



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1978

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Gentleman

Happy New Year. Our New Year's Resolution is to write more letters (and increase our class participation in the Annual Fund) All of these emails were sent in 2009.

A quick summary of the Football Season--We have the BELL. My son Kyle is a junior long snapper and is on his way to Australia for the Spring Semester. My oldest son, Ryan, Class of 2008, is an investment banker with Mesirow in Chicago.

First, I want to report the death of **David Thiel** on January 3, 2010.

Other news **Bernard Niezer** reports "Nothing really new for me. Still working at Parkview Hospital as Sr. VP, Operations/Service. My wife, Deb, is doing well. She is the COO for Aalco distributing in Fort Wayne. We are both quite active in various community organizations. I serve on the Fort Wayne City Planning Commission, Fort Wayne Board of Zoning Appeals, City/County Joint Land Use Board, Turnstone Center for the disabled Board, Parkview YMCA Board and Northern Indiana Better Business Bureau Board. Deb is on the Board of Tower Bank and the Metro YMCA Board. Our daughters, Laura (29) and Katie (24) both live in Indianapolis. Laura is a Marketing Manager for Kindred facilities in Kokomo and Lebanon and Katie is a senior analyst for PayChex. Our nephew Joey Niezer is a senior at Wabash. He is a member of the Lambda Chi fraternity and a pitcher on the baseball team. "

Bruce Andersen reports "Nothing new happening in Idaho - got all excited about the 30 year reunion (even had my college ring re-sized and studied the lyrics to "Old Wabash") but arrived at the airport to find the Midwest under water. United Airlines assured me they could get us to Indy by Sunday afternoon - sorry to miss seeing 'yall again. "

Alex Antalis reports "Professional: I am the senior partner in Professional Emergency Physicians, staffing five emergency departments in Northeast Indiana, I am the Chairman of the Board of the non-profit Sexual Assault Treatment Center in Fort Wayne. Personal: My rock & roll Band, Next Exit , has been resurrected and will soon be performing again locally, Raising three teens is more work than I thought, My wife, Jan continues as a school nurse at Canterbury School in Fort Wayne.

Harvey Vandenburg reports "Have been working as Laboratory Director at Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick, MD, and retired from the Navy in 2003. Celebrating the birth of our first grandson, Jacob Newell. He looks like a future Wabash man for sure!

Kevin Budke reports "Lora and I are keeping busy with our four children, two at the University of Cincinnati and two in high school. I am serving as Head Elder for our church. We really enjoyed the Kappa Sigma reunion in September. (2008)

Kevin P. Chavous has emerged as a national education reform leader, served on the education policy committee for the Barack Obama Presidential campaign. The group that Chavous founded, Democrats for Education Reform (DFER), played a major role in advocating for Arne Duncan to be appointed as Education Secretary. Chavous is the DFER board chair and is also a partner at the law firm Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, LLP.

Brett Coldiron "Life is good. My kids are 9 (Conrad) and 7 (Catherine). Busy with baseball and soccer. I practice Mohs micrographic surgery (skin cancer) in Cincinnati, Ohio. I just got elected to the American Academy of Dermatology board of directors and am President elect in for the American College of Mohs surgery. Brother **Greg** remains retired in Marathon FL."

John Cunningham "I will be speaking about law firm management at the Legal Sales and Service Organization Raindance Conference in Chicago on June 3-5 (2009) and moderating a panel discussion on that subject by managing partners of some of the largest firms in the country. My written work on law firm management and sales/service has now appeared in numerous publications by American Lawyer Media, Lawyers Weekly, Dolan Media and regional business journals. Feel free to mention also that I just opened my new weblog/site in cyberspace: <http://johnocunningham.wordpress.com/>

Landyn Harmon "After lawyering as an associate and/ or partner in firms in Terre Haute and then Columbus for 25 years, I opened my solo practice on November 1, 2005 and still operate as a solo here in Columbus, Indiana. My wife of 25 years, Kelly, continues her work as a special education teacher with autistic children. My 16 year old daughter Bailey will be a junior at Brown County high school next fall and struggles to be first in her class academically and trades places in the top three with her competition each grading period. My 12 year old son Wyatt graduated from Stewart Montessori School here in Columbus and will be a seventh grader at the new International School in Columbus next fall. We all live in a log cabin on 50 acres in the pine forests of Brown County with horses, cats, dogs, and whatever else crawls out of the woods around us."

