WABASH COLLEGE
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Class of 1968

Class Agent
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Dear Friends in the Class of 1968:

I received some nice notes after the last letter. Thanks to all who took time to send them! You are kind. As we ease toward the holiday season, this letter will focus on those "friend" links that reach across the years and hold us together. I can't believe that most of a year has roared past. Highlights in my family include baseball, always baseball, Tiger Cubs camping, good communications with my son in Korea, granddaughters, and coaching the line for 8th grade Titans football:

I had this exchange with Buzz Madsen:

Jim,
Interesting class letter. No pots? No Saturday classes? No mandatory chapel? The rhynies should be happy as pigs in slop with nothing to complain about. Just looked at Google Earth to see where the college is expanding. Noted that the old frame house that I rented with three Delts across from the old FIJI house is still standing but the

FIJI house is now a parking lot. We're in Caen, Normandy on our way to our home in Domme, Dordogne (via Tours) until the end of October. Then back to Florida for the winter.
Best,
buzz

Hi, Buzz,
Did you live in the house on the corner? Ken Koepke and I lived in the next house down during our final semester. The FIJI house is very nice—one of the newest on campus, taking the area where the Kappa Sig house once stood. KS have a new house around the corner, next to the new Phi Delt house. Beta House was the newest on campus when I lived there. Now it is the oldest.
I would surely get bogged down in the history of where you are. Battlefields—places where men stood and gave it all—are sacred places for me. My Vietnam Squadron—20th Tac Air Support Squadron—has been reconstituted as the 20th Recon Squadron (Predators), and they have asked me to speak at a dining-out next week. A bunch of them have built these RV aircraft, and they have invited me to fly with them. Should be fun. At least they are shooting at the beheader crowd—all I can do is sit here and hoard ammo!
Thanks for the note!
Be good! Jim R.

Jim,
I lived in the house on the corner. There were two apartments on the first floor--one was rented to FIJIs and the other was rented to a very nice elderly lady. We (Me, Jan Witteveld, Richard Markwald, and Steve... [I'm drawing a blank; he was premed, became a dentist, graduated in '68, and was at the 40th Big Bash}) rented the second and third floors. The landlord's name was Swick and he was a piece of work. We called him Swick the P....
We weren't supposed to have any women in the house. The nice elderly lady downstairs said she didn't care and wouldn't tell Swick if he asked. The Primates practiced on the top floor. I bought the south side of an old barn and paneled the top floor and built a divider between the living and dining room to make individual bedrooms. That was an "any improvements we make to the place came right off the top of the rent" agreement which worked until Swick figured out he wasn't making any money on the place.
The guys who rented it before us figured out they could run from one end to the other upstairs, hit the wall, run to the other end and hit the other wall and eventually get the whole house swaying back-and-forth gable end to gable end. We tried it once but it didn't hold the fascination for us that it did the previous tenants. Phys-chem majors, no doubt.
Went to the chateau (Chateau de St. Aubin-de-Cretot) where Steph's father stayed after D-Day when it became officer's quarters. He was a captain and commanded drivers for the Red Ball Express. Steph still has a post card booklet of the chateau from 70 years ago with her father's "that's my room" written with an arrow on one of the cards. Time has not been all that kind to the building and the present owner was kind of a dick. We didn't get the "grand tour."
Yesterday we walked around Caen and saw William the Conqueror's abbeys, castle, burial place, and a fairly comprehensive museum about the history of Normandy. Tomorrow and Wednesday we're hitting the beaches--Omaha, Utah--and Bayeaux.

Best,
buzz

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General Lew Wallace Motor Inn bought by Wabash College, then razed; will be parking (and tailgating space for DePauw.) Remember when the Lew was new?

Remember classmate Tom Wilson? I received this very nice note from him:

Dear Jim Roper, It has been nearly three years since a nice doctor decided to rearrange some of the arteries around my heart, and I have been retired since then. I have been in Florida since 1974 and in Tampa since 1982, and I have not gone back to Indiana since my parents passed away. I still give to the college because I know it influences things like the Princeton best colleges list. As a matter of fact I sent $80 by mail last Tuesday, but I am never going to be in a position to give much more than that. I

wish I had known that my donations are less valuable if I ear mark it for a special purpose. Well, this year I happened to just write a check to Wabash. Thank you for all your hard work.
All the best, Tom Wilson '68 (Phi Kappa Psi)

And from my Delt pal on the wrestling team, Mark Sutton:

As always, it was a pleasure to read another installment from you, Jim. Thanks for making the trek back to W.C. to represent us at the agents' meeting and for following up with your photos-included report back. You're a good one!

