



Pactoracles
Class Agent's Letter For The Wabash College Class of 1971
June 10, 2008



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Classmates Johnson, Dill To Receive Awards

Classmate Brad Johnson will receive the Alumni Award Of Merit, the highest award given by the National Association of Wabash Men, and Mike Dill will become an Admissions Fellow. They will receive their awards at Homecoming Chapel, October 4, 2008.

Brad has been under the radar for many years for his service to his alma mater. He has been an active board member of the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men and was its president in 2005. He has been active in the Wabash College Moot Court from early on. He has received from the students the Richard O. Ristine Award for his help to support students who are interested in careers in law. He has recruited students to Wabash, and served (and this is really ironic), as a tough union negotiator for Opportunities To Learn About Business. He has served as an adviser to Tau Kappa Epsilon and has headed up its capital campaign to build a new TKE house. Although not a factor in the award, he did score, at the age of 58, two points to help TKE alumni defeat the undergrads in a basketball game this past April.

Mike Dill has recruited students to Wabash for decades. I am not making fun of his age but admiring his devotion. He is legendary. Once he successfully recruited a student when he was talking to a stranger on an airplane. He has recruited several students

from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and that is no easy feat. He has earned and deserves the NAWM's Admissions Fellows Award.

Let's follow Mike's lead. Let's refer students to Wabash. It means a lot to the students, to the college, and to moms and dads. We can refer via a letter to Wabash Admissions, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or wabash.edu/alumni/alumni/refer. Remember that if we endorse an application, it waives the student's application fee. Contact me with any question or assistance for making a referral.

Quiz

There was no winner to the quiz in the last edition of *Pactoracles*. No one correctly named the two classmates in military uniforms about 35 years ago. They were Mike Lowe on the left, and Tom Runge on the right. One person that Lowe was Runge, however. Fortunately, that person was neither Lowe nor Runge.

Try this one. Which fraternity at Wabash College was first founded and where was it founded?

With Our Classmates...

Steve Covey reports: “I moved to St. Augustine, Florida in 2003 to enjoy sunny, warm weather (the sun is that warm bright yellow thing seen occasionally in the sky of Indiana). Also blue skies (look straight up on a cold, clear day). That color is called “blue”, and down here we see that from horizon to horizon most days). The weather is NOT perfect down here. Often in January and February we have frost delays on the golf course, sometimes as long as two hours.

I’ve been very happily married since 1980 to Doris from Dayton. No kids.

I now hope to follow in the footsteps of Dan Simmons (Wabash '70) as a highly successful science fiction writer, although he was an English major... I remember Dan as a brooding, trenchcoat wearing guy around campus. I could see him competing with Steven King, but science fiction? Me, I was a genuine Physics nerd (one of the four in our class). I have some hope. That other Stephen Covey (the one that parlayed my good name into millions of dollars) published his first book at the age of 57; I may not be over the hill, yet...

When I finally publish my first novel, I’ll let you know.”

Brad Johnson, defeating 15 challengers, was elected in May to represent his district at the Indiana State Republican Convention, June 1, 2008.

Skip Long’s son Bobby Long is a junior at Grinnell College in Iowa. He is majoring in sociology with a minor in history. He averaged 22 points a game for the Grinnell basketball team and finished second in three-point shots made per game in Division III nationally last season. He was an All Conference selection in the Midwest Conference. Grinnell lead NCAA Division III in scoring with 107.9 points per game, in three-point shots made per game with 19.3, and steals per game at 16.0.

Allen Matthews reports: “As you know, since 2002, I've been working with the Center for Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Vermont. Sustainable Agriculture practices balance the conservation of natural resources, community responsibility and economic profitability for farms across the world. I primarily develop business plans focused on value-added products, diversification, conservation and generational transfer/ land conservation. It's been a great experience, and they've even gotten me to go to Europe on several occasions working on environmental sustainability projects in Portugal, Macedonia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and even Lithuania. Hard to believe I didn't figure out how to travel like this when I was younger!”

Alvin McAlfresh returned to campus for the Big Bash, June 6-7, 2008. I think we met for the first time. I hope to meet all of my classmates some day.

Steve McDaniel reports: “As far as my life is going, I have recently made some big changes. After 35 years in the health and disability insurance business and 25 years as in-house attorney for insurance companies, I left the corporate world last Fall. I began my career change by goofing off for a couple of months and with a trip to Poland for my niece's wedding. Subsequently, I decided to open a small general civil law practice here in DuPage County (west suburbs of Chicago). At the present time, I am handling a variety of general civil matters, but my long term plan is to develop a law practice focusing on civil mediation. So far, it seems like a good move. I do not miss the daily commute during rush hour or 85,000 miles per year of air travel on business trips. I must admit that I do miss a regular paycheck, but I now have control of my schedule and my sanity.”

