



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

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**Class of 1961**

### Class Agent

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Dear Many Miler:

Congratulations! For the first time (as far as I can determine) we corralled 80 “good guys in white hats!” This includes the lovely ladies of four Many Milers no longer with us: Linda Cushman (David), Carol Holmes (Denny), Marianne Schue (Fred) and Nancy Smerz (Jim.) How special it is to reach this milestone. Our great class of 1961 ranks THIRD of all classes with 60.6% giving support to Wabash. You have made my work so very rewarding by your efforts! Thank you!!

We are currently listed as having 132 members..... Last year we had 128. Go figure! But that has to do with those who choose not to be recognized by the College or whom the Alumni Office has “lost”, and that does seem to change. The class of 1940 had 76% and 1937 had 61.5%. The class of 1965 had 102 donors for 57%. Over all, the College had over 4000 contributors for a rate of 37.68%. With the Tom Hays Challenge, the dollars ran to \$3.1 Million the first time to exceed \$3M. No word on our competition with the Dannys.

Once again Wabash College is a Best 368 College in America. *The Princeton Review* ranked Wabash as a 99 – Financial Aid rating; 95 – academic rating; 90 – Quality of Life rating and an 89 – Admissions Rating. “Students Say” again gave high marks: 3 – Most Accessible Professors; 3 – Best Career/Job Placement Services; 3 – Jock School; 11 – ‘School Runs Like Butter!’ 125,000 students filled out an 80 question survey.

With another successful year of recruiting, the Admissions Office is expecting a new freshmen class of 2012 with 250+ members. Now is a very good time to start checking with grandchildren of friends, and local young men who are outstanding to look to Wabash in the next two years. I will be taking my 16 year old grandson from Indy to a game this fall and that is a good opportunity to see Wabash at its best. Alumni referrals turn out to be better students so do your part!

Football fans who want to see new coach Erik Raeburn's first year as head coach of the tradition-steeped Wabash College Little Giants can check the schedule:

\*North Coast Athletic Conference

9/13 at Denison\*

9/20 University of Chicago

9/27 at Kenyon\*

10/04 Allegheny\* (**Homecoming**)

10/11 at Washington U. of St. Louis

10/18 at Wittenberg\*

10/25 Wooster\*

11/01 Oberlin\*

11/08 at Hiram\*

11/15 DePauw (115<sup>th</sup> Monon Bell Classic)

There will be a Sphinx Club reunion during Homecoming weekend (Oct. 4) and even if you weren't a Sphinxter, you can join in the fun! Contact the Alumni Office at 765-361-6360 before September 26<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend.

This is a little different schedule but it provides lots of opportunities for those of us in the Mid-west. I will be on campus for the Chicago game during the Class Agents' Forum, and I hope to make the Bell game plus perhaps one more. For a really great article, go to '[ncaachampionmagazine.org](http://ncaachampionmagazine.org).' Click on the summer edition to see Wabash senior Brock Graham and Little Giant Stadium on the cover. The article is about his trip to Botswana with 19 teammates over spring break. While each guy paid \$3000 for the trip, I'll bet some of your Alumni Fund dollars helped somewhere. It is really great to see some of the things that are being funded for young Wabash men to have fantastic experiences!

In July, I took a grand road trip spending a couple of days at Dale Hollow Lake boating and swimming with my son and his wife and another couple. Young Matt Hahn from Anderson was the anesthesiologist who put Peyton Manning under for the infected knee surgery. Peyton's words were: "Make sure nothing happens to my right arm!" Matt said he put a bunch of pillows around it!

After leaving there, I drove to Nashville, IN and spent a day sailing on Lake Monroe with good wind for a change! Of interest: The Four Seasons Resort is completely closed down and the Dept. of Natural Resources is running the marina! Wow! That was such a hot spot for many years it is hard to believe. After a day on the water, I headed to Indy where I met **Doug Burns** and his mother at Marquette Manor where we celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! She is remarkably alert and I enjoyed visiting with them.



I called **John Birdzell** to catch up and found him in Phoenix attending a Cubs game! Always a baseball fan! John is keeping busy with the new antique shop in Petoskey. I also caught up with **Lee Andreas** summering in Wisconsin. He asked me to tell you that he didn't make our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion because he was having a bout of depression, which made being with people a little uncomfortable. He's back on top of his game now and he and Elaine are celebrating their first grandson born just recently. Kyle David is their daughter Karen's. Nobody told us that getting old would be easy, but as Lee has now found out, there can be rewards along the way.

**Norm Beesley** reports that wife Jo's nephew, John Bogucki, will be a freshman this year. He is a "track guy" and sings. Way to go, Norm!

