



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1988

Class Agents

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Gentlemen,

It's been almost two (2) years now since our 25th Reunion, and for the most part, other than regular communication through the Class Facebook page, we've left you alone... our little "thank you" for your patience in enduring the barrage of phone, email, letter, etc. contact in the run-up to what, I think all would agree, was a fantastic get together. We set a record for attendance at a 25th, and we exceeded expectations for our giving in the process. Hell, we even flat-out won the Chapel Sing contest, which was clear to anyone listening.

Now, however, as the end of the College's fiscal year approaches, and as we approach the half-way point to our next reunion, in 2018, it's time to pick up where we left off, and try to build on our achievements. Thank you again to each and every one of you who contributed in the last few years. Here is why every gift you make is important –

Sweet Briar College in Virginia, a 114 year old school for women (student body 700 +/-) is closing its doors, despite its roughly \$100 million endowment.

(<http://www.businessinsider.com/sweet-briar-college-closing-2015-3>) Now, despite the fervent hopes of its alumni, the opposition of its faculty, and the potential of legal action, Spring 2015 is more than likely the last semester of operation for Sweet Briar.

Many of you sat with me in our class dinner in the beautiful, renovated space of the former Yandes Hall (now Detchon Hall), and we listened to the College's representatives talk to us about the challenges ahead for Wabash, and many institutions like it. The long and short of that discussion was that Wabash needed to find more students who could afford to pay more of their overall costs for attending the College... either that or the unspoken ramification that Wabash's alumni need to step up to the plate and give ever more generously to the Annual Fund. We've covered this ground many times before, but I'll cover it again just in case – some of you might say, “But Wabash didn't give me any scholarship money, didn't give me any help, so why should I give now?” It was the generosity of the alumni who came before us that discounted the cost of the College before we ever received a bill or a dollar of scholarship or other financial aid. The gifts you have been giving in the past 25 years have defrayed the costs of operating the College and have paid that gift forward, likewise discounting the expense of a Wabash degree for today's students.

And it's that generosity of spirit that continues to make Wabash the special place that it is. New dormitories are being constructed, new teams and facilities (Wabash began competing in intercollegiate lacrosse this year) appear, and as for the faculty, we've come to love retire or move on, the College continues to find exemplary educators to replace them and continue in the student-centric academic experience. Wabash football once again went to the playoffs, losing to eventual national champion UW Whitewater in the second round after destroying Franklin College in the first round (and most importantly, winning a 6th straight Monon Bell Game, 27-3); Wabash cross country was again a powerhouse, repeating as regional champs and finishing 16th as a team at the national championships (and, as a team, declared an All-Academic Team, with six of the seven competing at regionals earning individual All Academic honors, and a GPA of 3.5); the soccer team had its best-ever season, going 13-3-3 overall record and 6-2-1 in the NCAC for a highest-ever 3rd place finish; the basketball team went 18-9, split with DePauw, and was in the final four of the NCAC yet again, while former Coach Mac Petty was tabbed to coach one of the teams in the D3 All-Star Game; Wabash college wrestlers took 3rd place at the national championships with two individual national champions; track and field and baseball are off to stellar starts in the Spring 2015 semester. Wabash continues to get rave reviews in the various “recruiting rankings”, be it focused on academics, college experience, or the regular inclusion in Loren Pope's “Colleges that Change Lives” compendium (an honor which many of us can attest is well-deserved). A new one in the past few months should make us all proud, if not also make us more capable of generosity... Wabash College ranked 50th nationally in the 2015 *PayScale.com* ROI (See more at: http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=10502#sthash.qpfrhTFe.dpuf),

one of only two Indiana schools (including Rose Hulman) in the top 50, a notch ahead of Purdue (53rd), and leaps and bounds ahead of Notre Dame (75th) and IU (397th)... and several light years ahead of DePauw at 677th of the 1223 colleges and universities in the study.

Expect to hear much more from me and the rest of the Class Agents in the months to come. Please come and join us on our Facebook group page (Wabash College Class of 1988), or reach out to us by email (quicklawoffice@gmail.com, teague_greg@comcast.net, and, scott.smalstig@meridianhs.org) to let us know how you are, what you're up to, or just to chat and catch up. Feel free to call or text at my office cell, 317.910.2748.

Yours in Wabash,

Scott