August 9, 2005

Dear Men and Wives of the Class of 1951:

Just received my mailing from the College for July 2005. I can now bring you up to date with some of the latest news and the results of the Annual Fund drive which ended June 30.

**Homecoming** will be early this year, **September 23 and 24**. Naturally there will be the Alumni Homecoming Chapel, the Annual Fund Luncheon and the Homecoming Football Game, against Earlham this year. Other activities include a informal “BBQ and TWR” dinner with returning alumni and faculty, a career opportunities brunch and some other stuff. You should receive a Homecoming mailing soon. Make your plans now to be there.

I’ll be going down to Wabash September 9th and 10th for the 2005 Class Agent forum. We will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wabash class agent system.

Homecoming weekend will also celebrate the completion of the brand new Phi Delta Theta fraternity house on College Avenue. Congratulations to all our Phi Delts. Enjoy the dedication.

On May 25 Hugh Busenbark wrote he was leaving shortly for northwest Ontario for some big time fishing. On June 30, Hugh wrote that he had caught the super trophy fish of his lifetime, a 9plus pound walleye. He says he did not snag it, nor did he buy it from the Indians, nor find it along the bank. He has three witnesses. I believe you, Hugh.

On a more serious note, he had just had his bi-ventricle synchronator and defibrillator replaced after two years use. The manufacturer says it should last 4 to 5 years. Hope all goes well. I’m sure there’s another trophy walleye out there waiting for you, Hugh.

On the sad side, I’m sorry to report that James H. Adams died as the result of cancer on June 27. Jim lost his wife almost a year earlier. His daughter, Jane Witkowski, called me with this news and she spoke of how much her father loved Wabash. He was able to see his grandson, Evan Schmit ’05, graduate in May. Made him most proud. Jim was a Phi Gam and a loyal member of the Class of 51. Should you wish to write Jane, her address is 2841 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481, Phone 715-344-9145. I hope the Alumni Office will keep her on our class mailing list.
I’m also sorry to pass on the news of the passing of the Class Agent for the Class of 1950, Al Moss’50, on July 23. He also had cancer. Since I became a Class Agent, Al had become a real friend. It was always a pleasure to see him together with his wonderful wife of 57 years, Joan. Al, a newspaper owner and editor, was a great class agent and a credit to Wabash and his class. He served in the army during WWII and again during the Korean War. In 2000, Wabash College honored Al with the Alumni Admissions Fellow Award and the Warren W. Shearer Award for Class Agents. He was a member of Kappa Sigma and dearly loved Wabash. One of his sons graduated from Wabash as did a grandson. Al will be missed by many.

Most of you probably know already that Andy Ford has said he will retire at the end of this academic year. A search committee led by Trustee John Fox ’64 is actively searching for Wabash’s 15th President. If you know someone you would like to recommend, please contact Tom Runge ’71 at 765-361-6371 or runget@wabash.edu.

The Wabash College Annual Fund finished the fiscal year at $2,669,874 with over 4,000 alumni, parents and friends participating. This is the second consecutive $2.66 million year for the Fund. Here are the leading classes:

1961 60.15%, 1956 56.86%, 1955 55.56%, 1950 55.60%, 1951 54.60%

These figures are for post WWII classes. It seems that now the office only shows the top 10 classes for post 1955 only. I’ll have to find out why. I’m proud to say that you men and ladies did one heck of a job again. Year in, year out, the Class of 1951 is always among the top. Of 99 eligible members we had 39 graduate donors, 11 non-graduate donors and 4 widow donors. Thanks to all of you who participated.


You are all great Little Giants!

Hope to see you Homecoming.

Richard H. Griesser ‘51