



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1963

Class Agents

Alan Stanford

Bruce Polizotto

Tom Billings

Wabash Class of '63

June 26, 2016

Here's a mid-year update on classmates and Wabash. As always, please keep either Bruce, Tom or me informed on what's going on in your world.

The difficult news first. We've lost two classmates since my last letter.

Donald Revere died February 16 of a heart attack. According to his wife of 50 years, Dorothy, he had had one earlier at age 57 and had complications with diabetes. An Independent while at Wabash, he is survived by Dorothy, two children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Don had two long stints as a executive in the trucking industry during his career. Dorothy's phone is 219-866-8621 and is still living on 3.5 acres at 5455 West State Road 14, Rensselaer, IN 47978, but she's planning to move closer to family.

Bill Wilson, died April 28, 2016. Bill had moved back to Farmington, Illinois with his new wife, Karen, of 11 months. Donna, his second wife died earlier. I talked with Karen, and she shared that she accompanied him on piano when he played trumpet solos in high school in Farmington!

According to Karen, it was sudden. He was complaining about losing energy when they drove to Texas, then afterwards complained about weakness and tiredness. They ran the full battery of tests in Peoria including hospital stays where they found he had non-Hodgkins lymphoma, but she didn't think that was the cause.

Karen offered that they both shared they had experienced more joy in less than a year than many experience in a lifetime. Karen's phone is [309-245-4431](tel:309-245-4431) and email is karjac@aol.com. She mentioned that Bill had taken her back to Wabash once during the year they were married, and she could see why he held Wabash in such high esteem.

Now, for an update on what I'm aware of since my last letter 6 months ago.

- Betty and I saw "The Free State of Jones" last evening and found it to be a truly sobering refresher on what our country has been through. It's definitely worth your time to see it. Then, today, as I prepared to write this note I found the following

review about Dan Croft's distinguished research and writing on slavery in the period:

Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery

The Other Thirteenth Amendment and the Struggle to Save the Union

Daniel W. Crofts

In this landmark book, Daniel Crofts examines a little-known episode in the most celebrated aspect of Abraham Lincoln's life: his role as the "Great Emancipator." Lincoln always hated slavery, but he also believed it to be legal where it already existed, and he never imagined fighting a war to end it. In 1861, as part of a last-ditch effort to preserve the Union and prevent war, the new president even offered to accept a constitutional amendment that barred Congress from interfering with slavery in the slave states. Lincoln made this key overture in his first inaugural address. Crofts unearths the hidden history and political maneuvering behind the stillborn attempt to enact this amendment, the polar opposite of the actual Thirteenth Amendment of 1865 that ended slavery. This compelling book sheds light on an overlooked element of Lincoln's statecraft and presents a relentlessly honest portrayal of America's most admired president. Crofts rejects the view advanced by some Lincoln scholars that the wartime momentum toward emancipation originated well before the first shots were fired. Lincoln did indeed become the "Great Emancipator," but he had no such intention when he first took office. Only amid the crucible of combat did the war to save the Union become a war for freedom.

"Daniel Crofts's meticulously argued and well-researched book shows us how Abraham Lincoln and a host of other key players attempted to keep the Upper South in the Union. The result is a contrarian and rich book that makes a significant addition to the scholarship of this vital period."

--**Jonathan H. Earle**, Louisiana State University

"Daniel Crofts has shined a bright, clarifying light on the story of the original Thirteenth Amendment, and we are indebted to him for bringing it into the light of day. This book is clearly the work of a superb historian, indeed one of the best Civil War historians writing today."

--**Charles Dew**, Williams College

Congratulations to Dan for this accomplishment and recognition! Dan, let us know how accurate the "The Free State of Jones" is, if you have a moment.

- Tim Steele received coverage of a seminar he gave in Lima, Peru entitled "Environmental Impacts of Mine Closures — Water-Quality Aspects, Concepts and International Examples." Since 2012, Tim has given talks at the Osher Life Learning Institute's (OLLI) "campuses" in Denver, CO, and Ann Arbor, MI, on a range of water-resources topics. He also offered a course on "U.S./Global Water-Resources Issues — the Water-Energy-Food *Nexus*" in Denver. Following his Chemistry major at Wabash and a PhD at Stanford University, Tim has taught and is president of TDS Consulting.
- Jerry Pollitt responded to our last Class Letter request for a personal update. "Thanks for the update for the class of '63. I only stayed at Wabash for 3 semesters but enjoyed my time there. I did a stint in the US Air Force after I left Wabash and was based in Italy for 3 years. I ended up graduating from Purdue in '74 with a BS in Computer Science and worked in the IT industry for 37 years before retiring. I was already working in IT based on my Air Force experience when I finally graduated. Ended up my career at EDS (Electronic Data Systems) as an Enterprise Architect traveling the world doing major

projects and trouble shooting for the CIO with some of our major customers. I've been retired for going on 14 years and just got remarried in late 2014 after being a widower for a couple of years. My new wife and I both relocated to our new home in Tennessee, she from upstate NY and me from Texas. We have been traveling a great deal and are getting ready for a month long trip to Hawaii and islands. One more major trip in the States and then we will start doing the rest of the world." Jerry was a Beta Theta Pi while at Wabash.

