



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1987

Class Agents

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Dear Men of the Class of 1987,

Please excuse the long delay in writing. I last wrote in June trying to boost our class giving during the Wabash Annual Fund year-end push, but then got bogged down in summer work projects and never reported out our results.

The great news is that the College's alumni and friends set an all-time record and surpassed the \$3 million Annual Fund goal. Doing so triggered the Hays Challenge, which dumped another \$1 million in our scholarship endowment. Roughly speaking, the Hays Challenge will provide income (almost) equivalent to two full-tuition scholarships. The not-so-great news is that our class giving dropped slightly from our reunion year, which I'm told happens pretty often. Still, our class donated just a hair under \$60,000 in total giving, including just under \$43,000 for the unrestricted Annual Fund. Thanks to the following Little Giants for stepping up in Fiscal 2008:

Don Albrecht, Jim Amidon, Ben Beringer, Paul Boger, John Brady, Bob Brennan, Erik Burriss, Shawn Burton, Mark "Sugar" Cain, Greg Castanias, Scott Cougill, Barry Delk, Tom Edwards, Kurt Eisgruber, Doug Galloway, Chuck Grosvenor, Anthony Hart, Dan Harter, Jay Herrmann, Evan Hurst, Ben Jackson, David Jackson, Tim Jeffers, Bob Kachur, John Kirk, Michael Koch, Tim Lewis, Tyce Light, David McLaren, Bob Minardo, Jim Miner, Bill Niemier, David Nisius, Kenny Ogorek, Todd Peters, Mike Rapier, Brad Rickel, Mike Ricks, D.J. Riese, Gavin Roberts, Chris Sangalis, Tom Seroczynski, Tim Servies, Todd Shellenbarger, Ken Siepman, Bodie Stegelmann, Chris Stephenson, John Stonehill, Bernie Stuckey, Jo Throckmorton, Mike Trier, Darin Wallace, Dave Woodward, Robert Wright, and Von Wright.

While we're on the topic of the Annual Fund: Those who have made a gift already this year include Jim Amidon, Bill Blanco, Mark Cain, Jeff Cusic, Tim Lewis, Mike Magura, Bill Niemier, Kenny Ogorek, Todd Peters, Mike Ricks, Chris Sangalis, Chris Stephenson, and Bernard Stuckey. ***The great thing about giving early in the Annual Fund year is that you will NOT receive any solicitations or phone calls for the rest of the fiscal year! And you can do the whole thing online — painless.***

News from the Men of the Class of 1987

Excerpted from a Wabash web story: When John Walker Evans '08 died—the first African American to graduate from Wabash and a teacher, historian, and principal of the second largest high school in St. Louis—the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* did not publish his obituary. But last Saturday, to mark the 100th anniversary of his commencement from Wabash, the College's Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies made certain his name would always be honored at his alma mater, as Bob Wedgeworth '59 delivered the inaugural John W. Evans Lecture in Black Studies.



Working for no pay to fulfill that debt, Evans nevertheless graduated from high school and attended Wilberforce University, the nation's oldest historically black college. He went on to teach and to become principal of several schools in Indiana and St. Louis, attending and graduating from Wabash by going to classes on Saturdays. The evening's agenda included the presentation of the John Evans Award to **Jeffrey Cusic '87**. The award, chosen by

nomination of the MXIBS alumni, is given to an alumnus "who has made distinguished contributions to his field."

Unfortunately, I did not catch up with Jeff and his family while they were on campus for the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies Alumni Weekend, but on behalf of the class, Congratulations, Jeff!

Earlier in the summer, **Anthony Hart** was on a panel of clinic experts at an event sponsored by the WellPoint Foundation as part of a national educational outreach campaign dealing with male depression. Anthony is a behavioral health care manager for Anthem, and has about a dozen letters after the comma that follows his name: LCSW, LSW, LMFT. He also continues to be one of our most supportive classmates, and returns to campus frequently to attend events and network with students. Anthony also led a successful fund-raising effort in the Fed Ex Plane Pull for Special Olympics. Anthony and his "Blake's Buddies" teammates did, in fact, pull an airplane.

