May 12, 2004

Five Historic Professors Retire

Five historic professors, representing nearly 190 years of Wabash life, are retiring after this semester. They are Austin Brooks, Peter Frederick, David Phillips, John Fischer, and John Zimmerman.

I attended a retiring party for Pete Frederick of the history department in Chadwick Court on May 2. Among the attendees were current students, former students (like me), professors, and Thad and Polly Seymour. Thad, who was president when Pete came to campus in 1969, eloquently spoke of Pete’s teaching ability and remarked of his success in teaching teachers to teach. Several speakers reflected on Dr. Frederick’s great teaching, but they were looking back. I had to be one of his first students, and he was a great teacher when he began. My son Jacob and I have been his students.

John Fischer, a legend in the classics department and on campus generally, plans to relocate to Louisville. He taught the campus the word “feckless,” and he was a long-time adviser to the Lambda Chis and was soccer coach. He is contemplating law school. He came to Wabash in 1964.

Aus Brooks ’61 has been a pillar in the biology department. His wife Lucy is retiring as Co-Director of Academic Support and Director of Quantitative Skills. They have been one of the great Wabash couples. He became a Wabash professor in 1966.

Dr. Phillips has been an outstanding professor of chemistry and an ardent supporter for athletics at Wabash. He told me that he went out with a bang as he set off an explosion in his last class. He may be doing some research and writing about the history of science at Wabash. He started at Wabash in 1968 after having been interviewed by Dr. Ed Haenisch in Athens, Greece.

Dr. Z, H ’67, also of the chemistry department, has been a favorite of students for decades. He and his camera have ubiquitously captured great moments in the life of the college. He came to Wabash in 1963.

After these retirements, only three faculty will remain from our era: Bill Doemel, David Hadley, and Phil Mikesell.

Classmate Steve Weliever takes a shot in the annual alumni basketball game, February 7. Some may think that he posed for this shot as he could not get this open otherwise.

Steve hit one basket. He drew one foul because of a slow-witted, quick-whistle referee (me). Steve was the most veteran of the alumni who took the court. Hopefully other veterans of 1971—Tom Martella, Craig Martin, and Lee Fouts—will return for next year’s game. Thanks to Jim Amidon ’87 for the photo.
Wabash Journalists Sweep Awards

Raking in several awards from the Indiana Collegiate Press Association, Wabash students proved again to be "Little Giants" as they competed with 22 schools and universities most of which, unlike Wabash, have journalism courses or provide academic credit to their journalists. This year, 17 staff members won 23 awards.

The Bachelor won second place in its division, non-daily newspapers at schools with fewer than 2,000 full-time students, and won first place as the 2004 Online Publication of the Year, beating Ball State’s Daily News and Notre Dame’s The Observer in competition that was not classified by daily and non-daily papers. The paper also won third place for best single issue, its coverage of the 110th Monon Bell Classic and first and third places for best special issue, its 2002-2003 Year-in-Review and 2003-2004 Orientation issues.

The number of individual Wabash winners is impressive. Ryan Smith ’03, now attending Columbia Journalism School, won first place in best breaking news reporting, and Sean Gallagher ’04 was second in that category. Dunmomi Owolabi ’06 took third place honors for best non-deadline news reporting with "Study Suggests Division III Sports Tainted."

Adam Christensen ’03, now a law student, won the best news feature category with "For Some, School Doesn’t Come First." The spring 2003 editorial team of Smith, Matt Ward ’05, Steve Andrews ’05, and Jacob Pactor ’04 finished second for best staff editorial with "Gentlemen, It’s Only A Game." Tim Flowers ’05, Shay Atkinson ’05 and Pactor took second place for best inside page.

In sports, Aaron Nicely ’06 won third place for best sports news. Dan McGraw ’07 and Matt Abid ’04 swept the best sports feature category with "For Some, School Doesn’t Come First" and "Clifton Receives Another Chance."

