



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1961

Class Agent

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Dear Many Miler:

This letter was started under crisp blue skies covering Crawfordsville and our beautiful Wabash College campus. The atmosphere for the first football game and the Volunteer Forum weekend was highly spirited as the new academic year was getting underway. One of the new era items is the amount of techy stuff going on – including new faculty members teaching “older” faculty members how to Tweet with their students. Well, some older faculty members..... One unidentified older professor told me “NO Way!”

The Little Giant football team churned out over 500 yards of offense, more than half of which was on the ground. That is by design! At this writing, the team has virtually blown all of their opponents off the field. The competition gets tougher, however. The team has a miracle! Josh Miracle, a quarterback, is from Hobart. Record setting senior quarterback, Matt Hudson, is the team leader. DePauw had a mysterious resignation of their 3rd year head coach just a few days before the season opener. No public information has come forth.

The freshman class of '13 is 250 strong and by all accounts a very good class. Twelve members of this class were privileged to learn how to fly fish in the Freshman Tutorial: Fly Fishing in Montana, led by Prof. David Hadley, assisted by Aus Brooks. Aus said this is a great way to build friendships even before school commences! “This excursion with my friend, former colleague and frequent fishing partner, Professor David Hadley and his 12 freshmen, has clearly identified what I miss most about teaching – the students. The energy, enthusiasm and curiosity that these young men exude are contagious. I have had the pleasure of fly fishing great rivers, partnering with former departmental colleague Dave Krohne to show the students the unique features of Yellowstone National Park, feeling the exhilaration of white water rafting and savoring the natural beauty of Montana in the company of twelve great young men who are fast becoming true Little

Giants” – Aus... I understand this tutorial opportunity filled within seconds of going “up.” Prior to the trip they all read Norman Maclean’s “A River Runs Through It” as a basis for the trip. They also went white water rafting with Flying Pig Adventures – operated by Geoff Faerber ’98 son of George and Pam Faerber of Bee Window fame in Indy.

Jim & Suzie Cumming and Joe & Charlene Barnette were on campus for the memorial service for Dick Ristine’41 who passed away at Leland, MI in June. It was an excellent service with scripture readings by his grandchildren. The Glee Club sang “Be Thou My Vision” in excellent harmony. Dick was 20 years + older than we are! He kiddingly said he was the only living alumnus who had shaken hands with the founders..... He will be missed! In fact, the loss of Bill Placher, Ginny Hays and Dick Ristine just makes Wabash a different place. Thankfully, we have new, young stalwarts who will rise to fill these losses.

During services at St. John’s Episcopal Church on Sunday, the Second Reading was from James (3:1-12) which refers to how teachers will be judged with greater strictness... “the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.” Well, I had a thirty minute discussion with Joe O’Rourke about how every speech class should read this at the beginning to their investigation of rhetoric! Joe is getting up there in age. (He said, “Do you realize you and I met 40 years ago?” To which I replied that I thought it had been FIFTY years!!! Oh, well, what’s a decade or two!) Actually, that reading had been read by Sheila Foster Evans, daughter of the pastor of St. John’s during our years at Wabash.

The Volunteer Forum was well attended and well planned. There were Class Agents, Reunion Chairmen and Regional Alumni engagement leaders in attendance. There was a session with the President and Deans for open questions, and several informative sessions for everyone. Joe Emmick ’92, Dean for Advancement told us that when the State of Indiana cut back aid to students, Wabash immediately stepped up and “filled in” any gap that a student required to enter or continue his education at Wabash. One of the new things is a U-Tube channel on the Wabash website. For example, all touchdowns will be on video during the game! I was pleased to sit next to Jim Roper ’68. He has written a book about his dangerous flying for the Air Force over Laos and Vietnam in the 70’s in a slow unarmed reconnaissance plane and has sent a copy to me which I am anxiously waiting to read. He was also a squadron leader in England at the same time Tom Runge, on our Alumni and Parent Relations staff, was flying the F111’s. They did not know each other back in their college days.

