



WABASH COLLEGE

Class of 2002



From the Agents

I've been putting off writing this letter for a few weeks, but it's late at night and I decided that I couldn't wait any longer.

It's that crucial time of year (end of the fiscal year) and every dollar and gift the College receives counts. I don't particularly enjoy this aspect of my role as class agent, as I know many of us still have student loans, are still struggling to find our way professionally, or still finishing up in school. However, I do recognize the importance of maintaining a financial relationship with the College, even if it's only one gift a year of \$5 or \$10. This is one of the very few times when size doesn't matter.

Anyway, rather than bore you with statistics and the usual plea for your help, I want to point out what your gift can do for the school. If you haven't been frequenting the website lately, Wabash has dramatically expanded the immersion learning program that we knew six or seven years ago. Wabash's immersion program in 2002, while robust compared to other schools, was an extremely immature version of today's program. Put another way, the 2002 immersion program was an early '90's version of Barry Bonds in Pittsburgh. A truly amazing player and one of the best in baseball, but nothing compared to the post-BALCO, single-season and career home run record holder. That's right - your donation could be "the cream" or "the clear" for a current Wabash student.

This year's program included nine different trips during spring break, in addition to the numerous students that spend a semester abroad. I believe the semester abroad participation is steadily increasing from the 33% in our days. I also believe that approximately 50% of Wabash students participate in some kind of immersion learning program. This seems like a stunning example of the benefits of alumni involvement.

I am particularly astounded at one specific trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, led by Dr. Krohne and Dr. Rogers. The group of students is spending several weeks in Ecuador exploring the unique ecosystem in the Ecuadorian rain forest before setting sail on the "Estrella del Mar I" for six days of sailing, scuba diving, and hiking around the Galapagos. While I was not a Division I major at Wabash, this is certainly something I can appreciate. That a small school like Wabash can provide these kinds of opportunities for its students is absolutely mind-boggling.

My respect for how the College has improved since we graduated does not exist without a strong feeling of jealousy. I certainly wish that I had been able to partake in multiple immersion learning experiences, though I'm perfectly happy with my six months in Wales. Regardless, I think we owe it to ourselves and the other Wabash students to do what we can to make sure these types of experiences continue. You may only give a few bucks, and that's totally fine; your gift can matter. For those of you that have already given this year, thank you very much. I've included the names below.



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If you haven't yet given this year, there's no shame in not giving to the College. There are many very good, very rational, and understandable reasons not to. I'm not writing with the purpose of "guilting" anyone into giving. But if you do have a few extra bucks and can give to Wabash before June 30th, I know there will be at least 900 very appreciate men on the receiving end of your generosity.

Best,
Rick

Class of 2002 Honor Roll:

If you plan on giving a gift to the College, please do so before the June 30th fiscal year end. Visit <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift> to make a gift.

James M. Abercrombie
Christopher R. Alexander
Joshua M. Banks
Brooks L. Cannon
Allen A. Clingler
Ryan K. Clougherty
Nicolae Cristea
Ryan M. Daming
Jonathan P. DeSmet
Craig W. Demaree
Shane M. Fimbel
Douglas E. Finn
James R. Ford
Christopher A. Futscher
Grant F. Goshorn
Nicholas J. Guzik
Jeremy L. Herrmann

Joseph N. Hisch
Eriks E. Janelins
James A. Johnson
Douglas E. Lukins
Ryan B. Moore
Jeremy J. Ott
Michael F. Owens
Bryson T. Renbarger
Stephen K. Renfro
Matthew R. Richardson
David J. Seabeck
Benjamin J. Seib
Jacob B. Shively
Eric W. Shreve
Maxim A. Sorokin
Jeffrey E. Stines
Richard K. Strasser

Campus Note

We'll have an update from a faculty member in the next letter, which you can expect to see sometime in late August or early September. If there's a particular professor, staff member, coach, or friend of the College from whom you'd like to hear, please let me know.



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Class Updates / Info

Blake Zachary: Blake.Zachary@southmont.k12.in.us

“I was married to Rachel Heerdink of Evansville in March of 2006 and we welcomed Evelyn Virginia Zachary to the world in September of 2007 (picture attached!). I have been with South Montgomery Community School Corporation as the Director of Technology for 5 years, an immensely enjoyable and thoroughly challenging career that is rewarding in many ways. My hobby is the perpetual renovation and maintenance of our 19th century Victorian in historic Ladoga.”



