



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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August 11, 2016

Hi guys ---

Like many of you, I'm sure, I've been watching and enjoying the Olympics. There have been some exciting times for USA fans over the first six days. I have noticed something, though. One of the announcers kept using the phrase "years of age" when describing the athletes -- like, "she's only 15 years of age" or "at 31 years of age, he's...". Years of age. That made me think. I don't consider myself as 70 years of age. I'm 70 years OLD, and darned glad to be able to say that. I mean, hey, there's only one alternative; so, yeah, I'm 70 years OLD and darn proud of it. Some say 70 is the new 50. Well, I think 70 is....well, 70! And there's nothing wrong with that. It means we've been around for all or parts of eight decades! That's several ages -- we've seen the television age, the computer age, the internet age. And that got me thinking --- aren't we glad that things like Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, and Twitter didn't exist when we were back at Wabash in the mid-60's. Think of all those personal times and activities back then that might have been widely and indiscriminately disseminated to the world, as opposed to remaining secrets that only a few of our close associates know about and that we can probably plausibly deny if they are repeated today! Maybe a few personal pictures (probably black and white) remain, possibly some words in old editions of The Bachelor that mention events of our heydays, or perhaps the odd uncaptioned picture in an old yearbook (can anyone identify the DPU weekend gang on page 24 of the 1967 Wabash yearbook?), and there might be some arrest records in the Crawfordsville Police Department archives that mention a few of us. But, face it guys, we were pretty well shielded from mass public disclosure of our pranks and hijinks due to the lack of technology. But we all have some memories of those times, so now is the time to roll them out and make them part of our history. Fill out those biography forms you've all received as part of the Reunion planning letters, with special attention to the last section on Memories of Wabash years. This is going into a Memory Book after all, so dredge up those memories and share them with your classmates. A couple of our lawyer classmates have assured me that the statute of limitations has surely expired on our wild activities, so go ahead and share them.

Thinking about being 70 also made me wonder about where we all are in our lives in our early 70's. Some of us, like me, are retired. I spent 47 years working for NSA, had a lot of great experiences, and don't miss it at all. Time now for other things. Some of you are probably retired too; some are semi-retired, "keeping a finger in the business" and mentoring and sharing your experience with those still in your professions; and some of you are still going strong in your fields, hopefully because you are doing something you love and find rewarding. Let us know where you fit in the spectrum. (Hint - the biography sheets are a great tool for doing that, too. So are responses to these letters!)

And all of us are still doing things in our early 70's, maybe things we've never tried before or maybe things we've just continued to do over the past 50 years because we really enjoy them. Here are some examples I've seen over the past few weeks. (Thanks to Facebook postings, we can learn a lot.)



I call this the "Old Dogs and New Tricks"

Phil Pearson recently got certified to fly with the Civilian Air Patrol! Congrats, Phil. Maybe we can get him to talk about it at the 50th reunion. Phil is also enrolling in a masters program and is planning to attend the 50th if his classes are finished.



This one I call "Making Milestones", with **Phil Coons** being recognized for reaching 1000 miles hiked with the Indianapolis Hiking Club. Phil will be there for the 50th.



And here is "West Meets East", as **Ron Sheese** is just finishing another teaching visit to China over the summer break. Ron is planning to be at the Big Bash next June.

No picture, but **Rex Stratton** gets the "Sea to Shining Sea" caption. He and his wife recently vacated their farmette on Vauchon Island, Washington and moved to Vermont. Rex plans to attend the 50th reunion.



"Still Setting Records" is **Dave Monteith**:

Just set a new American Masters outdoor high jump record for the M70 group at 5' 2 1/4" (see below) at the National Championship meet in Grand Rapids MI. That is 2" higher than my recent indoor record. I'm now only 1 centimeter off the world record. Hope to break it in Australia!

And we got some sad news from Fred Siegel concerning **Dick Byron**: "Here is some sad news. Dick kept in touch with several of us over the years. My last email from him was June 18. I will miss him. I just received this from a friend of Dick's" --

Just this morning I contacted the Marion County Sheriff's Department and requested a wellness check. About 20 minutes later the Indianapolis Police called me, informed me that a friend of his from South Carolina had requested a wellness check on June 24 and I'm sorry to report that Richard was found dead in his house on that date.... I grew up with Richard, have known him forever. I was growing increasingly concerned, checked my phone and email records and saw that we hadn't talked since June 17. I had sent him an email on July 4, which was not responded to. There have been times when I've not heard from him for up to a week or more, when he's taken off on a genealogy search or when he was hospitalized several years ago, but I knew this time that something was wrong."

Wabash will be bustling in a couple weeks as another new class arrives. So it is a good time to think back to August 1963 when that was us moving onto campus for the start of our Wabash experience. The College continues to be a great institution where boys grow together into manhood. Please continue to give the College your support, and by all means, plan to come back to C'ville next June for our 50th Reunion. Take some time to think about your classmates, teammates, dorm mates, fraternity brothers, faculty members with whom you shared those years. Get back in touch with some old friends over the next few months, and make your own plans to be there for the Big Bash. As of today, 58 of your classmates have said they plan to attend. Add your name to the list and fill out those biography forms and get them back to Phil Coons for the memory book. It will be a once in a lifetime experience and you'll be glad you were there.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in Wabash,
Earl