

Class of 1970 Newsletter

December 2010



A lot has taken place on the west side of C-ville since the April class letter. **Mike Gregory** reports on the reunion in his valedictory message as co-class agent:

We are now several months removed from our 40th class reunion, but the memories still linger. Those of us who were able to attend had a great time! Pictures on the Wabash website and our Facebook page bear ample testimony. Personally, it was very gratifying to see classmates who had not been back since graduation (Dick Evens comes to mind). Some didn't graduate with us but still feel the strong bonds of the Wabash community (Ken Abbott comes to mind...his comments at our dinner were quite touching). We distinguished ourselves in colloquial presentations (thanks, Dean Reynolds). And we came from as far away as Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Texas. Wabash still matters to us!

You heard me say at our dinner that I would reconsider the decision I had communicated to both Dave Ault and Tom Runge to step down as co-class agent. Now that the "rush"

of the reunion moment has passed, I have decided to withdraw my reconsideration. It has been my privilege to serve alongside Dave for the past 8 years. I challenge my classmates to step up to the opportunity of assisting Dave.

Mike and I enjoyed getting the letters to you and planning our reunions, and I will miss his assistance, as well as his affinity for some of the most groan-worthy puns you could ever imagine.

I haven't heard from anyone lately, so there's not much class news. The alumni office did pass along information that **Bertrand R. Hurn**, 62, of San Felipe, Mexico, formerly of Warren County, died Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010, in Brawley, Calif. Born June 2, 1948, in Lafayette, Bert was a graduate of Pine Village High School. After Wabash, Bert worked as an accountant for numerous municipalities. He was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. Surviving are two sons, Robert J. and Jacob Hurn; a brother, Daniel; and two grandchildren.

Admissions

The Admissions Office could use your help with referrals. According to Chip Timmons '96, Associate Director of Admissions: "During the month of December, the college search process begins in earnest for high school sophomore and juniors. It's also the time of year when colleges and universities begin their "student search" campaigns and fill up students' mailboxes and inboxes with brochures, letters, campus visit invitations, etc. You'll likely hear friends and colleagues talk about the waves of information that are flooding their homes. That's the perfect time to introduce them to Wabash. It's possible we're one of the schools sending materials to that student, but if we're not, you're in a position to make that happen."

So if you have a referral to make, [refer online](#) or call the Admissions Office at 800-345-5385.

Annual Giving Director Joe Klen '97 wants to call your attention to a great video on the 10 reasons to support Wabash. Here's the link: <http://www.wabash.edu/10reasons/>

I would like to ask for help with class letters. The reason they are few and far between is that I am either too busy or too lazy to get them out to you regularly – choose whatever works for you. The alumni office and Society of Class Agents are considering a new system ("hybrid model") using a combination of letters, blog posts, social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), and phone calls. Each class agent decides what is the most appropriate method of communicating with his classmates, with the College assisting by sending us information to use in our letters. The current requirement has been that everyone writes four letters per year – which obviously is news to you. I like the idea of a mix, so that there is contact via Facebook updates, "tweets" from a class-based Twitter account, and some letters. That said, I am ill-equipped from a techno standpoint to make those things happen, but I know that many of you are conversant with that stuff to qualify for the Senior Geek Squad. And you are the ones that I need to bring on board to get this rolling. I look forward to a flood of volunteers within the next few days. For those of you who want to exercise (exorcize?) your inner **Dan Simmons**, this is just the opening you've been waiting for. (I know, I know, you like "for which you've been waiting"; this is an example of the dangling preposition up with which you will not put.) (Note to Div. I guys: ask a Div. III to explain that.)

As far as I am concerned, class letter writers don't necessarily have to commit to being a class agent. If we could get commitments from four or five classmates to do one letter a year, or

tweet or whatever, as a guest columnist, that would add some variety and frequency to these communications. As I said, operators are standing by.

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The Campaign of Excellence, a \$60 million campaign, was publicly announced on campus on October 29. This campaign will enhance the mission of the College by supporting student learning and providing additional resources to faculty members. A complete story appears on the website at http://wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=8448

Around campus

Take a glimpse in the Wabash classroom. The Public Affairs Office sent photographers into classrooms at Wabash to get a visual catalog of the teaching and learning among faculty and students. The online photo galleries are a great way to connect with today's students and professors, as well as remind us of our classroom interactions from the past:
http://wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=8456

Wabash archivist Beth Swift recently announced that issues from more than 100 years of *The Bachelor* are now available online. You can access the Bachelor archives at http://wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=8454. You can search text of articles or search by issue. I will see what I can dig up for some future class letters.

Sports

The Little Giants turned in one of the most dominating performances in the 117 years of the Monon Bell Classic, hammering previously unbeaten DePauw, 47-0.



