



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1973

Class Agent

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February 27, 2015

Greetings!

I trust you all are doing wonderfully. Since the last letter, Wabash seniors have experienced Comps, the basketball team has won its first game in the NCAC playoffs, the lacrosse team has had their first games canceled or postponed due to the weather, and students are anticipating upcoming immersion trips during Spring Break.

There have also been some discussions between Ted Grossnickle, Tom Stocks, Tom Walsh, and me about how we can improve your Class Letter and use it as encouragement to all those in the Class of '73 to get re-connected with each other and with Wabash College. One way we're going to accomplish this is by highlighting one or two classmates in each letter to help us all fill in the blanks since we last saw one another.

In this debut issue, we're highlighting Ted Grossnickle. I've had conversations with Ted throughout the years, but after reading this I realized there was much I was unaware of during that time. So, to kick things off, here is what Ted has to share:

After Commencement, I worked at Proctor and Gamble and then for two years at Wabash in the admissions office. During the latter period, I became aware of the impact fundraising can have at nonprofits. It wasn't until then that I could see a path or career in fundraising. I certainly never thought of it as an undergrad. Still, the experiences in my classwork and in fraternity and campus activities provided a good base of knowledge and set of "early lessons" upon which I could draw as I entered the field of fundraising.

Currently, I'm Senior Consultant and Founder at JGA (Johnson, Grossnickle and Associates) which provides fundraising and strategy counsel to nonprofits in the U.S. Midwest. I co-founded it in 1994. Along the way, I've helped to start some other companies and have enjoyed that but focus solely on JGA now. My job now is to provide counsel to those clients whose mission I really want to help support and to help grow the future team at JGA. I love my work. And hope "retirement" (whatever that is) is a good ways off.

One of my most memorable experiences at JGA was serving as the Campaign Counsel for Wabash's Campaign for Leadership that started in the 1990s. You're recall we set an initial goal of \$100,000,000 and surpassed that so quickly that we raised the goal to \$132,500,000. Thanks to a number of people who really care about Wabash, we beat that goal as well and ended up over \$136,000,000.



As far as our class goes, I stay in touch are Tom Walsh (who is now on the Board of Trustees – the Class of 1973 has two!), Bob Kissling, Tom Stocks, Lee Clark, Bob Kamm, and Rob Lempke. And I hope to talk to many more in coming months!

Speaking of our Class, we had a great reunion back in 2013 – it sure doesn't seem like we left Wabash almost 42 years ago! Start planning now for June of 3018...our 45th. There's no reason our class shouldn't set every reunion record!

I live in Franklin, IN south of Indianapolis. Marcia and I have two children- aged 34 and 37- with two grandkids. Both kids live in Indy and that is fun. My grandson is well set up with Wabash gear and would be in the class of '34...

In thinking about our times at Wabash, my favorite memory of Wabash is really a "mash up" of several memories. The predominant one is walking or just being on campus. I recall talking with classmates, fraternity brothers and faculty members while walking the place. And that memory merges with a favorite activity now which is still to walk the campus. The place is quietly beautiful in the evenings and when I'm there on meetings, I almost always go out and walk around the place. A close second on memories is time in classes with the likes of Professor Rogge, Fischer, McLean, Barry Schneider (Poli Sci) and others.

I've had the honor and duty of serving as a trustee in recent years at our College. Sometimes when you see a place up close, it doesn't look as good. My experience at Wabash is that it actually looks better up close. And I think the academic demand level at Wabash is tougher than when we were students. Hard to really prove this, but it feels strongly that way to me as I observe students there today and sit in on an occasional class or two.

Whenever I have the chance to talk with current Wabash students, I offer this simple advice: Take full advantage of the place. Find a prof or organization or activity and engage. Make the most of it.

I hope you enjoyed the update on Ted. I see in Ted's note he shares the same love of interaction with current Wabash students as I do. I encourage to you get engaged in some fashion with the College, possibly by assisting with a regional Admissions' event; contacting Scott Crawford in Career Services about hosting students, possible internships with your company, or availability to mentor a student; or – as Ted mentioned – come back to Wabash for a visit, taking time to simply walk around campus and engage in some conversation with students. And if you get back to Crawfordsville, please let me know so we can get together for coffee or a meal along with a few of the other class members living in the area.

A great place to initiate your involvement with Wabash can be found at www.wabash.edu/alumni/volunteer.

As always, your financial support for Wabash is appreciated. Currently, 37 class members have made donations for the current fiscal year. If your name isn't on the Honor Roll (<http://wabash.edu/giving/honorroll#class1973>), visit www.wabash.edu/giving/give and make your contribution today.

If you know of a young man attending a high school in your area that you feel would benefit by a Wabash education (what young man wouldn't?), be sure to make contact with him and then let the college know about him via the Referral webpage - www.wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer. A terrific first step for you in assisting with this is to visit <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/admissions>. The webpage has a link for you to register as an Alumni Volunteer, as well as a Tool Kit to help you recruit and a Wabash Facts document.

