



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1997

Class Agents

Craig Miller

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Late May 2008

Dear Class of 97,

I hope that this letter finds everyone well and that everyone is enjoying the thought of summer. If you live in Indiana, we are just hoping it will stop raining and warm up. Here are some updates on things going on at the College

- Wabash College President Patrick E. White has named longtime Dean of Students Thomas E. Bambrey Director of Athletics and Michael P. Raters, currently Associate Dean of Students, has been promoted to Dean of Students at the 175 year-old liberal arts college. Bambrey replaces Vernon Mummert, who had served as director of athletics since 1998. "I'm very pleased to announce these moves," said President White. "Tom Bambrey's vast experience and leadership as an administrator will serve us well in the Athletics Department, particularly as we welcome a number of new coaches to that department. At the same time, Mike Raters has a proven record of increasing responsibility and leadership at Wabash, and it's clear to me that he has the respect of the Wabash students, faculty, and staff." Bambrey, a 1968 graduate of Wabash, becomes only Wabash's 17th Director of Athletics at a college that began intercollegiate competition in 1866. Raters is a 1985 graduate of Wabash who earned a master's degree from Butler University. As an undergraduate at Wabash, Raters was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and was a four-year letterman on the baseball team. He becomes the sixth Dean of Students in Wabash College history.
- **ANNUAL FUND:** With the college's fiscal year ending June 30, it's not too late to make a gift. For those Indiana residents don't forget to register for your Wabash license plate. The DePauw University Tigers have challenged Wabash men and their families to a fund-raising battle. While the Monon Bell is not on the line, something much more important is — PRIDE. As part of a recent annual fund campaign, DePauw challenged its alumni to donate in record numbers in order to claim a victory over Wabash in alumni giving percentage. About 37 percent of alumni from both schools traditionally make annual gifts. No Wabash man ever turns down a challenge from a Dannie. Do your part today — we need 1,190 alumni to make a gift to the College in support of Wabash students by June 30 to reach 40 percent. In fact, if everyone from Wabash who has made a gift in the last four years would make a gift this year, we'd have more than 50 percent of our alumni on board. And we know DePauw can't top that. You can donate on line or call 1-877-743-4545.
- **Forbes Ranks Wabash 10th:** Wabash College has been recognized as one of the ten best liberal arts colleges in the nation by the Center for College Affordability & Productivity (CCAP). The report was released in the most recent issue of [*Forbes Magazine*](#). CCAP, a two year-old research organization, says it ranks colleges based on results. The CCAP contrasts its ratings with the complex methodology used by *U.S. News and World Report* in its annual *College Guide*. [Richard Vedder](#), a scholar who has studied higher education financing, wrote the piece for *Forbes*. Our measures begin with student evaluations posted on [Ratemyprofessors.com](#), a nine-year-old site with 6.8 million student-generated evaluations," says Vedder. "We look at college graduation rates (as does *U.S. News*). We also calculate the percent of students winning awards like Rhodes Scholarships and undergraduate Fulbright travel grants. For vocational success we turn to *Who's Who in America*. Though imperfect, it is the only comprehensive listing of professional achievement that includes undergraduate affiliations. "The biggest surprises come in our list of liberal arts colleges," writes Vedder. "Wabash doesn't make the top 50 on *U.S. News'* list but ranks tenth with CCAP because of the awards its students won and its showing in *Who's Who*.
Wabash was No. 10 on the CCAP list behind Williams College, Amherst, Wellesley, Swarthmore, Haverford, Washington and Lee, Barnard, and Whitman. Wabash's North Coast Athletic Conference

partner schools were also ranked highly: Oberlin College is 19th, Kenyon is 22nd, Ohio Wesleyan is 59th, and Denison is 74th in the rankings. Other Indiana Colleges include DePauw at 31st, Earlham at 37th, Hanover 73rd.

- Jim Dimos, president of the National Association of Wabash Men, has announced that Ted Grossnickle '73 has been re-elected as an Alumni Trustee and that James "Jim" Kilbane '84 has been elected to his first term on the Board of Trustees in balloting by the NAWM.

Grossnickle has served on the Board of Trustees since 2005. He is Chairman and CEO of Johnson, Grossnickle, and Associates (JGA) based in Greenwood, Indiana. JGA provides counsel to colleges, universities, and other non-profits in the central U.S. He has worked in fundraising and nonprofit management since 1976, serves on the boards of several organizations including the Center for Philanthropy, and is a frequent speaker and writer in the field. Prior to founding JGA, he served as vice president and interim president at Franklin College and worked at Northern Illinois University. From 1974-1976, Ted served as an Admissions Officer for Wabash and was campaign counsel for Wabash during the Campaign for Leadership (1996-2004). He serves the Board on its on the Admissions and Advancement Committee and the Committee on Trusteeship. He is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and served on the national board of the fraternity from 1996 until 2006, and as National Chairman from 2002-2006. He is a member of the 1832 Society. He and his wife Marcia have two children including a son, Doug, who is an alumnus.

Jim Kilbane is a Managing Director in the Institutional Investment Management Group at Mesriow Financial in Chicago. Born and raised in Chicago, he has served as President of the National Association of Wabash Men, as a Class Agent for the Class of 1984, and as President of the Wabash Club of Chicago. He is a member of the Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame. As an undergraduate Jim was an economics major, a four-year letterman on the Little Giant Football team, and active with the Sphinx Club and the Caveman Bouts – a charity boxing exhibition to benefit Special Olympics of Montgomery County. Jim was the recipient of the Dean Stephens Award for character and achievement his junior year and co-recipient of the Frank Hugh Sparks Award for all around student achievement his senior year.

- **Commencement**

The College awarded Bachelor's degrees to 186 students, including 33 *cum laude*, 28 *magna cum laude*, and 11 *summa cum laude*. The College awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees to Joe Barnette and Major General Earl L. "Punk" Johnson '38, and a Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Tim O'Brien, an important author whose novel *Going After Cacciato* received the National Book Award.

CLASS NOTES

- Congratulations to Joshua Kendrick who coached the Brownsburg Boys Basketball team to the Class 4A Indiana State Championship. It was one of the great endings that will go down in finals history. You can catch the last shot at http://media.wibc.com/av/video/ihsaa/brownsburg_gamewinner.asx
- Brian Samuels reports: This last year has been full of many exciting changes. I am now the Chief Resident in the Ophthalmology Department at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and I found out in December that I will be going to Duke University for my glaucoma fellowship. This is a two year fellowship that starts in July. The first year is primarily a clinical fellowship, and the second year will focus on establishing some independent research on which I can hopefully build an academic career.

More importantly, on March 25th I married Anna Kelly Woodson at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, Alabama. Anna will be transferring to North Carolina State University to finish her engineering degree while I am in my fellowship. We will be moving to Cary, North Carolina in late June and are excited about all of the new opportunities in front of us.



I will still have the same email address (briansamuels@uab.edu) until July. After that, I will update my contact information on the alumni page. Hope everyone is doing well.

Please provide any updates or pictures to Justin, Parker, or myself. Have a good summer!

Wabash Always Fights

Craig Miller