July 2004

Dear Classmates:

Hope you are having a great summer. Here's a quick update regarding some of our classmates and Wabash.

Johns Hopkins Medical School named Dr. Tom Koenig its new Associate Dean for Student Affairs this month based upon the input of students, faculty, and alumni. From 1993 to 1994, Tom served as Chief Resident in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and he became an attending physician there in 1994. Tom has been an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Johns Hopkins since 1996. Congratulations, Tom!

Speaking of doctors, Dr. Drew Mikulaschek is serving as the director of trauma services and surgical critical care at Lee Memorial Health System in Fort Myers, Florida. Drew was quoted, and his trauma center was featured, in a May 10, 2004, U.S. News and World Report article titled "Broke and Broken." The article explains the very difficult, life-saving work Drew does. The article also explains that hospital trauma centers like Drew's are struggling to stay afloat because they must keep a large number of specialists and subspecialists on call while still serving patients who are uninsured. Ironically, the seriously injured patient treated at Drew's center who is featured in the article is a retiree from Crawfordsville.

Speaking of Crawfordsville, one of our own will be joining the administration at Wabash. This week, Dean of Students Tom Bambrey announced that Mike Raters will be the College's new Associate Dean of Students starting in August. His responsibilities will include student housing. Mike returns to Wabash after having served as an award-winning teacher of Government, U.S. History, and World History at Franklin Central High School. Mike also coached baseball, tennis, cross country, and golf. Mike and his wife Julie have three children, Morgan, Justin, and Joel. Congratulations, Mike!

Finally, Abbott Smith is finishing his fifth collegiate degree, a Masters in Illustration from Syracuse. He is currently Chairman of the Art Department at
the DigiPen Institute of Technology, a conservatory style school, and the oldest school in the world for preparing students to design video game technology. At DigiPen, Abbott started a BFA program in computer animation. Abbott continues to publish poetry. He married Laura Lennon, a professional retail display designer, May 2.

The news from the College is great. In 1998 the College set the seemingly unreachable goal of $100 million for a capital campaign. Despite an intervening market slump, 9/11 and its aftermath the College received $136.1 million in gifts and pledges by June 30, 2004. Wow! What has this meant to students? They have a $20 million 170,000 square foot athletics center; a new $30 million biology and chemistry building replacing Waugh Hall; $18 million more in scholarship support; cross cultural immersion learning trips allowing 300 of them thus far to travel the world as part of their course work without additional cost; and a $2 million Malcolm X Institution, among other things. Less well known are some of the following, more creative gifts of alumni: a summer internship allowing a student time to write fiction; a series that brings award-winning writers in residence to Wabash; and internships for students pursuing public service. This is an amazing achievement that will no doubt raise expectations and our future progress even higher.

If you have a moment, please shoot an email to me (scott.himsel@bakerd.com) or Kyle Carr (kcarr@mhc.net) and share your news. I hope to see you at Homecoming or the Monon Bell Game this fall. Take care.

Yours in Wabash,

Scott Himsel, '85