash community together. Mike made the bookstore much more than a bookstore. He loved Wabash. There is a sequence of photos of Mike as a sophomore taking Vic Ransom's pot. See pages 18-19 of the 1968 yearbook.

**Pots Return.** The students have brought pots back for Freshmen. Unlike our era, the wearing of the pots is voluntary. The return of the pots was subject to national attention in an October 25, 2006 article in the *Christian Science Monitor*. Pots disappeared from campus during our era except for those on the heads of Phi Delt pledges.

**Fraternities.** Tau Kappa Epsilon is finalizing designs for a new house standing where the old Sigma Chi house stands. The Phi Gams moved into their new house this fall. The Phi Psis have been inhabited the old Phi Gam house during the renovation of their house. The Deltas are moving ahead on their renovation plans, and the Kappa Sigs are working on their plans.

**Smokes.** The Student Senate recently allocated some money for the Cigar And Pipe Club. This is the sort of news that you will not find elsewhere.

**Pactoracles**  
**Class Agent Letter of Class of 1971—December 4, 2006**

## Class of 1971 Helps Wabash With Dollars and Students

Thanks to Classmates who have contributed to the 2006-2007 Annual Fund. This list is current through November 21, 2006.

Jerry Anderson  
Mike Dill  
Andy Dziubinskyj  
Bill Hausmann  
Clark Johnson  
Jim Kamplain  
Gene Kepple  
John Lathrop

Dave Main  
Al McElfresh  
Alex Miller  
Keith Nelson  
Jon Pactor  
Garrett Paul  
Greg Rasmussen  
Phil Rifner

Tom Runge  
Orlo Shoop  
Charles Steen  
John Street  
Kurt Unterschuetz  
Steve Weliever  
Steve Wildman  
Andy Young

Thanks to the following classmates who referred students to Wabash during the year 2005-2006. Let's refer qualified potential students as soon as we spot them. To make a referral, send the basic information to Wabash Admissions. We can make referrals online, phone, or mail. Call me with any question or assistance for making a referral.

John Brown  
Russell Dart  
Mike Dill

Fred Haase  
Brad Johnson  
Skip Long

Jon Pactor  
Tom Runge

## With Our Classmates...

Two classmates, **Bruce Crozier** and **Kai Chin**, have relocated to Colorado. **Bruce** and wife Nina now reside in Delta, Colorado. Kai and Charlotte Chin have moved from Hong Kong to Lewisville, Colorado.

**Scott Parker** has moved from to Bokeelia, FL He is a telecommuting instructional designer for Human Kinetics, a publisher of physical activity- and sports-related books, journals, and courses. He writes: "My wife and I live on Pine Island, about 20 miles west of Ft. Myers, FL. She's a retired elementary school teacher. Our daughter, Kaitie, lives in Urbana, IL and is a teacher's aid where her mother taught for 20+ years: Sidney, IL. We say we like to fish (though seldom do, don't own a boat, and never catch anything). My memories of fishing include drinking beer by Sugar Creek trying to snag carp for the Fiji Island pond. I'm better at drinking beer."

**Skip Adams'** son Ty has elected to attend the University of Notre Dame on a baseball scholarship. Notre Dame has had one of the better baseball programs in the country in recent years.

**Steve Wildman** delivered a public lecture entitled "Broadband, IT, and the Future of Media Services" at Jonkoping Business School in Jonkoping, Sweden in early November. The business school's Media Management and Transformation Centre invited him. Steve is Co-director of the Quello Center for Telecommunication Management & Law at Michigan State University. (There are supposed to be two dots above the "o's" in Jonkoping, but I did know how to do it.

## Jim Czarniecki Succumbs To Cancer

Jim Czarniecki, our classmate who added spirit during our college days, lost his battle to colon cancer on July 9. He was 58.

We can remember him as a brother with the Kappa Sigs, as editor of the Yearbook, a jolly good fellow, or a great Wabash man. Actually, we will remember him for all of those attributes and much more.

Jim, a physics major, made his mark by a career in art, dedication to the community, and devotion to his family.

After Wabash, he worked for the Art Institute of Chicago. He joined the St. Paul Museum after he had run museums in Sarasota, Fla., and Jackson, Miss. After leaving the Minnesota museum, he began a consulting business, working on arts and cultural projects. He ran Sobriety High School of Edina, Minnesota. It was a charter school for students recovering from drug and alcohol dependencies. After he became its CEO, he led its expansion to five campuses. He served as the president of its foundation until his death.

