



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: [www.wabash.edu](http://www.wabash.edu)

Email us: [alumni@wabash.edu](mailto:alumni@wabash.edu)

Phone: (765) 361-6369

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### Class of 1961

#### Class Agent

JB Bachman

[jb61@bellsouth.net](mailto:jb61@bellsouth.net)

September, 2014

Dear Many Miler:

## You are # 1!!!!

Yes, my fellow 61'ers, our class ranked above all other classes with 59.5% joining in to support the annual fund at Wabash. Great job! 72 of our 121 known living alumni kicked in this year. That is down from our all time high of 91 givers during our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion year. We have two widows who are graciously continuing their support of Wabash. The 430 on 4/30 Wabash Day of Giving, the numbers were phenomenal generating 2,329 gifts in the one day for a total of \$465,421. It was by all comparison to other schools a very big success. For the year, Wabash had 40.15% alumni participation which generated \$3,271,804 – about 8% of the College budget. 4538 donors is the highest ever!



The Gentlemen's Classic was a great weekend to be on campus. The inaugural of a football series with Hampden-Sydney of Virginia, one of the three remaining male liberal arts colleges in the USA was a success. They flew (NCAA requirement for over 500 miles) their team, President and several trustees to Indy. There was a special welcoming in the Chapel where both presidents spoke as well as the president of the NCAA, Dr. Mark Emmert, who flipped the coin on game day before heading to the Notre Dame Michigan game later that day. H-S has one of the most highly touted QBs in Div. III, Nash Nance, and a transfer from U of Tennessee. Unfortunately, he was sacked 6 times and intercepted twice. It was a close game during the first half, but in the second half

the Little Giants pulled away, giving up a late touchdown for final score of 34 – 21, Next year, the game will be in Virginia on Sept. 5.

The president of H-S, Dr. Christopher Howard, is one of the youngest college presidents in the country. He is a US Air Force Academy grad, (retired Lt. Colonel who was in Afghanistan in 2003) a Rhodes Scholar with a Doctorate in politics from Oxford, and an MBA from Harvard Business School. After playing football at the Academy, he was inducted into the Verizon Academic All-American Hall of Fame. His older son is at Sewanee: the University of the South here in Tennessee.

Hampden-Sydney is 60 miles southwest of Richmond, VA on a 100 acre campus which was founded in 1775 and early trustees included Patrick Henry and James Madison. There are about 1100 men on campus, and their Code of Conduct is central:” *The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and all places.*”” Sound familiar? Also, “*The Hampden-Sydney student will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do.*” Each freshman signs a code of conduct card in the presence of the upperclassmen, one at a time! The students make up the voluntary fire department of their campus, which is 6 miles south of the nearest town!

The Wabash Class of 2018 includes 262 students from 20 states and 7 countries - 31% were referred by an alumnus (hint, hint), 52 are legacies, 36 Hoosier Boys State delegates and 13 Eagle scouts. 38% of Honor Scholarship Weekend attendees were referrals. There are 920 men at Wabash this year, 70% from Indiana. Current tuition is \$37,100 and room & board runs \$4,530 per year. Work on a new housing complex will begin soon as all the houses on the west side of Crawford Street from the Delt House to Will Hays’ home are now razed.



Sam and Susie were once again hosts for your class agent, who following removal of cancer from an ear is now sporting a fedora! I hate hats!!!

From the nationally recognized Career Services office, a note that 91% of 2013 graduates were “settled” after four months. We can be justly proud of the work Scott Crawford has done as Director of the Schroeder Center for Career Development. If you have gotten around to losing some weight and don’t need those suits anymore, here is a good place to send them!!! If you have questions about the Career Services Suit Yourself Program, contact the SCC office at [career@wabash.edu](mailto:career@wabash.edu) or 765-361-6414.

I was pleased to converse with the new Dean of Advancement, Michelle Janssen, during the Class Agent’s Forum dinner. She is a Logansport Berry, and went to

Valparaiso where she spent some 20 years and chaired Valpo's largest ever campaign of \$200 M. Valpo is the primary Lutheran university in the country. She then went to Berea College in Kentucky. Berea has a \$1.3 Billion endowment which supports their mission: to bring a college education to the eastern poor areas of Kentucky. Each student works each week at the College owned hotel and is given free tuition. Michelle has a wonderful story about when the Wabash position was posted; she called the recruiter in New York and said: "I am the ONLY person you should consider!" She got the job, and Wabash is fortunate to have her....

I visited Denny Sheridan in June. He fell at home in April, so he is going to daily therapy. He has lost a bunch of weight and looks good, though he was bemoaning that he wouldn't be able to climb down the banks of the Pere Marquette River to fly fish for trout.

Joe Barnette and his primary nurse Charlene send their appreciation and love for all who have sent well wishes. I spoke with Joe today and he sounds upbeat and working hard on a great deal of therapy. He has been home for over a month and goes to the IU Neuro Science Center in downtown Indy. They are very impressed with that facility, part of Indiana University Medical Center. Joe also said they had a nice visit from Bob Panzer recently when he and Mary Beth were in Indy visiting her family.

On a joyous note, Sam & Susie's youngest daughter, Molly, delivered her first child, a 9lb 2oz baby boy, Dawson Lee Radke. He is the fifth grandchild of the Hildebrand's.

