



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### Class of 1981

#### Class Agents

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It is just six months from now that we will be celebrating our **35<sup>th</sup> Reunion** at Wabash (**June 3 - 5, 2016**) at the Big Bash Reunion. It seems like much less than 10 years has passed<sup>1</sup> since we won the award for largest class attendance at our 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Of course, much has happened in the world, in the country and at our College in the decade since our 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion. You can expect in the coming months to hear from your housing unit representative (please pick up his call) encouraging you to join us in June and to reach out to your fraternity brothers and classmates to come as well. It has been great to see those guys who regularly return to Wabash as well as guys who have not been back for a long time. Stephen is being asked to return to present a session on wine at the Big Bash Colloquia, which alone justifies the return visit to campus. So please block your 2016 calendars, book those plane tickets and plan to get together in June.

### Homecoming Report

At Homecoming, the Class Agents and board members of the National Association of Wabash Men were able to see and hear about a great example of some things at Wabash that have changed for the good as well as to be reminded of what has not changed.

### Wabash Students - Ready for Anything

Presentations at Homecoming demonstrated that Wabash continues to prepare men to be leaders ready for anything. The College sign now reads “**The Liberal Arts College for Men.**”

At Homecoming, the Class Agents heard presentations about cutting edge opportunities Wabash is bringing to its students to supplement the traditional classroom course work. The Center for Innovation, Business & Entrepreneurship (CIBE), which operates under a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, provides opportunities for Wabash students to learn and explore careers in business, entrepreneurship and leadership. It is a program open to all majors and helps Wabash students tell their stories to recruiters. The students who have participated in CIBE programs

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<sup>1</sup> From the Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows comes the term “Zenosyne: The sense that time keeps going faster.” See the You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNgyEmYyQF4>.

stay at Wabash and graduate at a rate of over 90% (97% for students who have had internships), which is well above the overall 68% graduation rate. The Wabash Democracy & Public Discourse Initiative (WIPD) equips students to stimulate and lead productive conversations in communities to solve problems. The Class Agents learned about the innovative programs Wabash is offering in the digital arts. The Wabash Global Health Initiative seeks “To transform the lives of students through global public health education, investigation and service and in so doing to effect positive change in underserved communities globally.” The presentation of the Initiative featured a video made by Ryan Horner ’15, an English major (and now in grad school) and what his participation in this program meant to him. Ryan’s video demonstrated that Wabash students in all of the majors at Wabash are taking advantage of these programs that will help them be prepared to demonstrate how Wabash prepares its graduates to be ready for anything.<sup>2</sup>

On the Thursday of Homecoming, Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, visited Wabash and spent most of the day meeting with students and then gave a talk in the Chapel that evening. He began his address by thanking Professor Ray Williams, who attended the talk, for essentially starting the field interfaith study, cooperation and leadership, in recognition of Dr. Williams’ research and engagement with the Swaminarian community. Mr. Patel gave a great talk and frequently referenced his discussions with Wabash students during the day and how impressed he was with their ability to discuss multi-faith issues and leadership. He shared his sense that Wabash was a special college that expected more for its students. He used the phrase that Wabash “places a crown above their heads” a few times to illustrate the high aspiration that Wabash holds for its students and their place in the world.

## **New Housing**



If you have visited campus or the Wabash website you have seen the new housing units that opened this fall on Crawford Street. Work is scheduled to start on the re-imagination of Martindale beginning in the winter semester.

## **Wabash Sports**

Many of you no doubt were following the Little Giant football team that completed an undefeated regular season, including a seventh consecutive win over a very good DePauw team, and a trip to the “Elite Eight” in the Division III playoff. I had the “pleasure” (as did Lou Fenoglio) of seeing graduating senior running back Mason Zurek (an Academic All-American)

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run for a Wabash record 312 in the first round of the playoffs at home against Albion (breaking his record of 278 yards the prior week against DePauw). It probably snowed harder at that home game than any day for a Wabash football game since the first round of the playoffs our freshman year (and that game was against St. John's in Minnesota). The playoff game against Albion and the second round against Thomas More demonstrate Wabash Always Fights and that always means always. The first game could have been lost and the second one ranked with Wabash's all time come backs. Mason and Coach Raeburn very rightly received all NCAC honors as player and coach of the year, respectively.



The soccer team had a good season and only loses one senior to graduation. Wabash placed 8<sup>th</sup> for the first top 10 finish in the Division III Men's Cross Country Championship since 1995. Wrestling is too no surprise, off to a very good start. Swimming has also started off well. In addition to hearing about the success on the field, on the mat and in the pool, it is good to see a number of Wabash athletes recognized as Academic All Americans.

### **Class news**

John Stark was recently named the CFO of Telkonet, Inc. a leading provider of intelligent commercial automation solutions, located in Milwaukee.

Mike Bettice was elected the mayor of Batesville, Indiana, a town that is a leading provider of hospital beds and caskets.



We hope you saw the great article in the *Wabash* magazine about the collaboration of John Hilbrich, Dan Doster and Fred Kendall to revive a business purchased by John. The article reflects on the values of relationship and the liberal arts education these three received at Wabash.

[http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=10650](http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=10650).



### **Wabash Always**

*Wabash Always* is the name of our Loyalty Society (<http://www.wabash.edu/giving/loyalty>) announced last year. This Society salutes the philanthropic loyalty of donors who have supported Wabash over the years. Please take a look at the web site and draw attention to it in your communications with your class. This group of class members has invested in our Alma Mater - many for over 25 years in a row.

Don't break the chain; send Wabash your donation today. If you have not been a regular this is a great time to take the first step on the 25 year club.

Finally, best wishes to Tom Runge '71, who will be retiring from Wabash at the end of March. It has been a pleasure to work with you. Steve Hoffman '85 will have as Michelle Janssen said some "Wally-sized shoes" to fill as he takes over for Tom.

Thank you for all of your support of Wabash through your financial support, referral of prospective students, attendance at events and sustaining of life-long relationships.

Happy Holidays!