Photographers Jeff Brown ’06 took first place for best news photo, and Todd Vogel ’04 received first place best sports photo and third place for best photo essay awards.


Stephen Dewart ’06 and The Bachelor received third places in best home page nameplate and best homepage overall design and best use of multimedia and best special presentation.

Competing against students from Ball State, Indiana University and Indiana State, Pactor received third place honors for the Brook Baker Collegiate Journalist of the Year Award.

Wabash Alum Nominated For Nobel Peace Prize

Edward Price Bell, Class of 1897, was the first journalist ever nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1900, Victor Lawson, publisher of the Chicago Record and the Daily News, organized the first American foreign news service. Bell became its London correspondent and then European manager of the foreign news service from 1900-1922. He reported on major European events. He was the first journalist to interview a British secretary of state for foreign affairs. As European manager of the first American foreign news service, Bell was a force behind the development of this service and set standards for the coverage of foreign news.

Although he reached the pinnacle of journalism, Bell's most outstanding contributions were his efforts for world peace. He spent years and traveled thousands of miles lecturing, interviewing and speaking privately with world leaders on the subject. In 1925 and 1934, he set out on world tours to interview world leaders on solving international problems and achieving a lasting world peace and cooperation. He interviewed President Coolidge, Chancellor Marx of Germany, Premier Mussolini of Italy, Ramsay MacDonald, Mackenzie King (Canada), Shidehara (Japan), and many others.

Bell was nominated for the 1930 Nobel Peace Prize by Baron Shidehara of Japan. Statesmen, educators, scientists, and clergymen of America, Europe and Asia supported his nomination. They advocated that Bell's interviews with leaders in Japan and China had helped prevent a war in the Pacific in 1925 and that he had improved relations between North and South America.

Bell published several books, including World Chancellories (1929), Europe's Economic Sunrise (1927), Primary Diplomacy (1933), Let Us Go Seaward (1937), Studies of Great Political Personalities (1938), and The Basic Principles of Journalism (1940). He died in 1943 at the age of 74.
Classmate Fred Haase Has Organ Transplant

*Fred Haase* recently underwent a kidney transplant. I asked him to write a report of it. Classmates Jerry Anderson and Dr. Bruce Julian have been involved with organ transplants in their careers. Thanks to Fred for sharing his story.

In the spring of 1996 during a routine physical (or so I thought), I was diagnosed with a condition known as polycystic kidney disease, an inherited disease for which there is no cure. Over time, the cysts grew and seriously impeded the ability of the kidneys to remove wastes from my body. I could sense a decline in my energy level and stamina, yet I continued to teach a full complement of classes and coach both the boys’ and girls’ golf teams at Culver Academy. All my doctor could do was monitor the condition and prescribe various medications to deal with the symptoms - high blood pressure, high phosphorous levels, and anemia, among other things. I never realized how many things the kidneys regulate.

Finally, in the fall of 2002, with my kidney function continuing to decline, my nephrologist and I sat down and talked about my options. Hemi-dialysis was one. The other was to have a transplant from a living or cadaveric donor. I decided to pursue the transplant option, trying first to find a living donor. No one in my immediate family proved to be a suitable blood type. I didn’t want our children to be tested, since there is a 50/50 chance they may have the disease. If that is the case, I’m hopeful that they may be able to help each other.

At this point, friends began to volunteer. One, who is a fellow faculty member at Culver Academy, found that our blood types were compatible and began the lengthy testing process. The hope was, in finding a living donor, to have a preemptive transplant and avoid going on dialysis.

Everything proceeded so well that the surgery was scheduled for early July of 2003. My doctor said that it was coming just in time. One final test, a scan of the donor’s kidneys, remained, but the doctors had no reason to believe that it would show anything unusual. To my chagrin, however, it did. The scan found cysts in one of the kidneys of the donor. It ruled her out as a donor.

