class of 2004
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“On this day in which every emotion seems a little stronger, every discussion is a little deeper, and every memory is just a little bit more vivid, take the time to recall. Recall the struggles, the hardships, and the descent: the katabasis. Recall the lessons, the growth, the change, the ascent: the anabasis. But most of all, recall each other. Recall the friends, the relationships, the time spent struggling for a common goal.”

-mark shreve and jacob pactor
Chris Anderson sent a few photos of him in action with the varsity lacrosse team at Brentsville District High School in Nokesville, Virginia. Chris plays the dual role of teacher and coach at the school. Thanks to Tony Quandt for submitting the photo (center) of Chris from the time they spent together in DC.
“After graduation I began another trip through academia called medical school,” writes Pat Barrett. “I have also had the good fortune of undertaking research for the Federal Government at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, studying terrorism related injury. While in Atlanta I also studied drinking and country-line dancing as illustrated in the picture provided (sorry, I don’t have any sweet pictures of me being all serious and researchy). This spring I am planning a trip to Nicaragua to help the medically undeserved.”
Big news from Sean Baylor – he was married on July 23, 2005, to Stephanie, a DePauw grad. Sean is quick to point out, however, that she comes from good stock as her grandfather was a Wabash Man. Sean and Stephanie have been together since their sophomore year in high school and currently reside in Naperville. Sean is in his final semester of graduate school to receive an M.A. in I/O Psychology and working with Wabash alum Eric Schoettle ’93 at Velocity Resource Group.

Group photo, at left, is of classmates who attended the wedding: James Cummings ’02, Jason Jablonski ’05, Dave Brown ’02, Kyle Coffey ’06, Matthew Marett ’05, Robert Lombard ’05, Kyle Piazza ’06, Sean Hayes ’04, Dan Matusik ’04, Rhett Miller ’03, Nathan Dinger ’05, Hunter Fields ’06, Mike Tothfalusi (transferred out), Roger Neal ’04, David Johnson ’04, Gary Moore ’04.

Not pictured: Ben Seib ’02 and Sean Gallagher ’04

Members of the wedding party: Sean Gallagher ’04 and Dave Brown ’02
The email from Jesse Becerra was most striking, not only from the photos he included from his travels but also from his reflections on his time spent abroad. “While I haven't bought a house, got married, or any such things, I have spent a year and some abroad learning, writing, thinking, photographing, farming, etc.” We could all be so lucky.

Steve Birrer is keeping busy finishing his second year of medical school at IUPUI, while scheduling clerkships and his board exams. He did find time, however, to send a photo from his trip to Washington, DC, from the summer of 2005.
Nick Bourff writes that he’s finishing his second year of law school at the University of Dayton and still searching for summer employment in the legal field.

In photos: Nick Bourff and fellow groomsmen, Brett Findley ’04 and James Litton ’04, at Brandon Peacock’s wedding in 2005; Nick, his girlfriend, Erin, and pledge brothers before yet another Wabash wedding; Nick and his favorite beer pong partner, Findley, competing in Peacock’s garage.
There is never a typical email exchange with Michael Bricker; he always reports on a new project he’s taken on or completed. Most recently, Bricker worked as the Art Director and Set Designer for a half-million dollar independent film entitled “The Cassidy Kids.” The challenge for Michael was to create 4 sets which looked like the movie was placed in 1982.

Michael continues to study architecture at the University of Texas in Austin. “All this film stuff has been exciting for me, and a nice outlet from my Master’s work in Architecture,” adds Bricker.

Mike has since began work as a designer for two additional films; “Starry Night” and “Swerve”. Learn more at swervefilm.com.
Seth Ditchcreek sent “a picture from a Japanese-style party I went to last year. It was a small house party at my friend’s house up in the mountains. Things are going OK here in Japan.” Currently, Seth is teaching English to Japanese students. “I have been accepted to Concordia University for a Master's program in International Studies. So, I will be moving to China later this year.”
Sean Hayes took a break from his work with Prentice Hall to spend time with his family on a Christmas vacation to Trunk Bay in the US Virgin Islands.
Chris Jones sent a few pictures our way without captions or stories. But we can all guess what he has been doing—joining Jason Pike in Broadripple or on the golf course.

In photos: Pike, Joe Heller ’04, and Jones on the links with another Wally and some TWR (actually a Coke Classic); Jones and Pike ready for Broadripple; Pike, David Johnson ’04, and Jones.
Tony Quandt submitted this photo of Mike Mack and Tony’s sister while celebrating her 21st birthday in Indianapolis.
“I worked for the Governor in the Governor's Office for the first six months after he took office until I began working on the stadium project in June. At the time the state had just recently acquired the project from the city and the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority (the agency which I now work for) had no staff. I became his first full time staff person and we have since hired two other people. Together, we manage this nearly $1 billion project. I helped organize that as I was the only person on staff for our agency at the time.”