Tom and Carol Runge celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary, June 7. That means that Tom has been married 2/3 of his life. Is there another classmate who has been married for a longer time?

News From Campus...

Dr. David Hadley, professor of political science, will be the “Last Professor Standing” of all of the faculty who taught us. **Dr. Phil Mikesell** has somewhat retired but will teach through the end of the fall semester. **Vina Mikesell**, Phil’s wife, is retiring as “college calligrapher.” She has written the name of graduating students on their diplomas for 27 years.

Dr. Hall Peebles and **Dr. Vic Powell** shared stories and memories at the recent Big Bash, June 6. Vic came to Wabash from Dartmouth College in 1947, and few of our class were born then. He planned to stay only a few years. Hall Peebles came from being a student at Yale. Together, they have about 90 years at the college. Why did they stay? They agreed it was the people.

Tom Bambrly '68 has become the new athletic director. He had been dean of students. He was a track star at Wabash, and he has maintained a strong connection with Wabash athletics during his tenure as dean. He holds a Ph.D in English, and there cannot be too many athletic directors with that distinction.

Mike Raters '85 replaces Tom as Dean of Students. Mike has been Tom’s assistant for four years. He has a masters from Butler University. Prior to Wabash, he taught and coached several sports at Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis. He played sports at Wabash and was a fraternity president. Current students have high respect for Mike.

Tau Kappa Epsilon and **Delta Tau Delta**, next door neighbors, are planning dedication ceremonies on September 20. TKE will dedicate its new chapter house at the site of the old Sigma Chi house. The Delts will dedicate their remodeled house.

Kappa Sigma will live in the old Phi Gamma Delta house next year while their new house will be built on the site of their current house.

Class of 1968 had a huge reunion at Big Bash, June 6-7. More than 80 fellows returned, and I saw two fraternity brothers whom I had not seen in 40 years. They have set a high bar for us, but the only bar that really frustrates us is a closed bar.

Classmate Vic Ransom Helped To Bring Coaching Legend To Wabash College

Rob Johnson has retired after 37 years as the Wabash track coach. No one can question that he has been one of the greatest coaches and mentors in the history of Wabash College. About 400 former athletics and other friends gathered for a farewell celebration in April. I recently learned from a *Bachelor* article that he came to Wabash by the inspiration of our classmate **Vic Ransom**.

J. Owen Huntsman had announced his retirement before we graduated in 1971. Vic was pressuring the school to interview some African American coaches for the new position. Both Vic and Rob had roots in New Jersey. In response to Vic’s efforts, a Wabash dean met Rob in New York about the position. Rob had some hesitation. “Initially, I thought I was coming to redneck Indiana,” Johnson said. “I was a black man in a mixed race marriage, and I thought ‘these guys aren’t going to hire me,’ but we decided to fly out anyway.”

“The biggest honor is when people mistake me for a Wabash graduate,” Johnson said. “I couldn’t have gotten in here with a shoehorn, and I certainly wouldn’t have made it out of here. But if I represent Wabash that well, that’s a great honor to me.”

Thanks For Supporting The Annual Fund

Our class contributed at a rate just under 40% last year. Hopefully we will reach the elusive 50% this fiscal year, ending on June 30. Thanks to each classmate who has contributed so far. This list is current through June 9, 2008. Please make a contribution before June 30 to support our college and our class. We can contribute online at www.wabash.edu/alumni/eqift or by mail at P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Please inform me of any college nicknames that I should add for your friends or you.

Skip Adams	Cloyce Hedge	Robert Olson
Greg Allen	Trey Holland	Jon Pactor
Jerry Anderson	John "Hubie" Hubert	Scott Parker
Jim Ball	Ron Israel	Garrett Paul
Bob Bogigian	Richard Jaffke	Jim Peters
Jerry Bowman	Tom Jennings	Dave Pfanschmidt
Bruce Bradway	Clark Johnson	Larry Phelps
Jim Bromley	Brad Johnson	Ed Pitkin
John Brown	Bruce Julian	Greg Rasmussen
Rufus Burton	Jim Kamplain	Jim Rendel
Kai Chin	Sam Kazdan	Phil Rifner
Ed Corley	Steve Kennedy	Carl Royal
Russell Dart	Allen Kepchar	Tom Runge
Mike Dill	Gene Kepple	Bill Rydell
Andy Dziubinskyj	Sam Kirtley	John Ryder
Jeff D. Eaton	Bill Kovacs	Dave Schreiber
Ron Flynn	Dean Lammering	Orlo Shoop
Dave Gray	John Lathrop	Jim Smith
Rick Gregory	Mike Lemon	Charles Steen
Fred Haase	Skip Long	John Street
Gary Hansen	Dave Main	Kurt Underschuetz
Bob Harlan	Allen "Polar Bear" Matthews	Steve Weliever
Bill Hausmann	Alex Miller	Steve Wildman
Pete Hawley	Richard Morford	Tom Williams
Gordon Hayes	Keith Nelson	Andy Young

Ed McLean, Steve Charles Named Honorary Alumni

Dr Edward B. McLean, who taught political science from 1968 until 2003, and Steve Charles, editor of the *Wabash Magazine*, will become honorary alumni at the Homecoming Chapel, October 4.

