



## **WABASH COLLEGE**

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

Alumni and Parent Relations

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: [www.wabash.edu](http://www.wabash.edu)

Email us: [alumni@wabash.edu](mailto:alumni@wabash.edu)

Phone: (765) 361-6369

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### **Class of 1967**

#### **Class Agents**

Duane Hile

[hilehmc@aol.com](mailto:hilehmc@aol.com)

Earl Houck

[earaho@gmail.com](mailto:earaho@gmail.com)

July 21, 2014

Dear Classmates,

I hope your summer is going well and, for many of you, that you are enjoying your retirement.

#### ***Classmate News***

It appears that Earl's efforts to get classmate news has paid off! Here are the latest responses:

From **Paul Cunningham**

I should have bought a lottery ticket this day, I am so lucky.

I should also have waved when you went past Fairfax City, VA, on your move from MD to Pinehurst, NC. I still live in the house we bought in 1980 the first time we moved to the DC area. I have retired three times now and hope the last time sticks since it is now eight years ago. As for the bucket list, plugging the large holes in the bucket ranks right up there with remembering to drain the swamp while wrestling the alligators. For fun I play golf. I justify my continued usefulness by sticking my nose in Fairfax City business as the Chair of the Planning Commission and through a strange quirk also Chair of the Board of Architectural Review. I have been a member of both bodies since essentially the turn of the century. That would make me feel old except for discovering my grandfather's 1905 Wabash College year book when settling estate issues a few years ago. Many of us, I gather, are still trying to influence the future.

Travel is also one of our principal activities. That list is topped by trips to Rochester, MN, to visit our oldest daughter and three grandchildren and Atlanta, GA, to visit our youngest daughter and two grandchildren. Grandchildren range from 16 going into her senior year of HS to 6 going into First Grade. All other trips; such as to Ireland this July, Italy, Scotland, various places on the Atlantic shore, annual Feb to St John, VI, are subservient to the call of family.

Earl, I hope you are enjoying the Pinehurst area. My memories of that area are of spending enough time on temporary duty at Pope AFB to never have to go there PCS. Also I remember living in tents at Camp MacKall while proving the Air Force bare base concept. (All you need to operate is a runway and source of water.) It did not help that we had a colonel that decided we should remove all of the pine needles from the camp just before a week of heavy rain and then wanted all boots to look spit shined all of the time. (You have to love living in mud in a pine forest.)

Thanks for the great job you and Duane do of keeping the Wabash name in our consciousness. I have exchanged holiday correspondence with Kurt Ramig and seen Bill Kovacs but have not been active in DC area Wabash activities of late.

From **Dave Decker**

Hi Guys,

I just read the latest class newsletter, and hearing about Buroker (Kemp) made me rethink something that occurs when I read a class letter: many of our classmates have already died, and it would be good for all of us to know something about their lives and the circumstances of their deaths. Maybe for our 50th we could solicit the living to write about their friends who are now gone. Surely many of the living know a lot about the deceased.

Earlier this year it occurred to me that Tom Cassell, whom I roomed with for 3 years, had been dead for 25 years. Tom died of skin cancer in 1989. He was married three times and had a son by his last wife. For many years he worked in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, so I am sure the sun there did him little good.

I decided to try to find his son, a person I knew existed but had no idea where he might be. Thanks to old age, not being able to sleep after 3AM, and fortified with a large Jack Daniels (thank you, US Army!), after a few nights on the Internet, I found Michael Cassell, age 29, working as a steelworker on nuclear submarines in Newport News, VA. (He is on Facebook) He and I will get together here in Florida in September when he is down here. He knows little of his father since he was 4 when Tom died.

By my rough count, about 20% of our class is deceased. It would be good to know about them and their lives.

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As for me, after being one of the minor 'masters of the universe' in the 1980's and 90's, I was relieved of my beloved job as President of the Corporate R&D Lab at GTE in 1999 when GTE was acquired by Bell Atlantic and became Verizon. I consulted for a few years but in the past decade have essentially been the primary caretaker to my younger son Andrew who has autoimmune hepatitis and sarcoidosis (in addition to a bunch of congenital anomalies). He will need a liver transplant soon. My wife travels the world giving lectures on flower arranging for

pay (!) and I stay home and care for our son. As I write, my wife is in Ireland. It is total role reversal from when I was a corporate wienie.

We are all flying to Sydney in November and are taking a 2 week cruise around New Zealand on Holland America Lines. Feel free to come along.

C. David Decker  
1313 Bantry Circle  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174  
386/676-2990  
978/337-4242 cell

From **Ron Sheese**

My busman's holiday has started - seven weeks in Shanghai to teach Intro Psychology. My friend Kyera, whom I met last year at York, is kindly introducing me to the city.

