



## Pactoracles

Class Agent's Letter For The Wabash College Class of 1971  
February 1, 2013



- Attend Wally at the Movies
- Wabash Selects Next President
- Death Takes A Classmate
- Other News and Information

Print out and share with your family

## Enjoy *Wally at the Movies*, Co-Starring Classmate Keith Nelson, Feb. 15

Wabash alumni, faculty, and staff are on the marquee for *Wally at the Movies*, A Liberal Arts Symposium On Movies in Our Culture, on campus Friday afternoon and evening, February 15, 2013. Twelve presenters are in the cast.

This is the fourth annual alumni-faculty-staff symposium on the liberal arts. The goal of the symposium is for alumni, faculty, and staff to work together

to develop and strengthen the ties among themselves in a fun symposium on a topic covering the liberal arts. The symposium encourages the whole Wabash family to come, learn, and enjoy.

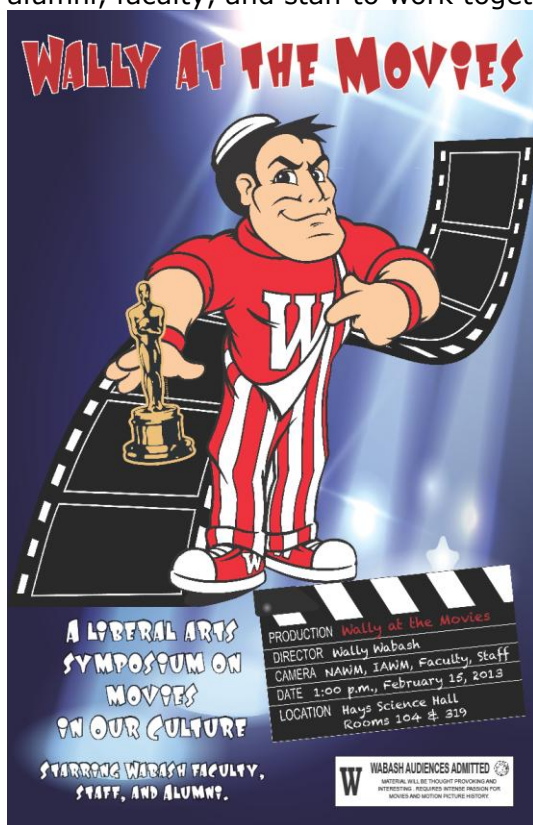
Keith Nelson '71 will discuss *Birth of a Nation*, a movie of importance for the history of race in the United States and for the history of film. He "will look at the film's content, long-lasting cultural impact and the marketing of the film which generated protests, violence and contributed to the rise of censorship in the American motion picture industry."

Other topics include the use of movies to coach football, the portrayal of English professors in film, and the impact of globalization on freedom of expression. Information about all 12 of the presenters and presentations is on the next page.

Classmate Brad Johnson, a member of the National Association of Wabash Men and the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men, is the chair of the symposium committee, consisting of many faculty, staff, and alumni.

The symposium is free except for the banquet which is \$25 per person. To make an RSVP, contact Heather Bazzani at [bazzanih@wabash.edu](mailto:bazzanih@wabash.edu).

As I know most of the presenters, I am very confident that they will be worth hearing. If you cannot make it in person, there may be re-runs on Wabash's YouTube channel.



**“Wally at the Movies”**  
***A Liberal Arts Symposium on the Movies in Our Culture***

**1:00 p.m. -- Hays 104**

**President Pat White – “Have You Ever Been Mistaken for a Man?”**

*What Ripley, Thelma and Louise, Norma Rae, and Jewell Ivy  
teach us about what it means to be a man.*

