



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1959

Class Agents

Bob Wedgeworth

Roger Billings

Craig Green

June 18, 2016

Dear 59ers:

I have been reminiscing about my time as a student at Wabash and thought I would share some of my thoughts.

I am grateful that Wabash allowed me to compete with my peers, a privilege I was denied in racially segregated elementary and secondary schools in Kansas City. Racial segregation in the upper Midwest was not a matter of severe deprivation. We had well-qualified teachers, good physical facilities and few harassments. But what we were denied was the opportunity to compete with our peers to determine our capabilities.

I am grateful to Drs. Johnson and Laubengayer who gave me a fundamental understanding of biology in a course without textbooks, the impact of which has lasted a lifetime. By that measure it was the best course I had at Wabash.

I am grateful for the Visiting professor whose name I cannot recall who taught a course in the history of modern France. Thus began a lifelong fascination with the history and culture of France.

I am grateful to Coach Brock who guided me with discipline and encouragement to become a better basketball player than I was when I arrived. Looking back on that experience I recognize that as an independent college without a conference affiliation we played a brutal schedule. I vividly recall seeing Sherm Franz remove his jersey after games revealing black and blue marks that evidenced his efforts to score or grab rebounds against opponents who were often bigger and taller. Yet we enjoyed a level of success in our junior and senior years that was remarkable for a small independent college. Our record for team free throw shooting was not broken until the mid-90's.

But most of all I am grateful for my classmates with whom I shared many different experiences. Some of you became lifelong friends, but I treasure you all.

If you have similar memories of our college years and you have not yet given a gift to the College this year, think about what you can contribute to future Wabash men. Remember, the amount is less important than your participation.

Sincerely,

Bob Wedgeworth for Craig Green and Roger Billings