This one is for my Wabash friends. Last night Filip Lempa '11 organized a get-together of Wabash students and alums currently in Shanghai. We had a range of graduation years from '67 (guess who) to a few raw beginners who will finish in '18.



From **John May**

Duane

OK – as for other information of note – officially I am retiring as of July 31, 2014. OH God – What in hell do I do NOW??

John

(Note to John: whatever you do, just stay out of your wife's way!!)

Please send us **your news** and send a copy to Phil Coons ([pcoons@iupui.edu](mailto:pcoons@iupui.edu)) who is compiling our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion memory book.

### ***Future Wallies***

At the conclusion of the most recent recruiting cycle (July 1- June 30), Wabash alumni and friends of the College referred 1,060 students. While these students range in age from elementary school to high school seniors, the keys facts are 1) they're on Admissions' radar and 2) it's never too early to refer a talented young man to Wabash.

Do you know a great kid in your neighborhood or have a grandson approaching college age? Why not get his name on the list so he can experience for himself some of those college stories that you've been telling him about for years!

And, don't forget to tell him about special Wabash scholarships; for example, one just for Eagle Scouts.

Have a referral (or referrals) to make? You can accomplish this online or call the Admissions Office at 800-345-5385.

### ***Sports News***

The football team has been ranked 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> in preseason polls. Here is an article from the Wabash website:

[http://sports.wabash.edu/news/2014/6/20/FB\\_0620142255.aspx?path=football](http://sports.wabash.edu/news/2014/6/20/FB_0620142255.aspx?path=football)

The 16<sup>th</sup> place ranking was a very recent ranking from [www.d3football](http://www.d3football.com).

And, several players have been named preseason All Americans on the USA College Football website: <http://www.usacollegefootball.org/14D3.htm>

(It requires a bit of scrolling down to get to the D3 info.)

Mark your calendars now for September 6, when we play the only other all-male college, Hampden-Sydney, at Little Giant stadium. H-S is also ranked in pre-season polls (21<sup>st</sup> by d3football, higher by other sources; that have an outstanding QB who is a transfer from Tennessee), so this should be a great game. If you attend, look for the Jay Fisher '66 tailgate right behind the home stands, on the corner of the parking lot, next to the railroad tracks (my favorite spot before and after the game). Just look for his bright red Dodge hemi pickup. It's always fun, with many guys from the 60s in attendance, so please bring some TWR (that is "typical Wabash refreshment", a term coined at some point after we departed campus) and join in!

Also, more changes in the coaching staffs: new assistants in wrestling, basketball, and swimming.

[http://sports.wabash.edu/news/2014/7/11/SWIM\\_0711143002.aspx](http://sports.wabash.edu/news/2014/7/11/SWIM_0711143002.aspx)

<http://sports.wabash.edu/index.aspx?path=wrestling&>

<http://sports.wabash.edu/index.aspx?path=mbball&>

### ***Annual Giving***

For the fiscal year just ended, the Class of 1967 had 92 donors (54.8%) as compared to 86 donors (50.3%) a year ago. Many thanks to all of you who made contributions. A few of the highlights for the year:

- 5,208 alumni, parents, and friends made gifts to the Annual Fund for \$3,271,804. The FY14 Annual Fund dollar total is the second highest unrestricted dollar total in the College's history.
- 4,538 alumni made gifts to the College (both Annual Fund and restricted gifts). This is 377 more alumni donors than FY13. This was the fourth consecutive year for the College to realize an increase in the number of alumni donors. This is the highest number of alumni donors in a single fiscal year, breaking the previous FY02 record of 4,314.
- Alumni participation was at 40.15% in FY14 versus 37.24% in FY13 and 35.06% in FY12. FY14 is the first year above 40% alumni participation since FY03.
- There were 44 classes that finished FY14 ahead of FY13 in alumni donors with an increase of at least one donor.
- Of the top 10 classes in terms of alumni participation, 9 of the top 10 were at 50% or more in alumni participation; there were 21 classes above the average rate of 40.2%.
- The Class of 1969, celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> reunion, had the highest number of alumni donors of any class with 106 contributors.
- The Class of 1961 led all classes in alumni participation with 59.5%.
- For the 430 Campaign on 4/30/14, one day giving challenge, every class since 1948 had at least one alumni donor and every class from 1961-2017 had 10 or more alumni donors.

Obviously we have started a new fiscal year, so any contributions for this year will be welcomed.

## *Humor*

Perhaps some/many of you can relate:

**Question:** When is a retiree's bedtime?

**Answer:** Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

**Question:** How many retirees to change a light bulb?

**Answer:** Only one, but it might take all day.

**Question:** What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

**Answer:** There is not enough time to get everything done.

**Question:** Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

**Answer:** The term comes with a 10% discount.

Please keep sending your personal news. Our "inquiring minds" want to know what is happening with you!

Enjoy summer!!

*Duane*