

WABASH '91

CLASS AGENTS

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Dear Fellow Classmates,

It's been quite a while since our last letter, so let's dig right in with all of the updates from the College and us with the most important item first.

Wabash News

News on the Annual Giving Front:

DePauw's Alumni Giving Rate Second to Notre Dame Among Indiana Colleges

February 24, 2007, Greencastle, Ind. - "The Indiana colleges and universities with the highest alumni participation rates are elite private institutions," notes the *Journal and Courier* of Lafayette. Citing the Council for Aid to Education's survey of more than 1,000 colleges nationwide, the newspaper notes that "Notre Dame topped the list with 44 percent of its former students giving to the school. The other schools in the top five were: DePauw University (32 percent); Wabash College (31 percent); Rose-Hulman (31 percent); St. Mary's College (29 percent)."

WHAT! DID I READ THAT RIGHT? WHAT AN OUTRAGE!

Surely, we Wabash men will not sit around and take this kind of crap from Depauw. Our class must take charge and lead the way for the others to follow. We have to do our part to raise Wabash back in front of DePauw in this critical statistic. Is it possible that the Dannies are more loyal to their Alma Mater than we are to Dear Old Wabash? Is DePauw a more "elite private institution" than Wabash? We must change this statistic so that it more accurately portrays reality.

In my humble opinion, we should be closer to Notre Dame's alumni giving percentage than Rose-Hulman's or DePauw's ... Puh-lease! In fact, we Wabash men (band of brothers, as Hugh likes to state) should be above Notre Dame to rank first in the state. Now grab your checkbook and let's get to work on this – any contribution helps our percentage regardless of the amount.

Or, you can give online at <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift>

Now, on to less blood-boiling topics...

Wabash Day (that's right from back in October! Holy crap am I slow in writing!) ...



... was a smashing success. Projects were undertaken in at least 9 states by an undetermined number of alumni and their families and friends. Below are a couple of our classmates in action.

Thanks to all of you who helped out this weekend for the second annual Wabash Day.

Joab Schultheis worked with other Evansville alumni who landscaped and laid 20,000 square feet of sod. The effort was for the memorial park dedicated to the 22 people who died in the 2005 tornado that ripped through southern Indiana.

And Tom Egger helped work on a habitat restoration project at St. Francis Woods in the Independence Grove Forest Preserve at Libertyville, Illinois.



Scott Seay on Campus

Scott Seay was on campus Monday delivering the Eric Dean Lecture. By my count, he's the fourth classmate to speak at Wabash this year! Here's the rundown of his talk:

Seay' 91 Learned to Integrate Church, Scholarly Pursuits

by, Howard W. Hewitt

There are times when students understand a professor's underlying message or overall theme in the classroom and there are other times it might take awhile.

Scott Seay '91 isn't shy to admit it took him awhile to understand a key point Wabash religion professors were trying to make in their classrooms.

"I was convinced when I left here that my role was to be a scholar of religion and go out and teach and write books and give lectures and all that sort of thing," said the professor of American Religious History at the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis. "That's important work and work I enjoy it, but only later did I understand what the folks at Wabash had been telling me all along. It was especially someone like Bill Placher who is an imminent scholar and a church man. I had somehow missed the message while I was here.

"I think he was trying to tell me a life of faith is an important part of intellectual life and that the two are not separate from one another – intellectual development and faith development. The two go hand in hand; teaching and preaching go hand in hand. When the church is at its best, it's in many ways a teaching institution."

Seay was on campus to deliver the Eric Dean Lecture Nov. 6. He also holds a masters from the University of Chicago Divinity School and a masters and doctorate in church history from Vanderbilt.

"When I left here I was thinking of pursuing the academic side of things," he said. "It was my goal to finish a dissertation in the New Testament and early Christian literature. But Chicago wasn't a good fit for me. I couldn't articulate it at that point but the church really wasn't an important piece of what I understood my vocation to be.



"I had been raised in church so church was important to me, but I didn't understand how church intersected with my vocation. It was my three years in seminary that sort of helped me sort that out and to understand that whatever scholarly contribution I might make has to be in service to the church or otherwise in many ways there is not a whole lot of point to it."

The intersection of the academic and church thinking occurred largely while Seay filled in as an interim pastor in Ashland, Ohio. "It was really interesting to do that and fun in many ways to be teaching about religion in the classroom, in a liberal arts setting, and also go out into the church and do ministry and see the ways in which those two things cross fertilized one another. Often it was the case that some insights that came to me in class somehow made their way into Sunday sermons and vice versa."

Seay's research and teaching includes American religious history and modern European church history. He has studied the relationship between Christian faith and social problems in historical perspective. He spoke on campus about Puritan execution sermons.

