



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1968

Class Agent

James E. Roper

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March 21, 2014

Dear Wabash Class of 1968,



I hope this finds you all healthy and in good spirits. Life moves along well in Colorado with above average snow-depth on the mountains. Where we turn and slide is also the drinking water source for Colorado Springs. They pipe it over! Snow is good. Also, competitive baseball is underway! My 11-year old Outlaw, Josh, is almost pain free now, after a "little league elbow" diagnosis. He still can't throw, but he can hit! He

put the ball in play 14 times for 14 at bats in the first tourney last weekend in Lakewood. Ten hits, including 3 triples. **Right now** Matt (13) is playing with the SportzSkilz Diamond against a good California team in Phoenix, Arizona. *I'm following the play-by-play on iScore. Matt just made a great play at third base!!! The reliability of current technology astounds me, having flown the D Model Aardvark back in the day.* My 6-year old twins have started a season of coach-pitch with the Academy Little League Phillies.



From **Terry Smith** via Facebook

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

A will is a dead giveaway.

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

A backward poet writes inverse.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds....

News from Wabash College

- The Track and Field team just won their fourth consecutive NCAC meet. New points record. Headed to Nationals. Wabash Trio Finishes Season at Indoor Nationals, read the [full story](#)
- Wrestling headed to Nationals with 6. Riley Lefever Crowned National Champ at 184 Pounds. Freshman Riley Lefever capped an undefeated wrestling season at Wabash College with an NCAA Division III national title at 184 pounds Saturday, defeating Brian Broderick 3-1 in sudden victory to win the title. Read the [full story](#)
- Tennis in Puerto Rico.
- Golf in Arizona.
- Baseball in Georgia.
- Immersion trips in Wash. DC, Civil War Battlefields, Paris, Israel (<http://blog.wabash.edu/immersionlearning201314/>)
- GARREN '14 AWARDED FULBRIGHT. Wabash College's Sebastian Garren has earned a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue postgraduate work in educational policy in Finland. Garren '14, a native of St. Louis, Mo., was awarded the study/research grant and will enroll this fall in the master's degree program in Learning, Learning Environments and Education Systems (LLEES) at the University of Turku in Turku, Finland. Educational policy has long been a focus for Garren and he selected Finland for postgraduate study because it has one of the finest educational systems in the world.
- Honors weekend brings 300 top prospects. Usually Wabash signs two thirds.
Check it all out in the current really good edition of the Bachelor
<http://www.wabash.edu/bachelor/issues/2014s/Final%20PDF%203-21-14.pdf>

Princeton Review Names Wabash "Best Value"

Wabash College has again been named one of the nation's "Best Value" Colleges according to The Princeton Review. To refer a high school student of promise to Wabash, click [here](#).

We Lost A Classmate

Obituary for George Michael Gunason

August 21, 1943 - February 26, 2014

George Michael "Mike" Gunason, a free spirit who knew how to enjoy life and was committed to making life better for others, passed away on Feb. 26, 2014, in Pittsboro, N.C., after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 70.

A native Hoosier who loved prowling the woodlands around his home in Carmel, he was an explorer, photographer, civil rights activist, digital pioneer, and loving husband and friend. He sat by the reflecting pool at the 1963 March on Washington and heard Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. He walked past hostile Alabama troopers on a march from Selma to Montgomery. He became a foot soldier in the war on poverty: canvassing door-to-door, volunteering at the polls, working as a neighborhood outreach worker for Community Action Against Poverty, and becoming its director of planning. He went on to become the director of planning for Indiana's first drug and alcohol abuse treatment program and founded YouthWorks, a youth employment program.

Mr. Gunason built a Polymorphic 88 computer from a kit and later started MicroAge stores, one of the first retail computer outlets in Indianapolis. He was a photographer for Indianapolis magazines, international resorts and for a book to commemorate Kindertransport, a rescue effort that brought thousands of Jewish children to Great Britain in the months prior to the Second World War.

He loved to travel. He and his wife, Susan, visited China, Thailand, Nepal, Vietnam, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, Europe, England and Scotland -- his ancestral homeland. They were avid scuba divers and loved the reefs around their longtime home in Cayman Kai in Grand Cayman, British West Indies.