Tim Jeffers is now the Director of Business Development and Community Affairs with CSO Architects, Inc. CSO is one of Indiana's largest design firms (90 design professionals), was just recognized by the *Indianapolis Star* as one of the top five companies in the city, and specializes in civic, corporate, and educational design work. CSO has done some planning work for the City of Crawfordsville through its Main Street Program. Tim's work covers the full gamut, from business development to marketing to community outreach.

Allen Schulz touched base in mid-summer to let me know that one of his musicals was hitting the stage for the NYC Fringe Festival. Here's what he wrote: "Two years ago, I collaborated with my friend and colleague, Jeff LaGreca, on a musical — The Gargoyle Garden — that was premiered by the Astoria Symphony. Jeff wrote the book and lyrics, I composed the music. We received two performances, which were greeted with great audience enthusiasm. Lucky for us, the executive director of the NYC Fringe Festival saw a performance and encouraged us to submit the musical for inclusion in that festival.... We've added a few new numbers and have polished some of the original material. We have a wonderful cast, too! The Gargoyle Garden tells the tale of Edgar Allen Densmore, a weird and lonely little boy who has trouble fitting in with the other students at the Piedmont Private School. Spending his free time alone among the fascinating and broken down stone statues on his dormitory rooftop, he one day receives a mysterious invitation to attend a strange and raucous moonlit party, up in the decaying stone garden."

The Gargoyle Garden played five shows in August at the 2008 New York International Fringe festival at the Bleecker Street Theater in the East Village.

Relying on my old standby, I asked **Kenny Ogorek** if he'd been in touch with any Phi Deltas. About an hour later, I got notes from two:

Ron Recinto and his wife, **Teresa**, are both journalists. Maybe some of you saw the nice web site feature done on Ron last year. He continues to work at the *Detroit Free Press*. But the big news is that he and Teresa are expecting their first child any day now — literally. Because Ron and Teresa are both journalists — and thus understand deadlines — they allowed me to "go to press" with this letter before the baby was born. Look for a special edition of class news soon, though.

Billy Kaiser checked in from Jasper: "The Kaiser clan is growing up. Carson (16) is a sophomore at Jasper High, Madeline (14) is a freshmen at Jasper High, Corbin (10), Mitchell (7) and Caroline (4). I am back in the Jasper Junior Football League coaching ranks trying to lead the Bengals to the 4th grade league championship. One of my arch nemeses is Greg Schnarr (Class of '00) and a fellow attorney in Jasper. Looking forward to getting back to campus this Fall. — Bill."

Reach Bill at: Bingham McHale LLP, 12 W 6th Street, Jasper, IN 47546, 812-482-5500, bkaiser@binghammchale.com

And finally from **Jay Herrmann**: "Things here are going great. I leave in one week with my 16 year-old son, Andrew, to Bolivia for my annual medical mission trip. This will be the first time a family member has come with me so we are both excited. My daughter, Erin, 13, is busy playing volleyball and texting her friends. My son, Michael, 10, still wants to be either a truck driver or train engineer so I'm building a train track around his bedroom ceiling for Christmas. My wife, Maureen, is doing a great job keeping peace around the house and making sure all the homework gets done."

Reach Jay at: jjherrm@sbcglobal.net

News from the College

Wabash will be upgrading its outdoor athletic facilities, including new, dedicated baseball and soccer stadiums and synthetic turf in the football stadium. Read more here <http://www.wabash.edu/news/6189>.

Monon Bell tickets are now available from the Wabash Bookstore. Read more here <http://www.wabash.edu/news/6172>.

Looking for a new career? Want to move to a new part of the country? The Wabash Schroeder Center for Career Development now has a whole slew of new resources available to alumni. You have to sign up to gain access (takes a few hours to turn it around), but once you have a username and password, you'll have access to a range of job search tools. Click here to find out more <http://www.wabash.edu/careers/>

Wabash lost a couple of legendary figures in the last month — longtime Math Professor Bill Swift died peacefully in his home in early September and Ginny Hays, widow of longtime Trustee Bill Hays, died this last weekend. Read a story about Bill Swift here http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/pa/2008/09/remember_math_professor_bill_s.html and Ginny Hays here http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/pa/2008/09/wabash_mourns_ginny_hays.html

Take the opportunity right now to reconnect with Wabash. Start by simply writing me an email (amidonj@wabash.edu), which will serve as inspiration for my next class letter.

Best wishes,

Jim Amidon