



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Office of Alumni Affairs
P.O. Box 352
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Web site: www.wabash.edu
Email us: alumni@wabash.edu
Phone: (765) 361-6369

Class of 1998

Class Agents

Beau Barrett
beau_barrett@ml.com
Kevin Gearheart
kevin.gearheart@drtavel.com
Jonathan Walsh
walshjd@hotmail.com

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Dear Class of 1998,

Greetings Gentleman! I hope this finds everyone doing well and in great health. We recently had a changing of the guard in terms of class agents so it has been a little while since the last class letter. We would like to thank Steve Mackin and Michael Vance for their support of Wabash as our previous Class Agents. Going forward, our new class agents will be Beau Barrett, Kevin Gearheart and Jonathan Walsh.

Support Wabash

As many of you have seen or heard, Wabash is not immune to the financial downturn that has been taking place. President Pat White noted that the College's endowment over the past 12 months or so has declined in value by approximately 30%. What this means is that Wabash could use our support by donating to the Annual Fund. I realize that now is not likely the best time to ask for donations or support as many of us have seen our own personal investments go down at alarming levels. However, I am asking that we donate what we can. It does not have to be a large sum or even a one-time payment (although the College would gladly accept that if it fits within your budget!). A gift of \$10, \$25 or \$50 helps out when we donate in numbers.

One option that I found very easy to use is to go on-line and make a recurring gift via my credit card (<https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift>). I pledge a certain amount that simply is charged to my card each month as a recurring fee. This allows me to do two things: (1) smooth out a larger payment over time and (2) donate without forgetting to write the check. I will be the first to say that part of the problem with donating is not that we don't want to support Wabash or that we don't have the funds to donate, rather we put it off and put it off. The on-line donation allows me to do a simple, one-time set up and know that I am giving back to Wabash a nominal sum each month that fits my budget and helps support the College.

As a class, we have a donation percentage of 14.75%, which is one of the lowest giving percentages among ALL classes. This is a drop from 19.37% in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. We need everyone to do whatever they can, no matter how small or large the donation to help make it count. There are numerous options to give so please help us Support Wabash!

Wabash College – Class of 1998 joins LinkedIn

Thanks to Jonathan Walsh, there is now a group on LinkedIn for Wabash College – Class of 1998. For anyone on LinkedIn, please do a quick search for this group and join to stay connected.

Classmate Updates:

Scott Benedict writes, “Elisabeth and I now reside in Zionsville. We have three beautiful children – Samuel (7), Annadel (5), and Avery (4). Sam has already committed to Wabash; Annadel and Avery have been influenced heavily by their mother and appear to be leaning toward DePauw. I came back to Indiana to work for St. Vincent Hospital in 2005, but have recently accepted a new position as VP of Finance/CFO of a Rehab Services company called Tx:Team. It is headquartered in Indiana with operations in Indiana, Maryland, Illinois, and South Carolina. It was tough to leave St. Vincent, but I am excited about this new opportunity. Overall, things are great. For anyone that would like to contact me, my e-mail is sbenedict98@gmail.com.”

Luttrell Levingston adds, “I am living in Berkley, Michigan with my wife and University of Michigan Law school classmate Christine Gale. Claire Miriam Levingston joined our family on January 22nd 2009. All three of us are doing well. After stints in private practice and at the Michigan Attorney General's office, I have been serving as Director of Legal Affairs for the Michigan Department of Human Services for the last two years.”

Jake Gilbert noted, “I am working at Wabash as the defensive coordinator of the football team (sorry about the DePauw game last year!). I have three future Little Giants, ages 5, 4, and 1.”

Ken Sitzman commented, “Celebrated 10 years of marriage in the fall, 2 daughter (Abby is 6, Ally is 5) and 1 son (Carter is 1 1/2). I am the vice president of an industrial contracting company in Indianapolis, Egenolf Industrial Group.”

Pete Logan, Stephanie, and Chase are doing well. They reside in the Bradenton/Sarasota area of Florida. If anyone is down in their neck of the woods, be sure to drop Pete a line.

Nick Barnecko received a doctorate in Counseling Psychology in December of '09 from New Mexico State University, and has a private practice and is an adjunct faculty member at NMSU.

Ben Lower writes, “I'm still living in Seattle and working as a Product Manager at Microsoft. Nothing too major except that my wife, Sarah, graduates from the University of Washington next month with her doctorate in nurse practice. We'll be heading to Maui for a couple weeks to celebrate.”

For those of you who want to send in updates to go out in the next class letter, you can e-mail us at wabashclassof98@gmail.com and we will be sure to include any information you want to share with the class.

Yours In Wabash,

Beau Barrett
Kevin Gearheart
Jonathan Walsh