



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### **Class of 1955**

#### **Class Agents**

Vince Grogg

Vaino Grayam

Dick Barger

May 19, 2013

1955 Classmates:

Following a long, hard winter, springtime finally has arrived in Indiana. It has been extremely wet, but the rains were welcome given the droughts the past two years. Farmers are finally in their fields planting crops, and the flowering trees this spring were gorgeous. Hopefully this finds you all enjoying your spring.

Last week the class of 2013 was graduated...the 175<sup>th</sup> year. President Patrick White handed out the diplomas (still authentic sheepskin) to 190 young men. It was President White's final year at Wabash, his seventh, as he will leave the College on June 30. He has accepted the position of interim President at Millikin University in Illinois, close to his hometown of Dixon. He expects to hold the position for 12-18 months while Millikin conducts a presidential search. Dr. White was the 15<sup>th</sup> President of Wabash. About 25% of the 2013 class have been accepted and will go on to pursue medical, law or other graduate studies. Twelve have begun a PhD study track and at least six will receive teaching certificates.

Dr. White will be succeeded by Dr. Gregory Hess, currently the Dean of the Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Claremont McKenna College, and has enjoyed a long and successful career as an educator at Carnegie Mellon University, Kansas University, St. Johns College (Cambridge), the University of Cambridge, London Business School, and Oberlin

In other College news, it was announced Wabash will have varsity La Crosse in its athletic program.

As I mentioned, the diplomas are indeed Sheepskin, identical to those awarded in 1955. In contrast, the diplomas awarded by DePauw are smaller, perhaps 5 x 10. I have often pointed out this difference in diplomas to my DePauw friends that they have a diploma suitable for placing on their automobile dashboards in order to make it easier for them to park in "handicap" zones.

In sad news, Tom Long, passed away on April 15, 2013, in Indianapolis. Tom was a 1949 graduate of Logansport, In. high school and entered Wabash that fall. College was interrupted for him by service in the Korean War. He returned to Wabash and graduated in 1955. Tom spent 37 years as a teacher and administrator in elementary education in the Wayne Township Schools, and retired in 1991. He was survived by his wife of 58 years, Donis, a son and three daughters, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. I remember Tom as a big, handsome, easy-going guy, and a pretty good basketball and baseball player.

Also, had a telephone call from Dick Payne and was sad to hear that Vaino Grayam has been experiencing health problems. Perhaps you would want to send a note of encouragement to him and wife Nancy, address: 1070 Lawndale, Dr., Greenwood, IN 46142.

I was privy to a letter written by classmate Jim Kirchhoffer sent to Tom Runge at the Alumna Office. Jim has been an Episcopal Priest since graduating in 1955. He is a Brother in the Franciscans of the Holy Cross, and has the name of Brother Thomas Julian. He currently lives in a senior housing facility in Benicia, CA. It was a long and very interesting letter, which included anecdotes of his days at Wabash.

Jim's letter clearly indicated his love for the College and how fond he was of his teachers and fellow students. It triggered in me many thoughts of my own and many wonderful memories and how deeply the feelings most of us have of Old Wabash. As the song goes, "When College days are passed, as long as life shall last, our greatest joy will be to shout the chorus". One way to keep those days going for all of us is to give back in the way of financial support. The fiscal year of the College ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and in this past year, the Class of 1955 has been less than stellar in our financial support. There is still time to get off our duffs and forward a donation...every little bit helps to keep a grand place going for guys like Tom Long, Jim, and the rest of us reprobates.

Have a good summer.

Vince