Mr. Gunason was born in Indianapolis on August 21, 1943, to Janice Arminta and George Harold Gunason and called Indianapolis home for most of his life. He graduated from North Central High School and attended Wabash College on a Lilly scholarship. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Susan Wisely of Pittsboro, N.C.; and two sisters, Sharon Gunason Pottinger of Scotland and Molly Gunason of Middletown, Ind. Family and friends remember Mike as a man of courage, intelligence, a wry wit, boundless good humor, and an enduring source of joy. In lieu of flowers, you may make a memorial contribution to a charity of your choice or to one of the following:

- UNC Hospice of Chatham County, 480 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro NC 27312
- MDC Inc., 307 W. Main St., Durham NC 27701-3215
- The Arbor at Galloway Ridge, 3000 Galloway Ridge, Pittsboro NC 27312
- Southern Documentary Fund, 762 Ninth St. #574, Durham NC 27705
- Indianapolis Zoo, 1200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis IN 46222
- Fletcher Place Community Center, P.O. Box 825, Indianapolis IN 46206

Bruce Gras Update



I try to keep up with Bruce (shown here with wife, Hedy) on Facebook. He is one busy guy! During an email discussion of the reunion one day, I asked him how many surgeries he has endured lately. And he replied: "Over the last 12 months, I have had 4 reconstructive spinal operations totaling 25+ hours altogether. You

can count on me to lend a hand." Holey Moley, Bruce. How can WE help YOU??

Once upon a time in the fall of 1966 when Randy Slickers and I were your friendly Little Giant linebackers, I tackled a halfback and purposely put my helmet on the football. The ball came out and hit the ground, and Randy recovered it while I finished crashing the halfback.

The referees didn't see it that way. They claimed (wrongly) that the ball came out after the runner was down. So Randy said, "Baloney."

I started laughing.

The ref threw a flag. "Fifteen yards. Unsportsmanlike conduct."

Randy: "Unsportsmanlike? What if I said ..."

Me: (Still laughing.) "Don't say it, Randy."

To make a gift to Wabash, click [here](#).

Mail from Roger Sievers:

Jim,



I read your latest edition of the class newsletter with great interest and was glad to see that fellow Sigma Chi Jim Dashiell doing so well. It must be quite or a strain, albeit a pleasant one, to keep track of those grandkids.

As a reverse snowbird, I'm spending most of the winter in Whitefish, Montana, trying to amass as many vertical feet skiing as I can before heading back to Virginia in March for my granddaughter Charlotte's fifth birthday. What can I say, so many verts to shred, so little time.

Whitefish is just west of Glacier National Park in northwest Montana's Flathead Valley, and, when the weather cooperates, the views can be spectacular. Enclosed are a few snapshots, including one of me taken last month having dinner at "Moonlight Dine and Ski," at the top of the mountain. As the moon was a no show, my wife and I showed discretion by riding the lift instead of skiing down. Cheers, Roger



I get absolutely lost in these photos. Put Glacier National Park on the bucket list!

A Book Review

Remember my review of *Sioux Dawn*, by Terry C. Johnston? Subtitled, *the Fetterman Massacre, 1866*, it was based a true story of an Army unit with the mission of protecting settlers in the South Dakota territory. The commander of that unit, Colonel Henry B. Carrington, later taught military studies at Wabash College.

I found another pretty good book, especially aimed at those Daddy-coaches out there. Wabash men are typically involved, so maybe you know someone who might benefit from this coaching philosophy. I helped coach the linemen for my 7th grader's TCA (The Classical Academy) charter school football Titans. Their coaching creed was drawn from the book, *Season of Life*, by Jeffrey Marx. It's about an NFL star, Joe Ehrmann, who lives the NFL high life--sex, drugs, rock n'roll—but then has a catharsis/epiphany when his younger brother dies slowly of cancer. Next, Ehrmann begins a high school football coaching career using a unique and quite successful approach.

To give you the gist, here's a sample:

Q: Coach, what is your number one priority?

A: Love these kids.

Q: Hey, Mr. Fullback, what is your number one priority?

A: Love my teammates.

If you apply the coaching points in the book, then what you should say and what you should never say to a kid become crystal clear. And the players respond. I put this philosophy to work and I was amazed. Kids came up after practice to shake my hand and say, "Thanks, Coach." Very special considering the current vector of our culture. The team was a real winner, and so was I.

Published in 2003, you'll have to find it on a place like abebooks.com. A quick read, only 177 pages.

Please send your current status, any news or thoughts about Wabash, pictures of yourself and your current activities, news about your grandkids, book reviews, etc, to help me give you the best fun product I can in this newsletter.

And take good care of yourself,
Jim Roper '68