<p style="text-align: center;">2:00 p.m. – Hays 104</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Bricker '04</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Production Design: Creating a Fake World in the Real World</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2:00 p.m. – Hays 319</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr. Crystal Benedicks &amp; Dr. Jim Cherry</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Screening the Unimaginable: 9/11, Spectatorship &amp; The American Cinema</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2:45 p.m. – Hays 104</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Russ Harbaugh '06</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>My First Feature: Surveying Cinematic Inspirations</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2:45 p.m. – Hays 319</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr. Lexie Hoerl</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hollywood Gentlemanliness and Codes of Chivalry in Film</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3:30 p.m. – Hays 104</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dean Will Oprisko</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“I’m Batman” How the Dark Knight Inspires Us and Why His Villains Terrify Us</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3:30 p.m. – Hays 319</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keith Nelson '71</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>D. W. Griffith’s ‘Birth of a Nation’ [1915] Marketing Racism or Marketing Art?</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4:15 p.m. – Hays 104</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr. Warren Rosenberg</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Wonder Boys”: (White Male) English Professors in Film</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4:15 p.m. – Hays 319</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Steve Badger '87 &amp; Robert Meitus '87</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Technical Difficulties: How Globalization Threatens Intellectual Property &amp; Freedom of Expression</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5:00 p.m. – Hays 104</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aaron Selby '06</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Use of Film as a Teaching and Analytical Tool in the Modern Game of Football</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5:00 p.m. – Hays 319</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Beth Swift, College Archivist</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Will Hays '00 – More Than a Censor</i></p>

**6:00 p.m. -- Cocktail Reception & Dinner With  
Keynote Speaker – Jo Throckmorton '87**  
President & Founder of Blue Ace Media

## Wabash Selects New President



Wabash's next president will be Gregory Hess, an economics scholar, former professor at Oberlin, and presently Dean of the Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Claremont McKenna

College in California, the Board of Trustees announced on January 27.

Dr. Hess earned his bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of California-Davis in 1984. He earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in economics from The Johns Hopkins University.

Claremont McKenna College is a highly regarded small college in California. Dr. Hess implemented its academic fundraising outcomes in Campaign for Claremont McKenna, including 27 professorships, a new Dean of Science position, and nine grants from national and international foundations. He initiated and facilitated a review of faculty governance.

Dr. Hess has led several important curricular changes there, including the establishment of a year-long freshman humanities and writing program and new Arabic and Portuguese language programming. He also helped establish summer programs in Amman, Jordan and Seoul, Korea, and created the Silicon Valley Semester Program and CMC's India Initiative in Delhi.

Dr. Hess has also held teaching positions at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Kansas, St. John's College (Cambridge), and the University of Cambridge, London Business School as well as Oberlin.

He has worked as an economist for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, as a consultant for Honda Motors of North America, and as a member of the Ohio Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. He has served as a visiting scholar for the Federal Reserve

Banks of San Francisco, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Kansas City, the International Monetary Fund, and the Bank of Japan. He has published more than 40 journal articles and authored 20 book chapters and books.

His wife Lora and he have two daughters.

President Pat White announced that he would be stepping down as Wabash's president at the end of the current academic year. He is a member of the Class of 1971 at the University of Chicago. He will have served seven years as president. He has been a staunch advocate for Wabash, for the liberal arts, and for men's education. Along with many other alumni, I will miss Pat and his wife Chris as president and first lady.

### ***Wabash Sports***

**Football.** The team finished 8-2, including its third consecutive lopsided victory over the hapless Tigers of DePauw, 23-0. DPU quickly got a new coach.

The Wabash team achieved a couple of unusual factoids. The offense held on to the ball for more than the last nine minutes of the game to secure a victory over Wittenberg. The Little Giants shutout an unbeaten Ohio Wesleyan team although the opponent amassed more than 400 yards passing.

**Basketball.** The young squad is struggling with a 6-14 record through January 30. It has good but undeveloped talent that has faced strong competition. Freshmen and sophomores are getting most of the playing time. They defeated a good DePauw team 52-48 in a thrilling contest on January 30.

**Wrestling.** The wrestling squad is strong and has been ranked 14th in a recent National Wrestling Coaches Association poll.

**Swimming.** The swimmers have concluded their dual meet season at 3-6 and head to the conference championships on February 14-16.

## Classmate Steve Covey Is Pioneer In Business To Mine Asteroids In Space

Steve Covey '71 is turning science fiction into science discovery. He is a founder and a board member of Deep Space Industries of Santa Monica, CA. This new company, which has been described as an asteroid-mining company, announced on January 22 that it would send a fleet of asteroid-prospecting spacecraft into the solar system to hunt for resources to accelerate space development to benefit earth.

This venture is not only rather cool, but it highlights how much the world has changed since 1971 and how much one can do with a liberal arts degree.

Steve, a physics major at Wabash, has extensive experience in telecom research and development, software consulting for the Defense Department, and utilization of asteroid resources. He was director of research and development for Applied Innovation Inc., where he created new products to provide DSL over existing copper wires, and an optical Ethernet product to wavelength multiplex circuits on existing fiber networks. As an asteroid expert, he has spoken at multiple conferences and will chair the asteroid track at the 2013 International Space Development Conference.