Jim served on many arts and cultural boards and commissions. He co-founded Public Art St. Paul. He led an effort that brought an artists-in-residence program to St. Paul.

He received the cancer diagnosis in March 2005. He battled the disease with cheerfulness. Somehow, he got the nickname Kimo. He ran a website about his experiences. Take a look at [CaringBridge.org/mn/jimcz](http://CaringBridge.org/mn/jimcz). I include the following message that Steve

Charles, editor of the *Wabash Magazine*, posted on the site shortly before Jim's death:

"As editor of *Wabash Magazine* here at Wabash, I first became an admirer of your work years ago while looking through the 1971 yearbook you edited. As the current yearbook advisor, I've referred to that volume a number of times when trying to inspire the new crop of yearbook editors, referring to your decision to dispense with some of the journalistic formalities of past yearbook and your determination to create a book that, as you wrote to your classmates, "captures something that is actually YOU!."

"What I hadn't remembered was that you dedicated that volume to your "classmate, colleague, and friend" Pat Brannigan. I was reminded of that dedication a few weeks ago, when pat's parents returned to campus for your class's 35<sup>th</sup> reunion.

"That's when I began to read this journal. [The one on Caringbridge.] I'm amazed at how that desire and ability you had 35 years ago to capture for others the essence of their college experience—that eye for the telling detail, the meaningful event, the relationship that matters—has been refined and applied here in a way that helps even a stranger to see those things that are the essence of a life well-lived...For me, both professionally and personally, your words in this journal have been a light."

His wife Kitty, sons Mark and Jack, and daughters Laura and Kate survive him.

## Wabash Alumni Serve On Second Annual Wabash Day

Wabash alumni with family and friends performed community service around the country for the second annual Wabash Day, October 20-21. Wabash Day stands for **W**abash **A**lumni **B**enefiting **A**nd **S**erving **H**umanity. The numbers are not final, but it appears that more than 230 participated in about 20 sites around the country. Wabash Day is a project of the National Association of Wabash Men. Its objectives include putting Wabash core values into action. A third Wabash Day is being planned for early October, and I will write more about it later with the hope that the Class of 1971 will be Wabash Day leaders in 2007.

## ***Jim Czarniecki Addresses Students***

*Just a few months before Jim passed on, he delivered a commencement address, passing on wisdom to the graduating class of the College of Visual Arts in St. Paul on May 14, 2006. The speech seemed so “Jim” that I have included it with a little editing in this letter for his unintended memoriam of a life well-lived by our beloved friend, classmate, and fellow Wabash Man.*

Pres. Culligan, Chair Altman and fellow trustees, Dean Ledy, distinguished faculty, dedicated staff, parents, friends of the college, CVA students, and the graduating class of 2006.

Thank you, Frank, for that splendid introduction. And to all of you, but especially to these graduating seniors, I want to express how truly glad I’m here: I’m on a three-hour pass from Regions Hospital to be here because I want you to hear these words from the heart and, as they say from the “horse’s mouth.”

Now, since I only partially recognized that guy you were talking about, and to be as straight as possible to this great group of graduates, I want to fill in some gaps in my early employment history. Your speaker today has, in roughly chronological order, been a:

Sitter of babies, builder of models, mower of lawns, public relater for a scout camp, manager of nature lodges, translator of Flemish, stocker of house paint, setter of chokers, bucker of bails, fighter of forest fires, spotter for a docudrama, editor of a newspaper and yearbook, photographer of artwork, supervisor of audio-visual programs, instructor of photography, teacher of holography, lecturer of film, photography and the technological arts, and historian of photography, among others.

Thirty-five years ago, with about half that inventory under my belt, I like you today, sat with my classmates through a too-long commencement ceremony wondering what was next to be. The speakers, whose names I have long forgotten had inspirational messages: change the world, be yourself, seize opportunity, and be thankful for the education you received. All very good themes, but what did it mean about that “what next?” Well, with more than three decades of hindsight, here’s my quick take on what they may have been saying (in reverse order).

Appreciating the education you’ve received—and I think you parents and guardians who have supported your student may also want to take note: during these past four years, CVA has given you many things, but most of all we have provided three things that will serve you well going forward:

First, a shiny new toolbox that has helped you hone your skills. These tools have included one of the best faculties of any college—not just art and design schools, but any college—to be found. You know this as you have worked with them, gotten to know them as artists and designers, and benefited from their expertise, experience, and passion for their art and for teaching. Other important tools include access to facilities, equipment, library and media resources, and a staff that has cared deeply about your non-academic needs. And here’s a practical tip for you new alums: one of the first things you can do is apply for that CVA library card and its access to ever growing art and design resources and technology—it is one of many benefits that the college will continue for you.