As I'm marching toward 70, life goes on. I'm still hustling antiques. But I've migrated from moving heavy back bars, pharmacy counters and furniture to historic collectibles and ephemera. It's much easier on my back to haul around and certainly much more economical to ebay and then mail off.

Beyond that, I still follow our local wrestling team (where I once taught and coached) to all of their meets.

Sounds like you're keeping young with your own coaching and chasing kids. Keep up the good work.

Sorry not to be able to share more news, but a little refinishing project is calling me, so I've got to leave my keyboard.
Stay well,
Mark

Steve Bowen, our classmate and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who is making some amazing things happen at Wabash, sent this nice note:

Dear Jim: After reading your always excellent class letter, I wanted to write and say how sorry I am not to have seen you at the Hampden-Sydney game. I was in the vicinity of Cal Black's tailgate for part of the time, and I saw several Betas (all of them a year or two or three older than we are), but unfortunately I didn't see you. I thought Hampden-Sydney had a good football team, and I'm pleased that Wabash came away with such an impressive win. Next year's rematch in Virginia should be exciting. I hope to see you on campus sooner rather than later. Best. –Steve

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Dates to Remember
121st Monon Bell Classic – November 15, 2014 @ Wabash
Commencement 2015 – May 17, 2015
Big Bash 2015 – June 5-7, 2015

From Facebook, here is a photo of Kappa Sig **Bill McCluskey,** retired from IBM in the Atlanta area. *Can anyone recognize this place?* I did. It is smack in the middle of the city of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, near some very tasty western food restaurants. As I understand it, a long time ago, before we graduated, the earth's crust tilted, elevating the Grand Tetons on the west end of the "tilt." To the east was the lower end, or geological "hole" at Jackson.

I recently had a dental implant inserted where one of my favorite molars was cracked by **Bill McCluskey's** left knee in a sophomore-year scrimmage. Nope, not going to let him forget that. Ah, the good ol' days.

Speaking of Wabash characters roaming America's beautiful West, **Randy Slickers** sent me a nice letter. Thanks, Randy. I am glad you are back in touch, and I am sure your Phi Delt pals and lots of others will welcome you home with song, spirits, and open arms at our 50th Reunion.

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I had this exchange with Beta Brother **Ken Koepke:**

Jim
Went to a British Invasion Tribute band last night. Haven't heard Downtown since College. Brought back a lot of memories. Are you going to sing it at the next reunion? Glad you got to see all the Brothers. Bunch of good guys. Did Mel do Teddy Bear Picnic?
Ken

Hey, Ken,
Good to hear from you. The guys who stole the "funny-story-show" at Wabash were Brothers Pat Becherer and Don Buehner. Two very nice guys, as it finally turns out. I'll play it if you sing it. Hey, this year let's ski A-Basin. Keystone (and lodging) is 5 miles away. Mel did not dance, but I heard several nice reviews of his baseball book.
Take care,
Jim R.

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Note: **A-Basin opened on Friday, October 17!!!**

From (middle of photo) **Jim Dashiell**: My recent 19 day trip to New Hampshire to work with Road Scholar as a 'director' hiking the Appalachian Trail with a group of folks my age, then driving straight to Arizona to be a participant in hiking into and camping in the Grand Canyon was a blast. Also caught some fish in Missouri. I drove 5,626 total miles, used 207 gallons of gas, slept in my car 4 nights, slept in a cabin (unheated...temp was 38 degrees) in NH for 3 nights, LaQuinta Inn at Flagstaff for 3 nights, a hostel in Connecticut 1 night, my tent 3 nights, on the floor at a friend's house 3 nights and at home 1 night. It was a great experience. The Grand Canyon is awesome, at least. As always, it's good to be home. Met heaps of nice people, many 'close calls', and car ran well and the coffee at the MANY McD's I visited was free.

