



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1987

Class Agents

Jim Amidon

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Greetings Men in the Class of 1987,

It's a cold, but sunny day here in Crawfordsville. The campus is lit and wreathed for the season — just in time for the fresh blanket of snow we received last night. I'll tell you — and you may recall from memory — there really is nothing quite like a stroll on the snow-covered mall and gazing up at the lighted stars hanging from the Chapel.

It's been an oftentimes sad fall on the Wabash campus. Most recently, longtime professor **Bill Placher** passed away, apparently of a heart attack. Professor Placher was the LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Wabash, author of 13 books, and perhaps the finest teacher ever to lead a Wabash classroom. Since his death, I have heard from literally hundreds of Wabash alumni, many of who shared their favorite stories. The stories have ranged from how Bill would cock his head in such a way when pondering an idea to his infectious laugh. Mostly, though, friends have written and called to say what a profound impact Professor Placher had on their lives, as students and human beings. You can find a tribute on the Wabash home page and in the online edition of the *Bachelor*. There will also be coverage of the Wabash Memorial Service on the College's website by December 9th.

Here's some news from our classmates:

Ron Recinto, Detroit

At the time of my last letter, it was an “any day now” situation for Ron and his wife, Teresa. Not long after, I got the following: Jim — It's a girl... Elena Rose Recinto was born Sunday, Sept. 28 at 1:24 p.m. weighing 6 lbs. 9.6 oz and 20 inches long. (One of our doctors was Evan Theoharis, a Delt, who was in our incoming Class of 87, but left after two years.) Elena seems healthy and happy. Teresa (Butler 93 grad) did great. Thanks to all Phi Delt and Wallys for all the well wishes, thoughts, prayers... we'll keep you posted.



Shawn Burton, MD — Naperville, IL

Shawn called me out of the blue — hadn't talked to him in at least a decade — saying that he always thinks about calling and finally just picked up the phone and did. We had a great talk, too. Shawn is an anesthesiologist at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Illinois. He's there in a group of about 30 anesthesiologists, which spreads the call time around and allows for the docs to carefully schedule time away. Shawn and Michele have an 11 year-old son, Jeremy, and seven year-old daughter, Alexandra. Shawn's been in his current practice for about 12 years after spending some time at the University of Chicago and the Texas Heart Hospital. He lives in the burb of Riverside and can be reached by email at sburton2@mac.com.

B. Allen Schultz — New York City

The economy is really tough right now, especially for small non-profits. Allen is the executive director of the Astoria Music Society, which NYC Mayor Bloomberg has called “one of New York’s greatest artistic institutions.” Allen is working on a fund-raising drive for the Society. If you’re interested in helping out, contact him directly (baschulz@verizon.net) and he can tell you more about the organization’s needs. Visit the very cool website to learn about Allen’s exciting work: <http://www.astoriamusic.org/>

Ben Jackson, Indianapolis and the World

Ben Jackson is leading his family’s company, the successful Hoosier Gasket Company. Ben wrote Ken Ogorek (thanks, Ken!) with the following update: KO! Sorry this is so late. I’ve been out of the country in areas without email access. Anyway, I’m settled nicely into a quiet (well, for me anyway) life on Geist with my new son, Blake "Bump" Anthony, and my very lovely and patient wife Sandra, and our two dogs, Frank (Dachshund) and Sally (German Shepherd). We’ve expanded manufacturing into Ningbo, China, with sales and engineering offices in Shanghai, through a new company I own as a wholly foreign owned business enterprise called "Hoosier Gasket Ningbo Corporation Limited." We have also established a business enterprise in Russia, so my passport is filling up quickly! Write to Ben at bjackson@hoosiergasket.com

I’ve used my colleagues in the Advancement Office to mine the following information:

Von Wright, Marietta, GA

Von is a Vice President for AT&T in Information Technology Strategy and Planning. After Wabash, Von got his MBA at Cornell. He has been with AT&T for six years and after overseeing planning for the mobile business, he was recently given responsibilities for the wired service, too. He oversees the managers of various groups within AT&T. Von has a daughter at Kennesaw State and a son who is a high school senior.

Bob Hussle, Atlanta, GA

Bob is an attorney in the firm of Rogers and Hardin in Atlanta.

Dave Nisius, Des Plaines, IL

Dave is a Senior Engineering Manager with Varian Medical Systems. His division researches and produces custom imaging equipment to test structural integrity of objects and imaging for security like inspecting shipping crates and semi trailers.

