### WABASH COLLEGE



Class Agents Letter

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**Class of 1968** 

**Class Agent** 

Jim Roper jimroper@ropersbooks.com

September 10, 2015

Dear Class of 1968,

Hope y'all are cruising along as well as possible! Remember, this letter is YOUR vehicle. Please use the address above. I enjoy spreading the word about you, our classmates. Shorter bits here come from Facebook, and I was able to get some lengthier inputs via phone and email. I have plane tickets for 2-4 October, for Wabash Homecoming (also a Beta Reunion) in C'ville where the Little Giants will take on the Terriers of Hiram College. Woof! It would be great to see some of you "local" Indianapolis area troopers there. Please drive on over, guys!

My story doesn't change much. Passed my physical. Hardest part was showing up! My 13-year old son Josh plays fall baseball with Bardo **Team Colorado**, just about the best kids' team around here. My 14-year-old son Matt is QB of the Classical Academy freshman team. Liz and I will support whatever sports activities 7-year-old Seth and Will decide to do! Certainly skiing! SNIAGRAB WAS LAST WEEKEND! (Big Sale in Denver—think snow!)











**Jim Funnybone Dashiell** Today as I was giving a talk to retired physicians in the board room of Community East about my Appalachian Trail hike I noticed that a photo of me doing surgery taken 25 years ago was still there. Probably the only photo of me ever taken in the OR.





### **Terry Smith**

Picked our first green beans from our garden today. Sometimes I forget how good fresh green beans taste.

Walking while playing golf again this year. My walking odyssey has me leaving Lafayette and today I waved to the people outside of the KFC Yum Center.

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Saw these notes on FB near **Terry Schuck '70:** When my girlfriend said she was leaving because of my obsession with the Monkees, I thought she was joking. And then I saw her face ...

I don't do drugs and I don't drink.

"To learn rope tricks you have to be taut." - Unk.

At my age, I can get the same effect by standing up too fast.



And this: "Crazy people are always taking the psycho path." - Unk.

Van Butler- no details

Papa **Wayne Kornas** seems to be enjoying retirement and quality time with happy grandson!



### **Wabash College**

Great things continued on campus this summer. The College received an ICI/Ball Brothers Venture Fund grant to foster cross-disciplinary collaborations and establish a 3D printing and fabrication center. Additionally, assistant biology professor Heidi Walsh was awarded an Indiana Academy of Science grant to aid in the study of how peripheral factors of obesity affect the brain, providing Walsh and three students with laboratory and research materials in the study of cellular mechanisms in the hypothalamus.

Mountain Biking Trail Photo Posted by Steve Johnson in Montana.



Roper adds: What a beautiful place to ride! Beats working and almost everything else. I think this a single-track trail (bikes only). I do know that llamas don't like bikes. Or maybe it's the spandex that scares 'em! Been there (llamas, not spandex)! Ride on, Steve!



### Wabash College Athletics

The Wabash College swimming and diving produced a team GPA of 3.27 over the spring semester to receive Scholar All-America honors from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America. <a href="http://bit.ly/1egxMw0">http://bit.ly/1egxMw0</a>

#### Here's a terrific note from our friend, Nick Pitz:

Hi Jim!

After reading your latest newsletter, I decided to drop you a line. After retiring from the Moline School District last June, I decided to do some substitute teaching, just to get out of the house. One thing led to another, and after working 145 total days in both Moline and Davenport, I received two offers to teach German part-time in both Davenport and Rock Island. Staying busy seems to help, so while Barbara continues to work, I will too.

Your comments about skiing make me want to come to Colorado again. In December of 2013 the four of us skied Breck over Christmas. It was a blast, and naturally our son and daughter were able to ski longer than we did. Seems we hit the 4 o'clock run a little early. If we can get out for some skiing again, I will let you know. Barbara and I were trained as ski instructors when we lived in Canada, and I have kept my certification and still teach at Sundown Mountain (a misnomer)outside Dubuque, IA every winter. Doing that on weekends keeps me sane during the winter and is the most fun I can have teaching.

We try to travel when we have the time and money. Summer of 2013 was Italy, last summer it was a cruise to Alaska, and we did a tour of Spain last month. Hard to believe it's been two years already since our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion. We plan, God willing, to attend the 50th in 2018. Hope all is well with you and your family.

Nick Pitz



Wabash was cited as a "best buy" for quality academic offerings and affordability, according to the Fiske Guide to Colleges Best Buys of 2016, which was released today (7-1-15). The College is one of 11 liberal arts institutions to make the list, and the only private school in Indiana to do so.

