Dr. Paul McKinney, Longest Serving Professor in Wabash History, Dies

Dr. Paul McKinney ’52 died at the age of 73 on December 20, 2003. His 46 years of teaching at Wabash surpasses all other professors in Wabash history.

Dr. McKinney earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Northwestern University in 1958. He chaired the chemistry department for four years and the science division for three years. He served as Dean of the College from 1981 to 1993. Wabash bestowed an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on him in 1996.

He was a director of the Montgomery County United Fund Drive; a board member of MUFFY; president of the board of the Youth Service Bureau; a member of the Mayor’s Commission on the Environment, and the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee. He also served several terms as chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party. He was the faculty representative to the National Association of Wabash Men.

McKinney is survived by his wife Irmingard (Irmi), daughter Katherine, and son, Michael.

A memorial service was conducted in the chapel on January 10. Several speakers spoke, each symbolically representing a different facet of Paul’s influence and love. Among the speakers were Dr. Fred Butler ’72, his former student and his doctor; Ben Kessling ’02, a former student now studying at Harvard Divinity School; and Bill Placher ’70, professor of religion. I have reprinted Dr. Placher’s remarks in this letter.

Wabash Students Lead College Students Nationally In Strong Relationships With Faculty, Academic Rigor

Wabash College students are among the nation’s most engaged students and forge stronger relationships with faculty, according to the fourth annual report of the National Survey of Student Engagement, which relied on information from 185,000 first-year and senior students at 649 colleges and universities.

Last year, Wabash set national benchmarks in eight of 10 NSSE categories. This year Wabash students ranked their experiences in the 97th to 100th percentile in every category.

Five benchmarks are measured: 1) level of academic challenge; 2) active and collaborative learning; 3) student-faculty interaction; 4) enriching educational experiences; 5) supportive campus environment. When compared to national averages, Wabash’s freshmen and seniors scored above the 90th percentile in five benchmark categories, and freshmen scored in the 100th percentile in the level of academic challenge.

Wabash greatly exceeds national averages and the averages of national liberal arts college in every category.

We can find more information about the survey at http://www.iub.edu/~nsse.
Members of the world renown and highly fatuous class of 1971 are propped up for a photograph during half time of the Homecoming Game this fall. From left to right are Brad Johnson (look alike to Purdue football coach Joe Tiller); Ron Flynn (Decency prevents me from saying whom he resembles); Mike Dill (the only person in the stadium with a tie); Ed Pitkin in the blue; Jim Czarniecki in the UPS brown; Jon Pactor (red hat over heart); and Steve Weliever (white hat over heart). Two other classmates Fred Haase and Tom Runge attended the game, but had too much good sense to be photographed with any of the above. Thanks to Mark Shreve '04 for the photo.

Bruce Bradway reports that wife Karen finally retired from the Air Force, and they have moved to Montana. "Since we had been following her career around the world for 24 years, we decided that it was her turn to follow me. Since I had taught at the college level at several of her duty stations, and always seemed to gravitate toward the under-served and disadvantaged students in the student body, we decided that teaching among the Native Americans would be a worthwhile rest of our lives...I interviewed at Fort Belknap College for the position of Department Head of Psychology and Human Services and was offered the position (I was actually their only applicant).

"Fort Belknap College is on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Blaine County, Montana. Blaine County abuts the Canadian Border and the train track and highway are the northernmost east-west thoroughfares in the Continental 48 states – hence the name Hi-line. The tribes on the Reservation are the Gros Ventre and a branch of the Assiniboine. The Gros Ventre are actually the White Clay People and the Assiniboine are the Nakoda. Most of the Indian tribes were given the names that other
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people called them, not what they called themselves. For example Sioux is a Chippewa word that means "enemy" (expletives deleted). The people known as Sioux usually refer to themselves by their dialect, Lakota, Dakota, or Nakota. Comanche is a Ute word that means "the people who try to kill us" (expletives deleted). The Comanche actually call themselves the Nummumna - The People. Gros Ventre is French for "Big Belly" - a misinterpretation of sign language for "waterfall". Assiniboine is a Chippewa word for "cooks with hot rocks", a reference to the practice of boiling the marrow out of buffalo bones by digging a pit, lining it with skins filling it with bones and water and then throwing hot rocks into the pit to boil the fat out of the bones.

