



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1962

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Special points of interest:

- Dr. Bert Stern H'62 becomes an honorary son of Wabash
- Touched the lives of many during the almost forty years at Wabash
- He brought other worlds to thousands of Wabash students

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H o n o r s f o r B e r t S t e r n

A teacher whose "outsider's perspective" brought new ways of thinking to thousands of Wabash men was honored at Wabash College back in Sept, alongside the mother and father of four of those students. Milligan Professor Emeritus of English Bert Stern and Jim and Susie Smith were named honorary alumni at this year's Homecoming Alumni Chapel, which celebrates the spirit of Barney Hollett '36 and pays tribute

to outstanding alumni and their service to the



College, their communities, and the world. "In this Chapel we celebrate the people who have made and continue to make our alma mater so special and her impact so

far reaching," said National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) President Greg Estell '85. "You alumni are our greatest story, the great truth of the wonderful things we do here," said Wabash President Gregory Hess. "Alumni Chapel is a celebration of all the College's loyal sons." The newest of those honorary sons, Stern H'62 arrived at the College in 1957 and taught more than 4,600 students during 39 years.

See Stern p.2

I t m u s t b e S p r i n g t i m e

Spring has truly arrived here in our Valley of the Sun. Weather is in the upper 80s, spring baseball training season is winding down and the evenings are

still pleasant. Speaking of baseball, I attended the recent Wabash / DePauw spring baseball outing a couple of weeks ago. Only a couple of Wabash men

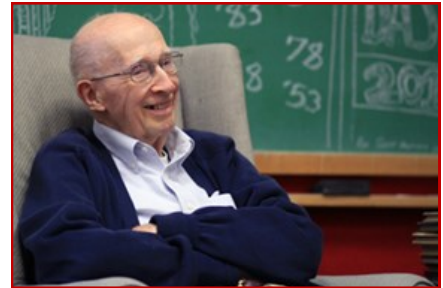
were there, and not too many from that other school. But it was a good game, nice conversations and cold beer – life is good.

News at Wabash

A bit of news that I missed, was the death of Richard Strawn last February. Richard R. Strawn, Professor Emeritus of Wabash College, died on Sunday, February 1 at the age of 91. As we remember he taught French language and literature, linguistics, and hu-

manities from 1951 to 1987 and served briefly as Librarian. As Steve Charles wrote in a Wabash Blog in 2013 on the 90th birthday of Dick Strawn, "He is one of the group of professors (along with Ted Bedrick, Eliot Williams, Owen Duston, Don Baker, Vic

Powell, Ben Rogge, Phil Wilder, Eric Dean, Lew Salter, and Harold McDonald) that President Frank Sparks hired in the late 1940s and early 1950s, a cadre, that President Byron Tripet wrote,



"touch off in me the warmest feelings of respect, and even pride, for their association with Wabash." Some

Class of '62 Honor Roll

A quick check of the list of our Gentlemen of '62 who have given during this current fiscal year (July 1, '14 – June 30, '15) are: John Arbo, Mike Ball, Gene Blackburn, David Brink, Norm Carrico, M.D., Michael Davis, David

Downen, Steve Drayer, Tim Emmitt, Thom Feit, Terry Fewell, Bob Fuller, Pat Haney, Jim Hedback, George Hodges, Jim Johnson, Don Kerner, M.D., Bob Koonz, Dale Lentz, Jim Little, Ron McCoy, Lee

McNeely, Kiefer Mendenhall, Marv Meyer, Bruce Monroe, Jack Nutting, Bill Racey, Tom Reams, Robbie Robinson, David Schneider, Tom Sinex, John Staples, Brent Sutton, Bill Thompson, Tom Whowell, Mal Young, Ph.D., and

Ted Zieke. It is a good list – not a great list. There are many who are still missing from this roll. There is still time prior to the end of this current fiscal year (June 30.) Let not the listing end without your name.

