



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1980

Class Agent

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March 7, 2008

Greetings Classmate:

It's been a while since we've been in communication, so I thought I'd bring you up to date on happenings with the Class of 1980 and at the College.

Class News

For those of you who didn't already know, we lost **Dave Piercefield** to heart failure last summer. A native of Columbus, Indiana, Dave had lived in Auburndale, Florida for the past seven years. He is survived by his wife, Becky, two daughters, one son and two stepsons.

Jud Scott organized an e-mail exchange for the Holidays with his FIJI pledge brothers. Checking in were Mike Breclaw, Bob Cebul, Jeff Garbers, John Gilbert, Mark Kafader, Tim Kennedy, Jim Miller, Mark Perrings, Gary Pottorff and Greg Rose.

The e-mailers exchanged news about their families, their careers and reminisced about people and humorous events from yesteryear. **Mike Breclaw** works for an architectural firm in Chicago; **Dr. Bob Cebul** is a general/vascular surgeon in Wooster, Ohio; **Jeff Garbers** and his brood live in Atlanta; **John Gilbert** works in the telecommunications industry in the Washington DC area; **Mark Kafader** lives in Nashville but still travels all over the country in the trade show production business; **Tim Kennedy** is a lawyer and a lobbyist for the Indiana Hospital Association; **Mark Perrings** works for Sherwin-Williams and lives in the Cleveland area; **Gary Pottorff** and his family reside in Lake County, Indiana; **Greg Rose** sends periodic early-morning greetings from the other side of the globe in Tokyo; and **Jud Scott** owns a landscaping company in Carmel, Indiana.

Tim Kennedy and I visited with **Kevin McAree** at the visitation for Kevin's mother, Judith, who passed away last December after a lengthy illness. It was good to see Dr. McAree again after many years, even at such a sad time.

I'm always eager to hear from you and pass on your news to our classmates. You can reach me at (317) 769-4857-home or at: jmiller@indianarha.org.

News from the College

The 2007-08 school year is in the home stretch. Seniors – most of them – have passed Comps; Spring Break is over; and Commencement is right around the corner. I look forward to attending Commencement this year and see my twin nephews do something I certainly didn't do – graduate with honors!

We equally look forward down the road to the graduation of this year's freshman class – the Class of 2011 – which numbers 250 and is quite diverse. This year's frosh include 22 delegates to Boys State, a civil air patrol squad leader, a wrestler with a quick pin record of 10 seconds, an internationally recognized Irish dancer, a medical researcher, a sea turtle field worker, a nationally ranked chess player, a robotics team mentor, a bagpiper, an author of a series of vampire stories, a stand-up comedian, a traveler and student of the Panamanian rain forest, a zoo keeper who worked with hippos and rhinos, a musician who has marched in the Rose Bowl Parade, a restorer of classic cars, and two friends who've run with the bulls in Pamplona.

And, finally, another sad note . . . Professor of Mathematics *Emeritus* Paul Mielke (Class of 1942) passed away in early February at the Lane House Nursing Home in Crawfordsville at the age of 87. He taught at Wabash from 1946 through 1985 and was an active and participatory member of the Wabash community until his death. He was a long-time Class Agent for the men of all Wabash's pre-War graduating classes, a brilliant mathematician, a pioneer in computing use, and award-winning photographer, and a loving husband.

About four years ago, I had the good fortune of sitting with Dr. Mielke and his wife at a Honor Scholars Dinner at Chadwick Court. Two prospective freshmen at our table were so entertained and enthralled by Dr. Mielke's stories and recollection that they were among the last people of several hundred people to exit the event.

I'll save some more news from the College and updates on our Class Giving for another letter. Until then,

Yours in Wabash,

James E. Miller (Jim)
Class Agent -- 1980