



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: www.wabash.edu

Email us: alumni@wabash.edu

Phone: (765) 361-6369

Class of 1964

Class Agent

James R. Durham

durhamee@sbcglobal.net

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Gentlemen of the Class of 1964:

The college just posted a packet detailing the activities for the reunion. If you haven't received it yet, it should appear in your mail in the next day or so. Look for an 8" by 10" envelop.

For over 180 years The Wabash Glee Cub, in one incarnation or another, has offered its community "the gift of song." In 1897 the Wabash Glee and Mandolin Club formed and thrived for thirteen years sometimes directed by a faculty member, sometimes by a student. In 1899 Ted Robinson, a senior, and Carroll Ragan, a sophomore, collaborated to create *Old Wabash*, first sung at the Pan-Hell Dance that spring. In 1920 George Littell, a junior, conducted the first public singing of *Alma Mater*. In 1924 Wabash Glee Club placed fourth in the Intercollegiate Glee Club Contest in Chicago. The club faded into inactivity during the Depression and World War II. For a good brief history of song at Wabash view this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_-wtf5KVwI.

In the section of *Wabash on My Mind* dealing with the years of his presidency (1956-1965) Dr. Trippet identifies those factors that contributed to what he called The Wabash Mystique – "a mixture of things known and things felt." He continues:

But there was something in the air about Wabash in those years, if I may put it that way, which gave a lift to the life-of-the-mind concept of the college. It was a lift not limited to the classroom and the laboratory. The 'something in the air' feeling about the place found happy expression in the non-intellectual life of the college."

He goes on to name the athletic teams, the art program, and the drama program, as part of the mystique and concludes with: "So was the Wabash Glee Club under Bob Mitchum's energetic direction."

In 1947 President Sparks, as part of his plan for building a "Greater Wabash," hired a graduate student from Butler University's Jordan Conservatory to direct the Glee club, among other duties. Mitch would mold "the club into a strong and admired organization, establishing a reputation which made the singers a welcome feature at college functions

and which took them to concerts and alumni meetings in many cities and the first of five European concert tours.”

My memory of Robert Mitchum is that of a large man wearing a pork pie hat with a Roi-Tan cigar in the corner of his mouth. For a picture of the younger, leaner Mitchum as a young Marine check out this site: <http://www.stoneoakinfo.com/node/1976?size=sidebar>.

For a more complete description of Robert Mitchum’s relationship with the college look here: <http://www.wabash.edu/magazine/1998/winter/departments/archives.htm>.

Below are contributions by former Glee Club members.

From Roger Billings ’59:

Mitchum had been on the road as a professional singer in a group of men--his group was somewhat like the Brothers Fours, I believe. He often mentioned the experience, but when a glee clubber with talent thought he might try to be professional, Mitch would discourage it. He made clear that being on the road performing is a hard life. In the year 1956- 57 he nearly did train a professional quartet from among glee club members which was on TV and did a little performing on the road. One of the singers was a fabulous bass named Fred LaCosse who became a TV news anchor in San Francisco. Bob Nelson became a doctor and still practices. Another is Joe Michael, a former senior chemist at Argonne National Laboratories. I forget the fourth. They all showed up in their seventies in honor of Mitch to give a concert for the class of ’59. Does anyone remember their great number, “I love coffee, I love tea....I love the java jive and it loves me...”

Nelson himself remains a keeper of Mitch’s keys. That is, he reveres the man’s memory like the rest of us. And so Nellie kept personal copies of Mitch’s fabulous arrangements such as Indiana Medley. And when my class of ’59 met for its 50th reunion the 14 or so glee clubbers among us sang them under Nellie’s direction. Nellie, by the way, has perfect pitch and always started us on key before each glee club song. This was something Mitch prized.

Skip writes:

The first anecdote has to do with flatulence during a performance. And this may have happened during the Glee Club's trip to Europe in the summer of '63. The song we were singing was called, "Blessing, Glory, and Wisdom", and it ends with each part coming in in sort of a fugue: one part starts singing, "Alleluia", and then the next part comes in singing, "Alleluia", and so forth until all four parts are singing together, and singing "Alleluia".

