



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

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Dear '52ers

WHY DO WE CALL DEPAUW MEN 'DANNIES'?

Wabash archivist Beth Smith seeks an answer to this question, noting that it would appear to be “A very simple question and yet the answer seems beyond the most in-depth research.” In an e-mail last month, she wrote:

“As the Archivist here at the College I get asked all sorts of questions. Most of the time I am lucky enough to be able to offer a good answer. Often the answer is ‘Let me look that up for you.’ Rarely is the answer unknowable in any way. But recently I was asked the simplest question and I can’t find the answer anywhere. In hope that the answer is knowable, I am turning to the collective memory of generations of Wabash men...

“Here is what I have found. It appears that the first use of the term ‘Dannies’ was in a Bachelor article of January 13, 1956. The writer, John Pence says in the fourth paragraph of a story reporting a Wabash loss to DPU, ‘By the end of the first 20 minutes of play, the ‘Dannies’ had maintained their fourteen point lead with a half-time advantage of 50-36.’ Prior to this January, 1956 story the men of DePauw had been regularly called kittens.

“By the fall of 1957 the term was in full, regular use as a ‘Danny’ flyer was prepared for the Monon Bell game. An editorial from the Bachelor says that 600 of these flyers were passed out on campus and another 300 left at DPU...

“Does anyone know how this got started, or why? Anything you can add to the origin story would be greatly appreciated.”

Steve Hoffman '85, who replaced our retired alumni director Tom Runge earlier this year, has passed along the Dannie question to all Wabash Class Agents. Responses so far appear to be more speculative than factual:

"I've never heard any story of the origin of the moniker 'Dannie' for the men of DePauw. I've always assumed it was a variation of 'Dandy' (a man who places particular emphasis on his appearance). - Atty Greg Miller, Class Agent '83, who resides in Crawfordsville IN

"Greetings...Counselor Miller's explanation certainly appears plausible. I seem to recall long ago discussion around the lyrics of 'O Danny Boy' — an Irish ditty that mimics the masculinity of DPU 'men.'" - Stephen Pavy, Class Agent '81

Earlier this month I added my own recollection in this e-mail to Archivist Swift, with copies to my fellow Class Agents:

"The origin of the term 'Dannies' for DePauw male students pre-dates 1956, Beth. I am quite certain about this statement because during a recent visit with my brother Bob, Class '55, I shared your query with him and he agreed the term was well in vogue at the time of our matriculation at Wabash in the early 1950's

"Neither of us is quite sure as to why a DePauw guy was referred to as being a 'Danny,' but please rest assured the word was not intended as a compliment. In my next Class '52 Letter I plan to share your inquiry and ask my classmates if anyone can add more information."

Gordon Colson, Class Agent '58, immediately responded to my e-mail: "Hi Bill. I agree that the term 'Dannies' was used prior to 1956. There aren't many guys left from the 30s and 40s who have all their marbles. Hope the Alumni Office contacts some of them.

So if you are one of the few of us guys left from the 40's who still "have all their marbles" and can help answer the intriguing question asked by our archivist, please contact me by telephone, snail mail, or e-mail. Appropriate addresses for all three means of communicating follow my signature at the close of this Letter. Stay tuned. Hopefully there is more to come on this interesting query.

RICHARD S. FRANKS

(d. June 28, 2016)

Richard Sterling Franks was a close friend of mine at the Wabash Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He was in my wedding party January 28, 1951, along with our fellow Delt **Doyle Pickett** and **Jim Cox** of the Phi Gams.

His daughter Audrey Esmond composed and mailed the following well-written and helpful Obituary on 8/8/16:

“It is with deep regret that we write to inform you that Richard Sterling Franks died on June 28, 2016 after a heart attack. He died peacefully in Charleston South Carolina.

“He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marion, and his three children Peter Franks of Knoxville, TN, Audrey Esmond of Norwalk, CT, and Stephen Franks of Essex Felks, NJ. He had seven grandchildren.