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The annual celebration known as Big Bash has come and gone inother year as Wabash College welcomed more than 300 illumni. The 12th annual Big Bash, spotlighted the return of the fives" and the "zeros" for a weekend that included "three theers for Alma Mater" and the rekindling of friendships held lear. - See more at:

http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\_ID=10573#sthash.5ybNY5SA.dpuf

You can find the photos from the 2015 **Big Bash** here.

# Circle June 2018 for our 50th!!!



**Steve Goldsmith '68** Former Indianapolis Mayor and Wabash Beta Steve Goldsmith has been hired by national accounting powerhouse BKD LLP to lead a new public sector consulting practice, the firm announced Wednesday.

The practice will "focus primarily on helping public entities reduce service costs, improve service quality and use 'big data' technologies and methodologies to develop and implement cost-effective programs and policies,' BKD said in a written statement.

Goldsmith, 68, is expected to "provide overall project guidance, client relationship management and engagement oversight," the statement said.

BKD is based in Springfield, Missouri, but has major operations in Indiana, with about 360 employees and 46 partners in four offices. The Indianapolis office has 230 employees and 30 partners.

Good show, Steve. Always out there making the world a better place! JR

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Wabash makes "Best 50" list for Greek life on campus

http://www.bestcollegereviews.org/greek-life/



**Terry Smith** 7/13/2015. Our cabin in NC for family vacation. Had a great time and have another rented for next year. Great being with family. Nice!

# Wabash Tenth in D3football.com Preseason Poll

The D3football.com 2015 preseason poll was released Monday afternoon (7/13). Wabash College received 335 points from the 25 national voters, placing the Little Giants 10th overall heading into the 2015 campaign.



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Okay, if you are ready to strengthen the Wabash experience for current and future generations with a gift to the College, you may call 1-877-743-4545 or email giving@wabash.edu . Here is how 1968 finished last Fiscal Year:

Solicitable Total donors 174 85

48.9%

\$373,476

Giving % Total Dollars Thank you, everyone! Some very good totals! \*\*\*

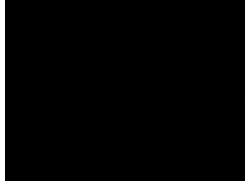


# Steve Johnson awakens, changes FB profile photo to one with cute granddaughter.

Four members of the Wabash College basketball team have been named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches' Honor Court. Austin Burton, Houston Hodges, Kasey Oetting,



I think I offered FB Chemistry humor last time. Try Math:



There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator.\*

\*Only a fraction of you will understand this.

Wabash College -

Wabash College was once again named to Princeton Review's Best 380 Colleges ranking #3 "Easiest Campus to Get Around," #5 "Most Accessible Professors," #7 "Best College Theater," #11 "Best Athletic Facilities," "Best Career Services," and "Everyone Plays Intramural Sports," #15 "Lots of Greek Life," and #19 "Professors Get High Marks."

But we knew all that!

# We Finally Received a Note from Bruce Malcolm Gras. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as our great friend fights this terrible disease again.



Hi Jim, just got back home again this week after doing the grand tour for the last few months at Moffit in Tampa, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and Cornell in NYC. It seems that the third time around with Pancreatic Cancer is much tougher, but I will not allow strike three, even if I can only bunt. I am looking to at least play "Billy Ball" and just move them around the bases to score is the point. However, I have a full count now, and I hope I don't get another fast ball. That would likely be a swing and a miss. Still, every day is its own charm. My priest has reinforced that by having me tell myself as much as possible to lean forward, even fall forward, but do not look back, and definitely never fall back.

Sempre Avanti my good friend. I will write more this weekend in an email. Hope all is well with you and your guys. Send pics when you get a chance. Best, Bruce



Here is a photo of Van Butler. No caption on B, however the scene looks like a painting.

Regarding this one and the earlier shot, what's going on in your world, Van? Livin' the dream?

On the right is Steve Scheidt. We have not heard from him in a while but would love to. He started here as a Sigma Chi (?) but did not finish at Wabash. Steve remains a great friend and supporter of those hallowed halls. His note says he and wife of 46 years, Mary, have lived in Maryland for the past 18, and he would love to know when Jim D got his nickname.



Jim Funnybone Dashiell I did a thru hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2012 and that's my trail name since I was a "bone doctor". Getting a trail name is part of the experience. I hiked a little (40 miles) in Maryland.