NOTE: The Forum will be offered to you as an opportunity to learn about our Fiftieth Reunion. Next fall, I would urge each of you who have been faithful about inviting Many Milers to our previous gatherings from the various residences (and those who wish to do so) to attend. The Volunteer Forum is held during the weekend of the first home football game. Of course, the other opportunity is in June of 2010 when the class of 1960 is reuniting. I hope several of you will come to campus then to see what is going on during Big Bash Weekend. The class of 1959 had a fantastic reunion in June. You can view many pictures on the website. As previously reported, they returned 50% of their class. They arrived at the Chapel riding an old fire truck owned by John Horner. Dave McAfee has already offered to supply horses and a wagon for the great Many Miler chorus and glee singers for the "Old Wabash" competition in 2011!

Notes:

Norm Beesley was headed for a Pirates baseball game with a Wabash outing. **Dick and Janice Lesniak** were headed for a Cubs/Sox game in June. They have daughters in Denver and Phoenix and a son in Singapore – whom they will see at Christmas. **Mike Hughes** had sixty some people attend his surprise birthday party in Madison, WI just before he and Rosie were headed out to Utah and the Northwest for a driving vacation. **Jay Moore** attended the party. Jay also ran into **Jim & Jan Wood** at an LPGA event. **Paul Olexia** replied to my birthday card: "Thanks. As I enter my 71st year I have been blessed with more good health than I probably deserve." **Bob Bock** replied that he isn't recognizing birthdays anymore! **Joe Barnette** says it sounds old but it's better than the alternative. **Mead Killion** commented about the Jacquie Lawson card I had sent: "You couldn't have known, I presume, that I use that section of the Bach E major Partita in my lectures (or that I have memorized the Gigue from the Bach Dm Partita on the violin), and that I can play the first few bars of the Grieg Piano Concerto" ("Sounds like we have entertainment in line for our reunion!") **Don Weddle** writes: "It's hard to believe that I'm 70 now. Time flies when you're having fun. Vicky & I are both doing well... My current plans are to retire by the end of this year after 38 ½ years with the US Government. This doesn't include the 9 ½ years I worked in private industry as a defense contractor – in between my stint in the Army and my becoming a civil servant at Wright-Patterson AFB."

This from **Bob Panzer**: Fun summer. I blew off my regular Tuesday activities, Toastmasters and NCIS, but never looked back after my buddy Rip got me back into wheelchair softball. We tried to get a team started here in North Jersey.

October 2 & 3 some of us filled roster spots on a team sponsored by the NY Yankees and took part in a 7 team round robin held in the parking lot at the Mets CitiField. There were teams in town sponsored by the Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, Colorado Rockies + the host Mets & Yankees. It was a blast, and I played with two guys I hadn't seen since '02. Paddy, Eddie & I played wheelchair softball for the Mets in national tournaments in '98 & '00 while travelling the country as sponsored wheelchair tennis competitors on the USTA circuit. Those were the glory days in the kingdom of Gimpdom.

Well, after the tourney the Yankees invited us to their Monday night game with KC. A rain delay made it more fun just hangin' by the Legends Bar waiting to be herded out to home plate for the pre-game recognition. The way we were treated deep in the bowels of Yankee Stadium, I may, emphasis 'may', become a Yankee fan. Rip caged dogs, nachos supreme & Budweiser!

Next season for the Jersey Toxins includes recognition as a Yankee w/c softball farm club by Wheelchair Sports Federation, Vic Calise not George, Jr..

Pics are by a pro sent out by our hosts, Morris County Parks & Rec. Big files, but pretty. I am the star at 1st base; see the shadows. But as the mandatory quad in the lineup, I'm usually catcher or right fielder.

AirBob
973.670.1600.



Received this email from Rusty Cleland:

This is a great story.

A female humpback whale had become entangled in a tangled web of crab traps and lines.

She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat.

She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth.

Fishermen spotted her just east of the Farallon Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed for help.

Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off,

the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her -- a very dangerous proposition. One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.



They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her.

When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, nudged them, and pushed gently, thanking them.

Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives.



