



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1968

Class Agent

Jim Roper

July 2016

Dear Friends in the Class of 1968,

So the earth spins along—and we know time is *not to be trusted*. Make your plans now for our **50th Anniversary Big Bash Celebration**. This is the big one, Elizabeth! Put those other parties aside or hold them in Crawfordsville with us. Let's all get together and have a hoot of a time on **June 1-3, 2018**. Meanwhile, we're still doing **baseball** at our Colorado home. We did stop for a deep breath on Father's Day. Those are my new Oakley gas cans.



Small World Department: **Dan Susie** did a Wabash Alum Event in Dallas. Twenty grads attended the Frisco RoughRider baseball game (AA affiliate of the Rangers) to see Yu Darvish in his rehab assignment. At the game, some guy named Stu comes up to the Wabash attired group and says he's best friends of a guy named Jim Roper who played football at Wabash and he took a picture. And sent it to me. *Another reason to wear the scarlet when you are out and about.*



From Dan: The guy on the left is Tyler Burke – starting QB in 2011 and 2012. He beat DePauw three out of his four years. The guy on the right is Grant Klembara – running back and defensive back who graduated in 2015 and was a freshman when Burke was a senior. He did play much as a freshman. He started his sophomore year as the #5 running back on the depth chart...he finally got to play the 5th game of the season because the other four ahead of him got hurt ...in his first game, he gained 155 yards. Damn!. He is one of the last of the two way players (in high school, he was all state both as a running back and as a DB in Texas). He blew out his knee with three games to go in his senior year at Wabash...tough way to end.



From global travelin' Carl "Buzz" Madsen:

Jim,

Thanks! Good class letter! We're in Copenhagen spending time with my cousins and headed to the Danish island of Bornholm this afternoon to visit the land of my ancestors. Spent most of April and May at our home in Domme, France. We were invited by neighbors to learn how to play Petanque and played twice a week at the village Esplanade overlooking the Dordogne River. Steph and I were honored to be invited to join "La Petanque Dommoise," the village Petanque association.

Buzz

So, I asked Buzz about Petanque, and he informs:

Here is one of Bornholm's round churches.



Petanque is like bocci but different. The surface of the playing area is not groomed and points go to the balls closest to the "cochonnet"--a small ball (piglet) thrown by the team which won the last round. If the cochonnet is struck during play, the play continues with the goal still being to roll balls closest to the cochonnet's new position. Players are either pointers or shooters; pointers try to get their ball close to the cochonnet; shooters try to knock opponents balls into East Jesus. Balls are rolled underhand with the palm

toward the player to achieve a backspin. So, being ungroomed, the ball might hit a rock, die in a sandy spot or roll away unexpectedly. Unlike horseshoes, the target can move from one moment to the next. And, except for the first pointers' rolls, there is no orderly rotation of players depending on whether the next roll requires a shooter or pointer.

Check my Facebook posts for pictures. We're now on the island of Bornholm from which my grandparents emigrated 135 or so years ago. Interestingly, the Germans did not want to surrender to the Russians at the end of WWII here. They wanted to surrender to the British. So, the Russians bombed the island, destroyed hundreds of homes, and occupied the island until April, 1946. The islanders didn't care much for the Swedes, hated the Germans, but still have an especially strong animosity toward the Russians. They're now dealing with the refugee crisis in the Middle East and have not entirely come to grips with their new neighbors.

Best regards,

Buzz



→ → → → → →

Steven Johnson shared **Chicago Memes's** photo. Miss these - not available in Montana



(Deep dish pizza is Lou Malnati's, Portillo's is the Italian beef. Hard to guess source of Chicago style Vienna hot dogs and Polish sausages.)

Email from Dr. John Hudson: Thanks for your e-mail. Dot continues to gradually improve. Last weekend she did a 10k on a recumbent bike for a fund raiser for Craig Hospital. I am sure your time this summer is taken up by a lot of baseball. Actually (son) Danny's kids are into baseball this summer which is occupying some of our time. In a couple of weeks we will be having a 50th anniversary family reunion at the YMCA camp in Estes Park. Should be fun but a lot of work.

"I asked Darrell Royal, the coach of the Texas Longhorns, why he didn't recruit me ." He said, "Well, Walt, we took a look at you, and you weren't any good." - Walt Garrison / Oklahoma State



Wabash decathletes Matthew Dickerson Jr. and Adam Wadlington posted top-15 finishes Friday at the 2016 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Dickerson scored 6,418 points to place 10th overall. Wadlington, seeded 19th entering the meet, tallied 6,213 points to place 14th among the field of 20 competitors. Dickerson finished 126 short of his school-record total of 6,544 points and 149 points away from eighth-place finisher Tobias Muellers from Williams College (6,567).