Well, during that piece, somebody farted, and it was malodorous and powerful! But we were singing a religious number, and we didn't want to

break up in laughter. But Mitch smelled it, too, and as he brought in each part to sing "Alleluia", he'd point to a section of the Glee Club, and in perfect time with the music, he'd say, "Did you do that?" "Were you the one?" "Did you do that?", and so forth. Everybody was trying to keep a straight face, but it was so hard because Mitch was not doing ANYTHING to keep us from laughing. In fact, he looked as if he was ENJOYING the whole experience!

My other Mitchum anecdote has to do with a rehearsal we were having in the Chapel itself. As luck would have it, Mrs. Charles was sitting out in the Chapel listening to us. Mrs. Charles was the wife of Dr. Jack Charles, professor of Greek and lecturer in ancient history. During one of our numbers, somebody sang a wrong note; in fact, somebody sang a third in a chord, and there wasn't supposed to be a third in that chord. So Mitch cut us off abruptly, and said, "Wait a minute! I heard a goddamn third in that chord, and there ain't no goddamn third in that chord!" When somebody tried to point out to Mitch that there was a lady within earshot and he should watch his language, I said, "That's all right; she didn't hear that goddamn third in the chord." Anyway, my memory is that my friend John Fox burst out laughing and couldn't stop and, in fact other Glee Club members joined in as well. As it turns out, Mrs. Charles said nothing, probably because she was too far back in the Chapel to hear the spoken comments.

Bill Robbins relates this story:

One of my favorite memories of Mitch was a band road trip to St. Louis to play at the football game between the Little Giants and a team from Washington of St. Louis. I.U. had its Marching 100 and our assemblage was appropriately called the "Squatting 35". We checked into a downtown hotel the night before the game and with our freshmen pots tucked into our back pockets, the four of us set out for the bright lights of St. Louis. After being rudely turned away from several clubs, we decided that we should at least enjoy a nice dinner. And with the dinner... why not a bottle of champagne? Why not two? The most mature looking member of our group, his name has been lost in the mists of time, assured (conned) our waiter that we all had reached adulthood and the wine tasting was on. Upon our return to the hotel room, my future fraternity brother, Larry Cummings, decided that Mitch should be in on the frivolity, and dialed him up. Faster than you can say "Jimmy Johns" there was a knock at the door and Mitch appeared, noticeably displeased. I can't remember or repeat all of his phraseology but as an Ex-Marine he left no doubt that another infraction would shorten our respective life spans considerably. We were sworn to secrecy and he retired for the night. I have never known a man who loved Wabash more than Mitch.

In a latter exchange of emails, I accused Skip of cleaning up the story from what he had told me on the telephone. He responded:

Okay, "Mr. Filth". Give it that good ol' Wabash obscenity flair! Actually, the "Wabash obscenity" line isn't original with me; David Kendall told me he thought Oxford could use a little "Wabash obscenity" back when he studied there as a Rhodes Scholar.

And speaking of Kendall, when I graduated from Wabash, he sent me a card that said the following: "Congratulations. You have overcome a big hurdle in life." And then you turn the page, and it says, "Being Dumb!"

The nice thing about old college roommates is that if you are the class agent putting together a class letter, you can always count on them to make a contribution.

REUNION NOTES

Our 50th class reunion is scheduled for June 6-8, 2014. Bill Robbins will be writing with information about a modestly priced polo shirt commemorating the reunion. Even if you won't be there, you might like one. You may also order one for your guest.