Bruce Henderson "Rachel (my daughter) is attending IUSB's accelerated nursing program and will be an RN in 15 months. My son Eric is attending Wabash and has made it to his junior year. He's a Phi Delt. **Ron Smith** is Customer Service Manager at Justrite Mfg. in Mattoon, IL. His daughter Kimberly just became an RN. **George Lauck's** email address is george.lauck@neacelukens.com He's doing great! "

Jim Engledow "The only news of any importance is that I am entering my 9th year on Carmel-Clay Parks Board and my second year as president of that Board. Sons Eric 2005 and Craig 2008 are getting married this year."

Gary Hanner "My son Brooks just graduated from Wake Forrest Law School. He is currently taking the Indiana Bar Review course. In August he has a job as a clerk for the chief judge of the US District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina for a year. He then will start with Hogan and Hartson in DC. Daughter Abby has 4 hours to complete her Studio Art degree at DePauw. She will likely go back to school and get a teaching degree since there are not a great deal of jobs out there in this field. My brother Jim and

I are still practicing law at Hanner Hanner & Hanner. Our dad Clelland died in 2006. We are also both part time prosecutors; Jim in Putnam County and Gary in Parke. Wife Mary works part time with her family's lumber company, operated by her brother Joe (Wabash 70)."

Greg Birk '77 sent the following update on **Joe Tonner** "Joe just sent me a couple of pictures from the 4th of July Mellon Run in Gainesville Florida. I think Joe has a tradition of running the race with his daughter. Joe was an all American steeplechaser and standout cross country runner at Wabash. Obviously he has found time to stay fit despite his significant family and professional responsibilities. He has been in Gainesville ever since completing med school at IU.

Jim Talley was announced as one of Best Lawyers in America in category of Bet-the-Company Litigation and Commercial Litigation.

John Porter sent the following report "On October 30 a colonoscopy revealed a malignant, 5cm (billiard ball sized), stage 2 tumor in my rectum. An array of lab work, CT scans, x-rays, an ultrasound, and more invasive and humbling poking and prodding than I imagined possible showed my liver, lungs, and bone marrow to be cancer-free. My doctors recommended, and I am pursuing, an aggressive course of treatment - 28 days of radiation and 6 weeks of continuously infused chemo, both of which wrapped up on January 4, to be followed with surgery on March 1, and 12 more weeks of chemo beginning April 1. The radiation and chemo regimen shrank the tumor into a small, desiccated, and thoroughly dead prune, so that it is easier for the surgeon to remove (important aside: no colostomy anticipated!), and blasted away at any hidden cancer cells that may elude the scalpel. Although I never developed some of the typical side effects (nausea, loss of appetite, weight loss [drat!], hair loss [whew!!], extreme sensitivity to cold), I was very fatigued and experienced what my radiation oncologist characterized as a "very deep suntan" (in my mind, it was more akin to a severe sunburn on tissue continuously abraded with a coarse wire brush), as well as a variety of relatively hideous intestinal issues I shall not further describe out of a sense of delicacy and decorum.

The upshot is that aside from the self-inflicted frailties of a somewhat overweight and out-of-shape 53 year-old male, I am young and healthy, and the 5-year cancer-free rate for all patients with similar Stage 2 rectal cancer is 70 to 80%. I am looking forward to completing treatment and doing all the things I have been wanting to do for years and just never found time to do. I am upbeat, at peace, mindful of and ready for the challenges ahead, blessed with (in lovely words from the Episcopal baptismal service) a profound gift of joy and wonder, and exceedingly grateful for fine medical care and the prayers and support of family and friends - WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS!

If you have not yet had the singularly invasive "pleasure" of a colonoscopy, please schedule yours ASAP! We are all of the age when we should have one, and you owe it to yourself and those about whom you care.

John--Our prayers are with you and your family.

Bob and Mark