



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

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**Class of 2004**

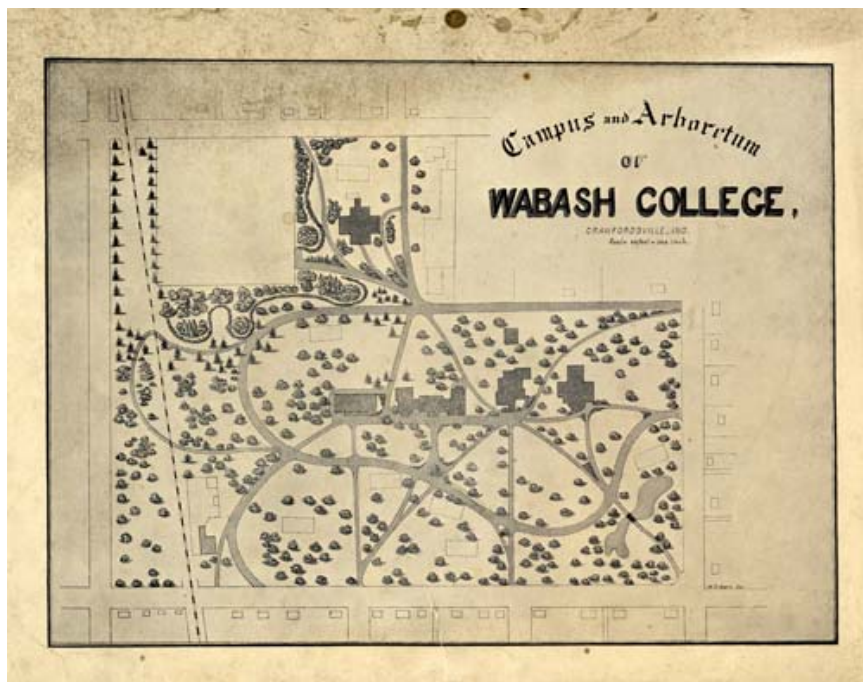
### Class Agents

Jacob Pactor

Mark Shreve

January 11, 2009

Dear Friends:



As Beth Swift, the college's archivist, discusses in a recent blog, this old campus map is interesting. The map lacks a Mall and Chapel – both were built in the 1920s. Even before we were born, before we set foot on campus for our first tour, before our first college test (Econ 101 with Naylor; I failed), before Chapel Sing, Monon Bell and Comps, even before all of that Wabash was changing. Today is no different except we have the option of looking back. Instead of looking back and now

second-guessing those in charge, we have a responsibility to future generations – “when college days are past, As long as life shall last” – to ensure they receive a Wabash education at least equal to the one, with all its opportunities, we received.

In these evolving economic times, we especially want to thank our 22 classmates who continue to make gifts to the College. Thank you to:

Matthew L. Abid  
Patrick R. Barrett  
Michael B. Bricker  
Dustin R. DeNeal  
Luis S. Flores  
Adan G. Garcia  
Daniel A. Loth  
Daniel J. Matusik

Gary P. Moore  
Milton W. Neuenschwander  
Joshua M. Nicholson  
E. Olmy Olmstead  
Jacob S. Pactor  
Brandon E. Peacock  
Scott A. Riley, Jr.  
C. George Robinette

Fernando Sanchez  
Robert A. Shaver  
Mark E. Shreve  
Daniel W. Sweet  
Justin N. Waters  
Seth B. Zirkle

If everyone in our class donated \$10, we could fully fund transportation costs for a spring immersion trip. To donate online: <http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift>

**Big Bash** Information on our 5<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion!

Starting January 15 (hopefully), you can register online for our reunion: June 5-7, 2009. The website is: [www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion). You also should receive an official invitation soon.

**Campus Briefs** Here's some of the latest happenings. For more, check out Wabash's student, faculty and other blogs at <http://www2.wabash.edu/blog/>.

President Pat White has a blog. In upcoming blogs, the PhD in English will share his thoughts on how the economy will impact Wabash.