Skip Lindeman (indemanskip@yahoo.com), Bill Diehl (wdiehl2@earthlink.net), and Bob Mitchell (rmitch4242@gmail.com) are the chairmen for the reunion and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Bill Diehl has reserved a block of rooms at a reduced price and a hospitality suite for our class members at the Hampton Inn and Suites (TEL: 1-765-362-8884 FAX: 1-765-362-8890). All you have to do is call them and identify yourself as a member of Class of 1964. The college program of events begins on Friday, but many people will arrive on Thursday. A mixer in the hospitality suite on Thursday will let you reconnect with friends and make plans for dinner. You can register for the reunion here: <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/signup>. You can also contact Michele Ward (765.361.6369) in the Alumni Affairs office. **Registration deadline is May 28, 2014.**

By the way, if you are planning on making a contribution to Wabash, you might want to do so by May 28th. There are benefits in doing so. If we reach the class goal of 88 contributors, there will be an open bar for the class dinner on Saturday. I did say "benefits," didn't I? Benefit #1: free drinks for attendees. Benefit #2: a toast in your honor by the attendees. Who could ask for anything more?

On Friday the official program begins. Be sure to sign the registration book and pick up a reunion packet. If you don't sign in, you will not count as an attendee. Registration will be available Friday and Saturday. The exact schedule is available at this site: <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/schedule>.

If you cannot attend for all of the reunion, come when you are available. Relax and enjoy yourself and your friends. Some classmates only come for the Saturday activities and the dinner. Some come just for the dinner.

Name	Residence	Email
Stan Sibel	Beta Theta Pi	sibellesq@gmail.com

Dave Stamper	Delta Tau Delta	dave.stamper@comcast.net
Stewart Ellis	Kappa Sigma	elliss42@gmail.com
A. Vincent Buzard	Lambda Chi	vbuzard@harrisbeach.com
Tam Haas	Phi Delta Theta	talhaas@msn.com
Sam Montgomery	Phi Gamma Delta	samuel.l.montgomery@gmail.com
Al Yoder	Phi Kappa Psi	acyoder@gmail.com
Doug Fisher	Sigma Chi	dafisher42@verizon.net
Fred Kraft	Tau Kappa Epsilon	kraftf@gvsu.edu
Dick Calvin	Wolcott	rnbc Calvin@verizon.net

As of St. Patrick's Day, twenty-two of us had officially registered for the reunion. Listed below are those who have committed to attending the reunion. There are still some Betas, Phi Deltas, Sigma Chis, Phi Kappa Psis, and Independents to be heard from. If you would particularly like to see some of the undecided members at the reunion, call them and encourage them to attend.

Name	Phone	Affiliation	Yes	Maybe
Bob Adams	317-392-3502	Kappa Sig	X	
Dick Calvin		Kappa Sig	X	
John Caviglia	585-624-4318	Kappa Sig	X	
Dave Dossett		Kappa Sig		X
Jim Durham	203-743-5737	Kappa Sig	X	
Stewart Ellis	336-972-3392	Kappa Sig	X	
John Fox	847-641-1589	Kappa Sig	X	
Byron Grubb	701-852-2044	Kappa Sig	X	
Todd Hanlin	479-587-9969	Kappa Sig	X	
John Kline	815-519-6050	Kappa Sig	X	
Skip Lindeman	310-374-0353	Kappa Sig	X	
M. Langenfeld	229-326-3600	Kappa Sig	X	
Keith McNeal	575-636-4721	Kappa Sig	X	
Kent Merrill	423-753-7079	Kappa Sig	X	
Jim Staulcup		Kappa Sig		X
Chad Williams	319-430-6690	Kappa Sig	X	
Dick Durham	410-758-8178	Ind.	X	
Morris Finch	517-449-6181	Ind	X	
Walt Bubelis	206-365-6978	Ind	X	
Frank Harris	865-539-4779	Ind.	X	
David Herkner	610-827-7103	Ind.	X	
Jim Millican	760-636-0717	Ind.	X	
John Mikesell	812-336-2000	Ind	X	
Bert Nicholson	217-442-6346	Ind.	X	
Dave Petering	414-351-3617	Ind.	X	
Dave Scott	267-912-7019	Ind	X	
Bob Sehr	925-947-1551	Ind.	X	
Bill Whimer	415-334-7761	Ind	X	

