July 2005

Dear Classmates,

It’s about that time of year again. Soon the campus will be filled with football players, cross country runners and incoming freshmen. I wanted to write you this letter to keep you attuned as to what news has recently hit Wabash and also to what campus events are upcoming.

Some Little Giants’ Bids Farewell:

As most of you know, President Andy Ford recently announced he will resign the presidency after the 2005-2006 school year. Attached is the article written by Jim Amidon reflecting on President Ford’s impact and years while at Wabash.

May 16, 2005

One of the most effective and accomplished presidents in the 173-year history of Wabash College has announced that the 2005-2006 school year will be his last at the helm of the liberal arts college. Andrew T. Ford, who became Wabash’s 14th president in 1993, told members of the Board of Trustees of his intention to step down at the end of the next academic year at the conclusion of the Board’s regular May meeting.

"It is with mixed feelings that the Board accepts President Ford’s decision to step down," said John N. Fox, Jr. ’64, chairman of the search committee. "The Board so appreciates the enormous contributions Andy and Anne have made to transform Wabash College during their tenure.

"Andy’s success is directly related to his ‘students first’ attitude in everything the College does. By focusing the work of the College on the students, he has inspired faculty to be more creative as teachers and alumni to be more supportive as volunteers and donors. His vision for Wabash to be the preeminent liberal arts college has been clear and unwavering, and there is evidence of his success in doing so in every facet of the College."
Ford, a 1966 graduate of Seton Hall University who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, has been one of the most effective presidents in Wabash history. He became Wabash’s 14th president in 1993 on the heels of a controversial and divisive study of coeducation. Since that time, the College’s enrollment has stabilized; the endowment has nearly doubled; and the physical landscape of the College has become dramatically different.

Ford led Wabash to a successful conclusion in its largest fund raising campaign ever. The Campaign for Leadership outstripped its original $100 million goal when it ended June 30, 2004 with a total of $136 million in gifts and pledges. The Campaign generated funds for innovative cross-cultural immersion learning programs and faculty development, as well as new facilities for science education, recreation and athletics, and the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies.

Perhaps Ford’s greatest achievement was landing the College’s largest ever gift, a $20.8 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to establish the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College. Also under Ford’s leadership, Wabash established in 1995 the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, another Lilly Endowment-funded initiative. The Wabash Center holds dozens of national workshops for teachers of religion at the undergraduate, graduate, and seminary level. It is also a grant-making agency for faculty development.

In 2003, the National Association of Wabash Men, the College’s alumni body, elected him an honorary alumnus for the Class of 2003.

The search committee hopes to recommend a final candidate to the Board of Trustees for its January 2006 meeting.

Also, Dean Mauri Ditzler was recently announced as President of Monmouth College. Below is Jim Amidon’s article that announced his great news!

May 9, 2005

The chief academic officer at Wabash College was named today the 13th president of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois. Mauri A. Ditzler, a 1975 Wabash College graduate, was named the new president in a press statement released by search committee chairman David Byrnes and board chairman David Bowers. Ditzler replaces Dr. Richard F. Giese and will begin his duties on July 1.

"I am delighted for Judi and Mauri, but regret, personally and professionally, his leaving Wabash," said Wabash President Andrew T. Ford. "In his six years as Dean of the College, he has had an extraordinary impact on every aspect of life here. His unfailing optimism, good humor, wise judgment, and boundless energy have made a difference in everything we do."

Ditzler returned to his alma mater in July 1999 when President Ford named him Dean of the College. In his six years at Wabash, Ditzler helped conceive and secure funding for the $20.8 million Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts; helped author and implement the College’s strategic plan, "Defining Effective Liberal Arts Education for the 21st Century;" oversaw a successful accreditation review by the North Central Association; helped establish and fund short-term, international immersion learning programs for Wabash students (with no personal
charges) tied to their classroom work; hired roughly 40 percent of the current faculty; and secured a $1 million Lilly Endowment grant to develop Indiana-based programs.

"I knew ever since his first day here that Mauri has all the tools to be a superb college president, and I knew he wanted to assume that position some day," added Ford. "I had hoped again this year, as I had so often before, that Wabash would have him for another year but, alas, our time has run out."

As an undergraduate at Wabash, Ditzler double majored in chemistry and speech, was graduated summa cum laude, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was also selected to give the commencement address at his graduation.

He earned his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Duke University in 1979, where he earned dissertation fellowships from the National Institutes of Health and the American Chemical Society. He began his teaching career at the College of the Holy Cross in 1979, earning full professor in 1992. He chaired the Chemistry Department at Holy Cross from 1987 through 1993, and directed the college’s Honors Program in 1993-94.

He moved into administration in 1994 when he was named Dean of Arts and Sciences at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. He also served Millikin as its Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1998-1999.

Since arriving at Wabash in 1999, Ditzler and his wife, Judith, have been involved in a range of community activities. Mauri is an Elder and Worship Leader at First Christian Church in Crawfordsville, where Judith is the choral director. Mauri is also Board member for the AHEAD Coalition and is a member of the Montgomery County Higher Education Commission.

Ditzler is the second Wabash dean in the last three years to rise to a college presidency. Paul Pribbenow, former Wabash Dean for Advancement, is in his third year as president of Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois.

A national liberal arts college located in western Illinois, Monmouth College was founded in 1853 as a coeducational Presbyterian academy. With a student body of just 1,300, the Monmouth education is characterized by close interaction with faculty, immersion in general education, a rich residential life experience and a focus on developing personal responsibility.

**Job Opening on Campus:**

We have an open position in the Wabash Advancement Office. Mark Shreve who has been working as our Assistant Director of Annual Giving is taking a position as a Student Services Assistant at The Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy. Mark studied at The Umbra Institute during his junior year abroad and this opening came his way early last week and he decided that he couldn't pass up the opportunity. We posted the position today: [http://www.wabash.edu/aboutwabash/employment.cfm](http://www.wabash.edu/aboutwabash/employment.cfm)

If you have any classmates who you think might be interested or who you think would be good candidates, please submit their names to me (Joe Klen [klenj@wabash.edu](mailto:klenj@wabash.edu)) or encourage them to submit their application materials as soon as possible. We plan to begin interviewing candidates
during the week of August 15, 2005. This is an excellent position for someone who is looking to gain some experience in fundraising, college advancement, annual fund work, marketing, and/or working with volunteers.

**Upcoming Dates and new additions:**

Additionally, the freshman class is scheduled to report beginning August 20 and classes are set to start on August 25.

Scott Crawford has been named the new Director of Schroeder Career Center. So if you are interested in starting an internship program at work or are looking for a new talent to join the office please be sure to keep Scott up to date on what you are looking for.

**Wabash – DePauw Rivalry on ESPN**


Please take a moment to vote for our rivalry online and look for it to be part of the Indiana Sportcenter special on August 7, 2005.

**Final Notes:**

We hope to see all of you during the fall, hopefully during Homecoming Weekend (Sept. 23/24). Please keep us up to date as to what is going on in your lives. We want to be able to provide our class information on weddings, babies and career changes.

Have you received a job promotion? Changed your contact information (phone number, home address, e-mail address)? Gotten Married? Had a baby? Or received an award?

If so, contact the Alumni Office at 765-361-6369 or go to our alumni web site at [http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/),  (Alumni e-Services login), and update your information and let us know your good news so we can publish it in the Wabash Magazine.

Wabash Always Fights,

Kip Chase