DSI will be building a small fleet of spacecraft using innovative miniature technologies and working with NASA and other companies and groups. DSI will first use aircraft called "Firefly." Each weighs about 55 pounds. They are scheduled to be launched in 2015 for flights of two to six months. These will be part of the first commercial campaign to explore small asteroids.

DSI plans to begin launching 70-lb DragonFlies in 2016 to retrieve samples on trips of two to four years.



Steve is second from the right in this photo with his Kappa Sig brothers at the 40th reunion. Left to right are Dave Gray, Greg Rasmussen, Sam Kirtley, and Jim Kamplain. John Krom is in the back.

Within a decade, DSI plans to harvest asteroids for metals and other building materials, to construct large communications platforms to replace communications satellites, and later solar power stations to beam carbon-free energy to consumers on earth.

It has a patent-pending technology called the MicroGravity Foundry to transform raw asteroid material into complex metal parts. The MicroGravity Foundry is a 3D printer that uses lasers to draw patterns in a nickel-charged gas medium, causing the nickel to be deposited in precise patterns. Steve is its inventor. He says that it is the first 3D printer that creates high-density high-strength metal components even in zero gravity.

Senior leaders at NASA have been briefed on DSI's technologies, which could eventually lower the costs of space expeditions. For example, these technologies could lead to fueling spacecrafts in space from the volatiles in asteroids.

We can learn more at DSI's website [www.DeepSpaceIndustries.com](http://www.DeepSpaceIndustries.com).

## ***News Of Classmates***

**Joe Cassell** continues to practice law in Wichita, Kansas. He is of counsel with Eron Law firm and practices in the areas of oil, gas, and mineral law as well as some other areas.

**Mike Gephart** passed away on July 8, 2012. He majored in chemistry. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta. He played on the football team.

William Michael Gephart graduated from Carmel High School and earned a DDS from the University of Kentucky School of Dentistry. He left dentistry because of health concerns in 1995. He lived in the Atlanta area from 1996 until 2012.

He is survived by son Eric Nathaniel Gephart and Angela Rose Gephart, as well as sister Cathy Gephart Field and brothers Jay Scott Gephart, as well as brother Jeff Gephart.

"Truly, some of Mike's fondest memories were of his time at Wabash, academically, socially and his deep love of football," said his brother Jeff, class of 1973.

## **Wabash Fraternity Day**

In 2009, I spearheaded the formation of all of the alumni advisors of the Wabash fraternities. The group named itself, cleverly enough, Wabash Fraternity Advisors (WFA). We have been meeting roughly quarterly to discuss fraternity life, share successes and difficulties, and generate ways to improve fraternity life on campus. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable collaboration.

During the first four years, WFA has met with various members of the Wabash community, including coaches, faculty, deans, the college counselor, the athletic director, and others.

I have advanced the idea that all of the fraternities and all of the advisors get together for a day to celebrate fraternity life on campus and to strengthen and energize fraternities. The student leaders of the Inter-Fraternity Council liked the idea. The IFC and WFA are planning the first Wabash Fraternity Day for April 7, 2013.

Wabash Fraternity Advisors and the IFC are not anti-independent. Many of us—alumni and students—understand that all Wabash men are part of a bigger fraternity. The independents of the Class of 1971 have always been a strong

component of our class at reunions and in other ways.

But the fact remains that fraternity life presents more complex challenges than does independent life. And, in the end, and this is a very important point, we are trying to make every Wabash student a gentleman and a responsible citizen, not just for college days, but for the many years after college days have past.

Fraternity life is almost as old as the college itself. Beta Theta Pi and Phi Delta Theta have been a part of Wabash since before the Civil War. In 2016, Phi Gamma Delta will celebrate its 150th anniversary.

WFA believes that no other college has gotten all of its fraternities and their advisors together for a day of celebration of its past, present, and future.





## News You Won't Likely Find Elsewhere

**Nameless No More.** The college added the mall on campus around 1928. We walked along it or drove on it. We never thought that it had no street name. It does now. For fire safety reasons, it needed a name, and it is College Mall Drive. You will also notice that all of the academic buildings on the mall have a number, too.

