



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1966

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Dear Men of '66,

Happy New Year to you and your dear ones! As we begin 2015, I wish each of you the very best in this New Year. I have had several nice contacts from classmates and they follow, but first I must advise you of the passing of two classmates, Jim Russell '65/'66 and George Carpenter '66. Details are below.

RUSSELL, James L. (Jim)

James L. (Jim) Russell, 71 of Jasper, Georgia died December 26, 2014. Jim is survived by his wife Ann; sons, Jim Jr., Tom (Maevé O'Reilly), Mike, and daughter Maryn; brother Robert E. Russell, and family. An Open House in Celebration of Jim will be Sunday, January 11, 2015 from 2:00 until 5:00 PM at The Devore House, 34 Church Street, Alpharetta, GA 30004. In lieu of flowers: donations can be made to: Just People, Inc. Special Needs Trust, PO BOX 930037, Norcross, GA 30003. www.justpeople.org Please express condolences at www.southcare.us Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Dec. 31, 2014.

George Fraser Carpenter, Ph.D.

George Fraser Carpenter, Ph.D., age 70, died suddenly in his sleep on December 31, 2014 while celebrating the holiday with family. He grew up in East Grand Rapids, Michigan, and earned degrees from Wabash College, McGill University, and Michigan State University. Early employment at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters took him to Scotland to research the North Sea Spill. Subsequently, he worked in biological research in Northbrook, Illinois, followed by many years as a biologist for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in Lansing. He also taught part-time at Lansing Community College.

He was a Renaissance man who read constantly, enjoyed Monty Python, live theater and all wildlife. At heart he was a naturalist, someone whose true church was in the woods and on the water, and he found much pleasure in sailing, cross-country skiing, and hiking locally as well as the Appalachian Trail, Denali, and the Grand Canyon. While in Japan, he climbed Mount Fuji and felt so proud that he kept a picture of the mountain over his desk. In retirement, he and his wife, Trudy Gordon Carpenter (originally from Leland),

built their dream home, a small green house on the shore of Lake Michigan, where each day was celebrated by morning tea in bed with the dogs and the newspaper.

George's dogs were always a part of his life, and both Cricket and Franny survive him and will be cared for by Trudy, his life's love and partner for forty-five years.

George and Trudy married in 1969 and were blessed with two adored sons, the lights of his life, Scott (Traverse City, MI) and Brian (Plainwell, MI); a dear daughter-in-law Genevieve (Brian); and beloved grandchildren Seth, Katie, Graham, and Claire, all of whom survive him.

The only thing that brought George to tears was any pain felt by his family. He lived his life fully and fearlessly every single day—except for one panic attack during the final exam of a ballroom dancing class he and Trudy took so they could do something besides shuffle at their son Scott's wedding.

George was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Luther C. and Louise Carpenter, and is survived by two much-loved brothers, Jim (Becky) of Leland and Lu (Mara) of New York; as well as brother and sister-in-law Tom and Linda Kalber; mother-in-law Maxine Gordon; and many dear friends and relations.

At George's request, he has been cremated, and there will be no funeral. Anyone wishing to donate could do so to either the Northport Area Heritage Association or the Leelanau Conservancy in Leland, two of his many passions. If he had a final message for you, dear friends, it would probably be to go for a hike and drink better wine. - See more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/battlecreek/obituary.aspx?n=george-carpenter&pid=173750856&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.HAVbIwqo.dpuf

It is always very difficult to report on the death of a classmate, and I hope each of you will remember Jim, and George and their families at this difficult time.

Lee Cline wrote a nice note in December and enclosed a newspaper article from the Jackson, MS Clarion Ledger about the deaths of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, MS in 1964. I believe David Kendall went through orientation/training with one or more of them prior to their trip to Mississippi. It is still a topic of interest, and one of my dearest FBI friends and former supervisor in Jackson was largely responsible for a number of recent convictions of Klan members in these murders.

Mel Machuca called in December, and we had a great conversation about Wabash and the many friendships developed as undergraduates that remain today. We talked of our deceased pledge brothers-Tracy Hill, Ron Leisure, Steve Schmutte and Bob Trimmer. And we also talked of many of our memories of pledgship, great faculty members, dance weekends, and the traditions of Wabash-some that remain, some that are gone, and new ones that have developed over the years since we left.

Charlie Bell sent a beautiful Christmas card that highlighted his family's activities in 2014. Charlie and I became best of friends in 1957 when I moved to St. Charles, IL when my Dad began working as the Admissions Counselor for Wabash in the Chicago area. Byron Trippet hired my Dad for this position, and they were in the Beta house together many years before. Friendships last forever!

John Flanagan sent a Christmas card with a picture of him, Patty and their beautiful grandchildren. John sends me humorous emails periodically, and I always enjoy them.

I received a Christmas card and picture of **Squier and Peggy Neal's** grandchildren- WOW what a great looking group! Marsha and I saw Squier and Peggy and their grandkids at a football game this year and, in traditional Wabash style, the kids are allowed to run all over the field at halftime and after the game. Squier and Peggy were not trying to keep up!

