



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1987

Class Agents

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Dear friends,

Jim Amidon asked me to write a “guest letter” in his place this month. I swear, if he next asks me to be a Class Agent, I’m going to ask the Lambda Chis to find the old potato cannon and shower the Amidon home with French fries.

So I’ll start with my own update — the basic biographical stuff. Wife Jane, daughter Alex (andra) — the latter of whom will be three in July. I’m still lawyering at Jones Day in Washington, D.C., where I’m a partner in the appellate and intellectual property practices. Despite my majors in English and Philosophy, you might find me arguing in a federal court of appeals about the meaning of some complicated patent. We’ve brought on two Wabash guys here at Jones Day-DC in the past three years — Scott Medsker ’03 and Ben Robinson ’01. And I was just elected Vice President, a/k/a President-Elect, of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Wabash Men, which is our College’s alumni association.
gcastanias@jonesday.com

Mike Rapier is also on the NAWM Board, bringing valuable perspective on a number of things, but none more important than how to keep alumni engaged and involved with the College when they’re living, say, 1,763 miles away from campus. (Thank you, Yahoo! Maps.) Mike and his son attended the January Board meeting on their way to Florida to root the Arizona Cardinals on in Super Bowl XLIII, making his fellow board members quite jealous. Mike’s the President and Owner of Liberty Paper Products LLC in Phoenix. mrapier@libertypaper.net

In January, **Tom Halverson**—who is still up at Goldman Sachs in New York City — brought his wife (Elaine Holoboff) and family (two daughters — Anastasia and Nicole —and Anastasia’s boyfriend, Tom) down to Washington, D.C. for the Inauguration of President Obama and Vice President Biden. We watched the Inauguration from the roof of our building, and attended two of the inaugural balls. I’ve sent Jim a couple of pictures for inclusion in the letter. For me, the best part of the event was having the Halverson family (as well as some other friends) staying with us, as a captive audience, so we could just hang out over a cup of coffee in the mornings, chatting and catching up on life — that is, when we weren’t slogging via Metro Rail and on hoof to join our 2.5 million new friends at the Inauguration festivities. tom.halverson@gs.com

In late March, I had lunch in Washington, D.C. with **Steve Badger**, who was in town attending the annual American Bar Association Antitrust Law Conference. He’s recently moved to the Indianapolis firm of Bose McKinney & Evans, where he’s a trial and appellate litigator focusing on all types of commercial cases, including media cases. Steve and his wife Kari, and their children Kelsey (14), Claire (12), and Collin (11; Wabash class of 2020?) just moved to Zionsville, Indiana. sbadger@boselaw.com

Jim tells me that **Todd Shellenbarger**, a federal prosecuting attorney for the southern district of Indiana, returned to campus March 26 to give a lecture to the Pre-Law Society. Todd's lecture was titled "How to convict someone of murder without a body, and other thoughts on a liberal arts education in the career of a prosecutor." Todd lives in Evansville, where he is an Assistant United States Attorney for the Department of Justice. todd.shellenbarger@usdoj.gov

Kurt Eisgruber, who was a partner at the Indy firm of Davis & Sarbinoff LLP, was elected Judge for the Marion County Superior Court. He previously had served as a deputy prosecutor who received the "Hard Time Award" after trying 10 sex crime jury trials over a five-month period. keisgrub@indygov.org

Chuck Grosvenor (chuckgro@yahoo.com) submitted an online class note, which might be the first ever for someone from our class: "Just wanted to send a quick note on my current whereabouts. After 20 years in Boston and two Red Sox World Series victories, my wife Wendy and I made a major lifestyle change. In order to be closer to family in a warmer climate with a lower cost of living, we and our daughters, Kaitlyn (14) and Lindsay (12), made the move from Beantown to Cowtown and set up residence in Fort Worth, Texas last summer. While I don't miss the snow, I am already sick of the Cowboys and happy to see the Patriots end with a much better record (even without Tom Brady)! Along the way, I was able to stay with my current employer, U.S Trust, and actually move up the corporate food chain a little. I currently manage a group of eight investment professionals as well as the portfolios for some of our more complicated high net worth clients in the West Texas/New Mexico market. Now that I have figured out LinkedIn, connect with me if you get a chance. There is one other unexpected tidbit about moving to DFW I wanted to share. As we were looking for a good high school to enroll our Freshman daughter in, I was shocked, amazed and very pleased to find out the school we liked, Nolan Catholic, had not one but [three Wabash grads as teachers!](#) Katie loves it there."

Amidon and **Jo Throckmorton** collaborated on another Telly Award-winning video project for the College. They worked with largely unscripted students to produce a virtual campus tour, which you can watch on the Wabash website www.wabash.edu.

Within the confines of the NAWM Board, we're thinking and talking a lot about how to keep alumni connected better with each other, and with the College. One of the things I'm beginning to realize from those discussions is that, while the Mighty Class of 1987 will always have the special bond of having shared the same period of time together at Wabash, it's also valuable to make connections with folks of different class years, different living units, different geographies, and so on.

