



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1972

Class Agent

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Gentlemen:

The end of the year is almost here. I sincerely hope that 2015 has been a good, productive year for all of you. I wanted to get one last letter out in 2015. I have not been as good as I should be in my communications, but hey, I'm trying. I attended the annual Class Agent's Forum during Homecoming week at Wabash a couple of months ago. It was great to get back to campus. The place looks great...many new initiatives...new faces, but it's always great to see familiar faces as well. The Homecoming Chapel was terrific and emotional for me, as always. Many of us, like me, have sons, fathers and grandfathers who attended Wabash over these many years. Hearing and seeing the Glee Club sing "Alma Mater" always provides chills and many emotions for me. You all should try to stop by the College when you can...great memories.

After the Class Agent meeting, there was a huge Leadership Luncheon. We learned more about the **4 Major Initiatives** Wabash is instituting to "add opportunities for additional student experiences and better professional development" while at Wabash.

- Center for Innovation, Business and Entrepreneurship*...to develop business and entrepreneurial knowledge and skills while preparing students for success as innovative leaders throughout their careers
- Democracy and Public Discourse Initiative*...advances the kinds of deliberation, discussion, debate and advocacy that cultivate democracy
- Global Health Initiative*...transforms lives of students through global health education, investigation and service – effects positive change in the underserved communities globally.
- Digital Arts and Human Lives Initiative*...advances our understanding of how digital media and its congruent culture can reflect and shape our values constructively for the enrichment of society.

I think these are terrific, and along with basic Liberal Arts knowledge, will better prepare students for success as they enter the “real world” after their Wabash experience. Great job to all who contributed in developing these initiatives!

News from the College

Wabash Football...

Congrats to the team and coaches for a great season. They finished the season 12-1: They were NCAC Conference Champions; they won the Monon Bell from the Dannies for the **7th year in a row!** The season ended in their NCAA Division 3 quarterfinal loss to St. Thomas... I'd say a pretty successful season!

...Some Little Giants

2015 Annual Giving...

Congrats to all who contributed to the College in FY 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)... 5,163 Alumni, parents and friends contributed \$3.1MM to the College. The Class of '72, once again did an outstanding job. 184 of our class contributed \$78,638. More importantly, 42.8% of our class gave something (up from 39.8% last year). The College average participation per class was 41%...so we once again beat the average. Only 24 classes had a higher average participation than the Class of '72.

You can always contribute now towards the 2016 fiscal year.

Gifts can be made in three easy ways:

- a. Online at www.wabash.edu/egift
- b. By phone at [877-743-4545](tel:877-743-4545)
- c. By mail to:
Wabash College
Annual Giving
PO Box 352
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Way to Go Everyone!!

Alumni Director Tom Runge '71...

As you might have heard, **Tom Runge** has decided to retire as Director of Alumni and Parent Relations. His last day will be March 31, 2016. I hope that many of you got the opportunity to meet Tom. He is truly “Mr. Wabash” and everyone is so grateful for his many contributions. During his long career at Wabash, Tom wore many hats. After a distinguished career with the Air Force, he returned to his alma mater to create the College's Alumni Recruitment Program. Tom was later promoted to Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, a post he held for 15 years. And during that time, he twice stepped in to serve as Interim Dean for College Advancement. Tom completely re-imagined the alumni reunion program when he created the *Big Bash Reunion Weekend*, which he has supported and enhanced for the last decade. More recently, Tom led Wabash

efforts to strategically engage parents as a critical resource for Wabash — in Admissions, Career Services, Student Life, and Philanthropy. **Steve Hoffman**, Class of 1985, will become the new Director of Alumni and Parent Relations at Wabash beginning on April 1, 2016. Steve will do a terrific job!

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of working with Tom very closely during my tenure on the Wabash Alumni Board and my time as President of the NAWM. I could never have contributed anything to the College without help and support from Tom. He is a class act in every way possible, and will be missed immensely. **Some Little Giant, Tom Runge!**

Delta Tau Delta...

