



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

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Dear '52ers

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

Wabash continues its excellent job of keeping us all up to date on news from campus. So my job here is simply to mention a few items that you might have missed or that others of our class have brought to my attention:

- Kappa Sigma '52 alum **Jim Thomas** recently e-mailed to me the great news that my fraternity Delta Tau Delta is returning to campus. A lead article in *The Bachelor* edition of 2-5-16 is captioned "Delts Starting Fresh," and reports a surprising 40+ students have expressed an interest in joining the fraternity.
- The front page article in the same *Bachelor* issue pictures a ground breaking reconstruction of Martindale Independent housing in addition to "the freshly completed (and nicer than average) Williams and Rogge Halls." The reporter makes this interesting observation: "Of course Wabash College for a number of years has seen the rise in the number of students who prefer independent life, citing the current 49-51 rounded percentage in narrow favor of the fraternities." That news reminds me of

our college days of yore when, for us, it was also largely a matter of personal choice between pledging a fraternity or remaining independent.

- Our classmate **Brad Johnston** wrote recently to supply this website: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVHs7jODzn4 I enjoyed viewing the Wabash message you'll find there, and pass it along for you to visit.
- Sports Notes: In basketball, it was a Wabash 80-75 basketball victory over the Dannies last month. A new Shelbourne Wrestling Center opened on campus January 29. Our wrestling team is having a great season so far.
- Wabash won 12 football games last season for only the third time in school history. The only loss was in a post-season playoff against St. Thomas University of St. Paul Minn. in the first week of December. As noted by Tom Klingaman in a recent e-mail, St. Thomas University is a school of 12,000 students in size (vs the Wabash enrollment of less than a tenth of that number), which is a joke that they are even in Division III. Makes one wonder how the NCAA decides who can be in Div III?
- Director of Alumni and Parent Relations **Tom Runge**, Wabash '71, is retiring March 31, after 15 years working at the college. Steve Hoffman '85 will take over Tom's position on April 1. I know, having worked with Steve on other matters, he will do a great job. But I must acknowledge that Tom Runge has been a good innovator: It was Tom who created The Big Bash Weekend, a weekend in early summer where alumni from different eras return and stay at Wabash. Our class benefited from his leadership.

Thanks to **Tom Klingaman** for his response to my query as to what I might include in a future Letter. Tom suggested the new dorms in progress on campus should be reported, which accounts for the second item above.

THOMAS BASTIAN MOSER
(April 15, 1930 - November 22, 2015)

“Tom loved Wabash and we have so enjoyed the class reunions, being a part of it, meeting with classmates, spouses, everyone involved,” wrote Joan Moser from their home in Excelsior, MN, when she sent me a copy of her husband’s obituary last November. So it is no surprise to note that his brief obit closed as follows: “In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred in Tom’s name to Wabash College, Athletic Department, P.O. Box 352. Attention: Advancement Office, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.” *Tom Moser was Some Little Giant!*

At Wabash Tom ran track and played football. He continued his interest in sports with golf and tennis and loved living on the lake - hosting many parties there. He was such a top notch salesman in the paperboard packaging industry that Pillsbury, his largest account, honored him by hosting his retirement party.

Music was a huge part of Tom’s life. He taught many how to sing in a barbershop quartet; played trumpet, piano and guitar beginning in grade school. At Wabash, he was part of his Beta Theta Pi fraternity quartet, which included **George Little** ’53, plus two more of our ’52 classmates, namely **Tom Klingaman** and **Ted Steeg**, plus **Tom Moser**, of course, as leader of that group.

In addition to wife Joan, he is survived by daughters Jane, Anne, and son Jim, and seven grandchildren. The family plans to have a Celebration of Life party for Tom in June or July this summer and you may reach Joan Moser for particulars at shabooie@gmail.com

A MILESTONE OF 30 YEARS

My first Letter as Class Agent ’52 was written in 1986.

So for thirty years you’ve put up with me (not that you had much choice in the matter), with due allowance for others of our class who wrote when I was not available during that time. Thanks to **Ken Beasley**, **Ted Steeg**, and **Paul Arnold**

for those occasional respites, and my apologies to others of you who may also have contributed and I failed to recognize. Please e-mail corrections to me.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

An Essay From James Youngjohn

It was a very nice day. I was driving down a scenic road enjoying the afternoon. Up ahead looks like a big billboard. As I got closer the billboard announced the road is at its end; if I want to continue I will have to turn left at the stop sign. After I turned left there is a road sign that says "Dead End Road." Sounds ominous to me. Well, I had to keep going. After a little while another sign, "Grim Reaper Falls — Straight Ahead." Didn't say how far — did I really want to know?

