



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

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Dear '52ers

CLASS ROSTER UPDATED

It's been quite some time since our last Class '52 Roster has been distributed. Our Alumni Office does a marvelous job of keeping the roster up to date, and you know that if you need an address or phone number, you can contact me *via* a number of different ways provided in the signature block at the end of each Letter. Or you can call Wabash Director of Alumni Relations **Tom Runge** 765-361-6371 or **Michele Ward** at 765-361-6369.

So an updated Roster for our class is included with this letter. If you miss it, please call Michele and request that one be mailed to you.

JOHN P. "JACK" McVEY

(d. February 5, 2015)

Jack McVey's first two college years was as a Wabash classmate of ours and he was also a member of Phi Gamma Delta. He then transferred to Northwestern University for the year 1950-51, which was followed by four years of service with the U.S. Air Force. Jack earned a BS degree in Business Administration at Butler in Indy, which was his hometown. He was a proud Eagle Scout.

Wabash classmates **Dave Winton** and **Ted Steeg** were ushers at his marriage to Patricia Ball in 1952. Jack's fraternity brother **Brad Johnston** recalls living two doors away from the McVeys on Crittenden Ave. in Indy when their two young families were neighbors in days of yore.

Jack retired in 1986 as Midwest Regional Manager for Owen-Corning Fiberglas. An avid golfer, he was a long time member of Hillcrest and also Gyro of Indianapolis. According to his autobiographical sketch in **Dick Daniels'** book **'52@50**, he "settled in Florida full time about 1994. Golfing three days a week, fishing and reading consume most free time."

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 40 years, Marcia; and three children and four grandchildren.

DAVID L. ROHRMAN
(May 14, 1930 - February 15, 2015)

Dave Rohrman lived at Scott House as an Independent member of our class and then served in the Army during the Korean War in 1951-1953. As we well remember, many of our fellow classmates had their studies interrupted by that war.

A native Hoosier, Dave was born in Greenfield, married Marilyn in Fountaintown, and worked for GM Guide Lamp in Anderson (all in Indiana) as a tool & die maker for 29 years when he retired in 1992. He is survived by his loving wife Marilyn, two daughters and two sons, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren

MESSAGES FROM ETHERTON & HARRELL

Classmate **Bill Etherton** sent a letter last month in which he reported a change of address (see the enclosed Roster update for details) and "a line or two or even three about Bill's past few years." His letter continues:

"For several years I had been doing pre-need for several funeral homes in the Indianapolis area. But then in 2008 I was diagnosed with colon cancer - survived - back to work - then emergency open heart surgery with a 5-bypass - then a thoracic procedure to repair a lung and finally a rare E-coli infection with 3 1/2 months in the hospital and rehab!

“Not singing a sad song, ‘cause I’m still around.

“Have 7 years as the chaplain of the Morristown Marine Corps League Detachment and chaired the 2013 Marine Corps League Birthday Ball - 165 in attendance.

“I am working right now on my autobiography of my time at Wabash, WFMU Radio in C’ville, and my 15 plus years as the Radio/TV Sports play-by-play voice of Notre Dame Football and Basketball....

“If any of my Wabash 1952 class-mates are in the editing or publishing biz, I would like to talk to them. [Bill Etherton’s new phone listing is 317-797-5743]

“Semper Fi”

Samuel M. Harrell sent an e-mail last fall after learning of the death of our fellow classmate **Kurt Thoss**. This means that there are now only three of us Delts from our Wabash Class ’52 left standing, namely the two of us plus **Dick Franks** in New Jersey. “It’s lonely getting old,” Sam observed, and he continued with these reminiscences:

“We truly were the ‘Greatest Generation.’ Those years at Wabash could never be repeated. I matriculated at age 17 1/2. My roommate, Francis McIntyre, 6 years older, was a navigator in the US Army Air Corp in the South Pacific, and was directly involved with dropping the Atom Bomb over Nagasaki and Hiroshima - and later married my sister.

“Most of the Sophomore, Junior and Senior Classes were World War II veterans: fighter pilots, bomber pilots, foot soldiers — and spent much of their time at the Delt House reminiscing about their WW II experiences (when they weren’t entertaining the ‘WUGS’ - the Western Union Girls).

“*“Young men have visions. Old men have dreams.”*”

“Come visit me in West Palm Beach, FL”

Sam’s contact info has also been updated on the enclosed Class Roster, reflecting his recent move from Wyoming to Florida. But his website remains the same. In a later e-mail to me, he updated his McIntyre story as follows:

“Before he died at age 89, Francis “Mac” McIntyre told me at my sister’s wake that he was recalled into active duty during the Korean War when he was in the US Air Force Reserve, and navigated Air Force bombers, fully loaded with fuel, flying from a Texas Air Force Base over the North Polar Cap, jettisoning the extra fuel tanks en route, and flew non-stop over Moscow and back, *with nuclear bombs on board* - on a weekly basis.