Speaking of Facebook, here is our own **Claude Wise** doing something interesting! Looks like a conference or reunion of some kind. What's up, Claude?

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Just in from the Grunge: A TIE has been announced at Chapel Sing. Theta Delts and Sig Chis. Unprecedented!!!! The way it works *now* is, the Sphinx club invites 5 groups into the chapel and they sing the song for all the Sphinx club. Judged on several factors. Sphinx club picks winners. Individually the Sphinx club takes guys into the chapel if they appear not to know the song. If they do, they go back out. *If they don't know it, they get the red "W" on their t-shirt.*

(Note from JR: Sounds like good clean fun, but somehow not quite the same great tradition without the motivating buzz of barber shears in the background!)

Photo albums available:
http://www.wabash.edu/photo_album/home.cfm?photo_album_id=3952

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Another reason to truck on back to C'ville for Homecoming

Milligan Professor Emeritus of English Bert Stern and Jim and Susie Smith were named honorary alumni at this year's Homecoming Alumni Chapel, which celebrates the spirit of **Barney Hollett** '36 and pays tribute to outstanding alumni and their service to the College, their communities, and the world. "In this Chapel we celebrate the people who have made and continue to make our alma mater so special and her impact so far reaching," said National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) President Greg Estell '85. **"You alumni are our greatest story, the great truth of the wonderful things we do here," said Wabash President Gregory Hess.** "Alumni Chapel is a celebration of all the College's loyal sons."

From Facebook:

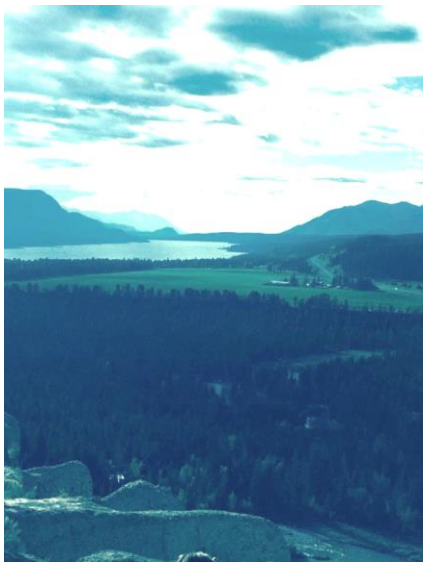
Terry Smith
Yesterday at 6:07pm ·

Good day on the golf course. Had 2 birdies and an eagle on 391 yd par 4, #13 at Battleground.

More from Funnybone Jim Dashiell on the way home from the Grand Canyon. He claims he threw this one back!

(l-r) Billy McManus, Adam Togami, and Nick Boyce were part of a seven-man group that finished within one minute of one another at the Notre Dame Invitational. The Little Giants finished second among Division III schools in the Gold Division race.

I pulled this photo off the Wabash site. Looks like they are set up for all kinds of runs here. Just sayin' … .



I swiped this beautiful photo off Facebook. Here is the caption:

Mike Gallagher
Explored the Rocky Mountain Trench in the BC East Kootenays all day yesterday, with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

I'm sure the Conservancy is better for your visit, Mike. Great photo.

Giving to Wabash: Your gift is an investment in Wabash men and the transformational experience they encounter as undergraduates. Gifts made between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 will be included in the 2014-2015 fiscal year for giving to the College. Go to www.wabash.edu. Email advancement at giving@wabash.edu or call 877-743-4545.

I will publish the Honor Roll List for the Class of 1968 in the next letter, so please jump aboard! 1968 finished one short of our 5-year-high *donor goal* last year. This note is just an early reminder to that one guy.

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Wabash College educates men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

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Demolition complete, construction to begin on new housing on Crawford St. Will house 139 men, starting Fall of 2015

-First new independent housing built since1960

-Benefits entire campus "Residential Life District"

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I got to fly an "RV" homebuilt airplane a few weeks ago. Really fun and easy to fly. Twenty feet long, it cruises around 180 mph, so you can actually go somewhere on the weekend. FAA calls it "experimental" and the cockpit is snug, but what a HOOT! Hang a minigun on the centerline, and … jus' sayin.' Hey, Grunge, how much paper did you move while I was *flying?*

Grunge: a lot…I'm jealous! Our shredder does 180!