Jay Fisher and I are in contact almost weekly, and here are some comments from Jay: A good Wabash Sigma Chi friend of mine is Bob Russell, Class of 1959. Over the 49 years from graduating Wabash, he and I have run into each other several times in connection with fund raising and other events for the Fraternity and for the College. His brother, Jim Russell, Wabash Class of 1965-1966 and Kappa Sig just died of cancer. I dropped Bob a note of condolence and sharing like Wabash Men are apt to do with other Wabash Men. In his response he made a couple of points which hit home, which I thought members of our Class of 1966 would find positive and thought provoking. Here are two comments he made:

"We [Bob and his brother Jim] often talked Wabash, being Mitch's boys, our great fraternity relationships, intramurals, and most of all, the importance of the Wabash community. I agree with you a thousand fold. We attended Wabash at an unusually important time and benefited greatly from our personal faculty relationships, personalized classrooms, tough exams that meant something to our gut when we tried to do the best we could do, the camaraderie of the entire campus and the greater community including alumni. All that while going for muskie, northerns', walleye, and so on. And we caught plenty of all.

Sorry you and I haven't been in touch much these past few years. As you say, 71 is the "new young," so we think we'll be marching on for a long time yet. Well ... that sort of seems the case. Still have my business, like working, hate flying, enjoy being at home in cold weather with a fire and a toddy or two (and my bride of almost fifty years)."

Bob's note gave me pause ... meaningful. Some of the most fun I have is getting back to Wabash each year, behind the football stadium, tailgating with Wabash Men of all different years and for a little while ... feeling both "young" or at least "younger" and understanding from the interplay what Wabash has instilled and how Wabash has become a part of us. So you young 71 year old almost retirees ... get your asses back to Wabash, share with all of us, and in whatever way you are able ... make Wabash just a little faster, better, stronger. 71 will become 81 pretty darn quick. I don't want to harangue you again in 10 years (or wish I had).

Jay Williams sent a very informative email about things in progress at the College and they follow: At the next board meeting (Jan 22-24), I believe that we will approve the campus master plan. It involved a lot of campus input is well thought out and illustrated, and outlines both the conceptual and mechanical direction of the development of our physical plant. I believe it can be found on the website and it's worth perusing. We selected Shepley Bulfinch as the architects for the renovation of Martindale Hall, slated to begin around January '16 or soon after, after a

series of interviews with leading architects and then a day-long meeting with the three finalists last month. The architects are planning a Martindale workshop on campus on January 28th-29th to gather ideas from students, faculty and the administration to learn what they'd like to see included in this building. Shelley Bulfinch is also the architectural firm chosen to design what I call the West Campus, the six new dormitory buildings now under construction just west of Crawford Street. This new construction will be a substantial visual improvement to the campus and it will enhance recruiting given that other colleges have vastly enhanced living options as compared to Wabash, and the newest independent housing built at Wabash was Martindale Hall—that was back in 1961. All we have to do now is pay for all this—so please send your check!

As you know, President Greg Hess, Dean Scott Feller and the faculty continue to expand the academic offerings on campus—in addition to creating alliances and programs with other colleges and universities such as Indiana, Purdue, and DePauw. It's very exciting that Wabash is not only offering more programs on campus but increasing the opportunities for students to achieve combined degrees (BA from Wabash and an MA/MS from another school) with our university partners in only five years. Higher education is increasingly competitive, and these offerings are responsive to students who want more academic options and the ability to earn a graduate degree in less time and at less cost.

I'm personally excited about a new initiative, the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse Initiative that was just started on campus this past fall. Under the direction of Prof. Sara Drury, student fellows learn public discourse, how to conduct meetings, how to learn and develop narrative discussion on and off campus, and how to ensure that all voices are heard and respected in a public meeting—underscoring the importance of free speech. These students are supercharged, engaged, and committed to becoming involved in their communities, and the first WDPD summit in October featured an inaugural speech by our own David Kendall. This program should help to dramatically increase the academic footprint of Wabash College as students travel to other communities and schools to facilitate debate and discussion on all types of topics and concerns. (And we certainly know from recent events the importance of inclusive public discussion to create solutions for major problems). The next Public Discourse Summit is planned for March.

Our 50th reunion is coming up quickly-June of 2016-exact dates to follow. We will need volunteers to help with this reunion. I am counting on Jay Fisher to handle Chapel Sing frivolity with Bill Berry as our Song Master. I will handle hospitality, and my wife, Marsha, and Marty Fisher will handle wives' activities, but we need volunteers to handle the Class Giving Gift (fundraising), class profiles of each classmate(history), special effects(like shirts and "pots"), living unit representatives(calling and emailing to encourage attendance), and other areas as we/you suggest them. PLEASE LET JAY OR ME KNOW OF YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP!

Again, Happy New Year to You and Yours, and we look forward to hearing from you/seeing you this year.

"These fleeting years...."

Cal