"We have been here since July of 2001. My position was funded by a HRSA grant through the University of Montana which they have since lost (guns versus butter conflict). I am not only the head of the department, I am also the only faculty member in the department. I have taught an overload every semester since getting here and not only teach in the psychology and human service disciplines, but Geography, Health, and Economics (I also have degrees in Medical Technology, International Relations and Political Science). I am one of six faculty members, each the head of a department. We have around 250 students. I am having the time of my life and the people are so wonderful - they have so little but their generosity is overwhelming.

"John Glendenning and Andy Young [our classmates] are also up here in Montana. John teaches at the University of Montana, so I have seen him a number of times when I was called to Missoula for a conference. Missoula is 350 miles away – the distance between Indianapolis and Pittsburgh. Andy lives in Kalispell over by Glacier National Park. I haven't had an opportunity to see him yet…

"Just a word about where I live…[T]here is no area in Indiana with the dearth of population and roads that we have in this part of Montana (Kalispell and Missoula are considered the "yuppie" areas of the state.) Marion County [Indianapolis] is 396 sq miles and has 2,171.5 people per square mile. Blaine County is the size of Connecticut (4,226 sq miles) and has 1.7 people per sq mile. There are only three paved roads in the county and so is designated "frontier" rather than rural. In comparison, Brown County (backwoods Indiana) has 47.9 people per square mile. We love it! After watching, listening to, and smelling the JP4 of military aircraft over the past 30 years (I was in 8 years before meeting my current wife) the quiet, fresh air and big sky of Montana is giddily welcome. Driving to work every morning is like traveling through a painting! This compared to the two years I traversed the Beltway to get to my job in Northern Virginia from DC - suckers!!

"My kids don't share my need for clean air and solitude. Roxi lives in Boca Raton, Florida, and is teaching high school biology and coaching volleyball as well as teaching college anatomy and physiology on the weekends at a local community college. Chris is in Hollywood getting pretty fed up with the superficiality of Southern California. He has been trying to break into acting but bartends for a living (he makes more in tips in one weekend than I do in a month). They are both good people - what more could a parent hope for."

Lee Fouts and wife Becky live and manage a 1400-acre Christian camp owned by Harding University in the foothills of the Ozarks. Lee retired from Southwestern Bell after 30+ years of service. After a two-month visit to their son's mission work in Uganda and six months of volunteer work for the missions department at Harding, they accepted the position at Camp Tahkodah. They celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in June 2003. They have five married children and nine grandchildren (with two more by Mach).
Continuing With Our Classmates...

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Fred Haase's daughter Caroline is a freshman and ranks high on the Purdue golf team. Son David is finishing his undergraduate work at Washington & Lee. That leaves son Ryan, the youngest, to get all of the attention from Fred and Nancy. Fred has been on the faculty of Culver Academies, Culver, Indiana since the Civil War.

Marvin Keffer has resided in Birmingham, Alabama, since 1996 and is vice president in secondary marketing at Newsouth Federal Savings Bank. Wife Linda and daughter Amanda, 11, round out the family. Two other classmates, Bruce Julian and Jim Kamplain, also live in or about Birmingham.

Jeff Krasner practices law in Sycamore, Illinois. His wife and he have three children. Oldest is Alexis, 21, who is in Aix en Provence for the start of her fourth year at the University of Illinois. Fraternal twins Billy and Catie are 14. Bill elected to attend Marmion Military Academy in North Aurora, Illinois, and Catie declined the privilege of attending the sister school, Rosary, in Aurora, and is a cheerleader at Kaneland High School. Jeff reports that all of them take after their mother (thank goodness) and are both good looking young people, intelligent and good students.