My anticipation had been so high that this came as quite a psychological blow to me. Several other friends subsequently went through the initial screening process, but none proved to be a match for my blood type. In the meantime, my condition was becoming more acute, and my name was placed on the UNOS transplant list, along with 50,000 others needing a kidney transplant. The wait could take years.

Then, in the early fall of 2003, another friend, Steve Brown from Columbus, IN, learned of my plight and gave me a call. We had become friends through our sons who were roommates at Culver Military Academy as well as teammates on the hockey and golf teams. Steve’s son Scott became one of our family. We even went on family vacations together while the boys were in school. Even after the boys had graduated from high school, our families kept in touch.

Steve told me that he wanted to be tested to be a donor. I gave him the number of the transplant coordinator at the IU Medical Center, and he began the testing process in October. Our blood types proved compatible, mine being type B and his type O. Other results also were favorable until it was determined that his blood pressure was slightly too high to be a donor. The transplant nephrologist suggested that he try to lose some weight, make some dietary changes, and return in a couple of months and have his blood pressure monitored over a 24-hour period. Steve said that he would do whatever was necessary to make the transplant happen.

This delay, however, meant that I would not be able to avoid dialysis. In December, my doctor insisted that I start dialysis. He estimated that my kidney function was 6-7% of normal. On Dec. 19, I had a catheter inserted in my chest and began the process necessary to keep my systems functioning while I awaited a transplant. Each week on M-W-F, I left after school for the 40-mile drive to the dialysis center in La Porte, Indiana, where I was hooked up for 3 ½ hours to a machine to filter my blood. I would typically arrive home about 10 p.m. This made for some long days, but the dialysis did make me feel better and kept my condition from deteriorating while I waited for a kidney. Through the entire process, I continued to teach my Latin and economics classes at the Academy.

In the middle of February 2004, Steve called to say that he was ready to have his blood pressure monitored. We waited for what seemed an eternity to get the results, finally learning that the readings were within an acceptable range. Now only the kidney scan remained. I didn’t want to get my hopes up too high since this was the point where the plans for my transplant in July had collapsed. Steve had the test. After almost a week of anxious waiting, Steve learned that he could be my donor and was given several dates for the surgery. We decided on March 19 (continued as Transplant on page 6)
Spring Sports End Tough Seasons

Wabash sports had a rough spring. Baseball finished 16-24, suffering a season-ending loss to Franklin in the chilly weather in Victory Field. Skip Adams and I watched a few innings of sloppy play by both teams before we departed for the warmth of his sedan.

Three Wabash tracksters took first place in the North Coast Athletic Conference meet: Nathan Bates ran the 400-meter with 48.98 time; Eric Morris heaved the discuss 143 feet, 5 inches; and Jon Reidy threw the hammer 133 for first place. The team finished fifth.

The golf team finished fifth in the conference tournament.

The tennis team finished eighth in the conference, but two seniors were named to the all-conference team. Mike Lynch was first team as a singles player, and Constantine Alexander and Lynch earned first team as a doubles team. The team’s dual meet record was 9-14.

Renovation Of Goodrich Hall Advances

The renovation of Goodrich Hall, erected in 1938, is moving forward. Upon completion, it will feature a new interior for the Departments of Physics and Mathematics and Computer Science. It will house the new digital electronics, nuclear physics, and optics laboratories. The electronics laboratory will contain analog and digital workstations for experiments by students. The nuclear physics lab will contain new equipment appropriate for students to learn atomic and nuclear physics. Using lasers, a new optics table, and optical sensors in the new optics lab, students will study interferometry, computer-generated holograms, surface inspection techniques, and other optical topics. You can view the floor plans at www.wabash.edu/depart/math/facility.htm.
A Wabash Man's View Of Iraqi Higher Education

The following is an excerpt of an article by John Agresto, senior researcher at Wabash College's Center for Inquiry in the Liberal Arts. He is the Coalition Provisional Authority's senior adviser to the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and president emeritus of St. John's College in N.M. The article appeared in *Chronicle Of Higher Education, April 16, 2004.*

"The second semester since the fall of Saddam Hussein has begun across a new Iraq. The 20 universities and 43 technical institutes (roughly equivalent to vocational colleges in the United States) are once again in session. Despite the hardships -- and hardships abound in this nation -- all academic institutions have been open since September. Their accomplishments are impressive; so is their need for help from abroad.