Check this out! **Things Have Changed** - A Bob Dylan song, interpreted by Curtis Stiger and Bruce Gras.

I received a Facebook message from Bruce Gras. Sadly, it appears he is heading into battle for a third time against pancreatic cancer. Let's all send him good thoughts, wishes, and prayers as he moves forward into this fight. His message included a link to an amazing video that you will appreciate. Here's Bruce: **(control/click)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCRjZM-7g3E&feature=youtu.be> Turn the volume UP!

Roper's impression: Powerful stuff! Best rendition I've heard of this crazy Dylan piece. The incessant driving drumbeat gives power to the message, and the wailing mouth harp adds a bluesy flavor personally from Bruce that just won't let you go. This is an amazing, incredible vehicle for transmitting reality soul-to-soul. The sweet piano percussion is lost in that hammer of a beat. And the words are haunting, an altogether perfect performance: "People are crazy and times are strange ... I used to care, but things have changed." Volume up! Scratch your head, smile, enjoy. Pray for Bruce.

#WabashProud Surpasses \$600,000

Wabash men and the Wabash community were more than just #WabashProud during the April 27 Day of Giving. If you haven't yet, please consider supporting Wabash. The college fiscal year ended on June 30 and the Class of 1968 giving rate was 83/173, which is an **excellent** 48%. Thanks for stepping up, guys!

"As you all begin a new fiscal year, I am pleased to report to you the final Annual Fund and Class Giving statistics for the 2015-2016 fiscal year (FY16) that ended on June 30, 2016.

Here are a few highlights:

- 5,283 alumni, parents, and friends made gifts to the Annual Fund for \$3,129,507.

- 4,908 alumni made gifts to the College (both Annual Fund and restricted gifts). This total is a *new record for the number of alumni donors in a single year* and is 231 more alumni donors than last year. This was the sixth consecutive year for the College to realize an increase in the number of alumni donors.
- Alumni participation was at 42.4%, which is up from 41.0% last year and 40.2% in FY14. “

Kevin M Andrews '10 Director of Annual Giving and Advancement Services



Okay, Iron Mike. Tell us about Team Ryan.

Big Bash flew by when we weren't looking. See photos here [Read More](#) (control/click).



Porter Claims McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Award

Lon Porter, chemistry professor and director of the 3D Printing and Fabrication Center, lands esteemed teaching honor. **READ MORE**

Steven Johnson shared **Purple Clover's** photo. 6-13-16

Sadly true.



WABASH 1968 Fathers must be doing something right!



Laura Anne updated her profile picture. With Michael Dybel.

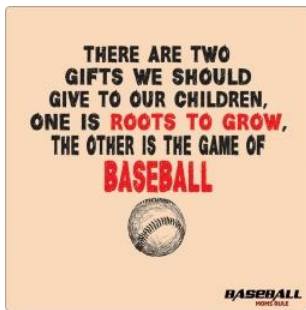


[Emily Grogg](#) shared her [photo](#). Happy Father's Day to this guy. I am who I am thanks to him. [Lee Grogg](#)



Did you know that Wabash Chapel Talks are recorded and archived? Go to the College's [YouTube page](#) to see [Chapel Talks](#).

[Amanda Smith](#) to [Terry Smith](#) - Happy Father's Day - thank you for all that you do for Tegan and I. Love you.



[Kelli Kornas](#) added a [photos](#) with [Wayne Kornas](#). Happy Father's Day to the best Dad and Papa around!

Martin '03 New Baseball Coach A 2003 Wabash graduate will become the next head baseball coach for the Little Giants Martin comes to Wabash from DePauw University, where he spent six seasons as head coach and six more as an assistant for the Tigers.



Van Butler sez

Happy Birthday to one great son!!
From Durango/Mesa Verde
country in Colorado.



Phil Dragoo shared

this one → → →



From Dan Vannatter: Jim, read your class letter and truly enjoy the updates. Have had a couple of experiences lately thought you might enjoy: at an AUSA Army Historical Foundation meeting last week, I met Lewis Sorley, former Army officer, Vietnam Vet, PhD, USMA grad, etc who wrote the book, Thunderbolt, a great story of Gen Abrams, who I knew well from my Vietnam early days as his Privacy Communications POC. Dr Sorley sent me a book on Westmoreland that he had written and I am finding an eye-opener! Recommend you read it and let's chat over a Maker's someday soon.

