



## **WABASH COLLEGE**

### ***Class Agents Letter***

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### **Class of 1951**

#### **Class Agent**

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12 December 2012

Dear Ladies and Men of the Wabash Class of 1951:

It is hard to believe that this is the middle of December already. Christmas and the New Year are almost upon us. Of course, you may say, rightfully, that it's about time Class Agent Griesser sent us one of his class letters. Too much time has passed since his last letter.

I have no real excuse but as time has gone by I find it harder and harder to settle down and write. Everything I do seems to take longer and require more effort than it ever did before. Please bear with me.

Wabash had another successful football season. We had only two losses, both to teams we should have beaten, but that was enough to keep us out of the Division III playoffs. By the way the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh made it into the final four before falling. It was their first time ever in the playoffs.

Our little group of loyal alums, Paul and Mary Jones, Warren and Paula Jackson, Don and Fran Martin and your Class Agent, all of the Class of '51 as well as Bob and Nancy Morris '50 and Jean Peters, widow of Gordon '52 and Russ Thrall '52 were back again for homecoming. Depending on who you talked to it was the 50<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> or 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive year most have made it back. It is getting harder each year but the reunion is a precious event for each. We were treated to a good Wabash football victory over Carnegie Mellon University. I still tear up singing our Alma Mater song at the alumni chapel. The homecoming gathering was a great celebration of the success of the Challenge of Excellence campaign. The \$60,000,000 goal was reached a year before it was originally planned to end and at over \$68,000,000.

Received a phone call from Bill Schooler '51 who use to run with Charlie Finch and Ben Calacci. He lives in Delphi, IN. In his career, he has met and spoken with presidents of the United States, the Pope, Mother Theresa and many more. Seems like he has been everywhere too.

Got an email from Nick Longsworth and invited him to join us at Homecoming but I never saw him.

I'm sure most of you know that we are in the 7<sup>th</sup> and final year of Pat White's tour as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of Wabash College. I personally will be sorry to see him go. When I talked with him and his lovely wife Chris, they were not sure of what challenges lay ahead for them. We can be sure though whatever they undertake, they will be outstanding. When I think of Pat White I think of the completion of our athletic facilities, the soccer stadium, the baseball ballpark, and the new football field. I think of the engineering program with Purdue, the Asian studies program and the list could go on and on. And Chris, what an asset for Pat and Wabash. What a pair! Both great Little Giants.

As it seems with all my class letters I have to report the passing of more of our brothers. **Edward C. Minas III** and **James C. Norris** died since my last letter. I have asked Michele Ward to enclose their obituaries with this letter. I must add that my first wife, Nancy, and mother of my six children died in November a victim of a year-long battle with cancer.

Turning to some good news, Wabash once again destroyed the Tigers from DePauw. Beth and I drove down to Milwaukee to enjoy the victory. If you ever get a chance to go to one of these Monon Bell telecast parties, do so. It's fun and even more fun when we bury the dannies from Greencastle.

It is not too late for you to make your Alumni Fund donation and get a write off for 2012. I haven't received our current class standings but I'd bet we are right up there again. Here are those who have already made their donations: Patricia Allman, Wally Allman, Herb Brooks, Ben Calacci, Bill Dunbar, Jr., Dick Griesser, Warren Jackson, Bob Joel, Ellwood Lewis, Nick Longsworth, Jr., Don Mefford, Bill Orman, Larry Paikos, Bill Schooler, Tully Shaw, Doug Simmons, Jim Slagle, Joe Smith, Sandy Wright, and Carol Yoder.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and Happy Hanukkah.

Richard H. Griesser '51  
Class Agent

**EDWARD C. MINAS III**, MERCER ISLAND, WA passed away at his residence Friday, August 24, 2012.

He was born on August 19, 1929 in Hammond, IN to Edward Clarence Minas, Jr. and Adelaide Hill Minas. Edward graduated from Hammond High School in Hammond. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Wabash College where he majored in Social Sciences. He continued his education at Indiana University where he earned his Master's in Business Administration.

Edward married Marilyn Hinesley in 1951, and they raised their three sons in Northwest Indiana. Edward worked at the family department store, The Edward C. Minas Company in downtown Hammond, for over 36 years before moving to the Seattle area. His grandfather had started the Edward C. Minas Company in 1890 as a hardware store. He retired from U.S. West (now known as Century Link), but continued to be active in many endeavors, from working as the Trip Planning Director for The Elder Hostel of Seattle, volunteering at the Mercer Island and Bellevue Senior Center and serving on his condominium association board. He was a hard working entrepreneur and even put his outgoing, gregarious nature to work, and greeting customers at Applebee's in Factoria, Bellevue, WA.

Spearheading the campaign to bring the YMCA to Hammond, Edward was honored with the "Jaycees Outstanding Man of the Year" Award. He regularly attended the Mercer Island United Methodist Church, and remained busy with various hobbies and interests including writing the history of the Edward C. Minas Company and fishing. Edward is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Marilyn Minas; three sons: Edward C. (Sarah) Minas, IV of East Lansing, MI, Randall K. (Nancy) Minas of Culver, IN and David C. Minas of Issaquah, WA; seven grandchildren: Melissa Braswell, Dawn Brockey, Randy Minas, Jr., Laurel Minas, Joel Minas, Aaron Minas, and Nichole Minas; and his sister, Eleanor Minas Peglow of Munster, IN.

**James C. Norris** 85, of Indianapolis, died on December 8, 2012. He was born June 30, 1927 in Indianapolis to Frederick and Louise Norris. He attended Park School and Wabash College. Jim served in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of The Walnut Council and Pheasants Forever. Jim was always an outdoor person. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, working with his bird dogs and just strolling around his tree farm. He thoroughly cherished the fellowship and friendship with friends and was dedicated to his family. While President of Hoosier Travel, Jim had the opportunity to visit many foreign countries. He also served as President of the Town Board while living in Westfield. In retirement he became interested in conservation and the returning of land back to its natural state, which he was accomplishing on his tree farm. Jim is survived by wife, Virginia Norris; son, Steve (Marsha) Norris; daughter, Connie (Mark Greiner) Wernerbach; daughter, Carolyn (Mike) Lawver; 4 grandchildren, Gwen Wernerbach, Sasha Wernerbach, Kaley Norris and Kelsey Norris and 3 great-grandchildren.