



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

William J. Reinke

Labor Day, 2008

Dear '52ers,

A MEDICAL UPDATE

When he received our new Class '52 Roster with his Class Letter for June, **Robert W. Mouser, M.D.**, of Indy called to report his telephone number was recently changed to (317) 663-8155.

So I asked Bob for a personal update. He sustained a heart attack last December and is now fully retired living in a large house in Indy with the assistance of a rolling walker. During his medical career, Bob was board certified in the several fields of diabetes, obstetrics, allergy, family practice, and legal medicine. It is highly unusual to be "board certified" in so many fields (five!). Bob was one of only two physicians in Indiana to serve on the Office of the Inspector General and he testified frequently in litigations involving legal issues respecting quality of medical care. He recently retired as Senior Partner, Broad Ripple Family Physicians after practicing medicine *fifty-four years*.

Dr. Mouser's abiding post-Wabash interest is Ancient History, thanks to the teachings of John F. Charles, Ph.D. In honor of Dr. Charles, Bob has given the Wabash Lily Library some 2,600 volumes of ancient history. These include several signed first editions covering excavations of historical sites. For example, one of only two known autographed sets signed by both the author and also the sponsor of the King Tut "dig" along the Nile now repose in the Wabash library, thanks to Bob's interest, foresight, and generosity. Some Little Giant!

Editor's Note: Dr. John F. Charles was made an honorary member of our Class '52. One spring day during our senior year, "Doc" Charles approached me on campus, after two days of written senior comprehensive exams but before our oral exams, and said: "Mr. Reinke, I never had the pleasure of having you in one of my classes. So I am happy that I will be on your panel of inquisitors at your 'Orals' and I am looking forward to it!" I was dumbfounded, for I could not imagine *anyone* "looking forward" to Orals for *any* reason.

THE PAUL CAYLOR McKINNEY '52 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Our deceased classmate **Paul McKinney**, '52, taught at Wabash College for 45 years – longer than any other faculty member in the history of the College.

Herewith a special e-mail report from the college to our class requested for this Letter as to the current status of the memorial scholarship in Paul's honor:

"The value of original donations, plus ... additions ..was at \$67,040.75 at the end of fiscal year 2007. ... To date, contributions to the McKinney Fund have come from a mix of Paul's former students, fraternity brothers, and classmates. We also have some future estate commitments in place that will support the scholarship in future years.

"The criteria for the scholarship was agreed upon between Wabash and Irmi [McKinney, Paul's widow] and is listed in the online academic bulletin: The Paul Caylor McKinney '52 Memorial Scholarship is a two-year scholarship awarded to a junior with demonstrated need, whose major and minor fields of study are in different academic divisions and whose GPA is consistently 3.0 or higher. Dr. McKinney taught chemistry at Wabash for 45 years until his retirement in 2001, and was Dean of the College from 1981-1993 [and remained Dean Emeritus until his demise in 2003]. His undergraduate years at Wabash broadened his intellectual horizon and led to friendships that accompanied him throughout his life.

The first McKinney Scholarship was awarded in 2007-08 to Michael M. Opieczonek '09 from Piekary Slaskie, Poland. Michael is an Economics and German double major and a pianist. In addition to his academic classes, Michael had participated in:

- Dill Summer Internship 2006 – Intensive German course at Goethe Institute in Bremen, Germany
- Business Immersion Course on Wabash campus in Summer 2007
- Business, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship Immersion Program Summer 2007 at a bank in Poland. [From the Wabash web site:] 'It was more demanding than he'd ever imagined. But, he says, the College's Summer Business Immersion Program got him ready for it. I had to further evolve my

speaking and discussion skills, and I had to learn how to speak more efficiently. I became more confident in myself.' He needed that confidence, too, arriving in Warsaw late on a Monday night and showing up for work bright and early Tuesday morning. 'I asked them, 'So what's my project?' They said, 'Why don't you analyze the effectiveness of corporate wholesale banking for ING Bank in all of Poland?' Michael mimics the wide-eyed look he gave his bosses. 'But we learn at Wabash how to learn. It's not just sitting here and waiting for someone to come and show you how to do it. Wabash makes you think – to create something from scratch. And I had to do that.' ...''

Marilyn Smith, Coordinator of Donor Relations, Wabash College, Ph 765-361-6063
P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

“Wabash College educates men to Think Critically,
Act Responsibly, Lead Effectively, and Live Humanely.”

Thank you for that excellent report for Paul McKinney's classmates, Ms. Smith. We understand additional gifts to further support this fine scholarship will be both appropriate and appreciated. Knowing Paul as we did, he would be very pleased about what is being done in his memory.