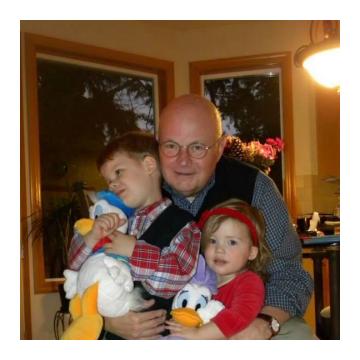
Steve Scheidt Part of being out of touch for 45 years is that I didn't even realize that you are an orthopedic surgeon, but now that I know "Funnybone" makes perfect sense



## Big News for/about Dr. Jim Dashiell

"Well, we're married. My son Marc and Sue's sister Carole stood up with us. Pastor Roloff did the ceremony in the old Lutheran church in Tipton, In."

Here is our own Lee Grogg, posted with a video clip of an amazing looking device. "What every man needs a roomba for your BBQ grill!"



# You Gotta Love Bruce Gras! An Update!

Hi Jim, everything seems to have leveled off. In flying terms of small aircraft that you might recall, my engine had lost one magneto, making the engine run rough, the prop seal had burst covering the windshield with oil, and my gear wouldn't lock down three in the green, and oh by way, there was fire in the cockpit behind the instrument panel. And all I could see before my windshield was covered with oil, aside from trees everywhere, was a short, soft field with the planting rows running perpendicular to the wind. Lastly, I had exhausted my glide path and was collecting leaves and small branches from the tree tops.

But, did I panic? No, the Gentleman's Rule came to mind as if I could behave my way out of this predicament. However, that was just a digression. Then, the Bell Game popped into my head as if I would not want to miss the next one. But, I didn't think that St Peter would want to miss it either. So, I had that covered in case I screwed the pooch. Then, I remembered that our 50th reunion was coming up, and you would never forgive me if I missed that reunion.

With that thought, I came to my senses just 3 feet AGL and realized that I had pretty good ground effect because I was flying a Piper instead of a Cessna. I opened both doors for drag, and then released the full flaps to none after shutting off the engine simultaneously yanking back on the yoke to go into a full stall. I belly flopped onto the muddy field, slid for a short while in the mud, then came to a stop with my prop tangled in the fence at the end of the field.

And I walked away.

That's what fighting cancer feels like if you can beat it, and that is how I am now.

More later. Thanks for reaching out. All the Best, Bruce

Aug 24, 2015 **Hey, Class of 1968**, I witnessed a miracle today. I went to visit Dr. John and



Dorothy Hudson at the Craig Hospital in Denver. John was my roomie at the Beta House, ya know. Dot is recovering from being paralyzed from the waist down after spinal surgery a few months back. I saw her walk up a flight of stairs today in one of her rehab visits. She began spinal rehabilitation slowly but has now surpassed all medical expectations. I fully believe she will make a complete recovery. She does, too. Her attitude is amazing—those who know Dot already know this. And she

works hard and reacts fearlessly to these challenges. The approach taken by Craig Hospital is perfect—physically, mentally, and spiritually. Back in our younger days, folks with serious brain or spine injury were just left on their own. Medicine had to give up on them. But Craig is getting these people back into their normal lives. State of the art technology and a never quit attitude are keys to their magic. Send these good folks a note thru me or the College.! Jim R.

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Crawfordsville - A new residence hall at Wabash College will be named in honor of long-time economics professor Benjamin Rogge. Alumnus Robert Allen and his wife, Elizabeth, made a



gift to honor Rogge in the new Residential Life District. "All of us at Wabash are grateful to Bob and Betty for their extraordinary loyalty and generosity to the College. The Allen's understand the importance of a residential liberal arts education because they both experienced the lifelong benefits of challenging academics and excellent professors —

like Ben Rogge. Their gift of Rogge Hall at Wabash is an investment in the future of our exceptional residential liberal arts education," President Gregory Hess said.

Rogge taught at Wabash College from 1949-1980.

## **Check How the Campus Looked in 1968**

Old Wabash - A Look Back In this piece, Archivist Beth Swift takes you back to the campus as it looked almost 50 years ago. Full Story.



Here is Father Larry Leseure, who had a recent birthday.

I think *Wabash Magazine* is just about the best publication for people like us. It runs the gamut of themes and approaches to life and gives unique insight into Wabash today. I read every word. *Great work by Editor Steve Charles*. The Spring 2015 Edition tells us that **Michael Stayton '68** was elected chairman of the board of directors of Building Tomorrow, Inc, an Indianapolis-based organization whose mission is to construct primary schools in East Africa. www.building tomorrow.org.

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#### THINK ABOUT IT.

If you know a kid for whom Wabash might be a fit, we would love to talk to you. Call 1-800-345-5385 or email admissions@wabash.edu

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This one is a wrap. Friend me on Facebook! Hope to see lots of you at Wabash on Homecoming Weekend in October. I'll be tuning in the Rockville radio station for an oldies marathon. Homecoming is still crazy after all these years.

Best wishes, Jim Roper