Also, myself and several other former Green Berets are banded together to assist one of our leaders from the past get his MOH write-up reviewed and approved. The paperwork was submitted in 1965, lost, re-submitted in 1969 and again, lost. We suspect his being an African-American may have contributed to the repeated losses. Regardless, once the original write-up was discovered three years ago, we have been working ever since. We have a path to the WH and we hope to put the paperwork in front of the President in the next couple of weeks. Will let you know.

Am working as an Advisor to several small innovative companies and dealing with technology that truly is game-breaking. I have concluded that the only true innovation comes from the smaller entities with flexibility, agility, singular focus and comradery that the large companies cannot sustain. From high speed data analysis to encryption to advanced networking via photonics, I am having a great time.

We are on facebook under BettyDan Vannatter. Will look for you at Homecoming, Dan

Dan M. Vannatter
COL USA (Ret)
Leesburg, VA 20176

*Hey, Dan,
Always good to hear from a special operator bud. I met Lewis "Bob" Sorley in Fredericksburg, TX, at a Nimitz Defense Seminar a few years back. Good guy. His book, A Better War, perfectly lays out the Vietnam war post Westmoreland and LBJ. Please do keep me posted on the MOH project. I knew Bob*

Howard at Kontum and most of the recon teams I in- and ex-filled were fearless beyond human calculation. On the ground in Laos was the last place an Air Force pilot wanted to be! I look forward to Homecoming and some serious storytelling! Best, Jim R.



Posted by **Steven Johnson**

Many people think that a suicide attempt is a selfish move because the person just does not care about the people left behind. I can tell you that when a person gets to that point, they truly believe that their loved ones will be much better off with them gone. This is mental illness not selfishness. TRUTH: Depression is a terrible disease and seems relentless. A lot of us have been close to that edge, or dealt with family members in a crisis, and some have lost friends and loved ones

July 21, 2016

IAWM Mitchum Crock Golf Outing

This looks like fun. I took a couple of music courses from Mitch, in the basement of the chapel. One of them had two students—Walt Gilman and me. We laughed and learned a lot!!

July 7: I spoke to **Doug Jones**.

Dr. Doug and his large family are doing well. I must have “pocket-dialed” his number and caught him as he was driving home from a week at the beach. He came home for a day to check on the office, then planned to return for another week at the beach, this time with the whole family. He said he was renting five condos to house everyone. He also implied that he would keep his animal clinic in Orlando open for the foreseeable future. I think Doug has his priorities in good order. Some LittleGiant!



Jim Dashiell Just thought I'd update you on the growth of my hummingbird babies. Both seem to be thriving. I put the quarter near the nest to give some perspective as to how tiny they are.



Approachable Professors Wabash Tops List

Wabash has long been recognized for our accessible faculty. LiberalArtsColleges.com ranks our faculty No.1 in the nation.

WABASH TO TAKE **PART IN BICENTENNIAL TORCH RELAY** June 30, 2016

Members of the Wabash College community will participate as part of the Montgomery County torchbearers in the **Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay** coming through Montgomery County this fall. Alumni and faculty torchbearers are: Todd Barton '00, Professor Emeritus Bill Doemel, Professor Emeritus David Hadley, Dale Petrie '70, and Professor William Placher '70 (posthumous). General Lew Wallace, who received an honorary Wabash degree in 1881, will be represented posthumously. The torch bearers were selected to represent various areas of the community, as well as historical figures who laid the groundwork for Montgomery County.



7-22-16 Mary and Van Butler at the Grand Canyon!
Nice!

SUSIE '68 NAMED **TO THE 2015 WHO'S WHO IN ENERGY**



December 16, 2015 A bit late in catching this honor, but here it is!
Dan Susie '68 was named a 2015 Who's Who in Energy last month. Each year, an elite group of energy leaders is honored as Who's Who in Energy by *The Business Journals*, a division of American City Business Journals. Who's Who in Energy honors key players in the energy industry. These people support the industry by providing services in a variety of different areas, including law, finance, oil and gas, etc.

Dan is a Shareholder with Winstead law firm in Dallas, Texas, where he is a member of the Finance and Banking, and Energy Lending practice groups.

After Wabash, Dan earned his JD at Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law.

That's a wrap! I am reserving airline tickets for **Homecoming, October 7 & 8**. The LittleGiants will play Oberlin. I'll bring my camera, so the next letter will give you an update of what's new and what's not on campus. I'd love to see you in person. Let's meet and get caught up after too many trips around the sun. Dan Susie will be there. Cal Black usually sets up some kind of '60's Beta reunion at Homecoming. Jay Crawford is generous with his tailgate fare. ***Meeting and conversing with students is special and reassures that at its core, Wabash hasn't changed all that much on the meaningful issues.*** The weekend just could not be more fun. Join us!

Y'all take care.

WAF

Jim Roper '68