**Arts In Crawfordsville.** Crawfordsville has a very good arts gallery called Athens Arts. It is at 113 on Washington Street, near where the old Perry's Bookstore stood. The gallery displays paintings, woodworking, ceramics, and other art forms of many artists from the county and nearby areas. It also provides art classes. I encourage you to stop in when you are in Crawfordsville and, as I have, become a member. There has been a lot of support from the Wabash community for Athens Arts.

## Some Little College!

"Now that I'm a few weeks in, I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know how everything is going. First of all, how do people not realize what a wonderful place this is? Such a demanding, yet relaxing environment with the nicest people. It's amazing how quickly you get to know people and form such wonderful friendships just a few weeks in. Much the same, the professors have such an interest in speaking to and getting to know their students, it's something big 'ol ...High School was never able to accommodate."



Such were part of the comments from a freshman whom I recruited to Wabash. His e-mail also informed me that he was writing for the *Bachelor*, was participating in some political clubs on campus, and was volunteering for community service in the community.

How did the rest of his first semester go? He sent me another long e-mail after the first semester.

"It was a great semester, and everything lived up to expectations. As you may recall, my freshman tutorial with

[economics] Professor Widdows allowed us the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving Break touring northern England while we studied the industrial revolution. It was my first trip abroad. . .The trip truly embodied the liberal arts as one second we were crawling through a mineshaft in Wakefield, the next we were visiting the Masson Mills of Sir Richard Arkwright, and the next I'm sitting at a football match listening to the locals chant as though they are being conducted in perfect tempo. Once we got back, there wasn't much time before I embarked on a less enjoyable week - finals week. . . I'm proud to say I was able to earn a 4.0 for the semester, and I sure hope I can maintain the status quo this coming semester." In addition to the *Bachelor*, he is now a member of the student senate.

I am very proud of my friend and very proud of Wabash College. Refer students to Wabash. It is easy and important to do, and you can see how rewarding it can be when a student shines as this young gentleman does and will for a long, long time.

To refer a student, simply mail the name and contact information of your recruit to the Dean of Admissions, P. O. Box 352, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or go online at [wabash.edu/alumni/alumni/refer](http://wabash.edu/alumni/alumni/refer).

## Thanks To Classmates Who Have Donated To The Annual Fund So Far This Year

These gentlemen have contributed to the annual fund which will end June 30, 2013. Thanks to each classmate. When we contribute, we say "thanks" for our own good fortune, for our great Wabash professors, and Wabash friendships.

If you are not on the list, join the brothers of the Class of 1971 who are on the list. Please contribute by mailing a check to Wabash College, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or on online at [wabash.edu/alumni/egift](http://wabash.edu/alumni/egift).

Skip Adams  
Greg Allen  
Jerry Anderson  
Jim Ball  
Richard Bentz  
Bruce Bradway  
Jim Bromley  
John Brown  
Rufus Burton  
Michael Carroll  
Joe Cassell  
Steve Covey  
Mike Dill  
Andy Dziubinskyj  
Jeff Eaton  
Dave Graham  
Rick Gregory  
Fred Haase  
Bob Harlan  
Pete Hawley

Steve Hays  
Dan Holderbaum  
Trey Holland  
Ron Israel  
Clark Johnson  
Brad Johnson  
Bruce Julian  
John Kalb  
Jim Kamplain  
Allen Kepchar  
Gene Kepple  
Dean Lammering  
John Lathrop  
Mike Lemon  
Skip Long  
Dave Main  
Tom Martella  
Allen Matthews  
Alvin McElfresh  
Dick Morford

Keith Nelson  
Jon Pactor  
Garrett Paul  
Jim Peters  
Larry Phelps  
Ed Pitkin  
Bob Prentiss  
Mark Randak  
Victor Ransom  
Greg Rasmussen  
Jim Rendel  
Carl Royal  
Tom Runge  
John Ryder  
Marty Schaap  
Tim Shickley  
Orlo Shoop  
John Street  
Steve Wildman  
Ray Wong

**Thanks for reading *Pactoracles*. It is my honor to serve the Class of 1971. Please contact me with news, comments, questions, or sure-bet stock tips at [pactorlaw@iquest.net](mailto:pactorlaw@iquest.net), 317-636-0686 (w), or 317-695-2555 (cell).**



Jon Pactor '71 (that's my class; not my age)  
Class Agent