

# WABASH '99

## Class Agent Letter

March 5, 2013

Gentlemen:

It's been far too long since I've churned out a letter, but no excuses. A bit of unexpected free time has come my way, so no time like the present...

The biggest news from campus since my last letter has to be the introduction of the new president of the college (okay, maybe it's the second biggest news behind the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive Bell victory, but the game was a bit ugly compared to the last few, so the new president gets top billing). Gregory D. Hess has been named the 16<sup>th</sup> president of Wabash College. Dr. Hess is currently the Dean of the Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Claremont McKenna College as well as a Professor of Economics. I have spoken with a couple staff members from Wabash who are very excited about Dr. Hess and his goals and plans for Wabash.

Our own Dr. **Derek Nelson** has been named the new director of the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program, succeeding the founding director, Dr. Raymond Williams. The Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program develops mid-career Indiana pastors by engaging them in theological reflection of complex contemporary social issues. After graduating from Wabash in 1999, Derek earned his Master of Divinity from Yale and his Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Prior to returning to Wabash in 2012, he was on faculty at Thiel College for six years. Derek also spoke at Chapel on February 21, 2013, with a talk titled "Unlearning and the Artichoke." Congratulations!

You should soon receive a ballot for elections to the NAWM Board and the Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees. There are several candidates for the NAWM Board from our time on campus: Scott Benedict, Deon Miles, and Chad Cleaver. We can vote for three candidates, but I would especially encourage you to vote for Chad Cleaver '00 (yes, it's shameless stumping for my pledge son, albeit unsolicited, but he has an impressive background in finance and, in my humble opinion, will be an excellent addition to the Board). You can actually vote online this year at <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/vote>

The 2013 Princeton Review once again rated Wabash a "Best Value College" and one of the "Best in the Midwest."

According to the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, Wabash professors rank among the best in the nation. Based on composite teaching scores from RateMyProfessors.com, Wabash came in at 21 on the list, which was recently published. Interestingly, there were four single-sex schools in the top 25, though Wabash was the only all-male institution.

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual WABASH (Wabash Alumni Benefitting And Serving Humanity) Day will be on October 5-6, 2013. Watch your email or check online ([www.wabash.edu/wabashday](http://www.wabash.edu/wabashday)) for projects in your area. If you're interested in starting a project in your area, please contact Ross Dillard at [ross.dillard@gmail.com](mailto:ross.dillard@gmail.com).

### **Admissions:**

In 2013, college recruitment is greatly changed from even ten years ago. The pool of students who are ready for college is smaller. Many top students and families begin their search by reviewing college surveys and college web sites. In Indiana, State Universities can give many top students a full scholarship and others a partial scholarship. Developers are building resort type apartments for students at big universities. Most small private colleges that compete with us have money for scholarships, immersion learning trips, internships, as well as updated student living and athletic facilities. It is a very competitive world.

Alumni referrals and help in recruiting are more important than ever.

Additionally, the Wabash Web site Alumni web page has a "refer a student" section, which shows ways of helping.

- a. On-line
- b. Attend a College Fair at a high school in your area
- c. Host or attend a recruitment function in your area
- d. Call students in your area or with career interest similar to yours
- e. Contact Chip Timmons at (765) 361-6054 or [timmonsc@wabash.edu](mailto:timmonsc@wabash.edu)

### **Annual Giving**

Thanks to the thirty classmates who have already made a gift to the College this fiscal year. If you haven't yet, the fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, and if you're not sure, you can check the online Honor Roll at <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/honorroll>

### **Class Notes:**

**Aman Brar** will be one of six featured speakers at the Indianapolis Business Journal Power Breakfast Series/Technology on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Aman is the President of Apparatus, an IT consulting firm in Indianapolis.

In keeping with the Class of '99 Chapel theme, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, **Kim King** gave a Chapel talk titled "Leaving and Coming Back: Exploring My Second Naïveté." After Wabash, Kim earned a Masters of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He served in various leadership roles in AME congregations in both

Atlanta and Chicago, but left pastoral ministry in 2006 in order to work in higher education. He was first hired at Wabash as the Assistant Director of Admissions in 2008, but left to direct the Office of Admission at the Chicago Theological Seminary in May of 2011. He returned to Wabash this past fall and is currently the Associate Director of Admissions.

**Marc and Kelli Welch** are the proud parents of a son, Aaron Joseph Welch, born January 28, 2013. He weighed 8 lb. 14 oz. and was 20.5 in long. Congratulations Marc and Kelli.

Yours in Wabash,

Craig Higgs  
[chiggs@siumed.edu](mailto:chiggs@siumed.edu)