



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### Class of 1958

#### Class Agent

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### Memorial Day 2015

Dear Friends and Classmates:

On May 17, 229 young men received their sheepskins (yes, there still are real sheepskin diplomas) at the College's 177<sup>th</sup> Commencement. 229 is the second largest number of graduates in the history of the College. It seems that the faculty's "retention" committee is doing good work. Last year, the Class of 2014 had 172 men.

Among the graduates are a Rhodes Scholar (Wabash's ninth) and three Fulbright Scholars.

St. Mary's of the Woods College, a liberal arts college for women located just north of Terre Haute, announced it will be admitting male students this Fall. The college was founded in 1840 by Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, a French nun. I haven't heard of any objections.

James Jones, Jr., the President of Sweet Briar College, a liberal arts school for women in rural Virginia, announced that Sweet Briar is closing because of financial problems. The college, founded in 1901, currently has 700 students. Mr. Jones stated that Sweet Briar was "30 minutes from a Starbucks". I guess that's important to him. I have been to the college; it has a most beautiful campus. The alumnae are up in arms and are trying to raise funds to save the place.

What are we to make of these things? Are the liberal arts and their small colleges out of date? Are single-sex institutions irrelevant in the modern world? I have no idea, but young men are getting a better than good education at a small liberal arts college for men in rural Indiana. You know why Wabash remains strong and Independent? It's because of the support of loyal alumni like you.

Headline: Two Indiana Colleges Create Scholarships For Undocumented Students. Wabash and Holy Cross (South Bend) are partnering to give 3 undocumented students- each- from the Chicago area scholarships worth almost a full ride. Neat!

Wabash was ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the 2015 Payscale.com ROI report of the best return on investment in higher education. Of the 1223 schools rated, only Wabash and Rose Hulman were in the top 50. Purdue was 53<sup>rd</sup>, Notre Dame (75<sup>th</sup>), Indiana (397<sup>th</sup>) and DePauw (677<sup>th</sup>). The study considered the students' cost of attendance and the high earnings potential of alumni. Now, that's really neat!

Again this year The Bachelor did well at the Indiana Collegiate Press Association awards ceremony. The staff received 19 awards and finished in second-place with 34 points. Our friends to the South had 30.

The Little Giant wrestling team had huge success this year; I don't think it lost a dual meet. 5 wrestlers went to Nationals: 4 earned All-American honors, two are national champs—Connor Lefever '15 and Riley Lefever '17. The team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. These guys are not dummies: the team's GPA was 3.51.

Both the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field teams won conference titles —each for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year. Senior Ronnie Posthauer went to indoor nationals where he earned All-American honors in the 60 meter hurdles. He ran third in 7.96. At the outdoor meet, he was 10<sup>th</sup> in the 110 hurdles. 8 Wabash men participated in the national meet in which they scored a total of 9 points to place 26<sup>th</sup> out of 139 teams. Three men were named All-Americans: Pole vaulter Rhoades, 3000 steeplechase runners Boyce and Togami. Head Coach Morgan has produced some 27 All-American track and field athletes. Is that a record?

The basketball team had a turn-around season under first year Head Coach, Kyle Brumett. The guys won twice as many games as they lost—18-9. It had been the other way around the past several seasons. In a tough league, the Little Giants came in 3<sup>rd</sup>. DePauw was 4<sup>th</sup>, but our guys had a tough time with the Dannies, as usual.

RIP

Richard Hans Griesser '51 passed away last February. He was a good friend of mine and of Wabash College. He was a long-time class agent, and a darned good one. Most of you didn't know Dick, but the Phi Psi's will recall him as he was a founding member of the Phi Kappa Psi chapter at the College and often at the house.

Have a good summer!

Gordon

