September, 2004

Men of ’44

This past weekend on the Wabash campus has been one of the most exciting and significant in our recent memory. Here are some of the reasons why:

1. The official unveiling and dedication of the $30 million Science Building happened on Friday afternoon. Henceforth it will be known as Hays Hall in honor of Tom Hays ’55 and his wife of 50 years, Sue. Tom’s first gift to the college was for $15. More recently he has given millions. But his service to his Alma Mater is much more than monetary. For the past seven years he has served as chairman of the Campaign for Leadership, the most ambitious fund-raising effort in the long and storied history of the College. On June 30, 2004, the college celebrated the successful conclusion of the $132.5 million campaign, surpassing that goal with total gifts and pledges of $136.1 million.

Tom and his fine family were saluted Friday evening with an elegant dinner in Chadwick Court. But Tom, who retired in 1996 as deputy chairman of the May Department Stores, modestly deferred all the accolades to other campaign volunteers and the thousands of Wabash alumni and friends who contributed in such generous proportions.

2. The annual Class Agent Forum opened Friday with the Hays dedication and continued over to Saturday morning in the International Hall, Detchon Center, when some 55 of us were professionally informed by several speakers. Subjects covered included a Recap of the 2004 Big Bash, new and exciting developments at the Career Center where meaningful assistance is provided to graduates and revealing questions and answers from President Andy Ford and the four Deans of the College. Three of the four are Wabash graduates.

The morning session concluded with a highly informative presentation by Joe Klen ’97, Director of Annual Giving and recognition of outstanding agents of the past year.

3. What better way to conclude such a weekend than with a Little Giant football game in Hollett Stadium. It was our first home game of the season after an impressive 35-0 opening win over Kalamazoo. The opponent this time was Washington of St. Louis and the Battling Bears were off to a fast start with a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. But then Coach Chris Creighton’s undersized warriors came alive both offensively and defensively and won the game 21-0. Next Saturday Wabash plays at Earlham before coming back for the Homecoming game with Ohio Wesleyan on October 2

Until next time,

Gerry Dreyer