“He retired as President from his NYC printing business, Adams Press, in 1990. He went on to enjoy his hobbies which included horticulture, the arts, and travel. [Ed. note: Please recall his fascinating trip to the Galapagos Islands Dick reported to us on these pages a few years ago.]

“Richard served in Japan during WWII and after Wabash he attended Columbia University to pursue an advanced degree in Philosophy - which he did not complete in order to work in the family business.

“He loved his alma mater and his Fraternity.

“Sincerely, Audrey Esmond”

Apparently Sir Richard never lost his sense of humor. In the course of follow-up e-mails, Audrey asked me if her father was really called “the Monk? Apparently he studied a lot...according to him!” (Answer: Yes! to both questions)

Farewell, my friend Richard. With your passing, there now remain only two of us Delts from our Wabash Class '52, namely **Sam Harrell** in Wyoming and yours truly.

“AND THE TOP COLLEGES ARE ...

So begins the headline on page R1 (of a 12 page section) of *The Wall Street Journal* edition dated Sept 28, 2016. Of the 499 colleges listed, *Wabash is not mentioned once*. Some alumni have inquired why not?

Here's the answer, provided the next day (Sept 29) by Steve Hoffman '85 Director of our Alumni and Parent Relations. He reports that the *WSJ* rankings *exclude institutions* with enrollments of less than 1,000!

So perhaps a more relevant publication for us to consider is this earlier September 14, 2016 report by Wabash's Richard Paige headlined "U.S. News rates Wabash a top-tier School." Here are a few excerpts:

"Wabash College continues to be ranked among the best liberal arts colleges by *U.S. New & World Report* in its annual ranking of the nation's top colleges, which was released Tuesday [Sept 13, '16]. Wabash ranked in the top tier of national liberal arts colleges by the publication, a designation that places the College among the best of all 239 ranked schools.

"Wabash was recognized as an 'A+ School for B Students' by *U.S. News* as an institution 'Where non superstars have a decent shot at being accepted and thriving — where spirit and hard work could make all the difference to admission,' according to the publication's criteria. The College was also ranked No. 17 in Best Undergraduate Teaching, bolstered by a student faculty ration of 10:1.

"The *U.S. News* ranking comes on the heels of the College being named one of the best institutions for undergraduate education by the *Princeton Review* in its annual listing of the top 381 schools across the country. The *Princeton Review* ranked Wabash No. 10 for the 'Most Accessible Professors' and No. 18 for 'Professors Get High Marks' to go with a No. 16 rating in 'Best Health Services,' and for the second consecutive year, a top-20 (No. 15) placement for Best College Theater.

"*Liberalartscolleges.com*, a website dedicated to spotlighting the unique characteristics of a liberal arts degree, ranked Wabash as the top school nationally where students rated their professors the 'most accessible and approachable' in rankings released last fall.

“*College Factual* considers Wabash to be an excellent value, ranking it is the top nine percent of all schools nationally. Twenty-four Wabash programs were ranked in the top-15 percent nationally, including six in the top one percent overall: foreign languages and linguistics, Germanic languages, history, and mathematics and statistics.

“Additionally, Wabash was one of 40 schools nationally to be included in the bestselling book, ‘*Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges.*’”

Frankly, I’m not much impressed by collegiate rankings — except for sports, of course, where rankings are most definitive and important. What *does* make an impression to me is how little has changed at Wabash in terms of the education we received relative to what remains important to the students of today. Please go back and re-read some nuggets to be found among all the ranking nonsense reported above:

- Wabash is an institution where non superstars have a decent shot at being accepted and thriving — where spirit and hard work can still make all the difference.
- High marks for employing the most accessible professors, who themselves get high marks from Wabash students.
- Wabash is one of only 40 schools nationally to be included in the bestselling book *Colleges that Change Lives...*

Takes us back, doesn’t it? It’s refreshing to learn that some things we benefited from are still available 65 years later to Wabash students of today.