SOME CORRESPONDENCE

In all the years I've been doing these Class '52 Letters (since 1986, can you believe?), for the first time I received a response from a Wabash College President. And not just one, but two within a span of as many days in late June, 2008.

My reply to President Pat White's first e-mail included a comment that the only sad part of my job as Class '52 Agent is that many of my Letters now have an obit or two. But those of us still up and about do enjoy the mixture of reminiscing and learning about current happenings at Wabash and elsewhere, so it's fun staying in contact. His response on 6/13/08 is both interesting and well worth sharing:

“Bill, I hear what you mean about the obituary duty, but it is so important even in that regard to have someone note our loss and remember. It is meaningful and instructive for me, even when I have not had the pleasure of meeting the Wabash man who has passed. How much more important for you and your classmates. To remember is one of the great functions of the liberal arts, and you lead that role for your classmates.

“Nice to hear from you.

“Have a good weekend and a Happy Father's Day.”

Thanks Pat. I really appreciate that.

Here's another much appreciated e-mail from our classmate **Russ Thrall** in Arlington, Virginia:

“Bill: Thanks for your usual high quality [June, 2008] Class Agents letter.

“Marilyn and I were amused by your first sentence in which you observed that June 30 is a date that probably would not mean much in our lives unless it happened to be a birthday, etc. As it turns out, that is the birthday of our twin sons, now about to turn 50, one of whom was in the class of '80. That said, it also reminded us to make our annual Wabash gift ... which we have now done.”

“Keep up your good work.”

Wow! With responses and compliments like those, I could happily go on for another 22 years serving as your class agent.

“HOW TO CHOOSE A COLLEGE

“The most popular rankings use the wrong measures”

is the title of a single page article at the May 19, 2008 issue of Forbes Magazine. It is so insightful that this Letter will close with as much as we have space for. The author is Richard Vedder, professor of economics at Ohio University and Director of the Center for College Affordability & Productivity (CCAP).

“This time of year, as they make the momentous decision of where to go to college, high school seniors are turning to popular rankings compiled by magazines like *U.S. News & World Report*. There are competing scorecards from the Princeton Review and *Kiplinger's*, but *U.S. News'* product is way out in front in visibility... [2 million circulation, 9,000 newsstand copies, etc]

“*U.S. News* evaluates educational quality by looking inside colleges at measures like faculty-student ratios, admissions selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

“I think the *U.S. News* rankings ought to get a D. They're roughly equivalent to evaluating a chef based on the ingredients he or she uses. At the CCAP, a two-year-old research organization in Washington, D.C. with a free-market bent, we evaluate colleges on results. Do students like their courses? How successful are they once they graduate? In short, we review the meal.

“Our measures begin with student evaluations posted on *Ratemyprofessors.com*, a nine-year old site with 6.8 million student-generated evaluations. We look at college graduation rates (as does *U.S. News*). We also calculate the percent of students winning awards like Rhodes Scholarships and undergraduate Fulbright travel grants. For vocational success we turn to *Who's Who in*

America. Though imperfect, it is the only comprehensive listing of professional achievements that includes undergraduate affiliations. (Our complete listing of more than 200 schools can be viewed at Forbes.com.)

“The top CCAP schools rank near the top of the U.S. News list, as the accompanying table shows. [Deleted here is a listing of the top ten “All National Universities,” the top ten “National Public Universities” and a paragraph comparing the CCAP and the *USNWR* rankings of those two lists. Following is a third listing of top ten “Liberal Arts Colleges” rankings and Prof. Vedder’s concluding paragraph regarding that third list.]

CCAP Rank	Liberal Arts Colleges	USNWR Rank
1	Williams College	1
2	Amherst College	2
3	Wellesley College	4
4	Swarthmore College	3
5	Haverford College	10
6	Washington & Lee University	15
7	United States Military Academy	22
8	Barnard College	30
9	Whitman College	37
10	Wabash College	52

“The biggest surprises come in our list of liberal arts colleges. Wabash doesn’t make the top 50 on *U.S. News*’ list but ranks tenth with CCAP because of the awards its students won and its showing in *Who’s Who*. Several other schools not high on the *U.S. News* list, including Whitman, Washington & Lee, Barnard and the U.S. Military Academy (a.k.a. West Point), are in our top 10. A number of excellent smaller liberal arts colleges do poorly on the *U.S. News* list but fare very well on the CCAP list, including Reed (twelfth) and Knox (sixteenth). Like other consumers, students want satisfaction and results, which is what CCAP measures.”

No other Hoosier schools appear on any of the three CCAP lists of top ten schools (1- National Universities, 2-National Public Universities, and 3-Liberal Arts Colleges). Indeed, the only Midwest schools besides Wabash are University of Chicago and Northwestern (both on the National Universities listing) and University of Michigan (on the National Public Universities listing).

Cordially,

Bill

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