More News from Wabash

The football team charged through its conference season undefeated and won the league championship for a fourth straight year. For the second straight year, they advanced into the playoffs — a feat never before accomplished in Wabash history. The team finished 10-2 after a playoff win at Case Western and a home loss to a powerful Wheaton team. (Herrmann needs to send us some of those West Suburb players.) *I was working a Wabash basketball game the day the football team played at Case Western, but got periodic updates from **Dr. Keith Baird**, our old campus doctor, who was in the Chadwick Court lobby listening to the football game on headset. Already hard of hearing AND wearing headphones, Dr. Baird was able to give the entire basketball crowd scoring updates during the football game as he “whispered” them to me.*

Also in sports, sophomore **Seth Einterz** (Bob’s son and yes, they’re all related) advanced to the National Championships in cross country. Seth is a real slouch — he’s the MVP in cross country, is active in his fraternity, acts in Wabash theater productions, and has something like a 4.0 GPA. He’s an exemplary Wabash man — and interestingly, while a physics major, his favorite professor and mentor was Bill Placher. Gotta love the liberal arts where a kid can talk intelligently about nanoparticles and Nietzsche!

You political science jocks and lawyers will be interested in knowing that **Professor Phil Mikesell** is about to teach his last class. He’ll be easing into retirement after this fall semester, but will stick around to do some research for the Dean until the spring. Phil has inspired hundreds of Wabash men to travel internationally, and has been responsible for helping to internationalize our curriculum. His research for the Dean will be to study the impact international travel experiences have on our students, whether the

travel is the traditional semester abroad or the 10-day Immersion Learning trips so common at Wabash today.

What else is new at Wabash? Well, you economics majors will be thrilled to know that the College will soon launch a co-curricular Business Leadership Program. The program, which is designed to better prepare Wabash men for careers in business (while at the same time continuing the focus on economics and the liberal arts), is partially funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. Students will take a fairly similar course load for an economics major, with some communications courses tossed in. They'll participate in College-funded internships and externships, networking events, and a speaker series. The new program builds on a variety of temporary initiatives the College has undertaken in the last five years or so, and should be exciting for prospective students, current students, and alumni.

Did you know that Wabash's Schroeder Center for Career Development is the nation's third-ranked career center? Third! Talk about a huge difference since our time at Wabash! Under the direction of Scott Crawford, the Schroeder Center is dynamic and innovative. We now have an LSAT Boot Camp, which is wildly popular and already showing great results in helping our students score higher on the standardized test. We've had a number of networking events for pre-med students, and many of our pre-meds now have terrific job shadowing opportunities with Wabash docs. And the number of recruiters that come to campus is increasing every year. Crawford's focus is to get Wabash guys thinking about preparing for their careers — what ever they may be — as freshmen and sophomores. Turns out that there are many things that look better on a resume than mowing lawns in the summer. These days, most of our students complete two or three summer internships before graduation.

Crawford is constantly looking for alumni who can help our current students. Becoming a career mentor requires no money and very little of your time, but is so valuable to Wabash students. The office is looking for mentors in business, law, medicine, education, etc. In short, if you want to help out Wabash students as they prepare for their careers after college, shoot Scott an email at (crawfors@wabash.edu) or call him at (765) 361-6355).

Many of you have heard the tragic news that a Wabash freshman died in October. The death from alcohol poisoning led to an investigation. The College concluded that investigation and determined a need to revoke recognition of the Beta Psi chapter of Delta Tau Delta. While few, if any, details of the investigation are available, I trust that the administrators made the correct decision, and it is my hope that Delta will one day soon recolonize and resume its proud tradition on the Wabash campus. I wish I could offer more information, but I simply don't have any.

That's enough news for now. I've heard from a handful of classmates since my last letter, and would encourage you guys to email me with updates on your lives, your families, and your interests (amidonj@wabash.edu).

Thanks to Men of '87

Thanks to all of you who gave of your time and spirit on WABASH Day, the College's national community service day. It was again a tremendous success with a record number of alumni and friends of the College volunteering in their communities.

A hearty thank you to the following men who have made gifts to the College this fiscal year. I know times are tough, but even small gifts to the Annual Fund go a long way at Wabash. Also, there are tax benefits to making gifts before December 31 — Indiana residents can get a nice break. So consider that, too.

2008-09 Annual Fund Honor Roll: James L. Amidon, Jr., William J. Blanco, Erik V. Burriss, Mark A. Cain, Jeffery Cusic, Douglas B. Galloway, Daniel J. Harter, Robert W. Kachur, Timothy A. Lewis, Terrence M. Lyons, Michael J. Magura, James W. Miner, William T. Niemier, Kenneth M. Ogorek, Todd M. Peters, R. Michael Ricks, Christopher D. Sangalis, Christopher M. Stephenson, Bernard C. Stuckey, Darin M. Wallace, Robert W. Wright.

May all of you and your families enjoy happy, healthy, and safe holidays, and may your blessings be many in the coming new year.

Hoping I don't need bifocals after today's eye appointment.

Jim