Nothing here is easy. The 1980s and '90s broke the physical and intellectual back of higher education in Iraq…The university libraries may have been the sections of academe that suffered most under Saddam Hussein. On their shelves are few books published after the early '80s. Most journal subscriptions ended around then, or even earlier. The library at Tikrit University's College of Law has spacious rooms and enough shelving for thousands of books. Unfortunately, it contains probably fewer than 80 volumes. Many of them are merely copies of copies of old texts, xeroxed pages stitched together.

Yet despite the lack of basic resources, the landscape of Iraqi higher education is shifting rapidly. Some universities have expressed a desire to become more like American institutions. In the Kurdish area, which is probably the safest and most progressive region in Iraq, Salahaddin University already has plans to start an important, scholars and American-style liberal-arts university right next to its more traditional, highly specialized institution…. Even more the best universities express growing interest in changing the lecture-and-memorization model of instruction to one that encourages students to read, discuss ideas, and think for themselves. In time, the liberation of minds will be the surest guarantor of the liberation of a country…

Each day higher education in Iraq moves forward. For example, last year there were 63,000 first-year students. This year, with admissions tests administered without favoritism or political preferences, 97,000 new students enrolled. More women are going to college than ever before. Faculty salaries have just doubled.

Foreign governments and private enterprise have also started to help. The Kuwaiti government recently sent $3-million worth of textbooks to Iraqi technical institutes; the Burpee seed company is donating 4,000 pounds of seeds for the agricultural colleges; the South Korean government has pledged $5-million in computer equipment, training, and satellite time for the universities; and IBM is setting up a partnership with Baghdad's University of Technology, perhaps the best technical university in Iraq. In a few weeks, millions of dollars from the U.S. government will be used to restock medical and scientific labs on campuses throughout the country.

But for higher education here to thrive over the long haul, Iraqi academics must have what they desperately want: renewed contact with foreign scholars. Many Iraqi professors went abroad to study in the '60s and '70s, but contact with the outside intellectual world declined under the rule of the Baath Party and finally ceased altogether. Those scholars know the world has passed them by, and they have no romantic notions about the current state of their institutions. As one professor of medicine told me, you cannot teach a student how to read an X-ray from a photocopy of a photocopy of a textbook page. Iraqi scholars need their foreign colleagues to send them books, laboratory equipment, and supplies, as well as tools for the vocational institutes; invite them to conferences; advise their doctoral students; teach with them here in Iraq; and generally help them back on the road to academic parity…

Partnering… is high on their list of needs…Especially in the areas of medicine, dentistry, and nursing, partnerships are needed to bring Iraqi colleges into today's world. Such partnerships would mean extended visits by American professors to help Iraqi professors understand the latest scientific developments, give them online library access, and work with their graduate students. Americans could consider donating their equipment as it is upgraded, as well as assisting in training Iraqis in its use. Beginning a new college of economics and business administration requires university partners willing to share everything from professors to curricular material to books. Scholarships, both undergraduate and graduate, would be most welcome. Invitations to international conferences and symposia are a necessity. Indeed, anything that reconnects academe in Iraq with the outside world would be useful…

With the assistance of American and European universities and colleges, the renaissance of Iraqi higher education will soon take place. With our help, Iraq universities can once again be the proudest, most progressive, and most imitated institutions in all the Middle East."
With Our Classmates