Thinking about RECRUITING a Wabash prospect? Here is some information in case you decide to man a table at a local high school on college rep day:

Facts and Figures

(Data from wabash.edu/aboutwabash/facts)

Endowment: As of March 31, 2014, the value of Wabash's endowment was approximately $345 million, which places Wabash among the highest colleges in the nation in per-student endowment.

Financial Aid: Approximately 90 percent of students receive some form of student aid.

Tuition and Fees: For the 2014-2015 academic year, tuition is $37,100. Residence Hall room charges are $4,530 per year (fees vary based on choice of living unit). Meal charges vary by meal plan, including $4,600 (19 weekly meals) and $4,200 (15 meals). The required Student Activity Fee is $450 and there is a $200 Student Health Center fee.

Wabash's 902 male students come from approximately 32 states and about 12 foreign countries; about 70 percent of the students are from Indiana. Test scores range from the middle 50 percent of entering freshmen: SAT critical reading 500-610, SAT math 530-640, and SAT writing 480-590, and average composite ACT is 25. Each year, approximately 250 freshmen students enroll.

Faculty: In 2013, 98 percent of the faculty members at Wabash hold a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree. Wabash's special strength lies with a faculty dedicated to teaching undergraduate students.

Student/Faculty Ratio: Wabash maintains a student/faculty ratio of 11/1 or lower and the average class size is 13.

Soccer, anyone? Sophomore goalkeeper Dayton Jennings recorded 11 saves and two shutouts in a record-setting week for Wabash soccer. His efforts earned him North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Soccer Player of the Week honors.

Also, the 6-0 football team is ranked #10 in Division III.

Akers '68, author of daily meditations book

October 6, 2014 Alumni Relations

Michael J. Akers '68 has written a new book of daily meditations: *Morning and Evening Meditations from the Word of God: Education, Challenge, Inspiration, and Encouragement*.

"Severe hearing disability forced me to stop teaching Bible classes that I had been doing for nearly 30 years," writes Akers. "I started writing these meditations to compensate for the loss of my teaching ministry. Basically, I transferred teaching from the spoken word to the written word." Click here to read more about his book, which is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

After Wabash, Mike earned a PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry from the University of Iowa and worked for 40 years in the pharmaceutical industry. He is an ordained pastor through the Evangelical Church Alliance.

Mike has also approached me with some writing he has done for the class of 1968 experience at Wabash. Really good stuff. Candid, personal, sincere. Funny. We'll figure how to package and present it and give you a taste soon.

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Speaking of excellent writing, I have long admired the work of Steve Charles, Editor of Wabash Magazine. Now, Steve has brought the magazine into the 21st Century. Big time.

Wabash magazine

October 14, 2014

Last week we went live with the new Wabash Magazine online, a regularly updated companion piece to the printed edition of Wabash Magazine to better tell your stories while adding an element of reflection and history of place to the process. Much more than a digital version of the most recent printed edition, Wabash Magazine online will add content weekly and includes:

• Features: Stories in text, video, audio, and photo galleries not available (or possible!) in the print edition;

• Class Notes: Highlights and more recent news from alumni along with photos, videos, and links for more information;

• Faculty News: More complete and up-to-date coverage of faculty accomplishments;

• A Man's Life: a selection of top writers joining our decade-long conversation about what it means to be a man in the 21st century;

• Works in Progress: text, video, and audio of current students and recent graduates;

• Speaking of Sports: Brent Harris's essays on Wabash sports and links to other sports features;

• On Campus: a collection of media curated in a way that gives you the connections or back story to those stories;

• WM@ISSUU: a pdf of the most recent printed version of the magazine.

Wabash Magazine online is, itself, a work in progress. We'll be regularly gathering and adding content and working out the technical bugs on the site, and we appreciate your taking a look and telling us how we can make it better.

Steve Charles H'70
Director of Publications

Spotted Mike Dybel on Facebook: Bev and I enjoying the pumpkin festival!!

That's a lot of pumpkins, Mike!

This edition has grown quickly and filled all the space I like to use. Thank you for your inputs both directly or via Facebook. Please keep 'em coming. And take good care. See you at the 50th!

Wabash Always Fights

Jim Roper '68