Robert E. Nagle is living in Oak Park, California with his wife of 32 years Lynne (a DePauw alumna) and two children: David, 16, and Katherine, 13. He has been an attorney for 19 years and started his new position as Litigation Cost Manager for the County of Los Angeles in May 2003.

Class Stands At 30.2% Giving This Fiscal Year

Thanks to all of the classmates who contributed to the college in the last fiscal year. We hope to exceed 50% of the class this fiscal year, which will end June 30. Classmates who have already contributed for the current fiscal year as of December 31, 2003 are listed below. Please join the list.

Skip Adams
Jerry Anderson
Jim Ball
Bob Bogigian
John Brackemyre
Bill Braun
Jim Bromley
Rufus Burton
Mike Carroll
Jim Czarnecki
Mike Dill
Andy Dziubinskyj
Nelson Flynn
Ron Flynn
John Glendening
Jack Gould
Dave Graham
Dave Gray
Rick Gregory
Fred Haase
Gary Hansen

Bob Harlan
Bill Hausman
Pete Hawley
Gordon Hayes
Cloyce Hedge
Dan Holderman
Trey Holland
John Hubert
Brad Johnson
Jim Kamplain
Sam Kazdan
Steve Kennedy
Allen Kepchar
Gene Keppe
Mike Lemon
Skip Long
Tom Martella
AL McElfresh
Alex Miller
Jon Pactor
Garrett Paul

Jim Peters
Larry Phelps
Ed Pitkin
Bob Prentiss
Mark Randak
Greg Rasmussen
Phil Rifner
Carl Royal
Tom Runge
John Ryder
Orlo Shoop
James Smith
John Street
Peter Toft
James Unger
Steve Weliever
Steve Wildman
Bill Placher Remembers Paul McKinney

Thanks to Bill Placher for providing me a copy of his remarks given at a memorial for Paul McKinney, January 10, 2004. The chapel was approximately half full with colleagues, family, and friends. I thought that the Class of 1971 would enjoy these remarks, for those who knew Paul or who know Bill, or for those of us who appreciate that Wabash is the people. Bill’s remarks reflect upon Paul’s character, intellect, and curiosity.

From a memorandum Paul McKinney wrote several months ago, headed "Thoughts on Memorial Service:"

Two topics are important to me:
First, gratitude. I wish to give thanks for those who touched my life and for the talents I was given—
for those who sheltered me: Irmi, Katherine, and Michael, my family and friends;
for those who helped me know: my teachers, my colleagues, and my students;
for those who cared for my health: my doctors and nurses; and for the gifts of mind and music.
Second, the miracle of love: It is a miracle one can know, experience, and take joy in. It has given me happiness."

So we have heard this afternoon, as Paul requested, the love poetry of the Song of Solomon, Plato’s mediation on the soul and its love, Nietzsche’s modern reflection on passion, and Yeats’ poem on how love and hope endure even in the midst of an old man’s anger.

Paul McKinney’s own love reached out in many directions. He loved his family. He and Irmi gave us all a model of a wonderful marriage.

To this college’s lasting benefit, for over fifty years he loved Wabash as a loyal son—forty-five years a member of the faculty, chair of the chemistry department chair of the division of science and mathematics, eleven years Dean of the College. Some Little Giant!

He showed us what it’s like to love an institution—love it passionately—while welcoming criticism and expecting change. Wabash taught him that, he would have said. A Wabash education, he once wrote,

trained us to doubt conventional wisdom, thus helping us to avoid illusion to transform our boredom with all too familiar past into creative acts of the present, to use reason and persuasion in search for resolution of moral issues, and to carry with confidence freedom from the fear and ignorance that bind the superstitious mind.

A character in Brecht’s play says of Paul’s hero Galileo, "He cannot say no to an old wine or a new thought.” Paul too loved new thoughts—and old wines as well, come to think of it.