Now Roger takes his liberal arts background and applies it to his multitude of duties. “I work on real estate matters, spearheaded the Colts license plate and the online auction of those plates, attend design meetings with our architects and contractors working out the stadium's design down the smallest of details, and facilitate all the state agencies this project works with on a constant basis--just to name a few. It's great work and something I always hoped a job after college would provide--continued learning.”
“I spent last summer in Kenya with IU School of Medicine as a Slemenda Scholar,” writes Adam Paarlberg. “It was a stinkin’ blast, definitely a summer well spent.” Adam joins several other Wabash classmates at IU School of Medicine finishing their second year of medical school.
Tony Quandt has utilized his employment as a chapter consultant for Delta Tau Delta to travel around the United States.

Below, Tony and Tom Reifenberg '05 traveled to Washington, DC, to visit Chris Anderson. At top and bottom, Tony and other Wabash friends celebrate Reifenberg’s wedding in June 2005. At right, Tony’s winning throw in a contest at Arizona State University. Tony was visiting the university to recolonize a chapter.
The big news from Ladoga, Indiana, is that Mike Roark and Aimee Dowell are engaged to be married on September 17, 2006. Mike reports that he proposed on Christmas eve.

In photos: Mike and Aimee; Mike and Sam Keesee ’05 in Sequoia National Park in California, summer 2005.
"I'm a citizen of a country that has a community that is being unfairly served," Jeremy Robinson said recently to Wabash Magazine. "It is a disgusting injustice. I can't sit back as a person with a conscience and ignore that."

Robinson is nearing the end of his two-year term with Teach For America, a program which recruits the best college graduates to become teachers in underserved areas. TFA's goal is not to make lifetime teachers, but to have a group of citizens committed to promoting better and equal public education. TFA found that commitment in Jeremy.

Robinson is taking his experience at Harper HS in Chicago and his commitment to teaching with him to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar this fall. "I could go on and on about the ways this work has changed my life," he told WM. "On the whole, I'm better at living life. There is a purpose to what I do. I wake up and I have a mission."
Dan Ruge has been living near Timbuktu in Mali serving with the Peace Corps since he graduated from Wabash in 2004. He reports that he has been working with a grassroots-style bank, community gardens for women’s groups, providing AIDS education, raising animals, and working with mothers of malnurished babies. “Basically, I do whatever my village needs,” said Ruge.
Since August, Mark Shreve has been living in Perugia, Italy. He works in the administration for the Umbra Institute, an American study abroad program.

In photos, clockwise from top: the façade on Orvieto’s duomo, December sunsets from Mark’s office window, the main piazza in Perugia, Mark and other staff members in Sicily.
Paul Stephens found time and internet access to send the following message: “I’m teaching English in a small village on the Black Sea here in Georgia and working on environmental education projects. I am enjoying the adventures and challenges of the Peace Corps life.”
Daniel Sweet took some time away from his work at Centrix Financial for a breathtaking hike in Colorado’s Rocky Mountain National Park. He was joined by RJ Metz ’04 and Meghan McNulty, sister of Sean McNulty ’04. Metz is currently studying medicine at IU Indianapolis.
Last summer, Ben Tooley quit his job at Wells Fargo and became a full-time student once again. Ben is attending courses at IUPUI on track to receive a Master of Public Affairs degree. He is also working as a research assistant with a professor and earning money as a medical supply manager at a nursing home.

Ben and his wife, Jess, are currently searching for a home in Indianapolis. Jess will graduate in May with a Doctorate in Audiology. They are both looking forward to a trip to London in March to visit Ben’s sister.

In photo, right, Ben and Jess on their honeymoon in Rome, Italy.
“Although we often hear that we are the ‘sum of our experiences;’ I argue that our individuality is much more complex than simply experience stacked upon experience. Granted, experience does play an imperative role, but we can’t possibly take everything with us throughout our lives. We lose some baggage along the way. We selectively forget and struggle to hold on. And yet, our personal identity is deeply invested in the past. Transitions allow us to reflect upon the past and the investments therein, and in these brief identity-revealing moments, we acknowledge where we have been, who we have known, and what we have accomplished. We take these memories, lessons, and investments with us into the future, and, even though they don’t guarantee an easy path or a predictable tomorrow, they do give some direction and purpose to our lives.”

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michael bricker
class of 2004 commencement speech