No list of great political science professors at Wabash would be complete without Dr. McLean's name on it. Indeed, no list of great professors at Wabash would be complete without him.

While Ed's political view was conservative, he has been respected as a fair, challenging, and devoted professor by students regardless of their political views. While still a professor, he enrolled, and despite being a classmate of Skip Adams, graduated from Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis. He became a part-time prosecutor in Montgomery County, and his constitutional law class was renowned.

Steve Charles, who came to Wabash in 1995, is not just the editor of the *Wabash Magazine*. He is a passionate voice for Wabash College and a mentor to students who are interested in journalism. The magazine brings us stories about and by our brothers and others of the Wabash family, helping to keep the Wabash spirit strong and contagious.

What do both Ed and Steve have in common? Each has been an employee of Wabash College, and each has gone way beyond his job description. They have a Wabash heart and soul of a Wabash alumnus, and the NAWM has rightly recognized them.

Let Wabash Always Fight

The following is the commencement address of Chris Geggie '08, which he provided to me with permission to share it with you. This is his draft, and I made only a few editing changes, and it does not include changes he made when he delivered it.

Hello and welcome to the 170th commencement. I would like to thank our president, Pat White, our Deans and faculty, our friends and family, and my graduating Wabash Brothers for a wonderful four years. When I first got the e-mail from Chris Duff about meeting with Dean Philips, my heart jumped because there are generally two reasons why a student would have to meet with him: something very good or something very bad. Immediately I thought, "Great what did I do now?" He left John and me hang a little while he was explaining why we were called into his office, and when he announced his true motives—to invite us to speak at commencement-- we were both shocked and relieved.

I know little to nothing about the whole selection process except for what I heard in that office. He told John that he was selected for a number of reasons including the fact Dean Philips had also heard him speak at the Fiji house. He then turned to me and said "I don't think I've ever heard you speak [publicly] but I have read your e-mail [about the zombies]." I hope that there was more involved in that discussion. Thank you for the consideration and the honor. Now I shall dive into the body of my commencement address but worry not Ladies and Gentlemen of Wabash College. I am NOT a lawyer, therefore I will be brief.

In the editorial I recently wrote in the *Bachelor*, I said, and firmly still believe, that heretofore Wabash has fought over the stupidest things; this happens on every campus. At Purdue, at Harvard, at Yale, at USC, at that little school to the south whose mascot may or may not be avian, everywhere. But it shouldn't happen here. We're better than that, and because we're better than that we can focus our energies to fight for our futures and our children's futures.

Andre Gide, a French author, philosopher, and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1947, once called upon people to "work and struggle and never accept an evil you can change." As a Wabash family, we, too, are

challenged to follow Andre Gide's call because of who we are. Who we are ultimately comes from why we are. Wabash College arose from the primordial forests of western Indiana to educate men in every capacity according to the wants and needs of the country.

We do so much here at Wabash, but in our time here I see that we're focused too much on ourselves... Don't get me wrong, this is good but at the end of the day can you respond affirmatively when you ask yourself, "have I done my daily good deed to make my community a better place for our children?" We do so much here at Wabash, but we can do much more.

I am going to ask a series of questions, which is by no means exhaustive, and for all of you that can honestly answer "yes," please stand and remain standing.

Do you volunteer as a Scout leader, for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, College Mentors, or for any other youth group?
Do you volunteer with the Special Olympics?

Do you Relay for Riley?

Have you helped out at the Women's shelter?

Do you volunteer at the Red Cross?

Do you protect our freedoms a member of our Armed Forces, as a firefighter, or as a police officer?

Are you tending our sick and wounded as a doctor or nurse or an EMT?

Do you teach or tutor students at your local schools?

Do you sit on your library's board?

How about the School board? (At this point, well more than half the class was standing.)

For those of you who answered "Yes, I do."

Thank you for your service. Let's give them some applause. Thank you, you may be seated.

We do a lot, but we can do more.

-At a time when gas prices are rising so much that people genuinely have to choose between *(continued on next page)*

Let Wabash Always Fight

(continued from prior page)

getting gas to go to work or buying food for their family,

-at a time when various illicit substances are circulating in our schools,

-at a time when about half of students attending IPS high schools graduate,

-at a time when there are children showing up at their school's lunch line to have their "Happy Meal" that isn't happy because it's from McDonalds, but "Happy" because it might be their only meal of the day,

-at a time when our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, our aunts and uncles, our boyfriends and girlfriends, our husbands and wives are putting their lives on the line for basic human freedoms in Iraq and Afghanistan,

how often do we exercise our mission statement to think critically, to act responsibly, to lead effectively, and to live humanely to make our world a better place, to rise to the wants and needs of our community, of our country, of our world, not for us but for our children?

