



# WABASH COLLEGE

## CLASS OF 1981

Stephen Pavy  
Tel: 707.939.7845  
E-mail: [spavy@vom.com](mailto:spavy@vom.com)

Phil Purcell  
Tel: 317.770.7389  
E-mail: [ppurcell@bsu.edu](mailto:ppurcell@bsu.edu)

Peter Wright  
Tel: 989.859.3184  
E-mail: [pcw9@mac.com](mailto:pcw9@mac.com)

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Gentlemen of the Class of 1981:

Here is the first letter of the new fiscal year. I have some Wabash News, some Class of 1981 news, the final stats for the 07-08 fiscal year that ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and the Honor Roll for this fiscal year that just ended.

### Wabash News

- You have been hearing all kinds of rankings and ratings since we graduated: "Top 50 Liberal Arts College", "Best Buy", "One of the Colleges that Changes Peoples Lives", "Top College as measured by the National Survey of Student Engagement".

### ***Hang on to your hats - it keeps getting better!***

*Forbes.com* has just ranked Wabash the 12<sup>th</sup> best college ***in the United States!*** The ranking include 569 undergraduate institutions. This puts Wabash ahead of all other Indiana institutions but also above all other "peer institutions" in the Midwest. In fact, here are the top 12, in order:

- Princeton University
- California Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Swarthmore College
- Williams College
- United States Military Academy (West Point)
- Amherst College
- Wellesley College
- Yale University
- Columbia University
- Northwestern University
- **Wabash College!!**

A brief excerpt: "Wabash College, a tiny, all-male school located in Crawfordsville, Ind., ranks 12<sup>th</sup> on our list... With an entering class of just 250 freshmen, Wabash benefits from both high student satisfaction with their courses and lots of graduates who received distinctions in their post collegiate careers." Read the entire article at: <http://www.wabash.edu/news/6070> and follow the link in the Wabash article to the *Forbes.com* website for more information.

Bottom line: your diploma just increased in value!

- Additionally Wabash was ranked 52<sup>nd</sup> in the 2008 *U.S. News and World Report* rankings. And in the recent *Princeton Review* Wabash was one of the "Best 368 Colleges". Follow this link for the *Princeton Review* article: <http://www.wabash.edu/news/6050>
- Visit [www.wabash.edu](http://www.wabash.edu) for up-to-date information about the College.
- Little Giants Near Top of NCAC Football Polls: [http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/news.cfm?news\\_ID=6063](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/news.cfm?news_ID=6063)
- Tom Bambrey '68 was named Director of Athletics replacing Vernon Mummert. Mike Raters '85 has been promoted to Dean of Students replacing Bambrey. See the link below to the Wabash website announcement: <http://www.wabash.edu/news/5909>

### **Class of 1981 News**

- Indianapolis attorney Chris Braun, a senior partner at Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP, has been selected by the American College of Environmental Lawyers ("ACOEL") as the leading environmental lawyer in the State of Indiana. Membership to the ACOEL, a professional association of distinguished private sector lawyers from across the United States who practice environmental law, is limited to one environmental attorney per State and is by invitation only.

Braun is the only attorney practicing in Indiana to be accorded this honor and will be inducted at the ACOEL's annual conference in San Francisco on September 25-26. Braun has developed an extensive environmental and complex commercial litigation practice at the Indianapolis-based law firm of Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP, where he has been a partner since 1994. You can reach Chris at: [cbraun6@aol.com](mailto:cbraun6@aol.com).

- Do you have class notes to share? Send them to [spavy@vom.com](mailto:spavy@vom.com).

### **Financial News and Wrap-Up of Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Wabash had the biggest year ever for the Annual Fund: \$3,104,200, was raised, a 12% increase in dollars from 2006-2007. That is great news. This allowed the College to meet the Hays Challenge of \$3 million in annual gifts, so Tom Hays '55 will kick in an additional \$1 million to the Wabash College Scholarship Endowment.

Here is the Honor Role of the Class of 1981 members who contributed to the Annual Fund in 2007-2008 (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008). THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Walter Alfred	Dr. Kevin Altman	Mark Antreasian
John Ashworth III	Dr. Gregg Balis	Dr. Dean Beckman
Jeffrey Been	Kevin Benefiel	Michael Bettice
Rev. Joseph Boomhower	Christopher Braun	Rev. Jeffery Buck
Allan Clauser Jr.	J. Cooper	Dr. Douglas Coplen
Shawn Crane	C. Daniels	David Dingley
Kirk Dixon	David Downey	Dr. Thomas Elliott
Louis Fenoglio	Joseph Fistrovich Jr.	Anthony Flesch
Larry Frye	Dr. Gustavo Galante	Melvin Gore
Dr. Randall Grimes	Kevin Hall	Dr. Steven Hartenstein
John Helm	John Hilbrich	Cristopher Johnston
Dr. W. Terry Jones	Carl Kipp III	James Kipp Jr.
Dr. Michael Kraus	Douglas Kvachkoff	Dr. Mark Lazar
Michael Leagre	David Lewis	Dennis Lindauer
Mark Lindsley	William Macon Jr.	Mark McGrady
Douglas McKay	Donald Miller	Dr. Carl Myers
Jon Myers	Dr. William Myers	David Neal Jr.
Billy Nesbitt	Dr. Jerome Noll	David Paul
Stephen Pavy	Stephen Pruett	Philip Purcell
Steven Riggs	Michael Robak	John Ruddy III
Edward Segelken	Richard Skertic	Frank Smaron
David Steiner	Rolland Strasser	Dr. Jeffery Struewing
Stanley Thompson	Dr. Paul Thomson	Ronald Vogel
Dr. Jay Want	John Weaver	Thomas Weber
Monty Woolsey	Peter Wright	LTCOL Brian Wyneken
Kevin Young	Michael Zurawski	

We raised a total of \$49,126.25. \$36,455.28 was unrestricted and went to the Annual Fund.

The Class of 1981 had a 37.93% giving rate for this fiscal year versus 34.48% for last year. ***We improved!*** 77 alums contributed this year as compared to 70 last year out of a total class of 203. I am pleased we increased our level this past year, but I feel we could do better.

Unfortunately (a small downside) we were not successful in meeting the "Danny Challenge" of 40% participation. The Danny's met their goal of 39% and edged out the Little Giants who mustered only a 37.68%.

***I have one more 'statistic'.*** I want to pursue this thought in future letters. If everyone from the Class of 1981 gave this year ***who has given to Wabash in the past 5 years***, our

total giving percentage for this new fiscal year would be 52.7%. We had 30 alums who *didn't* give this past year who had given to Wabash in the past five years.

**If every Class of 1981 alum who has given in the past five years gave this year, we would have a total of 107 alums giving, for that 52.7% goal.** I think that should be our goal this year. I won't name names, but if you have given to Wabash in the past five years, *please* give this year. Be consistent. Be dedicated. (And Peter, Phil, or I will be contacting you to help out this year.)

I'll find out what our numbers would be if everyone who has given to Wabash since we graduated gave this year. It probably doesn't go up too much more: if someone has never given to Wabash, they probably won't start this year....but we'll try anyway.

Remember gifts can be made in three easy ways:

- By phone: 877-743-4545

- On the web: [www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift)

- By mail: Wabash Annual Fund / PO Box 352 / Crawfordsville, IN 47933 (checks payable to Wabash College)

For questions about making gifts of stock, please call 877-743-4545.

Yours in Wabash,

Stephen

Think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely...and give to Wabash College this year. Don't let the Team down!