He sort of stumbled across the topic when working on a paper at Vanderbilt on Puritanism and found a copy of one execution sermon. He now has uncovered more than 100.

"I dug further and saw these execution sermons weren't only about American Puritanism but about larger questions that could be connected to some of the issues we're struggling with today."

Seay explained the Puritans and early national New England clergy were struggling with the same issues Americans struggle with now when thinking about capital punishment.

"The vast majority of Americans are not used to thinking theologically about these issues. We lack that moral conversation on these issues."

And, he added, when such discussions do take place it's usually very loud and missing a civil and thoughtful tone.

Monon Bell 2006: 'I See Black, and I Turn Red'

With this year's crowd topping out at 11,600, the "Official Class of '91 Tailgate" for the 113th annual Monon Bell Classic scattered to all parts of the parking lot.



Hugh writes: At gametime, the line to get into the stadium snaked the length of the stands. "I'll watch first-half highlights on the DVD," I heard someone quip. It gave me time to catch up with Dave Riggs (who works sales for Raleigh bicycles in Ann Arbor, MI), Joab Schultheis (who is a business analyst for Atlas Van Lines in Evansville, IN), and Steve Turk (who works for Chase Bank out of Evanston, IL) (pictured above). (Yes, you guys made the blog!)

I also had a great opportunity to catch up with Matt Hanson (who's Morgan County Circuit Court Judge). He's been turning his Phi Psi pledge brothers on to our blog. I also talked to Scott Handlon, who is doing very well as president of The Partnership for Medical Education.

With about three minutes left in the fourth quarter, Wabash fans started making their way for warmer post-game festivities. They should know better. Never, ever leave the Bell game early! (Some of the Dannie stands were pretty bare by the fourth quarter.) This year's contest turned into a grind-it-out nail-biter with a safety by Wabash clinching the win.



After the game, I ran into the elusive Tom Kilbane and his girlfriend, Lisa, at the Phi Delt house (pictured below). Tom's been following Wabash football since his Hall of Fame brother, Jim, tore up the field in the early '80s. It was great to catch up as Tom's still living in Hinsdale and is now working for Liberty Insurance Underwriters. Seeing the Dannies board the buses to go back to Greendingle, Tom had occasion to spout, "I see black, and I turn red." Well said, brother.

Hey! If you have pictures from the game or a remote telecast party, send them to me. I'll be happy to post them.

An Elegy to Kingery Hall



You know, when you think about it, there aren't too many academic buildings or living units that remain the same as when we stomped around Wabash. Lately, you'll do a double-take when turning onto Grant from that road that winds behind the Chapel and past Martindale. Sure enough, there's a big empty lot where Ol' Kingery Hall once stood.

Sure enough, it was gone! Wiped from the face of campus.

If you hadn't heard, the old girl was heavily damaged by high winds last spring and faced the wrecking ball over break. Its sudden absence brought about a flood of good memories about the times we

used the grand old facility:

- Having a class or office hours with Professors John Fischer, David Kubiak, or Joe and Leslie Day.

- Using the first-floor Mac Lab to madly type up papers of past-deadline stories for that week's edition of the *Bachelor*.

According to the online campus tour:

[Kingery Hall was] Wabash's oldest classroom building to remain in its original location. It was built in 1854 to house a preparatory school for the College. One of its young pupils was Lew Wallace, author of *Ben Hur*. From 1891 to 1916 it was home to professor Hugh Kingery; still later it was a dormitory and a campus infirmary. It [housed] emeritus faculty offices and a computer lab.

Plans are in place to replace Kingery to house the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. But we'll still miss the old girl. Raise a glass to Kingery Hall!

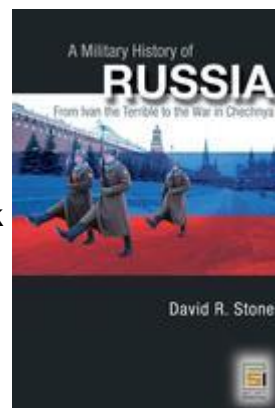
Class Updates

Dave Stone

From our valedictorian...

Life in Manhattan, Kansas is good: our girls Meredith (5), Julianne (3), and Danielle (1) are keeping Kristin and I very busy. We're just back from a sabbatical last year at Stanford, where I finished a book *A Military History of Russia: From Ivan the Terrible to the War in Chechnya*. Unlike my first one, it's intended for reading by actual human beings.

Dave is an associate professor of history at Kansas State University. You can pick up his new book at Barnes & Noble.



Luke Messer

The latest is that he and his wife, Jennifer, have self-published a children's book. Here's the story from the Political Junkie blog by Matt Tulley of the *Indianapolis Star*.

October 11, 2006

A Hoosier Book

Here is a nice, even heartwarming story-with a political tinge.