- Lin Warfel, responded to my last letter with a great update. "I retired from trusteeship at our local community college (24 years) which kicked me out of work with the state organization for trustees. Missing it! With the block time I had been spending with colleges and with Farm Bureau, I have been gulping books on 'creative and innovative'. Fun study! A new model hits on things I did as a student 50 years ago at Wabash! A great need for -k-16 to switch to providing for today's economy, from the model developed during the Industrial Revolution! Still farming, but I've cut way back on acres. Down from 2,000 to 800, and planning to shrink another notch in a few years.

I started a journey to become a nuclear submarine. Titanium parts! New knee. For educators curious about 'where we are' in education today and where we need to be going... Books that top my list of challenging ideas on innovation and creativity in education and business.

"Creative Schools", Ken Robinson, Ph.D. A leading advocate of changing the core education model from our current to innovation and creation...to fit today's and tomorrow's world.

"The Element", Ken Robinson. A look into connection a person's gift to their passion.

"Most Likely to Succeed", Tony Wagner. Harvard prof who digs into creativity and innovation and education.

"Creating Innovators", Tony Wagner "Play, passion, and purpose drive young innovators. Keys to creating the change makers of tomorrow.

"Disrupting Class", Clay Christensen. Another Harvard Professor, Economics, advocating a change from 'sage on the stage' to 'guide on the side'. Neat interview with Charlie Rose on youtube. Lecture on innovation in business also on the net, a talk he delivered in Kentucky. "

"The Innovator's Dilemma", Clay Christensen. Digs in to the need for businesses to devote thinking to innovation...to survive!

"Creative Confidence", Tom Kelley. Shatters the belief that only some people are creative. Can change your professional and personal life!

"The Art of Innovation", Tom Kelley A look into IDEO, a design firm that shares how to build a creative culture. Detailed actionable ideas.

"Building Your Creativity", Bruce Litchfield et al. U of Illinois Engineering professor with a class on creativity for engineers. Basically the class. He would be an excellent seminar or luncheon speaker for ICCTA.

"Vygotsky and Creativity" Cathrene Connery, editor. Play, meaning making and the arts articles for heavy duty thinkers in education. Professional journals often refer to Vygotsky's ideas. Some heavy reading! Allows me to be gone over carefully at airports...

- Tom Brewer also replied to my plea for content for Class Letters with an update. He wrote, "Three scholars from the class of '63 had lunch in Damariscotta on the mid-coast of Maine in early September - Dan Crofts, Steve Klug, and Tom Brewer. One of the items

of interest was that the Alumni Office is apparently uninterested in the intellectual-scholarly accomplishments of its graduates - a perplexing posture for a college that prides itself on its academic excellence. Anyway, to keep all of our classmates up to date: Steve's genetics textbook is in its 21st (yes, 21st) edition; Dan Crofts continues his high profile publications on southern US history with a forthcoming book on Lincoln, and my book on the political economy of US government, business and public responses to climate change was published by Cambridge University Press last year. Regards to all."

Here's how to get in touch with Tom:

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- Here's a quick update on Bruce Polizotto's Linda. After a life-threatening accident I shared in the last letter, she has had a miraculous recovery and is doing great. They're in Michigan at their place for the summer, so reach out to them there or in Indy this winter.
- And to finish this Epistle (and to check if you are still reading it!), before the movie yesterday we drove to Crawfordsville for John Doyel's wedding to his new wife, Carolyn. They met in grade school in C'ville, and finally got together. John gives renewed meaning to "Some Little Giant!"

For some Wabash news, in my last letter I reported that Wabash added four programs to enrich the Liberal Arts experience. Here's more detail from the College:

- Attached are the websites for the Liberal Arts Plus programs. The websites for all four are below. Most have photos and videos. All have Wabash contact information if you are interested. There are wonderful ways to get involved by providing an internship or hosting an intern or for connecting our collective alumni experiences with current students' learning opportunities.

The slide decks can be found [here](#).

Democracy and Public Discourse: <http://wabash.edu/plus/democracy>

Global Health: <http://wabash.edu/plus/health>

Innovation, Business and Entrepreneurship: <http://wabash.edu/plus/cibe>

Digital Arts: <http://wabash.edu/plus/digital>

That's it for now. Write or call with an update on yourself. Best personal regards,

Alan
(for Tom and Bruce)