



## **WABASH COLLEGE**

### ***Class Agents Letter***

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### **Class of 1964**

#### **Class Agent**

Ron Nichols

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Dear Classmates,

As I gaze at the photo on the August page of the Wabash calendar of President Hess enthusiastically welcoming the incoming class of freshmen I am reminded that Freshman Saturday is the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I will be on campus, lost in a stifling cloud of smoke emanating from a grill, creating various burnt offerings for the naïve and unsuspecting rhynes. As the new academic year begins it is always a pleasure to meet these young men, here by legacy, alumni referral, scholarships, hard work by the Admissions Staff, or dumb luck.

The Hampden-Sydney football game is fast approaching – September 5<sup>th</sup>, and a number of alums and their wives are planning to attend. My older daughter Noelle is married to an H-S alum and we've traded the usual jibes that a rivalry, albeit a new one, creates. The fellowship at the Hampton Inn, tailgate part on Saturday, and the game should make it a truly memorable and enjoyable weekend.

We will travel from Farmville, VA to Danbury, CT on Monday, on the 7<sup>th</sup>. I have made arrangements to retrieve a portrait of Jim Durham, which I intend to return to the Kappa Sigs, where Jim was a brother. I have spoken with several of Jim's friends and they were happy with that. This is contingent upon the approval of the active chapter of Kappa Sigma, and I will attempt to reach them during my visit on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I have spoken with Jim's golfing buddy in Danbury, and he has contacted the course where they often played, and have received permission to spread Jim's ashes there. There is a snag, however. I have spoken with the owners of the funeral home which handled Jim's funeral, and there is an outstanding balance of \$3250, which must be paid before we can retrieve the remains. Jim had no burial insurance and his family cannot provide the funds. I have contacted several of Jim's pledge brothers and they have offered to send checks for the cause. This effort would be strictly in our hands, and not involve the College. I will also try to contact Jim's fellow associates at the school in NYC where he taught, since several of them were at the memorial service on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Incidentally, the memorial celebration

was a success with stories involving Jim were shared. Several anecdotes were forwarded by Jim's friends at Wabash, and were warmly received.

The amount we are asked to raise in a short period of time presents a challenge to the Class of 1964. Should we assume that task or not? If so, the only way to achieve our goal is for you to forward a check for any amount, payable to me at the address below with "Jim Durham Memorial" in the memo line. I will keep everyone apprised of the campaign's success. If we fall short I will return all contributions.

October 1-3 is Homecoming weekend. It also the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Class Agents program. Hope to see many of you there.

Yours in Wabash,

Ron Nichols '64

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