



# WABASH COLLEGE

## Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1968

### Class Agent

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Dear Class of 1968,



I returned last week from a visit to Crawfordsville. I can report that the campus is beautiful, the students are respectful and hard-working, and the football team is big and fast. The Volunteer Forum weekend gave Class Agents and others access to the Wabash College staff and leadership—all great folks. The emphasis this year was on the Wabash College plunge into social cyberspace. We can use this technology to stay in touch and informed, I think. Go back to C'ville when you can!



For you entrepreneurs out there, I did bring home this photo of the spot where Tommy's Silver Dollar Tavern once stood. The bricks are all cleaned up and gone. Nothing left but an empty lot and a nice sign.

**Social Media is Here:** Visit a Howard Hewett article about the phenom of social media by clicking [http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/pa/2009/09/wabash\\_getting\\_up\\_to\\_speed\\_on.html](http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/pa/2009/09/wabash_getting_up_to_speed_on.html)



Check the short video in the article for some amazing statistics. The college is moving into these cyber media at full speed. I plan to set up a group thing for the Class of 1968 on one of these: Facebook (uses email address), LinkedIn (uses email



address), and Twitter (I am using the call sign of Wabash1968). **Facebook I am on board all these things, but at the moment I have no idea exactly what benefit I have gained.** For the future, it would appear to be a simple way for our class to stay updated and in touch--also a way for me to gather information for the class letter. If you have ideas or preferences, Tweet me! (Email works fine, too!)

**Little Giant Football:** I was able to attend the first home game on September 12. The d3football.com pre-season poll had the team at number 18 in the country, and they deserve it. Big boys, for sure, they whupped Denison 56-7. Go to Sports on the Wabash site and check the video highlights. Tom Runge has been prowling the game and practice field with his camera, and he keeps us posted on his [Grunge Report](#). Earlier, the Montgomery County online paper had an article that tells us, "With about a week before players report, DePauw University head football and baseball coach, Matt Walker unexpectedly resigned ..." Hope the coach is all right, of course, but he surely knew how to prepare those dannies for Monon Bell games!



The Little Giants went on to defeat Chicago last weekend, and moved up to 14 in the polls!

**Part of a letter I received from William J. Fisher, Class of 1966:** “As a Wabash Man who has experienced the reward of referring young men to Wabash, I am writing to encourage you to join in. It is easily accomplished and offers the opportunity to make a lasting positive difference in a young person's life. Years ago (more than I want to admit) I was one of those young men. A Wabash grad who had met me sent my name in to the College. Wabash let me know that a grad thought enough of me to do this. I was intrigued both that the College would write to me and that a graduate of the College would think enough of me and of his College to connect the two. I am very happy that referral occurred. The result: I investigated Wabash, decided I wanted to go to Wabash, was accepted, and ultimately became a person set apart ... a Wabash Man. This is one of the defining aspects of my personal and professional life and being.

My story is not unique. I suspect you may have a similar experience. I believe the statistics bear out that almost half of us do. Wabash has a tradition of strong alumni support in all phases of the College. Wabash Men give back. Given the financial challenges the College is currently facing, our help is needed now more than ever. **I am asking you to help Wabash give forward by referring young men to the College** and continuing the Wabash connection. **I am asking you to make a permanent positive impact upon a young person** whom you may know well or whom you may not know so well, but simply believe may be worthy of Wabash College attention.”

Here's a link you can use: [the alumni referral webpage](#).

**A Thank-You to the Class of '68.** I sent reminders concerning an end-of-fiscal-year challenge, and you responded. The last tally I saw had the class giving percentage over 40% and the amount was high. The current state of the national economy makes this achievement noteworthy and the contribution is needed by the college now more than ever.

Of course, the new fiscal year is upon us ...

If you did not receive a copy of the August 09 Economic Update from **President Patrick White** and Chairman **Stephen Bowen '68**, please shoot an email my way.