Outgoing state Rep. Luke Messer, R-Shelbyville, has written a children's book called "Hoosier Heart." Messer, an Ice Miller attorney, said the book is based on this question: "What does it mean to be a Hoosier."

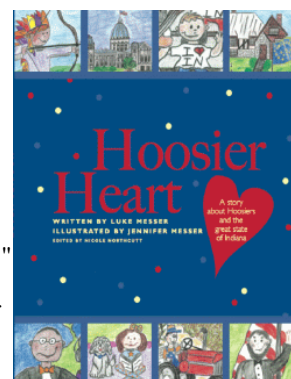
Messer wrote the 32-page book, in rhyme, while his wife, Jennifer, illustrated it. The book tells the story of a father answering the Hoosier question for his two daughters, and a friend of theirs. Along with answering the question, the book looks at famous Hoosiers and spins legends about the word "Hoosier."

"The final line of the book is, 'The key to being a Hoosier is having a good Hoosier heart,'" Messer said.

The Messers have formed a publishing company-Eva Publishing-which will sell the book for \$16.95. The first batch of 2,500 books arrived recently. They will sell the book at www.evapublishng.com but are also getting it placed in local stores.

"Border's and more than a dozen children's specialty stores already have the books in stock," Messer said.

Eva, by the way, is a mixture of the couple's daughter's names-Emma and Ava.



The book includes "endorsements" from a host of political names from both parties, including Mayor Bart Peterson, Sens. Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar, Gov. Mitch Daniels and former First Lady Judy O'Bannon.



You can check out a sample along with some high-powered endorsements at their web site. There, you can also order copies. I'm sure it will make a great gift for any Hoosier family.

More Luke Messer

Luke Messer has been putting his political punditry to good use, occasionally filling in on the weekly public affairs program *Indiana Week in Review*, airing on public radio and television stations throughout Indiana. There, he contributes the republican perspective to the state news of the week and verbally jousts with his democratic counterpart, Ann DeLaney. It's a good thing he had a lot of practice at Wabash! Luke got into the Super Bowl spirit by donning a Peyton Manning jersey at the end of the show. You can check him out online.

Mike Cunningham

Michael Cunningham has accepted a position as Publications Manager for The University of Chicago Press.

Brent Bolick

Brent Bolick reports:

Took a job as Vice President of Sales with the Jacksonville Division of ClearChannel Outdoor in early August and have since relocated the family to the beautiful "First Coast" of Florida. Looking forward to meeting members of the Jacksonville Alumni Association for the Monon Bell telecast on 11/11. Will be the first Bell game I missed "in person" in over 10 years. Hope to get back for Homecoming or Bell next year.

Kim Jackson

We received this update from an earlier report...

Kim Jackson and his DPU wife, Nola Jackson, proudly announce that their second daughter, Iva Marie Jackson, was born on October 12 at 7:12 p.m. Like her big sister, Zoe Elizabeth, she was 7 lbs. 15 oz. but a bit shorter at 20". Brother alumnus Kevin Holle will be her Godfather at a ceremony in November. Momma and Iva are doing great; Daddy is worn out from all of his hard work.

Mike Aslin

I received the following information from a "Where Are They Now?" form that Mike Aslin printed out from our last Class Agent letter and faxed to the Alumni Office who sent it on to us.

My third daughter is due November 11. [Mike's daughter Sydney turns 4 on Thursday, and his daughter Riley is 18 months old.] I graduated from postgraduate endodontic training this past July and am currently practicing in Carmel and Kokomo.

Mike, did you realize your daughter is due on the day of the Monon Bell game! Makes me wonder if we have any other "Bell Babies" out there! Keep us posted.

Dave Moss

We received an update from Dave Moss. He's living in Goshen with his wife, Christie, and his three kids: Asher, Austin, and Allie. He works in Elkhart for Allied Waste Management.

Bryan Wickens

From Bryan...

I just found out about the class of '91 blog from Matt Hanson and Brett Caldwell. Looks great.

I have not checked in for a very long time. So, here is some updated information about me.

My wife, Whitney, and I still live in New Albany, Indiana. We now have two daughters, Reagan (4) and Riley (1). A little over a year ago, I made the decision to leave my law practice as a partner in one of the largest law firms in the region to become President of a non-profit organization called Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana, Inc. ("ROCK"). Yes, you can only imagine the questions from family members and friends when we decided to make this dramatic career change.

ROCK is a pro-family organization. We work very hard to promote a wholesome environment for families throughout Kentuckiana, which includes Southern Indiana and the greater Louisville, Kentucky region. ROCK does this through education and cooperation with citizens, churches, governmental bodies and community and business leaders. Some of our key concerns include pornography/obscenity, internet pornography/sexual predators, marriage and defending religious liberties. You can learn more about ROCK at our website (www.reclaimourculture.org).