I've been thinking about that a lot recently. Living 642 miles from Crawfordsville (thanks again, Yahoo! Maps) means finding different ways to stay plugged in to Wabash. Of course, I really appreciate my three trips to campus each year for the NAWM Board meetings, but being out here in the Washington, D.C. area, we tend to find different ways to keep the Wabash brotherhood alive. Just this past weekend, Jane and I went up to Baltimore to have dinner with Chad Smith '89 and Marc Nichols '92, and afterward, at a cocktail party at Chad's home, we met Tom Koenig '85, who I hadn't seen for 24 years.

Making these sorts of connections with Wabash men of different generations has been sort of a theme for me since I arrived here in Washington. In the mid-1990s, an eclectic group of alumni — from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s — founded the National Capital Association of

Wabash Men. At our monthly lunches, I might hear stories about what Wabash was like in the 1950s, or we all might share Vic Powell stories, since most of us had one or several of those. (The only difference was that some of these guys actually knew “Briggy” Brigance; we only had Vic’s stories about Briggy.) I hope that each of you has some connection with your own local Wabash alumni association.

More recently, I had a great visit in New York City with Frederick Whitmer ’69, who is a lawyer doing a lot of the same things I do for a living (intellectual property; appellate work). I wrote about that dinner for Tom Runge’s blog (<http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/alumni/>) on the College website.

For me, the most recent of these connections has been between me and Bruce Gras ’68. Bruce was one of the reunion coordinators of the Class of 1968, which just celebrated its 40th reunion on campus last June with record attendance and a generous class gift. Thanks to Bruce and a handful of Class of 1968 alumni, they’ve kept the spirit alive well after their reunion, with an impressive class website (www.wabash68.org) and a hunger to find more ways to serve the College.

Out of Bruce’s and my first lunches together came the idea for another web presence—www.wabashstories.com. Wabash Stories is meant to be a repository for all kinds of Wabash College stories — reminiscences, lore, great moments, eulogies — you name it. Some of the recent stories have been about the Great Mexican Bell Heist Caper, the statue of Abe Lincoln as a boy with his dog, and Thad Seymour’s “Elmore Day” proclamations. Jim Amidon has been a helpful contributor to the site as well. I even dug out the letter that my advisor, the late Don Baker, sent to his prospective freshman advisees about six weeks before most of us assembled for the day then known as “Freshman Friday” back in August 1983. And President White gave Wabash Stories a “shout-out” (is that what the kids call it?) in his blog http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/presidents_desk/2009/03/tell_me_a_story_narrative_and.html a couple of weeks back. The site has been up only five weeks, but it’s already had over 70,000 visits!

One other way to make and maintain connections is through “social networking websites, like LinkedIn <http://www.linkedin.com/> and Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/>. We’re just of the age where we straddle the worlds of “this is cool technology we use to stay connected” and “What in tarnation is this Internets thing, and which channel is it on?” (Also known as the “Hey, you kids, get off my lawn!” group.) We seem to have a good group on both networks (41 so far on Facebook), but we could be stronger. So give it a shot—they’re both useful ways to keep up with our guys.

Mostly from those social networking sites, I know that **Bob Kachur**, his wife Doreen, and their family moved from my neck of the woods to Mexico City, where he works for the Department of State at the US Embassy while taking piano lessons and singing in his church choir; that **Brandon Mitchener**, still living in Brussels, just joined First Solar — a company dedicated to making solar energy a sustainable alternative to conventional energy sources — as its Director of Communications for EMEA (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa); that **Tyce Light** just moved from Victoria, Australia, to Adelaide, Australia; that **Mark Vincent** (my old IU roommate from our first years of law and grad school) is still teaching Psychology at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois; and that **Chuck Killion** is a U.S. Air Force lawyer, stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska (just north of Anchorage, so I don’t think he can see Russia from his house). **Allen Schulz** (composer; Brooklyn, NY; married to law professor Rebecca Bratspies) and I use Facebook to share pictures and stories about being fathers of two-and-a-half-year-old girls (his is Naomi).

I'll wrap up with some requests, any and all of which you can do from your computer screen:

- Give at <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift> to the Annual Fund. (The College needs our help now more than ever in this economy.)
- Refer a young man to Wabash at <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer>.
- Send in a "Wabash Story" at <http://www.wabashstories.com/id21.html>.
- Join the Wabash alumni group on LinkedIn, <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=42200#h274-563> and join the Class of 1987 group on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/srch.php?n=16777682&yr=1987&sid=7c44bf33f578422b82e72480f481d982>.

Oh, and I'll just bet that Jim Amidon would love to have some volunteers for future "guest writers." Send him a note. amidonj@wabash.edu

Wabash Always Fights!

Greg Castanias '87