



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

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**Class of 2004**

### Class Agents

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### **Dear Friends:**

Between now and our reunion during [Big Bash – June 5-7, 2009](#) – Mark and I will use our letters to highlight what our classmates have been doing. If you want us to hack into someone's life, nominate them by sending us an e-mail. (Or, just answer the questions and send us the answers.) These classmate updates are important – and we are using our 5<sup>th</sup> reunion as an occasion to reconnect.

If you read our last year, we suggested the Class of 2004 participate in our 5 after 5 challenge. We want each classmate to have engaged with Wabash in 5 ways in the years since graduation: send a class note, make an annual gift, assist admissions, assist career services, and attend an on- or off-campus Wabash event. Below you will see updates from 4 of our classmates, including a brief Q&A with Tony Warren and Ethan Kuhn. Who do you want to hear from next?



### **We're Ranked 12<sup>th</sup>**

Forbes.com ranked Wabash College America's 12th best college (out of 569 undergraduate institutions). The 12th spot in the first-ever *Forbes* ranking of America's Best Colleges puts Wabash ahead of not only all other Indiana institutions but also above all other "peer institutions" in the Midwest.

### **Dean Warner? Yes!**

History Professor Rick Warner deferred his sabbatical leave in order to assume the duties of Acting Associate Dean of Students.

### **The Wabash College Annual Fund**

Each year hundreds of alumni support Wabash students by making a gift to the Annual Fund, which play an important part in supporting the College's mission and current students' opportunities. [Join](#) our 30+ classmates who have made gifts.

### **New Athletic Facilities**

Have you seen the plans for new athletic fields at Wabash? See the photos here:

<http://www.wabash.edu/news/6189>

## Classmate Updates

We are profiling the lives of Tony Warren and Ethan Kuhn – but please suggest other classmates for our next letter!

### Tony Warren

Montana Abolition Coalition | Helena, MT

Basically I organize public education and advocacy to eliminate the death penalty in Montana.



### Ethan Kuhn

United States Army | Fort Riley, KS

I am an intelligence analyst / non-commissioned officer. With any luck and skill, I will be starting Teach for America in Indianapolis in 2009.



### What one thing do you miss most about Wabash?

The daily interactions with friends that almost always ensured there was never a dull moment.

The camaraderie and classroom discussions. Don't get me wrong - there is camaraderie in the Army, but it's not the same. The friendships in the Army, much like a lot of other jobs, is hierarchical. You have your peers and boss and their bosses all working towards a common goal; but, in the end, that's what it is - work. Wabash was more of a group of friends and classmates learning and growing together, regardless of the discipline. That learning and exploratory aspect of Wabash fundamentally changes the dynamics of the relationships you have with your peers - dynamics I have with a few of my coworkers, but not as many. Furthermore, the Army is a work, mission-oriented type of place. The discussions in the free-spirited structure of

	academia are bound to be more diverse and multi-faceted. Let's face it, no one in the Army - as it pertains to work - really cares about Nietzsche or Hemingway.
<b>What is one moment you think of often from your college days?</b>	
How did I not kill Alex Barefoot for cutting off my sideburns while I was asleep my freshmen year?	I think of the fantastic discussions I had in class, whether it was chemistry, music fundamentals, English, or philosophy. My good friends were all in different fields of study and, no matter which class we were taking or talking about, we could bring it back to a common element or theme that we could all approach it from and understand. It's a very "liberal arts" quality that I have been unable to regularly duplicate.
<b>How did (or didn't) Wabash prepare you for what your life is today?</b>	
My Wabash experience has provided me with the confidence, skills and persistence necessary to overcome various obstacles and always strive for improvement in all aspects of my life.	When I joined the service, I knew virtually nothing about how the Army worked. Thanks to Wabash's preparation, I was able to adapt to the very different and demanding life-style the Army offered, excel in my training as an Intelligence Analyst, and blend that excellence with Wabash's instilled leadership to become promoted to not only a Buck Sergeant last year, but hopefully a Staff Sergeant in the next couple of months. (All of this in less than four years.)
<b>What's the craziest thing that has happened since graduating?</b>	
There are quite a few "things" I could list but I'm afraid they wouldn't make it past the editing desk for this publication. (I'm sad to report I'm not much of a picture guy but found a couple on my computer from when I was in Central America. Talk about a kick ass trip. I have some crazy stories from that one, but they would be best told over a couple beers.)	I wouldn't call it crazy, but getting married to my lovely wife, Laura, in July of 2007 was a pretty monumental happening. (She and I met through her involvement in the University of Indy's choir and my involvement in the Wabash College Glee Club.) As far as crazy goes, the wildest thing that has happened - minus boot camp and all the military training - was going to Amman, Jordan this past February/March for training at their Peaceful Operations Training Center. Not only did I get a chance to see many, many Biblically historical sites, but I was able to experience a culture that is perceived as being radically different from my own. (In reality, the differences are there, but not nearly as unbridgeable and all-together foreign as many might think.)
<b>If you could invite one professor to dinner, who would you invite and what would you serve?</b>	

If you could invite one professor to dinner, who would you invite and what would you serve?  
Sorry – I can't cut it down to one. I would invite Dr. Blix and Dr. Warner over for t bone steaks & beer. I know this lacks any sense of creativity but I am a simpleton when it comes to food.

I would invite Dr. Herzog to dinner. While he and I never had anything against each other, we weren't especially close. However, my current profession piques a curiosity in his military experiences that I could not have really understood five or six years ago. While our respective wars and militaries are different, I feel like I could learn much about life, the military, and literature from him. As a joke, I would serve an MRE (Meal, Read-to-Eat). After being booted off stage, I think I would serve up whatever could be cooked on a grill (steak, vegetables, corn) and a few beers.

### More classmate updates:

Brian Clem ([Clem.brian@gmail.com](mailto:Clem.brian@gmail.com)) writes:

“My wife Allison and I recently moved to Palo Alto, CA where this fall I will begin the MBA program at Stanford University. The weather here is perfect every day - and we're happy to share our 500 sq ft apartment with anyone who'd like to visit! We live on campus at 119 Quillen Court, Apt 917, Stanford, CA 94305.”

Troy Stemen ([troystemen@gmail.com](mailto:troystemen@gmail.com)) shares:

“It's been a long while since I've updated you (and our class) on my life here's the timeline for the last few months:

Halloween 07- Get married to Liz DeLise (civil ceremony)

December 07- Graduate from Vanderbilt University with Master's in Theological Studies

January 23, 2008- Daughter Sophia Rose born @ Baptist Hospital in Nashville, TN

April 19, 2008- Celebrated Sacrament of Holy Matrimony with Liz at St. Mary's of the Assumption in Dedham, MA outside Boston. Josh Nicholson and Chad Hobson were ushers. A host of Wallies such as Hank Leach, John Morgan, and Andy Satchwell '05 attended as well.

May 2008- Move to Williamsburg, VA after Liz gets hired as Aquatics Director at the R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA

July 1, 2008- Hired as Director of Youth Ministry at Saint Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg

As you can tell I am really busy with family, work at the Church, and volunteering at the YMCA for Liz. She has me lifeguarding, teaching swim lessons, and in the fall I'll be an assistant coach on the swim team. I also help out in the Wellness Department at the Y. Our address is 106 N Cove Road Williamsburg, VA 23188, phone is 757-848-6160.”

We look forward to hearing from more classmates in the near future.

In Wabash,

Jacob and Mark