You may have heard that Wabash College and Delta Tau Delta have agreed on a plan to re-establish the chapter at Wabash. The Beta Psi Chapter existed at Wabash continuously from 1894 to 2008, and steps are underway to get the Delts back on campus in 2016. Good News, particularly for those of us who were Delts!

Jim Dimos '83 and Nick Prihoda '99 will lead the alumni support for the “re-colonization” as co-chairmen of the Alumni Advisory Team. Jim and Nick will coordinate opportunities for alumni engagement in the process in collaboration with the Wabash Dean of Students' Office and officials from Delta Tau Delta, and will be sending a series of communications to Beta Psi alumni in the coming weeks.

News From '72

Heard from Steve Fritch...

“After 40 years of silence, perhaps it is a sense of guilt that drives this email. Or perhaps, a quiet, comfortable life, free of drama seemed not to merit comment. Yet others have contributed to the 1972 “thread” and you (he wrote it to me) have remained rock- steady in serving as our class agent. Many thanks for your

efforts. (Thanks much, Steve!)”

“I will summarize the past 40 years briefly: Pam and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary this month. My law practice, although small, has provided us with a beautiful home and the ability to travel. I am winding down my practice and using the extra time to explore art photography with the help of Adobe software. (Travel and photography make a great pairing.) New Orleans stimulates all the senses and continues to recover from Hurricane Katrina at a steady but sometimes uneven pace. I encourage all of you to visit at least once, just not in July, August or September when weather is an issue.”

"The real point of this email is to express my thoughts about the Wabash experience now 41 years in the rear-view mirror. I feel I under-utilized the benefits offered on a quality campus with so many dedicated professors. Being young and away from home trumped scholarship and a curiosity of a wider world. I see pictures in the *Wabash Magazine* of young men seemingly more mature and engaged in the world around them than I was in 1972. Yet I took away from the Wabash experience more than I brought to it and that may have been enough to secure a life well-lived. Best wishes to all..."

...Well said, Steve, and Thanks! I bet many of us share your thoughts.

During last summer, I spent a few wonderful days with **Bob Ivancevich**, **Paul Gojkovich** and **John Failey** at Bob's "north woods" home near Land 'O Lakes, Wisconsin. Ivan and his wife, Sue were wonderful hosts. John's wife Jill, and Paul's wife Mary were also there. What a great time boating, fishing, sight seeing and catching up on everything. A few updates on each:

- Paul, who finished a career on Wall Street, his three children, and now serves as Vice President and Development Officer for the Manhattan Christian Academy, a prominent k-12 school in New York that provides innovative educational opportunities for underprivileged, mostly Hispanic, children.
- John, after a career developing a major metal-fabricating company, has two daughters, and now serves as Chairman of the Ensemble Music Society, a prominent chamber music organization in Indianapolis.
- Ivan, after a successful career in the health care field, built a church, founded a Christian school, St. Innocent's Academy, and founded one of the pre-eminent arts organizations in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan: "Land O'Lakes Area Artisans". Ivan and Sue have 3 kids and 5 grandchildren (the 5th just born a few days ago).

And finally, "Keeping the music alive", **Don Lawton** and I played together, once again, in our rock band, The Thundermen, at a high school reunion in Indianapolis last September. This band, started at North Central High School in Indy in 1966, still has 4 of the original members, plus a few other good friends, and thanks to Don, we seem to play at least once a year in Indianapolis for someone's high school reunion! Pretty cool. Don and wife Molly continue to do good service work around the world (primarily the Ukraine). Don also continues his dental practice in Indy, although I think he's slowly cutting down his hours as a dentist (like many of us are slowing down our work responsibilities!)

That's all for now. Have a good Holiday and Winter in 2016.

Please email me with any news you have about yourself, or others from the great Class of '72. Contact me at: rwfobes@gmail.com

All the best, Rick