Kai Chin and family have moved from Hawaii to Hong Kong. He left the Bank of Hawaii, sold the house, and took up a job as Head of Corporate Division for the International Bank of Asia. Prior to Hawaii, they lived in Singapore, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines, all in the field of international banking. “We are living in the hub of economic growth and excitement once again. My wife Charlotte has rediscovered the joy of having a house maid, and my son is being spoiled with golf and tennis at private clubs. Justin is carrying a 7 handicap, and I hope he will improve it before attending Wabash which is four years away. Speaking of golf, I would like to extend an invitation to Mike Dill for a round of golf either in Hong Kong or China, if he happens to come this way…. I am extending an invitation for anyone in our class to visit us if your plans include a trip to the Far East.” You can set up a tee-time or a visit by contacting Kai at 28 Belleview Drive, 18/F Repulse Bay Garden Apt., Repulse Bay, Hong Kong SAR, China. His e-mail address is KChin12148@aol.com

Steve Meisenheimer and wife Eleanor reside in Knoxville, Tennessee. He is nearing retirement after 25 years of private practice in family medicine. Steve is looking forward to retirement when they can travel and spend more time working through their church. Steve is a deacon and president of the adult choir, and he heads up the mercy ministry at the church. They have two children. Laura, 24, received her masters in biomedical engineering from Marquette. Mike, 22, works fulltime with Campus Outreach in Greenville, South Carolina.

Transplant

(continued from page 3)

with end of the grading period at Culver.

On Wednesday, March 17, my wife Nancy and I drove down to Columbus to have dinner and spend the night with the Browns. Everyone seemed surprisingly calm, perhaps because we didn’t fully know what we were getting ourselves into. Ignorance is bliss! On Thursday morning Steve and I drove to the IU Medical Center and checked in. I dialyzed for a final time, and we had brief discussions with the surgeons who would perform the surgery the next morning. We were both reasonably calm but eager to get the transplant over with.

On Friday at about 7 a.m. Steve was taken to the operating room. Through several laparoscopic incisions the surgeon would detach Steve’s left kidney and then, through a larger incision, remove it. After Steve’s doctors had worked for several hours, I was taken into an adjoining operating room where my nephrology surgeon, Dr. Martin Milgrom, would prepare me to receive Steve’s kidney.

Everything had to go perfectly, and it did. I was warned that sometimes the new kidney does not begin to function right away. In my case, however, the new kidney began to work immediately (I won’t go into the details!). By the middle of the afternoon we were both back in our rooms and coherent enough to talk and visit with our families.

I must say that the first few days were a little harder on Steve than on me. He had lost something; I had gained a new kidney. Within a very short time I could tell that I was feeling better. What an amazing thing had occurred. What a remarkable friend I had in Steve Brown (the people at IU said that this was only the third transplant from a living unrelated donor they had performed in the last two years). Maybe this was why God, in his infinite wisdom, gave us two kidneys.

For a month following the surgery I return to IU for checkups, to see how the kidney is working and to monitor the level of my medications. So far everything is going well. There have been some modifications in the dosages of my medicines, but the kidney is functioning well within the desired parameters. The visits to IU will diminish in frequency as time goes by, but I will always be in their care for the rest of my life.

It’s hard for me to put into words how much better I already feel. I don’t know if I’ll return to teaching this final term of the school year, but I’m planning on reading Advanced Placement Economics exams at the University of Nebraska in early June and anxious to start swinging a golf club again. Each day is indeed a new beginning. It’s hard for me to realize that this has really happened to me and that I have this new start on life. I have been truly blessed!
Please Contribute To The Annual Fund Before July 1

Thanks to the classmates, listed below, who have contributed to the college this fiscal year that will end June 30. The list may not be up-to-date. Please join the list and help the Class of 1971 reach its goal of 50% participation. We stand at 34.7% so far. I plan to write another letter in about a month, and I would love to see substantial growth in the list.

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Please send me your updates and comments.

Kind Regards To The Little Giants of 1971

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