The cover story of a recent issue of the Wabash magazine cited Paul’s account of the most beautiful of all equations. He loved the beauty of equations. Austin Brooks tells the story of how, as a student, he had a role in a Scarlet Masque production in which Paul, as a young faculty member, was also acting. Aus noticed that, when he wasn’t on stage, Paul was writing in a notebook and thought perhaps he was working on memorizing his lines. But then he got a look at the notebook and saw that it was full of equations of quantum mechanics. Many years later Paul talked about getting through chemotherapy by working on equations.

The phrase "Renaissance man" is of course a cliché, but it’s hard to avoid when talking about Paul McKinney. Gifted scientist, actor, classical pianist, master of several languages, lover of literature, scholar of Nietzsche… the list goes on. He was a good citizen and a good Democrat (I don’t mean to imply (continued on next page)
that you have to be a good Democrat to be a good citizen—necessarily). His work for candidates and for his party, his service as county Democratic chairman—that would be a whole story in itself.

Paul had loved acting in his youth, and those who heard him lecture know that he never lost that love. His teaching career had a wonderful last act, taking on thankless jobs as a citizen of the college, engaged with students, falling in love with teaching all over again. Several students in the last class Paul taught told me that, at the end of his last lecture, on their feet applauding, they avoided looking at each other because there were tears in their eyes. Those of us beginning the autumns of our careers can only hope that our late autumns and winters are as beautiful as were Paul McKinney's. Likewise, if any of us have to face extended illness, we can only hope to face it with his courage and grace.

Paul worked on the cutting edge of contemporary quantum mechanics, but in part he was also, I think, a bit of an alchemist. He loved the Medieval symbols for the planets and the elements. He forced Chem 1 students not to dismiss earlier theories of the chemical make up of the world too quickly. He memorably began a C & T lecture on his knees in supplication, starting a fire on the stage of Salter Hall. (This may not be a pedagogical device to be widely encouraged, but it sure had the attention of the entire sophomore class.) Again and again, in his talks and essays, fire was for him the symbol of creativity, and Gaston Bachelard's *Psychoanalysis of Fire* was one of his favorite books. "Why is it," he wondered in his LaFollette lecture, "we cannot forge the fire of Heraclitus…?"

Gerard Manley Hopkins' poetry has the kind of rhetorical complexity Paul admired, and his poem "That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and of the comfort of the Resurrection" brings together many of the themes of Paul's life and thought—the darkness of human tragedy, the mystery of hope, the fascination of chemical elements. It ends like this:

> Man, how fast his firedint, his mark on mind, is gone!  
> Both are in an unfathomable, all is in an enormous dark  
> Drowned. O pity and Indignation! Manshape that shone  
> Sheer off, disserveral, a star, death blots black out; nor mark  
> Is any of him at all so stark  
> But vastness blurs and time beats level. Enough! the Resurrection,  
> A heart's-clarion! Away grief's gasping, joyless days, dejection…  
> world's wildfire, leave but ash:  
> In a flash, at a trumpet crash,  
> I am all at once what Christ is, since he was what I am, and  
> This Jack, joke, poor potsherd, patch, matchwood, immortal diamond,  
> Is immortal diamond.

Poets may exaggerate, but the chemistry of carbon does not lie. The dust and ash from which we come and to which we bodily return includes that same substance as enduring diamonds. And now in all our memories, and, I believe, in the mystery of God that lies beyond all our imagining, Paul endures, and as with a diamond his every facet sparkles.
Let's Continue To Help Recruit Students

The applications to Wabash were annually 600, more or less, when President Ford set a goal for 1000 applications some years ago. For the fourth straight year, applications have exceeded 1000, through the hard work of the admissions staff headed by Dean Steve Klein. Wabash has succeeded while many co-ed liberal arts colleges are failing to get the number of men that they want.

Much of Wabash's success in admissions relates to alumni involvement. Applications are a type of voting. Alumni, in a sense, "are getting out the vote." We cannot make anyone apply. But, a student will not apply if he does not know of Wabash, and the enthusiasm of an alumnus who acquaints a high school student with Wabash and encourages him to explore and visit Wabash has proved an effective catalyst. Moreover, Wabash empowers her alumni. We alumni can waive a student's application fee merely by signing the application.

