



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1961

Class Agent

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June 2016

Dear Many Miler:

A small but mighty, joyous band of Many Milers gathered on the Wabash campus for our **55th Reunion** during Big Bash! The intimacy of our loyal sons provided wonderful conversations and remembrances.

We started off on Thursday under a large tent which Sam Hildebrand had single-handedly erected. It was a pleasant, comfortable evening. The bar was well stocked including Beesley's Pennsylvania beer contribution as well as several other kind additions. The food was very tasty and generous...We were in the presence of:

John & JoAnn Birdzell, Jim & Susie Cumming, Norm & Jo Beesley, Joe & Charlene Barnette, Charlie and Corky Bowerman, Aus & Lucy Brooks, Mike & Rosie Hughes, Mead & Gail Killion, Vince & Nancy LeDonne, Bill Sanders, Dick and Janice Lesniak, Pete & Janie Pippen, Paul & Sally Olexia, Sam & Susie and Barbara & yours truly!

We read the Necrology of those who have left us over the past five years:

Lowell Barnett 08/15, Jack Carroll 11/14, Don Greene 11/15, Tom Grogg 01/14, Bill Guthrie 02/12, Jim Heckman 03/12, George Oshrey 05/16, Bill Pullen 04/15. With such a small group, we were able to discuss and have remembrances of these good men.



Mike & Rosie

Mead & Gail

Paul & Sally

Sam & Susie

Vince & Nancy



David & Jan Jim, Sam & JB Mead, Austin, Bill & Birdy Mead and Many Milers

Pete Phippen gave a very heartwarming story of his grandson, George, coming to Wabash as a freshman, what a good year he had, and that he is in California on an internship this summer as a result of working at the Wabash Student Career Services office. Denny Sheridan was unable to attend our reunion; he was pleased to advise that his grandson, Kevin Patrick Sheridan is coming to Wabash as did his father. Kevin is a very good swimmer and is #1 in his class @ Detroit Jesuit.

Congrats to these fortunate Wabash men whose lineage have followed them to a great College! It was a wonderful evening and we all raised a glass for the Hildebrands, who also provided refreshments to several after the big Banquet on Friday nite, along with more fun visiting.

Jim & Carol Davidson had to cancel at the last minute due to health issues, but sent their regrets! Several Many Milers just weren't up to the travel, or they had grandchildren graduations to attend. **Bob Bock** wanted to come but he and Peggy are dealing with some health issues, as are many of us. Bob reported that he is painting more than ever. He has posted much of his work on Face Book.

The **Class of 1966** (Cal Black and Jay Fisher CA) blew everything wide open! With 134 donors (75%) they handed a check to Pres. Hess for **\$8.0Million!** Wow what an effort. We had 70.1 % at our 50th, so they have set the bar very high for men to follow.

The Class of '56 had 14 Golden Oldies return for Paul Hawksworth, and they were a hardy bunch who also sang in the Chapel Sing.

New Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, **Steve Hoffman '85** told us that the first observation he made was that the tent for the Scarlet Nickel would have to be larger... I noted that it was quite busy when we walked by. We had four walkers and one runner (Mead) in the Saturday am Fun Run (an oxymoron according to Hoffman.) David & Jan Wilson as well as Sam and I all braved a brisk damp morning.



JB, Is the Class of '61 planning to do Chapel Sing? See you this weekend!

Steve Hoffman '85 Wabash College Advancement

Steve I seriously doubt it, but that depends on how much booze is consumed tonight @ Hildebrands!!! Thanks for asking....

On Jun 2, 2016, at 1:11 PM, Steve Hoffman <Hoffmans@wabash.edu> wrote: I understand, but surely you are referring to FRIDAY night and not tonight. That would be 36 hours of recovery.

Yes! But the decision has to be made tonight!!!! 🤔

JB Bachman

Now I understand

Steve: the class of '61 is ready and Rearin' to sing on Saturday! JB

Good deal! Steve

Subject: Re: Old WABASH Directed by Dr. Mead C. Killion



Dinner at Barnette's



The Barnette's home was once again the scene of a lovely evening filled with a scrumptious menu served in elegant style! Conversations flowed with warmth and joy of times past, present and future. The parting from Joe and Charlene's beautiful home was a love fest of Many Milers that we have not seen!

Special thank you to the Barnette's and Hildebrands for giving the opportunities to relax and engage our classmates and make this 55th reunion one of the best!

Notes:

Joe & Ann Kiley called to see if we could join them to an Indianapolis Indians game during the Ind'pls Assoc of Wabash Men evening. We so wanted to go this year, but will be out of town...

June 30 will be here soon... check the College website www.wabash.edu to make sure you are in the donors list for this year. We are down a little bit!

Jim Spence 61 You may want to pass on some of this to our class mates in your next letter. Jim left Wabash before graduating with us and started a great career with RR Donnelley, first in Crawfordsville, then for many years in the New York City sales office and then in the Mattoon, IL printing operations. After retirement, Jim and his wife, Sue, returned to Montgomery County where they expanded their land holdings and built a unique, eco-friendly home. Jim, long known to friends as 'The Mayor of Alamo' died of COPD earlier this week. His wife, Sue, told me he had stayed as active as he could until the very end. He was even driving his tractor the week before, carrying his oxygen tank and enjoying being out on his beloved farm which he was turning back to its original prairie grasses. Jim abhorred the funeral process and there will be no public involvement in marking his passing. Instead, the family is gathering to privately celebrate the patriarch's life, tell "Jim Stories" and scatter his ashes over the prairie. A big man with a big heart. RIP.

Sam

Sue Spence, PO Box 12 Alamo, IN 47916

Many Miles Before the Night.....

JB