As a way to encourage you to get involved with Wabash in any or all of the above mentioned opportunities, I thought I'd share the story of a young man in whose life I have been involved since he came to Wabash in 2006. Since we live in Crawfordsville, my wife Patsy and I try to "adopt" one or two students per class by opening our lives to them and their families. Derrin Slack is one of those men. To make my job easier, I'm going to copy what was shared about Derrin a few months ago with the Fishers (IN) Rotary Club:

Pro(Act) Engages Youth Through Service Learning

There are folks who talk about helping kids, and those who roll up their sleeves to get the job done. Meet Derrin Slack, Executive Director of Pro(Act) Community Partnerships, a man who has been improving the lives of children since 2010.

Growing up, Derrin struggled with an embarrassing stutter that has persisted into adulthood. As a youth, he was very shy and lacked both confidence and self-esteem. Because he was smart and athletic, Derrin found refuge in performing well in both academics and sports. He also was encouraged and supported along the way by many teachers, coaches, and mentors who believed in his potential to succeed in life.

After graduating from Lawrence North High School, Derrin enrolled in Wabash College, where he became a starting defensive back and a varsity track and field star. In Spring 2008, Derrin traveled with 20 Wabash College students to Maun, Botswana on a church mission trip. He spent his days teaching Bible lessons and showing villagers, students and

prisoners how to play American sports. The experience was life-altering and sowed the seeds for what Derrin saw as his life's purpose: Creating opportunities for others to be profoundly impacted by performing acts of service learning.

Upon his return to the United States, Derrin transferred from Wabash to Indiana University. He spent the majority of his summers working as an English instructor through the Office of Community and School Partnerships, where he helped develop and teach lesson plans for the Summer Achievers Academy and the Pathfinders academies. As a Hoosier, he earned his bachelor's degree in English.

In 2010, Derrin made two visits to New Orleans to assist in the relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The experiences solidified his conviction that his future lay in community service work. Derrin targeted his goal on creating an organization that focused on exposing youth ages 12-18 to service work to allow them the opportunity to grow up confident and strong as he did. Pro(Act) Community Partnerships, Inc., was born.

After two years of laying the foundation for the organization, in 2012 Pro(Act) gained a valuable partnership with the Lawrence Community Football League working with youth to conduct service projects in the Greater Indianapolis area in the first installment of its flagship program, "Project > (Greater Than) Me." Youth commit to performing a variety of projects every Saturday for 12 weeks, from community clean-ups to building ramps to help wheelchair-bound residents leave their homes.

To date, Pro(Act)'s youth leaders have logged over 6,000 hours of community service since mid-2012. Other notable benchmarks include:

- Over 1,200 student leaders completed 4,500 community service hours in 2014.
- The creation of an after-school program at Oaklandon Elementary School and Mary Castle Elementary School in Lawrence Township for students in grades 4-6
- More than 94 percent of youth were retained in the program
- Direct service was provided to more than 30 notable Indianapolis organizations including: Center of Wellness for Urban Women, Wheeler Mission Ministries, Outside the Box, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Second Helpings, and SAWs Ramps.

Today, Derrin juggles growing Pro(Act) while working full-time as an EPIC Credentialed Trainer at Community Health Network. Derrin trains physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals on the usage of software to update and maintain medical records.

In addition, on January 17th of this year at the annual Indianapolis Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Festival, Derrin was awarded the Power of Peace Award, an annual award given to a local peacemaker nominated and selected by the community for demonstrating peacemaking and leadership in action throughout the past year. Truly, he's "Some Little Giant!"

If you'd like to connect with Derrin, he can be reached at derrin@proactcp.org or the Pro(Act) website - <http://www.proactcp.org/>. If you have a group (business, social, or church) that you believe would benefit by participating in community service in the Indianapolis area, Pro(Act) can arrange that for you.



In conversations with Derrin, it's struck me how foreign of a concept community service is to youth living in an urban environment. Their normal first reaction is that "community service" is a negative thing since it's likely being performed to satisfy a judge's decision.

I wanted to share this example of how Wabash can open the eyes of a young man through the challenges and opportunities offered by the college, and how finding one's passion in life can change a community.

So, once again I urge you to get actively involved with Wabash – through your actions, financially, or both - to support a school that provides opportunities for a diverse range of young men to grow, learn, and dream dreams, while developing the skills to see those dreams become realities.

One additional way for you to contribute is to provide suggestions / requests for classmates you would like to see featured in upcoming Class Letters. If you're still in touch with them, send me their contact information so I can call them to explain what I'd like from them.

Update from Lee Clark

Effective March 2nd I will be joining the Indiana Public Employees Retirement Services as a Retirement Services Consultant. Please use Lee.Clark8731@gmail.com as my email contact and my cell phone is 317-755-8386.

Already in our plans are stories on Aurelian Bukatko and Frank Buerger.

Pete

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