The rout was the biggest margin of victory since 1952 when the Little Giants won by the same score. The 47 points tied a record for the third-largest winning margin in the game's history.

Wabash now has a 55-53-9 lead in the all-time series. Hollett Little Giant Stadium, with its new field turf surface and new scoreboard, also provided the setting for a new Monon Bell attendance record of 11,743.

The 2010 Monon DVD should be at the Bookstore by now. I'm told there is a very limited supply. The Bookstore also has a wide variety of holiday gifts. Check out items online [here](#) or you can call 765-361-6095.

The basketball team is off to its best start in years, with a 9-0 record and ranked 11th in the nation in the latest D3hoops.com poll. Could this be Coach Petty's next championship squad? If you can't get back for a game, follow them on the website.

Trustees

Stephen S. Bowen '68, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, reporting on the October board meeting: The main event during the kickoff of the **Challenge of Excellence**, a \$60 million major gifts initiative that will enable Wabash to fund additional scholarships and financial aid, maintain faculty excellence, provide international immersion learning opportunities, and support Schroeder Center for Career Development programs.

The kickoff dinner was an elegant affair attended by more than 400 students, faculty, alumni and friends of the College. The dinner ended on an electrifying note, when Challenge Co-Chair Ted Grossnickle '73 announced that the College already had raised \$36 million (60 percent) of the goal amount. For more info, go to www.wabash.edu/excellence.

The Trustee committee reports include these highlights:

Academic Affairs: Wabash received \$300,000 from Council for Independent Colleges, Wal-Mart and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations to develop programs to increase its freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and overall graduation rate.

Approximately 60 percent of the faculty have been at the College fewer than 10 years. Wabash continues to attract deep and talented pools of candidates for faculty searches, but competition is great. Funds raised in the Challenge of Excellence will allow Wabash not only to compete for the very best teachers but also to provide them with developmental assistance after they arrive. This is especially important now, as nine members of the current faculty will retire over the next three years.

Admissions and Advancement: There are 253 new students in the class of 2014, 43 percent of whom were ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school classes. That's the highest percentage since 1994. And 30 percent are from outside Indiana. The competition among colleges and universities for male students is intense, but the College is more than holding its own due to the good work of Dean Steve Klein and his staff.

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010, the College received Annual Fund gifts of more than \$3 million for the third year in a row and overall gifts and grants of \$10,233,000. That's the good news. The bad news is that fewer alumni are contributing to the College, which has been a multi-year trend.

The College is now working with an independent consulting firm to evaluate how it markets itself to prospective students. A number of constituencies, including alumni, will be surveyed to help Wabash better understand its recruiting strengths and challenges and to more effectively

communicate the value of a Wabash education. I urge you to participate if you are contacted.

Buildings and Grounds: Last summer the College refurbished a number of classrooms in Baxter Hall and the Fine Arts Center, began construction of the new baseball stadium (see the [baseball website](#) for updates), and construction of the new soccer field (and other upgrades to Mud Hollow Field) is about to begin. The new playing surface at Hollett Little Giant Stadium was dedicated as Sewell Field before the home opener against Wooster.

College Life: The 2010 Senior Survey showed that Wabash had achieved five-year highs in three categories: 94 percent reported meeting faculty in their homes, 91 percent said they would choose Wabash all over again, and 89 percent felt a strong sense of community at Wabash. Sixty-seven percent of 2010 Wabash graduates had at least one internship during their College years. If you can offer an internship opportunity, contact the Schroeder Center.

Investment Policy: The value of the endowment at the time of the meeting was approximately \$300 million.

Final words from Board Chairman Bowen at the Challenge of Excellence kickoff event:

“It is important that we support our College. In doing so, we are reminded that Wabash is not of our own making. It is the creation of others. For a brief period of time, it was given to us, and as students we took full advantage of all it had to offer, as we were encouraged to do. It is up to us, I think, to pass on the College, better than we found it, to those who come after us. This is what the Challenge of Excellence is about, and I encourage all of you to join us in this work.”

and in conclusion, . . .

Diane and I were unable to attend the 40th reunion, as it coincided with our trip to England and Scotland for a visit with son Ben and his wife Heidi, before Ben wrapped up his year doing a graduate program at the London School of Economics. It was a charmed trip, but I did miss seeing those of you who were able to return for the reunion. In the next letter, I will recognize everyone who can identify the attendees in the above picture, with special recognition to those of you who did not attend!

Now for the really important news: Diane and I (finally!) became grandparents on November 16 with the arrival of Jacob Alexander Ault in Denver. We are excited about our new role as child-spoilers and can't wait to get back out there for the holidays and get some practice.

Have a blessed Christmas and good health in the coming year.

Dave

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