Don't Forget - Class of 2002 Communication Media

We set up a Gmail account for updates: wabashcollege2002@gmail.com. There's also a Facebook page (Wabash College Class of 2002). You can find the Facebook group [here](#), or by searching “Groups” for “Wabash College Class of 2002”

Until next time....

I've included a couple of entries from the Galapagos blog that I found particularly interesting. If you like what they say, follow the link to the rest of the blog. It's certainly worth the time. Hopefully Dr. Krohne can set up an alumni immersion trip soon. I hope the summer is treating everyone well.

Keep in touch.

Daming – rdaming@hotmail.com

Shreve – shreveew@email.uc.edu

Strasser – jester4010@hotmail.com

Class email – wabashcollege2002@gmail.com



Ecuador – Galapagos Islands Immersion Trip

http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/ecuador_galapagos/

Bitten by Ants, Swimming with Sea Lions

Ryan Waldon (June 9, 2008, San Cristobal Island, Ecuador)—Today we began our journey through the Galapagos Islands, leaving Quito early this morning and flying to San Cristobal, a medium-sized island when compared to the surrounding islands.

The Amazon was a very stimulating experience for me, not only for viewing many species native to the forest, but also for becoming very closely acquainted with one of the most dangerous ants within the jungle: the Conga ant. As we settled in for the night after playing a relaxing game of euchre under candlelight, I climbed into bed and after nearly a half hour was sound asleep. With early morning bird watching and late night hikes, sleep was a seldom occurrence in the rain forest. I



awoke from my rest with a tremendously sharp pain on my lower ankle, and I figured, due to the pain of the bite, that I had been bitten by none other than the fierce Conga ant, known to pack a painful punch when delivering a bite. Through the bellowing, my cabin mates awoke, and we ceremoniously roasted the culprit over the fire of the candle, which had surpassed the bottom bunk and climbed into my sheets, seemingly planning its attack. Although a particularly agonizing event, it will leave me with nothing but fine stories to tell of my time in the Amazon. I wouldn't give it up for anything.

Having moved on to the Galapagos after a nice weekend of rest, I no longer have to worry about finding insects in my bed, seeing that we are on a “first class yacht” known as the “Estrella del Mar I.” It is one of the most amazing boats I've seen with plenty of room for all.

After settling in, we began our voyage around the islands with a snorkeling trip just off the coast of San Cristobal. Words can't describe how it felt to swim with the sea lions as they seemingly mimicked each and every move we made in an attempt to “play” with us in the water. They approached us without hesitation as I am sure they acted when Darwin first approached on the *H.M.S. Beagle*.

The trip thus far has been nothing less than exceptional, and I can't wait to see what the next six days spent cruising through the Galapagos will offer, and I am excited to tell stories about my trip to those at home. Keep checking the blogs for more status on our incredible trip.



*In photo: Kyle Schroering '10 snorkels off the Galapagos Islands.
Photo by Dave Krohne*

June 07, 2008

Stars on the Forest Floor

Dave Krohne, (June 7, 2008, Quito, Ecuador)—Who would imagine that the most compelling mental image of the rainforest would be a fungus?



Yesterday on the 12-hour trip from Tiputini Biodiversity Station to Quito (boat-bus-boat-truck-plane), I had plenty of time to reflect on our time in the rainforest—gaudy birds, iridescent butterflies, spiders the size of an open hand, monkeys peering down at us from the canopy—these would seem to be the iconic images. But the one that kept coming back to me was of fungi.

I was set up for this on a night float on the river while we spotlighted for wildlife. The southern stars were beyond counting in the forest gap over the river. The Southern Cross shifted from behind the boat to in front as we snaked around 180 degree hairpin bends in the river. Later in the week we took a night walk along one of the trails radiating out from the station. A few hundred meters into the forest we shut off our headlamps. As our eyes adjusted to the darkness, we began to see pinpoints of light on the forest floor. First ten, then a hundred, then thousands of bioluminescent fungi—“stars” on the forest floor. Some were bright, some faint. We could even imagine little constellations.

I’ve told the students that the only word they are not allowed to use in their blogs is “awesome”. But that’s what it was.