



## 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 1963

#### Class Agents

Alan Stanford

[alan.stanford@att.net](mailto:alan.stanford@att.net)

Bruce Polizotto

[bpolizotto@hotmail.com](mailto:bpolizotto@hotmail.com)

Tom Billings

[t-billings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t-billings@sbcglobal.net)

December 2015

Fellow Classmates,

Here's a quick update before the end of 2015. Some sad news first. Three classmates have died since my letter of June 15, 2015 that reported Bob Roos', Sandy Sundberg's and Tom Woodfill's passings.

On August 1, Hans Van Etten died from continuing complications following prostate cancer and surgery. He excelled in athletics at Wabash in football and wrestling, was a Delt and Sphinx Club member. After Wabash, Hans received his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from Cornell and was a professor at Cornell and the University of Arizona. He specialized in how plants fight pathogens and how pathogens fight back. Martha, a microbiologist herself, is continuing on their "65.3 acres at Tucson Mountain", a home that Hans was very proud of. Martha's contact info is 3573 West Mockingbird Lane, Tucson, AZ 85713, [520-743-3619](tel:520-743-3619).

Robert Olsen died on August 6 from a fall and head injury. A Phi Gam at Wabash, he got his Master's Degree from Wayne State University and following a Navy stint was with Comerica bank leading corporate development and M&A where he retired with 35 years of service. He was in early stages of Parkinson's at the time of his death. Helga is at 652 Cherry Tree Lane in Rochester Hills, MI 48306, [248-652-9878](tel:248-652-9878).

Then on October 9, Charles Hatfield died from complications of surgery. Born in Toledo, after Wabash where he was a Sigma Chi, he graduated from Indiana University and taught at Brevard Community College as a professor of business. Susan is comforted by their four children, five grandchildren and one great-grandson. She's at 35 South Fernwood Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955, [321-631-8113](tel:321-631-8113).

Our memories are of them and our thoughts are with their surviving families.

This fall I made it back to Wabash for an update. President Greg Hess led a discussion on the Wabash agenda that was full of information. He discussed his "4 C's" to a great liberal arts education that are: 1. Challenging, 2. Confrontational, 3. Compassion, and 4. a Compass for the rest of life. The Gentleman's Rule remains a key part of the Wabash culture, and with an average class size of 13, Wabash delivers an exceptional return on students' investments. The annual operating budget is around \$44 million with a 6.25% draw on endowment and alumni giving providing significant funding. He mentioned that the alumni giving percentage is 40% (DePauw's is 27%), a key indicator of alumni support. The administrative team is focused on improving the four-year graduation rate to 78% (it's now around 68%) and last year's freshman class saw 88% returning. Greg's goal is a campus size of 1000 with a 78% graduation rate.

It's clear when he speaks and handles Q&A that he is an exceptional president - with distinguished academic accomplishments and a CEO's talent and focus. Wabash is fortunate to have him as its leader.

We heard from four professors on programs that are available to enrich the traditional liberal arts experience. Voluntary, but very popular, programs include:

- Digital Arts and Human Values with Michael Abbott
- Global Health Initiative with Eric Wetzel and Jill Rogers
- Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse Initiative with Sara Drury
- Center for Innovation, Business and Entrepreneurship with Roland Morin

Each program has a distinguished alumni advisory committee. Very impressive - the programs and the professors. More detail is online at [wabash.edu](http://wabash.edu).

Also, Delta Tau Delta is returning to campus after being closed down following a student's alcohol-related death. Lawsuits are settled, and the re-colonization process has begun with a goal of members next Fall.

I'm short on class news, so please reply to this email with some information on you! Linda Polizotto, Bruce's wife, had a scary incident when she flipped over the handlebars of her bike while exercising their large dog. Luckily she had her helmet on, but it was still the ER, ICU, and two brain surgeries. She's home now, and she visited last week with Bruce, the Hutchisons and the Nichols at our home. Bruce would love to hear from you, as he is now Linda's caregiver. His cell is [317-431-9376](tel:317-431-9376).

Betty and I are in Sarasota through New Year's, and we'll plan to catch up with John and Linda Doyel. Maybe they have more information that can be shared in the next class letter.

It's calendar year-end, so here's a reminder to get your annual contribution in to Wabash postmarked "December 31, 2015" for a tax deduction in 2015. The College's fiscal year ends June 30, 2016, and your gift will be included in the 15-16 fiscal year results. You guys are solid as a contributing class! Out of 127 alums in our class, 67 contributed for a percentage of 54.3 with total giving of \$110,852. We're leading our peer group in percentage participation, but the Class of '65 with their 65.8% result tells us that we can be better. You can make a gift online at <https://www.wabash.edu/giving/give> or mail it.

That's it for now. Have a Merry Christmas and great New Year!

Alan