Frank Harris	865-539-4779	Ind	X	
Walter F. Bubelis	206-365-6978	Ind	X	
Fred Steuber	703-437-4403	Ind	X	
William S. Parker	662-494-8214	Ind	X	
Dick Shelain	815-229-0144	Ind	X	
Mark Camblin	865-599-3820	TKE		X
Wayne Lochmeir	256-757-0510	TKE		X
Jim Cooley	706-340-9393	TKE		
Bob Hamilton	802-454-1115	TKE		X
Fred Kraft	616-975-3925	TKE	X	
John Davis	202-408-1952	TKE	X	
Wayne Lochmaier	256-757-0510	TKE	X	
Bill Barnett	315-569-8724	TKE	X	
Jim Sherry	334-566-5044	TKE		X
Jim Morris	919-498-9213	TKE		X
Howard Weliver	803-627-9040	Delt	X	
Dave Stamper	239-292-8339	Delt	X	
Troy "Wally" Scott	214-232-4667	Delt	X	
Tad Sinnock	317-255-1387	Delt	X	
Jack Sipe	858-454-9381	Delt	X	
Bob Mitchell	612-516-9776	Delt	X	
Terry Hadley	978-369-3410	Delt	X	
Heath Davis	847-381-7831	Delt	X	
David Dean	301-689-5937	Phi Gam	X	
Bill Augsburg	513-315-1639	Phi Gam	X	
Dave Fisher	618-997-9484	Phi Gam	X	
Joe Guthrie	724-396-4587	Phi Gam	X	
Sam Montgomery	317-414-6111	Phi Gam	X	
Bob Roeder	212-327-7600	Phi Gam	X	
Jerry Smith	903-874-6140	Phi Gam	X	
John Tweedle	219-972-0214	Phi Gam	X	
Ron Nichols	219-938-8377	Beta Theta Pi	X	
Stan Sibel	760-776-5895	Beta Theta Pi	X	
Dudley Burgess	630-513-7075	Beta Theta Pi	X	
Dexter Snyder	248-642-1475	Beta Theta Pi	X	
Bill Robbins	812-663-6849	Sigma Chi	X	
David Livengood	630-466-7967	Sigma Chi	X	
John Brookmeyer	843-689-6025	Sigma Chi	X	
Tam Haas	206-915-2255	Phi Delt	X	
Dexter Snyder	248-642-1475	Phi Delt	X	
Kent Ayers	269-857-2236	Phi Delt	X	

James Childress	805-687-9418	Phi Psi	X	
Christopher Gross	803-329-8253	Lambda Chi	X	
John Groustra	248-433-3100	Lambda Chi	X	
Gary Gherardini	352-633-0055	Lambda Chi	X	
Vincent Buzard	585-586-1929	Lambda Chi	X	
Richard Allen	703-860-1507	Lambda Chi	X	
Bill Diehl	317-255-6441	Lambda Chi	X	

Listed below are those class members and honorary class members who are deceased. The list will be included in the *Memory Book*. If you would like to have some remarks about anyone included in the packet, send your remembrances to Kim Johnson, Director of Communications and Marketing, (765) 361-6209 or johnsonk@wabash.edu. Any remarks will be included on separate pages in the pocket of the book.

Full Name	Deceased Date
Dr. George F. Adams	6/7/04
Mr. James F. Allen	11/19/13
Mr. Emil J. Becker, Jr.	6/28/12
Mr. Lawrence F. Cummings	1/30/13
Dr. William J. Felber	10/18/00
Mr. Lynn H. Garrard	2/28/09
Dr. William H. Harader	12/4/88
Mr. C. H. Heinzerling	5/23/91
Mr. Alan Hiratsuka	3/31/08
Mr. Harmon D. Johnson	7/27/82
Mr. Carl E. Kern III	4/25/12
Mr. William G. Knight	11/21/98
Mr. Russell T. Merrill	5/1/67
Dr. Edward J. Mitchell	4/21/07
Mr. Donal Nolan	2/26/10
Mr. G. Scott Olive	12/4/78
Mr. Ronald W. Shouse	
Mr. Philip E. Tracy	6/26/92
Mr. Philip E. Voiles	3/1/13
Dr. Thomas P. White	10/3/03
Mr. Theron S. Banta	2/7/72
Mr. Neil C. Hutsinpillar	
Dr. Karl-Heinz Planitz	5/14/95
Mr. William B. Dittrich	10/25/04
Mr. Robert W. Endicott	
Mr. John F. Gerding	1/29/79

