



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Fellow 06er's,

A couple of weeks ago I was lucky enough to work at a College Fair for Wabash and I wanted to share a few things that I learned from it.

- 1) Gregg Popovich was recruited to play basketball at Wabash! An Army officer came up to me who was recruiting for West Point, introduced himself, and mentioned that if he hadn't gotten into West Point he would've gone to Wabash to play basketball, and that Gregg Popovich was in the same boat with the Air Force Academy.
- 2) A student came up to me and said that he "really wanted to go to Wabash". To be honest I was surprised by this. Generally my experiences at these things include a pack of girls, or boyfriends/girlfriends coming up to me and as soon as I mention that we're a college for men they run like they're being chased. It made me think back to my feelings about Wabash when I first got a recruiting letter and thought it was a typo when they mentioned that it was a college for men. I'm not sure how many of us as juniors in high school who were not legacies really wanted to go to Wabash, but it can't be that many of us. I sincerely hope that this student keeps his passion for Wabash and makes an impact in his time there and after he graduates.
- 3) I'm sure that there was some Alum or current Wabash student making fun of me for the faux leather jacket I was sporting with the collar up and the L.A. Looks "Mega Hold" hair gel making my hair stand up stiff as a board on my first visit to campus in 2001, but have you guys seen what high school kids wear these days?! If you haven't here's an example of what 75% of the guys not wearing letter jackets were wearing.



I get that skinny jeans are in and that a combination of my size and my wife's good taste prevent me from ever wearing them, but what's with the beanies being worn on the top of their head inside?

In addition to my observations from the College Fair, I wanted to share an example of the Wabash network at work. Last month I was informed that my office will be closing at the end of May. Needless to say I've been pounding the pavement extremely hard looking for a new job. My mentality going into this was, "I can do this on my own, and I don't need help from anyone else". This was due to a combination of stubbornness and embarrassment, I've never been in this situation before and honestly wasn't sure how I should handle it.

I've been able to get quite a few interviews on my own but it wasn't until Jake Koeneman causally mentioned to Eric Schoettle '93 that I was looking for a new job that I fully realized the network we have to work with (I'd also like to give a special shout-out to Matt Ripley who was kind enough to refer me for a position at Epic!). Eric told Jake to have me give him a call if I wanted so I reached out and explained to him my situation. For the next hour Eric coached me on my LinkedIn profile and then browsed through his contacts in the financial services industry and then sent an email to them that included my resume and a cover letter for the type of position I'm looking for.

Within a few hours Allen Clingler '02 who is a banker for Northern Trust reached out and we set up a night to grab some conversational beverages. This was great as the job I've gone the furthest through the interview process which has a lot of interactions with business and commercial bankers. Allen was able to give me a few tips on how to network with bankers and the types of things I should look to do for them. The next day Allen followed up with me by giving me the contact information of Colin Fahey '05 who is a Commercial Banker for PNC (where I'm interviewing). Colin responded to my

email and request for interview tips in about 30 minutes and then followed that up with a call where he was able to give me some specific topics to bring up in my interview that would help me stand out.

My final interview was yesterday and I feel pretty good about it, but I feel even better about the support group that I didn't fully realize until now.

I hope things are going well for you all. Please don't hesitate to give us an update on what you've been up to on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/193632585064/>

WAF,

Joe