The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

JB,

Thanks for sharing the story. I suspect whales are much more intelligent than you would ever suspect. Unfortunately the story of this whale is not all that uncommon. The Northern Right Whale is highly endangered and its recovery has been very slow because it feeds in the Bay of Fundy region and gives birth off the coast of Georgia and thus has to travel back and forth in one of the busiest places in the ocean. In their case many are killed by collisions with ships but stories of entanglement with fishing gear is common. I am sure the divers in this story will never forget their experience. Whales and dolphins are also very intelligent. Some years ago some scientists were trying to record the different sounds that they use. The dolphin at some point realized that when it made a sound it could see the electronic response on a television monitor and immediately proceeded to go through its vocabulary apparently so that it could see what each sound looked like on the TV. Stories like this really make you wonder if these animals are a whole lot smarter than we commonly think. They certainly convince me that we should ban all whaling except perhaps by indigenous people where their very survival depends upon successful whale hunting.

We are doing great with me as busy as ever and Tina very involved with rowing. She is up at 4:30 am 4 days a week so she can go out on the Potomac River with 7 other women in one of the 8 person shells. That takes dedication! David has just been admitted to the CIA (that is the Culinary Institute of America, not the other CIA). He is a very accomplished chef and wants to make cooking his profession. The CIA is the top culinary school in the country so we are very pleased.

I hope you are all doing well. Best regards,

Rusty

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From a friend: When asked what old people do when they're retired..... Well, I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background, and one of the things I enjoy most is turning beer, wine, Scotch and margaritas into urine. And, I'm pretty damn good at it, too!"

Steve Klein, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, has been working with Barbara to have his father meet Carl Erskine, former Brooklyn Dodger pitcher who lives in Anderson. Well, it finally happened just recently after several failed attempts, and it was a super event for both the old guys!



With regret, I report the passing of Many Milers, Leonard Larson on September 27, 2009 who was a Lambda Chi and Gerald Gibson. Jerry was an Independent and lived in the Washington, D C area.

Gerald Vernon Gibson, died September 9, 2009 at Fairfax Hospital after a courageous struggle with liver disease. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032. Jerry was born on May 31, 1939 in Pontiac, MI. He played football at Wabash College and graduated from Wayne State University. Jerry served in the US Army as a member of the Berlin Brigade. There he met his wife of 44 years, Baerbel. After his military service, he began his 26 year career as a civil servant with the Department of the Army. Jerry loved fishing, hunting, and traveling. He also enjoyed meeting people and sharing life stories with everyone he met. He always told a good story and was a gentle man. His greatest joy was spending time with his family. Jerry is survived by his wife, Baerbel; his daughter, Marion Sheaffer (Paul); his son, Andy Gibson (Erin); his grandchildren, Michael and Daniel Sheaffer, Benjamin and Allyson Gibson; his sisters, Marilyn Combs (Jim) and Shirley West (Harold); nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Edith Gibson of Wixom, Michigan. He will be dearly missed by all

*who knew him. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in honor of: Gerald V. Gibson American Liver Foundation 75 Maiden Lane Suite 603 New York, NY 10038
<http://www.liverfoundation.org/donate/>*

Advice if you want to spend your money and have it stay in the USA: 1) Spend it at yard sales. 2) Go to a ball game. 3) Spend it on prostitutes. 4) Buy beer. 5) Get a tattoo. I'm going to go to a ball game and drink beer with a prostitute I met at a yard sale!!! It was Will Rogers who said: "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts!"

Well, gentlemen, for the first time in many years we slipped backward in our support of Wabash. This can't be a big surprise, but it is nevertheless disappointing. We fell all the way back to 53.8% after topping 60% for several years. I do hope we can recover enough to once again be a leader in this arena. There were 10 to 12 who weren't in the game by June 30. Denny Sheridan will be talking about ways to support the College for our 50th reunion. In the meantime, let's not let the year end opportunity go by.

Also, if you want to go to Greencastle for the Monon Bell game, you had better get your tickets NOW. The Dannys only give Wabash 2300 tickets. What does Wabash do for the Bell game? They erect enough seats for 11,000 fans so everyone can enjoy the battle!!! I will be watching from the Crow's Nest in Nashville. This will probably be the toughest game of the year for both squads!

During the horrible flu season of 1957 & 58, I was one of those who watched homecoming from a window in the little gym along with a bunch of other sick Wallys. The flu has never gotten me since that time. When I mentioned my supposed immunity from the current flu, Jim Cumming laughed and admonished me that I'd better get the current flu shot!

Many Miles Before the Night.....

JB