**Tim Conlon** writes that "after Wabash he went to Stanford and got a degree in communications and journalism. "In the past year, I've scaled back my business consulting and redirected my energies to classes, writing workshops and trying my hand at more creative writing. I've come full circle if you will. I doubt that I will be published (and if I am focused solely on getting attention, the creative flame dies, in my opinion), but I am loving the effort to call upon my 47 years of experience after Wabash and weave the vignettes into readable essays and reflections." He and Mary Beth's son and daughter-in-law are in the Czech Republic and have two daughters. Son Patrick is in Bend and enjoying his work as a marketing manager for an eco- tour & guide company, that includes riding his bike to work! Daughter Erin was recently married in Portland. Since her in-laws are from a close-knit and large Chinese and Chinese-American family, the

reception beneath Mount Hood had an interesting mix of Pacific Rim inhabitants.....”

**Rusty Cleland** answers my note about the article in *Wabash Magazine*: “**Aus Brooks** suggested that they get in touch with me and I feel they did a good job summarizing what I had to say. I was not sure when the feature would appear, and thus I was looking through the magazine and got a big surprise when I saw someone I recognized!”

From **Jack Elliott**: “As a retired urological surgeon, your recent report on your TURP brought back memories (note I didn’t add: ‘fond’ to my words to spare your sensitivities). Our newsletter is taking on the ‘air’ of a trauma report as we age! I retired 11 years ago and now spend my time between Vero Beach, FL and Oshkosh WI playing tennis with a passion. We have 10 grandchildren and the oldest is only 6 years old!”

And, **Don Weddle** sends this update: “It’s hard to believe that I am 69! Things are pretty normal here, except Vicky is still irregularly cycling between her highs and lows. I am still working full time at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The analysis provided by my flight of signal analysts contributes significantly towards the protection of US Air Force pilots and systems as well as systems belonging to some of our national agencies. So, I still enjoy going to work and have put off retirement several times. Vicky and I have a blended family, with five grandchildren on each side. Three of our granddaughters were born just about a year ago, so we have a total of seven granddaughters and three grandsons!”

**Mike & Rosie Hughes** report that a 40 year old daughter in Oregon has had a mastectomy and they will be traveling to visit her a second time. Seeing our children suffer in any way is a difficult issue!

The following is from Dave Grandstaff ’62: A Postcard from Coping/Moving On! Since more than a few of us met on an airliner or in someplace newly explored, I want to share a sobering moment of convergence. The following is the personal reflection of a professional writer in our midst/email list, who fits our profile. Many of us live in college communities where the carnage of Northern Illinois University struck chords of disbelief and guttural fear. What next/Where next? Here's what one among us/on that scene has to say:

*Our neighborhood experienced the shocking tragedy of fatal shootings on our college campus. Six young people were killed as a result of a crazed young man walking onto an academic stage and within seconds letting his rage burst forth from a rifle.*

*How does one get beyond that?*

**ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRUTH.**

*The shock of the incident reverberated through the community like a huge wave pounding upon our souls. We couldn't catch our breaths. No! This cannot happen at our well-policed and excellent university campus.*

*Denial runs for a long time. Frightening distress doesn't recede quickly or easily. Each person must endure the aftertime as he or she considers best. Talking, counseling, helping.*

#### **MOURN**

*Immediately after the all-clear, students found other areas to put their grief: near a well-traveled crossroad, at an open speech area, by the student center, and other areas.*

*Each remaining person must mourn the trauma in actions and in words. When a young boy found his cat run over, he raced to his bedroom, hid in his closet, and sobbed. A community loss that made international news would take weeks, months, and maybe years.*

*Our area community held nightly vigils. People attended funerals. Memorial services were held at large numbers of locations. Memorial areas were dedicated with people's remembrances. The university took a week off to mourn and to regroup.*

*The university president held a large community memorial service the day before classes resumed. Held at the university's Convocation Center, state and national dignitaries attended with thousands of ordinary people. The president's last words-from the university's school song-became the community's motto.*

#### **MOVE FORWARD**

*Life moves on because it does. Everyone must get up in the day, go to work or school, then return home, and go to bed. Then another day. You move forward by walking one step at a time. One day at a time. Then one week and onward. All the while, you probably are still in shock and mourning, but you're moving forward.*

*We live in mass, yet individually. Nevertheless, we're moving . . .*

**FORWARD, TOGETHER, FORWARD!**

**May Manchester College, or your similar hometown, never be so challenged.**



My grandson helped me blow out the birthday candles this year. Gads! We're staring at Seventy! Sam Hildebrand says turning 69 wasn't difficult, but that 99 might require more effort!

Many Miles Before the Night..... *JB*