



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1980

Class Agent

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Greetings Classmates!

It's never easy to announce sad news, but this summer has been difficult for the Wabash community, and especially our class. Tom Campbell, the long-time English professor who began his Wabash career with us in the Fall of 1976, recently passed away. Although an English major, I had Dr. Campbell just for English 99 and regret to this day not taking English 15-Renaissance Literature (*Canterbury Tales*, etc.). Dr. Campbell influenced many lives during his 35-year Wabash tenure, including many of us reading this letter.

Even closer to home was the recent passing of my Fiji pledge brother, former roommate and long-time friend, John Gilbert. Perhaps my fondest memory of John was watching the Army's precision and steadfast dedication in changing the guard at Arlington Cemetery on a cold, rainy day in March 1979 during spring break -- with only John and me as witnesses. After graduating with honors, John served the College in the Admissions Office and as a class agent before moving back to the D.C. area and becoming a telecommunications expert. Suffice it to say that John's last few years were difficult. But, in communicating with his saddened pledge brothers, John's mother acknowledged that his suffering had at last ceased, and he had moved on to a better place.

Unfortunately, as we continue to age, news like this will become all too commonplace in our future letters.

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I look forward to returning to campus on September 6th for the annual Class Agents Meeting and watching the Little Giants tackle Hampden-Sydney in their football season opener. Wabash and Hampden-Sydney are two of the three remaining all-male colleges, and both teams are pre-season ranked in the Top 20 in Division III. Wabash has five home games this fall, highlighted by Homecoming with Allegheny College on September 27th and the 121st Monon Bell Classic with DePauw on November 15th. I really hope you can make it back to Crawfordsville sometime this fall.

If not this fall, how about next June 5-7 when our class hosts its 35th reunion during the **2015 Big Bash**? The College is planning several events for our reunion, but needs our help. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact Tom Runge, Director of Alumni Relations, at runget@wabash.edu or 765.361.6371 or me. Alumni Relations is looking for a class gift chairman, representatives from the various living units and an overall reunion chairman, but any volunteer help is welcomed – to make our 35th reunion a memorable event.



Class Giving

Kudos to all who contributed to class giving for Wabash's fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2014. Our class provided 60 donations in 2014 – 14 (or 25.7%) more than the previous year. The 60 donations totaled \$37,309, most of which (88.5%) was earmarked for Wabash's Annual Fund.

The Honor Roll for the Class of 1980 was *Paul Atkenson, Dan Bohn, Tom Brandes, Randy Braze, Brian Case, Bob Cebul, Terry Fox, Brent Fulton, Jeff Garbers, Bill Goebel, Bubba Goodman, Mike Gullifor, Tom Hastings, Herbie Highsmith, Dave Hollowell, Joe Impicciche, Curt Keller, Tim Kennedy, Larry Klee, Alex Klefeker, Mike Lambert, Chris Lanane, Mike Maddox, John Maxstadt, Emmett McAuliffe, Jim McCleneghen, Mark Merkle, Jim Miller, Tom Minogue, Todd Moore, Gene Mszar, Duane Murphy, Mario Obejas, Mark Oetting, Larry Palmer, Bill Passodelis, Mike Perkins, Bob Perrone, Charlie Pockras, Chuck Rea, Jeff Rensberger, Jim Renshaw, John Reuter, John Ritter, Doug Rogers, Greg Rose, Charles Routh, Ron Rychlak, Jud Scott, John Sharkitt, Dave Stein, Brad Sterrenberg, Ross Strodel, Bob Vogt, Lee Wertman, Clay Whitney, Mike Wilcox, Ken Williams, and John Wittler.*

Overall, gifts to the Annual Fund totaled \$3.27 million – the second highest unrestricted dollar total in the College's history, while the 4,583 alumni gifts were the highest number of alumni donations ever, besting the previous mark by 224 in 2002.

Gifts to Wabash (in any amount) are always welcomed – at any time of year – and can be done in three easy ways:

Online at www.wabash.edu/egift

By phone at 877.743.4545; or

**By mail to: Wabash College
Annual Giving
P.O. Box 352
Crawfordsville, In 47933**

Other Wabash/Class News

Wabash President Greg Hess is expected to ring in 266 freshmen on Freshman Saturday on August 23rd. About 80% of the Class of 2018 was referred by Wabash alumni, and 52 are Wabash legacies. Potential student referrals are highly prized by the College and can be easily done by calling the Admissions Office at 800.345.5385, through e-mail at admissions@wabash.edu, or online at www.wabash.edu/alumni.

The College has hired Michelle Janssen as the new Dean of Advancement. Her duties began on August 1st. Dean Janssen has over three decades of fund-raising experience, including her last appointment as Vice President of Alumni and College Relations at Berea College (Kentucky).

Wabash was recently cited by the *Princeton Review* as being among the best 15% of the nation's 2,500 four-year educational institutions. The *Review* ranked Wabash ninth overall for "best classroom experience," No. 7 for career services for current students and graduates, and No. 3 as "best jock school" for undergraduate participation in intercollegiate and intramural athletics.

And, keep an eye on Valerie Rockey, the daughter of John Rockey, who has advanced as a Top 10 finalist on "So You Think You Can Dance" (Wednesday nights on *FOX*). Valerie is a high school student at Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis where John – "the greatest nine-fingered point guard in Division III history" –prepped and currently serves as Flashes' head coach in basketball and baseball.

Finally, it's always a pleasure to hear from you about what's happening with you and your family. Please feel free to contact me anytime at 317.769.4857 or drop me an e-mail at jmiller44@indy.rr.com.

Yours in Wabash,

JIM

James E. (Jim) Miller, Class Agent
Wabash College Class of 1980