This year we have five guys going into Teach For America, three going to the Peace Corps, a huge number are interning to serve the community in various capacities at hospitals, at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, and as special needs counselors, and going to grad schools in various professions that will help our community. But it's not enough. We can and must do more.

Who are we? We are Wabash. Why are we? Why do we exist? To answer the wants and needs of our community, of our country, of our world. And if we can't do that, if we can't look beyond our ivory towers, as spectacular and beautiful as our combined academic efforts have made them, if we can't rise to those wants and needs, then we do not deserve the legacy of Wabash's founding fathers. The legacy that Edmund Hovey, Elihu Baldwin, and Caleb Mills, laid out for us.

Yes we do have service projects in our Freshmen Retreats, we do have our Wabash Day, we do have annual service events on campus, but by and large once those events are done, there is little follow up service. We don't

establish those ties with our community, and if we continue to cloister ourselves, we lose a great part of what makes Wabash College Wabash College: Crawfordsville. We shouldn't do this because Crawfordsville welcomed us here, not because we interact with our community and rely on them every day, not because our fate as an institution is tied to the fate of this community, but because it is our inherent debt to society, because it is our duty as citizens of this community, because it is our call, our bound and pledged obligation to Wabash College, to Crawfordsville, to Indiana, to our great country, and to our fellow man and woman and child to educate ourselves to address the wants and needs of the world...

If we can't do that then we have failed in our journey in the primordial forests of Western Indiana. We've done a lot, but we can do so much more. It will not be easy, but it will be worth it. The title of my address is "Let Wabash Always Fight!" In the final benediction/caveat of that editorial I said "If Wabash Always fights, may she fight over things that matter." You-- students, faculty, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, uncles, and aunts-- you all can make a difference even with a minimal time commitment. You can spend five minutes on freerice.com and improve your vocabulary while providing a meal for those who need it; you can grow your hair out and donate it to Locks of Love; you can volunteer an hour a week at your library at a literacy program; or you can spend an hour at the Boys' and Girl's club or at a retirement home. Every little bit helps. We're Little Giants. We might be little because of the size of our community but we are Giants because of the impact that we can and do have.

We can make that difference because of our proven drive and determination, we can make that difference because of who we are....

Who are we? [Wabash!](The class of 2008 shouts Wabash)

Who are we? [Wabash!] (another shout)

Who are we? [Wabash!] (another shout)

Don't you ever forget that, and the power and responsibilities that it entails. Men of the class of 2008, thank you for your time. And for truth, for friendship, for justice, and for learning, Let Wabash Always Fight. Thank you.

The Aftermath

During Chris Geggie's delivery of his commencement speech, he honored me with a small joke that was not in the prepared text. I wrote him to thank and congratulate him. I also asked him whether he would be interested in helping on Wabash Day, which stands for **W**abash **A**lumni **B**enefiting **A**nd **S**erving **H**umanity—the NAWM's national day of alumni community service. He wrote back: "As for the Wabash Day, I would be rather hypocritical if I declined. You can count on me to be there. In fact, you can count on my participation in many things pertaining to Wabash..."

After I learned that he was going to be in Indianapolis for Teach For America, I appointed him to the Indianapolis Wabash Day Committee. I look forward to working with this young alum, and I encourage you to breathe in some of Chris' spirit and help on Wabash Day in your communities on October 11 and 12. We are planning more than 40 venues around the country, and I hope that some of you will step up and lead some of them in your communities. Contact me about Wabash Day.

Hold Your Retreat On Campus At The Incredible Trippet Hall

Hold your firm's retreat at Wabash College. You will be as surprised as I was to see how wonderful the facilities are at Trippet Hall, a meeting and conference center, pictured to the right

The facility has 18 rooms. I stayed in one in May. The rooms are first class. Each suite contains a queen or king-sized bed, combination shower and bath, lounge chair, desk, and luxurious amenities. There is a broadband Internet connection in each suite, as well as wireless internet connection throughout the building in the public spaces. They have many other amenities.

The food is a good.

There is also a hub and lounge, which can be stocked with refreshments, and is popular for casual conversation, cards, or a movie. I had some good conversations there.

Freshly brewed coffee was waiting for me in the morning, too. It will be worth your

while to look into the possibility of holding an event on campus.

For more information, contact Bill Doemel at the college or trippet@wabash.edu.



Thanks for reading *Pactoracles*. It is my honor to serve the Class of 1971. Please contact me with any news, comments, and questions.

Kind Regards

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