



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### Class of 1952

#### Class Agent

William J. Reinke

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## Thanksgiving, 2013

Dear '52ers

### *WABASH ENTERING CLASS — 2013*

The 245 members of the Wabash freshmen class this fall hail from 23 states and eight countries, according to the *Bachelor* newspaper of 9/13/13. This is quite a contrast with our Class '52, which entered precisely 65 years ago this fall with about half that number. Far fewer of us came from other countries and nowhere near 23 states were represented in our freshmen class.

Moreover, "Forty percent of the freshmen [this year] were referred by Wabash alumni," according to the same article in the *Bachelor*. "Seventeen freshmen followed brothers to Wabash; four have grandfathers who are Wallies, 11 have uncles who went here, 13 have cousins who attended Wabash, and 13 are following in their fathers' footsteps by choosing Wabash College."

Hats are off to those classmates who have "recruited" for Wabash in the past. Most recent efforts during the past three months that I know of include classmates **Bill Etherton** and **Hugh Smaltz**. Whether or not they were successful in those efforts, I know not. But that's not the point. The point is that even we octogenarian-alumni can contribute to the continuing success of our *alma mater* in this manner, quite apart from our monetary gifts. If you have a referral in mind, call the Wabash Admissions office at 1-800-345-5385.

***R. DAVID MATHIAS, JR.***

***(Jan. 30, 1929 - Sept. 24, 2013)***

Four years after graduating with us as a member of Beta Theta Pi, Classmate **Dave Mathias** returned to Elkhart, became President of L&J Press Corporation in 1964 through 1985, followed by Federal Press Co in 1988 through retirement in 1993. Among his services on boards of directors, both corporate and civic, are the First National Bank, Elkhart; Wilson Steel & Wire, Chicago; National Machine Tool Builders Association; The Stanley Clark School in South Bend; Furman University Parents' Council in Greenville, SC; and the Elkhart Community School Building Corporation.

On the home front, Dave is survived by a son, four daughters, 15(!) grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and his significant other of 30 years, Mary Louise Summers of Elkhart. He was an instrument-rated private pilot who also enjoyed golf, fly-fishing and his computer. Dave was a charter member of Elkhart's Elcona Country Club, a member of "The Oriental Order of Groundhogs, and Horseradish Club," as well as being a former member of YPO (the Young President's Organization). His obituary identifies Wabash College for remembrance in lieu of flowers.

Bon voyage, Dave Mathias - *Some Little Giant!*

***JANICE DANIELS (Widow of Richard W. Daniels '52) d. March 31, 2013***

***CAROLE MURRAY (Widow of James H. Murray '52) d. Sept 21, 2013***

Not until late September did Wabash learn of the demise six months earlier of Jan Daniels, beloved widow of our own Dick Daniels who authored, edited, and helped publish the record of our class in his book '52@50. Although unfortunately there was no obituary sent with this notification, I have learned that Jan's funeral was held at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Tulsa Oklahoma, which of course is where Dick served as longtime priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. Together they traveled much of western Europe, favorite spots

being Salzburg, Tuscany, and a multitude of places in Great Britain, as recounted by Dick in his autobiographical contribution to '52@50.

Carole Murray passed away at age 81 in Dublin, Ohio. She and our classmate Jim first met on a blind date while Carole attended DePauw and Jim was a student at Wabash. According to her obituary, Jim “always claimed that he made a bold move to ‘choose’ Carole rather than the date with whom he had been set up. Jim’s graduation in 1952 did not end their romance, which continued beyond Carole’s college graduation in 1953, with a degree in Elementary Education.” They married the following year and resided in Heidelberg, Germany while Jim was in the U.S. Army. There they gained a love of travel, which later included China, Panama, New Zealand and Scandinavia. Surviving Carol and Jim (who died 15 years ago when they resided in San Diego) are their daughter Kathleen and son Thomas plus six grandchildren.

Carole’s very interesting obit concludes wisely: “A quote [giving due credit to Josh Billings, a comedian of long ago] that would resonate with Carole, the bridge aficionado, sums up her well-lived life. ‘Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well.’”

## ***WABASH HOMECOMING REPORT — 2013***

By Norm Buktenica, as requested

Congratulations again to our 1951 Undefeated Football Team for being inducted into the Wabash College Athletic Hall of Fame at a dinner during the Homecoming Weekend September 20, 2013. Finally it seems just and due that the 1951 accomplishment be so enshrined.



While I don't think it is appropriate to compare teams from one era to another, at times over the years our 1951 team has been characterized as being the best ever. Ray Marquette, sports writer of *Indianapolis News* wrote a column during our tenure entitled "Football at Its Finest," noting that some of us "could play anywhere." Having said all of that, athletes today are surely bigger, faster and stronger than were we.