Mr. Richard A. Goldyn	3/16/83
Mr. Ronald R. Hubbard	11/6/91
Mr. Eric J. Norman	12/17/11
Mr. Charles R. Proctor	7/9/11
Mr. Lewis C. Sheek	5/24/73
Dr. Thomas P. Sloan	5/4/88
Mr. Fred G. Ullmann	8/14/07

The name Frank Sparks is unknown to most of us. He preceded Dr. Trippet as President of Wabash College and set in place many of the elements that made Wabash a special place. He had had a successful career in business before he decided to pursue a PhD. Below is a link to a video of his life.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIUL1hETukw&list=PL662501E9537A6867>

Feeling old? Read this article from last month's *New Yorker*.

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2014/02/17/140217fa_fact_angell?currentPage=all

All the best,

James Durham

PS: This postscript is directed to those of you who attended Hammond High School. Bill Fox just informed me that Dr. William McNabney, our history teacher, died a few months ago. He was one of my favorite teachers. He loved teaching. He cared for and supported his students even after he became an administrator. I know he had an impact on the lives of many of us. His obituary is at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nwitimes/obituary.aspx?n=william-f-mcnabney&pid=167778911&fhid=10792>

A copy of his history of Hammond High School is available at:

<https://www.slashtmp.iu.edu/files/download?FILE=lindeman%2F529981Ysn7E>

Old Wabash

From the hills of Maine to the western plain, Or where the cotton is blowing;
From the gloomy shade of the northern pine, To the light of the southern seas;
There's a name held dear and a color we cheer, Wherever we find it glowing
And the tears will rise to our longing eyes, As it floats on the evening breeze.

When the day is done and the western sun Is painting in flashing glory
Across the skies with gorgeous dyes, The Color we love so well,
We love to sit as the shadows flit, And praise it in song and story,
We love to shout as the light dies out, A good old Wabash yell.

REFRAIN

Our Prayers are always thine, Our voices and hearts combine
To sing thy praise when future days Shall bring thy name before us.
When college days are past, As long as life shall last,
Our greatest joy will be to shout the chorus.

CHORUS

Dear Old Wabash, thy loyal sons shall ever love thee,
And o'er thy classic halls, the scarlet flag shall proudly flash;
Long in our hearts we'll bear the sweetest mem'ries of thee,
Long shall we sing thy praises, Old Wabash.

And loud and long shall echo the song, Till hill and valley are ringing
And spread the fame of her honored, name, Wherever the breezes blow.
Till sweet and clear the world shall hear, The sons of Wabash singing,
And flying free the world shall see, Our scarlet banner go.
The honors won by each loyal son, In highest rank shall instate her.
Forever more as in days of yore Their deeds be noble and grand.
Then once again ye Wabash men, Three cheers for Alma Mater
What e'er befall, revered by all, May she unequaled stand.

Alma Mater

Dear Alma Mater at thy shrine of cherished memory,
The hosts of Wabash meet to pledge undying loyalty.
Within these sacred portals thy fires shall brightly flame
And herald our devotion to thy most honored name.

These fleeting years we tarry here beneath the Scarlet sway
Beguile us with their subtle charms, then quickly steal away.
Do thou, our Alma Mater, turn back the hands of time
Give us this joy forever and keep our faith sublime.

Dear Alma Mater, in thy hands rest all our hopes and fears,
Thou Counsellor in College days-thou guide in riper years.
Grant now thy benediction; vouchsafe thy care benign,
That worthy, we may follow the precepts that are thine.