Stern - continued from p. 1

After his "retirement" in 1997 he taught probationers in the Changing Lives Through Literature program, co-wrote *"The African American's Guide to Heart Disease and Heart Wellness"* published his own poetry in a much-lauded volume,

and founded Off the Grid Press. Research he began during his year teaching in China in 1985 resulted in his new book, *"Winter in China: An American Life"*, which tells the story of Crawfordsville native Robert Winter's nearly 60 years living in China dur-

ing its most tumultuous years. "Today, we honor, cherish, and embrace the outsider's perspective you brought to us," Estell told Stern from the Chapel lecturn. "It's a vantage point that brought other worlds to thousands of Wabash students."



Bert Stern at the 2014 Homecoming.

New Student Quarters

From time to time I go online to read issues of The Bachelor. The March 27th issue offered two items of great interest. One, by Reno Jamison '17, offered two thoughts on Independent Life at Wabash. First was what Reno perceived as an upgrade in the food offered at the Sparks Center. So happy that the provider –

Bon Appetit – is upping their food talents. As an Independent, I recall those meals (?) at the campus center – hell, I even worked in the kitchen for two years. The second part of his article rejoiced at construction of housing units for Independents along the west side of the campus. In my thinking, this

has been a long time coming. The units will be not just dorms but also some townhouses. Great thinking on the part of the college.

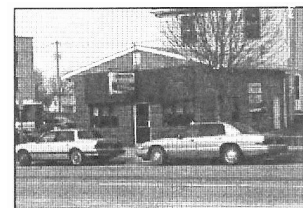


The Snacker

Not sure how this ever crept into my consciousness. Remembering night walks with friends from '61: Ted Todd, Milt Bentley, Carl Horneman and others as we strolled

under the trees down Walnut to Market. There it was. It stood from '47 until the late '90s when a Walgreen took the spot. What memories do you have?

The Snacker Special: a toasted cheese w/ ham-burger, lettuce, tomato in the middle – or those famous sausage gravy and biscuits. Too much, too late, but so satisfying.



During the day it's not much, but at night....
From the Wabash Bachelor

Wabash ROI Among Nation's Best & Rhodes Scholar

Wabash College ranked 50th nationally in the 2015 PayScale.com ROI report, a ranking released today of the best return on investment in higher education.

Wabash graduates can expect to earn more than \$597,000 more than a high school gradu-

ate over a 20-year period following degree completion. That figure placed Wabash in the top four percent nationally of the 1,223 schools ranked. Wabash graduates earn more than \$363,000 more over a 20-year period than the median college graduate, which breaks down to better than \$18,000 annually.

Since Wabash College's founding in 1832, the College has been proud to graduate eight Rhodes Scholars. Jacob Burnett '15 will become the ninth in May. Burnett, who is from Mishawaka, was one of 32 students in the nation to be named a

Rhodes. He will work toward his master's degree at Oxford in the fall of 2015.

"It feels amazing, it's the first time in my life I've ever been speechless," commented Burnett.



Wabash College
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I am always seeking news of our classmates.

Please share.

We are also on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GentlemenOf62>

Also an occasional blog:

<http://thegentlemenof62.blogspot.com/>

T h e K i n d n e s s o f S t r a n g e r s

"I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." That famous quote from *A Street Car Named Desire* suddenly became my manta during a recent trip south of the border. I go over to Los Algodones Baja Mexico for dental work. With apologies to classmates who served as dentist, I find the service quick, professional and inexpensive. Remember I am just a garden variety retired high school teacher. On a visit, after my appointment, I returned to the café where I met

with Barb. She had been doing some light shopping, and a stop in a great little bakery we found on a former visit. We began to walk toward the border crossing, when I discovered no passport. Barb looked in her bags, nothing there. A quick run to the dental office no help. My passport was somewhere along the street of this village.

Being the middle of the afternoon, the line was long. I kept playing over in my mind what to

say, how to explain the carelessness of my loss. As we approached the desk, Barb went first, presenting her documents and then began to explain my issue. I handed over my Arizona drivers' license. The officer asked my wife if she knew me – had we travelled together – could I be trusted? After forty-nine years of marriage, the bond was strong, and with a smile she said "Of course" and he with a broader smile responded "This is your lucky day – come on through."