



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

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Dear '52ers

AUTHOR WILLIAM "BILL" ETHERTON

I was recently "scooped" by my friend Steve Charles, our excellent *Wabash Magazine* editor, in his Spring 2016 issue which contains this sole entry under news for our class '52:

"Bill Etherton has written a book, *Good Night and Good Sports* about his experience as a radio [and television] broadcaster for Notre Dame football and basketball. *Notre Dame Magazine* calls the book 'a trip down memory lane with the man who did play-by-play announcing for Notre Dame football and basketball for more than 15 years. Etherton takes readers on a tour beyond the broadcast booth, detailing experiences such as his interviews with Louie Armstrong, Hoagy Carmichael, John Wooden, and Ronald Reagan."

"I respect and value Bill's friendship," writes Ara Parseghian in a forward. 'He was truly one of the best sports announcers and voices of his era.'"

So with fantastic compliments like the above, what's more for me to add? Quite a bit more, as I learned from a recent telephone discussion with Bill at (317) 364-7000. He wrote the book last November - December, 2015, in spite of health problems which now require dialysis treatment 4 hour a day, three days a week, which "drains you." He also has suffered eyesight problems for some time. So I asked how was it possible for him to write a book in only two months, especially with impaired vision?

Answer: Content for the book comes from notes of speeches Bill has delivered over the years to various civic and charitable group audiences. So his main task was to edit this accumulated material with the assistance of enlargement equipment to compensate for his diminished sight - and he did this over a scarce two month period!

Bill's highly praised book is available several ways: Barnes & Noble book store, amazon.com, or you can order a copy (as I did) by sending a \$17.95 check, which includes postage and shipping costs, made out to his wife Joann Etherton, addressed to their home at 14754 Dorset Lane #31, in Noblesville, IN 46062. If you choose the latter route, Bill will personally autograph your copy and add a note addressed to you.

From Wabash I obtained a copy of *The Times* newspaper, which serves Noblesville & Hamilton County, IN. It features an editor's two page interview of Bill on March 16, 2016. A few excerpts follow to end this story:

“Etherton, who was always a big fan of the Fighting Irish as a young man, grew up in Mishawaka, near South Bend, home of Notre Dame. ‘I always had an interest in sports and was able to compete in junior high in track. I wanted to play football, couldn't do it; (I was) too small,’ he said. ‘So I listened to the great sports announcers of a long time ago, Ted Husing and Bill Stern, and I would go down to Merrifield Park (in Mishawaka) and sit on the park bench and imagine a game. ‘This is Bill Etherton, speaking to you from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.’”

“In high school, he did well in speech, and was in the American Legion oratorical contest and placed second in the state. He was awarded a scholarship to Wabash College in Crawfordsville, where he grabbed an opportunity his freshman year to audition for a campus radio station position vacated by a sports director recalled into military service...”

“At that time [in the fall of 1948], the football season was about to begin at Crawfordsville High School and Wabash College. This was before television.”

And the rest is history... **Some Little Giant!**

THE BACHELOR

“The Student Voice of Wabash College since 1908”

A perk for Class Agents is that we receive weekly copies of *The Bachelor*, a weekly student publication. April 29, 2016 was the last issue for this past academic year and was 20 pages long. Page 1 features a Sphinx club member perched on a rafter and ringing the Monon Bell in announcing one half million dollars was raised from 3,300 gifts at press time, followed by reflections by Prof. of English Warren Rosenberg after a 36-year career in literature scholarship at Wabash. A chart of many graduating seniors' intended future paths is next. Then come four “Opinion” pieces (my favorite is entitled “The 3 Best Things Wabash Taught Me”).

At page 10 is an article about two seniors headed for the Peace Corp service, one in Ethiopia and the other in Sierra Leone. Much more. Then the last four pages concern sports, including a report on “W” winning its 4th consecutive title at the Indiana Div III Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

But my reciting a partial table of contents is no fun. How can I share “The Voice” with my classmates of 64 years ago so they can share the thrill of seeing that our traditions are yet strong, alive, and continuing?

Answer: on your computer, search or enter (Google) the website name “Wabash College.” Next select “Wabash College: Bachelor Crawfordsville Indiana.” Then appears a page on the far right side of which is the latest *Bachelor* issue of 4-29-16. Hit the picture of a Sphinx guy perched on a beam tolling the Monon Bell, and ENJOY! The next 20 pages are actually larger and clearer than my printed copy received through traditional US mail.

The Bachelor has won 174 Indiana Collegiate Press Association Awards since 2008. The Association has named *The Bachelor* “Indiana’s Best Small College Newspaper” in 2009, 2011, and again in 2014.

WILLIAM HAROLD ROSS

(May 26, 1930 - February 29, 2016)

Bill Ross hailed from Chicago and began his college days at Wabash in the fall of 1948, a member of our Class '52. He left us at the end of the first semester of our Sophomore year, which makes him a fellow alumnus, as there is a specific Indiana statute saying as much. While at Wabash, Bill was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

He graduated from Cornell University's Hotel Management School, after which he earned an MBA from the University of Michigan.