While we are on the subject, here are two interesting excerpts from the Crawfordsville *Journal Review* issue of 8/30/16:

“Inclusion in the Princeton Reviews’s ‘Best 381 Colleges’ means that Wabash ranks among the top 15 percent of 2,500 U.S. based four-year colleges.

“Wabash was named one of the top institutions in the Midwest and listed as a ‘College that pays you back’ — a designation the takes into account factors like career placement, financial aid, and career earnings following graduation. Among the other top-20 rankings, Wabash ranked No. 3 in ‘Everyone Plays Intramural Sports’ and No. 8 in Best Athletic Facilities.’”

BOOKS BY CLASSMATES UPDATED

Our last Letter of July 2016 listed books authored by our classmates **Norm Buktenica, Dick Daniels, Bill Etherton, Alan Hickrod, Tom Klingaman.** Updates to expand this list were invited.

Please add classmate **Jim Thomas**, to this distinguished list of authors in our Class '52. Jim authored *Introduction to Human Embryology* in 1968 and *A Theory on the Nature of Humanity* in 1986. Jim notes that although “neither book can be found in the Boolean Library of Oxford, like my friend **Dick Daniels**’ book, a copy of each of my books is supposed to be available in the Wabash Library. I think they have a section for alumni authors.”

Remember when we were referred to as “The Silent Generation” by *Time Magazine*? Methinks that judgment was premature.

MORE NEWS OF OUR '52 CLASSMATES

As previously reported, **Mike Austin** moved from Indianapolis to Texas. Last month he wrote “Texas is wet and hot.” So what else is new? Mike has changed his address to 116 Pack Saddle Holly Lake Ranch, Texas 75765. New telephone listing: 469-795-6465.

George “Cookie” Savanovich (shortened to “Vann” when he began practicing law in Portage Indiana) has retired from being a Judge. His wife Ruth (62 years married) reports they will make every effort to attend our 65th Class '52 Reunion June 2-4, 2017, but make no promises this far in advance due to health concerns of both. Their son is a magistrate in the Lake County judicial scene, following in the footsteps of his father. George notes that Chicago can be seen from their home along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Russ Thrall did not go to Homecoming Weekend October 8, as planned because “It’s too far for an 85-year-old to walk from Arlington VA to Crawfordsville.” If anyone from our Class '52 did attend, a report would be appreciated.

Classmate **Hugh Smaltz**, 1340 N Broad Street, Beaver Dam KY 42320, recently sent to me an article entitled “Liberal Arts, Liberal Paychecks,” listing 20 liberal arts colleges “Where Plato and Proust Pay Off.” Wabash is number 13 among 20 liberal arts colleges listed for mid-career earnings.

I called another member of our Wabash Class '52 and asked what he was doing? He replied that he was working on “An aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment.” I was impressed. On further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife’s supervision.

Some Little Giants!

CLASS '52 @ 65 in 2017

Our 65th Reunion for our Wabash Class '52 is now a scant eight (8) months from now, the weekend of June 2-4, 2017. Reserve those dates now on your 2017 calendars.

Our class started a new tradition at our 60th. We met for Friday night dinner on the second floor of Trippet Hall (north end of the mall across Wabash Avenue, facing the Chapel) with 20+ of us in attendance, and our party did not break up until after midnight.

Program? There was none. We just talked...and talked...and talked.

So do we want to attempt a repeat five years later? Please respond, Last time we had to promise there would be 20+ of us attending a separate and special gathering at Trippet Hall, and I would expect the same prerequisite from our Alumni Office would apply to a 65th reunion dinner of our Class '52 on Friday, June 9, 2017

CLOSING NOTES

My first Class of 1952 Letter was written and published 30 years ago this month, viz: October, 1986. I began as a co-class agent with **Harley Palmer**. Any replacement? It's getting to be that time

Meanwhile, let's look forward to the 123rd Monon Bell Classic football game with the DePauw Tigers @ Little Giant Stadium on November 12 at 1:00 pm. Go to the Wabash website for info on how to enjoy the game live via telecast.

Go Wabash!

Cordially,

Bill

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