

WABASH '99

Class Agent Letter

November 7, 2013

Gentlemen:

I hope this letter finds you well. I had the pleasure of getting back to campus for Homecoming earlier this fall and was pleased to see several of you there. The campus looked as inviting as it always does, but there were a few changes. Most notably, there is the new President, Dr. Gregory Hess. He spoke at our Class Agent meeting and has ambitious plans for the College. He was officially inaugurated on October 11th.

A hearty congratulations to **Ethan Olberding** on being awarded the Jeremy Wright young alumnus award (an honor given for the first time last year in honor of Jeremy Wright '96, who died while serving in Afghanistan in 2005) at the 2013 Alumni Chapel. Ethan continues his leadership in the Army, now attending the prestigious Naval War College. The transcript is included below for those who weren't able to attend.

Ethan A. Olberding, the men of Wabash are honored to celebrate your accomplishments and pay tribute to you with the NAWM's highest honor, the Alumni Award of Merit. This particular award is named after Jeremy Robert Wright, a member of the Class of 1996 who tragically lost his life while serving our country in Afghanistan. And it is fitting that you, Ethan, who have so many things in common with Jeremy, become just the second recipient of the award that bears his name. Like Jeremy, you are a member of Phi Gamma Delta and had a shining academic career at Wabash. A history major and political science and Spanish double minor, you were a star in the classroom — earning distinction on your comprehensive exams and graduating with highest honors, summa cum laude. While at Wabash, you played golf and received the George D. Lovell Award and the Phi Beta Kappa Prize, and as a Class Agent you were honored with the Robert Mitchum Award. The parallels with Jeremy Wright's life continue: Like him, you left a promising professional career with Braun Consulting in order to serve your country, and joined the United States Army as an officer. Now a Major and attending the highly selective Naval War College, you are one of a select few designated for much bigger leadership roles in our Army. You have served tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and served as commander of Delta Company, 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry Regiment, also known as the "Dealers." Your commitment to building — not destroying — communities through the training of community leaders and police officers, and personal conversations with citizens is worthy of our highest praise. You modeled for your men the importance of building and sustaining positive relationships with the villagers as a way forward to lasting peace, and helped execute the army's strategy to "clear, hold, and build." The respect you engender from your men runs deep because of your commitment to them, your family, and your faith. Your service to the United States Army has been filled with equal parts accomplishment and heartache; even as you rebuilt

long-suffering villages formerly occupied by the Taliban, snipers and improvised explosive devices took the lives of your men and wounded countless others, including yourself. We know that you received the Purple Heart from General David Patreus, but we also know you'd gladly return the medal in exchange for any of the men who fell while under your command. The National Association of Wabash Men chose to name its Young Alumnus Award for Jeremy Wright because of his intellect, service, and valor. Therefore, it gives this association tremendous pride to honor your intellect, service, and valor by naming you the 2013 winner of the Jeremy Robert Wright Young Alumnus Award. Ethan A. Olberding, you are Some Little Giant!

We also have a new coach on campus as President Hess recently appointed Brent Noble as the new head swimming and diving coach. Noble joins the Wabash program after serving for a year as the women's head swimming coach at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. He is a graduate of Terre Haute North, Eastern Illinois University (BS), and Indiana University (MS). Good luck to Coach Noble.

The 120th Monon Bell Game is November 16th. Currently, we're 8-0 (with a game against Wittenberg this weekend) and DePauw is 3-4. If you can't make it to the game in person, or just like the idea of watching the game in a warmer venue with a cold frosty beverage at this point in life, then check out the telecast party in your area:

<http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/mononbell/>

Reunion

It's hard to believe, but it's that time again. This spring will be our 15th reunion. As has become the tradition, we will celebrate with the Big Bash June 6-8, 2014 (you should have received a save-the-date card recently.) The weekend will include a fun run, golf outing, Chapel Sing, receptions/meals, Colloquium sessions, Tommy's Scarlet Nickel, and much more. The College is looking for a Colloquium speaker from our class, so if anyone is interested or knows someone who has an interesting topic, let me know. Also think about any faculty we might like to have at our reception and dinner on Saturday. If we get the same attendance as we had in 2009, we would tie the record for 15 year reunion attendance, so block the date and make plans to attend now. If we have a total of 71 members of our class donate to the Annual Fund by May 26, 2014, then the bar at our class reception will be on the college. Finally, a big thanks to Dave Coates for running the reunion planning, organization, and implementation for our class again.

Annual Fund

While I'm in thank you mode, thanks to everyone who donated to the Annual Fund last year. We'll need a few more to hit the Bar Challenge goal this year.

John Altman
Brandon Armstrong
Matt Buche
Gary Campbell
Mark Cevallos
Shawn Clawson
Dave Coates

Chris Cotterill
Eric Dieter
Jack Fenimore
John Festa
Chris Gegg
Shawn Gramby
Joe Gray

Jared Hall
Craig Higgs
Bill Hinz, M.D.
Bill Hoover
Zak Judd
Jake Kamenir
Kim King, II

Ryan Kingsley
Albert Kovacs
Gyanu Lamichhane
James Mann
Steve Mathys
Jim McCall
Sam McCrimmon
Kevin McCurdy
Jim McHugh, III

Jaime Morales
Derek Nelson
Jim Olberding
Josh Patty
Tony Reyes
Tom Sarver
Scott Schroeder
John Sowers
Chad Tabor

Rob Vass
Robert Walker
Marc Welch
Ben Whitehouse
Matt Whitmire
Alex Will
Ryan Will

Admissions

Don't forget that this is a very important time of year to make referrals. You can use the gray cards that were recently sent out or go to <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer>

Class Notes

David Bowen is founder and CEO of Market Maker 4 (MM4)

<http://www.mm4.com/about-us.php>, which has proven a successful Chicago e-sourcing firm — and last week MM4 was recently by Xchanging plc, a UK-based outsourcing service. Founded in 2011, MM4 now has offices in Chicago, London and Dubai. Prior to founding MM4, Dave held a variety of senior leadership roles at TradingPartners, PST International, and for uBid.com. Dave also finds time to share his professional expertise with Wabash students as a member of the evaluation panel for the business plan portion of the Wabash summer Business Immersion Program. This past summer Dave also hosted a Wabash student intern, and then hired two students for a part-time internship in the fall semester.

Keep sending your updates via email or the alumni website so I can keep these letters interesting.

Yours in Wabash,

Craig Higgs
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