January, 2004

Gentlemen,

Happy New Year. Way too much time has passed since I last wrote to you. My New Year’s resolution is to be better at getting news to you in a much more timely manner. Lots has happened since I last wrote, not to mention the Cubbies folding, the Bulls going nowhere, and the Bears struggling enough to need a new head coach (and some offense)!

Importantly, I hope all of you had a safe, relaxing holiday season. As the first snow comes down in Chicago, I’ll try to get you caught up on recent news involving the College and you.

**News from the College**

Campaign for Leadership has just reached $125MM, just over $7MM shy of its goal. As I’ve said, just visit Wabash and you can see the benefits of this Campaign everywhere you turn, from students, to faculty, to facilities.

Our class did a great job in 2003, giving a total $111,217 to Wabash. Our giving percentage was 42.2%, down a bit from the 44.7% level in 2002. I know we can beat last year’s performance. I’d like to get us to 45%. This fiscal year ends June 30th. I’ll do my share in giving, as well as keeping you up on our progress so that you’ll have more incentive to give. If you are ready to contribute now, you can make a gift via:

1. [www.wabash.edu/alumni/gwf](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/gwf)
2. 877-743-4545
3. P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Thanks to all of you for your support to the College over these many years.

Alumni Referrals. This year’s freshman class numbers 245, and close to 43% were referred by alumni of the College. Referrals continue to be very important for the College to attract and keep the quality students they need in a very competitive marketplace. If you know a high school student who you think would be a great fit with Wabash, send his name to the College (P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933), or e-mail [www.wabash.edu](http://www.wabash.edu). I just sent in 2 student names from the Naperville area. You should too.
Monon Bell. If you didn’t hear, Wabash beat DePauw for the 3rd time in a row, 37-20, to keep the Bell once again. Going into the game, the record was an astonishing 50-50-9. Now, it’s 51-50-9! Wabash finished the year with a very respectable 7-3 record.

Honorary Alums. At last Fall’s Annual Alumni Chapel during Homecoming, I had the honor of joining all the Past Presidents of the NAWM under Andy Ford’s tenure as President in surprising Andy with an Honorary Alumnus designation by the College. Mary Ann Salter, wife of past President Lew Salter and very active Wabash supporter also was made an Honorary Alumnus. The Chapel ceremony was magnificent, with Tom Topper doing a great job as MC. The Alumni Chapel is an event worth attending by all of you if you can make it. It exemplifies the best of what Wabash is, was and will continue to be.

Fraternity News. Three houses, Beta, Lambda Chi and Sigma Chi, have all completed their construction. The Sigs actually built a new house, now located next to the Delt House. Word is that the Phi Gamis and Phi Delts have also decided to build new houses. As part of the Campaign for Leadership, the college and the fraternities have entered into partnerships to renovate or rebuild the houses. As I said, lots of changes, all for the good.

Paul McKinney. If you hadn’t heard, I was very saddened to hear that Paul McKinney, Dean Emeritus and professor of Chemistry died at his home in Crawfordsville on December 20th. Paul was 73. He taught at Wabash for an astounding 46 years, longer than any other faculty member. Paul chaired the Chemistry department for 4 years, chaired the Science division for 3 years, and was named Dean of the College in 1981 under President Salter. Paul also served as Alumni representative to the NAWM Board for many years. He was a kind, gracious gentleman who was always there to help, to guide, and to exemplify the best of Wabash.

News from 1972

Paul Melshen. I received an outstanding e-mail from Paul. Rather than paraphrase what he’s been up to, I’ll include most of it, word for word, below:

“Just when I thought it was safe to go back in the water.”
“l spent the last year back on Active Duty. I was called back from the Staff College to be the POL/MIL Officer for the counter-terrorist task force in the Horn of Africa. It was like the culmination of many of my life’s efforts -- back to Africa – another counter-terrorist cause – you name it, it couldn’t have been more suited for this “old Wabash war horse.” I was just so proud to serve with the young men and women who are fighting a just cause in some of the most dangerous and inhospitable environments. It was also superb to have many of the intelligence officers and planners there in the Horn of Africa who were all my former students, either from the Staff College or the Intelligence College. I retired out of the Marine Reserve at Camp Lejeune in November just a few weeks ago. Then, me and my wife, Elizabeth, went off to London and Cambridge, England. I had been asked by my old mentor at Cambridge University (where I got my doctorate years ago) to give a guest lecture. I gave a lecture at the Centre for
International Studies on – guess what – “The Counter-terrorist Effort in the Horn of Africa.” As always, I just love London and Cambridge – the scenery is nice, but the beer is better.”

“I’m back in Norfolk now and hope to have Steve Brown over for dinner next Monday. I’m back at the Staff College getting geared up for a new class this January. I’m having to get used to not being in the Horn of Africa and Elizabeth is having to get used to me back at home giving orders! (Or I like to think I’m the one who’s giving orders.)

Please, please, give my warmest regards to my fellow Wabash Brothers and tell them Melshen is “Out of Africa” one more time.”

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You are a great man, Mr. Melshen. Thanks so much for your exciting news and for all your support for Wabash, not to mention the World!

Guys, I’ve been lax in encouraging you to send me news. How about a brief e-mail to me over the next few weeks, highlighting what you and/or your family is up to: rick.fobes@chi.ddb.com You’ll definitely be published in my next letter, which I’ll be sending in 2 months.

All the best.

Rick
Rick Fobes