Second, critical thinking and problem solving skills. CVA has a superb liberal arts department that all of you have had to use in your core coursework. Their mission in life is to build those critical thinking skills; they are powerful and you can use them all your lives. The other academic departments had you

## ***Jim Czarniecki's Address Continues***

build your craft and technique, in your chosen medium or discipline, introduced you to art ideas large and small, taught you the difference between creating and making art, and other building blocks you need. But in all of this, the coursework and studio time nurtured your problem solving skills. These, too, are applicable in many and significant ways as you lead lives enriching family, community, and your professions—whatever they may be.

Third, the college has taught you the importance of professionalism and networking. These are interlinked and comprise two of the most important attributes you can acquire. CVA's professional practices program that you all participated in, taught you what it meant to present yourself, your art, and your assets to the rest of the world. Your faculty and staff are your first ring of a network that you have begun building and for many of you already extends beyond the comfortable environs of Cathedral Hill, Saint Paul...

These three items—your new toolbox, your critical thinking skills, your professionalism and network—are crucial to your life success, whether in art and design, or any other endeavor. Be always aware how powerful these tools are, invest the time and energy to continue to build and hone them, deploy them in your professional community, and personal lives, and, as you can, give back to your school so others may follow—you will be and stay far ahead of the pack.

Seize opportunity, that second inspirational message, has professionally been one of my favorites. Opportunities exist all around us, the key is to find, identify, and position yourself to take advantage of these.

Part of your education at CVA has been to look and see, to pay attention to details, to sort out the new from the passé, to evaluate and to take the best decisions. Of course most of this has been in the making of art or the practice of design. But, again, with some adaptation, these are translatable. One of the reasons I wanted to expand my resume is to let you see the dozens of things I did before landing my first full-time museum job when I was well into my 24th year.

Important to know is that in half the cases, the subsequent job was an opportunity found at the first; in all but two of the rest—and each job since—was solely the result of networking.

Opportunities need to be analyzed—there are plenty of risks—but using those other tools mentioned earlier, you can identify the risk, mitigate it, and capture the prize. I have and have not regretted once my career decisions.

Be yourself. That was the third inspirational message I remember. Most of you have or are learning to do this. As an artist you have great independence to be what you want to be. Take time to understand this: you are being shaped by your art; and your art will more and more become you.

Probably the most profound understanding of myself came toward the end of that long list of jobs above: after six years of producing photographs and holograms, I found that I was much more interested in looking at them than making them. The most practical result was going from full-time grad student and part-time museum worker to the other way around—my career path in art museums was launched.

Being true to yourself isn't the exercise in solitude that you may expect: it can involve family, friends,

## ***Jim Czarniecki's Address Concludes***

colleagues, and others who know you well; but most importantly it should involve mentors. This is a great thing. And, later, if you find yourself good at it you can return the favor as a mentor yourself.

I've had three very special ones over the years. And then into my 40s and 50s, I found that the reward actually flows greater in the opposite directions as three of my mentees went on to run first-rate art museums around the country and several others now in mid-career are finding positions of responsibility in major institutions. Some are now mentors themselves. The take away here is that to find out exactly who you are, involve others and, in particular, find a good mentor or two!

Change the world. Artists and designers have been doing it for centuries, even millennia. Leverage your talent—it is a great change agent; know that changing one person may be more important than influencing hundreds. Your art is powerful: you were put on this planet to use it to (choose one or more): inspire, provoke, beautify, question, analyze, comfort, or simply provide sheer joy.

Think of all—from the profound to the mundane—that has influenced you. Now think of what I have said this afternoon regarding your talent and tools, your opportunities and challenges, your search for your essence . . . these are a few of the assets you have in a truly human quest: to change ourselves, our communities, our nations, and our planet for the better.

Commencement is a beginning. What better charge can you have than to use what you were born with, develop it through education, and deploy it to a greater good. My message, which you have been very patient with, is simply to say that you can begin and you can begin today.

Thank you for this honor and opportunity and I'll add my warm congratulations to those of your parents and partners, your faculty and colleagues, and, most of all to salute each and every one of you!



This Santa is a member of the Class of 1971. He is a real Santa, and his beard is real. He is Kurt Unterschuetz, who has been a professional Santa for three years, but he decided to keep his sleigh in the garage this year. Kurt and wife Caryn live in Chino Valley, Arizona.

Happy Holidays to all the Class of 1971.

Kind Regards



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