Coach Mac Petty has 500 career wins. The Wooster, Ohio native won 48 games as the head coach at Sewanee before coming to Wabash in 1976. Saturday's win over Wooster (71-58) was number 452 in his 33-year career at the helm of the Little Giant program. He becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> active coach in Division III to post 500 victories. Only 22 coaches that have worked at the DIII level have won 500 or more ball games.

**2009 Predictions** We asked a few of our classmates to make some 2009 predictions.

Obama follows in the steps of FDR: He will turn the current recession into the second Great Depression and the nation will love him for it. As a side note, the progressives online who supported his post partisan candidacy will become terribly depressed as they realize that he too is a politician. ~ Ben Scanlon | [benscanlon@gmail.com](mailto:benscanlon@gmail.com)

Over Thanksgiving I was trying to help my cousin with his macroeconomics coursework. I shortly realized I couldn't. So perhaps I'm not the best to make any predictions. What I can tell you is that I'm in business school now and the professors are grim on the economy - my finance professor most of all. I haven't heard anyone here who expects a recovery before very late next year. Every other week it seems I receive a letter from the dean or career services telling us not to freak out - they're doing everything they can to make sure we get jobs upon graduation. So we cross our fingers, hope for the best, and thank God we're class of 2010. Then we network like hell. ~ Kevin Jenkins | [kdpjenkins2@gmail.com](mailto:kdpjenkins2@gmail.com)

Bubbles are popping left and right; stock market, farming, and subprime mortgages. I think we are already seeing a return to conventional lending and sound financial responsibility. Increase your rate of saving and you will have some money down for your house or next car. When it's time to sell, you will be patting yourself on the back. Also, find a local bank to do business with. Most smaller community banks have money to lend and want to lend. More than likely their standards have not changed since their founding which makes them a safe choice for your deposits and loans. ~ Brandon E. Peacock | [bpeacock@fountaintrust.com](mailto:bpeacock@fountaintrust.com)

### **Legend Lost: Wabash Mourns Placher**

I never took a class with Professor of Religion William C. Placher, but, like everyone, I enjoyed his company, his intelligence and his smile. I remember interviewing him for *The Bachelor* and seeing him in the Scarlet Inn. Prof. Placher died November 30, 2008. In addition to the platitudes found online, we asked Seth Zirkle to share his thoughts. He does so below:

Like so many others, I learned of Bill Placher's death at an unexpected time, in an unexpected way. After all, Bill was only sixty, and we never expect to find news of a friend's death in our e-mail inbox during a slow afternoon at the office. Yet there I was, reading a one-line notice of Bill's untimely death, forwarded by a current student to a Wabash alumni listserve.

Upon returning home that evening to tell my wife of Bill's death, I began to look at the numerous books that have followed me since leaving Wabash. I was a religion major, and spent quite a bit of time with Bill both in and outside the classroom. Coming across Calvin's *Institutes*, I was reminded immediately of the course's influence in my life: Walking through Calvin's apologia page by page with the good Professor gave greater understanding to the faith of my formative years, even as I was preparing to leave it for the Roman Catholic Church.

From what I can recall, Placher's course on Calvin's *Institutes* was something of a quadrennial treasure; because of the teaching rotation, he could not offer it every year. As expected, the course was fairly full, even given the early starting hour, and those who ended up stumbling in the door every morning were there because they not only wanted to learn more about Calvin, but learn about him from the Calvinist of our time. Steeped in the post-liberal tradition of Hans Frei and Karl Barth, Placher allowed Calvin speak for himself; as an instructor he refused to mold a middle ground for a contemporary Calvin, a didactic enterprise that his beloved Presbyterian Church (USA) has attempted, and has failed, to do. As his colleague Steve Webb said, Placher continually emphasized that "theologians should talk about the Christian message, not about *how* to talk about it."



Indeed, Placher brought Calvin's theology to life in the same way that he brought Christ's saving message to others. It mattered little whether the listener was ultimately persuaded by limited atonement or the Logos incarnate. A true teacher, what made all the difference was the Truth of his message and the sincerity of its conveyance. ~ Seth Zirkle | [seth@zirkle.cc](mailto:seth@zirkle.cc)

In Wabash,

Jacob Pactor & Mark Shreve