



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: www.wabash.edu

Email us: alumni@wabash.edu

Phone: (765) 361-6369

Class of 1955

Class Agents

Vince Grogg

Vaino Grayam

Dick Barger

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Classmates:

Spring is kind of in the air here in western Indiana. Still cold, the nights below freezing, and we had about 4 inches of new snow last week. But, a couple of days of near 45 degrees and most of the snow is gone, and one can see robins pecking around the yard. Of course, last weekend we changed our clocks and lost an hour of sleep on Sunday morning. You never realize how many clocks, etc. you have until you start trying to move them up or down as the time changes.

What a difference a year makes...last year at this time it was unusually warm...we had seven days at 80 degrees or better, and as I recall I had to mow our yard, and had gotten a couple rounds of golf in by St. Pat's Day. But this winter has been colder and gloomier. The winter months have gone by quickly, however, and my wife and I had some help, as we were able to spend about five weeks of it in Marco Island, FL, a beautiful place.

The seniors at Wabash have just finished Senior Comps, and are surely relieved about that. They can look forward to graduation day without that pressure. Quite a difference from 1955, when the exams were about a month before graduation. I wonder if the seniors still head down to Turkey Run or the Shades State Park for a week of living together before the exams. Hope so, as that was a highlight of my senior year...many of the faculty came down to sit around and boreass at the Park's Hotel, or play some euchre, and maybe down a beer at the "Wave-Inn" in nearby Waveland.

By way of College news, expect most of you have heard of the election of Dr. Gregory Hess, as the College's 16th President. He will take over the reins on July 1, from outgoing president White. Dr. Hess is currently the Dean of Faculty and Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Claremont McKenna College. He has held teaching positions at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Kansas, St. John's College (Cambridge), the University of Cambridge, the London Business School, and Oberlin College.



Dr. Hess has some big shoes to fill in replacing President Pat White who has served the College for the past seven years. President White is a personable, gregarious man who navigated the College through the serious economic downturn that began in 2008 and brought fiscal stability to the College while strategically adjusting the financial model of the College's operations. He completed a successful \$68 plus million financial Campaign, secured funding for the addition of new faculty chairs, developed and implemented the plan to complete the athletic facilities, led the way to record enrollment levels, and provided the leadership to take the Annual Fund to consistent performance over \$3,000,000 per year and strive for \$4,000,000. He will be missed.

In other news from the College, the track team won its second straight NCAC indoor championship. And senior, Jake Waterman became Wabash's first two-time national track champion with a dominating win in the 800 meter run at the 2013 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships.

The alumni board has launched a **"Like Wabash"** challenge on Facebook with a goal of reaching 5000 "Likes" on the official Facebook page by Homecoming, 2013. So, those of you who enjoy using Facebook go see how you like the pages.

By the way, the fiscal year of the College will end on June 30th. Did you know that 40% of the Annual Fund donors in 2011-2012 gave less than \$100? You don't need to endow a million bucks to make a difference. Every donor who gives a gift to the Annual Fund, regardless of the amount, helps Wabash reach goals that do everything from raising its ranking among peer colleges to improving Wabash's chances for grant funding. So, give Wabash some thought in making your budget plans for 2013.

Making a gift to Wabash is easy:

To make a credit card gift by phone call 877.743.4545.

To make your secure credit card gift online visit www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift

To mail a check: Annual Fund

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Some dates to remember: Commencement is scheduled for May 12, 2013, Big Bash, 2013, for May 31-June 2. Homecoming 2013 is scheduled for September 21, 2013. Incidentally, the 1951 undefeated football team will be one of nine Wabash athletic teams to be inducted into the Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame. All members of that team are invited to the Hall of Fame ceremony scheduled September 19-21, 2013.

Keep in touch, and have a great Spring...until next time.

Vince