



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 1967

Class Agents

Duane Hile

hilehmc@aol.com

Earl Houck

earaho@gmail.com

September 11, 2014

Greetings Classmates,

Lots going on, much to talk about.

Wabash Weekend

Last weekend Earl and I were on campus for the Class Agents Forum. This is an annual event where we compare notes with other class agents (about how we can coerce our classmates to send us news!), get an up close and current view of changes on campus as well as future plans, and generally get reenergized about Dear Old Wabash! I'll share more of the campus news a bit later in this letter, but the highlight of the weekend was the football game against Hampden-Sydney, called the Gentlemen's Classic, but referred to by many as the Stag Bowl. (At the risk of stating the obvious, that is Stag as in all-male as opposed to Stagg as in Amos Alonzo!)

The Stag Bowl

There were several good articles on www.d3football.com before and after the game. The NCAA president even made an appearance to handle the pre-game coin toss.

A recent Wabash news release summed up the philosophical similarities between two of the last all male colleges, which are separated by a little more than 600 miles:

“Both schools are mission driven and develop young men as responsible leaders. Wabash, founded in 1832, ‘educates men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.’ Hampden-Sydney, founded in 1775, ‘forms good men and good citizens in an atmosphere of sound learning.’”



NCAA President Mark Emmert joined the two college presidents
and the honorary captains Adam and Matthew Stockton for the coin flip.



A capacity crowd. That is “yours truly” in the red shirt along with Mary Ann in the white blouse, between the “G” and “I”, just in front of the press box.

Both schools were ranked in the Top 25 in D3 prior to the game and the game did not disappoint! As we say in the Midwest, it was a “barn burner”! H-S started as expected with lots of passing and quick scoring. But the Wabash defense held H-S to a total of 246 yards of offense, well below the 400+ they got most games last year. It was close until half way thru the third quarter when things turned in the favor of Wabash. Final: 34-21. You can get all the details and many pictures with this link:

http://sports.wabash.edu/news/2014/9/6/FB_0906143808.aspx?path=football

Other Sports News

MORE FOOTBALL. Some interesting statistics from d3football.com:

The list of seven teams that have made the top 25 in every season of the D3football.com era (2003-present):

Linfield	St. Johns	Wabash
Wheaton (Ill.)	Mary Hardin-Baylor	UW – Whitewater
Mount Union		

Top 10 best total winning percentages from 2004-2013, all games including playoffs, and excluding NESCAC:

Mt. Union	.945	Wabash	.829
UW-Whitewater	.921	North Central	.818
Mary Hardin-Baylor	.872	Wash & Jeff	.810
Linfield	.854	Curry	.792
Wesley	.847	Hobart	.790

CROSS COUNTRY. One year removed from North Coast Athletic Conference and Great Lakes Regionals titles, high expectations remain for the Wabash College cross country team. The Little Giants were picked first in the region in the annual US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's preseason poll. Wabash placed 18th in the preseason national rankings.

All but one of the seven runners who led Wabash to its 2013 regional title are back this year. Dalton Boyer graduated in May. He was the top finisher for the Little Giants at nationals and crossed the line second among 252 runners at regionals. The Little Giants' regional victory last year ended the 17-year run by Calvin College as the top team in the Great Lakes.

Early performances have been good. The Little Giant team raced to the top three spots at the 52nd Wabash Hokum Karem, capturing the team title for the fifth consecutive year. And, they scored the top spot for small colleges in the Queen City Invitational:
http://sports.wabash.edu/news/2014/9/5/CROSS_0905143141.aspx?path=cross

Classmate News

This note from **Phil Coons**:

Earl,

I guess it's time to send you an update to save you from having to look at my Facebook page. I fully retired from the part-time private practice of forensic psychiatry a little over a year ago. I can't say I miss being cross-examined by opposing attorneys.

So far I've written four books in retirement or semi-retirement...and I thought I had written my last paper EVER at Wabash! So what did I do after graduation? I went to medical school, internship and residency and finally landed in academic psychiatry at Indiana University School of Medicine where I wrote a ton of papers for publication, mostly on dissociative disorders.

About a year ago I joined the Indianapolis Hiking Club to keep fit and hopefully lower my cholesterol. For Indy residents in our class I'd like to issue an invitation to join us as a guest on Thursdays at 9:30 AM at the Eagle Creek Park Discovery Center.

Other activities include being part of a memoir group which meets monthly, reading, cooking for my wife Liz, going to movies, travel, photography, attending neuro-psychiatric grand rounds in our new Neuroscience Building next to Methodist, being on two boards, and going to Kentucky every year for a week to work on the Appalachian Service Project.

My schedule is quite full. Retirement is great!

Phil Coons

And, from **Tom Brown**:

Dear Earl and Duane,

Class newsletters may not be the place to address educational issues, but since Dave Decker commented on encountering young people who are weak at math I thought I would respond, having been in elementary through secondary education for the past 30 years. There are two causes to that weakness.

If you recall our early education, most of us learned arithmetic through eighth grade, then started Algebra in 9th grade and waited till college to learn Calculus. Students these days typically start Pre-Algebra in 7th grade and Algebra in 8th grade and take AP Calculus in high school. All the arithmetic we learned in 8 years they have to cram into 6. Moreover, advanced topics have been pushed down into the lower grades leaving less time to hone arithmetic within those 6 years.