Attending the dinner were two of us, **Hugh Smaltz** our student manager and I, while **Harry Livengood** and **Ted Steeg** were unable to attend. There were 16 members of the 1951 team who were our 1952 classmates, and who were duly recognized at the induction-dinner. Also joining us in the festivities were classmates **Mike Austin**, **Bill Reinke** and his wife Liz. In all, a memorable experience of nostalgia and camaraderie of our days at Wabash.

[Ed. Note: Buck and I have asked Michele Ward of Alumni & Parent Relations to either insert here or append to this Letter some photographs taken at the induction-dinner ceremony of September 20, 2013.]

### ***MORE NEWS FROM CAMPUS***

As is always the case, the College does 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 bullets on recent and current happenings that you might want to peruse for further details at the website below:

- *Greg Hess* was inaugurated as the 16th President of Wabash College on October 11, 2013. His immediate predecessor, Pat White, retired in June pursuant to plans announced a year earlier to do so, and then took on the interim presidency of Millikin University in Illinois, which role is no longer temporary.
- *The Monon Bell* stays on our campus per a November 16, 2013, win at Greencastle. Michael Putko threw for 296 yards and three touchdowns to lead our Little Giants to a 5th straight victory in the 120th Monon Bell Classic.

- *Hot off the press 11/15/13:* Dr. Scott E. Feller will be the new Dean of the College effective July 1, 2014. In addition to significant teaching roles and intensive scholarship while at Wabash, his posts since 2006 include Chair of the
- Chemistry Department (2006-90 and Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (2009-present). He will assume the position currently held by Dr. Gary A. Philips, who will step down at the end of the current academic year and, after a sabbatical leave, will return to the classroom as Professor of Religion at Wabash.
- *Another hot off the press item dated 11/25/13:* Mauri A. Ditzler, a Wabash graduate where he majored in chemistry and speech, later serving as dean of the college at Wabash (1999-2005), has just been announced as the 16th president of Albion College in Michigan. He currently serves as president of Monmouth College in Illinois.
- *Our Cross Country team* won regionals ... *An immersion learning trip* is off to Cuba ... and I'm running out of room. So for details on these and other campus news items, please go directly to the Wabash web-site [www.wabash.edu/news/archives](http://www.wabash.edu/news/archives).

## ***NEWS FROM THE GARDEN STATE & THE BIG APPLE***

Some East Coast news concerning two of our classmates is favorable.

**Richard Franks** of Essex Fells NJ is one of just four of us old time Delts still around (besides **Kurt Thoss**, **Sam Harrell** and me). Dick reports that his annual skiing in Switzerland's Alps will not occur in January, 2014, as his balance is "no longer as good at 88 years." Not to worry, however, as the south side of the Alps with its white snow is still great for just walking. And he still enjoys doing his own house painting and gardening work.

Retired now for 25 years from the printing business he owned and operated, specializing in legal briefs, he truly timed that right. Dick explains that Xerox and computers were coming in vogue a quarter-century ago as lawyers began doing their own printing of briefs, so he decided to sell out and to retire. (Good decision, sir Richard, as the changes have continued as many courts today no longer accept printed briefs but instead insist that lawyers file timely *via* the internet.)

From the Big Apple, **Ted Steeg** reports that he is still suffering lingering effects from his stroke last June in that he uses a walker, the kids took away his car, and he has some vision impairment (e.g: when reading sometimes the words on the page “look like Russian”). Also he is not yet back to computer messaging and misses his “Ted life” with no martinis ‘cause they don’t mix with current medications.

But the good news as far as I am concerned based on a very recent telephone call I initiated a couple of days ago is that he retains his strong voice, clear speech, hearing, and wit — in short he is our good old **Tedarino** in many of the things that really matter. Also his girlfriend is to pick him up Thursday morn so as to be with his “Theater People” on Thanksgiving day.

So on those upbeat notes, I’ll sign off wishing Happy Holidays to one and to all!

Cordially,

**Bill**

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P.S. Attached is an announcement from Wabash about the availability of a free Luggage Tag. Think I will give it a try. How often does one’s luggage come down the airport conveyer belt looking exactly like everyone else’s? But adorned with a bright red “Wabash College” tag, it should stand out from the others like a red thumb. Plus I like having a business card address rather than my home address. The latter just advertises that I am not home, whereas the business card insert may be more helpful in getting lost luggage forwarded/returned promptly.

## Spread the Fame of Her Honored Name

Wherever you go, you can show your Wabash pride! Send Wabash your business card and they will affix your card to a luggage tag, attach a strap, and send it back ready to use. You can send your business card to the College at any time or include it with your next gift. Business cards can be mailed to:

Wabash College  
Advancement Office-Luggage Tag  
P.O. Box 352  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

They would prefer to have your business card; however, if you don't have a business card or want to use a different address, you can request to have Wabash create a customized luggage tag for you [here](#).