As a naval supply officer during the Korean War, he was stationed in Hawaii.

Returning to Chicago in the mid-1960's, Bill began a career of more than 50 years in the financial industry, working as a stock broker at Merrill Lynch, William Blair, and Morgan Stanley. Indeed, excluding schooling and military service, he was a lifetime resident of the Chicago area. According to his obituary, "He continued to commute until the month before his death" at his Kenilworth, Illinois home. Surviving Bill are his wife Pamela, a daughter and son-in-law, two brothers and two sisters plus numerous nieces and nephews and their children.

MORE ABOUT BOOKS BY CLASSMATES

Bill Etherton's remarkable accomplishment as the author of his very recently published and highly acclaimed *Good Night and Good Sports* reminds me of other authorships by members of our Wabash class of '52ers. Several readily come to mind:

Dunstan: Jewel of the English, a biography of the 10th century monk, abbot, and Archbishop of Canterbury, written by **Richard W. Daniels** in 1988,

copies of which can be found in the Boolean Library of Oxford and the British Library in London.

An Embattled and Unapologetic Liberal, subtitled *Selected Opinions Editorials and Commentaries* by **G. Alan Hickrod**, published by iUniverse Inc. in 2005. This book is a compendium of essays and papers by our classmate during his tenure as Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Educational Administration and Foundations at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Two books by classmate **Paul Arnold**: *Wisdom of the Guides: Rocky Mountain Trout Guides Talk Fly Fishing*, published in 1998 and still in print, available both in paperback and Kindle. This success was followed by a novel, which Paul co-authored with wife Carol. published in 2012 entitled *Divided by the Light* which is available for purchase through amazon.com

Who Are Those Guys? by **Tom Klingaman** is a series of essays Tom wrote back in the days when he was an active trustee at Wabash (1980-2000) sitting in the conference room in our then new college library and looking at the busts of historical leaders of Western Civilization. Tom wondered who some of them were. This book records what he discovered.

Visual Learning is the name of a professional book by psychologist **Norm Buktenica**, who co-authored the *Test of Non-Verbal Auditory Discrimination* and numerous professional articles such as the *Test of Non-Verbal Auditory Discrimination*.

Now help me out, 'cause my memory is not what it used to be. Please tell me what authors in our class I have failed to acknowledge in this "More About Books" column. Surely there are more and I would like to add them in a subsequent Letter.

CLASS '52 HONOR ROLL

Following is a listing of our classmates and widows thereof the College just reported as having made gifts to Wabash for the 2015-2016 fiscal year (FY16) that ended on June 30, 2016:

Wilbur Appel, Jr.	Paul Arnold	Mike Austin
Betsy Beasley	Buck Buktenica	Bob Elkins, Jr
Don Fisher	Richard Franks	Tom Henderson
Rally Hultsch	John Iuppenlitz	Tom Klingaman
Irmi McKinney	Wanda Millet	Gail Mullin
Marriage Neidow	Jean Peters	Bill Reinke
Bill Rippy, USAF (Ret.)	Hugh Smaltz II	Carole Stribling
Jim Thomas	Russ Thrall	George Vann

Some Little Giants!

The Report recounts a few highlights:

- 5,283 alumni, parents, and friends made gifts totaling \$3,129,507
- 4,908 alumni made gifts this year, both Annual Fund and restricted gifts
This is a new record for the number of alumni donors in a single year and is 231 more donors than last year. This was the sixth consecutive year for the College to realize an increase in the number of alumni donors.
- Alumni participation was at 42.4%, which is up from 41.0% last year and 40.2% in FY14.

CLASS '52 @ 65 in 2017

Our 65th Reunion for our Wabash Class '52 is now a scant 10 months from now. As planned, an updated Class Roster is being sent to you concurrent with this Letter. Please hang on to it as it will prove useful as our Reunion approaches.

Harry Livengood sent me this note from his home in Winter Springs FL before our 60th reunion, paraphrasing what our classmate **Sparky Watts** coined long ago:

“Bill —

“If the good Lord is willing ... and the Creek (Sugar Creek) don't rise —

“I will be there May 2012!!

Harry, the creek must have risen back then, because we missed you. I pray Sugar Creek remains low so that you can join us next spring in C'ville to celebrate our 65th Reunion!

In the meantime, Homecoming Weekend lies ahead on October 8 this fall, as I've been reminded by **Russ Thrall** in a phone call just now before sending this Letter to Wabash for publication. Russ and his whole family plan to attend the festivities. Once again Russ has thankfully promised to be my reporter of that event. Go Wabash!

Cordially,

Bill

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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 '52 Reunions," and edited excerpts follow:

“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 be able to have our own dinner eat 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 its anew now that Ted has provided us another context from which to view it.”

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