This has been an incredibly rewarding experience. We are growing in size and numbers and I absolutely love what I do and still get to use my legal abilities every single day. Beyond that, I feel like I am getting to do something to make a difference and leave this a better place for my daughters to raise their families someday.

This past year has been incredible. Our efforts have gained national attention. In June, I was invited to the White House as part of a small group of pro-family leaders from across the country to witness the President sign the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. In addition to the President, there was an opportunity to meet and visit with Kevin J. Martin, Chairman of the FCC. (That's me with Chairman Martin.) Over the past year, I have learned a lot about interviews with columnists, reporters and members of the media! I would love to hear from fellow alums and pledge brothers. Thanks again for this great site!

Brian Deleget

Brian Deleget writes:

My wife, Anna, and I have been living in the OC for 4 years and love it. I'm managing a sales team for an investment company and she is a branch manager for a bank. I'm still training and racing a few triathlons and marathons each year. I picked up surfing, motorcycling, and skateboarding out here. The weather is always perfect. Life is good!

I'd say so! While Brian rarely gets back to the Hoosier State, he hosted a Monon Bell telecast party at the Newport Beach Brew Company. The name of his DePauw co-host was Brooke Barbee. (I kid you not!)

Brian Lane

Brian Lane writes:

On Sept 27th, after 9 years, my position was "eliminated" at BAS due to their desire to try and reverse their economic situation. In fact, 55 positions at BAS were eliminated that day (~12% of total workforce). I have been somewhat busy since then trying to scare up another job and living on the severance pay from BAS.

On November 13th I start a new job at Covance, Inc in Madison, Wisconsin. I will be up there until Michelle can get the house in Brookston, IN sold. (It should be listed next week.) Michelle and the kids will be in Brookston. I'll be around Brookston some, mostly on the weekends, when I'm not checking out houses in Madison. Hopefully the house will sell quickly and we can all get moved up to Madison soon. If you know someone that wants a nice house in the Lafayette area, let us know!

Best of luck on the move to Madison and the new job, Brian.

Pete Miesel

If you browsed through the comments of the *Star* article about Wabash (<http://wabash1991.blog.com/1278619/>), you'll find "Pete - AOL" prominent in the discussion. It is, indeed, our classmate Pete Miesel, who writes:

Yeah, that's me in the comments section, can't resist the urge to argue in the blogosphere.

As of now, I'm still in Indianapolis, working as a Sales Coordinator for Tyco International. I'm in the process of relocating to Boulder with my long-time girlfriend, so I'm currently doing the job interview thing, which is easily the most irritating thing a person can ever do. After eight long years at Emmis Broadcasting, I think I can safely say that I'm out of the radio game for good as well.

David Phippen: IAWM President



David Phippen formally began his tenure as president of the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men on Saturday, serving as emcee at the annual Valentine's Party on Saturday, February 10, at the Marriott. In addition to giving Wabash men an opportunity to take their wives or girlfriends out for a nice dinner and dancing, the event honored Clay Robbins '79, president of the Lilly Endowment, as Man of the Year.

As you would expect, the IAWM serves the largest concentration of Wabash College alumni in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. The board includes two of his classmates and former presidents, Tim Oliver and Hugh. Here's wishing Dave best wishes on manning the helm this year!

IAWM
The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

Hugh Vandivier

February 22, Hugh was inducted into the Sphinx Club as an honorary member. The ceremony took place in the Chapel, and he can't tell anything more about it except that no wintergreen or leg-shaving was involved.

Here's what he wrote to senior Robert Van Kirk, the Sphinx Club President:

Robert,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for initiating me as an honorary member of the Sphinx Club last night. It is an honor that came to me quite unexpectedly but which I accept with all humility and gratitude. Please pass my thanks on to all of my new brothers.

I continue to serve our beloved alma mater, not in some vain or foolish attempt to regain or relive my past experiences as a student, but to repay it for the valuable personal growth I achieved in and out of the classroom while I studied here. I am pleased to be a member of an organization like the Sphinx Club that shows such a commitment to community and to the mission of the College.

Wabash Always Fights!

Hugh

Just don't ask him to do any pushups at home football games. Welcome aboard, Hugh!

Kip Aitken

As for me, Julie and I are proud to announce that we are expecting a baby girl to arrive in July. I'll let you all know when the new child is born along with the particulars.

Please don't forget to scour your hometowns for potential Wabash men. Just refer any high school student to the admissions office, and they'll take it from there. (<http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer>)

Also, please check out the blog that Hugh works so hard on (wabash1991.blog.com). He updates it continually, and I really appreciate his effort. It's a great mechanism to remain connected to the class and college and incredibly easy to navigate. It really is a great site, and I thank Hugh for his work. Hugh, you're some Little Giant.

That's all for now. Take care.

- Kip

