



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Office of Alumni Affairs

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**Class of 1982**

### Class Agent

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Class of '82

Dear Classmates:

I'm knee deep in the travels to college campuses with my son Austin who is a senior in high school this year. He has been looking at five different schools and has been accepted at all of them. So we've been spending a lot of time making numerous travels to all the campuses. We've got it narrowed down to two, Hanover and Wabash, with a fall back of Purdue if for some reason we need it.

I know several of you are in the same boat I'm in this year or have been in recent years. But what really hit my wife and I yesterday driving back from Crawfordsville is what a great place Wabash is. My wife (Butler grad and spent a lot of time at Wabash) and I both initially thought we wanted our son to go to Hanover. It has a little more emphasis on some environmental things he wanted, we really like the college and just thought he'd fit in there pretty well. But after visiting both schools over a 3 day period, it is apparent that Wabash is truly a notch or two above all the schools we looked at. I think we take for granted the Wabash community and the "Gentleman's Code" and assume other colleges are similar. They are not!

The easily visible differences between Wabash and other schools are the buildings and facilities. The new building and renovations that have taken place over the past few years at Wabash are first rate. But it's the little things that I noticed. When you met a Wabash student, they shook your hand, looked you in the eye and could actually hold an intelligent conversation. Some of the other places, the students didn't often offer a hand and if they talked to you, they were looking off to the side or down at their shoes. Don't get me wrong, I'm sure they are very intelligent and good kids, but they didn't have the confidence and self-assurance that a man from Wabash has.

Now, as many of you know, sometimes the decisions dictating school choice is financial. Sometimes it's based on need; sometimes it's based on competition for academic / leadership scholarships and sometimes both. As I said in my previous letter, luckily my son is much smarter than his old man, so he has received a really nice package from Hanover and hopefully he'll do well at Honors Scholarship weekend at Wabash so I'm sure we'll be okay. But what I've learned from this whole financial aid process is that Wabash believes that no man who qualifies for a Wabash education should be denied that privilege because his family cannot afford it. Many of us are aware of this policy from our own experience. Many of the colleges either do not have the same philosophy or simply don't have the means to do so. Wabash very much wants to continue this tradition.

I only work with Higher Ed Institutions in my work and I know that all of them have averaged a 25%-30% reduction in their endowments due to the economy. Roughly 50% of the Wabash's operating income that makes this financial aid and scholarships possible comes from an endowment that has lost one-third of its value. Now more than ever, it is important for us as alumni to step up and help to underwrite the future for the next generation of Wabash men. I sincerely appreciate the alumni that preceded us and helped to make Wabash one of the best schools of our time and now it's our time to pay it forward so that others can have the opportunity to experience all that Wabash offers.

Please don't think I'm writing this so that we can build up a bunch of donations in the next few months to pay for my son's education. The money for his class has been in the system for awhile. It's about making sure we are responsible alumni and provide future students with the same opportunities we were provided.

Please don't forget to send me any personal / family / career updates. Email is [nbroadwater7@aol.com](mailto:nbroadwater7@aol.com).

Go Bash!

Ned Broadwater