**The Wabash Wrestling Newsletter** reminds us of the great heritage of the wrestling program. Our team has had great success under Coach Brian Anderson. He sponsored a wrestling camp this summer featuring Dan Gable.

I remember running 15 sets of stairs (3 flights) every morning for Coach Max Servies in the old armory. Now they have “take-down machines”, whatever those are. But they have what they need to compete at a new level and win.

#### WABASH WRESTLING

- Top 30 National finish in 2005 and 2007
- NCAA Midwest Regional Champions (2005)
- Mid-States Conference Champions 2005 and 2007
- 32 Dual meet victories in 2005-2008
- Overall dual record 567-199-9

#### Save-These-Dates

**Homecoming '09 - September 26, 2009**

**Family Day '09 - October 10, 2009**

**Commencement '10 - May 16, 2010**

**Big Bash Weekend '10 - June 4-6, 2010**

**From Bruce Gras '68:** I accepted the executive position of Chief Information Officer (CIO) at my "day job" company, Longevity Consulting, LLC ([www.longevityconsulting.com](http://www.longevityconsulting.com)). This is in addition to being on the board of directors as a Managing Director. My new responsibilities encompass not only overseeing the Information Management and Technology for the firm, but also the various installations we have at client sites. I continue to run my own company, TriRock Enterprises, Inc. on the side as its President and CEO, concentrating on book publishing and multimedia projects utilizing the leading, but not bleeding edge of related technologies. TriRock also has the role of supporting various Wabash Alumni grassroots efforts such as Wabash Stories with funding and technical support.



**A classic Harry McGonigle letter came in via Jim Millikin:** “You may remember my fiance Dianne from last year's reunion. We had such a wonderful time. Dianne often speaks fondly of our trip to ol' Wabash. We eloped last week and were married June 1st. So, Dianne is officially part of the Wabash community. I know you all think she's crazy; it must have been the charm I learned at Wabash from the class of '68. Harry McGonigle”

**From Jim Hutcheson '68:** On May 2, I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Not too bad for someone who was extremely happy with a "Pass" on comps from Wabash. I guess there is something to be said for maturity. On July 2, I took the NCLEX-RN (national licensing exam for RN's) and passed! I have accepted a position in the Acute Renal Care Unit at OSF St Francis Hospital in Peoria and am excited to begin work as an RN. That's my mother with me at graduation ceremony.



**Had a nice Chat with Ron Hill** who is doing well in St Louis, who spent his summer fighting his way out of health issues.



**Also spent some time with Dr. John Hudson.** He came down from Boulder to visit and meet Seth and Will. We plan to do some tailgating at the Air Force-TCU game in a few weeks.

**At the Roper House:** We welcomed home my oldest son a few weeks ago. We took all five of his brothers down to Fort Carson where the army did it right. Big gymnasium, bounce house for the kiddies while they waited, then the sounds of Lee Greenwood, Toby Keith, and John Phillip Sousa at 100db. About 400 troops marched in through a dry-ice cloud. Dramatic, strong, awesome. Thirty six hours from Iraq.

I couldn't help remembering my return from Vietnam in '71. Not quite the same reception! But returning to Chicago from Cambodia in 1975. I stepped into the terminal at O'Hare to see the smiling faces of Wabash Beta brethren **John Hudson '68, Bill Vanderhaar '68, Ken Koepke '68, and Dan Stauber '70.** They brought a car and a van with canoes on top and beer inside—a staple in those days. And we went fishin'. Northern Michigan. Mosquitoes the size of hummingbirds. Still a perfect weekend. Thanks again, guys.



The Ropers also enjoyed a great vacation in Yellowstone National Park this summer. I had planned to show up on **Randy Slickers '68** doorstep with my jolly crew for a big dinner and to scold him for missing our Big Bash reunion. But we had no wi-fi or cellular connections in our cabin so we could not verify his whereabouts. We had to settle for the company of elk and buffalo.

And that wraps up my summer and this letter. Again, I thank you all for remembering Wabash in the final thirty days of the fiscal year. Send news if you have any.

Best regards,  
Jim Roper

