President Andy Ford H’03 Stepping Down

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 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.

More news at: www.wabash.edu/alumni/news.cfm?news_ID=2521
Dean Mauri Ditzler ‘75 To Be New Monmouth President

Mauri A. Ditzler ’75 has been named the new president of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois 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.

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.


Raymond Williams H’68 Coming Out of Retirement!

Wabash President Andrew T. Ford has appointed emeritus religion professor Raymond B. Williams as Dean of the College. Professor Williams, who retired from a distinguished teaching career in 2002, steps in for Mauri A. Ditzler ’75. Ditzler will become President of Monmouth College on July 1.

"It is hard to imagine anyone better suited for this assignment," said Ford in a note to the Wabash community. "Raymond knows the College extremely well, and he earned the respect and admiration of all our constituencies. He enjoyed a distinguished teaching and advising career, and he has a long history of vigilantly guarding faculty prerogatives and advising deans and presidents."

Williams joined the Wabash faculty in 1965, rose to full professor in 1977, and became the Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities in 1989. In 1995, through a $5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., he founded the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. He served as Director of the Wabash Center until his retirement.

More news at: www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=2496
Wabash Class of 2005 Graduates!

Under cloudy skies and cool temperatures, Wabash College President Andy Ford continued a decades’ old tradition and rang out the Class of 2005.

Using the school bell which once belonged to founder Caleb Mills, Ford sent Wabash’s 163 graduates on to graduate school, medical and law school, impressive positions in business and into the world as Wabash men.

The ceremony on the campus mall featured the usual traditions, pomp and circumstance of the annual rite of passage. Two graduating seniors spoke about their Wabash experience.

More news at: www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=2508

Also on the Wabash Alumni and Parents Web Site:
- Classics Professor Leslie Day Awarded Professorship in Athens
- Timmerman Receives Excellence in Teaching Award
- New Political Science Professors Analyzes Blair's Re-election
- Mike Dill '71 Reelected as Alumni Trustee
- Five Alumni Elected to NAWM Board
- And much more at www.wabash.edu/alumni

Annual Fund Year Closes June 30, 2005
Please take a moment and make a gift to the College’s Annual Fund. The money raised each year in the Annual Fund Campaign goes toward the educational needs of all of our young men. There are a number of ways to give- check them out at www.wabash.edu/alumni/annualgiving.

Next Reunion – the 40th!

Any updates or special requests should be emailed to alumni@wabash.edu.