We, the Class of 1971, need to continue to do our part. We can do so in several ways. We can refer a student online, call the Admissions office at 1-800-4-Wabash, or send a letter to the Admissions, Wabash College, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Or, feel free to call me or e-mail with any question that you may have about recruiting or admissions.

The Top 10 Ways A Woman Knows She Is Married To A Wabash Man

According to the Merry Wives of Wabash at the Valentine's Gala of the Indianapolis Association Of Wabash Men on February 7, 2004, these are the 10 top ways a woman knows she is married to a Wabash man:

#10. He says he went to a men's college because he fell in love with Crawfordsville.

#9: He claims that he learned that Wabash was not co-ed until the start of his sophomore year.

#8. He claims that Tommy's Silver Dollar Bar is a type of candy bar.

#7. He can sing Old Wabash without ever being on key.

#6. He actually has tears in his eyes when he sees anything bright red, and it is so embarrassing to see him crying at fire trucks.

#5. He claims to have learned to multi-task at Wabash—which really means that he could attend classes and sleep simultaneously.

#4. He wants to name his first born son, Wallace Wabash.

#3. He shouts "Eat zucchini," and he is so disappointed when we serve him zucchini.

#2. His stories of sexual adventures during his college days have no semblance to our married life.

#1: Your friends at DePauw are jealous.

#1: Because of the Gentlemen's Rule, we had to get married at the end of his sophomore year.
Little Giants Rebuild Winter Sports Teams; Wrestlers Whip Division I Foe; Track Starts

In a rebuilding year, the young Little Giant basketball team, with only two seniors on the roster, stands at 7-11 overall and 5-4 in conference play.

After winning the opener against Kalamazoo, the Little Giants dropped five consecutive games by an average 20.6 points. They have a winning record since then, however. The record includes two losses to DePauw and to nationally ranked Hanover and Marian and only one road victory.

It is difficult to report on the swimming and wrestling teams because they often are not involved in dual meets. The wrestlers edged Gardner Webb, a Division I team, 22-21, at the IU Duals. The team lost to Indiana and Eastern University in the meet. The prior day, Wabash was defeated by Purdue, 32-6. Wrestling is not an NCAC sport.

The swim squad finished second among six teams in the 2004 Wabash Alumni Indoor Track and Field Invitational. Freshman Jared Jackson cleared 13-6 in the pole vault for a meet record. Senior Dan Ruge ran a 4:02.41 in the 1500 meters, but finished second.

For those returning from hibernation: Wabash won the Monon Bell for the third consecutive year, 37-20, in a game that was not as close as the score indicated. The DePauw team was so lackluster on their home field that most of their fans had left by the end of the third quarter.

Wabash Alum, Who Coached Johnny Wooden, Trails Only Bobby Knight In Lifetime Winning Percentage In Big Ten

One of the greatest basketball coaches of all-time, Ward "Piggy" Lambert '11, is second behind Bobby Knight for Big 10 winning percentage. He was the coach and mentor to Johnny Wooden at Purdue and a pioneer of the fast break.

Lambert coached Purdue for 29 years, longer than Gene Keady. He achieved an overall record of 371-152, including 228-105 in Big Ten competition. He won 11 Big Ten titles. At Purdue, he coached Johnny Wooden, who credited Lambert with much of his success. When Wooden graduated from Purdue in 1932, he had to choose between becoming a high school English teacher or a pro basketball player. The teacher's salary was then, like now, less than a pro player's. Undecided, Wooden sought the counsel of his coach. Why is it you came to Purdue? Lambert asked. Was it to become a professional basketball player or to get an education? An education, Wooden replied. The question made the decision, and Wooden was on his way to becoming the greatest college basketball coach of all-time.

Lambert was 5' 6" (Pactor dimensions!) and weighed 120 pounds (not Pactor dimensions) while at Wabash. He got his nickname "from the way he ate up everything in sight on the diamond" while playing shortstop on the Crawfordsville high school baseball team.

Lambert is a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame. Purdue named its baseball field and its track fieldhouse after him.