I spoke with John Birdzell at the game. My 75<sup>th</sup> birthday wish was to get up on my old Connelly Super Glass ski, but boat troubles prevented my attempt. Birdy's comment was that sometimes these things are easier to visualize than actually complete. He had knee surgery a year ago and his hoping to hit the slopes again this winter.

Notes:

\* \* \*

JB, Thanks for the positive report on Joe recovering from his stroke. Prayers and good thoughts will continue.

My son, Tim, and his family are here in Bend for their summer holiday. They live in Brno, CZ and arrived in Oregon a week ago. We all spend time in Vancouver, B.C. and Whistler Mountain Resort, north of Vancouver, before returning to Bend.

The Cyber Knife radiation successfully addressed the cancerous cells in my prostate. My ticket is punched for continuing the wonderful journey of life.

My best, Tim Conlon

\* \* \*

Birdy & J B @ football game



On Aug 7, 2014, at 5:30 PM, John R  
<[jrbirdzell@hotmail.com](mailto:jrbirdzell@hotmail.com)> wrote:

July has been quite cool....not many days above 80 and for sure nothing approaching 90.....I suspect August will bring more of the same and once Labor Day arrives, temps will head for the 60's..... Best thing going is that Lake Michigan (the big lake) is up 14 inches this year.....Did you just "round the curve" at 75? If so, welcome to the Club!

\* \* \*

On Aug 6, 2014, at 6:00 PM, Doug Burns  
<[clansmandb@hotmail.com](mailto:clansmandb@hotmail.com)> wrote:

We will be in Indiana for our Foster family reunion over Labor Day, but won't stay over to the following weekend. I may not make a Wabash game this year, as we have a couple of other trips planned,

and are planning seven weeks in Australia and New Zealand in early 2015. Come to Charlotte if you get the chance!

*(Sounds like a good trip! Are you considering relocation possibilities? This country is going to a sorry state very quickly. J B)*

Frankly, relocation to Australia is not out of the question. I agree that the US is on the rapid downward trajectory. We have two choices politically: wicked and stupid. Not a great thing. Doug

\* \* \*

**This from George Oshry:**

We are now in the 50th day of the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. And to tell the truth I have no idea why it's still going on. Hamas seems to have missed the point that their day in the limelight has been replaced by other world events, like Ferguson and ISIS. Hell, even the Emmy Awards are getting more coverage. But this doesn't seem to have dawned on Hamas and every day they fire useless rockets (well, not so useless, they killed a 4 and a half year old boy, and occasionally they cause some damage). But we get hour after hour the same news about the missile fire and the stalled ceasefire talks. Maybe if Israeli news stopped reporting it (as the rest of the world), it would come to an end. --

*(P.S. George reported a heart attack in July, but he got back home quickly and is doing as well as can be expected living with missiles going overhead! Jb)*

\* \* \*

Thanks John. Hard to believe three quarters of a century. But there are times when I feel it. Overall, I can't complain. Best wishes – Paul Olexia

\* \* \*

To Bill Pullen: (We attended a wedding and met the groom's mother who had worked for Bill.) Ran into a friend of yours! She is the mother of the groom Kyle Elzie. We are friends of the bride and had a very busy weekend in Louisville... including a fire in the next motel and our room keys would not work, so we had to move late at night!

Hope you guys are having a good summer! 'Sorry our trip was so quick that I couldn't give you a call...

Sorry we didn't connect but glad you survived the fire and lost key threats. Haven't seen Geri Elzie in several years. Hope she and the Bachmans are doing well. Stay in touch. Bill

\* \* \*

Another good letter. Thanx. Been wondering about Woody. Good to hear. Glad you got in touch with Charlene & Joe. Bethann has never forgotten how Many Milers rallied around me when the Guillain-Barre hit me 25 years ago. Getting old -- forget sh%t -- did I tell you about my birthday? Before a guys nite out (3 g'sons & their dads) G'son Nick inked my left delt -- a USMC thing I resisted when in my 20s.



Nick studied at Phila. Art Museum & Temple U., but asked his folks how a young artist would repay student loans. He traded oils for inks & practices at Art Machine Productions, Philly. My "Devil Dog" came forth at Belleau Wood in 1918, but I really doubt Nick knew that when he popped the WWI helmet on my dog. I had told Nick, "No dogs, no Eagles, Globes & Anchors -- just USMC in an old Germanic script on a banner." I couldn't resist the sketch he presented when I rolled into his crib. He's well regarded among his peers & has a promising appointment book as fans check out the 'new guy' in town. 90 minutes & we were down the street at Fetta Sau hoisting a cool one.

Many Miles --  
Panzer

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Thanks for sharing this information and congratulations to Dave Lahey '60. (Honorary Degree from Wabash) That is a very distinguished record and Dave should be very proud. What I especially liked was his involvement with civic affairs in Cincinnati. The true value of a Wabash education is that it educated us in the liberal arts and whether we end up in science or business or whatever, I would hope that most of us continue to appreciate the value of science, the insight of someone like Shakespeare and the beauty of the arts and are prepared to do what we can to support museums, arts organizations and the I

could not imagine living my life without music and the arts. In my mind Dave is a true Little Giant. Rusty Cleland.



Are you a “shower screamer???”

Well, this is long enough! The Monon Bell game is at Wabash on November 15! Wabash should have an excellent season. The soccer team is undefeated as of this writing!

Many Miles Before the Night.....

***J B***

*Photos courtesy of  
Barbara Bachman.*