“I asked Mac, ‘What would have happened if the President would say “Push that Red Button?”’ ‘We would be atomized,’ Mac replied.

“I told this to one of my Apollo Astronaut friends living here in the Palm Beaches and he confirmed Mac’s story. He said he, too, was doing the same thing during the Korean War. Scary.

“Sam”

Thank you for writing, Bill and Sam. If I could receive more good correspondence like yours from others in our class, it would make my job as Class Agent a whole lot easier and much more interesting for my readers.

UPDATES FROM GEORGIA AND MAINE

From his retirement home in Savannah GA, classmate **Ben Wright** reports he has finished 5+ months of chemo and radiation therapy for lung cancer, which for now is in remission so that “light is now visible at the end of the tunnel.”

Ben spent four years in the Navy (1951-5), and he worked in the early 1960's with U.S. Air Force construction projects in Germany, plus performed numerous other military work as detailed in his autobiographical contribution to '52@50. So I knew he would be interested in reading Sam Harrell's foregoing report. Ben's response:

“Bill — I don't have first hand knowledge of these flights during the Korean War, but from conversations with acquaintances who flew similar flights a little later (early 60's) I certainly believe this is a true story.”

Jim and Peg Thomas plan to check out some ancestral sites in North Wales and Ireland this May, 2015. Jim reported their home in Maine recently had record-breaking amounts of snow and were anticipating another 8-12 inches the weekend of March 25.

NEWS FROM OTHER CLASSES

There is so much news to report concerning our Wabash Class of '52, that we don't have to stray from that subject to fill a Letter. But for those interested in doing so, it's an easy task to (1) go to the Wabash web-site and peruse what my counterparts have to report concerning Wabash alumni from their classes, or (2) we each receive the quarterly journal called simply Wabash Magazine, which is always a good read.

But today I have two items from classes apart from ours, which demand inclusion here:

First is this 2-18-15 e-mail to all Wabash class agents from Tom Runge reporting the demise of **Dick Griesser**, agent for the Wabash Class '51 and my mentor:

“Friends, We’re saddened to report that **Dick Griesser** ’51, long time class agent, passed away this morning. Dick, as you know, was a legend as a class agent - he was the first recipient of the Warren Shearer Class Agent Award - the first member of your Hall of Fame, if you will. Dick took great pride in the accomplishments of his classmates and in the way his class supported Wabash.

Dick’s faithful and long long term service eclipses my own tenure. Indeed I do not recall ever attending a meeting of Wabash class agents when Dick Griesser was not both a gregarious and worthy participant.

Second (and more light-hearted) as some of you have called to my attention, stellar alumnus **Jim Givens**, Wabash class ’50, has been promoted to membership in our class ’52 according to page 9 of the Summer 2014 issue of the Wabash Magazine. I can’t figure out if that is a printer’s error? Or perhaps wishful thinking by Jim? Either way it’s deemed worthy of your attention as our class has apparently gained another member.

JOYCE P. AUSTIN
(November 5, 1931 - March 4, 2015)

Last June **Mike Austin** telephoned to report he had moved from Indianapolis to P.O. Box 476, Melissa, Texas 75454 (tele: 469-795-6465), so that his wife Joyce could be in an assisted living home which is only 15 minutes away from their daughter Karla. Mike claimed “I am not a Texan as yet, because I still get the INDY newspaper.”

Unfortunately, I am late in reporting this to you as our Alumni Office just sent word that **Joyce P. Austin** passed away peacefully on March 4, 2015 in Melissa TX. Joyce graduated from IU with an education degree in 1952, was a member of DAR, loved vacations at Lake Wawasee and was always ready to play golf. Besides Mike and their daughter Karla she is survived by their son Austin

and four grandchildren. Condolences to you on your loss, Mike, on behalf of your many classmates.

SOME NOTES FROM CAMPUS

On March 23, our **President Gregory Hess** announced the appointment of **Michael F. Thorp**, Wabash '86, as "Dean for Enrollment Management," which position presumably is what we used to know in our college days as simply "Director of Admissions." Thorp appears well qualified as he has 25+ years of experience in admissions and financial aid, including at Millsaps College, where he was also Dean of Enrollment Management. He was VP and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at the Colleges of St. John and St. Benedict and held similar positions at Antioch College, Lawrence University, and also worked in admissions at Earlham and at Miami earlier in his career.

The "Gentlemen's Classic II" football game vs. all-male Hampden-Sydney is set for 9/5/15 at the Tigers' campus located in Farmville VA, which lies somewhere between Lynchburg and Richmond. Quaintly, "There is no cost for admission," although an approximate \$10 parking fee is likely. Go to <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/docs/Hampden-Sidney> Travel Information.pdf for more details.

Tom Klingaman offered an excellent suggestion that I report news to you on extensive current student housing being constructed on campus, but before I could do so Wabash has scooped me once again....which is just as well, 'cause it affords more space for me to write updates on our Class '52ers.

Cordially,

Bill

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