Soon another billboard selling something. "Barrels for Sale," good idea. Here comes the roadside store. Bad luck! Sign says they are closed — no barrels today. Oh! Oh! Grim Reaper Falls without a barrel, sounds scary! Had to keep on trucking. Oh no, another sign - Bridge Out Ahead. Trouble? Probably! Another sign, Schitt Creek Bridge is Out. To continue on Dead End Road you will have to go up Schitt Creek. I have an uncomfortable feeling about how that a word is pronounced. I checked my back seat to make sure my canoe paddle was there. Oh damn, where did it go? Imagine that, up Schitt Creek without a paddle. If I wanted to get back on Dead End Road I would have to manage.

Well I got back on Dead End Road. Soon another sign, Grim Reaper Falls Ahead. I wondered - how far is it?

Ed Note: Lest you think Jim negative all the time, not so: He has suggested our next class reunion in 2017 mention '52 @ 65. Agreed.

CLASS '52 @ 65 in 2017

Our 65th Reunion for our Wabash Class '52 is a scant 15 months from now. Can you believe it?

Fortunately, preparing for it should be easy, providing we *start now* with three easy steps:

1. First, each of us should *right now* reserve room on our calendars for this travel date: June 2-4, 2017. Our reunion committee (yet to be named) has taken to heart Youngjohn's suggestion above, so perhaps we may call the event ***Class'52 @ 65 in '17***.
2. Don't like our reunion plans so far? OK. No problem. Come up with a better name for the event. *And while you're at it*, please send to me or to the Alumni Office any **updates** as to your mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone listing because we plan to publish on March 31, an updated list for drumming up attendance and other uses in contacting each other as the event nears.
3. Planning for our reunion activities should be very easy. How so? Well, at our 60th reunion the big event for our class was our private Saturday evening dinner on top of Trippet Hall where we sat around the table and talked and talked for hours. We then adjourned (sometime around 10:30 or so) and continued reminiscing in our hospitality suite at the Hampton Inn & Suites just north of town. Four pages of pictures were part of our September 2012, 8-page Letter which certainly you will all recall. But for the benefit of those few of us who may not remember, following is a redacted page 8 of that 2012 Letter. It is captioned: "Notes Re Future Class of '52 Reunions," and edited excerpts follow:

-page8-

"NOTES *RE* FUTURE CLASS '52 REUNIONS

"Here are some things we might want to consider and keep in mind when planning our 65th Reunion and beyond:

"Our reunion was sure a special happening for me. I'm certainly pleased that I was able to attend. And the 65th isn't all that far away!! **Norm Buktenica**

“Nicely done, Will-yum! ... I thought our get-together was totally successful. ‘Till next time ... **Ted Steeg**

“I heartily agree with Tedarino’s comments. You did an outstanding job, and in particular your insisting that we have our own Saturday night dinner. Will we be able to have our own dinner at our 65th? **Jim Thomas**

“Bill ... I had a wonderful time seeing and visiting with old classmates and, of course, just being back at Wabash. I felt that we still are what we were ... polished and molded by 60 years of life experience. **Russ Thrall**

“Dear Bill,

“My thanks go to you for shepherding those who came to the Reunion so thoughtfully and smoothly (see Ted’s comment) through the weekend. It was wonderful to hear the memories you told to and about each other. It was like sunken treasures were brought back up to light. A thread ran through: your affection for your Alma Mater and your classmates spiced with good humor.

“I think the informality was a great plus. The Saturday dinner at Trippet Hall was a very pleasant and almost intimate affair. You were right in insisting on the private nature of it.

“Bravo to you and your ’52 classmates. Best, **Irmie [Mrs. Paul McKinney]**

“Conclusion: We Wabash octogenarians do not need a formal program to be entertained. Possible exception: we might want to show a 25-30 minute professional movie by Ted Steeg about Wabash at our 65th Reunion in 2017. Ted reported to us during our private June dinner that when his film was first shown at Wabash, it brought tears to the eyes of B. K. Trippet. How much I look forward to seeing it anew now that Ted has provided us another context from which to view it.”

~ end of page 8 Sept. 2012 Class ’52 Letter

MISCELANEOUS

Someone locally told me last week that our “Old Wabash” is the longest college fight song in the country. Comments anyone?

According to the “Princeton Review” last year Wabash was again ranked among the top-20 schools in 62 categories, which are based on surveys of 130,000 college students collected during the 2014-15 academic year. If nothing else, this speaks well of our students’ attitude toward their college and our *alma mater*.

Wabash was cited as a “best buy” for quality academic offerings and affordability, according to the *Fiske Guide to Colleges Best Buys of 2016*. Wabash is one of 11 liberal arts institutions to make the list, and the only private school in Indiana to do so. It is only one of 41 institutions to earn the rating, which identifies schools that offer outstanding academics and a high quality of student life on campus at relatively modest prices.

After he read our last Class Agent Letter in November, 2015, **Paul Arnold** passed along this compliment: “Your thoroughness and general ontopedness (new word, Definition: in a state of being on top of things as they develop) were impressive indeed. Thanks for all the time and effort you expend on this ongoing project.” My response: Will do what I can to promote use of your new word **ontopedness**, Paul, provided I can remember.

Cordially,

Bill

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