Secondly, ever since New Math was introduced in the 60's, there has been a prevailing tendency for education theorists to push what they consider "understanding" at the expense of memory and automaticity. As a result, students lack the repertoire of facts in their long-term memory to be efficient in their working memory. Along with that thrust is a prevailing tendency among educational organizations to view technology as always beneficial to achieving mathematical understanding. In the process, students start using calculators long before they have a chance to develop mathematical skill.

The United States Air Force had one of the best education systems I have been in. A pilot has to understand his plane, but he also has to rehearse emergency procedures ad nauseam. Moreover, in difficult circumstances, especially combat, one cannot think about how to fly the plane. That has to be automatic.

If a young person today is weak at math he has probably not been given the opportunity to develop a functional proficiency.

Sincerely,

Tom Brown

Earl and I ran into several classmates at the “before and after” tailgates on Saturday and had a chance to catch up with **Gene Snipes, John Sturman, John Goodrich, and Greg Ball.**

Jay Fisher '66 usually has a tailgate for most home games and I always spend time with him. For this particular game, he and Cal Black had a Beta-Sig challenge to see who could get more fraternity brothers to the event. They drew a large crowd and we had a chance to get reacquainted with many of the 1966 guys.

Wabash Ranking

WABASH ON PRINCETON'S BEST LIST

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind. – Wabash College was named one of the best institutions for undergraduate education by the Princeton Review in its annual listing of the top 379 schools across the country.

Inclusion in the Princeton Review's “Best 379 Colleges” means that Wabash ranks among the top 15 percent of 2,500 U.S.-based four-year colleges. The review includes detailed profiles of the best schools with rating scores in eight categories, plus ranking lists of top-20 schools in 62 categories. Ratings are based on the Princeton Review's surveys of 130,000 college students collected during the 2013-14 academic year.

Not surprisingly, Wabash ranked highly (No. 9) in “Best Classroom Experience,” a rating based on answers to several survey questions including the strength of their professors, classroom and lab facilities, the amount of in-class time devoted to discussion, and the percentage of classes attended. The College's student:faculty ratio is 11:1.

Wabash professors rate strongly in both interest and accessibility, charting a 98 and 97, respectively, (on a scale of 60 to 99) and ranked No. 18 in the category “Professors Get High

Marks,” based on the question “Are your instructor’s good teachers?” Wabash’s overall academic rating was a 97.

“It’s rewarding to see that Wabash men value their professors so highly,” said Dr. Scott E. Feller, Dean of the College and professor of chemistry. “Not only is the faculty made up of excellent teachers and researchers, but our ability to interact directly with our students across campus is a key factor in what makes the Wabash experience unique.”

The College’s Schroeder Center for Career Development also got high marks for its efforts, ranking No. 7 in “Best Career Services.” A devoted alumni network was cited by respondents multiple times in the Wabash profile.

Wabash also polled well in athletics and recreation, finishing as the No. 3 “Jock School,” based on answers concerning the popularity of intercollegiate and intramural sports, and of Greek life on campus. The College ranked No. 7 in the popularity of intramural sports.

“Our campus culture at Wabash fosters a balance between the mental and the physical aspects of an educated man,” said Director of Athletics Joe Haklin ‘73. “Wabash is an active place where men strive to improve in the classroom, on immersion trips, during internships, on athletic teams, and in our extensive intramural activities.”

Finally, the Wabash campus was ranked as the nation’s easiest campus to get around. The 60-acre wooded campus contains 25 buildings predominantly of Georgian architecture. Caleb Mills taught the first class of Wabash students in 1833 in Forest Hall, located since 1965 at the north end of campus.

Other Campus News

The new Dean for College Advancement made a presentation during our Class Agents Forum regarding the plans to enhance the excellent reputation of Wabash from a top level “regional brand” to a “national brand”. Included in this plan is a goal of 1000 students; an ambitious target given the long-standing practice of admitting freshman classes of only 250 (or so) students per year, which will obviously change.

For decades one of the major strengths of Wabash has been alumni involvement. This will continue to be a major component of the strategic plan. In fact, the intent is to expand the involvement of alumni, especially in the areas of fund-raising, student recruitment, and general engagement.

Here are a few suggestions for alumni to become engaged or to become more engaged: Nearly all of you are near an alumni group – stay involved with other alumni and the various activities in your area. Although you may not have a

grandson quite ready for college, you probably know a few outstanding young men that you could tell about Wabash and submit their contact information to Admissions. And, as always, you can send a check to Wabash; regardless of the amount, every dollar is appreciated. (A side note here: while most colleges and universities are struggling to generate alumni contributions, Wabash alumni participation is gradually growing. Wabash is now over 40% and striving to continue the upward trend.)

Humor

A few “deep thoughts” for those of our age:

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

There is additional news on the Wabash website, www.wabash.edu; with more details than we can cover in a newsletter. Please go to the site and browse through the many interesting articles. And, as always, please send us your news and please send a check to Wabash.

Enjoy the fall!

Duane