



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

William J. Reinke

July 4, 2014

Dear '52ers

WABASH GIFTING — 2014

As you know, for tax planning purposes I usually urge our Class '52 to send donations to Wabash College near calendar year end. So I was less than enthusiastic when one day in *April* 2014, our alma mater minted a new gift challenge seeking 430 donations in the form of a one-day April 30 blitz campaign under a slogan "Stand T.A.L.L. 430 on 4.30.14 For Wabash." Moreover I thought the timing of this one day appeal — coming just 15 days after tax return deadlines — was ridiculous.

Fortunately I did not broadcast my feelings. Good thing, too. Here are some of the favorable results of that Wabash one day, April 30, fundraiser:

- We surpassed the 430 donations goal by a good margin: 2,085 donors according to Alumni Director Tom Runge's e-mail report on May 1. Pretty good for a college with a 900 student body enrollment, right?
- By comparison, Runge reports that a similar April 30, campaign at Purdue produced 7,400 donors, although Purdue's student population is 30,000 (33 times bigger than Wabash).
- Notre Dame Day was held April 28, and produced 4,000 donors. ND has a student body size of approximately 12,000 (13 times that of Wabash).

So apparently our one day April 30 drive (the last day of classes) is not a Wabash invention, but rather is something other schools have used to good effect.

Moreover, while instituted with little advance fanfare, a lot of planning and hard work went into making it all come out well. According to a further update on May 9, from Joe Klen, Associate Dean for College Advancement:

- 2,329 gifts were made as part of 430 on 4/30 (more than five times the original challenge).
- 877 people made their first gift of the 2013-14 fiscal year on 4/30.
- 374 people made their first gift EVER to Wabash on 4/30.
- \$465,421 was raised on 4/30 as of this May 9 report date.

With that kind of success, this inaugural Wabash Day of Giving promises to become an annual event. So get used to it.

GORDON WYATT WILES

(June 20, 1929 - April 27, 2014)

Classmate **Gordon Wiles** was a member of Beta Theta Pi while attending Wabash College his first two years, “but left to pursue his dream and begin his career in television,” according to his May 10-11, 2014 obituary in the L.A. Times. He began with NBC in 1950 in New York. During his Army service as a draftee in 1951-52, according to the same obituary Gordon “operated an Armed Forces Radio Network *inside* North Korea. The radio station’s location was kept a secret, but was located just north of the historical 48th Parallel.”

Within ten days of his military discharge, Gordon returned to NBC in New York. While working on the TV show “Home” he met and married his first love, Eve Hunter, who was one of the stars of the show. The marriage produced daughter Wendy and son Gordon II, both of whom survive.

According to Gordon’s autobiographical sketch in **Dick Daniel’s** magnificent book **’52@50:**

“In 1954 I moved from NYC to Los Angeles and continued to work for NBC Hollywood, learning the TV business in production. It was an exciting time with all the programming ‘live.’ I left NBC in 1960 and became a ‘free lance director’ because I wanted to be able to work at any studio I chose. Over the next twenty years I worked at Warner Brothers, MGM, Samuel Goldwin, Paramount, Disney, NBC, CBS and ABC. I directed tape and film programs.

“To name just a few of the better known shows, I worked for The Dinah Shore Chevy Show for seven years. I spent a few years with Bobby Darin and the first two years of ‘Rowan

and Martin's Laugh In.' I retired in 1987 but still enjoy the memories of over 30 years in Hollywood. It was very exciting and I loved it."

Gordon was nominated for two Emmys for outstanding directorial achievement. He also directed the movie "Ginger in the Morning."

STILL 'ON THE GO'

Members of our Wabash Class '52 have done a lot of traveling over the years as duly reported here from time to time. While we octogenarians may not move around as fast as we once did, we continue to travel a lot when and where able to do so - as evidenced by the following recently reported activities:

- From Arizona **Dick Gooding** writes that he is "Still trucking along. Fortunately our health is good. I just got back from a fishing trip in Ontario for walleyes. Best eating ever! Sue and I spend much of the summer at our ranch in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. We are very dry so far this year but they're talking about a good summer moisture from El Nino [as] we normally get moisture in July and August if we're lucky."
- From **Jim Thomas** in Maine: "[My wife] Peg retired in May and we returned yesterday (6/12/14) after a ten day trip to Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton."
- From **Tom Klingaman**: "As most folks know the winter in northern Michigan was brutal, both for extended very cold periods and for lots of snow. Fortunately we spent it in Arizona. Son John who lives near Traverse City said the snow drift between our house and our detached garage was up to the eaves of the garage - 7 feet. [So where's that in Michigan? Tom's June 12 reply: Just west from Sleeping Bear dune on the shores of Lake Michigan "which I note the coastguard has just decreed is finally free of ice."] "While in Indy during our trip from AZ to MI I journeyed to C'Ville just to get reacquainted with the College. It looks absolutely wonderful-the near perfect college environment. Grounds look great, buildings are lovely. It is a splendid example of what a small college should look like."

KEEPING IN CONTACT

I recently sent the following e-mail to both classmates **Ben Wright** of Savannah Georgia, and **Kurt Thoss** in Naperville, Illinois:

To: B G Wright <benlyn2@bellsouth.net> and to Kurt Thoss <lofty@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 12 Subject: Next Class '52 Letter

Ben & Kurt -

Over the years I have truly enjoyed being on the receiving end of your interesting e-mail messages, both original as well as copies from other sources which you send on either straight or with your own editorial comments added.

Absent word from you to the contrary, I would like to mention this in my next Class '52 Letter, suggesting that any classmate ... who would like to be included should send to either or both of you his e-mail address. If what they receive is not to their liking, they could always send to you an e-mail request to be deleted from future mailings. OK?

I would like to add in my message that you both are rather conservative, so that we avoid offending the liberals among our classmates at the git-go.

What say you to this idea? If affirmative, please advise what else should be included in my proposed article, including info about yourselves.

Kurt's reply? Nada. Which is A-OK, because I added that silence assumes assent. Ben replied: "Bill - very kind of you! I have no problem with this since I will be identified as a conservative from your 'git go.'" (**Andy Andrews**, are you reading this? Makes you want to run out and buy a computer, doesn't it?)

Seriously, for many years past I've enjoyed reading Ben and Kurt's occasional e-mailings, which include a lot of interesting non-political stuff. As they emanate from two of our classmates I thought you might be interested in enrolling in one or both e-mail addresses provided above. If you don't enjoy them, just ask to be deleted from their mailing lists and they will comply with your request.

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

As usual, the College continues doing a great job of keeping us up to date on all the news from campus — so much so that as a class agent I am reluctant to compete. However, here are some more bullets on recent and current happenings that you might want to peruse for further details at the website below:

- The Bachelor 4/10/14: After many years of not having a Wabash College student represented in the *Fulbright scholars* program, the College has announced in the past few months three students, Adam Barnes, Sebastian Garren, and Patick Stroud (all class of '14) were named fellows.
- Prof. of English *Tobey C. Herzog* retired this spring after spending the last 38 years having an impact on generations of students at Wabash.
- *The 121st Monon Bell Classic* is scheduled to be played this year in C'ville on November 15, 2014.
- For the third time in the past six years in Indiana, the Wabash *Bachelor* has been named college newspaper of the year.

For details on these and other campus news items, please go directly to the Wabash web-site www.wabash.edu/news/archives.

Paul Arnold recently shared the following gem that provides a good close for this Letter: “Yesterday in conversation, a chum here used a term that I thought you might enjoy. He referred to people who are our (and his) age as *being in the checkout lane*. That metaphor made me smile.”

Cordially,

Bill

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